New TCE proposal gains support

Students, faculty express positive sentiment

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

One semester after faculty and students clashed over publication of teacher course evaluations and ultimately failed to reconcile their differences, the two groups appear to be back on track — due to a new course evaluation proposal that promises to satisfy both sides.

The new plan, proposed by associate provost Demim Jacobs this fall, calls for the University to create a reporting mechanism, entirely apart from the TCEs, for students to provide other students with information and assessment of classes.

“T he TCEs by themselves do not adequately capture teaching...If the measures we have are unreliable, then we can’t make advances in any real way,” Jacobs said.

Student government’s previous proposal to publish the actual data compiled from the TCEs recognized that need, but ran into trouble when faculty — concerned about publishing information used for sensitive decisions on tenure and promotion — voted it down last spring.

Throughout this semester, Jacobs and student leaders led efforts to develop a course review mechanism for students.

College remains on alert

By ANGELA SAOUDE
Saint Mary’s Editor

A report saying that at least one cab driver has been soliciting Saint Mary’s students to pose for pictures in a hotel room remains under investigation, a College official said Thursday.

On Nov. 11, students at Saint Mary’s received an email from Linda Timm, vice president of Student Affairs, warning them of the situation. The email stated that a student or students had reported the solicitation to Saint Mary’s security after being offered a “significant and intentionally enticing” amount of money to pose for photographs in a hotel room.

According to College spokesperson Melanie McDonald, various agencies in the community are working together to investigate the matter.

ND welcomes basketball season

By PETER LEAHY
News Writer

For Notre Dame students discouraged by the performance of this year’s football team, watching basketball may present a remedy for that disappointment.

This year’s team returns nine monogram winners including four starters who will play in tonight’s season opener in the Joyce Center against Harvard.

Junior Bob Hallman said football left him disappointed but was hopeful about the upcoming basketball season.

“I expect Notre Dame basketball to generate that winning feeling left void during the fall,” he said.

“I think the basketball team’s success will largely depend on how Chris Thomas plays. I think this will be his year to shine.”

According to Hallman, the team would likely do well if it can get back to the NCAA tournament after missing out in 2003-04.

Despite the parity in the Big East, I think we have a good shot of winning the Big East title and advancing far into the tournament,” he said.

Freshman Mike Hake credited the depth of this year’s team with his hopes for the season.

“There’s like 10 guys who could start,” he said.

Campus reacts to disputed play

By K. AARON VAN COSTERHOUT
News Writer

Despite anticipated controversy, “Angels in America” flew onto campus with virtually no protest. According to director Steve Hoepflinger, this is perfectly fine.

“It wasn’t really controversy that I wanted,” he said. “I wanted people to talk.”

The performance drew modest crowds, 100 two nights ago on opening night and 139 Thursday, and stage manager Chelsea Mason expects the same tonight.

“That’s pretty typical for a student show like this,” she said.

Not at all disappointed with the turnout, Mason added, “if we’ve touched one person with this show, it’s been a success.”

Playwright Tony Kushner’s most well-known work, “Angels” presents the tale of four men and one woman in 1980s New York City, all battling various inner demons. The four men also happen to be homosexual.

“Coming from a Catholic school background, you don’t ever really know about homosexuality,” said junior Mark Huberty at the intermission of Thursday’s performance.

“I think it’s extremely powerful.”

White delivers address

By KELLY MEEHAN
News Writer

Saint Mary’s student body president Sarah Catherine White delivered the annual “State of the School” speech on Monday.

White began her address to students, faculty and administrators by giving a brief history of the initiation of the Student Government Association in 1935 by former College president Sister Madeleva. Madeleva began student government after she recognized students need for self-representation.

“The creation of student government helped redefine the Saint Mary’s woman who does not shy away from the world around her,” White said.

White recalled the goals that she and student body vice president Mary Pauline Moran created last semester after winning the student body president election.

They aimed to welcome College President Carol Mooney to campus, make service opportunities more available to the student body, and to oversee the building and opening of Opus Hall and the new student center.

To welcome the new president, White started “Dessert with Dr. Mooney” in which each residence hall welcomed the new president for a Sunday evening of desserts and discussion. This event has occurred in each residence hall, with the final “Dessert...
INSIDE COLUMN

‘Winning,’ off the field

Notre Dame Stadium has always been a place where dreams fade or dreams are made. And on that sun-drenched Sunday afternoon, a dream was put away for another fall for the Cavanagh interhall football team. After a seaso-

ning starting at the top and ending first in the polls, there was only goal left unfinished—brin-
ging the covered title home to the North (Quad. Disappointing? Yes. Devastating? Almost. But demeaning? Never. Because the team went out there before hun-
dreds of fans (and a band with a half-
time show) and played a hard-fought game and learned a few lessons along the rocky road that is the interhall women’s season.

And at the end of the day, without tro-

phty but brimming with pride, we look back and remember the reasons that interhall football really is what Notre Dame is all about.

My parents probably never thought they would raise a daughter who would run through the tunnel with Touchdown Jesus arms in the air, but who would take the field with 50 teammates and the entire cheering with passion unival-

ued by any football Saturday.

OK, so I’m more lucky than the Rocket, but I did have a number of fans yelling my name and one verified jersey-chaser. I didn’t have a golden helmet which is convenient, as the last thing I want in a postgame photo is helmet hair but I did have a lovely set of flaps and a green T-shirt that I wear with unqualified pride.

So we lost. After spending last week chalking the sidewalks in front of DeBartolo and having fun with glass-
cutting markers, it’s time to once again take to the field. But there are wonderful moments over my past two seasons that deserve a moment of reflection.

On the field, I’ve realized that football isn’t just as easy as it looks — and we’re not even required to make tackles. I’ve seen that fourth-and-inches is possi-

ble the most stressful time for any team, offense or defense. I learned that putting your trust in your teammates — and yourself — is probably one of the hard-

ed things to ask of yourself.

But the off-field lessons are just as valuable. As post-victory parties, I learned that life is not always what it seems, that a Suburban can’t always carry as many people as you think it would, and that a ruler is a very, very loud. I’ve been inspired by a number of e-

mails from our head coach, Lou Perry, who will forever be “Coach Lou.” He learned that in the defensive huddle, anything and everything is fair game for a cheer. I saw that your less friends will always be on the sidelines cheering you on and that there’s really nothing as flat-
ten as a glass jersey.

But most of all, I learned there’s noth-

ing like a team to bring people together. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have been on a team that made it to the Super-

bowl, but I count myself much luckier for having such an amazing group of teammates and coaches. We’ll miss some ridiculously talented seniors but for the rest of us — there’s always next year.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

Due to an editing error, a graphic in the Nov. 8 issue of The Observer misprinted the first name of Condesores Rice. The correct spelling was in the accompanying story. The Observer regrets the error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TEACHER COURSE EVALUATIONS?

Alex Ren fro freshm an Alumni

Brandy Ellison graduate student

Brenda Osetinsky sophomore McGl an

Danny Richter seniorKeough

Josh Hoen sophomore Stanfor d

Kurt Yeasted seniorZahm

“I never knew it was such a hot issue.”

“I’m teaching assistant so I tone my TCEs very seriously.”

“I’m the freaky overachiever who stays after 20 minutes finishing.”

“I try and treat them fairly seriously, but I don’t know put much faith in how much good they’re gonna do.”

“What’s a TCE?”

“I thought I was done with bubble tests when I took the TCE.”

Students in the class “Technology, Nature and Death: The Problem of Antigone” lay on the ground in front of DeBartolo Hall Thursday in an effort to draw attention to their class. Other students passed out fliers explaining the project.

OFFBEAT

Bill Gates gets 4 million e-mails a day

SINGAPORE — Bill Gates might not use AOL, but he’s definitely got mail. The Microsoft Corp.

chairman receives mill-

ions of Internet messages a day, said Steve Ballmer, the company’s chief execu-

tive. “Bill literally receives 4 million pieces of e-mail per day, most of it spam,” Ballmer said Thursday.

Spam or junk e-mails are unsolicited messages, generally advertising goods or services and usu-

ally sent to many e-mail accounts simultaneously.

Ballmer said Microsoft has special technology that just filters spam intended for Gates. In addition, several Microsoft employees are dedicated to ensuring that nothing unwanted gets into his inbox. “Literally there’s a whole department almost that takes care of it,” he said.

Bill Gates is considered perhaps the most generous man in the world and is well-known for his work with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

“Given an opportunity first to apologize for their behavior and help with the cleanup, most of the class refused to coopera-

t,” school spokesman Vince Mcgaskill said.

The food fight broke out Wednesday at Geeter Middle School, which has 637 students in grades six through eight. Meat loaf and chicken were on the menu.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

Notre Dame alumni Mark Lang and Nadina Bembi will give a music performance today as part of the Center for Ethics and Culture’s Ephiphanies of Beauty confer-

cy today from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom.

The Student Union Board will sponsor two showings of "The Bourne Supremacy" today at 8 and 10:30 p.m. in 101 DeBartolo Hall.

Stanford Hall will host its "Benefit Bash" from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. today in Ball's Aquatic Center. Events will include knockout basketball, a hockey shoot-out and acoustic music, and all pro-

ceeds will benefit Hogar Santiago, an orphanage in Chile.

The Kellogg Institute will sponsor a conference on "Reforming the State in Mexico: The Challenge after Fox and NAFTA" today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in C-103 Hesburgh Center and the Hesburgh Center Auditorium.

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will present its fall concert today from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The men’s basketball team will play its home opener against Harvard University tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detai1ed information about an event to observers@nd.edu.
Conference to address listening techniques

By MEGAN O'NEIL
News Writer

As part of its commitment to interfaith dialogue, the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) is hosting a two-day conference this weekend at Saint Mary's titled "Called to be Compassionate Listeners."

Two prominent figures in the field, Leah Green and Linda Wolf, will serve as facilitators for the workshops. The event, part of a CWIL program called "Living as Women of Faith," will focus on the importance of compassionate listening and the techniques one should utilize in order to be a conscious listener.

Green founded and serves as the director of The Compassionate Listening Project, a program which focuses largely on the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. She has led 16 citizen delegations to Middle Eastern hot spots.

Wolf, the author of numerous books, is the founder and director of The Teen Talking books, is the founder and director of the workshops. "The main objective is not just to repair the water pumps but, most importantly, to train the locals on how to repair these pumps themselves, Silliman said. Before returning, the group will leave the Haitians with tools to continue making these repairs and the skills to help their community maintain their source of safe drinking water.

In addition, when in Haiti, the students and Silliman will stay in housing provided by OMS, a missionary group with a significant component in Cape Haitien. OMS also provides the group with all their food and water. In addition to allowing them the use of vehicles, ensuring the students safe food and transportation while they are there.

The program prides itself not only on the repair of India Mark II pumps and the training given to the locals but also on the opportunities it gives students to experience life in Haiti, interact with the Haitians and finally, live their faith.

There will be an information session regarding this seminar in the next few weeks, and applications will be due soon afterwards. Students will be notified about the program in December or January.

In addition to Silliman's service project, there are a number of other professors and organizations on campus who have extended their efforts to help the people of Haiti. Kenneth Filchak, for example, has gotten his freshmen involved in raising money through Lifesaver sales. "Haiti is the poorest country in the hemisphere and so, with the freshmen, I started our own charity to try to win support," Filchak said.

Filchak went out and bought 200 pounds of Lifesavers and asked his students if they wanted to raise money for Haiti. "The hook with the lifesavers is that $20 will save a life in Haiti," Filchak said. Filchak makes it a point that his students know this fundraising is not part of the class. However, even with no extra credit offered, Filchak has raised about $2,500 over the past two years with the help of his students.

Contact Tricia deGroot at pdegroot@nd.edu
Angels continued from page 1

erful, in that it conveys a message of tolerance.

In order to convey this message, how­ever, Kushner included some explicit content. In one scene, character Louis Professor in the film, television and theatre

Kushner included some explicit

goodness to the world whether we endorse it or not.

