

Prayer service rallies students

Student government hosts prayer service for sexual assault victims

By MARGARET HYND'S
News Editor

"‘Welcome home.’ You all remember that on your acceptance letter. We push the home-mindset hard: ‘Home Under the Dome,’ ‘Domesick.’ But when we receive emails like the one we received on Tuesday, I struggle to call Notre Dame my home," senior Michael Nolan said to about 50 students, faculty and staff gathered at the Grotto on Friday afternoon.

Last Tuesday, the University community received its fourth sexual assault-related crime report email from Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) this academic year. The assault took place in the early hours of March 20 in a

see ASSAULT **PAGE 5**



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Students gather at the Grotto to pray for sexual violence survivors on campus in the wake of a sexual assault that took place on March 20.

Students react to loss

By SELENA PONIO
News Writer

This past Saturday, Notre Dame men's basketball fans traveled to Cleveland and left disappointed as the No. 3 seed Irish lost against top-seeded, undefeated Kentucky. Kentucky eked out a victory at the last minute with a final score of 68-66.

Sophomore Kaitlin Farren was at the game in Quicken Loans Arena and said even though the Irish suffered a loss, she thought it was the best basketball game she had ever seen.

"It was such a fun atmosphere, so though I did feel disappointed, I was more so proud of our team for accomplishing all they did this year," Farren said. "Honestly, I think this was, and will be, the best game of the tournament."

Farren said Notre Dame fans were on edges of their seat throughout the entire game. Head coach Mike Brey and the Notre Dame players seemed confident while Kentucky head coach John Calipari and Kentucky players seemed nervous, she said.

"The ND fans fed off of that nervousness," Farren said. "It was so much fun that ND, a team that so many people refuse to believe has talent, could freak Kentucky out so much."

Junior Kelsey Sullivan also attended the game and said although she was disappointed by the loss, at the end of the game she still felt nothing but pride for the Irish.

"At the end of the day they made it to the Elite Eight for the first time since 1979, so they should be nothing but proud," Sullivan said. "From not even making the tournament last year to losing by one shot to an undefeated Kentucky team in the Elite Eight this year, they've had an awesome season."

Both Sullivan and Farren said senior forward Pat Connaughton's thunderous

see LOSS **PAGE 4**

SMC Dance Marathon raises over \$90,000

By KATE KULWICKI
News Writer

Saturday, Saint Mary's students laced up their dancing shoes in support of the College's 10th annual Dance Marathon and raised a total of \$90,322.94.

The 12-hour marathon benefitted Riley Hospital for Children, a Children's Miracle Network hospital in Indianapolis, and this year's theme was superheroes, senior Nora Clougherty,

see MARATHON **PAGE 5**



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Students dance Saturday in Angela Athletic Facility as a part of the 12-hour Dance Marathon that benefitted Riley Hospital for children.

Keynote shares genocide work

By CLARE KOSSLER
News Writer

Students and faculty who attended this year's Notre Dame Student Peace Conference, an annual, student-run event, gathered Friday in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium to hear the keynote address from Gillian Kitley, the senior officer in the United Nations (UN) Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.

Kitley said despite receiving increased support from the international community in recent years, the UN still faces considerable challenges in attempting to prevent and prosecute genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"Why is it that we still face so many situations where so many people's lives are put at risk?" she asked the audience. "Why is there still so much

suffering for so many populations around the world? And what more can we do now to improve the situation, to improve the international community's ability and will to respond more quickly and more effectively when we see the risks?"

Kitley said she first became interested in these questions during her early years growing up in the African Great Lakes region, which includes Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The region has a long history of violent conflict, she said.

Since joining the UN in 1993, Kitley said she has witnessed significant changes in the field of peacekeeping and conflict resolution, including the creation of her current office in 2004. Kofi Annan created the Office

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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.

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

How are your brackets standing?

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Kyle Mulholland

senior
Off-Campus

“Have MSU in Final Four — Hail Hydra!”



Carolyn Ebner

freshman
Lyons Hall

“That’s a very good question ... ”



Kevin Frost

junior
O’Neill Hall

“Had six out of eight teams in the Elite Eight, and they’re not in it anymore. :(”



Maggie McInerney

junior
McGlinn Hall

“I’m currently in the middle of all three of my pools. I will be dropping to last in all three soon.”



Matthew Williams

junior
Keenan Hall

“I don’t want to talk about it.”



Travis Gayle

freshman
Keenan Hall

“Had seven out of eight teams in Elite Eight. Notre Dame lost. I’m sad.”



KEVIN SABITUS | The Observer

Irish freshman forward Bonzie Colson celebrates after a Notre Dame basket against Kentucky during their Elite Eight game Saturday in Cleveland. The Irish eventually lost to the Wildcats after two last-minute free throws, by a final score of 68-66.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Monday

“Presenting your Research”

Brownson Hall
4 p.m.- 5 p.m.
Undergraduate workshop.

Last Lecture Series

Washinton Hall
7 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Lecture by Maria McKenna.

Tuesday

“Islam and the Building of America”

Hesburgh Center
4 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.
Lecture by Amir Hussain.

Last Lecture Series

Washinton Hall
7 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Lecture by Mike Seelinger.

Wednesday

MFA Student Reading

Hammes Bookstore
7:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Reading sponsored by English Department.

Softball

Melissa Cook Stadium
4 p.m.- 6 p.m.
The Irish take on Eastern Michigan.

Thursday

“Behind the Beautiful Forevers”

Debartolo Performing Arts Center
7 p.m.- 9:15 p.m.
National Theatre Live.

Mindful Meditation

Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m.- 6:15 p.m.
Weekly Meditation.

Friday

“Prayer from Around the World”

Coleman-Morse Center
7 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Jewish Seder meal.

Stations of the Cross

Bassilica of the Sacred Heart
7:15 p.m.
In honor of Good Friday.

Saint Mary's student examines ethical examples

By NICOLE CARATAS
News Writer

In the latest installment of Saint Mary's "Justice Friday" series, senior accounting major Taylor Etzell gave a presentation on ethical business practices.

Etzell said ethics is involved in any situation in which there is actual or potential harm to another party, and ethical decision-making is what comes into play when you attempt to resolve those actual or potential conflicts.

"You can relate ethics to anything in your life, not just business decisions," Etzell said. "I think it's important to implement an ethical framework into your daily lives so that you can always recognize those actual or potential conflicts and then be able to immediately, without second guessing your first judgment, make a decision for that situation."

Chesley Sullenberger, the pilot of the plane that crash-landed in the Hudson river in 2009, is a real-life example of someone who implements a good ethical framework, Etzell

said.

"The pilot had a matter of moments to decide what he was going to do and why he was going to do it," she said. "He is a person who had a pre-established ethical framework ... and he made the decision to land the plane on the river. He didn't know what the outcomes would be, but he also knew that by doing that he was going to harm fewer people. It definitely would have been a different situation had he not been pre-accustomed to making those decisions in a split second."

Etzell said another good example of a company with an ethical framework is the Johnson & Johnson case from 1982.

"Tylenol capsules were poisoned with cyanide," she said. "Once people started to realize that there was a tie between the Tylenol capsules that had been taken and the fatalities that had occurred, Tylenol execs decided to pull off all the Tylenol bottles across the nation."

"It was all in a concentrated area around Chicago.

They couldn't prove it was in California, but that didn't matter. They decided to stop all production, they sent out all of their employees to take off all the bottles from the shelves so that no more fatalities would occur based on these capsules. This lost millions of dollars."

Etzell said Vice President of External Affairs Bob Kiffin immediately recalled all the bottles and sent out his employees despite the large loss of revenue. Because of Kiffin's

"You can relate ethics to anything in your life, not just business decisions."

Taylor Etzell
senior

ethical framework, she said, he was able to recognize the monetary loss was less important than the many lives that could potentially have been harmed had they left the bottles on the shelves.

"He didn't even refer to [the company's] code of ethics. He just automatically sent people out. ... Every employee didn't second guess it. They understood why."

Etzell then gave tips for how everyone can implement an ethical framework into their daily lives.

"The first thing you need to do is to gather all of the facts," she said. "You need to understand the issues and identify the aspects that within your control. ... You have to understand the whole issue."

"Gathering all of the facts is very important because then you can substantiate your decision. You have to tell people why you came to that conclusion and how you got there."

"Converse with yourself. If you converse with yourself, then you'll be able to reflect on all those facts you gathered, and you'll be able to understand why you made that decision."

"The third [step] is to reflect on that decision," Etzell said. "Does this decision that you made make you embarrassed? If the answer is yes, it was probably not the right decision for that instance."

Etzell said having an ethical framework is important to be a valued decision-maker and lifelong learner. She said being conscious of ethics will make people self-aware, which will help them to find their right place when it comes to employment or service.

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Bookstore basketball raises funds



EMILY MCCONVILLE | The Observer

Students participate in the first weekend of this year's Bookstore Basketball tournament on the courts outside of Hammes Bookstore.

By JP GSCHWIND
News Writer

One of Notre Dame's most storied traditions, Bookstore Basketball, began last weekend March 21.

The world's largest outdoor five-on-five basketball tournament has been played every year since 1972, and this year's Bookstore Basketball co-commissioner Patrick Butler said he hopes to continue its legacy with this year's tournament and a field of roughly 620 teams.

The tournament raises money for a charity called Jumpball, Butler said.

"Jumpball is a non-profit run by Notre Dame alumni in Kingston, Jamaica, and it helps encourage basketball skills in young children who don't really have much and lack any athletic outlets. This is their only introduction to basketball and coaches," Butler said.

According to Butler, Jumpball has also expanded to Haiti after successfully running clinics in Jamaica since 1995. However, Butler said many people are unaware of Bookstore Basketball's charitable purpose.

"A lot of people think it's just time to have fun and play basketball with your friends, which is exactly what we want people to do, but your donations are going to Haiti, to Kingston and we've really tried to publicize that this year," Butler said.

Butler said many prominent members of the Notre Dame community have played in the tournament, including Joe Montana, Lou Holtz and University

President Emeritus Fr. Edward "Monk" Malloy, who played on a team named "All the President's Men." However, Butler said Bookstore Basketball remains an excellent opportunity for everyone to get involved in the Notre Dame community.

"The tournament is for everybody. It's not just for varsity athletes or people who play at Rolfs all the time," Butler said.

Bookstore Basketball began as part of AnTostal, Notre Dame's weeklong festival held every spring, Butler said. It used to be played on the roof of the old bookstore which was located near Stepan Center, Butler said. It grew from its origins to include around 700 teams at its zenith and gained the attention of media outlets and people outside of campus.

Butler said examples of the tournament's prominence include a book devoted to its history, "Look Out for the Manhole Cover," and frequent coverage from nationally-syndicated sports writer Rick Reilly.

Butler said a variety of students work as volunteers to support Bookstore Basketball, including commissioners who score games and members of the executive board who oversee the rules and regulations of the tournament.

Butler said he encourages students of any class year to apply so the tournament is not run only by upperclassmen.

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Lecture highlights impact investing

By JEREMY CAPPELLOLEE
News Writer

In the fourth lecture in the Ten Years Hence series, Tara Kenney, managing director at Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management, spoke Friday on the significance of impact investing in emerging markets.

"Impact investing is a concept that has gained a lot of traction in our market today," Kenney said. "There is a way forward in terms of promoting inclusion for the masses in our society today."

While 2 billion people live in poverty and lack access to basic financial services, technological improvements have the potential to deliver these services to the impoverished, Kenney said.

"For the first time in history, major developments make it

realistic to imagine a world where we can change this," Kenney said. "Technology, especially digital and mobile communications, big data and micro-finance make a vision of a financially inclusive world a possibility."

Kenney, who also serves as a board member for Accion International, a nonprofit organization that supports micro-finance institutions, said the company is setting the example in the field of impact investing.

"We've tried to build the next frontier of financial institutions," Kenney said. "We've pushed them to think outside the box and tried to build a strong industry, and, moreover, as a leader in the space we feel it incumbent on ourselves to be the role model for what is and is not ethical in this sector."

Kenney said though the

majority of people in developing countries lack access to traditional banking channels, many of these people have access to cellphones.

"Eighty-eight percent of the world has a cellphone in their

"We've tried to build the next frontier of financial institutions."

Tara Kenney
managing director
Deutsche Asset & Wealth
Management

pockets, and almost half are in emerging markets," Kenney said. "Even in some of the most remote corners of the world, you have access to Internet and Facebook."

Providing access to financial

services for this impoverished yet technologically literate demographic is a potential source of economic growth, Kenney said.

"By 2025, the emerging markets will be roughly be half of the world's consumption standards," Kenney said. "If you take a look at the lowest segment of the population earning less than two dollars a day, that can be a huge marketplace for banks and growing consumer goods markets."

Kenney said Accion, which has helped build 63 micro-finance institutions in more than 30 countries, carefully selects possible investments to ensure that the organization can maintain future growth.

