Solidarity debate sweeps campus

Forum debates recognition, Catholic teaching

By CLAIRE HEININGER
News Editor

Following a day-long, bright orange public pledge of gay/straight solidarity, members of the Notre Dame community examined the policies of peer Catholic institution Boston College Thursday night as an example of progress made towards the acceptance of homosexuals on campus.

Michael Yaksich, Boston College's director of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Issues, addressed approximately 130 students and faculty in DeBartolo Hall, explaining his college's stance towards gay/straight student organizations and urging Notre Dame to follow suit.

"It is the Catholic obligation to provide love and support for all — especially the least among us," Yaksich said as he described the mission of Allies, Boston College's gay/straight alliance that was granted full recognition in April. "At Boston College, we've found..."

Students react to shirt campaign

By ANDREW THAGARD
Associate News Editor

On Thursday, talk about "the shirt" likely referred not to the popular Kelly green number worn by students and fans during Notre Dame football games, but to a project sponsored by the unofficial Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA), also known as "United in Diversity," to promote increased tolerance of homosexual students on campus.

Hundreds of students sported the bright orange shirts bearing the slogan "Gay? Fine by me," and GSA estimates that it sold 1,600 of them in the past few days.

"This is a milestone event because it lets the supporters show who they are and lets everyone else — gay and straight, or in out — see who they are and how many they are," GSA leader Joe Dickmann said.

Dickmann started the campaign in response to a survey conducted by the Princeton Review that ranked Notre Dame first in a list of 351 colleges for its policies toward gay and straight students.

Student remains in hospital after fall

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER
Senior Staff Writer

The Notre Dame student who fell from a second-floor balcony during a St. Patrick's Day party at the College Park apartment complex remains hospitalized, and six students who were arrested during the party have been released from jail on bonds ranging from $150 to $250.

A spokesperson at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center said Mike Seiler, a Notre Dame senior and College Park resident, remains in stable condition at the hospital, where he was transported by ambulance Wednesday afternoon after the fall.

St. Joseph County Police Spokesperson Jaimee Thirion said six students were arrested during the party and police detained two more students who did not cooperate with officers.

Police released both students without arresting them, but sent a report on one student to the prosecutor's office, who will determine whether or not to file charges.

Wave of thefts at SDH continues

By KATE CALES
News Writer

The recent thefts in South Dining Hall have continued, as NDSP reported that two backpacks were stolen from the lobby Wednesday night.

In a Feb. 23 article in The Observer, officials from Notre Dame Security/Police described a wave of thefts occurring at the Hesburgh Library and South Dining Hall.

"There had been kind of a dropoff, but that isn't to say that [the perpetrators] have completely stopped," NDSP Assistant Director Phil Johnson said. He said that the investigation into the crimes would continue.

"Between Feb. 23 and now, students were on break for a week, and that period was relatively quiet," Johnson said. "(Wednesday), we had two..."

Revelers ejected from DeBartolo

By SHEILA FLYNN
Senior Staff Writer

Approximately 40 to 50 students carrying a banner, playing instruments and singing in a makeshift St. Patrick's Day parade Wednesday were ejected from DeBartolo Hall and North Dining Hall, some receiving citations from Notre Dame Security/Police, said students and University officials.

"I don't know how we came up with the parade," said senior Paul Daday, who organized the unofficial event with his classmates that it sold 1,600 of them in the past few days.

"This is a milestone event because it lets the supporters show who they are and lets everyone else — gay and straight, or in out — see who they are and how many they are," GSA leader Joe Dickmann said.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Faithful citizenship

Although it is a Friday and like me you are probably wishing it were still spring break or already summer break, I just want to share a few thoughts that have been on my mind for the past week.

I attended the CSC Seminar on Faithful Citizenship and the Upcoming Election in Washington D.C. for spring break. Although I did not return to campus with a tan, I certainly had a great experience and learned lots from the places I visited in our nation's capital. I'm not from the U.S., I'm from the wonderful country of Peru — where there are llamas, but we don't ride them by the way.

On Wednesday of last week, we observed a Senate session. The issue being debated was an amendment for yet another campaign for what one believes in. Of course, we don't ride election laws by the way.

I was for the great majority of senators and their party. I was amazed seeing how easy it was for the majority of senators to give a thumbs-up to the secretary recording the votes. Some of which were seemingly just because they saw the issue being voted on by talking to members of their party.

I acknowledge it is only my foreign-national-bird's-eye-view of the situation, but after visiting several organizations that explained how many Americans live in poverty and how much a small fraction of the military budget could help not only these poor but those all over the world, I certainly did not feel at ease witnessing how the politicians were amending the billions as if these were peanuts.

Yet, I did become aware of many positive things during the Seminar. I learned about the opportunities organizations and individuals have to participate in the U.S. government. Of how one can lobby or campaign for what one believes in. Of how several people in many nations, especially college-aged students have attained important socio-political changes by peaceful means.

I guess I just want to remind you of the possibilities you all have to affect a change.

Be it by voting, contacting your representatives, participating at a rally or a protest, joining an organization that fights for what you believe in or becoming more aware of the issues at stake at home and around the world. The possibilities are many, don't let the decisions be made by others.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Sofia Balion at sbalion@nd.edu.

CORRECTION

Due to an editing error in Thursday's issue, a quote was left out of the hockey story in the sports section. The Observer regrets the error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Who is currently your favorite musical artist(s)?

Caitlin Efta
Sophomore PW

Valerie Efta
Sophomore PW

Liz McCorry
Junior Off-Campus

Mary Ann Lukeman
Freshman Walsh

Sarah Schneller
Senior Off-Campus

Teresa Blackwell
Senior Welsh Family

"Medeski, Martin and Wood"

"Rooney."

"Rufus Wainwright."

"Fountains of Wayne."

"The Stereophonics."

"Ludacris."

OFFBEAT

Couple arrested in fight following "The Passion"

STATESBORO, Ga. — A couple who got into a dispute over a theological point after watching "The Passion of the Christ" were arrested after the argument turned violent.

The two left the movie theater de­bating whether God the Father in the Holy Trinity was human or symbolic, and the argument heated up when they got home, Melissa Davidson said.

"It was the dumbest thing we've ever done," she said.

Davidson, 34, and her hus­band, Sean Davidson, 33, were charged with simple battery on March 11 after the two called police on each other. They were released on $1,000 bail.

According to a police report, Melissa Davidson suffered injuries on her arm and face, while her husband had a scissors stab wound behind his hand and his shirt was ripped off. He also allegedly punched a hole in a wall.

Baby discovers battery worth $1,000,000

BREWSTER, N.Y. — The D'Onofrios family discovered their new baby was inquisitive and recovered a purple battery worth $100,000.

The AAA Duracell was one of 12 labeled controls to keep him from changing the channel.

But the boy's inquisitive nature is no longer con­sidered a problem since he opened the battery compartment on the television remote and uncovered a purple battery worth $100,000.

The AAA Duracell was one of 12 labeled "winners" that the manufacturer had slipped into packages as part of a promotional campaign.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

Looking for something free to do? Come see Dat Phan is performing at 7 p.m. tonight in O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's. Dat Phan was the winner of NBC's Last Comic Standing this past fall. The event is free and open to the public. Student comedians will open.

Student Union Board will show the movie Timeline tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. in DeBartolo 101. Admission costs $3.

Professional comedian Ty Barnett will perform a set tonight at 10 p.m. in Legends. The event is free.

O'Neill Hall will hold its Miss ND pageant Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Participants from Notre Dame's women's dorms will vie for the title.

The Bhangra Blast, sponsored by the Indian Association will be held Saturday from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Center for Social Concerns. The event will feature Indian music, Bhangra music and dancing and free prizes. Admission is $5 and all proceeds will be donated to charity to provide education and healthcare for poor Indian children.

McGill Hall will hold its annual Casino Night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday in the South Dining Hall. A raffle will occur at 1:30 a.m. The event costs $5.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.

The Event of the Week:

"The Passion" of the Christ. Articulated by Tim Burton, directed by James Caviezel and shot in Austria, "The Passion" is a film that portrays the suffering of Jesus Christ throughout the week he was in Jerusalem. It is an exciting experience for viewers, especially those who have been looking for something meaningful to do this Lenten season. The movie is being shown at the O'Laughlin Auditorium on Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. (Pay $1.50 at the door.)
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Coffee and Conversation
For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame
Shirt
continued from page 1

leges and universities where
alternative lifestyles are not
an alternative. It also served
to bring attention to the
Office of Student Affairs March 4 decision to deny
the GSA officially recognized
status.
On Tuesday, Father Mark
Poorman, Vice President for
Student Affairs, wrote a fol-
low-up letter of response, a
copy of which was obtained
by The Observer.
"I'm sure that the students
are disappointed with the
decision by the Student
Activities Office to
deny recognition of
the group as a
student club," Poorman wrote,
adding that while
there is no formal
appeal process
in place for the club
to pursue, he and
Dr. David Moss,
direct supervisor
in the Office of Student Affairs for
the Student Activities Office,
would welcome a continued
discussion.
However, he cautioned stu-
dents against "realistic
expectations about the likeli-
hood of a change in the deci-
sion about recognition.
Students who chose to wear
the "Gay? Fine by me" shirts
expressed hope that their
efforts would bring about
positive exchange.
"There's a pretty common
stereotype that Notre Dame is
a closed minded ... school," said Margaret Bernardin,
a sophomore who wore the
shirt Thursday. "Obviously, by
all the people you see today that
isn't true at all.*
Jessica Freeman, a junior,
said that she chose to wear
the shirt to support some
friends who participated in
the campaign and to increase
the profile of the issue on
campus.
"I had friends who were
passing out the t-shirts and I
wanted to support them and
their efforts to help get sup-
port from the University," she
said. "It brings awareness to the
general student.
A majority of students, how-
ever, did not participate in
the project. Some supported the
effort but were not aware
of it before today, while
others said that they believed
efforts to pro-
mote the establish-
ment of a University sponsored homo-
sexual club off counter to
Notre Dame's Catholic tradi-
ction.
"I have nothing against
someone who is gay," sopho-
more Chris Brophy said. "I
recognize that being gay is
not a choice, but I think these
t-shirts glorify a lifestyle con-
tradictory to what we (as
Catholics) believe.*
Other students supported
the project but said they were
not aware that anything of
the sort was being planned
and were confused about why
Thursday was chosen.
"It think it's a good thing," said freshman Kyle Bokita. "I
haven't heard that much
about why today.*
Dickmann said that many
students were unaware of the
project in advance.
*I discovered that in a lot of
cases, people had no idea
until they woke up and saw
the orange," he said, adding
that he received positive feed-
back throughout the day ask-
ing where more shirts could be
ordered. The group has
tentatively planned another
demonstration for mid-April.
University spokesman Matt
Storin declined to discuss
what impact the campaign
might have on Notre Dame's
policies or if the number of
students involved in the cam-
paign surprised administra-
tors.
Students, however, had
so far the University hasn't
been too responsive to what
we say so I don't think this
will have any effect at all but
I hope it will," Bernardin
said.
Freeman shared her opin-
ion.
"Besides [generating]
Viewpoint letters I doubt it
[will affect change]," she said.
Claire Heisinger con-
tributed to this report.
Contact Andrew Thagard at
athagard@nd.edu

SMC prepares for
Midnight Madness

By KELLY MEEHAN

Saint Mary's students have
expressed excitement at the
annual Midnight Madness Fes-
tivities that will take place
tonight from 9:45 p.m. until
1:30 a.m.
Students are also invited to
watch the Winter Intramural
Championships, an annual
prelude to the Midnight
Madness that pits classes
against each other in various
activities and sporting events.
The intramural competitions
will occur in Angela Athletic
Facility from 8 until 10 p.m.,
and the Athletic department
will announce the champions
at the conclusion of the
games.
At 9:45 p.m. the doors to
Angela Athletic Facility close
and Midnight Madness offi-
cially begins.
This year's Midnight
Madness theme is "Behind
the Madness," a concept that
has inspired many new decora-
tions and opening festivities.
"Students should expect
to see new versions of some of
their favorite relay races like
the Obstacle Course and
Sports Relay," co-head of the
Midnight Madness committee
Elizabeth Jablonski-Diehl said.
Other events planned
include sumo wrestling, free
throw shots, tug-of-war, mas-
dashes and balloon bursts.

The Saint Mary's dance team
and cheerleading squad will
perform, along with a presenta-
tion by the senior class
board.
Some of the more notable
aspects of Midnight Madness
include a bar, prize drawings
and the midnight mass.
Storin declined to discuss
the Adoration that happens
after Midnight Mass.

A highlight of this year's
event will be the unveiling of
the Saint Mary's fight song,
which will be presented by a
chorus of Saint Mary's women.
The song will be revealed at
the beginning of the evening.
The Midnight Madness
Committee is made up of
about 20 women and is head-
ed by Jablonski-Diehl and
Shay Jolly. Both have been
working to organize the event
since August and said they
enjoyed the planning process.

