Rector changes Morrissey parietals

Vandalism prompts midnight parietals rule

By HELENA PAYNE
News Editor

Due to several incidents of vandalism in the past month, Morrissey Hall rector Father John O'Sullivan imposed midnight hours on the dorm's male residents. Parietal hours, when students of the opposite sex are allowed in dorm rooms, normally run from 9 a.m. to midnight. Such hours are currently in effect Thursday and 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Under current policy, Morrissey parietals will now be 9 a.m. to midnight every day for the rest of the semester except the day of Morrissey's Christmas dance.

In an e-mail sent early Thursday to dorm residents, Steele wrote that four broken windows and a busted bathroom stall in senior trad's third floor show a lack of pride for the dorm. Steele also encouraged residents to come forward with information about the latest incident of vandalism, the fourth break-in this semester, which occurred Sunday between 2 a.m. and 2:30 a.m.

"It is my experience that there is a code of silence that shrugs such happenings," Steele wrote. "No one wants to get upset 'in trouble.' This innate mentality sometimes known as the honor of thieves has no place among men who have come to know themselves as a community, as brothers."

Steele went on to explain how to explain his reasons for eliminating social gatherings, which usually occur on weekends and last until 2 a.m. when parietal hours end.

"Since we are not in fact treating Morrissey Manor as a home by taking pride in it and taking care of it, it seems fitting that we have no further social activities in the dorm for the rest of the semester," Steele wrote.

Steele and the dorm's assistant rector did not return phone calls made Thursday.

Some residents said they did not see a connection between vandalism and parietals.

"Parietals should not be a punishment for vandalism and parietals," said sophomore Kate Mosesso.

Junior Michael Miranda said he and students were annoyed by the new restrictions.

"Out of a dorm of nearly 300 people, that's a large amount of people to punish for a few incidents," he said.

Rathert issue not resolved

By SARAH NESTOR
Voice Editor

Saint Mary's suspension of security officer Helinda Rathert on Nov. 7 remains unresolved, Rathert said Thursday.

The officer is on an unpaid suspension from the College pending the provision of information given to Human Resources Director Debra Kelly.

"As far as I know, at this point I am on unpaid suspension but I expect the College to terminate me as early as next week," Rathert said.

Rathert claims that Kelly suspended her because Rathert's college transcripts were missing from her personnel file and until there was verification of Rathert's degree from Indiana University Southeast, Rathert claims the College told her she would be suspended from her duties.

According to the disciplinary procedures in the College's employee handbook "prode termined standards of performance and conduct are established in all departments of the College," and "when an employee does not observe these standards, either through lack of knowledge or with intent, the supervisor will react to these situations by using a system of progressive discipline.

The handbook also further states that "the normal steps in this disciplinary system are: oral warning, written reprimand, disciplinary layoff and termination."

In Rathert's case, the College is investigating whether or not Rathert misrepresented herself to the.

see SECURITY/Page 3

Seniors say 'bye' to stadium

By JETIANA DAVIS
News Writer

As the Notre Dame football team prepares to play Rutgers in the final home football game of the season, Saturday, Notre Dame seniors said they realized that the clock is ticking toward the end of their college years.

"I am going to be really sad on Saturday," said senior Kate Mosesso.

Though not every senior holds an emotional bond with Notre Dame football, many of them said they are having difficulty coming to grips with the fact that this game will be their final football game as Notre Dame undergraduate students.

The aspect of Notre Dame football that they will miss is the entire weekend, many said, unique atmosphere of the entire weekend.

I am going to miss doing the Irish jigs with my friends and throwing marshmallows during timeouts," said senior Meg Wallace.

I will definitely miss laughing hysterically at that one usher that ducks with fear every time the marshmallows come out.

But senior traditions and friendly jokes are not the only aspects that will be missed, students said.

Seniors said it will be particularly hard to bid farewell to this specific season, which has been marked with such increased enthusiasm and victory under new head coach Tyrone Willingham.

Although seniors witnessed a successful season in 2000 when Notre Dame went to the Fiesta Bowl, seniors said this season stands far and above that of two years ago.

"At Notre Dame, our most off season is what really makes the games crunk," said senior James Harbach.

"Over my past three years, everyone new what play would guide them through."

Dave would run — straight down the middle."

Many seniors said they are upset because they have only had one year with Notre Dame football while under the direction of Willingham and his staff.

"I'm glad that he was here for my last year," Mosesso said.

"I wish I was going to be around to see more of him."

Though they appreciate being a part of this era, students said they are sad that it is over so soon for them.

This year's senior class will make up the first alumni members of the "return to glory" phenomenon, but students said this distinction does not ease the transition from student to graduate.

"Coming back for games won't be the same not sitting in the student section," said Moore.

In fact, to extend their time with the "return to glory" era, more of the seniors are planning their trips to the bowl game that is much anticipated.

Although other years were not marked by such excitement and change, students said they still have unforgettable memories from their first three undergraduate seasons.

"The Boston College game my freshman year where the squirrel running into the end zone was the highlight," said senior Kyla Davis.

Senior Dan Hoople also chose a freshman year game — the Nebraska game as his favorite.

Their fans roared out the Stadium, but the game was definitely one to remember as well," Hoople said.

Other seniors, however, could not pinpoint a specific game as their favorite.

"Their fans roared out the Stadium, but the game was definitely one to remember as well," said senior Kyla Davis.

Their fans roared out the Stadium, but the game was definitely one to remember as well," said senior Kyla Davis.

Students cheer for the Irish at a home game against Michigan earlier in the season. Saturday's football game against Rutgers will be the last home game for seniors.

Lawsuit threatens ACE

By SHEILA FLYNN
News Writer

A current federal lawsuit charges that government funding for Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program is unconstitutional, blurring the separation of church and state.

The suit was filed Oct. 3 on behalf of the American Jewish Congress (AJC) in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., against the Corporation for National and Community Service, which directs the AmeriCorps program that finances the ACE projects.

These programs receive federal money that extends to ACE and two other faith-affiliated organizations, AJC said, the government is paying for religious education, and it is this controversial allocation of funds which is spurring the protest.

The ACE case is being handled by Irvin R. Nathan, Daniel Pisar and Sarah Kooner of the Washington law firm Arnold & Porter.

"We have made it clear from the outset that we do not object to the program [ACE] as such, provided they're only teaching secular subjects," said Marc Stern, assistant executive director of the AJC in New York.

But the problem, Stern said, is that ACE volunteers teach religion. The lawsuit seeks an injunction against further use of federal funds to finance such religious instruction in secular schools.

ACE participants commit to a training program, teaching in underprivileged Catholic schools across the southern United States.

Contact Jetauna Davis at

jdavis7@nd.edu

see LAWSUIT/Page 6
Names in a mental Rolodex

"Er... hi. My name's Will. I'm from Siegfried, originally from Ohio. I like to read. I like to write. If you're crazy, in other words, I'm considering P.I.S."

I've lost track of how many times I've said that phrase, or some variant of it, over my admittedly short time here under the Dome. What I do know, though, is that each time I said that, I supposedly made a new acquaintance.

The thing is, my brain has the memory retention capability of an amoeba News Production or some other one-called-icky thing they yell at us about in biology.

So if your name's Katie, not to pick on Katie, but anyway, you're probably listed somewhere in my broken mental Rolodex as "that one girl whose name starts with K." Obviously, this leads to problems when dealing with more than one person whose name begins with K, like Katie, Katie and Katie. I've run into other names that start with a K? Since I don't think the University will limit enrollment to 26 people to whom I'm accustome, I guess I'm a lost cause on that front.

Maybe the key is to remembering AM screen names. That'll work just great. I can go around calling everyone stuff like "highlighting@Z728793643A" and "spryquil@823592" all the time.

What are those people who make themselves "that semestermane" just because they can try to do, confuse me? Then there's the people who apparently know me from somewhere or other, maybe from "that one class/meet/ing/department/their activity," assuming of course that I remember that exact same instant in time when we both regurgitated our "vital information" as if it were toxic and would devour our insides if we didn't spit it. I'm beginning to think that's the real reason behind acid reflux. At any rate, it's really pretty rare to remember all that stuff, let alone call it up on demand.

So if you're going to class, at a party, wherever — and the best friend of the roommate of the person who dated the person you sit next to in freshman year comparison shopping, don't up and show up instantly on the scene. I'm just vaguely hoping that by the time I'm a junior or something, perhaps we'll get time to know the names of all 10,000 or so people here, but hey, a naive freshman can dream, right?

I hope so, because I need to get to study group with Irish-leprechaun28395832.

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

Contact Will Puckett at upuckett@nd.edu.

INSIDE COLUMN

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CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publica-
tion and aspires to the highest standards ofjournal-
ism. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.
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OFFER EXPIRES 11-30-02

Security continued from page 1

College, which is subject to immediate dismissal, as it would be considered fraud in securing employment.

"It was unfortunate that this had to occur. It could have been handled in a more professional manner. It could have been as simple as a request for college transcripts but that is not how Debbie Kelly handled the situation," Rathert stated in a statement.

Following Rathert’s suspension, the security officer was also banned from campus. The security officer received a letter on Nov. 12 from Kelly confirming the College’s "suspension and notice of absolute prohibition from campus."

"The decisions that interim security director Rosemarie Harris, human resources and administrators make are to benefit the students. They would not make a decision that would negatively impact students," College spokesperson Melanie Engler said. "They keep the campus' best interests in mind."

Rathert was originally given until Nov. 13 to provide the College with the missing information, but was granted an extension by Kelly. According to Rathert, she sought an extension so she could seek legal counsel and hired Shawn Freidman of the Freidman & Associates law firm based in LaPorte, Ind.

Rathert claims Freidman contacted College Counsel Kathy Brickley on Nov. 15, to turn over Rathert’s transcript.

But Engler said Rathert’s transcript has still to be turned over to the human resources department.

"[Freidman] told them we have a degree but they told him they don’t want me back. They told him they would negotiate a severance package but (accepting) a severance package keeps you from suit," Rathert said.

Rathert has filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and plans to file a lawsuit against the College based on claims that sexual harassment and discrimination, unequal wages and a hostile work environment exist at the College.

Kelly refused to comment on the situation.

Contact Sarah Nestor at snestor9877@saintmarysk.edu

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Debaters place high in St. Louis

By MEGHAN MARTIN
News Writer

The Notre Dame Debate Team achieved unprecedented success last weekend at the Gateway Invitational debate tournament at Washington University in St. Louis.

The 12 members who participated in the event, led by second-year law student Kate Huetteman, the team's director, debated in two-person teams against pairings from other colleges and universities from the Midwest and the south in both varsity and novice divisions.

After nine rounds of 40-minute Parliamentary-style varsity debates, two of Notre Dame's five teams emerged victorious in the final championship round.

"It was basically complete domination," said Huetteman, who is in her second year of coaching Notre Dame's team. "We came home with two huge sweepstakes trophies." In a typical final-round scenario, the two competing teams had nothing to lose against each other. The varsity debates were held back to back.

This time, there was no question which school would be declared victors. "We didn't have to debate the final round, because we really don't debate against our own team," Huetteman said.

The final round was called off, team points were tallied and the Irish debaters were declared victors.

"At this tournament, we got 26 points towards the National Parliamentary Debate Association's (NPDA) National Sweepstakes." Huetteman said, referring to the governing body of college-level debate. At each regional tournament, held variously throughout the academic year at schools across the country, teams compete in six preliminary rounds of debate before breaking into octafinal, quarter-final, semi-final, and final rounds, each of which they are allotted a set number of points for strong performances.

Senior political science major Maureen Gottlieb and her partner, fellow senior Victoria Fetterman, made up one of the two Notre Dame pairings that made it to the final round, meeting fellow Notre Dame student Megan Callahan-Peters, a sophomore, and Chris Gallo, a senior and the team's president, in the final. Both teams were declared unanimous victors by all three judges in their respective semifinal rounds.

Contact Meghan Martin at mmartin@nd.edu

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ARTHUR VELASQUEZ, MEMBER, NOTRE DAME BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As members of the Notre Dame community, we are concerned about the struggle between your company Azteca Foods and its workers. Your union workers went on strike in Chicago on September 30th. They wanted to replace the previous union that did not represent their interests with a democratic union that they controlled. Your company refuses to allow a federal mediator to help resolve this dispute.

While we recognize the troubles one may have in running a highly profitable business, shouldn't workers be treated with dignity and respect? Shouldn't they be allowed to choose their own union which isn't controlled by leaders that could care less what they think?

The Catholic Church has a strong moral teaching on the rights of labor and the benefits of unions. The Church recognizes that unions are vital to the dignity of work and necessary for the appreciation of the value of each person. Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical Centesimus Annus (1992), stated that, "the freedom to join trade unions and the effective action of unions.. are meant to deliver work from the mere condition of 'a commodity' and to guarantee its dignity."

Workers have the right to organize and to be at the bargaining table to negotiate their contracts without the threat of loss of wages, benefits, or their jobs. In Pascin in Tertius (1965), Pope John XXIII wrote that, "It is clear that the human person has a right by the natural law not only to an opportunity to work, but also to go about [that] work without coercion. To these rights is certainly joined the right to demand working conditions in which physical health is not endangered, and young people's moral development is not impaired... Furthermore, and this must be especially emphasized, the worker has a right to a wage determined according to criterions of justice and sufficient therefore... to give [workers] and their families a standard of living in keeping with the dignity of the human person."

The value of unions is recognized in Notre Dame's code of conduct, which all licensees are required to follow, which has a clause stating that companies must allow its workers to organize. Unions play an essential role in benefiting workers, raising their standards of living, and improving their working conditions, while strengthening the community.

We are asking that you accept the requests made by your workers, recognize the union, the U.E. Local 1159, and allow your workers to be at the bargaining table with Spanish language translation provided.

We are also asking that you allow the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to have access to your plant when a request is made. We ask you to cease threatening your workers because of their legal picketing and strike. We ask you to stop alienating your workers, while they pray at their picket line with a priest.

Please work promptly to develop a contract that benefits all Azteca and the workers who have made the company what it is today.

The Progressive Student Alliance
www.nd.edu/~psa
psa@nd.edu

PROJECT WARMTH

Don't forget... the CSC, is sponsoring a dorm competition, giving a cash award of $1,000 to the hall with the highest percent of participation and $500 to the runner-up!

So... bring back jackets from home after Thanksgiving break!

Bring your jacket to one of the various Project Warmth sites on campus and receive a coupon for a 25% discount on any new jacket of your choice at the Hammes Bookstore!

Give away your coat... and Share the Warmth!

The Observer 🔴 CAMPUS NEWS
Friday, November 22, 2002
WASHINGTON
Al-Qaida leader Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, the network’s chief of operations in the Persian Gulf, has been captured, senior U.S. government officials said Thursday.

Al-Nashiri, a suspected mastermind in the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen, was arrested in October 2000, was taken in an undisclosed foreign country earlier this month and is now in U.S. custody, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He is the highest-ranking al-Qaida operative captured since the CIA, FBI and Pakistani authorities captured bin Laden’s operations chief, Abu Zubaydah, in Peshawar, Pakistan, in March.

U.S. officials had recently said a senior al-Qaida operative had been caught, but they had declined to identify him. On Sunday, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said the leader was providing information “that is helping us hunt down al-Qaida.”

Al-Nashiri is suspected in a number of other cases, including the 1998 East Africa embassy bombings. He is believed to have recruited his cousin, Azzam, to train in Afghanistan and serve as one of the group’s multimillion-dollar fishing industry.

Afghanistan and serve as one of the region’s multimillion-dollar fishing industry.

Leader was providing information to his interrogators.

His cousin, Azzam, to train in Afghanistan and serve as one of the group’s multimillion-dollar fishing industry.

Eleven Israelis killed in bus bomb

An elderly American woman who loved to draw was among five of her family members killed Wednesday with the burning of an office building where she was working.

Associated Press

Brutal demonstrations in the northern city of Kaduna burned churches and raged through the streets until hundreds of soldiers were deployed to restore calm and enforce a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

A lot of people died. We don’t know yet exactly how many, more than 50,” said Emmanuel Cross, the president of the Nigerian Red Cross.

Street demonstrations began Wednesday with the burning of an office of ThaDay newspaper in Kaduna after it published a front-page questioning Muslim groups that have condemned the Miss World pageant, to be held Dec. 5 in the Nigerian capital.

Muslim groups say the pageant promotes sexual promiscuity and indecency.

“Would what [the prophet] Muhammad think? In all honesty, he would probably have chosen a wife from among them (the contestants),” Isioma Daniel wrote in Saturday’s article.

The newspaper ran a brief front-page apology on Monday, followed by a more lengthy retraction on Thursday, saying the offending passage had run by mistake.

In Thursday’s rioting, more than 100 people were stabbed, beaten and burned to death and 200 were seriously injured, lawmakers said.

At least four churches were destroyed, he said.

Many of the bodies were found in Red Cross workers and other volunteers to local mortuaries. Many people remained inside homes that were set afire by the demonstrators, lawmakers said.

Shibu Sani of the Kaduna-based Civil Rights Congress said he watched a crowd stab one man, then force a tire filled with gasoline around his neck and burn him alive. Sani said he saw three other bodies elsewhere in the city.

Alsa Hassan, founder of another human rights group, Alsa Care, said he saw a commuter being dragged out of his car and beaten to death by protesters.

Associated Press

World News Briefs

Eleven Israelis killed in bus bomb

A 13-year-old Israeli girl who loved to draw was buried at sunset Thursday on a Jerusalem hilltop, one of 11 people killed when a Palestinian man blew himself up on a crowded bus. Four of the dead were children. It was the first attack in Jerusalem since August, and the bomber’s hometown—Bethlehem—braced for retaliation. Late Thursday, the army ordered residents of about 30 homes in the city, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, to leave their homes.

Things look dark as oil spill spreads

Waves of black sludge from a major oil spill washed ashore amid high winds and driving rain Thursday, tainting new stretches of northwest Spain’s scenic coastline and further threatening the region’s multimillion-dollar fishing industry. The regional government extended a ban on fishing and shellfish harvesting declared Thursday, when

Nigeria

50 killed as angry mob protests Miss World article

One million to lose employment benefits

Jo-Anne Hurlston can’t find a job after nearly six months of searching, even with her master’s degree and experience in education, human resources and the hospitality industry. She’s one of nearly 1 million unemployed workers across the country who will start losing jobless benefits three days after Christmas because Congress failed to grant an extension before leaving for the year.

Seattle gives thumbs up to monorail project

Seattle voters gave the go-ahead for a monorail that will break quietly across the city’s skyline.

One of the chief supporters of the idea, Patrick Kyle, said, “I think it’s going to put Seattle back on the map as the pioneer city that we are,” said one of the chief supporters of the idea, Patrick Kyle.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DEA goes wild over ecstasy drug rings

Saying teenage use of Ecstasy is reaching “epidemic” levels, U.S. authorities planned to boost efforts to stamp out sales and making and selling club drugs. The Drug Enforcement Administration expected to double such investigations as part of “Operation X-Out.” Currently, about 5 percent of the DEA’s major investigations involve club drugs such as Ecstasy and the so-called “date-rape” drugs Rohypnol and GHB, or gamma hydroxybutyrate.

Harvard mulls ban on offensive language

Harvard Law School is considering a ban on offensive speech after a series of racially charged incidents, raising fears that the rules will inhibit the kind of sharp-edged intellectual combat so famously depicted in the movie “The Paper Chase.” In the meantime, the school is also considering a new students’ course to help them “manage difficult conversations” and learn how to speak with sensitivity on touchy issues such as race and gender.