"Working towards scalability and profitability is our mantra," she said. "We have to remain relevant and look to the

future."

Part of Accion's success in securing profitable investments comes from taking calculated risks in environments the company knows well, Kenney said.

"It was incumbent for [Accion] to invest where others would not go," she said. "It's enabled us to grow our platforms and to be a standard-bearer in the industry to understand things like capital protection and over indebtedness."

Kenney said Accion operates in an environment which encourages collaboration even among traditional business rivals.

"We're working both with MasterCard and Visa to promote access to credit cards in emerging markets," she said.

Contact Jeremy CappelloLee at jcappell@nd.edu

Students take part in 'Love Your Melon'

By HALEIGH EHMTSEN and
JENNIFER FLANAGAN
Saint Mary's Editor and News Writer

Since its inception in 2012, the Love Your Melon Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping children with cancer, has built a network of over 900 ambassadors nationwide.

The ambassadors, dubbed "Campus Crews" by the Foundation, help to advance the mission of Love Your Melon (LYM) to put a hat on every child battling cancer. The Foundation produces high-quality winter hats, beanies and baseball caps, and for every hat sold by ambassadors, another identical one is given to a child with cancer.

Notre Dame has its own Campus Crew led by Crew Captain freshman Riley Chelsky. Chelsky said he introduced the program to Notre Dame this year.

"One of my friends was part of Love Your Melon at Marquette, and so I decided to bring it here," Chelsky said.

Junior Leah Ramaekers said she started a Love Your Melon campus crew at Saint Mary's this semester.

"LYM campus crews do a lot of promotion with social media," Ramaekers said.

Ramaekers said if the Saint Mary's LYM campus crew

reaches 120 credits — 120 hat purchases credited to SMC online — the campus crew will host a donation event at the local hospital and hand out 120 hats to local patients.

With the help of sophomore Paige Russell, Chelsky said he

"... I can only imagine how much little kids hate being in the hospital."

Riley Chelsky
Campus Crew Leader
Notre Dame Love Your Melon



Photo courtesy of Riley Chelsky

Members of Notre Dame's Love Your Melon campus crew visit Memorial Hospital in South Bend on March 19 to deliver hats to children and their families battling cancer.

recruited 18 members to join the Notre Dame chapter.

On March 19, the Notre Dame group visited South Bend Memorial Hospital and gave away hats to children and their families undergoing treatment for cancer.

"We had 150 hats to donate," Chelsky said. "It was a great donation event, and just seeing the smile on kids' faces really made a difference."

Chelsky said he lost his own father to cancer and understands the strain of hospital life.

"My dad really hated being in the hospital, so I can only

imagine how much little kids hate being in the hospital," he said.

Typically customers support Campus Crews by purchasing Love Your Melon products online and selecting to support the Notre Dame or Saint Mary's chapter at checkout. Customers will have the opportunity to purchase products on Notre Dame's campus on April 8 at the Bald and the Beautiful graduate student event at Legends from 5 to 8 p.m.

Ramaekers said students should buy a hat to benefit kids in local hospitals battling cancer.

"I think it's important for students to be involved with a campus crew to promote the 'Buy One. Give One' philosophy," she said. "We have seen similar companies like TOMS promote this, which is great. I think the more we can promote and create awareness for 'purchases with a purpose,' the better community we can create."

Chelsky said the Notre Dame ambassadors are also helping with the women's softball Strike Out Cancer event in April.

"We are just trying to continuously grow and spread the word about Love Your Melon," Chelsky said.

Similarly, Ramaekers said she is hoping to develop the club over the next year and gain awareness on campus.

Further information about the Notre Dame Campus Crew and its events are available on Instagram (@ndlycrew), Facebook (University of Notre Dame Love Your Melon Campus Crew) and Twitter (@ndlycrew).

For interest in the Saint Mary's Campus Crew, email lrama01@saintmarys.edu

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Loss

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dunk late in the second half was one of the most memorable moments of the game. Sullivan said at that moment the crowd went wild and immediately got on their feet.

Farren said the dunk was impressive considering the

height disadvantage the Irish had.

"Kentucky has a huge team — they had 20 inches over us — and I expected that we'd have to spend most of the game outside the 3-point line taking long shots, but the guys did such a good job taking it to the hoop and getting inside the paint," Farren said.

Farren said watching the

game, it was obvious that a huge reason the team worked so fluidly was because of the leadership under Connaughton and senior guard Jerian Grant.

"I wish Jerian and Pat could stay because I think they add a lot to the team dynamic and are just unbelievable leaders and motivators, but I think next year we have the

strength and stamina to be just as great, if not better, as we were this year," Farren said.

The common feeling in the arena was disappointment that the Irish almost managed to capture what would have been only their second Final Four appearance in program history. However, both Farren and Sullivan

agreed there was no lack of Irish pride despite the loss.

"It was a great season," Sullivan said. "Look at the Final Four, they beat two of those teams and one of them twice. They did not disappoint us, they made us proud."

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Assault

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

North Quad men's residence hall, according to the NDSP crime alert.

In response to the alert and in accordance with its policy, Student Government hosted a prayer service Friday afternoon to pray for survivors of sexual violence on campus.

Incoming student body president and vice president juniors Bryan Ricketts and Nidia Ruelas delivered the reflection, in which they contemplated beginnings and endings.

"Why, then, are we gathered here today? What has ended?" Ruelas said. "I suggest to you that we all have recognized that in a single sexual assault, we saw the end of someone's trust and a fracture in our community.

"We marked the end of almost seven months to the day since the last time we received an alert. We felt an end to our belief that Notre Dame is not a place where sexual assault happens.

"This feeling is not a pleasant one. But it's important that we are all here, together, to feel it collectively. Here, we can be honest about the pain. We can admit to one another that a breach of our trust has occurred. A breach of our family, of our Catholic ideal of the dignity and respect of every human being, has taken place, and we cannot ignore this," Ruelas said.

Calling to mind the national "One is Too Many"

campaign launched by the White House last year, Ricketts asked aloud how the ending Ruelas described could also be viewed as a beginning for the community as it moves forward.

"I suggest to you that we all recognize that in coming together to respond to a single sexual assault, we see the renewal of our work to build a culture on campus that says 'one is too many,'" he said. "We mark the renewal of a

"... We all recognize that in coming together to respond to a single sexual assault, we see the renewal of our work to build a culture on campus that says 'one is too many.'"

Bryan Ricketts
Incoming student body president

time period in which we will do our part to be our brothers' and our sisters' keeper.

"We feel a renewal of our belief that Notre Dame can be a place where sexual assault no longer happens. This feeling is a hopeful one. And it is crucial that we are all here, together, to feel it collectively. A sense of healing may take days, weeks or months to build, but we believe that it can be done and that it is meaningful to do

it."

Drawing from his own personal experience, Nolan said healing required not only a change in perspective, but reclaiming the University as a home for those who suffered there.

"I'm not happy with us. I'm not proud that this is only the fourth email we have gotten this year," Nolan said. "Over 20 cases of sexual assault at Notre Dame have been documented each year while I have been here. I know. My sophomore year, I was one of 24. I thought exactly what this person is probably thinking now.

"If I didn't drink that much, it wouldn't have happened. If I kicked, screamed or bit him, it wouldn't have happened. If I didn't go to that party, it wouldn't have happened. If I didn't go to Notre Dame, it wouldn't have happened.

"What happened to this home? Our home? For a place that strives to be so intellectual and about high achievement and so much better than the rest of the world, we should know better. Notre Dame should be better. This home was extinguished for me and for everyone who has suffered a trauma here. But we're going to make it a new home.

"... Notre Dame will be home. It will be a place where you are welcome, where you are looked out for and where you are loved. So please, join me in my call. Welcome home."

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Keynote

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect as the Secretary General of the UN at the time, and during the 2005 World Summit, all UN member states pledged to defend their populations against genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Unfortunately, she said, the UN continues to meet the resistance of many countries who are viewed as particularly at-risk for genocide.

"Preventing atrocities is difficult and demanding, and even if we have limitless enthusiasm, consensus and resources, it would still likely prove impossible to prevent every atrocity," she said. "So we have to be realistic.

"We have to accept that there are limits to the influence that outsiders can wield."

Kitley said a further complication of the issue is that many states view UN peacekeeping

efforts as a threat to their political authority.

"States are never going to be enthusiastic about endorsing limits on their sovereignty," she said.

But state noncooperation is not the only challenge encountered by UN officials. Kitley said limited funds and resources, difficulties in achieving justice in the aftermath of violence and the participation in conflicts of non-state actors — such as armed militant groups like the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and multinational corporations — all present obstacles to the success of UN initiatives.

Dealing with non-state actors is particularly difficult, she said, because they refuse to engage with the UN and often have superior resources and technology.

"Non-state actors like the so-called ISIS present new challenges," Kitley said. "These are groups that are intent on holding territory rather than carrying out guerilla attacks. They have no interest in negotiating

with us, they have no interest in international law, they run a sophisticated media recruitment campaign — very media savvy, much more than we are."

Nevertheless, Kitley said it is important to maintain hope, because she said, "for all these challenges, there are solutions."

"We have a growing international community which is committed to tackling these problems," she said.

Kitley said among the efforts made by the international community to combat genocide and violent conflict is the research being done by academic institutions such as Notre Dame into the sources of violence and effective methods of conflict resolution.

"We really appreciate the effort that goes into this research, and I know that this University is one of the universities that has been doing some really important work," she said.

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Marathon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

catering executive chair for Dance Marathon, said.

"It's the Riley kids who are the real superheroes, we just help them fly," Clougherty said.

All funds raised at the marathon benefit the hospital's general fund and ensure that all children are treated at Riley regardless of their ability to pay, she said.

Local families treated at Riley came to Angela Athletic Facility throughout the day to share their stories and motivate the dancers to stay on their feet all day. The event lasted from noon to midnight, according to a College press release.

Within those 12 hours, Saint Mary's Dance Marathon raised more than \$9,000, which is the highest amount the organization has ever raised on the day of the marathon, senior Kristen Millar, internal president, said.

Millar said she hoped the event would raise awareness and funds for Riley as well as give people the opportunity to have fun dancing in support of the hospital. The dancers at the event were encouraged to stay on their feet for the duration of the marathon. Entertainment at the event included learning the choreographed group dance, a bounce house, three meals, listening to the stories from Riley families, live performances by Pat McKillen, the Notre Dame Pep Band, Bellacappella, Irish dance team and the Saint Mary's cheer team, according to a college press release.

Ten years ago, Francesca Johnson, a Saint Mary's alumna from the class of 2009, created the Dance Marathon organization at the College. She returned to Saint Mary's to attend the event's 10th anniversary, she said.

Johnson said she was inspired by her brother's

work as an executive at Indiana University's Dance Marathon and decided to start the marathon at Saint Mary's her freshman year. The first year, they raised \$21,000, she said.

"I had been in children's hospitals when I was little, so doing something for the Children's Miracle Network was very near and dear to my heart," Johnson said. "Wanting to do Dance Marathon at a school that I loved was a very natural thing."

Sarah Voss Reed, Johnson's classmate and a member of the founding group, said she was thrilled to see the continuation of Dance Marathon at Saint Mary's.

"Just to see that [Dance Marathon] has continued on even when no one knows who we are and our legacy is long gone, but the legacy of the marathon still lives is amazing," she said.

Senior Jen Lefere, Dance Marathon vice president, said she was blown away by the results and only hopes that the Dance Marathon will continue to grow.

"I hope to build off what we did this year and continue to have the amazing relationships that we do and to challenge ourselves because that is what we did these last couple of weeks. As you can see, the results were insane," she said. "We hope to keep moving forward and getting more people involved because it is a fun thing to be a part of."

Junior Allison Lukomski, external president, said a question resonated throughout the marathon, "Why do you Dance Marathon?"

For Lukomski, the answer is simple: "Dance Marathon is all about fighting for a cause that is bigger than yourself, fighting for the continuation of hope that is given at Riley, fighting for the little faces I see dancing, for their health and for their lives."

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CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Saint Mary's students listen to the story of a family treated at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis on Saturday.

Please recycle
The Observer.

INSIDE COLUMN

To the men's team



Zach Klonsinski
Sports Editor

Dear Notre Dame men's basketball team and staff,

Thank you. From all of us here on campus and around the world, thank you.

At the beginning of the year, very few people anywhere had expectations for this team: on campus, in the media or around the country. Maybe an NCAA tournament bid, but even then probably only a one-and-done.

You were an afterthought when students looked ahead to what the South Bend winter would hold. I don't know what the original student-ticket package numbers were, but I'm sure they weren't pretty.

As the year went on though, you started winning. A lot. Still everyone made excuses for why you were having such success: we hadn't played anyone good yet, we were just on a hot shooting streak, so on and so on.

