Class size decreases at SMC

By KELLY MEEHAN
News Writer

At a time when Notre Dame is struggling to find room for all of its admits, its sister school is facing the opposite problem — an enrollment drop of 12.7 percent.

The Saint Mary's class of 2008 is down 51 students from the previous year. But according to Mary Pat Nolan, admissions director, Saint Mary's is not alone in its decreasing numbers.

"Many of the schools that our applicants apply to were also having challenging years and there was a considerable amount of movement among wait-lists," Nolan said. "Choosing a state university, whether regional or flagship, seems to have become an acceptable option for students wanting to stay closer to home or for students wanting to find a lower cost educational option," many of whom would have selected Saint Mary's in the past.

Nolan said Saint Mary's does not usually compete for students with other small private colleges or women's colleges. Nationally only two percent of students consider attending a women's college. This Admissions office will not know the exact cause of the decrease until it has seen SMC/page 13

Crowding squeezing freshmen

By AMANDA MICHAELS
Associate News Editor

Almost 70 freshmen had a dubious welcome this week, as they found themselves cramming their belongings into spaces smaller than the average shoebox-size room.

Due to rising numbers of both seniors staying on campus and accepted female freshman, most women's dorms faced an overcrowding crisis this year.

Subsequently, the Office of Residence Life was forced to convert every available study lounge into an inhabitable space, and see HOUSING/page 9

Students impact business

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

As if the van-fulls of stereos, clothes, hangers and televisions arriving on campus this weekend weren't enough, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students also flock to area stores to pick up other last-minute college essentials.

"We gear up for this like we gear up for Christmas," said Bob Tharp, assistant manager at the Grape Road Meijer store.

This weekend, about 10,000 students descend on the Notre Dame campus as well as several thousand more at Saint Mary's, Bebel College and Indiana University-South Bend. Naturally, the economic impact on the local business world is huge.

see BUSINESS/page 9

New Domers bring more than just stats

Notre Dame Class of 2008

1,991 incoming freshmen

• Mean SAT Score - 1367
• Mean ACT Score - 32

By CLAIRE HEININGER
News Editor

Notre Dame's 1,991 incoming freshmen may boast the most staggering academic statistics of any class in its history, but the University isn't boasting — yet.

"If you brag too much about the class, it's like a hospital bragging about the health of the patients coming in," Dan Saracino, assistant provost for admissions, said. "The mark of the school is what they've done when they leave."

And the mark of an incoming class, he continued, lies not in the test scores and the scores of extracurricular students bringing to campus, but in how well this brew of potential and experience will fit into what Saracino likes to call "the story of Notre Dame."
INSIDE COLUMN

Too fast

This weekend you and the rest of the smartest class ever at Notre Dame — at least until the class of 2009 arrives — leave a world of comfort you've known for 18 years. Walking with open arms is a new home inside the proverbial bubble where you'll spend the next four years. And that's the problem — four years.

It seems like an eternity as you serenate dorms, meet people who only want to know your name, hometown and dorm are pay games that seem like you're back in summer camp. It seems like a welcome change after those crowded high school hallways. Filling out a myriad of scholarship and college applications and praying one of those envelopes in the mail is thick and not thin.

It seems like a world of freedom with no parental supervision, the availability of "libations" for 21-year olds and a speedy Internet connection that allows you to procrastinate by amassing a massive mp3 collection, playing addictive mindless games and endlessly checking your buddies' away messages.

But one day you'll wake up a senior like me and realize those four precious years are down to a lonely one. That might look like a big jump — and you probably think I'm crazy for mentioning graduation before you've taken a class here — but it happens faster than freshman engineers can switch to the business school (as I can attest).

Okay, it might not happen that quickly. As all that and countless other things transpire, you get trapped in a fast-paced, jam-packed daily routine, something horrible happens. You forget what Notre Dame's all about.

At the conclusion of not only a weekend, but also a summer where everyone is giving a piece of advice to make college those so-called "best four years of your life," here's mine — take a step back every once in awhile. Take in the moment and appreciate what's happening.

Whether it's being thrown into the air by your friends for push-ups at football games, staying up until 4 a.m. for no apparent reason or making a fool of yourself at Bookstore Basketball, the world's largest outdoor 5-on-5 tournament, another one of those crowded high school highways, the world's largest outdoor 5-on-5 tournament.

Whether it's singing in a choir, going to Mass at the Basilica or doing some sort of service. Whether it's cheering your friend at Bengal Bouts (a student boxing tournament that raises money for the Bangladesh missions), playing an inter-hall sport or starting the weekend on Thursday night.

Whether it's reflecting at the Grotto, jogging around the lakes or walking up God Quad as the sun shines down on the Dome and goose bumps line your arms. Always remember — this is a special place. Just don't start realizing that before it's too late.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN?

Henry Scott
Senior

"Enjoy your time here, it goes by really quickly."

Arthur Lam
Sophomore

"Enjoy the weather as much as possible."

Pattie Phan
Senior

"Don't spend too much time studying because it's not worth it."

Adam Record
Sophomore

"Meet as many people as you can."

Greg Durr
Senior

"Hang out at Zahm a lot."

Barbara Greves
North Dining Hall employee

"Just be patient. Let people help you if you are nervous on your first day."

OriEntation Activities

Notre Dame Orientation Events

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21
1:00 P.M. - OFFICIAL ORIENTATION
Joyce Center

3:15 P.M. - PARENT ORIENTATION
Joyce Center

8:00 P.M. - MEETINGS WITH RECTORs
AND HALL STAFF
At Residence Halls

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22
10:00 A.M. - EUCHARISTIC LITURGY
Joyce Center

11:30 A.M. - BOX LUNCH
Joyce Center

12:00 P.M. - "THE SPIRIT OF NOTRE DAME"
Joyce Center

Saint Mary's Orientation Events

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21
12:00 P.M. - PICNIC
Library Green

2:30 P.M. - OPEN HOUSE
Noble Family Dining Hall

4:30 P.M. - ORIENTATION MASS
Angelo Athletics Facility

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22
10:45 A.M. - FAREWELL BRUNCH
Noble Family Dining Hall

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY
HIGH 71
LOW 52

TODAY
HIGH 60
LOW 52

TODAY
HIGH 74
LOW 53

TODAY
HIGH 60
LOW 52

TODAY
HIGH 79
LOW 62

TODAY
HIGH 81
LOW 64

Atlanta 82 / 69 Boston 82 / 64 Chicago 73 / 52 Denver 78 / 54 Houston 91 / 73 Los Angeles 78 / 60 Minneapolis 74 / 58 New York 82 / 67 Philadelphia 84 / 66 Phoenix 101 / 78 Seattle 73 / 61 St. Louis 77 / 53 Tampa 88 / 74 Washington 85 / 67
ND freshmen focus on election
Assigned reading explores U.S. voting trends

By AMANDA MICHAELS
American News Editor

In keeping with the election buzz charging the nation, the second annual First-Year Academic Convocation, "Election 2004: A Watershed?," asks freshmen to examine the trends of voter apathy in Thomas Patterson's book "The Vanishing Voter.


Due to concerns voiced by current sophomores, this workload is a decrease from last year's, when students were asked to read four articles and three Web sites in addition to the "Heart of Islam," which is approximately 300 pages.

The idea of the program is to allow students to explore a pertinent topic through a set of readings culminating in a discussion of the issue, and was deemed a success after its inaugural trial.

At last year's convocation, "The Heart of Islam" sparked debate on the religious and political conflicts in the United States and the Middle East: now "The Vanishing Voter" is intended to bring the focus to the role of citizenship in democracy and the state of voter participation in the country.

"Last year, the Middle East was certainly in everyone's mind, and everything we did was good background for the things happening today," said Eileen Kolman, dean of the First Year of Studies. "This fall, the November elections will be a top concern, and we hope to be part of the buzz on campus over them."

Rather than the original three-panel discussion that received some criticism for its length, this year's event will center on an interview with Patterson by Matthew Storin, Associate Vice President for News and Information and a past editor of the Boston Globe.

There will be an extended question and answer session after the interview, and Kolman said that she is encouraging the 400 students who have been posted on the convocation's online discussion board to come with strong questions for Patterson.

"We're not planting questions this year, but we certainly don't want silence," she said. "But given the amount of chatter on the Web site, I don't foresee that happening."

The convocation is also being held earlier in the semester than last year's, so the subject will be fresher in the students' minds, said Kolman.

More class time will also be devoted to working with the book and topic, specifically in First Year Composition courses, and attending at the convocation will most likely be an assignment for these courses.

"Voting Irish" T-shirts will also be distributed to encourage attendance.

Kolman said she hopes the changes in format and subject matter will draw more students to the convocation.

"The election seems to be such an active topic this year nationally, and especially among young people," Kolman said.

Eileen Kolman, dean of First Year of Studies

Notre Dame targets international students
University credits financial aid, recruiting efforts with increased enrollment over the past five years

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

As freshmen from all 50 states pack up their boxes and make the trip to South Bend this weekend, they are joined by a similar group of freshmen following much the same routine. But in addition to bringing behind friends and family, these freshmen will change countries and cultures as well.

There are 76 international students, who compose 3.6 percent of this year's freshmen class, and part of its goal to create a more culturally diverse student body, the University has placed special emphasis on recruiting and accepting higher numbers of international students.

"We're doing extensive travel internationally. We've raised the awareness of Notre Dame," said Dan Saracino, director of undergraduate admissions.

"We're doing extensive travel internationally. We've raised the awareness of Notre Dame," said Dan Saracino, director of undergraduate admissions.

While the percentage of these students in freshmen classes has doubled overall since 2000, it has hovered around 4 percent for the past three years. Ultimately, the University hopes to see that number rise to 5 percent.

These increases come as a result of financial aid for international students and intensive recruiting efforts in Europe, Asia and Latin America Saracino said. And following the trend of their American peers, these students have shown consistent academic improvement.

At most universities, international students must find their own funding. But in fall 2002, Notre Dame first began offering financial aid to international applicants in hopes that it could draw more students from developing countries to the University.

Specifically, the University targeted Latin American countries because of their socioeconomic standing and predominantly Catholic culture.

"Roughly half of the financial assistance goes to that area," Saracino said. "Though proud of the strides made toward increased international enrollment, Saracino said limits for financial aid and competing pressures on available University money would likely keep the international student percentage at around 4 percent.

"We could be at 6 or 7 percent for international students if we had enough financial aid. You can't issue a visa to an international student unless you have enough resources," Saracino said.

Instead, he said the University hopes it can motivate international alumni to contribute resources for incoming freshmen — and provide new generations of students with the same Notre Dame experience they once had.
Transfers find housing at SMC
ND welcomes students despite crowding

By ANGELA SAOUĐ
Saint Mary's Editor

As if transferring to Notre Dame wasn't complicated enough, it just got a little stranger for 17 women, who found off-campus housing not at Turtle Creek or College Park, but at Saint Mary's.

Many of the 124 transfer students were able to secure on-campus housing, the crunch forced some to seek lodging elsewhere. To help alleviate the situation, rooms in Regina North Hall were offered as an alternative.

"All the transfer students, most of them being juniors, will be living on the fifth floor of Regina North together," Michelle Russell, director of Residence Life at Saint Mary's, said. "There will only be Notre Dame students on this floor."

Students won't get the chance to get too comfortable, however, because the situation is only temporary. As space becomes available at Notre Dame, they will be able to move to their own campus.

Besides the physical separation from their peers and the University, the women will have plenty of opportunities to get comfortable thanks to the orientation program designed by the Admissions Office.

"Transfer orientation co-commissioner Kevin Keller is helping to acclimate students to Notre Dame through a variety of activities. But the weekend dubbed "An Irish Beginning" will not be the end of the road for the students and the counselors who greeted them."

This year, we're starting a big brothers and big sisters program where any transfer student who wants to buddy up with an orientation counselor can," Keller said. "Often, transfer students don't get to live on campus and that can leave them alienated from the experiences here. This program will hopefully help them get involved and keep them connected with campus so they can go to an SVN or another campus activity if they want.

Although his job is to help make the students' transition to Notre Dame as smooth as possible, for Keller, it is something bigger that brings him satisfaction.

"I was in their shoes once before, and I want to be able to provide them with the help that I wish I'd had," he said. "These students are in a special category all their own, and being able to help them transition from their old school to ours and show them the true Notre Dame experience is a rare opportunity."

