Students at Saint Mary’s received an e-mail Thursday warning them of a cab driver or drivers soliciting students to pose for pictures in hotel rooms. The e-mail also noted there “have also been requests for other sex acts with groups of individuals so that encounters can be videotaped.”

The e-mail stated that one specific driver has been issued a no trespass order, forbidding the driver to come onto the Saint Mary’s campus. Saint Mary’s Security is monitoring the situation, as are other appropriate authorities in the surrounding communities, the e-mail said. The e-mail also noted the amounts of money offered for sexual acts have been “significant and intentionally enticing.”

In her e-mail, Timm warned the campus of the dangers of an activity like this.

“The technology that exists today will allow pictures and videos such as is being boasted to be sent out over the Internet. It is hard to know just how far such pictures will travel and in whose hands they may arrive,” Timm wrote. “Pictures such as these often have a way of surfacing later in one’s life when it is least expected. Do not place yourself in this type of situation. The money may sound attractive, but the consequences can be dangerous, sometimes fatal.”

The e-mail said any student who feels threatened with any type of situation can have the driver bring her to appropriate authorities in the surrounding area.

Students may travel to Cuba, according to new law. Taking a cue from the famed Shirt, the Leprechaun Legion shirts declaring “No shirt No shoes No tie No problem” are on sale at the bookstore for the first time, with profits from the $15 purchase going to charity.

According to Leprechaun Legion president and junior Brian Tracy, the T-shirt used to promote Notre Dame basketball was not always student designed or sold to the general public. Sport promotions always made a student T-shirt, Tracy said.

“Sports promotions always made a student T-shirt,” Tracy said. “After the Leprechaun Legion was founded in 2001, however, this practice changed.”

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Some made a student T-shirt, Tracy said. “After the Leprechaun Legion was founded in 2001, however, this practice changed.”

“Their use of the T-shirt was significant. They were used to promote Notre Dame basketball, and we made ours for a good cause.”

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Legion shirts at bookstore

Profits from first-time sales will go to Coaches vs. Cancer

By LEAHY

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By EILEEN DUFFY

One hundred two marching band members will play their last notes and 13 cheerleaders will yell their last cheer in Notre Dame Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

“It’s really hard to believe that Saturday will be my last time marching out of the tunnel and onto the field,” Sarah Paulson, president and four-year member of the band, said. “The marching band has been a huge part of my experience here at Notre Dame, and I don’t think that I’ve realized yet that after Saturday it’s going to be ending.”

Assistant drum major Dan Ferretti recalled some memorable experiences made possible by being in the band.

“I have had the opportunity to perform in some of the greatest venues in college football — Doak-Campbell Stadium at Florida State, Neyland Stadium in Tennessee, Michigan Stadium and of course Notre Dame Stadium.” he said.

Top, an exuberant student section cheers during the Michigan game. Bottom, the band makes its traditional formation.

By BETH ERICKSON

Three years ago, the Class of 2005 sat together in the far reaches of the student section, looking forward to what then seemed like endless Saturdays of gridiron and tailgates. But this Saturday, these students will be rooting on the Irish from the student section for the last time.

As the final home game draws near, the seniors are anxious for a win.

“I really hope we win, and I hope it’s a memorable game,” senior Erin Phillips said. “I can’t believe it’s our last game.”

“So come on for the thrill of the athletes, others for the atmosphere.

“There’s nothing better than actually looking forward to walking up at 7 a.m.,” senior Joe Swiderski said. "I’ll miss the randomness of it all. The unexpected is the best, like when we came back and beat Michigan this year.”

Others come for the Stadium experience.

“I will miss the Stadium hot

By EILEEN DUFFY

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“I will miss the Stadium hot
INSIDE COLUMN

One last chance

It’s all over Saturday. The Notre Dame Stadium lights will be shining down on our cold bodies as we look out onto the field for our last time as students. The team will have already saluted us with their gold helmets and the rest of the fans will have left the Stadium, but some of us will just be sitting there in the freezing November evening, with tears rolling down our checks, not wanting it to end.

Unfortunately, it will have to. Notre Dame football did not have an impact on my college decision. I could have stayed at home and gotten a scholarship to a very good school. Knowing I would have passed up the opportunity to spend four years at the University I had watched on TV since I was 5 years old would have haunted me forever.

The memories aren’t overflowing in my mind about Notre Dame games from our youth. I remember wearing my 1988 national championship T-shirt and watching Shawn Wooden knock down Charlie Ward’s pass in the Game of the Century. That’s why this weekend will be so difficult. That’s why I avoided talking, thinking and writing about it for weeks.

It took me 18 years to get to Notre Dame Stadium and now in what surely didn’t seem like three and a half years, it’s almost over.

My first Notre Dame home football game was Sept. 22, 2001 against Michigan State, 11 days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Combining the emotions of that first game along with 80,000 people holding American flags chanting “U-S-A” is something I didn’t appreciate at the time, but do so now.

Our four years weren’t storybook. The team didn’t win a national title. We’ll remember Boston College as that lost game we were upset and always hate. The only thing that was consistent was the inconsistency. We had field-storming wins over Michigan, the road trips to see state victories at Florida State and Notre Dame, the road trips to see Notre Dame homies at Michigan State, Notre Dame Stadium and Notre Dame fans despite never wanting it to end.

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

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: What’s your prediction for the football game this weekend?

Jenni Fong

Mike Randolph

Ryan Retartha

Morgan Dill

Will Marr

Jonathan Klingler

freshman

freshman

freshman

sophomore

sophomore

Pascuierlla East

Dillon

Pangborn

Keenan

Fisher

"Irish 31, Pitt 13. If we lose at least we'll probably beat USC."

Vanno Irlandesel

Whoever Lee Corso picks against.

"Notre Dame, it’s time for another Pitt loss. 27-13 Irish."

Editor-in-Chief

Matt Lozar

"31-24, Notre Dame."

"I am literally and morally obligated to say our defense is nationwide. Notre Dame takes it to 15."

In Brief

Tom Blanchard, associate professor from the Department of Government and School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, will lecture on "How the Embryo Became Political." A NAVOC Ethics Seminar, the lecture will take place today from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in 119 O'Shaughnessy.

Ambassador Thomas E. McNamee will lecture on "Terrorist Rage No More: Understanding the Libyan Case." The current diplomatic situation will be spoken in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium today from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

"The International Coffee House: Songs of Protest" is an evening of protest songs and sing-a-longs in Spanish and English in the CSC Café from 8 to 9 p.m. tonight. A special collection will be taken for the Catholic Worker Team headed to Darfur, Sudan.

The Student Union Board presents "The Manchurian Candidate" in two showings tonight and Saturday at 8 and 10:30 p.m. in DeBartolo 101. Tickets are $3.

"The Lion King" will be showing at Washington Hall from 9 to 11 p.m. Tonight provides free food, and the chance to win gifts like DVDs and Best Buy gift certificates.

Flipside brings Playground Night to the Rolfs Fitness Center, with basketball, volleyball, badminton, football and other games from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2004

The Observer • PAGE 2

Today's Weather


In Brief

OFFBEAT

Judge says squirrel can live with couple

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Nutkin the Squirrel can live out her later years hunting nuts indoors with a Pennsylvania couple, a court has ruled.

The gray squirrel, which was born in South Carolina in 1994 ["Dark clouds began to gather."]

Charges slapped on alleged spammer

RED BANK, Tenn. — The owner of a shaved ice business was arrested after two employees claimed he spammed them for making mistakes at work.

Paul Eugene Levengood, 57, was charged with two counts of sexual battery after the 19-year-old women complained.

Levengood was freed on $2,000 bail pending a Nov. 16 court hearing. His franchise in this Chattanooga suburb was closed Tuesday.

At the company headquarters in Minneapolis, sales manager Tom Novetzke described Levengood as a "very Christian person," adding that "We've never had a complaint.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

TODAY

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LOW

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LOCAL WEATHER
SMC virtual magazine welcomes prospects

By APRIL THOMAS
News Writer

Prospective Saint Mary's students can now experience the college's campus without leaving home.

Saint Mary's free virtual magazine — V-Mag — has been added to the College's homepage, inviting prospective students to go on a virtual tour of the buildings and grounds.

According to Nick Farmer, Saint Mary's director of marketing and communications, V-Mag was initiated a point to use real student involvement. The first issue was the student involvement of Notre Dame's virtual magazine for prospective students.

"Children and Marital Conflict"

E. Mark Cummings
Notre Dame Chair in Psychology

"Children and Marital Conflict," with E. Mark Cummings, Notre Dame Chair in Psychology, explores the impact of marital conflict on children's emotional security and discusses factors that affect the emotional relationship between parents and children.

As director of "The Happy Couples and Happy Kids Project," Cummings has conducted extensive research on how marital conflict negatively influences a child's development. He was instrumental in the establishment of Notre Dame's Center for Children and Families, a community resource for families in Northern Indiana where parents can learn strategies for constructive conflict resolution.

Law students help immigrants

By PAUL SPADAFORA
News Writer

In an effort to help citizens of foreign countries fill out their resident in the United States, law students are volunteering to help those who need to fill out their applications to the Diversity Immigration Visa Program.

The Diversity Program is a government lottery that selects 55,000 of the applicants for legal permanent resident visas. Law students are helping to prepare the applications of any willing participant that wishes to apply.

Anne Egan, a third-year law student, said the services the law students provide help those with no access to a computer fill out the exclusively online application.

"Despite its success, the virtual tour is not meant to replace the campus visit... rather, it is an exciting invitation to learn more," said Egan. "I've helped students and faculty and alumnae, so now in its third year, the newly enhanced virtual magazine has been helping differentiate Saint Mary's from other colleges and reduce traditional marketing costs."

The law students set up computer kiosks at the local stations and guide applicants through the process.

"There are really specific requirements necessary, so we take the applicants picture and go through their application step-by-step," said Egan. "It's especially helpful if there are language barriers that would make applying difficult."

Volunteers at the program take the required digital photo of the applicant, and then help the applicant complete their application.

"We go through the basic forms, country of origin, etc," Egan said. "Volunteers also aid those who are filling out applications for their entire family."

"We also try to file applications for their spouse and children, but it's more difficult because they need to bring digital photos of all the members who are applying," Egan said.

Egan said that the program has received a good response from the community. "It's not just students looking up the information. Even people working on campus have stopped and looked at the flyers," Egan said. "No fees are charged... people find it to be a great help, especially if they don't have a computer of their own."

Anne Egan, law student
Band continued from page 1

However, there was one aspect that trumped all the others — the students’ reactions.

"When we have a great show, a good dance, neat forms and I hear the crowd respond to that, it creates just an almost indescribable feeling," Ferretti said. "It is the people at Notre Dame that make this place meaningful. When it is all said and done, that is what I will miss most after this Saturday."

Dave Binz, cheerleading co-captain, expressed similar sentiments.

"It’s been four great years, going through the ups and downs of the football team. The best part was definitely doing step-off, leading the band around the campus and through the tunnel," Binz said. "I’ll never forget that feeling of walking through the tunnel, hearing the throughbeats get louder and louder."

In the eyes of the younger teammates, the seniors will certainly leave a legacy and a void.

"They’re great leaders," cheerleader Chrissy Willford, a junior, said of the seniors on her squad. "It’s a big job to pass down all the traditions, but they did it well."

Willford also pointed out that the team is losing 13 of its 25 cheerleaders this year, going a void.

"That’s a major loss," she said.

Members of both the band and the cheerleading squad mentioned the trip to Tennessee as a highlight of their careers.

"The trip to Tennessee was a great experience for the band," Paulson said. "The band loves playing for the team and fans, and we’d love to do so at every away game. We would think that we bring the intensity and enthusiasm of a Notre Dame football weekend to any stadium we enter."

"Going to Tennessee was unbelievable," Binz said. "It was so loud, such an intense atmosphere. There’s nothing like going in and silencing a crowd of 107,000 people."

Ultimately, Binz said he will remember the change coming in his life.

"I think it’s time for us to move on, start our lives, and never leave the stadium, hearing the throughbeats get louder and louder," Binz said.

Senior Jenna Linder said, "It’s the people at Notre Dame that make this place meaningful. When it is all said and done, that is what I will miss most after this Saturday."

Legion continued from page 1

Tamura Buret said the shirt is acceptable.

"I like it. It’s kind of plain but it’s nice," she said. "I don’t get the back of the shirt, and I think it’s dumb."

On the other hand, Steve Przywara, a sophomore, said he really liked the shirt.

"The textile manufacturer who created this fabric, I believe there is no word to describe this genius," Przywara said.

In years past, the Leprechaun Legion used to make money off its shirts would go to charity. With this in mind, Tracy and other Legion members decided this year that all profits from the sales of the Leprechaun Legion shirts would go to charity.

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The Legion does not have a goal for these sales, but Tracy is optimistic about the sales. "Every purchase helps cancer research and supports the team," Tracy said. "No matter how many we sell it we will see a success."

Contact Peter Leahy at pleehy@nd.edu

Seniors continued from page 1

They just took our shirts which is good because students can get them for free.

The Leprechaun Legion has already become a popular organization on campus, and is in probationary club status right now, with expectations to achieve official club status next year. As with football’s "Sea of Green," the Leprechaun Legion shirt serves as a symbol of unity for fans and support for the team, Tray said.

Student opinion on the shirt is mixed. Pasquarilla East freshman

CAMPUS NEWS
The Observer
Friday, November 12, 2004

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In years past, the Leprechaun Legion used to make money off its own shirt sales, while students have faithfully supported itself until it receives the funds to complete the necessary research. As a result the Legion has continued to support its mission and has made significant progress in recent years.

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Contact Peter Leahy at pleehy@nd.edu.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Fighters try to escape U.S. cordon in Fallujah, Iraq - Insurgents tried to break through the U.S. cordon surrounding Fallujah on Thursday as American forces launched an offensive against concentrations of militants at the height of the season. Some 600 insurgents, 18 U.S. troops and five Iraqi soldiers have been killed in the four-day assault, the U.S. military said.

In an apparent bid to relieve pressure on their trapped allies, insurgents mounted major attacks in Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city 220 miles to the north. Guerrillas assassinated police in three towns, set fire near several, and battled U.S. and Iraqi troops around bridges across the Tigris River in the city, where a curfew was imposed a day earlier.

And in Baghdad, a car bomb exploded Thursday moments after a U.S. patrol passed on a street where two American soldiers were wounded on Tuesday. There were no U.S. casualties. The four-day Fallujah offensive has wound back into the southern 178 Americans along with 34 Iraqi soldiers, the military said.

U.N. reports nuclear experiments
VIENNA, Austria - South Korean nuclear experts have revealed earlier this year produced minute amounts of plutonium and near-weapons grade uranium but there was no evidence linking them to an attempt to make nuclear arms, the U.N. atomic watchdog said Thursday.

The report, drawn up by the International Atomic Energy Agency and made available to The Associated Press, followed up on revelations that South Korea sporadically dabbled in uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing from the early 1980s to 2000.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush honors fallen soldiers
ABINGTON, Va. - President Bush passed on Veterans Day to honor the "hidden heroes" in America's military who have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan during his presidency and nit killing this past. He also paid tribute to soldiers he said are waging a winning battle against insurgenst west of Baghdad.

"Some of tomorrow's veterans are in combat today," Bush said Thursday at Arlington National Cemetery, where he laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. "They have a clear mission: to defeat the terrorists and aid the rise of a free government that can defend itself. They are making us proud," Bush added. "They are winning." 

Civil rights group faces turmoil
ATLANTA — The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights group that helped lead the fight against segregation, is beset by financial turmoil and infighting that led to the resignation this week of its president, the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth.

Shuttlesworth, 82, stepped down Wednesday from the organization he and other black preachers helped found along with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1957. "For years, deceit, mistrust and a lack of spiritual discipline and truth have eaten away at the core of this once-hallowed organization," he said in his resignation letter.

LOCAL NEWS

Glitch found in ballot counting system
WASHINGTON — A former CIA officer who has become an outspoken critic of the fight on terrorism turned his focus this week to voting systems that recorded straight-party votes for Democratic candidates in a libertarian voice has prompted official f om one Indiana county to mount a re-counting of the election.

Democrats discovered the error in southeast Indiana's Franklin County, where ballots were scheduled to be counted again Thursday night. The county's election equipment vendor, Fidlar Election Systems Co., notified officials Wednesday of the error.

WEST BANK

Palestinians grieve for Arafat

Successors quickly named, but questions remain unanswered after leader's death

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Authority - Arafat's associates vowed Thursday to stay the course and confirmed that bush froze relations, oval office to say he is a beleaguered leader. They stressed the way must be paved for several days as elections can be held, though the law may be amended to allow parliament to choose the new president. Arafat had not appointed a successor, but within hours the Palestinian Liberation Organization elected former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to replace him as its leader.

Arafat, 83, died before dawn Thursday after 13 days in a Paris military hospital, eight pallbearers carried his flag-draped coffin past an airport and gathered Thursday evening as a military band played the French and Palestinian national anthems and a Chopin funeral march. Arafat's widow, Suha, sti-

A Palestinian Fatah member carries a picture of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat during a demonstration in Jebaliya refugee camp, northern Gaza Strip.

Senior CIA officer quits to speak freely

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I have concluded that there has not been adequate national debate over the nature of the threat posed by Osama bin Laden and the forces he leads and inspires, and the nature and dimensions of intelligence reform needed to address that threat," Scheuer said in a statement sent to reporters Thursday via ele-

tronie mail.

Scheuer's assignments included heading the bin Laden unit from Sept. 11 and the intelligence community overall.

During a wide-ranging interview Sunday evening, Scheuer was highly critical of the Sept. 11 Commission's "refusal" to point fingers at senior government officials whose actions contributed to the attacks. Rather than changing the structure of government, as Congress is considering, he said a signal must be sent that people will be held accountable for their actions.

"No one seems to be capable or inclined to find anyone responsible for 9/11," he said.
Cuba continued from page 1

"I'm still going to take the class because I'm a Latin American studies minor, and I think it's a worthwhile class," said Ann Marie Warmenhoven, who took the class. "But it's disappointing to see that U.S. policy can affect Notre Dame's curriculum and personal level." She added that the embargo would negatively affect the students, especially as Cuban.

The effective way to open relationships is through commerce and educational, cultural exchange," said. "Relations like this are not pro-ductive for Cuba or the U.S."

Fred Licon, a political science graduate student who went on the Cuban trip last year, said the new laws would limit intellectual pursuits of Notre Dame stu- dents.

"They feel that Cuba is condescending and unprofessional," Licon said. "It would be healthy, an intel-lectual excitement.

"The most effective way to open relationships is through commerce and educational, cultural exchange," said. "Relations like this are not productive for Cuba or the U.S."

Fred Licon

graduate student

"You learn to appreciate democracy, to get a glimpse of what lies outside our bubble, not just the Notre Dame bubble," Licon said. "And it's close, only 90 miles away."

According to Licon, the restrictions were put in place to protect the Cuban people. Wealthy, educat-ed hard-line Cuban nationals who fled the country from 1960-80 estimate that 90% of the population in the Miami region and approximately 20% of the population in a Republican strong­-hold.

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"The most effective way to open relationships is through commerce and educational, cultural exchange," said. "Relations like this are not productive for Cuba or the U.S."

Fred Licon

graduate student

"You learn to appreciate democracy, to get a glimpse of what lies outside our bubble, not just the Notre Dame bubble," Licon said. "And it's close, only 90 miles away."

According to Licon, the restrictions were put in place to protect the Cuban people. Wealthy, educat-ed hard-line Cuban nationals who fled the country from 1960-80 estimate that 90% of the population in the Miami region and approximately 20% of the population in a Republican strong­-hold.

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The Observer

BUSINESS

Blockbuster offers to buy rival

Biggest retailer in movie-rental industry wants Hollywood Video for $700 million

DALLAS — Blockbuster Inc., facing new attacks from big retailers and online operators, has offered $700 million for rival Hollywood Entertainment Corp. in a bid to combine the two biggest players in the movie-rental industry.

Blockbuster, the biggest in movie rentals, said Thursday that it had communicated its interest to No. 2 Hollywood Entertainment but that there have been no substantive talks on terms of a deal.

Hollywood Entertainment is already in a deal to let its chairman and chief executive and a buyout firm take the company private. The agreement, which allowed Hollywood to solicit other bids, and the CEO said Wednesday he welcomed Blockbuster’s offer.

The deal would give Blockbuster, which already has 9,000 outlets worldwide, more than the 1,970 Hollywood Video stores and 600 Game Crazy specialty stores. But it could also raise antitrust questions.

In 1999, a plan by two companies to rename Hollywood stores under the Blockbuster banner was stopped by the Federal Trade Commission, but analysts say it’s a merger of the two largest movie-rental firms stands a better chance now.

Stacey Wiltz, an analyst for Fulcrum Global Partners, said regulators would probably block Blockbuster’s plans if they considered the movie-rental business as a distinct industry, but not if they lumped rentals with retail sales of DVDs and video games. Wiltz said the combined company would control about half the U.S. rental business but only 20 percent of rentals plus retail sales.

Dallas-based Blockbuster said it offered $11.50 per share, a 17 percent premium over Wilsonville, Ore.-based Hollywood Entertainment’s closing price Wednesday of $9.80 per share, and would assume about $350 million in Hollywood Entertainment debt.

The deal would trump the pending bid of $10.25 per share for Hollywood Entertainment by a Los Angeles buyout firm.

In afternoon trading, Blockbuster shares were up 58 cents, or 2.9 percent, to $7.96 on the New York Stock Exchange, and Hollywood Entertainment shares rose $1.15, or 11.3 percent, to $10.95 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

Retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. sell DVDs so cheaply that they tempt movie renters. In addition, Blockbuster now faces competition from subscription online rental operators such as Netflix Inc.

Microsoft pushes to challenge Google

SAINT FRANCISCO — PeopleSoft Inc.’s board of directors rejected Oracle Corp.’s $9.2 billion takeover bid Wednesday and vowed to continue its staunch resistance even if a majority of the business software maker’s shareholders decide to approve the deal.

After more than a week of deliberation, PeopleSoft’s board unanimously said Oracle latest $24-per-share bid is inadequate. It marked the fifth time the Pleasanton-based company has snubbed its bitter rival since the takeover battle began more than 17 months ago.

“We absolutely believe PeopleSoft is worth far more today than at any point since this process began,” said George “Skip” Battle, the lead director on PeopleSoft’s transaction committee.

Some analysts disagree, saying PeopleSoft’s market value has been propped up by Oracle’s takeover bid. If Oracle withdraws its bid, some analysts fear PeopleSoft’s stock will plunge by more than 30 percent.

PeopleSoft’s shareholders theoretically could override the board’s recommendation by offering their shares to Oracle by a Nov. 19 deadline.

Should a shareholder majority side with Oracle, Battle and other board members said the directors still intend to use whatever measures necessary to force the issue to a final vote at PeopleSoft’s annual meeting next spring.

Fox to provide TV series for phones

NEW YORK — The Twentieth Century Fox studio, a division of the big screen and the TV screen, is about to break into an entirely new realm: the really little screen, the kind that comes on a cell phone.

