I tell she's nervous.

The thunderstorm of pounding gloves, the air that hangs heavy with smells of musty leather and sweat, she warms up normally, counting out loud doing jumping jacks with the other 69 members of the boxing army. You can't tell she's nervous. She probably should be. It's week five in the women's boxing team veteran season. After completing the fall instructional novice season and four weeks of intense training with the returning members of the team, it will be McHugh's first time in a real match-up inside the ring.

Athletics come easily to this confident, self-described tomboy from Georgia. She was a member of the rowing team and track team her freshman year. Being in the center of the athletic stage isn't unfamiliar — she was often in the spotlight as a member of her high school's basketball team.

McHugh was matched with a teammate during week three, when captains evaluate boxers and captains rank the boxers on a scale of 1 to 4 in skills, and match them according to skill and height. The system is to ensure both safety and an evenly-matched fight so that the athletes have the chance to use their skills without fear of getting pounded. Today's match — a dress rehearsal for the sparring in week six of the season — is the first real chance McHugh has to fight.

But despite the precautions, getting in the ring makes nerves electric. Two rounds of two-minute bouts can seem like two days — even for a composed athlete like McHugh.

"I've got butterflies," she says, pacing nervously with eyes sizing up the ring.

Fighting in the Shadows

It is here, in this den of sweat and strength, the women's boxing team calls home. It is here they train, day after day, week after week, in a tucked-away basement in the lower level of the Joyce Center.

The program, in its sixth year of operation, follows the same training pattern as the storied men's program. They learn the same combinations, same fight ănalyst work with the same coaches and train in the same gym. They raise money for the Bengal Missions, and send a joint check with the men's team every year after the Bengal bouts. Including training and service, the programs are practically identical.

"It's a conference which is really rare to have conferencing from most others is the presence of speakers other than those belonging to the scholarly community. Michelle Yeoh, acclaimed Asian actress and star of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" adds another dimension to the conference by bringing insider perspectives to the discussion.

"It's a conference which is unlike any other in that it provides for a gathering of figures from entertainment and media and scholars working in film and television," said Lionel Jensen, department chair of the East Asian languages and literatures department.

"It is really rare to have conferences in which there are anything more than just simply scholars — normally it's just scholars debating any number of issues relating to a field of focus for them," said Jensen.

Other panelists include senior Hollywood executives and major filmmakers from Asian and media scholars, including Notre Dame alumnus William Pfeiffer, CEO of Hong Kong-based Celestial Pictures. Pfeiffer will give the keynote address today in McKenna Hall at 4 p.m. Pfeiffer has become the most influential Hollywood executive in the entertainment world and also scholarship," said Wan. What distinguishes this conference from most others is the presence of speakers other than those belonging to the scholarly community. Michelle Yeoh, acclaimed Asian actress and star of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" adds another dimension to the conference by bringing insider perspectives to the discussion.
This Week in Notre Dame/Saint Mary's History

Undergrads replaced as card-swipers
Wednesday, October 9, 1985

In an effort to tighten control over students entering and exiting the dining halls, undergraduate student checkers had been replaced by graduate students and help from outside the University. Director of University Food Services, Bill Hickey, said the policy was necessary because of "many, many incidents" which occurred over the past year.

Beyond Campus

U. Wisconsin ponders use of race in admissions

This isn't in my model for how friendship is supposed to be -cordial? Why should a disagreement keep us from being friends? You all know me. I have found people - whom I thought were my friends - turn and step away from me when I need them most.

I have several other friends like this from high school and college. This is what happened at Notre Dame. It has been joked. "Who don't you know on campus?" Of all of the people I know, I have a core set of friends who I consider to be my close friends. You all know who you are - helping me out when my life and world fell apart, shattered, helping me to get things going to nothing from nowhere, 'type of people. As far as I can tell, I was the only one she let mess with her. Maybe that was because I carried a long metal stick with me for half of the school year... but I digress. When we email each other now or talk to each other on the phone, she says "Who do you think I would turn out so good and it has become a kind of joke between us as we discuss how life has treated us.

We have a friendship lost.

The Observer

Inside Column

A Friendship Lost

I remember several songs from when I was younger and in the Girl Scouts. One that sticks out in my memory the most is entitled "Make New Friends." It goes:

"Make new friends, but keep the old
One is silver and the other's gold.
A circle's round, it has no end."

That's how long I want to be your friend.

I remember learning this song in the second grade, just after I had joined Brownie Troop 3278 in San Diego, California. This song made me feel like I belonged, like I was wanted and accepted by the other girls as one of them.

That song taught me the value of friendship, that as long as we have our friends we can accomplish anything and we will always have our friends, and that other friends can never and will never replace the friends we already have. I have kept that as one of my ways of thinking over the years. I have always been open to meeting new people and making new friends. And every new person that I meet can expand my horizons, and can become a long-standing friend that I have.

As you all know, I have found people - whom I thought were my friends - turn and step away from me when I need them most. And every one of the people I have met from high school, Dixie, was one of the things that made me who I am today - helping me out when my life and world fell apart, shattered, helping me to get things going to nothing from nowhere, 'type of people. As far as I can tell, I was the only one she let mess with her. Maybe that was because I carried a long metal stick with me for half of the school year... but I digress. When we email each other now or talk to each other on the phone, she says "Who do you think I would turn out so good and it has become a kind of joke between us as we discuss how life has treated us.

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We have a friendship lost.
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Norm Winner

**Patrick McElee**
Core Winner

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**Trustees review recycling standards**

By ALLISON ROCHE
News Writer

The fate of 20 ounce bottles of pop across Saint Mary's campus will be determined by the Board of Trustees the next time they meet on April 19 and 20.

The board will then decide whether to give final approval to the Student Environmental Action Coalition's proposal for administrative financing of campus-wide glass and plastic recycling.

SEAC president, Teresa Lorenz, said the proposal is a response to requests from the student body.

Students and faculty would approach us and ask why the College didn't provide plastic and glass recycling, and what was the SEAC doing about it. When the College began switching vending machines from aluminum to plastic, people really began to question the aluminum recycling," Lorenz said.

The SEAC's proposal, originally written in April 2000, garnered support from the BOG in October 2000 and was most recently approved by the Faculty Assembly.

According to Susan Dampeer, assistant to College president Marleth Eldred, administrators and faculty on the College Budget Committee are currently reviewing the proposal in order to make a recommendation to the Administrative Council. The Administrative Council, composed of Eldred and the College's vice presidents, will then make their recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Due to support the proposal has already received from administration, Lorenz said she is optimistic about the final approval.

"We really don't anticipate the request to be turned down," she said.

Although the administration supports the idea of glass and plastic recycling, budget constraints might prevent the SEAC proposal from being implemented. Saint Mary's currently spends $20,000 annually for aluminum, paper and cardboard recycling. The additional cost of recycling glass and plastic would be about $30,000.

"There are requests for funds from every department in the College. This year alone there were requests totaling $1,684,000 and funds available of approximately $450,000," Dampeer said.

The slow approval process has not deterred the SEAC, which has begun some recycling efforts on its own. One of the members of the group, Emily Miller, organized about 12 other members to place boxes for plastic and glass recyclables in their residence halls. The volunteers use a College truck to bring the boxes' contents to a recycling center in South Bend.

No figures are available for how much the SEAC has recycled so far, but Lorenz said it is a "lot." However, due to the limited number of volunteers, not every building on campus can be covered.

"Last year Dr. Watt in the biology department took the recyclables over to the Notre Dame recycling dumpster at married student housing. She got into trouble from Notre Dame because their dumpsters were filling up every week from the recyclables we would bring over. And then, too, after a point she would have to make three or four trips over there," Lorenz said.

If the Board of Trustees gives the SEAC their approval in April, the new recycling program could start immediately.

Contact Allison Roche at rocho584@saintmarys.edu.

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**Scholarship targets int'l students**

**Special to The Observer**

A new University of Notre Dame scholarship program named in honor of a Panamanian archbishop is making it possible for students from Latin America to attend his alma mater.

Named in memory of Father Mark McGrath, archbishop of Panama from 1969-94, the McGrath Scholars Program at Notre Dame provides need-based scholarship aid to qualified students from throughout Latin America.

In addition to the scholarship support, the program also includes a fund that provides students with support programs for a variety of counseling, tutoring, communication, cultural and social services.

Notre Dame currently enrolls about 760 international students from 100 countries worldwide, including 150 from Latin America.
Boxing continued from page 1

Excep! for one thing.

When the men's boxers took their skills into the public ring last week with the start of the annual fr-Quee boxing tournament, the women held their own series of spars in the Joyce gymnasium in private.

Since the program began six years ago, the women have not been allowed to fight in public. While they are allowed to have a private set of fights during the final week of the season, the move of the sport seems to be a long way off. "I don't think we're going to see any of this in public, I don't think anyone who's down here wants to be hidden," said army.

Fighting to Fight

Eight years ago, Alme Catrow didn't have a team to fight with. The women who had a desire to box joined the men's boxing program and began training immediately. Catrow was hired into boxing by a local legal. Bouts her freshman year, and like most who join the women's boys often have no prior experience with the sport.

But after two years she convinced administrators and coaches to give her blessing for a women's program. Catrow had to overcome much hatred starting the new program, and choosing one with a significant stigma around it.

After all, women didn't box. And it wasn't just at Notre Dame. Other Catholic institutions who were getting into the sport weren't allowing girls to box. Dallas Malloy led a federal court case in Seattle against the boxing governing body. Malloy won the case after a judge ruled the ban was a violation of sex discrimination. Even with all the legal fights, the sport isn't widely publicized, and there's a national concern about the boxing programs for women wasn't an easy task.

College boxing programs were - and still are - rare. Even today, only four or five Notre Dame boxing team fully recognized as a club sport, the University is the only one that allows women to box. Notre Dame allows the program now.

"I don't feel we need points or judges, wins or losses. For a lot of the girls, it's a huge battle just to get themselves in the ring." Kari Jerge

Top: Notre Dame boxer guards her face during a practice session.

Right: Sophomore Jessica Brogan takes a round of punches as part of her workout routine.