Contact Angela Saoud at saoud3030@saintmary.edu

Above, Notre Dame transfer Connie Slobach moves into Regina Hall. At right, Todd Torres gives transfer students a tour of campus.

PHOTOS BY CLAIRE KELLEY & CHUY BENITEZ

2004 NOTRE DAME SOCCER
IRISH vs. NORTHWESTERN
MONDAY, AUGUST 23 \ 7:00 PM \ ALUMNI FIELD

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SEASON FOOTBALL TICKET LOTTERY DRAWING AT HALFTIME!

ANY STUDENT WITH AN EXACT MATCH OF THE NUMBER DRAWN WINS THEIR SEASON TICKET FREE! (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!)

PRE-GAME TAILGATE FOR ALL FANS!

THE FIRST 600 STUDENTS RECEIVE A 30-MINUTE PHONE CARD COURTESY OF:

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WE’VE BEEN PUTTING OUT* EVERY NIGHT FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS.

*WE’RE TALKING ABOUT NEWSPAPERS. HAVEN’T YOU HEARD OF PARIETALS YET?

Meet editors from News, Sports, Viewpoint, Scene, Photo and Business to find out what you could do for Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s daily student newspaper.

Please Join Us for
The Observer Open House
Monday, August 23
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Basement of South Dining Hall
Food will be served.
By CLAIRE HEININGER
News Editor

**Football frustration**

Talk about a sophomore slump.

In his second season as Irish head coach, Tyone Willingham followed a surprising 10-3 campaign and Gator Bowl appearance in 2002-03 with a disappointing 5-7 record last fall, a trio of embarrassing losses to Michigan, USC and Florida State trailing the Irish.

Despite debilitating the toughest schedule in the country — Notre Dame appeared to be finished with an 8-6-3 record — and juggling a quarterback controversy that shaped up between junior Carlyle Holiday and freshman Brady Quinn, the Irish players and coaching staff received scarce off-season breathing room from frustrations.

In February, more than 400 alumni signed a letter to the Board of Trustees blaming the University’s priorities for the football program’s sustained woes. Principal letter writer Tim Kelley attributed Notre Dame’s decade-long disappearance from the national championship hunt to problems in the structure of the athletic department, particularly the influence of athletic director Kevin White has over football coaching hires.

The critics remained vocal in late March and early April, when 1956 Notre Dame alumnus signed a letter to the Board of Trustees blaming the University’s priorities for the football program’s sustained woes. Principal letter writer Tim Kelley attributed Notre Dame’s decade-long disappearance from the national championship hunt to problems in the structure of the athletic department, particularly the influence of athletic director Kevin White has over football coaching hires.

Through a year of disappointment and finger-pointing, Willingham, White and associate athletic director John Heisler have tried to keep the focus on improving on the field, and students have tried to be patient while the team continues to adjust to the pro-style offense — but a performance outstanding enough to silence the critics remains to be seen.

**Sexual assault trials end in one conviction**

More than a year and a half after a female Notre Dame student accused then football player Lorenzo Crawford, Donald Dykes, Abram Elam and Justin Smith of sexual assault in March 2002, only Elam was convicted on criminal charges.

A jury found Elam guilty of sexual battery, a class D felony, but acquitted him of conspiracy to commit rape and criminal deviate conduct on August 30. Elam’s sentence — originally delayed until after a conclusion was reached in the other three trials — will not include jail time, but will require two years of probation and 200 hours of community service, as mandated by St. Joseph County Superior Judge Roland Chamblee in October.

Special prosecutor Maureen Devlin dropped pending lawsuits against Crawford and Smith after another jury acquitted Dykes of rape and criminal deviate conduct on September 15.

That trial sparked celebration on the part of Dykes’ family, but significant backlash from the victim’s parents, who remained in the courtroom to argue angrily with jurors and media members. More than six months later, on April 1, the alleged victim and her parents filed a civil lawsuit against both the players and the University, seeking from the four plaintiffs an unspecified amount of damages for her physical pain, post-traumatic stress and medical bills, and claiming the University had a legal duty to protect her. Filed in St. Joseph County Superior Court with out a lawyer and under the names “Jane Doe and Mr. and Mrs. Doe” on April 1, the suit is still pending.

**Ten-Year Plan**

Praising Notre Dame’s strong financial base, exceptional faculty and significant potential for growth, the University’s ten-year strategic plan was released last fall with a title that reflected its pledge to move confidently into the future of Saint Mary’s, received high praise from administrators at Notre Dame when they learned of her departure after seven years in the provost’s office.

She will take office June 1.

**Juniper Road**

Notre Dame unveiled its plans to close Juniper Road in January, the proposal was met with applause from the University community but resistance and skepticism from many South Bend residents.

Through a series of town meetings designed to hear and incorporate the residents’ opinions, Notre Dame expressed the importance of community input as it finalized the plan — closing Juniper in move toward a safer pedestrian campus.

Equally important in the proposal was maintaining a relatively small campus size, the University could construct new buildings, such as two new residence halls, in the space the street occupies instead of being forced to expand its boundaries.

**The proposal would redirect**

**December 26**

Carol Mooney is named the 11th president of Saint Mary’s College.

**February 27**

The Conference of Catholic Bishops discloses two reports detailing nearly 11,000 child sexual abuse allegations made against priests since 1950. Bishop D’Arcy of the Wayne-South Bend diocese is complimented for his cooperation throughout the scandal.

**March 17**

A Notre Dame senior falls from a second floor balcony at College Park, prompting police to make six arrests.

Frustrating football season prompts fan outcry. Of four players accused of rape, Elam convicted of sexual battery.
Juniper’s traffic—which typically included 8,000 vehicles a day—was rerouted onto a new four-lane road that would run between Edison and Douglas Roads near Ivy Road. University Architect Doug Marsh explained further details, including modifications to Edison and Douglas Roads in April.

The St. Joseph County Council heard a presentation from Notre Dame on May 11 and could vote to finalize the plan as early as their June 8 meeting. And unlike previous discussions about closing Juniper, the University intends to finance all improvements.

Student Gov. restructuring

The work of the student union this year was primarily occupied with its own restructuring. In recent years, student government’s performance had suffered due to poor communication and inefﬁcient organizational structure. During student body president Pat Hallahan’s report to the Board of Trustees in October, several board members asked that student leaders eliminate inefficiencies in the student union before bringing signiﬁcant requests to the trustees.

In proposals that began to emerge early in the ﬁrst semester, student leaders agreed to rework the two major components of the student union, policy and programming. Executive Cabinet became the Council of Reppresentatives, reorganizing the top members of all student government bodies. Over the course of the spring semester, the council worked to produce a completely overhauled constitution that details the responsibilities of those bodies.

The result was a constitution approved March 31, that provides for more representation of the student body, as well as improved communication across student government. The Campus Programming Council will now function with representatives from each residence hall to avoid scheduling conﬂicts, a problem often experienced by its Student Union Board predecessor.

Student leaders also cut thousands of dollars in spending from the policy side, aiming to create a leaner student union that can more effectively schedule conﬂicts, a problem often experienced by its Student Union Board predecessor.

Gay? Fine by Me.

Despite Notre Dame students’ reputation for apathy, another reputation— that they live on the most homophobic campus in the United States, according to The Princeton Review—proved alarming enough for the largest show of dissent toward a University stance in recent memory.

On March 18, approximately 1,700 students wearing T-shirts with the message “Gay? Fine by Me” were distributed to students and scattered faculty members, not only did the shirts represent full support and acceptance of homosexual members of the campus community, the show of solidarity also aimed to point out the discrepancy between the students’ opinions and the administration’s policies.

Two policies in particular were questioned—the University’s March 4 refusal to recognize the proposed draft alliance United in Diversity and its sustained rejection of sexual orientation as a category in its ofﬁcial nondiscrimination clause.

Though neither policy was changed as a result of the students’ efforts—which also included inviting Boston College’s director of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues to speak on campus and holding a second day to wear the shirts on April 21—their initiative created a University-wide dialogue about homosexuality, Catholicism and Notre Dame’s role to mediate between them.

Taco Bell

Alleged discrimination against black students was not the only University stance that sparked passionate student opposition in 2004. The athletic department’s contract with local Taco Bell restaurants also came under ﬁre, albeit from far fewer public demonstrators.

Members of the Progressive Student Alliance began to publicize their dis- like of the $50,000 sponsorship agreement during the National Student Pro- test of Action early April, deliver- ing letters to University President Edward Malloy’s ofﬁce. Demanding that the administration issue a statement against renewing the contract because of alleged unfair wages and labor standards held by the corporation’s tomato providers, the letters promised that students would continue to fast until Notre Dame responds publicly.

After approximately 30 students approached Malloy’s ofﬁce in person April 14, Vice President and General Counsel Karleen Kasehler—who had been in contact with both the PSA and Taco Bell’s parent company, Yum! Brands Inc., since the fall—placed several follow-up calls to Taco Bell. When the University did not receive speciﬁc and timely answers, Notre Dame issued a public statement April 27 that postponed renewing the contract and expanding it to $7,500 by next fall until Taco Bell delivers a satis- factory response.

Monk to move on, Jenkins elected successor

When Father Theodore Hesburgh decided his term as University President was nearing its close, the search for his replacement unfolded before a public audience as interest came from administrators, faculty and even a student committee as the Board of Trustees narrowed the ﬁeld to ﬁve candidates before its much-anticipated decision in November 1986. Even before he was ofﬁcially named Hesburgh’s successor, Malloy was already in the public eye—having been announced as the next president in a controversial Chicago Tribune article twelve days earlier.

But when Malloy made his own choice to step down—announcing at the board’s April 30 meeting his intent to retire in July 2005 after he serves his 18th year as president—the change seemed to come out of nowhere. While Malloy informed the Board in October 2003 that he wanted to step down after his current term and said in an April 23 Observer article that he was not seeking to stay on, the process stayed behind closed doors. A committee met in January, February, March and April. Board Chairman Patrick McCartan conﬁrmed, and chose Father John Jenkins from among several candidates.

The 50-year old Jenkins, a current vice president and associate provost and former religious superior of priests and brothers at Notre Dame, will have 14 months to absorb Malloy’s experience as he prepares to become the University’s 17th president.

Executive VP saga resolved

The year-long vacancy in the position of executive vice president was ﬁnally resolved April 30 when the Board of Trustees elected John Affleck-Graves, whose appointment was immediate.

The hole in the University’s third-highest leadership has been ﬁlled since Father Timothy Scully resigned in May 2003. Scully, whose resignation preempted a scheduled Board report clearing him of wrongdoing dating back to a confrontation with a WNDU reporter and cameraman in January of that year, remained a political science professor but left his duties to Malloy.

In a decision delayed to coincide with the appointment of the new executive vice president, following the traditionally close ties between president and executive vice president, offered his formal and informal endorsement for Affleck-Graves—35-year old South Africa native. Jenkins became the ﬁrst layman in University history to hold the position.

Contact Claire Heininger at cheining@nd.edu
Best Wishes
for the 2004–2005 Academic Year
From the Division of Student Affairs

Rev. Mark L. Poorman, C.S.C.
Vice President for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631–7394

Ms. Ann Firth
Associate VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631–2685

Sr. Mary Louise Gude, C.S.C.
Assistant VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631–5550

Mr. William Kirk
Associate VP for Residence Life
316 Main Building
631–6144

Sr. Jean Lenz, O.S.F.
Assistant VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631–5550

Dr. G. David Moss
Assistant VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631–5550

Ms. Jennifer Monahan
Executive Assistant to the Vice President
316 Main Building
631–5550

ALCOHOL & DRUG EDUCATION
Ms. Gina Firth, Director
311 LaFortune Student Center
631–7970

CAMPUS MINISTRY
Rev. Richard V. Warner, C.S.C., Director
316 Coleman-Morse Center
631–7880

CAREER CENTER
Mr. Lee Svete, Director
248 Flanner Hall
631–5200

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES & ACTIVITIES
Mr. Bong Miquiabas, Director
204 LaFortune Student Center
631–3825

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT PROGRAMS & SERVICES
Ms. Iris Outlaw, Director
210 LaFortune Student Center
631–6841

RESIDENCE LIFE & HOUSING
Mr. Jeffrey Shoup, Director
305 Main Building
631–5878

SECURITY
Mr. Rex Rakow, Director
101E Security Building
631–5555

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
Mr. Brian Coughlin, Director
315 LaFortune Student Center
631–7308

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES
Ms. Ann E. Kleva, Director
217 Student Health Center
631–7497

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER
Dr. Susan Steibe-Pasalich, Director
322 Student Health Center
631–7336
Housing restrictions have forced this McGlinn Hall study lounge to change into a freshman triple. The room crunch has hit women's dorms the hardest, where most lounges have been converted. 