In what appeared to be the first arrangement of its kind, Twentieth Century Fox said Wednesday it would create a unique series of one-minute dramas based on its hit show “24” exclusively for a new high-speed wireless service being offered by Vodafone PLC, the world’s biggest wireless company.

Vodafone will begin offering the one-minute episodes in January in the United Kingdom, coinciding with the start of the fourth season of the show on a satellite TV service.

The Observer

MARKET RECAP

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Microsoft plans to offer by year’s end a test version of its hot-anticipated technology for quickly locating e-mail, Web pages and other files on desktop computers. Google launched a similar product last month.

Hoping to steal some of Microsoft’s thunder, Google nearly doubled the size of its search engine index to more than 8 billion Web pages Wednesday evening. A Google spokesman downplayed the Microsoft connection, saying the Mountain View-based company had been working on the expansion for months. Google last expanded its Web index to 4.3 billion pages in February when another.

Marla Backer, an analyst for Research Associates, said Hollywood Entertainment shareholders should “take the money and run” but that Blockbuster would inherit a company facing the same competitive pressures that it does. She said Blockbuster would be wise to invest in electronic delivery of movies.

John Anticioc, Blockbuster’s chairman and chief executive, said in a statement that the proposed deal would “better position Blockbuster to compete in the rapidly changing home entertainment marketplace, while simultaneously beneﬁting consumers as well as Blockbuster and Hollywood Entertainment shareholders.”
Aguilar addresses immigration

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

Alfonso Aguilar, Chief of the Office of Citizenship and Notre Dame graduate, lectured Thursday on "Building a Common Civic Identity."

In the past three years, one million green cards were distributed and at least a half million naturalizations conducted, Aguilar explained. Large numbers have migrated from Asia, Latin America and Africa to the United States.

Aguilar said that his position as Chief of Citizenship within the Department of Homeland Security involves promoting civic principles and increasing awareness of the privileges and responsibilities of being an American citizen.

"We are a nation of immigrants," Aguilar said.

He said that America must learn how to successfully incorporate immigrants into society. "We are a nation not based on religion, culture, but civic principles, we need to integrate immigrants into our civic culture, what unites us are civic principles," Aguilar said.

According to Aguilar, immigrants should be invited to participate in the larger community to avoid marginalization.

Aguilar admitted biases exist, but said that the situation has improved over the past century. "We have experience of incorporating people into our nation," Aguilar said.

The Office of Citizenship initiated new programs to assist immigrants in their transitions to American citizenship. Immigrants now receive a "Welcome to U.S." guide, which contains information pertaining to healthcare, education and laws. Also, new seminars provide U.S. history and language assistance.

Aguilar called all citizens to welcome new immigrants and assist them in the transition to the American lifestyle. "The federal government can not be solely responsible, we need to coordinate with the local, state, faith groups and colleges," Aguilar said.

Contact Jen Rowling at jrowling@nd.edu
JAPAN
Officials try to identify mystery submarine
Associated Press
TOKYO—Japan's military on Thursday shadowed an unidentified submarine that entered its territorial waters the day before, but officials said they had not yet figured out which country the intruder was from.
Tokyo put its navy on alert Wednesday after spotting the submarine off the southern island of Okinawa and sent a reconnaissance plane and destroyer to follow its movements.
The submarine, which spent two hours in Japanese waters before leaving, was heading north Thursday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said.
Hosoda refused to confirm media reports that defense officials believe the vessel is from China, saying: "We don't have enough conclusive evidence to make a determination."
He said it would take time to identify the submarine because it had not yet surfaced and did not appear to be heading toward a specific country. Hosoda said Tokyo has not confronted any countries about the incident.
Japanese public broadcaster NHK said defense officials suspected it was a Chinese Han-class nuclear submarine, based on an analysis of the sounds it was making.
In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said she did not know if the vessel was Chinese.
"The Chinese side is now paying close attention to this issue and I do not approve or encourage any random speculations on this question," Zhang told reporters at a regular briefing. "As to whether this is a Chinese submarine, I do not know and I cannot provide you any information on this." He added Japan would take "appropriate action" when it confirmed the mystery submarine's identity.

MEXICO
City residents debate art exhibit
Shack perceived as too similar to real poverty
Associated Press
MEXICO CITY — A squatter "shack" that bulges like a tumor off the wall outside of a Mexico City museum is an experiment in living — or an eyesore, a waste of money, an affront to the country's millions of real squatters, depending on whom you ask.
Whatever it is, Hector Zamora's work of art is hard to ignore. It crawls down the side of the Carrillo Gil art museum about 30 feet above street level, reachable from the sidewalk only by a rickety wooden stairway.
Zamora, 29, says the red cocoon-like shack is a three-month experiment in living in a public space, a technical exploration of lightweight buildings and an opportunity to spark a discussion.
"People have left me angry notes in my mailbox saying, 'I hope somewhere you live in real poverty,'" and "Now I know where the arts budget is going," said Zamora, a designer who builds canopies and pavilions.
Zamora says it was inspired by San Angel, the colonial-era suburb of the Aztecs around the museum, bailed it so much they forced Zamora to do what normal squatters don't do — battle months to get construction permits. "It's not just the insults. Passers-by have barged unwel­ come, into the red, tarpaper shack. One real squatter stopped by and offered tips for improvement.
Zamora says his wood, building materials — a parabolic steel frame supported by cables strong from the museum's roof — mimics the precariousness and lack of privacy that real squatters suffer.
He often has to sleep with earplugs as trucks roar by outside his plastic-sheeted window. The conclusions from the museum's "This is a livable space," he says, but he gets out on Nov. 28 and is quick to add that when he builds his dream house, "it will not be in the street." Zamora says the work, titled "Revolucion 1608," is meant to reflect the inverte­ nesses of real squatters, who often build shacks in swamps or 45-degree hillsides. He is proud of the lightweight, inex­ pensive materials like corrugated cardboard insulation, and also used some "real squatter" materials like­ tar paper, old oil tins and dis­ carded wood and scaffolding.
"It's not just for me," Zamora says. "It's for architecture.
Zamora's grandparents came to the city as squat­ ters, but later achieved lower middle-class respectability. In college, Zamora became fasci­ nated with architectural geometry, and cities Buckminster Fuller as an influence. So when the museum approached him to do the exhibition, it didn't go far enough.
He hooked up to the museum's water, electricity and sewer lines, just as real squat­ ters tap into the infrastructure around them, sometimes over­ loading circuits and causing blackouts. Some, however, think Zamora didn't go far enough.
"It's a magnificent effort, but I don't think it's provocative enough," said Graciela Schmichuk, a contemporary arts researcher for Mexico's National Fine Arts Institute. "Perhaps it would have been more effective if he had invaded a part of the sidewalk, or the street.
"That's what real squatters often do — turn parks, nature reserves and vacant lots into squatter towns. The city's main bike trail is blocked at three points by squatters' camps.
One question being debated is whether the shack, a relatively spacious 800 square feet, reflects the true plight of the city's hundreds of thou­ sands of squatters.
"I had no intention of imitating poverty or showing disrespect for it."
Hector Zamora artis

Irish in the oldest vernacular literature in Europe and the living language of An Clann Ghill, Ireland. Widely spoken by Irish emigrants to the United States in the 18th, 19th and 20th century, it is spoken in U.S. cities such as Boston, New York, Chicago and San Francisco. The Department of Irish Language & Literature/Roimh Theanga agus Litríochta na Gaeltte offers courses for absolute beginners, intermediate and advanced students next term.

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Spring 2005
IRL 101:01 11:00-12:15 Prof. Sarah McKibben
IRL 101:02 10:40-11:50 Prof. Peter McQuillan
IRL 101:03 12:30-1:45 Prof. Brian O'Conchubhair
IRL 102:01 2:00-3:15 Prof. Sarah McKibben
IRL 102:02 9:30-10:45 Prof. Peter McQuillan
IRL 103:01 11:00-12:15 Prof. Brian O'Conchubhair

Announced
10/3 This End Up
10/22 Bed Sold
11/2 Special Guest to be Announced

FREE ADMISSION & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
with food, drink, spirit beads, t-shirts, and more available!
OxyContin operation busted

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — More than a dozen reputed street gang members, organized crime associates, pharmacists and college students have been arrested for their parts in an alleged ring that sold the powerful painkiller OxyContin in the Boston area, authorities said Thursday.

The ring moved tens of thousands of pills, which sold for $80 to $100 apiece, authorities said. It took in about $150,000 a week, and had been operating for over a year.

"No one expects there to be a connection between organized crime figures, street gang members and college students," Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow said. "They do make strange bedfellows."

Authorities arrested 14 suspects in New Jersey, two in Massachusetts and one in Arizona on Wednesday and Thursday. Additional arrests were expected.

The alleged ringleader, Louis Gallicchio, 64, of Newark — described by detectives as a Lucchese crime family associate — befriended street gang members and recruited them to be runners, delivering shipments of pills bought illegally from two pharmacies in Newark, officials said.

Buyers in Massachusetts allegedly included three college students, two of whom had been taken into custody.

WHO recommends smallpox virus alteration

Associated Press

GENEVA — A World Health Organization committee has recommended approval for genetically altering the smallpox virus to make it easier to determine whether drugs to tackle the disease are effective, the U.N. agency said Thursday.

The alteration involves adding a marker gene to the virus that would glow green under a fluorescent light if the smallpox virus was still alive but would not react if it was dead, WHO spokesman Dick Thompson told The Associated Press.

"They recommended that experiments be done that would speed the screening of drugs for anti-smallpox activity," Thompson said.

Thompson confirmed this would constitute genetic manipulation — as reported earlier Thursday by National Public Radio — but stressed that the purpose of the experiments would be to try to improve smallpox treatment.

In the United States, however, a senior smallpox expert said he was wary.

"I think that it is unsafe for us to be continuing research with a smallpox virus," NPH quoted Dr. Donald Henderson, President Bush’s former bioterrorism czar, as saying.

Henderson ran the successful WHO campaign to wipe out smallpox in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America from 1966 to 1977.

The WHO committee, which met in Geneva Nov. 4-5, said further research should be carried out on the marker gene that would be inserted into the smallpox virus, Thompson said.

The World Health Assembly — the ruling body of the 192-nation WHO — would make a final decision on whether to approve the experiments.

Irish Sports Report

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A year in the life of Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME FOLK CHOIR

Concert for the Missions

November 13, 2004

8:30 pm

The University of Notre Dame Folk Choir

Basilica of the Sacred Heart

University of Notre Dame

Friday, November 12, 2004
Notre Dame vs Pittsburgh Book Signings

Friday, November 12

Day by Day
25th Anniversary Edition
Fr. Tom McNally and William Storey
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

I Play For Notre Dame
Ted Mandell
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Where the Birds Never Sing
Jack Sacco
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Monk's Travels
Fr. "Monk" Malloy
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Bill Miller:
Do You Know Me
Libby Miller Fitzgerald
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Saturday, November 13

What it Means to be Fighting Irish
Johnny Lattner and Bobby Brown
9:00 am - 11:00 am

For Who For What a Warrior's Journey
Ricky Watters
9:00 am - 11:00 pm

Tales from the Notre Dame Hardwood
Digger Phelps
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Go Irish
Connie McNamara
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Heisman:
Great American Stories of the Men Who Won.
Bill Pennington
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Green Thumb
A Notre Dame Mystery
Ralph McInerny
9:00 am - 11:00 pm

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Democrats: celebrate diversity

Bush a hefty lead among those who cited moral values as their primary voting concern, offered fodder for bashing social conservative faux pas as "ignorant...homophobic...guy-crazy" surfacing on the editorial pages of the nation's most respected newspapers. A personal favorite, the New York Times, columnist Maureen Dowd cited "fear, intolerance, ignorance and religious rage" as the culprits behind Bush's unspeakable reelection. Her counterpart Paul Krugman, who has demonstrated a robust religious values in the world, has been非常明显一and is based on the president, who happens to be openly conservative assumptions that conservatives' views on the right away.

The most compelling yet reassuring lesson to be drawn from the 2004 Presidential election is that the wave of alarmingly hateful anti-Bush rhetoric backfired in Middle America, where voters are more likely to trust the advice of their neighbors than the packaged panoply of Hollywood elites and condescending Northwestern liberals who act in the "best interests" of the heartland. Glancing at the Barnes and Noble "Current Events" section yesterday, I couldn't help but marvel at the now-outdated sermons attacking President George W. Bush's "ill-fitting" stewardship of the nation. Today, though my initial reaction was one of joy. I took pleasure knowing the financial system, the health care, the environment, the Great-God-tanned players speaks volumes for the inclusiveness of American culture. For months I feared the literati's wave of disdain directed at the president would ever pervade at least portions of the American mind.

Bush's reliance on values is merely value-neutral, a strong system of beliefs that diverges from the middle class and may well be more a matter of opinion than fact. But it was a big deal, and it still is. So why did it matter? The Notre Dame campus also received a silent message, more than 24 hours after the actual incident took place. Monday evening, the resident editors of Notre Dame received an e-mail detailing the events and steps they should take to ensure their safety as well as a copy of that email in their rooms. The same night, NDSP issued a silent message, more than 24 hours after the actual incident took place. Monday evening, the resident editors of Notre Dame received an e-mail detailing the events and steps they should take to ensure their safety as well as a copy of that email in their rooms.

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They happen to know what was going on and take needed precautions.

But the issue remains that the incident was reported at 3:45 p.m. Sunday to NDSP and more than 19 hours elapsed before the first alert was issued. The Pasquerilla West residents deserve to know what happened. They deserve to know right away, so they could be aware of what was going on and take the appropriate precautions. The Notre Dame campus also needed to know what happened so they too could be aware.

But what happened was too little, too late. The residents of Pasquerilla West were already apathetic. They weren't concerned about what happened. They were apathetic because it was, just one time occurrence. The fact of the matter is a man was in the dorm, in the shower areas, and during that time, the dorm was vandalized. Maybe residents aren't concerned because by the time they found out, the incident was over in their minds.

Perhaps Pasquerilla West's hall staff didn't have the entire story by Sunday night. However, the safety of the Pasquerilla West residents should trump an ongoing investigation when there is evidence of an apparent security breach. Even if the story was incomplete, residents need to know about this incident so they could be aware of what was going on.

Perhaps hall staff and NDSP didn't want to scare students unnecessarily. But sometimes being just a little careful is a little more aware, can make a big difference in one's safety. The hall staff and NDSP gave them the impression that this was unimportant. The incident happened in the middle of the night, and as a result, apathy appears to pervade at least portions of Pasquerilla West and the campus community.

But it was a big deal, and it still is. Why didn't everybody care?
Those questions should be asked by both the general population and also by a majority of Republican voters who expect the next four years will lead to an overturning of Roe v. Wade. You would think that President Bush knew it was this year, reelecting a president responsible for the largest budget deficit in history and a fiasco in the Middle East. What a high-stakes wager overturning of Roe v. Wade. What a non-pro-choice president

John Infra

Dissident Poetry

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Democratic Party must become pro-life

Two questions should be asked before, during, and after every election: 1) What hopes do we have for the future, and 2) How do we get there from here? These questions are especially critical in the current general population and also by individual political parties and movements. As a moderate Democrat I hope for more jobs, better schools, safe communities and an increased availability of healthcare for all Americans. In the wake of President George W. Bush's clear victory, I like many Democrats, have trouble seeing a definitive path towards my hopes for this nation. This controversy between a socially moderate Northeasterner and the religious right reveals a growing tension in the GOP. The famously unified Republicans might soon develop the kind of internecine fighting Democrats have made famous.

For the past few decades, Republicans have succeeded by branding a clear vision while Democrats remain mired in what Strategist James Carville calls "titanic, not a narrative." The Republican vision of this election was of tax cuts, privatization and a more bellicose international presence. Democrats failed to adequately convey an alternative. To paraphrase "The Big Lebowski": "say what you will about the ethics of the Republicans, at least it has an ethos." This ethos is, however, undermining a perhaps divisive transformation. Bush (really Karl Rove) has recast the Republican Party, much as Clinton shifted the New Democrats to the center. Bush moved to the right and religious right in particular. Arnold Schwarzenegger (California), Mitt Romney (Massachusetts), and George Pataki (New York), as well as current and former New York City Mayors Michael Bloomberg and Rudolph Giuliani. Some of these men are potential 2008 presidential candidates. Are all pro-choice and socially moderate to liberal. Their major roles are recast the element of the Republican Party that has received much attention since the election. On the other hand, the pro-life speakers during the recent Republican Convention: Governors Mitt Romney (Massachusetts), Arnold Schwarzenegger (California), Sen. George Pataki (New York), as well as current and former New York City Mayors Michael Bloomberg and Rudolph Giuliani. Some of these men are potential 2008 presidential candidates. Are all pro-choice and socially moderate to liberal. Their major roles make a few changes, Ralph Nader is not likely to receive their nomination. John Infra is a theology graduate student. His column appears every other Friday. He can be reached at jinfra@16nd.com. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The dancer-illusionists of MOMIX presents their latest fantastic creation

When you look at Moses Pendleton's work, you wouldn't think it all started showing dairy cows at the Celdonian County Fair. The internationally famous choreographer has come a long way from his family farm in northern Vermont.

Since he first started touring with dance company Pilobolus after graduating with a degree in English from Dartmouth College, Pendleton's work has been featured all over the world, from Paris to Munich to New York. He has created choreography for ballets, operas and music videos among other projects.

Dance enthusiasts have another rare opportunity following on the heels of "Swan Lake" performed by the renowned Moscow Ballet at the Morris Performing Arts Center on Thursday night. On Saturday MOMIX, Pendleton's famous dance company, will take the same stage with a performance that is unlike anything else in the world of dance.

The performance was arranged by the staff at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. University-sponsored discounts have lowered student ticket prices to $7, far below what would normally be charged for a MOMIX performance.

The group characterizes the unique style for which Pendleton has become famous. Inventive costumes and creative use of choreography combine to create the effect that has brought the members of MOMIX the label of dancer-illusionists. MOMIX uses the full capacity of the human body in its dancing, but does not stop there. The group uses hammocks, trapezes, poles and other indescribable props to expand the possibilities of dance.

Incorporated elements of gymnastics make the group one of the most athletic in the business. The inventive and technically excellent dance troupe has earned the praise of professional dancers and amateur fans alike.

"Opus Cactus," the group's newest touring performance, was inspired by the great saguaro cactus of the American southwest. The choreography is based on the unique flora and fauna of the desert. Dance pieces reflect tumbleweeds, lizards, rattlesnakes and desert blooms.

MOMIX was created in 1981, a year after Pendleton choreographed the clashing ceremonies for the 1980 Winter Olympics. The group is named after Pendleton's solo piece "Momix," which he also performed for the games.

Over the past 20 years the group has performed in more than 20 countries. The group's more famous performances include "Bad Habits," a show created to celebrate the opening of the San Francisco Giants' new training park in 1992, and a performance featured in the 3-D IMAX film "Imagine." "Bad Habits" was a forerunner for the full-length performance "Baseball," one of the group's famous touring performances.

"Opus Cactus" will be performed at the Morris Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday. Tickets range from $22-$30. $7 rush seats are available for Notre Dame students.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu
Battle of the K's

Keenan confronts Knott for the title

Photo illustration by Desiree Zamora and Chuy Benitez
**Men's Interhall Football**

**No. 1 Keenan to meet No. 7 Knott in championship**

By Chris Khorey

Sports Writer

All the hard work, taunting and type are over. On Sunday, the blue-clad Keenan Knights take on the orange-jerseyed Juggs from Knot at Notre Dame Stadium for the men's interhall football championship this Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at the stadium.

The Knights come into the game with an impressive 6-0 record and several lopsided victories. Additionally, they have not allowed a point in the playoffs. The Juggs, on the other hand, snuck into the playoffs with a 2-2 record but have shown dramatic improvement since, routing Alumni in the semifinals 24-0.

“We think we’ve always been a good team, we just got some bad breaks,” Knott captain Drew Donovan said of his team’s improvement. “We just practiced hard and tried to decrease the mental mistakes.

Both teams have been impressive in the playoffs, employing balanced attacks and stifling defense.

“This year we have fantastic balance on offense. We’re not reliant on any one guy,” Keenan captain Pat Downey said. “A different guy has stepped up and been our best weapon in each game. We can run the ball with the best of them, and we can throw when we need to.”

Contenders for the honor of Keenan’s “weapon of the game” include quarterback Eric Laumann, halfback Alex Staffieri, wide receiver Danny Zinkler and fullback Reed Langton. Each individual has had big games statistically in the past such as Zinkler’s two touchdowns last week against Siegfried.

Notably, each of the stars credits the offensive line for their potent attack.

“The real stars of the game are on the line,” Laumann said last week.

Because of their offensive success, the Knights do not expect to change their game plan for the title game.

“We feel we can run the ball successfully against any front, and that opens the passing game,” Downey said. “We’re going to stay with our basic package.

Hopefully we don’t have to delve into our bag of tricks.”

On the other side of the field, the Juggs will rely on their stingy defense, which has specialized in causing turnovers this season. Last week, Knott had four interceptions on only seven Alumni passes.

“Our secondary has been great for us all year,” Donovan said. “We put them in a lot of situations where they have to one on one and they’ve been very effective. We’ve been less effective in terms of getting interceptions and getting the ball back to the offense.

Downey, however, downplayed the influence of the Knott defensive backs.

“We have confidence, and I don’t think our quarterback has thrown four interceptions all year,” he said. “That said, we have to respect their secondary. We’re going to have to concentrate on running the ball.”

On offense, Knott will try to pound the ball with halfbacks John Lyons, who carried for 120 yards against Siegfried and attack through the air with quarterback Justin Gillett and wide receiver Trey Patrick.

Patrick caught a 30-yard touchdown pass last week and Gillett threw another one for 25 yards last week.

The Juggs also boast kicker Eric Wooldridge, who kicked a 37-yard field goal last week.

Contact Chris Khorey atckhorey@nd.edu

Keenan’s Laumann leads team with his experience

By Tom Stiles

Keenan’s sophomore quarterback Eric Laumann is not your average football player.

Laumann will be playing in the biggest game of the interhall season on the biggest stage Sunday when his Keenan Knights face Knot in the championship. This is the biggest game of his season. Last week, Knott had four interceptions on only seven Alumni passes.

Although anxiety will be an issue for most of the players, Laumann is not “most players.” He has been playing football since the fifth grade up to his senior year at Kettering After High School in Dayton, Ohio. After becoming the starting quarterback his sophomore year, he took his team all the way to the state semifinals both his junior and senior year.

“Were in front of about 15,000 people, which is one of the largest crowds for a high school game in Ohio’s history. So, I really don’t get nervous,” Laumann said. “Before games take it easy and let the defense get pumped up. Just get in my own frame of mind and try to stay focused.”

Laumann has remained one of the most versatile players in interhall based upon statistics alone.

Laumann has already had three games in which he has thrown and rushed for over 200 yards this season. This is in addition to throwing and rushing for at least three touchdowns in each of the contests.