The event is also open to
Holy Cross and Notre Dame
students, who will be eligible
to win prizes and participate
in all of the activities.
Contact Kelly Meehan at
kmeehan01@saintmarys.edu

SPRiRiTUAL POLITiCS AND SOciAL HEALiNG
In an Age of Culture WarS and Terror
Michael Lerner

5:00 p.m @ 101 DeBartolo Hall, Notre Dame
Thursday, March 25
7:30 p.m @ Community Center
Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley
3202 Shalom Way, South Bend
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Five more arrested in Spain attack
MADRID, Spain — Police arrested five more people in the Madrid train bombings as the U.S. flew Thursday to Spain to probe the case, raising the toll to 157 dead and over 1,300 injured. The U.S. decision to try to participate in the investigation came as a new suspect was arrested, raising to 35 the total number of inmates, and analysts warned that the attack seemed to be a coordinated, post-Sept. 11 strike.

U.S. law enforcement officials said Thursday they were examining the possibility that the Madrid attacks were directly inspired by Islamic extremist groups in the United States or the Middle East. But they also said they were still investigating the possibility that the attacks were homegrown.

The arrests brought to 15 the total number of suspects in the Madrid attacks, and to 56 the total number of people arrested in connection with the attacks.

The new suspect was arrested Thursday in the town of Mataro, near Barcelona, where a police officer said he was sought for his role in the attacks.

The officer said the suspect was a 34-year-old Moroccan national who had been living in Spain for several years. The officer said the suspect was arrested after police found him inside a building in Mataro.

The officer said the arrest was based on information provided by Spanish authorities, who have been working closely with the U.S. in the investigation.

In other developments:

- A 13-year-old boy was arrested Thursday in Madrid for allegedly taking part in the Madrid attacks. The boy was arrested after police found him with a weapon and a false passport.

- A 45-year-old man was arrested Thursday in Madrid for allegedly taking part in the Madrid attacks. The man was arrested after police found him with a false passport and a weapon.

- A 25-year-old woman was arrested Thursday in Madrid for allegedly taking part in the Madrid attacks. The woman was arrested after police found her with a false passport and a weapon.

- A 30-year-old man was arrested Thursday in Madrid for allegedly taking part in the Madrid attacks. The man was arrested after police found him with a false passport and a weapon.

- A 40-year-old woman was arrested Thursday in Madrid for allegedly taking part in the Madrid attacks. The woman was arrested after police found her with a false passport and a weapon.

- A 35-year-old man was arrested Thursday in Madrid for allegedly taking part in the Madrid attacks. The man was arrested after police found him with a false passport and a weapon.

- A 45-year-old man was arrested Thursday in Madrid for allegedly taking part in the Madrid attacks. The man was arrested after police found him with a false passport and a weapon.

- A 20-year-old woman was arrested Thursday in Madrid for allegedly taking part in the Madrid attacks. The woman was arrested after police found her with a false passport and a weapon.

- A 30-year-old man was arrested Thursday in Madrid for allegedly taking part in the Madrid attacks. The man was arrested after police found him with a false passport and a weapon.
Thefts
continued from page 1

The SafeWalk organization, a group that escorts students back to their dormitory rooms late at night, is also on the alert for irregular behavior. "If you look at the kind of crime that occurs on campus," said Johnson, "the most common is larceny, or theft, and it's almost always of unattended property."

For security reasons, Johnson declined to give specifics of the ongoing investigation. He said that some items have been recovered and returned to their owners, but encouraged students to report all thefts to the NDSP.

"We'd really still like to know about these crimes so we have an accurate picture of what's happening at night," Johnson said.

"The first line of defense among community members is to keep track of their property," he said. He also encouraged students to report strange behavior. "If you're going around campus and see suspicious activity, think things aren't right, give us a call!"

The Americans were not identified by name or military unit. Because of the location, the fighting did not appear to be directly related to reports that a senior member of the al-Qaida terrorist network, possibly Ayman al-Zawahiri, had been cornered by Pakistani forces near the Afghan border.

The battle in which the two Americans were killed happened in Oruzgan province on Thursday afternoon, the Central Command statement said. After being fired upon, the American soldiers fired back, killing at least five and wounding an undetermined number of others, the statement said.

The wounded Americans were evacuated to Kandahar airfield for treatment. The extent of their injuries was not disclosed. Their names were being withheld until relatives could be notified.

Central Command called the attackers "terrorists" but did not elaborate. Pentagon officials said there was no indication that they were part of al-Qaida.

The two soldiers' deaths raised the number of American troops who have died in Operation Enduring Freedom, as the war in Afghanistan is called by the military, which started in October 2001.

AFGHANISTAN

Two American soldiers killed
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Two American soldiers were killed and two others were wounded in fighting Thursday in central Afghanistan, the U.S. military said.

At least five attackers were killed in the battle, officials said.

In a brief statement, U.S. Central Command said the American soldiers were accompanied by troops of the Afghan National Army when they were attacked by "anti-coalition militia" in a village near Tarin Kowt.

The Americans were not identified by name or military unit.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

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EU, Microsoft settlement fails

EU leaders announced plans to sanction Microsoft Corp. over antitrust charges.

In Brief

Stocks react to terrorist capture

NEW YORK — Wall Street stumbled lower Thursday as investors wrestled with mixed economic data and news that Pakistani troops had cornered a key al-Qaida leader. Tech shares were dragged down by Microsoft's antitrust problems in Europe.

Microsoft shares were down 'Idol' phone scam

FCC shuts down 'Idol' phone scam

Associated Press

EU Competition Commissioner Mario Monti announces that the EU and Microsoft have failed to reach an agreement settling antitrust charges Thursday.

Microsoft contends that benefits consumers, but rivals claim it is unfair competition that stifles innovation and aims to drive them out of business.

The charge was similar to the 1990s Internet browser war in the United States, where Microsoft was found guilty of using illegal means to protect its Windows monopoly. But a 2001 settlement with the Bush administration allowed it to continue integrating its Internet Explorer with Windows.

Sources familiar with the case say the EU's draft ruling finds Microsoft guilty of monopolistic behavior — setting a precedent in Europe — and goes beyond the U.S. remedies.

The EU is demanding that Microsoft offer computer makers in Europe a discounted version of Windows without Media Player so that rivals like RealNetworks Inc. and Apple Computer Inc. have a better shot at reaching consumers.

In addition, the draft is expected to require the company to release more underlying Windows code so rival server software companies including Sun Microsystems Inc. can operate better with computers running Windows.

In exchange for a settlement, Monti was seeking commitments that could have affected Microsoft's business not just in Europe but globally — and helped to resolve other EU antitrust cases pending against the company, the sources said on condition of anonymity.

In afternoon trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market, Microsoft shares were down 44 cents, 1.75 percent, at $24.69. Monti will present the proposed fine Monday to an advisory committee of national regulators before going to the full European Commission, the EU executive branch, on Wednesday for a final decision.

After winning unanimous backing from the 15 EU government ministers last week, the ruling is expected to pass easily.

Microsoft is accused of unfairly grabbing market share from rival companies by bundling its own Media Player with Windows — the operating system in nearly every personal computer worldwide.

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In addition, the draft is expected to require the company to release more underlying Windows code so rival server software companies including Sun Microsystems Inc. can operate better with computers running Windows.

In exchange for a settlement, Monti was seeking commitments that could have affected Microsoft's business not just in Europe but globally — and helped to resolve other EU antitrust cases pending against the company, the sources said on condition of anonymity.

In afternoon trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market, Microsoft shares were down 44 cents, 1.75 percent, at $24.69. Monti will present the proposed fine Monday to an advisory committee of national regulators before going to the full European Commission, the EU executive branch, on Wednesday for a final decision.

After winning unanimous backing from the 15 EU government ministers last week, the ruling is expected to pass easily.

Microsoft is accused of unfairly grabbing market share from rival companies by bundling its own Media Player with Windows — the operating system in nearly every personal computer worldwide.

Microsoft contends that benefits consumers, but rivals claim it is unfair competition that stifles innovation and aims to drive them out of business.

The charge was similar to the 1990s Internet browser war in the United States, where Microsoft was found guilty of using illegal means to protect its Windows monopoly. But a 2001 settlement with the Bush administration allowed it to continue integrating its Internet Explorer with Windows.

Sources familiar with the case say the EU's draft ruling finds Microsoft guilty of monopolistic behavior — setting a precedent in Europe — and goes beyond the U.S. remedies.

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Parade

continued from page 1

housesmates at 609 St. Pete Street and were soon joined by another student with the idea and it sounded like a lot of fun, and we wanted to get involved, Carney said.

Participant students said they enjoyed their parade around 11:15 a.m. on St. Peter's Street and made their way to campus via Route 23 and Notre Dame Avenue. Led by a marcher that read "parade" and accompanied by four trumpets and a saxophone, the marchers were "singing, dancing... (and) singing the fight song," said senior Chele Carney, one of the five musicians. When the revelers extended their march into DeBartolo, however, they were thrown out from the building—twice.

"I probably expected to be shown out," Carney said, citing the fact that classes were underway. The group first entered DeBartolo through the doorway closest to the Student Center and Business, and they reached the middle of the building before being asked to leave, Carney said. The parade then proceeded outside and circled around to the most frequented student entrance. Dady said, where they stopped and played for an enthusiastic audience.

"Everyone was singing along and cheering," Carney said. "It was really cool.

When the rowdy paraders decided to enter DeBartolo, however, they were ejected for the second time, and NDSP officers arrived on the scene.

"We did answer reports over there," said NDSP director Rex Rakow. "I know there were people with open alcohol containers.

"We got names and we'll forward them to ResLife."

Rex Rakow
NDSP director

On the same floor and using the same idea, they got very few were drinking during the actual procession.

"I'd say not the majority were drinking during the parade," Carney said. "Maybe five or six.

Despite the clash with NDSP, however, a splinter group of paraders continued on to North Dining Hall.

"About half the group got left behind," said senior Will Fayen, who continued with the parade to the dining hall — where said single inking resulted in an eviction once again. The students said that, after entering the dining hall somewhat rowdily, they were urged to calm down.

"When we got to our table, one of the managers said we were fine and would not get into trouble as long as we kept quiet," Dady said.

Although students said they believed they altered their behavior, another staff member approached them and asked to see ID cards.

"There were some students that came into the dining hall that were very disruptive and intoxicated," said Dave Prentkowski, director of food services.

"They were asked to leave by the management staff."

He said students are rarely removed from the for intoxication.

"In 13 years, I've never seen it at noontime before," Prentkowski said.

The parade then dispersed, but students said they still considered the event a success despite the difficulties they encountered with security.

"I've always loved parades, since I was like four, and this was my first chance to be involved in one up close," Fayen said.

"I think it should become an annual tradition."

Contact Sheila Flynn at sflynn2@nd.edu

Bust

continued from page 1

Barke, Keough sophomore David George, Knott junior Peter Mahoney and Breen-Phillips junior Tiffany Muller were all charged with minor in consumption and released from St. Joseph County Jail on a $250 bond. Off-campus seniors Betsy Laydon and Katherine Murphy were charged with public intoxification and were released from jail on a $150 bond.

St. Joseph County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Ken Cotter said that minor in consumption and public intoxification are Class B misdemeanors, carrying a range of punishments if convicted, including a fine of up to $1,000 and zero to 180 days in jail.

Cotter said that probation is also an option, depending on the circumstances.

"It can be anything the court believes is appropriate — community service or counseling, especially for alcohol violations," Cotter said.

Cotter said the fact that the students were placed in jail as opposed to being issued a citation should not affect sentencing, because it is up to the discretion of the police officers when a misdemeanor crime occurs whether he will issue the citation or place the person under arrest.

The bond, minus a 15 percent processing fee, would be returned if students were found not guilty. Otherwise, it will be applied to court costs, which Cotter said are usually more than the amount of the bond.

LouAnn Susan, property manager for Paramount Management, the company that owns College Park, said Paramount likely would not take action against tenants as a result of the party.

"We are just hoping every­thing is okay with the gentle­man that got hurt," Susan said. "Hopefully everyone learned a lesson."

Contact Scott Brodfuehrer at sbrodfuehrer@nd.edu

Fiddler's Hearth

presents
Roger Dryaw & The Firestarters

Saturday March 20th
Show starts at 9:00pm

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Contact Sheila Flynn at sflynn2@nd.edu

Friday, March 19, 2004

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS

Bust

continued from page 1

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Friday, March 19, 2004

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Panel continued from page 1
that justice comes from recog-
nition."

Notre Dame's March 4 refusal to grant similar recognition to "United in Diversity," a proposed gay/straight alliance, sparked passionate arguments and reactions throughout the forum, titled "The Catholic Church and Changing Times: Perspectives on Homosexuality at Notre Dame."

Sister Mary Louise Gude, chair of the Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs, said Catholic universities find themselves on the "horn of a dilemma" when making decisions about their policies on homossexualit.

"There is a real tension between educating young people to live and work in our society and treating them within the teaching of the Church," she said. "There really is a lot of goodwill, but strictures arise with the University vis-a-vis the Catholic Church and that's not about to change — but I firmly believe that creativity is the vehicle to success."