Associated Press

US authorities capture al-Qaida’s Gulf chief

Associated Press

The violent demonstrators in the region’s multimillion-dollar fishing industry.

Islam’s founding prophet would have probably chosen a wife from among them (the contestants),” Isioma Daniel wrote in Saturday’s article.

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Nigeria

50 killed as angry mob protests Miss World article

Associated Press

Angry mobs stabb­ed and set fire to bystanders Thursday in rioting that erupted after a newspaper suggested the leader was providing information “that is helping us hunt down al-Qaida.”

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Lawsuit continued from page 1

During the summers of these two years, the ACE workers study at Notre Dame in its Master of Education program. During the school years, they live together with small communities of other ACE participants, and the program encourages the fostering of spirituality in this living environment, advocating attendance at daily Mass and prayer services.

ACE volunteers teach secular subjects and religion, but the program maintains that teachers are not paid by AmeriCorps for time spent teaching theological subjects.

"Some ACE teachers do not teach religion, but some do and we firmly believe that they do that apart from any AmeriCorps support," said Matt Storin, associate vice president of news and information at the University.

In a statement, the University said, "This action rests on the separation of church and state; in fact, since the beginnings of ACE religious activities have been specifically, systematically and scrupulously separated from the AmeriCorps Education Award program for which some ACE participants are eligible." Storin, however, said this strict separation is not the case.

"First of all, that's something that the corporation has claimed, but it surfaced for the first time after about a year of negotiations," Storin said.

"The time cards themselves make no such claim. The list of teacher assignments makes no notice of persons assigned to teach religion. Some only teach religion, and there is no indication those hours are off the clock." AmeriCorps has yet to respond to the suit.

"We filed the complaint, and they may have up to 60 days to file an answer from the time they were served," Storin said. He expected a response from AmeriCorps around Dec. 3.

Whenever the case goes to court, however, Storin said the ACE program is considerably optimistic.

"Notre Dame's ACE program consistently has been judged one of AmeriCorps, most successful programs, based on its significance and measurable impact in disadvantaged schools throughout the nation and because it is providing the nation with a stream of highly educated and committed young teachers at a time of great demand for them," the University's statement said.

In 1997, the Supreme Court reversed two previous 1985 decisions in Agostini v. Felton.

The cases, filed in Michigan and New York, disputed the use of state money to pay teachers working in nonpublic schools, and the original decision deemed this financial situation unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court overturned the rulings in 1997, however, stating, "What has changed since we decided Ball and Agostini is our understanding of the criteria used to assess whether aid to religion has an impermissible effect." In 2000 and 2002, the trend continued toward allowing slight financial transgressions of the separation between church and state. Several Supreme Court decisions ruled that state subsidizing of non-public education was constitutional, as long as aid was provided in an evenhanded manner.

Despite all this support for religious education funding, however, Storin said the AJC will still push to ensure that "teachers not be allowed to teach religion" in federally-funded programs.

"I think we have a good shot," Storin said. "But I've learned over the years not to get too confident."

Contact Sheila Flynn at sflynn2@nd.edu

MIKE O'DRISCOLL

PRESIDENT, ASTON MARTIN JAGUAR LAND ROVER

NORTH AMERICA

Mendoza's Jordan Auditorium
Friday, November 22, 2002 at 10:30 am

Mr. O'Driscoll will be discussing

The Development of 3 famous British Car Companies

- The Democratization of Luxury within the Automotive Market

- Business and Brand Strategy for Jaguar in a Turbulent Economy

PLUS, Make sure to see the Jaguar XKR on display in Mendoza's courtyard Friday (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) from the new James Bond 007 movie, opening in theaters, November 22nd.

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Notre Dame Opera

AUDITIONS

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The Happy Prince

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9:30 a.m. Saturday

Hesburgh Center Auditorium
United Airlines plans to obtain a $1.8 billion loan

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Struggling United Airlines, running out of time to avoid taking its restructuring into bankruptcy court, stepped up its campaign Thursday for government help.

A day after a critical agreement was reached between investors in efforts to cut companywide labor costs by $1 billion annually, United and its unions issued a new appeal in the federal panel considering its application for a $1.8 billion loan guarantee.

The airline delivered more than 42,000 letters from United employees, suppliers and airlines to the Air Transportation Stabilization Board’s offices in Washington, urging that the cash guarantee be granted.

Representatives of the pilots, machinists, flight attendants, salaried employees and management groups all spoke briefly with staff members of the ATS to reinforce the importance of the world’s second-largest airline and the consequences a bankruptcy filing would have.

“We’ve had letter-writing campaigns before but we’ve never generated this kind of vibes, which shows the strong feelings the employees have,” said spokesman Joe Hopkins of the Elk Grove Village, Ill.-based union.

It’s not known whether the three-man board can be swayed by lobbying, including pressure from controllable debt agencies in Illinois and several other large states where United is a major employer.

But the stakes are enormous for United, which is losing more than $7 million a day and is thought to be on a pace

to run out of cash early next year.

The immediate urgency is a Dec. 2 debt payment of $375 million, although that carries a grace period of 10 business days, which expires Dec. 16.

In a separate effort to drum up financial aid, chief executive Glenn Elliot was in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday seeking help from United’s partners in the Star Alliance, a cooperative worldwide network of 14 airlines that share passengers and revenue.

Investors remain hopeful, as evidenced by the latest spurt in United’s stock. Shares in parent company UAL Corp. rose $2 cents, or 7 percent, to close at $3.32 on the New York Stock Exchange after opening more than 24 percent higher. They are still down three-fourths in value since the start of the year.

While awaiting the ATSB decision and hoping machinists ratify their tentative agreement next Wednesday, United is trying to obtain more financial help from its vendors and identifying additional cuts to round out its plan for $5.8 billion in labor cuts over 5 1/2 years.

Even with the machinists’ pact — entailing $1.5 billion in wage reductions for 13,000 United mechanics and 24,500 baggage handlers, customer-service agents and reservations workers — announced cuts are some $400 million short of the targeted total.

Standard & Poor’s, an air-line analyst Philip Baggaley said it still appears “more likely than not” that the federal board will reject United’s application, forcing the airline to file for bankruptcy protection.

But he told investors in a research note that “there remains a significant minority chance that United will manage to avoid Chapter 11.”

He added that if machinists approve the concessionary deal next Wednesday, political pressure on the ATSB to approve the loan guarantee will increase.

Vivendi rejects $15 billion bid

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Billionaire Marvin Davis, at one time has tried to buy CBS, NBC and MCA, has made an unsolicited $15 billion bid for the entertainment assets of debt-burdened Vivendi Universal.

Vivendi, the French parent of Universal Studios and Universal Music Group, has been shedding assets but the $7 billion-a-day studio, record label, theme parks and entertainment units were not for sale, Davis, however, said he expected to keep talking with the company.

Under the proposal, Davis would also assume $5 billion in debt. His representatives met with Vivendi Universal executives in Paris on Nov. 5 and after the company rejected the bid, Vivendi spokesman Alain Delbrieu said.

In a statement issued in Los Angeles, Davis said he felt the offer was a “full and fair value for the assets and Vivendi’s response has been positive.”

He said additional meetings with Vivendi have been scheduled for early next year.

Sources familiar with the negotiations said Vivendi rejected the offer as too low and might be open to a higher bid or to selling some of the assets or spinning off the entertainment divisions and keeping a minority interest.

But any deal faces a huge obstacle in the form of Barry Diller, who owns 1.5 percent of Vivendi Universal Entertainment, the company that was formed last year to run Vivendi’s U.S.-based entertainment operations, excluding the music group and video game divisions.

VU Entertainment was formed after Vivendi bought the entertainment assets of USA Networks, which was owned by Diller.

Any sale to Davis could also founder because of restrictions Diller negotiated as part of that sale. If Vivendi sells any of the entertainment assets, it may have to pay Diller as much as $2 billion to cover taxes that would become due on the original deal.

In Brief

U.S. economic stabilization predicted

A yardstick of U.S. economic activity was unchanged in October, halting a decline that began in June and suggesting the nation’s poor financial health may be stabilizing.

Separately, the Labor Department said Thursday that weekly jobless claims fell to their lowest level in four months.

The news helped the Dow rise more than 222 points to close at its highest level in three months.

Leading service provider to hike rates after its biggest one-day gain since September.

United Airlines flights arrive at Denver International Airport on Aug. 9, 2000. UAL Corp., parent of money-losing United Airlines, is in talks with the government to arrange a $1.8 billion loan to avoid bankruptcy.

Leading service provider to hike rates after its biggest one-day gain since September.

United Airlines flights arrive at Denver International Airport on Aug. 9, 2000. UAL Corp., parent of money-losing United Airlines, is in talks with the government to arrange a $1.8 billion loan to avoid bankruptcy.
WEEKEND EVENTS

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE HAPPENING AT
THE HAMMES NOTRE DAME BOOKSTORE:

Author Events:

Khalil F. Matta Ph.D., ND College of Business Administration, will be signing copies of Thou Shalt Not Invest Foolishly on Friday, November 22nd from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ted Mandell, ND professor of Film, Television, & Theatre, will be signing copies of Heart Stoppers and Hail Marys, on Football Friday Home Games from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

John Heisler, ND Director of Sports Information, will be signing copies of Quotable Rockne on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Paul Hornung will be signing copies of the Magnificent Seven: the Championship that Built the Lombardi Dynasty on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Patrick Monaghan will be signing copies of Because They Never Do on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

August Jennewein, ND '80 will be signing copies of Slow Down: A Journey in Words and Photography on Saturday, November 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Mark Bradford will be signing copies of Nice Girls Finish First: The Remarkable Story of Notre Dame's Rise to the Top of Women's College Basketball, Saturday, November 23, 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Musical Events:

The Undertones, Notre Dame a cappella group, will perform on Saturday in the Bookstore one hour following the game.

Following the school pep rally, the Liturgical Choir of the University of Notre Dame will perform in the store's lobby on Friday, November 22nd at 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy the upbeat music of Joe Probst on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

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Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore
Friday 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Varsity Shop (in the Joyce Center)
Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Oxford poet highlights influences of Blake

By JUSTIN KRIVICKAS
Assistant News Editor

Tom Paulin, a poet and Lecturer at Oxford University’s Herford College, spoke as a guest lecturer about the importance of William Blake’s poetry to three influential men on Thursday.

Paulin, describing the genius of William Blake, said, “He was an aristocrat in the slum ... [Blake was] a hefty extravaganza of invention.” Ignored in his own time, it was not till after Blake’s death that his work was appreciated, Paulin said.

The lecture, entitled “William Blake, Irish Visionary: His Influence on Yeats, Joyce and Van Morrison,” explained the impact Blake has had on James Joyce, W.B. Yeats and Van Morrison.

Blake’s poems bring to mind God, demons and the fatherland, Paulin said. He discussed how Blake used poetry as a medium to present the frustrations and tribulations he had with English rule.

“Blake was an inspiration to the Irish people,” Paulin said. He said Blake attempted to present to the masses a complex collection of poetry with extensively detailed illustrations. Yeats greatly admired his work and was influenced by his style, Paulin said.

Paulin told the attentive crowd how musician Van Morrison was heavily influenced by both Yeats and Blake. He said Van Morrison was so greatly inspired by Yeats that he recorded an entire album using a selection of Yeats’ poems. Because of copyright restrictions and the lack of support from Yeats’ surviving heirs, however, the album still has not been released to the public.

Like Blake, Paulin said, Morrison tries to express the concept of Eden and how it would appear to us. His music is the result of fussing Scotch, Irish and England fusing with the American vernacular. But in addition to Van Morrison’s influences, Paulin explained his faults.

“On paper, the lyrics don’t work well,” Paulin said. But with the wide range he employs to pronounce the words he sings, Paulin said, Van Morrison has the ability to create a great work of art. He said both faith and vision are shown as forms of healing, and voice is a form of freedom. Like many of Blake’s poems, Van Morrison music is always searching for something that’s been lost, Paulin said. He said Van Morrison creates a Blakian vision with his music, and as such, one can argue that Blake is a folkloric artist.


His lecture was sponsored by the Kough Institute for Irish Studies.

Contact Justin Krivickas at jkriver@nd.edu

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9:00 pm - Kennedy’s Kitchen

Saturday, November 23... 8:30 pm - Paddy’s Racket

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The Observer ● CAMPUS NEWS

Friday, November 22, 2002

Judge shares anecdotes on capital punishment

By JIM GAFFEY
News Writer

Sheila Murphy, former presiding judge of Cook County, Ill., spoke Thursday in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium about her perspectives on capital punishment in America.

The lecture, "An American Paradox: A First Hand Account of Justice on Death Row," included Murphy's impressions of the death penalty and a retelling of her personal experiences related to capital punishment.

Murphy began her wide range of experience in the judicial system as a public defense lawyer when capital punishment was illegal in the United States. She represented several cases that called for capital punishment but never led to prosecution. She later became a Cook County judge and presided over many controversial cases involving capital punishment.

One of the most famous of these cases was that of Verneal Jimerson, an African-American man who faced the death penalty on charges of the rape and double murder of a young Chicago couple. Testimony against Jimerson was brought forth by a woman who, as it turns out, had been manipulated into presenting evidence to the court. Evidence against Jimerson mounted, and when the case was nearly closed, Murphy ordered a DNA test that eventually exonerated him.

Jimerson was a person of low income, low IQ and no prior criminal record — a racial and socio-economic profile suggestive, Murphy said, of the bias inherent to capital punishment cases. She said the majority of criminals on death row are either minorities or individuals from low-income backgrounds. Murphy said the unfairness of America's administration of the death penalty makes it "a fatal lottery," one that unjustly persecutes minorities and the poor.

"If you are poor, you will not be able, in most cases, to get a lawyer to represent your case well," she said.

Contact Jim Gaffey at jgaffey@nd.edu

Come Meet America's envoy to the Vatican, Ambassador Jim Nicholson

Ask Ambassador Nicholson your questions about the job of representing the U.S. abroad

Friday, November 22, 2002, 2:30-4:00 pm in 117 DeBartolo Hall

Organized by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies

For more information contact The Nanovic Institute 211 Brownson Hall 574.631.5253 www.nd.edu/~nanovic

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DEADLINE: Monday December 2
Justice system, featuring a
Auditorium investigated the
the llesburgh Center
Sheila Murphy followed by a
Friday, November 22,
humanity of the United States'
panel discussion with other
By NATALIE
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2:00
Friday Nov. 22 .
3 Blocks North of
Student Readings: undergraduate and graduate student poets, Hesburgh
Reading: Reading of original poetry by Francisco Alarcon with translations by Francisco
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Discussion of translation issues, moderated by
Aragon, Hesburgh Center
Reading: Reading of original poetry by
Barrientos with translations by Ben
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Senate must treat its mission seriously to gain student respect

The Student Senate strives to be taken seriously in its quest to represent the Notre Dame student body. In its mission to represent students to administrators, Senate both accepts and assumes its privileges role.

But it’s evident that voters don’t take Senate seriously when they select representatives who cannot fully commit to their positions. It’s evident that some elected members don’t view Senate as a serious organization when they are rarely or absent from meetings while participating in alternative commitments.

And it’s evident that Senate can’t even take itself seriously when it fails to enforce its own policies. Earlier this year, senators passed the Attendance Policy Amendment 25-0, requiring the Senate Ethics Committee to issue a warning to any senator who has missed four meetings. Five absences would result in a hearing that could possibly lead to expulsion.

Since then, at least two senators have violated the attendance rule. The Senate has taken no disciplinary action. Attendance at Senate meetings and subcommittee meetings is obviously a crucial responsibility of senators. The organization’s own amendment acknowledges the importance of regular attendance and timely arrival. Representatives from each dorm must be present so that they may inform their hall communities of new student government developments. Senators, therefore, should enforce the guidelines they themselves designed.

Student Senate cannot be an effective advocate for students to change University policies if it does not consistently follow its own.

Students have a right to know how they are being represented in student government. The fact that voters are largely unconcerned about the attendance of student senators not only places the senators in a negative light, but it is also a sign that student government is not viewed as a serious organization that necessitates the attendance of its members.

Fingers can be pointed in many directions in this case: the voters for not caring about the participation of their representatives, the representatives for not complying with the rules of Senate, senators for not addressing the issue, and finally, Senate leaders for failing to enforce the organization’s policy.

It is now imperative that the Student Senate enhances its credibility with the student body. Enforcing its own resolutions is one step toward earning respect from students. If Senate itself doesn’t take its policies seriously, how can I begin to expect students and administrators to treat policies regarding partisanship and alcohol policy?

It’s unfair for the power to act as a voice for the students and have done so in the past. In order to be an effective voice for students, members must attend meetings where ideas emerge and work begins. But internal flaws belie external productivity. It is time for the Senate to iron out its many kinks. The student body deserves a productive Senate that can be taken seriously.

And if Senate doesn’t take its own actions seriously, it certainly can’t expect anyone else to.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Defending Irish dance

After reading Sheila Flynn’s interpretation of Irish dancing as a “cutthroat subculture” in last Friday’s Inside Column, we feel a response is needed. As mentioned, she quit at age 13 and was only exposed to one teacher.

Many other Irish dancers share this campus. As members of the Notre Dame/Saint Mary’s Irish Dance Club, we have been blessed to work with quite a few of them. Contrary to Flynn’s assertion that Irish dance instruction fostered an “elitist, secondhand attitude” in dancers and that they were bred to hate rival schools, there are dancers from various dance schools in our club.

They have come from rival clubs that are. the commitment so many people have made to it. Flynn also mentioned two dancers from her former school (one of the most respected schools in the East) who “pushed” so hard that one now has severe tendonitis and the other has broken or sprained every toe and both ankles at least once.” Despite their injuries, both of these dancers happen to be very successful still today; one of them toured with Riverdance and one placed at the World’s twice. Besides, what competitive sport does not have its share of injuries? In fact, Irish dance is one of the best exercises. And it has been said that of all dance genres, Irish dance has the lowest incidence of dancers. The Senate is an incredibly healthy activity which fosters dedication and persistence and instills a great deal of confidence.

Sure, you have your fair share of extreme stage moms and teachers, but that does not mean all are like that. And it is the competitive nature which has created the dancers who are taking the world by storm with shows like Riverdance, now the best-selling video in the world. There are some horrible fathers and extreme coaches in Little League, but that doesn’t mean all of Little League is bad.

While we respect Flynn’s opinion and do not contest her personal experiences with Irish dance, we feel another opinion should be offered. For many of us, Irish dancing has been a defining and positive part of our lives and our time at Notre Dame. So we would suggest the next time you see Irish dancing, you think not of students embroiled in “countless petty rivalries” but of how amazing it is that a country barely the size of West Virginia has so successfully exported its music and dance to nearly every corner of the world, to accredited schools from Japan to Poland from the Czech Republic to Poland.

Kristy Hernandez
co-president Notre Dame/Saint Mary’s Irish Dance Club
Nov. 20

ND TODAY/OBSERVER POLL QUESTION

Should Notre Dame reconsider the number of University requirements necessary to graduate?

YBS 48% NO 52%

*Poll appears courtesy of NDToday.com and is based on 155 responses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I won’t take my religion from any man who never works except with his mouth.”