Some might argue, however, that many things happen in the world that should not be depicted on stage.

In "Angels," case, sophomore Chloe Bevkasr disagreed.

It's controversial, of course, but I think it's necessary here at Notre Dame," she said. "Open dialogue is

get to the Sweet 16 it would be a disappoiintment," Hatke said. "I think there's too much talent not to get that far. We are usually one of the top teams in the country."

Sophomore Kristine Nosek shared Hatke's excitement for the season.

"I'm pumped. I'm excited, I'm psyched," Nosek said. "But despite her optimism, Nosek said she felt guarded optimism about the upcoming season.

"I think we'll get to the NCAA tourna­
mment, but I don't think we're gonna get to the Final Four or anything." she said.

Basketball continued from page 1

Unlike Hallman, Hatke said he expected we should get to the Sweet 16, 100 percent. "I think we should get to the Sweet 16," he said. "If we really come together we could make the Final Four.

Hatke said reaching the Sweet 16, rather than winning the Big East would be the mark of a successful season this year.

"With all the talent we have, if we don't get to the Sweet 16 it would be a disappointment," Hatke said. "I think there's too much talent not to get that far. We are usually one of the top 16 teams in the country."

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IRAQ

U.S. troops discover Iraqi command center

Associated Press

BAGHDAD—U.S. troops sweeping through Fallujah on Thursday found what appeared to be a command center used by followers of Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and a U.S. general expressed confidence the battle for the city has "broken the back of the insur­
gency."

A separate raid near the suspected command center uncovered a bomb-making workshop where an SUV reg­istered in Texas was being converted into a car bomb and a classroom that held flight plans and instructions on shooting down planes, according to a CNN crew embedded with the U.S. Army.

Gunbattles still flared in Fallujah as troops hunted holdout insurgents five days after the military said its forces had occupied the entire city. An entire city 40 miles west of Baghdad, one U.S. Marine and one Iraqi soldier were killed, U.S. officials said.

At a base outside Fallujah, Lt. Gen. John Sattler, com­

mander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force said, the U.S. casualty toll in the Fallujah offensive stood at 31 dead and about 425 wounded. An estimated 1,200 insur­
genents have been killed, with about 1,025 enemy fighters detained by the military says.

Sattler told reporters he felt the U.S.-led attack on the city had dealt a serious blow to the insurgency.

"We feel right now that we have, as I mentioned, broken the back of the insurgency. We've taken away this safe haven," Sattler said, adding that insurgents had scattered elsewhere in Iraq where they lacked the resources available in Fallujah.

Iraqi authorities, mean­while, said they arrested 104 suspected insurgents in a raid in Baghdad including nine who had fled Fallujah.

However, insurgents struck back elsewhere in volatile Sunni Muslim areas.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.N. wants to fight drug traffickers

WASHINGTON — heroin production is booming in Afghanistan, undermining democracy and putting money in the coffers of terrorists, according to a U.N. report Thursday that called on the U.S. and NATO-led forces to get more involved in fighting drug traffickers.

"Fighting narcotics is equivalent to fighting terrorism," said Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. "It would be an historical error to abandon Afghanistan to opium, right after we reclaimed it from the Taliban and Al-Qaida.

Yet while all sides agree on the goal, disputes over tactics surfaced. Afghan President Hamid Karzai called fighting the narcotics industry his "top priority," but U.S. officials have urged the government to use crop dusters, citing possible risks to the human population.

"The government of Afghanistan opposes the aerial spraying of poppy fields as an instrument of eradication," Karzai's office in Kabul said.

Annan urges warning Sudan forces

NABRO, Kenya — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday he had warned Sudanese officials to issue "the strongest warning" to all forces fighting in Sudan, saying that ending a 21-year civil war in the country's south would also help halt a humanitarian catastrophe in its Darfur region.

The council's meeting in the Kenyan capital comes amid a renewed offensive by government- and rebel-backed forces. Sudanese rebels have been fighting the government since 1983, and the western region of Darfur erupted into violence in February 2003.

LOCAL NEWS

Voting fraud key in recount

WASHINGTON — The nation's cattle industry, food processors and beef-oriented restaurant chains.

Sodrel's campaign responded to the request of Democrats for a recount in the district by claiming a "substantial number" of ineligible voters may have cast ballots in Monroe County, which Hill won by some 7,000 votes.

Possible mad cow case discovered

WASHINGTON — The government is checking a possible new case of mad cow disease, officials said Thursday, following government concerns over beef contamination from a bison.

Agriculture Department officials gave no information on the location or origin of the slaughtered animal and said results from advanced tests were not expected before four to seven days.

Ranchers and businesses dependent on beef are still feeling financial effects from the nation's only confirmed case of the fatal brain-wasting disease last December.

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Ranchers and businesses dependent on beef are still feeling financial effects from the nation's only confirmed case of the fatal brain-wasting disease last December.
Proposal
continued from page 1
exchanged dialogue on the topic, and the provost’s office eventually developed a recommendations plan. An open forum was presented at the November Faculty Senate meeting.

Students, faculty and administrators have long said they agree that it is essential to publish student feedback about classes — but diverged on how to go about it.

Rethinking undergraduate education

When Jacobs, 2001 U.S. Teacher of the Year, came to the provost’s office in August, he brought a strong background in teaching, and intended to critically examine teaching at Notre Dame. His proposal calls for new course evaluations, as just one part of a set of changes aimed to provide students with access to standardized information, including course descriptions, reading materials and learning objectives.

"The larger question is how can we help inform the process by which students select courses," Jacobs said.

At the November Faculty Senate meeting, Jacobs presented the course information initiative as well as a plan to reform teaching evaluation in the tenure process. As Staley explained, the student review plan will likely rectify many of the concerns that led Faculty Senate to reject TCE publica- tion two years ago, especially in light of teaching.

"The TCE is a very sensitive subject," Jacobs said. "It's treated with a high degree of confidentiality."

If approved, Jacobs said the mechanism would most likely include "a set of questions separate from the TCE, drafted by a committee of faculty, students and the administration specifically designed to provide students with feedback about courses and instructors."

"These TCE questions were written with a different perspective in mind," Jacobs said. "There is a set of questions that would better serve the needs of the students and for which students are well-qualified to answer."

Students would complete the survey simultaneously with the regular exam, but would receive clear information about the purpose and use of the separate questions. The data would likely be uploaded in an online format, with the provost and directors of the provost and the teacher of the course.

"The new process that complements this new survey cannot be used for the purposes of tenure," Jacobs said.

Succeeding in the long-term

When the Senate first broached the idea of TCE publication two years ago, they wanted something that would allow to choose the right courses. "It really boil down to something that students needed. You were to some extent choosing classes in a vacuum," said Trip Foley, 2002-03 student body vice president.

"It really boiled down to something that students needed. You were to some extent choosing classes in a vacuum."  

Tripp Foley 2002-2003 student body vice president
John Robinson, last year's Faculty Senate chair and current Faculty Affairs chair, said the current student review survey resolves a key flaw in the old system.

"The real purpose of TCEs is two-fold — to help the teacher become a better teacher ... and the second is normative," he said in reference to TCE use in tenure and promotion. "The best thing to do is to separate those two sets of interests.

According to Robinson, the new proposal promises to do just that.

"All we've got to do now is fine-tune it, " he added. "That Dennis [Jacobs] has hit upon the idea of a solution." In addition to the revamped proposal, faculty leaders also credited improved dialogue between students, the administration and themselves for this year's difference.

"I think we're reaching out much more of a dialogue when explaining between Faculty Senate and student government. ... I think these more interactive discussions are going to be very helpful," Staley said.

"Our ultimate hope is that [Big Sister - Little Sister] will continue in the future in a stronger, more direct way," White said.

But while Jacobs and Robinson cautioned that student government was not the only entity that would need to resolve issues such as the current process, themselves and exactly who would access and how before the project takes physical form. In particular, technical aspects must be handled by the University's computer network.

"Details are going to matter," Brown said.

The newly created student government at Notre Dame, Staley added, "will be like the rest of the world," meaning "we're not going to have a perfect software package out of Day 1." Operating on the principles of "open source software," the newly created system will be practiced learned from the experience.

"It's going to be a real world," White said. "This is an experimental project."

"The creation of "Service Thursdays" allows students with busy schedules a low time commitment opportunity to volunteer one Sunday per month at the Christ Child's Society.

SGA has made old traditions new again by revamping the "Big Sister - Little Sister" program, which pairs every incoming freshman student with a sophomore. This program was first initiated by the Student Senate and the more class president Claudia Toth.

"It's an old program that we have tried over the years," Toth said, "and it's something we've wanted students to be able to experience."}

CAMPUS NEWS

Sarah White student body president Saint Mary's College

Address
continued from page 1

with Dr. Money's occurring Sunday in LeMans Hall.

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"It's an old program that we have tried over the years," Toth said, "and it's something we've wanted students to be able to experience."

"It is our job to create and add to the pages that will play in the symphony of history that is Saint Mary's College."

Sarah White student body president Saint Mary's College

Contact Kelly Mehcan at kmehcan@smcm.edu

Want to start a new club?

- Didn't find what you were looking for at Activities Night?
- Hoping for ways to show your talent?
- Passionate about something you think others would enjoy?

Stop pondering the questions and get some answers!

New Club Proposals are being accepted now!
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Cultural ▲ Performing Arts
Social Service ▲ Special Interest

Still have questions? Email Amy Geist at ageist@nd.edu

http://sao.nd.edu/studentgroups/listing/prospectivegps/index.shtml
**IN BRIEF**

FDA finds five drugs too risky

WASHINGTON — At least five medications now sold to consumers pose such risks that their sale should be limited or stopped, said a government drug reviewer who raised safety questions earlier about the arthritis drug Vioxx.

In testimony Thursday before the Senate Finance Committee, Food and Drug Administration reviewer David Graham cited Meridia, Crestor, Accutane, Bextra and Singulair.

The nation is "virtually defenseless" against a repeat of the Vioxx debacle, he said.

Meck & Co. shut Vioxx from the market on Sept. 30 after a study indicated the popular pain killer posed the risk of heart attack and stroke when taken for longer than 18 months.

The committee chairman, Sen. Charles Grassley, said an independent board of drug safety may be needed to ensure the safety of medications after FDA approval. An "awful lot of red flags" were raised before Vioxx was withdrawn, said Grassley, R-Iowa, and the agency disabused, rather than listened to, its own reviewers.

Graham contended that FDA has an inherent conflict of interest that triggers "denial, rejection and heat" when safety questions emerge about products it has approved.

U.S. committed to strong dollar

WASHINGTON — The United States supports a strong dollar and "currency values set in open markets," even as the dollar plunged to a new low against the euro earlier that day.

"I think everybody knows what our position is — the strong dollar, currency values set in open markets," Snow said to reporters in Warsaw, following a meeting with the finance ministers of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovenia.

Snow declined to comment any further on the dollar, stressing that he had made his position clear in London on Wednesday, when he said the Bush administration would continue to stick to its "strong dollar" policy — an assertion the markets greeted with skepticism.

**Evidence weighed in tobacco case**

**MARKET RECAP**

**Bonds**

- AMEX 1,365.36 -0.60
- NASDAQ 7,002.91 -10.55
- S&P 500 1,183.55 +1.61
- NIKKEI (Tokyo) 11,151.93 +69.51
- FTSE 100 (London) 4,805.30 +9.40

**Stocks**

- Dow Jones 10,572.55 +22.98

**Commodities**

- Light Crude (Brent) -0.74 46.38
- Gold ($/oz.) -2.20 442.90
- Pork Bellies (cent/lb.) +69.51

**Exchange Rates**

- YEN 104.100
- BRLR 0.7715
- POUND 0.5406

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"I think everybody knows what our position is — the strong dollar, currency values set in open markets," Snow said to reporters in Warsaw, following a meeting with the finance ministers of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovenia.