Welcome Back, students!

Whatever your financial needs, we are always as close as www.ndfcu.org  

Business continued from page 1

nresses is one of the year's biggest. "The impact for our store is incredibly high," said Scott Giese, assistant manager for the Super Target store on University Park Drive. "Our sales peak this week and early next."

Both Mejier and Target said they plan to see students in early August through early September. Tharp said the back-to-college weekend was the store's second biggest impact period after the Christmas season. Mejier typically begins planning for college move-in weekend several weeks before the majority of students arrive in South Bend. The store stocks up on common dorm room items such as hangers, pillows, sheets and notebooks as well as food items such as bottled water and ramen noodles. "We typically build extra displays," Tharp said. "Eighty percent of everything in [the] center aisles is for back-to-school.

"We typically build extra displays," Bob Tharp Mejier assistant manager said. "Eighty percent of everything in [the] center aisles is for back-to-school.

Students seeking convenience also have the option of stopping by the student government-sponsored Fall Mall in the Stepan Center, which offers Notre Dame students a variety of dorm supplies from local stores. Beyond has participated for the last several years, said assistant manager Doug Sibberson. Since the store opened six years ago, Sibberson said the store has seen a gradual increase in student shopping at Bed, Bath and Beyond.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu
**Kickoff 2004**

**FOOTBALL TICKET DISTRIBUTION**

**STEP 1 Pick-up Ticket Application**
- ND On-Campus Undergrad (except Freshmen)
- ND First Year Students
- ND Off-Campus Undergrads
- ND Law/MBA/Grad
- Saint Mary’s students

In your mailbox
- On August 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Joyce Center
- On Enrollment Monday at the Stadium Box Office
- From your college
- From SMC

**Obtain your lottery number on Enrollment**

**Monday, August 23, 9am-5pm, Stadium Box Office**

Students will be seated by class. Each student may bring up to SIX applications. You MUST have a lottery number in consecutive numerical order with your group in order to be able to sit with them.

The starting lottery number will be drawn at 8:30 p.m. on Monday, August 23. E-mail and phone announcements will be made following the lottery of the number. The sequence number can also be found at sao.nd.edu after 9:00 p.m. To reflect the smaller class size, Law/MBA/Grad students will have a separate lottery number.

**Guidelines for Ticket Distribution Schedule:**

**Purchase your season tickets at the Stadium Box Office**

If your number is within:
- * 400 of the selected number, show up at start time
- * 400-800 of the selected lottery number, show up 20 minutes past start time
- * 800-1200 of the selected lottery number, show up 40 minutes past start time
- * 1200-1600 of the selected lottery number, show up 1 hour past start time
- * 1600-2000 of the selected lottery number, show up 90 minutes past start time
- * If you have no seating preference or no lottery number, show up 3 hours after start time

**Check calendar below for start times by class**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am-5:00pm Lottery sequence numbers available at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office. You MUST have a lottery sequence number in consecutive numerical order with your group to be able to sit with them. (i.e., if you plan to sit with 10 friends, you must have 10 sequential lottery numbers.)</td>
<td>8:00am SENIOR start time for ticket purchases at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office.</td>
<td>7:00am JUNIOR start time for ticket purchases at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office.</td>
<td>7:00am SOPHOMORE start time for ticket purchases at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30pm Lottery number drawn. Email and phone announcements will be made to notify students.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:00pm Law/MBA/Grad start time for ticket purchases at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office.</td>
<td>1:00pm FRESHMAN start time for ticket purchases at the Notre Dame Stadium Box Office.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENT COMPUTING SERVICES

EVENTS SCHEDULE AUGUST 2004

**INCOMING FRESHMEN**

**INFORMATION FAIR**
Attend this OBA on Saturday, August 21, 4:30p-6:00p in Rooms 116 and 117 DeBartolo Hall. Members of the OIT staff will be on hand to answer questions about student computing at Notre Dame.

**INFORMATION FAIR**
Scheduled for Saturday, August 21, 10:00p-3:00p in Room 200 Main Building. This event will provide students transferring from another college or university to Notre Dame to learn about campus computing services.

**SOLUTIONS CENTER SALE**
Learn about new computer equipment and purchase laptops and accessories at Notre Dame’s on-campus store.

**RESNET FAIR**
The ResNet Configuration Fair provides computing assistance for all Notre Dame students living in residence halls on campus. Please visit [http://oit.nd.edu/start/resnet_fair.shtml](http://oit.nd.edu/start/resnet_fair.shtml) to find out when we will be in your dorm.

**IT SECURITY SESSIONS**
Mandatory 30-minute Security Information Sessions will be held for incoming students on Monday, August 23 in Rooms 141 and 155 DeBartolo Hall. Sessions will start every 15 minutes during the period 9:00a-4:45p.

**SSCC STUDENTS**
**NEW STUDENTS**
Learn about new computer equipment and purchase laptops and accessories at Notre Dame’s on-campus store.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**OIT HELP DESK**
Phone: 574.631.8111
Email: oithelp@nd.edu

**SOLUTIONS CENTER**
Phone: 574.631.7477
Email: solutions@nd.edu

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**ROTC conducts frosh training on campus**

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

From waking up at dawn for intense training to bonding over pizza parties in the evening, freshman ROTC cadets collaborated on campus for the first time this week.

Comprised of students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s, Holy Cross, Indiana University-South Bend, Bethel College and Valparaiso, the three ROTC divisions — Air Force, Army and Navy — facilitated individual orientation week schedules.

Thirteen Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students compose this year’s freshmen Army ROTC class. While their orientation began with the issuance of cadet uniforms, a pizza party and a game of football, the excitement was soon replaced with physical training at 5:30 a.m. the next morning. Endurance activities, including rock climbing and rope climbing across St. Mary’s Lake, challenged the young cadets. A Humvee military vehicle equipped with a machine gun and grenade launcher was also on display for the incoming class. Throughout the week, freshmen learned important skills with gas masks, hand grenades, camouflage and night vision.

“army ROTC

When the freshmen first got here, they were shy, but as the week went by they opened up,” said Army Second Lieutenant Mike Bielecki. “They do have trouble getting up early — it is a big change from high school sleeping in.”

Commander Mike Zenk of the Air Force division said incoming freshmen are required to take a standardized test similar to the SAT. This assessment includes evaluation on pilot and navigation skills.

“They seem like a good motivated group of students. I have seen progress in just a few days,” Zenk said regarding the incoming Air Force class which includes approximately 30 students from SMC and ND.

Cadets appeared anxious and excited about their new positions in ROTC.

“I want to become an officer, I will probably end up making a career out of it,” said Lance Lovejoy of the Army division.

“I am having a blast,” said Hayden Fiscal of the Army division. “The army will teach me important leadership and discipline skills assisting me in whatever I decide to do with my life.”

Contact Jen Rowling at jrowling@nd.edu
FREE FOOD
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WIN PRIZES:
Sony Playstation2
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The Show tix
and much more ...

LaFORTUNE
MONDAY, AUG 23 4:30pm – 6:30pm
OPEN HOUSE

Presented by the Student Activities Office and the departments, organizations and businesses of the LaFortune Student Center
SMC continued from page 1

analyzed the data from the College Board Admitted Student Questionnaire, which will help the College learn more about prospective students' choices. But despite weaker numbers, the class of 2008 academically strong. "Our new students bring diverse interests, skills and talents. These women are musicians, student leader and community volunteers," Nolan said.

The middle 50 percent SAT range for the class of 2008 was 530 to 610 on verbal and 510 to 630 on math, and a middle 50 percent score of 22 to 27 on the ACT. The middle 50 percent had a final grade point average of 3.38 to 3.9, with ranking in the top 21 percent of their classes. Seven women were valedictorians of their high school graduating class and three were salutatorians. About 21 percent of the class of 2008 are children of alumni. Although 75 percent of Saint Mary's students come from the Midwest, the incoming freshman class will represent 44 states and two foreign countries — Afghanistan and Bulgaria.

"The Saint Mary's community looks forward to the contributions that the class of 2008 will make at the College and in the world far beyond our campus," said Nolan.

Contact Kelly Merhan at kmehan@smcmail.saintmarys.edu

Move-In continued from page 1

only freshmen I have interacted with so far are the ones who have moved in recently to the dorm I've seen walking around the dorm. It will be nice when everyone gets here."

Breen-Phillips freshman Adrianna Statick, a volleyball player from Park Ridge, Ill., agreed.

"Being that people are starting to arrive, it's getting more and more exciting," she said.

Sullivan, who has been on campus since Aug. 9 for volleyball practice, said a certain amount of trepidation goes hand-in-hand with anticipation for newly arrived freshmen.

"Being away from home for the first time is always intimidating," she said.

As of Thursday, Notre Dame's Office of Undergraduate Admissions expected 1,991 freshmen to arrive on campus for the 2004-05 academic year. While the majority of incoming students hail from the Midwestern United States, 89 will converge under the Dome from locales abroad.

One such student, Gritman's Stanford hallmate Hudson Sullivan, arrived on campus Wednesday after a seven-hour drive from Toronto. "I'm a bit nervous," he said, echoing the sentiments of many of his freshman colleagues. "I was so excited, but we were in the car on our way here, and all these questions come up ... and when I saw the room, I thought, 'This is so small — it's smaller than my room at home.'

Sullivan, an avid hockey player, already has plans to join his dorm's intramural hockey team. A sports fan, it was the school pride he observed in the Notre Dame student body during his two campus visits that sold him on the university.

"Everything was so intense down here. Everyone gets involved," he said, remembering scenes of students across campus attired from head to toe in Irish gear.

"It was that atmosphere that was really attractive to me," Sullivan said. "I knew those were the kinds of people that I wanted to be around for the next four years."

In dorm rooms across campus, incoming freshmen will continue to run the gamut of emotions from excitement to apprehension this weekend in variations of the same scene over and over again. Across U.S.-31 at Saint Mary's College, the feeling among freshmen is very much the same.

"The best thing is watching them walk up to the dorm," said Holy Cross Hall resident assistant Jill Vlasek, who spent most of Thursday morning behind the welcome table inside the dorm's lobby. "You can see everything on their face. You can see all that they're going through."

From 8 a.m. to around 5 p.m. Thursday, Saint Mary's freshmen were greeted by orange-clad welcome staff members waving and blowing bubbles at the College's stone-walled main entrance. They entered their new homes for the first time, meeting hall staff, roommates and the people with whom they will share their lives for the next nine months.

"I'm really excited, because my roommate is phenomenal," said Holy Cross Hall resident Rachael Schermitzler, a freshman from Buffalo Grove, Ill. "Both of us have clicked from the very beginning."

The first in her family to attend Saint Mary's, Schermitzler said she is enthusiastic about beginning her year at the College.

"My roommate is a legacy... I'm new and she's old here, and that's a great combination," she said.

McCandless Hall roommates Elizabeth Johnson and Anita Moo, both the first in their families to attend Saint Mary's, were equally enthusiastic about their decision to join the College's 351-strong class of 2008.

"When I checked it out, it was just so pretty," Johnson, a prospective nursing student from Fort Wayne, Ind., said.

Her roommate agreed, adding that only hours into her arrival on campus, she was confident in her answer to the question her Saint Mary's and Notre Dame counterparts will inevitably throw at themselves. Becoming a Beller, she said, was the right decision for her.

"It's hard to know, but when you're here, you just know," Moo said.

Contact Meghan Martin at mmartin@nd.edu
want a futon for those afternoon naps? need some carpet for that floor? a few posters for the wall? look no further than SUB's annual...

**Fall Mall**

- Stepan Center - located east of the new security building on the north side of campus

going OFF campus to get your dorm supplies? don’t bother! everything you need is conveniently located ON campus!

come see all the great deals from Sam’s Club, Bed Bath and Beyond, Beyond the Wall, and Carpet and Tile Depot!