“We like to run a balanced offense, and Eric is a huge part of it because he is versatile enough to execute on running plays designed for him and be able to run the broken ones,” Keenan captain Patrick Downey said.

“As any good quarterback, you have to have leadership qualities, and Eric does. He just takes that knock for making big plays, especially on third downs. We are very confident when the ball is in his hands.”

Laumann attributes this confidence to his many years of experience.

“I think the biggest thing that I bring to the offense is experience. I can read routes well, and I’m better at progressions than most quarterback,” Laumann said.

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“I think the biggest thing that I bring to the offense is experience. I can read routes well, and I’m better at progressions than most quarterback backs in this league,” Laumann said.

“I’m athletic enough to be able to make something happen if people bust through the line. Plus, I have great legs,” Laumann said.

In addition to the Keenan receivers, its defense has been a dominant presence all season long.

The Knights defense has recorded three shutouts and hasn’t allowed an opponent to score more than seven points all season.

“The key for a win on Sunday will be the line. It all starts with the offensive line,” Laumann said. “Then the running game will open up the passing game.”

A successful passing game and making few mistakes is a pressure Laumann places upon himself.

“For me, the big thing is no turnovers and just making the plays that are called. We are good enough where I don’t have to be spectacular,” Laumann said. “But the loss fueled the fire, so we really got to work early this year.”

Laumann is also hoping last year’s mistakes will help the team to be successful on Sunday.

“We like to treat this like any other game, but I know the feeling of being on that field will be unbelievable,” Laumann said. “But we as a team want to be remembered by everyone there watching. My whole family is coming, so I really hope it will be an experience that they will remember as well.”

Contact Tom Stiles at tstiles@nd.edu

Keenan sophomore quarterback Eric Laumann pushes down field in a game against Alumni earlier this season. Keenan will face Knot in the championship game this Sunday.
By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

On the Walsh interhall football team, the involvement of seniors has resulted in excellence on the field. The Wild Women of Walsh finished an undefeated regular season with a record of 4-0-2 and have advanced through the playoffs to face Cavanaugh in Sunday's championship game. Interestingly enough, a great deal of the team's success can be attributed to one family.

Senior Carrie Campbell serves as Walsh's captain and leader by example. Carrie's first cousin, Dave Brenner, is the team's head coach. All four of Cavanaugh's freshmen members of the Walsh squad. The four cousins have been given a special, the winter role in the Wild Women's run for the title.

Carrie is on the Walsh team for the fourth straight season. The captain began the year playing quarterback, but an early-season injury ended her run. Instead, she signed up a few games, Carrie has returned to the team on defense, playing safety and linebacker. Even with her on-field contributions limited by injury, Carrie's leadership and passion have been vital to Walsh's success.

"Carrie always brings so much energy and so much love for Walsh football," Carrie's sister Julie said.

Along with Carrie, Dave has provided excellent leadership and inspiration for the team. Having played in high school as a quarterback, Dave brings a vast amount of football knowledge and an understanding of the game. However, Dave, in his second year as Walsh's head coach, does more than simply call the plays. He acts as a friend and mentor to the entire team.

"He really cares about the players and looks out for them," Carrie said about Dave.

Walsh junior cornerback Patty Rose agreed with Carrie. "He really cares about the team and watches out for all of us," Rose said. "He's almost like a big brother to me.

Dave's sister Molly has made an immediate impact on the team in her freshman year. Dave describes his sister as, "a raw athlete who is fast and has great hands."

Playing wide receiver, Molly has become a reliable target for making big plays all season long. In Walsh's semifinal game against Walsh Family, Molly caught the game-winning touchdown pass.

"Just like her cousin, Julie, Molly has a knack for coming up with big plays. Her interception in the semifinals helped seal the victory for Walsh." Carrie said.

Walsh teammates celebrate after defeating Walsh Family 13-6 on Monday in the semifinals.

"I've played three different positions on offense and two different positions on defense, and she has started at all of those positions."

Furthermore, like Molly, Julie has a knack for coming up with big plays. Her interception in the semifinals helped seal the victory for Walsh.

"I'm almost like a big brother to me. Rose really cares about the team and watches out for all of us," Rose said. "He's almost like a big brother to me."

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out for the players. Having those family connections on the team has just made this natural.

Dave sees team unity as one of the leading factors in Walsh's success this season.

"Being close like that keeps everyone coming to practice, keeps people serious about football and keeps the winning streak going," Dave said.

Carrie, Dave, Molly and Julie and the entire Walsh team hope their family bonds can help achieve one final victory on Sunday.

Contact Kevin Brennan at bwallas2@nd.edu.
After playing to a scoreless tie to open the season, Cavanaugh and Walsh face off in Sunday’s Championship game - a battle of unbeatens
THEATRE REVIEW

‘Our Town’ shows at Saint Mary’s

By JONATHAN RETARThA
Scene Writer

The production of Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town” at Saint Mary’s College this weekend provides a slice of early 20th century Americana to 21st century college students. A play in the vein of “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Our Town” tells the story of the town of Grover’s Corners, N.H. at the turn of the century.

By placing a spotlight on a particular, isolated town, Wilder reveals both truths about early 20th century and universal truths about human existence that are applicable today. The play has three acts—Daily Life, Love and Marriage and Death.

The action in the three acts revolves around two families in Grover’s Corners—the Gibbs and the Webb. Mr. Gibbs (Greg Melton) is the town doctor, and lives with his wife Julia (Monica Mastromarco). They have a daughter Rebecca (Maria Corso), and their son George (Terry Dana Juchniak II) is one of the main characters in the play and a prominent figure in the town, being both captain of the baseball team and president of his class.

The Webb family consists of newspaper editor Charles Webb (Michael Kramer), his wife Myrtle (Bea Brown) and their children Wally (Steve Shiler) and in particular Diana Pisaulli, the latter of whom becomes George Gibbs’ love interest. The show is unique in that every action that takes place on stage is choreographed.

Before the play begins the actors are seen warming up on stage and conversing amongst themselves, and the directors are seen going over things with people and fixing props. In between acts, the same applies. This creates the effect of making it hard to tell where reality stops and the acting begins.

The Stage Manager (Ashleigh Stochel) is the ringmaster, existing at the same time in the world of the play and in the real world. She serves as a narrator of the action, but more in the sense of a Greek chorus or a Japanese banashi who philosophizes and muses about life and offers insight and perspective to the audience through her following of the citizens of Grover’s Corners. Her role by far is the biggest role in the play since she comments on almost every scene.

The set design for the performance is very plain, mostly with a few simple tables and chairs and some wooden platforms. The one set serves as the Gibbs and Webb households, the Congregational church, a soda shop and the cemetery. Props are also rare, but with good purpose. The actors are constantly reacting with invisible items and invisible buildings, which serves to emphasize the timeliness of the issues being dealt with.

In all, “Our Town” offers solid performances in what is generally a weakly written play character-wise. The most developed and delightful characters, the Stage Manager and Emily are played by Rebecca (Maria Corso) and Emily is the victim of rage in “The Grudge.”

“The Grudge” centers on a house full of vengeful, violent spirits.

DANCE REVIEW

‘Swan Lake’ is beautiful but flawed

By CHRISTIE BOLSSEN
Assistant Scene Editor

The Moscow Ballet Company transformed tragedy into beauty on Thursday with its presentation of Tchaikovsky’s famous masterpiece “Swan Lake” at the Morris Performing Arts Center. The performance was filled with the composer’s gorgeous imagery and emotion, thanks to lavish staging and the dances’ superb mastery of their art.

The Moscow Ballet is a self-proclaimed “pure classical ballet company” that consists of all Russian dancers who are graduates of the Moscow Choreographic Institute and the Vaganova Institute. The performers begin the intense training regimen as early as eight years old.

The result is a cast of 50 artists who bring magic to the timeless love story, although it is the magnificent Titaiana Predeina as both Odille and Odile who owns the vibrant production. Set against a luminous pastel backdrop, bright costumes adorned with feathers and sparkles decorate the stage for two hours. Even the colorful peasant dresses are glamorous on the talented corps de ballet.

While the ensemble had occasional synchronization problems, the corps was parallel as the swan maidens. They filled the stage like white tulip flowers and performed some of the best icing of the night as the enchanted birds. Predeina in particular sprayed swan-like grace and sharpness perfectly, with her fluttering arm movements and airy footwork.

Anton Domashov, as the evil sorcerer Rothbart, also commanded the stage each time he ominously appeared, dancing with such a powerful presence that it was almost disappointing to see him lyin’ pretorius on the stage for his showdown with Prince Siegfried in this happy-ending version of the tragedy.

Vladimir Statnii and Andrei Litvinov as the prince were less impressive. Siegfried’s first appearance featured minimal dancing, and mainly consisted of him running around twirling his cane with a distinguished look on his face.

Unfortunately for the entire performance, the orchestra pit didn’t quite convey the sumptuousness of the music. Unfortunately for the entire performance, the orchestra pit did not quite convey the sumptuousness of the music.

Jean Shekoniak

Contact Jonathan Retartha jretartha@fbd.edu
NCAA FOOTBALL
Dissenters: Joe must go
Is Paterno's time running out as coach at Penn State?

Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The coaching legacy and goodwill that Joe Paterno proudly built over five decades at Penn State are slowly unraveling with each bad decision, and the coach is no longer immune to the criticisms routinely reserved for coaches with lesser pedigrees or without reputations as community patriarchs.

The message is clear — and getting louder — from the growing dissenters: Joe must go.

Paterno, whose 431-116-3 record ranks him second in career victories in Division I-A behind Bobby Bowden, is listening.

"I don't mean that," he said.

"I am just trying to do what is right," he said.

"I am going to get this program back to where it belongs and if I can't do it in a certain amount of time, I have to sit back and say, 'Hey, turn it over to some other guy and let him help.' That is the way it will be," he said.

And that time is:

"I haven't got the slightest idea," he said.

"I don't see any reason to say," he said. "I am going out of this here next year, next year or what year," I don't mean that. I have to cockey, stubborn or anything like that, I am just trying to do what is right." What to do with the fading legend seems to be tearing at the conscience of the Penn State community. Has Paterno, who's donated millions to the school in addition to his football home, earned the right to decide his own fate? Or should university officials give him a nudge out the door?

"I think he'll never step down," said former Penn State defensive end Michael Haynes, now with the Chicago Bears.

"Right now we're having some issues, but it's still all feasible." A bronze statue of Paterno greets visitors to Beaver Stadium. There he is, looking sly, pointing toward the sky with his jacket flown open and tie whipped around as if hit with the wind of another brisk football Saturday.

Engraved near a wall of plaques to the left of the statue is a Paterno quote: "They asked me what I'd like written about me when I'm gone. I hope they write I've made Penn State a better place, not just that I was a good football coach.

Those stories will certainly be written one day. But Joe Patra most certainly can't like what's being written now.

One alumna paid $350 to take out a half-page ad in the student newspaper's gameday edition which read: "The tail-end's there. The coaching is an abomination. TIME FOR JOE TO GO."

"All I was trying to do was focus some of the discussion I am hearing all over the place in a way people can see and read it readily," said Joseph Korsak, who said he was every home game since 1967 except for a three-year stint in Ohio. "A few have said it was too radical, but the vast majority thinks it's time for a change. A lot of people have been more forgiving and say he should go out on his own terms. Whatever goodwill he's generated ran out at the end of the '02 season."

Joe Paterno has the second most career victories (341) in Division-I football, but Penn State has struggled recently.

NBA
Curry's agents request trade from GM Paxson

Associated Press

DEERFIELD, Ill. — The cornerstone of the Chicago Bulls' next dynasty appears to have some structural problems.

Eddy Curry's agents said Thursday they are seeking a trade for the 7-footer, who is eligible to become an unrestricted free agent next summer. That came as a surprise to general manager John Paxson, who learned of the request not from Darren White and Lamont Eyre, Curry's agents, but in a story in the Chicago Sun-Times.

"Eddy hasn't said anything to me yet," Paxson said.

"And I'm not going to be intimidated or persuaded by any story that goes public and tries to do what he thinks is right for his client," he said.

I think it only hurts him and it doesn't do us any good, either.

"Curry went to a doctor after banging his right knee and wasn't available for comment.

But White told The Associated Press he will continue to explore possible trade scenarios for the Chicago Bulls' Curry and "will operate on the assumption that getting Eddy a trade," he said.

John Paxson
Bulls general manager

"I'm not going to be intimidated or persuaded by any agent that goes public and tries to do what he thinks is right for his client.

NCAA BASKETBALL ROUND-UP

The 'Cuse cruise

Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Syracuse had lost its last two season openers. The Orange weren't about to make it three in a row.

Led by Hakim Warrick and Gerry McNamara, No. 6 Syracuse scored the first 24 points of the game and cruised to a victory over Northern Colorado Thursday night in the first round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic. Syracuse (1-0) will play Princeton (1-0) in the second round Friday night.

No. 12 Mississippi St. 53,
Ft. WORTH 49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Ontario Harper scored a career-high 17 points and No. 12 Mississippi State, playing without preseason All-America Lawrence Roberts, beat Fairfield 53-49 Thursday night in the first round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Roberts, a senior forward, sat out because of a one-game suspension from the NCAA over his expenses to attend a tryout before the NBA draft.

No. 24 Memphis 102,
SAVANNAH 94

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Rodney Carney scored 21 points and No. 24 Memphis had six players finish in double figures in a 102-40 victory over Savannah State Thursday night in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 304 South Diana Hall. Deadline for next classifieds is 3 p.m. Classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character, per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without inquiring. The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 304 South Diana Hall. Deadline for next classifieds is 3 p.m. Classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character, per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without inquiring.

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**MLB**

**Santana unalumni AM Cy Young Winner**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — As joyous fans celebrated by honking car horns in Caracas, Johan Santana sounded overwhelmed. He became the first Venezuelan to win a Cy Young Award, and not only that, he was a unanimous choice.

"This is like a dream come true," he said after earning the American League honor Thursday. "I'm a little surprised that I ended up the season where I ended up the season."

The Minnesota Twins' left-hander received all 28 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Santana, who went 20-6 and led the AL with a 2.61 ERA and 265 strikeouts, became the first unanimous Cy Young winner since Arizona's Randy Johnson two years ago and the first in the AL since Boston's Pedro Martinez in 2000. He is the 18th unanimous winner overall, the seventh in the AL.

"I'm surprised this has been a unanimous decision," Santana said. "I thought this was going to be a real tough race."

Santana traveled Thursday morning from his hometown of Tovar, Venezuela after Santana won the American League Cy Young Award Thursday.

Supporters of the Minnesota Twins pitcher Johan Santana wave pictures and national flags outside his home in Tovar, Venezuela after Santana won the American League Cy Young Award Thursday.

**In Brief**

**Arizona State set to honor Tillman Saturday**

TEMPE, Ariz. — Pat Tillman used to climb the light towers over Sun Devil Stadium to meditate. He was a fierce Arizona State football player and an honor student who graduated in 1.32 years.

The school will honor the fallen hero, killed in combat in Afghanistan last April, and retire his No. 42 in a halftime ceremony of Saturday night's game against Washington State.

Jake Plummer is scheduled to be among the former teammates who gather on the field for the ceremony, the second one at the stadium this season.

The Arizona Cardinals retired Tillman's number at their home opener on Sept. 19.

Tillman was the Pac-10 defensive player of the year as a senior in 1997, when he and Plummer led the Sun Devils to an 11-0 regular season and the Rose Bowl. Tillman, an academic All-American, graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in business. Byrd and McClure meet for IBF heavyweight title**

NEW YORK — Chris Byrd and Jamed McClure are good friends who both happen to be making a living hitting people in the ring.

They go to dinner together and hang out at each other's houses. Their wives talk constantly on the phone.

On Saturday night, they'll fight for the IBF heavyweight title. For a few rounds, at least, friendships will have to be put aside.

"We tried to avoid this for a long time," Byrd said. "But McClure is the mandatory for me. I had no other choice."

Byrd defends his IBF title against McClure as part of a heavyweight extravaganza at Madison Square Garden that features a full ton of fighters. Among them are WBA heavyweight champion John Ruiz, who defends against Andrew Golota, and former champions Evander Holyfield and Hasim Rahman.

Promoter Don King put them all on display at Thursday's weigh-in, where the eight fighters stood with King on a truck axle scale to weigh in at a combined 2,300 pounds.

**Mavs face Finley on injured list**

MIAMI — Dallas Mavericks guard Michael Finley was placed on the injured list Thursday with a sprained right ankle.

The two-time All-Star was injured in the third quarter of the 94-84 loss at Orlando on Tuesday. He'll miss at least five games, starting with Thursday's at Miami.

X-rays were negative, but team officials believe Finley, who has missed 36 games over the past three seasons with an array of leg and back problems, will need at least two weeks before returning.

**Women's Basketball AP Preseason Top 25**

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Points</th>
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**NCAA Men's Cross Country Top 25**

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**NCAA Women's Cross Country Top 25**

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Spartans, Panthers present weekend challenge

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

The Irish are gearing up to get back in the pool this weekend. The team, who fell twice last weekend in a triple meet to top 25 teams Arizona State and Purdue, is trying to get back on track tonight against Michigan State and Pittsburgh at the Rolfs Aquatic Center. Coming into the event, the Irish are 1-2, while Michigan State and Pittsburgh are 0-2 and 2-0, respectively.

Despite last week's disappointments, coach Bailey Weathers is confident in his team.

"Traditionally, we've beaten both teams," he said.

However, Weathers was quick to point out that his team must perform to capabilities to get the job done.

"They [Pittsburgh and Michigan State] have given us trouble in the past," Weathers said. "We were behind in both dual meets against them last year.

According to Weathers, the Irish will face their toughest challenges in the breaststroke and the sprint events. The field in the breaststroke will be led by Michigan State junior Courtney Ellabargar, who won both the 100 and 200-meter breaststrokes in the Spartans' last match against No. 16 Michigan.

Rather than those events, Weathers feels his team's strengths lie in the butterfly, backstroke and middle distances, as well as diving events. Based on the results against Arizona State and Purdue last weekend, the Irish have reason to be confident.

"Pittsburgh and Michigan State have given us trouble in the past," Bailey Weathers, Irish head coach

They dominated backstroke, Weathers feels his team's with sophomore Rebecca Grove winning and freshman Caroline Johnson coming in third in the 100-meters, while sophomores Ellen Johnson and Ann Barton finished first and second in the 200 meters, respectively.

Barton also finished runner-up to a teammate in the 400 individual medley, an event which sophomore Jessica Stephens won.

The performance of this talented group of young swimmers will go a long way to determine the Irish's fate this weekend.

Additionally, senior Meghan Perry-Eaton will be a strength on the diving board. A week ago, she swept the diving events, winning both the 1 and 3-meter board events.

However, the divers she will face Friday have shared similar success this season. Freshman Danielle Williams from Michigan State and junior Coleen Kristubak of Pittsburgh both swept the diving events in their last event.

As the team prepares for competition, Weathers will likely reiterate they cannot just show up and expect to win.

"This will certainly not be a walk through," Weathers said.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu.
Irish face conference challengers Pitt and WVU

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Their hopes of an undefeated conference season were swept away by Boston College last week. Notre Dame (14-7, 7-1 in the Big East) now looks to regroup with home matches today and Sunday against Pittsburgh and West Virginia.

With Pittsburgh (19-6, 7-1), Notre Dame and Syracuse all tied atop the Big East standings, these matches should help break up the conference.

"We were down after [the loss to Boston College]," Notre Dame coach Debbie Brown said. "But we're eager to play again. The team is determined in the Joyce Center. With the football pep rally set for 6 p.m. today and Sunday against West Virginia, fans in attendance.

"We played before a pep rally last year against Virginia Tech," Brown said. "We had a tough five-game match but I think it was really important for us to have our crowd there in that fourth and fifth game. It was exciting for the team to be able to play in front of a crowd like that. I think [today's atmosphere] will be good."

The bite in this year's Panther's attack comes from senior Megan Miller. The preseason Big East player of the year is averaging 3.9 kills per game last year and was also named the most outstanding player of the conference tournament.

Senior Azadeh Boroumand and libero Megan McGrane combine with Miller to make Pittsburgh a tough team to beat.

"They take good swings when they have good sets and when they don't they do a good job of mixing up their shots and keeping the ball in play," Brown said. "They play very smart, and they're very patient. They have a lot of good individual players including [McGrane] who digs extremely well. I think we'll see a very balanced game from them, and I think it will help bring out the best in us."

Despite all the talent Pittsburgh brings to the match, Brown is most concerned with the Irish executing and playing a complete match.

"We have to be smart in how we're trying to defend them and things like that," Brown said. "But I do think the bulk of it is taking care of our side of the net." Sunday's match against West Virginia will begin at 2 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

The Mountaineers are 18-11 overall and 4-4 in the Big East. Despite not being particularly strong offensively, they make up for it with a stout defense that ranks second in the conference by limiting opponents to a .157 hitting percentage and leads the league in digs per game with 18.35. Senior Alison Zemanski is the main reason for the success as the middle blocker leads the Big East in blocks per game with 1.50. Outside hitter Aurora Ebert-Santos is averaging 4.64 digs per game, third in the league.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

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Belles to compete in championships

Ten runners will compete for team.

By ANNA FRICANO

Ten of Saint Mary's top runners will represent the College on Saturday at the NCAA Division III Regional Cross-Country Competition, hosted by Alma College. The Belles, who finished the regular season in sixth place in the MIAA standings, will face the majority of its conference including Hope, Calvin and Albion — teams that finished first through third, respectively. Saint Mary's will return four runners to the regional race from the 2003 roster. Junior Becky Frento and sophomores Erin Nolan, Sara Otto and Katie White all ran in the race, then hosted by Hanover College. Joining the ladies this year will be freshman Megan Gray, along with sophomores Allison Beyer, Meaghan Herbst, Meghan Murphy and Ashley Shereist. Risa Zander will be the lone senior competing for the Belles.

The 2004 season hasn't exactly been an easy road for the team. After an injury hurt the team's position in the MIAA Jamboree, Saint Mary's was put in a difficult position for the conference championship. The fourth-place spot that the Belles had hoped for eluded the team as more ailments and injuries prevented a few of the top runners from achieving their highest performance at the meet. Since the Saint Mary's Cross Country team has primarily been focused on improving its conference standings — the Belles finished in sixth-place — the regional race is not a principal concern for the team. Coach Dave Barsis has said in the past that the regional meet is mainly a cool down for the training that the team does for the critical conference competition.

For the majority of the team, Saturday will be one last opportunity to improve as a group and look ahead to prepare for next year. Zander, who will wear her Saint Mary's uniform for the final time, looks at her last race as an opportunity to have a strong finish to a memorable experience with the team.

“Personally, I would like to finish on a strong note … that I can look back on with pride, just knowing that I didn’t leave anything behind,” Zander said.

A total of 32 schools will be represented at the Regional Meet on Saturday, held at the Pine River Country Club in Alma, Mich.

The women's race will begin at noon.