Snow declined to comment any further on the dollar, stressing that he had made his position clear in London on Wednesday, when he said the Bush administration would continue to stick to its "strong dollar" policy — an assertion the markets greeted with skepticism.

**Evidence weighed in tobacco case**

**MARKET RECAP**

**Bonds**

- AMEX 1,365.36 -0.60
- NASDAQ 7,002.91 -10.55
- S&P 500 1,183.55 +1.61
- NIKKEI (Tokyo) 11,151.93 +69.51
- FTSE 100 (London) 4,805.30 +9.40

**Stocks**

- Dow Jones 10,572.55 +22.98

**Commodities**

- Light Crude (Brent) -0.74 46.38
- Gold ($/oz.) -2.20 442.90
- Pork Bellies (cent/lb.) +69.51

**Exchange Rates**

- YEN 104.100
- BRLR 0.7715
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**IN BRIEF**

FDA finds five drugs too risky

WASHINGTON — At least five medications now sold to consumers pose such risks that their sale should be limited or stopped, said a government drug reviewer who raised safety questions earlier about the arthritis drug Vioxx.

In testimony Thursday before the Senate Finance Committee, Food and Drug Administration reviewer David Graham cited Meridia, Crestor, Accutane, Bextra and Singulair.

The nation is "virtually defenseless" against a repeat of the Vioxx debacle, he said.

Meck & Co. shut Vioxx from the market on Sept. 30 after a study indicated the popular pain killer posed the risk of heart attack and stroke when taken for longer than 18 months.

The committee chairman, Sen. Charles Grassley, said an independent board of drug safety may be needed to ensure the safety of medications after FDA approval. An "awful lot of red flags" were raised before Vioxx was withdrawn, said Grassley, R-Iowa, and the agency disabused, rather than listened to, its own reviewers.

Graham contended that FDA has an inherent conflict of interest that triggers "denial, rejection and heat" when safety questions emerge about products it has approved.

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**Evidence weighed in tobacco case**
Call it an academic addiction. Call it the post-election withdrawal syndrome. Political junkies like this writer try to unwind immediately following a presidential election but have difficulty with the "cold turkey" approach. Notre Dame Daily South Bend last weekend to Pittsburgh made that fact particularly clear to me as far as the first time I saw this opportunity to watch an entire Irish game. As events of the game unfolded, my mind raced to formulate rhetorical tongue-in-cheek rapid responses. ND-Pitt games have always been a personal contradiction for me. For the past couple of decades I was an Irish fan, attending UND-IU, the University of Pittsburgh and a handful of Notre Dame. My heart always lies with Notre Dame, but I attended college at IU and Pitt. As Tony Dorcest led the Panthers to football prominence and a national championship. Great football achievements marked both universities at the time, but their philosophies were as different as this year's. Pitt won a Red Republican and Democratic blue presidential state atmospheres.

Notre Dame embodies everything "red" in this year's electoral map - a private institution with a faith-based identity that espouses a strong anti-abortion position, that maintains single-sex dormitories with partial hours, has a hesitancy to work out a grade with an athlete who might be able to assist him. So having shared that same atmosphere with Tony Dorsest, I personally found his comments disingenuous when he questioned the abilities of Pittsburgh's head coach prior to the Notre Dame game. I can think of several positive ways to spin the events of the game unfolded, my mind raced to formulate rhetorical tongue-in-cheek rapid responses. ND-Pitt games have always been a personal contradiction for me. For the past couple of decades I was an Irish fan, attending UND-IU, the University of Pittsburgh and a handful of Notre Dame. My heart always lies with Notre Dame, but I attended college at IU and Pitt. As Tony Dorcest led the Panthers to football prominence and a national championship. Great football achievements marked both universities at the time, but their philosophies were as different as this year's. Pitt won a Red Republican and Democratic blue presidential state atmospheres. Notre Dame embodies everything "red" in this year's electoral map - a private institution with a faith-based identity that espouses a strong anti-abortion position, that maintains single-sex dormitories with partial hours, has a hesitancy to work out a grade with an athlete who might be able to assist him. So having shared that same atmosphere with Tony Dorsest, I personally found his comments disingenuous when he questioned the abilities of Pittsburgh's head coach prior to the Notre Dame game. I can think of several positive ways to spin the events of the game unfolded, my mind raced to formulate rhetorical tongue-in-cheek rapid responses. ND-Pitt games have always been a personal contradiction for me. For the past couple of decades I was an Irish fan, attending UND-IU, the University of Pittsburgh and a handful of Notre Dame. My heart always lies with Notre Dame, but I attended college at IU and Pitt. As Tony Dorcest led the Panthers to football prominence and a national championship. Great football achievements marked both universities at the time, but their philosophies were as different as this year's. Pitt won a Red Republican and Democratic blue presidential state atmospheres. Notre Dame embodies everything "red" in this year's electoral map - a private institution with a faith-based identity that espouses a strong anti-abortion position, that maintains single-sex dormitories with partial hours, has a hesitancy to work out a grade with an athlete who might be able to assist him. So having shared that same atmosphere with Tony Dorsest, I personally found his comments disingenuous when he questioned the abilities of Pittsburgh's head coach prior to the Notre Dame game. I can think of several positive ways to spin the events of the game unfolded, my mind raced to formulate rhetorical tongue-in-cheek rapid responses. ND-Pitt games have always been a personal contradiction for me. For the past couple of decades I was an Irish fan, attending UND-IU, the University of Pittsburgh and a handful of Notre Dame. My heart always lies with Notre Dame, but I attended college at IU and Pitt. As Tony Dorcest led the Panthers to football prominence and a national championship. Great football achievements marked both universities at the time, but their philosophies were as different as this year's. Pitt won a Red Republican and Democratic blue presidential state atmospheres. Notre Dame embodies everything "red" in this year's electoral map - a private institution with a faith-based identity that espouses a strong anti-abortion position, that maintains single-sex dormitories with partial hours, has a hesitancy to work out a grade with an athlete who might be able to assist him. So having shared that same atmosphere with Tony Dorsest, I personally found his comments disingenuous when he questioned the abilities of Pittsburgh's head coach prior to the Notre Dame game. I can think of several positive ways to spin the events of the game unfolded, my mind raced to formulate rhetorical tongue-in-cheek rapid responses. ND-Pitt games have always been a personal contradiction for me. For the past couple of decades I was an Irish fan, attending UND-IU, the University of Pittsburgh and a handful of Notre Dame. My heart always lies with Notre Dame, but I attended college at IU and Pitt. As Tony Dorcest led the Panthers to football prominence and a national championship. Great football achievements marked both universities at the time, but their philosophies were as different as this year's. Pitt won a Red Republican and Democratic blue presidential state atmospheres.

From the sports section of The Observer, November 19, 2004.
Thank you Stephen Dick, for informing me that "Notre Dame is more than its football program" and that the world will not end if we keep losing. I can finally sleep well at night. I've read all the Viewpoint letters to the editor about the football team, but Stephen Dick's letter in the Nov. 18 Observer made it impossible for me to bite my tongue.

First and foremost, I will admit that I grew up with a Notre Dame blanket in my crib, and have been a Notre Dame Football fanatic for as long as I can remember. I am the proud son of an alumni upbringing, and warmly embrace that fact. This being said, I don't want to talk about the football team, the coaching staff, our recruiting, or the athletes. I just want to address the school here.

While I agree that Notre Dame has outstanding academics and an excellent faculty, this is not what the school was built on. Many of us have heard the Notre Dame termed as one of the "Ivy's of the Midwest." What you may fail to realize is that this is not what Notre Dame has always been, I have spoken with many alumni who openly admit that if admissions were this tough when they were in high school they never would have been able to attend Notre Dame. An enormous growth in the applicant pool has allowed the admissions office at Notre Dame as tough as an Ivy League.

The bottom line is the University would not be what it is today if it weren't for the football program. It is the football program and the spirit of Notre Dame that has attracted students. "Ivy League" academics are a relatively new development.

Here's the thing. Notre Dame is not an Ivy League school. I did not choose to, nor did I want to go to an Ivy League. Many of the students here could have attended a Northwestern, Yale, Princeton or any number of schools with academics just as good as Notre Dame's. But Notre Dame is different.

Dick expressed his disappointment with some students' obsession with football and said that he would expect that of a state school because football is all they will ever have. He added "but I don't expect that from us. By getting sucked into the hype, we merely bring ourselves down to their level. It is this mentality that makes me sick. This attitude is typical of an Ivy League student: to think all other schools, especially state schools, are in some way inferior. It is this attitude I previously wanted to avoid when coming to Notre Dame. What makes Notre Dame different is that the students come together in a unified love for the school, and with that, a love for the legacy of Notre Dame Football. Notre Dame students are not concerned with our school being viewed as one of the most academically challenging schools in the country or being ranked among the Ivy's. Or perhaps I should say, the students never used to be concerned with that. Instead, the campus has always become a home and the student body a family, with weekly fall outtings to the stadium that fills us with a sense of pride, excitement and belonging.

I fear the mentality Dick has is shared by too many ND students. Alumni feel such an intense tie to the school because of the experiences they shared here, which are almost all closely tied to football. I have heard from many Notre Dame alumni that they share when students leave the football games early, do not stay for the alma mater, or even don't purchase tickets. This school relies on the alumni, but I fear the student body is changing in a way that will cause alumni to dwindle.

People will always love Notre Dame, I don't deny that. But what will the school become with an increasing proportion of the students not caring about the football program or the legacy of Notre Dame? An Ivy League? No thanks. If you don't care at all about the football program, fine. If you think the rest of us should not care about it or ignore the losses, and you cannot recognize or acknowledge that the school is where it is because of the football program, then you should have gone to an Ivy League. That's not what Notre Dame ever was, and it's not what it should be.

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Kim Foretka, sophomore
Lyonn Hall
Nov. 18

Support water polo

The tradition here at Notre Dame has long been one of excellence, both in and out of the classroom. South Bend, Ind. has long been known for producing excellent minds, athletes and epic beer pong battles. These traditions are intimately followed, often to the point of ad nauseum. Is Chris Thomas staying or going pro? Did Brady's bishops grow another inch last week? Did you hear about the. We hope that day is coming for gays. Fortunately, the Church is also run by people of good conscience, who eventually realize their mistakes and make amends. We hope that day is coming for gays.

Let's face it, the Church is run by people with human weaknesses, and it has made mistakes over the years. Fortunately, the Church is also run by people of good conscience, who eventually realize their mistakes and make amends. We hope that day is coming for gays.

---

Richard F. Rector
(potst)
Susan F. Rector
(potst)
Megan M. Rector
alumnae
class of 2000
Reid F. Rector
alum
class of 2004
Nov. 18

LIVE TOLERANCE, LOVE

We e-mailed the articles to each other. It wasn't the first time we'd heard such intolerance. But it was the first time we'd heard such nonsense since learning that two family members — our brothers and sons — were gay.

The letters hurt and angered us. Our brothers and sons don't have less "dignity" because they are gay. There is no inherent "brokenness" in their lives.

They are athletes and scholars ... caring family members ... able and confident co-workers ... trusted friends ... the life of the party. We know their hearts and their minds.

And we know that they are as good — and deserve as much respect — as each of us.

Remarkably, one of the letters said that living a gay lifestyle hurts and degrades human dignity "because we are not defined by our sexuality." Rather, we "are all defined in the same way, in the image and likeness of God."

"Hello?" If we are not defined by our sexuality, but in the image and likeness of God, what exactly is the problem? Why should people's sexuality matter? Do you think that God somehow makes a mistake — over and over again — in creating gay people? Or has the Church perhaps made a mistake?

Let's face it, the Church is run by people with human weaknesses, and it has made mistakes over the years. Fortunately, the Church is also run by people of good conscience, who eventually realize their mistakes and make amends. We hope that day is coming for gays.