I use the word 'we,' but it was actually still 'they.' The rest of us weren't behind you yet. It was still 'they,' the men's basketball team, and 'us,' the students.

You showed us what you could do against Michigan State. We could have jumped aboard the bandwagon then. A few did, but there was still a sense of caution, trepidation; we weren't ready to be all there yet.

The first Duke game at Purcell may have been a turning point for most. Pulling off the upset in front of us all this year — not over Christmas break like last season — surely had a little sway. That's not to say our faith wasn't tested still: the Cameron Indoor nightmare, Pittsburgh and the late loss to Syracuse had some of us shaking our heads.

Then you went on the postseason streak, starting with the ACC tournament and running all the way to Cleveland and the Elite Eight this weekend. You set records and Notre Dame firsts left and right, and somewhere along the way you convinced us.

Saturday night, we were with you. Your head coach Mike Brey said you were "America's Team," and Saturday night you were. Still, most just hoped it would still be a game at halftime; I don't know how many of us thought you had a legitimate chance unless you played 'perfectly.'

Yet even as you took all of Kentucky's punches, you delivered more of your own. By the second half, you had everyone in Cleveland, back on campus and across the country thinking not just that we could win this game, but we were going to. You completed the process of making 'they' and 'us' become 'we.'

Thank you for making us believe again.

Though this year's run may be over, I hope and sense we've started something that will last a long time. Our story is far from over — merely a chapter written.

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

Education: a saving grace

Amanda Peña

Find Your Voice

Being a university undergraduate is an interesting life experience and one a majority of people in the world are not, or may never be, privileged enough to have. Whether they actively seek to or not, university students experience an irrefutable wealth of opportunities that influence their holistic development and understanding of the world around them. As graduation draws near, the reality of this privilege has complicated and colored my reflections of my last four years at Notre Dame. It has also led me to question the actual value, impact and role of education in general.

A university education is almost always erroneously reduced to a simplistic equation of [This major] + [This school] = [Specific career] which, in theory, is supposed to offer the irresistible benefits package of economic security and personal happiness. It's a commonly held belief and one that provided me with the only understood value for any real reason to go to college. While that may be true for many people, it ultimately was the only defense I had to gain my family's support to pursue higher education in spite of our financial hardships.

"Why can't you just be close to home? You can't afford to get into that kind of debt," I recall various family members saying. "You need to work. Why can't you just commute to the local community college like everyone else? Our insurance doesn't cover you outside of the state." Their list of reasons went on and exceeded any argument I could muster up that didn't reveal my actual intentions.

If I'm being completely honest, college was an escape route. It was buying four years of time that distanced me from the heartache, loneliness and drama that was slowly pushing me to ideas of suicide. We couldn't afford counseling, so I just needed four years to figure out a new life plan that gave me financial independence and the opportunity to start over. I didn't care what it cost or how many loans I would need. The smiling college students in the movies, on the brochures and from the motivational talks my school hosted growing up were enough motivation to recognize that saving my life was worth at least the estimated \$60,000 a year.

Having to explain why debt seemed better than staying where I was wasn't so easy to sell to my family and friends, though. Eventually, I was able to communicate the value of a Notre Dame education to the point where

they have easily become the most proud, excited and supportive people in my life ... not to mention the biggest Notre Dame fans I have ever known. This May, my bachelors degree will become as much theirs as it will be mine. The tears and sacrifices my family has made over the last four years to be present when I graduate helped me realize that coming to Notre Dame wasn't just about saving my own life but also inspiring theirs and allowing them to experience something they never could have dreamed about if I had stayed home.

However great, though, from Frosh-O to the overwhelming athletic presence on campus, the Notre Dame cultural atmosphere was a frustrating, lonely and, at times, destructive place for my mental and emotional health. I was stereotyped, the victim of ignorant and racist comments and misunderstood when I attempted to explain my socioeconomic upbringing and Mexican heritage. Even when I wanted to transfer, my family's pride allowed me to grow through these difficulties and ultimately become a leader and advocate for social justice.

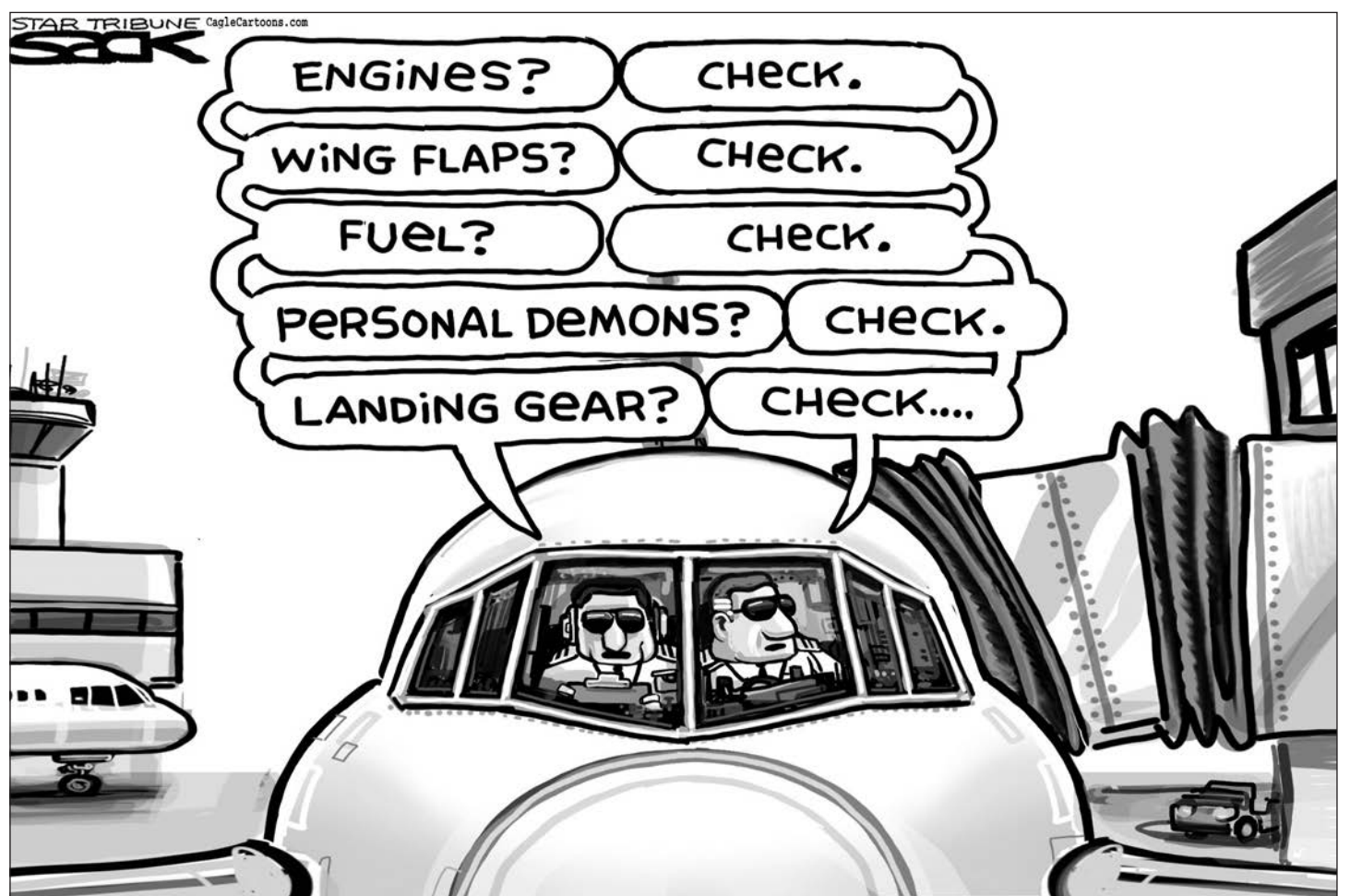
I've learned that the academic, social and constructed living arrangements in a university setting exposes students and faculty to new experiences, personalities and perspectives that challenge who we believe we fundamentally were and, in some cases, are. For me, it created two competing identities that I will have to learn how to navigate for the rest of my life. It challenges who I am in a world of highly educated, influential world leaders and, simultaneously, who I used to be in — and have become to — the (mostly) unchanged settings of my upbringing.

My education opened the door for my holistic development in ways I will never be able to fully explain to the most important people in my life. I will always straddle the borders of who I was, am and want to become so long as they can only hope to live vicariously through me. To my educated peers and readers, we are blessed with the privilege of having an opportunity regardless of our different starting lines. I encourage everyone to reflect on what their education means to them and how, here at Notre Dame, we can seek to use this privilege to truly be a force for good throughout the world. In my experience, my education was a saving grace. I wonder how many others need to be saved?

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EDITORIAL CARTOON



The careerist

Charlie Ducey
English, Channeled

The hyper-ambitious college student operates on a hermetically tight schedule. Following an early morning run and workout focused on core muscles with a rotating anaerobic upper-body/arms/legs exercise routine, the hyper-ambitious college student arrives in class at 9:25, well-groomed in corporate casual attire, latte in hand, the day’s assignment lifted from a labelled, multi-section folder with the appropriate syllabus laminated and bound in front. The hyper-ambitious college student asks questions, the answers of which, by principle, are already known to him, but anticipate potential misunderstandings of his peers. His comments cut to the chase, articulated with eloquence but not overburdened by jargon or stock phrases such as “in the context of.” In smaller courses, he thanks the professor at the conclusion of the lecture and proceeds swiftly to the door, minding his carriage as other students slump.

Between each class of his 18.5 credit hour course load, the hyper-ambitious college student educates himself on national and global news, the Dow Jones Industrial average and the vocabulary of several foreign languages, all via a polished smartphone. Lunch and dinner consist of punctual, measured meals in the company of whichever peer or club-member possesses information pertinent to the day’s endeavors or whose good relations are necessary to maintain in the long term. Such shared means have enabled the hyper-ambitious college student to ascertain which courses and extracurricular opportunities best contribute to his career goals and professional aspirations, which are financial in nature. One evening the co-president of the investment club began divulging emotional anxieties, which prompted the hyper-ambitious college student to quickly refer her to university counseling resources (again via smartphone) and productively redirect the conversation toward market trends.

During the first half of his college career, evenings consist of club meetings, special lectures and student government colloquiums. He rises to co-president of two

course-related clubs by the end of sophomore year, holding officer positions in three more. His bid for student body treasurer succeeds the following autumn. He updates his resume and LinkedIn profile to reflect this.

Over the summers, he has assisted in the research of a prominent economics professor, presented independent findings on strategic hedge fund management and interned with the investment club’s co-president’s father, a useful springboard for a paid internship with a top-10 investment firm the following summer, courtesy of connections forged during a spring break undergraduate future financier conference in Manhattan — invitation only. He updates his resume and LinkedIn to reflect this.

In spring term of his junior year, the hyper-ambitious college student declines an offer to join the club squash team after an impressive showing during an early morning workout. He regards organized sports for purposes other than fitness as indulgent, puerile ‘time-sinks.’ Other ‘time-sinks’ include non-club-related social gatherings, conversations lasting over 30 minutes and the consumption of media entertainment. Also, art.

Over dinner, the co-president of the investment club highlights the potential benefit of non-academic extracurriculars and invites the hyper-ambitious college student to her choral performance, laying an endearing hand on his forearm. Due to the clash with a business strategies competition, he kindly declines, adding that she might consider keeping her hands in her own personal space, thank you.

The thought of artistic erudition, however, haunts him — additional aesthetic engagement might assist his career. He decides to partake in enjoyable activities that nonetheless contribute to his future financial stability, job acquisition and perceived holistic happiness. He joins an A capella group, building off his years of high school voice-lessons. The performances, he finds, strengthen his left-brain creative skills and general aesthetic appreciation. He updates his resume and LinkedIn to reflect this.

A mental recalibration sweeps over the hyper-ambitious college student in the fall of his senior year. He realizes that activities not directly related to his career might better prepare him for the intellectual demands of the financial industry. Outside-the-box thinking. People skills.

Philosophical frameworks. He enrolls in a course on existentialism and joins an on-campus charity organization. Philanthropic engagement, he reads in The Economist, reinforces internal drives to earn more in order to give back. Giving back, he figures, pays dividends.

So, too, does philosophy. He finds that familiarity with basic philosophical methods allows him to talk circles around the investment club’s co-president (whom he believes is on the verge of abdicating full presidency to him). While reading Kierkegaard one night in March, he comes across a passage that vindicates his new philanthropic ventures: “... the commandment is that you shall love, but when you understand life and yourself, then it is as if you should not need to be commanded, because to love human beings is the only thing worth living for.” Filtering out the cries of a locked-out roommate, he records this on his smartphone for reference in an upcoming Business Ethics seminar.