Contact Anna Fricano at africano1@Saintmarys.edu
Irish
continued from page 28
several players throughout the preseaon, although just returning starter Jaci McCormick will miss tonight's contest.
The Redbirds had their first winning season in seven years during the 2003-04 campaign. They return three starters from last season's squad as coach Rubin Pingeton tries to rebuild a program that has struggled in recent years.
Meanwhile, Notre Dame hopes to begin its season better than a year ago, when the Irish were just 7-6 in their first 13 games before finishing the season at 21-11 with a 16 berth.
"It's critical for us to get off to a good start," McGraw said. "We played a lot of tough teams on the road (last year). Obviously it was tough, this year I think we have a few more home games, so hopefully that will prepare us a little bit more."
McGraw knows her team should have an easier time getting into the flow of the game at the Joyce Center — a place Notre Dame didn't lose last season.
"We have great fans," McGraw said. "We love our fans because they're so into the game and they're so knowledgable about the game. They just seem to have a sense of when we need them."
The Irish will start the same five players as they have during their two exhibition game victories — Megan Duffy and Breonna Gray at the guards, Jacqueline Batteast and Courtney LaVere at forwards and Teresa Burton at center.
Batteast has already received all kinds of national acclaim and preseason awards. The returning all-American averaged 16 points and 8.6 rebounds per game last season. She will be a leading candidate for Big East Player of the Year and is being mentioned by many as the best all-around player in the country.
McGraw doesn't downplay Batteast's abilities, but is emphasizing other scoring options from her team.
"Batteast is probably going to see a lot of double teams," McGraw said. "We're just expecting her to play like she did last year, same kind of game. We hope to help her more. The rest of our players, I think, need to step up and give her a little more help."
Notre Dame will not only rely on Batteast and the other returning players, but also on a talented and athletic freshman class. Guard Tulyah Gaines averaged over 20 points a game as a high school senior in Nevada. Fellow guard Charel Allen also had an impressive high school career and averaged 26 points her final season. Center Melissa D'Amico was a New York all-state selection her senior season. All three should see playing time early on this season.
Whether freshman or senior, Notre Dame's players should be ready for opening night, although McGraw knows with that added anticipation comes more mistakes.
"I think the first game you're always a little bit excited and a little bit nervous," McGraw said. "We need to outwork people who have beaten us so we can outscore them."
Welsh said he expects close races in each event, especially in diving and distance freestyle events — traditionally competitive areas for the Irish.
"These teams are strong where we're strong," Welsh said. "We'll have to be at our best in all events. I think we'll see the fastest times of the fall from all three teams."
Notre Dame showcased its talent last weekend, upending Iowa 176-118. Sophomore Ted Brown led the Irish with victories in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle races, finishing first in the 200-yard freestyle with a 1:46.48 and 500-yard freestyle with a 4:35.46 respectively.
"Swimming against Pitt is the strongest team we've ever swum against," Welch said. "They aren't intimidated."
Welsh said his team has its sights set on the 1-meter competition, as Iowa chose not to enter divers in the meet. Sophomore Scott Coyte claimed first place in the 3-meter competition with a career-best score of 321.45 and freshman Sam Stoner won the 1-meter competition with 307.65 points.
Michigan State (1-1) is looking to build on the momentum it gained after last weekend's meet at Iowa. The Spartans defeated Iowa 164-125, claiming victories across the board.
Pittsburgh (2-0) also enters today's meet fresh off a win over Syracuse 177-56. The undefeated Panthers garnered 12 first-place finishes against Syracuse. The team is looking for a Big East Championship again this season, after establishing itself as an annual champion in recent years.
Although the Panthers' reputation precedes them, the Irish aren't intimidated.
"This is the strongest team we've ever had," captain Matt Burtke said. "We might surprise some people this weekend."
"We have to keep out ultimate goals in sight and not get lost along the way," Welsh said. "Swimming against Pitt is motivating for us in individual events."
"Bring it on. Let's strap on our goggles and see who's fastest." The Irish are set to host the meet today at 3:40 p.m. at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.
Contact Ann Loughery at aloughery@nd.edu

MEN'S SWIMMING
Irish increase intensity
for crucial dual meet

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sporst Writer

The Irish (3-1) are gearing up for what has been dubbed their most crucial dual meet of the season against No. 17 Pittsburgh and Michigan State.
In anticipation of today's meet, coach Tim Welsh said the swimmers have intensified their workouts and are looking race-ready.
"If you ask the guys how practices have been this week, they'll tell you they've been really hard," Welsh said. "We need to outwork people who have beaten us so we can outscore them."
Welsh said he expects close races in each event, especially in diving and distance freestyle events — traditionally competitive areas for the Irish.
"The Irish are set to host the meet today at 3:40 p.m. at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.
Contact Ann Loughery at aloughery@nd.edu

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THE OBSERVER • SPORTS
page 21
Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Record: 6-3
AP: 24
Coaches: NR

Tymane Willingham
third season at Notre Dame
career record:
66-49-1
at Notre Dame:
21-13
against Pittsburgh: 2-0

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

NOTRE DAME 2004 Schedule
Sept. 4 at BYU - L
Sept. 11 MICHIGAN - W
Sept. 18 at Michigan St. - W
Sept. 25 WASHINGTON - W
Oct. 2 PURDUE - L
Oct. 9 STANFORD - W
Oct. 16 at NAVY - W
Oct. 23 at Notre Dame - L
Nov. 6 at Tennessee - W
Nov. 13 PITTSBURGH
Nov. 27 at USC

Tymane Willingham
head coach

Roster

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COACHING

Harris has been known for his great receivers in the past. He has coached Larry Fitzgerald at Pittsburgh, David Boston at Ohio State and Antonio Bryant at Pitt. Harris has a so-so record at Pitt (49-43), but is highly regarded around college football.

IRISH PASSING

Palko has put up impressive numbers in the past two games, throwing for 460 yards and completing 67 percent of his passes in that period. Sure, the opponents were Syracuse and Rutgers, but those are still impressive numbers.

IRISH RUSHING

Last week, the Irish ran the ball effectively and scored as a result. Walker was solid off the bench, and Grant was effective as usual. The offensive line is coming into its own toward. The Irish must run the ball for the offense to be effective, and they are starting to do just that.

PITTSSBURGH

Pittsburgh gives up 125.6 yards per game on the ground, a solid run defense. However, they have not faced a solid run team just yet, with the likes of Furman and Boston College. The Panthers have held three teams to under 100 yards rushing this season.

Th ePanthers give up 256 yards per game in the air. They have been able, over the past few weeks, to create interceptions, picking off four passes two weeks ago against Rutgers. The secondary is solid, going up against good wide receivers every day in practice.

ANALYSIS

Willingham has the better career record, and has not lost to Pittsburgh while at Notre Dame. Harris is 1-4 against the Irish, including last year's loss at home, 20-14. Harris is a solid coach, but Willingham got the edge because of his record against the Panthers.

Jr. willingham Struggled against Tennessee, throwing for just 118 yards on 12-23 passing. However, he didn't throw an interception. Quinn is still young, but his talent has shone through in a few games. He just needs to find consistency.

Quinn didn't throw for an extraordinary amount of yards, but he got the job done, not turning the ball over. The Irish passing game has been solid for the most part, but it isn't the key to the offense. When the Irish rush a lot, they usually lose.

This senior class won't lose on Senior Day. Pittsburgh has improved a lot since barely defeating Division I-AA Furman earlier in the season. In the Saturday afternoon cold, the Irish get back to running the ball and get enough big plays to open this one up in the second half.

Quinn has the potential to be a very good quarterback, he's been relatively untested this season. Palko, on the other hand, has been playing, throwing for over 300 yards three times. He hasn't had the potential of Quinn, but he has performed well.

Quinn and the Irish average just over 225 yards per game in the air. They should be able to pick apart the Panthers secondary, provided that Quinn makes good decisions and the Irish receivers come through.

Notre Dame has been able to run the ball enough to win. Pittsburgh has a tough run defense, but don't count on them to completely stop the Irish attack. It is Grant's last game at Notre Dame Stadium. Look for him to have a solid game.

Notre Dame isn't losing the final home game to a Pittsburgh team that needed overtime to beat Furman earlier this season. The Irish have overlooked opponents in the past, but won't against the Panthers. The Irish pick up a win and momentum heading into a showdown with Southern California in two weeks.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 27, Pittsburgh 10

Joe Hettler
AMF

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame, 31
Pittsburgh 13

Matt Lozar
Editor in Chief
PITTSBURGH OFFENSE

PITTSBURGH DEFENSE

PANthers Rushing

The Irish secondary continues to struggle. They have allowed 12 touchdowns on the ground this season, and they must play well for the Irish to win.

Kirckley is not as good as the Irish have faced this season, in Houston and Navy's Ecker. He has just two 100-yard rushing games this season, and he is not as much of a threat on the ground as Falko in the air. His two triple-digit games came against Furman and Ohio.

This matchup may be the most unfair of all. Notre Dame's rushing defense wins games for the Irish. Pittsburgh's rushing offense is the reason Falko can't throw for 200-plus yards. The Irish allow just 95 yards per game on the ground, and the Panthers average just 105 yards per game.

Palo has had a great past two weeks. With 67 percent pass completion is exceptional, and the Irishsecondary has been beat at all yard. Falko should be able to pick up the slack against the Panthers defense, who could hurt the Irish significantly.

PITTSBURGH 2004 Schedule

Sept. 11 OHIO-W
Sept. 18 NEBRASKA-L
Sept. 25 FURMAN-W
Sept. 30 at Connecticut-L
Oct. 9 TEMPLE-W
Oct. 16 BOSTON COLLEGE-W
Oct. 23 RUTGERS-W
Nov. 6 at Syracuse-L
Nov. 13 at Notre Dame
Nov. 25 WEST VIRGINIA
Dec. 4 at South Florida

It's the seniors last game in their home. Notre Dame Stadium. If they don't get excited for this game, something must be wrong. Grant, Holiday, Goolsby, Carry and Rudinskas are just a few key seniors on this team.

With a win, Pittsburgh becomes bowl-eligible. For the Panthers, a win against Notre Dame would make an inconsistent season much better. They are not expected to win, so there is no pressure on this team. They can just go out and play.

PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh Panthers

Grant will not be stopped much like Jones wasn't last year against Pittsburgh. The Irish secondary will step it up in their last home game, and Pittsburgh's lid for a bowl will have to wait until next week. There is no reason for this team to have a letdown, so don't expect them to.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 31, Pittsburgh 17

Pittsburgh is perhaps the worst team on Notre Dame's schedule this season, going to overtime to beat Division II-Penn State. That said, the Irish have several let-downs against below-par teams. Williamson doesn't let it happen again.
Runners continued from page 24

Coach Joe Piane said.

The Irish women have won two consecutive championships at the Great Lakes, and the team will look to add to that streak.

“We hope to finish in the top two and become an automatic qualifier for the NCAAs,” women’s coach Tim Connelly said. “We’ve been in the top two for the past three years and our kids are focused on making it four in a row.”

The Irish have faced the nation’s best runners all season and this Saturday will be no exception. The men’s team will take on No. 1 ranked Wisconsin along with No. 10 Indiana.

“Wisconsin is No. 1 and have been there all year and they deserve it,” Piane said. “We are healthy, and the guys think we can run well and run with anyone in the country.”

Molly Huddle captured the 2003 individual title at the Great Lakes Regional but will sit out this year to rest a sore foot. Despite the critical loss, Connelly feels confident the remaining squad will perform well.

“We still expect to have a very strong group running on Saturday even without Molly Huddle,” Connelly said. “Our goal is to qualify for the NCAAs.”

With a 15th-place finish at last year’s regional and sixth place at the Big East, Tim Moore looks to be the top runner for the Irish men. Kurt Bennninger, Kaleb Van Orti, Sean O’Donnell and Vincent Ambrico make up the rest of the team’s top five.

Without Huddle, the Irish women will rely on strong efforts from Lauren King, Stephanie Madia and Kerry Meagher. Madia came in 10th place at the Big East behind Huddle. The Great Lakes Regional will take place Saturday in Ypsilanti, Mich. starting at 11 a.m.

Contact Steve Coyer at scoyer@nd.edu

The Irish cross-country team, which will participate in the Great Lakes Regional this weekend, compete in an Oct. 1 meet.

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Irish to face rival Nittany Lions

Penn State, last year's No. 2, will host tournament

By MATT PUGLISI Special Writer

The Irish look to obtain a first-hand scouting report of a big rival [in logical form after the preseason work]. While this kind of competition isn’t likely to match that of the NCAA tournament at the end of the season, the Open nevertheless figures to boast top-notch fencers from around the country.

"The tournament is open to everybody from the whole nation," Bednarski said. "It’s not a team competition — it’s individual — but individuals are from almost all universities. I believe that it will be very strong, maybe not so high-class like the NCAA final in March, but it will be very close to that level, especially because Penn State is close to New York and in New York there are a lot of good colleges.

I know people from the West are coming because they like this competition — this is the only competition to check out the form after the preseason work. So it’s like midterm exams.”

Although some of the nation’s top collegiate talent will be on display at the Open, one notable Notre Dame fencer who will not be making the trip to Penn State this weekend is Zagunis. Excluded from a number of international tournaments and requiring no additional work, Zagunis will instead take a few days off and be acknowledged for her Olympic achievements this past summer during halftime of the Notre Dame-Pittsburgh game Saturday afternoon.

"The reason for Zagunis not competing is that she’s loaded by international starts," Bednarski said. "She’s really engaging in too many competitions — higher caliber than college competition, and there is no need to check her form! We are giving her more free time, and in addition, she will be honored on the field during the Pittsburgh game as an Olympian."

Given that the World Cup Event marked the first time Notre Dame has fenced this season, the Irish will presumably have some rust to shake off this weekend. Bednarski, however, isn’t concerned.

"We are not yet in full form except these fencers who competed in the World Cup — they started already, a little bit earlier than others," Bednarski said. "Always at the beginning of the season we are not as in the best form, but I think that [other fencers] have the same problem."

The men take the strips Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m., while the women begin at the same time Sunday.

Contact Matt Puglisi at mpuglisi@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Belles look to keep the success coming

By JUSTIN STETZ Sports Writer

The Belles look to extend their success this weekend at the University of Chicago Maroon Invitational. Saint Mary’s is coming off its first victory of the season as it defeated Rose-Hulman by a score of 115-117.

Last year, the Belles beat the Maroons 124-77. In the third meet, Kelly Nelis placed third in the 200-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle, while Sarah Nowak finished first in the 100-yard breaststroke. She was also second in the 50-yard freestyle as well as the 100-yard freestyle.

Bridge Lebedz will look to improve upon her fourth-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly. In the 100-yard backstroke, Katie Bongman who finished first last year, will be a key swimmer for Saint Mary’s once again. Lebedz and Nelis, the only two players left from the 2003 squad, which won the 200-yard freestyle relay, will aim for another successful finish.

The University of Chicago is currently 2-1-1 this year over its first four meets. In the second competition of the season, they defeated Rose-Hulman 112-97. If this final score gives any indication to this year’s match against the Maroons, Saint Mary’s should have a pretty good idea where they stand following the event.

After hitting her head on the board in her first dive last meet, Megan Medlock came back to earn Saint Mary’s some valuable points in both diving events against Rose-Hulman.

The first-years have made quite an impression so far this year. They have meshed very well and haven’t had too many problems adjusting to the college level. Coach Gregg Petcuff has stressed the importance of the freshman swimmers for the continued success of the Belles.

“They are essential to Saint Mary’s chances for victory,” Petcuff said.

The meet will consist of the 100 and 200-yard backstrokes and breaststrokes, as well as the 200-yard freestyle and 200-yard butterfly. Three-meter diving will follow the 1-meter, and the match will conclude with a 400-yard freestyle relay. The meet begins Saturday at 10 a.m. at the University of Chicago. Following the event, Saint Mary’s will have more than three weeks to rest and improve upon their times. They will not take the water again until the Wisconsin-Oshkosh Invitational.

Contact Justin Stetz at jstetz@nd.edu
The Observer  SPORTS

Friday, November 12, 2004

Iced

continued from page 28

CCHA squares off against Western Michigan (4-4-0, 2-4-0) in a two-game road series this weekend.

The Irish have not won a conference game this season. They jumped out to a 3-0 lead against Bowling Green on Nov. 5, only to watch that lead disappear and the team barely survive with a 4-4 tie. The four Irish goals in that game were a season-high, as Notre Dame’s offense has been anemic to start the season. The team averages just 1.67 goals per game.

The Irish are off to their worst start since opening the 1992-96 season with a 1-8-0 record. After losing six seniors from last year’s class, the team expected to struggle out of the gate, but this kind of start was not what coach Dave Poulin had in mind. Even so, the coach has seen things in recent practice and game situations that excite him.

“I think that our offense will improve because we’ve been having better practices,” Poulin said. “Confidence grows in practice, and then transfers usually onto the ice; I think we’re really starting to come up with some fine combinations that excite him.”

“After losing so many guys, we weren’t sure what our lines would be coming into this season, and now five weeks in I think we’re starting to learn some combinations really don’t work.”

The team’s strength coming into the season — goal tending — has been inconsistent, as well. Sophomore Dave Brown has struggled, while senior Morgan Cey had been nearly unbeatable in net until the 4-4 tie, when he allowed four goals on just 19 shots. But Poulin knows he has two proven net-minders on his team, and the coach is equally willing to start either one.

“I think [the goalies’] confidence is all right,” Poulin said. “Morgan was very upset about his play on Friday, but he thought the rest of the team played well enough to win and he couldn’t give him the kind of goaltending they’ve been used to with him. David will go [tonight!], and we’re fully expecting him to bounce back and have the kind of good performances he’s had in the past.”

This weekend’s games will also be a homecoming of sorts for Irish forward Evan Hankin, a freshman off to a terrific start. The native of Kalamazoo, Mich., a suburb of Western Michigan, has already endeared himself to his coach and teammates with a style of play that relies on both speed of play and hustle and skill.

“[Hankin] is a great job on capitalizing on those chances,” Poulin said. “He’s really looking forward to going back to see his home again.”

Western Michigan is coming off a sweep of SCAC tour- nament team Niagara last weekend. The Broncos knocked off the Purple Eagles 4-3 on Nov. 5 and completed the sweep with a 4-1 victory on Nov. 6.

“Confidence improves in practice and then transfers usually onto the ice.”

Dave Poulin

Irish coach

Contact Justin Schwer at jschwer@nd.edu

Bowl Game

Ticket Information

There is a good chance that ND will be in the consistently sold out Cotton Bowl on Jan. 1 in Dallas, TX (ND last in game in ’94). The Cotton Bowl ticket allotment to each team is only 12,000 (public information through the Cotton Bowl). After tickets are set aside for university needs (such as band, dignitaries, team members’ families, major donors, etc.) there will possibly be less than 9,500 to allot to other fans (based upon ND ticket data from past bowl games.) Notre Dame will seek to distribute these tickets to various member groups of the Notre Dame family as percentages, as in the past for bowl games (there are 16,000 season ticket holders, 5,000 Monogram Club members, + faculty/staff, students & alumni applicants). Based upon the actual number of available tickets, you will likely be notified by email if you are able to purchase tickets. Based upon availability, Notre Dame may elect to limit the number of tickets that a person may receive to 2-4. TICKETS ARE $75 ea. (Check later for official Notre Dame announcements if the Irish are in the Cotton Bowl.)

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Irish begin trip into Preseason NIT

Team will start regular season with nonconference opponent Illinois State tonight

By JOE HETTLER for The Observer

Notre Dame can only imagine what challenges Illinois State will present tonight in the opening round of the Preseason National Invitation Tournament at the Joyce Center. The Bulldogs, like the Irish, have not played a game this season. Since Illinois State is from a different conference, No. 10/11 Notre Dame couldn't acquire any tape of their homeopening opponent, either.

"It's really hard. We can't even get anything from the end of last year so it's a little bit more difficult to prepare," said Notre Dame coach Muffett McGraw. "It makes it hard because you don't have the scouting, and you don't know exactly what to take away from film study until the game."

McGraw said the best Notre Dame could do in scouting Illinois State was looking at film from Southeast Missouri State last season. The Irish beat the Lady Bears in the first round of the NCAA tournament 69-62 at the Joyce Center in March 1999.

"They're the same kind of team (as Southeast Missouri State). They have great shooters, great 3-pointer shooters, and they're an up-tempo team that plays great defense," said McGraw, who is entering her 19th season as Notre Dame's head coach. "It's really going to be a challenge for us.

The Lady Bears enter their season-opening game a little beat up. Injuries have plagued see IRISHPage 21

MELISSA D'AMICO shoots as Crystal Erwin, right, looks on in a Nov. 6 exhibition game against the Hoosier Lady Stars.

ND CROSS-COUNTRY
Irish hope to clinch berth for NCAA Tournament

By STEVE COYER for The Observer

After strong performances all season, the Notre Dame cross country teams will set out to solidify a bid for the NCAA Championship this weekend.

At the Great Lakes Regional last Saturday, the Irish can automatically qualify for the NCAA meet with a first- or secondplace finish. Both teams already stand among the top in the country with the men and women nationally-ranked fifth and sixth respectively.

The men's team comes off a very close firstplace finish in the Big East Championship and hopes to carry the momentum through the remainder of the season.

"If we run like we did at the Big East we should have no problem from qualifying for the NCAs but we just need to reproduce that effort," men's see RUNNERS/page 24

FOOTBALL
Team sets 2005 schedule

By MATT LOZAR for The Observer

For the second consecutive season, the Irish have moved an October road game to Labor Day weekend.

The Oct. 8, 2005 game between Notre Dame and Pittsburgh was moved to Sept. 3 in a mutual agreement between the schools announced in a press release Thursday.

The game was rescheduled to ensure the teams would play in a nationally-televised contest on a network to be determined.

That game also allows the Irish to play before traveling to Ann Arbor, Mich. to take on the Wolverines, who play Eastern Michigan on Sept. 3.

Notre Dame also announced Thursday the signing of an eightyear contract with Pittsburgh to resume their series in 2008 after a two-year layoff in 2006-07.

The game in 2008 will be at Notre Dame Stadium with the teams alternating as host of the games until 2015.

"The University of Pittsburgh and Notre Dame have a rich his see SCHEDULE/page 20

HOCKEY
Icers want to get back on track

By JUSTIN SCHUVER for The Observer

The last time the Irish and Western Michigan squared off, Jason Paige scored a game-winning goal 12:35 into overtime, and Notre Dame took game three of the best-of-three CCHA first-round playoff series on Mar. 14.

Paige's goal put the Irish into the Super Six. More important­ly, the goal played a major role in helping Notre Dame reach the NCAA tournament for the first time in the program's history.

Now, the Irish would just like to get back on the winning track against the Broncos.

Notre Dame 11-5-3, 0-4-2 see ICEDPage 26
SALUTING
THE
SENIORS

Photo illustration by MIKE HARKINS
Looking at the numbers during the past four or five years, Notre Dame’s seniors didn’t rewrite Fighting Irish history by any means. They had two losing seasons. They went 4-4 against Boston College. They never won a bowl game.