Photos by Nellie Williams

"The interesting thing about this program is that our wins is getting in the ring," period, "Jerge said. "I don't need your parents or judges, wins or losses. For a lot of the girls, it's a huge battle just to get themselves in the ring.

Kari Jerge

Women's boxing captain

"It's an accomplishment. Even more so because it's an accomplishment that isn't ever considered feminine," said Jerge.

"The perception of boxers as violent hasn't changed. The perception of boxers as violent has been perpetuated," said Jerge. "Women boxers are seen as men who are learnt having fun. They are not seen as athletes, not seen as competitors."

The perception of boxers as violent also plays into the stereotype of "tom boys" and "tommy girls." It is a negative perception that is often reinforced in the media. Women boxers are often portrayed as aggressive and rough, and their skills are often dismissed.

"I'm not saying that we're not athletes. We're competitive. We're sometimes a little too competitive," said Jerge. "But that's a different perception of women boxers than what's been portrayed in the past."

Women boxers are often seen as being too aggressive or not aggressive enough. It is important to recognize that women boxers are capable of a wide range of emotions and have different motivations. They should be celebrated for their achievements, not their perceived weaknesses.

"I want people to see that we're more than just athletes. We're more than just women. We're more than just boxers. We're more than just anything," said Jerge. "We're just women who want to compete."
**INDIA**

Hindu rioters kill 58 Muslims

Associated Press

AHMADABAD

Angry Hindus set fire to homes in a Muslim neighborhood Thursday and then kept firefighters away for hours, dragging out one former lawmaker and burning him alive. At least 58 people died in revenge attacks triggered by a Muslim assault on a train.

Police in western Gujarat state appeared outnumbered or unwilling to act to quell what appeared to be the worst rioting in the country in nearly a decade.

The officers stood in hedges, watching as groups of Hindus, wielding iron rods and cans of gasoline or kerosene, roamed Ahmadabad attacking Muslims in their homes, shops and vehicles.

The government promised to send the army to Ahmadabad, the region’s main city, to end the rampage. But there were fears the violence would spread Friday, when Hindu nationalists called for a nationwide strike.

In Thursday’s worst attack, 38 people — including 12 children — died when some 2,000 Hindus set fire to six homes in an affluent Muslim neighborhood.

Some trapped residents made frantic telephone calls to police and firefighters. But police said they arrived two hours later and firefighters were delayed by more than six hours because of blockades by rioters.

A former lawmaker, Ehsan Jefri, fired at the rioters when they tried to enter his house, but he was dragged out and burned alive.

Elsewhere in Ahmadabad, rioters pulled a Muslim truck driver out of his vehicle and killed him at a roadblock, police said. Other Hindus made bonfires with goods looted from shops, and 20 men tore down a small mosque.

J.S. Bandukwala, a Muslim and human rights activist, said his house was attacked by Hindus who “lobbed burning rags and pelted stones,” before his Hindu neighbors took him to safety.

In a few instances, police opened fire on rioters, killing two and wounding six in Ahmadabad and two other towns, police said.

The violence was in retaliation for an attack Wednesday in Godhra, a town south of Ahmadabad, where Muslims set fire to a train carrying Hindu nationalists, killing 58 people, including 14 children.

**Senate delays campaign finance bill**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Action on campaign finance legislation was pushed back to at least next week.

Sen. Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., put off plans to try to bring the bill, which bans unregulated “soft money” donations to the national political parties, to the Senate floor.

His offer said he would await the outcome of talks between the main proponents and opponents of the bill.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the chief opponent, held a second round of talks Thursday with Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., co-sponsor of the bill with Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis. They are looking for a formula to complete the most significant change in campaign finance law since 1974.

McCain said he objects to the bill in its present form and, under Senate rules, a single senator can prevent legislation from moving forward.

The Kentucky Republican contends limits on campaign contributions violate First Amendment free speech rights and is asking for what he says are minor “technical” changes.

After their meeting, McCain said a separate bill may be proposed to make technical adjustments to his legislation, but most alterations McConnell wants would be opposed as “very substantive” changes.

Among those was a McConnell proposal to index inflation limits set on amounts political action committees can give to candidates in violation of “soft money.”

The Senate passed the Feingold bill last April by 59-41. On Feb. 14, the House passed a similar version 240-189, and Senate supporters want to pass the House bill without change so it can be sent directly to President Bush for his expected signature.
University of Notre Dame

BOXING

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Directed by CAMPUS NEWS page 7

The expenses vary from year to year, and it is Jensen's responsibility to see this year's expenses do not exceed the budget. "It changes from year to year," Rosenbush said.

Contact Sarah Rykowski at ryk2948@stmarys.edu.

Media experts talk about music, sex

By JOCELYN CUBBON News Writer

Several Notre Dame sponsors presented a panel discussion called "Sex, Music and You" to focus on music's effects on society, relationships and individuals. The three panelists shared their views on topics ranging from music videos to beauty to rap music.

Early in the discussion, the panelists reacted to clips of popular music videos featuring scantily clad, women-dressed in trendy clothes, dancing around the star. Many of the students in the audience were appalled by the video and by the ideas of sex and money such videos put in the minds of today's youth. They wanted to know ways to change the moral standards of today.

Jones suggested that in order to make a difference, people have to become more than reactive, but proactive. "You find something that is real... tangible... and do it," said Jones.

The panelists discussed the effect of image and stressed the importance of the power of an individual. They want to attract students to work for their goals and to make a difference.

"Be an individual. You have the option to do what everyone else does, and yet it is your choice. One step at a time," said Thompson. "You find something that is real... tangible... and do it," said Jones.

Contact Jocelyn Cubbon at jocb@nd.edu.
after this, the corporate ladder will be a piece of [cake].

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Chair
continued from page 1

advisory council, as well as other individuals in the architecture field for guidance in the process, said Pugel, adding that the committee hopes to find the new chair by the end of the academic year.

Because of the School of Architecture's standing in the architecture world, Pugel said the committee has undertaken a "quite expansive" search.

"Our School of Architecture is a very distinguished place and it has a long tradition of leadership of classical and traditional architecture," said Pugel. "It would be an appealing place to be for an architect and an academic leader who is trained in those traditions and interested in continuing to move our school forward as a leader."

Under Westfall, the School of Architecture has maintained its status as a school of classical and traditional architecture, with an added focus on civic building, also known as urbanism. Westfall was involved in the formation of the South Bend Urbanist Center on Main Street, among other architectural projects in the area.

"I've tried to expand our presence in the architecture world," said Westfall, adding that he has tried to influence the South Bend community positively as well through projects downtown and on the Northeast side.

"There's been tremendous cooperation from the city and the county and other agencies and organizations," said Westfall, who came to Notre Dame as the architecture chair in 1998. After he steps down, Westfall said he would devote more time to tracing the history and fortunes of classical architecture in America and urbanism for a future book project.

"This is a tremendously invigorating place to be and there's not much chance to direct that vigor in researching and writing when you're in the administration position that I'm in," said Westfall, indicating that he would still continue to teach while conducting research.

Currently, Westfall holds the Frank Montagna chair in the School of Architecture, which he will retain after he steps down as the school chair. Hatch, who chairs the search committee, was unavailable for comment.

Contact Helena Payne at paynes.300@nd.edu.

Media
continued from page 1

Asia in the last 20 years, said Wan.

"[Pfeiffer] pioneered the globalization of media in Asia and the slogan now adopted by Hollywood studios is 'think globally, script locally,'" said Wan. "We want to put Notre Dame on the map, in the national attention when it comes to media globalization."

The conference takes place at a momentous time in an expanding globalization trend of pan-Asian media.

"This conference focuses on media globalization, not just globalization in terms of economics, business or things like that," said Wan. "Media globalization has a huge impact on people around the world — not to mention culturally, economically and in cinematography."

Jensen pointed to the intensified interest in Asian studies and a substantial increase in student enrollment in the department of East Asian languages and literatures as factors contributing to the importance and success of the conference.

"There's been an enormous amount of growth in Asian studies at Notre Dame in the last year and a half," said Jensen. The conference, sponsored by 20 University programs and organizations, received most support from the department of East Asian languages and literatures with Jensen's assistance and the department of film, television and theatre with the support of department chair Donald Crafton.

The panels will take place today and Saturday in McKenna Hall, and a special screening of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" followed by a discussion with star, Michelle Yeoh at 101 DeBartolo beginning at 4 pm. Panel information and times can be found at www.nd.edu/~eall/conference.

Contact Kiffin Turner at kturner@nd.edu.
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Saturday Evening
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All Festival Pass
Students $30
Non-Students $57
Senior Citizens $5

Tickets available at the door
If anyone is an expert on the value of student government or the impact of so-called "era candidates" who run in student government elections, I am. During my junior year, almost exactly 20 years ago, I ran for student body president at Notre Dame. I lost to a candidate who wore a Burger King crown and chose as his running mate, a cat.

The King and his cat's popular vote established the King's popularity. Yet, most only campaigned from toilet stalls in each dorm. His success was sealed after he spoke from behind a burning trash can at Walsh Hall (a burning trash can substituted for the bush). His appeal swept across campus 10 years ago because all election cycles have an ebb and flow as constituencies change.

Former Speaker of the House Thomas "Tip" O'Neill (D-Mass.) once said politics was "local." Indeed that is true in the real world. When applied to campus student government politics, it is even more true. Student government exists to meet life more peacefully while matriculating at Notre Dame. And heaven knows that task is virtually impossible.

President-elect Libby Bishop and running mate Trip Foley had the right message and image at the right time to satisfy the current student mood. That political atmosphere was created by the prior year of student representation.

When students feel comfortable, they stick with what seems to be working. They perceive a slick, outgoing political staff in shirt, we want change. Campus politics are as inevitable as Democrats following Republicans in office only to be followed again by Republicans followed once more by Democrats. The cycle never breaks; the timeline of the cycle varies.

Early in my junior year, the student body president had a demonstration of more than 3,000 students support him at a Campus Life Council meeting. The huge crowd forced the meeting to move to the engineering auditorium in an effort to accommodate the angry students. Students were jammed into hallways, stairwells and the auditorium proposing a ban of legs on campus.

