

ND continues to challenge HHS ruling

Supreme Court orders a circuit court to revisit initial lawsuit against the contraceptive mandate

By **MADISON JAROS**
News Writer

Last Monday, the Supreme Court called the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals to revisit its earlier ruling on Notre Dame's case against the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Notre Dame's court case, which the University initially filed in May 2012, asks for an exemption to the mandate in the Affordable Care Act that requires that employers provide their employees with access to birth control.

University spokesperson Paul Browne said the 7th Circuit Court previously denied Notre Dame's request for a temporary

restraining order regarding the mandate, which Browne said violated the University's religious tenets by requiring participation "in a regulatory scheme to provide abortion-inducing products, contraceptives and sterilization."

"Notre Dame continues to challenge the federal mandate as an infringement on our fundamental right to the free exercise of our Catholic faith," Browne said.

Associate professor of law and political science Vincent Muñoz said the Supreme Court's decision is promising, although there is still much to

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KERI O'MARA | The Observer

Former Irish president explores peace process

By **JENNIFER FLANAGAN**
News Writer

Former Irish president Mary McAleese discussed her experiences as a primary advocate for the Irish peace process Monday in the McKenna Hall Auditorium.

As the first president of Ireland, McAleese served two consecutive terms from 1997 to 2011, ruling the nation during the Troubles, a time ravaged by civil war between Unionists, who were predominantly Protestants, and Nationalists, who were predominantly Catholics.

As a leader of a deeply divided nation, McAleese, who was born and raised in Northern Ireland, said the struggle for peace was at the core of her presidency. Describing the theme of her time in office as focused on "building bridges," McAleese said her role in activism began at an early age.

"I was part of the first generation of young Catholics to have the advantage of

upper-level education, and we were now going to apply our brain power to a very dysfunctional society in which Catholics were excluded," she said.

McAleese said she credited her ability to focus on peace building to her foundation of gospel values.

"I was fortunate the core of gospel values always pulled me back," she said. "The voices of calm helped me. I was angry enough to go the other way [toward anger]."

McAleese said her strategy to build peace in Ireland involved forging relationships between opposing Protestant and Catholic communities.

"Peace building is essentially about relationship building," she said. "It starts with a belief — proven to be well-founded — that people can change their minds, which is very important, because otherwise, there would not be a point."

While it took years to

see IRELAND **PAGE 3**

Program encourages faith formation among Latinos

By **SELENA PONIO**
News Writer

The Institute for Church Life (ICL) at the University of Notre Dame has launched Camino, an online faith formation program for Latino Catholics.

Camino Program Director Esther Terry has developed Camino from its early stages, she said.

"The program has been in

the works for a long time and the pilot phase started in 2012," Terry said. "The pilot phase started with just one course that was adapted from a course that we have in English."

According to its website, Camino is an online program of Catholic theology courses designed by University professors and leaders in Latino ministry. A facilitator, who must have a master's degree in

theology, instructs the course, which can last anywhere from four to seven weeks.

Camino stems from Notre Dame's Satellite Theological Education Program (STEP), a program developed in the early 1990s that aimed to provide high quality theology courses at affordable prices.

"For a long time, people had

see CAMINO **PAGE 4**

Notre Dame announces Laetare Medal recipient

Observer Staff Report

The University will award Grammy-winning singer Aaron Neville the Laetare Medal at its 2015 Commencement, Director of Media Relations Sue Lister announced Sunday.

The Laetare Medal is the oldest award given to American Catholics, having originated in 1883, according to the press release. The University awards

the medal each year to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sci-



ences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

University President Fr. John Jenkins described Neville as a man who uses his own strengths to express his faith.

"Aaron Neville proudly embraces and honors his faith through his God-given musical talents," Jenkins said in the press release. "Through tumultuous times in his life, Aaron turned to God, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St.

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Greg Hadley.

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

How's the weather?

*Have a question you want answered?**Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com***Louis Bertolotti**

sophomore

Keenan Hall

“As hot as you are.”

**Phillip Gilroy**

sophomore

Sorin College

“Could be better.”

**Gracie Williams**

sophomore

Pasquerilla East Hall

“It's un-Notre Dame-like.”

**Michael Cannon**

sophomore

Keenan Hall

“B-E-A-utiful.”

**Kristen Ringwall**

sophomore

Lewis Hall

“Beautiful.”

**Caroline Kurtz**

junior

Badin Hall

“It's not too hot and it's not too cold. All you need is a light jacket.”



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Left at Holy Cross Cemetery by mourners paying their respects to Univeristy President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, flowers bloom and bask in the sunlight as markedly warmer weather welcomes students back to campus from spring break.

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Corrections

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

*Want your event included here?**Email news@ndsmcobserver.com*

Tuesday

“Russia: Empire Upside Down”

Pasquerilla Center

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Lecture.

Tennis Match

Eck Tennis Pavilion

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Men's tennis takes on Texas Tech.

Wednesday

Poetry Reading

Eck Center Auditorium

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Notre Dame Review

Book prizewinner John

Shoptaw.

Film: Sewing Hope

DeBartolo Performing

Arts Center

8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Documetary film.

Thursday

“Leadership in the 21st Century. a Fighter Pilot's Perspective”

Hayes-Healy Center

8 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Lecture.

WHAM! BAM! POETRY SLAM!

Snite Musuem

Auditorium

5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Friday

Baseball Game

Frank Eck Stadium

6:05 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Notre Dame

baseball team takes

on Louisville.

Film: Selma

DeBartolo Performing

Arts Center

9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Historical drama film on the Selma march.

Saturday

Hawaii Club Luau

Stepan Center

5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Dinner and entertainment. \$10 per student.

Lacrosse Game

Arlotta Stadium

12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Women's lacrosse takes on Ohio State.

StudGov SPARKNOTES

BACK THE BEND

Formerly known as Communiversity Day, this event brings together students from local universities for service projects around South Bend. As Student Government plans for this April event, feel free to share comments or ideas at studegov@nd.edu

CAMPUS SAFETY VIDEO

Student Government's much-hyped campus safety video will be revealed this week! Check your email for the link in the coming days.

O'SNAP APP

Check for a new update that will enable students to request an O'SNAP ride through the ND Mobile app.

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Ireland

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

penetrate the core of the sectarian divide, McAleese said she made progress by emphasizing her goals of building and sustaining relationships for the long run.

In April 1998, the Irish government created the Belfast Agreement, ending the civil war. Although McAleese described the

"I have not a vision nor have heard a vision for an independent Ireland, and I do not know where it would sit."

Mary McAleese
former president
Ireland

agreement as fair and decent, involving huge concessions on both sides, she said it lacked perfection.

A main hindrance to the peace-building efforts is a reluctance to forget the past, McAleese said.

"The demography of Northern Ireland and its social life is still strongly



EOGHAN FLANAGAN | The Observer

Former president of Ireland Mary McAleese discusses Irish peace efforts in the past and future during a lecture in McKenna Hall.

related to the past," she said. "Ninety-three percent of all people inhabit areas essentially defined by their religion, [making] social integration very difficult."

McAleese said the current sectarian environment of Northern Ireland lacks opportunity for truly meeting and befriending one another. She said the current situation in Ireland is reflective of the recent Scottish referendum.

"We are working toward a referendum, and when it happens, I hope it happens like the Scottish referendum, a democratic

dialogue," she said.

McAleese said she hopes the referendum does not favor the nationalist approach.

"I cannot see an independent Ireland quite frankly," she said. "I have not a vision nor have heard a vision for an independent Ireland, and I do not know where it would sit."

Whatever future Ireland holds, McAleese said her greatest wish is that it is conducive to the human dignity of all its inhabitants.

Contact Jennifer Flanagan at jflanag2@nd.edu

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Camino

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been taking these courses in English, and they had been receiving requests for courses in Spanish," Terry said.

On Camino's website, Notre Dame professor of theology Fr. Virgil Alizondo said Camino is "a great way to use media and technology to give learning opportunities beyond the University."

The STEP program worked in collaboration with the SouthEast Pastoral Institute in Miami (SEPI) to develop Camino. Various dioceses are also involved with advertising the program to potential participants.

"The people that take our courses are typically catechists, readers [and] serve in the music ministry," Terry said. "[They]

"It's been so exciting to see people engage in Scripture and engage the Catechism and see the sense of wonder and excitement that they have."

Esther Terry
director
Camino

usually have some position in their parish and they want to have ongoing faith formation."

Terry said the program prides itself in the flexibility and accessibility of its courses. She said many of Camino's participants live in rural areas or other places where learning resources in their native language are limited.

"I think the flexibility of hours for taking an online course and the quality of what we are able to deliver in places where it would be very difficult for them to have this formation experience makes [this program] very important," Terry said.

Terry said she enjoys contributing to Camino.

"It's been so exciting to see people engage Scripture and engage the Catechism and see the sense of wonder and excitement that they have and how dignified they feel to be taking an online course with Notre Dame," Terry said.

Terry said her hope for Camino and other theological programs like it is that the intellectual resources at Notre Dame and other partners and affiliates are made available to an even more diverse group of people.

"We want to share those resources with people in the pews, your average Catholics, and help them to see the beauty and the joy of our Catholic faith so that they can share that with others," Terry said.

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HHS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be decided on in court.

"The Supreme Court ruling certainly makes it more likely that Notre Dame will receive a more accommodating [decision] than has been previously offered, but how exactly HHS will adjust the law in light of Notre Dame's recognized legal protections is yet to be determined," Muñoz said.

It is not uncommon for the Supreme Court to allow a lower court to reconsider its previous ruling on a case without approaching the case directly itself, political science professor Rick Garnett said.

"This [decision] does not necessarily mean that Notre Dame will prevail, but it is a good sign," Garnett said. "At the very least, it is a welcome development that the lower court opinion, which

contained inappropriate asides and unnecessary rhetoric, is vacated."

Garnett said Notre Dame's case against HHS bears resemblance to Hobby Lobby's case in 2014, in which the Supreme Court ruled that Hobby Lobby was not required to provide contraception to its employees because of its religious objections. However, there are some differences between the two cases, he said.

"Notre Dame's case is different [from the Hobby Lobby case] in the sense that, first, the University is a non-profit with a clear religious character and, second, the precise actions being compelled by the government are different," he said. "That said, the basic form of the arguments is the same. In each case, the claimant is saying that a particular government action imposes a substantial burden on religious exercise and that the

burden is unnecessary and therefore unlawful."

Those following the case should remember that Notre Dame is not arguing that the HHS mandate is unconstitutional, but that it violates a particular statute, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), Garnett said.

"It is probably not unconstitutional for the federal government to require employers like Notre Dame to provide the coverage in question," he said. "But, the Act provides increased protection for religious liberty and religious objectors and — in my view — the best arguments lead to the conclusion that the mandate violates the Act."

Law professor Orlando Snead said the Supreme Court likely called on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals to review its previous decision because the original decision was not in line with the RFRA.

"RFRA prohibits the federal government from restricting religious freedom unless it does so for the most compelling reason imaginable and by following the least restrictive means to accomplish this purpose," Snead said. "Whatever one might think about the government's purposes in maximizing access to contraceptives and drugs or devices that the FDA labeling suggests might function by causing the death of a newly-conceived embryo, it is clear that there are less restrictive and coercive ways to accomplish this goal than to compel Notre Dame to facilitate such access by modifying the operation of its health plan."

"Accordingly, my judgment is that the HHS mandate fails the careful balancing test established by RFRA."

Contact Madison Jaros at
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Laetare

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jude for strength, forgiveness and salvation.

“His example of repentance and devotion shine bright for all who see him perform.”

In his prolific career as a musician, Neville released four albums that achieved platinum status, created four top 20 hits in the United States, won the 1989 Grammy Award for Best Pop Instrumental Performance and Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals and was named a 2015 Grammy Hall of Fame Recording Inductee.

The 74-year-old attended Catholic school in New Orleans as a child and dedicated each of his albums to the apostle St. Jude, patron saint of hope and impossible causes, the press release stated.

In winning the Laetare Medal, Neville joins the ranks of other American Catholics including President John F. Kennedy, Dorothy Day, Walker Percy, Martin Sheen and many others.

The University’s 170th Commencement Ceremony will be held May 17 in Notre Dame Stadium.

Officials identify crew in Florida crash

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Members of a seasoned, Louisiana-based National Guard crew who died last week in a helicopter crash off the Florida coast had done tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and participated in humanitarian missions after Gulf Coast hurricanes and in the response to the catastrophic 2010 BP oil spill, military officials said Monday.