Graduation approaches and the hyper-ambitious college student’s GPA is stellar, his résumé resplendent, his Wall Street placement at Goldman Sachs virtually guaranteed. At a final philanthropy panel discussion, the former co-president of the investment club asks him when he last “actually did something for another person that didn’t directly benefit you?” Failing to locate the Kierkegaard quotation on his smartphone, he smiles and recites something about participation in basic human kindnesses — consoling friends, opening doors.

Four years of erudition, and he has not once considered what it means to love, not once taken a class for enjoyment, not once disclosed any semblance of interiority. The hyper-ambitious college student, in a flicker of awareness, conceives of himself as he truly is: no student at all, but a careerist.

Charlie Ducey is a junior studying the languages of John Henry Newman (English) and Immanuel Kant (German). For the next academic year, he is residing on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean in Oxford, U.K. He welcomes your words. He can be contacted at cducey@nd.edu.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A game to make Fr. Ted proud

Over the years, I had a few chances to talk sports with former University President Emeritus, Fr. Theodore Hesburgh. I watched a Bookstore Basketball game with him one time. Sat with him at a varsity mens’ game another. Even talked football with him at a political fundraiser. I actually had the moxie to ask him if he and Fr. Ned Joyce really wanted to deemphasize football at Notre Dame, as Fighting Irish conspiracy theorists loved to assert after a particularly tough loss, a bad season or a Gerry Faust.

“Heavens no,” Ted said without hesitation. “Football is a huge part of who we are, what we are, at Notre Dame. Mind you, it’s not all of who we are, or what we are, but any successful whole is always the sum of its parts.”

Still, whenever I was with him and the subject of sports came up, I always got the feeling that, while he was a fan, he really didn’t understand, nor did he care to understand, the minutiae that so many Irish fans get (overly) immersed in.

(For example, my guess is Ted would think ‘a good pick’ was not something that would set up a clean three-pointer from the corner but rather someone selected to serve on some commission set up to save the world.)

Nevertheless, despite his lack of technical interest in last night’s heartbreaker of a loss in the NCAA Regional Final, I suspect Ted enjoyed the game immensely, although perhaps for reasons different from those of the average fan.

May I speculate?

I think Ted would be extremely proud of every player

and coach on the team, from Mike Brey on down, not only for how they play but also for how they conduct themselves, how they treat others, show respect for everyone and never, ever, display any kind of negative reaction that would reflect badly on the university he loved — that we all love — so much.

Still, I also believe he would take a long, deep puff on his cigar and smile at the effort with which this team paved the floor of the Quicken Arena. They played their guts out. No quitting and, most importantly, no excuses. Ted’s whole life was a living documentary on the simple fact that good, clean hard work matters, a 97-year lesson on effort — giving and trying and not quitting and always believing that somehow, some way, this would always be enough. It usually is.

But not always.

And when it’s not — when you bust your butt and fall just a-little-too-long-Jerian Grant prayer-from-the-corner-at-the-buzzer short, there are to be no cheap fouls, no cheap shots, no television close-ups of ugly moods or uglier words. No John McEnroe-like “%*&\$@” video for SportsCenter allowed. No excuses. Not from Notre Dame men. And believe me, Ted would say absolutely that the guys on this team, were — are — not only a reflection of their families and their coaches. They are ND.

And last night they made all of us who believe very deeply in that chant, that moniker, very, very proud.

But you know what? Most of all, I think Ted would be proudest of and most touched by the coming together — the communion — of a black kid named Grant and a

white guy named Connaughton — two strangers who didn’t know each other only four years ago, who now know they will be closer than brothers for the rest of their lives. These two kids — two men — whose mutual respect and, yes, love for each other set an example for every other kid on this team, at this University and hopefully across a nation where cops and kids still kill one another just because the other is a different color. Individually, neither Jerian Grant nor Pat Connaughton could have provided the leadership necessary to propel a team that was never the biggest, usually not the quickest and many times did not have the most raw talent on the court, to the places these guys went this season.

Together, however, Grant and Connaughton made a team, a University and for all but a few seconds last night, a nation, actually believe that it really is character, not color, that makes the difference between success and failure.

That belief, more than anything else, is what Ted dedicated his life to. And that, I am sure, is what made him most proud last night.

So today, while we mourn what ended last night, and think about what could have been, we also celebrate what was. And what was is one of the finest collections of men, Notre Dame men, that ever played any game at any time for the Fighting Irish.

I am quite certain Father Ted would agree.

Frank LaGrotta
Class of 1981
March 29

HUNT HITS THE MARK

By KEELY BERGIN
Scene Writer

The atmosphere before the Sam Hunt concert was electric, despite the 25-degree temperature outside. By the time I arrived, the line stretched from Legends to Mendoza College of Business. Some had been waiting “since 6 o’clock,” according to one Legends staff member. Dedication to country music didn’t mean The Basketball Game was forgotten, with students huddling around cell phones to watch the game as they waited for the doors to open. Finally, once people were allowed inside, it was to everyone’s relief that the concert was postponed until the end of The Game. To be honest, I almost didn’t make it into the concert. Legends hit capacity that night.

With the end of the potentially heart attack-inducing game, Sam Hunt came on stage, and his appearance made it clear that he wasn’t the country star of our parents’ days, decked in a snapback rather than a cowboy hat. He opened with “Speakers” before continuing with “Ex To See,” “Leave The Night On” and “Raised On It.” Despite the gloom that hovered in the moments before the concert began, the crowd was more than excited to see him, with the sea of plaid dancing and singing along with almost every song.

Hunt mixed in some different styles of music as well, doing a rendition of “Bump N’ Grind” and a few other more R&B songs. When Hunt went acoustic, all bets were off. To use the cliché, the crowd went wild. He performed a medley of several quintessentially country songs like “Fancy,” “She’s In Love With The Boy” and “Strawberry Wine.” He also performed covers of other songs, such as “Say My Name” and “Girls Just Want To Have Fun.”

“House Party,” one of the biggest hits of the night, had the crowd singing along with every word. With

its finish, the crowd demanded an encore. The demand was met with “Break Up In a Small Town,” when, if even possible, the crowd became even more ecstatic, taking on an entire chorus by itself.

Hunt owned the stage, keeping his performance dynamic. Despite the huge number of people, even those toward the back of the room were able to see him. The lighting really added to the performance, shaping the mood of each song. Dimmer lights accompanied the acoustic music, and more vibrant lights went with songs like “House Party.”

Hunt proved himself worthy of his nomination for American Country Music New Artist of the Year, with his ability to take on such a variety of music. His songs reflect the modern country genre, including verses of country-esque rap, and a little less fiddle. Considering that his album “Montevallo” spent four weeks at No. 1 for Billboard’s Top Country Album and that his first tour, Lipstick Graffiti, sold out in 15 locations within minutes, he could very well become one of the dominant country stars of our time.

The group finished the performance with as much energy and dedication as they had when they began. It was incredible experience to be part of an audience for such a rising talent. In the years to come I doubt that there will be many more free concerts at colleges.

I was thoroughly impressed when I heard that Legends had gotten Sam Hunt to perform. As a country fan, I knew a decent amount of his songs from the radio and Spotify. Like many, I listened to most of “Montevallo” in preparation for the concert, but I was by no means a dedicated fan. The performance given at Legends changed that for me. Sam Hunt definitely proved that he was on his way to becoming a major musical star.

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CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer



KERI O'MARA | The Observer



By **JONAH POCZOBUTT**
Scene Writer

The television industry has been experiencing rapid changes with services like Netflix, Hulu and HBO Go eating their way into the market of traditional TV networks. The newest company to try to cut out some profits from creative industry destruction might surprise you — Snapchat.

As of Jan. 31, Snapchat has been releasing four-minute episodes of its original series, “Literally Can’t Even,” through the Snapchat Discover page on Saturdays. As alluded to by the title, the show is a witty, pseudo-satirical view of the lives of two twenty-something women living in Los Angeles and the unexpected situations they get themselves into as a result of their naiveté.

The most surprising aspect of this new Snapchat feature may be that, in true Snapchat fashion, each episode will disappear 24 hours after its release on the Discover tab. This requires users to stay on top of the show as soon as it is released to keep up with the plot line. A quick YouTube search reveals that no episodes are posted after the fact, so if you are planning on

following the show you had better block off four minutes of your Saturday schedule.

Between its subject matter and its platform for reaching viewers, we can be assured that if nothing else, “Literally Can’t Even” will at least be the trendiest “TV show” of 2015.

Another surprise comes from who is behind the production of such an ambitious and eccentric idea. Emily Goldwyn and Sasha Spielberg both write and co-star in the show. Those last names should sound familiar: the women are daughters of two of the most famous producers and directors, respectively, in Hollywood.

Despite the success of their families in the traditional Hollywood movie path, the pair was excited to try something new.

“Working with Snapchat feels very separate from Hollywood,” Goldwyn said in an interview with the New York Times. The two also added that they like the idea of using Snapchat to reach viewers because they feel it is very in tune with the way that their generation lives and consumes content.

Skepticism of the idea for the show draws strong parallels to the premieres of Netflix’s original TV series. At the time of their inception, criticism of Netflix’s

plan to create original content seemed to overwhelm support for the idea. Without a doubt, Netflix’s original series “House of Cards” and “Orange is the New Black” have been resounding successes and likely spurred Snapchat to try their hand at original content production.

True to Netflix’s form of investing heavily into original production, Snapchat seems to be willing to spend substantial amounts of money to improve their product. According to the New York Times, Harry Potter star Tom Felton (Draco Malfoy) is slated to make a guest appearance on the show in the near future. Early reviews of the show have also cited its surprisingly high production quality.

The jury is definitely still out on this show and its medium. Snapchat’s promotion of their discover tab has not resulted in high usage, but the potential for something special is definitely there. Maybe in five years Snapchat binging will be just as prevalent as Netflix binge watching. Goldwyn and Spielberg hope to be on the forefront of social media change, and it will only cost four minutes of your time to join them.

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By **ADAM RAMOS**
Scene Writer

Nothing screams, “Festival season is back!” quite like Killer Mike being attacked by a rogue fan on stage during a performance at South by Southwest music festival. Ah yes, the wonderful time of the year — where neon clad, bandana-sporting young people flock to the nation’s biggest festivals in hopes of catching unforgettable performances via the world’s biggest names in music — is here once again.

Despite an injured Killer Mike, 2015 marks a big year for music, as attendance for festivals across the nation is on the rise and new festivals are popping up in almost all major cities. With more than 80 U.S. major music festivals from Boise, Idaho, to Savannah, Georgia, you don’t have to live near L.A. to have a Coachella-like experience. Diversification in terms of genres is also becoming apparent, allowing festivals to accompany to any music fan’s taste. Yet if just can’t see yourself making a festival this year, whatever the reason may be, concerts like Coachella and Ultra are beginning to offer a live streams for fans away to partake in all the festival fun.

While every festival offers a unique lineup, many of the big festivals this year like Bonaroo, Coachella,

Lollapalooza and many others will be sharing a few big headliners. Appealing to an older demographic, AC/DC, Paul McCartney, Elton John and Billy Joel are featured. As far as rap, Kendrick Lamar, Snoop Dogg, Run the Jewels, G-Eazy and Drake will all be gracing the stage at different festivals. Other big names this year include Foster the People, Sam Smith, Wilco, The Killers, Modest Mouse, Jack White and Tame Impala.

While many festivals may share headliners, they do all not capture the same prestige concerts like Coachella and Bonnaroo have attained over the past couple of years, which just isn’t fair. Newer festivals like Alabama’s Hangout Festival, San Francisco’s Outside Lands Festival and the festival I will be attending this year, Delaware’s Firefly Festival, all boast impressive lineups despite their recent inceptions. One of the aforementioned festivals, San Fran’s Outside Lands has even outdone others festivals with a hilarious “Too Many Cooks”-esque lineup announcement video. Accompanied with The 49ers’s Aldon Smith, the lineup video is both funny and impressive. Well done Outside Lands; step it up, every other festival.

But what exactly does a typical festival experience entail? A quick visit to any major festival’s website will bring up a myriad of packages, price levels, camping options — and it doesn’t even end there. Many festivals are

beginning to offer “glamping” options. The days of a gritty festival experience marked with an abundance of dirt, stains and B.O. are no longer, at least for those willing to pay. For a pretty penny one can find themselves “camping” with full amenities. Coachella, for example, offers a “fully furnished Shakir-style tents with air conditioning” for a mere \$7,000.

While the rough-and-tumble camping experience is available for us plebeians, it undoubtedly takes a bit of saving even for most base-level festival experiences. Between camping, ticket price and those god-awful fees, three to four day festivals will, in most cases, run around \$350 to \$400. For a college student, that is nothing to scoff at; however, I was okay with sending in half my savings if it means four days of nonstop great performances. Yet with attendance rising, do not wait to buy. It seems like price packages increase with the days.