The incumbent student body president thanked us for our show of support. Then he told us that he would negotiate with the administration using the turnout as his position of power.

As a result, student government became a joke in the minds of the students following the spring election cycles. We could not impeach the lame duck, although as alumni we defeated him twice for a national alumni board position a few years later. That spring, the mood of the campus begged for a King and his cat to be the successors.

I am proud that I carried my hall while the King carried all the other halls. I had a good campaign with cutting through red tape, improving meal plan options, bringing more concerts to campus and addressing programs that would help students — parking, part­time and bookstore policies to name a few. My campaign made sense when the electorate wanted change.

After one of the other candidates challenged the King for not having a student as a running mate, the King made a fake Notre Dame ID for the cat. Students loved it. The King fooled a would-be bureaucrat's attempt at political nonsense. The election was all but certified at that point.

Era candidates win elections

The Observer ridiculed the King for his proposal to abolish student govern­ment. However, after his election the King appointed his trusty roommate, "The H Man," as the caretaker of the government. We did not cut through red tape, nor did we add any new ser­vices that were long overdue. But student government survived not one year, but two. He was a sophomore when he won and was reelected the following year.

Libby Bishop is riding a wave of gen­der acceptance, especially as the University approaches the 30th anniversary of coeducation. Her election, making her the second woman student body president at Notre Dame, parallels the nation's reaction. The timing and the mood have coincided like the alignment of the planets.

For Brian Moscona who served as a loyal vice president and paid his dues in the campus political system, I suggest that you do not try to analyze why you lost. For five years following my loss I attempted to understand how intelligent students at a premier univer­sity like Notre Dame voted for a King and his cat.

It is as explainable as the New England Patriots beating both the Pittsburgh Steelers and St. Louis Rams. Like the sports gods in the sky, the football gods in the nation's capital.

Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame '73, served in President Clinton's adminis­tration as a Congressional and Public Affairs Director. His column appears every other Friday, and his email address is Hotline@nd.edu.

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

Biblical evidence is an oxymoron

How dare Beckett Gremmels call another student closed-minded when he is the very antithesis of understanding and tolerance. After reading Mr. Gremmels' letter from Feb. 28, I found myself disgusted with this condescending attitude. Who are you to say that homosexuality is evil? The definition of evil is an act intentionally done to harm or injure another person. Does this really describe sexual preference? If you want to talk about acting maliciously against others, let's look at your letter when you likened homosexuals to people who murder their parents, kidnappers, pedophiles and thieves. Please! If you want a quote from the Bible, how about this: "Let the ones who sin cast the first stone." You also may need to touch up on the Bible's teachings.

Which brings me to my next point. Biblical evidence is an oxymoron. When was the last time you heard Genesis being used as evidence in a courtroom? When has the Gospel of Mark been cited at a congressional hearing? Never. That's because these are not facts. You may mistake Church teachings for indisputable truth. In the Torah, it is written that we should not eat certain species of hoofed animals. Does that make me evil? Orthodox sects of some faiths stone women for unveiling their faces in public. Do not fall into the trap of relying absolutely on the teachings of others without critically thinking for yourself. If I am not mistaken, about 20 devout Muslims took the lives of nearly 6,000 Americans all because their religion told them that they were justified. Who's book is right? Yours? Do not be so quick to answer yes.

The Pope and the Church are allowed to have their own opinion. However, it is your responsibility as a human being to question what you are told and decide for yourself what is worth believing. Right now you sound like nothing more than a mindless drone, ranting about what could have been a discussion full of relevant points and counter arguments. You, however, have completely failed to touch on any of them.

Mr. Gremmels' main point for hating homosexuals is the fact that "scripture makes it quite clear that homosexual acts are a moral evil." He talks about how the Catholic Church should take pride in its preservation of tradition. If you ask me, the Church taking pride in the tradition of social intolerance is about as great as South Africa celebrating apartheid. The Catholic Church has plenty of things to be proud of, but I would not think that the Pope will be writing you a letter of thanks for your contribution to canon law. It is ravings like yours that have caused so many people to leave the Church in utter disgust.

Jonathon Diffley
sophomore
Scotiabank
February 28, 2002

Dear Mr. Editor,

I wouldn't normally write in, but the historical Jesus most certainly never played football!

Pray, blablabla. 

Jonathan Diffley, sophomore, Scotia Bank

February 28, 2002

'The University must address the culture of silence that conceals my issue of social justice.'

As is often the case with the right wing within the Catholic Church, they have missed Christ's message about poverty and, indeed, 2,000 years of thinking on the issue of social justice. This is truly obvious in the case of Christine Niles and her recent unfocused diatribe against the poor and Europeans. As with last semester's assault on the "brooding sullen class," Ms. Niles misses the mark. The fact that the working poor in the United States have more material goods than the poor in other nations should not condemn them to ridicule.

Rather, Ms. Niles should feel ashamed to have let a pregnant woman work on the construction of a church rather than rest in the comfort of her own home. Whatever happened to family values and raising the standards of living in Ecuador and elsewhere? Isn't there a letter measure of the standard of living than the number of VCRs? As she railed against socialism in Europe, she failed to see the strong support of laborers for programs of national health care, education and wage and price supports.

She derides the English for their anti-materialism, which she interprets as anti-Americanism. Is she accusing the Brits of VCR envy or angry over their seeming lack of concern? European socialists understand that basic social needs are far more important than parochial entertainment. Bread is far more important than circuses. Perhaps Ms. Niles should consider a biblical view from law school and attend courses on Catholic social justice and statistics. Since she believes that the poor in the United States are so well off, perhaps she would like to change places with them.

When God graces her with children, I pray that she not be burdened with church construction in her fifth month.

Ms. Niles seeks an answer to the question of what should be the appropriate gap between rich and poor. A simple answer is all that is needed. Necessity has to be no difference in the kingdom of heaven, then there should not be one on earth.

Daniel Byrne
visiting lecturer, English
February 28, 2002

Monologues’ break a culture of silence

I am an anonymous rape victim. You pass me on the quads, see me in the dining hall and observe me at Mass, always blending in, one of a sea of smiling Notre Dame faces.

I am not a rape victim in the conventional sense. There was no brutality, no late night walk in the woods. It happened here, not far from the shelter of campus. Blurred by alcohol, the night comes back to me in frantic images and phrases. I don’t remember the bar we stumbled into after the dance and the walk off-campus to his house escapes me. But it happened — and I have never again been the trusting person I once was.

Lacking the courage to confront him in person, afraid of backlash from this man’s many friends and frightened by the emotional repercussions of pressuring him, I sent a letter to a few select candidates who have been my only outlets. My parents don’t know. After weeks of going through the motions, tears finally broke loose the other night.

The University must address the culture of silence that conceals my issue of social justice.

Anonymous
February 25, 2002

Poverty sucks — even with a VCR

As is often the case with the right wing within the Catholic Church, they have missed Christ’s message about poverty and, indeed, 2,000 years of thinking on the issue of social justice. This is truly obvious in the case of Christine Niles and her recent unfocused diatribe against the poor and Europeans. As with last semester’s assault on the “brooding sullen class,” Ms. Niles misses the mark. The fact that the working poor in the United States have more material goods than the poor in other nations should not condemn them to ridicule.

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Daniel Byrne
visiting lecturer, English
February 28, 2002
Sophomore Amanda Holland as La Marcolfa stands over Giuseppe (senior Brian Barone) and the soldier Il Marchese di Trerate (junior Luke McLaurin) after Francesco (senior Will McGrath) has beat some sense into them.

By LAURA KELLY
Associate Scene Editor

In an interesting twist on checking out the competition, Laura Colangelo remembered sitting in the audience of the January production of Molière’s “Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme.” The senior FIT and Italian major came to the play without knowing a word of French, but wanted to see how much she could understand anyway. Happily surprised, Colangelo found that she could not only follow the story, but enjoyed the performance as well. This experience bolstered Colangelo’s confidence as the director of “La Marcolfa,” an Italian play running Sunday and Monday in the Washington Hall Lab Theatre. The show is entirely “in italiano,” yet Colangelo and her cast are certain the production will entertain and amuse even those whose knowledge of the Italian language is limited to “in italiano,” Colangelo’s phrase for the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, the project is an investigation into the use of theatre as a tool for foreign language acquisition.

The idea of doing a show in Italian developed during conversations with Professor Colleen Ryan-Scheutz, a professor who taught Colangelo both at Notre Dame and during an intensive seven-week summer program at Middlebury College during the summer of 2000.

“The premise of the project is to see how theatrical production can serve as a bridge for the often difficult transition between lower-level language classes and literature courses; a level where many students get frustrated and drop the language.” Colangelo said.

The director and faculty advisor starting working together last fall, first researching other studies on the use of theatre in learning a foreign language. Next came the challenging step of choosing a play.

“We needed a production with a good number of evenly distributed parts, one that used physical humor so the audience could easily understand it (even when not knowing Italian) and one that used common language, with modern phrases and vocabulary.” Colangelo said. The director and faculty advisor starting working together last fall, first researching other studies on the use of theatre in learning a foreign language. Next came the challenging step of choosing a play.

“The play is full of people falling down, breaking things, hitting each other — the kind of things that translate into any language,” Will McGrath, a cast member, said. “And we make things clearer through our actions and gestures.”

Although the play is set in 1848, the farce is a relatively recent work by the Nobel Prize-winning Italian playwright Dario Fo. The plot’s twists and turns revolve around a marquis (junior Luke McLaurin) who has fallen into debt and will go to drastic lengths to impress his lover, the princess (sophomore Randi Hughes) and his fiancée (senior Lauren Beyer) and the wily servant Marcolfa (senior Will McGrath) fill out the lively cast as they embark on a story with a surprising conclusion.

The project is Colangelo’s dream child, part of a research project she is undertaking with Professor Colleen Ryan-Scheutz of the Italian department.

Laura Kelly
Associate Scene Editor

Friday, March 1, 2002
In a
Class by Herself
Sizing up the competition

Connecticut Huskies
The Huskies are undefeated this season and are outscoring their opponents by an average of 20 points. Five Connecticut players average double digit scoring. The veteran team runs a smooth offense and a defense that shuts opponents down.