- August 19th - Noon - 7pm
- August 20th - 8am - 7pm
- August 21st - 8am - 7pm
- August 22nd - Noon - 5pm

brought to you by the student union board.
www.nd.edu/~sub
Eight weeks changes everything.

Eight weeks. It doesn’t seem like a long time, but eight weeks changed my life. I didn’t realize at the time what was happening; I never even anticipated that it would.

In eight weeks I had begrudgingly become accustomed to the idea of showering with flip-flops and adapted my only-child lifestyle to incorporate living with a roommate. In eight weeks I had cautiously shed my shy demeanor and passed through the doorway into a sweaty 11 x 14 room blaring Bon Jovi’s “Livin’ On A Prayer”—a scene known only as a freshman dorm party—and eaten my first chocolate-chip cookie ever (sparking discussions become actual conversations. In eight weeks I had seamlessly perfected the art of polling all-nighters for my first round of midterms and haphazardly balanced classes, intramural flag football (this a feat in itself, given I am possibly the most un-athletic person at Notre Dame) and working at my newspaper.

But in these eight weeks I had not anticipated that as I carefully cherished my own course in life, independent from that of my family and home that I left behind, that the world I left behind was changing as well.

Before that Friday morning in mid-August three years ago when my parents and I loaded up the family van with more stuff than could fit in my miniscule dorm room and headed to Notre Dame, everything had been about me and only me. About me getting into college. About me graduating from high school. About me preparing to go to Notre Dame.

Then came eight weeks of me trying to define me. Eight Fridays after the first one in August I found myself sitting at my own kitchen table during fall break eagerly relaying stories about college life to my parents. It was then that I saw the look in my father’s eyes—a sentiment that could never be detected through an e-mail or phone call.

I knew that my college experience would be something special for my parents—they would be happy to see me experiencing new things, but they would be sad to see me leave and know that I was having these experiences without them there to guide me.

What I did not know was how much my parents’ lives had changed as well. I knew that my mother had cooked a single meal in eight weeks—that is, of course, until the night when I came home to my favorite meal of green bean casserole and chicken and rice with mushrooms.

I discovered that after holding on to me tightly, shuffling me back to the car and pleading with me to come home, my parents had driven the 92 miles back to Chicago in silence with tears in their eyes.

I learned that each time they called my room and I was not there, their worry level rose five notches.

For the next nine days of fall break, my parents tried to talk me out of returning to Notre Dame. My dad tried to lay one of his infamous guilt trips on me, saying, “Now you don’t really want to leave, do you? What’s better than being at home?” My mom even tried to bribe me when, as mother and daughter, we baked chocolate chip cookies together for the first time. As the mother, she reasoned, she could tell me what to do. As the daughter, I would have to listen.

As fall break drew to a close, my dad surprised me with a trip to Kripsey Kreme (though it’s one of my more guilty pleasures, he is not the Facebook friend you thought he was. For the next nine days of fall break, my parents tried to talk me out of returning to Notre Dame. My dad tried to lay one of his infamous guilt trips on me, saying, “Now you don’t really want to leave, do you? What’s better than being at home?” My mom even tried to bribe me when, as mother and daughter, we baked chocolate chip cookies together for the first time. As the mother, she reasoned, she could tell me what to do. As the daughter, I would have to listen.

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Welcome to Notre Dame. You will find that we have a beautiful campus and a 
talentful faculty. If you take advantage of the many opportunities to be 
here, I am confident that you will grow in every way as a thoughtful and reflec-
tive person preparing to make your way in the world. We are very proud of 
our residence traditions on campus and the many activities available for 
you to use your God given talents in leadership and service.

It is my hope that during your time with us you will make 
some of the best friends of your life. We welcome students from every State in the Union and from a wide array of for-
exotic countries and cultures. We are enriched by the different 
and perspectives that you bring to our common life.

I will have the privilege of teaching some of you in my sem-
inar class. Others I will come to know through my residing in 
Sorin Hall. I hope to have a chance to interact with all of 
you in some way or another during your time at Notre Dame. 
Once again I express this trust that this will be a great year for 
all of us. All best wishes as you make this important transition and may God 
bless our life together.

Father Edward A. Malloy 
President 
University of Notre Dame 
August 20, 2004

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Welcome to Notre Dame! We are all so pleased that you 
made the choice to attend Saint Mary's and know that you will 
indeed find your home away from home with us. You are begin-
ing a journey that will last far longer than four years. This next step in your intellectual growth and professional deve-
lopment will provide the foundation for you as you establish 
learning habits that will last a lifetime.

You will be challenged to be a woman of distinction.

That distinction will have a different meaning for 
each of you. You will find your leadership skills sharpened every day through your interaction with 
faculty, staff, administrators and your student colleagues. You will explore new academic subjects that will open doors to worlds you never consid-
ered.

As a Catholic college we honor and respect the 
journey each of us makes as we find God's grace in our lives. We will support you as you explore the hard questions of faith and we will cele-
brate the answers with you as you form them.

In between all these opportunities you will 
have fun! There are so many activities, clubs, 
organizations and athletic events to attend. You will have no problem finding ways to exer-
cise your Belles school spirit on campus. And, 
you will have the opportunity to join your col-
leagues at the University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College for their activities too.

Reflect on the knowledge that thousands of women have walked these same paths and halls 
before you. They like you, are women of faith who came here to develop the talents God had 
given them so that they could make a difference in the world. You will benefit from their legacy 
and experience and you will add to the legacy that is Saint Mary's College.

Linda Timm 
Vice President for Student Affairs 
Saint Mary's College 
August 20, 2004

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Saint Mary's College, I extend a warm welcome 
to you and hope that you will find a home here with us. As a graduate of Saint Mary's and 
now its 11th president, I care deeply about this special place and about you, our 
students. By choosing Saint Mary's you are following in the footsteps of generations of remarkable women before you. Each of you who comes this year 
will leave your mark on the College.

At Saint Mary's College we will challenge you. We will help you 
learn the extent of your capabilities and to use them well. I urge you to 
struggle and to take advantage of the many opportunities open to you here. With a 160 year old tradition of educating women to 
make a difference in the world, we provide an excellent education in the context of developing the whole person.

As a Catholic College, we cherish intellectual pursuits because 
they enrich our understanding of God and God's creation, which 
in turn helps us build and sustain more just and equitable commu-
nities. We hope that one result of your Saint Mary's education is that you develop a sense of obligation to the common good and 
that your life and work will reflect that understanding.

As you begin to form your life here, welcome to Saint Mary's and the 
greater educational community to which we belong. We hope your time here will be rich 
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August 20, 2004
If you are reading this column, you are owed a congratulations and an explanation. First, congratulations on being accepted to (in my opinion of course) one of the greatest colleges this nation has to offer. But now you need to know that your situation is one that will surely be of great adjustment.

I could write today about how different college is from high school, how it’s going to take a while before you adjust to living away from your parents, how for many of you, it will take all year to adjust to the edible delights of the dining hall. But this is not going to be that kind of column.

The fact of the matter is this: a student at Saint Mary’s, you have an opportunity to take part in a unique college experience. Going to a small, all-female liberal arts college directly across the street from a larger, co-ed university, you have the chance to utilize both campuses for your greatest benefit.

You have essentially two choices in this matter. You can stay at Saint Mary’s, meeting friends at only our institution, which is fine. But we nary as it is to pick a comfy spot in your dorm room among your mask-tape-colored walls, it is worth venturing out of them occasionally.

Because if you choose to do so, you can utilize Notre Dame as a resource to expand your horizons. Through Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame, there are countless joint activities in which you can get involved. Even if you choose not to get involved in an activity, make an attempt to get over to the campus across the street.

And don’t let the fact that you actually have to cross a road get in the way. You’ll hear a lot of talk about “the school across the street.” But the fact of the matter is, we’re part of a community, and every community requires work to be a cohesive network.

Your college experience is going to be what you make of it. And here, you have an opportunity to make it something of your own.

Angela Saoud is a senior English writing major and an editorial board member at Saint Mary’s. She has been writing for The Observer since her freshman year, and with a love for the newspaper she enjoys sharing her love of writing with others. Her ambition is to continue writing after graduation and plans to pursue a career in English as a teacher. She can be reached at asaou0303@saintmarys.edu.

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

**Nick's Patio**
One of South Bend's 24 hour hotspots for Domers and locals. Show up around 3 in the morning to catch the post-party crowd. Coffee refill limit is two cups at peak hours, but at less busy hours or if you're nice to the waiter they may be unlimited. This is also a great spot for a greasy Saturday or Sunday morning breakfast.

**Denny's**
If you find yourself needing a Lumberjack Slam breakfast in the middle of the night, think Denny's. If you're worried that late night—or very early morning—pancakes will wreak havoc on your waistline faster than you can say "Freshman Fifteen," then you'll be glad to hear that Denny's has jumped onto the low-carb bandwagon and now offers "Carb-Watch" and "Fit Fare" selections.

**Steak 'n Shake**
Like Denny's, this Midwest chain is open 24 hours and serves up steaksburgers and hand-dipped milkshakes all night long. Their latest campaign, "Side-by-Side" milkshakes that combine your two favorite flavors, could be worth a try when those lines at Reckers reach Disney World lengths after parties on weekends.

**Boracho Burrito**
Boracho is such a cult favorite for students' post-midnight cuisine that you should get into the habit of telling the cable to take you to this 3 a.m. hotspot for enormous burritos. The restaurant, which was created by recent Notre Dame graduates, is also popular for tailgates, so tell your family to order ahead for a home game.

**Weekends**

**Blockbuster**
There are several Blockbuster locations around South Bend and Mishawaka, so you can take advantage of having movies and video games as entertainment if your dorm doesn't have cable TV. Renting DVDs of The Sopranos and Sex and the City might also be easier than installing that satellite dish outside your third-floor dorm window. DVDs and VHS new releases cost $2.99 for two days. Older videos cost $1.99 for five days.

**Family Video**
Family video has locations on U.S. 31 and Main Street. The selection is similar to Blockbuster and prices may be better depending on which movies you want to rent. New releases are $2.00 for one night and $2.75 for five nights. Older movies cost $1 for two nights and $2 for seven nights.

**Movies 14**
If you prefer to catch new flicks instead of renting old ones, Movies 14 on Edison Road shows popular Hollywood hits. Student discount tickets cost $5.75. Go before 6:00 p.m. for $5 tickets.

**Stikes and Spares**
South Bend's newest entertainment center offers arcade games and regular and cosmic bowling. During the week before 5:00 p.m. bowling costs $15 per lane per hour for up to six people. Evening bowling costs $22 per hour, and Saturday bowling costs $25 per hour. Cosmic bowling on Fridays and Saturdays costs $30 per hour. Bowlers are charged for the exact amount of time played.

**Beacon Bowl**
Beacon Bowl charges $1.89 per person per hour before 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, and $3.09 for evenings and weekends. The bowling alley is also a popular venue for dorm dances.

**Shopping**

**Meijer**
It doesn't get much better than Meijer for groceries, school supplies and almost anything else you need for the dorm. It's open 24 hours and only a short drive away from campus, so stock up here on snack foods, posters, cleaning supplies, notebooks, etc. Walmart and Target superstores nearby offer similar selections, but are less of a regional specialty.

**Martin's**
For "service and savings," Martin's Supermarket is another grocery store option. Martin's is also close to campus, so there's never a need to feel restricted by the limited selection on campus. It's also cheaper than spending all your Flex points on Ben & Jerry's and Goldfish at the Huddle.

**University Park Mall**
UP Mall offers a variety of stores including Express, Abercrombie, American Eagle, The Limited, Gap, Banana Republic, Victoria's Secret, Lids, The South Bend Chocolate Factory and several department stores like Marshall Field's and L.S. Ayres. Make friends with a dormmate with a car or take the bus from Library Circle. It takes you directly to the mall to get a quirky SYR gift or a Cinnabon.

**Chicago**
The possibilities for nightlife. The downtown area. Saint Mary's Inn.

**Lake Michigan**
Drive north on I-80/90 to New Buffalo. Ho sack for Warren Drive north on I-80/90 to New Buffalo. Ho sack for Warren Drive north on I-80/90 to New Buffalo.

**Windsor**
Farther away trip to Canada. See the sights like galler Mall offers a variety of stores including Express, Abercrombie, American Eagle, The Limited, Gap, Banana Republic, Victoria's Secret, Lids, The South Bend Chocolate Factory and several department stores like Marshall Field's and L.S. Ayres. Make friends with a dormmate with a car or take the bus from Library Circle. It takes you directly to the mall to get a quirky SYR gift or a Cinnabon.