While several audience members echoed Gude's ideas and suggested creative approaches to achieving the goals of a gay/straight alliance without receiving official approval — such as continued publicity efforts by unrecognized homosexual student group OUTReachND and making the most of current Campus Ministry activities such as a monthly coffee hour — the overwhelming consensus among both the audience and the panel members was that recognition was irreplaceable.

"There's an emotional, impressive, symbolic meaning to approval," said Dan Myers, chair of the department of sociology, which helped sponsor the forum along with the departments of psychology and anthropology, OUTReachND and the psychology club.

Ava Preacher, an assistant dean in the College of Arts & Letters, agreed that students would not, and should not, settle for less.

"Students want recognition, and there's no taking that away," she said. "We need to continue to raise aware-
ness until awareness is so high that it cannot be denied."

Preacher also related a personal story as she extended the debate to another point of con-
tention — the University's exclusion of sexual orientation from its legal non-discrimination clause.

When a fellow faculty member approached her with the idea of a forum to discuss GLBT issues a few years ago, Preacher said this policy made her response discouraging easy.

"I told her the second we have a sexual orientation phrase in our non-discrimination clause, then we'll have our forum," Preacher said. "You need to feel safe in your communi-
ty."

Maureen Lafferty, an openly homosexual staff psychologist at the University Counseling Center, jumped in, immediately adding the community had been "not only safe — but validating and celebrating of my experience."

"But we need that to happen for everyone," she said. "Current student body presi-
dent-elect Adam Istvan and vice president-elect Karla Bell proposed a way to make the University community feel more welcoming from the bottom up, suggesting that all stu-
dent clubs and organizations amend their own mission state-
ments to include a promise that "students will not discrimi-
nate against students."

Istvan said the move would at least make student feelings of acceptance heard, if not rec-
nected, by the administration.

"We've given the strong indication that there will not be a student-ran homosexual organization at Notre Dame as long as the current administra-
tion is there," he said. "Basically we've been told that it would be a meaningless effort ... but even if the admin-
istration won't change, it's the statement that counts."

Dave Wyntcott, a former co-
chair OUTReachND, strongly asserted his support for adjusting non-discrimination clauses on all levels and reiterated the need for a sense of safety on campus.

"It comes down to being able to say to your roommate, 'I might be gay,'" he said. Wyntcott remembered attend-
ing high school in South Bend in the mid 1990's and then coming to Notre Dame in 1997, a time when campus tensions ran high about both official club status and the non-discrimination clause. He told the audience about a hunger strike, sit-in protests and spray paint and fieri demonstrations to protest these policies.

"It was an awful place to be and it had been for an incredi-
ibly long time," he said. "There was a lot of anger on campus."

Most forum attendees agreed the University community's attitude toward homosexuality has changed significantly since those years of turmoil but said the administration has refused to change along with the com-
munity, and students had to take the lead in pushing for recognition.

Calling herself an "eternal optimist," Preacher expressed hope that official status would eventually be achieved, and closed the forum by setting a high standard for the entire campus to aspire to.

"We need a widespread effort to reach that point," she said. "Period."

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The Scripture

March 19
An invitation to trust in God's love for you as the first step
The Prodigal (Luke 15, 1-3, 11-32)
Professor John Cavadini

March 26
An invitation to be freed from the past to live a new life
The Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8, 1-11)
Father Bill Simmons, C.S.C.

April 2
An invitation to understand the depth of God's love and the call to discipleship
Professor Robin Darling Young

The Time and Place

The Coleman-Morse Student Lounge
6:15 pm to 7:15 pm

Cap off your Lenten preparation with this special prayer experience

Campus Ministry
Teen charged with attempted murder

Associated Press

MALCOM, Neb. — A teenager was charged with attempted murder after police found him outside school with 20 homemade bombs, a rifle and a note saying he wanted to injure everyone at his high school except for three friends.

Authorities believe they averted what could have been the worst school shooting since the 1999 massacre at Columbine High School.

Josh Magee, 17, was arrested Tuesday in the parking lot of Malcolm High School after a staff member saw him swigging liquor from a flask and putting on a black overcoat.

Police who searched Magee's car found a bolt-action rifle, several rounds of ammunition, small bottles of propane and rigged containers of a petroleum-based propellant.

"It had the potential of going badly," said Superintendent Gene Neddenriep. "With this student, at this school, on this particular day, we were successful. We got lucky."

Parents and school officials in this tiny town north of Lincoln said Magee often teased two of them.

Parents and school officials in this tiny town north of Lincoln said Magee often teased two of them.

"He asked them in class last week if they knew who Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were," said Julia Lostrah, whose daughter is Magee's classmate. "Then he said, 'I know them.'"

The arrest came in the same week that authorities in another rural town in the heartland avoided a potentially violent school encounter.

Two second-grade boys and an 11-year-old schoolmate were arrested Wednesday in Forsyth, Mont., on charges that they buried a loaded handgun in a playground sandbox and plotted to shoot and stab a third-grade girl during recess, authorities said Thursday.

Sheriff Tim Fulton said the boys intended to harm the young girl because she had teased two of them.

The plot included a .22-caliber revolver and a box of bullets that were hidden on the playground of the small school in rural eastern Montana.

Magee then began showing some interest in school activities, he said.

Lostrah, who is also the classmate of two of the boys, said Magee joined the cross-country team and was an impressive musician.

"He was very talented," she said.

Second-graders plotted to shoot, stab classmate

Associated Press

FORSYTH, Mont. — Two second-grade boys and an 11-year-old schoolmate were arrested after they buried a loaded handgun in a playground sandbox and plotted to shoot and stab a third-grade girl during recess, authorities said Thursday.

Sheriff Tim Fulton said the boys intended to harm the young girl because she had teased two of them.

The plot included a .22-caliber revolver and a box of bullets that were hidden on the playground of the small school in rural eastern Montana. Authorities said one of the boys was carrying a knife.

The boys apparently brought the weapons from home to school on Wednesday morning, prosecutor Michael Hayworth said.

The intent was to assault the girl over the recess hour Thursday that day, he said.

"You think about what could have happened. It could have been ugly," said Brenda Stablesfield, who has a daughter in the fifth grade and went to the school after she lunch hour Thursday to give the girl a hug.

Forsyth is about 100 miles east of Billings. The school has about 200 students in kindergartens through the sixth grade.

"Needless to say, it is a frightening experience for a community and our schools," Superintendent Dave Shreeve said.

You think this is hot...

March 20th in Washington Hall

On April 2nd from 2-5 PM, we will be having our Ms. ND pageant.

March 24th in Washington Hall

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March 24th

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March 24, 2004 @ Joyce Center Gym 2 @ 5:30 p.m.

Come see what Notre Dame Cheerleading is all about.

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Homosexual community deserves equality

They made their point. Now, will the University take action? Approximately 1,700 Notre Dame students and scattered faculty members joined together and wore black orange t-shirts Thursday that boldly stated “Gay? Fine by me.”

Regardless of the individual decisions behind wearing the shirts, the collective message of support for homosexuals was unmistakable. The members of the Gay/Straight Alliance — also known as United in Diversity, an organization that was denied official University status on March 4 — should be commended for their efforts to bring approximately 20 percent of the University together in a show of solidarity for a group whose place in the community has not always been clear.

No administrative stance in recent Notre Dame history has elicited such overwhelming numbers to contest it. The alcohol policy changes couldn’t do it. Patriarchs couldn’t do it. But injustices towards Notre Dame’s homosexual community has.

The avenues currently provided by Notre Dame emphasize individual counseling, which serves to only further classify homosexuals as outliers in the community.

Yes, the University appointed a Student Affairs Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs. Yes, the University provides homosexuals with Campus Ministry resources. But concerning both the official recognition of a student organization and the inclusion of homosexuality in the University’s legal non-discrimination clause, the answer has been a firm no.

Now is the time for the administration to attend to both of these issues, and deliver a long overdue yes.

The Princeton Review’s recent distinction of Notre Dame as the most homophobic campus in the United States, therefore, seems to apply more to the administration that perpetuates this mentality on campus than to the actual students who try to curtail it and speak out against it.

The show of support Thursday began to dispel this sense of homophobia, but both recognizing a gay student organization and expanding the nondiscrimination clause are necessary to extending acceptance on that essential group level. After turning down student affairs Father Mark Poorman wrote that while he welcomes the opportunity to talk to students who proposed the club, he does “not want to create unrealistic expectations about the likelihood of a change in the decision about recognition.”

Talk and good intentions will only take the University so far.

Notre Dame aims to be the national leader among both Catholic and academic peer institutions. However, Boston College approved its first gay-straight alliance, Allies, on April 15. Duke University, the Princeton Review’s last campus before Notre Dame to hold the “alternative lifestyles are not an alternative” distinction, initiated the T-shirt campaign. In a dialogue critical to the Catholic Church and the intellectual climate of the future, Notre Dame is falling behind.

The first step towards true progress lies in extending acceptance on that essential group level. After turning down student affairs Father Mark Poorman wrote that while he welcomes the opportunity to talk to students who proposed the club, he does “not want to create unrealistic expectations about the likelihood of a change in the decision about recognition.”

Talk and good intentions will only take the University so far.

Classifying Adams as a terrorist is foolish

Before I begin addressing the points made by Derek Webb, I want to emphasize that I detest terrorism or violence in any turn to the IRA. The British Army had initially been sent to Derry on Jan. 30, 1972. The IRA began its campaign against the forces of the oppressive government because Catholic citizens had no one to protect their basic human rights.

Before I begin addressing the points made by Derek Webb, I want to emphasize that I detest terrorism or violence in any turn to the IRA. The British Army had initially been sent to Derry on Jan. 30, 1972. The IRA began its campaign against the forces of the oppressive government because Catholic citizens had no one to protect their basic human rights.

Do you think Notre Dame should recognize the Gay/Straight Alliance as an official organization??

*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndobserver.com and is based on 34 responses.

Eleanor Roosevelt
American diplomat

It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself.

Wednesday, a sea of orange reached out with open arms. The University should follow suit by accepting this diverse student group and giving them club status.

The Observer 1933

OFFICIAL POLL
On March 31, the new liberal talk radio network, "Air America Radio," will debut across the nation, and I eagerly await the opportunity to listen.

The network is the brainchild of wealthy financier and liberal talk radio icon Bill O'Reilly, who recently sold his conservative network, Fox News, to News Corp. After years of pushing right-wing talk radio as the voice of the American people, O'Reilly is now turning his attention to the other side of the political spectrum.

The network aims to provide a forum for liberal voices that have been ignored by mainstream media. Over the years, conservatives have complained that liberal talk radio is biased and unrepresentative of the general public. With the launch of Air America Radio, conservatives hope to see a more balanced perspective on the issues of the day.

The network's lineup includes prominent figures such as Janeane Garofalo, a comedian and former actress, and Howard Dean, the former governor of Vermont and 2004 Democratic presidential candidate. Garofalo will bring her comedic talent to the network, while Dean will provide his insights on current events.

Air America Radio will air on a network of over 150 stations across the country, reaching an estimated audience of millions. The network's success will depend on its ability to attract and retain listeners.

As a supporter of liberal causes, I look forward to tuning in to Air America Radio and hearing new voices on the airwaves. I believe that a diverse range of opinions is crucial to an informed public and a healthy democracy.
Howard's stories unfamiliar to younger readers

Comic writes about famous people he's met throughout his life

By BECCA SAUNDERS
Scene Critic

Television head writer and stand-up comedian Trustin Howard knows famous people. That is the general gist of Howard's autobiography called "My Life with Regis and Joey and Practically Everyone Else."

Throughout the chronically unorganized novel, Howard takes the reader on an interesting, yet lengthy journey through his life working first as a comedian and then as head writer for "The Joey Bishop Show" (the late night show that competed with Johnny Carson's "The Tonight Show"). The book is a quick read and has some funny anecdotes, but overall it just seems like Howard takes himself a bit too seriously. In fact, that is the general gist of Howard's autobiography. "My Life with Regis and Joey and Practically Everyone Else" is generally one-third interesting, one-third boring and one-third just plain irrelevant. Howard takes a voice in his writing, but he also jumps around a lot, with numerous chapters being "somewhat original." He then proceeds to jump into an entirely random story that completely disturbs any illusion of "flow" that the writing may have possessed.

Approximately 20 of the novel's last pages are dedicated to Howard's dealings with his comedian friend, Lenny Bruce. If you are familiar with Bruce or have seen him perform, these chapters may interest you. As for the rest of the readers, the story of Bruce is by no means one that is remarkable enough to elicit interest. Howard is clearly of an age of older Hollywood stars, which he admits in his novel. This reality makes it very hard for any college student who is not well versed in the players of an older generation of Hollywood to relate to and be interested in Howard's tales of meeting the "stars." A story pertaining to a show he wrote about Bettie Davis is not going to impress any college student.

While most students recognize Carson's name, not many have a clue who Bishop is. Because of this generation gap, the book is harder to relate to for college students and is generally more appropriate for an older audience.