Boston College Eagles
The Eagles, who are 20-0 when leading at the half, are led in scoring by sophomore guard Atria Jacobs. Jacobs has averaged over 16 points a game in the last seven contests. The team's 21 wins is the third most in team history.

Villanova Wildcats
The Wildcats have won eight of their last 10 games and are coming off of a 48-45 victory against Villanova. They have had 123 3-pointers in their last 12 games and are one of only two teams to defeat the Irish this season.

Miami Hurricanes
The Hurricanes defense leads the Big East with 14.4 steals a game. Led by Chantavia Broussard (14.0 points per game), Miami pulled an upset victory over Boston College on Tuesday.

Virginia Tech Hokies
Sophomore center Ivana Katicaba grabbed her ninth double-double on Tuesday and leads the Hokies in scoring (15.2 ppg). The Hokies have only won two of their last six games.

Syracuse Orangewomen
The Orangewomen are enjoying their first winning season since 1998-99 season. Syracuse often plays four guards and is led by guards Julie McBride and Jamie James.

Providence Friars
The Friars are led by graduate student Dani Trippany, who is in her last year of eligibility. Trippany is the only player to average more than nine points a game. She has led the team in rebounding in 14 of the team's contests.

Seton Hall Pirates
The Pirates are without junior Leslie Ardon, who tore her ACL on Jan. 1. Prior to her injury, Ardon led the Pirates, averaging 13 points. Cecilia Lindsay is now the leading scorer with 12.5 points per game.

West Virginia Mountaineers
The Mountaineers, who are enjoying their first winning season since 1996-97, are on a three-game losing streak, culminating with a loss to Connecticut on Tuesday. Kate Bulger leads the Mountaineers with her outside shots.

Rutgers Scarlet Knights
The Scarlet Knights are hosting this year's tournament, but they have only won one of their last eight games. Rutgers is led by junior guard Mauri Horton.

Georgetown Hoyas
Sophomore forward Bosseah Brunson missed the first nine games of the season before returning on Jan. 23. The Hoyas are on a three-game losing skid heading into the tournament.
Mark of a Champion

Photo Illustration by Lisa Velte, Angela Campos and Andy DeVoto
125-pounds

**SHAWN NEWBURG vs. JASON McMATHON**

**PICKS**

- BRIAN BURKE
- PAUL CAMARATA
- MIKE CONNOLLY
- LISA VELTE

Shawn Newburg is the top seed in the lightest Bengal Bouts division and will try to polish off his bracket Friday night against hard-hitting senior Jason McMahan. Newburg was impressive in the quarterfinals, using steady lateral movement for all three rounds to avoid punches and shrugging off hits his opponent was able to land. McMahan’s aggressiveness forced the referee to stop his quarterfinal match, and in the semis he again came out on the attack. With a strong right hand and speedy combinations, McMahan will be ready to slug it out Friday night. But Newburg’s strength is his movement and should make the difference.

-Paul Camarata

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135-pounds

**T.J. D’AGOSTINO vs. MATT FUMAGALLI**

**PICKS**

- BRIAN BURKE
- PAUL CAMARATA
- MIKE CONNOLLY
- LISA VELTE

Matt Fumagalli has been up and down in the last two Bengal Bouts, from the 130-pound title his sophomore season to being upset in the first round a year ago. In what will be his final appearance in the Bouts, the top-seeded Fumagalli is looking to capture his second career title. He will be challenged in the finals by sophomore T.J. D’Agostino, who will try to use a distinct height advantage to slow Fumagalli’s movement and quick punching. In the semifinals, D’Agostino showed impressive ring presence to take over the tempo of the match from a more fiery opponent. Using his long reach he earned a split decision to advance. To outlast Fumagalli, he will have to again dictate the pace and try to fight downhill.

-Paul Camarata

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160-pounds

**CHRIS KITALONG vs. MARK DE SPLINTER**

**PICKS**

- BRIAN BURKE
- PAUL CAMARATA
- MIKE CONNOLLY
- LISA VELTE

The young and the old will tangle for the title of the 160-pound division when senior Chris Kitalong faces freshman sensation Mark De Splinter. A quick and rangy athlete, Kitalong demonstrated both his speed and an array of skilled punches to move easily past his first two opponents. De Splinter also showed his toughness in a semifinal split decision victory, going toe-to-toe against a fighter similar in style and size. He will face his toughest competition yet, where Kitalong only needs to rediscover his smooth, attacking style to bring a Bengal Bout title back to his native Palau.

-Paul Camarata

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165-pounds

**CLAY COSSE vs. CHRIS MATASSA**

**PICKS**

- BRIAN BURKE
- PAUL CAMARATA
- MIKE CONNOLLY
- LISA VELTE

This final pits the two favorites who both had preliminary-round byes. Cosse, a junior captain, was physically superior to his two previous opponents, but will face a very technically sound boxer in Chris Matassa. Matassa has very quick hands and is skillful at countering when fighters charge at him.

Cosse will look to fight inside, trade punches with Matassa, and employ a hook that did plenty of damage in prior fights. Matassa on the other hand will keep his distance and move around the ring in attempt to frustrate Cosse. He will look for openings and score with a fast jab cross-combo.

-Brian Burke

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190-pounds

**KEVIN BRANDL vs. JOHN LYNK**

**PICKS**

- BRIAN BURKE
- PAUL CAMARATA
- MIKE CONNOLLY
- LISA VELTE

Lynk will bring an aggressive and cocky attitude to the ring when he meets Brandl in the championship. As he did against Ziric, Lynk is expected to charge at his opponent from the start, using powerful jabs to the midsection to wear his opponent down. Brandl will also look to be more conservative than Lynk and pull out his big punches when the opportunity presents itself.

-Joe Hettler

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HEAVYWEIGHT

**STEFAN BOROVINA vs. CARLOS ABYEYTA**

**PICKS**

- BRIAN BURKE
- PAUL CAMARATA
- MIKE CONNOLLY
- LISA VELTE

In what appears to be an outstanding final, Abeya will need to start quicker than his last fight if he hopes to win. Abeya also has a rather large weight advantage on the smaller and quicker Borovina.

Borovina will, once again, rely on consistently landing jabs and combinations to become the champion. Abeya will look to defend the title he won last year by connecting with a powerful hook.

-Joe Hettler
Friday, March 1, 2002

The Observer • BENGAL BOUTS

145-pounds

ANDREW HARMS

vs.

JEMAR TISBY

JOHN NOWAK

BROCK HECKMANN

PICKS

BRIAN BURKE

Tisy

PAUL CAMARATA

Tisy

MIKE CONNOLLY

Tisy

LISA VELTE

Tisy

PICKS

BRIAN BURKE

Heckmann

PAUL CAMARATA

Heckmann

MIKE CONNOLLY

Nowak

LISA VELTE

Heckmann

Jemar Tisby has surrendered superior height to each of his first three opponents but advanced to the finals with fast hands that more than compensate for a shorter reach. A straight puncher who somehow finds every seam in the other fighter’s defense, Tisby works his combinations inside to both the body and head. In the finals, he’ll face off with junior Andrew Harms, who also knows how to deliver flurries of punches. Harms, the top seed at 145-pounds, finds success by controlling the ring space and keeping his opponent on the defensive. While he will try to use a balanced attack that includes power in both hands, Harms will be challenged by Tisby’s ability to go in, out, and up into space.

-Paul Camarata

155-pounds

TOOT-SEED SENIOR BROCK HECKMANN IS ONLY A VICTORY AWAY FROM WINNING BOTH HIS WEIGHT CLASS AND HIS SECOND CONSECUTIVE BENGAL BOUTS CHAMPIONSHIP. HECKMANN TAKES COMMAND OF HIS MATCHES BY FIGHTING FROM THE CENTER OF THE RING AND SEEMINGLY DESCENDING ON HIS OPPONENTS WITH STRONG, MEASURED PUNCHES. SOPHOMORE JOHN NOWAK WILL TRY TO DISRUPT HECKMANN’S TECHNIQUE WITH HIS OWN STRONG LEFT HAND. THE AGGRESSIVE SOUTHPAW DEMONSTRATED HIS RESILIENCE BY WINNING A NARROW SPLIT DECISION IN THE SEMIFINALS. IN PREVIOUS ROUNDS, NOWAK HAS SLOWED HIS OPPONENTS WITH A POWERFUL HOOK, BUT HE’LL NEED MORE THAN THAT FOR THE ANTIDOTE TO HECKMANN, WHO NO OTHER BOXER HAS YET BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE.

-Paul Camarata

170-pounds

DOMINGO MAYNES

vs.

RYAN HERNANDEZ

PICKS

BRIAN BURKE

Hernandez

PAUL CAMARATA

Maynes

MIKE CONNOLLY

Maynes

LISA VELTE

Maynes

The cornermen should not even bother yelling “stick and move” for this one. Both Maynes and Hernandez make no bones about coming out and brawling from the start. Both fighters will fight in close, and it could come down to who is able to take the most shots to the face. Maynes is an athletic fighter who came out swinging for the fences in the semifinals, throwing an endless barrage of wild punches. Hernandez will also brawl, but worked at throwing straighter punches in the semifinals, which paid off in the third round. A close call, since it will be more a battle of will than strategy, but an entertaining match nonetheless.

-Brian Burke

180-pounds

MATT SAR

vs.

MARK CRINITI

PICKS

BRIAN BURKE

Sarb

PAUL CAMARATA

Criniti

MIKE CONNOLLY

Criniti

LISA VELTE

Criniti

When Criniti meets Sarb in the finals, it will be finesse versus power. Sarb will look to pound his opponent as he has done in his previous fights by aggressively charging at him, while Criniti hopes to avoid punches and then move inside for jabs and quick combinations. Criniti has experience in fighting a defensive match and that should play to his advantage. Sarb is also taller than Criniti, but this is a disadvantage Criniti has seen before. Criniti will be looking for his third straight title while Sarb hopes to grab his first championship.