But, sometimes, the numbers lie. What the Notre Dame seniors didn’t get done on the field in terms of wins and losses, they certainly made up for in how they played the game and carried themselves on and off the field.

Some Irish fans, alumni and outsiders will look at this class now — and in years to come — as never achieving greatness. They never won a national title. They never returned Notre Dame to a consistent football powerhouse.

But those people make a grave oversight. This group of seniors has shown an uncommonly high degree of character, resilience and toughness that anyone associated with Notre Dame should be proud of — and all qualities head coach Tyrone Willingham preaches and teaches so his team can play each day in practice.

Derick Curry described the senior class best during interviews earlier this week. "We have a group of seniors that are just phenomenal," Curry said. "Our fifth-year seniors, I love those guys with everything because they give it their all, week in and week out, summer in and summer out ... You are playing for Notre Dame, you are playing for the family, you are playing for those people who came before you. You are playing for pride and like seniors have tried to instill that, and I think that’s one thing that’s helped because the guys that are stepping in for guys that go down, they have to step up and help, they have to understand what they are playing for." But the next season, Holiday and the offense struggled. As the losses mounted, the criticism rained down on Holiday. Rather than blame the ineptitude — offensively efficient line that never gave him time to throw, or obfuscate the ineffective running game that forced him into undesirable passing situations, or rant about the inconsistencies receiver receiver Holiday said nothing — and meanwhile, put all the blame on his own shoulders.

He never complained, never pouted. When students made tasteless T-shirts saying, "The Holiday is Over, Quinn to Win," the quarterback said nothing. Instead, he prides himself as a true champion by doing all he could to help the team, while at the same time sacrificing his own personal gain.

Holiday had played quarterback since he was six, yet he never flinched when asked to change positions last season. When he came back in 2004 as a fifth-year senior, Holiday hoped and expected to play significant minutes. Instead, he’s been stuck returning punts and playing sparingly on offense.

But, through it all, Holiday has never wavered. "I think when you look at Carlyle’s character and what he has gone through in the tenure that he’s been here, through both the ups and the downs — to go through that and be the man that he is, I think, says a great deal for him, and it’s helped the program through some tough times," Irish offensive coordinator Bill Diedrick said.

Then there are guys like Jared Clark. Another quarterback, Clark asked the coaches if he could change positions in 2002. Assuming he would be on defense, Clark was surprised when the Irish coaching staff penciled him in as tight end, a position already full of talented players.

But Clark did not complain. He just worked harder, moving up the depth chart to eventually become the team’s starter.

Then at the beginning of the 2004 season, Clark was passed up by players that had played the tight end position their whole lives. Instead of seeing the field as a fifth-year senior, he saw the bench. But Clark does his best to help the younger players and keep the locker room atmosphere light. He’s the guy that makes his teammates laugh, even when times get tough.

"He did a lot for me, especially early in my career," fellow tight end Anthony Fasano said. "He helped me along and showed me the ropes along the way. Players like Holiday, Clark and defensive end Kyle Budinscak have made the Notre Dame program better during the past few seasons, even if the number of wins say otherwise. Budinscak has set an example for other players, compiling a 3.6 GPA while also keeping an upbeat and positive attitude.

"I'm certainly glad I came to this place and played for this University. I'm happy to have gone here and I don't have any regrets." Kyle Budinscak offensive lineman

"Just coming here and being part of this environment — it was incredible." Casey Dunn long snapper
Taking one for the team

Holiday has put Notre Dame's success ahead of his personal glory

By JOE HEITLER
Sports Writer

Carlyle Holiday will do anything to help his team — even if that's a baseball job.

As a senior at Roosevelt High School in San Antonio, Texas, Holiday was asked by the baseball coach to play in the final eight games of the season. Holiday, who had never played high school baseball up to that time or swung a bat in years, accepted the offer. He honed in his first at-bat and finished the season with five round-trippers while also helping his team with good defensive play in centerfield.

In 2003, the Cincinnati Reds selected Holiday in the 44th round of the Major League Baseball draft. "I was a big hitter," Holiday says with a smile.

Putting the team first has always been one of Holiday's best traits. The fifth-year wide receiver has seen his shares of ups and downs during his career at Notre Dame — from struggling as a starter in 2001 to leading the Irish to an 8-0 start in 2002 to losing the quarterback job last season to changing positions heading into the 2004 campaign.

But through all that change, the one constant has always been Holiday's team first, "me second attitude.

"Learning on the job
Holiday came to Notre Dame as a freshman in 2000 after a successful high school career where the 6-foot-3, 213-pound threw for 2,119 yards and rushed for another 876 as a senior out of a makeshift option-style offense.

"They called it option but really it was just having me drop back and run," Holiday said. "We had a couple options plays in there."

When he signed with Notre Dame, over Nebraska and Texas A&M, Holiday knew there would be much competition for playing time. The Irish already had freshman quarterbacks Matt LeVoi and Jared Clark. Rather than fearing the competition, Holiday embraced it.

"It was fun for me," he said. "Those other quarterback I had met before when they visited. We all visited together and we became real close. Other people may look at it as a competition (and) we did, but at the same time it was a friendship.

Even after seeing LeVoechi win the starting job and lead Notre Dame to a 9-3 season in 2000 and a Fiesta Bowl berth, Holiday continued working on his game, waiting for an opportunity.

Sure enough, in 2001 with Notre Dame off to a shaky 0-2 start in 2001 to start in 2002 to losing the quarterback job last season to changing positions heading into the 2004 campaign.

And an interception. He was pulled out on the game just 1 yardage on the ground, which put more pressure on the passing game. But Holiday never placed blame anywhere but on himself, "I knew the defense was successful. It was definitely a combination of things," Holiday said. "We were young in areas. There are so many other teams that are in bowl games than just a single player.

Willingham said he's been more than impressed with the manner in which Holiday handled the heavy criticism from others.

"He has really handled this situation with the most character of any young man that I've seen in a while," Willingham said. "He's stood tall, he's never backed away from any situation that he's been pressed into. With that, I have genuine respect for him."

Making the switch and returning for another season
After losing the starting job to Quinn, Holiday was asked late in the 2003 season whether he was interested in switching positions.

"I was on the sideline and they just wanted to find a way to get me into the football game," said Holiday, who had played quarterback since the age of 6. "So (the coaches) said, 'Do you want to go to receiver?' and towards the last couple games I decided to switch.

The switch was anything but easy for Holiday. He had to learn how to block, run routes and catch the football. The change didn't pay huge dividends for Notre Dame or Holiday as the new receiver caught just two passes for 13 yards.

Despite his best efforts, the running back was a one for the former quarterback.

"It was hard, I didn't really get adjusted to it until this fall," Holiday said. "It really took me awhile.

With a year remaining, Holiday decided to apply for a fifth-year scholarship and contribute to the Irish in 2004. After seeing another quarterback converted to receiver Armaiz Battle have success in 2002, Holiday hoped to follow suit.

This season, Holiday has been the primary punt returner and has seen some action as a wide receiver. Heading into the Pittsburgh game, he has two receptions for 21 yards. Despite not putting up the numbers he would have liked, Holiday has tried to help the team in other ways.

"The season has been great," Holiday said with his usual optimism. "I have not played as much as I wanted in or caught as many balls, but I still have those opportunities to get on the field and help the team out. Even though I'm not playing a lot and I'm a fifth year and that's what I came back to do, other players can see that and stay strong when they're not playing as much as they think they should.

No one should be surprised by that attitude. Holiday has been putting Notre Dame's football team first for the past five years.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhetlter@nd.edu
Long snapper gets thrill of his life against Michigan

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

Life doesn’t always go according to plan, and no one knows that better than Casey Dunn.

Once a diehard Miami fan who yearned to play on an Ivy League offensive line, he has thrived as the long snapper for Notre Dame this season.

“I was just a freshman deer-in-the-headlights type deal,” Dunn said of his days as a preferred walk-on in August of 2001. “I tried to figure out what was going on around me — it was definitely a learning experience.”

The Miami resident grew up rooting for the Hurricanes and wanting to attend an Ivy League school in order to be near his grandfather, who he said Dunn saw some reps and limited action at practice team for defensive guard and offensive tackle. His opportunity to take the field came after his sophomore year, when the long snapper position opened up.

Since Dunn took over at long snapper during his junior season, the Irish have been grateful for that. He has yet to be credited with a bad snap, gaining weight, gaining speed, learning to block immediately after the punt and learning a new mental attitude.

“It’s physically somewhat challenging, snapping the ball and blocking the ball, and learning how to do,” Dunn recalled. “But it’s more mentally challenging in terms of always wanting a perfect snap and getting the ball back there to the punter so he can get the ball off. I remember when I first got the job everyone was like ‘You picked that job? If you screw up everybody’s going to know.’ You can’t screw up, ever.”

But Dunn has done more than just snap well and execute blocks. This September, he catapulted into the public eye when he recovered a fumble in the home-opener against rival Michigan.

“Recovering that fumble was incredible — for sure one of the best experiences of my life so far,” he said. “There’s nothing that can describe standing up with the ball raised above your head and 80,000 people going crazy especially against a team like Michigan.”

This season will mark the last time Dunn steps on a football field as an athlete, as he moves on to medical school after graduating with a degree in the College of Science’s Pre-Professional Studies. As he moves on, the former Zahn resident will take with him the storied Notre Dame experience from academics, football and life on the Notre Dame campus.

“As much as everybody hates Zahn, I love Zahn to death,” he recalled. “It’s the closest brotherhood I know aside from the football team.”

He earned high grades in the challenging College of Science and is looking to interview at medical schools in order to pursue a career as a doctor who works with people.

“Just coming here and being part of this whole environment — it was incredible. I’d never seen snow before,” Dunn recalled. “It was just one of those things where I decided to pick myself up and just myself in a whole new environment, and it’s worked out pretty well.”

The Irish special teams would agree, as Dunn has become an essential component to every successful punt.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

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Mike Goolsby

Bouncing back

Goolsby has overcome injury to play his best season yet in an Irish uniform.

Irish linebacker Mike Goolsby returns an interception for a touchdown against Tennessee on Nov. 6. Goolsby's touchdown proved to be the game-winning score.}

By Joe Hettler

Sports Writer

Justin Tuck can't help but laugh when thinking about Mike Goolsby on the football field.

"Man, Gools, he's funny at times," Tuck said. "He's just passion for the game — it explodes on the field. You can tell because he just zones out. He'll be in the huddle, just zoned out." Goolsby says he's simply trying to prepare for each play.

"I'm always more worried about making mistakes so I'm always constantly taying in my head, 'What do I have to do? What do I have to do?' There's so much emotion in this game. I mean, this year, I get a knot in my throat almost every single game because I want to win so bad. "I'm not a big 'rah-rah' guy in the locker room, but I've learned how to get myself pumped up for games and sustain that throughout the game, which is the most important part."

But there was a time when Goolsby didn't know whether he'd play football at a high level again. An injury nearly ended Goolsby's career before the fifth-year senior had a chance to reach his full potential.

A 'special' player

The day Notre Dame offered Goolsby a scholarship to play football, the Joliet, Ill. native knew his college choice.

"Going into recruiting, I really didn't have a clear plan of how I was going to do it. I was just taking offers as they came in — I really knew I was headed (to Notre Dame) not for any particular reason but just because it felt right. I took a couple unofficial visits and I took my only official visit here and committed on my official. As soon as (Notre Dame) came into the picture, I knew I was headed here," Goolsby said.

On at Notre Dame, Goolsby wanted to find a role on special teams, the then-freshman was thrilled.

"(Special teams) definitely still holds a special place in my heart," Goolsby said.

This season, Goolsby asked to play on the special teams unit once again — this time he wasn't trying to get additional playing time. Rather, Goolsby thought the Irish needed to improve.

"I didn't think our special teams played up to par," Goolsby said. "Kickoff returns was my forte my freshman year. So I asked to be on that and they put me on punt as well. Early on in the season I did it more than I do now."

Injured and out

Goolsby started all 13 games during the 2002 football season and excelled for the Irish. He recorded 75 tackles, including four sacks and a forced fumble. He led the team with 13 tackles for a loss and added an interception.

But the season ended on a sour note for the lineb acker when he broke his left collarbone in the Gator Bowl against North Carolina State. In the offseason, Goolsby also had cartilage problems with his right shoulder at the time.

To make matters worse, Goolsby re-injured his left collarbone playing Bookstore Basketball in the offseason. That injury cost the linebacker the 2003 season.

While the Irish struggled to a 5-7 record, Goolsby said it was extremely frustrating.

"Goolsby said. "The toughest part was seeing the guys every day in practice, working there butts off and not getting a 'W' on Saturday. That was the toughest part because I felt partially responsible for it. Goolsby didn't have been out there screwing around at Bookstore Basketball.

Yet, Goolsby says he's learned a lot about himself during the time away from football on the sidelines.

"What I've learned from it is just how much I love the game and how much I miss the game and how much I took being healthy for granted and everything that goes into football," Goolsby said. "I took it all for granted and then I had an opportunity to come back for a fifth year and I didn't want to let the slip by.

Retuning with a vengeanse

Goolsby came back this season scared to death.

"Failing to reach my potential consumed me for the longest time and I think it still does to some extent," Goolsby said. "During spring ball there were a lot of sleepless nights, just driving myself nuts worrying about getting back with that one year left and trying to accomplish what I wanted to accomplish.

"It was a big worry of mine for a long time until camp when I got it out of my system."

Goolsby's worry seems to be for naught, as the fifth-year senior has played exceptional for much of the season. Notre Dame head coach Tyrone Willingham feels Goolsby is just now starting to hit his stride.

"I think that would be great just to be a part of that history [at Notre Dame]."

"I'm proud of the way the team handled the adversity and bounced back time and time again," Goolsby said. "Sometimes I wish we didn't have to bounce back the way we do. But you can't change the past. We're going to try and get these next two games and win a bowl game... then I'll look back and say I was proud of what we accomplished.

Personally, Goolsby has high goals for himself before he leaves this season.

"I'd also like to leave some kind of legacy here," Goolsby said. "You don't want to be one of those guys who's forgotten. You hear people talking about past players all the time and I think that'd be great just to be a part of that history.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu
Setting an example

Curry hopes his football success will inspire young people in his hometown

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Do you use big words, filled letters, a life motif for Derek Curry? For one of Notre Dame’s five-year seniors, to “do you” is about more than just playing college football.

“Now he’s not on the practice field or watching opponents play,” Curry said. “Everyone knows that I lead this team, but that doesn’t mean anyone else in that situation. I know what I can’t do and what I can’t make it, do the things you want to do in your heart to fulfill the dreams you have.

While Curry’s impact on the team is huge, he has a much larger impact off the field. He is currently the team’s most vocal leader, and Curry has been able to use his leadership skills to help young people in his hometown.

In his hometown of Sealy, Texas, Curry played high school football and basketball. During his senior year of high school, the school reached each week began sinking in.

“When I became a senior in high school, I started to realize God gave me those gifts,” Curry said. “I didn’t give them to myself, my parents didn’t give them to me, but God put them there for me. He gave me this ability.

The foundation came there.

Throughout high school football-loving state of Texas, Curry had a lot of opportunities to play for a college program. He was recruited by several different schools and one of the top 100 players in the state, according to USA Today. Newspaper, many letters filled his mailbox.

When he had to sign on that dotted line, there was only one choice.

“God really led me to Notre Dame more than anything else. I had a lot of options as to where I could go, but I didn’t think it was about me,” Curry said. “It’s about being able to glorify him in every way I could. And I felt like when I could make that decision, I was really telling me this was the place, this is where I want to be. I was willing, I was okay, this is what you want me to do, let’s do it together.”

Curry didn’t want to leave and when he took a look back when he left Sealy High School for South Bend. Attending the same high school as NFL running back Eric Dickerson and living 200 yards from Dickerson’s mother, Curry learned something from the future Hall of Famer he never wanted to let happen again.

Dickerson never came back to Sealy to teach the young kids and provide them with inspiration to achieve their dreams.

“The main reason I do stuff like that is because I was in a position where no one ever really came back. Curry said. “I want to put someone out anywhere else in that situation. I know what it’s like to be in life in general or anything from where you’re from or the area you grow up to come back and tell you that you can make it, do the things you want to do in your heart and fulfill the dreams you have, and try to tell people that.

While Curry only gets back to his hometown maybe once or twice a year right now because of commitments to the football team, when he goes back, he doesn’t want to make the mistake he feels Dickerson did.

“Every time I go home I try to spend time at the middle school, junior high or athletic department,” Curry said. “I try to hang around some kids and let them talk to me. I’m an open guy.

“Yeah, I went to Notre Dame, but I’m just like anybody else. I’m from the same side of town as those guys, the same city. So I try to leave that option open that if they want to learn anything about the college level, my life in general, it doesn’t matter where you’re from.”

Weathering the storm

Curry’s been a leader his entire life, something he attributes to God putting him in the right situations and environments.

Growing up in the high school football-loving state of Texas, Curry said.

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Weathering the storm

Curry’s been a leader his entire life, something he attributes to God putting him in the right situations and environments.

Throughout high school where he was a two-time captain in football and three-time captain in baseball and basketball to being in the huddle and in the locker room during games. Curry’s never been shy about sharing his opinions.

“It’s just a challenge I was willing to accept. I feel like everyone is a leader in their own individual way, but mine is just more vocal, maybe too vocal at the times, Curry said. “It’s just something that carried over, and my personality is just to be vocal and step up for myself and the things I really believe in.

“ Leaders just believe in this team, and that’s one of the reasons I step up and speak about the team. I really care and believe we can be a great team.

When a program needed leaders the most, Curry was there.

Former coach Bob Davie was fired in December 2001 and fired from the program, George O’Leary had to resign. The coach and staff that recruited Curry to South Bend was gone after his first two seasons in an Irish uniform. The majority of his playing career would be spent undergrad a new coaching staff.

“Curry understood people have to make career moves and things happen because coaching in big-time college football is basically a business. For a leader like Curry, it was time to put faith in Irish coach Tyrone Willingham and the rest of the staff — however blind that faith could be.

As a leader on the team I had to step up and basically jump on board,” Curry said. “The thing about a leader, whenever change is made in the program or within the organization, you have to step up, go with the flow and help with the transition so that was my role.”

Going with the flow included having the leaders like Curry help with the change brought in by Willingham — a changed attitude, atmosphere and perspective. It started from the day Willingham showed up at the first team meeting with the Powerpoint slide presentation ending with the word “WIN.” All of that change Curry feels led to the 8-0 start during the Return to Glory of 2002 and a changed outlook in the program since.

“I had to be positive, and just say, you know what these guys have some­thing really good to offer and are great coaches. We are going to go with this and give it all we got,” Curry said. “I think that’s one of the reasons we had such a good season that first year because people bought in and really tried to buy in to what the coaches wanted us to do.”

Following his own message

Along with the other seniors playing their last game in Notre Dame Stadium on Saturday afternoon, it’s the last time Curry will run out of the tunnel.

“It’s something he’s been thinking about for awhile. I don’t know what I’m going to do yet,” Curry said. “It’s going to be interesting to see how it plays out and how I handle the last pep rally and all this.

“I think the one thing I will be excited. Not because it’s the last game, but because I have the opportunity to play another game in our stadium. Because when it’s all said and done, I want to come out with the victory.

As the end to his Notre Dame playing career nears, the question looms about what Curry will do with his future. As our obvious option is the NFL, but he’s not ready to commit to that just yet.

“If I get the opportunity, that’s great,” the management information systems and theology double major said. “If I don’t, that’s fine.

If that opportunity doesn’t arise, Curry knows there’s something else.

“I want to be a youth pastor at some point because that was the time in my life when I really got a foundation of how I was when I went to college. I was able to stay the person I am and I don’t sway to anyone else or who this person is or what I see on TV,” he said. “I want to stay true to myself.”

Staying true to himself — doing that will allow Curry to follow his own message.

One wouldn’t expect any­thing less.

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Ryan Grant

Picking up where he left off

A year after backing up Julius Jones, Grant has experienced a rebirth as a running back

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

As a sophomore, he was the man, and there were 1,085 reasons for yards why.

Then that title went to Julius Jones in 2003. Then it went to Darius Walker until the original got healthy again. If there was ever any doubt what Ryan Grant means to the Irish football team, it was washed away when Grant returned from his hamstring injury this season.

With Grant in the game this season, the Irish are 5-1, without him, they are 1-2. If Irish fans haven't recognized the importance of this senior just yet, then they are missing out.

Just ask Irish coach Tyrone Willingham.

"I think it is easy to look over what Grant adds to the offense," Willingham said. "First of all, you have to take into account the role of the senior, and the role of the senior is not just on the field. It's what he provides off the field and in the locker room and the kind of play that we have got now with Ryan has been very solid for us in all areas. It was almost easier for many to forget that two years ago he was a 1,000-yard rusher.

Willingham added that Grant's low-key personality might overshadow his accomplishments on the field.

"It's easy to overlook," he said. "I don't know if it's his personality or the way he carries himself, but you have that tendency. But he adds a great deal to our football team in terms of pass protection and in terms of understanding pass routes where he can go, where he can't go."

1,000 yards to being a back-up

As a sophomore, Grant became the seventh player in Notre Dame history to reach the 1,000-yard rushing mark in a season. He finished with 1,050 yards and was the first Irish rusher to achieve that mark since Autry Denson did in 1998. For Grant, it was quite the season after an elbow injury had sidelined him just a year before.

He carried the ball 261 times, averaging 4.2 yards per carry and scored nine touchdowns. Grant was the feature running back on a team that finished 10-3, starting all 13 games.

But in 2003, Julius Jones came back to Notre Dame after missing a year due to academic problems, and Grant saw his playing time decrease as he split time and carries with Jones.

Grant finished the season with 567 yards and three touchdowns, numbers far fewer than those of his sophomore year. Meanwhile, Jones shined, averaging over 100 yards per game, and racking up 1268 yards on the season to go along with his 10 touchdowns. Jones started seven of the Irish's 12 games.

Grant said he was frustrated, but he understood that there was nothing he could do.

"I think the frustration is there to a degree, but you have to understand, some of those things I had no control over," the Nyack, N.Y. native said.

"The things that I had control over, I think that might have been frustrating. [For example], if I'm not liking the way I'm running, then I need to change some things." But the Irish 'Special' leadership

Grant came into the 2004 season with high expectations for himself. He was ready for a season similar to that of 2002.

With the goals he had in mind for himself, Grant thought he could finish in the top-five of all-time leading rushers at Notre Dame.

"My initial goal going into the season, if things would have worked out, I wouldn't have gotten hurt and I would have stayed on track. I had the opportunity to be top-five (all-time rushing), and that was one of the goals I was looking at," Grant said. "Whatever the case may be, I'd rather win games."

Grant missed the first with a hamstring injury, something he never counted on coming into his last season in a Notre Dame uniform.

It was frustrating more than disappointing just because I was feeling good, I felt like good things were going to happen and it was something I didn't have control of," Grant said.

"It just happened. It wasn't something I felt was coming on. It was just a spurt of the moment." With Grant the Irish have excelled, but without him they struggle at times, despite the emergence of true freshman Darius Walker.