The Louisiana National Guard identified the pilots and crew of a Black Hawk helicopter that crashed March 10 in the Santa Rosa Sound along Florida’s Panhandle in a nighttime training exercise in dense fog with seven elite Marines aboard. All 11 in the Black Hawk died.

“I couldn’t have put up a finer crew,” said Col. Patrick Bossetta, a commander over aviation units for the Louisiana National Guard. “Let me put it this way: I would have put my son up with them.”

Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, the National Guard’s

adjutant general, announced the soldiers’ identities during a news conference at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans.

The soldiers’ remains are being transported to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. Burials have not yet been arranged. The names of the Marines killed in the crash were released Friday. The Marines were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Three members of the flight crew were from Louisiana and one was from Virginia. They were described as among the military’s most seasoned helicopter pilots and crew.

Piloting the helicopter were Chief Warrant Officer George Wayne Griffin Jr. of Delhi, 37, and Chief Warrant Officer George David Strother of Alexandria, 44. Both were decorated veteran pilots. All four of the crew were full-time personnel.

Curtis said it was unknown which pilot was in charge at the time of the accident.

“I don’t know that we’ll

ever know that. And I don’t even know if that’s really important. The accident happened; it is what it is,” Curtis said.

The crash is being investigated by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, based in Fort Rucker, Alabama. That investigation will “try to pinpoint exactly what happened, if it was a mechanical failure, or whatever it was,” Curtis said.

Bossetta said the foggy nighttime conditions should not have been a major factor. “What they were doing out there wasn’t super complex.”

Maj. Gen. Joseph L. Osterman, commander of Marine Corps special operations forces, has said they were practicing rappelling down ropes into the water and heading for land, but had decided to abort the mission as too risky.

Also killed on the crew were Staff Sgt. Lance Bergeron, 40, of Thibodaux and Staff Sgt. Thomas Florich, Fairfax, Virginia.

Military burials with full honors were being planned

for the dead.

“Now we can start bringing them back,” Curtis said.

He said the delay in releasing the names was due to bad weather including dense fog that’s hampered recovery efforts and the nature of the catastrophic crash. He also said the military requires DNA testing to positively identify the dead.

Across Louisiana flags are flying at half-staff until sunset March 20 to honor the dead.

Officials earlier identified the Marines as: Capt. Stanford Henry Shaw III of Basking Ridge, New Jersey; Master Sgt. Thomas Saunders of Williamsburg, Virginia; Staff Sgt. Liam Flynn of Queens, New York; Staff Sgt. Trevor P. Blaylock of Lake Orion, Michigan; Staff Sgt. Kerry Michael Kemp of Port Washington, Wisconsin; Staff Sgt. Andrew Seif of Holland, Michigan; and Staff Sgt. Marcus Bawol from Warren, Michigan.

All were from the 2nd Special Operations Battalion of the Marine Corps Special Operations Command.

Israeli president promises no Palestinian state

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — In a frenzied last day of campaigning, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday ruled out the establishment of a Palestinian state and vowed to keep building east Jerusalem settlements as he appealed to hard-line voters on the eve of Israel’s closely contested general election.

The moderate opposition, meanwhile, announced a dramatic last-minute machination of its own, removing one of its two joint candidates for prime minister.

Netanyahu, who has governed for the past six years and has long been the most dominant personality in Israeli politics, has watched his standing plummet in recent weeks.

Recent opinion polls show his Likud Party lagging behind Isaac Herzog’s Zionist Union. Herzog, who has vowed to revive peace efforts with the Palestinians, repair ties with the U.S. and reduce the growing gaps between rich and poor, confidently predicted an “upheaval” was imminent.

Late Monday night, it was announced that Herzog’s main partner, former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, had given up an agreement to rotate the prime minister post with him if their alliance wins. It was widely thought that the unusual arrangement was driving away voters.

Tuesday’s election caps an acrimonious three-month

campaign that is widely seen as a referendum on Netanyahu.

While his comments Monday appeared to be election rhetoric, they nonetheless put him further at odds with the international community, boding poorly for already strained relations with the U.S. and other key allies if he wins a third consecutive term.

The hard-line leader has portrayed himself as the only politician capable of confronting Israel’s numerous security challenges, while his opponents have focused on the country’s high cost of living and presented Netanyahu as imperious and out of touch with the common man.

As Netanyahu’s poll numbers have dropped in recent days, he has appeared increasingly desperate, stepping up his nationalistic rhetoric in a series of interviews to local media to appeal to his core base. Netanyahu has also complained of an international conspiracy to oust him, funded by wealthy foreigners who dislike him, and on Sunday night, he addressed an outdoor rally before tens of thousands of hard-line supporters in Tel Aviv.

The strategy is aimed at siphoning off voters from nationalistic rivals, but risks alienating centrist voters who are expected to determine the outcome of the race.

Speaking to the nrg news website, Netanyahu said that turning over captured territory

to the Palestinians would clear the way for Islamic extremists to take control and attack Israel.

“Whoever ignores that is burying his head in the sand. The left is doing that, burying its head in the sand time after time,” he said in the video interview.

When asked if that means a Palestinian state will not be established if he is elected, Netanyahu replied, “Indeed.”

It was the latest — and clearest — attempt by Netanyahu to disavow his earlier support for Palestinian independence, which he first laid out in a landmark 2009 speech.

“If we get this guarantee for demilitarization and necessary security arrangements for Israel, and if the Palestinians recognize Israel as the state of the Jewish people, we will be willing in a real peace agreement to reach a solution of a demilitarized Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state,” he said at the time.

Despite that pledge, two rounds of peace talks have failed and Netanyahu has continued to expand Jewish settlements.

Reaching a two-state solution to the Palestinian conflict has been a top foreign policy priority for President Obama.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki would only say on Monday that the U.S. will work with whoever wins the Israeli election.

The international

community overwhelmingly supports the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, areas captured by Israel in 1967, and opposes settlement construction. Netanyahu’s tough new position is likely to worsen his already strained ties with his western allies if he is re-elected.

It also raises questions about what kind of vision he has for solving the conflict with the Palestinians. Most demographers agree that if Israel continues to control millions of Palestinians, the country will not be able to remain both Jewish and democratic.

Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi said Netanyahu’s comments were “dangerous” and could plunge the region into violence.

“This is the real Netanyahu,” she said. “From the beginning, he was attempting to carry out a grand deception by pretending to be in favor of the two-state solution. But what he was actually doing on the ground is destroying the chances of peace.”

Earlier, Netanyahu paid a last-minute visit to Har Homa, a Jewish development in east Jerusalem that Netanyahu helped build during his first term as prime minister in 1997. The sprawling district now houses more than 20,000 residents.

While Israel considers the area a part of its capital, the

international community considers it an illegal settlement on occupied land. The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem as their capital.

“We will preserve Jerusalem’s unity in all its parts. We will continue to build and fortify Jerusalem so that its division won’t be possible and it will stay united forever,” Netanyahu said, explaining that Har Homa was built to contain Palestinian development in the nearby West Bank town of Bethlehem.

There was no immediate comment from U.S. officials.

Netanyahu dissolved his government in December and ordered the new election, two years ahead of schedule, in the belief that he would cruise to a new term.

On Monday, it was Herzog, Netanyahu’s chief rival, who appeared confident and upbeat.

Visiting his party headquarters, Herzog, a trained lawyer and scion of a prominent political family, talked about a “crucial” vote for the country and warned against splitting the anti-Netanyahu vote among the various centrist parties.

“Whoever wants an upheaval has to vote for us,” Herzog said.

Exit polls are expected immediately after voting stops at 10 p.m. (2000 GMT) Tuesday night. But the true victor may not be known for several weeks.

INSIDE COLUMN

Let's start a conversation



Greg Hadley
Editor-in-Chief

A newspaper is only as good as the conversation it creates.

A conversation can only be good if everyone has the chance to speak and be heard.

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's are places capable and deserving of great conversations. And if all is working as it should, The Observer should be a part of them.

Unfortunately, things are not always this simple. So many people want to voice their opinion, and it is all too easy to become overwhelmed and leave the conversation, to tune out the controversies and debates and arguments. Sometimes it feels as though you could never possibly make your voice heard. Or that the point you want to make seems insignificant compared to the ideas of others.

When this happens, when people stop conversing, the community suffers. If the status quo persists only because someone is too tired or discouraged or afraid to speak up, we are failing.

At The Observer, we strive to "uncover the truth and report it accurately." We do this because we believe we can bring more people into the conversation and make it better. Events, stories and issues that have significant impact on everyone in the community happen every day. It is the purpose of journalism, of The Observer, to bring these things to your attention.

Sometimes we fall short. Despite our commitment to uncovering the truth, the pressure of a daily deadline and the time constraints of classes occasionally cause mistakes. When this occurs, we hurt Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and the wider community of South Bend.

I wish I could promise these errors and oversights will never happen in my time as Editor-in-Chief, but I am certain they occasionally will. And when they do, I hope you will understand.

But I also hope you are not satisfied with an imperfect conversation. I hope you can help us improve. We try our best, but no one can provide better feedback than you. So tell us what you think.

Hundreds of students, workers, administrators and faculty pass through South Dining Hall each day. I want all of you to know: The Observer's office is in the basement, and our door is open. If you have a complaint, a suggestion, a story idea or simply want to discuss our coverage, come in. Chances are, someone will be there regardless of the hour. I can personally guarantee I will be there every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon and every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m..-

This will not replace the hard work our journalists put in every day to cover the events that matter to you. It will not be the only time I am available to talk. I offer it as just one tangible sign of our commitment to better serving you, the reader.

If these times do not work for you, email me. Your voice is still invaluable and I promise we will work something out. What's important is that we give Notre Dame and Saint Mary's what they deserve: a great conversation.

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The views expressed in this Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Re-evaluating Putin: part two

Stephen Raab

Let's Talk Smart

My first column for The Observer, published in April 2014, was "Re-evaluating Putin." In it, I argued that the international community had been too harsh in its criticism of Russian president Vladimir Putin. While I acknowledged the missteps of the Putin administration (specifically on LGBT rights and foreign policy), I argued that he'd also been of great benefit to Russia and to the world in other areas, and that he should not be written off as inept.

That was nearly a year ago. Much has changed since then. Most notably, anti-Putin activist Boris Nemtsov was shot and killed outside the Kremlin. The shooting occurred just days before he was supposed to lead a demonstration against Russia's proxy war in Ukraine. This convenient timing has spurred suggestions that the assassins were working on Putin's behalf, if not in accordance with his direct orders.

I have previously been skeptical of conspiracy theories that have emerged from the New Russia; that is to say, I have not assumed that said conspiracies must be well-founded just because they allegedly happened in Russia. I did not regard accusations that the 1999 apartment bombings were false flags to provoke the Second Chechen War with any more credibility than suggestions that Bush orchestrated the 9/11 attacks. Likewise, allegations of Kremlin-sanctioned hits against journalist Anna Politkovskaya and tycoon Boris Berezovsky are circumstantially based. While future information may substantiate these claims, the burden of proof has not been overcome.

This is not the case with the Nemtsov assassination. On top of the already suspicious timing of the death, one of the first suspects arrested in connection with the shooting confessed to his involvement, then retracted his confession, saying it had been forced from him. Even by generous standards of proof, it is likely that Nemtsov was assassinated to further the aims of the Putin administration.

I am reminded of George Orwell's statement in "Politics and the English Language," that "some comfortable English professor defending Russian totalitarianism ... cannot say outright 'I believe in killing off your opponents if you can get good results by doing so,'" before suggesting that apologists for such behavior prefer to deflect attention from the matter with meaningless euphemisms. Simply put, I don't

want to be that guy. I've cut Putin slack before, but the benefits he's brought the Russian people are now outweighed by the detriments.

I'm disappointed. After the mess that was the Yeltsin administration and its economic ruin, Putin was supposed to be a fresh face for the New Russia. And for a while, he was. The economy rebounded, the country regained the territory of Chechnya and the Iron Curtain began to lift. But the last few years of free speech restrictions and international grandstanding have heralded a reversal. Though the country hasn't gone full Soviet yet, it's on its way.

The truly bizarre part of this trend is that Putin didn't need to do any of it. His approval ratings have been far higher than what a Western politician would need to sustain incumbency — 54 percent at its lowest point between 2012 and 2013, according to Gallup. Now it's nearly at 83 percent, with Russian citizens rallying around the flag as NATO tries to complete its chokehold (a strategy which is doomed to fail against Putin, a judo black belt). He shouldn't need to cheat elections or suppress free speech, and yet he does. Out of habit? Who can say?