Carl Sandberg

writer
**Pariatels supporters need a taste of reality**

So, several times over I've been told that if I don't like it here, I can leave. I've even been called a "bug-brain" by a senile old 1962 Notre Dame alumnus. Well, now it's my turn, but I think I'll pose the attack a little differently. If you want, like me, or support parietals, I don't care if you do it like it here, you need to go home to your mother right now and give her a hug. You need to stay there, nestled in her comforting bosom, until you are ready to come back out here with the rest of us big kids and start living in reality. I came here to interact and learn with a group of bright, independent, intellectual, mature peers. Apparently you came here for kindergarten. This is a college, not pre-school. I don't want you here; you don't want to be here. In fact, chances are both you and your mother know that you are there uninvited, familiar hometown, under her loving wing. Make us all happy — go home.

This campus is embarrassingly conservative. You know, you can question authority — it is possible. Just because the rule has always been one way, doesn't mean it has to stay that way. What was once a smoothing policy to ease the introduction of the "wretched and in-be-avoided, yet money-wielding and thus acceptable" females to campus has become an embarrassing testimony to your complacency and social immaturity.

But what am I saying? You all agree with me, right? I mean, clearly no one wants to work at the same office as them. I don't want to have to do the job of raising them from their slightly post-pubescent maturity to that of a real, functioning adult, nor do I want to be near them during their shock-epiphany to adult life. So my solution is that they leave, and leave now. They can take a leave of absence — they're free to return when they are no longer sucklings. There will still be a place for them.

Most frustrating of all this is that I honestly don't believe parietals supporters to be unintelligent. I think that just like most Notre Dame students, they're some of the brightest in the country. Their intrinsic judgment flaws come in a few standard forms, about which I will elaborate. First of those is extreme conservatism, of which I'm sure we have more than a fair representation on campus. This leads the afflicted to nearly always accept the status quo as being the best option simply because it is the current option, or simply because "It's worked so far." This reasoning is flawed. Ask Imperial England.

The other common ideological flaw is authoritarianism, my most hated political philosophy, the ethos of tyrants. These bastions of intelligence believe that simply because it is the rule of those in charge, the rule should stand. Included in this group are those who claim that the University will lose some sort of "private-ness" or will be giving in to the outside influences if it changes its policy. Wake up people, no one but Notre Dame students knows about or cares about parietals. There's no outside pressure. Find a real argument. Something like, oh, "I'm sad and I miss my mommy." In closing, if you're extremely conservative, authoritarian, a senile old man, bitter or a parietals supporter catching yourself in a response about the benefits of uni-...

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

I am writing in regards to Jamie Belcher's news article on Nov. 21 pertaining to the new rape prevention program at Saint Mary's. Initially, I was very impressed that Saint Mary's was adding a new program to combat something that has been neglected for some time by many men and women alike. However, after reading the article, I was very alarmed by a very naive and common misconception about sexual assault stated in the article.

Ms. Belcher describes "one Saint Mary's student who will never fall into that category [of assault victims]!" because she already has "10 years experience of karate under her belt." Although the Rape Aggression Defense program and other self-defense programs may make you feel safer, these are not a surefire way to prevent sexual assault. To have the attitude that you are always protected because you know some defensive moves only makes you more vulnerable to the situation. Also, this attitude plays directly into the myth that most sexual assaults occur when a scary man in a ski mask jumps out of a dark alley or behind some bushes. Unfortunately, in 65 percent of sexual assault situations, the victim knows her attacker. Your first reaction when a friend or boyfriend crosses your personal bubble while it is great that Saint Mary's is working on trying to prevent a rape prevention program isn't broad enough

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The art of late Renaissance Florence features Medici, Michelangelo, and the Art of Late Renaissance Florence traces the historic and artistic legacy of the Medici family and its own dynasty of dominance throughout the sixteenth century. Under Medici reign, Florence blossomed as the epicenter of European art, gestating such masters as Agnolo Bronzino, Benvenuto Cellini, Giambologna and Michelangelo Buonarroti. The exhibition comes to the United States from a showing at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, and marks the first presentation of works by all of the pre-eminent Italian painters of the period. The extensiveness of this collection of painting, sculpture, drawing and decorative art from 1537 to 1631 stands as a reflection of the enormity in expanse of Medici rule.

The artists of the period have yet to receive the recognition they deserve from the world at large, especially in the United States, where relatively few of their works are exhibited. For the wider public, the treasures of the Medici dynasty remain something of a mystery. Feinberg said, “I hope the public finds the art so beautiful and the Medici so intriguing that they will be interested in finding out more on these characters.” The Art Institute’s exhibition, with its 200 works, including eight by Michelangelo, is sure to establish the period and its dynasty once and for all in the public’s mind as utterly distinct.

With its preliminary piece, the exhibition successfully expresses the core of the age and its values. Giambologna’s Venus statue symbolizes the city of Florence itself. Its fusion of classical ideals and seemingly modern sensuality encompasses the nature of the entire Medici house. The synthesis of the two figures, both Venus and Florence, parallels the merging dimensions of this developing city in the unmistakable language of the Renaissance.

Throughout the exhibition, portraiture provides the viewer with both historicity and psychological insight into the Medici family. The first Medici patriarch appears in Agnolo Bronzino’s Duke Cosimo I as Orpheus, Having commissioned the portrait as a wedding gift for his wife, Cosimo is depicted here in nude starkness. His stately figure twists towards the viewer in figura serpentinata posture, suggesting both political power and erotic eminence. In this portrait of Cosimo as Orpheus, one finds the conjointing of ancient classical themes with the governing reality of sixteenth-century Florence.

Cosimo’s wife also receives treatment in portraiture; she appears in Bronzino’s 1545 Eleonora of Toledo and Her Son Giovanni. Bronzino showcases Eleonora’s regal stature as an elegant suggestion of her role as the maternal source of future Florentine power. Her position as woman is lauded. Feinberg said, “although by and large women did not have status in society like men, there was a great respect on the part of the Medici for women of intellect and strength.” Other such feminine works include Bronzino’s 1561 Laura Battiferra degli Ammanati, in which the subject, holding a book of Petrarchan sonnets, sits as symbolic successor in the compilation of this exhibition.

There are several drawings featured by Michelangelo, graceful illuminations of the artist’s meticulous method of compositional planning. Castelbranco of 1537 exemplifies this exacting style; it is part of a recent discovery in a box of eighteenth and nineteenth century designs for lighting fixtures found in the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York. This marks the first exhibition of the newly treasured drawings, sources of great international intrigue. The candlelabrum was probably a Medici commission for the altar of the New Sacristy in the church of San Lorenzo, planned to house the remains of two elder generations of Medici.
Alumni vs. Siegfried
SECOND ANCE
MENS INTERHALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Siegfried gets another shot, Alumni seeks upset

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The Siegfried Ramblers and the Alumni Dawgs play for the men's interhall football championship Sunday at 1 p.m. at Notre Dame Stadium.

So who's the favorite? It's difficult to say for certain.

Siegfried is undefeated. Alumni is 5-1. Alumni lost to Morrissey in the regular season, 7-6. Siegfried beat Morrissey in the playoffs, 7-6.

In the end, the biggest advantage might be Siegfried's experience. The Ramblers lost to Dillon in the championship last season. While the Alumni defense has given up just 13 points all year, the Dawgs have not been to the Stadium since they won it all in 1989.

"Last year was an awesome inspiring experience to be playing in the stadium," Siegfried captain Kyle Reis said. "It was the first time any of us had been there. We came out excited, but we weren't ready. The core nucleus of our team has been here before, so we are a lot better prepared. The big game experience should help us out.

Big game experience and a rejuvenated offense. Siegfried averaged 23 points per game in the regular season, but scored just ten points in their two playoff wins.

The Ramblers need quarterback Bill Bingle wide receiver John Kaup and running back Tim Brehbach to have productive days if they want to win.

"Morrissey shut us down," said Siegfried coach John Torgenson. "I expect the offense to come out firing. To beat Alumni, we'll have to put up more points [than we have in previous games]."

Easier said than done. The Dawgs defense is rough.

"Their strength is our defensive line and our backers," said Alumni lineman Larry Rooney. "We're aggressive and we focus on stopping the run. We'll go into Sunday's game with the same strategy. We'll attack them."

Center Chris Seponski, defensive tackle Ben O'Connor, Justin Reis, and John Wahowski and linebacker Tommy Demko put offenses on their heels.

Alumni coach Steve Keppel said the Dawgs' intensity and commitment grew after a loss to Morrissey in week three. Keppel thinks the scoring will not be easy for Alumni. Siegfried's defense rivals that of the Dawgs.

"The core nucleus of our team has been here before, so we are a lot better prepared." Kyle Reis
Siegfried captain

Siegfried quarterback Bill Bingle throws a pass in a game this season. Bingle has been the leader of the Rambler offense.

An Alumni running back tries to break a tackle in a playoff game earlier this season. Alumni makes its first appearance in the Stadium since 1989 Sunday, when they face Siegfried.

"The core nucleus of our team has been here before, so we are a lot better prepared." Kyle Reis
Siegfried captain

Bingle tries new position, becomes team's leader

By JUSTIN SCHUER
Sports Writer

Nearly every sport has one player on the team that receives the praise when a team does well and most of the blame when the team does poorly. In hockey and soccer, it's almost always the goalie. For baseball, it's usually the pitcher.

In football, it's the quarterback. One minute you're the hero, and the next minute you're let down. To earn a place on the starting lineup, you must be able to handle the pressure.

That's why Bingle has been thrust into the starting lineup for the Ramblers.

Jones and Reis
Siegfried quarterback

"It's a really neat experience. Last year it seemed like everyone from the dorm came out." Bingle Bingle
Siegfried quarterback

The year we've been focused on getting all eleven guys to the ball and not stopping the whistle is blown," said Reis. "We came up with big fourth down stands and goal line stands.

"It's been nice to rely on our defense," said Torgenson. "This year, we'll have to show it on both sides of the ball because Alumni is an excellent team.

Siegfried may use the game's only secret weapon, and after last week, it's not that secret, Kicker John Nowak (18-10 on extra points) kicked the Ramblers into the Stadium two weeks ago with a game-winning 23-yard overtime field goal.

Two teams who have dreamed of playing in the Stadium for months stop dreaming Sunday afternoon.

Contact Pat Leonard atpleonard@nd.edu

Contact Justin Schuver atjschuver@nd.edu

Siegfried Ramblers have again attained the second-highest goal an interhall team can achieve, a trip to play in Notre Dame Stadium.

Sunday, they'll try to better that achievement with a victory against the Dawgs of Alumni.

Bingle explained that he thought the defense was the reason for last year's success. Bingle said that pressure will be greater.

"This year, we have more fun and have a good time more often. I think that helps us a lot, because we never get down and feel like we're out of a game."

Bill Bingle
Siegfried quarterback
Surprise teams run the table, reach Stadium

**Neither team was expected to be in final**

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Going into this year's interhall football season, no one would have predicted that Cavanaugh would have an undefeated season, including a victory over Welsh Family, leading into Notre Dame Stadium and the interhall championship game Sunday.

However, defying the odds and doubts is what Cavanaugh has done all year.

Pasquerilla East was not supposed to be playing in the Stadium this year, either. The Pyros struggled last year but enter the championship game after a complete turnaround from last season. They look to continue their trend of defying history Sunday against Cavanaugh, a team that beat Pasquerilla East 28-0 earlier this season.

Pasquerilla East is led by a group of talented players who work together, contributing to the team's success. Captain and offensive lineman Lindsay Terifay leads the way both on and off the field for the Pyros. Terifay doesn't believe history will repeat itself on Sunday.

"We are very excited to play Cavanaugh," Terifay said. "I just can't wait to avenge our loss earlier this season. We are a whole new team now; new quarterback, new defense, everything."

Among many changes, Terifay has been a steady factor for the Pyros. She is joined on the line by center Allison Ferber. They provide protection for elusive quarterback Abbey Coons. Wide receivers Trinity David, Laura Tushaus and Kristin O'Brien remain Coons' favorite targets.

Regardless, according to Terifay, the Pyros are a well-balanced team. She credited their semifinal victory to their team concept.

"We just have to continue to play as a team, making as few mistakes as possible, while capitalizing on their mistakes," Myers said. "Meyers was confident about her team's capabilities.

"Offensively we will read the defense and adjust accordingly," Myers said. "However, either way, we have a great shot. Regardless, the win against Welsh Family in the semifinal was one of the sweetest victories in the history of interhall football."

Cavanaugh looks to get what would be an even sweeter win Sunday at the Stadium.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvango@nd.edu

**Two-way standout leads Chaos into final**

By LISA REIULA
Sports Writer

Cavanaugh's interhall football team finds itself in uncharted territory this season, having knocked off powerhouse Welsh Family and making it in the championship game.

The reason for the success of the Chaos this year? Two-way standout Meg Myers, the only fourth-year senior on the roster and the undisputed team leader.

Myers was a major factor in Cavanaugh's 13-12 upset of Welsh Family. In addition to throwing two touchdown passes, Myers had an interception at cornerback late in the game to seal the win.

Myers plays quarterback with great confidence, despite it being her first season at the position. In previous years, she played wide receiver, running back and outside linebacker.

At the beginning of the season, she was expected to fill the vacancy at quarterback for the Chaos, and Myers decided to give it a shot.

She won the job and has developed into one of the best quarterbacks in the women's league.

"Without Meg, we wouldn't have a chance of being where we are," Bart Bruckert, Cavanaugh coach.

"It's been cool to see the kids progress," Myers said.

With all her leadership experience, Myers has been the glue of the Cavanaugh team this season. The Chaos are undefeated and Myers attributes their success to team chemistry.

"In the past, we struggled with diversity and small groups not coming together," Myers said. "The team was in the beginning to be encouraging to everyone. There are no fights or jealousy over playing time."

Myers also feels the team benefits from strong leadership from other seniors and the coaches, in particular third-year coach Bart Bruckert.

"Without Meg, we wouldn't have a chance of being where we are," Bruckert said. "I haven't met many people as impressive as her."

The Chaos are hoping to impress Pasquerilla East in the championship. After their upset of Welsh, Myers knows it's important for her team to regain focus.

"We know we can't underestimate them even though we've beaten them," she said. "If we stick to the fundamentals we should win. I'm confident in our abilities."

Contact Lisa Reiula at lreiula@nd.edu
IRISH INSIDER

interhall Full Circle

Cavanaugh vs. Pasquerilla East

Photo illustration by MIKE JOHNSTON and LESA VELTE
Renaissance paints and sculptures

Michelangelo's unfinished wooden Crucifix provides a view into the aging artist's psyche. Carved in Michelangelo's late eighties, the piece instills a personal religious reflection, an aura of intimacy not found in the artist's more monumental works.

However, the centerpiece of the collection is undoubtedly Michelangelo's David-Apollo, marking the second time a major sculpture by the artist has traveled to the United States. Its dual title stands in ambiguity as to the identity of the subject. Giorgio Vasari, painter and biographer of Renaissance artists, believed it to be an Apollo "extracting an arrow from his quiver." However, the work was cited in an inventory of the Medici's Palazzo Vecchio as an "unfinished David by Buonarroti."

If the work is indeed a David, it is a definite divergence from Michelangelo's famed earlier treatment of the same subject. Larry Feinberg said, "I think it started out as probably a David and was referred to as David by many people. But, David was a Republican, anti-Medici symbol, and at some point Michelangelo decided to change it to a subject the Medici would find more acceptable." This sculpture's twisted posture and obvious psychological agitation shape the work as a more inward examination of character. Being substantially smaller than the original David, the work's emphasis is transferred from the outer form toward a more centralized, deeper emotion.

Feinberg continued, "It is much more in keeping with his slaves of the Louvre, those Louvre slaves that seem to be in the same way in a sort of fitful slumber. Like the earlier David, it depicts a psychological moment of contemplation before the physical action, that to many of us seems more interesting than the physical action itself. The dramatic lighting on the part of the Art Institute endows the viewer with a sensation of quasi-voyeurism upon this intensely personal human moment. The exhibit's installation itself is a work of dramatic theater as Renaissance music pervades four of the galleries.

Another gem, Benvenuto Cellini's sculpture Perseus and Medusa of 1545-55 depicts the god triumphant while raising the head of the slain Medusa above his own. The victory of Perseus is a symbolic illustration of Cosimo de'Medici's own victory, the salvation of Florence. The fate of Medusa serves as a harbinger to those who ignore Medici rule. The omnipotence of the family dynasty was here hauntingly realized through artistic expression.

In Alessandro Allori's 1601 painting, Penitent Magdalene, Mary Magdalene kneels before a crucifix, emerging in brilliant illumination from the canvas as if in a spotlight of forgiveness and Christian re-entry. The work's message is delineated in the text that Mary holds, the first line of Psalm 31: "Blessed are those whose sins have been remitted." Notable however, is the monumental scale of Mary Magdalene juxtaposed with the humble crucifix. Allori did not stray from the humanistic trend of the epoch, and perhaps it was this feature that rendered the work appealing to the Medici court. It entered the Grand Ducal collection almost immediately following its completion.

With this expansive art collection of interwoven themes and mediums, it proves a difficult task to untangle the characteristics of Medici taste. Despite the monumental works of the exhibition, Feinberg said, "the Medici did have a strong taste for smaller works and very highly finished, hyper-refined art." Perhaps the 1599-1600 Oval plaque of Piazza Granducale is the quintessence of such proclivity. The subject is also known as the Piazza della Signoria, the square in front of Cosimo's palace. The background of this plaque is a work of fine detail, or hard stone inlay. Intricate designs are formulated through the assembly of many semi-precious stones, such as jade and lapis lazuli.

The exhibition concludes with Cristofano Allori's Judith and Holofernes, The story comes from the Old Testament, in which Judith offers herself to the invading Assyrian general Holofernes. He is deceived, and Judith later decapitates Holofernes with her own sword. To Florentines, this tale surely suggested courage and triumph over foreign threats. Feinberg said, "In Italy, Judith was one of the great heroines, a patron of the city." Here Judith stands as a more representative of Medici value.

Possibly no other individual or family has ever been responsible for more artistic production than the Medici. Today, Florence still basks as very much a sixteenth-century city due to the indelible mark left during their reign. Feinberg said, "In addition to the art itself, the great legacy was intellectual tolerance. When it came to ideas, the Medici championed and protected philosophers, poets and artists that may have not been favored by the Church. The extraordinary opportunity the Medici extended to artists has been unequaled; it would be a shame to miss this one here. "The Medici, Michelangelo, and the Art of Late Renaissance Florence" is on exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, now through February 2, 2003, before it travels to the Detroit Institute of Arts. Entry is free with general admission into the museum, $10 adults, $6 students. Tuesdays are free to all. The catalogue is available through the museum in hardcover and paperback. For further information, call (312) 443-3600.

Contact Randi N. Belisomo at Randi.N.Belisomo@nd.edu
**NHL**

Dupuis leads Minnesota in 4-3 victory over Washington

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Pascal Dupuis had a goal and two assists as the Minnesota Wild held off the Washington Capitals for a victory.

Dupuis scored the only goal in last Saturday's 1-0 victory over the Capitals in the Wild's third-period goal in this game gave the Wild a 4-2 lead at 9:52 of the third period.

Washington's power-play problems continued. The Capitals failed to score on their three extra-man chances.

The Capitals are now in a 9-for-78 power-play slump while the Wild have killed 21 straight penalties.

Minnesota took a 1-0 lead when Antii Laaksonen scored a short-handed tally as the Boston Bruins beat the Wild, 4-2, at the Xcel Energy Center.

Good...
around the dial

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Top-ranked Hurricanes escape Panthers

Associated Press

Miami was threatened, and Miami held on. Willis McGahee ran 19 times for 159 yards and scored two touchdowns as the top-ranked Hurricanes overcame another slow start and a frantic finish to earn a 28-21 win over the Panthers (No. 19 ESPN/USA Today, No. 17 AP) Thursday night at the Orange Bowl.