In the meantime, deciding how gay people should be treated isn't that difficult. What would Jesus do? Would he put on a suit and tie — maybe chuck the sandals for some wingtips — and parade self-righteously around campus? Or would he extend a hand and say, "Gay? Fine by me." You know the answer. We do. Let's live it.

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Richard F. Rector
(potst)
Susan F. Rector
(potst)
Megan M. Rector
alumnae
class of 2000
Reid F. Rector
alum
class of 2004
Nov. 18

THE OBSERVER

Letters to the Editor

Do you see any ivy?

Live tolerance, love
Campus music groups present
A schedule of upcoming concerts from various Notre Dame ensembles

ND Chorale: Handel's "Messiah"
Dec. 2 & 3
8 p.m.
Leighton Concert Hall

ND Glee Club Christmas Concert
Dec. 4
6 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.
Leighton Concert Hall

ND University Band
Dec. 5
3 p.m.
Leighton Concert Hall

ND Jazz Bands
Dec. 5
7 p.m.
Leighton Concert Hall

Advent Lessons and Carols:
featuring all of the Basilica Music Ensembles
Dec. 5
7:15 p.m.
Basilica of the Sacred Heart

ND Collegium Musicum
Dec. 8
8 p.m.
Leighton Concert Hall

Celebration Choir Christmas Benefit Concert for Catholic Relief Services
Dec. 11
7:30 p.m.
Coleman-Morse Student Lounge

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Asian Allure is back
The increasingly popular show highlighting diversity at Notre Dame gears up for another quality performance

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

Asian Allure combines a diverse range of entertainment elements, including dancing and fashion, from a variety of different Asian cultures into one exciting and popular event. The show has been put on once a year since it first began in 1997, and has been growing in popularity ever since. As the executive board member Dave Zhang explained, "The show serves to unite not only the variety of Asian clubs at Notre Dame, but also hopes to unite other minority groups and promote diversity on campus.

The Asian American Association of Notre Dame will perform its annual show, Asian Allure, on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. The Asian American Association unites a diverse group of clubs, including the Filipino American Student Organization, Hawaii Club, India Association, International Student Organization, Japan Club, Korean Student Association and the NAACP. The show aims to tackle traditional cultural ideas with a modern twist, all while helping to unite a variety of groups together.

"It helps to distinguish one Asian culture from another, but it brings them all together," set designer Yuko Mari explained. "The theme is fusion; trying to combine traditional perspectives through clothing and dance with modern Western ideas for people our age," publicity coordinator Lisa Nguyen said.

The idea of fusion is supposed to reflect some of the changes in the atmosphere on campus.

"Now that diversity at Notre Dame has increased over the past years, Asian Allure gives students an opportunity to not only embrace each of our own cultures but other peoples' cultures as well," president Sarah Liu said.

Events at the show have included such things as drag-on dancing, martial arts demonstrations, Banglada dancing and fan dances. There are also a variety of models who will be showing not only traditional Asian clothing but will also be sporting examples of how Asian dress has been affected by Western clothing to create the trends of today.

Preparing for the annual show takes a lot of work: coordinating the wide variety of groups involved, practicing dances and skits and creating sets and clothing.

"It takes a lot of work to organize an event like this, and executive board members (Dave Zhang and Yuko Mari) as well as the whole team have worked a lot since the beginning of the semester," Sarah Liu said. "They have devoted almost all of their time to putting this together." The show has been a major group effort on the part of all of the different clubs involved, and the final show will be the result of a lot of collaboration and hard work.

The goal of Asian Allure is to unite not only the variety of Asian clubs on campus, but also to promote diversity and solidarity among all of the minority groups on the Notre Dame campus. "It's a good way to showcase the culture, to keep everyone aware of what we stand for and to promote diversity because it enriches lives," executive board member Dave Zhang said.

The show seeks not only to form a bond among the different groups, but also to promote an awareness and sense of community for all minority groups.

"It's a great event for minority students to bond through. We're all heading toward the common goal of diversity," executive board member Yuko Mari explained.

Tickets for the show have been in great demand, but the Asian American Association has made sure to extend the goals of the event to not only the campus but the local community. They have donated passes to the show to the Robinson Community Center's Talent Program, which teaches local school children about managing anger.

Saturday night's performance of Asian Allure will be a rewarding event for not only all of the clubs and individuals involved, but it will benefit the campus and surrounding community as well.

Contact Molly Griffin at mgriffin@nd.edu
Son of Glam returns to Notre Dame

Promising hits from Metallica, Bon Jovi, Poison and others, the popular 80s cover band will perform at Legends tonight

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

There aren't too many social occasions when you can dress in the best of 80s clothing and not cause a scene. Tonight will be one of the few nights on which you might actually stick out if you don't tease your hair, pull out the Bon Jovi T-shirt and put on the leg warmers.

Son of Glam, the favorite imitation 80s hair band of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's alike, will return to Legends with all the tops hits of the decade. And if a night of 80s rock isn't enough to tempt students to the concert, Legends will also be handing out free slap bracelets to the first 200 audience members.

Last year's concerts at Legends and the Saint Mary's library green were a hit with students. "They looked authentic - they looked like an 80s hair band and sounded like an 80s hair band," Saint Mary's senior Michelle Fitzgerald said. "They sounded exactly like the original performers of each band when they played."

"Son of Glam was the best trip to the 80s I ever took," Notre Dame senior Matthew Houlihan said. "If you don't go, it's the biggest mistake you ever made regarding Legends."

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu

Welbilt comes to Legends Saturday

Washington D.C.'s finest independent band finally makes a stop in South Bend

By BECCA SAUNDERS
Scene Assistant Editor

Called Washington D.C.'s "most promising independent band in the region" and with a reputation of a terrific live show, the four-piece rock quartet Welbilt is moving up in the music industry. After releasing its first full-length album "A Beautiful Mass" in December 2003, Welbilt has been touring heavily throughout 2004. Saturday night at 10 p.m. Welbilt will be making a stop at Legends.

The band, composed of Nathan Ihara on lead vocals and guitar, Buddy Speir on backup guitar and vocals, Nick Briscoe on bass and Bill Ledbetter on drums, formed only shortly after 2002. Two of the members played in high school together, but otherwise the formation of the band is generally recent.

It has not taken long for Welbilt's popularity to rise in the D.C. area and was called, "a tight quartet playing high-energy melodic rock infused with reggae, a sound not that surprising because the 22-year-old Ihara lists Sting and The Police, Sublime, The Wailers, Squeeze and Elvis Costello as influences," by the Washington Post.

Welbilt may not be necessarily well-known currently, but with a solid fan base forming and a strong reputation, Welbilt promises to earn the promising reviews it has already received from big names and many fans.

Contact Becca Saunders at rsaunders@nd.edu

Known for the quality of its live performance, Welbilt promises to entertain any fan who enjoys rock with a reggae twist.
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Michigan quarterback Chad Henne has never played against Ohio State, but he has already used the word "rivalry" to describe his historic rivalry with the Wolverines and Buckeyes.

Henne and the seventh-ranked Wolverines (9-1, 7-0 Big Ten) will have a Rose Bowl berth in their site if they can take down their instate rivals.

"It's the biggest tradition in college football," Henne said.

"The hate and we hate them.

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr didn't agree with Henne's descriptions.

"Hate, I guarantee is not part of this rivalry," Carr said. "And I think when he's through he wouldn't characterize it that way. They probably have guys that say the same thing.

"If you're at Michigan, you hate to lose to Ohio State. And if you're at Ohio State, you hate to lose to Michigan. Chad Henne meant, so print it that way.

Henne has been a key to the Wolverines' success, throwing 18 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

This is the 101st meeting between the schools, with Michigan leading the all-time series 57-37-6. There is no question that the Wolverines have much more to lose in this encounter as the teams conclude their 2004 regular season.

A win would assure the Wolverines, seventh in the Bowl Championship Series standings, a spot in the Rose Bowl and a record 17th outright Big Ten title.

Michigan controls its postseason destiny because if it needed help it needed when previously unbeaten Wisconsin lost at Michigan State on Saturday.

After the Wolverines beat Northwestern 42-20 last Saturday, their seventh straight win this year, and 13th consecutive Big Ten victory — many of them hummed around televisions to root for their instate rivals.

Though the Wolverines will come into Columbus as favorites, the Buckeyes have produced many season-wrecking upsets.

Ohio State was undefeated in 1993, 95 and 96 before losing a home game to the Buckeyes in 2002. That year, the Buckeyes were second in the BCS rankings when they lost a return trip to the national title game with a 35-21 setback at the Michigan Stadium.

The Buckeyes are drawing strength from what happened in the Michigan game three years ago during coach Jim Tressel's first season.

Ohio State had lost four games and was coming off a loss — just like this year — when it went to The Big House to play 11th-ranked Michigan. The Buckeyes were coming in knocking the Wolverines out of a share of the Big Ten title and denying them a trip to the Sugar Bowl.

"Don't think we can come into this game with nothing to lose because we're playing at Ohio State," B.C. Buckeyes wide receiver Santonio Holmes said.

"Everything that they have right now is on the line, like going for a big BCS bowl. We have an opportunity to spoil those chances. That's our main focus right now.

If the Buckeyes win, they'll end a disappointing season with a satisfying victory. An Ohio State win would also move Michigan into first place and possibly a second-tier bowl in Florida.

Ohio State knows it is going to a bowl, but whether it heads to a bowl will depend on whether it needs to win to be seen. Right now, the Buckeyes appear limited to the Alamo or Sun Bowls.

Neither is on New Year's Day and both are far removed from the spotlight the team has grown accustomed to after spending the last two holiday seasons at the Fiesta Bowl.

Wolverines running back Mike Hart scores on a 34-yard touch- down run in Michigan's victory over Northwestern Saturday.

Michigan, Ohio State renew age-old rivalry

MLB Owners delaying vote on Expos' move to Washington

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Montreal Expos remain in limbo, already out of one home but not quite ready to move into a new one.

Instead of rubber-stamping the Expos' proposed move to Washington as expected Thursday, Major League Baseball owners made the surprise decision to table the vote, Commissioner Bud Selig said the move will still take place, with a vote by owners coming by Dec. 6.

"We will get this done," Selig said. "We just weren't quite ready with a lot of details. We like to have all the details done before we vote. Nothing more than that.

Baseball officials are confident the team will be in Washington for its April 15 home opener, in fact, that alternative was never discussed. Season tickets went on sale Thursday morning, and the team announced that manager Frank Robinson had agreed to a one-year contract extension through next season.

"We didn't consider any contingencies, we didn't consider any other options," said Bob Haldeman, baseball's chief operating officer. "We fully expect to play in RFK next year, and we're planning on it."

The Expos' agreement with Washington calls for funding for a new stadium to be in place by the team's home opener, in fact, that alteration was taking place here, in the District, "according to sources with the team," Selig said.

The decision not to vote "on·

the district fails to act, baseball will go elsewhere," Evans added. "Their action, by delaying their vote, only reinforces the fact that if we fail to act, baseball will go somewhere else."

But baseball officials insisted the City Council had nothing to do with the decision.

"The mayor believes he has the votes to pass, and we expect that to happen," DuPuy said.

Selig said the issues that delayed the vote were "internal," describing them as "housekeeping" matters. He declined to be more specific, but one could be baseball's negotiations with Baltimore Orioles owner PeterAngelos.

Angelos had previously objected to having a team move just 40 miles from his Camden Yards stadium, but he gave his blessing in September after reaching an understanding with baseball that protects him financially.

Selig refused Thursday to discuss negotiations with Angelos. But a baseball official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said previously that an agreement to make the Orioles franchise more attractive might result in the commissioner's office also would guarantee its value for a period of time. The commissioner's office would also guarantee Baltimore's locally generated revenue for a period of time and assist in the creation of a regional sports network.