But Grant says he is finally getting healthy with two games to play, and even with the injury, he is not feeling sorry for himself.

"For the most part, especially with my injury, I had no control over that," Grant said. "I did everything possible to get myself together and things happen for a reason. I might not understand that reason right away, but I'll figure it out sometime. I just need to be there for this team. I feel great now, so I just trying to finish up with the most positive things as possible.

It is that unsellable attitude that has earned Grant the respect of his teammates and coaches alike, even in injury.

"I think Ryan has been special because in the manner in which he has had to work through this year," Willingham said. "Grant expectations coming into the season and then suffering the hamstring injury, having to fight back, staying out. His leadership has been special.

Thus far, Grant has played in six games, rushing for five touchdowns and 354 yards so far this year. He has just 83 carries on the year, but he remains more concerned with the team than his personal numbers.

"Part of me being a leader on this team has been just not only me, but all the other guys are mentally sharp," Grant said. "I can't work up top notch practices because I can't let other guys on the team out. I want to feed off that. I have to make sure whoever's in taking care of business, I feel like that is part of my role on this team."

Willingham has always acknowledged the importance of Grant to this Irish team despite ups and downs of his career.

"What Ryan has done, and I think he's not one to say, if I could say it for him, is that the Notre Dame experience has helped make him a man and it's helped mature him and the experience has helped him to realize the ups and downs of football and hopefully he can take that into life," Willingham said.

And Grant remains the consummate team player.

"There were other ways I found myself helping the team (after I got hurt)," he said. "I want to get wins more than anything. If I could say, 'I'm not having the season as I thought.' I don't have a team. I want to find a way to help the team."

The last time

For Grant and the seniors, Saturday is the last time they will get to play together at Notre Dame Stadium. Grant said he wants to spend this win more than anything.

I feel like with everything I've gone through, it's game fast, my career here," Grant said. "But I still feel like I'm mature and I am ready to move on and take that next step.

"I feel like I have taken advantage of the time I've spent with these guys — the good and the bad. I want to continue the times I've had with them, and I lay it on the line for these guys — they're my brothers for life."

Grant also said he has really enjoyed the four years he's spent at Notre Dame, as it was something he hoped for and more.

"It's been great, even with all the ups and downs of 1,000-yard rusher, I've played on," Grant said. "To go out with these guys and fight every single win and the sweat that goes into playing on Saturdays, it has been great. I've seen a lot of great things and a lot of great people, and I appreciate everybody I've had with them."

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Ryan Grant scores a touchdown against Navy during Notre Dame's 27-9 win over the Midshipmen on Oct. 16.

A year after backing up Julius Jones, Grant has experienced a rebirth as a running back.
By HEATHER VAN HOEGERDEN
Spokes Editor

He's played for two coaches and three defensive coordinators, a resignation of another. He quotes Robert Frost and knows all about lowest risks and risk return. And somewhere in there, he has found a way to get to the other side and stay. But while he was playing for Tyone Willingham.

When asked about the ups and downs that he has had throughout his career, Budinscak responded with a quote from Robert Frost.

"If it's in you but you keep on going, because that's the only thing to do," Budinscak said. "Robert Frost said, 'The only certain thing about life is that it goes on.'" "I think that's really true.

Coming to ND
Budinscak came to Notre Dame as a highly-touted defensive lineman out of Hartland High School in Scituate, N.J. He was the 1999 Somerset County Defensive Player of the Year and was named all-state for his senior year. For Budinscak, coming to Notre Lady was an easy choice, despite his father's divided loyalties towards Notre Dame football, and his brother's affiliation with the Naval Academy, where his brother, Kyle, is currently a freshman.

"My family's always been a Notre Dame fan," Budinscak said. "It was a place that bred excellence and produced some outstanding football players and guys who really smart," he said. "There's always been a respect in my family for the Notre Dame program. I was actually always a fan in my own way of Notre Dame." Budinscak said it was the combination of the academics and athletics that lured him to South Bend from the east coast.

"When [Notre Dame] offered me a scholarship in high school, I knew it was the best place I could possibly go," Budinscak said. "My father even said, 'There's no place in the world that places a greater value on your on the field and your off field and your grade from that place.'"

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MATT HASBROOK

Walk-on lineman transferred to ND for its academics

By MATT PUGLISI
Sports Writer

The future rarely unfolds as planned.
Just ask fifth-year senior defensive tackle Matt Hasbrook.
A nine-time wrestling All-American fresh off an undefeated (49-0) senior year that saw the Indiana-native take home the state title in his 215-pound weight class, Hasbrook was rewarded with a wrestling scholarship by Michigan State and never looked back — for a couple years, that is.
After being red-shirted as a freshman wrestler, Hasbrook traded in his headgear for a helmet and tried his hand on the gridiron.
Thus far, the Culver High School grad saw action in four games his junior year and was named an Academic All-Big Ten honoree, Hasbrook ultimately decided that Michigan State wasn’t quite the fit he had expected and traded in his Spartan green and white for Notre Dame blue and gold.
In the end, Hasbrook’s decision to leave Michigan State was rooted in a number of factors.
"There was a multitude of things that went into my decision to transfer," Hasbrook said.
"Between [Bobby Williams] getting fired at MSU and the team being kind of in shambles, and I had dropped my wrestling scholarship to play football — I was already paying out-of-state tuition.
"Coach Willingham had just had a great season at 10-3 so I thought why not come to the best football program in the country. I wanted to get a better education."
Per NCAA rules, Hasbrook was forced to sit out the 2003 season, leaving him in a tough position to not only earn a spot on the roster, but also a starting job.
"I was on the travel team [at MSU], and then I came here and it was a pretty humbling experience because I had to walk on," Hasbrook said.
"I think if I look back I probably would have applied to come here right off the bat, because it’s so hard to earn a starting job as a walk-on in just one year."
Equipped with the unique experience of having attended two major universities in the past three years, Hasbrook has little trouble identifying the factors that separate Michigan State from Notre Dame.
"It’s night and day," Hasbrook said.
"There are 50,000 wild people at Michigan State and there are parties all the time and it seems like school’s just a second option to why you’re there — it’s pretty much a party school.
"At Notre Dame everyone’s more focused on academics, and the people are a lot closer — there’s a lot more school spirit and it’s just a better atmosphere at Notre Dame."
While academics and atmosphere certainly contribute to an individual’s university experience, predominate importance are the fostered friendships.
"It’s been incredible," Hasbrook said.
"I’ve made so many close friendships with the other fifth-year seniors. I live with Greg Pauly and Billy Palmer and we have a really close relationship with Mike Goody, Jared Clark and Kyle Budinscek — we’re all really tight. I’m so happy I made the switch because of the friendships I’ve made."
With the senior’s collegiate football career quickly drawing to a close, Hasbrook looks forward to one day being his own boss.
"I’d like to run my own business, but first start off in the financial sector or sales to earn a little capital," Hasbrook said.
"Eventually I would definitely like to own my own company."
While Hasbrook’s plans appear firmly in place, his collegiate experience is any indication, there’s no telling where the talented student-athlete may end up.
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The battle-tested veteran

In the Irish secondary, nobody has more experience than Burrell

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Quentin Burrell made 50 tackles and seven interceptions in his senior season at Southwest DeKalb High School. He broke up 13 passes. But when he came to Notre Dame, Burrell waited. Recruited by a team already ripe with secondary talent in Georgia, he was overlooked by special teams under head coach Bobby Davie.

“My freshman year and my sophomore year I was kind of just playing my role,” Burrell said. “There were a lot of upperclassmen, especially in the secondary, with a lot of experience so it was kind of like a wait your turn deal.”

Now, going into his final game at Notre Dame Stadium facing Pittsburgh on Saturday, Burrell finds himself starting at free safety for the 19th time in the past two seasons.

Burrell was, after all, the most experienced member of the defensive backfield going into the 2004 season. And that makes him, unofficially, the leader.

“I think he’s handled the responsibility well,” defensive backs coach Steve Wilks said. “He’s been consistent all year.”

Burrell is third on the team with 56 tackles and 20 solo, and he made four tackles last Saturday in an upset of top-10 ranked Tennessee.

“I can really tell you the last three weeks, he has really stepped his game up,” Wilks said. “I’m talking about the way he plays, the way he’s practicing. He’s diving for balls in practice. He’s trying to make great decisions in reading the quarterback. So I’ve seen great improvement in Quentin throughout the year, but most importantly he’s stepped up and been the leader.”

The process of reaching the starting safety position was an unannounced one, but Burrell felt the opportunity to showcase his skills would have to come sooner or later.

“Going into my junior year I knew I didn’t have much time left,” he said. “My clock was ticking. So I needed to do something.”

And then, Glenn Earl got hurt.

Thrust into the spotlight

In the midst of a 25-10 loss to Purdue, Notre Dame fans were distraught. They complained that a freshman quarterback should never throw that many passes (59) in a game, or that no team should lose when it out-gains its opponent by 246 (646 Notre Dame to 223 for Purdue).

Burrell’s introduction to the Notre Dame defense in replacement of Earl, who saw limited action afterward, was glanced over. He would go on to make five tackles and his first career touchdown for a loss that day.

But Burrell’s presence the remainder of the season was not overlooked.

Burrell started the last nine games of the season, finishing fourth on the team in tackles with 35 (39 solo) and 48 minutes played. Those numbers compared in a lopsided fashion with his statistics of 2002 (two tackles, 41 seconds).

“I knew my main thing was going to be healthy because I had a lot of sticks and kneads there,” Burrell said. “It was unfortunate that Glenn got hurt, but at the same time I looked at it as an opportunity to step up and do things that I knew I could do when I came here. So I looked at it as an opportunity. And once I had that opportunity I just took it and ran with it.

Stanford found out better than any team how Burrell could run with it.

With Notre Dame up 27-0 on a bewildered Cardinal team Nov. 29, 2003, Burrell scooped up a Stanford fumble and took the ball back 62 yards for the touchdown, his first ever scored in a Notre Dame uniform.

He also intercepted Stanford Chris Lewis once that day, but Burrell said the fumble recovery was the most important moment as an Irish defender.

“As far as performance on the field, I would maybe say the Stanford game from last year,” Burrell said. “I had an interception in that game and I took a fumble back like 70-yard sprints.”

But Burrell’s memories are not all good ones.

Taking the bad with the good

There was the Syracuse game Dec. 6 of last season, when Orange runners ran back with Virginia Techs Mario Williams beat Burrell to a spot 15 yards downfield to score his fourth of five touchdowns that day.

There was the BYU game to start the 2004 season, when the Cougars went deep on two key plays over Burrell, one a secondary to score or set up back-breaking touchdowns.

Wilks knows the defensive backfield has struggled this season, but also knows Burrell is a key component in accomplishing the secondary’s goals. He helped the defense hold Michigan receiver Braylon Edwards without a touchdown, and he leads the secondary in tackles, albeit quietly.

“But with our defense and the way we invert our safeties a lot, making tackles quietly is going to happen as far as making plays,” Wilks said. “At times we’ve misused some guys [Kyle] and they were crucial ones, but for the most part I feel he’s stepped up his game.”

Going from 48 special teams appearances his freshman year, to 241 appearances as a sophomore showed he had the opportunity to make an impact soon on the team. And since he did not have the minutes to show coaches his talents in game situations, the next best option was to impress them in practice.

“I think the thing was during the off-season and during spring ball, I think I had one of the best spring balls I’ve ever had here,” he said. “And the coaching staff took well to that. So once I got the opportunity, it was there for me.”

Burrell entered this season for the first time ever penned in as the preseason starter. Being a senior, Burrell not only had to shoulder the preparation responsibilities of a starter. He also was part of a select group that helped control the direction of the Irish team.

“Going into the season, I was talking to a lot of the upperclassmen. We’re really close,” Burrell said. “And we just didn’t want to have any regrets.”

“We’ve lost some games we shouldn’t have lost, and we could be in the national championship basically if it went a certain way, but that’s over and done with. We’ve bowl eligible now and we’ve got to look forward to going to a good bowl, a bowl that we deserve to be in, and we’ll just go from there.”

The game against Pittsburgh on Saturday will be Burrell’s last at Notre Dame, but the free safety said true wasn’t his style.

“Kind of, sort of [care], but I’m not going to get too emotional or anything like that,” Burrell said. “I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to come to this university, did the things that could do here, and it’s just time to move on. I had a good time here, and it’s just another chapter in my life.”

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu
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With the final home game on Saturday, NDSP and the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education congratulate the football team, the band, students and other fans for a fine season.

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As you celebrate this weekend, keep safety in mind!
- If you’re not 21 years old don’t drink alcohol...police continue enforcement activity and will arrest minors and those who give alcohol to minors.
- If you choose to use alcohol, please do so in moderation...intoxication is unhealthy, dangerous and hurts our community. STAY IN THE GREEN ZONE.
- Look out for each other! Help friends and others make wise and healthy choices about the use of alcohol...don’t be afraid to speak up!

Each year tragedies involving the use of alcohol strike the Notre Dame community and communities across the nation. Experts say that 1400 young people will die as a result of alcohol abuse this year. Let’s put an end to needless tragedy and enjoy a wonderful weekend with the Notre Dame family cheering the Irish on to victory.

For more information about healthy choices and the use of alcohol visit the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education website at http://www.nd.edu/~aldrug/ or come to 311 LaFortune.
Proving everyone wrong

Jackson has not let his smaller stature keep him from being a defensive force

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

What would possibly make a talented football player from the state of Florida ignore the lure of southern programs and come instead to a tiny Catholic school in the middle of frigid northern Indiana?

"I picked Preston Jackson, and he'll tell you I was basically looking for the best opportunity possible," Jackson said. "I wanted to succeed academically and wanting to play the best football possible, that's how I got from Florida and ended up here.

The fifth-year senior from Tampa, Fla., has grown into his role as Notre Dame's starting cornerback — joining fellow Floridian Dwight Flick in the defensive backfield. Jackson has had perhaps his best season so far in an Irish uniform, scoring a touchdown against BYU off an interception.

The 5-foot-9, 180-pound Jackson has also made the most of his compact body, providing several bone-jarring hits during the season and priding himself on his physical play.

"I play football. Football is a physical game," he said. "I don't care what size you are, you've got to be able to do what you've got to do. It's 11-on-11 and you've got to be a physical player, no matter what position you play.

Making the hit

Throughout his Irish career, Jackson has always been in the defensive backfield — whether as a corner back or nickel back in passing situations.

As a senior at Hillsborough High School in Tampa, Jackson made 57 tackles and five interceptions in 1999, helping his team to the region finals of the Florida Class 5A state playoffs. Unlike other high school star recruits, by his senior year Jackson focused primarily on the defensive side of the ball although he did hold returns and kickoffs as well.

It was Jackson's hustle and willingness to make the big hit that endeared him to Irish head coach Bob Davie and his coaching staff, and the same qualities continue to impress his current coaches.

"He's smart on the field," Irish secondary coach Steve Wilks said. "He always puts himself in the position to make the big play, and he gets that from watching film and things like that.

"He's not just a leader of the secondary, he's a leader of the entire team."

Jackson embraces his role as defensive back, taking the criticism that goes with the position, as well as the glory from making a big interception or hit.

"The thing about being a defensive back is that it's going to be 50/50," Jackson said. "If you got beat it's going to be real glaring, but if you make a good play it's also going to be real glaring. You've got to take the good with the bad. You've got to be confident, a competitive athlete to play in the defensive backfield. Really though, it's always fun to be on the defensive side of the ball, period."

In addition to his performance on the field, Jackson enjoys his role as a vocal leader for the team. Talking, trying to get in the mind of the opponent, trying to psyche out the other team's receivers — it's all a day's work for Jackson.

"It's kind of your nature as a corner to do all the yeeping all the time," he said. "We probably talk more than the other players on the field." Of course, it shouldn't be surprising that Jackson talks so much. His role model taught him well.

Walton's influence

Shane Walton, who played at Notre Dame from 1999 to 2001, bears several comparisons to Jackson. Both came to play for the Irish from warmer-climate states (Walton played high school football in California). Both were considered under-sized (Walton was 5-foot-10, 185 pounds). Both are characterized by their toughness and willingness to talk on the field.

And, according to Jackson, both know the importance of having a high football IQ.

"I watched Shane. Everybody knows that Shane was very smart, even if he wasn't the best athlete on the field," Jackson said. "If you watch the guys ahead of you and watch the mistakes they make you can learn from them and make you a better player."

I try to almost mock him in a way, be a good leader and also watch film and study what my opponent is doing. You have to out-think your opponent and know what he's going to do, then it's really easy to make plays — you don't even have to be the best athlete.

Jackson showed his knowledge edge of other team's offenses right away in the 2004 season. In the first game of the year, against Brigham Young, the senior made a perfect read on a slant and picked off BYU quarterback Matt Berry's pass, returning it 38 yards for a touchdown.

It was a burst of positive press for a player who has been criticized often during his career.

"I think for my career, my performance has gotten better every time I've stepped on the field," Jackson said. "A lot of people counting me out when I first got here, but I shrugged my shoulders at all that — I played for myself and my family and the people out of my state. This season I've progressed and I'm pretty proud of myself or doing that.

So proud, in fact, that he's learned to all but ignore criticism from the media and the Notre Dame faithful. As a cornerback, Jackson has learned to have a short memory and quickly bounce back from a bad play.

And as a member of a Notre Dame team that has had its struggles during his career, he's learned to dodge criticism of the team itself.

"The fans don't play, people who write stories don't play, and they write stories that the public wants to hear," Jackson said. "So, it's really not for the media and for some of the fans — we're basically playing for ourselves and the people our parents have always put us in the uniform for. If we win and other people are proud of us, then fine. If we lose and they don't like us anymore, forget it, we're going to line up and play again — that's just how it is."

It's those closeness and camaraderie that sums up Jackson's enjoyment of his Irish career.

Growing as a team

Jackson has been through a lot in his five years, from witnessing the changing of a coaching staff — not once but twice — to going from a Fiesta Bowl season to a sub-.500 year.

But through it all, the defensive back has looked to his teammates as a calming influence and source of pride.

"There's just something about playing with the same group of guys day-in and day-out over 300 days a year," Jackson said. "You get the camaraderie from all the times you spend with each other. And you get to know each other, so you don't take everything personal. We joke on the field all the time and have fun; it's just the chemistry we have."

That closeness as a team also helps when the Irish go through their lower points of the season — the losses that cause the team's fans to sometimes turn on the Irish.

"I wouldn't say they were our down games, they were probably games that we learned more from," Jackson said of losses like BYU and Boston College. "Every week you play a whole different kind of offense. So, being in the secondary, you've got to learn to shrug things off. You have to get off the field and bounce back to make a play the next time. You may get beat one time, but that's football — they other team wants to make a play, too."

Jackson has been there to comfort his teammates, as well, such as against Boston College when fellow defensive back Mike Lichardson was the player who the Eagles' Tony Gonzalez beat for the winning touchdown.

"It's never one player that loses a ball game," Jackson said of what he told Richardson after the loss. "It's things that happened in the first three quarters that lose ball games, and it's just as evident that sometimes your mistake is more evident than the things before that." And yet through all the criticism and the praise, through the high times and the low times, Jackson has continued to remain focused on his ultimate goals.

"I'm going to keep my options open. I earned my degree and I'm going to put myself in the job market; make myself marketable — that's what I came to school for," Jackson said. "I'm not sure about the [National Football] league, if the opportunity comes I'll jump on it, but for right now I've got very broad horizons and a lot of things to reach out and grab. I've got personal goals, I've set for myself, and I'm hoping to accomplish them.

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Irish defensive back Preston Jackson returns an interception for a touchdown against Brigham Young in Notre Dame's first game of the season.
By PAT LEONARD  
Assistant Sports Editor

Injuries are an athlete's worst nightmare, but they're even worse when they happen in games that don't matter.

Don't tell it to Greg Pauly. He knows.

Pauly tore his ACL in a 2000 summer all-star game. And until his junior season at Notre Dame, he felt a lot better. The interior lineman's knee didn't fully heal.

"I think my junior year I started feeling a lot better, getting more comfortable," Pauly said. "It was difficult, especially because I added weight on, too. With Kyle [Hudonseak] and Justin [Tuck], I'm surprised how fast they're back from theirs surgeries. I wasn't even close to where they were."

Pauly's knee surgery prior to his freshman year forced him to sit out an entire season as he watched the Irish go 9-3 in his absence.

But the wait was well worth it. As a fifth-year senior on the 2004 squad, Pauly, 6-foot-6, 295 pounds has 31 tackles and 4.5 for a loss as one of two starting defensive tackles. He has started all nine games so far for this season, the most he has started three in his sophomore year.

The sudden and drastic increase in playing time has placed Pauly in the spotlight.

"It's a little harder on the body I guess," Pauly said. "I've taken a lot more reps in practice, taken a lot more reps in the games. But I think it puts me in more of a role out there to step up and play."

By now, the words Notre Dame defense "scream run-stop. And that is due to the push from the interior defensive line, something Pauly says is important in pass defense, as well.

"It's tough. It's two-three-three usually because you've got the center and two guards blocking me and Derek [Landri] on the other side," Pauly said. "And it's tough because usually you're getting double teams or someone's slaming back down on you, but I think we're getting a good push.

Williams and sophomore end Justin Tuck have rotated junior tackle Derek Landri and sophomore tackle Trevor Louden in their hole on the line. Those moves have impacted the leadership that comes with being an experienced fifth-year player.

"It's a little bit of a leadership role," Pauly said. "I'm an older guy, people are going to look at me a little bit. It kind of puts me in more of a role in the eye of the team to do things well and step up.

But playing time was not always so easy for Pauly to find. Though the Wisconsin native was a Parade All-American and first-team USA Today All-American, Pauly came to Notre Dame and knew he was starting over — injury and all.

"Coming in freshman year, I was pretty highly recruited and everyone has a big head and that happens," Pauly said. "Coming in I had big expectations. I wanted to play right away. After I got hurt, I was here watching practice and seeing how it happens and how different it is.

Pauly's hype going into high school was just as high, and he matched it. In his first year at South High School in Waukesha, Wis., Pauly became the first freshman starter at the high school since John Anderson, who went on to play for Michigan and the Green Bay Packers.

He dominated the league. Particularly in his senior season, Pauly set record numbers with 40 solo tackles, 65 assisted tackles, 17 sacks, 20 tackles for a loss, two interceptions and two fumble recoveries.

Pauly accumulated countless accolades. He was one of 34 players on the Associated Press All-America team. He was voted No. 17 on the Chicago Sun-Times top-100 list.

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By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

His soft voice contrasting with his muscular physique, Cole Laux slowly described how he would feel strappping on the gold helmet one final time.

"I'll just take it as it comes, I guess. That's usually how I do it," Laux said.

This calm, confident attitude has helped the senior walk-on fullback become a fixture in the scout team backfield and one of the leaders of the entire Notre Dame squad over the past five seasons.

"I always take it as a challenge to myself to try and get better," he said. "I like to go against (the starting defense) and beat them when I can."