Howard's work is not entirely without merit. Besides going into two-page explanations of certain jokes he wrote for "The Joey Bishop Show," his explanation of the time he spent with the show is intriguing. Howard lets the reader into the world of a comedy writer who never knows if they are going to be hired in three weeks.

The reader sees the backstage reality of "show-biz," and Howard has a lot of great insights into the nature of "show-biz" and the ways it has changed. In one chapter, Howard points out the difference between the need for raw talent today and in those old days when if you weren't quick and witty, you would be booted of the stage. He compares the two saying, "Today, you have non-talents painting their faces, putting on freak outfits, switching on some lasers and lights, singing in the same one line of a supposed song about 85 times, mixed in with a couple of spastic steps, breaking a guitar or two and really overwhelming an audience of brain-dead children."

There are interesting insights of this nature throughout "My Life with Regis and Joey and Practically Everyone Else." However, there are also some extremely strange parts. On page 226 Howard, offers tapes of some of his sci-fi shows on reincarnation, meditation and voicing for $25, along with his address so you can send the check there. He's unique, but not in a good way.

As the title promises, Regis Philbin is one of the main characters in the autobiography, and it does seem that Howard and Philbin were in fact good friends. The University of Notre Dame even gets a mention while Howard is describing Philbin's parents. Regis is presented well and worked with Howard for a good part of Howard's career. "My Life with Regis and Joey and Practically Everyone Else" is vaguely interesting and an overall quick read. Howard makes some good points here and there, but the majority of the novel is fluff about his life in "show-biz" and generally not entertaining. Howard's autobiography is worth reading if you are really interested in being a stand-up comic or working in the television industry. But if you are just looking for a good read or even some insight into the "real" Philbin, your time would be better spent watching him on TV with Kelly.

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

For the past four years the improv group Mission IMPROVable has brought top-notch comedy to college campuses across the country. Although the Chicago-based group focuses mainly on schools in the Midwest, Saturday night will be the first time the artists will perform at Notre Dame.

Mission IMPROVable is scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m. in DeBartolo 141. The show will be free and open to all students.

The fresh-faced young actors of Mission IMPROVable have been called "the Backstreet Boys of Comedy" and "the "N Sync of Improv." However, this group has also been praised for the intelligent, subtle and insightful humor that probably goes farther than making them popular on the college circuit.

Since starting their college tours, the group has not performed regularly in Chicago. This is a change of pace for the members of Mission IMPROVable, who began their career in 1998 as regular performers at Improv Olympic. Improv Olympic, an organization that works with improv comedy much the same way that Second City works with sketch comedy, has helped start the careers of many prestigious performers such as Mike Myers and Tina Fey.

The six founders and six new members of Mission IMPROVable now alternate going on tours, sending five members of the group for every performance.

Mission IMPROVable is also working on turning their stage show into a television program. Original group member Aaron Krebs is currently living in Los Angeles to work on designing the show, and the group plans to send camera crews to some of their shows to collect live footage. The group is not yet sure when their show will air or which network will air it, but more information will be available on their Web site at www.missionimprovable.com.

Like many improv groups, Mission IMPROVable uses short games and audience participation to keep their shows alive. For an extra twist the performers take on secret agent names for the performance.

"It's about all of us setting the tone," said Mike Befele, "It's not about the humor, it's about the fun." The group plans to continue to bring "real" comedic talent to college campuses across the country.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu
Agent Chopper aka Sean Casey

Agent Sliver aka Pete Shukoff

Agent Sliver aka Pete Shukoff

Agent Sling Shot aka Sean Monohan

Goran Kralj comes to Legends
Energetic Kralj will be playing songs off of his new solo album Saturday night

By PATRICK VASSEL
Scene Writer

Milwaukee, Wis. is not exactly the alternative music capital of the world. For those in the alternative scene, however, a band emerged from the Brewery City in the early 90s and quickly established a reputation with heartfelt songs and a refreshing energy. The band was The Gufs, and the lead singer and songwriter was Goran Kralj. After landing a deal with Atlantic Record in the 90s, the group released two albums, both of which received critical and popular acclaim across the country. With 10 years of experience, unbelievable live shows and sold albums recorded, The Gufs were flying high into the new millennium.

In 2002, however, The Gufs disbanded, much to the dismay of the legion of fans the group had acquired since they first started out. In the year that followed, Kralj realized he couldn’t stop writing and still had too much energy to simply stop performing. Though the songs he wrote were all intended to be Gufs songs, Kralj realized the band just wasn’t going to get back together. Quickly putting together a group of performers, Kralj decided to strike out on his own and continue with the sound he had developed with The Gufs over the last decade.

After a year of work the new band, called Goran, emerged with its first solo effort "Any Day Now." Fans of The Gufs will be pleased to hear many of the band’s signature musical elements maintained in Kralj’s sound. Most obvious is the distinct and versatile voice of Kralj. He has the ability to go from a quiet, almost raspy whisper, to an intense volume riding over guitar riffs. Many alternative critics complain of songs on an album all sounding the same, but Kralj has furthered his song-writing skills even from the best days of The Gufs.

The album is decidedly more upbeat than the second Gufs album, "Holiday From You." The songs are catchy without being tacky, and Kralj crafts pop melodies that match the versatility of his voice. From the mellow "Don’t let the sun go down!" to the punchy guitar hook of "To Be Me," Kralj delivers an album that reminds fans of the best times of the Gufs, yet also distinguishes himself as a solo artist and an exciting new force in alternative music.

As Goran’s Web site (www.goranmusic.com) describes, during the recording of "Any Day Now," Goran was so struck by the attacks of Sept. 11th, he released a song shortly afterward. The single “Where Are You Now?” combines Goran’s almost haunting voice with the gorgeous accompaniment of a piano and cellos to create a sound uniquely appropriate in memory of the victims. It also exposed many people to the artist who normally would have never known who or what The Gufs were.

In their biography section of the web site, Kralj describes the theme of "taking chances" that is heard throughout the new album. Though he continued to write after the break-up of The Gufs, Goran didn’t think of picking up a guitar to play the songs until a college roommate insisted he try it.

"Don’t be afraid of taking chances," Kralj says of the album and the songs he’s written. "Ready to Fail" tells the story of a girl who consistently rushes into love no matter what has happened to her in the past. "I’ll Be Around," Goran sings of someone who gives up everything to be with the one they love.

The result of Goran’s experience, his often surreal but always believable voice, his diverse and sincere songs, and an unmatched energy will be available in concert this Saturday night at Legends, with doors opening at 9:45 p.m. Followers of The Gufs were often known to follow The Gufs around the country, often seeing dozens of shows a year. Goran is guaranteed to show all those in attendance what it’s like to truly connect with a musician. His energy in concert has been described as mesmerizing, spiritual and exciting. Goran is definitely one of the most exciting acts to come through Legends’ new doors this year.

Fifteen years ago alternative music defined itself in Seattle, but today one of its most powerful voices is that of a kid from Milwaukee. Few can dispute his talent, and Goran hopes his new album and new life as a solo artist will only further the work he achieved with The Gufs.

Contact Patrick Vassel at pvassel@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of missionimprovable.com

Goran Kralj performs at Summerfest in Milwaukee. Kralj will be playing at Legends Saturday night with doors opening at 9:45 p.m.
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Alabama coach Mark Gottfried predicted it would take an upset to beat Southern Illinois, even though his team was expected to win all along.

"I felt like an upset in the end when Antoine Pettway hit a 6-foot runner with 2 seconds left and the Crimson Tide pulled off a 65-64 victory in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Southern Illinois had a chance to win when Darren Brooks missed a long jumper for the Salukis as time wound down.

The Crimson Tide (18-12) lost to scrape just to make it in this year's NCAA tournament. Both the SEC and losing to Florida in the conference quarterfinals.

"When you look at it, the only reason people expected us to win is because we play in the SEC and they play in the Missouri Valley," Gottfried said. "They're really a talented basketball team. Darren Brooks could be a great player in our region."

"It's a great win for our program."

Southern Illinois came into the game ranked No. 23 in the final AP poll. The Salukis ran off 17 straight wins in the Missouri Valley and the regular-season finale to Northern Iowa.

The Salukis (25-5) lost to Southwest Missouri State in the conference tournament semifinals, but received an at-large berth to make the NCAA's for a third straight season.

"We knew coming in that we'd be playing a great team. We knew they had a 25-4 record. We knew they had to be a great team," Pettway said. "We just focused on the Salukis and let everything else take care of itself."

Shelton scored 15 points for eighth-seeded Manhattan, which advanced to face top-seeded Stanford in the second round of the Phoenix Regional.

Texas Tech 76, Charlotte 73

For one day, Bob Knight found something to enjoy about Buffalo.

Senior Andre Emmett and freshman Jarrius Jackson each scored 17 points to lead No. 23 Southern Methodist in the first round. His last two tournament games since beating Florida in 2000.

"I'm glad the outcome of this game replaces the outcome of the last game in Buffalo," Knight said after the 43rd tournament victory of his career, fourth all-time and one more than Lute Olson and Danny Crum. "I felt pleased for our kids to have the chance to go on."

So did Emmett, who still remembers a first-round loss to Southern Illinois two years ago.

"It feels better than my sophomore year," said Emmett, whose steal and fast-break layup in the final minute turned it into a win. "I love games when you didn't come in with a different attitude and were fortunate to come out with a win."

Texas Tech (23-10), the eighth seed in the East Regional, will play top-seeded Southern Illinois' in the second round. Jim Boeheim, who tied Denny Crum for the most NCAA tournament games with 12 rebounds - but still couldn't

"Right from the beginning, from that first shot I took, it felt good," said McNamara, who made 15-23 from 3-point range in his last two NCAA tournament games. "So when you have it, you have to roll with it. You have to keep throwing it up there."

BYU (21-9) got off to a strong start from the perimeter and had plenty of help inside from forward Rado Araujo — 24 points and 12 rebounds — but still couldn't get past the first round for the fourth straight time. The Control won an NCAA tournament game since beating Southern Methodist in the first round in 1993.

Duke 96, Alabama State 61

Duke became the second Duke guard with the ball, so I thought it was my responsibility to come through."

Domenic Jones had 22 points and seven assists for the Rams (23-8), who were making their first NCAA appearance in eight years.

McNamara hit nine 3-pointers and had 43 points, helping the defending national champions hold off pesky Brigham Young in the first round.

He made six 3-pointers in last year's championship game against Kansas and was even better in this one, finishing 9-15 for the third-highest total in NCAA tournament history.

"Gerry had made a good performance as I've ever seen in college basketball," said coach Jim Boeheim, who dined Crum for 180 last all with his team to take advantage of it. Shavlik Randolph scored three free throws in the final 16 seconds.

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AROUND THE NATION

COMPiled FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Friday, March 19, 2004

around the dial

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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Baseball News Top 30

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Athletics

PHOENIX — Eric Chavez had no desire to follow Jason Giambi and Miguel Tejada out the Oakland Athletics' revolving door.

The A's finally retained one of their stars, signing the third baseman to a six-year contract extension worth $66 million on Thursday. Though it's the biggest deal in franchise history, it's slightly less than the probable market value for a player with Chavez's combination of statistics, youth and potential.

But Chavez wants to be a leader and a cornerstone for the A's, who have won three AL West titles during four straight playoff seasons — and he was willing to make a small financial sacrifice for the chance.

"It's a real honor standing here, considering the guys that have gone by and I'm the one standing here," Chavez said. "It's kind of unbelievable, really. ... I'm grateful that they see me as a centerpiece.

Chavez, a three-time Gold Glove winner and the AL's top power-hitting third baseman, would have been eligible for free agency after the season.

But instead of allowing the 26-year-old infielder to follow MVPs Giambi and Tejada out of Oakland, general manager Billy Beane worked out a deal with Dave Stewart, Chavez's agent and Beane's former teammate with the A's.

"With [Chavez], it was never about being the richest guy in the world," Beane said. "In my opinion, with all due respect to Mr. Roles in St. Louis, this is the best third baseman in baseball. You're going to make us all look very bright over the next few years.

The deal includes a $12.5 million club option for 2011 with a $3 million buyout. Chavez will make $5.2 million this year under his previous contract.

Manager Ken Macha, the A's bench coach for four seasons until his promotion before last season, gave Chavez what probably was his first major-league nickname — Will Hunting, after the math prodigy played by Matt Damon in his Oscar-winning movie.

"When you lay out all the ways he can impact a game, he's got it all," Macha said. "He's going to be a plus guy in the field. If I give him the green light a little more, he can steal in double digits, no problem. Obviously he can hurt you with the home run. He's got a chance to be a great player."

IN BRIEF

Cowboys finalize deals with Henson, Johnson

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys finally acquired Keyshawn Johnson Thursday reaching agreement on a deal that will send Joey Galloway to Tampa Bay.

On the same day the NFL told the team it would approve their eight-year contract with quarterback Drew Henson, owner Jerry Jones said Dallas has a handshake deal to send receiver Galloway to Tampa Bay for Johnson.

Jones said the Cowboys had agreed on a handshake deal with Tampa that involves Dallas reworking Galloway's contract.