The Observer accepts classified every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the News-Democrat office, 126 South Dining Hall. Deadline for one-day classified is p.m. All classifieds will 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 incurring fees.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Henne and the seventh-ranked Wolverines (9-1, 7-0 Big Ten) will have a Rose Bowl berth and a record 17th outright Big Ten title when they visit the Buckeyes (6-4, 3-4) in the continuation of one of college foot-
SOGNAMT BASKETBALL

Belles open season at annual Tip-Off Classic tournament

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sport Writer

After a disappointing 5-18 campaign in 2003-04, the Saint Mary's basketball team is looking to take the first steps toward becoming an MIAA power this season. The first hurdle in achieving that goal will come this weekend, as the Belles play Franklin and Marshall on back-to-back days in the annual Tip-Off Classic.

Saint Mary's basketball team is looking tough to beat.

The Franklin Grizzlies are the defending champions of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference and finished last season with a 23-5 record, including a 55-48 win over the Belles. Led by Lindsay Roberts, the Grizzlies advanced to the second round of the Division III tournament before losing to Wilmington 73-50.

This year's edition of the Belles will look different than past years. Bellina has made tactical changes, including changes to the offense and the use of more full-court pressure.

"We've gained a lot of quickness in our guard position," she said. "We're going to use that to show pressure full court."

Saint Mary's lost only one major contributor, point guard Katie Miller, off last season's squad. According to Bellina, team leadership will not be a problem this year.

"We have four seniors who, along with the rest of the team, are really focused on making this a good season," she said. "One of the biggest factors in making this a successful season will be the play of senior forward Emily Creachbaum. Creachbaum was selected as an all-MIAA player each of the last two seasons, making her the first Belle to be so honored. Bellina expects Creachbaum to be a vocal leader in the locker room."

"Emily is a very focused player," Bellina said. "She has a hand on what everyone on this team is doing and she's keeping the bench going." Creachbaum is not the only Belle that earned hardware last season. Senior guard Katie Boyce earned the MIAA Defensive Player of the Year award, a feat made more impressive by the fact that she is only 5-foot-2. The Belles also expect to have major contributions from their three freshmen, guards Alison Tessler and Bernadette Broderick and forward/center Abbey Bauman.

Contact Chris Khorey at chkhorey@nd.edu

LPGA

Sorenstam on top of her game and in the lead

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Annika Sorenstam was hitting the ball so well she knew exactly where it was going.

Combine that with an unusual calm day in south Florida, and her name atop the leaderboard was no surprise.

Sorenstam birdied four of the last five holes Thursday, twice with a 7-iron into greens surrounded by trouble, giving her a 6-under 66 and a one-shot lead after the first round of the season-ending ADT Championship.

Cristie Kerr had a 67, while Karrie Webb was among those exactly where it was going.

The Hanover Panthers hail from Southern Indiana. They finished last season with a 13-13 mark, led by 15.4 points per game from Angela Newkirk. They skirted by the Belles with a 68-65 win in last year's tournament, which was hosted by Rose-Hulman.

"We're excited,"Bellies coach Suzanne Bellina said of the Hanover game, which will tip off at 6 p.m. tonight at the Angola Athletic Center. "It was three-point game last year, a game we could have won."

The Franklin Grizzlies are the defending champions of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference and finished last season with a 23-5 record, including a 55-48 win over the Belles. Led by Lindsay Roberts, the Grizzlies advanced to the second round of the Division III tournament before losing to Wilmington 73-50.

This year's edition of the Belles will look different than past years. Bellina has made tactical changes, including changes to the offense and the use of more full-court pressure.

"We've gained a lot of quickness in our guard position," she said. "We're going to use that to show pressure full court."

Saint Mary's lost only one major contributor, point guard Katie Miller, off last season's squad. According to Bellina, team leadership will not be a problem this year.

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Contact Chris Khorey at chkhorey@nd.edu

Sorenstam on top of her game and in the lead

As for her partner? Park smiled, looked over her shoulder and said, "Oh, her.

"I feel even more horrible on a day like this when I'm playing with Annika," she said. "She just hits every fairway and every green. That's why she's No. 1."

Sorenstam wasn't perfect. She did miss one green and one fairway. And the 34-year-old Swede will be the first to remind anyone that the tournament is just getting started.

A year ago, Sorenstam had a three-shot lead going into the final round when Meg Mallon rallied on the back nine and beat her by one shot.

Mallon was happy just getting to the first tee today, having suffered a lower back injury two weeks ago. She opened with a three-putt bogey and finished by dumping two tee shots into the water on No. 18 and having to hit a great approach shot 8 to 8 feet to save triple bogey.

It wasn't too bad in between, and Mallon walked off with a 74.

"I felt very good today," she said. "I don't think I've had a big number in two years. I was due for one."

Then on the 18th, with the pin all the way back, Sorenstam hit another 7-iron that stopped pin-high about 8 feet to the right. She made that triple bogey.

"The conditions were as good as they could get," Sorenstam said. "But I must say, I thought the pins were very tough. I didn't think it was that easy. I told my caddie that it seems like there are ridges in the front or the back. So, in that case, I thought it was difficult.

"Then again, I felt like I was hitting the ball well."

That wasn't the case for Grace Park, No. 2 on the money list and paired in the first round with Sorenstam. She nearly had a lost ball on the par-5 sixth — someone found it as she was walking back to the fairway to drop and take a two-shot penalty, but still made bogey. She failed to birdie the next two par 5s, but still managed to scratch out a 72. Lorena Ochoa of Mexico had a 73, giving Park a good start toward winning the Yare Trophy.

"I just didn't have anything today," Park said.

As for her partner? Park smiled, looked over her shoulder and said, "Oh, her.

"I feel even more horrible on a day like this when I'm playing with Annika," she said. "She just hits every fairway and every green. That's why she's No. 1."

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Irish ready to meet BC in Big East semifinals

By ANN LOUGHERY  
Sports Writer

After claiming the conference regular-season title last weekend, the Irish look to check another item off their wish list — a Big East Championship. The Irish, who posted their first conference title in 12 years, will travel to Louisville (16-8, 9-1 in the Big East) on Saturday for the semifinals at 1 p.m. The winner will face the Pittsburgh (20-11, 6-4) in the semifinals Saturday at 1 p.m. "We've gone in really focused and determined to win," Brown said. "We want to step on the court and make a statement." Brown added the team anticipates Saturday's match, looking to redeem itself after losing to Boston College earlier this season. The Eagles upset the Irish in three games 30-14, 30-22, 30-28, handing the team its only conference loss this season. Further, the loss snapped Notre Dame's streak of 58 consecutive home regular-season victories in Big East competition since 1995. Boston College averaged 4.67 blocks and 20.33 digs per game, limiting Notre Dame to a .180 hitting mark. Sophomore libero Allison Anderson and middle blocker Shardai Davis led the Eagles' defensive efforts, with Anderson notch ing a match-high 21 digs and Davis recording 14 blocks. Notre Dame's offensive standout of the match included freshman Elle Heintzman, who replaced an injured Lauren Kohley. Lauren Brewster and Carolyn Cooper. Heintzman and Brewster each tallied 11 kills, while Cooper almost tied her career high with seven kills and a team best, 211 on hitting. Brewster also teamed up with junior Meg Henican to lead the Irish defense. Henican totaled 15 digs to lead the floor defensive effort, while Brewster took part in four of Notre Dame's blocks. Since that game, the Irish have won two of the last three matches they have played, defeating Pittsburgh 3-0 and West Virginia 3-0, but dropping a match to Northern Iowa Tuesday night 3-2.

Junior Carolyn Cooper jumps and spikes the ball in Notre Dame's 3-0 victory over Pittsburgh Nov. 12

ND VOLLEYBALL

Not satisfied with historic victory, Irish push forward

Team looks to build on first win over ranked opponent this weekend at Louisville

By RYAN DUFFY  
Sports Writer

In the minds of the Irish swim team, the historic win over Pittsburgh on Nov. 12 wasn't the culmination of the season — it was just the beginning.

The victory over the No. 17 Panthers marked the first time in the 47-year history of the program Notre Dame has beaten a ranked team.

"We want to build on Friday, but we also want to start over," Tim Welsh, Irish coach, said. "We're starting to build a good team chemistry, and we can use that chemistry as we prepare to face the Big East Championship.

"This weekend's meet will be an additional tune-up for the Notre Dame Invitational, because we'll act as championship preparation for everyone," Welsh said. "This unifies the squad, from a team point of view. From an individual point of view, it prepares each individual for their event in the upcoming invitationals.

Though the Irish have next week in mind as well, they will look forward to taking on a strong Louisville squad.

"Louisville is a much improved team this year, and we're starting to build a good team chemistry, and we can use that chemistry as we prepare to face the Big East Championship.

"What has allowed us to beat Pittsburgh, to beat Iowa, to beat Wisconsin, to face, has been the depth of this team," Welsh said. "We scored 22 guys in Friday's meet, and we'll be taking the whole team down to Louisville and looking for a complete team performance."

The recent success by the Irish has them ranked No. 21 in the latest College Swim Coaches poll, marking the first time in 47 years that the team has been ranked.

"It's a giant step for the program, and it's very exciting," Welsh said. "It's a measurement of our progress, but it also acts as an incentive. We know the only way we can stay ranked is to make it to the national championships and score in the top 25, something that has never been done in school history."

"By itself, the ranking means nothing, but as an incentive to progress, it's fantastic."
Hockey

Irish to face U.S. Under 18 team in exhibition

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associated Sports Writer

The Irish will take a break from regular season action tonight as they face the U.S. National Team Developmental Program's Under-18 team at 7:35 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

This year marks the second year in a row that the Irish have played the Under-18 team. In recent seasons, Irish players have once again played with the Irish coming away with a win.

Center Tim Wallace was a member of Team USA's 2001 squad, and Wallace were members of Team USA's 2001 squad. Cole's dad was the starting goalie in last year's 4-0 game. Cole will join the Irish as a freshman in 2005.

Sophomores Michael Bartlett and Christopher Hohnen were one of the National Developmental Program's Irish players to compete in the Four Nations Tournament in Ann Arbor, Mich., defeating Under-18 teams from Switzerland, Sweden and Finland.

Notre Dame and the Under-18 team have always had a good relationship, and several recent Irish players were once members of the National Developmental Program. Current Notre Dame junior Noah Rabino and sophomores Tim Wallace were members of Team USA's 2001 squad, and recently-graduated incoming freshman Jordan Pearce was the starting goalie in last year's 4-0 game. Pearce will join the Irish as a freshman in 2005.

Sophomores Michael Bartlett and Josh Sciba were also one-time members of Team USA, although their squad never faced the Irish in an exhibition.

Notre Dame came into the exhibition on perhaps its best stretch of the young season. The Irish tied Western Michigan 2-2 Nov. 12, then came back and picked up their first conference win with a 3-2 victory over the Broncos. The three points on the weekend moved Notre Dame from last in the CCHA to eighth.

"At least we don't have the entire week off. I'm happy we're at least playing a game (tonight)," Irish coach Dave Poulin said. "We're pretty banged up right now — Cory McLean, Evan Rankin, Matthew Williams-Kovacs and Dan Weist are all trying to heal from various things, so hopefully we can use this as a chance to get some of these guys healthy.

"We'll also get a chance to try some things with our special teams, maybe play Victor Oreskovich and Tim Wallace some more on the power play and give the younger guys a chance to do something."

Team USA comes into the Joyce Center on a tear, having recently won the Four Nations Tournament in Ann Arbor, Mich., defeating Under-18 teams from Switzerland, Sweden and Finland.

They have not been a pushover against their collegiate opponents this year either, amassing a respectable 3-2-2 record against Division I foes. Team USA owns a win over Michigan Tech (6-2) and a tie against Northern Michigan (2-2). Both teams are on the Irish 2004-05 schedule.

"Team USA is a very good hockey team," Poulin said. "Guys on our team like Michael Bartlett and Josh Sciba have been in that other locker room, and they know how it feels to be young kids playing against big college programs, so you know they're going to be fed up and ready to play."