In a nationally televised game that gave Miami (10-0, 5-0 Big East) a chance to showcase Heisman Trophy teammates Ken Dorsey and McGahee, the sophomore running back had the majority of the highlights. But Rod Rutherford had almost as many for Pitt.

McGahee had a 69-yard touchdown run that tied the game just before halftime and added a leaping 4-yard score in the fourth quarter. After his second TD run, McGahee placed his fingers in the shape of a diamond — a pop-culture symbol that represents a dynasty.

The gesture might have been appropriate for the Hurricanes, but a bit premature.

The defending national champions extended their nation-best winning streak to 32 games, their Big East-record streak to 22 games and moved two victories away from a berth in the Jan. 3 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. They finish the season at Syracuse and at home against struggling Virginia Tech. Miami also took sole possession of first place in the Big East.

Pitt (8-3, 5-1) lost for just the third time in 17 games and had its conference winning streak snapped at nine games.

But after falling behind 26-14, the Panthers had a chance to tie in the final minutes. Rutherford scored on a 3-yard run with 4:37 to play, cutting it to 28-21.

The Hurricanes had to punt, giving the Panthers the ball with 2:12 left. They drove to the Miami 25, and Rutherford misfired on two consecutive passes. Then he connected with Yogi Roth for a 5-yard gain to set up a fourth-and-5 from the 20. Roth was wide open again. This time on a slant past the goal line, but Rutherford's pass sailed past his outstretched arms and through the end zone.

Miami's defense gave up 341 yards but left Pitt battered — literally. Receiver Larry Fitzgerald left the game and receiver Roosevelt Byens left the game after a crushing hit.

IN BRIEF

Carter dances with Nelly while team loses in Atlanta

Toronto Raptors general manager Glen Grunwald said Wednesday that Vince Carter could be back practicing with the team as early as Thursday and might play next week.

Carter, who left the Raptors' Nov. 2 game at Houston with a quadriceps tendon strain in his left knee, caught Fall after appearing in an alleged jug with rap star Nelly in a concert at the Air Canada Centre on Monday — the same night his teammates were outustealed and defeated in Atlanta.

There have been suggestions that the All-Star forward should not be cavoring on stage when he is injured and his teammates are playing elsewhere. Grunwald's response to the incident was typically low key.

The GM said that if he had a choice he would have attended the concert, given how uninspired his team has looked against the Hawks.

Lindsey Hunter, who has a sore right knee, and center Nate Huffman, who has not played this season after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his right knee, also could be back practicing as early as Thursday.

Issue of sportsmanship in high school playoff game

Walkerville 115, Lakeshore 2.

And it could have been worse. A lot worse.

"What do you tell our girls? Not to play?" Walkerville High athletics director Ron Sioneman said Wednesday, a day after his state-ranked school stomped winless Hart Lakeshore Public Academy in a girls basketball playoff game.

The blowout left Lakeshore academic director Steve Hamilton seething about a lack of sportsmanship.

"To me, if you run up the score like that, you have to answer for yourself," Hamilton said. "I have my doubts about a school that would go and run up a school by 100 points."

Walkerville coach Steve Kirwin said he doesn't schedule teams like Lakeshore, which has a student body of 50 in grades nine through 12, during the regular season. But during the playoffs, "You play who they tell you to play."

Kirwin said he promoted girls from the junior varsity and freshmen teams, and did not use his normal pressure defense against overmatched Lakeshore.

By halftime, Kirwin said, three girls hadn't scored. So he said only they could shoot. But after they scored, then what?

"I'm not going to tell my kids not to continue to play," Kirwin said. "It's not that we wanted to score a ton of points."

The Michigan High School Athletic Association did away with a differential rule during the offseason. Under the old rule, the clock ran continuously if a team built a 40-point lead in the second half.

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Kirwin said he promoted girls from the junior varsity and freshmen teams, and did not use his normal pressure defense against overmatched Lakeshore.

By halftime, Kirwin said, three girls hadn't scored. So he said only they could shoot. But after they scored, then what?

"I'm not going to tell my kids not to continue to play," Kirwin said. "It's not that we wanted to score a ton of points."

The Michigan High School Athletic Association did away with a differential rule during the offseason. Under the old rule, the clock ran continuously if a team built a 40-point lead in the second half.
Faulk status for Sunday is game-time decision

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS

It's still a waiting game with the St. Louis Rams and Marshall Faulk. Faulk missed Monday night's victory over the Bears with a high sprain in his right ankle and a strained tendon in his left foot. His status for Sunday's game at Washington won't be determined until game time, coach Mike Martz said.

Faulk didn't practice, instead visiting with team doctors about the ankle, by far the more serious of the injuries. Martz said Faulk won't practice the rest of the week; he didn't practice all last week, either.

"I think we'll just keep him out until they make a decision," Martz said. "What's helped him is staying off this thing and letting it heal. I don't know if they make a "What's" over the Bears with a high sprain in his right ankle and a strained tendon in his left foot. His status for Sunday's game at Washington won't be determined until game time, coach Mike Martz said.

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Irish look to rebound in Big East Tournament

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

The Irish don't look so invincible anymore.

After losing its first conference matches since a loss at West Virginia on Nov. 15, 1998, the Notre Dame volleyball team goes into this weekend's Big East Championship at the University of Pittsburgh looking a little more human.

On Saturday, the Irish (21-5, 11-2 in the Big East) face Connecticut (14-14, 9-4) in a semifinal matchup. With a win, the Irish will have a rematch either Virginia Tech (20-10, 10-3) or Miami (24-4, 10-3). The winner of that match receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Looking to qualify for their 11th consecutive NCAA Tournament, the Irish haven't changed their attitude, but are focused on fine-tuning their game. "I think we have a good attitude going into the matches last week. We had good preparation but just didn't play well over the weekend," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "I don't know if [our attitude] has drastically changed. It was good and healthy and still is healthy. I can see that we have a stronger commitment to make our game a little sharper."

Entering last weekend's final regular season conference matches, the Irish were 11-0 in the Big East and had already wrapped up their regular season title. With the goal of a fourth straight undefeated conference regular season in their sights, the Irish just fell apart.

"It wasn't just one area like it usually is, but several things went wrong for us. It was rare that we have had combinations of things go wrong," Brown said. "It wasn't just passing, serving or hitting. We had a variety of problems. Too many people didn't play well and the mistakes accumulated. Obviously Miami and Virginia Tech were inspired and took advantage."

Against the Hurricanes, the Irish committed 12 service errors, had 10 service receiving errors and recorded a .200 hitting percentage in the match's fifth and deciding game.

Two days later at Virginia Tech, the Irish continued to struggle with nine service errors, 13 serving errors and a .172 hitting percentage. As a team, the Irish hit .154 for the match.

One bright spot for the Irish in their losses was Lauren Kelbley. The freshman middle blocker continued her strong second half of the season hitting .481 against the Hurricanes and .609 against the Hokies. Kelbley leads the Irish on the season with a .349 hitting percentage.

In Notre Dame's 3-1 defeat of Connecticut on Sept. 27, Brown went to her bench in the come-from-behind victory. The Huskies won Game 1 and held leads of 20-10 and 29-24 in Game 2 before the Irish rallied to win that game 33-31.

Freshman setter Kelly Burrell saw her first significant action of the season and recorded 35 assists. Middle blocker Kim Fletcher had 11 kills, and freshman outside hitter Meg Henican led the Irish with 10 digs.

"I think we have looked at that tape a lot and we had several extenuating situations in that match," Brown said. "[Setter] Kristen Kinder was out from practice all week with a knee injury and was off her game. [Outside hitter] Jessica Kinder didn't play well against them, but has played well in the matches after that one."

Lauren Kelbley, another of our starters, didn't play a lot and has been so steady, especially in the second half of the year when she has been unstoppable."

Notre Dame and Connecticut have one win against the teams in the field this weekend while Miami and Virginia Tech each have two. Combining those mixed regular season results with Connecticut and Virginia Tech's lack of postseason experience, the title is up for grabs.

"I love the fact that we have played [Connecticut], seen them, been able to study the film and see our mistakes," Brown said. "We are in a great position to correct the errors that we have had. I don't see either team having more of an advantage."

"With Virginia Tech and Miami, they just beat us and have confidence right now. We know we didn't play our best match and we know what we have to do to be better."

The Morris Inn will be holding a lottery to reserve a spot for the weekend. Lottery numbers can be picked up at The Morris Inn front desk.

Deadline: Monday, December 2nd

For more information visit: www.nd.edu/~ipw
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Irish middle blocker Lauren Kelbley spikes the ball against Boston College Nov. 3. The Irish look to defend their title in the Big East Tournament this weekend.

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Irish look to declaw 5th-ranked Wolverines

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

After having last weekend off, it's back to the grindstone for the Irish this week, as they head to Michigan for a pair of CCHA contests with the Wolverines.

The games will be the first of four away from the Joyce Center for the Irish, as 11 of their next 13 contests will come on the road. Notre Dame played its last five games at home, going 1-3-1 against three ranked opponents — No. 12 Ferris State, No. 1 Boston College and No. 11 Miami of Ohio.

It doesn't get any easier for Notre Dame tonight, as Michigan enters the contest 8-1-1, undefeated in conference play and currently ranked fifth and sixth by the USCHO.com Poll and the USA Today/American Hockey Magazine Poll, respectively.

The Wolverines average 4.1 goals and just over 33 shots a game this season, while holding opponents under two goals per contest.

Sophomore forward David Moss has been the points leader for Michigan so far this season, with 10 points on three goals and seven assists. Freshman forward Jeff Tambellini paces the Wolverines in goals scored, with 6.

Though it didn't show in their record, the Irish played extremely well during their most recent homestand, toppled off by Notre Dame's 2-1 victory over Miami.

If history is any indicator, the pair of games against the Wolverines this weekend will be a tough test for the Irish. Notre Dame has not won a regular season game in Michigan's Yost Arena since Oct. 22, 1962 — a 5-5 victory. In their last 19 games at Yost, the Irish are just 1-17-1.

The last meeting between the two teams, however, turned out more productive for the Irish — a 3-3 tie in the Joyce Center Jan. 4 of this year.

The teams face off tonight and Saturday, with starting time scheduled for 7:35 both nights.

Note:
The Irish announced the signing of five players to letters of intent Wednesday for the 2003-2004 season. The group includes goaltender David Brown of Stoney Creek, Ont., defenseman Noah Babin of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., defenseman Wes O'Neill of Essex, Ont., forward Jason Paige of Saginaw, Mich. and forward Josh Sciba of Westland, Mich.

"I'm very excited about this incoming group of players," Puello said. "All five are highly skilled players who should be able to contribute as freshmen next season. They give us a good mix of size and speed and will add to our talent level and depth next season. With the box of six players to graduation this five will have an excellent opportunity to step in and make immediate contributions as freshmen."

The six players who graduate at the end of this season are goaltender Tony Zasowski, defenseman Evan Nielsen and forwards Michael Chin, Connor Dublak, Jake Wiegand and John Wroblewski.

The Irish have scored 3.1 goals per game this season, averaging 30.6 shots a contest. Junior Rob Globe leads the Irish in scoring with 11 points on three goals and four assists, including the eventual game-winning goal in Notre Dame's victory over Miami.

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MENS SWIMMING

Swimmers look to build on pair of victories

By LISA REIJULA
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's men's swimming team has regained momentum after winning two of three meets at Texas Christian University last week. Now the Irish look to continue their winning streak against Purdue Friday night. The Irish showed perseverance against TCU, rebounding after a narrow defeat last Friday that was decided by the last relay to win twice on the meet's second day. A strong performance by the 400-meter medley relay team of Doug Bauman, Jason Fitzpatrick, Frank Krakowski and Tim Randolph got the Irish off to a good start. The 400-meter freestyle relay team of Randolph, Fitzpatrick, J.R. Teddy and Matt Obringer sealed the victory with a first place finish in the meet's last event.

Other individual winners included freshman Jamie Lutkus in the 400 individual medley race, Fitzpatrick in the 100 breaststroke, Patrick Davis in the 1,650 freestyle and Obringer in the 100 and 200 freestyle. After the win in Texas, Obringer is pleased with the team's improvement.

"It gave us confidence and we'll use this win as a springboard for the meet with Purdue," the junior said. "We're looking forward to it."

The Irish showed their depth at TCU. In addition to the many event winners, Notre Dame had swimmers placing in the top four in most events. In the 200 breaststroke, Tyler Grenda, Lutkus and David Moisan finished one-two-three.

Friday's meet against Purdue will be the second time the Irish face a Big Ten opponent at home this season. Notre Dame defeated Michigan State Nov. 8. The Irish face the Boilermakers at Rolfs Aquatic Center at 6 p.m.

Contact Lisa Reijula at lreijula@nd.edu
Soccer
continued from page 28

days prior to eke out a 1-0 victory at Akron. Jack Stewart’s goal midway through the second half proved to be the deciding goal.

Before the Irish victory this season, the Zips had dominated the series between the two teams, winning six of the first eight games of the nine-game series. Before 2002, the Irish and Zips had not played each other since 1989.

The Zips enter the tournament having won the Mid-American Conference with a 4-1 conference record.

Meanwhile, the Irish have had nearly two weeks of rest since having won the Mid-American Conference record.

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FRIDAY: “LITTLE FRANK AND THE IMPERIALS” - Friday Night
SATURDAY: “E2 ED WRIGHT” - Saturday Night.
Surly Miller all business on court for Irish

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

They want to make the NCAA Tournament, win the Big East Championship, finish with over 20 wins and make a statement on the national college basketball scene.

But senior Matt Carroll has another, more personal goal he wants to achieve come season's end.

"He's so tough and so serious when he's on the court," Carroll smiled. "When he's out there, he goes to battle."

All one needs to do to understand Miller's toughness is look at his body after a game, which is typically covered with bruises, cuts and other abrasions showing Miller's physical style of defense.

And Miller's defensive presence has been instrumental in Notre Dame's first two games where the Irish held both opponents under 50 points and kept them shooting less than 30 percent from the field, a trend the Irish hope to continue tonight against Bucknell at 9 p.m.

Irish coach Mike Brey has already noticed how Miller's presence affects the Irish and how he helps to fill the absence of Ryan Humphrey's athletic defense with a grinding, physical style of play.

"When he's out there, he goes to battle," Carroll said. "I don't even know what surly means," Miller said. "I just go out there and play, and I try to be tough."

Miller saying he just goes out and plays isn't an empty cliché, it's a comment coming from a player frustrated from sitting out last season after transferring from Maryland.

He's already gotten off to a fast start with the Irish, recording two double-doubles in his first two games after failing to record one in three seasons with Maryland.

While Miller downsplays the statistical significance of his first two games, Brey said he's glad to see his veteran gain some confidence early in the season.

"It was important for him to come out like that, and I'm glad to see that happened," the Irish coach said. "He plays better when he's confident, and he's a better leader when he's confident."

Part of Miller's defensive prowess with the Irish springs from his role at Maryland, where he was inserted primarily as a defensive stopper and often guarded players such as former Duke All-American Shane Battier in key ACC games.

When Miller came to the Irish, Brey had one request for the 6-foot-8 veteran.

"He's one of the better defensive wings we've had," he said. "We didn't want him to lose that."

So far, his defense has been infections, spreading to the rest of the Irish and giving them a defensive identity Brey said his team danced close to but never found in his first two years.

Forward Jordan Cornette's presence down low also is a huge reason for the Irish defensive dominance.

The newfound defensive identity Brey talks about has the Irish smiling, for they know if they have trouble scoring - a problem that has plagued them early in their first two games - their defense will give them the edge.

"Our defense is going to just make our offense that much better," Carroll said. "If our defense is on, our shots are going to fall."

Note:
Irish center Tom Timmermans, who sat out Notre Dame's first two games with back spasms, will be able to play for the Irish tonight, Brey said.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu
Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Record: 9-1
AP: No. 8

COACHES: No. 8

Roster

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COACHING

Quarterbacks

This weekend will prove whether or not Willingham and his staff can get their unit back to solid football. After a loss, a near loss and a bye week, Willingham will have to get his unit focused on playing an unranked foe, playing Irish football and bringing home a big victory.

Schrano is only in his second year at Rutgers. He has led the Scarlet Knights to just three wins in the last two years while compiling 18 losses. He is young and inexperienced, but has the respect of his team.

Hart, the true freshman, will most likely get the start for the Scarlet Knights. Schiano is hoping that the signal caller, who has played in three of these games, will be able to improve over Trum and Cabi's performance.

Willingham and his coaching staff are far more experienced than Schiano and his staff. The Irish coaching staff has prepared his team in several big games and if they can get the Irish focused, should be able to outclass Schiano and his team.

Quarters

Schiano has shown that he can pass and can he can rush, although he has spent a lot of time in the pocket making his reads and finding his receivers. He is still struggling to consistently lead his offense on a long drive down the field that results in a touchdown.

The Irish rushing game has been inconsistent. Grant has been unable to hold the ball, but Powers-Neal has stepped up to make big carries for the Irish, often taking defenders with him across the line of scrimmage.

The Knights pass defense is also giving up nearly 200 yards a game. However, Rutgers has managed to play close to some very good passing teams and could surprise the Irish. They record less than two sacks a game, but have eight interceptions.

RUTGERS

ANALYSIS

The Notre Dame rushing game should have no problem against a weak Rutgers defense, especially with the Irish holding the ball. Rutgers defense has shown how to make plays and hopes to dominate this weekend.

Notre Dame rushing attempts are back into a position where people are giving the Irish credit for playing good football and bringing home a big victory.

The pass game has stepped up, averaging 170 yards a game. The Irish receivers do a good job running their routes and getting open. However, Holiday still has trouble finding them, and they have been unable to make a reception and then take off.

After a pair of lackluster performances against Boston College and Navy, the Irish are back as a position where people are questioning their No. 8 ranking. That's good news for the Irish, who played their best when they were disrespected. Notre Dame has no problem dismantling Rutgers in the seniors' home finale.

Rutgers again finds itself in the basement of the Big East at 1-9. The Scarlet Knights have been outscored this year by an average of nearly 16 points a game. Their lone highlight was carrying a 17-14 lead into the fourth quarter against No. 1 Miami before yielding 28 unanswered points. This should provide a good warm up for Notre Dame before the USC game next week.

Irish experts

Andrew Soutoup assistant managing editor

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 31
Rutgers 10

Chris Federico sports editor

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 34
Rutgers 7

Notre Dame 2002 Schedule

Aug. 31 Maryland - W
Sept. 7 PURDUE - W
Sept. 14 MICHIGAN - W
Sept. 21 at MSU - W
Oct. 5 STANFORD - W
Oct. 12 PITTSBURGH - W
Oct. 19 at Air Force - W
Oct. 26 at Florida State - W
Nov. 2 BOSTON COLLEGE - L
Nov. 9 at Navy - W
Nov. 23 RUTGERS
Nov. 30 at USC

Willingham head coach

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The Irish have the edge here. The ball-control offense and advantage of the seniors last game at Notre Dame Stadium should give Irish the needed motivation to take home a big victory against the Scarlet Knights.

The Irish have been less than stellar in their last two games, but with the home-field advantage they should round over the less talented Scarlet Knights team. Look for Notre Dame to rely on its run game to pick up big yards.

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Sweet continued from page 28

their way to a 20-1 record. The Pac-10 champion's sole loss came Oct. 4 against perennial national power North Carolina.

In last weekend's opening rounds of the tournament, the Cardinal crushed Cal Poly 5-0 and then squeaked by California in a 1-0 overtime victory.