**Cedar Point**
Also quite a day trip. Cedar Point has roller coasters and rides well into fall. Cedar Point has roller coasters and rides well into fall. Cedar Point has roller coasters and rides well into fall.

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**THE OBSERVER SCENE**

Saturday, August 21, 2004

**Getting out from Under**

A guide to food, shopping and nightlife. The possibilities are endless.
Road Trips

1. Bruno’s Pizza
2. Denny’s
3. Steak & Shake
4. Nick’s Patio
5. Boracho Burrito
6. Hanayori of Japan
7. Star of India
8. Family Video
9. Blockbuster Video
10. Movies 14
11. Michiana Regional Airport
12. Meijer
13. Martin’s Supermarket
14. University Park Mall
15. Beacon Bowl
16. C.J.’s Pub
17. Strikes and Spares
18. La Esperanza
19. Toyo Grill

Around the Bend

New Flavors

Star of India
When you’re in the mood for ethnic dishes outside of the dining hall, the Star of India serves up tasty Indian food that is also easy on the wallet. If you are unsure about what to order, go for the fantastic lunch buffet and try everything, especially the desserts, for only $6.

La Esperanza
If you’re tired of Taco Bell chalupas or freezer Mexican food from Hacienda, try heading to La Esperanza. Whether you’re looking for a jalapeno omelet or steak fajitas, the restaurant offers more authentic Mexican food at affordable prices.

Toyo Grill
Toyo Grill offers Japanese cuisine, especially sushi, for more adventurous eaters. The restaurant is a little on the expensive side for everyday eating, but is a tasty option for an occasional break from the dining hall. Martin’s Supermarket Mikado Steakhouse on U.S. 31 also offer a selection of sushi.

Hanayori of Japan
Head to the Japanese restaurant for a rare chance to see your food cooked in front of you on a hot sheet of metal. The restaurant is a little pricey, but it’s worth it to see the chef make an onion volcano or toss your food through the air. If you feel like trying a spicy tuna roll or another seaweed-wrapped delicacy, Hanayori also offers sushi.

CJ’s Pub
CJ’s is famous for its burgers and is a favorite spot for students to grab a bite off campus. The pub also offers a one pound burger dubbed the Golden Dorner, a challenge to finish no matter how big your appetite is.

Transportation

Michiana Regional Airport
The South Shore rail line provides an easy way to get to Chicago for flights or day trips. Tickets for the South Shore cost $9 each way. If you can’t find rides to the airport, ABC Cab Company and Yellow Cab offer the best deal for more than two passengers at $12 for one and $2 for each additional passenger. Express Cab also offers $10 cab fare to the airport for single passengers and $12 for two.

Taxis

Ace Cab Lines
295-6886
A-B-C Cabs
233-4000
American Cab
259-5554
Checker Cab
288-7777
City Cab
233-2020
Express Cab
233-6000
Michiana Taxi
233-4040
Shamrock Cab
243-5500
Yellow Cab
233-9333

Information compiled by Christie Holm and Maria Smith
Runners strive for more

Failure to qualify for NCAA's in 2003 serves as incentive for this year's team

By HEATHER VAN HOEGENDE
Sports Editor

Last year's performance at the Great Lakes Regional Championship may be the motivation the Irish need to climb back into the elite of college cross country. 

In 2003, the 18th-ranked Irish failed to qualify for the NCAA Championship after taking second place at the Big East Championship. They took eighth place at the September at the Burke Memorial Golf Course. 

The junior one of several runners returning for this year's team. Kalab VanOrt runs Big East, one of several runners returning for the team. Kalab VanOrt runs Big East, one of several runners returning for the team. VanOrt earned All-Big East honors last season for the second time, finishing 27th overall at the NCAA Championship. 

VanOrt said seniors Eric Morrison and Sean O'Donnell, juniors Kaleb VanOrt and Tim Moore and sophomore Kurt Benninger will help replace Mobley. Moore finished sixth at the Big East Championship in 2003, and has earned All-Big East honors his last two seasons. VanOrt earned All-Big East honors last season for the second time in his career, finishing 27th overall at the NCAA Championship.

Also hoping to make an impact is the brother of Luke Watson, one of the most successful runners in Irish history. Jake Watson may contribute early. Connelly said, "He's a very good cross country runner," Connelly said of Jake. "We have some freshmen that could help." Connelly said the team has been training as individuals this summer, some running as much as 85 to 90 miles each week. And that is what needs to be done so the Irish don't repeat last year's disappointment. "We have a pretty strong tradition in cross country here," he said. "Last year was a big disappointment. They expect more of their team this year."

This year's team hopes to be one of the 31 teams that go to the NCAA Championship. Connelly acknowledged that they have "by far the toughest region," but he thinks the Irish can do it. "We've got a group that's capable of finishing 10th or 12th," he said. "The Irish kick off the season Sept. 10 with the Valparaiso Invitational. He said the team's top runners probably will not run until Oct. 1 at the Notre Dame Invitational.

Contact Heather Van Hoegenede at hvanhoeg@nd.edu.

ND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Irish return majority of team this season

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women performed well last season, taking home a Big East Championship and finishing 10th in the NCAA championships. The team will look to improve after last year's success.

"The expectations are to be a minimum top 10 team, if not better," Tim Connelly, Irish coach, said. "That's significant, as the Irish expect to be one of the 31 teams that go to the NCAA's over the next few years." The team will look to improve after last year's success. The Irish return majority of last year's runners, which should be a key factor in their success. Senior Lauren King and junior Molly Huddle will be the main components. King is coming off a year in which she earned Academic All-American honors, for only the third time in Notre Dame history. King has also been an All-American three times. Huddle captured the Great Lakes Regional Cross Country Runner of the Year. Huddle also finished 7th at the United States Olympic trials.

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richton University at Notre Dame last September.

Kerry Mengher, left, and Maggie Nelson in the National Catholic Championship at Notre Dame last September.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgfrfl3@nd.edu.
Irish ready to avenge last year

Team hopes for better performance after last year's early exit from the NCAA Tournament.

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

For the freshmen, the numbers alone can be intimidating. Last year, the volleyball team finished the season with a 23-7 overall record and a No. 24 ranking. The Irish also earned their 12th consecutive bid to the NCAA tournament. All three were honorable mention All-American selections in 2003. Needless to say, expectations are high for the team this season. But that hasn’t intimidated this year’s freshman.

“They’re really talented and doing a great job at practice.”

Saturday, August 21, No Volleyball

DANIELLE HERDON DIGS THE BALL AS MEG HENICAN LOOKS ON DURING A GAME LAST YEAR AGAINST SETON HALL.

The more scrumming we do, the better (the newcomers) look.”

Debbie Brown
Irish coach

During the season last year, the Irish faced No. 19 Loyola but didn’t really play up to expectations, losing 3-0.

“Helping the freshmen gain experience is of utmost importance,” Brown said, especially since the Irish will face Loyola University Chicago Sept. 1. This year’s team features strong blocking, solid back court defense. However, backcourt defense is one area that Brown says needs improvement, and the Irish must replace setter Kristen Kinder, named first team All-Big East and honorable mention All-American.

“We’re going to play Loyola. People ask me ‘Do you think you’re ready for Loyola?’ I say ‘I tell them that we’re not ready now, but we definitely will be. Brown added the hours the team puts in now should prepare them for the rigorous schedule they face this season. Following the Loyola match, the Irish face No. 2 Nebraska and seven other ranked teams, three of which are recent national champions. Twelve of their opponents made the NCAA Tournament last year, as did the Irish. There they lost in the first round to No. 19 Louisville, a disappointing finish for a good team.

“We’re hoping to finish strong this year — stronger than we did last year — and I think we’ll have a lot of opportunities to prove ourselves.” Brown said.

Contact Ann Loughery at aloughery@nd.edu.
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At your campus bookstore we work directly with your professors to ensure we only order the exact books they plan on using. Buy your books somewhere else and you may or may not get what you’re really after. And at follett.com you can order your books online and pick them up in store, so there’s no waiting or shipping to pay. So if you’re looking for a deal, now you know where to look.

Your campus bookstore has the right book

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In the Eck Center

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Executive Director, John Haynes and the entire staff of the performing arts center welcome you to campus and to a new era in the cultural life of Notre Dame. After a decade of planning, designing and building, your new performing arts center is open and ready to rip. CELEBRATE IT!

Open House FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS Friday, September 17, 4 p.m. - 10 p.m. COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE Sunday, September 19, 12 noon - 5 p.m. Come and celebrate the opening of YOUR Performing Arts Center. Enjoy a self-directed tour through the facility. Maps will be available. Notre Dame and regional performers will showcase their considerable talents in all five venues.

The Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts officially swings into action when

Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra
take the stage of the Leighton Concert Hall ripping through familiar jazz charts with their head-bopping, foot-tapping, serious fun.

Critics have run out of ways to say "technically brilliant" trying to describe their audacious rhythms and ingenious arrangements. Their music is as playful as a Picasso painting but as deep and rich as any Van Gogh. Marsalis will turn the Leighton Concert Hall into the coolest place on the planet as pure joy erupts from the stage.

INAUGURAL CONCERT ON SALE NOW

Wynton Marsalis Sunday, September 19 at 8:00 p.m. - Judd and Mary Lou Leighton Concert Hall - General Public $75 - ND/SMC/HC Staff $60 - All Students $25

Discounted tickets are underwritten by the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

There are a limited number of student discounts available. Call 574.631.2800

ND Cinema

ND cinema kicks off its season with several "provocumentaries" screened in the new Browning Cinema. The Browning Cinema has earned THX™ certification for its quality of technology and is the only THX™ Cinema in the state. THX™ is the Hollywood industry standard.

26 Aug | TH | Control Room | Documentary about Al-Jazeera | $6 | $5 | $3
2 Sep | TH | Fahrenheit 9/11 | Documentary by Michael Moore | $6 | $5 | $3
3 Sep | F | Fahrenheit 9/11 | Documentary by Michael Moore | $6 | $5 | $3
9 Sep | TH | Super Size Me | Documentary about fast food | $6 | $5 | $3

Each film will be screened at 7:00 PM and at 10:00 PM.

General Public $6 | ND/SMC/HC Staff $5 | All Students $3

For up-to-date information on events at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center please visit http://performingarts.nd.edu
Three new players make the Irish deep and dangerous

By PAT LEONARD
Associated Press Editor

Mike Brey was not allowed to observe his team in scrimmages this summer, but he knows the team has improved.

"I can't watch the summer pick-up games, so those guys are my eyes," Brey said. "But when you think of our current roster, you have to get excited."

His eyes see potential major improvement for the program's 100th anniversary season in the form of three newcomers to complete a possible nine-man deep rotation.

Quinn and Thomas told their coach that the additions of red-shirt freshman Omari Israel, senior transfer Dennis Latimore and true freshman Rob Kurz have made the Irish a better team despite the loss of Tom Timmermans and defensive ace Torrian Jones.

"In Rob Kurz, our lone incoming freshman, you're talking about a guy who has good size but a really good feel for the game at 6-9," Brey said. "He steps out and shoots the ball. He plays older. He plays more experienced and more poised than his classification says he should."

Brey compares Kurz's style of play to that of senior forward Jordan Cornette, a tall and athletic player who can jump for rebounds with big men and play outside the three-point line.

Cornette, Thomas, Quinn and center Torin Francis will team up this season as one of the Big East's most versatile starting fives.

Brey does not only liken Israel to Brown on the offensive end.

"He has the ability to be a lockdown defender," Brey said. "He tries to get the mentality to defend much like a Torrian Jones could. [Jones] did it physically but dove into it and embraced another aspect of his game."

While Israel could contribute on both ends, a complete player the Irish also welcome with open arms is Latimore, a 6-foot-8, 232-pound, recovered from knee surgery during his red-shirt 2003 season that stemmed from a torn ACL, 2 surgery in February of 2003.

The Irish sat him out, feeling comfortable with players like Jones and Cornette in the lineup. But Brey now compares a healthy Israel to one of the Big East's most durable players.

"I'd compare [Israel] to Pittsburgh guard Jaron Brown," Brey said.