Johnson agreed weeks ago to a four-year, $20 million contract with a $4 million bonus.

As for Henson, the league approved the contract, but has not officially announced it within the NFL. It did inform the Cowboys, however, that it had been approved.

We're pleased that the technical aspects of the league approving the agreement is behind us," Jones said. "We're all set there.

Henson is returning to football after three years of pro baseball.

Ellis fired as Auburn coach after 10 seasons

AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn coach Cliff Ellis was fired Thursday after 10 up-and-down seasons with the Tigers, who were shut out of postseason play for the second time in three years.

Ellis is the second-winningest coach in Auburn basketball history. He was with his team longer than any other current coach in the Southeastern Conference.

"I am aware of the many accomplishments of coach Ellis in his tenure here," said Auburn interim president Ed Richardson, who met briefly with the coach. "I appreciate what he has done with the program. It is simply time for a change.

Ellis pointed to his achievements — teams that "put us near the top of the SEC in terms of games won and trips to the NCAA tournament. That is why this decision by the Auburn administration is so disappointing."

Artiest excused form Pacers practice

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest excused practice Thursday after three years of pro baseball.

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INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest excused practice Thursday after three years of pro baseball.
PHILADELPHIA — Brian Leetch scored his first two goals with Toronto, lifting the Maple Leafs to a 3-2 victory Thursday night over the Philadelphia Flyers.

Ed Belfour made 26 saves and Gary Roberts added a goal for Toronto, which had lost six straight games against Philadelphia.

John LeClair and Kim St vaccino scored for the Flyers, who had been unbeaten in their past four games.

The Flyers outscored the Maple Leafs 15-2 in three wins from the New York Rangers, made it 2-0 during a two-man advantage early in the second period with a low slap shot that beat Esche. He was screened on the play by Roberts.

Belfour preserved the lead with several tough saves in the second period, twice stopping Sami Kapanen and stoning Mats Sundin on a 7-foot wrist shot.

Leetch added his second goal 4:01 into the third with a slapper from just inside the blue line that Esche badly misjudged. With Esche pulled for an extra attacker, LeClair rammed home a rebound on a power play for his 22nd goal. Johnson took a pass from Mark Recchi and wrote it in to cut the lead to a goal with 2:59 left to play.

Beech and Tony Amonte had scoring chances in the final 20 seconds, but Belfour made a pair of saves to seal the game.

Esche lost for the first time in his last six starts.

**Senators 5, Avalanche 0**

Peter Schaefer and Wade Redden scored their first-period goals and Patrick Lalime made 23 saves for his first shutout in over two months to lead the Ottawa Senators to a victory over the Colorado Avalanche.

Schaefer scored on a power play 12:31 in, and Redden beat goalie Aebischer 29 seconds later to put Ottawa up by two at 13:30. Lalime, beaten for five goals on 22 shots in a 5-2 loss Tuesday at Minnesota, recorded his fourth shutdown of the season — his first since Jan. 13.

The Senators, who had lost two in a row to end a 2-3 trip, extended their home point streak to 22 games. They are tied with Toronto with 92 points, one behind Northeast Division-leading Boston.

Colorado lost its second straight following a four-game winning streak. The Avalanche, who lost 4-2 in Montreal on Tuesday, dropped just four of 36 road games through regulation before this three-game Canadian trip that concludes Saturday in Toronto.

The Senators converted their only power-play opportunity of the opening period after defenseman Rob Blake was penalized for playing the puck with a broken stick midway through the first.

With eight seconds remaining in the ensuing power play, Schaefer scored his 15th goal when Greg de Vries' point shot off a faceoff in the Avalanche zone deflected to him off the leg of Senators forward Chris Neil.

Redden scored his 16th just under a minute when he jumped on a rebound of Jason Spezza's shot and caught Aebischer out of position to score into an open left side.

RAREly tested through the first two periods, when Ottawa held a 23-15 shots advantage, Lalime came up with a pair of big saves while the Senators were short-handed in the third. Lalime stopped Joe Sakic while Colorado enjoyed a five-on-three power play 54 seconds after Senators defenseman Wade Redden was sent off at 7:23 while Bank was already in the penalty box.

Bank had just returned to the ice when Lalime slung out his right pad to deny Milan Hejduk's shot and rob the Avalanche of their best scoring chance.

Lightning 3, Sabres 1

Dave Andreychuk and Tim Taylor turned a little trickery into a game-winning goal.

Taylor snapped a tie 32 seconds into the third period, leading the Tampa Bay Lightning past the Buffalo Sabres.

Andreychuk set up the goal with a special faceoff play. Instead of pulling the puck back toward the point after winning the draw against Daniel Briere, Andreychuk sent the puck forward, went around the Buffalo center and sent a pass to Taylor in the slot.

"I can't give you the secret code," Andreychuk said. "We've tried it before a few times this year. It worked out pretty well for us." Andreychuk won 13 of 18 faceoffs. Briere lost six of eight.

"He was beating me pretty much every time on the draws," Briere said. "I tried to switch it up a little bit and try to be more aggressive. I'll take the blame for it. It was my fault on that goal.

Sabres goalie Mika Noronen went down to the ice thinking Andreychuk would shoot the puck.

"He made a great pass," Noronen said. "I couldn't get my feet under me and I was just trying to reach it with my stick and I just couldn't get there.

Martin St. Louis added an empty-net goal with 10.3 seconds left for his 46th point this season, tying Brian Bradley's team record set in 1992-93.

**Notre Dame Disability Awareness Week**

Monday, 3/22

5:15p.m. Mass at the Basilica

Tuesday, 3/23

8p.m. at Reckers Panel Discussion by students with disabilities

Wednesday, 3/24

9:30p.m. at Legends Theology on Tap Discussion

Is there such a thing as wrongful life?

Thursday, 3/25


www.nd.edu/~bdudies
Associated Press

The Detroit Pistons' five-game sub-70 streak came to an end, though the New Jersey Nets went a bit overboard in their attempt to halt it.

The Nets committed an intentional foul to stop the clock with 13.1 seconds left, and Aaron Williams made a tip-in with 1.1 seconds remaining in an 89-71 loss to the Pistons.

Williams pumped his fist after he scored.

"Maybe that was bigger to them than winning the game. That's what it seemed like to us," Rasheed Wallace said. "They were down there cheering, so hey, let them worry about that. We got what we came for."

Detroit gained a split of the season series and moved two games ahead of New Jersey in the conference standings — important if the teams, all but locked into the Nos. 2 and 3 seeds, meet in the second round of the playoffs.

Chauncey Billups scored 20 points, Rasheed Wallace had 16 and Richard Hamilton 15 for the Pistons, who held the Nets to 35 percent shooting, forced 17 turnovers and outrebounded them 47-37.

"They're not better than us," New Jersey's Kenyon Martin said. "They had a decent ballgame today, and we had some careless turnovers, but they're not better than us by any means. Hopefully we'll see them down the line and show them who's the better team."

On the chalkboard in the locker room, Brown had written the message: "Make them a shooting team, not a layup team." He listed five keys to winning, including limiting the Nets' fast-break points and taking away their backdoor cuts and lob passes.

Detroit did not allow a fast-break bucket in the first half while opening a 19-point lead, nor did the Pistons allow the Nets to attempt much of anything from inside 15 feet throughout the game.

The Pistons' sub-70 streak was unprecedented in league history, as no team had ever done it three times, much less five.

Detroit's defensive intensity began to get to the Nets in the second quarter as they forced six turnovers in the first 5 1/2 minutes and began to pull away. A fast-break layup by Mike James produced the first 10-point lead, 35-25, and a 3-point-lander by Billups completed a 25-6 run that put the Pistons ahead 48-29.

"There was a period in the second quarter when we defended as well as you could ever defend," Brown said.

The Nets had trouble closing the gap as the Pistons continued to outwork them in the third quarter. Billups hit a 3-pointer for a 59-46 lead after Detroit grabbed three offensive rebounds on one possession.

The Nets didn't get their first fast-break basket until Martin's dunk with 5:03 left in the period.

Detroit took a 63-56 lead into the fourth quarter, and the Nets missed their first six shots.

Richard Hamilton ended a Pistons' scoring drought that lasted more than seven minutes by making a 23-footer for a 70-59 lead before Richard Jefferson hit consecutive jumpers to cut the Nets' deficit to seven.

Rasheed Wallace answered with a 3-pointer, Ben Wallace stole an entry pass by Kidd and Corliss Williamson converted a fast-break layup. Ben Wallace then drew a charge against Martin, and Williamson scored over two defenders on a post-up.

The lead was back to 15, and the only question after that was whether the Nets would reach 70.

SuperSonics 97, Grizzlies 94

Vladimir Radmanovic and Ray Allen had 19 points each, leading the Seattle SuperSonics to a victory over the Memphis Grizzlies.

The SuperSonics led until the fourth quarter, when the Grizzlies staged 14-2 run to take a 78-76 advantage on a dunk by Pau Gasol with 6:10 left.

Seattle regained the lead for good at 90-88 with 1:33 left on a jumper by Radmanovic.

The SuperSonics ended the scoring with two free throws by Antonio Daniels.

Gasol tried a desperation 3-pointer with about two seconds left, but the ball bounded off the rim.

Brent Barry had 13 points for Seattle, while Rashard Lewis had 12 and Vitaly Potapenko added 11.

The Grizzlies were led by Gasol with 21 points and 15 rebounds. James Posey had 13 points for Memphis and Stromile Swift added 12.

The Grizzlies outrebounded the SuperSonics 43-33, but shot 43 percent from the field to 52 percent for Seattle.

---

NBA Nets score 71, still not enough to top Pistons

New Jersey's Richard Jefferson attempts a shot with Detroit's Rasheed Wallace in his face Thursday.

---

FRIDAY NIGHT

DAT PHAN

Winner of NBC's Last Comic Standing Performing THIS Friday Night the 19th at 7pm in O'Laughlin Auditorium, Saint Mary's College.

With Student Comics Opening for Dat Phan:

Steph Patka—MC

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Contact the Office of Student Activities for more information: 284-4562
SMC TENNIS
Belles set to start conference play
By RYAN DUFFEY
Sports Writer
After going undefeated in conference play during two of the last three years, Saint Mary's looks to start its season strong when it hosts Adrian College Saturday.

The MIAA league champion Belles have already had some non-conference and exhibition experience, but Saturday's match represents the first chance to begin defense of their title.

"It's our first conference match, and we want to start the season out positively," said sophomore Kristen Palombo, who won the No. 2 singles championship and earned All-MIAA honors last year. "Because it's been almost a week since we played, we want to start the game right."

Over spring break, the Belles flew to Orlando for seven exhibition matches, including contests against some tougher Division I schools.

"We really worked hard during spring break," senior Jeaninne Knish said. "I think we came together as a team, and we've gotten to know each other really well. I am pretty confident about this team right now."

Knish headlines the Belles' powerful squad as a two-time singles champion. She returns to her familiar No. 1 spot from last year and will look to live up to her status as a member of the all-MIAA first-team Saturday, an honor she has held the last two years.

"We've been practicing hard for our first conference opponent, and we're excited to get started," Knish said. "We're looking forward to our first match on our home court."

All the Saint Mary's players seem to be happy to be playing at home again. The question at this point appears to be whether the weather will allow it to be a successful one.

"We are hoping for good weather," Palombo said. "Because it will make the transition from sunny Orlando to frigid South Bend a lot easier."

No matter the weather, the Belles are eager to take their first steps toward another conference title.

Contact Ryan Duffey at rduffey@nd.edu

Outdoor season will open for Irish runners
By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer
Saint Mary's runners start the 60-meter dash at a meet in January. They are set to compete in Arizona this weekend.

The field should challenge the Irish as there are a few nationally-ranked competitors. One of the best races should be the Irish's woman's mile as Northern Arizona's Johanna Nilsson took second-place last week and Meagher and King are expected to give her a close race this weekend.

Huddle will also be facing one of her rivals in Northern Arizona's Ida Nilsson. Nilsson, who finished third in the 3000 meters last weekend, four places ahead of Huddle.

Irish high jumper Stacey Cowan will try to outjump Kansas State's Morgan High. High finished three spots behind Cowan last week in 13th place.

Nurudeen will have a tough draw in the 60-meter hurdles as he runs against Richard Phillips of George Mason. Nurudeen placed sixth last year with a time of 7.72 seconds. Nurudeen ran the distance in 7.84 seconds.

This is the first of a pair of western road trips for the Irish, as they will head to Palo Alto this weekend for the Stanford Invitational. The lone home meet for Notre Dame this outdoor season will be the Spring Opener April 3.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

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Cornett

continued from page 28

have a low-post presence again.

So confident is Brey in the sophomore forward — who played scant minutes in most of the Big East games — that the Irish are back to the point where they run their offense through him.

And that’s fine with Cornett, who is looking to build on the extended minutes he received in Notre Dame’s Big East tournament loss to Syracuse and win against Purdue.