Notre Dame forward Amanda Guertin made a statement in last weekend's victories. The junior scored four goals and registered an assist on her way to an impressive nine-point weekend.

Pac-10 player of the year Marcia Wallis leads the Cardinal with 12 goals on the season, while midfielder Marcie Ward leads the team with 33 points overall. While these players may end up in the box score, Waldrum is most concerned with the playmaking ability of midfielder Callie Withers.

"Callie Withers is their best player. She just makes huge plays for them offensive and defense," Waldrum said.

After struggling during the early part of the season with an assortment of injuries, the Notre Dame defense has finally solidified itself with the addition of converted forward Melissa Tancredi. Last week, the junior shut down Purdue's top scorer Annette Kent, while also contributing the decisive goal with eight minutes left in the contest.

Tancredi along with Chapman, Catherine Sigler and Kim Carpenter must continue their strong play this weekend.

"Our backs really need to be consistent," Waldrum said. "I think we'll be alright back there."

As Waldrum can attest when his undefeated Notre Dame team from two years ago lost in the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament, being the heavy favorite can be a real burden.

"Two years ago, we were undefeated and ranked number one going into the tournament. If you don't win, you then feel like you've really blown the season," Waldrum said. "The pressure is on them. If they lose to us, then they've blown their ranking and their entire season."

Contact Joe Licandro at Licandro.1@nd.edu

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Jack Monahan

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2 Centrally located
3 Ghost sounds
4 More Clare
5 Dad's pajamas, for short
6 Compass
7 Place to fun
8 Better
9 Dental's direction
10 Rock blast
11 Spring time in Paris
12 1945's arena: Abbr.
13 Home entertainment systems
14 Thoroughly
15 Hair holder
16 Brief time?
17 Reviews, as
18 Some poles
19 Hotel
20 Uncontrollable

Down
1993 film based on a Jean Shepherd book
2 Began
3 Auditing agent
4 Shake off
5 Game show V.I.P.'s
6 It produces wrinkles
7 Weary
8 Howard
9 A "War and Peace"
10 Home
11 Atroc
12 Home
13 Home
14 Throughly
15 Hair holder
16 Brief time?
17 Reviews, as
18 Some poles
19 Hotel
20 Uncontrollable

Answer to Mark Knowswords
41 4-Sound features
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44 Exon rival
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50 Moscow's Museum
51 "Old protest gro.
52 "Married an Ass Murdner"
53 Blue
54 Reservoir
55 It may be written in stone

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Dueling the Knights

No. 8 Notre Dame returns to the gridiron against 1-9 Rutgers

By JOE HETTLER
Associate Sports Editor

For the second straight game, Notre Dame faces an opponent that has only one win this season.

And the Irish hope this game goes better than their last one.

Two weeks ago, Notre Dame played a 1-7 Navy team at Ravens Stadium in Baltimore and needed a late 67-yard touchdown pass from Carlyle Holiday to Omar Jenkins in the final minutes to secure a 30-23 victory over the Midshipmen.

On Saturday, the Irish will need to play better than their last two outings if they hope to secure a win against Rutgers. While only 1-9 and 0-6 in the Big East conference, the Scarlet Knights have several top teams tough this season. They led Tennessee at halftime and were beating No. 1 Miami late in the third quarter before losing 42-17.

"They have played their best football against the best teams, and, of course, they have played some of the really better teams in this country," Irish coach Tyrone Willingham said. "So it is a frightening thought that a team that has the skill they have will play their best game against us this Saturday."

Notre Dame must also caution against looking past a lowly Rutgers team and seeing USC on the horizon. The Trojans are the country's No. 1 team.

"That has always been the difficult side of coaching, is how can you get your young men to focus and concentrate on what's important now," Willingham said. "To do that, you really have to count on not only the leadership of your coaches, but the leadership of your players. They have to understand what's important."

The Scarlet Knights use a two-pronged backfield of Markus Facyson and Clarence Pittman. Facyson leads the team in rushing with 408 yards on 108 attempts and a touchdown.

Rutgers has also used different combinations of quarterbacks extensively this season. Ted Trump leads the team in passing yards, while Ryan Cubit has started more games. Yet the Irish will likely see true freshman Ryan Harti, who he the Midshipmen.

The freshman has two touchdowns and three interceptions on the season.

Meanwhile Notre Dame hopes to hold on to the football and move the ball effectively on offense. In their last two games, the Irish have fumbled a combined 11 times, including seven fumbles in their 14-7 loss to Boston College.

"That is just handed down from coach Willingham. It's his decision," Black told the Tribune. "I don't think he wants people to do that and he wants to set a precedent and obviously he's using me as the example."

The game kicks off at 1 p.m.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

ND SOCCER

NCAA Tournament time continues for Irish

Mens team looks to avoid letdown, rematch with Akron

By BRYAN KRONK
Sports Writer

Few were surprised Monday when Notre Dame's name was announced as a part of the 48-team NCAA Tournament field for men's soccer.

What may have surprised some, however, was the opponent, an Akron team that has faced Notre Dame twice this season and lost both games by a combined score of 6-0.

"I don't think they're going to be scared," said Black. "They're the No. 1 team, and we're supposed to be the big underdogs. We might have struggled a little during the season, but I don't think they understand how good we really are."

"We know we're physically tough," Black said. "We just need to go in there mentally tough. Even if there are tough times against Stanford, we can't break down."

Despite losing two games to the Irish, Akron is not counting itself out of the tournament.

"It's hard to face the No. 1 team, but right now we have the advantage. We just can't make the little mistakes because that is what has killed us all season.

"After last weekend's pair of 3-0 home victories over Ohio State and Purdue in the opening rounds of the tournament, the Irish will now be facing their toughest test of the season. The Cardinal has allowed only four goals in the past eight games on the season..."

Irish running back Ryan Grant tries to elude two Navy tacklers in Notre Dame's last game. The Irish host 1-9 Rutgers Saturday.

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Seniors relish return to glory

The Irish charge out of the tunnel wearing green jerseys before Notre Dame's game against Boston College three weeks ago. This season has been a redemption for a senior class that endured two losing seasons in three years.

The fifth-year seniors had every right to jump ship. Could you blame them if they did? This was the class that suffered through two losing seasons with sub-.500 records. The class that had as many head coaches as winning seasons. The class that came in with loads of potential and hadn't seen it manifest on the football field. Notre Dame's senior class had motive and opportunity. All they needed to do was run away from Notre Dame, away from the scribes who would write off their years under the Golden Dome as a giant disappointment, away from the shadows of Beckne and Leahy, away from the black stain on Notre Dame's football program. But they stayed. And by staying, they became legends. They'll admit it. Mary of Notre Dame's fifth-year seniors toyed with the idea of leaving Notre Dame for the NFL, for real life, for anywhere where their every move wouldn't be analyzed under a microscope. But they stayed. Their individual reasons for why they stayed are different. Shane Walton didn't think he was ready for the NFL. Arnaz Battle had yet to establish himself as a punt protector. Ryan Roberts couldn't wait to start. The Irish seniors had their individual reasons for sticking around. They also had a legacy to leave behind. Few will admit it, but the prospect of being remembered as playing during an era best described as decidedly Faustian wasn't exactly how the seniors wanted to leave. "I didn't expect to have any losing seasons coming to Notre Dame." Jordan Black said. "I expected to win a national championship. I thought that was very possible with the recruiting class that I was in." They had dreams of winning a national title, of proving that Notre Dame could still compete with the nation's elite programs. They wanted to walk out with their heads held high knowing they left behind a program in stable hands. And they will. Ask a Notre Dame die-hard the significance of 1993. They'll start bragging about how Ara Parseghian magically turned the Irish program around. Talk to those around campus in 1993 and they'll say how great it was to be around a national championship race. Now, the 2002 version of the Irish football team is writing chapters in history one Saturday at a time. And the seniors love it. Say all you want about the dramatic turnaround Tyrone Willingham created this year, but the Irish seniors believe the first to say the Irish wouldn't be 9-1 without the senior class. He didn't even name captains, choosing instead to place the burden of leadership on the entire team instead of on four individuals. When a new head coach comes in, he often ignores the seniors and focuses on rebuilding the program's freshman and sophomore classes. But Willingham didn't scold Notre Dame's seniors. He called on them for their leadership, asked for their respect and offered them the chance to return to greatness. It was a chance they grabbed. "As a senior, you don't want the year of a new coach to be a rebuilding year," Ryan Roberts said. "We knew from the first workouts this was going to be a different kind of deal." Did the Irish worry about their place in history? Not too often. mostly because they already knew they were only going to receive a few lines in the media guides instead of pages devoted to great teams. Not many will admit it, but the uncertainty was there. It was there in winter workouts. It was there in spring practice. It was there over the summer, and it was there on media day. The Irish said they were headed for a huge turnaround. Few heard them. Fewer believed them. In fact, even as the Irish claimed they could contend for a national championship, they weren't too sure themselves whether this year would be different from the rest. But they blew out Maryland. Edged Michigan. Rallied to beat Michigan State. Crushed Florida State. Secured their place in history. "We've had so many losing seasons, thinking about losing wouldn't have done us any good," Gerome Sapp said. Now, instead of being remembered as the forgotten seniors, this year's class will be seen as the catalyst for an Irish return to glory. Now, instead of being compared to the 1993 team, considered by many to be the last time Notre Dame challenged for a national title, the 2002 Irish will be looked at as the first group of many to challenge for a title. Now, instead of wondering whether they'd ever make an impact, the Irish will gradually feel their sting under the Dome had tremendous significance. Now, the seniors know what pride feels like. The views in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.

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**QUOTING THE IRISH**

"If we win out and win a bowl game, this is going to be one of the great teams in Notre Dame history."  
**Jordan Black**  
offensive tackle

"Every year ... I'm 100 percent proud of, and I just want to finish it up with a great season like we have been doing."  
**Chris Yura**  
punt protector

"It was a hard year last year. This year we returned to Notre Dame football."  
**Sean Mahan**  
offensive guard

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**The Observer ★ IRISH INSIDER**
Friday, November 22, 2002

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Gerome Sapp

Taking control

Sapp may play defensive back, but the defense he calls his own calls him the quarterback.

By KATIE McVOY
Associate Sports Editor

Sitting at home in front of the television was exhuastng. He even thought about turning the game off, but he knew he couldn’t do that. Instead, he turned down the sound to avoid having to listen to the announcers and put on soothing music. There was pain, but it wasn’t the pain that came from his injured knee.

The defense, his defense, was struggling against a weaker team and there was nothing he could do about it. Gerome Sapp could only describe watching the close Irish victory against the Michigan defense on his television instead of on the field with one word.

"It was torture," he said.

Playing strong

"For Sapp and his fellow members of the secondary, football isn’t so much a job as a walk in the park, or rather, a walk on the playground. Coaches will argue that individually, the Irish secondary players may not hold a candle to some of football’s defensive greats, but together, they’re dynamite. “I’ve been around better careers individually, I’ve been around better safeties individually,” Baer said. “But I’m not sure I’ve been around a better group or a group who likes to play the way they play as a group.”

The way Sapp describes it, when he plays with corners Vontez Duff and Walton and fellow safety Glenn Earl. It’s not a really a purely professional relationship. He feels more like he’s teaching around the pigskin with his brothers.

“It’s kind of like we’re out there playing on the playground,” Sapp said. “When you think back to high school and play with that mentality when it’s fun, it’s more much effective because you’re not really afraid of making mistakes and things like that. We all know each other so well — Silas, Vontez, Glenn — that we have fun playing as a team.”

But once game time hits, there no room putting away their jump ropes, hugging of the teeter-totter and focusing. “It’s natural,” Sapp said. “We can have a good time and we play well in a game. … Once it’s game time, it’s all ball and it’s all business. When the game’s over, it’s all laughs.

Making sure it’s all ball and all business is something Sapp prides himself on.

Playing quarterback

"He’s the quarterback back there in the secondary,” Baer said. “That’s good because of all the adjustments we have to make on almost every snap.”

Coaches and players don’t seem so shocked by comparing Sapp to an offensive player. After all, he’s the signal caller for the secondary. He watches out for the time-up, he checks for any adjustments that have to be made. It’s his quarterback.

“IT’s very vocal and instrumental in getting people lined up,” Baer said. “[Quarterback] is a pretty accurate characterization.”

"He also provides great leadership,” added coach Tyrone Willingham. “He’s very much experience with injury. In fact, I’m not sure I’ve been around a better group or a group who likes to play the way they play as a group.”

Playing tag

For Sapp the Irish secondary under his leadership of the Irish secondary under his belt.

Irish safety Gerome Sapp, the so-called quarterback of the Irish defense, has taken the leadership of the Irish secondary under his belt.

With a new coaching staff, taking that definitive leadership role was a little easier for the Texas native. They had no preconceived ideas about the past, they were only looking to the future. Sapp saw himself as part of that future.

“They know nothing of me. They knew some, but really nothing,” he said. “All they wanted to know was what can you do for the future. They didn’t care about the past. So I felt my leadership qualities would come out even more.”

Now, even with an injury, the secondary’s quarterback is pretty sure when he leaves things will be OK.

“Even when I leave, I’m leaving things in good hands,” he said.

The next time he has to watch a Notre Dame football game on television, maybe it won’t be so hard.

Contact Katie McVoy at mcvoy569@stmarys.edu

Irish safety Gerome Sapp, the so-called quarterback of the Irish defense, has taken the leadership of the Irish secondary under his belt.
Moving from an earthquake to a rumble

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Carlos Pierre-Antoine's arrival at Notre Dame caused an earthquake. His departure will barely make a tremor.

W h a t happened to cause one of the most heavily recruited high school athletes to essentially become a four-year special teams player, Pierre-Antoine doesn't know. He only understands that he tried his hardest to get behind his teammates. "I want to play, but you have to do whatever the coaches think is best, and what the coaches thought was best was for me to get behind my teammates."

Coming out of high school in Seattle, virtually every major recruiting service listed Pierre-Antoine as one of the top linebackers in the nation. He earned MVP honors in the Seattle Metro League twice, captained his team twice, and finished with 105 tackles his senior year.

When the Irish landed Pierre-Antoine, he was seen as one of the crown jewels in a recruiting class that eventually produced seven NFL draft picks. But even as NFL teams placed calls to his classmates last spring, Pierre-Antoine ferociously battled to earn a starting spot.

At times, Pierre-Antoine admitted the hype got to him and affected his adjustment to college life, a decision he hopes would prepare him for future greatness.

The decision appeared to pay off his sophomore year when he appeared on defense in all 12 of Notre Dame's games, recording a career-high 19 tackles that season.

But Pierre-Antoine started to feel the pressure the spring after his sophomore season, when he battled his good friend Tyreo Harrison for a starting linebacker job -- a decision Pierre-Antoine thinks was already made before the spring.

"I think he was going to start anyway, they were just doing that to get him fired up," he said. "So I'd try to help him out as best I could, that was my role."

That spring seemed to be the defining point in Pierre-Antoine's career, a point that epitomized the struggle he went through trying to carve out a role on the team. Harrison moved into the starting lineup, while Pierre-Antoine moved to the special teams unit.

He had another chance this fall to earn a starting position again, but Derek Curry beat out Pierre-Antoine, sending the fifth-year senior back to the special teams unit.

Pierre-Antoine isn't bitter toward Bob Davie's coaching staff for keeping him on the sidelines, nor is he bitter toward Tyrone Willingham's staff for deciding to keep him there again. Although he briefly thought of transferring, he wanted to stay in South Bend to get a Notre Dame degree. In the meantime, he was left wondering why he stayed on the sideline.

"I don't know what it was," he said. "I guess its that the coaches felt the other person can get the job done better than I can."

Notre Dame's success this season has made Pierre-Antoine's season go a little easier. He gets his satisfaction in small bursts, mostly from making huge hits on special teams.

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McNair learning to stop running, start blocking

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

USA Today's first team prep All-American. Rated in the Top 20 players in the nation by the Chicago Sun-Times. Rated in the Top 50 players in the nation by The Sporting News. School record 2671 yards rushing and 33 touchdowns for California football powerhouse Mater Dei as a senior. A 10.55 time in the 100 meters and 4.36 in the 40-yard dash — top 10 national times for both distances.

Those were the stats, records and honors earned by Irish fullback Mike McNair during his senior year of high school — as a fullback.

But when McNair arrived as a freshman at Notre Dame, former Irish coach Bob Davie decided to try to take advantage of his size and growth potential and moved the talented runner to fullback.

It was a difficult change, and one that took longer than either player or coach had hoped.

"It was pretty tough, because I had never blocked in high school," McNair said. "I was mostly used to just carrying the ball. I had to really develop my blocking over the years."

The southern California speedster worked to gain weight to bulk up to the size of a fullback and tried to learn the blocking skills and techniques of the position.

"When I first gained a lot of weight, I didn't really lose a lot of speed, but I felt kind of tight and restricted," McNair said.

But McNair managed the switch and played most of his freshman season as a blocking back in short-yardage situations.

Then injuries took their toll — McNair played only one game of his sophomore season before suffering an arch injury that kept him out the rest of the year.

Then, as a junior, McNair saw action as a backup in six games, but missed two trips and some playing time, this time with a hip flexor injury.

In fact, it wasn't until the Navy game last season that McNair — the record setting high school tailback — got his first carries for the Irish, three for 15 yards against Navy.

So when new coach Tyrone Willingham and his almost completely revamped staff came in last season, McNair, who had a fifth year of eligibility remaining, saw it as an opportunity for new life in his last year.

"With the new coaching staff, I saw it as an opportunity to end my time here on a good note, and just give it one last shot to see if I could have some fun," McNair said.

But McNair, who along with the other members of his class had witnessed some tough times with the Irish, including two losing seasons, a 41-9 Fiesta Bowl loss to Oregon State and Notre Dame's first 0-3 start last year, this season has been one of redemption.

In addition to Notre Dame's 9-1 start, McNair has seen increased playing time, including appearances in all 10 games and his first career reception against Stanford.

"I think this year is great," McNair said. "It's a great team to be a part of with some realty great guys. We've done some good things, and I'm definitely happy about how things have gone so far. It's been a lot more fun for me this year."

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Mike McNair came into Notre Dame as a highly touted running back. He spent most of his career blocking so someone else could run the ball.

Lopienski happy to do the team's dirty work

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Most football fans notice Notre Dame fullback Tom Lopienski when he doesn't do his job instead of when he does. But two weeks ago, the senior's name was announced for doing something good, and it wasn't just throwing a block.

Unfortunately, Lopienski wasn't able to enjoy his first career-rushing touchdown as much as he should have. Lopienski's touchdown put the Irish ahead 9-7 in the second quarter against lowly Navy.

"During that game, things weren't going too well so I was more mad throughout the whole game," Lopienski said. "Things weren't going so well for the team so I was more focused on that than the touchdown being a big thing for me."

Even though the Irish were able to pull out the 30-23 victory, Lopienski hasn't focused on his moment in the sun.

"I just keep on working hard," he said. "I block, and to score a touchdown is a perk, but I am just as happy to throw a good block and let (Irish running back) Ryan Grant or somebody else score.""}

The fullback's role on offense is to open holes for the running backs, block blitzing defenders and, basically, help the offensive line do its job. Lopienski, who has been watching the fullback and concentrating on him every play doesn't necessarily reveal if he is playing well.

"Basically, it is like an offensive lineman, if you just focus on that player during the game, it's pretty hard to tell if they are doing their job," Lopienski said. "Any time you get in the open field and you can see the fullback making a block for the tailback then you can tell he is doing a good job."