While it in no way excuses his behavior, some of Putin's more baffling maneuvers might be better understood in light of his treatment by the American government. We opted to regard the Russian Federation merely as a new enemy, instead of a defeated adversary to be nurtured into democracy. We've even spurned the Kremlin's offers of aid, and it has cost us in blood. In 2011, the Russian Federal Security Service warned that Tamerlan Tsarnaev, eventual architect of the Boston Marathon bombing, was preparing to join a clandestine extremist group. They were ignored, and the result was tragedy. Who can blame Putin for so professionally acting the villain, when that's the only script we'll listen to him read?

The good news is that there's hope. Putin may yet realize the destruction he's heaped upon himself and his constituents, and pledge to "sin no more." It will, of course, take a lot to balance the Nemtsov assassination, but if Putin can put such methods behind him permanently, he might one day regain my respect as a force for good in Russia and globally. My fingers are crossed.

Stephen Raab is a junior studying chemical engineering. He resides in Alumni Hall and welcomes discourse at sraab@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

To the members of the student body,

On behalf of the Congregation of Holy Cross, I'd like to thank each of you for the ways in which you honored the life of Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, CSC, these past few days. Your late night visits to the Basilica, participation in the wake, funeral Mass, procession to the cemetery and memorial, the touching video produced by NDtv and countless prayers at the Grotto were all beautiful reminders of how fortunate each

of us CSCs are to be at a University with such thoughtful and caring students. Please know how grateful we are to each one of you for the ways that you celebrated, honored and loved our brother, Fr. Ted.

In Notre Dame,

Fr. Pete McCormick
Director of Campus Ministry
March 6

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Do not fear death so much, but rather the inadequate life."

Bertolt Brecht
German dramatist

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Live slowly

Erin Thomassen

The Examined Life

Read slowly. A book is a treat. Would I wolf down an ice cream cone? Probably — I like ice cream. Would I enjoy it more if I ate it one lick at a time, truly tasting the cold, sugary cream before I swallowed it? Yes.

When normal people eat ice cream, they get a brain-freeze (I get nose-freezes, but that's a different story). When I read quickly, I get a headache. Food for thought: Rushing good things is not pleasurable, but painful.

If I skim my reading, I don't let the words swirl around before swallowing them down. I don't let my eyes feast on the words, so I don't taste their deep meaning. I finish a fat book in an impressively short time, but I don't retain any of the nutrients. My belly, my brain, is swollen from ingesting too much too quickly. What did I gain? Another book, another pound, but no joy.

I never skim the milk in my ice cream, so why would I skim my reading? It removes the richest and most enjoyable part, the part that makes ice cream dessert. Without cream, ice cream is just ice. It is a chore to chew on. It crunches loudly, drawing unwanted attention and questions about my iron levels. When I wolf down my ice cream cone, I might as well be chowing down on ice; I waste the ice cream's tastiness by swallowing the sweetness before it has a chance to dance on my tongue. Sugar is a diva. It likes its stage time.

Great works of literature like their stage time, too. They deserve it. But I crowd them all on stage

at once so none of them can be properly seen. I switch from one to the next so quickly that I cannot remember what just happened in the other book. I should pick one book and spend my time enjoying it rather than rushing through five and enjoying none of them.

When I go to Let's Spoon, I want to try too many flavors. The five-year-old in me insists that five ice cream cones are better than one. Logical me knows: I will not enjoy five ice cream cones. I will finish them off quickly because I am excited for the next one and feel sick rather than happy when they're finished. I'll feel disappointed that this treat that was supposed to bring me joy only brought me a stomachache.

Ah, yes, the philosophical moment has arrived, for this is where the life metaphor comes in. When I rush the joys of life, when I try to cram too much in my mouth, brain and schedule at once, I don't enjoy it. I can't swallow it. I can't even breathe.

I am always excited for what's next. What am I doing next weekend? Next summer? Next semester? What am I doing when I graduate? When I become a mom? When I enter a retirement home?

Oh wait, I haven't dreamed about that. I don't want to think that far ahead. I dream about jet-setting careers and weddings but not funerals. I am attracted by posters for casino night, not bingo night in a crocheted sweater.

But I like crocheting. I like reading in a rocking chair. I like baking cookies. Grandmahood may not be so bad.

On the other hand, I do not like having my muscles ache, my mouth drool and my friends die. Funerals are powerful and moving, but I can't say I

like them.

But life is not about likes and dislikes. It is about living through each day, where a day can be defined as 1) a 24-hour period during which the earth makes approximately one rotation; 2) a time that spans from the rising until the setting of the sun, during which one can enjoy breathing, eating ice cream and reading and 3) a gift of time during which you will be given opportunities to do the right rather than the expedient, to play the role God created you to play and to be Christ and love the world.

When my family opens gifts on Christmas day, we do so slowly. Each person opens one gift at a time. Since a large chunk of the presents end up being books, it can take us hours to unwrap each one, fawn over the cover together, read the synopsis aloud and figure out who gets to borrow it next. We're annoying. But we open gifts slowly because we appreciate and enjoy them, and we want their goodness to last as long as possible.

According to definition (3), time is a gift. The fact that we cannot unwrap it all at once and know what it holds means we get to enjoy it longer. God is a master gift-giver.

So I'll try to enjoy the slowly-unwrapping time. It'll be good for me. I'll try to read slowly, eat my ice-cream slowly, and live slowly. Yes, I wrote this so I would have an excuse for the next time I'm tardy.

Erin Thomassen is a sophomore studying mechanical engineering. Send her comments or questions about her sanity at ethomass@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the students of Notre Dame

It was fitting that Fr. Jenkins, Coach Holtz and a couple of other speakers at Fr. Ted's memorial departed from their scripts to comment on how impressed they were with the way in which Notre Dame's student body turned out to line the funeral procession route, from the Basilica to Fr. Ted's final resting place. Beyond all of the eloquent words by the University's dignitaries and friends, I believe Fr. Ted would have been most touched and honored by your collective gesture.

I was fortunate to be part of that procession and was struck by your reverence and respect. For me, the single greatest memory of the day will be that walk, hearing only the sounds of shuffling feet and seeing the solemn expressions on your face. Thank you. Universally, all of those who gathered last night at Rohr's shared the same observation. What was most amazing is our knowledge that most of you had only a limited time to get to know Fr. Ted.

Coach Holtz told a story about a friend whose 3-year-old daughter sang the fight song for Fr. Ted. After she concluded, Fr. Ted said, "That's great sweetheart; can you say the Our Father?" I was the friend that Coach Holtz referenced and Caroline is my daughter. She's 21 today and is a college junior,

down the road at DePauw University. Like each of her three younger brothers, Caroline was baptized by Fr. Ted in the Log Chapel. Her fight song performance was after her oldest brother Jimmy was baptized (Coach Holtz failed to mention that Caroline knew the Lord's Prayer by the time we reached the Chicago Skyway on the drive home, but I digress).

But there's a second story about Fr. Ted and my daughter.

About six years after the fight song encounter, I called Fr. Ted's dear friend and assistant Melanie Chapleau, to see if I could bring my entire family by Ted's office for a quick visit. My wife and I wanted all of the kids to perhaps have a memory of Fr. Ted (I will forever regret not making a second trip with the kids in any of the subsequent years).

We waited in his way-cool reception area with so many artifacts. Our three young sons most enjoyed the pictures and models of all the planes Fr. Ted had ridden in, especially the supersonic Navy jet, "Blackbird."

He came out to greet us and invited us back to his office. The hallway to his office is lined with pictures of Fr. Ted with virtually every significant Head of State over the past 50 years. Our children

were oblivious. As we left however, Caroline spotted a man in one of the pictures she did recognize. She stopped immediately, stared at the picture for a moment, turned quickly and asked, "Father Ted...you knew Martin Luther King!?" As he did in the Log Chapel six years earlier, Fr. Ted bent over, hands on knees, looked our daughter gently in the eyes and said, "Caroline ... Dr. King was a GREAT man." I still get the chills recounting that incident. A genuine member of our nation's history, giving our daughter a lesson.

For those of you who did not have any personal encounters with Fr. Ted, but who still turned out to line the processional route out of respect or school pride or simply instinct, perhaps that second story will come back to you when your children learn about civil rights and Dr. King. By then, you will understand 100 times over why you stood quietly in the cold and the gravity of your gesture to those who processed.

Rest in Peace, Fr Ted; YOU were a great man.

James M. Moriarity
class of 1984
March 5

Join the Discussion |
Have an opinion? *Let us hear it.*

Send a letter to the Editor at
viewpoint@ndsmcobserver.com



By **ERIN MCAULIFFE**
Scene Editor

St. Patrick's Day is the only time wearing a groutfit is acceptable.

The laudable St. Patrick's groutfit — entirely green outfit — is a festive, classic Notre Dame take on the unfortunately way too common all-gray groutfit.

Over spring break, some of my friends chose to wear man tanks the entire week to embrace "Cali Lyfee" — much to my dismay.

As if the pale skin shrouded in mesh and burnt shoulders didn't give away their Indiana origins enough, the fact that one paired his green tank with green SAO sunglasses, a green Notre Dame hat and green board shorts solidified our South Bend allegiance.

Biking down the boardwalk on Saturday he was met with the comment, "Wow, that kid has the best St. Patrick's Day outfit ever!"

Turns out Notre Dame's excess of green athletic clothing will garner compliments once a year, so let's take advantage of it.

To fully embrace the intentional groutfit, it must be that — intentional. This means minimize the mesh and don't don the green Campus Ministry/Awkward Awareness Week/Leprechaun Legion shirt you got for free and now sleep in every night.

Chances are your mom/grandma/twice-removed aunt has bought you a green button-up "you know — for the Irish!" for at least one present since you made your fated decision in high school. Although you might have balled it up and thrown it to the bottom of your closet as "you wear The Shirt at games, mom" — pick it up, iron it (if you're feeling particularly ambitious) and pair it with the green Gap chinos your mother also bought you "for school spirit."

Now that you have the base, grab all those green game day/wild trip to NoLA beads you have hanging up as half-hearted room décor, dig up those sunglasses you got at DomerFest and are unsure why you kept and top it off with a classic Notre Dame baseball hat that I know you all have because I see a plethora of them in every Friday 8:20 a.m. lecture.

As a Notre Dame student the groutfit comes almost too

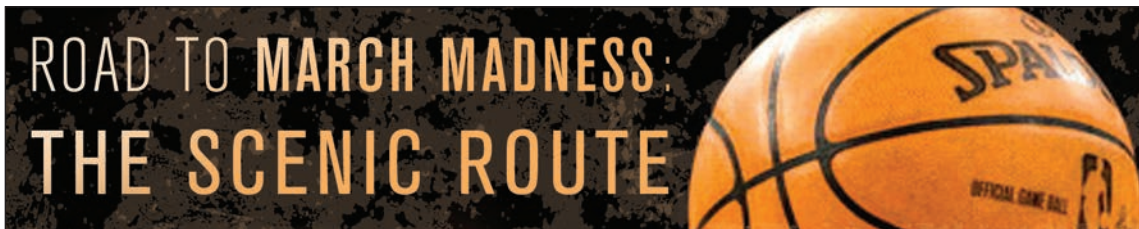
easily; however, do not mess everything up by choosing red shoes or anything that will turn your hard work into a Chrouftit — a Christmas outfit. We are trying to be festive, but sporting anything red will just make it look like you have your months confused or started pregaming too early.

Although the groutfit is a St. Patrick's Day go-to, it is not the only option. Some other festive outfit themes could include channeling the rainbow for a progressive/creative/Lucky Charms take or a Trinidad James inspired ensemble.

Notre Dame students also have an advantage in the all gold errythang realm. Pull out your gold 2 Chains/game day beads (these things are so versatile), those gold leggings frequently seen in the front row of football games and ask that football player down the hall you frequently tell your uncle "you know" for his gold helmet.

This is a day to be creative, don't waste it by choosing a cheesy T-shirt and stopping there. Dedicate your whole body — head, shoulders, feet and liver — to the cause.

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By **MIKO MALABUTE**
Scene Writer

Look around. Take a whiff of the sweet, sweet aroma in the air this beautiful time of the year. What special occasion does today mark? Yes, you're indeed right: it's time for March Madness! (I suppose today is also St. Patrick's Day — who knew?) With Selection Sunday coming and going and the selection committee dictating who gets to go to the Big Dance, it's time to fulfill your patriotic duty of completing a bracket and I am personally walking you through some of the of the highlighted matchups you should consider when you're completing yours. What's that? You're afraid a sports article has found its way into the "Scene" section? Fear not! For that's the beauty of March Madness — there's absolutely no logic to any of this! It's madness I tell you, (March) Madness!