“On the floor, I want my teammates to depend on me,” he said. “They know I’m not going to make too many stupid decisions with the ball. When I get it, if it’s double-teamed, I’m going to kick it back out.”

That’s what he did with devastating effectiveness in Notre Dame’s 71-59 win against Purdue Wednesday. In between hitting bodies with a physical Boilermaker defense, Cornett grabbed six rebounds in 26 minutes on the court while impressing Brey with his ability to catch difficult passes from driving guards.

“Some of the catches he made of tough passes, scrapping them off the floor, were, quite frankly, amazing,” Brey said.

After wins against DePaul and Connecticut, Brey thought that Cornett — considered by the coaching staff to be the most improved player in the off-season — had finally turned the corner that would allow him to be a major contributor.

Yet the sophomore still languished on the bench, pulled off the court for mistakes attributable to inexperience. Indeed, Cornett drew Brey’s ire Wednesday when he launched an ill-advised outlet pass to Chris Thomas that resulted in an Irish turnover.

But now, the player who approached Irish coaches on Super Bowl Sunday wanting more playing time has established himself with his actions, rendering pleas for more minutes moot.

Glances at the post-game box scores reveal Cornett’s improvement. In his last two games, he has missed just one of 14 free-throw attempts. The sophomore has also been Notre Dame’s second-leading scorer.

“That’s one of the reasons I don’t want to stop playing him, because he keeps getting better,” Brey said. “I don’t want to put the balls away because I want this young man to keep blossoming.”

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.

Notre Dame forward Rick Cornett looks at the basket in Notre Dame’s 71-59 win over Purdue Wednesday.

HOCKEY

Komadoski captures Humanitarian award

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame defenseman Neil Komadoski was named the winner of the CCHA’s fourth annual Mike and Marian Ilich Humanitarian Award as the league’s top citizen.

Komadoski received the prestigious honor Wednesday night at the annual CCHA awards banquet held at the Fox Theatre.

Komadoski was recognized for his community service work performed in both the Notre Dame and South Bend communities. For the last three years, the senior defenseman has been involved with the Notre Dame Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), serving as chairman of SAAC’s community service committee this year.

The Irish hockey program has had No. 7 Komadoski as one of 14 nominees for college hockey’s Humanitarian Award that goes to college hockey’s top citizen.

The league also presented its major awards Wednesday night with four members of the Irish hockey program being named finalists in their categories.

Senior defenseman Brett Lebda was one of three finalists for the league’s top offensive defender award. Team captain Aaron Gill was a finalist for the league’s top defensive forward and goaltender and David Brown was one of three finalists for rookie of the year.

The previous highest ranking that the Notre Dame women’s lacrosse team had held was No. 7 at the end of the 2002 season.

The Irish have won five straight games to start the season and have won four straight over nationally ranked teams through the first three weeks of the season. To date, Notre Dame has beaten No. 15 Stanford, No. 19 Cornell, No. 2 Duke and No. 6 James Madison.

Combined with four wins at the end of the 2003 season, the Irish now have won nine consecutive games.

WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Irish off to best start in 8-year team history

Special to The Observer

The Notre Dame women’s lacrosse team, off to the best start in the program’s eight-year history, moved up to No. 3 in the national rankings after knocking off No. 2 Duke and No. 6 James Madison last week.

The Irish are ranked No. 3 in the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) poll and third by Inside Lacrosse magazine. That is the highest ranking the Irish have ever had since the program started in 1997.

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IMPORTANT DATES

INFORMATION MEETING
Wednesday, March 24, 9:00 PM
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune
Come and learn more about the job opportunities with the SAO and how you can join the team!

APPLICATION DEADLINE
Wednesday, March 31
Application is available on the SAO web site.
Irish positive despite slow start

By ERIC RETTER
Sport Wine

Irish coach Debby King still remains very optimistic about her women's golf team. Even witnessing them turn in their worst performance of the 2003-2004 campaign last weekend, King is still enthusiastic about her team's chances of competing in their first NCAA tournament.

"I still feel very confident about the season," King said. "I think we can make a nice recovery in Texas."

The Irish need to improve their play as they travel to Roemer, Texas, to compete in the prestigious Baylor Tapatio Springs Shootout at the Tapatio Spring golf resort.

King's team will face stiff competition from 19 teams this weekend and 14 from their own central region. The Irish, ranked 50th in the most recent Golf Week/Sagarin index ratings, will face three higher-ranked teams in Missouri (30), Baylor (19) and Indiana (46). Twelve teams in the field, including Notre Dame, can boast top-100 rankings in the Golf Week polls.

To improve on their eighth place finish last year at this event, the Irish hope for another strong Shootout performance from sophomore Katie Brophy, who led the team last year with a 19 over par 235 at this event.

"It's too early to say anything for sure right now" King said. "Katie's been playing really well." King also had good things to say about freshman Noriko Nakazaki, who leads the team in stroke average, with just under 75 strokes a round.

"She's really been great for us," King said about her budding first-year star. Rounding out her scoring was first-year star Katie Brophy, who led the team last year with a 19 over par 235 at this event.

The tournament begins this morning and will last through Sunday. Play will begin at 8:30 a.m. each day, with seedings and tee times for Saturday and Sunday determined by each teams standings at the end of the previous day.

Contact Eric Retter at etterer@nd.edu

ROWING

Spartans, Vols fall to women's crew team

By CHRISTINE ARMSTRONG
Senior Staff Writer

Over spring break, the women's rowing team kicked off its 2004 season with races against No. 6 Michigan, No. 13 Tennessee and No. 18 Duke in Tennessee.

The team fared well against tough competition, which will continue as the Irish face a Top 20 team in every race this season.

On Saturday, the Irish won six races against the Spartans and Lady Vols on Lake Lanier in Knoxville, Tenn. Notre Dame triumphed in all three second varsity four races and won in each of the three first novice eight heats.

The Irish second varsity four of Caitlin Rackish, cox, Katie O'Hara, stroke, Danielle Stealy, Kristin Henkel and Tricia David won their first heat in 5 minutes, 17.62 seconds, over nine seconds ahead of Tennessee. In the second race, the crew beat the Spartans with a 5:21.38 finish. Finally, in the third race, Notre Dame's boat of Eileen Radis, cox, Sarah Shaw, stroke, Ariel Klingaman, Danielle Potts, Beth Hatch, Shannon Ladine, stroke, and Colleen McCotter secured a close second place finish in 5:29.29.

The Irish first varsity eight of Maureen Gibbons, cox, Natalie Ladine, stroke, Alice Bartek, Meghan Boyle, Rachel Polinski, Melissa Felker, Katie Chenoweth, Danielle Protassowich and Jacqueline Hazen gave the nationally-ranked Lady Vols a scare. Tennessee squeaked out a victory finishing in 4:36.53, two seconds ahead of the Irish.

Overall, Irish coach Martin Armstron was pleased with the weekend's performances.

"I think the base pace of our race was our strength," Stone said. "The start and finish part were our weakest point of the race, especially against Duke. Our number one performance goal is to reach the NCAs as a team. In order for that to occur, each must make individual improvements to add to the team's speed." Later, the Lady Vols once again snatched a victory away from the Irish. This time the difference came down to Tennessee's time of 4:19.59 and Notre Dame's 4:20.67. The first varsity four crew of Kathryn Long, cox, Pamela Jehkon, stroke, Meredith Thornburgh, Alyssa Close and Kristen Mirzi secured a second-place finish in all three of their races with the Spartans collecting three victories.

"After spending all winter indoors, it was exciting to see how quickly we came together to face these teams," Irish captain Natalie Ladine said. "We have two weeks until we face Michigan. In that time, the coaches are working on lineups, and the rowers are working hard to improve each day."

On Sunday, Notre Dame's second varsity four soared to win the race by more than nine seconds over the Irish's first varsity four. With finishing times of 7:46.12 and 7:55.14, respectively, Duke followed in 8:04.87, and the third Irish varsity four boat of Shannan Lettieri, cox, Sarah Keeler, stroke, Julie Lewis, Ann Mulligan and Jana Miller took fourth with an 8:02.84.

The Irish first varsity eight crew secured a close second-second-place finish in 6:49.25, falling four seconds short of the Blue Devils.

The novice teams also boasted strong performances over the weekend. Saturday, the Irish won all three heats in their regatta against Michigan State and Tennessee, and the first novice eight was also victorious over the Blue Devils.

Notre Dame's boat of Eileen Fretheim, cox, Sarah Kate Halbert, stroke, Ariel Klingaman, Danielle Potts, Beth Hatch, Shannon Ladine, stroke, and Colleen McCotter finished in 7:14.19, while Duke's crew finished almost a full minute behind in 8:12.06. Bridget Osetinski, cox, Audrey deGuire, stroke, Alicia Cooper, Samantha Borel, and Crystal Kilday of Notre Dame's novice four crew had a triumphant finish in 8:32.22, eight seconds ahead of the Blue Devils.

Contact Christine Armstrong at Carmstro@nd.edu

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PRAY, EAT, AND UNITE AS A CLASS!
Belles come home for first series

By BOBBY GRiffin
Sport Writer

Coming off a solid spring break trip, Saint Mary’s will try to win its first home game of the season today, when they host Goshen College.
The matchup with Goshen will be the Belles’ first of four non-league games before they begin conference play against defending MIAA champion Alma March 28.

“We are looking forward to playing Goshen tomorrow, because last year we dropped a doubleheader to them, and we played very poorly,” Belles coach Anna Welsh said.

Following today’s game, the Belles visit Rose-Hulman, St. Mary of the Woods and Purdue-North Central.

Saint Mary’s played well on its four-day trip to Fort Myers, Fla., going 5-2 before dropping their final two games to Ursinus College (Pa) and Webster (Wis.). In their five wins, they outscored opponents 31-9 and had two shutouts in the process.

“Overall, I am pleased with the outcome of our spring trip. Each game we were able to turn into a learning experience, both positive and negative," Welsh said. "If we can improve on the things that we didn’t do as well and keep hitting like we did for the most part we are going to have a successful season.”
The Belles are coming off a 15-17-1 record last year, where they finished sixth in the MIAA, going 4-8. The team is young this year, returning just four seniors. The rest are freshmen and sophomores.

Returning for the Belles on offense are seniors Marnie Welsh and Katie Tebele. Welsh batted .301 with three home runs and 13 RBIs in 21 games last season. Tebele, who batted .276 and started all 19 games she played in, will look to improve upon her statistics in order to solidify the team’s chances in the MIAA.

Possibly most important to the success of the Belles this season will be the continued development of sophomore pitcher Bridget Graff. As a freshman, Graff started seven games and finished the season with an impressive 2.76 ERA. Her 42 1/3 innings were second on the team only to Libby Wilhelmy, and her 25 strikeouts to only seven walks was best on the team.

Grail also batted .284 in 67 at-bats. Her 19 hits were second on the team to Welsh. These impressive statistics led to her selection as all-MIAA second-teamer in her first collegiate season.

Wilhelmy led the Belles last year in innings, strikeouts and ERA in 56 2/3 innings. Welsh is optimistic heading into this season, but said the Belles need more offensive to be victorious.

“It’s hard to expect a pitcher to build teams scoreless when we don’t produce offensively. That is something we are really going to focus on for [Goshen] and the rest of the games,” Welsh said.

“If we can put seven innings together offensively and defensively, then we will be hard to beat.”

Today’s first pitch between Saint Mary’s and Goshen will be at 3 p.m.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgrill@nd.edu

LAX 11
Sunday • March 21st, 4:00-5:00pm
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Meet the coaching staff and players, get autographs, and run drills with the men’s lacrosse team!

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#10 Notre Dame vs. Ohio State.

SOFTBALL HOME OPENER
Saturday, March 20th 1:00 & 3:00pm
Notre Dame vs. Eastern Michigan
@ Ivy Field
**FREE ADMISSION**
Ousted continued from page 28

goalie was out of position. Despite coming into the game with the CCHA's leading penalty kill, the Irish were unable to stop the Ohio State power play, as the Buckeyes quickly tied the game back up with power play goals by Rod Pelley and Dave Stiebel.

Notre Dame responded with a power play goal of its own at 1:30 left in the first period, as Aaron Gill scored on a slapshot from just outside the left circle. The teams went into the intermission with the score 1-1 in favor of the Irish, in a wacky first period that saw a combined 31 shots on goal (Notre Dame with 15, Ohio State with 16).

The Buckeyes only needed 16 seconds to score the first goal of the second period and tie the game again. Scott May skated unimpeded to the middle of the ice and whipped a shot over Irish goalie David Brown's glove.

Notre Dame managed to retake the lead at 4:43 of the second, as Gill scored his third goal of the game off a Ohio State turnover. A Buckeye defensive ошибка tried to pass the puck from behind the Ohio State net, but instead it went to the middle of the ice and Gill was able to poke it home.

The Irish took their second two-goal lead of the game a little less than 6 minutes later, as forward Mike Walsh picked up a rebound off Gill shot and pushed it past Betz. Dave Caruso replaced Bett in goal after Notre Dame's fifth goal of the game.