Despite not being able to check my bank account without cringing, I look forward to my first festival experience with giddy anticipation. However, with a lineup saturated so heavily with great acts, the biggest problem is really that I will be forced to miss some, and that’s upsetting. Well, I guess I will survive.

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SPORTSAUTHORITY

Don't count out these NBA teams

Manuel De Jesus

Sports Writer

With the NBA season winding down, people are starting to write off almost every team in the playoffs and putting the Cleveland Cavaliers in the finals along with the Golden State Warriors. But I warn everyone to not look past any of the other 14 playoff teams competing in April.

Since the Houston Rockets won the NBA title in 1995, every team that has won the championship has won at least 52 games. If we follow that rule in this year's playoffs, the only teams eligible to win the championship are the Warriors and the Atlanta Hawks, but that's just based on today's standings. Projecting how many wins teams will have by the end of the season, the Rockets, the Memphis Grizzlies, the Los Angeles Clippers and the Cavaliers should win 52 games.

With that being said, we should just forget about every other team, right? Wrong. This year will be the first year since the 1995 postseason that a team with less than 52 wins in the regular season will win the NBA championship.

Dallas Mavericks

This is a team that hasn't really gotten the chemistry down since the arrival of Rajon Rondo, but I think this team is going to turn things around come playoff time. Rajon Rondo is still one of the best point guards in the league, dishing out eight assists per game. Dirk Nowitzki isn't as productive as he once was due to age, but he's still a potent offensive threat shooting the ball and posting in the paint. Monta Ellis is in a slump, but he won't be shooting less than 40 percent from the floor for much longer. I think he has a solid chance to lead the Mavs to their first title game since 2011.

Portland Trail Blazers

This team can really do it all. They're 10th in scoring, second in rebounds, 12th in assists per game and 10th in points allowed per game. They also have two stellar players in LaMarcus Aldridge and Damian Lillard, who both average more than 20 points per game. Even with the loss of Wesley Matthews, I think this team has what it takes to push past the rest of the Western Conference. They made it past a talented Houston Rockets team last season after Lillard's heroic buzzer-beater three, so I'm confident in their ability to rely on his play to get them into the finals and possibly win it.

Chicago Bulls

I know what everyone is saying. How could they possibly win a title without a healthy Derrick Rose? I'm not saying that when Rose comes back, he'll be back to full strength, because he definitely won't. I think the depth this team has is what sets it apart from every team in the league. It's something head coach Tom Thibodeau preaches every year. If you don't have a solid bench coming in to relieve your starters, you can't win. Leading the bench mob is rookie power forward Nikola Mirotic, who will probably finish second in voting for Rookie of the Year. Since the All-Star break, Mirotic is averaging 17.6 points per game, which just adds to the firepower the Bulls have. Jimmy Butler is scoring about 20 points per game, Pau Gasol is averaging 18 points per game, and if Rose can get back to the form he was in before the injury, he'll add another 18 per game. They're also third in rebounds, which means more possessions for this versatile offense. Let's not forget that they also have reigning Defensive Player of the Year Joakim Noah. They're loaded, and I wouldn't be surprised if they bring it all together and make an incredible run in the playoffs.

Oklahoma City Thunder

Russell Westbrook. This guy is one of the most electrifying athletes in all of sports, without a doubt. The absence of Kevin Durant makes it almost impossible to think that this team has a chance, but Westbrook has put this team on his back, leading the league with nine triple-doubles this season. He's also the league's leading scorer, ranks second in steals and ranks fourth in assists. He can do it all for this team, and with the help of a couple of emerging big men in Enes Kanter and Steven Adams, who can have 20 points and 20 rebounds any night of the week.

There aren't many eight seeds in NBA history who have won a title, but if any eight seed can do it, it's this team.

Again, don't just assume LeBron is going to carry the Cavs to the finals or Curry is just going to shoot his way to a ring. There are a lot of teams that could make a run, and the teams that I listed are the teams I think are the most likely to shock the world and win a title.

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

SMC LACROSSE | SMC 14, ILLINOIS TECH 2; JOHN CARROLL 20, SMC 9

Belles rout Illinois Tech, fall to John Carroll

By **BRETT O'CONNELL**

Sports Writer

The past two games told two very different stories for Saint Mary's, as the Belles collected a 14-2 win on Thursday night at Illinois Tech before falling 20-9 to John Carroll at home Saturday.

Thursday's game at Illinois Tech (1-3) featured an early flurry of production from Saint Mary's (3-4). The Belles managed to score nine goals in the first half, adding five more in the second en route to their 14-2 victory over the Scarlet Hawks. Sophomore attack Emilie Vanneste paced the team with five goals on the afternoon, and freshman midfielder Clare Theisen added a hat trick of her own. Four other players also scored, and Vanneste added the team's only two assists on the afternoon.

The match was a matter of possession for much of the game. The Belles managed 33 shots to Illinois Tech's 10, with only six of those 10 shots finding the net. Two resulted in goals, while four were saved by sophomore goalie Shannon

Weyer.

The Belles earned their advantage in shots via turnovers. The two teams were nearly even in ground balls (27-24) and draw controls (8-5), but Illinois Tech committed 29 turnovers compared to 18 for the Belles, who took advantage of the added possession to limit the number of shots available for the home team. The Belles were able to capitalize on their opponents' mistakes and score on almost half their attempted shots.

Unfortunately for the Belles, that shooting success proved difficult to replicate during Saturday's game against John Carroll (5-2). Seven different players tallied goals for the visiting Blue Streaks, while the Belles had trouble finding the net.

The Belles conclude their early nonconference schedule Monday when they host Loras. The Duhawks (2-5) visit two days after a difficult 9-8 loss to Wartburg that saw the teams go to triple overtime before a winner was decided. Monday's game marks the

Belles' final nonconference match before they host MIAA conference rival Hope on Wednesday.

Saint Mary's coach Amy Long described the team's early season nonconference games as "crucial to [the team's] success."

"We will learn and improve each game and make the necessary adjustments to be as prepared for our conference games as we can be," Long said. "We are treating them as learning experiences to help us prepare for our conference games."

Wednesday's game will also mark the start to Hope's conference season. So far this year they have posted a 1-4 record, with losses to Otterbein, Eastern Connecticut State, Worcester State and FDU-Florham. Their lone win of the season came against Defiance, whom they beat 12-2. By contrast, Saint Mary's posted a 14-5 victory over Defiance.

The Belles host Loras on Monday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

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NBA | ROCKETS 99, WIZARDS 91

Wittman decries focus after Wizards' loss to Rockets

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For a team that entered the season with aspirations of winning 50 games and earning home-court advantage in the playoffs — the former now impossible, the likelihood of the latter fading quickly — John Wall's Washington Wizards sure are slumping down the stretch.

They can't even seem to run plays properly right after coach Randy Wittman draws them up during a timeout.

Losing for the fifth time in six games, which delayed their bid to secure a postseason berth, the Wizards were beaten 99-91 Sunday by the Houston Rockets, who got 24 points from James Harden, along with 11 points and 10 rebounds in 19 minutes from Dwight Howard, appearing

in his third game back from a right knee injury.

The Wizards shot 29.2 percent in the first quarter, 38.7 percent for the game, and Wittman lamented afterward that there were basic problems when his team had the ball.

"We were running things that I've never seen before. We weren't focused on what we needed to do from an offensive standpoint," Wittman said, adding with a wry chuckle: "Coming out of timeouts, a guy doesn't even know he's supposed to catch the ball, and we turn it over."

"That's terrible," the point guard said.

Asked whether the players or Wittman were at fault, Wall answered: "I wouldn't put it on the coach, because he's doing a great job of drawing it up. ... Like he always says, if you don't know, you've got

time before you walk on the court to ask again. So it's all on us as players."

The Wizards are fifth in the Eastern Conference and could have guaranteed themselves a place in the postseason with a victory. But they dropped 2 1/2 games behind No. 4 seed Toronto and, at 41-33 with eight games remaining, they can't wind up with 50 victories.

The Wizards also had a chance to clinch a playoff berth based on other teams' results later Sunday, but that didn't go their way, either.

"We show a sense of urgency one game, and another game, we take it off. To be where we want to be and go as far as we did last year, we have to turn it around or ... we'll be done quick," said Wall, who finished with 25 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds.

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BASEBALL | VIRGINIA 9, ND 1; VIRGINIA 4, ND 2; VIRGINIA 5, ND 4

Cavaliers sweep Irish in home weekend series

By **ISAAC LORTON**
Senior Sports Writer

The weather was bleak for Notre Dame and No. 12 Virginia this weekend, with Friday's game being rescheduled to a chilly Saturday doubleheader, and torrential winds and sleet whipped into Frank Eck Stadium during Sunday's game. The weekend was similarly bleak for the Irish, as they were swept by Virginia.

Notre Dame (16-10, 3-9 ACC) was trounced by the Cavaliers (18-8, 6-6) 9-1 in its first game Saturday, then lost in heartbreaking fashion, 4-2, in the second game. Sunday, the Irish did their best to avoid the sweep, but were unable to make up a two-run deficit in the ninth inning and lost 5-4.

The weekend series marks the end to a tough stretch of ACC play for the Irish, after facing Georgia Tech and Clemson on the road and No. 8 Louisville at home the past two weekends.

"You look at a year ago at this point, we were 1-11 or something like that in the league," Irish head coach Mik Aoki said. "I mean, 3-9, that's not the kind of progress we want to be making, but at the same time I don't know if anybody in our conference has gone through the gauntlet that we just went through."

Senior right-hander Scott Kerrigan got the start against one of college's best pitchers in Virginia junior Nathan Kirby in Saturday's first game. Kerrigan kept the Irish close, 3-0, until six Virginia runs in the seventh and eighth innings opened up the game. Kerrigan pitched 6 1/3 innings, giving up nine hits and six runs, while striking out three and walking three. Kirby, on the other hand, pitched six innings of shutout baseball, striking out eight and giving up five hits and two walks.

"Scott was okay for five or six innings, but you know this is where you speak to the situation with your bullpen that we don't have it fully loaded," Aoki said. "So you're kind of making decisions on the fly about you're chasing three runs against one of the nation's best pitchers, do you come in and use one of the 'bullets' that you have at that point? And I made the decision that we are going to try and get maybe one more out of Scott and see where we can go, and I probably left him in there for one pitch to many."

Aoki said he elected to go with several inexperienced relief pitchers to close the game after Kerrigan began to struggle so he could save regular relief pitchers for the next two games.



MARY MCGRAW | The Observer

Senior outfielder Robert Youngdahl takes a swing during Notre Dame's 9-1 loss to Virginia on Saturday at Frank Eck Stadium.

"To be honest with you, it was kind of like a family-first outing for [Kerrigan] because he did get knocked around a little bit in that last one, and then they got an obviously great deal of separation there but without that we don't have [freshman pitchers Evy] Ruibal and [Sean] Guenther to be able to give ourselves an opportunity to win yesterday and today," Aoki said. "We kind of had our shot, but we weren't able to get it done."

Notre Dame did have shots at the late game Saturday and the game on Sunday, but simply could not get over the hump, Aoki said. Irish freshman right-hander Brandon Bielak kept Notre Dame in Saturday's later game long enough for them to tie it up 2-2 in the seventh. Bielak pitched 7 1/3 innings of four-hit ball with five strikeouts, giving up four walks and two runs. The relievers Ruibal and Guenther both gave up a run apiece in the ninth and Virginia took the game.

Notre Dame was outpaced Sunday by the Hoos, who scored a run in each inning from the third to the seventh. Junior right-hander Nick McCarty took the mound for the Irish, allowing nine hits, five runs — four earned — while Virginia junior starter Brandon Waddell gave up two runs in 5 1/3 innings.

"You look at Virginia as a team who scuffled with a couple of teams, but you can tell how good they are," Aoki said. "Their pitching is really good, we've been a little banged up, which I don't want to use as a crutch, but that fact of the matter is that it has limited a little bit of the use of our bullpen. It's kind of shortened our lineup a

little bit."

The Irish were able to get one back in the fourth and fifth innings and one in the eighth and ninth innings, but failed to take advantage of some crucial situations. Notre Dame put runners on second and third with no outs in the sixth, down 4-2, but were unable to capitalize on the situation.

"That's a tough one, you know, certainly a tough one," Aoki said. "In that case you hope that you can make a productive out to even just score a run and looking back on it, maybe it's a tie ball game."

The Irish had trouble stringing hits together, as they went 12-for-62 Saturday for a .193 team average, while going 8-for-37 Sunday (.216).

"I think some of the things that we were doing at a really high level early on, we've gotten away from, for certain guys, not for all of them," Aoki said. "Just like anything else, some guys are doing really well, and some guys are struggling. But that's sort of the nature of this game, and the way in which guys deal with the adversity that they're facing is going to define who we are as a team."

Junior first baseman Zak Kutsulis stood out for the Irish, going 2-8 with three RBIs and one run.