Brown averaged 11.7 points, 5.4 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game last season for a 31-5 Pittsburgh team, playing 34 minutes per game. Brown shot just 21.5 percent from three-point range but compensated for a lack of outside shooting threat with a 48.8 overall field goal percentage and 65 steals on the defensive end.

"Omari gives us the big three man," Brey said. "He has good size and really can handle the ball. He's more of a slasher and a driver, and when he is that third perimeter guy it's tough to guard and block out because of his size."

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"We expect [Latimore] to be a key part of things," Brey said. "He is very skilled and talented around the bucket, very smooth. The challenge with him will be playing hard every play. But as far as the physical gifts, he had a great summer."

Latimore averaged 24 points as the Kansas 3A Player of the Year for Hesston high school his senior year. He then played less of an offensive role in two seasons at Arizona, primarily because the teams were loaded with talent. Latimore averaged 3.2 points and 3.1 rebounds for the Wildcats in 2002, playing just 12 minutes per game.

His role this season, will be increased. Latimore and junior center Torin Francis will team up at an imposing frontcourt that Thomas and Quinn will look to often.

"Dennis is in the best shape of his life," Brey said. "And he is very focused. So, too, are Brey's eyes, though they take the form of his two top guards.

Notes
• Chris Thomas underwent knee surgery at the end of last season and did not go full speed in practice until he was cleared by doctors last week. Thomas has not complained about the knee so far.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu.

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GAMESHIELD

Three new players make the Irish deep and dangerous

By PAT LEONARD
Associated Press Editor

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Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu.

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GAMESHIELD
are you upgraded?

Friday August 27th 2004
Live at the Joyce Center
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$10 tickets on sale to students only at the LaFontaine Box Office
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Irish hope for bigger and better things

After graduating seven letterwinners, coach Bobby Clark looks to veterans to take the spotlight

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Assistant Sports Editor

One goal for Michigan meant the end of a goal for Notre Dame. With the Irish poised for a historic season and perhaps even a national championship at the end of 2003, Michigan’s Mike White put a dagger in the hearts of the Irish faithful with a penalty kick that eluded goalie Chris Sawyer and gave Michigan a 4-3 victory in the decisive shutout of the Irish, who should provide leadership for Notre Dame in 2004.

The biggest goal for the 2004 Irish squad will be keeping up that momentum from last year’s successful campaign. Notre Dame must replace seven letterwinners from last year, including two MLS draft picks in Justin Dettor and Kevin Richards. Five of those seven seniors — Dettor, Richards, Greg Martin, Chad Riley and Devon Prescod — were also All-Big East selections. Out of the 38 goals the Irish scored in 2003, those five seniors scored 35.

“That’s a lot to replace,” Clark said. “But you’re not going to look to the freshmen to replace those players, you’re going to look at the guys who are older to step up and provide that immediate impact.”

The Irish have a trio of seniors who should provide leadership both on and off the field in goal captain Chris Sawyer and defenders Kevin Goldthwaite and Jack Stewart. Sawyer and Stewart were both named to the preseason watch list for the Hermann Trophy, awarded each year to the best player in college soccer.

“That is a great honor for those guys, but all it really says is that they played well last year,” Clark said. “The real test is whether they can repeat that performance this year.”

“I really feel that Goldthwaite could have been on that list as well, and it shows you the real talent we have this season.”

With Sawyer, a three-time All-Big East selection and All-American in 2003, between the pipes and a defense led by Goldthwaite, Stewart and sophomore Greg Dalby, the Irish could be one of the top defensive teams in the country.

Clark brought in another talented freshman class, with the Irish adding seven players from five states and England.

“It’s too early to say that this is going to be a great class,” Clark said. “But at the same time there’s definitely a lot of potential. This looks to be a very good class.”

The Irish open their season with an exhibition game Monday at Alumni Field against Northwestern. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. with proceeds from donations going towards Grassroots Soccer, an organization for kids ages 10 to 17 that is dedicated to AIDS awareness and soccer instruction in Africa.

Clark is asking each fan at the game Monday to donate $1 to the cause, in hopes of matching the $2,000 the team raised at its summer camp.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

Senior goalkeeper Chris Sawyer juggles the ball at practice as junior midfielder John Stephens looks on. Sawyer is a three-time All-Big East selection and was an All-American in 2003.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

Junior defenseman Dale Relias perfects his footwork at Wednesday’s practice. The Irish hope to surpass the success they achieved last season, when they earned a spot in the Sweet 16.

AudiTIONS
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ND Chorale • ND Glee Club • ND Liturgical Choir
ND Women’s Liturgical Choir • ND Basilica Schola

Sign up in Crowley Hall!

Audition Times:
Sun. Aug. 22: 3-6 pm, 7-10 pm
Mon. Aug. 23: 9 am-12 pm, 1-4 pm, 7-10 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

You are strongly encouraged to sign up for the earliest possible audition time. There will be no auditions held on Tuesday, August 24.
The audition consists of a simple hymn and a prepared piece, interval recognition, vocalizing to check range, and a short sight-singing example.

Auditions will be held in 124 Crowley Hall. Please call 1-5342 if you have any questions.
The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs welcomes the class of 2008.

What is the Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs?

We members of the Standing Committee are administrators, gay and lesbian students, and faculty who are a resource in identifying the ongoing needs of our gay, lesbian, and bisexual students. By implementing campus-wide educational programming on gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues, the Committee strives to eliminate homophobia and make Notre Dame a place that accepts and prizes the uniqueness of all its students. For more information, consult our web page www.nd.edu/~scglsn.

Current members:

- Sr. Mary Louise Gude, CSC Ass't VP for Student Affairs (Standing Committee Chair)
- Joanna Basile Junior, English and Gender Studies Major
- Fr. David Burrell, CSC Professor, Philosophy and Theology
- Robby Davidson Senior, Political Science Major
- Mayra Gomez Senior, Political Science Major
- Ed Mack Rector, O'Neill Hall
- Andy Magee Junior, Organ Perf. and Computer Science Major
- Fr. Richard Warner, CSC Director, Campus Ministry
- David (Day) Zimlich Senior, Anthropology Major

RECEPTION for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual First-Year Students

WHO: Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning first-year students at Notre Dame

WHAT: Drop-in Reception

WHEN: Monday, August 23rd, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

WHERE: 316 Coleman-Morse (3rd Floor Lounge)

WHY: Come meet members of the Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs and find out more about resources available to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning students on the Notre Dame campus.

For more information, please visit our web page www.nd.edu/~scglsn. Check under "Current Events."
SMC Soccer

Returning players will lead Belles this fall

Team has high hopes for title after losing just three players

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

Their starting defense is returning, they have a new coach and they lost just three seniors. In Jen Concannon's opinion, there is no reason this team shouldn't compete for the MIAA title.

"This year, we're looking at top one or two in conference," the senior said. "We're just that much better. We should have done it last year."

Last season, the Belles finished fourth in conference with a 6-4-4 record in the MIAA and a 10-5-4 record overall. Concannon led the team in 11 goals and seven assists. She was named first team All-MIAA, along with junior Carrie Orr. This duo will be joined by senior Katie Taylor on defense, who was named second team All-MIAA last year, and Carolyn Logan who was named to the second team. Logan recorded nine goals as a freshman.

The 2004 Belles will also be under new leadership. Caryn Mackenzie enters her first year at Saint Mary's after coaching girls soccer at John A. Logan High School in South Bend since 1999. She brings her long-time assistant Hamzi Bualuan. who is also the director of undergraduate studies in computer science and engineering at Notre Dame.

"I couldn't be more jammed about coaching the first day of fall practice was Wednesday," Concannon said. "We have a very talented group of upperclassmen," Mackenzie said. "I look forward to their influence on the underclassmen."

Mackenzie said there is not a finalized roster, so it is unclear which freshmen, if any, will make an impact.

"We're cautiously optimistic," Caryn Mackenzie, Belles coach

"We're really excited.

"We have the chance to be something very good."

Jen Concannon
Belles co-captain

"We're really excited.

"We have the chance to be something very good."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Belles senior Katie Taylor kicks the ball last season during a game. She will lead a Belles team that lost only three seniors.
Everyone knows about the football Saturdays, the green shirts and most of all the student sections. But what happens to the 75 percent of the student population who played sports in high school? After all, not everyone can run out of the tunnel—or can they? At Notre Dame, anything is possible in the world of intramurals.

The dorm league games may not earn the recognition of Notre Dame’s 24 Division-I sports. Participants won’t be contributing to a 24th national championship for the Irish. The dorm leagues might not be as prolific as the Big East and the Big Ten, but these athletes become a part of Notre Dame football, even if it’s just because they played on the same field as the likes of Joe Montana and Jerome Bettis. They run out of the tunnel, and it becomes their Stadium too. But they aren’t the only ones.

Meanwhile, the women are busy competing for a shot in the Stadium as well, with their own intrahall flag football league. It is the one chance they get to set foot on the legendary field. But don’t worry, Notre Dame isn’t just about football. There is basketball, volleyball, even horseshoes. And if those don’t suit your fancy, you can play racquetball or even bowl. And of course, don’t forget broomball and badminton. This variety of over 20 sports each year could be the reason that 80 percent of students participate in intramurals.

Or it could be that the championship of both the men and women’s basketball leagues is played in the Joyce Center. And when these athletes play here, they can think of the great players who made the ACC their home—Matt Carroll, Troy Murphy, Ryan Humphrey and many others.

Or they could remember what has happened on the same court. Just this year, the Irish upset then-No. 4 Connecticut Jan. 13, giving the Huskies just their fourth loss in three seasons. And the Irish men did the same a month later, defeating then-No. 5 Connecticut Feb. 9. And don’t forget about 2001, when now-Olympian Ruth Riley led the Irish to a National Championship season.

All of these games occurred on the same court as an intramural game. Ridiculous, don’t you think? There should really be some kind of rule against that.

But at Notre Dame, there isn’t. Ivy Field, home to the Irish softball team, becomes home to the Panquerilla West softball team. The Welch Family softball team and every other women’s dorm team, for that matter, in the fall. Each fastpitch softball intramural game is played on the varsity field, from the first game to the championship game.

Maybe that’s why Notre Dame was ranked No. 1 by ESPN’s ESPYs, honor athletes of the year, a team of the year, and nominees. After all, it is the same game. But then you say, intramural athletes don’t deserve recognition like varsity athletes. Wait, they have that covered. The annual “RecSpys,” modeled after ESPN’s ESPYS, honor athletes of the year, a team of the year, and nominees. There’s even a dinner reception for the winners and nominees.

Just so you thought your athletic career was over, coming to Notre Dame as a former athlete isn’t so bad. Really, it’s just a way for you to have a fresh start. And besides, how many people can say they competed on the varsity field or arena at one of the greatest sports schools in the country?

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvonhoeg@nd.edu.
The Observer • SPORTS
Saturday, August 21, 2004

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Football

Yvonne Williams and her coaching staff were able to show a debt of criticism from the Notre Dame faithful after a 5-7 season, a season that included a 48-28 blowout loss to Michigan, 20-10 Florida State (37-0) and Southern Cal (45-14). The Irish begin to work under the new leadership with the intention of an easier schedule of Navy, Brigham Young and Sunbelt, but an 8-12 schedule at lowly Syracuse closed out the 2003 season on a sour note.

Villagelmm, a former strength and conditioning head coach — a traditional wake-up call — season opener for Irish coaches as it will before criticism demands a change in policy.

Players to Watch

Sophomore quarterback Brady Quinn started his first game Sept. 27, 2003 against Purdue and threw 59 passes for 297 yards, one touchdown and four interceptions. Though Quinn jumped into the West Coast offense mid-season, in this blowup, the young quarterback learned and is poised to lead a potentially dangerous offense.

Rheena McPherson, Irish co-fencing and converted receiver Carlyle Hollyday man the slot receiving corps.

ND Women's Basketball

After reaching the Sweet 16 for the first time in eight years last season, Notre Dame returns all but three players, including All-American forward Jacqueline Batteast.

The Irish should be a force in the Big East this season, with the return of seniors Devereaux Peters and Shantelle Valentine. Freshman guard Megan Duffy and Batteast are poised for another outstanding season after averaging 16 points and 6.6 rebounds per game.

ND Men's Basketball

In coach Mike Brey's fourth year at Notre Dame, his team ran into major injuries for the first time. There Irish finished with a 15-13 record overall, 9-7 mark in the Big East and lost in the NIT to Southeastern Louisiana. But Francis never recovered from his injury during the season and was only able to play for the rest of the year.