Midwest

Going through the region, it's pretty much a must in your bracket to have Kentucky advance through pretty much everything, and you will want to have Purdue match up with them in the next round. This is because I'm pretty sure there's a "cat mascot" limit in the tournament — wildcats are enough (Kentucky,

Arizona, Villanova), but throwing bearcats into the mix? That's just asking for trouble. Between the first round coinciding with St. Patrick's Day and Notre Dame approaching basketball destiny, we're pretty much a lock to advance past Northeastern. Indiana's iconic jerseys (have you seen "Hoosiers"?) are good for at least one win, so you can count on them to advance in the short-term.

West

Wisconsin's premiere player — Frank "The Tank" Kaminsky — has a nickname that just rolls through the competition: look for them to go far. In one of the bigger toss-ups from an actual sports standpoint, Oregon versus Oklahoma State can be a nerve-wracking pick — until you think to come back to the jerseys. Look for Oregon to sport some flashy neon green jerseys: looks that are so sharp they're dressed to kill. The same type of logic can apply for Baylor to beat out Georgia State: don't mess with Texas or their flashy threads.

East

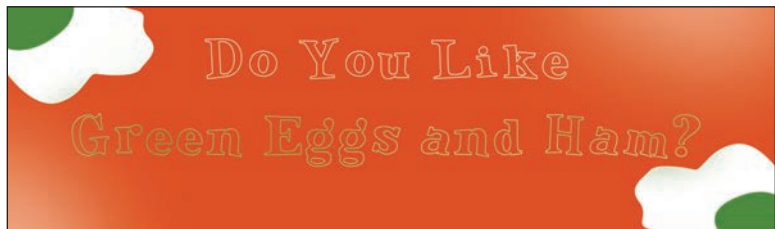
The Eastern region is chockfull of heavyweight mascots here, and so really this might be the region that can potentially bust your bracket. At this point, any and all wildcats

just have to advance — after all, cats travel in packs, right? Look for the UC Irvine Anteaters to "Zot, Zot, Zot!" their way past the Louisville Cardinals (yes, apparently anteaters go "zot.") When you're flying high, you're flying high, and really, who can fly higher than a Flyer? Make sure to have Dayton on your radar. The only thing more iconic than Michigan State's Sparty is their head coach, Tom Izzo. Quick: what's Georgia's mascot? Who's their coach? Exactly.

South

Duke. Yes. They'll advance (though they might be pinched if they're caught without any green today). St. John's will advance over San Diego State — "San Diego," which, of course, in German means "first round exit." Now usually when you completing a bracket, it is customary to pick a team you have absolutely no knowledge of, but will pick anyway because their school name just sounds like an upset pick. That, naturally, is referring to Stephen F. Austin. Round out your bracket by having Iowa State go all the way because who dares mess with a cyclone, and you're well on your way to having a bracket as good as anyone else's.

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By **KATHRYN MINKO**
Scene Writer

'Tis the season of luck, celebration, heritage and — most importantly — green. What better opportunity to reflect on tradition and youth than St. Patrick's Day? Though many people relish in the food, drink and fellowship of Irish tradition, I thought I'd bring back Theodore Geisel. That's right, good ol' Dr. Seuss.

Ever since kindergarten, many Notre Dame students, myself included, have participated in cooking green eggs and ham with their classmates. I still remember lining up in the cafeteria every March 17 and pondering how green eggs exist. Though in college now, why lose the magical tradition symbolizing one of our childhood's greatest initiators of imagination?

During my many Spring Break 2k15 Internet searches of boredom, I stumbled upon a Pinterest article regarding green eggs and ham. Reminiscing on one of Dr. Seuss's most successful stories, I researched its origin, as well as the tradition it conceived. "Green Eggs and Ham," published in 1960, surprisingly resulted from a bet between Dr. Seuss and his editor. Bennett Cerf, Seuss's editor, challenged the author to compose a book using only 50 different words. Accepting the challenge, Seuss concocted one of his most notable children stories, which sold 200 million copies. Since then, students, families and friends have gathered together to enjoy green eggs and ham on a house, on a mouse, in a car and in

a tree.

Have the inclination to relive childhood tradition? Want to start a new St. Patty's Day celebration? Making green eggs and ham is a perfectly accessible way to embrace the American simplicity of youth, green and Dr. Seuss. Aside from actually cooking scrambled eggs with green food dye, people can prepare their own "green eggs and ham" with pretty much any ingredients they possess. Even if you can't get ahold of a pan, drive to the store or lack fridge room and time (some classic college obstacles), taking part in this tradition is not impossible. A perfect snack for any St. Patty's Day social gathering, candied green eggs and ham makes for an uncomplicated tradition. I have seen this made with mini square pretzel bites (Snyder's, am I right?), green M&M's and melted white chocolate chips. These tasteful snacks fulfill the saltiest of sweet tooths, making for a fantastic St. Patrick's Day celebration element.

Throughout my childhood, I have anxiously awaited the greenest holiday of the year. Along with festivities of fortune, leprechauns, food and beverages, I have constantly looked forward to preparing green eggs and ham. Though I discovered the mysterious green dye, the magic of tradition and youth within me has yet to perish. Through an open mind, anyone can like green eggs and ham. Anyone can like them, Sam I Am.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY
PLAYLIST

By **DANIEL O'BOYLE**
Scene Writer

As an Irishman in America, I've been looking forward to St. Patrick's day for a long time, but no St. Paddy's Day is complete without some genuine Irish cool. Here's a playlist of some of the essentials to get you in the mood.

“Dearg Doom” — Horslips

If you want to go from zero to feeling like a Celtic warrior in a matter of seconds, listen to the opening bars of Dearg Doom. Nailing the balance between folk and rock, it's the perfect opener to any Irish playlist, making you grab your hurley and see off your Guinness as it awakens that deep-rooted Irish pride you didn't even know was there.

“Hay Wrap” — The Saw Doctors

Between accordion solos, a shout-along chorus and an interpolation of Irish rebel song, “The West's Awake,” Galway-based band the Saw Doctors chant lyrics about hay-baling machinery, the “wild bad drink” in the town of Tuam and former Mayo gaelic football player Willie-Joe Padden. If you're confused, I don't blame you, but what I'm trying to say is this song is very Irish.

“Fisherman's Blues” — The Waterboys

Ever wanted to get away from it all and spend the rest of your life as a fisherman on some remote isle off the coast of Ireland? If so, then this one's for you. If not, this song might convince you.

“The Rocky Road to Dublin” — The Chieftains & The Rolling Stones

You might know The Rocky Road to Dublin as a traditional Irish classic, but have you ever actually deciphered and listened to the lyrics? It's about traveling to England and immediately getting in a fight with the first Englishmen you see, only to find a group of Irishmen who happily join in.

“Alternative Ulster” — Stiff Little Fingers

Stiff Little Fingers made their name with punk rock songs about their (and my) native Northern Ireland. “Alternative Ulster” is among the best anthems ever written about the province.

“Top O' The Morning To Ya” — House of Pain

I didn't know this song existed until two days ago, it might just be the worst attempt at an “Irish” song I've ever heard, but yet I can't stop listening to it.

“Whiskey in the Jar” — Thin Lizzy

Thin Lizzy took this staple of traditional Irish music and made it their own. If the iconic, perfectly Irish-sounding riff doesn't get you, the story in the lyrics of an outlaw betrayed by his lover will.

“C'est La Vie” — B*Witched

Yes, late-90s Ireland sounded exactly like this song. No, I don't really know what happened to B*Witched either. Wikipedia tells me they reformed in 2012. But it's those little spoken parts between the verses that mean I have to put this on the list, because not enough top 10 hits these days include the phrase “What are ya like?”

“Sally MacLennane” — The Pogues

For unknown reasons, there's a stereotype that the Irish like to drink. I guess this song — an ode to “the greatest little boozer” — encapsulates that aspect of Irish culture pretty perfectly.

“Tell Me Ma” — Sham Rock

At some point, when everyone's had a little too much to drink, someone will mention they used to do Irish dancing and insist they can still Ceili with the best of them. This song's for that moment.

“Fields of Athenry” — Dropkick Murphys

Yes, Dropkick Murphys are pretty much the definition of a band for American “plastic paddies”, but the energy they bring to this usually somber folk song is just too great to ignore. This one's for those who say they're Irish because of that one distant relative who might have lived in Donegal: today, you are.

“Stars in My Eyes” — The Original Rudeboys

Rappers with thick Dublin accents remain a rarity, but Neddy Arkins of up-and-coming Irish band The Original Rudeboys — backed by a gentle acoustic melody and chorus — delivers a couple of pretty great verses here.

“N17” — The Saw Doctors

Emigration is a pretty big part of Irish life. As nice as our little island seems, many of us leave. There have been plenty of songs about life for the Irish abroad, but few capture the experience of missing Ireland quite like this one. Written about a road in the west of Ireland, it's become an anthem of homesickness for the Emerald Isle and begs you to sing along.

“Summer in Dublin” — Bagatelle

To finish, you just can't beat this one. As Bagatelle plays you out with memories of lost love in Ireland's capital, you might just find yourself flooded with memories of a special someone from your semester abroad. If you're going to call her, though, remember the time difference, because it's probably like 8 a.m. there.

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

Wait before judging Chip Kelly

Michael Ivey
Sports Writer

Despite some recent criticism about the way Philadelphia Eagles head coach Chip Kelly has handled this offseason, everyone should calm down and give Kelly a chance to prove himself.

After four seasons as the head coach at the University of Oregon, Kelly made the jump to the National Football League. Many wondered whether Kelly's unusually fast-paced, high-octane offense would work against the bigger and faster players of the NFL.

In Kelly's first season as Eagles coach in 2013, the team started with an unimpressive record of 3-5 and criticism of Kelly and his offense mounted. However, the Eagles made a switch at quarterback after starter Michael Vick was injured, putting in second-year quarterback Nick Foles. With Foles leading the way with running back LeSean McCoy, Philadelphia closed the season winning seven of their last eight regular season games to finish the season with a 10-6 record and made the playoffs as the winner of the NFC East division. The Eagles ended up losing in the first round of the playoffs to New Orleans.

The 2014 season held high expectations for Kelly and the Eagles. They started the season with an 6-2 record, but Foles suffered a serious injury midway through the season. With backup quarterback Mark Sanchez leading the way, the Eagles won only half of their remaining games and, despite finishing with an 10-6 record, missed the playoffs.

Immediately after the season ended, reports of a feud between Kelly and Eagles General Manager Howard Roseman began to surface, along with speculation Kelly might leave the team for another. Kelly reportedly wanted to be in control of acquiring and trading away players, but Roseman didn't want to give up that power. After a tense few days, it was announced that Roseman would be promoted to another job in the front office and Kelly, in addition to head coach, would add the title of general manager. Kelly got his wish but in the process might have severely damaged his relationship with the front office.

It was reported March 4 and finalized on March 10 the Eagles would trade All-Pro running back LeSean McCoy to the Buffalo Bills in exchange for linebacker Kiko Alonso. The trade stunned many, including McCoy himself. When Kelly

tried calling McCoy about the trade, McCoy ignored all of his calls. Kelly explained his reasoning behind the trade was to free up salary cap space in order to sign players to fill key holes in the Eagles roster, most notably on the defensive side. Some fans accepted this explanation and backed Kelly up, but a lot of people criticized Kelly for not just what he gave up, but who he got in return. Kiko Alonso won the Defensive Rookie of the Year award in his first season in the league but missed the entire 2014 season with a torn ACL. Alonso played for Kelly in college at Oregon, and he became the ninth player on the current Eagles roster to also play for Kelly at Oregon. Many accuse Kelly of having a bias toward his former Oregon players.

Kelly followed this up by trading quarterback Nick Foles to the St. Louis Rams for quarterback Sam Bradford. This trade was met with heavy criticism. Despite being a former first-overall draft pick, Bradford has underperformed during his time in the NFL, and many label him a huge bust. On top of all that, he has suffered two serious ACL injuries the past two years, leading many people to think he won't be able to stay healthy for an extended period of time. Additionally, Kelly decided not to resign top wide receiver Jeremy Maclin and let him become a free agent.

Many people are still asking why Kelly would make moves like this. Why would he get rid of his top quarterback, running back and wide receiver all in the same offseason?

Despite all these questionable moves, Kelly has made some really great personnel decisions this offseason, too. He was able to sign free agents cornerback Byron Maxwell and running back DeMarco Murray. Maxwell helped the Seattle Seahawks to two straight Super Bowl appearances, while Murray was considered the top running back in the league last year while playing for Philadelphia's arch-rivals, the Dallas Cowboys.