Junior shortstop Lane Richards hit his first career home run in the ninth inning of Sunday's game to bring the Irish within one, but that was as close as they would get.

Notre Dame next faces Eastern Michigan at Frank Eck Stadium at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday.

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ND SOFTBALL | ND 2, VA TECH 0; ND 11, VT 1; ND 6, VT 1

Winning streak continues for Irish

By **MIKE GINOCCHIO**
Sports Writer

The Irish came into the weekend riding a six-game winning streak, having thrown several shutouts in a row when they took on Virginia Tech. While the streak of consecutive games without a run was broken, the Irish winning streak was not, as Notre Dame swept the Hokies over the course of three games, winning by scores of 2-0, 11-1 and 6-1.

The streak marks the second time this season the Irish (23-11, 7-5 ACC) have achieved an ACC sweep at Melissa Cook Stadium, and senior infielder Katey Haus said she noticed the uptick in the team's performance.

"I think the key to our success lately has been the focus we've put on our game and what we do," Haus said. "We've really looked to control what we can and bring our best game regardless of our opponent."

The Irish experienced a power surge at the plate, outhitting the Hokies (24-9, 3-8 ACC) 23-11 over the course of the weekend. With offensive performances from players like junior infielder Micaela Arizmendi, who led the team with four hits and scored two runs Sunday, and senior catcher Cassidy Whidden, who contributed four RBIs in addition to a home run, the Irish moved to 21-2 on the season when they outthit their opponents, as well as an undefeated 11-0 when they compile ten hits or more, as they did in both games on Sunday.

But it was the Irish pitching that once again proved the difference. Sophomore Rachel

Nasland won the Saturday game by pitching a shutout and then opened the doubleheader Sunday with a complete game three-hitter while allowing only one run against six strikeouts. Junior Allie Rhodes was also dominant on the hill, allowing only one run on two hits over four complete innings in the last win of the weekend. With their victories, Nasland extends her current winning streak to six consecutive starts, while Rhodes has won her last three in a row.

Their performance on the mound has been critical in helping kickstart the Irish win streak, which has in turn helped the team at the plate, Haus said.

"I think it works both ways," Haus said. "When the pitching staff shuts down a team, it gives the offense confidence and provides them a chance to attack. But conversely, when the offense excels it provides the pitching staff with a peace of mind that allows them to perform at their best."

In the end, the dual pitching and offensive performances have helped the Irish race along on a hot streak, though Haus said she knows there is still work to be done.

"We are constantly striving to improve our mental game and better execute the little things," Haus said.

The Irish resume play Wednesday when they host Eastern Michigan at Melissa Cook Stadium. The game is set to begin at 4 p.m.

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CHRIS COLLINS | The Observer

Senior catcher Cassidy Whidden eyes a pitch in Notre Dame's 6-1 win against Georgia Tech on March 21.

MEN'S LACROSSE | ND 13, SYRACUSE 12 (2OT)

Irish dethrone No. 1 Syracuse in double overtime

By **BRIAN PLAMONDON**
Sports Writer

After two and half hours of lacrosse Saturday at Arlotta Stadium, nothing had been resolved between the top two teams in the country. Then, Irish senior midfielder Jack Near, who had the game-winning goal last year against Syracuse in the ACC Championship, sent a raucous crowd of 3,602 fans to their feet as No. 2 Notre Dame outlasted No. 1 Syracuse 13-12 in double overtime.

"I realized I had a short [stick defender] on me, and that's a play we like," Near said. "They didn't slide, and I kind of just went to the net. I wasn't [even] sure if it went in or not."

Near was part of a balanced Irish attack that saw nine different players score a goal. Near, senior midfielder Nick Ossello, sophomore midfielder Sergio Perkovic and freshman attack Mikey Wynne paced Notre Dame (6-1, 2-0 ACC) with two goals apiece, while junior attack Matt Kavanagh added a goal and a game-high three assists.

Syracuse (7-1, 2-1 ACC) was more or less a one-man show with redshirt junior attack Dylan Donahue exploding for seven goals.

As pleased as Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan was with his team, he said he reminded them that with the strength of Notre Dame's opponents, they won't have an easy game the rest of the season.

"I told the team ... while they were celebrating, I checked with the NCAA, and we still have to play Duke next week," Corrigan said. "We're playing a bunch of teams that could be [ranked] one or two for the rest of the year. ... We had a great week of preparation this week, probably our best week of preparation for a game, and we needed every bit of it."

The Irish took a 5-3 lead into halftime before opening up a six-goal lead 6:29 into the third quarter, which happened to be Syracuse's largest deficit all season. Yet, Notre Dame needed that entire cushion, as it spotted the Orange six of the next seven goals. The sequence began with Orange redshirt senior midfielder Nicky Galasso beating Irish sophomore goalie Shane Doss. Galasso would finish with two goals and two assists. The story



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Senior midfielder Jack Near scores a goal in Notre Dame's 14-12 win against Georgetown on Feb. 14 at Loftus Sports Center.

for Syracuse, however, was Donahue. He netted four goals during the Orange's run to close the gap to 10-9 with 10:20 to play in regulation.

"[Donahue] gets rid of the ball so quickly that it's almost impossible for goalies to catch up to that ball," Corrigan said. "But you have to defend them as a team because they play together so well as a team."

Graduate student midfielder Jim Marlatt stopped the bleeding for Notre Dame before Syracuse went on a 3-0 run to take their first lead of the game, 12-11, with just 1:06 left.

While faceoffs were by committee for most of the game, Corrigan trotted out sophomore midfielder P.J. Finley to do battle with Syracuse sophomore specialist Ben Williams, who finished the day 18 of 29 on faceoffs. Finley won the draw and went straight to the net to score in under six seconds. It was Finley's first collegiate goal.

After failing to score during their last possession of regulation, the Irish started overtime with possession. After they came up empty again, Syracuse took the last shot of overtime, but Doss stymied Donahue's attempt at the go-ahead goal.

Doss was strong all day, finishing with 12 saves.

"He made all the stops he could make and more," Kavanagh said.

Everything culminated in Near's shot 1:06 into the second overtime period.

"We trust [Jack] in those situations," Corrigan said. "We know Jack in that situation is really hard to cover. Nobody wants to come off of [Kavanagh, Wynne and senior attack Conor Doyle] in that situation."

Still, Corrigan said the Irish will get right back to work because in the ACC every game is meaningful.

"I think our guys really enjoy competing at [this] level, knowing that you can enjoy this one but it doesn't change the fact that on Monday we have to get back to work because it just keeps coming," Corrigan said. "We're not the team that we want to be yet. We're the team that we were today and it was just barely good enough today. But if we're not better than this a month from now, we're not good enough."

The Irish head to Durham, North Carolina, this weekend for a showdown with ACC foe No. 6 Duke. Faceoff is slated for 5 p.m. Saturday.

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ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE | NORTH CAROLINA 9, ND 8

ND comeback falls short

By **ALEX CARSON**
Associate Sports Editor

A goal from Tar Heels senior midfielder Brittney Coppa with 3:55 left lifted No. 3 North Carolina to a 9-8 victory over No. 17 Notre Dame on Sunday afternoon at Arlotta Stadium.

Coppa's goal — her second of the game and 19th of the season — kept the Tar Heels (10-2, 3-1 ACC) from losing a game they once led 7-1.

When North Carolina sophomore attack Sydney Holman scored on a free-position shot with 8:30 left in the first half to put her team up by that margin, Irish head coach Christine Halfpenny took a timeout.

What followed was a frantic comeback that eventually saw the Irish (6-5, 1-3 ACC) tie the game in the final six minutes.

"Out of that timeout ... we just simply looked at the girls and said, 'Hey, let's just have it, let's just start this game over,'" Halfpenny said. "Let's tighten this up, let's tighten that up."

Irish sophomore midfielder Alex Dalton scored a free-position goal with 6:21 remaining in the first, and the Irish later gained a numbers advantage when North Carolina senior attack Sam McGee received a yellow card and had to briefly sit on the sidelines.

But despite controlling play in the final five minutes of the half, the Irish left empty-handed, heading into the break down 7-2, though they outshot the Tar Heels 18-12 through the first 30 minutes.

Tar Heels sophomore goalkeeper Caylee Waters came up big for her team, saving nine of Notre Dame's 11 shots on goal in the first half en route to a 13-save performance.

"She really got after it, she's a strong goalkeeper," Halfpenny said. "She came into this game making 45 percent of her saves. ... We knew that, and we just didn't throw enough fakes around her. We gave her a little bit of momentum early on and with great goalkeepers, you don't want to do that."

But the second half was where the Irish made their run for the game.

Two minutes into the stanza, sophomore midfielder Casey Pearsall started the scoring burst. Pearsall — who also scored Notre Dame's first goal of the game — took a feed from sophomore attack Cortney Fortunato and beat Waters for a goal.

From there, Fortunato — Notre Dame's leading scorer — cut North Carolina's lead to three with 23:58 to play on

a free-position goal, before a goal from junior midfielder Brie Custis trimmed the deficit to 7-5 as the second half neared its midway point.

And that's when the visitors answered to widen the gap again. Just 33 seconds later, Tar Heels senior midfielder Kelly Devlin beat Irish sophomore goalkeeper Liz O'Sullivan to stretch the advantage back to three.

But it did not stay there for long. Sophomore midfielder Katherine Eilers scored in the following minute for the Irish to take the deficit back to two, before Fortunato tallied with 14:29 to play to narrow the gap to 8-7.

After a series of agonizing misses — including a free-position chance from Eilers that hit the crossbar and appeared to cross the line but was ruled not a goal — and a big save from O'Sullivan to keep it a one-score game, Notre Dame got the goal it needed to restore parity to the contest.

Junior attack Rachel Sexton was fouled around the goal area and converted from a free-position opportunity, getting the Irish back on level terms for the first time in 47:11.

"We're down 7-1 and really, for us, we decided to push this one all the way to the limit," Halfpenny said. "We felt great about it the whole second half and we know this game could be ours."

But for the Irish, it was not meant to be. Just 1:13 later, Coppa scored what would prove to be the game-winner for North Carolina.

"Our goal today was to come out and defend our home field, and I think that we did it," Halfpenny said. "But unfortunately, down the stretch once we got back in it, Carolina made a couple more plays than we did, and unfortunately, that's devastating. It's a devastating loss for our program."

For Notre Dame, it marks another loss against a ranked opponent — the Irish have lost five of six such games on the season — but Halfpenny said she saw a big improvement from earlier losses.

"I think we're growing up," Halfpenny said. " ... We found some great chemistry since then, that's the first thing. With those losses, we learned what we needed out there."

The Irish next take the field when they travel to Charlottesville, Virginia, to take on the No. 5 Cavaliers on Saturday.

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FOOTBALL

Kelly discusses linebackers, quarterbacks

By **ALEX CARSON**
Associate Sports Editor

When Notre Dame takes the field in September, it will have three middle linebackers — sophomore Nyles Morgan and graduate students Jarrett Grace and Joe Schmidt — who could stake a claim on the starting position.

Irish head coach Brian Kelly indicated Saturday that all three are in his plans at the position for 2015.

“I don’t think we’re just gonna say, ‘This is your job, you go take it, and you’re the only guy,’” Kelly said. “You’re going to have a committee of players there that are going to help and give us great depth at the position.”

Grace, who missed the entire 2014 season after breaking his leg against Arizona State on Oct. 5, 2013, is close to being fully recovered and might come back better than before, Kelly said.

“He could be better [than 2013]. He could be,” Kelly said. “Monday, we’re going to go easy on him; Wednesday, we’re going to turn him loose in the full live scrimmage.”

Kelly said he also is pleased with Morgan’s determination to get on the field.

“I just love the kid, he’ll do

anything to get back on the field,” Kelly said. “He loves the game of football. He loves it. He has a passion for the game and continues to learn.

“... But Jarrett Grace and Joe Schmidt are smart football players too, so we’re going to have a really good problem there with the number of players that can help us.”

Quarterback competition

As has been the case all spring, Kelly said neither graduate student Everett Golson nor junior Malik Zaire were seeing more first-team snaps in the quarterback competition.

“There’s a clear rotation. It’s 50-50,” Kelly said. “Everett was with the first group [Saturday], Malik started [Friday]. It’s been balanced. So they’re splitting reps with the first team, and they will continue to do that for the spring.

“We flip them in our practice itself. They’ll rotate. For example, if we go seven-on-seven, they’ll alternate reps. They’ll both get first-team reps and second-team reps.”

Kelly said he was not concerned about the way Zaire was approaching the competition.

“... Whatever way [Zaire]

sees it and whatever way he processes it in his own mind, I’m not really that interested in how that works for him, other than — we’ve got two guys that can go out there and compete every single day to be the best player they can be,” he said. “And it’s our job to compare them, to coach them, to teach them. And I think he knows it’s an incredibly competitive situation every day.”