-Joe Hettler

72nd ANNUAL BENGAL BOUT FINALS

Date: Friday, March 1, 2002
Time: 8 p.m.
Location: Joyce Center

Defending 2001 Champions

Brock Heckman - 155-pound (2001 150-pound)
Mark Criniti - 180-pound (2001 175-pound)
Carlos Abeyeta - Heavyweight
The conquering power of humility

Mike Criniti fights for friendship and charity, not glory in the ring

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Sports Writer

Beneath the bright lights of the Notre Dame Fieldhouse boxing ring, then-freshman Mark Criniti's head snapped back in a crimson explosion of blood. Instinctively, the fighter responded to the blow by hurling his left fist forward into his opponent's face. His opponent's head gushed blood as the crowd roared its approval.

When the final bell rang a few minutes later, Criniti was left with a bloody nose, a split-decision defeat and his favorite moment in the ring.

"That was the hardest I've been hit," the now-senior captain said. "But it was also probably my best experience in the ring.

When two-time champion Mark Criniti recounts his boxing career at Notre Dame, he focuses on the only time he lost. He glosses over his two titles.

He admits that he's proud to be a senior captain but he only really gets excited talking about the only loss in his Bengal Bouts career.

"When the final bell rang, I honestly thought he got me. When they announced the result, I was honestly surprised. I really didn't think I deserved to win the fight."

Mike Criniti boxing captain

"I was happy that I won, but I was also kind of disappointed that someone had to lose that fight," he said.

Criniti will talk at length about the only fight he ever lost at Notre Dame. He will gush about the hours of training, the hundreds of push-ups and the camaraderie he shares with his fellow boxers. But when it comes to talking about his championships, he closes up. He's proud of his accomplishments, but he would rather talk about other things.

"There is something about this whole experience — something about training with your team, then getting into the ring with your teammate and beating the hell out of each other and being opponents in the ring and then stepping out of the ring and being friends again," Criniti said. "There is nothing else that comes close to what that feels like.

Nearly every fighter in Bengal Bouts will tell you he doesn't fight for the glory. They will all tell you they do it for the friendships that they make and the charity money they raise.

But for some reason, when Criniti talks about the friendships that they make and the charity money they raise.

"Maybe it's because he never intended on fighting in the Bouts when he first started training with the club. The former St. Joseph High School soccer captain felt like he was getting out of shape after Christmas break his freshman year.

Two of his roommates convinced him to join the Boxing Club — because hundreds of push-ups, sit-ups and jumping jacks would get him into better shape.

"I got an incredible workout. I just kept coming back and coming back. I really wasn't that great at it when I started," Criniti said. "I really felt that I wasn't going to fight because I wasn't good at it.

But a funny thing happened when he stepped into the ring for his first spar with junior captain Mike Homanchek. He didn't get crushed. Homanchek easily scored more punches than Criniti, but the freshman held his own in the ring.

"I was completely hooked. After going through that and being part of something as powerful as Bengal Bouts, you can't let it go."

Mike Criniti boxing captain

Mark Criniti lands an overhead right on Keith Arnold during the 185-pound semifinals on Wednesday. Criniti will face off against Matt Sarb tonight.

"I was completely hooked. After going through that and being part of something as powerful as Bengal Bouts, you can't let it go."

Criniti said. "After going through that and being part of something as powerful as Bengal Bouts, you can't let it go. You want to stay in it as long as you can. Once I got myself into that situation and heard congratulations from the guys, I knew I was going to be doing it for the next three years."

Three years and two titles after he got walloped by Chen, Criniti is down to his last fight. Now, he will finally admit how important it is for him to win a third title.

He has invested too much time, effort and energy to walk out of the ring for the last time without another championship.

"I think I am feeling more pressure this year than I have in my previous three years. A lot of it doesn't have to do with being a captain or every­thing that goes along with it," Criniti said. "I just know it's going to be the last fight I am going to fight in the Bengal Bouts. I want to go out on top. I want to go out as a three-time champion."

That's the closest Criniti gets to bragging. The closest Criniti gets to boasting. He wants to go out as a three-time champion.

"Regardless of what happens — and it would be disappointing to lose — I am not going to hang my head about it," Criniti said. "I've experienced something that not many people have experienced."

After sitting down with Criniti for even a few moments, something tells you that even if he walks out of the fight without a third title, he will still be a champion.

Contact Mike Connolly at connolly.28@nd.edu.
up close & personal

WITH

ERICA HANEY

position: guard/forward
year: senior
notables: Hanev is the sole senior on the Irish squad. She scored 3 points and grabbed five rebounds in the national championship match-up against Purdue last season.

birthdate: July 13, 1980
town: Toledo, Ohio
dimensions: 6-foot

if she could live her life again with any three people in history, they would be: Marvin Gaye, Red Foxx and Martin Luther King

up close & personal

WITH

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The Notre Dame student-athlete she admires most is: Harold Swanson

The best thing about being a student at Notre Dame is: working at D'Elberto master control. If she wrote a book about her life it would be called: Living the Dream

Since being at Notre Dame she's: learned to be responsible, mature and hard working.

Her favorite team is: the Houston Cougars (specifically Coquese Washington)

She wears No. 3 because: it's cool

Senior Ericka Haney bobbles the ball as freshman Jackie Batteast watches. Haney overcame early-season struggles to lead the Irish late in the season.

By NOAH AMSTADTER

Sports Editor

For any college athlete, senior year is never easy. For most, there's the impending reality of life after sports on the distant horizon — and the pressure to find a job that goes along with that scary truth.

Seniors also have the responsibility of leadership. It's the seniors who are generally named team captains. It's the seniors who feel the burden of setting an example for younger teammates — both on and off the court.

Most teams have a few seniors. Last year's NCAA champion Notre Dame women's basketball team had five — including the nation's best player, Ruth Riley, and a fifth-year All-American point guard who had already been a First Team All American four times growing up.

But when the five graduated last fall, they were replaced by six freshmen. Left with the pressure of living up to this, it was just one senior — forward Ericka Haney. Initially it was a challenge that Haney relished.

"I like the big load on my shoul­ders to carry this year," Haney said in August. "But I'm actually ready for the challenge.

But by December the load was heavier than the seniors originally expected, and the burden began to affect her play. A Dec. 6 loss to Purdue dropped the defending champions' record to 2-4. Haney, who averaged 11 points and 5.7 rebounds in 29.1 minutes per game as a junior, didn't really need to get it out, and I think she couldn't adjust to everything," Haney said. "I really didn't talk much to anybody about the problems that I was having. It was really hard to try to be that leader and try to play and not be performing well.

By mid-January, Haney had returned to the starting lineup after coming off the bench for four games in December but was playing sparingly. She was a two-A class newborn that year, and she came to that public high school and had a lot of ideas.

"He begged and pleaded with my par­ents to let me go somewhere else," Haney said. "He didn't want me to go there." So Haney ended up attending Toledo Central Catholic High School, where she starred in both basketball and track and field. That experience paved the way for Haney's future. "I wanted to see how it would be to go to a different type of people. I've done all my life but I think that was something the freshmen really didn't allow me to make excuses of," Haney said.

"I've probably got a lot of things that I didn't know," Haney said. "We kind of got everything down on the table. After that meeting, McGraw increased Haney's playing time — and the move worked. The Irish improved to 10-4 before falling to Villanova Tuesday night. Haney finally found her stroke as well, averaging 11.2 points over one stretch of six games and stepping into a bigger offensive load when freshman Jacqueline Batteast, the team's leading scorer, was sidelined with a knee injury for four games late in the year.

"Obviously everybody wanted her to have a great year and score a lot of points and lead the team and all," McGraw said. "When it didn't happen early, things kind of snowballed, and it's hard to lead when you're not playing well. Everything suffered about her game, and then she's gone. This is it, this is senior year, I have to go back to what I'm good at, and that's what she did.

The daddy's girl

Throughout Haney's career, from AUU games growing up to the national cham­pionship in St. Louis last spring, there's been one constant — the presence of her father, Sidney Haney Jr., usually seated just behind the bench.

"His eldest daughter had attended all but four of his daughter's games during her Notre Dame career, sacrificing both 25 years worth of off days at the Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio, and her own college basketball dreams. "I've probably got 150,000 miles on one of them and probably pretty close to 175,000 on the other," Sidney Haney said. "I've probably worn out about three cars driving up and down the road.

It was her family's influence that paved the steps for Haney to end up at Notre Dame. She started out at inner-city public schools in Toledo, schools she attended until eighth grade. When the time came to choose a high school, Haney wanted to continue on to the public high school with her friends.

Her older brother, Sidney Haney III, went to that public high school and had other ideas.

"He begged and pleaded with my par­ents to let me go somewhere else," Haney said. "He didn't want me to go there.

Haney's parents also saw their daugh­ter's stress earlier in her senior season and her resilience at the end.

"The pressures that she felt being the only senior, I know it was tremendous," Sidney Haney said. "We saw it in her game. We saw her scores go down. We saw her game totally disappear from the Ericks that we know. She hung in there and she came back.

"She always came to practice and she played hard and I think that was something that was really something that the underclassmen admire," McGraw said. "She could have really gotten down and really just kind of given up on the season. I think that was something the freshmen really looked at her with a lot of respect for that.

With her days in blue and gold now numbered, Haney has no set plans for life after college. She will earn her degree in Film, Television and Theatre and has worked an internship at WNDU, so a broadcasting career could be in her future.

But Haney isn't quite sure that her basket­ball career will end at the collegiate level.

"I've considered going out," Haney said of a professional basketball career. "I guess I've learned over the last four years that I don't think basketball defines me as a person. I've done all my life but I think now I'm kind of ready to move on and see what else is out there. If it's there it's there, if it's not I'll be like a normal per­son again I guess.

Contact Noah Amstadter

amstadter.1@nd.edu
Learning lessons along the road to victory

The Irish are not a national championship team, but they have as much, if not more, to be proud of this season as Ruth Riley, Niele Ivey and the rest of the 2000-2001 squad did last year.

Early this season, head coach Muffet McGraw said last year’s team was one she didn’t need to coach as much; this year’s team would be a different story. But after looking at where this team was, where it has come and where it is now, it seems quite obvious that the road they have travelled is one with a successful destination.

When the Irish tipped off for the first time this season against the Ohio Girls’ Basketball Magazine All-Stars, it was a different team that took the court. They weren’t focused on shooting percentage or turnover ratio. They were looking for a place to begin.