The change energized the Buckeyes, who cut the lead to one before the end of the sec-

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools is evaluating the University of Notre Dame for continuing accreditation.

There will be an open meeting for students with selected members of the NCA accreditation team on:

Tuesday, March 23, from 5:00-5:45 p.m.
at McKenna Auditorium.

All students - undergraduate and graduate - are invited to attend.

The NCA accreditation team wants to hear your ideas about how Notre Dame can continue to improve as a university.

Ousted continued from page 28

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The Irish continued from page 28

The No. 2 doubles tandem of sophomore Lauren Connolly and senior Alicia Salas were first off the courts, defeating Chelsea Glynn and Russian Anastasia Zhukova 8-2 to disrupt their four-match losing streak.

"[Connelly] really served well today," Louderback said. "When she serves well, they play well and (Salas) returns well."

Junior Sarah Jane Connolly and sophomore Kristina Stastny clinched the doubles point, besting Bulgarian Deni Alexandrova and Hilary Tyler at No. 3. The duo rallied from behind to even the score at 6-6 and quickly gained control of the match.

At No. 1 doubles, freshmen Meg Racette and Hilary Mintz outlasted No. 37 Catrina and Christian Thompson 9-8, 7-5. The Thompsons took an early 5-2 lead in the tiebreaking match before Racette and Mintz earned five consecutive points for the win.

In singles, No. 13 Salas earned the first point for the Irish with a quick 6-4, 6-1 win against Racette at the No. 1 position. This match was the sixth consecutive win for the senior, who is 10-2 in dual matches.

"Alicia played really well today," Louderback said. "(Racette) and she played is tough. She doesn't make errors." Stastny followed with a 6-3, 6-2 defeat of Alexandrova at No. 5.

"She's really been coming through for us this spring," Louderback said. "She put us up 3-2 and made it tough for Iowa to come back after that."

Christian Thompson secured victory for the Irish, edging out Mintz 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 at No. 2. In her first career dual match, sophomore Liz Donohue defeated Tyler at No. 6, rallying from a loss in the first set 2-6, 6-1, 6-3. Tyler was 5-0 this spring heading into Thursday's meet.

"(Donohue) has played really well in practice, and she's worked hard," Louderback said. "I think she was nervous at first, but she settled down after the first match."

NOTRE DAME 6, IOWA 1

SINGLES
No. 1: No. 13 Alicia Salas (ND) d. Meg Racette (Iowa) 6-6, 6-1.
No. 2: Christian Thompson (ND) d. Hilary Mintz (Iowa) 2-6, 6-2, 6-1.
No. 3: No. 84 Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Chelsea Glynn (Iowa) 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).
No. 4: Anastasia Zhukova (Iowa) d. Lauren Connolly (ND) 6-3, 7-5.
No. 5: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Deni Alexandrova (Iowa) 6-1, 6-2.
No. 6: Liz Donohue (ND) d. Hilary Tyler (Iowa) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

DOUBLES
No. 1: Racette/Mintz (Iowa) 4-6, No. 7 Thompson/Thompson (ND) 9-4 (7-5).
No. 2: L. Connolly/Salas (ND) d. Zhukova/Glynn (Iowa) 8-2.
No. 3: S. J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) d. Alexandrova/Tyler (Iowa) 8-3.

Contact Anne Loughery at aloughery@nd.edu.
ND SOFTBALL

Home season will begin on Saturday with doubleheader

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

After playing tournaments on the road in warm climates, the Irish come home this weekend to cold and snow flurries in their home opener. "It's going to be cold," Irish outfielder Megan Cicoli said. Notre Dame (17-9) opens its home schedule against Eastern Michigan (8-8) in a Saturday doubleheader.

"We love playing at home," Cicoli said. "Our parents and friends will be here. You can't beat playing at home." The Eagles come to South Bend after a doubleheader split with IUPUI. Nikki Denman leads Eagle hitters with a .388 batting average, including 10 RBIs. Meanwhile, their pitching staff is led by ace Michelle Lloyd, who boasts a 1.99 ERA and is 3-3 on the year.

Sunday, the Irish travel to Kalamazoo, Mich., where they face Western Michigan (10-11). The Broncos are fresh off a doubleheader split with IUPUI. Nikki Denman leads Eagle hitters with a .388 batting average, including 10 RBIs. Meanwhile, their pitching staff is led by ace Michelle Lloyd, who boasts a 1.99 ERA and is 3-3 on the year.

"The Midwest trip will fine tune our skills," Cicoli said. "We need to be consistent, and that will come." Notre Dame is led offensively by Cicoli, who is hitting .395 with 11 steals. Meanwhile, infielder Meagan Ruthrauff has been the Irish RBI leader, with 21, and has four home runs and a .348 batting average. The Irish, who were picked to win the Irish victory over Florida Atlantic on Saturday, are starting to respect our pitching. "Our people are starting to respect our pitchers," Cicoli said. "It's great for our program. People are starting to respect our program. This team just has so much character." Game time is set for 1 p.m. Saturday at Ivy Field.

Contact Heather van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

BASEBALL

Irish take on Salukis

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Staff Writer

In the first game of its spring break road trip to Texas, No. 8 Notre Dame (12-1) and Southern Illinois (2-12) met in an epic back-and-forth slugfest. In the end, the Irish prevailed 12-11 in 11 innings.

This weekend, the Salukis will get a shot at revenge as they host the Irish for a pair of games Saturday and Sunday. The Irish have been one of the hottest teams in the nation to start the season this year. Last week, they got their first taste of defeat in a 17-9 loss to Texas-San Antonio, but bounced back to rattle off five straight wins in the Alamo City Irish Baseball Classic and the Round Rock Collegiate Classic.

"The trip [last week] was outstanding for our team," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "I think we found out a lot about ourselves this week. I think we showed some signs that great teams have. That is to be able to win a game either way — a low -run, well -pitched game or a slugfest. We found ways to win both types of games."

For their tough play during the week, the Irish were ranked as high as eighth by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and as low as 12th by Baseball America. The Sports Weekly/ESPN Top 25 Poll has the Irish slotted ninth.

Much of a reason for Notre Dame's hot start has been the play of left-handed pitcher Tom Thornton. Last week, the sophomore was named Big East Pitcher of the Week for his eight innings of shutout work in a 6-1 Irish victory over Texas Tech. Thornton allowed the Red Raiders only one hit in his time on the mound.

"So sooner or later I think people have to admit that [Thornton's play] is not a fluke," Mainieri said. "He's the real deal, and he's pitch­ ing great. It's been the biggest shot in the arm for our team."

Offensively, the Irish bats have been alive through the first 13 games of the season. As a team, Notre Dame is hitting .324 and averaging over nine runs a game.

Third baseman Matt Edwards leads the way at the plate for the Irish with a .435 average. The junior also has set the pace for the squad in RBIs (17), home runs (four), slugging percentage (.783) and walks (10).

While the Salukis struggled at the beginning of the season, they have begun to improve of late. In addition to their strong effort against the Irish, the Salukis have won their last two games — a 12-9 victory over Penn State and 22-6 drubbing of Murray State Saturday. On the season, Southern Illinois has posted only a .224 average as a team with 4.4 runs per game. Things aren't much better for the Salukis on the hill either, as they have posted a 6.27 ERA on the year, with opponents batting .325 against them.

Saturday's game is scheduled for 2 p.m., and Sunday's will be at noon.

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu
**Hockey**

**One and done**

Ohio State's 6-5 overtime win knocks Irish from Super Six

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

DETROIT — Another year, another early exit from the Joe. Ohio State forward Tyson Strachan ended Notre Dame's stay at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit as he scored at 9:49 of overtime, sending the Irish home with a 6-5 loss Thursday night.

It is the third straight time that the Irish have lost in the first round of the CCHA Super Six.

"From a spectator's standpoint that was a pretty good college hockey game," Irish coach Dave Poulin said. "From a coach's standpoint, though, our strengths all year have been defense and penalty killing, and we give up six goals. It's a little disappointing.

"We had our chances in overtime, but just couldn't capitalize.

The Irish now have to wait to see if they will receive an NCAA at-large bid. With 20 wins on the season, Notre Dame has an impressive resume that includes wins over several ranked teams.

"We talked before the game about not wanting to put our NCAA future in someone else's hands, and keeping it in our own hands," Poulin said. "We're certainly still going to practice on Saturday morning preparing as if we're going to keep playing." It didn't take long for the Irish to get going, as they scored the first goal of the game just 5 minutes, 32 seconds into the first period. Forward Rob Globke showed off his skating ability, taking the puck down the left side while avoiding several defenders, and whipped a low wrist shot past Ohio State's Mike Betz that beat the goalie to the stick side.

Notre Dame increased its lead to two goals just a little over a minute later, when Betz gave up a long rebound to the slot and Aaron Gill buried the puck in the back of the net while the Irish right wing T.J. Jindra brings the puck up the ice in a game against Alaska-Fairbanks Jan. 30.

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**Men's Basketball**

**Thrust into the spotlight**

With Francis out, Cornett is thriving in his new role as the Irish post presence

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Senior Staff Writer

When Torin Francis' back injury knocked him out for the season, Irish coach Mike Brey looked at the lack of a true low-post presence and reluctantly told his team to become more perimeter-oriented.

The move worked in wins against Connecticut, Notre Dame and Cincinnati, but teams soon took advantage of the absence of a dominant rebounder for the Irish.

But now, with the rise of Rick Cornett — who is averaging 15.5 points a game over his last two games — Brey now has the Irish looking back down low.

"It's funny how our team has changed," he said. "We now..." see CORNETT\page 22

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**ND Women's Tennis**

Irish slam Hawkeyes 6-1 at Eck

By ANNE LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

The No. 47 Hawkeyes proved they were anything but a pushover at Thursday's meet.

Iowa (8-3) extended three of the six singles matches to tiebreaking sets, posted a point after a victory at No. 4 singles and claimed a win at No. 1 doubles.

But their window of opportunity was quickly slammed shut.

No. 21 Notre Dame demonstrated its staying power with a 6-1 win, improving its record to 8-4. The talented Irish secured the vital doubles point after defeating their opponents at Nos. 2 and 3 and nearly sweeping singles.

"We really competed today," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "We really fought for each point."

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**SMC Softball**

NO SOFTBALL

Eastern Michigan at Notre Dame
Saturday, 1 p.m.

The Irish kick off their home season Saturday with a doubleheader

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**Baseball**

NOTRE DAME AT SOUTH FLORIDA
Saturday, 2 p.m.

The Belles begin their home schedule today against Saint Mary's

page 26

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**SMC Softball**

Goshen College at Saint Mary's
Today, 3 p.m.

The Belles look to get back to winning ways against Goshen

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**Men's Lacrosse**

NOTRE DAME AT LOYOLA
Saturday, 1 p.m.

The Irish try to bounce back in Texas

page 23

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**ND Women's Golf**

NOTRE DAME AT BAYLOU/TAPATO
Spring Shootout Today-Sunday

The Irish kicked off their 2004 season with strong performances against Michigan State, Tennessee and Duke.

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**Rowing**

The Irish kicked off their 2004 season with strong performances against Michigan State, Tennessee and Duke.

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**Irish try to**

NO SOFTBALL

see IRISH/\page 25
Monique Hernandez and Jeneka Joyce return for another dance in the NCAA Tournament.
When Jacqueline Batteast steps onto the court Sunday afternoon, the Irish crowd will see a different player than the one who scored just 13 points in three games in last year’s NCAA Tournament. Instead, they will see a more mature Batteast, who has learned to play in a dominating fashion. But it wasn’t always like that. Batteast, who struggled to find consistency last season, has found her stride in her third season.

“I’ve been able to shoot well,” Batteast said. “That’s the best I’ve have in my entire career.”

Batteast wasn’t always scoring, but not just on the offensive end. She is among the Big East leaders in scoring, rebounding, double-doubles, field goal percentage and blocked shots this season. Batteast has registered seven double-doubles in Big East play and ten overall, good enough to earn her first team All-Big East. She has also been named a finalist for the Naismith Award and the Kodak/Big East All-america Team.

“I feel very honored and I’m glad to see that my name is out there with some of the top players in the country,” Batteast said. “But I think that I’m a really good job and so helped the Notre Dame stay where they were last year. But, but, so it’s a good that everybody in the country is starting to notice that too.”

Batteast, a quiet player, realized her potential Jan. 13 when the Irish knocked off then-No. 4 Connecticut, 78-64. Batteast scored 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, on 10-for-13 shooting. The entire game, if Batteast got the ball, she scored, helping the Irish score when they couldn’t. She ended the game with a block of Huskies’ star Diana Taurasi, despite having four fouls. Batteast was the reason the Irish were able to pull off the win, ending the Big East’s regular season. In the UConn game, I saw that I pretty much could do whatever I wanted to do against one of the top teams in the country, so if Diana Taurasi and company couldn’t stop me, I wasn’t going to let Pittsburgh or St. John’s stop me,” Batteast said.