Earning Kelly’s trust

Amongst some of the younger players trying to move into the fold in 2015, freshman defensive lineman Jerry Tillery — who practiced with the first-team group at times Saturday — has stood out as worthy of Kelly’s trust, he said.

“Everyone else is in the process of doing that,” Kelly said. “[Sophomore offensive lineman] Alex Bars and Quenton Nelson, they’re in the process of doing that. [Freshman linebacker] Te’von Coney is in the process of doing that.”

Bars and Nelson are currently in a battle for the starting spot at left guard. While Kelly said he is impressed with both players, he would not expect either of them to move to a different position on the line in order to start them both.

“I would say they’re



AMY ACKERMANN | The Observer

Junior quarterback Malik Zaire hands the ball off during Saturday’s practice at Loftus Sports Complex.

competing for one spot there, would be my feeling right now,” Kelly said. “That could change possibly, but that’s my feeling right now.”

Injury updates

Sophomore defensive lineman Andrew Trumbetti (virus) and junior receiver Corey Robinson (concussion) both sat out Saturday’s practice, but Kelly said both should be back soon.

“Trumbetti still has that virus, he’s really close,” Kelly said. “I would say he probably

gets cleared to do some activities [this] week. Corey Robinson had his physical today, passed his AXON test, so he’s probably going to get some work in [this] week.

“I think those were the last two guys that were out. They should get cleared by [this] week and we should have everybody, at least in some form, in practice on Wednesday, knock on wood. That’s pretty good for spring ball.”

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Allen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

And starting this year, she has become a leader on and off the court, Irish head coach Muffet McGraw said.

“Last year, she was able to come in and simply run the team without having to be vocal,” McGraw said. “... This year, we asked her to do more. We asked her to score more. We asked her to be more involved in the offense, to be more vocal, to be the true leader of the team.

“And that was a challenge for her, because with a young team, there was an awful lot of talking needed, and she’s not a very vocal person. So I think to see her develop, she worked incredibly hard this summer.”

Allen significantly upped her average points per game between last season and this year, going from a 6.2 average in 2013-2014 to 10.4 this year.

In recognition of her hot-shooting weekend, Allen was named the regional’s Most Outstanding Player. She said she could not remember having this much success in back-to-back games before. Her combined total for the weekend was 51 points — more than the entire Montana team scored against the Irish in the first round.

“This weekend was just a really great weekend,” Allen said. “Our posts set really good screens for us in both games, and the guards got

really great free-throw line jumpers in both games, so this was a really good shooting weekend overall.”

Allen was quick to attribute her production to her teammates, three of whom also scored in the double-digits against the Lady Bears.

“We rebounded really well down the stretch, and we were just really excited to win, no matter who was going to be MVP or who scored the most points,” Allen said.

After the game, McGraw repeatedly called Allen the best point guard in the country. Between her and Loyd — whom McGraw has often praised as the country’s best player — they make up a backcourt that fuels the fourth-best offense in the NCAA.

In the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight, however, the pair took things to a new level, providing Notre Dame with 54 percent of its offense on the weekend.

But while Loyd sometimes struggled to connect on her shots, shooting 30.8 percent from the floor, Allen was lights-out, connecting on 58 percent of her field goals, 50 percent of her 3-pointers and 90 percent of her free throws.

Riding Allen’s torrid scoring streak, the Irish head to Tampa, Florida, for a Final Four matchup against South Carolina next Sunday.

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W Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Sunday for the combined effort.

“I think she’s the best point guard in college basketball, but I’ve been saying that throughout the year,” McGraw said of Allen. “She really showed it throughout the night [Sunday].”

Irish sophomore guard Lindsay Allen collects two of her 23 points with a layup in a 77-68 win over Baylor.

While Allen’s performance fueled the Irish in the second half, junior guard Michaela Mabrey completed a perfect 4-of-4 game from behind the arc in the first half, notching 14 total points.

Mabrey played just over a minute after the break before heading to the bench for good because of lightheadness, McGraw said.

Senior guard Madison Cable stepped in Mabrey at that point and was on the court for 18 minutes in the second half, when she picked up six points and five rebounds.

However, Cable’s biggest moment of the night came with a rejection of a layup by Lady Bears sophomore forward Nina Davis, when Baylor (33-4) was beginning to cut into Notre Dame’s single-digit lead. The block sent the ball flying into the Baylor band and brought the Irish bench to its feet.

“I thought she had two huge plays, the block on Nina Davis

in transition, which was just a huge stop that we had to have at that point, and then she hit the 3 at the other end,” McGraw said of Cable. “I thought those two were really key for us down the stretch.”

Irish senior guard Madison Cable defends Baylor junior guard Niya Johnson during the Notre Dame win Sunday.

Cable offered a different perspective on the defensive stop.

“I was probably one of the people supposed to be back, not letting them get down in transition, so I ran back and jumped in and got lucky and got the ball,” she said. “I think it was good for us that they didn’t score there.”

Davis led all players with 26 points and 13 rebounds, but she and two other starters for the Lady Bears — senior center Sune Agbuke and junior guard Niya Johnson — finished the 40 minutes with four fouls apiece. Agbuke was also charged with flagrant 1 foul in the first half after referees determined she intentionally elbowed Brianna Turner in the head.

However, Notre Dame was not able to fully capitalize on its trips to the free-throw line, converting just 12 of its 24 shots.

“I don’t know — like four fouls, you have to play smart at the end of the day,” Johnson said. “I guess we tried to stay off of them. They were calling it pretty tight at the end, and I don’t know, it was just difficult playing with four fouls.”

Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd drives past Baylor sophomore guard Alexis Prince during Sunday’s Elite Eight game.

Irish freshman forward Brianna Turner totaled 12 points and 10 rebounds, and junior guard Jewell Loyd — who joined Allen on the all-region team — added 13 points. Sunday’s game marked the third consecutive in which four Irish players were in double-digit points.

Notre Dame next heads south to Tampa for a national-semifinal matchup next Sunday with South Carolina, the top seed in the Greensboro, North Carolina, region.

Though a trip to the Final Four has become something of a tradition for the Irish — no current player has experienced a season ending before the final weekend — McGraw said this one was especially sweet.

“I’ll tell you, this one was the hardest,” she said. “... I think we played the toughest schedule in the country, so we learned a lot through it. I thought they came into practice every day, ready to learn, but I still felt we were going to take some lumps at some point, so when we kept on winning, it really built our confidence.

“... But this one is incredibly satisfying, to see what this team was able to do together.”

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Monaco

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

never wavered against Kentucky's high-profile ensemble.

"We really didn't think about it," Irish All-American guard Jerian Grant said of being underdogs. "Us 13 guys in this locker room didn't feel like underdogs. We felt confident that we were gonna go out there and get a win."

They almost did — even though they weren't supposed to. And in so many ways, Notre Dame's performance — a 68-66 loss to the Wildcats in the Elite Eight on Saturday — defied explanation and common sense.

The Wildcats were 37-0. They boast nine McDonald's All-Americans. Their average height in the starting lineup is 6-foot-9. The No. 1 team in the country, Kentucky had won 59 of its last 61 games as the AP's top-ranked program.

So the Irish needed a perfect game to top Kentucky, right?

"No. Not at all," Grant said. "We definitely didn't play a perfect game, and we still put ourselves in position to win. Honestly, we felt we should've won, but they made more plays than we did."

Notre Dame committed three turnovers in its first four possessions.

Notre Dame drilled just one 3-pointer in the first half.

Grant hadn't attempted a shot in the first eight minutes.

Still, there it was, hanging in the middle of Quicken Loans Arena for anyone to see — 31-31 at halftime, 66-66 in the final seconds — as real yet striking as all the celebrities smattered in the crowd: LeBron James, Kendrick Perkins, Chris Christie, Ashley Judd.

It sure felt like the game was hanging in the balance with every bounce and every whistle. And Notre Dame acted like it.

There was Demetrius Jackson diving on the floor, extending, contorting and belly-flopping for any and every loose ball, even as his shots weren't falling.

There was top Irish assistant Anthony Solomon forcefully holding up his right hand, quieting fellow assistants Rod Balanis and Martin Inglesby, who flanked him on each side and were screaming at each other, trying to be heard three feet away

in a deafening arena in the first half.

There was Mike Brey squatting into an All-ACC defensive stance after a bull-like second-half Jackson drive, pumping both fists, hiking up his pants and spinning around with another fist pump that sent a tiny piece of metal flying off his person — all in one imperfect motion.

Every second mattered. Notre Dame just ran out of them.

The logic-defying game resisted explanation.

Notre Dame out-dunking Kentucky? Of course.

Pat Connaughton practically scraping his highlighter shoes on the backboard after a two-handed dunk? Yup.

A Steve Vasturia 3-pointer from the top of the arc that dropped John Calipari's arms to his sides and raised Zach Auguste's right hand to his right ear as he stopped at midcourt to tease Big Blue Nation? Why not?

Notre Dame's nearly historic performance thrived somewhere in the unquantifiable concoction of leadership, chemistry, confidence and momentum — the very mix that brought a 17-win turnaround and an ACC championship.

"Leadership. Student-athlete leadership," Notre Dame Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick said before the last syllable of a question about the program's growth. "It's so important. And when you get it right, it's magical. And we had it as right as you can get it this year with Jerian and Pat."

"That's when you see it. It's the difference maker."

It doesn't fully explain a near takedown of would-be epic proportions. But it helps.

A team that played together — from the moment it was huddled tightly on the NCAA-stained hardwood — also made even more history.

"It's over. It's tough," Grant said. "Being so close to doing something so special and just like that, it's over and it's done, you lost — it's tough."

Tough to put into words.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

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



KEVIN SABITUS | The Observer

Senior guard Jerian Grant looks to pass during Notre Dame's 68-66 loss to Kentucky on Saturday. Grant had 15 points in the defeat.

M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Kentucky ahead, 64-63, with 3:15 remaining. It was Kentucky's first lead in nearly 12 minutes.

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant countered by burying a deep, right-wing 3 of his own to nudge Notre Dame ahead, 66-64, just 40 seconds later.

Grant strolled back down court, slightly shaking his head. He turned around and readied to defend sophomore guard Andrew Harrison. Staring straight ahead, Grant spoke softly to himself, barely changing his facial expression.

"It's time. It's time. We're here," he said. "One stop. Let's get it. We're one stop away from doing something special."

But Kentucky converted down the stretch. The Irish didn't score after Grant's 3.

With the game tied at 66 with 33.7 seconds remaining, Andrew Harrison drove past Grant and drew a foul on Irish sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson, who rotated over to help. Harrison buried both free throws.

"I shouldn't have turned my head," Grant said. "I felt a ball screen coming. You can't do that with a guy like that. ... Right when he saw me do that, he drove past me."

"We couldn't get the key stop to get it to overtime," Brey said. "That's where you lose the game, really. You've gotta get that stop."

With no timeouts remaining, Grant raced up-court and missed a desperation shot from the left corner. The clock struck zero. Ball game.

Seniors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

for Connaughton, a spot on the USBWA All-American team for Grant, 32 victories this season, an ACC tournament championship and what Connaughton described as the emergence of the brand of Notre Dame basketball.

"[Notre Dame basketball] is a winning culture," Connaughton said. "I think the most important thing for me was to get wins and share wins with the 13 guys in this locker room. For that, I'm proud of them."

On the court, the Irish have developed a skillset that differentiates them from many other programs in the country, Connaughton said.

"It's toughness, it's competitiveness, it's all those intangibles that so many people may undervalue in today's day and age of college basketball," he said of his team's strengths. "There's those one-and-dones, those guys that are phenomenal basketball players, and I don't want to take anything away from them. Obviously, that works, but it's fun to be a true team, to go out there and be with guys for four years and lay it all out on the line with them night in and night out for an entire college career."

Few Notre Dame players have exemplified such intangibles as Connaughton has, according to Irish sophomore guard



KEVIN SABITUS | The Observer

Senior forward Pat Connaughton hangs on the rim after a dunk in Notre Dame's 68-66 loss on Saturday night in Cleveland.

"He went for the win," Brey said of Grant. "I don't fault him for that. I don't think he could turn the corner."

Notre Dame led for almost twice as long as Kentucky.

"We were just scratching to stay in the game," Kentucky head coach John Calipari said.

"We really thought we had a great chance," Brey said. "As the game was going on, we just felt we could win the game. We were very confident."

Irish junior forward Zach Auguste powered Notre Dame with 20 points, while Grant added 15, and sophomore guard Steve Vasturia chipped in 16.

Despite a rash of early turnovers and a dearth of 3-pointers, Notre Dame hung tight with Kentucky throughout a back-and-forth first half that featured 10 ties and 13 lead changes. The teams entered the intermission tied at 31.

Notre Dame weathered an early second-half offensive surge from

Steve Vasturia. The 6-foot-5 Connaughton finished the season as Notre Dame's leading rebounder and shot blocker and snagged nine rebounds in the loss to the Wildcats.