“We’re not really worried about shooting percentage, we’re not really worried about turnovers,” said assistant coach Coquese Washington after the 76-62 victory. “We’re looking at our tendencies. We’re looking at getting game-by-game growth and getting better each game.”

There was growth each game, but that growth did not come without some very important lessons.

Lesson one: Practice is different from game experience, but some time off is still a good idea.

The Irish started out the season 2-4, winning just two games at home and dropping four on the road. Just prior to a 78-63 loss to the University of Michigan, McGraw stated what the freshmen on her team were struggling with.

“We’re working on that every day, just trying to get them in a game situation,” she said. “I think they’re all very smart, and you ask them to diagram a play or tell you what’s supposed to happen and they’ll tell you exactly what’s supposed to happen. The problem is in the heat of the game.”

Despite the fact that the Irish needed some game time, they also needed some rest.

Following a long road trip over the Thanksgiving holiday, they needed some time to rest. Not only that, they needed some time to practice, because young players cannot do it on their own.

“We need experience in the game, but there’s a lot of things we’ve got to fix, McGraw said in early December. “So I think that this time it’s an advantage to have some time off.”

Lesson two: You can’t expect national championship caliber play from a team that has recently been to the prom.

The media did it, the fans did, opposing teams did — they built up the hype surrounding the defending national champions. What they failed to realize was that this team was not the defending national championship team. It was a team that was composed mostly of freshmen and had lost some of its best players.

“We keep talking about when Ruth [Riley] was a freshman that’s the season this should be compared to, not last year,” McGraw said. “We’re 2-3 in 1998... that’s going to happen with a young team. Don’t worry about the record.”

By the time early January rolled around, things were looking bad for the Irish. On Dec. 28, during a game that was a blow-out the season before and should have been a refresher for the team following the Christmas holiday, the team fell to Rice 72-61. McGraw broke down into tears at the press conference following the game. It looked as if the Irish had hit rock bottom.

But then, things started to change.

The team picked up its first road victory with a 69-65 win against Miami to start off the Big East season on the right track, and from there things fell into place.

“I really think that since the Miami game, that win on the road, the team just seemed to come together in January in the Big East,” McGraw said on Monday. “I think they’ve set it as a second chance, a second season.”

And for the Irish, that’s what it looked to be.

“We feel like we’re moving in the right direction,” assistant coach Kevin McGuff said following a 68-56 win against Pittsburgh on Feb. 5. “We’re gaining some momentum as we head into the rest of the season.”

In the 15 games following the Miami victory, Notre Dame only lost three contests and the lessons continued.

Lesson three: You can’t take any team for granted.

The Irish traveled to Seton Hall in February, remembering a solid victory they had against the Pirates earlier in the season. However, they learned a lesson worth remembering when Seton Hall almost pulled out a victory.

“This is a really important lesson for us to learn, that you can’t take anyone lightly,” McGraw said. “You need to come out and be prepared... that’s what we have to guard against, just being over-confident.”

Lesson four: The most recent lesson for the Irish is that individual improvement helps, but it’s teamwork that counts in the big loss to us but it gave a lot of people opportunities.”

Now the Irish have won nine of their last 10 games, and although Tuesday night’s loss to Villanova was a reality check, they’re ready to face the real competition in a Big East tournament.

This team may not take home a national championship, but they’ve proved that with hard work, they have what it takes to be competitive. 

Contact Katie McVoy at kmco5695@SaintMarys.edu. The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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Do it all night long
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April 20, 2002

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that the actors at this level could use," Colangelo said. The student director eventually decided on "La Marcolfa," a play she had seen while studying abroad in Florence and had also studied in class at Notre Dame. Tryouts were held around p.m.

"We advertised in Italian classes and lots of people came out," Colangelo said. By the end of rehearsals, the cast and crew also underwent oral interviews conducted by Ryan-Scheutz as part of the research for the study. They were given reading selections from another comparable play in order to determine their language level and ability and will go through similar final interviews after the production to assess their progress.

Colangelo ultimately hopes to publish these findings in a scholarly journal. In addition to previous acting experience and work on costume design, Colangelo directed the spring 2000 production of "A Merry Death."

"Directing is my favorite part of theatre," Colangelo said. "I love coordinating the entire artistic vision, being able to look at the finished project and to know I had a part in all of it."

With her double majors, she was able to get the project sponsored by both FTT and the department of Romance Languages and is now earning credit for her work as a FTT Special Studies Project. The 11 members of the cast and crew will also receive one credit for their involvement, but the real benefit of their work comes from the improvement in their language skills, as every aspect of the production is conducted in Italian.

"All the rehearsals, all the warm-ups, every trip off-campus with the costume and set designers to get supplies — everything is in Italian," said Colangelo. "The goal here is an immersion experience."

"Overall, it's been tough, but it's really helped my Italian," McGrath said. "It was daunting to memorize my lines, since it's a lot harder to improvise in Italian than in English, but it was a great experience and helped me keep up my language skills."

The six cast members, three scene managers, costume designer and set designer have all reached at least an intermediate level of Italian and Colangelo thinks that the difference in their abilities has helped everyone advance.

"I've seen such much improvement from when we first started," she said. "It's amazing how everyone has caught up."

"La Marcolfa" marks the first play for the Italian Department and what Colangelo hopes will become a tradition and perhaps even a class for credit like its French counterpart.

"It's exciting to be a part of something so groundbreaking," Colangelo said. "Everyone in the department has been so encouraging, behind us every step of the way."

Support from FTT has also given the designers access to costumes and sets. Colangelo said her double major to thank for this.

"Having a foot in both doors has been really helpful," Colangelo said.

Three performances this weekend will showcase the efforts of the small but dedicated cast and crew. As director, Colangelo is eagerly awaiting to see the audience's reaction.

"The show is so hilarious," Colangelo said. "The stage managers and I are always amazed at how we laugh more and more each time we see it. And after seeing the French play, I realized how much you really can understand, even if you don't know the language."

"La Marcolfa" will be presented Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. as well as Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Washington Hall Lab Theatre. Admission is $1. Tickets are available at the door or from the Romance Languages office in 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall. A summary of the show in English will be distributed with the program.

Contact Laura Kelly at kelly@nd.edu.

Senior Lauren Beyer as Teresa (left) and La Marcolfa fight because Teresa thinks La Marcolfa has stolen her fiancé, Giuseppe. "La Marcolfa" relies heavily on physical comedy to convey its plot beyond language boundaries.
Bengal Bouts embody Notre Dame's values

Our Lady is standing on top of the dome, but the signature of Notre Dame can be found each year at the Bengal Bouts. Every winter for the past 72 years, the Notre Dame Boxing Club has held a competition to fill its season. The Bouts have grown in numbers and renown since Knute Rockne first began intramural boxing, and have become as arguably the most prominent events that remain in our tradition of电力.

"We really built a name for ourselves," said Meredith Simon, a sophomore. "I'm so proud of how we worked last season. We really built a name for ourselves."

The team has high expectations for this season after losing only one starter to graduation in the last two years. The current juniors and seniors have had a lot of experience together with Coach Tracey Coyne. "When the seniors came in as freshmen there were only 17 people on the team."

The young team grew up fast and played well together, struggling to 5-1 in 2000, but bouncing back to a 10-5 record last year.

Defensive captain Kathryn LaVine said it took time for the talent and unity of this year's Bengal Bouts to develop as much as the talent and unity of any year's Bengal Bouts. "Everybody is a year older, a year more mature, probably the strongest year we've had," LaVine said.

They play the strongest schedule in team history as well. The Irish play six teams that are in the preseason top 20, including No. 2 Duke and No. 10 Notre Dame town.

"The current juniors and seniors have a lot of experience. When the seniors came in as freshmen there were only 17 people on the team," said Meredith Simon, a sophomore.

The first game is always a tough game, said Elizabeth Knight. "The Irish are not expecting a cakewalk game and we are definitely not being overconfident, the experience is very important.

They are only have 16 games, so long ago, it was the fall of 2000, or Meredith Simon, a sophomore. "The first game is always a tough game, said Elizabeth Knight.

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**WOMEN'S TENNIS**

Irish hope to extend home winning streak

By COLIN BOYLAN
Sports Writer

The 20th-ranked Notre Dame women's tennis team will try to extend its three-match winning streak when it concludes a six-match homestand this weekend. The Irish face Wisconsin on Friday at 4 p.m. and Ohio State Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The Irish hope that a pair of home matches against weaker competition will be a good confidence builder for the team, but they aren't taking anything for granted.

"I think we can definitely build some confidence this weekend, but we know that both Wisconsin and Ohio State are tough teams. Wisconsin is having a great year and Ohio is playing really well too," said senior captain Becky Varnum.

Indeed, both the Badgers and the Buckeyes boast better records than the Irish, weighing in at 8-2 and 9-1, respectively. Nonetheless, confidence is running high on the Irish side, as the team is coming off a 7-0 victory against Virginia Tech, their first shutout victory of the season.

"We struggled a bit in doubles [last week against the Hokies],...
FENCING
Irish, Wildcats ready for Midwest rematch

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

This year, the No.3 Irish want their title back from the rival No.6 Wildcats.

Last season, the women's fencing team conference championship came down to the final bout in the sabre portion of the match. Notre Dame was up 4-3, but Northwestern claimed the next two victories to win the first-to-five series 5-4, and the team title 425-420.

The Irish will get their chance this weekend at the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships.

So far this season, the women's team has split their two dual matches with Northwestern. At Air Force in February, Notre Dame lost 15-8 in the final. But I think everyone is laid back and [there are] no worries.

Despite the women's team losing their title last year, the men swept the conference title and led Notre Dame to the overall conference championship. All three squads — epee, foil and sabre — finished first in their respective events.

Another motivational factor for the Irish is that in the Midwest conference, rankings are done by victory over other conference members throughout the season. Since the Irish focused their schedule on top competition, their conference ranking is lower than they think it should be.

"We're not ranked as high as some of the nationally lower-ranked teams in our conference," said Walton. "That has gotten some people angry this week. But I think everyone is laid back and [there are] no worries."