On the year, Batteast is averaging 15.4 points, 8.3 rebounds and 1.28 blocks per game, while shooting 44.8 percent. She was named to the WBCA Classic All-Tournament Team Nov. 15 after scoring in double figures in all three games, including 27 points against then-No. 22 Auburn. So what has been the difference this season in her domination?

“Shot selection and not shooting as much,” Batteast said. “The less shots, the more go in, so that’s what I’ve been doing.”

Most recently, she dominated against Rutgers in the Big East Tournament, dropping 22 points and grabbing eight rebounds. But despite her eighth 20-point game of the year, the Irish were unable to pull off the win. But as Batteast already knows, the postseason is a different story. In last year’s first two rounds, she went 2-for-26, scoring just five points in two Irish wins over Arizona and Kansas State. This year, she hopes things will be different, as she is more confident in her game than ever.

“I want to play a lot better than I did last year,” Batteast said. “Hopefully, shoot better — I haven’t been shooting well, but I just want to be as consistent as I’ve been all season.

And if Batteast plays the way she is capable, the Irish have nowhere to go but back to Hartford, Conn., the site of the Sweet 16, and where Notre Dame lost to Rutgers in the Big East Tournament two weeks ago.

“It’s all about the defense,” Batteast said. “We’ve been pretty good about that this year. I think anything less than Sweet 16 will be a disappointment. I like where we’re at.”

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvango@nd.edu

Jacqueline Batteast goes up for a shot against Villanova Jan. 25. Batteast has led the Irish all season with her consistent play.

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The Irish are just too tough at home this season — 13-0. They have won every game of the Big East Tournament and now are 16-2 on the road. The crowd should be pumped for this first-round matchup.

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COACHING

McGraw has led Notre Dame to nine appearances and five Sweet 16 in three years at ND. She was a born winner and has taken the Bears to the NCAA Tournament last year. This is her first coaching position after being an assistant since 1990 at various schools.

Style of Play

No. 1 Notre Dame relies on its defense to shut down teams, while its offense is inconsistent. Batteast doesn’t always get help on the offensive end. The defense has been consistent all season.

Post Players

The Irish have solid inside players in the Big East First-Team forward Janice Taurasi and Batteast. Notre Dame should have a size advantage and may also have to defend outside of the key to limit the Bears 3-point attempts.

Perimeter Players

The Bears don’t do well in their perimeter shooting. Tierney averages 1.8 points and leads a team that has six players shooting over 40 percent from the field. Everyone shoots. The Bears attempt the most 3-pointers of any team in the nation.

Bench

All but two players average double figures in minutes for the Bears. The Irish have a mix of role players on the bench that can toughen defense throughout the season.

Intangibles

Notre Dame is undefeated at home this season — 13-0. They have won every game of the Big East Tournament and now are 16-2 on the road. The crowd should be pumped for this first-round matchup.

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SAMS

McGraw has much more experience and a better record. She has extensive tournament experience and knows what it takes to win. Abraham-Henderson is in her second year at SMS after taking the Bears to the first round of the NCAA Tournament last year. This is her first head coaching position after being an assistant since 1990 at various schools.

SMs

Abraham-Henderson is in her second year at SMS after taking the Bears to the first round of the NCAA Tournament last year. This is her first head coaching position after being an assistant since 1990 at various schools.

Analysis

Notre Dame plays outstanding defense, but is a great shooting team. The Irish have done a great job of knocking down shots. The Irish have done a great job of getting hot and keeping it hot. With a good defense, you can win games and the Irish have that. But in the end, it will be a close game.

Notre Dame should handle the Small 3-pointers. The Irish have Batteast and an array of other players who can make 3-pointers. Pretty much every player can make a 3 and they’ll all shoot. The Irish must limit the Bears’ damage from behind the arc.

While Notre Dame uses more players and McGraw uses them effectively. Gray, Irvin, Fleece and Joyce all have made impacts at different points throughout the season and all can be difference-makers for the Irish.

The Irish are just too tough at home this season — 13-0. They have won every game of the Big East Tournament and now are 16-2 on the road. The crowd should be pumped for this first-round matchup.

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Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvango@nd.edu
Coming back strong

Jeneka Joyce and Monique Hernandez have battled back to play important roles in the success of Notre Dame this season.

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

When they're in the game, Jeneka Joyce and Monique Hernandez make Notre Dame better in every way.

Joyce roams the perimeter, waiting for any opportunity to catch the ball, spot up and bury a 3-pointer. Hernandez gets in a ball-handler's face, plays lockdown defense and huddles every second she's on the court.

But no matter how they do it, the senior guards have been two keys in helping Notre Dame finish the regular season 19-10 and earn a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Now the seniors hope they can use their considerable tournament experience to lead Notre Dame deep into the postseason, starting with Sunday's first-round game against No. 12 Southwest Missouri State at 2:30 p.m.

"You can't teach tournament experience to somebody," Hernandez said. "Having us on the team, even though we're younger, we were still there and we still know what it took to win a national title. So it's really important that we show [the younger players], by the way that we work in practice, that it's going to take a lot more than their efforts during the season.

While they are leaders this season, one year ago, Joyce and Hernandez may have been two of the most unlikely candidates to be significant contributors in pushing Notre Dame toward a serious title run.

Overcoming Injuries

Two things followed Joyce to Notre Dame — a great 3-point shot and numerous injuries.

Joyce refined her outside shooting after tearing her ACL as a freshman in high school. While rehabbing, Joyce practiced shooting 3s at home with her dad and at practice with the team.

"Coming off of that injury, I played a lot and shot a lot because I couldn't do much else but shoot," Joyce said. As a freshman, Joyce hit 28 percent of her 3s and was an integral part of Notre Dame's championship team. But she played in just 25 games because of numerous leg and ankle injuries. The guard came back from those injuries to score 14 points in a second-round NCAA Tournament game against Michigan State, and added five points in the national semifinal matchup against Connecticut.

Joyce said the experience of playing in a final game and being a contributing player in the NCAA Tournament and going to a championship, "Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Joyce started eight games as a sophomore and continued to shoot well from behind the arc, making 35.3 percent of her attempts. She only managed to play in 24 games that season because of injuries.

Then last season, Joyce entered the summer feeling great and had tendonitis in the tendon around the ankle. Instead of playing off-and-on all season, Joyce decided to take the year and fully recover for this season. Even with the season off, there were no guarantees Joyce would be able to play a lot in 2003-04. Many times, Joyce hasn't even been on the court, but she has always played as much as her body will allow.

"She came here as a freshman, she worked hard," McGraw said. "She didn't want it all. It's a body, her body has told her it was time to quit. She has really preferred. She's really battled and still is. But when the team looks at her they know she's been there.

Joyce said that she always planned on finishing her career, even with all the injuries.

I made a commitment to play here, to graduate from Notre Dame deep into the NCAA Tournament, starting with the national title," McGraw said. "That's been good news for Notre Dame as McGraw admits that without Joyce this season, the Irish would almost surely have a few more losses.

"We won the St. John's game and the Pitt game," McGraw said. "She hit so many shots in those games to win those for us. She's just been a great threat to have and we're so happy to have her back.

Against the Red Storm Joyce made 5-of-10 3-pointers and scored 15 points in Notre Dame's 69-56 win. The next game against the Panthers, Joyce made 0-of-8 3s, 16 points for the Irish and a double-double victory.

"It's been awesome to make a lot of impacts," Joyce said. "Especially if I got some open

ings when my ankle is OK for a little bit, I'll be able to go for longer stretches. If you keep me in the game, I'll be able to get points. So that's the most rewarding — when I get to play my minutes and don't have to worry about my ankles nagging me.

Starting Over

Before her junior season, Hernandez decided to transfer to New York University in hopes of increased playing time. But for whatever reasons, NYU and Hernandez weren't a good match, and the New York native said she was ready to return to Notre Dame.

After contacting a player on last year's squad, then-assistant coach Jennifer Hernandez finally talked to McGraw about the possibilities of returning to the Irish. McGraw said she could be on the practice squad for the remainder of the season, Hernandez agreed and participated in the practice squad in January.

We were really happy she wanted to come back," McGraw said.

With this season arrived, Hernandez played limited minutes in Notre Dame's first 12 games before not playing at all in a 76-73 loss at Georgetown. The next day at practice, Hernandez didn't complain, instead she worked harder than anyone else on the team. After practice, McGraw decided to give the senior a chance at the starting lineup and the move has paid huge dividends for Notre Dame.

Since entering the starting lineup, the Irish are 11-4 and Hernandez has provided a significant spark.

"That is what we love about her — her intensity," McGraw said. "She's going to be in your face. She's not going to back down. She's not afraid of anyone. She's played with a lot of heart and is relentless and aggressive and we need that.

While Hernandez has also shown the ability to score — posting double figures in points against Dayton and Miami and making 43 percent of her field goals attempts this season — she understands her role on this team. Players like All-American candidate Jacqueline Batteast score the points, but Hernandez knows she's in the game to play defense.

"I think it's really important to have somebody, preferably more than one person on any team, that's always going to play hard no matter what — if they're scoring, if they're not," Hernandez said. "I think it takes a lot of pressure off others. It's really hard to be a great defensive player... That's my job.”

McGraw said Hernandez's teammates gravitate toward her. At practice Hernandez jokes around a lot and keeps the mood of the team light.

"They love Monique. This team loves her," McGraw said. "The fans love her and the coaches love her. You have to get behind someone who has persevered like she has.

Making a Run

Unlike the 2001 championship run, Joyce and Hernandez will be asked to lead a lot more from their coaches and teammates in this year's tournament. The two will rely on their extensive tournament experience to capture Notre Dame during this difficult tournament, starting with the team's first-round game against No. 12 Southwest Missouri State Sunday.

"Hernandez and I have been through it. We've played in those six games and traveled. What's important now is what we do in practice because that's really going to dictate how we will do in the tournament," Joyce said after Tuesday's practice. "We've been trying to focus and be really intense in practice and hopefully that'll carry over into the game we'll be able to do those things there and win.

The road to the Final Four won't be an easy trip for Notre Dame, but Joyce and Hernandez know the territory well. They didn't come back to Notre Dame just to tie the streak. These two have won in the past and want to win in the present.

That chance begins this weekend and, hopefully for Notre Dame, ends in New Orleans on April 6.

Contact Joe Hettler at jheetter@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information
Notre Dame has a lot to be excited about in this year’s NCAA Tournament, and not just because of its somewhat surprising No. 5 seed. For the first time a handful of teams, including the Irish, have a legitimate chance of winning the national championship. 

Women’s basketball has lacked across-conference parity for years — until this season. In past seasons the Connecticut and Tennessee teams of the world would always be in the Final Four and always play for a national title. 

But with increased national exposure of women’s basketball and better players coming through the junior high and high school systems, more upsets are happening and more good teams have a chance to make a run at the championship. “This tournament is so wide-open,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. There are plenty of examples of the increased parity this season. Connecticut didn’t receive a No. 1 seed in the tournament for the first time in six years.

Small conferences like Conference-USA received more bids (4) to this year’s tournament, than traditional powerhouse conferences like the Pac-10 (3). The Irish are a prime example of this parity. Notre Dame rolled through much of its January schedule, beating five ranked opponents, including then-No. 4 Connecticut by 15 points. But the Irish also lost to lowly Georgetown by one point, a decent West Virginia club and a sub-par Seton Hall team.

Notre Dame ended the regular season at 19-9 overall and 12-4 in conference — good enough to finish second, behind Connecticut. The Irish earned a No. 2 seed in the Big East tournament, but lost in the quarterfinals to Rutgers 51-45.

Still, the team went on an impressive 7-3 against Top 25 opponents, which seemed to help them gain a No. 5 seed in the East Region. The only catch is that the East is arguably the most difficult region in the tournament. Joining Notre Dame are Penn State, Houston, North Carolina, Colorado, California at Santa Barbara, Iowa and Auburn. And if the Irish manage to get to the Elite Eight, they could face Connecticut in Hartford which is a daunting task for any team.

Notre Dame could easily make a run through that tough bracket, or they could easily lose in the first round if they don’t play well. Notre Dame has the advantage of playing its first two games at the Joyce Center, where the team is a perfect 13-0 this season.

Their first-round opponent, Southwest Missouri State, won’t be an easy matchup. The Bears attempt and make the most 3-pointers in any team in the country. They shoot over 40 percent from behind the arc as a team and have the ability to beat Notre Dame.

If the Irish dispose of the Missouri Valley Conference champions and head into the second round, they likely will face No. 4 North Carolina. The Tar Heels will be a tough second-round foe and it won’t get any easier from there with possible matchups against No. 1 Penn State and No. 2 Connecticut.

For these reasons, McGraw is probably more anxious than usual before the tournament this season. She knows that her team has all the pieces needed to make that run through the field, but she also knows with the increased parity, any team has the capabilities to knock the Irish out for good.

“Anybody can beat anybody,” McGraw said. “In [the 2001 national championship season], we’re going ‘We know we can beat them’ and now you can’t say that about anyone.” All season, the Irish have shown promise by beating good teams, and then slipping up against lesser foes. In the tournament, they won’t have the luxury of a slip against anyone.

There are no mulligans on the road to a national championship.