Following the exhibition tonight, the Irish travel to Alaska Fairbanks for a two-game series with their conference rival on Nov. 26-27.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

ND Women's Swimming

BG not expected to pose a threat

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Against an una-intimidating opponent, the Irish head into a very important event.

The team travels to Bowling Green this weekend, or how it takes on Bowling Green in a Saturday meet at 1 p.m.

The Irish are looking for a strong showing, especially coming off their win against Michigan State and Pittsburgh last weekend at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.

However, where the Irish swimmers will hope to impress will not be in their strongest events.

Against a mid-level opponent like Bowling Green, the team's swimmers are trying to work on events that may not be their specialty.

This weekend is important to see where we stand in our third and fourth events," Irish coach Bailey Weathers said. "The breaststrokers might work on some of their IMs, and the sprinters might race the 200, for instance."

One of the swimmers who will try to work on some of her other events will be sophomore Jessica Stephens.

Last weekend, in addition to her success in the relays, Stephens won both the 200 individual medley and the 200 breaststroke. This weekend, she will also try to pick up the 100-meter breaststroke, an event she was beaten in by less than one-tenth of a second a week ago.

Conversely, senior diver Meghan Perry-Eaton will go into this weekend with her routine pretty much locked in.

She has dominated both the 1- and 3-meter events, winning five of six events she has entered this year.

To be sure, Stephens, and other Irish swimmers who have been hot of late, will not abandon their successes.

"Everyone will compete in their good events," Weathers said.

Another reason this event could be pivotal for the Irish is the fact Weathers plans on looking at and evaluating some of the swimmers beyond his star individuals.

"We are going to try to look at some different people for our relays," said Bailey Weathers, director of swimming.

Weathers said, "It is important to see where we stand in our third and fourth events, and give the younger guys a chance to do something."
**Men's CCHA Hockey Conference**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>CCHA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
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<td>Ohio State</td>
<td>7-1-0</td>
<td>9-3-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>5-1-0</td>
<td>7-2-1</td>
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<td>Nebraska Omaha</td>
<td>4-4-0</td>
<td>6-4-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowling Green</td>
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<td>5-2-1</td>
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<td>Northern Michigan</td>
<td>3-3-1</td>
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<td>Lake Superior</td>
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<td>Miami</td>
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**Women's Basketball NCAA Top 25**

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<td>Texas (8)</td>
<td>1,081</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSU (11)</td>
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<td>North Carolina (6)</td>
<td>1,046</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>988</td>
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<td>Duke</td>
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<td>Stanford</td>
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<td>Baylor</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>Ohio State</td>
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<td>Vanderbilt</td>
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<td>Minnesota</td>
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<td>Duke</td>
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**NFL**

Philadelphia Eagles’ Terrell Owens answers questions from reporters Thursday after apologizing to anyone offended by the provocative introduction to this week’s “Monday Night Football,” which generated many complaints.

Owens apologizes for role in MNF skit

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — While Terrell Owens would never say he’s sorry for his flashy touchdown celebrations, he did apologize Thursday to anyone offended by his role in a steamy segment with actress Nollette Sheridan for the intro to “Monday Night Football.”

“I felt like it was clean, the organization felt like it was a clean skit and I think it just really got taken out of context with a lot of people and I apologize for that,” Owens said. “Personally I didn’t think it would have offended anyone and, if it did, I apologize.”

ABC and the Eagles also apologized this week, with the team saying it wished the utilitarian segment “hadn’t aired.”

The opening, which has generated complaints to ABC and the Federal Communications Commission, showed Sheridan (of the hit show “Desperate Housewives”) wearing only a towel and provocatively asking Owens to skip the game for her as the two stood alone in a locker room. She drops the towel and jumps into Owens’ arms.

Owens had no idea the intro would create such outrage.

"I thought it was a fun skit and that was it," Owens said.

Owens, known for his outrageous touchdown celebrations, seemed to believe the skit was generating controversy because of his participation, not because of simulated nudity.

"Anything I get involved with, I’m obviously a target," he said. "It happened.

The sexually charged promo goes way beyond Owens, however. Reaction — are you ready for some controversy? — has ranged from amusement to anger.

Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy found it racially offensive. Owens is black and Sheridan is white.

Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb wasn’t quite as vocal, saying he didn’t find the segment offensive and believed people were overreacting.

Michael Powell, chairman of the FCC, questioned ABC's judgment in airing the scene.

Even Rush Limbaugh, who made a racially charged critique of McNabb last season, chimed in on his radio show, saying he was "shocked" by the content, which was "too close to this Kobe Bryant situation for comfort."
Recruits continued from page 20

in several areas, starting with pitching.
He said four of the five pitchers are hard-throwers, all with fastballs clocked in the 90s, while the fifth, Jeremy Barnes is, as Mainieri said, "a very productive pitcher."

"In my opinion, those five pitchers we've recruited have a chance to be as dominating as a staff we've recruited here, and we've recruited some pretty good guys," Mainieri said.
Mainieri said the lefthander, Sam Elam, "has as good an arm on a lefthander as you're going to see."
Elam is ranked as the 18th best player in the nation by Team One Baseball and posted 54 strikeouts in just 26 innings last season.
He also finished his junior season with a 2.20 ERA.
Righthander Brett Graffy was 6-1 with a 3.28 ERA for Julien Catholic High School last season, helping his team to a state runner-up finish. He is the No. 2 prospect in Illinois.
Kyle Weiland was 6-2 with a 3.34 ERA as a junior and had an impressive summer ball season, finishing with an 8-1 record and a 1.66 ERA.
David Phelps is the No. 1 player form Missouri and posted a 2.65 ERA, while striking out nearly 16 batters per nine innings.
Barnes, who played shortstop as well as high school rounds out the group as the most versatile piece.
While he doesn't hit 90 on the radar, Barnes still managed to record a 1.36 ERA, thanks in large part to a nifty control.
The other three players give what is not only solid defensive skills, but also outstanding hitters.
Mainieri said bringing in players who could hit the ball well was the goal for this class.
"We don't know what we're going to lose this year," Mainieri said.
"A major core of our team is our junior class.
"When you have guys that are eligible for the draft and they're good players, you have to assume you're going to lose a number of them because of the nature of the game now."
Notre Dame lost three underclassmen to the draft this season in pitchers Grant Johnson and Chrisiesel, and infielder Matt Macri.
Third baseman Eddy Mendola and left-handed-hitting catcher David Hum should help give the Irish the lineup-up power.
Mendola is the nation's third-ranked prospect at third base and hit .486 with 27 RBI, eight doubles and 15 steals in 21 games as a junior.
Hum hit .476 and could be one of the top hitting catchers in the country. He also added six home runs and 27 runs scored in 52 games.
"That was the important thing," Mainieri said.
"We put together a couple of guys who could really swing the bat for us.
Rounding out the eight recruits is utility player, Ryan Contrella, who batted .439 average with four home runs and 20 runs scored a sea- son ago.
Mainieri said assistant coachers David Fleeger and Terry Rooney has a significant impact with helping to bring in such a talented class.
"I think all the credit really goes to them."
"They worked so hard all summer and really didn't see what a turnaround," Mainieri said.
Despite the difficulties of recruiting at Notre Dame, Mainieri is pleased with the sight.
"I think we've still got a recruiting class."
"I think we're going to be in a great spot."
Notes
• The players ball from four different states, ranging from Texas.
• Mainieri said Notre Dame is unlikely to sign any other recruits for this class.
Contact Joe Hender
jhunter@nd.edu
Godfather continued from page 20

early-season battle. "I love the fact we're going there," Foster said after Ohio State's victory Wednesday. "I love that we're seeing where we are. It's only Nov. 28. We couldn't ask for a better situation."

"We got off to a good start at home, and we earned a shot to go home and play for a championship in somebody else's gym," said Waldrum.

Jessica Davgrenport leads the Buckeyes with 16 points and six rebounds per game. Teammate Caitlin Lenz averaged 14.7 points and three rebounds in the team's first three contests, dropped 20 against Arizona on Wednesday.

The Buckeyes have shot the ball especially well, while playing suffling defense. Ohio State has countered on 52.9 percent of its shots and held opponents to just 30.8 percent.

On the other bench, Notre Dame has played pretty well in its own right. The Irish have won three games, including the impressive victory against a top-10 Duke team. All-American Jacqueline Batteast has been her usual self, leading the Irish in scoring and also piling up high assist totals. She's averaged 18 points and 5.3 rebounds.

The real surprise for Notre Dame has been the play of freshman Charol Allen.

Allen poured in 16 points against Duke, hit two crucial second-half 3-pointers and played nothing like her class. Notre Dame will likely rely on Allen again Saturday, especially with fellow freshman Tulyah Gaines sitting out with a neck injury.

The Irish have also received solid minutes from Courtney LaVere and Teresa Borton. Those two are averaging 24 points and 12 rebounds per game this season.

McGraw gave Notre Dame Thursday off, before practice and game-planning tonight. The Irish won't get much rest after Saturday's game, either. They face Colorado State on Monday at the Joyce Center.

Notes:

• Tickets for Saturday's game are on sale now and will be $7 for students. Any student interested in attending can purchase tickets at the Joyce Center during regular business hours.

Contact Joe Hetzler at jhetzler@nd.edu

UConn continued from page 20

"They're anxious to play," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "After playing UConn, we felt like we just gave that one away."

According to Waldrum, one of the deciding factors during the Big East Championship was that the Irish exploited the Hoyas throughout the entire match.

"We just needed to keep them out of bounds for 90 minutes. It wasn't anything tactically that we broke down," Waldrum said. "We just lost track of our key players. And we got penalized for it."

Despite losing the Big East Championship, the Irish remain confident in how they've played throughout the season and expect Saturday's match to be no different.

"When we go back and evaluate the season, we have been good all year except for the last 30 minutes of the Big East Championship game," Waldrum said. "We spent this week to make sure that we come out the same way and not let that one game deflate us. I don't think it did, so I would look for us to be very good on Saturday."

In addition to their confidence, the Irish believe they will be prepared for the style of play they are expecting from Connecticut.

"We got a really good handle on UConn. We have played them so often the past few years, I'm not really looking for them to come up with anything we haven't seen," Waldrum said. "During the postseason, you try to put your players in the best ways to exploit your opposition and I think that is what they will do if they make any changes."

However, the Irish have two individual players they are hoping will challenge the opposition of the Hoyas and who have significantly added to the team's success during the post-season.

Freshman Ashley Jones and junior Annie Schefter are two players Waldrum feels should receive more attention for the contributions they give the Irish offensively. "Those are two kids we don't praise or talk about enough," Waldrum said.

One of the notable performances Jones has had during the post-season came when she scored her first goal scored of the season during the Big East Championship game. However, for Schefter it has been her guidance and knowledge of the sport that makes her a vital asset to the team's success.

"She has a better understanding of the game than most players and she sees the game two or three passes ahead and raises [her] talent to another level during this stretch of the playoffs," Waldrum said. "She is going to be such a big factor for the organization of the team throughout the playoffs."

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jspeti@nd.edu

Senior forward Jacqueline Batteast soars above two Duke players to shoot a basket in Wednesday night's game. Batteast led the team with 17 points.

College Bowl COMETH!

Notre Dame Campus Tournament to be held January 18-19, 2005 @ Legends.

Sign up your team at the LaFortune Information Desk and Box Office starting Monday, November 22.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jspeti@nd.edu

For more information, visit the Information Desk and Box Office or email Banners.Jbid@nd.edu.
DILBERT

THERE MUST BE MORE TO MANAGING THAN GIVING VAGUE DIRECTIONS AND FUNISHING PEOPLE FOR NOT READING MY MIND.

BUT I LIKE TO PLAY WITHIN MY GAME.

IT'S A FORM OF GENIUS.

醒来 ME UP WHEN SOME OF THIS IS ABOUT ME.

PEANUTS

25 Physics gangster Bugsy ANSWER
23 Identical 20
21 Modern part 48 Hardly macho

SCOTT ADAMS

JULIE

Uncomfort suited four Jumbles, one letter to each square. Use both inside ordinary words.