The change to the pro-style offense brought by Irish coach Tyrone Willingham and his coaching staff hasn't resulted in a big change in Lopienski's role.

"I am getting the ball maybe a couple times more, but basically it is just blocking and I have no problem with that," Lopienski said.

Coming from Walsh Jesuit High School in Ohio, Lopienski had scholarship offers from Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State. The Parade prep All-American was rated as one of the top 100 high school players nationally by The Sporting News, Chicago Sun-Times and Dallas Morning News.

However, seeing his older sister Sarah run track for the Irish and knowing his dad Tom was a cornerback for the Irish in the '70s made Lopienski's decision easier.

"My dad came here and my sister came here who ran track here although she got scholarship opportunities to run elsewhere," Lopienski said. "I followed her pretty much, you know the big sister — go with her."

"Notre Dame has a good football tradition and I thought it was the best choice."

Although he has played in every game in which he has been eligible, what Lopienski will remember most won't be the plays on the field.

"I would say the friendships on the team stick out the most and is what I will remember the most with the guys on the team, the guys in my class the year before," Lopienski said. "I have great memories of joking around, winning games and losing games you don't remember too much about that."

"You just remember the good times you had with your teammates."

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## CHRIS YURA

Fullback makes best of what’s given to him

by BRYAN KRONK
Sports Writer

Chris Yura has made the most of the opportunities that have been given to him. Even before he began breaking state record after state record as a running back in his hometown of Morgantown, W. Va., Yura knew where he would spend his college years.

“When I first came here, I came to football camp,” Yura said. “After I saw the traditions, like Touchdown Jesus, it was just like, ‘Wow.’ And I couldn’t say. I would have loved to have the opportunity to come to a place like this and play football. It’s just amazing.”

In his final year of eligibility, Yura made contributions to both special teams and the Irish offense, earning a rushing attempt during this year’s game with Air Force. In addition to the rush at Air Force, Yura also made a special teams tackle that game.

Although he has seen only limited action this season, Yura said he has no regrets about not making a special teams tackle during this year’s game that game. It’s hard to walk away from the rush at Air Force. In addition to the rush at Air Force, Yura also made a special teams tackle that game.

Every year and every thing I’ve done here, I’m 100 percent proud of, and I just want to finish it up with a great season like we have been doing,” Yura said. “I’m proud of being here, just being able to experience the football part of Notre Dame has been awesome.” Yura said. “The whole Notre Dame experience has been such a gift. I feel like I’m the luckiest guy in the world to have the opportunity to come to a place like this and play football. It’s just amazing.”

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Although he has seen only limited action this season, Yura said he has no regrets about not being able to contribute more. “Every year and every thing I’ve done here, I’m 100 percent proud of, and I just want to finish it up with a great season like we have been doing,” Yura said. “Having been part of the Notre Dame tradition for his four years in college, Yura will look back on his time at Notre Dame as a special time in his life. After this season is over, he will move on from the Irish sidelines and take with him the lessons that those four years as a part of the Irish football team — as well as part of a greater Notre Dame “team” — taught him.

“The work ethic — hard work, commitment — just the Notre Dame experience — is the one thing I’ll be taking with me,” Yura said. “I’ve been with a great group of guys, and with excellent students ... just the whole combination is a great thing to take away.”

While his future remains uncertain, Yura will still keep a place in his heart for the Irish long after his playing days at Notre Dame are over.

“I think the thing I’ll miss most about Notre Dame is my teammates,” Yura said. “A lot of these guys ... you’re with them all the time, you kind of grow to be like family. It’s such a close knit group. I think it’s going to be hard stepping out of it and not bring a part of the team anymore. You grow so close, and it creates a bond just with the hard work you go through. It’s hard to walk away from it.”

### Special Teams Contributions

Yura spent much of his Notre Dame career playing special teams, making a few rushing attempts, most notably on a fake field goal in 2000 against Boston College. Yura’s 4-yard run on fourth-and-2 gave the Irish a key first down in the game, which the Irish went on to win.

Despite not seeing much action at running back, Yura still relished his time here at Notre Dame and his ability to make contributions to the Irish effort.

“Just being here, just being able to experience the football part of Notre Dame has been awesome,” Yura said. “The whole Notre Dame experience has been such a gift. I feel like I’m the luckiest guy in the world to have the opportunity to come to a place like this and play football. It’s just amazing.”

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The Observer • IRISH INSIDER Friday, November 22, 2002
DAVID MILLER

Free-spirited Miller carves spot as holder

By HELENA PAYNE
Sponsor Writer

David Miller grew up minutes away from Irish territory, was recruited in 1998 to kick and return kicks, and permanently obtained the coveted starter's position.

But things happen for a reason. "I would obviously love to kick, but I would never change the fact that now I'm playing," said Miller who is finishing his fourth year of eligibility as a holder and backup kicker with the Irish. "All I want to do in my last year is win."

When Miller entered Notre Dame as a freshman, he had grown accustomed to winning. As the kicker and punter for Penn High School in Mishawaka, he contributed to three consecutive state championship teams from 1995 to 1997.

"The thing that sticks out most about David is that the more crucial the situation the better he performed," said Penn football coach Chris Geesman.

But more than Miller's composure caught the Geesman's eye. "He was a free spirit," Geesman said, adding that Miller would dye his hair different colors and often painted his nails gold.

Even now, Miller describes himself as an independent thinker who is very opinionated. "It's tough for people to get in an argument with me," he said.

Geesman said it was Miller's self-confidence that made him an outstanding football player. "He's what I consider the typical kicker," he said. "He was a little eccentric but very, very good."

Early in Miller's Notre Dame career, he sprang into the spotlight at a time when kicker Jim Sanson missed several attempts and the crowd was responding by crossing their fingers in the air.

Against Arizona State in 1999, Miller made 6 of 7 extra points, with the lone miss coming on a blocked kick. That same year, Miller made field goals of 26 and 33 yards against USC and totaled 19 points for the season.

Although Miller had his moment to shine, Sanson returned to the starter position, and, in the following season, Miller faced the competition of another teammate, senior Nicholas Setta.

That year, Miller kicked off during the Navy and Rutgers games but did not play during 2001.

Now, Miller works as the holder for the Irish. And despite the kicking games' inconsistencies this season, Miller is proud of his teammates' perseverance.

"We've had some tough times," Miller said. "It'd be easy for a lot of guys to leave, but this whole senior class, we've stuck around and finally fought through it."

He added that playing under coach Tyrone Willingham has revitalized the team's sense of pride. "Now, you expect the best out of everybody," he said.

The 5-14, 210-pound Miller graduated with the class of 2002 as a psychology major with a 3.33. In his fifth year, he is taking graduate classes in psychology in preparation for a job or internship, and later, a graduate studies program.

Miller calls music one of his "biggest loves," owns hundreds of CDs and enjoys listening to the lyrics of rock groups like Metallica, RAGE Against the Machine and Korn among others.

He gets pumped up before games to the sounds of Korn's "Here to Stay," said he anticipates an emotional last home game against Rutgers. "It feels like I've been here forever," he said.

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JORDAN BLACK

Hookin’ ‘em Longhorn style

Black turned down Texas to come north and win with the Irish

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sport Editor

When Texas native Jordan Black turned down offers to play college football for in-state giants Texas and Texas A&M. and instead selected to head north of the middle, the Dixon line to play for Notre Dame, he experienced to be a part of many great teams for the Irish.

He didn’t expect it to take four years to develop. "I didn’t expect to have any losing seasons coming to Notre Dame," Black said. "I expected to win a national championship. I thought that was very possible with the recruiting class that I was in."

But four years after stepping onto campus, the senior offensive tackle knew he couldn’t leave South Bend — knew he couldn’t leave one of the greatest college football programs of all time — without leaving a mark.

"Everybody has a goal of winning a national championship, or as in my case, to just be a part of a winning team," Black said. "Last year, we didn’t do so hot, and I didn’t want to go out on that note. So I came back."

Black decided to take advantage of his fifth year of eligibility and returned for one last run with the Irish. Now, 10 games into a dream season, the fifth-year senior and the rest of his classmates have finally have their chance to contribute to Irish lore. They have a chance to go down in history as another great Notre Dame football team.

"If we win out and win a bowl game, this is going to be one of the great teams in Notre Dame history," Black said with pride certainty. "We’re one game short of being able to play in the national championship."

I think this is going to be remembered just like the ’93 team. We had the one bad game against Oklahoma, but other than that, this team will be considered a very special team.

The player

Few teams have the luxury of seeing five seniors start on the offensive line. But if the Irish line is experienced, Black is a grizzled veteran. Entering this season, Black ranked 11th in the nation in starts by a lineman with 32, and he is now up to 42.

Over that span, Black can see how much he has matured and grown as a lineman from the time of his first start as a sophomore in the first game of the1999 season against Kansas.

"It’s night and day. If you go back to my sophomore year, you can tell that I’m a kid," Black said. "It’s funny to go back and look at. But I think now, it’s pretty obvious that I’ve got some games under my belt, and I’ve just got a better feel for the game. I think you can just see more maturity in the way that I play."

Now Black is one of the dominating tackles in the game, using a combination of talent and experience to lead the Irish line.

"I think Jordan — physical-skills wise — is as gifted as anybody I’ve ever worked with," Irish offensive line coach Mike Denbrock said. "But he’s also a smart football player."

Black uses what he’s learned from his four years as a starter, and brings it with him to every game. Some of the coaches relate it to having another coach on the field out of the playbook.

"He understands the game, does a good job of communicating with me on the oddities about the kind of things that are happening while they’re out there on the field," Denbrock said.

"A lot of that is having experience and playing so much and having the game experience that you do have. But a lot of it, too, is instinctive, and it’s just something that he brings to the table."

The leader

Even a squad that starts five seniors along the offensive line needs someone to look to for leadership. While it’s nice to have the wisdom of being with a team for four years, age can mean very little without playing experience.

"Game experience is invaluable. There’s no substitute for it," Black said.

In that respect, Black has been the center-setter for the Irish, starting in almost every game during his career, a nearly flawless combination of protection that receives so much weight-and-terf. After sitting out his entire freshman year, Black started every game but two. He missed two games at the end of his sophomore season when he suffered a torn medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

Now, in his fourth year as a starter, Black tries to share everything that he’s learned from 42 games on the gridiron.

"Leadership-wise, I think it’s somebody that the guys on our team really look to and try to be like, not only in the way that he approaches the game, but in the way he studies it and prepares himself to be ready every week," Denbrock said.

Even though many of those players he has been expected to lead are peers and classmates, Black has had no problem accepting that role.

"Regardless of whether they look to me for leadership or not, it’s my responsibility to demonstrate leadership — hopefully, I do that," Black said. "But the same time ... we’re all old and experienced guys, and it’s just fun to go out there and play with a group that’s so close."

The Texas

As one of the top offensive linemen in the nation coming out of Dallas Christian High School, it seemed almost automatic that Black would stay in state and become an Aggie or Longhorn. So Black committed Texas football suicide when he pulled the wool over the eyes of Texas and headed north for Notre Dame.

"It’s hardly acceptable when Texas players leave for the SEC or other Big XII schools, so it’s equitable with reason when one leaves to play for a northern school."

"A lot of people were unhappy — especially in the media — when I decided to go to Notre Dame," Black said. "Everybody thinks, ‘Jordan Black, he’s a traitor.’ But at the time I wasn’t really impressed with Texas or Texas A&M."

Black eluded the lure of the then newly-hired Texas coach Mack Brown, who is often considered the top recruiter in college football.

"Mack Brown, though, when he got hired, he almost talked me into going to [Texas]," Black said. "But Notre Dame was too big of a deal to pass up, so that’s why I came here."

For four years, all those naysayers and second-guessers had been able to criticize Black for leaving his home state behind. But now, as the Irish sit at No. 8 in the nation, just two wins away from a BCS bowl berth and a few strategic losses by the right teams away from the national championship game, Black knows it was the right decision.

"I’m happy about what we’ve accomplished this year," he said. "I couldn’t ask for anything more."

And it’s no surprise Black already has one team he’d love to play in a bowl game.

"Oh man, that’s got to be Texas," he quickly responds with a devilish grin. "I would love to play them."

The end

After four seasons of disappointment in which Black witnessed the Irish go a combined 28-19, including two losing seasons, the 41-9 debacle in the 2001 Fiesta Bowl and the program’s first 0-3 start last season, he is finally enjoying the type of season for which he told all those Texas coaches to keep their scholarships.

"We had a couple of bad years," Black said. "We did make it to the Fiesta Bowl, but in retrospect, that was kind of an embarrassment what happened to us there. But considering how this year has been, it’s been totally worth it."

And now, Black and his Irish teammates — especially those senior classmates that have seen the worst days — are basking in the good times.

After four years that seemed to last an eternity, he can’t make this final one last long enough. "It’s unbelievable, coming back from the Florida State game at the airport, there’s people there waiting to cheer us on," Black said. "There’s 500 people waiting at the stadium for us when we get back. That’s just something I haven’t experienced. I’m trying to just soak up as much as I can before I leave here."

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Orphaned, but not alone

After losing both parents, Mahan found support in friends and family.

By KATIE McVOY
Associate Sports Editor

Sean Mahan lived the life of an All-American boy. He grew up in a comfortable neighborhood in Tulsa, Okla. with his parents and older sister. He played baseball and basketball and wrestled. His first love was football and he was good at it. He was just the boy next door.

Then his whole life changed.

During the summer of 1996, right before Mahan entered his junior year in high school, a year during which his football team would win a state championship, Mahan’s father passed away. Just two years later, in October of his freshman year at Notre Dame, his mother lost her long battle with cancer and left Mahan an orphan.

“It has been very difficult,” Mahan said. “It’s something you never expect as a teenager or a child — to lose your parents.

By his sophomore year in high school, Mahan seemed to have it pretty much figured out. He had earned a starting spot on Jenks High School football team, a team that did not allow a sack in all three years that Mahan started. He played football with a team of all-stars, including last year’s Dick Butkus Award winner Rocky Caltius. By his senior year, Mahan had two state championships under his belt.

His father would not be able to watch those wins. Michael Mahan, a 1964 graduate of Notre Dame, fell victim to a heart attack in the summer of 1996.

With his decision about college just around the college, his father would not be able to watch those wins. Michael Mahan, a 1964 graduate of Notre Dame, fell victim to a heart attack in the summer of 1996.

“I definitely thought about it,” Mahan said. “It was definitely in the back of my mind. I talked about it with my mom and she just wanted to make sure that whatever decision I made I was happy with it.”

Mahan, new about the Notre Dame legacy and his father’s role in the back of his mind, but he wanted to keep his mind open.

When I was being recruited by schools, I wanted to make sure and have an open door policy with everyone recruiting me,” he said. “I wanted to see where everyone checked every place out to make sure I made the right decision.”

Even with just his mother around to talk him through his decision, Mahan knew that both of his parents would have been proud of whatever path he chose.

“They both would have supported me with whatever decision I made,” Mahan said. “When it came down to whether it was the legacy of his sister, his father and his uncle attending Notre Dame or whether it was just a feeling, Mahan chose Notre Dame.

“Everything just weighed in and it felt like the right place for me,” Mahan said.

Mahan knew he was choosing Notre Dame for the football, for the tradition and for the academics. He didn’t know he was choosing a support system.

Halfway through his freshman season, which he sat out to preserve a year of eligibility, Mahan received a disturbing phone call from home. His mother, who had battled with cancer when Mahan was younger, had undergone surgery to correct a brain clot.

The surgery was successful, but Mahan’s mother has passed away unexpectedly following the surgery.

“She had cancer when I was younger,” Mahan said. “But she had diabetes and her body just started to fall apart.”

Mahan was not alone when he received that phone call. The first line of his support system was there when Mahan’s sister, Lisa, told him that they had lost another person.

“I was actually there when she got the phone call,” Black said. “And that was a hard thing to sit there and hear him listen to his sister telling him what happened. That was just really tough.”

After he got the news, Mahan wasn’t sure he was even going to stay at Notre Dame. The shock of losing both parents was something that could have sent any man back home. But, in choosing Notre Dame, Mahan had unexpectedly fallen upon a support system that would help carry him through the hardest times in his life.

“I was living in Sacred Heart at the time and I had a bunch of friends living in the dorm that were very supportive,” Mahan said. “And my friends on the team — Jordan Black, Mike McNair — they were very supportive, always helped me. When it first happened, I didn’t know if I was going to come back, but they were so supportive that I wanted to come back and finish what I started.”

Mahan stayed four more years.

But the five years Mahan spent at Notre Dame felt like a lot longer for a young man who had to learn to cope with more than just bad football games.

“I came in 1996. It feels like it was 20 years ago,” Mahan said. “I’ve been here for half a decade.”

But five years have found Mahan with more than just football statistics. A half a decade of football and a tragedy that no one expects to face left Mahan with friends that he didn’t exactly bargain for when he came to Notre Dame to face off against opposing defensive lines.

“I think when something like [death] happens, everybody tries to get as close as they can to him and help him out,” Black said. “I think the team responded and was there for him when he needed us.”

In return, Mahan has brought a sense of strength to the offensive line. He has overcome major obstacles and continues to overcome the smallest obstacles of day-to-day life.

“There are always two people I dedicate games to. Every game is dedicated to them.”

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Halvorson hits the books and then the field

By MARK ZAVODNYIK
Sports Writer

Jason Halvorson didn’t come to Notre Dame to play football. The walk-on senior defensive lineman from Burnsville, Minn., arrived at Notre Dame to focus on academics.

"I came to Notre Dame because it’s a great academic institution, and I figured my football days were over," Halvorson said.

Halvorson spent his inaugural football season at Notre Dame in the student section like most undergrads. However after experiencing the aura and tradition of Notre Dame football from the stands, Halvorson knew that he needed to be a part of it on the field.

So at the end of his freshman year, Halvorson tried out at spring practice and made the squad. He has been living his dream of Notre Dame fans ever since.

From being in the locker room to being a Notre Dame football player, Halvorson has been able to live out his dreams as a Notre Dame football player.

"You get goose bumps on the back of your neck running out of the tunnel, looking out into the 80,000-people sea of green," he said. "It's exhilarating."

This season Halvorson was on the sidelines for every home and away game. All of the hard work paid off when Halvorson got into the action for a victory against Michigan State. For Halvorson, that game was the most exciting of his career.

"It's exhilarating," Halvorson said. "We are trying everyday to achieve those standards that he set for us."

This season has been highlighted for the Irish by a win over Florida State. Halvorson, that game was the most exciting of his career.

"It was a riot to go down there and beat them at home," Halvorson said.

But the world doesn’t end with football for Halvorson, who has bigger plans in state after graduation.

The science pre-professional major plans to attend medical school next year. Despite his difficult class schedule and lofty expectations, Halvorson said the opportunity to be a part of the Notre Dame football team has been worth juggling his responsibilities.

"It’s hard, it hasn’t been easy, but at the same time it has been really rewarding," he said.

As he approaches his final two games as a Notre Dame football player, Halvorson will be forced to look back at his career and think about how far he has come. In the end, he’ll be able to say that he was a member of one of the most tradition-rich teams in all of collegiate athletics.

"It’s fun just to be a part of it," Halvorson said. "To say that you are a part of something truly bigger than yourself."

Irish walk-on Jason Halvorson watches the Irish from the sideline during their close victory against Michigan State.
Playing for pride

Walton started football to make his coach proud — his soccer coach, that is

By JOE HETTLER
Associate Sports Editor

Throughout his football career, Irish cornerback Shane Walton found the drive to make late Notre Dame soccer coach Mike Berticelli proud.