Senior forward Rick Cornish battled a knee injury early in the season and had surgery to relieve a stress fracture in July. Cornell should be ready to participate when team workouts start Oct. 1.

Players to Watch

Sophomore guard Maelle Allion joined the team for the 2003-04 season and is expected to be a key player in the Irish's offense.

Men's Fencing

Coaching
during the first time in the program's 36-year existence. Although their time at the NCAA was short lived, the Irish lost to Minnesota 5-2 in the first round.

Bednarski will have to solidify his men's squad if he wants to win a national title as the Irish only qualified five (of a maximum of six) for the NCAA Championships and only had two All-Americans on the men's team compared to five on the women's team.

Hockey

The Irish had the best season in team history, during the 2003-04 year, advancing to the 19th time in the program's 36-year existence. Although their time at the NCAA was short lived, the Irish lost to Minnesota 5-2 in the first round — Notre Dame put itself on the national radar screen in college hockey.

Zegans will join defending national champion Valerie Ploof, who provided in form the big women's sabre squad in the country.

Fencing

LeVere and Burton will be looked upon for the front line leadership and Crystal Erwin will provide depth for the Irish. Sophomore Breana Gray will be looked upon for defensive purposes.

Players to Watch

Placing third in the team's first few rounds of the season, Army had a 13-7 victory over Rutgers and 1:2.17 is the current average in three seasons.

Olympic gold medalists Mariel Zegans and Maria LeVere will be joined in the front line of national competition by junior Eric Stumpf and senior Brian Bohr.

Players to Watch

After winning a gold medal, Zegans will be expected to product shooting short of an impressive run at the NCAA Championships. She will have to challenge Providence for the national title.

Fifteenth-year coach Union Kerry Walton, along with Zegans, Ament and Sobieraj hope to look for a four-time All-American. The Irish have had 12 First-time All-Americans in school history.

Fencing

LeVere and Burton have been joined by senior forwards Terren Burton and Katy Plevy. Junior forward Courtney Laverie and reigning Big East Most Improved Player junior guard Megan Duffy will need help from Batteast, who is a candidate for numerous preseason player of the year awards.

Players to Watch

Notre Dame's women's soccer coach Randy Waldrum's grasp with the return of eight starters and loss of just four letter winners. Seniors Mary Boland, Gudrun Gunnarsdottir and Melissa Tancredi will captain the squad.

The Irish are always looking to improve, but after a dominant 20-3-1 regular season in 2003, the team focuses on repeating the regular season performance and carrying that intensity into the postseason.

Michigan put an end to the Irish season with a 3-0 loss to the second round of the NCAA tournament with a 2-0 victory; and disappointment surrounded the 6-0-0 Big East Mid-Atlantic Division champs.

Players to Watch

Sophomore Maria LeVere and Burton will be looked upon for the front line leadership and Crystal Erwin will provide depth for the Irish. Sophomore Breana Gray will be looked upon for defensive purposes.

Players to Watch

The Irish line up against Providence's defense, and defenders Candace Chapman, Tancred, Chapman and Gunnarsdottir returned to anchor a solid unit in front of goalkeeper Erikia Bohm. Chapman looks to make an impact after missing the entire 2003 season due to a knee injury.

On defense, graduation removes Amy Warner and Amanda Guertin from the lineup, and Katie Thorlakson will take charge up front.

Junior forward Turin Francis left the Pittsburgh game Feb. 7 with an injury and did not return for two days later in Notre Dame's upset loss to the national champions, Connecticut. But Francis never recovered from his injury during the season and was only able to play for the rest of the year.

Fellow junior forward Rick Cornish battled a knee injury early in the season and had surgery to relieve a stress fracture in July. Cornell should be ready to participate when team workouts start Oct. 1.

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Another division title could be well within sixth-year head coach Randy Waldrum's grasp with the return of eight starters and loss of just four letter winners. Seniors Mary Boland, Gudrun Gunnarsdottir and Melissa Tancredi will captain the squad.

The Irish open the season with four straight home games, hosting Baylor in the opener at Alumni Field Aug. 27.

The first league game will occur at Connecticut on Sept. 17.

The much-anticipated rematch against Michigan will conclude the season on Oct. 28.

Players to Watch

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**ND Volleyball**

After losing in the first round of the NCAA Tournament last year, the Irish took the opportunity to improve on that performance this year.

**Men's Soccer**

The Irish had a disappointing finish to what was otherwise an impressive 2003 season, losing to Michigan in the semifinals in the Sears 16 round of the NCAA Tournament. With a team that included five key seniors, the Irish were seeking to do more than win a national title, but came up short. They might have had difficulty repeating the success of last year, as Notre Dame will have to replace seven total seniors including the five players who were responsible for 45 of the team's 58 goals last year.

Among key returnees is senior goalie Chris Sawyer, who achieved All-American honors last year and has been a three-time All-Big East selection over his Irish career. Senior defenders Addame Stewart and Kevin Goldsmith will help Notre Dame have one of the better defensive teams in the Big East.

**SMC Cross Country**

This fall, the Belles hope their returning runners will use their experience to guide the team to a high finish in the MIAA.

Saint Mary's finished 30th last season at the NCAA Division III Regional Meet at Hamline College. Led by Sara Otto who finished 14th, Otto returns this year along with Elizabeth Cumper and Kaia Wane.

Three runners led the Belles at the regional meet, as Comfort finished 16th and White took 17th, respectively. Also playing at the regional were Erin Nolan (162nd place) and Rockey Fawcett (169th).

These runners will be the leaders of a team that will strive to improve on regional performance, as just 16 teams entered the regional.

The Belles will also look to improve on last year's sixth-place finish at the MIAA Championship. However, they lost captain Jackie Farnen to graduation. Farnen finished 20th as the regional.

**ND Women's Golf**

The Irish 2003-04 team wrote their own chapter in Notre Dame's sports history as they advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time ever.

Notre Dame's second round total of 217 put the Irish a round behind the lowest score for a round in Big East Championship history. Katie Brophy and Karen Lotta took 104 and seventh place, respectively. All three golfers were named to the All-Big East team.

Nakazuki, who will be a sophomore this year, also made it to the NCAA Central Regionals, placing 36th overall. The Irish, as a team, finished in 176th place.

The Belles only lose one senior from last year's team, but they will also have to deal with the loss of Kristin Playko after the sophomore decided to study abroad this year.

Saint Mary's loses senior Alissa Shevky from last year's regional team. Playko's offensive output will be missed, as she was named a first-team All-MIAA player after leading in goals with 15 and assists with 16. She also led the team in points and earned first-team All-MIAA honors last season. Senior Elise Rupricht also returns, after leading the Big East in goals with 14 and total points. Rupricht also led the team with 254 shots on goal and led the team in assists with 4.

Saint Mary's coach Julie Schroeder-Biek adds two talented freshmen in Elizabeth Stohl and Stephanie Bauers.

The Belles open their season Sept. 1 at home against the University of Chicago.
Sophomore Jen Buczkowski fights off a Michigan defender last season. The Irish just returned from a preseason trip to Brazil.

Brazil

continued from page 36

last game too,” she said. “Your whole life you dream about putting on that Irish uniform and when that finally happens, you’re shaking.”

Coach Randy Waldrum told Notre Dame’s athletic Web site that he was pleased with the results, especially from his younger players. “We didn’t have too many bad performances over the course of the six games,” he said. “It was great to see how the freshmen can fit in. We found out that our depth is tremendous at the goalie position. Three different players saw significant playing time in net over the course of the six games. Waldrum has made it clear that junior Erika Bohr, sophomore Nikki Westfall and freshman Lauren Karas will all be on call to defend the Irish goal when the regular season begins.”

“I’ve never had three keepers as good and as close in performance as these three,” Waldrum said. “We have to make the kids understand, because we play so many games in a short period of time, that some may have to sacrifice some minutes to help keep the team fresh.”

Work and practice have been a big part of the team’s journey to the southern hemisphere, but the foreign environment provided a great opportunity for the team to bond with the upperclassmen getting the chance to impart some useful advice to their freshmen teammates.

“We talked a lot about school and stuff, what to expect being a student athlete,” Jones said. “(They told me) don’t worry, just go out there and do your self, just play hard and that’s really all you can do. You can’t worry about things you can’t control.”

NCAA rules permit every school team to take one foreign trip every four years. The Irish just returned from a preseason trip to Brazil. Waldrum added that some may have to sooner than they think.

“Your whole life you dream of putting on that Irish uniform and when that finally happens, you’re shaking.”

Ashley Jones Irish freshman

“Your whole life you dream of putting on that Irish uniform and when that finally happens, you’re shaking.”

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National City
Record

continued from page 36

liked to go a little faster, but with all the nervous at the Olympics, I was happy.

MacKay's quick start in the 200-meter butterfly helped him distance himself from the field, as his start was .02 seconds faster than anyone else in the field.

"I've always had a pretty good start," he said. "Playing a lot of sports growing up, I guess you just develop a quick reaction."

MacKay will enter Notre Dame this fall as the only Notre Dame men's swimmer to have participated in the Olympics. He also holds the Cayman Islands national records in the 100-meter butterfly, and several other record in the backstroke, breaststroke and individual medley events.

He reached the Olympics after earning an invitation in both the 200-meter individual medley and 400-meter individual medley at the 2003 Pan Am Games. "It was huge," MacKay said of the Olympics. "You're up against the best in the world."

MacKay said he will be in South Bend the day after the closing ceremonies, which are August 30. He will be flying from Athens straight to South Bend to join the rest of the class of 2008. "I can't wait to get there and enjoy the campus," MacKay said.

Contact Heather Van Hoogarden at hvanhoog@nd.edu

Gold

continued from page 36

he was recruiting the star junior fencer two years ago. "She had to take a leave for the Olympic games that she wouldn't be able to make it with the crazy schedule," Bednarski said.

But Bednarski also had to sell Zagunis and her family on the ability to continue fencing at a world-class level while surviving in the classroom.

"The academic challenge of Notre Dame sometimes makes athletes frightened because they know the daily schedule is very tough," Bednarski said. "I think it's a challenge for us and for her. We have to take care of her. She is a talented kid."

While Zagunis didn't attend Notre Dame for a year, she wasn't even on the U.S. Olympic team until June. Zagunis lost in the semifinals of a tournament in March to Sada Jacobson by one touch (a point in fencing).

That loss dropped Zagunis to No. 11 in the world rankings and left Jacobson's sister Emily at No. 10 in the world. The qualifying system left Zagunis as the Olympic's first alternate and both Jacobson sisters going to Greece.

When the Nigerian team declined its Olympic spot, Zagunis claimed the spot at the top-ranked fencer in the April 1 rankings not currently qualified for the Olympics.

The fateful turn of events paved the way to Zagunis' gold medal. "I'm just happy in the first place that I was able to come here and compete," Zagunis said. Bednarski said Zagunis was initially slated to return to South Bend on Friday. With her success, those plans could change as the United States Olympic Committee might want Zagunis to participate in the closing ceremonies Aug. 30, meaning Zagunis would get to campus a few days later.
Mike linebackers and safeties high schemes before he makes an as best as possible, which has now you have protections with been the hardest thing for and those are my plans. "Willingham sees the learning curve ahead of Walker, but he also sees a desire to conquer that learning curve as soon as possible.

"Darius is not any different from any of our freshmen in that he's also learning," Willingham said. "But when you look at the basic skill of being a good runner, he seems to be indicating that he has a vision. That is always a key asset for going to be a very good runner." Willingham said Hoskins and Walker have had parallel experiences in fall practice.

"(Hoskins) is similar to Darius. There are some good things that they're doing and there are some days where they are ... wondering what this offense is all about. But they seem to be progressing well." Hoskins has had a nagging minor injury and could not be reached for comment. At 6-foot, 195 pounds, the three-year, two-way starter from Creston High School in Grand Rapids, Mich., rushed 209 times for 1,621 yards and 19 touchdowns his senior year. He also caught 20 passes for 202-yards and touchdown and threw a perfect 20 for 192 yards and a touchdown.

Other potential backfield con-
voy, 202-pound senior Marcus Wilson and 6-foot, 216-pound junior Jeff Jenkins. Wilson played in 11 games last season and earned the bulk of carrying yardage 29 yards, a 2.1 yards per carry average. Though he has received sparing playing time, Wilson has the most game experience in the Irish backfield after Grant.