Despite the women's team losing their title last year, the men swept the conference title and led Notre Dame to the overall conference championship. All three squads — epee, foil and sabre — finished first in their respective events, giving the Irish the maximum 450 points.

"I think we are feeling pretty confident as a team," said senior Andrej Zebedac. "We may be a little more challenged in some areas, but we should be the best in the Midwest."

Top competition for No. 1 Northwestern should come from No. 4 Ohio State and Northwestern.

"Ohio State has a pretty strong sabre team," Cunningham said. "I think, though, we are better overall as a team."

Junior foilist Ozren Crompton looks to win his third conference championship in as many years this season. Last year, he defeated teammate Forest Walton 15-8 in the final.

In epee, Brian Casas upset captain Jan Viviani in the final, 15-14. Crompton defeated the top seed from Wayne State in the semifinals before beating the second seed and teammate Andrezej Bednarski in the finals to claim the sabre title.

Being the defending champions brings some added expectations to the Wildcats.

Also, with the NCAA regionals next weekend, Crompton knows this weekend is very important.

"There is always pressure as the defending champion," said the captain. "If we don't perform well this weekend, it can foreshadow what will happen next weekend."

The Midwest Fencing Conference Championships will be held at the Joyce Center this weekend. The team event is on Saturday, with the individual competitions on Sunday. Both days' events will begin at 8 a.m.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.

SOFTBALL
Gumph, Irish head to Aggie Invite

By AARON RONSHEIM
Sports Writer

At nine years as the Irish head softball coach and a season in which she led Notre Dame to its highest ranking ever last year, Liz Miller retired after the end of the 2001 season.

This year the Irish are lead by assistant softball coach Deanna Gumph.

Under her first four years of coaching, the Irish have lowered their team earned run average and raised their cumulative batting average. In 2001 the Irish had a record team ERA of 0.89 (seventh in the nation) and 477 strikeouts.

Freshman pitcher Steffany Stenglein has already felt the positive effects of working with coach Gumph.

"She is one of my favorite coaches that I ever played for. She has already helped me so much with my pitching," said Stenglein.

Gumph's staff will lead the No. 24 Irish (4-6) at the Texas A & M Aggie Invitational this weekend where they will play No. 19 Louisiana-Lafayette and unranked Missouri State twice and play host No. 23 Texas A&M once.

The Irish will be looking for revenge after last weekend's 2-1 loss to the Aggies. The Aggies' Jessica Slater pitched a complete game with 12 strikeouts as she outdueled Stenglein who pitched six strong innings.

Notre Dame will most likely face Slater again this weekend and hopefully be able to generate a little more offense.

"I hope to see her again. We will know what is a coming and expect the girls to jump on her," said Gumph.

Against Louisiana-Lafayette, the Notre Dame pitchers will have to shut down the Lady Cajuns tandem of Becky McCarty and Alana Addison, both of whom are hitting over .400 with five home runs.

When the Irish play Illinois State it will be a rematch of last year's NCAA Region VII Tournament team, in which the Irish won 2-1. Illinois State (4-6), after a slow start, has won its last four games with victories against No. 9 Arizona State and No. 16 Iowa.

The Irish will have to rebound from last weekend and post a few victories against the nation elite.

"If we come out and play like we're capable of playing we should be fine," said All-American captain Jarrah Myers.

Contact Aaron Ronsheim at aronshei@nd.edu.
Thomas

continued from page 24

ning games and does whatever he can in practice to help Notre Dame win.

Notre Dame's only walk-on basketball player is one of the hardest working players on the team. He's one of the quickest players on the Irish. And despite his small stature — Thomas is 6-1, 164 pounds — he's not afraid to mix it up with big players.

He just doesn't get the chance to do it during a game.

Earlier this season, freshman point guard Chris Thomas played 50 minutes in a quadruple-overtime game against Georgetown — three minutes more than Charles Thomas has played in his entire career. Most walk-ons would moan and gripe if they only played 57 minutes in their four-year college career. Or more appropriately, they'd moan and gripe if they stayed on the team.

But Thomas isn't your typical walk-on. He's one of the most resilient players on Notre Dame's team because he refuses to quit — at anything.

"He's one of the hardest workers on the team. Not just on the floor, but off," teammate and good friend Torrian Jones said. "Sometimes I go over to his room to hang out and he's there studying. If I'm not studying there, I'm sitting there silent the whole time."

Studying and basketball are Thomas' two passions. But he makes it crystal-clear which one he really loves.

"Without basketball," Thomas said, "I'd be bored out of my mind."

He came to Notre Dame with the intention of walking on to John MacLeod's team. As soon as he arrived on campus, he began scrimmaging with the team during the early fall and was invited to stay on as a walk-on. The only problem was that Thomas was one of eight walk-ons — and he was by far the smallest player.

"I was thinking there's no way I'd be able to make it. Halfway through, I stopped coming for four days, and I said, 'Forget it,' " Thomas said. "But the more I thought about it, I said, 'I've got nothing to lose, so I might as well try to see what happens.'"

Even Thomas is surprised he's made it all four years. But he admits there were times when he wanted to cave in and give it all up. Each time a new basketball coach was hired, Thomas worried that he wouldn't want to come back, or worse, that he wouldn't even be invited back.

He only played one game under MacLeod. His second college coach, Matt Doherty, initially made Thomas wonder if he'd even be on the team and then didn't give Thomas the playing time the walk-on thought he deserved.

So when Doherty left to coach at North Carolina and Mike Brey was hired two years ago, Thomas walked into the new coach's office to set the record straight.

"If you ever need me to play, just know that you've got someone that's always going to work hard, give 100 percent all the time, and never be a head case," Thomas told Brey that summer. "If you want me to play, I'll play. If not, then I know that's not my role, and I'll do whatever I have to do to help our guys to win."

"I don't consider you a walk-on," Brey responded. "You're a team member."

There's no division between the lone walk-on and the other 12 players on the team. He's earned the nickname "Chuck," and he and Graves make fun of each other so much that Graves jokes the two will get into a boxing match when the season is over. He's not afraid to give advice to the younger players, and Jones said the walk-on is one of the fiercest competitors he's every played against.

He also earned a scholarship for his final semester at Notre Dame, Brey's way of rewarding Thomas' hard work ethic.

"Chuck's a guy who his practices are his games," Brey said.

"He knows that. And he plays that way."

Thomas loves the perks that come with being a member of the Notre Dame basketball team. Students across campus know who he is, even though he has no clue who they may be. And for some reason, people want to play against him in pickup games at the Rock. But he just shakes his head and proceeds to "embar­rass" his opponents, as he puts it.

"I take it all as a compliment," he said. "I know I'm doing something a lot of people want to do."

He knows he's a fan favorite, too. When he gets into games, he hears fans telling him to shoot the ball, and he's more than happy to oblige, he laughs.

He's made countless friends with little kids who idolize him, and he and Jones often have conversations with the FBI or try to break into the coaching ranks.

But no matter what happens to him, Thomas will probably take it all in stride — just like he's done with his life.

"I'm not a quitter," Thomas said. "Whatever happens, hap­pens."

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.

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Ready to qualify, Irish host Invite

By DAVE COOK
Sports Writer

For the Notre Dame men and women's track and field teams, the indoor season is over. The women and men both had great successes at the Big East Championships, taking first place and fourth place, respectively. And there's kids from Meyo Track is known for being one of the fastest women's distance medley relay teams in the nation, mainly because it is one of the largest indoor tracks at 320 meters. This provides an excellent opportunity for athletes to qualify for the NCAA championships against one of the best competitive fields in the nation.

The Irish have several athletes who have had strong indoor seasons so far, and hope a strong performance this weekend will propel them into the NCAA championships. Such is the case for the women's distance medley relay team. The distance medley team — comprised of Liz Nurudeen, Megan Johnson, Lauren King and Kristin Dovid — has not raced once this year, at the Meyo Invitational, but hope they can qualify this weekend.

"There's kids from literally all over the country coming in to get qualified," said head coach Joe Piane.

"We've got 77 schools represented. And there's kids from literally all over the country coming in to get qualified. So it should be a fantastic meet," said head coach Joe Piane.

"There's kids from literally all over the country coming in to get qualified." Joe Piane

Also looking for qualifying times are Ryan Shay and Luke Watson, the senior distance duo that has had a spectacular indoor season. To add to their success in the 3000- and 5000-meter runs, Shay and Watson are looking for qualifying times in the mile this weekend.

Watson has the fastest mile time of any Irish runner this year, posting a 4:07.15 at the Big East championships. Shay ran a season-best 4:09.97 at a triangular meet early in the season. The NCAA provisional qualifying time is 4:05.20.

"I'm sure that [Shay and Watson] would like to try to qualify in the mile. Shay wouldn't run the 3000, the 5000 and the mile at NCAAs, but I'm sure he would still like to qualify," said Piane.

Also looking for a strong showing for the men are Tom Gilbert in the long jump and Selin Nurudeen in the 60-meter hurdles. The long jump and the 60-meter hurdles will be two of the strongest events this weekend and should provide the momentum Gilbert and Nurudeen need to qualify.

On the women's side, the nation's third-ranked mile relay team consisting of Liz Grow, Ayenicha Boyd, Dodd and Kymia Love will look to improve on their time this season.

"Our women's mile relay has already qualified, but it's a great race [this weekend]. At this point there are six really good teams in there," said Piane.

Field events of the Alex Wilson Invitational begin Friday night at 6 p.m. Also Friday night are the distance medley and the men's and women's 3000- and 5000-meter runs, which should be some of the best races of the weekend. The meet concludes Saturday, with events beginning at 10:30 a.m. with the triple jump.

Contact Dave Cook at dcook2@nd.edu.
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**Hockey**

**Irish prepare for final weekend**

Sophomore center Aaron Gill faces off in a game against Alaska-Fairbanks earlier this season.

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Assistant Sports Editor

Heading into the final weekend of regular season play, the Notre Dame men’s hockey team hopes to keep its three-game winning streak alive and build up some momentum for the upcoming CCHA playoffs.

The Irish will play host to the conference rival Bowling Green. The Falcons currently are in 11th place in the CCHA and are most likely out of postseason tournament play, as only the top 10 teams advance.