Chip Kelly has total control over the Eagles roster, and despite what everyone thinks, he's going to go out and get the players he thinks best fit his system. Whether it will work only time will tell. If it doesn't, the results could prove disastrous, but if it does work, he'll be known as one of the biggest geniuses in football history. He has proved doubters wrong before.

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The views expressed in this Sports Authority are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

MLB | PADRES 7, CUBS 0

Padres overpower Cubs while Lester struggles

Associated Press

PEORIA, Arizona — Matt Kemp and Tommy Medica hit towering home runs off Jon Lester on a rough day for the new Chicago Cubs ace in the San Diego Padres' 7-0 victory on Monday.

Lester hadn't allowed a run or walk in two starts and five innings. He was charged with six runs and seven hits before leaving with one out in the fourth. He was scheduled to go four innings.

Lester first started feeling uncomfortable in the bullpen when he said "everything was flat, ball was up."

The left-hander issued a leadoff walk in a two-run second that included former Boston teammate Will Middlebrooks' wall double.

Kemp crushed an inside fastball to left an inning later that landed on a tent, his second homer of the spring with his new club.

Lester returned for the fourth despite being at 62 pitches, then gave up three

more hits, including Medica's two-run shot to center.

"I'd make a bad pitch and it would take two more for me to make the adjustment," Lester said. "That's got to change quickly."

Rotation candidate Brandon Morrow threw four scoreless innings for San Diego.

Cubs prospect Kris Bryant barely missed his seventh home run when he doubled off the wall in the fourth. Bryant was the DH after sitting out Sunday because of fatigue in his throwing shoulder.

STARTING TIME

Cubs: Only 44 of Lester's 70 pitches were strikes. He said it had nothing to do with throwing to catcher Wellington Castillo for the first time.

"Welly came in a couple times in the dugout and apologized for some stuff," Lester said. "I don't know what he was getting at. I was the one chucking the ball and he's not. . I flat out didn't

execute pitches."

Padres: Morrow, signed to a one-year deal after spending five oft-injured seasons in Toronto, allowed three hits and struck out two.

"Good velocity, good little split-change, nice hook, good slider," Padres manager Bud Black said. "Yeah, he pitched very well."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Cubs: Manager Joe Maddon said Bryant will DH again Tuesday, but should return to the field by Thursday.

Padres: RHP Casey Kelly woke up Monday without pain, a day after throwing batting practice in another attempt to return from elbow-reconstruction surgery.

Kelly hasn't pitched in a major league game since 2012. He had a setback in his return last year. A groin injury has kept him out of games this spring.

"I think I've learned some patience through this whole process," Kelly said, smiling.

Kelly will throw batting practice again Wednesday.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wichita State eager to 'play angry' in tournament

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kansas — Wichita State should have no problem playing angry this time around.

The program whose mantra of "play angry" carried them to the Final Four two years ago, and to a perfect regular-season record last year, was dealt a No. 7 seed by the NCAA Tournament selection committee on Sunday and given a tough opening matchup against Indiana.

Hardly a reward for winning another regular-season Missouri Valley title, spending much of the season ranked in the top 10 and having one of the nation's best backcourts.

But if anybody is a master manipulator when it comes to using a perceived slight to

his advantage, it just may be Wichita State coach Gregg Marshall. He thrives on playing the underdog role, and the Shockers have come to embody that over the years.

"It is what it is," Marshall said Monday. "We don't get to vote on where they seed us."

That may constitute a verbal shrug, but you can bet the uber-competitive Marshall will have his guys playing as if they have been treated unfairly against the Hoosiers on Friday.

"Bottom line is our region is tough," Marshall said. "We have four of the top 10 winningest programs in the history of college basketball — and we're not one of them — in our region. Kentucky is one, Kansas is two, Indiana and Notre Dame. We've got four in our region. We

have to make it through those guys to get to the Final Four."

Ah, yes — Kansas. Don't forget the Shockers could earn a third-round date with the Jayhawks if both win, finally getting a chance to play the school that refuses to schedule them.

That fact surely wasn't lost on Kansas coach Bill Self, who was stunned to see the Shockers fall to the seventh line when the bracket flashed on the television screen.

"How in the world they're a seven-seed blows my mind," he said. "I thought the Missouri Valley, to be honest, deserved a little more credit than what they got. I thought they would be a higher seed and Northern Iowa would be a higher seed, too."

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MEN'S TENNIS | ND 7, BOSTON COLLEGE 0; ND 6, DETROIT 1

Irish halt skid with back-to-back wins

By **RYAN KLAUS**
Sports Writer

No. 36 Notre Dame ended a four-match losing streak with a pair of wins in a doubleheader against Boston College and Detroit on Sunday at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The two victories for the Irish (8-5, 1-2) were their first since Feb. 14, when they beat Michigan on the road. Following the Michigan victory for Notre Dame were road losses to No. 10 Ohio State, No. 15 Virginia Tech and No. 28 Louisville as well as a home loss to No. 4 Illinois.

"We played some really good teams consecutively," Irish head coach Ryan Sachire said. "All of those were against really good teams and three of those four were on the road so we knew it was a tough stretch. Obviously, we wanted to win at least a couple of those matches and we didn't, but our guys are resilient and we had a good week of practice out in Arizona during spring break so we felt pretty prepared to play well yesterday."

After losing three of their previous four contests on the road,

the Irish returned home Sunday for the first time since Feb. 25. Including the doubleheader over the weekend, Notre Dame is currently on a five-match home stand and will not go on the road until a match against Miami on March 27.

"We love playing at our place and we feel really comfortable there, so we're absolutely excited to be playing there," Sachire said. "We're also a good team on the road, too. It's not a make-or-break-deal, but we're definitely comfortable there and excited to get back at it on Tuesday here."

Following a 6-3 start to non-conference play, the Irish opened their ACC conference slate against Virginia Tech (12-1, 4-0) on March 3. The Irish were upset in a tight match, losing 4-3. Notre Dame then played Louisville (14-4, 2-1) in their second conference match two days later. Junior Quentin Monaghan's seven-match winning streak at first singles came to an end at the hands of the fifth-ranked singles player nationally in senior Sebastian Stiefelmeyer as the Cardinals beat Notre Dame 5-2.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior Quentin Monaghan prepares for a backhand January 24 against Oklahoma State at Eck Tennis Pavilion. Notre Dame beat both Boston College and Detroit on Sunday.

The Irish entered their doubleheader Sunday looking for their first conference win of the year against Boston College. Notre Dame swept the Golden Eagles (4-7, 0-2), 7-0. In their match later in the day Sunday, the Irish routed Detroit as well, 6-1.

With the coming of conference play, the Irish now play multiple times per week more often and generally have shorter

periods of time to rest, Sachire said.

"It's not really a huge adjustment because we did it last year and we're used to playing multiple matches in a weekend," Sachire said. "It certainly creates a rhythm as our season goes on for the rest of the year."

The Irish will continue their five-match home stand today when they take on No. 34 Texas Tech. The match against the

Red Raiders (14-4) will be a brief departure from ACC play for Notre Dame. Following today's match, Notre Dame will not play another non-conference opponent for the remainder of the regular season.

The Irish and Red Raiders are set to square off at 5:30 p.m. today at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS | ND 4, ECU 0; UNC 5, ND 2; ND 5, BC 2

ND takes two of three

By **BEN PADANILAM**
Sports Writer

No. 28 Notre Dame played three matches over the past week and came away with a pair of wins.

The Irish (9-5, 4-2 ACC) cruised to a win over East Carolina, 4-0, on March 10 in Tampa, Florida, before coming back home and losing to No. 1 North Carolina, 5-2, on Friday and defeating Boston College, 5-2, on Sunday at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

In the victory over the Pirates (11-5), the No. 21 doubles pairing of junior Quinn Gleason and sophomore Monica Robinson secured a 6-1 victory in the top doubles spot. The second-position doubles team of freshman Allison Miller and junior Julie Vrabel then won in a tiebreaker, 7-6(5), to give the Irish the doubles point.

In the singles, the Irish picked up three quick wins to secure the 4-0 victory. Robinson, Vrabel and sophomore Mary Closs all cruised to victories, leaving the other three singles matches unfinished due to the fact it was a non-conference match and the result had already been decided. Irish head coach Jay Louderback said he was pleased with the team's performance and the opportunity the match provided for them to prepare for more outdoor tennis going forward.

"We had great break," Louderback said. "We were able to get outdoors and practice. We needed to get outdoors and just play in some heat. Pretty much from here on out, at least all of our away

matches are probably going to be outdoors."

Notre Dame was set to play Florida Gulf Coast later that evening, but the match was cancelled due to inclement weather. Instead, the Irish returned home to prepare for their two matches this past weekend at Eck Tennis Pavilion. On Friday, the team battled but fell to the top-ranked Tar Heels (17-0, 5-0 ACC) by a score of 5-2.

The Irish started strong in the match with an 8-5 victory at first-position doubles by Gleason and Robinson over the No. 12 doubles team of senior Caroline Price and sophomore Jamie Loeb. However, Miller and Vrabel fell to the No. 36 pairing of juniors Ashley Dai and Kate Vialle 8-5 at second-position doubles, while Closs and sophomore Jane Fennelly lost 8-4 to the 18th-ranked duo of sophomore Hayley Carter and junior Whitney Kay to give the doubles point to the Tar Heels.

In the singles, Miller and Fennelly fought to wins to earn two points for the Irish. Miller won in three sets at No. 5 singles, defeating Dai 1-6, 6-1, 6-4. At No. 6 singles, Fennelly sailed to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Vialle. However, the Tar Heels, with three players ranked in the top 20 of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) top 50, took wins in the other four singles matches to defeat Notre Dame by a final score of 5-2.

On Sunday, however, the Irish rebounded with a 5-2 win over the Eagles (8-7, 2-3).

The Irish began the day by taking

the doubles point following decisive wins by Miller and Vrabel and the duo of Closs and Fennelly at second and third doubles, respectively. Miller and Vrabel cruised to an 8-1 victory, while Closs and Fennelly won by a score of 8-3.

After taking the doubles point, Notre Dame then won four of the six singles matches. Both Closs and Fennelly won in two sets while Robinson and Vrabel fell in their matches. Leading 3-2 with two singles matches remaining, the Irish were able to take both as Gleason and Miller each claimed victory in tiebreakers to secure a 5-2 victory. Following the performance, Louderback said he was excited with the effort put forth by his team this weekend.

"We played two really good matches," Louderback said. "We lost 5-2 to North Carolina, but they're the No. 1 team in the country. We had a chance to win in the doubles and [Quinn Gleason] lost in three sets, so we're right there with them. Then, we had an exciting win over BC. We came down to the last two matches in tiebreakers and won both of them. But if we had lost both, then we would've lost the match. So for us, it was a very good spring break."

The Irish will return to the courts Friday at 3 p.m. when they take on Florida State at Scott Speicher Tennis Center in Tallahassee, Florida.

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MEN'S LACROSSE | DENVER 11, ND 10 (OT); ND 11, UVA 9

Irish split with top-10 foes

By GREG HADLEY
Editor-in-Chief

In a pair of top-10 contests road contests over spring break, No. 3 Notre Dame suffered through the second half, getting outscored in both by a combined six goals.

It only cost the Irish once though.

Against No. 6 Denver on March 7 and No. 8 Virginia last Saturday, Notre Dame (4-1, 1-0 ACC) sprinted out to early leads, collecting five goals in the first quarter of each game. But while the Pioneers (4-2) rallied to force overtime and take the 11-10 victory, the Cavaliers (5-2, 0-2) fell short, 11-9.

In both matchups the team was held back by their inability to execute, Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan said.

"I think we hurt ourselves at the end of the day [against Denver]," Corrigan said. "We hurt ourselves with penalties, we hurt ourselves with giving up a couple things we shouldn't have given up, and as a result we just weren't able to come out on top."

Against Virginia, the same problems came up again after halftime.

"The second half of the Virginia game was us once again making some mistakes in the clearing game and on ground balls that gave them the opportunity to get back in the game," Corrigan said. "They never got closer than two, but still, that game should never have been that close."

Notre Dame was below its season average in clearing percentage (81 percent) in both games, failing to get the ball out of the defensive zone six total times. Against Virginia, the squad lost the ground ball battle, 34-30.

The Irish also lost the faceoff battle in both contests, including a pivotal overtime start that gave the Pioneers the ball, after which they promptly scored 43 seconds into the extra period to end the game. Possession was key in both matchups, Corrigan said.