Born in Texas and raised in Indianapolis, Laux and his family moved to South Bend when Cole was in the eighth grade. He attended Marian High School in Mishawaka and was the starting fullback on a 13-1 team that made it to the state semfinals his senior year. Along with the 13 touchdowns and 938 rushing yards he tallied, Laux was also named to the Academic All-State team. Despite his prep success, Laux did not receive any recruiting interest from then-Irish head coach Bob Davie and did not take the handful of offers from smaller colleges seriously.

"Playing college football really wasn't a priority for me in high school," Laux said. "Academia was the big thing in my family. So I really didn't give it much thought until after I was done (with high school)."

Cole's father Chris graduated from Notre Dame in 1979 so it wasn't difficult for the second-oldest of the six Laux children to decide where to go to college.

"I was always an Irish fan," he said. "I decided after my senior year was over that I could probably continue (playing football) if I could get into Notre Dame and try out for the team."

After receiving his acceptance letter, Laux contacted then-Irish recruiting coordinator Bob Christel and went in for a visit and to see what the Notre Dame coaching staff liked about him. Laux occasionally filled in at running back during his first year of school. Though he has mainly played fullback for the scout team, Laux occasionally filled in at running back and tight end to help the first-team defense prepare for Notre Dame's next opponent. But his versatility is not what Laux is most proud of.

"I'm most proud of my work ethic," he said. "I think I've worked pretty hard and maybe some of that has rubbed off on some of the other guys. Maybe they've stepped up their attitudes coming into practice by watching and seeing what I've been doing."

Laux came back to Notre Dame for a fifth year to finish up the requirements for his finance and history double major and to enjoy one last season playing football for the Irish.

"My favorite part of playing has been the camaraderie with the other guys on the team," he said. "Just building relationships with the guys that you're always spending time with day in and day out. Getting to know them and working out with them at 6 a.m. on Saturday mornings and hanging out with them on a Saturday night. It's been a lot of fun. There are a lot of good guys on the team."

Laux's hard work and tight friendship with his teammates has helped him face the challenge of going to practice every day against players who are often bigger and stronger than him. "I like to go out there and have fun," he said. "I have a lot of fun hanging around about who won the personal battles. I like to say I've won a bunch of them and they'd probably say they won a bunch of them. It's a good time."

Irish fullback Cole Laux participates in a tackle-breaking drill at a recent team practice.

Like every senior, Laux has seen the Irish head coaching job change hands from Bob Davie to Tyrone Willingham and he has many positive words to say about Willingham's effect on the team.

"Coach Willingham brings a lot of emotion and intensity to the program," Laux said. "I think he is able to get the most that anyone can out of his players."

Sideline recently with a knee injury, Laux hopes to be healed in time for the Irish bowl game. Though he might downplay it, he knows that his last game wearing an Irish uniform will be special.

"I don't really get a chance to look too far in the future, but it will probably be somewhat emotional," he said.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

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The odd man out

Clark has been a team player in his role as backup tight end this season

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

Jared Clark didn’t know what to do in the spring of 2002.
He was struggling at quarterback and had little chance of seeing the field. He didn’t enjoy playing football anymore.

Clark decided to take a chance.

"I actually approached one of the graduate assistants and asked kind of out of the blue if there was interest in me playing at another position because I was struggling so bad at quarterback," Clark recalls. "It was really going to the point where it wasn’t fun at all. (The graduate assistant) said ‘Absolutely there’s interest in you at another position.’"

So he went to the coaches and actually asked coach (Tyrone) Willingham if it’d be alright if I switched positions and he said, ‘You can be a tight end.’

Switching was no easy task for Clark. At first, he thought he’d be on the other side of the ball.

"I thought they were going to say linebacker, that’s where I thought they were going to put me," Clark said. "They said they wanted me at tight end and I was fine with that too because I had played on offense primarily and it was probably better for me than linebacker.”

While he was big now listed at 210 and 6-foot-4, Clark had mainly played quarterback his whole life. Despite the possibility of switching fields, Clark wanted to contribute for Notre Dame.

So the Sarasota, Fla. native made the change to tight end and hasn’t looked back.

Jared Clark was a sought-after quarterback and a running back at Sarasota Mooney High School in Sarasota, especially after an outstanding senior season. Clark threw for 1,372 yards and 17 touchdowns, and ran for more than 700 yards and 10 more scores as Mooney advanced to the third round of the Florida state playoffs.

Clark narrowed his college choices down to three schools — Miami (Fla.), Georgia and Notre Dame. He finally chose the Irish after visiting the campus and meeting with coach Frank (Tyrone) Burt and Burt’s cooffice staff.

"When I came on my official visit, some of the guys that are in this class were here and the players were having a good time. The camaraderie and the closeness of the guys on the team was evident,” Clark said. "That was something I wanted to have.”

Clark signed with the Irish and entered fall camp knowing that there were two other talented freshman vying for the starting job — Matt LeVeckio and Carlyle Holiday.

But Clark wasn’t worried about the competition.

"I knew the best man was going to win and it was more whoever came in here and did the best,” Clark said. "Those two came in and did better than I did, so that’s how it worked out.”

Clark continued to practice as the non-starting quarterback back up until making the decision to switch to tight end before the 2002 season. The first time I lined up as tight end was completely foreign." Jared Clark Irish tight end

The hardest part of changing positions for Clark wasn’t catching passes or learning the playbook— it was crouching into a three-point stance.

"When I first made the transition, I had played football since I was six and I had never had to get down in a three-point stance and push people around. I played defensive line in high school but that was the only other time I ever had to put my hand on the ground and playing football. It was completely foreign.”

But Clark didn’t get discouraged and continued working hard in practice. He credits tight ends coach Mike Denbrock with helping make the transition smooth.

"Coach Denbrock did a great job. I’ve come a long way since that first day,” Clark said.

Despite just changing positions, Clark showed signs of promise at his new position in 2002. He caught seven passes for 104 yards, including a 37-yard reception against Florida State and had four more catches for 41 yards in the Gator Bowl against North Carolina State.

"It was just fun to be able to get in the game and help the team out,” Clark said.

With a season at tight end under his belt, Clark emerged as a threat for the Irish in 2003. He started two of the team’s 12 games and finished the season fifth on the team with 15 receptions for 142 yards. Besides contributing on offense, Clark played a significant role on special teams, recovering a fumble in Notre Dame’s upset win against Pittsburgh.

Stiff competition

After applying and receiving a fifth-year of eligibility, Clark went back to work in the off-season and spring practice to continue improving at tight end.

But when the 2004 season began, Clark found himself on the bench and not on the field.

The problem for Clark? Notre Dame had too many talented tight ends on their roster.

We have a great group of tight ends and someone’s not going to be playing that much or at all and I guess I’m that guy,” said Clark, who has yet to catch a pass this season. "If that’s the role they need me to play I’ll be the backup guy and whenever they need me to come in, I’ll come in.”

"I’ll be the backup guy and whenever they need me to come in, I’ll come in.” Jared Clark Irish tight end

"I hope to contribute for Notre Dame and I was able to get in there and help the team a little bit.

"The biggest thing I’ll take away from this are my teammates and the friendships I’ve made on this team. I’ve never been as close as I am with a bunch of guys on this team and hopefully we’ll be friends for life.”

Contact Joe Hettler at jhetller@nd.edu

Irish tight end Jared Clark makes a catch against North Carolina State during the 2003 Gator Bowl. The senior tight end has yet to catch a pass this season.
No regrets

Palmer might not have the gaudiest stats, but he wouldn’t trade ND for anything

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Billy Palmer’s career at Notre Dame hasn’t been flashy. With two regular season games left in his Notre Dame career, the Wynnewood, Fla. native only has four career catches for 44 yards and zero touchdowns. He gets lost in the shuffle behind junior Anthony Fasano who has broke onto the scene this year, sophomore John Carlson who is earning more playing time by being more consistent, and fifth-year senior Jerome Collins who was making strides before suffering an injury against Stanford.

But what Palmer brings not only to the tight end position, but also the Notre Dame offense is something that can’t be seen on the field.

“I think above all he brings a great deal of leadership and stability to the position,” Irish offensive line and tight ends coach Mike Denbrock said.

“He’s around the world more than once and lends a great deal of experience not only to the position but to the other guys that are there.

“I really done a great job of leading our whole entire offense let alone our tight end.

That might not translate into stats on the stat sheet, but with a total of six tight ends competing for valuable playing time, Palmer has found his role with the Irish in his fifth and final season in South Bend.

“I feel if you just do your best and work your hardest, they’ll find a spot for you,” he said.

Coming to Notre Dame

Palmer was born in Ottawa and played rugby through his sophomore year of high school. Team Canada selected Palmer to be on the under-18 team for rugby, but his family moved to Florida, and Palmer concentrated more on football. He played offensive tackle with former Irish All-American center and current Cleveland Brown Jeff Faine as a junior in 1998 before Palmer transferred to Lake Highland Prep in Orlando for his senior year.

Palmer caught eight passes his senior year as a tight end to go along with 50 tackles as a defensive end.

That’s when college decision time came.

And for Palmer, just like many other high school seniors, whether they play football or not, it was something unexplainable that swayed the final decision to choose the Golden Dome.

“It came down to Michigan, Ohio State, Florida, Georgia Tech and Notre Dame,” Palmer said. “I really felt comfortable here and everyone talks about the combination of academics and athletics, but for myself, it was the special feeling I had. Former Notre Dame coach Bob Davie and his staff recruited tight ends to play a different role in the offense from what current coach Tyrone Willingham’s offense uses tight ends for. Davie’s tight ends were used as blockers and were an afterthought as a pass receiver.

In his last season in South Bend, Davie’s tight ends caught a combined eight passes throughout the entire year.

This year’s team has 38 catches through nine games. For Palmer, it’s been difficult, but worthwhile.

“I’m very grateful for the previous season for bringing me here and very grateful for the current staff for developing me as a player,” he said. “Every time you go through transition, it’s not an easy thing, but I was fortunate enough to grasp the offense and they were confident enough in me to play, so it was a positive transition for me.”

With Willingham and Irish offensive coordinator Bill Diedrick incorporating more of a pro-style offense, the tight end is obviously used more. Willingham recruited tight ends to fit his system that were more complete players where opposing defenses couldn’t guess run or pass based just on personnel.

With six players at one position, the competition at tight end became intense, but worthwhile.

“I think every coach demands of his players to be a complete player,” Palmer said. “Definitely with this many tight ends, you had to work that much harder to be a complete player.

“That type of competition only makes you better. I’ve been blessed with some great guys. It’s friendly competition, but there definitely was some competition in the offense and during the season, but it’s helped us all.”

‘The Bachelor’ not for him

Many people make the connection with Palmer and his brother, Jesse, who was “The Bachelor” during the show’s spring season and is a backup quarterback for the New York Giants.

But Palmer jokes about not following his brother’s footsteps.

“Too ugly,” he said.

One family member Palmer could follow the footsteps of is his father, Bill, who played for the Canadian Football League. In the 2004 CFL draft, the British Columbia Lions selected Palmer in the fifth round.

“It’s definitely an honor. Being a Canadian citizen, there’s a certain amount of pride,” Palmer said. “Being selected by the B.C. Lions was definitely an honor to me, and I’m very proud to be Canadian and very proud of the CFL, and might be something I pursue down the road.”

Palmer’s dad, just like throughout his life, hasn’t pressured his son to play in Canada.

“My father has always been very happy with me in letting me do what I want to do, so long as I’m successful and work hard at what I do, he’s happy,” Palmer said. “If that’s the case, it just might be it.”

His position coach thinks if Palmer wants to play professionally, the CFL is a viable option.

“I think it’s up to him,” Denbrock said. “I think he’s got that type of ability.”

Palmer hasn’t had a career filled with lots of receptions or touchdowns, but that hasn’t developed any ill feelings about his decision to attend Notre Dame for the past five years.

For Palmer, it’s about realizing what an opportunity the past five years have been.

“You know what, I’ve been extremely fortunate to be here and play with some good football players, and I’ve enjoyed my experience no regrets,” Palmer said.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu
Stan Revelle sounds like every coach’s dream. His team-oriented attitude makes him the kind of player coaches can rely on to keep the tempo focused and inspired.

"When you're practicing day in and day out in the cold and the rain, you find that a lot of people aren't motivated," Revelle said. "I just kind of convince them that they're an important part of the team.

In his four years at Notre Dame, the unsung senior walk-on quarterback has risen from an inexperienced freshman to a leader and prominent feature on the scout team. A native of Poplar Bluff, Mo., Revelle comes from a storied high school football career. The all-time leading passer in Poplar Bluff high school's history, Revelle totaled 370 completions for 5,730 yards and 59 touchdowns. Revelle also holds the school record for passing yards with 411 in a game.

But his accolades didn't end there.

As a senior, Revelle was named all-state and received the College Football Hall of Fame/National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award and Scholarship as valedictorian of his class. That year, USA Today also recognized the standout Revelle’s achievements, dubbing him USA Today Missouri Player of the Year in 2000.

Despite a high school career characterized by glory and achievements, Revelle remained uncertain whether or not he could find a place on the competitive and prestigious Irish team.

"I didn't really think it could happen to me, and then it just kind of all fell into place. It was never really something I dreamed about or expected because I didn't think it was within my reach," Revelle said.

Revelle's doubts vanished as he watched a highlight film at an awards banquet. He realized that they're an important part of the team.

"At that moment, I knew I would miss football if I didn't at least give it a try," Revelle said. "I guess I just love to throw the ball. I love to see a good spiral."

Revelle joined the team under then-coach Bob Davie in 2001, weathering a rocky 5-6 season. The Irish saw more success playing football at Notre Dame than in the players. "I'll probably try to get involved in a social league or a club team," Revelle said. "It's going to be a hard transition leaving (Notre Dame). With football, if you put this much time into it, it's not just something you can stop.

Contact Ann Loughery at alougher@nd.edu.

Stan Revelle
Scout team quarterback has enjoyed the Irish experience

BY ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

Revelle

I didn’t think it could happen to me, and then it just kind of all fell into place. It was never really something I dreamed about or expected because I didn’t think it was within my reach," Revelle said.

Revelle will graduate this year with a degree in electrical engineering, and says he hopes to pursue his love of football.

"I'll probably try to get involved in a social league or a club team," Revelle said. "It's going to be a hard transition leaving (Notre Dame). With football, if you put this much time into it, it's not just something you can stop."

Contact Ann Loughery at alougher@nd.edu.
Twice the athlete

Dwight Ellick

By JUSTIN SCHUVER

Irish Insider Staff Writer

It’s hard to imagine the strain mentally and physically on a Notre Dame football player. In addition to studies as a full-time college student, you’re expected to perform at the highest athletic level at least 12 Saturdays a year. You’re expected to lift weights, eat healthy and practice with your best effort nearly the rest of the time.

And if you’re Dwight Ellick, you’ll occasionally make time for a little run or two.

The senior cornerback is one of the unique breed in college sports — the two-sport athlete. In addition to his starting position as a cornerback for the Irish, Ellick is also one of Notre Dame’s biggest track and field stars.

Double the sports, double the fun

Ellick has always had speed, and has made use of it on both the football field and the track at Moose Krause Stadium. This year, he placed sixth in the 200 meters at the 2004 Big East Outdoor Track and Field Championships, coming in with a time of 21.66 seconds.

Being a two-sport varsity athlete hasn’t been that big of a deal, the senior said, particularly because of the helpfulness and good attitude of his coaches in both sports.

“The coaches on both staffs — track and football — are definitely understandable and accepting to the guys who want to do football and track,” Ellick said. “So they don’t work you over time in both sports.

“Our strength and conditioning coach is the one who’s with us out there all season, and he talks to the track coach and they talk about what they’re going to do. They schedule my workouts together so that I’m able to do both of them at the same time.”

Ellick was born in Syrcuse, N.Y. and later moved to Tampa, Fla., but not before earning the mantle of the fastest high school runner in the Empire State. His time of 10.42 in the 100 meters as a junior in high school gave him the state championship in that event.

To his Notre Dame coaches, that speed has always been one of Ellick’s most impressive physical attributes, but not the only thing that makes him a good defensive back.

“He’s a kid that’s a real quick guy,” Irish secondary coach Steve Wilks said. “But we really emphasize technique and at times if you make a mistake, speed does not always allow you to recover.

“It’s great that he has speed but it’s something that we don’t try to rely on too much.

Speed not always enough

Irish fans always seem to pick on the secondary, it’s inevitable.

The defensive backs are literally put on an island, usually one-on-one with an opposing receiver. When the defensive back wins the battle, everyone notices.

And of course, when the defensive back loses the battle, everyone notices.

“You’ve got to have a short memory — that’s probably one of the most important things to have besides the physical tools,” Ellick said. “You need great technique, have to have great anticipation. You’ve got to have great discipline and learn not to make the same mistake twice in a row.”

Ellick has certainly seen his share of criticism during his career at Notre Dame, but the corner has shrugged most of that blame off. His coaches continue to use his speed as an asset, putting him on the opponent’s best receivers.

“Ellieck really allows us to key in on somebody on a team’s weakness, with his speed and technique,” Wilks said. “Anytime you can take away a big part of the other team’s offense, that can be a big boost for our defense defensively.”

Although Ellick will finish his career as a cornerback, his talents on the high school gridiron were much more varied and extensive.

From Tampa to ‘Tundra’

As a senior in Florida, Ellick played in one of the most football-cracy states in the nation. The Sunshine State has never been short on talent, and Ellick was among the state’s all-around athletes.

As a senior at Wharton High School in Tampa, he made 70 tackles, intercepted three passes and broke up 16 more. In addition to his defensive prowess, Ellick collected 387 yards and scored six touchdowns as a receiver, while collecting 348 yards rushing.

He also became a track champion in his second state, winning the Florida Class 4A championships in both the 100 (10.66) and 200 (21.35) meter races.

So, how does an athlete from one of the warmest states in the world end up in the Big East?

“Education. When I came to visit, I got along good with all the players,” Ellick said. “That was one thing I was really looking for. I liked the coaching staff. They were coming off a big year and it seemed like a program that was definitely on the rise, so I wanted to be a part of that.”

The season Ellick referred to was the 2000 season in which head coach Bob Davie’s team went to the Fiesta Bowl, only to be beaten by Oregon State.

Irish defensive back Dwight Ellick tries to prevent BYU’s Todd Watkins from making a catch late in Notre Dame’s 17-16 season-opening loss to the Cougars.

“Ellieck’s freshman season was a disappointment to say the least. The Irish went 3-6 and Davie was fired after his fifth year of mediocre coaching. After resume fraud prevented George O’Leary from being named the next Notre Dame coach, Tyrone Willingham came to Notre Dame from Stanford.

The Irish under Willingham improved the next season, collecting the first interception of his career against Michigan and adding another pick against Washington. He hopes that his improved play this season has done more than just quiet his doubters, but also impress professional scouts.

“My main goal is to go to the NFL,” Ellick said. “That’s been my dream since I was five years old. Besides that I don’t have to start my own business, perhaps in a car dealership or something.”

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu
Carlos Campbell

Not quite as planned

Campbell might not have had the career he’d hoped for, but he still enjoyed the experience

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Carlos Campbell is a great athlete. In high school, he was a great athlete. And when Campbell committed to Notre Dame, he had to make the decision that faces so many superior all-around athletes out of high school — which position should he play?

Coming in, of course, I wanted to be an All-American,” Campbell said. “And when I first came in, I wanted to be a receiver.”

His past experience on both sides of the ball was impressive.

Campbell was a two-way starter who earned all-state honors as a defensive back in 2000 and as a receiver in 1999. He caught 31 passes for 812 yards and 12 touchdowns in 1999, totaling career numbers of 75 catches, 1800 yards and 20 touchdowns. Over his final two seasons, Campbell also intercepted 15 passes.

All factors pointed to a successful stint on either side of the ball. But Campbell found on the Division-I college level that success was not guaranteed.

“Things were going well (at receiver) and then things didn’t work out, so I wanted to switch to the other side of the ball,” Campbell said. “I went to the coaches and told them, because I’ve always had a defensive player’s mind, and I felt that was the right time to change.”

Campbell now plays as a reserve cornerback and top special teams asset, ranking No. 12 on the team in tackles with 19 total (13 solo).

But the statistics under Campbell’s name did not always count tackles.

In his freshman and sophomore years, Campbell had caught just five passes for a total of 70 yards and zero touchdowns. During that time, he also received playing time on special teams, making three tackles as a sophomore and making 92 appearances on kick returns and coverage.

“That’s something that I enjoy, especially being in my position and not having the type of career that I’ve wanted,” Campbell said. “Special teams plays a special part and is a key to this team.”

Campbell said. “Whenever I get in the game, I can take advantage of my opportunities.”

The taste of hitting offered on special teams eventually swayed Campbell to flip his role on the Irish squad to the other side of the ball completely. And though Campbell saw the field only 12 minutes in 2003 as a reserve corner often hindered by injury, first-year defensive backs coach Steven Wilks feels a big role for Campbell has given the coach more options this season.

“I’ve seen (physical play) in Carlos several times,” Wilks said. “Throughout fall camp and last spring, he is physical. The one thing we’ve talked about with our whole secondary is just being consistent. And that’s the reason we put him into the boundary. That’s a guy that can be a boundary corner. We are able to roll him up (to the line), be physical for run support and things like that.”

But Campbell’s greatest value has appeared on special teams where Notre Dame has struggled but relies on veterans like the Hampton, Va. native to prevent breakdowns.

“He’s a very important part of our special teams, particularly at gunner in gunner control on punt return teams,” Wilks said. “Those two (gunner) positions are very important to what we’re trying to do, and you’ve got to have guys with speed to plays those positions so no question.”

Regardless of the position he is listed at, Campbell — and coaches — know he has speed. The senior also competes on the Irish track and field team as a sprinter, posting a 2004 indoor best of 1.27.22 in the 60-meter dash last season.

“He also adds a lot of speed.” Wilks said. “He’s a track guy, as well, so I think he has a little bit of both, to be a boundary and field corner and a gunner.”

Campbell displayed his speed on the big scene in 2003 when he returned a fourth quarter Boston College fumble for a touchdown. Notre Dame would lose the game — its first loss of the season — but the play represented the epitome of Campbell’s college career.

“I would say my sophomore year was most memorable,” coming in with the new coach then going in winning eight straight games (including being on the verge of winning a championship,” Campbell said. “Of course, it didn’t end like we wanted it to, but that’s the year I’ll probably most remember.”

Save a few big plays, Campbell feels he did not accomplish the goals he had set coming in as freshman. All the same, the senior has no regrets heading into his final game at Notre Dame Stadium against Pittsburgh on Saturday.

“Things happen for a reason,” Campbell said. “Of course, I didn’t have the career I wanted to have, but I don’t think I had a bad one either. There was always an injury here or there or something like that, but I have no regrets about anything.”

Head coach Tyrone Willingham said the loss of Campbell and his classmates, as it happens every year to a group of seniors, is not cause for depression. Instead, it is an indelible ritual of college football.

“It’s one of those special acts that take place in college football that you don’t get any place else,” Willingham said. “That you get to have guys sometimes with four, five years and then to see them go off and hopefully on to pro careers and beneficial to them and their families.