The Irish currently hold eighth place in the conference but must be leery of Ferris State, who stands only one point behind the Irish in ninth.

“Only thing that appears important right now is that we have to stay ahead of everyone who is behind us,” Irish head coach Dave Poulin said.

After last week’s play, it is impossible for the Irish to surpass seventh-place Ohio State, but it is important for the Irish to maintain their position in the bracket for seeding in the tournament.

More important than seedings, however, is the team’s desire to go into the CCHA playoffs next weekend playing as well as they have been recently.

“It’s more important to be playing well than anything,” Poulin said. “The move (in standings) doesn’t really mean anything because five, six and seven places are still uncertain. We’re on a nice little roll now, and we just want to keep it rolling.”

Indeed the Irish have been playing well of late. Their current three-game winning streak matches the longest of the season and the Irish defense has held its opponents to only five goals in the last three games, including one on an empty net.

“The last four games we’ve really tightened up defensively,” Poulin said. “Giving up only four goals in the last four games is tremendous, and we’ve continued that focus on the defensive side of things (in practice).”

Part of this defensive surge can be seen in the play of freshman goalie Morgan Ley, who allowed only three goals against nationally ranked Michigan State three weekends ago, and then returned strong last weekend against Lake Superior State — allowing only one goal and securing his second shutout of the season.

Bowling Green comes to Notre Dame after a strong weekend against fellow CCHA member Michigan last week that included a 6-0 shutout for the Falcons. The team is lead in scoring by forward Greg Day with 33 points coming on 17 goals and 16 assists.

The Bowling Green goalie tender, Tyler Masters, has surrendered 3.36 goals per game this year, but recorded 45 saves against Notre Dame in a 4-2 Bowling Green victory earlier this year. Notre Dame won the other matchup earlier this season 6-3 to earn a series split on the road last December.

With a strong series this final weekend, the Irish feel they could make a move in the postseason, entering the CCHA tournament playing as well as they have all year.

“We think we’re a better hockey team now than we were a month ago, and we’re going to continue that,” Poulin said. “We’re going to be a very difficult team to play.”

The two teams will face off in the Joyce at 7:05 p.m. both Friday and Saturday.

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu.
**Men’s Tennis**

**No. 7 Irish travel to LaJolla**

The Notre Dame men’s tennis team is leaving behind South Bend this weekend as they travel to sunny LaJolla, Ca. for the Pacific Coast Doubles tournament.

This annual event does not actually count towards Notre Dame’s record as it is not a collegiate tournament. Those invited to participate in the tournament include many of the top-ranked tennis programs in the nation, as well as ranked professional players.

The outcome of this weekend’s play will not affect Notre Dame’s current standing as the seventh ranked team in the nation. According to senior Javier Taborga, this tournament is an opportunity to play some of the best players in the country — collegiate and professional.

Many teams do not send their top players, though. Taborga, along with senior Casey Smith, will not be participating this year because head tennis coach Bob Bayliss wants to ensure that they are ready for next week’s critical dual match at Illinois. Taborga and Smith are seventh in the national doubles rankings.

“A lot of tennis professionals go into the Pacific Coast Doubles and just enjoy playing with their old partners. It’s always really high level,” said Taborga, who has participated in previous years. “I think it’s a great experience because it’s one of the nicest clubs that I’ve been to in my life. It’s just off the beach, and the courts are on the beach. There are a lot of people that come to watch you play.”

“It’s one of the best experiences I’ve had at Notre Dame,” he added.

The tournament organizers even pay all the travel expenses of those invited, and there is prize money available for the professionals who participate.

“That’s why very good players go and play, because they have all the expenses covered,” Taborga said. “They just enjoy a weekend in LaJolla, and I don’t think anyone would want to turn that down.”

Some of the teams sending players to LaJolla include top-ranked programs such as Stanford, UCLA and USC. The Irish are more concerned though about their indoor dual match versus Illinois next Thursday, as well as their first outdoor tournament of the spring, the Blue-Gray National Tennis Classic, which starts March 14.

“Beating Illinois would be a huge step towards our goal of winning the national championship,” said Taborga, who is currently ranked the 23rd best singles player in the country.

A win over Illinois could help to secure home court advantage for Notre Dame in the NCAA tournament, and that in turn could help propel the Irish towards the national championship.

“Freshman and sophomore years, we all talked about (winning the championship), but it wasn’t really feasible. Last year we had our chances, but we still were a really young team. We didn’t realize how close we were,” Taborga said.

This year is different though, he feels.

“Now we’ve played against the best teams, we’ve been able to compete against them ... so we know that we are at that level. Right now I think that we all really believe in the possibility of winning a national championship,” he said.

Additionally, Taborga believes Notre Dame, 11-3 after an indoor win over Illinois, will be an even more formidable force once it starts playing outside.

“This year we all have been working hard over the summer and got better outdoors. I think it’s going to be a big surprise when many coaches see us play outdoors, because they are expecting us to be a little weaker than when we are indoors. From top to bottom, I think we will be a lot better outdoors,” he said.

Notre Dame will be able to see how it fares outdoors this weekend before the real test begins at the Blue-Gray Classic — a tournament which will count towards Notre Dame’s standing.

Contact Joe Lindsley at jlindsle@nd.edu.

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Men’s LACROSSE

Irish ready for Ivy League Penn

By JOE LICANDRO
Sports Writer

As if last Saturday’s overtime loss against Penn State was not enough, the Notre Dame men’s lacrosse team received some more bad news yesterday when starting midfielder Matt Howell suffered a knee injury.

The sophomore, who scored his first career hat trick in the Irish’s 10-9 loss to the Nittany Lions last Sunday, is expected to miss at least six weeks and could be out for the remainder of the season, depending on how long it takes him to recover from the loss of knee surgery.

“We will miss Matt Howell tremendously on offense,” said senior attacker Owen Elyse Marie Ramirez.

Everyone on offense is simply going to have to pick up their play.”

The Irish will find out if they can recover from the loss of Howell when they travel to Philadelphia to take on the Penn Quakers Saturday at 1 p.m. Notre Dame is hoping to rebound from last Sunday’s loss against Penn State and even their record at 1-1 against the Quakers by returning to the basic fundamentals of lacrosse.

The Irish committed many careless turnovers last weekend, one of the defensive end that led directly to easy Penn State goals.

“We gave Penn State four goals by turning the ball over,” said Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan. “We looked lost on the defensive end. We looked like we had never had practice before.”

With Howell out of the lineup, Corrigan will be forced to juggle his starting lineup and play more younger players on offense. Freshmen Brian Gourley and Matt Malakoff had impressive debuts last Sunday and will be counted on to spark the Irish offense this Saturday.

Gourley’s speed and quickness were instrumental in generating Irish scoring opportunities, while Malakoff added his first career goal in an Irish uniform. Giordano will start in place of Howell on the first-team midfield alongside senior captains John Flandina and Devin Ryan and sophomore Steve Caggie. Freshman Chris Richiez will also see considerable action as he replaces Giordano’s spot on the second-team midfield.

“Replacing Matt Howell will be tough, but I feel comfortable out there at the offensive midfield position,” said Giordano. “Playing alongside John Flandina and Devin Ryan is a great opportunity for me. We have a lot of young guys on offense this year and coach needs us to give our best and contribute to the team right now.”

The Penn Quakers are a mystery team. They have yet to play a game this season so the Irish have had no game film to study this week in practice. Furthermore, Penn will have a new look this season under new coach Matt Heggen.

The Irish will have their work cut out for them as the Quakers return 22 players including six starters from last year’s squad.

Notre Dame needs a win over Penn on Saturday to get their season on the right track. With Howell out with an injury, the Irish will rely even more on their defense to defeat the Quakers. Irish players know they must play a complete game to claim their first victory of the season.

Contact Joe Licandro at licandro.1@nd.edu.

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Applications Deadline: March 22, 2002
Irish look beyond injuries, head south

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

With numerous players injured during last weekend's University of New Orleans Classic, the Notre Dame baseball team lost two out of three games. But instead of making excuses about their losses, head coach Paul Mainieri and the Irish are looking forward to this weekend's Homestead Challenge held in Florida where the Irish will face Duquesne, Fairfield, Florida International and Savannah State.

"To be honest, in 20 years in coaching I've never seen a ration of injuries at one time like this and that's no exaggeration," said Mainieri. "Anytime you take the four quality players out of your line-up like we lost this weekend, it's certainly going to have an effect with your team. But I was really, really proud of the way that the replacements went in there and played. We competed real hard and I choose to look at the very positive aspect of this past weekend and those guys gained some great experience."

By the end of last weekend, the Irish were without freshman shortstop Matt Macri, sophomore second baseman Steve Sollman, third baseman/catcher Andrew Bushey and closer Matt Laird. All-American catcher Paul O'Toole was forced to only play third base due to a left hand injury, forcing senior Matt Bok to take over the catching duties.

"I thought Matt Bok stepped in and just did a magnificent job catching on Sunday, despite having not been back there in quite sometime," said Mainieri. "The pitching performances of freshman Chris Niesel and Grant Johnson also encouraged the Irish during this past weekend. As a starter on Sunday against Southern Illinois, Niesel went five innings, striking out 10 and allowing just one run on five hits.

The 10 strikeouts are the second-most ever by a freshman pitcher at Notre Dame and the most in an Irish pitcher's first career start. Johnson recorded his first collegiate victory by pitching six strong relief innings in the team's opening game against Missouri.

"Clearly, our freshman are going to continue to improve because they are some of our best pitchers," said Mainieri. "The performances by Grant Johnson and Chris Niesel this past weekend were really fantastic and I think they showed everybody what they're capable of doing. They're actually both going to start a game this weekend."

While Notre Dame awaits the return of their injured players, they will try and find a way to pick up some early season wins. Mainieri believes they can do this by staying upbeat and positive.

"It might take a little bit of time before we have the whole squad together, but, in the mean time, we're just going to have to do it the hard way and keep battling as hard as we can and keep a positive attitude and hopefully we'll have some success until we get everybody back," said Mainieri.

Contact Joe Heltler at jheltler@nd.edu.