KAFFE

TACCH

DOPAME

HALVIS

JUDGE

THAT Mr. Van Soot got in again without paying

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the dotted line.

HOROSCOPE

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Janis Parker, Owen Wilson, Kirk Long, Lamar, Elizabeth Perkins

Happy Birthday! You will have a creative edge this year, so don't waste it on something that will bring you little return. Focus on what's important and turn some of the negatives that you have experienced in the past into positives. Take on the world and show everyone your capabilities. Your numbers are 2, 8, 24, 31, 36, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An opportunity to form a partnership is present. With your quick response and your partner's practical outlook, you will be successful. Create a system or set an agenda for the promise. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Avoid personal problems and concentrate on getting your head in the right place, it will be important not to let anyone steal your thunder or take credit for what you do. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will discover a host of opportunities if you travel. Dreams can be turned into reality. Creative ideas will reign supreme. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make some alterations that will allow you to work on the comfort of your own home. A creative aspect by the advice column program will do you good. **

LION (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have a lot on your plate today. If you can pull off all the pressures you've been working, you will stand out in the crowd and gain the respect and admiration of your peers.****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your high energy will assist you at work, resulting in monetary gains. You will have some unique ideas that will help you extricate yourself from difficult situations. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can do anything you put your mind to. Decide what changes you want to make. Once you've made up your mind, the rest will be easy. Love is all around you. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone will not be totally honest with you. Ferris' secret information before you make a decision. Personal problems can be dealt with if you are practical and well-informed. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Something special is just around the corner. Accept the situation and put your energy into working on what is working for you. A relationship will turn out to be extremely beneficial. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your added discipline and responsible nature will enable you to accomplish the impossible. You will be offered an opportunity that will reward you with power and prestige. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Explore the possibilities available to you. The more you discover about yourself and your background, the better equipped you'll be to make the right decision. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You have plenty to think about today. Consider your obligations and what you can do to adjust your position. Help will be made available. ***

Birthday Baby: You love a good adventure and will search for the most interesting path throughout your life. You are intelligent, knowledgeable and will always be in demand.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugenialast.com.

THE OBSERVER

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The Observer ● TODAY  page 19

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The Observer ● TODAY  page 19
**ND Women's Basketball**

**The godfather comes to town**

Muffet McGraw’s son’s godfather coaches preseason WNIT final opponent Ohio State

By JOE HETTLER

Sports Writer

Muffet McGraw’s son, Murphy, will get to see his godfather Saturday. That’s because Jim Foster happens to coach Ohio State’s women’s basketball team.

No. 11 Notre Dame looks to finish off an impressive start to its season with a victory in the preseason Women’s National Invitation Tournament final against No. 10 Ohio State at the Joyce Center at 7 p.m. Saturday.

The Irish are fresh off a 76-65 victory against No. 6 Duke on Wednesday night, while the Buckeyes have cruised through three opponents, winning by an average score of 81-38.

Ohio State has wins over Bowling Green, St. Joseph’s and Arizona since the thrilling final where the Huskies upset Connecticut.

For McGraw, the game is especially exciting. She and Foster are so close. McGraw and her husband, Matt, named Foster the godfather of the couple’s only child, Murphy.

“We go back a long way,” McGraw said. “Last year we went down there and spent some time with him and his staff. He’s doing a great job with his team this year so it’s going to be another great game.”

Foster is also looking forward to seeing the McGraw family and facing Notre Dame in an

see GODFATHER/page 18

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**ND Women's Soccer**

**Team thriving on momentum**

Irish anxious to redeem themselves after losing to UConn in the Big East Championship

By DAN TAPETILLO

Sports Writer

With just a week passing since the thrilling 1-0 victory over Wisconsin, the Irish prepare to face conference rival Connecticut in the third round of the NCAA tournament.

The two teams are set to meet Saturday at 7 p.m. at Alumni Field in a rematch of the Big East Championship finals where the Huskies upset the top-seeded Irish 2-1.

see UCONN/page 18

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**Baseball**

Recruits showing promise

By JOE HETTLER

Sports Writer

Another November, another top recruiting class for the Notre Dame baseball program.

The Irish inked eight players Tuesday from across the country during the early-signing period. The class has four right-handed pitchers, a left-handed pitcher, a third baseman, a catcher and a utility player.

“I think it’s a really outstanding class. I’m really excited about this group,” Irish coach Paul Mainieri said.

Student Sports has ranked the class 21st in the nation. Notre Dame has consistently had top recruiting classes, including a No. 1 ranked group in 2002, as Mainieri and his assistants continue to build the Irish program into one of the elite in college baseball.

The Irish have compiled 195 wins during the last four seasons, while Mainieri has a 399-160-1 record during time in South Bend, including a College World Series berth in 2002.

Mainieri said the Class of 2009 should help Notre Dame

see RECRUIT/page 17

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**Football**

Schmidt’s storybook journey comes to end

Walk-on turned scholarship senior fullback not returning to team for fifth year

By MATT LOZAR

Sports Writer

Forget about wearing the blue and gold in Notre Dame Stadium on Saturdays — senior Josh Schmidt had trouble making the Zahn interhall football team as a freshman.

Spraining his ankle while "messing around" in a pickup game, Schmidt couldn’t make the dorm’s tryouts but was able to convince the captains he could be a contributor as a tailback.

Four months later, Schmidt was doing some more convincing — to now Irish head coach Tyrone Willingham.

"There’s a coaching change right now, everybody’s starting from scratch," the walk-on turned scholarship player said. "There’s not going to be a better time than right now to walk on, so let’s give it a shot.”

Now with one regular season game left in his Irish career, Schmidt’s story comes to an end.

see SCHMIDT/page 17

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**At a glance**

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Men's Basketball 2004-05 Preview:

**Point Taken**

Behind senior point guard Chris Thomas and a deep roster, Notre Dame begins its campaign to validate high preseason expectations.

- Jordan Cornette
- Torin Francis
- Chris Quinn
- Dennis Latimore
Preseason expectations mean talk ends tonight

By PAT LEONARD
Assistant Sports Editor

Fans may not have to wait until next season to see just how fruitful Notre Dame's recruiting efforts have become.

“Hob Kurz is already here.”

He used his freshman a good amount in Notre Dame's two preseason exhibition games, subutilizing Kurz into the power forward position.

Against St. Joe’s, Kurz played 15 minutes, shot 3-for-6 from the field and all three of his foul shots to total nine points. He also grabbed four rebounds and committed just one turnover.

Brey increased Kurz's minutes to 20 against Quinnipiac, playing him more than all but five players on the roster. Kurz turned the ball over three times, but those can be attributed to freshman jitters.

The first-year player scored four points, had five rebounds and four blocks in the win.

Kurz, who is as old as most current sophomores, exhibits maturity by redirecting focus off his individual potential and onto the team's potential.

"You always want to start the season strong, and we want to set a tone early on how we are going to play for the season," Kurz said. "[We must] start out playing unselfishly and playing really hard, start building that momentum now so when the conference season starts, we are playing at a high level."

As a freshman, Kurz is inexperience. But he hangs down low and can step out to shoot the 15-foot jump shot. Kurz's quick development will give Brey another option with three low-post threats in Torin Francis, Dennis Latimore and Rick Cornett already established.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu
Mapping the road

Five key elements will guide Notre Dame back to the NCAA Tournament

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Fifth-year head coach Mike Brey has affirmed only one goal thus far for his 2004-05 Irish: return to the NCAA Tournament.

"As the summer went on, I was a little more pissed off about missing the tournament," Irish head coach Mike Brey said. "If I'm really keeping on my toes, Brey said. "You think defense is extremely important because... you'll usually find more teams that can score than teams that can defend." Rick Cornett, head coach of the Irish, agreed. "That really determines a team's success in part to defensive struggles. And as Brey said about the Irish season, "We've really worked on defense in the off-season because defense wins games."

"We've got to get better on the defensive end, but he's not the only one on that end of the floor," Brey said.

The four recruits who signed with Notre Dame Nov. 10 often talk about "ticking off" Notre Dame offense as a major reason for their decision. But the Irish know that the best way to lose a game, they have no breakdown is simple -- offense sells recruits, and defense sells. "I really don't think we're close to unstoppable on offense this year," Cornett said. "But hopefully our defense will lead us. We've really been working on defense in the off-season because defense wins games."

"Ticking at home"

Brey cringed at missing the Big Dance, but he knew his team had noticeable flaws. Perhaps the most evident: the Irish were not versatile. "We need to have a win at home consistently... That starts with ourselves," he said.

"We're looking for a few more things coming in the future," Brey said. "We all work hard even though Torin and I are coming back from injuries. It's kind of rough, and it's really good to have someone else to depend on down in the post. I'm really looking forward to this season."

"I think I was a gentleman on the road this summer," Brey said.

"I think I was a gentleman on the road this summer," Brey said.

"If I was a gentleman on the road this summer, Brey said.

"If I was a gentleman on the road this summer, Brey said.

"But that is where we've really started to this point in the season since David (19.7 points) and assists (4.7) in the same season since David Rivers did so in the 1987-88 season."

"I think he's very focused on his team having a heck of a year, which is where his mind needs to be," Brey said. "If minds stay in that department, not only his, then we've got a chance."

"Thomas' poise and decision-making will be the determining factor between whether or not Notre Dame is good this season, or they are great."

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Irish main concern: get injured players healthy

Injured Prone Six of Notre Dame's four seniors (11 counting walk-ons) have had surgery and are in the past two years. Surgery is noted with an asterisk and the number in parentheses. Rick Cornett left foot stress fracture* (July 23) Jordan Cornette sprained ankle Torin Francis herniated disk in back* (Mar. 8) Omani Israel torn ACL* (Feb. 2003) Rob Kurz broken jaw Chris Thomas left knee (Age, 9, arthroscopic) (Source: by pat leonard, nd.edu)
MEN'S OUTLOOK

GREG BOLI
GUARD
6'1", 192 lbs.
No. 55 — SR
High school stats
Points 10.0
Assists 6.0
Rebounds 5.0
2004-05 expectations
Bodi will not play much, but the second-year walk-on will push Notre Dame’s guards in practice. His brother, Mike, played for Villanova in 1998-99.

JOHN CARLSON
FORWARD
6'5", 248 lbs.
No. 4 — SO
2004-05 stats
Minutes 0.3
Points 0.7
Rebounds 0.3
2004-05 expectations
Carlson, also a tight end for the football team, joined the roster midseason last year to add size after Torin Francis got hurt. He won’t play much.

RUSSELL CARTER
GUARD
6'4", 223 lbs.
No. 43 — SO
2004-05 stats
Minutes 2.1
Points 0.8
Rebounds 0.4
2004-05 expectations
Carter brings instant offense. He gained a step-back of muscle over the offseason. The only step remaining for Carter to get minutes: defense.

JORDAN CORNETTE
FORWARD
6'10", 236 lbs.
No. 12 — RS
2003-04 stats
Minutes 30.7
Points 5.0
Rebounds 4.0
2004-05 expectations
Cornette moves outside on offense with the presence of Latinamerico down low. His athleticism will help Notre Dame match up with big guards on defense.

COLIN FALLS
GUARD
6'5", 204 lbs.
No. 15 — FR
2003-04 stats
Minutes 15.6
Points 4.6
Rebounds 3.1
2004-05 expectations
Falls was Notre Dame’s best three-point shooter last season. He will look to increase his role on the team, making key baskets in a backup role.

TORIN FRANCIS
FORWARD
6'11", 252 lbs.
No. 34 — JR
2004-05 stats
Minutes 31.6
Points 14.2
Rebounds 8.3
2004-05 expectations
The team’s biggest body returns to the lineup with low-post encroachment in Latinamerico and Cornetten. All of the factors point to the junior having a great year.