"It's safe to say Walton has done a good job of that," Berticelli said.

Walton waited his turn and used one of his biggest assets — his work ethic — to put himself in a position to start in 2000. He also added weight to his then 175-pound frame.

"I basically had to change my body, the structure of my body from a soccer player to a football player," Walton said.

"Football is a lot of burst, so I had to put about 10 pounds on. I think starting and being successful is a tribute to my work ethic. I believe anyone can do anything they want to do. It's just a matter of how hard you're going to work to attain that goal."

In 2000, Walton recorded 31 solo tackles and assisted on nine others. One of the highlights of the season for Walton occurred when he intercepted Purdue's Drew Brees and returned the ball 60 yards for a touchdown in Notre Dame's 25-23 victory.

Shane Walton always wanted to make his coach proud.

Walton started football to make his coach proud.

Walton kept working, kept changing quickly. "I think I've been in so many controversy and rape accusations aimed at four players. Although the obstacles, Walton kept working, kept improving and kept his focus on helping the 2002 Irish football team.

He knew things could change quickly. "I'm not too big on the individual, but for the team I definitely expected this (success this season)," Walton said.

"You look at some of the games we lost last year ... I knew we had talent, it was just a matter of bringing it all together," Walton said.

New coach Tyrone Willingham brought all that talent together this season as the Irish sit on a 9-1 record heading into the seniors' last home game of their careers. Much of Notre Dame's success this season has been attributed to the defense, particularly a devastating secondary that has made big plays all year, and Walton has had a hand in his fair share of those game-turning plays.

He picked off three passes against Maryland in Notre Dame's 22-0 season-opening win. He came back two weeks later and broke up a potential game-tying 2-point conversion against Michigan, then sealed the upset win by intercepting Wolverine quarterback John Navarre late in the game.

Walton also recovered a fumble and forced another in the 25-23 victory.

With the Irish offense struggling three weeks later against Stanford, Walton had an 18-yard interception return for a touchdown against the Cardinal and also served as a game-day captain.

Against Air Force, Walton had another interception and recorded four tackles against the talented Falcon option attack.

In arguably Notre Dame's biggest game of the season at Florida State, Walton shined, recording a career-high nine tackles and breaking up three passes while again serving as a captain.

Walton attributes his knack for big plays to playing in important games throughout his life. He also credits the coaching staff for putting him in a position to be a playmaker.

"I think I've been in so many big games in my career in both soccer and football," Walton said. "I've been in so many big games where I knew the pressure doesn't really get to me, and I'm able to come through."

"I believe a lot of being in a position to make plays is game planning by the coach, es," he added. "They let me know what's going to happen, and if I'm able to pick up on that, I'm able to be in the right spot and make a play."

With his senior season almost over, Walton knows NFL teams will be looking at him as a high round draft pick. ESPN's Mel Kiper recently projected Walton to go as high as the late second round. But Walton isn't concerned about that just yet. He knows the Irish still have a season to finish.

"It's a dream job to go pro," Walton said. "It'd be a dream come true if that would happen, but right now I'm taking it one game at a time. That's what I think you have to do to get there."

As a leader on and off the field, it's easy to see Walton's impact on Notre Dame's 9-1 record at this point in the season. With his goals close to being reached, no one could be prouder of these accomplishments than Walton.

Except, perhaps, Berticelli.

Senior comeback Shane Walton returns an interception during an Irish loss to Boston College. Walton began his Notre Dame career as a soccer player trying to make his coach proud.
Linebacker plays football while keeping promise

By JASON McFARLEY
Sports Writer

It took Charles Hedman seven years and 100 pounds to make good on his final pledge to his father. An opportune coaching opportunity didn't hurt either.

Then Hedman's younger brother, a high school football player, was killed in a car accident in 1995. Keeping his word has been the right time, too.

"I was up until the right time, too," said Hedman, now a senior walk-on.

Making the team this fall fulfilled the promise to play college ball that he made to his dad before his death in 1995. Keeping his word has been the perfect time to live up to his word.

"I really don't think last year was much better than what I expected to do," said Hedman, who lives off-campus this year. "I realized the team was better than I thought last winter. Hedman was in fact waiting for the perfect time to live up to his promise.

"I was one of the kids scurrying around the field as a safety now delivering punishing hits as an outside linebacker on the scout team. He benches 370 pounds and squatst almost four times his body weight.

"I really the important thing is to do everything worthwhile for him. When Hedman needs extra motivation, he thinks of the years-old promise to his father.

"Playing has been better than you could expect. I wouldn't trade this for anything. If his latest promise is anything like the one he made all those years ago, expect him to make good on this one as well.

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For Novakov, Notre Dame still the only school

By LAUREN BECK
Sports Writer

When he was growing up, walk-on quarterback Dan Novakov lived every young Irish fan's dream.

Novakov, a senior from Dallas, was one of the kids wearing a Notre Dame jersey and gold pants. He actually knew the guy whose number he sported.

The number on his replica jersey was 81, and it belonged to Tim Brown, 1987 recipient of the Heisman Trophy and fellow Dallas native who Novakov's father helped recruit. Novakov met Brown and fell in love with the Irish at an early age, when his father, former Irish center Dan Novakov, Sr., brought the family to South Bend each year. Novakov was able not only to watch the games but also to go behind the scenes after every win.

"The greatest thing was meeting the locker room after the game," said Novakov. "My grandfather and Coach [Lou] Holtz were good friends. When Novakov finally played in the Cotton Bowl I went to practice ... I have autographs from those teams.

Novakov's grandfather also graduated from Notre Dame, as did two uncles, who also played football, a great uncle and a sister.

Notre Dame, and in particular Irish football, has been such a part of the Novakov family's life that it's tough to put their experience with the school's tradition into words.

"I've never really known anything else because it's always been normal to me. Growing up, I didn't really know there was any other college," Novakov said.

When he was younger, Novakov wanted to be a basketball player, but he soon realized that Notre Dame football was in the cards for him. He started playing football in junior high school and grew to like it more — enough to walk on to the Notre Dame football team and back into the locker room that captivated him as a child.

"I've never quit anything in my life," he said.

Having a father who played college football has also helped him through his four seasons playing on the scout team.

"Overall it's so much more time and so much more intense than playing in high school. It's nice having someone who has gone through it, who understands and can offer advice," he said.

Novakov, Sr. said he values his experiences with Notre Dame football and thinks his son is learning some of the same timeless lessons.

"You learn a lot more than football. You learn teamwork, how to deal with success, how to deal with failure, and how to deal with those weekly.... But really the important thing is to do your best and let the chips fall where they may," he said. "The greatest asset about Notre Dame is the people and being associated with them. The football players are really great people, good kids.

His son agreed, saying the friendships he has made with his teammates have been the biggest rewards of playing football.

"The younger Novakov carries on the family football tradition, he said this season has been a perfect way to end his experience.

"I don't think last year was much fun for anyone," he said. "So it's good to end on a good note and have a great year."

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RYAN ROBERTS

Different is good

Teammates poke fun at him about being unique, but Roberts prides himself on it

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

The atmosphere inside the tunnel before the Irish ran onto the field can best be described as a bell of electricity waiting to explode. The sky players bounce around, hopping and jumping into each other, and shouting motivational phrases to their teammates.

Ryan Roberts, different. The fifth-year defensive end plants his feet and stands tall, a wall amidst an ocean of teammates. Sure, running out of the tunnel is the big way, but being unique would rather focus on something else:

“I love the energy, but I’m the only guy not jumping,” he said. “All people think about all week is coming out of the tunnel. All I’m thinking about is that first drive.”

The fact that Roberts contains his excitement in the tunnel while his teammates enthusiastically psyche themselves up shows that Roberts isn’t your typical football player.

Trendsetter

“The only thing weird,” Gerome Sapp said with a laugh, “is the rest of the team doesn’t follow trends. He doesn’t follow the crowd. He has his own set of priorities.”

And his teammates love to point that out.

In fact, the Irish love to pick on Roberts for just about anything. When he dyes his hair red, they make fun of him. When he turns on his electric music, they make fun of him. When he talks about hanging out at a sushi bar, they make fun of him. When he shows up to class wearing a long-sleeve thermal shirt under a polo shirt, his teammates make fun of him. When he talks about soccer — a sport he played until he was a high school freshman — his teammates love to make fun of him.

“I’m his own species,” Glenn Earl said.

“You don’t pay too much attention to your teammates’ ribbing. Everything he does has a purpose. He dyed his hair because he was tired of looking like everyone else around the block, rap and pop because he likes all different kinds of music, sushi because he likes it. He doesn’t dress bad, just com fortably. And he calls soccer the best sport on earth — strong words coming from a football player.”

“I don’t do what a lot of people would expect me to do,” Roberts said. “If you sit around doing what people expect you to do, then they never really know who you are as a person.”

Roberts doesn’t try to pretend he’s something he’s not, and his teammates enjoy the flavor the fifth-year senior brings to the Irish locker room. He’s even earned a certain amount of respect for establishing himself as a different person.

“When he does something crazy, nothing surprises me anymore,” Earl said. “Everyone accepts him for who he is and it kind of makes our team a fun group.”

Gamebreaker

It seems appropriate that a guy with a different personality would get his chance on the field as a result of unusual circumstances.

Roberts had never played football until his freshman year of high school. One of his friends encouraged him to give football a try. Roberts went to football practice, skipped soccer that afternoon, and never kicked a soccer ball around in a game again.

He came to Notre Dame as a linebacker who had returned kicks and punts in high school as well as starring in a 6-foot, 220-pound soccer player to give football a try. Roberts was forced to sit and wait his turn behind established veterans Anthony Weaver and Grant Irons.

His career seemed to hit a low point this spring, that’s when Roberts needed back surgery. Doctors fused bone from his hip to bone on his spine and used four screws and two metal rods to stabilize his back.

But Roberts could have taken the year off to rehabilitate. But he decided to add the metal implants because they would accelerate the healing process, and, less than six months after surgery, Roberts was doing full-contact drills.

It was a good thing he was ready. When Irons suffered a season-ending shoulder injury, Roberts was the only guy who could take his place.

“I had been practicing my hardest, and that’s what I was preparing for,” he said. “I just was not going to let anything stop me. I had a good Virginia Tech experience, I did.”

He filled Irons’ shoes in a big way, recording a sack in his first four games, giving him confidence that he could excel at the college level.

The next season, Irons started ahead of Roberts, but another Irons injury propelled Roberts into the lineup. Playing with Weaver, who anybody available to back them up during a game, was the highlight of Roberts’ career.

“Knowing there was nobody coming in for us, pushing our hardest, knowing the other guy is going so hard, it’s great times,” he said. “I worked hard to get into that position.”

A torn MCL ended Roberts’ season three games early, but the defensive end had made a statement — he was ready to step into his own spotlight.

Walking his own path

Roberts doesn’t talk much on the field — he leaves that to his more verbose teammates. Instead, he impresses coaches and players with his quiet intensity and lead-by-example style of leadership.

“He’s playing with a metal rod in his back,” Sapp said. “If you see that and see the way he plays, that’s inspirational right there.”

Gerome Sapp
Irish safety

“People were used to me being a strong kid, but more than the next closest Irish defender. He also ranks sixth on the Irish — and first on the defensive line — with 3 sacks, four tackles for loss, two passes deflected and two forces.”

Roberts has a great time experiencing life. His teammates have a great time experiencing Roberts’ eccentricities.

And that’s just fine with Roberts. As long as he doesn’t bother anybody, he doesn’t mind doing his own thing.

“I’m a different person. I don’t follow trends, I don’t have to rant and yell,” he said. “I just come, get my job done, and I’m happy with successes any way I can get it.”

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Busy man on campus balances football, ROTC

By JOE LICANDRO
Sports Writer

Think you’re busy? Think again. Meet Ed O’Connell, the busiest man on this campus.

After waking up to the football team were not time-consum ing enough, the senior from Chica go also takes on additional responsibility as a member of the ROTC program. On a typical day, O’Connell wakes up at 5:30 in the morning for physical training with the Marine Corps Officer’s program.

From there, he heads to Lotus for weightlifting with the football team. From 9 to 2, O’Connell goes to class where he is currently finishing his degree in finance. After class, he gets ready for three grueling hours of football practice. When practice ends, he finally returns home to his off-campus apartment where he somehow has the energy to study. At about midnight, an exhausted O’Connell goes to bed so he can get up and do it all over again the very next day.

“It’s something I definitely take a lot of pride in. Both organizations have been very understanding,” O’Connell said. “The Marines know that I have football commitments in the afternoons, but it is very important for me to be out there training with them in the mornings.”

O’Connell arrived on campus four years ago as a lifelong, die-hard Irish football fan, but he never had any intention of playing football, let alone joining ROTC. Although he played offensive guard and served as the long-snapper for his high school football team, O’Connell hoped to play a different sport at Notre Dame.

“Growing up, I was always the ‘Notre Dame’ kid. Whenever Notre Dame lost, my friends always raged on me,” said O’Connell. “When I came here, I actually wanted to play baseball ... but they had too many catchers so it didn’t really work out.”

As O’Connell found out during his freshman year, sometimes life’s twists can really catch you by surprise.

“I was really just looking for something to do,” O’Connell said. “In the spring of my freshman year, there was an ad in the paper to come out and try to long-snag so I gave it a shot. My RA during my freshman year at Siegfried got me interested in ROTC at about the same time. All of the sudden, I went from doing nothing to having my day completely filled with ROTC duties and football practices.”

In the wake of last year’s disappointing 5-7 season, it would have been easy for someone with as many commitments and responsibilities as O’Connell to choose not to come back out for another year. After all, the life of a walk-on is not glamorous. But quitting and giving-up is simply not in Ed O’Connell’s nature. With the success of this year’s team, O’Connell knows he made the right decision.

“There’s a lot to be said for the guys who have stuck around and persevered,” said O’Connell. “I guess it could have been easy to jump ship and say this isn’t worth it any more. But for me, I couldn’t picture myself doing anything else. I wouldn’t change a thing.”

After initially making the team as a long-snapper, O’Connell’s role on the team has expanded over the last three years to serving as a tight end, linebacker and defensive end at times. As a second-team special teams kicker, he only suits up for all home games but has traveled to every away game.

When O’Connell graduates from Notre Dame in May, he will spend at least the next four years of his life in the United States Marine Corps and could eventually be placed in a combat situation.

“As a newly commissioned officer, they will go through at least a year of training before they go into a situation like that,” said O’Connell. “I know when I signed on the dotted line that war was a real possibility ... For me, there’s a sense of duty. The fact that I can represent what this country and the Marine Corps stands for is something I take a great deal of pride in.”

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Note: Joe Licandro is a Notre Dame student. He is not a full-time employee of the Notre Dame Athletics Department and is not compensated for his work. He is a member of the Notre Dame student body and is not an employee of the University of Notre Dame.

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Learning what it means to be tough

Battle has had struggles in football, but none as difficult as losing his brother.

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared on Nov. 1, 2002.

By ANDREW SOUKUP - The Observer

Tough for Arnaz Battle has nothing to do with a football field.

But tough isn't starting your college career working as a back-up and then finally start that first game, play arguably the game of your life, and get injured. He had a chance to show people what he could do.

On the first play from scrimmage during Notre Dame's second game of the season, against top-ranked Nebraska, Battle started scrambling and got drilled by a Cornhusker defender. The ball hit his left wrist. The next day, fans started scrambling for anatomy books to find out what a nub was, because that's the bone Battle broke.

According to Battle, the coach's approach was to have the prospect of a position change. The reason? According to Battle, the coaching staff told him that LoVecchio was likely to be the starter at quarterback. Battle didn't want to wait to get Battle back. When former head coach Bob Davie asked how the Irish reacted to Battle's injury, Davie responded, "You mean after we stopped crying?"

But attitudes started to change in a hurry. Battle sat out the season to preserve a redshirt. It didn't work. He broke a bicep. in his grandmother's basement.

"Things could be worse, that's the way I look at it," said Battle. "Death of somebody so close to you remind you that football isn't everything."

Football struggles

The fifth-year senior is used to seeing headline writers play off his last name. "But Willingham's, "Battle Back," Battle Back," it's drawn them all, and dozens more. But he knows the catchy phrase aptly captures the football career teeming with adversity.

When he arrived at Notre Dame in 1998, coaches saw him as a raw recruit. He was a member of the recruiting class and a player that would emerge as the next great Irish quarterback. Yet he was stuck playing behind the going-back-to-gquires. Battle may have been the best in the country, but he barely made it onto the field his freshman year. The one game where he was expected to play, he was benched.

The recruiting class and a player that would emerge as the next great Irish quarterback. Yet he was stuck playing behind the going-back-to-gquires. Battle may have been the best in the country, but he barely made it onto the field his freshman year. The one game where he was expected to play, he was benched.

Finally, Battle started to think about life after football. Nearly every day, he talked with his family about their support. and part of his motivation for returning to the field, he started to think about life after football.

"There's a lot of people out there who have the talent to make it to the next level, but I think you have to be in certain situations," Battle said. "I never doubted my ability, but I doubt my opportunity. I didn't know if I'd get an opportunity to show what I had."

Family first

If Battle needed inspiration, he looked in three places: God, his family and his left bicep.

After his brother drowned — an event too painful for Battle to describe in detail — Battle carried around a picture of his brother in his wallet. But after keeping his wallet, he started carrying a picture, someone suggested he get a tattoo.

In the weeks before he came to Notre Dame, Battle had his brother's face tattooed on his arm as a constant reminder of how bad things can get, as Battle is when he finally starts that first game.

"I'm going through so many tough times, and I'm able to appreciate my blessings," he said. "I can appreciate that things could be worse, and so I'm enjoying this moment. You can be high one time and low the next time, but you just have to appreciate it and live everything in the fullest."

Much like the family pulled together when Battle's brother drowned, they rallied around Battle as his football career spiraled out of control. Nearly every day, he talked with either his mother or grandmother. They told him everything would be fine, that things happen for a reason.

What that reason was, Battle still doesn't know. He's grateful to his family for their support, and part of his motivation for returning to the field, he started to think about life after football.

"I'm enjoying this moment. You can be high one time and low the next time, but you just have to appreciate it and live everything in the fullest." Battle said.

He was able to transfer his skills and that mentality to his position. he would be the young man we could count on," Willingham added. "He's really started to live up to that role."

It took time, but Battle grew increasingly confident as a receiver. Finally, everything seemed to come full circle when he caught a 60-yard game-winning touchdown pass with less than two minutes remaining against Michigan.

That catch was just the beginning. Two weeks later against Pittsburgh, Battle seemingly took over Notre Dame's only extended drive of the day, making a pair of tough catches before hauling in a tough catch in the end zone. He finished with 10 catches for over 100 yards.

Then came a 112-yard receiving performance against Air Force and a stunning 65-yard touchdown on Notre Dame's first play from scrimmage against Florida State.

"I would have thought I would have been in this situation early in my career, but obviously things didn't work out," Battle said. "I say things happen for a reason, and the things that happened to me just made me a stronger person. It helped me realize that I need to take my blessings for granted."

The good things that happen to me, I've learned to appreciate them, because I know things can be a lot worse and go the opposite way."

Then Battle stopped for a second and paused.

Even though he had on a long sleeve shirt, he momentarily glanced toward his left arm, at his brother. The message was clear.

His football career has been tough. But not that tough.
Ryan Scarola's backup accepts playing out of the spotlight

By JOE LICANDRO

Sports Writer

Ryan Scarola isn't used to playing in the spotlight. The fifth-year back-up center has played in every game the past two seasons, but usually only in his special teams capacity. But at Michigan State this year, the time arrived for Scarola to step up as Jeff Faine's backup. When the starting Irish center left the game briefly after spraining his ankle, Scarola took to the field.