"I thought that overall, on the day, we did not faceoff well, and it hurt us throughout the day," Corrigan said. "In the second half, we just didn't have the ball, and that's

something we have to continue to work on as well. We can't continue to be on the short end of the faceoff game."

The Irish also committed six penalties against Denver, surrendering four man-up goals.

"Whether you like the calls or don't like the calls, that's too many times for us to be man-down and too many goals for us to give up in that area of the game," Corrigan said. "We've got to get better there and we've got to not foul."

Against Virginia, the Irish stormed out to early lead, scoring the first seven goals of the game. Freshman attack Mikey Wynne collected a hat trick before the Cavaliers found the back of the net, with junior attack Matt Kavanagh chipping two goals and an assist of his own.

"We rode very hard, we got ground balls and we were very efficient offensively," Corrigan said. "And defensively, they couldn't get by us. And we weren't giving them anything, we weren't creating anything for them, so it was just overall some of the best lacrosse we've played, especially coming on the road against a team like that. The first half was terrific."

However, just before the break, the Cavaliers received a man-up opportunity and converted to close the margin to 8-2 and gain crucial momentum. In the second half, they outscored the Irish 7-3, including the final three scores of the game.

"It's not like we did something different than what we did in the first half," Corrigan said. "We just didn't do it as well. It's a matter of being more consistent. There's nothing we have to change or do differently, we just have to do a better job. We failed to clear and we failed to win ground balls that we should have won and pick up first-chance ground balls and things of that nature."

"You do that in the first quarter or the fourth quarter, it's going to hurt you. So we just need to be more consistent over the course of 60 minutes."

The Irish return to Arlotta Stadium to face Ohio State this Saturday at 4 p.m.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE | BC 15, ND 6; SBU 9, ND 5; ND 15, VT 8

ND ends break with win

By RENEE GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

No. 17 Notre Dame went 1-2 over the break, dropping road games to No. 3 Boston College and No. 18 Stony Brook before returning home to defeat Virginia Tech, 15-8, on Saturday.

The 15-6 loss to Boston College and the 9-5 loss to Stony Brook put the Irish (4-4) on a three game losing streak, as they had suffered a defeat at the hands of No. 4 Duke the week before.

"I think heading into BC, ranked No. 3 in the country, we looked at where we were at coming off the Duke loss," Notre Dame head coach Christine Halfpenny said. "We had a great full week of practice to look at ourselves and prepare, and unfortunately we weren't able to have it come together."

Halfpenny attributed the Irish defeats to problems with ball security and shooting.

"[The Boston College game] was a case where there were just too many turnovers. We really lacked the ability to stay competitive in the game because of all our forced errors. That coupled with shooting that has been shaky [caused the loss]," Halfpenny said. "Then we were coming up against a hot Stony Brook team, and again our shooting was something that was an Achilles' heel for us over spring break."

However, Halfpenny said she was proud of the effort the Irish put into the games, even when they were behind.

"On the positive side, we fought really, really hard," Halfpenny said. "We had great fight, great hustle, got a great goal at the final whistle which we were really excited about."

The performance of sophomore midfielder Cortney Fortunato was a major highlight for the Irish over the break, as she managed a hat trick against Boston College and set a record for most scores in a home game with eight goals against Virginia Tech.

"Cortney is very talented attack player," Halfpenny said. "She has a lot of dynamic pieces that was she was able to put together. If we need her to get the ball in the back of the net, she'll do that. If we need her to get draw controls, she'll do it. She's just doing everything that we need right now."

Halfpenny also had praise for sophomore midfielder Casey Pearsall and senior defender Barbara Sullivan.

"Especially on draw controls, Barbara Sullivan had an outstanding day," Halfpenny said. "It was really nice to see her have an extraordinary performance after she had to sit out so much of last season with an injury."

Notre Dame was able to break the losing streak with the home

victory over Virginia Tech. The game was tied at halftime, but the Irish scored eight to the Hokies' one in the second half to secure the win.

"We had to come back home and learn from what we did wrong," Halfpenny said. "Against Virginia Tech, we found a nice edge in our game and we were really able to control the game at home in Arlotta, which is something that was really important to us to start off the spring, playing in nice weather and being done with winter lacrosse."

Though the break was not as successful as the Irish had hoped, Halfpenny said the team would be able to use the defeats as an opportunity to improve.

"While it wasn't our goal to go out on the road and come back empty-handed, those games were important for pointing out our weaknesses and addressing them, as well as exploiting our strengths as we go along just like we did against Virginia Tech," Halfpenny said. "The other big piece of spring break was seeing how strong we are at the draw and taking that into the rest of the season to really define what our offense is going to be about."

Notre Dame next faces Ohio State at Arlotta Stadium on Saturday at 12 p.m.

Contact Renee Griffin at rgriffi6@nd.edu

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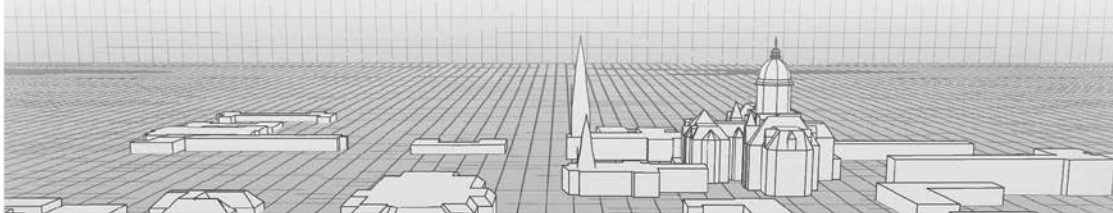
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BASEBALL | CLEMSON 6, ND 1; ND 11, CLEMSON 6; ND 5, CLEMSON 1

Irish go 4-3 on road trip

By **BRIAN HARTNETT**
Senior Sports Writer

Notre Dame ended a seven-game southern road trip by taking two of three games at Clemson over the weekend, winning a conference road series for the first time as a member of the ACC and capping off a stretch in which it went 4-3 overall.

The Irish (14-4, 3-3 ACC) lost two of three games at Georgia Tech on March 6-8 and then topped Savannah State, 5-3, in 11 innings Wednesday afternoon.

Notre Dame head coach Mik Aoki said his team wasn't flustered by two conference road series. The Irish were 1-14 in conference road games last season, the lone win coming at Miami on April 20.

"Capturing series wins on the road in this conference is extremely difficult, extremely challenging, especially when you look at a place like Clemson, where they've got a pretty enthusiastic fan base, and it's not exactly the friendliest environment in which to play," Aoki said. "Our kids did a phenomenal job of just blocking stuff out. ... It's an important series win for sure."

Notre Dame struggled against Clemson junior starting pitcher Matthew Crownover in the first game of a Friday doubleheader, managing only three hits in eight

innings in a 6-1 loss. Irish bats woke up in the second frame of the doubleheader, however, as Notre Dame managed a season-high 16 hits in an 11-6 victory. Notre Dame saw its early 6-0 lead vanish completely, as the Tigers (9-9, 2-4) tied the game with a six-run sixth inning, but the Irish pulled ahead for good with two runs in the eighth inning and three in the ninth.

Notre Dame's usual Sunday starter, junior Nick McCarty, closed out the rubber game of the series, a 5-1 Irish win, by allowing one unearned run and five hits in six innings of work. Nine Notre Dame players finished with hits in the game, including freshman outfielder Jake Johnson, who has now reached base in all 18 contests this season.

"He has a very advanced feel for where the strike zone is," Aoki said of Johnson. "It's part of who and what he is — he's not a kid that right now is going to be launching balls over the fence and hitting 400 foot-plus home runs."

"He understands that about himself. He plays within who he is, an incredibly advanced hitter in terms of his approach."

Notre Dame's other two victories on the road trip came in extra innings. The Irish recorded a 3-2 victory in 10 innings over Georgia Tech (14-5, 4-2) on March 6 and

earned a 5-3 win in 11 innings over Savannah State (9-11, 4-2 MEAC) on Wednesday.

With the two extra-innings victories, Notre Dame is 6-0 this season in games decided by two runs or less.

"I think it was a function of our guys being really locked in, being extremely competitive in the pursuit of trying to win the game for as long as was necessary," Aoki said of the extra-inning wins. "We did it against a really good Georgia Tech team at another place that's not easy to play."

Georgia Tech won the other two games of the series to give Notre Dame its first weekend series loss of the season. The Irish cut Georgia Tech's lead to 7-5 in the seventh inning, but the Yellow Jackets added four runs in the eighth inning to earn the 11-7 win March 7. In the next day's rubber match, Notre Dame managed only five hits in eight innings against Georgia Tech sophomore starting pitcher Brandon Gold, who led the Yellow Jackets to a 4-1 win.

Notre Dame will play its home opener Wednesday, when the Irish meet Central Michigan at Frank Eck Stadium. First pitch is scheduled for 6:05 p.m.

Contact **Brian Hartnett** at bhartnet@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL | ND 12, FLORIDA STATE 0

Nasland throws no-hitter

Observer Staff Report

After suffering a three-game sweep at the hands of North Carolina State, Notre Dame recovered on the tail end of its spring break slate, winning three of five games, including a no-hitter.

The Irish (15-11, 1-5 ACC) defeated Campbell and North Carolina Central by respective scores of 4-3 and 9-0 (in five innings) before losing two straight to Florida State by scores of 4-1 and 7-3.

In Sunday's game against the Seminoles, however, sophomore

right-hander Rachel Nasland gave the Irish a performance for the record books.

After struggling in her Saturday outing against the Seminoles, a 4-1 loss, Nasland rebounded for a sharp performance Sunday. In the five-inning, 12-0 victory, Nasland did not allow a hit and threw just 61 pitches while striking out four and only walking two. The no-hitter was the first of Nasland's career and the 35th solo no-hitter (42nd overall) in the program's history.

The Irish relied on strong offensive performances to help out Nasland during her showing Sunday. Senior center fielder Emilee Koerner chipped in with a team-leading three hits, scoring three runs and adding an RBI. In addition to Koerner, six members of the Irish scored at least one run, five of them crossing the plate at least twice. Senior catcher Cassidy Whidden walked twice and added two runs. Freshman shortstop Morgan Reed paced the team in RBIs, knocking in four during the game after crushing a three-run home run to cap off a six-run third inning. The home run was Reed's first of her career.

The Irish return to action Wednesday against Cleveland State for their Melissa Cook Stadium season opener. The first pitch is scheduled to be thrown at 4:30 p.m.

HOCKEY | HOCKEY EAST QUARTERFINALS

ND eliminated by UMass Lowell

By **BEN HORVATH**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame lost to No. 14 Massachusetts Lowell, 6-4, on Sunday in a decisive game three of the Hockey East conference tournament quarterfinals, likely ending their 2014-2015 season.

The Irish finished the season with a record of 18-19-5, including a 10-7-5 record in Hockey East.

Although disappointed with the weekend's result, Irish head coach Jeff Jackson said his squad played its best hockey in the final two months of the season, which will help the young team heading into next year.

"I'm excited about the direction that we're headed," Jackson said.

UMass Lowell (20-11-6, 11-7-4 Hockey East) won the first game of the three-game quarterfinal series Friday night with a final score of 5-0. However, the Irish were able to rebound the following night and defeated the River Hawks 4-2 to force the pivotal Game 3 on Sunday.

Jackson said he was proud of the way his team responded on Saturday to force a third game in the series.

"We definitely rebounded [after Friday night], we were down and our guys kept playing and we came back and fought right till the end," Jackson said.

In Game 3, the River Hawks' quick start proved to be the deciding factor as they jumped out to an early 2-0 first period lead, scoring two goals in the game's opening five minutes.

Jackson said it was difficult for his squad to come back from this rough start, especially as the road team. Hockey's substitution rules require the visiting team to substitute first, which allows the home team to substitute according to the opponent's lineup.

"It's not so much the crowd factor, but the difficulty of getting the right people on the ice at the right time," Jackson said.

Midway into the first period, Notre Dame cut the lead in half with a goal from senior defenseman Robbie Russo, his first of two goals on the afternoon. Russo's second goal, his 15th of the season, placed him atop the goal-scoring list for all

defenseman nationally.

Sunday's contest was Russo's last game in an Irish uniform, and Jackson said his Notre Dame career has been "great," particularly his senior season, which Jackson described as "an All-American year."

"He's been the anchor for us not just offensively, but defensively as well, especially this year where he's really helped out our young guys," Jackson said.

Freshman defenseman Jordan Gross assisted on Russo's first-period goal, which was Gross's 21st assist of the season.