"Anything you could potentially receive at that end at running back, with the depth of the backfield and also with the nature of the position. "I think the running back position is very physical, anybody can come out in any play," Walker said. "But if you're one, two or three, you got to be ready to go."" Backfield bullets

・ Senior Ty Jones needs only 295 yards to become the 13th player in Notre Dame history to rush for 2,000 yards in a career. He has rushed over 100 yards in a game four times for the Irish and has a career rushing total of 1,705 yards and 13 touchdowns.

・ Freshman running back Darius Walker could be attracting even more attention to himself with his choice of jerseys. Well, that is if it had been his choice. Walker does the famous number three worn traditionally by Irish greats like Ricky Minter and Joe Montana. The most recent player to wear No. 3, converted wide receiver Arnaz Battle, is returning kicks for the San Francisco 49ers.

"I was No. 7 in high school and I was hoping to try to get that this year," Walker said. "But Carlyle Holiday moved to wide receiver and he still went ed to keep his number. I wanted a single-digit number, and it was really one of the only single-digit numbers available. So it just worked out that way, I guess." Injury report

・ Ryan Grant appeared to tweak his left hamstring Monday morning and did not practice in the afternoon or on Tuesday. "It's a minor injury," red-shirt freshman Travis Thomas said. "It's not serious so he'll be ready to go.

・ Red-shirt senior linebacker Brandon Hoyte has stood on the sidelines for the major part of the week with his right arm in a sling. Hoyte was second on the team in tackles last season with 74, including 48 tackles. "I get the chance to see the kids and I was hoping to try to get a single-digit number, and it was really one of the only single-digit numbers available. So it just worked out that way, I guess." Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

FOOTBALL

Fall practices split up after rule change

BY JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

After a mandatory five-day breaking in period, teams were restricted on how many two-a-days they can have and may not allow any practice of three hours or more. With that in mind, Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham split his team into two groups when fall practice started for practices that lasted an hour and a half. "I think has been advantageous us because it has allowed almost every player on the squad repetition and that's the one thing you need to get better," Willingham said.

During the first split squad practice Aug. 10, the team was divided into two groups. The first consisted of mostly first stringers and the second group was comprised of reserves and freshman. Both groups met for 30 minutes for special team work near the end of practice. When a group was not on the field, they did a variety of activities such as lifting or riding the exercise bike.

"We've got a lot of work done," Willingham said. "When we started one of the main focuses of the team was to get everyone a lot for repetition. I think we've achieved that so from that standpoint it's been a good week we've made progress." But the third-year coach also said there are some shortcomings to any practice that can be worthsome.

"What coaches always strive for and what you probably never get until they actually get to the game and really get the produc
tivity in a game is vacated," he said. "As you know from listening to me before, we struggle because as coaches if one side does well then our side doesn't do well because you're work
ing against yourself and that makes our practices very competi-
tive." Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

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Happy Birthday: Minnean survivors should be expected. Nothing will go according to plan, so be prepared to think on your feet. You'll have to watch out for individuals who may want to be rude. It's not the time to cut corners. Your colorful nature may draw the wrong people, but you won't find those who are perceptive and watching you fresh. Be honest and true to yourself if you want to prosper. Your numbers: 12, 17, 26, 35, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't rush. It's important to complete unfinished business. Take part in social activities and your most intriguing mates. Travel opportunities will present themselves with the right partner. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your household may be in a whirl if you plan on making changes that others just can't relate to. Be careful not to offend individuals who are established in your field. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have to speak your piece. Problems with your partner will be due to unrealistic expectations. Travel will allow you to meet new love. Love triangles should be avoided. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your love will appear on a new carpet. Be prepared to step back and watch for the time being. Things may not be as they appear. Get all the facts. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Love connections can be made. Your colorful ways of entertaining everyone will attract all sorts of different mates. Your disclaimer, or you may pick the wrong person. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Today's crossword's puzzle and more than likely the apple will be a test of your skill. You should work on your own and avoid getting involved in this ill-fated affair that could be incriminating. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may want to consider making changes regarding your residence. You will get involved in some form of physical activity. You will be in a key position to present creative projects. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can make major advancements if you are willing to change your mind. Career opportunities will unfold just by setting your sights and doing what you know. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do some research regarding your future finances. You may want to look into making foreign currency or picking up additional knowledge about different governments. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will want to rearrange too much. It may be too late to change the facts. This will be a good day to work at home. Look into ways of improving your personal knowledge. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Passionate encounters can be yours if you are willing to make the first move. You will find a need to travel and should be looking into different destinations. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will make headway at work if you are creative in your approach to business. Don't let others detract you. You will make good headlines. **

Birthday Baby: You'll be eager to entertain right from day one. Your family and friends will welcome your company and believe in all that you profess to be. You are a born actor and a colorful little character. You will always follow the most exciting pathway throughout your life. **

Need advice? Try Eugenia's website at www.eugenialast.com

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THE JUMBLE

MAY 17 20
FLATFEED, 21 NEAR NAPKINS.

HOW DO I TELL PEOPLE THAT I'M NOT ANY ANNUAL RATES?

IF SOMEONE TRIES TO RAISE THE TOPIC, GUIDE THE CONVERSATION AWAY.

DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER COLONIZE MARS?

AND THAT'S WHY MY OUTFIT IS MADE OF CAFETERIA NAPKINS.

THE CATBET: EVIL DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

HOW CAN YOU SAY TO A GIRL THAT SHOWS YOU REALLY LIKE HER?

I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE A LOVE LETTER

WHAT ABOUT 'ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A COOKIE'?

SOMETIMES I'VE COMPLETED THE PUZZLE IN UNDER ONE HOUR.

WILL SHORTZ

Saturday, August 21, 2004

DILBERT

CATBET: EVIL DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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Peanuts

CHARLES SCHULTZ

I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE A LOVE LETTER

WHAT CAN YOU SAY TO A GIRL THAT SHOWS YOU REALLY LIKE HER?

WHAT ABOUT 'ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A COOKIE'?

HAVE YOU TAKEN A LOOK AT THOSE TERRY VINTAGE TUBE SAMPLES?

IF YOU DISCOVER A REPO, BE SURE TO REPORT IT TO THE TENNIS COMMITTEE.

SHOW ME A KAPPA CHI GAMMA NU DELTA LAMBDA ZETA EPSILON SIGMA THETA Iota's.

THE JUMBLES

HUNGRY ARMS

IF A FISH BECOMES FERAL ON THE CAPE... SHOULD IT BE TRYING TO CATCH THE SALMON?

HOW HE FELD WHEN A SLOTH BLIN A THER CAR ON HIS CAR.

RESTUM

GUDEMS

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

ZAUER

LIDUF

HAPPY

RESTUM

GUDEMS

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

ZAUER

LIDUF

HAPPY
**Olympics**

**Domers shine in Athens**

Zagunis captures sabre fencing gold medal in Athens for U.S. team

By MATT LOZAR

Winning an Olympic gold medal is a pretty unique answer to the standard question of "if you could take just that." 

Incoming freshman fencer Mariel Zagunis can now say just that. Zagunis won the women's individual sabre competition Tuesday in Athens, Greece becoming the first U.S. fencer to medal since 1984 and the first to win a gold medal since 1904.

"I don't even know what to say right now," Zagunis told the Associated Press. "I'm so happy." Zagunis defeated China's Tan Xue 15-9 in the sabre final. Tan beat U.S. fencer Sada Jacobson — who went on to win the bronze medal — in the semifinals.

The U.S. team appropriately rushed the strip when Zagunis scored the winning point.

"There's no better feeling than being thrown up there after becoming champion of anything," Zagunis said of her teammates tossing her in the air. "I'm glad they could get on stage and celebrate with me like that.

Zagunis had the opportunity to win the gold medal after deferring her enrollment to Notre Dame. Signing with Notre Dame in November 2002, Zagunis didn't enroll in August 2003 because of the rigorous and demanding Olympic qualifying schedule.

That was something Notre Dame fencing coach Janusz Bednarski knew about when he could see GOLD/page 33

Irish freshman records fastest start in 200-meter individual medley

By HEATHER VAN HOGARDEN

Andrew MacKay has always had quick reflexes. But it wasn't until the Olympics that the Cayman Islands competitor was really able to show them off.

The Notre Dame freshman got the starting block in the 200-meter individual medley Wednesday morning in just 0.99 seconds, the fastest time in the 2004 games by any non-back-stroker. As a result, he finished 41st in the 50 swimmer field — six places higher than his seeding.

Zagunis captured a silver medal in the individual medley.

Sunday he broke his own national record with a time of 3:32.58 in the 400-meter individual medley, good for a 33rd place finish. Wednesday, he swam the 200-meter individual medley in 2:07.65, a personal best.

MacKay, a resident of Grand Cayman, qualified in the 200-meter backstroke, 200-meter breaststroke and 400-meter individual medley.

"I was definitely extremely nervous for at least the first couple games and even the

**OBSERVER**

**Sports**

By MATT MOONEY

Sports Editor

Irish women's soccer Irish don't lose on trip to Brazil

A freshman Orientation was a little different this year for the newcomers on the Notre Dame women's soccer team.

Instead of packing their bags for South Bend, the Irish took their game south of the equator to Brazil for six exhibition games against local semi-professional teams.

With the freshmen joining the rest team for the first time, Notre Dame meshed well on its way to an undefeated 5-0-1 record. The Irish encountered little trouble with the opposition, outscoring their international counterparts by a combined 16-3 margin.

Senior Candace Chapman, sidelined for all of last season with a knee injury, led the team with four goals while first-year players Janneke Jijder and Ashley Jones both got their feet wet with five points apiece.

Jones tallied two goals and three assists during last season getting a few butterflies in her first collegiate action.

"I was definitely extremely nervous for at least the first couple games and even the

**FOOTBALL**

Young running backs hope to make impact

By PST LEONARD

Associate Sports Editor

In the first week of fall practice, freshman running backs Darius Walker and Justin Hoskins received the opportunity to showcase talent that made each a state G a s o r a d e Player of the Year in Georgia and Mich i g a n, respectively.

But another freshman back looks to prove just as much as the highly touted incoming players.

With a reported tweaked left hamstring sidelining starter Ryan Grant from practice for several days last week, red-shirt freshman Travis Thomas (6-foot, 212 pounds) has received first team duties behind the starting Irish offensive line over the past few days.

"Last year was a learning stage, the red-shirt-year," Thomas said. "I took a lot from Julius [Jones] and Ryan [Grant]. This year we got a few guys bumped up in the rotation and I know what I'm doing. So they're throwing me in there and giving me that experience, and hopefully I'll be ready to go in the first game."

Notre Dame out-rushed its opponents 1,887 yards to 1,526 yards last season, though the bulk of those yards came in explosive outings from Jones.

Grant ran for 510 yards and three touchdowns on just 143 carries last season, averaging 3.6 yards per carry. Thomas hopes to contribute at least as much as Grant did last season.

"Within the last year and this year, you usually rotate backs a little bit one and two, [like] Julius and Ryan [id last year], and I think we're going to do some of the same this year," coach Tyrone Willingham did not dispute Thomas' claim that he could see the field early and, possibly, often.

"We'll let the players determine what happens," Willingham said. "But the truth is if we can be our best — I think it usually when you have the opportunity to have two backs... that are always fresh and always attacking the defense, I think you have your best chance to be successful."

During Willingham's first sea-

**SPORTS**

By CLAIRE KELLEHER-OBSERVER

Travis Thomas runs through a drill Wednesday afternoon during practice. Thomas will back up returning starter Ryan Grant.

**SMC SOCCER**

After losing just three seniors from a year ago, the Belles hope to improve on last year's fourth-place finish in the MIAA.

**MEN'S SOCCER**

Notre Dame vs. Northwestern

Monday, 7 p.m.

The Irish and the Wildcats square off in an exhibition.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

The Irish celebrate the 100th anniversary of men's basketball this season. Newcomers Dennis Latimore, Omari Isreal and Rob Kurz will contribute.

**SMC VOLLEYBALL**

**ND VOLLEYBALL**

The Irish return most of their starters and hope to build on last season's loss in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

**ND CROSS COUNTRY**

The men's and women's teams return most of the key runners in 2004.

**SMC SOCCER**

The Observer