"I'd never really played center in a game before," Scarola said. "I was really excited to get a chance to play."

Being Faine's backup is not a position that would afford one much playing time, but Scarola believes he has learned much from the experience. "You have to be ready," he said. "Your nerves kind of go away and instinct takes over. You never know. It teaches you a good lesson."

Scarola has not regretted one moment of his time on the football squad. "It's a dream to play here," the psychology major said. "I think that motivates everybody. Playing football, which you love [is part of the motivation], but I think it's a dream to play here especially."

Additionally, his positive attitude and duty to the team have made his experience rewarding. "I enjoy what I do," Scarola said. "I like playing here. I like everything about it."

Scarola has always enjoyed football, and Notre Dame has been part of his life ever since he was a baby. Scarola's father, a Notre Dame graduate, proposed to his mother during a game at Notre Dame Stadium. So despite being an export from Export, Penn., he has always had Irish blood.

Although Scarola did not see any playing time in his capacity as backup center during his freshman year, his sophomore year brought some playing time as well as his first career start against Kansas.

Scarola is still amazed from his first-ever experience running out of the tunnel into the Notre Dame Stadium. "The most unforgettable [moment] was probably the Michigan game my freshman year, coming out of the tunnel," Scarola said. Despite knowing that he would not be playing in that game, Scarola said the day still stands out as one of his best Notre Dame memories.

"You don't really realize what it's like to walk out into the Stadium until you actually do it," Scarola said. "That's probably the most memorable thing for me."

Scarola is relishing every moment of this, his last season donning the blue and gold. "You can't put a price on playing here," Scarola said. "It's unforgettable."

Senior Ryan Scarola makes a block against Boston College. Scarola has seen limited game time playing behind Jeff Faine at center.

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The Hildbold family can never enjoy a Notre Dame football game when they visit campus to see their son Joey play, even if the Irish are winning.

"If I play, play. It's probably good. If I don't."

Hildbold said. "My family comes to the games, and they have the big dilem­ma because they want to see me play but they want us to win."

This is the life of a punter. But Hildbold doesn't mind. In fact he loves his job. Hildbold has worked hard in practice and in the off­sea­son throughout his four years at Notre Dame and it has paid off! He was a final­ist in 2000 and this year for the Ray Guy Award, given to the nation's best punter. He will also graduate as one of the best punters in Irish his­to­ry.

"Being recognized as a top punter feels pretty good," Hildbold said. "That's a real nice honor to have. I really couldn't do it without my protection team. They've been really good, a good snap­per, good per­son­al pro­tec­tor. They all help me out. It's a great honor. It'd be nice to win it but it's a lot better if we were win­ning."

All of Hildbold's acco­la­des aren't bad, con­side­red how often he frequently gets boosed when taking the field at Notre Dame Stadium.

"Sometimes it's funny because when I run out on the field, the fans boo because we're not going for it or we just had a bad play," Hildbold said. "A couple times that happened in the past. It's kind of funny because you run out there and you wonder if it's that for me?" or "Is that because we didn't do well?" I really don't take it too personally."

He doesn't take it person­ally because he has been an unlikely contributor to Notre Dame's success this season. He's averaged 40.3 yards per punt this season and has pinned opponents inside their 20-yard line a career­high 25 times. In Notre Dame's 26-17 victory against Purdue, Hildbold drilled eight punts, averaging 44.6 yards per kick. He also pinned the Ball­makers inside the 20­yard line five times. Against Florida State, Hildbold stuck the Seminoles inside their own 10­yard line three times.

Hildbold does the Irish defense a huge favor by forc­ing opposing off­enses to travel the whole field for a score. Notre Dame almost always wins the field pos­i­tion battle.

"I just go out there and try to help out the team and try to do the best for the team and eventually that does well for me," Hildbold said.

Hildbold's success dates back to his freshman year when the Centre­ville, Va. native became Notre Dame's full­time punter. He made the most of his opportunity by averaging 39.0 yards per punt and nailing a season­long 56­yarder against Michigan State.

Hildbold used his success as a freshman as momentum when he headed into his sophomore year. That sea­son, Hildbold was named a Ray Guy award final­ist and was one of only two sopho­mores in the country to receive such recognition. Football News and Collegefootballkicks.com also named him to the All­Independent team. Hildbold cruised his career­long punt of 69 yards against Texas A&M that season, placing the Aggies at their own 3­yard line.

As a ju­ni­or, Hildbold fin­ished 35th in the coun­try in punt­ing av­er­age at 42.2 yards per punt. He also had one of his best games at Notre Dame against Michigan State.

"Being recognized as the top punter feels pretty good. That's a real nice honor to have. I really couldn't do it without my protection team. They've been really good, a good snap­per, a good per­son­al pro­tec­tor."

"Sometimes it's funny because when I run out on the field, the fans boo because we're not going for it or we just had a bad play," Hildbold said. "A couple times that happened in the past. It's kind of funny because you run out there and you wonder if it's that for me?" or "Is that because we didn't do well?" I really don't take it too personally."

He doesn't take it person­ally because he has been an unlikely contributor to Notre Dame's success this season. He's averaged 40.3 yards per punt this season and has pinned opponents inside their 20-yard line a career­high 25 times. In Notre Dame's 26-17 victory against Purdue, Hildbold drilled eight punts, averaging 44.6 yards per kick. He also pinned the Ball­makers inside the 20­yard line five times. Against Florida State, Hildbold stuck the Seminoles inside their own 10­yard line three times.

Hildbold does the Irish defense a huge favor by forc­ing opposing off­enses to travel the whole field for a score. Notre Dame almost always wins the field pos­i­tion battle.

"I just go out there and try to help out the team and try to do the best for the team and eventually that does well for me," Hildbold said.

Hildbold's success dates back to his freshman year when the Centre­ville, Va. native became Notre Dame's full­time punter. He made the most of his opportunity by averaging 39.0 yards per punt and nailing a season­long 56­yarder against Michigan State.

Hildbold used his success as a freshman as momentum when he headed into his sophomore year. That sea­son, Hildbold was named a Ray Guy award final­ist and was one of only two sopho­mores in the country to receive such recognition. Football News and Collegefootballkicks.com also named him to the All­Independent team. Hildbold cruised his career­long punt of 69 yards against Texas A&M that season, placing the Aggies at their own 3­yard line.

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Hildbold followed that career­best performance by besting it the next week when the Irish faced Texas A&M. In that game, Hildbold drilled six punts for a career­best 50.5-yard aver­age per punt.

Hildbold judged his work ethic for the success he's had so far in his career. "I know if I worked hard enough and really concen­trated on what I was doing, I would do pretty well," Hildbold said. "I'm just con­centrating on the kick itself. You visual a little bit before and know what you're going to do, know what your assign­ment is and then just go through the fundamentals and just go out and kick."

That formula has con­tin­ued to work for Hildbold this season. He has been named an All­American candidate as well as a Ray Guy semi­final­ist.

All this success may have given Hildbold a chance to go out on Sun­days next fall. How­ever, he's not think­ing about the NFL too much right now. "That's a great team," Hildbold said. "I'd like to do that. So this off­season [I may] train and see what happens. But right now I'm just trying to focus on punting well for the team, try to win some games and then go to a good bowl game and perform well there and help the team to win. Then when that times comes, decide Football wasn't always Hildbold's first inter­est. He played soc­cer from the fifth grade until the 12th grade and also wrestled and played wide receiver and kicker on the football team.

Hildbold's father attended Notre Dame, so when it came time to choose a college, Notre Dame was what Hildbold judged other schools against. It was the right choice.

"It'd be nice to win it but you don't really under­stand how great it is until you get here and you go through the whole four years. Playing football adds a whole other level to it."

Notre Dame is Hildbold's first love, but punting the football on Saturdays is a close second and he takes great pride in doing his job as best he can.

"Just going out there every day is a joy for me," Hildbold said. "Everybody talks about it, but you don't really under­stand how great it is until you get here and you go through the whole four years. Playing football adds a whole other level to it."

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John Crowther has lived the Notre Dame student's dream. The Irish long snapper, who was virtually un-recruited out of high school in his home-town of Edina, Minn., entered his freshman year at Notre Dame with intentions no greater than Crowther simply playing dorm football for Morrissey Manor. 

Little more than a week into his first year of college, Crowther got a surprise call from one of the Notre Dame football coaches to tryout for the team. "It started when I first got here, staying in Morrissey Hall," Crowther said. "I went out for the interhall team there. Father Bill Steech was the assistant coach, and he called up the head football coach for me and got me a tryout with the team without my knowledge or anything."

"I got a tryout on the team, actually made it and then a week later the backup got hurt, so I got to travel about a week and a half and I made it up the way up the chart to the starting snapper for field goals and extra points, and he would soon become the snapper on punts as well."

At the end of last season, after two years atop the depth chart at snapper for Crowther, the senior walk on was offered an opportunity to return for a fifth year. "It was an opportunity he could not turn down."

"I was very excited when I met Coach Willingham for the opportunity to come back for a fifth year," Crowther said. "I've been with the same guys on this team for a long time, as we've been through a lot of ups-and-downs. I felt that as a group, we could still really accomplish some good things."

"Over the summer, Crowther was offered a scholarship to return for his fifth year. That only made the dream complete."

The former Morrissey center has climbed from walk-on backup, to starter, to scholarship veteran.
Dear Alumni & Friends,

The staff of Campus Ministry extends an invitation to come together and celebrate the Eucharist this weekend.

Rutgers Football Weekend
November 23-24, 2002

Saturday Vigil Masses

Basilica 30 minutes after game

Stepan Center 45 minutes after game

Sunday Masses

Basilica 8:00, 10:00 am & 11:45 am

Sacred Heart Parish Crypt 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Fifth year doesn’t wake O’Neill from dream

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Tim O’Neill couldn’t give up the dream.

When the chance to play a fifth-year for the Irish came, the 5-foot-6 walkon couldn’t say no. I have always wanted to play football at Notre Dame. If you have the chance to do it for one more year, I mean, that was an easy decision for me to make,” O’Neill said. “If you still enjoy playing and you are playing at Notre Dame, then you are going to come back.”

The announcement of Irish coach Tyrone Willingham replacing former coach Bob Davie was just icing on the cake.

“The decision was made before (the coaching change) but obviously there is a lot of excitement with a new coach coming in,” O’Neill said. “It has just been a tremendous experience. One of the best decisions I have ever made.”

O’Neill rushed for 1,634 yards and scored 12 touchdowns at Athens high school in Troy, Mich. and passed up the opportunities at other schools where he would be featured to attend Notre Dame. “It’s kind of hard to pinpoint just one situation you have pictured yourself in. Running out of the tunnel, putting on the uniform on for that first time or even his first carry aren’t the moments that stick out in O’Neill’s mind. It’s the larger picture of being part of the team he will carry with him for the rest of his life. It’s kind of hard to pinpoint just one experience,” he said. “But just being with your teammates, just being in that family and supporting each other and making adjustments from high school to college and then accepting you into a family is the biggest thing.” That, and keeping the dream alive.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

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Nigeria native Bernard Akatu thought twice about coming back to Notre Dame after meeting Tyrone Willingham.

"I really paid some money in the classroom. In high school, DeBolt had always enjoyed math and science, so engineering seemed a good fit for him. "I enjoyed my classes, but it's very demanding," he said. "But it pushes you to the limit, and hopefully it will get me ready for the next step.""

Despite all that he's done at Notre Dame, DeBolt sometimes wishes he could have done more.

"I wish I had put a little more time into the school," he said. "I think if a great school, there are a lot of things you can get out of it.""

In a sense, DeBolt, who wants to work on Wall Street after graduation next spring, feels lucky about what he has been able to accomplish at Notre Dame. With his passion for the school, for the football and lacrosse teams, and dual engineering and MBA degree, DeBolt has become a Notre Dame man — northern Indiana's version of the Renaissance man.

"I'm not going to sit here and say that I predicted we would be 9-1, but I thought we could compete with every team on our schedule. At no point, did I ever doubt that we were good enough to win a national championship," said Akatu. "Willingham now has made us believe we can win a national championship."

"I thought I'd go into business because I like people," DeBolt said. "One of the reasons why I came here was to get a degree, to get a job that I like."

"I knew it was going to be tough," he said. "I just worked really hard, and I had some little bit of luck behind me, and everything kind of fell into place. I've played with a bunch of great guys on both teams, so I've just been very blessed to have the opportunity to do it.""
COURTNEY WATSON

Irish

strong. After eight games, he leads the Irish

Darrell Campbell has made himself

he recorded 76 after filling the spot left by the

Notre Dame and the second year in a row he

aren't the only things that have impressed the

buck. The starting coach staff thought they could use Watson

is one of the vocal Irish

sive tackle is one of the vocal Irish

Hard. After missing the first two games of the

Watson, who hails from Sarasota, Fla., came

Willingham mentioned several times that the

linebacker would lead the team. Since then, he has been named a game day captain several

times and has led a defense that has held their opponents to an average of 97.7 rushing

yards and 182 passing yards.

That is quite an accomplishment for a play-

er who came to Notre Dame without the

expectations of playing on the defense.

Watson, who hails from Sarasota, Fla., came
to Notre Dame as a running back. At

Riverhlegh School he earned all-Sarasota honors while rushing for more than 2,500

yards and 25 touchdowns.

However, when Watson hit Notre Dame, the

caching staff thought they could use Watson somewhere else. So they began to develop

himself a linebacker. Now, 189 tackles, 22

tackles for a loss and four interceptions later, the Irish have developed more than a line-

backer. They have a hitting machine.

JASON BECKSTROM

2001, 2002

2001

This season, the starting

Gillis has had a tough time getting

Starting is nothing new to Sean

Milligan. The 6-foot-4, 288-pound

offensive tackle has started in tackles

the Irish pass-rush game. Campbell

Campbell

The senior offensive tackle is a

Senior Sean Milligan and fifth-year

line that doesn't get hurt and

the seaosn, opening up the Irish

Curtin recorded his first start

last season against Michigan State

and was named a game day captain

to tackle this season.

NICHOLAS SETTA

This season has been a roller

caster for Nicholas Setta.

The senior place kicker started the

season on what can only be labeled a high.

During the Kickoff Classic, Setta

connected on five field goals,

off and made the statement

with his play.

The senior offensive tackle is a

key member of an offensive line

that has shown continual improve-

ment over the course of the

season, opening up the Irish

rushing game.

Curtin

DARRELL CAMPBELL

BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

NICHOLAS SETTA

BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Irish senior Darrell Campbell has taken a leadership role on the Irish

defensive line.

Barely missing being one of

Notre Dame's top-10 tacklers,

Campbell has made himself

known on the football field. And his

size isn't the only thing that

makes him obvious.

The 6-foot-4, 288-pound defen-

sive tackle is one of the vocal Irish

leaders on a defensive line that is
determined to be the best in the

country.

Last season, Campbell seemed to settle into his role on the defensive

line. This year, he's more than

comfortable. He's in charge.

Campbell, who hails from South

Holland, III., is a starter for the

second year on the Irish squad. He

has already bested his 26 tackles

that he recorded last season, tally-

ing 27 tackles in 10 games thus far

this season. He has been key to the

Irish pass-rush game. Campbell

has recorded five tackles for a loss,

pushing opponents back a total of

28 yards.

Campbell started nine of 11

games during the 2001 saison, sit-

ting out the Michigan State game

after suffering a neck injury and

missed the Stanford game due to a

right knee sprain.

This season, the starting defen-

sive line has not been with

Campbell.

Coming out of Thornwood High

School, Campbell was a USA Today

honorable mention prep All-

American and was ranked 82nd

nationally by the Chicago Tribune.

Nicholas Setta attempts a kick against Purdue. The kicker began the sea-

son with five field goals against Maryland.

This season has been a roller

caster for Nicholas Setta.

in consecutive extra points.

The Lockport, Ill. native, whose

first love was soccer, has served as

Notre Dame's place kicker for the

last three seasons, beating out fellow

teammate David Miller for the job.

In addition to managing his kicking

duties for the Irish, Setta manages to

run track. He works in the high jump

and long jump for the Irish and

short to medium distance running.

Setta, who was a Parade prep All-

American and rated the number-one

kicker in the country out of high

school, hit the cross bar on a 73-

yard attempt at Lockport Township

High School.
have one year left

JEFF FAINE

The Irish center Jeff Faine has started every game this season, exemplifying the steadiness that has characterized his career.

Sean Milligan

It's amazing what a year of experience can do for an offensive lineman. Last year, Milligan was often pushed around on the Irish front line and struggled to provide adequate protection. An ankle injury kept him out of the Tennessee and Navy games and Milligan only returned in a reserve role in the final two Irish games of the year.

But this season, Milligan has established himself as a dominant presence on the Irish line. He's started all five games for the Irish and is a member of one of the most experienced offensive fronts in Notre Dame history. With one year of eligibility remaining, Milligan is poised to improve even more next year.

Jim Molinaro

Three seasons of turmoil have finally culminated this season for Molinaro with a series of appearances on the Irish offensive line.

Molinaro came to Notre Dame as a highly recruited defensive lineman. But he sat out his freshman year and only squatted into one game his sophomore season. Coaches approached Molinaro with the idea of a position change, and the senior readily accepted the move.

The Irish lineman spent much of last season learning the Irish offense. But now that he's learned the nuances of being a lineman, Molinaro is ready to break into the Irish rotation next season.

Pat Ryan

Ryan entered Notre Dame with a USA Today All-American selection under his belt. But the senior from Montana has yet to make a significant breakthrough on the Irish squad.

Ryan made his first appearance in 2002 as a member of the Notre Dame's special teams and winning his monogram. He made the lone tackle of his career in Notre Dame's second game of the season.

Last year, Ryan only made a handful of special teams appearances, playing in just three games. He has appeared in nine of Notre Dame's 10 games this season and has recorded six tackles.

Justin Thomas

Thomas' career can best be described as a work in progress. He is named Defensive Player of the Year by an Oklahoma newspaper.

Thomas played five games his freshman year as a backup linebacker, and he was still waiting for that potential to translate into on-field prowess.

Gary Godsey

This year, although Godsey has yet to score a touchdown, he has caught just two passes against Navy for a combined 21 yards. He also heads up the Irish's top offensive line, the unit that has been his only constant in the last five seasons.

Gary Godsey runs after making a reception. After playing quarterback for two games, Godsey moved to the receiving end of the ball.

He still sees students walking around campus wearing T-shirts that say, "In God(s)ey We Trust." But Godsey just smiles and laughs when he looks back on his short-lived Irish quarterback career.

Two seasons ago, when Arazz Battle broke his wrist in the second game of the season, Godsey started the next two games as Irish quarterback.

He won his debut against Purdue, leading the Irish on a 59-yard drive that culminated in a game-winning field goal kick.

But Godsey struggled during the next week against Michigan State and was eventually replaced by Matt LoVecchio, who went on to start the final eight games of the Irish season.

With Carlyle Holiday and Jared Clark waiting in the wings, Godsey moved to tight end and the winter before his junior year.

During his rookie year on the offensive line, Godsey didn't make much of an impact. Although he started over 1,000 plays and was named Defensive Player of the Year by an Oklahoma newspaper.

This year, although Godsey has yet to score a touchdown, he has caught 15 passes, the third most of the Irish roster, for 150 yards. He also heads up the Irish's top offensive line, the unit that has been his only constant in the last five seasons.

So far, Godsey has been a work in progress. His role on the team is still undefined.