Jackson said Gross, as just a freshman, played an "instrumental role" for the squad.

"He had a great freshman year, without question one of the best freshmen defensemen in college hockey," Jackson said.

UMass Lowell tallied two more goals prior to intermission, however, making the game 4-1 at the end of the first period.

Russo's second goal of the afternoon came in the second period but was sandwiched in between a pair of River Hawks' goals in that period, making the score 6-2 heading into the second intermission.

Two Notre Dame goals in the third period, the first from senior right wing Peter Schneider and the second from Gross, brought Notre Dame within two goals.

Notre Dame's rally proved too-little-too-late as UMass Lowell thwarted the Notre Dame comeback. The River Hawks earned a slot in the semi-final round against top-seeded Boston University.

Notre Dame earned the No. 5 seed in the Hockey East tournament and a first-round, best-of-three matchup with 12th-seeded Massachusetts, which the Irish won, two games to one.

Jackson said he is "excited" about Notre Dame's 2015-2016 campaign, as the squad will return nine freshman players next season.

"We have a lot to build on in the next few years," he said. "It's going to be an exciting thing for us to watch these young guys turn into great players."

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Champs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

alone — and as such, they were prepared for the same situation on the tournament championship stage, according to sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson.

“We’ve been down before, especially at North Carolina State in a hostile environment, so we’ve been in situations like this, and we just stayed composed,” he said. “We amped it up a little bit, and we just played hard.”

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant said he knew the momentum of the game had shifted when classmate Pat Connaughton hit a 3-pointer to put the Irish ahead 67-64, their first lead since the 17:41 mark of the second half.

“I think when Pat started knocking down shots, and I looked at the scoreboard, and I saw the other team’s heads down, it really felt like we were going to get this win,” Grant said.

Grant led the Irish with 24 points, 15 of them coming from the free-throw line, and Connaughton added 20 of his own. All of Notre Dame’s starters finished the game in double figures in scoring, and junior forward Zach Auguste added a double-double, notching 16 points and 13 rebounds. finished the game in double figures in scoring, and junior forward Zach Auguste added a double-double, notching 16 points and 13 rebounds.

“It’s something that is a really unselfish team that we have,” Connaughton said. “All 13 guys in there have one goal, and that is to win. We don’t care who does the shooting, who does the scoring, who does anything on the offensive end.”

Notre Dame’s balanced approach resulted in an overall shooting percentage of 54.2 percent from the field and a 50 percent success rate from beyond the

arc, where it made 10 of its 20 attempts. The Irish made 28 of 32 free-throw attempts, shooting 87.5 percent from the charity stripe.

Despite its success on the offensive end, Notre Dame found itself on several occasions trailing a North Carolina team that shot 53 percent from the field for the game. The Irish were down six points at the 12:09 mark of the first half, after which they went on a 15-2 run to take a lead they carried into halftime.

Early in the second half, the Irish found themselves on the receiving end of a 14-2 North Carolina run, which shoved them into the nine-point deficit from which they needed to claw their way back. According to Connaughton, the key to the comeback was a focused on renewed defensive intensity.

“I think coach [Brey] has done a great job of instilling that in us, how are we going to respond?” Connaughton said. “We knew that we needed to do it on the defensive end. That defense fuels our offense.”

In defeating North Carolina and No. 2 Duke the day before, Notre Dame became just the third team in ACC history to defeat both the Tar Heels and Blue Devils in North Carolina en route to winning the conference title and the first to do so since Georgia Tech did it in 1993.

The Irish defeated the Blue Devils, 74-64, on Friday in a matchup in which they led by as much as 17 points in the early second half. Notre Dame defeated Miami, 70-63, on Thursday in the tournament’s quarterfinal round.

“Duke and North Carolina are two premier programs, not only [in the] ACC but in the country,” Irish sophomore guard Steve Vasturia said. “... But we came in with a lot of confidence in this tournament beating both of those teams during the regular season. With the

leaders we have and the way we’ve been playing all year, we came in here with a certain confidence, and we’ve played with an edge just like the coaches have been talking about.”

Grant was selected the MVP of the ACC Tournament for his efforts over a three-game stretch in which he averaged 16.7 points and 6.33 assists per game. Vasturia, who averaged 13 points per game, and Connaughton, who averaged 14.3 points per game, joined him on the All-ACC tournament first team, while Jackson, who shot 55.6 percent from the field for the tournament, made the tournament’s second team.

Grant, who didn’t participate in last season’s conference tournament due to an academics-related separation from the program, said he was honored to join a list of tournament MVPs that includes Tim Duncan and Christian Laettner.

“It means a lot; this is what I envisioned coming back,” he said. “This is something that’s really special. To do it with these guys and to do it with coaches, it means a lot.”

Notre Dame will find out its NCAA Tournament fate tonight, when the brackets are revealed at 6 p.m. Until then, Saturday night’s victory will serve as a motivator for success during the rest of March, Connaughton said.

“It’s something that puts us in position to do more things that we’ve never done,” he said. “We were able to do that in the regular season, and we were able to do that in this tournament. Now, we’re even hungrier.”

“It was something that no one even picked us when we got to the championship game, so we’re going to use that as motivation not just for this game, but for the games to come.”

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W Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

(No.3), Stanford (No. 4) and Oklahoma (No. 5).

If the Irish advance past the Grizzlies, they will take on the winner of No. 8 Minnesota and No. 9 DePaul. DePaul gave Notre Dame a tough test on the road Dec. 10, with the Blue Demons leading for much of the overtime game before junior guard Jewell Loyd and her program-record 41 points led the Irish to a 94-93 win.

“I think every coach looks at it that way, and I’m going to say the same thing,” McGraw said. “We definitely have the toughest bracket. ... I think all the teams in the bracket are capable of

winning.”

However, McGraw said coming away with an opening-round victory is not a guarantee against a team she believed should have earned a higher seed.

“We play a 16-seed with great record, 21 times in the NCAA tournament,” she said. “It’s probably the best 16-seed that’s ever been in the tournament.”

Connecticut, which bested the Irish, 76-58, on Dec. 6 at Purcell Pavilion, earned the tournament’s overall No. 1 seed and will compete in the Albany, New York, region. The Huskies beat Notre Dame in the last two Final Fours, including a 79-58 dismantling in the 2014 title game.

The other two No. 1 seeds are Maryland — which Notre Dame topped, 92-72, on Dec. 3 — in

the Spokane, Washington, region and South Carolina in the Greensboro, North Carolina, region.

However, McGraw said she and her team are not looking past this weekend, to either the regional in Oklahoma City or the Final Four in Tampa, Florida.

“You just don’t know what’s going to happen, but for me, I’m going to focus on the first games,” she said. “Boy, those first two games both look very difficult.”

The top-seeded Irish open NCAA tournament action Friday, with a 7:30 p.m. matchup against No. 16 seed Montana at Purcell Pavilion.

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Monaco

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

and bludgeoned last season and stumbled to their first losing season since 1988-1989.

But Notre Dame started to earn respect with its playground performance. Becoming a mainstay in the national rankings did that initially, but it took marquee wins over the blue-chip opponents to officially announce an arrival.

Notre Dame rolled into Chapel Hill and topped the Tar Heels, 71-70, in early January. But it was a one-point win.

Notre Dame outlasted Duke at home at the end of January, dropping the Devils by four. But that had to be a fluke. Duke steamrolled the Irish by 30 just 10 days later.

Nope.

The Irish toppled Duke — again — in the ACC semifinals Friday.

North Carolina ripped open a nine-point lead midway through the second half Saturday. That would surely do in the Irish, who had no answers inside — right?

Wrong.

Notre Dame answered with its massive run and placed an exclamation point on a season that began with questions about finishing .500 in conference play.

“To win the championship

going through Duke and North Carolina on Tobacco Road, I think, is extremely powerful,” Brey said.

And Notre Dame pushed the powers aside in boxing out its spot among the conference’s best.

Brey hasn’t backed down from saying this championship is the best achievement in the history of Notre Dame basketball. While that’s certainly debatable, especially in Digger Phelps’ mind, it’s worth wondering what it means moving forward.

A great accomplishment, surely.

“When we come back, or they come back for reunions, that is something they’ll always remember,” Brey said.

The wins over Duke and North Carolina might reveal something more about the Irish heading toward NCAA play, though. Backed by an improved defense, Notre Dame may have raised the floor of its seemingly widespread range of possible outcomes next week.

Standing on a three-step platform, cutting down the nets as ACC champions in the Greensboro Coliseum, it sure seems so.

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The views expressed in this Sports Authority are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Jerian Grant, who redshirted that season in his first year in the program, was the only current Notre Dame player on the roster. As a No. 7 seed in 2012, the Irish lost to Xavier in their first game. Iowa State bounced No. 7 seed Notre Dame in the opening round in 2013. Asked if Notre Dame’s lack of recent NCAA tournament success weighs on him at all, Brey responded succinctly: “No.”

“This is a different team,” Irish senior captain and guard/forward Pat Connaughton said. “This is a team that, from the very beginning, we wanted to establish ourselves as a different team, as a completely new, almost reinvented, program.”

The Irish did just that, in

part, by winning Notre Dame’s first-ever conference tournament championship over the weekend in Greensboro. Notre Dame’s last appearance in the Sweet 16, however, came in 2003, when the No. 5 seed Irish lost to No. 1 seed Arizona.

“We still want to rewrite history here at Notre Dame,” Grant said. “I feel like we’ve done something so far, but just to be able to go to the Sweet 16, Elite Eight and get a chance to play against [Midwest No. 1 seed] Kentucky and do something special there, it would mean a lot.”

Notre Dame and Northeastern square off Thursday at 12:15 p.m. in Pittsburgh at Consol Energy Center. The game will be broadcast on CBS.

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See more coverage online.
ndsmcobserver.com



CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Verdi duet
"Madre, non
___?"

6 Gucci rival

11 Wheelwright's
tool

14 Cousins of foils

15 Strange

16 Narrow inlet

17 Cows, pigs and
chickens

19 Equivalent of
about seven
cases of beer

20 Watery

21 Deep-toned
instrument

23 Sister

24 Location of Mount
McKinley

29 Mural surface

31 ___ the Lip
(major-league
nickname)

32 Buddy of "The
Beverly Hillbillies"

33 UPS delivery:
Abbr.
- 35 See 26-Down

37 Masculine side

38 One can be
found in each of
the answers to
17-, 24-, 54- and
63-Across

43 Gen. Robt. ___

44 Otto's vehicle on
"The Simpsons"

45 Italian article

46 Frighten

48 Do a voice-over
for

50 Out of touch with
reality

54 A.M. or F.M.
news dispatch

57 Baseball
scoreboard letters

58 Cream-toned

59 Certain sedatives

61 Gun, as an
engine

63 Sprain, say

66 Alcindor :
Abdul-Jabbar ::
Clay : ___

67 Direct (to)
- 68 French square

69 Inits. on a bottle
of Parisienne

70 Tin Pan Alley
output

71 Aikman and
Donahue

Down

- 1 Render harmless,
as a snake
- 2 Impossible to see
through
- 3 "Seinfeld"
episodes, now
- 4 Idea that may
spread via the
Internet
- 5 Japanese-born
P.G.A. star
- 6 Former Saudi
king
- 7 Blight victim
- 8 Actress Vardalos
- 9 The Mississippi
has a big one
- 10 Cover, in a way
- 11 Bill Clinton, by
birth
- 12 Go out, as a fire
- 13 Turn back sharply
- 18 Void, in Versailles
- 22 Where one might
get one's first pair
of overalls
- 25 Lampoons
- 26 Bryant of the
35-Across
- 27 There's one for
curly hair
- 28 56-Down grad:
Abbr.
- 30 Ball-like
- 34 Hunk
- 36 Tempe sch.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	L	T	O		W	R	O	T	E		V	E	S	T
J	O	H	N		H	A	G	A	R		E	C	H	O
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61	62				63		64	65						
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

Puzzle by Bill Thompson

- 38 Be frightened

39 Teatro ___ Scala

40 Manta

41 Like the athletes
in the ancient
Olympics

42 You might not
think to use it

47 Quagmire
- 49 Pro wrestling
fans, frequently

51 Conductor
Toscanini

52 Sundae topper

53 "You're right,
absolutely"