"He's one of the toughest kids around," Vasturia said of Connaughton. "For him to rebound the way he does at his size is extremely impressive. He's probably one of the best rebounders in the country."

Grant, who added 15 points and six assists Saturday night, finished the season as Notre Dame's leader in points per game, assists per game and steals. Grant's passing ability helped open up opportunities for Notre Dame's other players, added Vasturia, who finished with 16 points against Kentucky.

"Everything he does on the court makes it easier for everyone else," Vasturia said of Grant. "He's able to create for everyone, he's able to score, he's able to defend."

Beyond their skills on the court, Grant and Connaughton have helped set the bar for future Notre Dame teams, Irish head coach Mike Brey said.

"Pat and Jerian were the ultimate role models to lead, to be fearless, to be unselfish, to set the tone for winning, to chase the team goal," Brey said. "It was so pure, it was really pure. I was spoiled. I hope we can bottle it and keep it next season."

After a season that included Notre Dame's first Sweet 16

Kentucky, and the Irish responded with a quick 13-4 run of their own to vault back ahead, 46-42, with 14:23 remaining in the second half. Auguste threw down a vicious put-back slam, and senior captain and guard/forward Pat Connaughton streaked down the lane with a two-handed flush that ended with the soles of his shoes tapping the underside of the backboard. Calipari used a timeout, quieting the raucous Notre Dame crowd.

The offense went dormant, though, as Notre Dame suffered through a 10-shot stretch in which it hit just two field goals. Still, the Irish clung to a 52-49 lead with 8:13 remaining.

And they had a chance to win in the final minute — the final seconds.

"We gave ourselves a chance, and it's disappointing because you really had the thing..." Brey said.

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appearance since 2003 and Elite Eight appearance since 1979, Connaughton said he and Grant have passed on high standards to Notre Dame's returning group, which includes starters Vasturia, junior forward Zach Auguste and sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson.

"Hopefully, [there is] a new legacy of us doing these things in March all the time," he said. "The most important thing to us was winning ... and these guys bought in fully. All the guys coming back next year know that it's on them now, the assumption that we wanted to show them the path, break through, do the tough things that you have to do, and they completely bought in, and now it's up to them to keep it going."

While Grant said he couldn't fully put Notre Dame's season in perspective, he added that the Irish learned how to win again, a necessity for a program looking to rebound from a 15-17 mark last year.

"We put in so much work, and we got to show it with a lot of wins this year," he said. "That was the most important thing — being able to put this program back on the map, getting some wins and doing something special."

"We were a couple of seconds away from a Final Four; it means everything."

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CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
1 Allies who are also rivals
10 Parking permit, sometimes
15 It may be shown to a superior
16 Send out of state?
17 Ephemeral decorative structure
18 Major key that uses all five black keys on a piano
19 Fails utterly
20 "Out of Sync" autobiographer, 2007
22 "I'll be right with you"
24 First female skater to land a triple/triple jump combination in competition
25 Like some verbs: Abbr.
26 Like certain versions of the Bible: Abbr.
- 27 Iroquoian people
30 Means to enlightenment
31 Gets down quickly
33 ____ Diggory, rival of Harry Potter
35 Spinner's spot
38 When repeated, a Las Vegas casino
39 Five-term Mexican president
40 Gymnastics staple
41 Home of Sault Ste. Marie: Abbr.
42 Dash
44 Modern storage
47 Talking car on "Knight Rider"
49 Patch Media owner
50 Show some major respect?
53 Some magicians' gear
56 Something seen after hours?
- DOWN**
1 Four-cornered chips
2 Make an abjuration
3 Leveled
4 Gets to first base
5 Clear
6 Cuatro semanas, roughly
7 Not domestic: Abbr.
8 Desserts not for the calorie-conscious
9 Taken care of
10 "____ Dinah" (1958 hit)
11 Like some private eyes
12 Burrito flavoring
13 British sci-fi author Reynolds
14 "It's showtime"
21 Big gigs
23 Cheek
28 What a stuck-out tongue may mean
29 Works on shifts, say
31 French horn
57 Buyable, in a way
58 "Excuse me?"
60 She outwitted Sherlock
61 Major museum expense
62 Ancient manuscript
63 No longer on speaking terms

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	Q	A	R	E	P	E	G		B	E	D	I	M
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- Puzzle by Joon Pahk
- 32 Plot devices?

34 Make the highlights?

35 2011 Wimbledon champion

36 California's ____ Serra Peak

37 Fastened tightly, with "down"

38 Refusal of Paris
- 40 Family of Paris

43 One bringing a speaker onstage, maybe

44 Case outcome

45 "And step on it!"

46 Got better

48 Sax great, to fans
- 51 Legend, for one

52 Iconic Broadway role for Cobb

54 "A Clockwork Orange" protagonist

55 Interstate hwy. ____

59 Start of many church names

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

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4	1							9
	9		6		2			
	8	2			4		3	
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SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE1/14/13

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

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 have what it takes to make things happen. Your showmanship and ability to use your skills to get the results you want will separate you from any competition you face. Express your dreams, hopes and wishes at networking functions, and you will spark the interest of people who can help you turn an idea into a prosperous venture. Your numbers are 8, 12, 21, 26, 37, 41, 45.

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, aggressive and enthusiastic. You are competitive and proud.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take part in events that allow you to show off your attributes, and you will find opportunities to advance. An energetic approach to getting your personal papers in order will help you resolve issues that have been holding you back. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Problems at home will escalate if you are too stubborn or emotional. Don't try to change others when you should be working on self-improvement. Getting out of the house with a friend will help you temper your anxiety and frustration. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be specific regarding what you will and won't do. Someone will take advantage of you if you don't lay down ground rules. Look for ways to improve your home environment or make a move that will ensure better living arrangements. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your skills to bring in extra cash, but don't let your confidence lead to overspending. You have good ideas, but the object is to bring money in, not to go into debt. Start small and let your plans grow naturally. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make changes, but don't do so at the expense of losing a friend or upsetting a partner. Lay your plans out, offering perks to anyone who will be affected by your decisions. An emotional plea will help you gain interest and support. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Consider joining a professional group. Offer your services and engage in talks that will lead to prosperous contracts. Keep a close watch on anyone showing competitive interest. Romance will result in a change to the way you live. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get involved in a worthy cause. The satisfaction you get and the new acquaintances you make will help you build a better future for you and for the organization. Hands-on help will bring the highest returns. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a secretive approach to whatever you are working toward and you will avoid unwanted interference. Making changes to your home that are geared toward a more efficient space will pay off. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will face opposition at home if you want to make changes. Present a plan that includes everyone, and offer something to appease anyone who may be trying to spoil your plans. Being one step ahead of others will ensure success. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look for a unique way to invest. Don't share your personal financial situation with anyone. Expect to face changes that will upset your plans. Be kind to someone you care for, but don't try to buy love. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There will be plenty of excitement to deal with if you don't have your plans lined up and ready to execute. Challenges should be met with a highly energetic and enthusiastic approach. Believe that you can, and you will succeed. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your creative mind wander. Keep your spending to a minimum and refuse to pay too much for a product that promises the impossible. Focus on sharing quality time with someone special instead of going on an expensive outing. ★★★★★

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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

NIYWD

ARVOF

DISARU

GEIGLG



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

A: (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: HAVOC EXCEL ADRIFT POCKET
Answer: Winning the pie-eating contest was this for him — A PIECE OF CAKE

WORK AREA

THE OBSERVER

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Agony and ecstasy



KEVIN SABITUS and JODI LO | The Observer

Notre Dame fall short in upset bid against undefeated Kentucky in Elite Eight

By **MIKE MONACO**
Senior Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — Jerian Grant sprinted to the left corner of the court and heaved up a contested shot. It missed long. The horn blared.

Notre Dame fell — two points, mere inches, precious seconds — from a momentous victory, as No. 1 seed and undefeated Kentucky survived the No. 3 seed Irish, 68-66, in the Elite Eight on Saturday night at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland.

“What a great college game,” Irish head coach Mike Brey said. “It was thrilling to be part of it. It lived up to the hype. We’re extremely disappointed. We really thought we had a great chance of beating them.”

Kentucky advances to the Final Four

and will face Wisconsin on Saturday in Indianapolis. Notre Dame falls short of its second Final Four appearance in program history. The Irish hadn’t reached the Elite Eight since 1979, a year after the only run to the national semifinals. Notre Dame’s 32 wins are the second-most in program history and the most since 1908-09.

“I’m proud of our group,” Brey said. “We emptied the tank tonight and that’s all I ask them to do before the game.”

The Irish (32-6) led the Wildcats (38-0) by six with 6:14 remaining in the second half. Notre Dame led for nearly 22 minutes total. But Wildcats sophomore guard Aaron Harrison buried a deep, high-arching 3-pointer to vault

see M BBALL **PAGE 14**

Notre Dame tops Baylor to earn ‘incredibly satisfying’ trip back to Final Four

By **MARY GREEN**
Assistant Managing Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY — Add Tampa, Florida, to a growing list that includes Nashville, New Orleans, Denver and Indianapolis — the last four sites of the Women’s Final Four.

No. 1 seed Notre Dame booked its trip to the NCAA tournament’s final weekend for a fifth straight year with a 77-68 win over No. 2 seed Baylor on Sunday in Oklahoma City.

The Elite Eight matchup featured 15 lead changes and seven ties, and the Irish (35-2) led for just over 16 of the 40 minutes, including only the last 12 seconds of the first half.

“I think this was one of the best games

in terms of our persistence, our relentless approach,” Irish head coach Muffet McGraw said. “We got down early, and we just never quit, and we kept coming back, kept coming at them, did what we had to do.”

Irish head coach Muffet McGraw cuts down the net after the Irish top Baylor in Sunday’s Elite Eight.

Sophomore guard Lindsay Allen found her shooting touch for the second straight game at Chesapeake Energy Arena, putting up a team-leading 23 points, 17 of those in the second half. Allen preceded that by collecting a career-high 28 points in a win over Stanford on Friday and was named Oklahoma City regional MVP on

see W BBALL **PAGE 13**

ND almost completes win over Kentucky



Mike Monaco
Senior Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — Kentucky strolled onto the court, circled one another and danced. Long, dangling arms sprawled around each other, the Wildcats moved in unison, side to side, as “Zombie Nation” blared.

Notre Dame stood together some 50 feet away, practically motionless, exchanging just a few barely noticeable fist bumps.

From the opening introductions, Notre Dame’s steadiness

see MONACO **PAGE 14**

Grant, Connaughton close out careers as leaders

By **BRIAN HARTNETT**
Senior Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — Trailing Kentucky by two points with six seconds remaining in Saturday’s Midwest regional final at Quicken Loans Arena, Notre Dame gave the ball to its two seniors, guards Jerian Grant and Pat Connaughton.

Just as he had done so often, Connaughton inbounded the ball to Grant. Just as he had done so often, Grant rushed down the court to set up a corner 3-point attempt.

Unlike so many other times this season, Grant’s shot did not go in, flying over the hoop as time expired in No. 3 seed Notre Dame’s 68-66 loss to No. 1 seed

Kentucky (38-0).

On what would end up being the final play of their college careers, Notre Dame’s two most experienced players were in position to topple the only undefeated team left in the nation.

“We gave the ball to our best player and let him try to make a play,” Connaughton said. “To be honest with you, I was right under the basket to try and get the rebound. It looked pretty close to going in.”

Connaughton and Grant didn’t add an Elite Eight victory to their respective resumes. But the resumes of the two-man senior class have a list of highlights — 120 consecutive starts

see SENIORS **PAGE 14**

Allen explodes for 20-plus points to lead Irish into Final Four

By **GREG HADLEY and RENEE GRIFFIN**
Editor-in-Chief and Sports Writer

At 5-foot-7, Lindsay Allen sometimes has trouble standing out on a top-seeded Notre Dame team full of all-conference players and big personalities.

In Oklahoma City, though, the sophomore guard was the biggest force on the court for the Irish, scoring a career-high 28 points against Stanford in the Sweet 16 and 23 more against Baylor last night. Both were team-high totals.

Add that to her 11 assists and 10 rebounds over the weekend, and it would be easy to mistake Allen’s stat line with that of the more decorated member of

Notre Dame’s backcourt, junior guard and national player of the year candidate Jewell Loyd.

It’s a comparison Loyd herself does not shy away from.

“Well, she’s like my twin, really, and she’s unstoppable,” Loyd said after Sunday’s win. “I think people have really underestimated her, and for us, she’s been awesome all year. It’s been awesome to see how talented she is.

“I look up to her on the court and off the court. She’s very humble. She’s the MVP.”

No player has been more reliable for Notre Dame over the last two years. She has started every single game and logged more than 2,100 minutes on the court.

see ALLEN **PAGE 13**