“It really doesn’t hurt. It’s a joyous moment.”

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Sunday, November 14, 2004
The Observer • IRISH INSIDER page 19
Mary Kate Ryan

Four positions and three coaching changes later, Jerome Collins has found a home on the football field.

Collins has endured numerous changes in his nine years at Notre Dame. But this year, he finds himself back in the starting lineup.

"I feel like (tight end) is definitely a home for me," said Collins.

Coming into this season, Collins had played 24 games and recorded 10 tackles, including eight solos. But now, the fifth-year senior is a tight end.

"I asked coach Willingham a couple times if I could move to tight end position," Collins said. "And then at the end of last semester, he asked if I still wanted to play tight end, and I said yes."

Irish tight ends Denbrock and Freeman have been the starting tight ends for most of the season. But with Denbrock out, Collins has taken over as the starter.

"I think naturally, he's a little bit more comfortable at the tight end position," said Collins.

Denbrock said, "But I think it's just an example of self-sacrifice for the betterment of the team. I think he hit the bullet for a couple years and helped us in a position that we needed him."

"It's been frustrating, only because I'm the most comfortable doing it," Collins said. "It comes naturally to me, playing offense and getting the ball in my hands and blocking."

"I feel like it's definitely a home for me," said Collins.

I Irish quarterback Brady Quinn throws a pass in the direction of Irish tight end Jerome Collins during Notre Dame's game against Stanford. Collins has been one of many prolific tight ends in Notre Dame's offense this season. 

"I think he's got a chance to play in the NFL," said Collins. "I think it's time for me to play in tight end.

"I feel like we're all pretty smart guys. So I think we can pick up stuff pretty quick. But I think sometimes it's overwhelming because you get comfortable with one thing and then you have to do something totally different. It always takes a little while to get things going again, but it's not that difficult."

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Justin Tuck

Justin Tuck made history this season, breaking the Notre Dame career sack record against Tennessee. His 23.5 sacks at the time broke the record that was held by Kory Minor, and Tuck would later add another sack to increase his mark.

The defensive lineman from Kellyton, Ala., was ignored by large SEC schools and has been an absolute force since he first came to Notre Dame. Tuck's 6-foot-5, 260-pound frame has been nothing less than a challenge for opponents to block this season. Irish opponents have often been forced to double or triple team Tuck, allowing other members of the Irish defense to pressure opposing quarterbacks.

Tuck has the choice to return to the Irish in 2005 as a fifth-year senior.

D.J. Fitzpatrick

Former walk-on D.J. Fitzpatrick has come out of nowhere to be one of the most-consistent members of Notre Dame's special teams this season. Fitzpatrick first saw action in 2003, after starting kicker and punter Nicholas Setta went down with a season-ending injury.

A local product, from Marian High School in Granger, Fitzpatrick has a 75-percent (9-for-12) success rate on field goals this season, and a punting average of 42.3 yards per kick. Fitzpatrick has proven reliable in clutch situations, including a last-minute field goal to beat Navy in 2003.

Brandon Hoyte

Brandon Hoyte's not your typical football player. In addition to his role as one of the team's most-punishing hitters, Hoyte has found time to write and recite poetry and to participate in community service events.

The linebacker has been responsible for the injury of not just one, but two, quarterbacks so far. BYU quarterback Matt Berry was sacked by Hoyte and was forced to leave the game. And Saturday, Hoyte's hit on Tennessee quarterback Erik Ainge knocked the freshman out of the game and might have helped the Irish pull off the upset against No. 9 Tennessee.

Hoyte had large shoes to fill in 2003, being forced into action as a replacement for Mike Goolsby — who would be the entire season with an injury. But Hoyte blossomed, finishing the year with 74 tackles including 7.5 for a loss. He also recovered a fumble, forced a fumble and broke up two passes.

This season, Hoyte has joined with linebackers Goolsby and Derek Curry to lead one of the nation's stingiest rush defenses. Hoyte's current mark of 60 tackles is second on the team.

Hoyte should return in 2005 and be one of the defense's biggest senior leaders.

Pat Dillingham

A former walk-on, Pat Dillingham has proven himself a serviceable backup quarterback the past two seasons. Dillingham has seen limited action in 2004, but has been successful in the four games in which he has participated. The Portola Valley, Calif., native has completed all three passes he's attempted this season, good for 28 yards. He saw minimal action against Stanford after an injury knocked starter Brady Quinn out for the last few minutes of the fourth quarter.

Dillingham has two wins to his credit, including a 2002 miracle over Michigan State. If he returns, he will serve as Quinn's backup again.

Mark LeVoir

One of the team's veteran linemen, Mark LeVoir has latched on as the starter at right tackle. After missing the last four weeks of 2004 practice with an injury, he has bounced back and been one of the team's top linemen this season.

In 2003, LeVoir started all 12 games at left guard, and led the team in playing time with 311 minutes, 48 seconds. The Eden Prairie, Minn., native was a first-team pick on the USA Today All-America team. He was a successful tight end in high school, but has blossomed in his position to offensive tackle when he arrived at Notre Dame as a freshman.

LeVoir should return in 2005 as one of the team's most-experienced linemen.

Corey Mays

Corey Mays has proved himself as one of the team's most reliable special teams players, seeing action as a backup linebacker capable of playing all three positions.

Mays has 12 tackles in nine games so far during the 2004 season, with the bulk of those coming on special teams. He played in 12 games in the 2003 season, finishing 10th on the team with 26 tackles. He also collected a sack, two blocked kicks, a fumble recovery and a forced fumble.

If Mays decides to return, he should be a competitor for one of the linebacker spots left by graduating seniors Mike Goolsby and Derek Curry.

Josh Schmidt

Irish fullback Josh Schmidt went from a successful interhall football player for Zahn to a walk-on that saw significant action in 2003 and this season.

Schmidt proved himself as a receiving threat out of the backfield last season, collecting 13 passes for 125 yards. He also was serviceable as a blocker for the Irish running backs.

The Notre Dame rushing attack in 2004 has used the tight end as the primary blocker more often than the fullback, limiting Schmidt's playing time. He has caught one pass for 14 yards.

Schmidt has the option to return for a fifth-year in 2005.
Darin Mitchell
Darin Mitchell came into the 2004 season as a player whose role was expected to be bigger, but that outcome has not materialized.

The veteran offensive lineman was a reserve guard his first two seasons, and has continued in that role for the 2004 season. Mitchell has made one start in his career, filling in for an injured Sean Milligan against Michigan State in 2003.

Because the Irish are not losing many linemen, and because of the emergence of young players like Ryan Harris, Mitchell might not see much action if he returns next season.

Zachary Giles
Zachary Giles has spent most of the 2004 season as the backup center behind John Sullivan. Giles played in six games in 2003, starting one game (against Michigan State) and finishing the Florida State game at center after an injury to starting center Rob Morton.

Giles, from Mansfield, Mass., was a Parade All-American and a second team on the USA Today prep All-American team, but has not yet clicked in the Irish starting line.

With Sullivan returning, it might be difficult for Giles to find playing time at center if he decides to return for 2005.

Lionel Bolen

Lionel Bolen has been a versatile depth player thus far during his Irish career. He is capable of playing either the defensive end or defensive tackle position.

Bolen played in 11 games in 2003 and started against Illinois State. He was credited with 12 tackles, including an assist on a tackle for a loss.

The 6-foot, 210-pound Bolen was a versatile athlete in high school, averaging 12 points and helping his team to the state championship game.

If he has an option to return in 2005.

Brian Beidatsch

Brian Beidatsch has been a versatile depth player for the Irish this season.

He has made one tackle so far in 2004, in five games. Beidatsch played in nine games in 2003, making five tackles and recording a fumble as a senior high school player at Marquette High School in Milwaukee, Wis., he made 100 tackles and 15 sacks.

He has an option to return in 2005.

Jeff Thompson

Offensive lineman Jeff Thompson has shown himself to be a versatile player who can play guard or center, and has served well in a backup role for the Irish this season.

Thompson is a local product, a daytime high school football at Pen High School in Mishawaka, and helping his team to the class 5A state title. Thompson has seen action in two games in his Irish career, in addition to making one special teams appearance.

Thompson has an option to return for a fifth year.

Irish offensive lineman Dan Stevenson blocks for quarterback Brady Quinn in Notre Dame's game against Stanford.

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RASHON POWERS-Neal
Irish fullback Rashon Powers-Neal has shown himself to be a versatile back so far this season. The 6-foot-2, 243-pound bruiser has been used in short-yardage situations in addition to his usual role as a blocking fullback.

Powers-Neal has also been one of the team's more-consistent receivers out of the backfield, leading all backs with eight catches for 51 yards. The speedy wide receiver has played larger than his 6-foo1: 175-pound frame, showing a fearless threat when going up against bigger, athlet­ically superior backfie1d players.

Powers-Neal should return in 2005 to give the Irish an additional option on offense, both when running and when passing.

MATT SHELTON

Irish receiver Matt Shelton may not look like it, but he's one of the fastest players on the team. He has made use of that speed this season, leading the team with 14 catches for 377 yards, proving himself an equally capable threat when running a quick hitch route.

Shelton has been used as a kickoff returner, hoping to give the Irish breakaway speed on special teams.

Shelton played in all 12 games of the 2003 season, particularly on special teams. He caught three passes for 80 yards and scored a touchdown against Michigan.

The speedy wide receiver has played larger than his 6-foot, 175-pound frame, showing a fearlessness when going up against bigger, athletically superior backfield players.

Shelton should return in 2005 as a serious deep threat for the Irish.

Irish wide receiver Matt Shelton catches a touchdown pass against Michigan.
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NORTHERN LIGHTS

Photo Illustration by JHI
AHRNK3
Thorlakson, Tancredi and Chapman lead the Irish into the NCAA tournament

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

Going into the NCAA tournament, the Irish will be looking to the trio of Melissa Thorlakson, Candace Chapman and Melissa Tancredi to play an integral role in the success of the team's postsea­son run.

Canadians Katn Thorlakson, Candace Chapman and Melissa Tancredi have each played pivotal roles in Notre Dame's 19-1-1 season. Irish coach Randy Waldrum said the Canadian trio has been an important ingredient for the team's achievements.

"They have been a key to our success," Waldrum said. "We are a team loaded with talent, but we'd certainly be different without those three."

Earlier this year, the Irish were faced with the possibility of losing Thorlakson for three weeks.

Thorlakson needed to make the decision of leaving the team to play for the Under-19 national Canadian team. Her participation in the Under-19 World Championships would have caused her to miss the first three rounds of the NCAA Championships.

Thorlakson chose to remain playing for Notre Dame, drawing on the team's close-knit dynamic to make her decision.

"It was a hard decision," Thorlakson said. "But I just thought that our team was more like family."

Thorlakson has made her coaches and teammates proud this season by leading Notre Dame's cohesive unit offensively all season and putting herself in a position to win the Hermann Trophy award where she is a finalist for the best women's soccer player in the country.

She began the season with a record-setting performance against BYU by being the first Irish player ever to score or assist on the first five goals in a game.

She hasn't slowed down since.

Additionally, Waldrum says Thorlakson brings a sense of team-oriented play to the field, helping her teammates shine in the spotlight instead of adding a goal to her already impressive career.

"Most of the players who are scoring goals are just scoring goals and not really getting the assists," Waldrum said. "She [Thorlakson] brings so many other people into the game, and it is really rare that you will see somebody get double digits in goals and assists. She has taken upon herself to be that leader, that goal scorer for the team. Not only that, but tremendous with that.

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. After the impressive performance against BYU in this past weekend's three Big East offensive player of the week awards and the Big East offensive player of the year honor as well. However, adding to her already impres­sive list of awards this season has been Thorlakson's prim­ary focus.

It is nice to get the recognition for playing hard, but it is just one step in the road to get the national championship," Thorlakson said.

Thorlakson's senior defender Tancredi is also expected to play a crucial role in leading the team to make a run at a national championship.

In addition to being a finalist for the Hermann Trophy award, Tancredi also earned her second consecutive Big East defensive player of the year. Thorlakson described her teammate Tancredi as a cornerstone of the Irish defense.

"Our defense is so good this year and Tancredi is such a big part of that," Thorlakson said. "We don't have to do as much work because we know she is back there taking care of it for us."

Waldrum agreed.

She separated herself last year from the rest of the pack in the conference, and it is no different this year. But this isn't just in the Big East. We haven't seen a person as dominant in the rest of the country as Melissa has been for us," Waldrum said. "She is so good in the air that the ball does not spend a lot of time in the defensive end. She quickly gets the ball into the attack and it makes the game from being a full field game, 115 yards to a 60 or 70-yard game."

In addition to the dominance she brings to the backfield, Tancredi serves as a mentor for the team as she was selected as one of the tri-captains for the 2004 season.

Another mentor for the team is Chapman who came back from an ACL injury that caused her to miss the entire 2003 season.

Prior to the injury, Chapman was already a freshman All-American player and had earned the 2002 Big East defensive player of the year award.

The year, Waldrum moved Chapman to the forward position, where she has turned into one of the team's top offensive players.

"Our mindset was that if we can get her back, let's get her into the attacking end of the field because she is such a dangerous player and such a good athlete," Waldrum said.

"She can strike the ball with both feet so well that we knew she could score goals for us. She adds a whole new dimension offensively that our teams probably aren't prepared for because they expected her in the back."

One of Chapman's top performances this season came during the 3-1 victory over Virginia Tech Nov. 10.

"We were playing in a cold, windy game and we weren't playing our best," Chapman said. "But that was a big win for us."

Chapman scored twice for the Irish. This match served as a culmination to all of her success at that point in the season because she already had scored eight goals during the season in just five games, including three two-goal games.

"She is a huge strength because she is going to work hard for every ball and she is so physical in her plays," Tancredi said. "If you need her, she will play in the back, and she can play up front. You can put her anywhere and know she will have an impact in the game."

However, the Irish believe the team puts pressure on the ball no matter where an opposing player tries to attack.

"We see it as a whole unit," Tancredi said. "We have all the skill, we have all the finesse, we have all the athleticism, we just have to put it all together and focus.

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Cliches are a journalist's nightmare. As the type of people who are supposed to have some creative ability in the realm of the written word, we sports writers get our jollies from the creative sound byte. Muhammed Ali, Dennis Rodman and Shaquille O'Neal are notable wellsprings of quotable gold.

So when several team members told me early in the season that they were just "taking one game at a time," I nodded, smiled and tried to rephrase the question to get a different answer.

But when that same axiom kept rearing its head week after week, even from the coach, I was beginning to doubt my ability to ask an effective question.

The realization soon dawned on me that the generic answers were not a result of bored interviewees (or so I hoped) but rather the product of a team which knows first-hand the dangers of looking ahead.

The ghosts of the 2003 meltdown still haunt Notre Dame. Last year, the Irish reached the heights of a No. 2 ranking with an 18-0-1 record during the regular season only to tragically falter in three of their last five games. A Big East semifinal loss to Boston College and two losses to Michigan, once in the regular season finale and again to end the season in the second round of the NCAA tournament, left Notre Dame with no titles and only bitter memories of an otherwise sweet season.

Therefore, "take one game at a time" became the team's mantra for the 2004 season. To safeguard against a letdown, coach Randy Waldrum broke down the season into small chunks, the non-conference games, the Big East conference schedule and finally the post-season. Each of those chunks, the non-conference games especially, is the realm of the written word, we have no control over.

Still similarly, in their two postseason losses last year, the Irish only allowed four total shots on goal but three found the back of the net. The Notre Dame offense provided little support, only combining for two goals in the three games.

The Irish stars will have to step up to turn this trend around. The post-season is the time when National Player of the Year candidates Katie Thorlakson and Melissa Tancredi need to back up those nominations. They need to be the first to embrace the challenge put before them and set an example for rest of their teammates.

After all the regular season success, this team is under tremendous pressure to win and to avenge last year's failure. The stars and the leaders are the ones who can turn that pressure into an equally large opportunity, a chance to show the nation the extent of their greatness.

This is change for the Irish to be great, but they can't look past anyone. They should just go out there and have fun, remembering that there's no "I" in the word "team" but only as long as they take one game at a time.

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The Top 16

By Matt Mooney

Midfielder Jen Buczkowski dribbles by one defender and prepares to take on another during a game this season against Eastern Illinois.

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One win six times equals one championship

The Junior Duo of Christine Sinclair and Lindsey Hale are both finalists for the Year Keeley Dowling to move up.

Photo

Matt Mooney

Sports Writer

Midfielder Jen Buczkowski dribbles by one defender and prepares to take on another during a game this season against Eastern Illinois.

The Top 16

No. 1 North Carolina (17-0-2)

The defending national champs still have the top seed despite failing to win the ACC championship for the first time in 15 years.

No. 2 Penn State (19-2-1)

The Nittany Lions lost the Big Ten championship game to Ohio State, but they have instant offense in junior forward Tiffany Weisler (25 goals, 11 assists).

No. 3 Virginia (15-2-2)

By ousting the Tar Heels in an overtime shootout for their first ACC Championship, the Cavaliers proved they can win the big, close game.

No. 4 Notre Dame (19-1-1)

The Irish look to exorcise the demons of their second-round loss in last year's NCAA tournament. Notre Dame lost the Big East Championship to Connecticut.

No. 5 Portland (17-3-0)

The junior duo of Christine Sinclair and Lindsey Hale are both finalists for the Year Keeley Dowling to move up.

No. 6 Ohio State (16-3-3)

Midfielder Jen Buczkowski dribbles by one defender and prepares to take on another during a game this season against Eastern Illinois.

No. 7 Princeton (15-2-0)

It was a banner year for the Tigers, settling a school record for wins (15) and becoming the first Princeton team in history to have a perfect league record (7-0-0).

No. 8 Kansas (17-4-0)

The Jayhawks gave up two goals in their 1-2 Big 12 semifinal loss marking the first time a team allowed more than one goal in a game this season.

No. 9 Texas A&M (17-6-0)

The Aggies have their highest NCAA Tournament seed level yet, following their Big 12 Championship win over Texas in a 3-0 shutout.

No. 10 Florida (16-3-3)

The SEC champion Gators have plenty of Pac-10 game experience. Florida played in six overtime games this year with a 2-1-3 record in those games.

No. 11 Tennessee (15-4-2)

The Volunteers lost to Florida in the SEC Championship game, but have a SEC Defensive Player of the Year Keeley Dowling to secure the back line.

No. 12 Texas (13-6-2)

The Longhorns' biggest win of the season came on Oct. 3, when they upset then-No. 6 Kansas in a 1-0 double overtime thriller.

No. 13 Arizona (15-5-0)

The Pac-10 champions are making their first ever appearance in the NCAA tournament in program history.

No. 14 UCLA (13-6-5)

UCLA upset the Pac-10 Championship with Arizona. The Bruins have a 1-2 record against higher seeded teams.

No. 15 Washington (14-4-3)

Washington flew out of the gate with an 8-0-1 start but only finished 6-4 in its last 10 regular season games.

No. 16 Santa Clara (14-4-2)

The Broncos started the season ranked third in the country, as co-WCC champions, they finished the season with seven straight wins.
lyphs, trying to look ahead, think about the weekend. We’re bounced our perfect week, and we want to make sure that happens again," she said. "That’s constantly running through our minds. I’ll stick with us and help us to play harder so it won’t happen again.

Eastern Illinois, a team familiar with playing in South Bend, will be first to test that commitment. Notre Dame hosted the Panthers in its second game of the season, a contest the Irish won easily by a 3-0 margin. Eastern Illinois struggled against the Notre Dame back line and only managed one shot-on-goal. Meanwhile, the Irish offense piled up 23 shots on goal as Gwendolyn Chapman, Jen Buczczkowski and Annie Schefter all scored a goal apiece.

But for some players, the early season is a distant memory compared to where they are now. "A game like Eastern Illinois was so long ago that we kind of forget," Schefter said. "Honestly, it’s kind of like we never even played them. I couldn’t tell you who we played three weeks ago." As for the present, the four teams playing in South Bend have a higher combined win total than any other site. Waldrum refuses to underestimate any team, regardless of previous matchups. "Obviously they went on to have a pretty good year again, winning their conference." The one thing that we’ve tried to emphasize to the kids is that they’ve now been in the tournament four years in a row," he said. "Each year you’ve put in it you gain more experience, and you learn to handle it a little bit better. I don’t think it’s going to be that easy of a time for us."

Now that the Irish are entering their last stage of the season, there is a tension as players try to stay focused in the present while still maintaining the drive to achieve their larger goals.

"We know that we would have a team that was qualified and capable of winning a title," Schefter said. "Players are fitting together and if it doesn’t end up that we win a championship everyone will be very disappointed."

Meanwhile, the coaches continue to stress that the focus must remain on the game at hand to prevent a letdown similar to the 2003 postseason. "We just have to take each game and go from there, win each game and keep going," Tulisiak said. "Coach is always saying that, every practice, every game, all the time. It’s always running through our heads."

The winner of tonight’s game will advance to the second round on Sunday against the winner of the Dayton-Wisconsin game. The first two rounds of competition for these four teams will all be played at Alumni Field.

Contact Matt Mooney at mmooney@nd.edu

Observer File Photo

Defender Kim Lorenzen fights off an Eastern Illinois player for possession of the ball when the Irish played the Panthers earlier this season.

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**Notre Dame Region**

**SOUTH BEND, IND.**

**No. 4 Notre Dame (19-1-1)**

The Irish are coming off a 2-1 loss to UConn in the Big East Championship.

**Eastern Illinois (13-5-2)**

The Panthers were dealt a 3-0 loss by the Irish earlier this season.

**Wisconsin (15-5-1)**

This will be the Badgers 13th appearance in the tournament.

**Dayton (20-3-0)**

The Flyers hold the nation’s longest winning streak with 20 straight wins.

**STORRS, CONN.**

**No. 13 Arizona (16-6-1)**

The Wildcats have never been to the NCAA tournament before.

**Colgate (12-6-2)**

The Raiders are entering the tournament with a victory over No. 7 Princeton.

**Harvard (8-6-2)**

The Crimson are one of three Ivy League schools in the tournament.

**Connecticut (16-6-1)**

The Huskies just recently upset the No. 4 Irish 2-1 to claim the Big East title.

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**PORTLAND, ORE.**

**No. 5 Portland (17-3-0)**

The Pilots have two players up for the Hermann Trophy this season.

**Weber St. (8-9-2)**

This will be the Wildcats first appearance in the tournament.

**Colorado (12-5-2)**

The Buffaloes were defeated last season at the 16th seed.

**Utah (13-5-3)**

The Utes lost to the Buffaloes 1-0 on Sept. 12.

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**AUSTIN, TEXAS**

**No. 12 Texas (13-6-2)**

The Longhorns are one of five teams representing the Big 12.

**North Texas (15-5-1)**

This is the Mean Green’s first appearance in the NCAA tournament.

**Southern Methodist (15-3-3)**

The Mustangs are coming straight off their fourth consecutive conference title.

**West Virginia (14-5-1)**

Last season, the Mountaineers reached the round of 16.