55 Total

56 Upstate N.Y.
sch.
- 60 Like a door
that doesn't
afford complete
privacy

61 Manta, e.g.

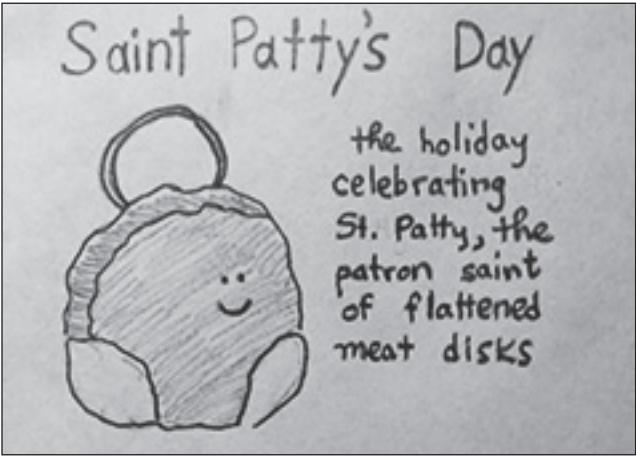
62 Loop transports

64 "Brainiac" author
Jennings

65 Calf's place

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobilexword for more information. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER



DOME NUTS | ALEXANDRIA WELLMAN



SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4

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	2	7				3	8	
			8					
			5	4				
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SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

12/4/12

1	8	2	9	4	3	5	7	6
4	3	6	2	5	7	1	8	9
5	9	7	6	8	1	4	3	2
9	7	4	5	2	8	6	1	3
8	6	3	7	1	4	2	9	5
2	5	1	3	9	6	7	4	8
3	4	9	1	6	5	8	2	7
7	1	5	8	3	2	9	6	4
6	2	8	4	7	9	3	5	1

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: You are advised to view each situation independently and come to your own conclusions and decisions using moderation and a realistic attitude. Expecting too much from anyone or anything will lead to disappointment and setbacks. Instead, focus on what you can do to ensure that you make steady progress. Honesty and integrity will help you avoid a mishap. Your numbers are 3, 10, 16, 25, 28, 33, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An investment will pay off. Take the time to help someone out, and you will be offered a contribution or favor that will help you out legally, financially or physically. Follow your intuition when dealing with a money matter. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Positive action to improve your appearance will result in compliments, but also can lead to costly expenditures and debt. Don't live beyond your means. Don't contribute to someone else's investment. Joint ventures will not turn out in your favor. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Say little. Listen to others and observe how they react. Consider how you can best use your skills to make a difference. Actions will speak louder than words. A romantic situation will boost your ego. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Check out different philosophies, religions and ways of doing things that interest you, and you will find a new direction that will help you overcome some of the impositions you've been forced to deal with. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Step into the limelight and you will draw attention from others, bringing you greater control and confidence. Learn from the changes going on around you. Love is in the stars, along with self-improvement projects. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Important documents could hold you back or cost you if you overlook the fine print. You may be in a rush to close a deal, but don't be overly hasty. A good friendship will develop if you participate in an evening event. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take part in events that allow you to show your compassion and competitive desire to help others. Your contributions will change the way others view you and bring about an interesting union with someone who will help you face challenges. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have a greater interest in starting your own business. Avoid overspending or taking on more than you can handle. Baby steps and an innovative approach will lead to greater success. The groundwork will result in future stability. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't spend to impress. If someone isn't happy to be with you, consider moving on. An investment you make should benefit you, not those riding your coattails. Live bravely. Have the courage to go after what you want. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your emotional attitude will cause confusion. You'll have to make an honest assessment of what works for you and what doesn't. Don't let anyone railroad you into a situation that is costly. Avoid unpredictable people and situations. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make vocational changes if you are persistent, innovative and enthusiastic when it comes to promoting what you want to do. Invest in yourself and your future. Personal and professional partnerships will help you reach your goals. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Use your charm to get others to pitch in and help. Delays while traveling or dealing with institutions, government agencies or people in authoritative positions can be expected. Take care of details personally to avoid disappointment. Someone will try to hold you back. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are forceful, outgoing and insightful. You are colorful and expressive.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KACTR

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HRPOM

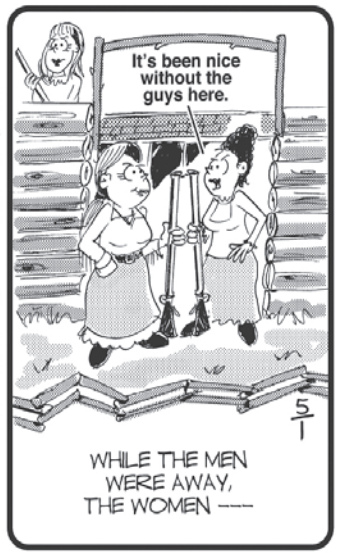
UNSEFI

INVIED

A: THE (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's | Jumbles: SNUCK BEACH ACROSS DOUBLE
Answer: After their defeat the night before, the coach wanted his team to do this — BOUNCE BACK

WORK AREA



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish finalize ACC arrival with win



Mike Monaco
Senior Sports Writer

A stadium shrouded in baby blue with five mustard streaks on the court soon gave way to a rainbow of confetti.

On Saturday night in Greensboro, North Carolina, fittingly in the heart of ACC country, Notre Dame stood out.

Wearing those gold uniforms and fluorescent highlighter shoes, the Irish outdid the bluebloods of arguably college basketball's best conference. Wins against Duke and North Carolina in back-to-back nights? Sure.

North Carolina was playing in its 33rd ACC tournament title game. Duke has appeared in 31. Notre Dame was playing in its first — in any conference.

But the team from northwest Indiana, some 665 miles away from Greensboro, bested Duke and pummeled the local Tar

Heels with a 22-2 run en route to the 90-82 victory and the conference crown.

"I am a little bit in awe of what my team did tonight and really the whole weekend here," Irish head coach Mike Brey said to reporters afterward.

Yes, there's still enough to be decided about this Notre Dame season in a short period of time next week in the NCAA tournament. An NCAA run has been missing in recent years, and another early exit would somewhat smudge the gleam of 29 wins and the ACC tournament title. But that's a conversation for another day. For one weekend, Notre Dame finalized its arrival in the ACC.

Brey has talked for two seasons, now, about Notre Dame carving out its spot in the ACC. Like the new kid arriving at a new school, there were growing pains. The Irish were bullied

see MONACO **PAGE 14**

MEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 90, NORTH CAROLINA 82

ND clinches ACC title

By **BRIAN HARTNETT**
Senior Sports Writer

GREENSBORO, N.C. — With 9:58 remaining in the championship game of the ACC tournament at Greensboro Coliseum on Saturday night, No. 11 Notre Dame, the tournament's No. 3 seed, found itself in a situation it had seen time and time again this season. The team trailed by nine midway through the second half, this time to No. 19 North Carolina, the No. 5 seed in the tournament.

But nearly 10 minutes of game action later, the Irish (29-5) found themselves with a familiar result seen time and time again this season: a victory.

Only this time it was an unprecedented one.

Behind a 26-3 run filled with 3-pointers and defensive stops, Notre Dame pulled away to earn a 90-82 victory over the Tar Heels (24-11) and its first ever conference tournament championship, coming in just its second year in the ACC.

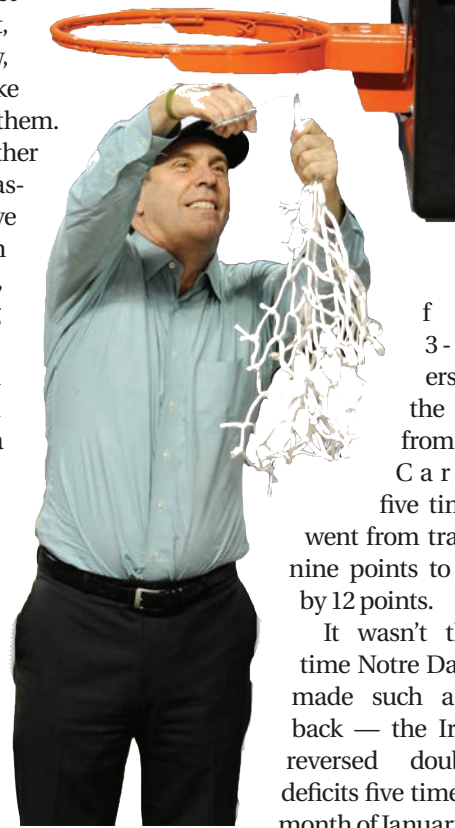
"I am a little bit in awe of what my team did tonight, and really

the whole weekend here," Irish head coach Mike Brey said. "To be down nine and come out of

that timeout and get maybe seven, eight, nine stops in a row, when it looked like we couldn't guard them. Then put that together with beautiful basketball, which we've played all year in ball movement, it was a lighting strike to watch it."

North Carolina tied its largest lead of the game on a 3-pointer from junior guard Marcus Paige with 9:58 left in the game. The Tar Heels would not make another field goal until the six-minute mark and then were held scoreless until 2:45 remained in the game. During that seven

minute-plus stretch, Notre Dame



made four 3-pointers, stole the ball from North Carolina five times and went from trailing by nine points to leading by 12 points.

It wasn't the first time Notre Dame had made such a comeback — the Irish had reversed double-digit deficits five times in the month of January

see CHAMPS **PAGE 14**

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame secures No. 1 seed in OKC region

By **MARY GREEN**
Assistant Managing Editor

The road to a fifth consecutive Final Four for Notre Dame began Monday, when the Irish earned a No. 1 seed in the Oklahoma City region of the upcoming NCAA tournament.

With a top seed locked up, Notre Dame (31-2, 15-1 ACC) will kick off tournament play with a matchup Friday at Purcell Pavilion against No. 16 seed Montana, the Big Sky regular-season and tournament champion.

The Irish bring their own hardware into the game, having collected an ACC regular-season title and a tournament championship with a 71-58 victory over Florida State on March 8.

"I think this team's capable of anything," Irish head coach Muffet McGraw said. "I think we showed this year what our potential could be. We still haven't painted our masterpiece. I'm still waiting for the game when we play the best we've ever played."

"We're starting to get

there. You can see that it's coming, so that's what I'm hoping for in the tournament."

The Irish and Grizzlies (24-8, 14-4) have faced off just once before, a 50-48 Montana win in December 1986.

That game took place on a neutral court in Seattle. The teams' second matchup will be held at Purcell Pavilion as the tournament's top 16 teams all earned home-court advantage for the first two rounds.

"I think the first game is always the toughest game, so for us to be starting at home in front of our fans — we hope we have a sell-out crowd — is going to be really, really important for us to get off to a good start," McGraw said.

Notre Dame enters the game looking for its 18th consecutive victory. The last Irish loss came on the road against Miami (Fla.), a 78-63 defeat in which they shot just 35.9 percent from the field and 8.3 percent from behind the arc.

The Hurricanes are the No. 11 seed in Notre Dame's region, which also features Baylor (No. 2), Iowa



see W BBALL **PAGE 14**

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish earn No. 3 seed in Midwest

By **MIKE MONACO**
Senior Sports Writer

Less than 24 hours after winning the ACC tournament as the conference's No. 3 seed, Notre Dame earned the No. 3 seed Sunday in the Midwest Region of the NCAA tournament.

The Irish (29-5, 14-4 ACC) will face No. 14 seed Northeastern on Thursday in Pittsburgh. Notre Dame rode a second-half surge past North Carolina, 90-82, in Saturday's ACC tournament final Saturday night after besting Duke, 74-64, in Friday's semifinal in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"It's the most confident I've been with a team going into the NCAA tournament," Irish head coach Mike Brey said. "I think with the experience and what happened in Greensboro has given me that and them that."

Kentucky headlines the bracket as the No. 1 seed in the

region and the tournament's top overall team. Kansas (No. 2 seed), Maryland (No. 4), West Virginia (No. 5), Butler (No. 6), Wichita State (No. 7) and Texas (No. 11) are also in Notre Dame's region. Should the Irish top Northeastern, they would face the winner of Butler and Texas on Saturday in Pittsburgh.

"We've already won one tournament... Can we win the Pittsburgh tournament?" Brey said of his message to the Irish. "That's all we're thinking. I told them, 'Don't even look at the rest of the bracket.'"

Notre Dame has only faced Northeastern (23-11, 12-6 Colonial Athletic Association) once in program history. The Irish rolled the Huskies, 72-45, in 1997 in South Bend behind 24 points from Pat Garrity and 11 assists from then-freshman guard Martin Inglesby, now an Irish assistant coach.

Northeastern topped No. 2 seed UNC Wilmington and No. 1 seed William & Mary en route to the CAA's automatic bid. The Huskies clinched their first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 1991.

The last time Notre Dame won an NCAA tournament game was the opening-round victory against Akron in 2011. Irish senior guard

see M BBALL **PAGE 14**