DENNIS LATIMORE
FORWARD
6'9", 219 lbs.
No. 31 — FR
2003-04 stats
Minutes 12.0
Points 3.2
Rebounds 3.1
2004-05 expectations
Latimore’s down low

CHRISS RUSSELL
GUARD
6'4", 195 lbs.
No. 2 — RS
2004-05 stats
Minutes 35.8
Points 12.2
Rebounds 3.0
2004-05 expectations
Russsell’s improvement at Benet Academy, he will bring pace with him to the lineup.

CHRIS MURPHY
FORWARD
6'6", 210 lbs.
No. 24 — JR
2003-04 stats
Minutes 15.8
Rebounds 8.2
Assists 3.0
2004-05 expectations
Murphy played at Benet Academy and his body-returns to the lineup with low-post encroachment in Latinamerico and Cornetten. All of the factors point to the junior having a great year.

DONNIE NICKOL
FORWARD
6'7", 218 lbs.
No. 21 — JR
2004-05 stats
Minutes 38.3
Points 19.7
Rebounds 4.2
2004-05 expectations
Nickol played at Gonzaga Prep and has from Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. He has good moves that will keep Irish players alert on defense.

ROB KURZ
FORWARD
6'9", 219 lbs.
No. 31 — FR
2003-04 stats
Minutes 18.5
Points 5.5
Rebounds 4.0
2004-05 expectations
Kurz will play right away off the bench at the small forward position. Kurz posses a stop-and-go offensive threat and gives Brey another body down low.

OMARI ISREAL
FORWARD
6'9", 233 lbs.
No. 5 — FR
2004-05 stats
Minutes 18.5
Rebounds 3.0
2004-05 expectations
Israel is fully healed from his 2003 ACL surgery and brings an athletic, Cornette-esque body to the lineup with the potential for defensive dominance.

CHRIS QUINN
GUARD
6'2", 185 lbs.
No. 9 — FR
2003-04 stats
Minutes 0.8
2004-05 expectations
Quinn played at Benet Academy and his body-returns to the lineup with low-post encroachment in Latinamerico and Cornetten. All of the factors point to the junior having a great year.

THE SCHEDULE
2004-05 Schedule
Nov. 19 Harvard
Nov. 23 IPFW
Nov. 26 Charleston So.
Dec. 1 at Michigan
Dec. 8 at Indiana
Nov. 11 DePaul
Dec. 19 Army
Dec. 22 Marist
Dec. 28 Western Illinois
Dec. 30 Samford
Jan. 5 at Seton Hall
Jan. 8 Villanova
Jan. 10 Syracuse
Jan. 15 St. John’s
Jan. 19 at West Virginia
Jan. 23 at Georgetown
Jan. 26 at Villanova
Jan. 30 Connecticut
Feb. 3 at Syracuse
Feb. 8 Boston College
Feb. 11 Pittsburgh
Feb. 16 Georgetown
Feb. 19 at Providence
Feb. 21 at Connecticut
Feb. 27 UCLA
Mar. 2 Rutgers
Mar. 5 Pittsburgh
Mar. 9-12 Big East Tournament
Mar. 17 NCAA Tournament Begins

The Observer • IRISH INSIDER
Friday, November 19, 2004

Men's Preseason Polls

Big Ten Conference
1. Kansas
2. Wake Forest
3. North Carolina
4. Georgia Tech
5. St. John’s
6. Syracuse
7. Connecticut
8. Oklahoma State
9. Kentucky
10. Michigan State
11. Indiana
12. Duke
13. Louisville
14. Mississippi State
15. Texas
16. Maryland
17. Pittsburgh
18. Alabama
19. NC State
20. Wisconsin
21. Notre Dame
22. Florida
23. Memphis
24. Washington
25. Stanford

Men's Preseason Coaches Poll

Big Ten Conference
1. Purdue
2. Ohio State
3. Minnesota
4. Wisconsin
5. Michigan State
6. Illinois
7. Penn State
8. Northwestern
9. Iowa
10. Indiana

11. Georgetown
WOMEN’S OUTLOOK

CHAREL ALLEN
GUARD
5’11”
No. 2 — FR
High school stats
Points 26.1
Rebounds 10.5
Assists 4.7

2004-05 expectations
Allen brings a long, athletic body to the backcourt. Her speed will add a threat to Notre Dame’s fast break and her reach will help on defense.

JACQUELINE BATTEAST
FORWARD
6’2”
No. 21 — SR
2003-04 stats
Minutes 32.9
Points 16.0
Rebounds 8.6

2004-05 expectations
Arguably the best player in the nation, Batteast can beat opponents in numerous ways. Opposing defenses will double-team the senior often.

MEILISSA D’AMICO
FORWARD/ CENTER
6’5”
No. 33 — FR
High school stats
Points 20.7
Rebounds 9.1
Blocks 3.2

2004-05 expectations
The big freshman should make an immediate impact. She is playing behind solid veteran post players, but with time, D’Amico should see the court.

MEGAN DUFFY
FORWARD
5’7”
No. 13 — JR
2003-04 stats
Minutes 33.3
Points 9.9
Rebounds 3.5

2004-05 expectations
The general for the Irish, Duffy can handle the ball, shoot the three and lead her teammates. She is on the verge of being an elite Big East player.

COURTNEY LAVERE
FORWARD
6’3”
No. 41 — JR
2003-04 stats
Minutes 22.2
Points 3.3
Rebounds 4.5

2004-05 expectations
LaVere has the skills to drop 15 points and 10 rebounds a night for the Irish. The Junior and Bortoan should take pressure off Batteast.

CRISTAL ERWIN
FORWARD
6’7”
No. 34 — SO
2003-04 stats
Minutes 11.0
Points 1.1
Rebounds 0.9

2004-05 expectations
Erwin has calmed down from her growing last season. She will be a solid Irish post player off the bench who can rebound and score year.

SUSIE POWERS
GUARD
5’10”
No. 3 — SO
2003-04 stats
Minutes 5.9
Points 4.0
Rebounds 0.9

2004-05 expectations
Powers saw limited playing time last season, but her perimeter game and three-point shooting threat could be valuable to stretching defenses.

TULIYA TIPSIS
GUARD
5’10”
No. 11 — FR
High school stats
Points 12.9
Rebounds 4.5
Assists 3.8

2004-05 Statistics
Tipsis joins the team as a walk-on. She was a three-time All-State selection in high school. The freshman will provide depth at the guard position.

The Schedule

2004-05 Schedule
Nov. 22 Colorado State
Nov. 26 at USC
Nov. 30 at Valparaiso
Dec. 2 Michigan State
Dec. 9 at Dayton
Dec. 11 Washington
Dec. 15 at Marquette
Dec. 30 at Northern Illinois
Jan. 2 Seton Hall
Jan. 5 Syracuse
Jan. 9 at Villanova
Jan. 12 Connecticut
Jan. 16 Purdue
Jan. 19 at Syracuse
Jan. 22 Rutgers
Jan. 26 St. John’s
Jan. 30 at Connecticut
Feb. 2 Boston College
Feb. 5 at Pittsburgh
Feb. 9 at Providence
Feb. 12 Georgetown
Feb. 15 at Boston College
Feb. 19 at Rutgers
Feb. 21 vs. Virginia
Mar. 1 at Seton Hall
Mar. 5-8 Big East Tournament
Mar. 19 NCAA Tournament Begins

Michigan State - Dec. 2, 7 p.m.
The Spartans destroyed the Irish last year in East Lansing. This year’s No. 13 squad will present a challenge, but it is not a team that loves to play the Irish in South Bend.

Villanova - Jan. 9, 2 p.m.
The Big East defending champions lost last year, with defense saving the day. The Wildcats have the talent, but expect them to creep back in.

Connecticut - Jan. 12, 6 p.m.
No. 4 Connecticut is always a challenge. Pick to beat but is in the Big East, the Huskies have done it before and will be a tough team to beat.

Ohio State - Jan. 15, 6 p.m.
The 1999 national champions are No. 4 in the country and are led by Kate Gerlach. Last year they handed the Irish their first loss in the AP poll.

Connecticut - Jan. 16, 5 p.m.
The No. 18 Huskies reloaded and should be back in the game. They have talent that returns from a young team last year when it knocked off the Irish in South Bend.

Boston College - Feb. 15, 6 p.m.
The No. 18 Eagles ride a nine game streak coming into this game. They have lost just once in conference and a top ten team would love to knock them off.

Rutgers - Feb. 19, 6 p.m.
Last season, the Irish were involved in a brawl on the road, and the Scarlet Knights are good at home. No. 17 Rutgers is one of four ranked Big East teams.

Women’s Preseason Polls

1. Tennessee
2. LSU
3. Texas
4. Connecticut
5. Georgia
6. Duke
7. Stanford
8. Baylor
9. Ohio State
10. Texas Tech
11. Notre Dame
12. North Carolina
13. Vanderbilt
14. Minnesota
15. Purdue
16. Michigan State
17. Rutgers
18. Boston College
19. Kentucky
20. DePaul
21. Penn State
22. Louisiana Tech
23. Maryland
24. Arizona
25. Oklahoma

Women’s Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Connecticut
2. LSU
3. Texas
4. Connecticut
5. Georgia
6. Duke
7. Stanford
8. Baylor
9. Ohio State
10. Texas Tech
11. Notre Dame
12. North Carolina
13. Vanderbilt
14. Minnesota
15. Purdue
16. Michigan State
17. Rutgers
18. Boston College
19. Kentucky
20. DePaul
21. Penn State
22. Louisiana Tech
23. Maryland
24. Arizona
25. Oklahoma

The Observer ● IRISH INSIDER page 5
Preseason No. 1
Jacqueline Batteast commands national respect; has teammates to help validate it

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

In the first exhibition game, Jacqueline Batteast showed everyone why she has been named the Big East Preseason Player of the Year and in Basketball News, the National Player of the Year.

It is the second exhibition game, Batteast showed why this year is different than last year. Batteast shone in the opener, putting up 22 points on 9-for 14 shooting. But in the second game, she struggled, at times forcing shots. She finished with 11 points, but on 5-for-12 shooting.

And the Irish still scored points — 80, in fact.

Against Illinois State in the preseason Women's National Invitation Tournament, Batteast picked up two fouls in just as many minutes. But the Irish didn't miss a beat, despite not seeing Batteast but for five minutes in the first half.

Batteast or bust

Last season, if Batteast didn't score, the Irish scored. This year, both Batteast and the Irish scored. This year, both Batteast and the Irish coach Muffet McGraw have as much confidence in the players around Batteast as she does in her star player.

"I think that they really realize what they can do," McGraw said.

But if Batteast struggled, so did the Irish. This year, both Batteast and the Irish feel that doesn't have to happen.

"I think she just needs to come out every game and rebound, play great defense," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "We really don't think she needs to score 20 points every game for us to win. She certainly needs to take a big role in the offense for us to win, and she's somebody who's going to be the feature for the opposition.

A new year, a new role

Unlike last year, Batteast is surrounded with players who are ready and willing to put points on the board. Instead of just looking for Batteast, her teammates are playing with her and putting up numbers of their own. Any player on the court has the ability to score on this year's Irish team, something that wasn't always true last season.

"I think [my teammates] are the exact same as they were last year but I think this year they're more willing to score," Batteast said. "I think they're ready to step into that role. Before, it was sit back and watch, but I think now they're ready to take action."

The Irish will look especially to three veteran players — Megan Duffy, Courtney LaVere and Teresa Bolton — to carry the load. Duffy was named the Big East's Most Improved Player last season, and Bolton and LaVere are forces down low. Batteast is confident that those three, among others, can score for the Irish.

"I know that I have four or five other people on the floor that can do something," Batteast said.

"We've got people coming off the bench that can add things. So even if I'm not shooting well, I know there's other people, Megan [Duffy], Courtney [LaVere] and T [Bolton], that can hurt people."

McGraw has as much confidence in the players around Batteast as she does in her star player.

"I think it's important for the whole team to feel like they have a huge part in the scoring role," McGraw said. "I think everybody has to come in and do their part. Teams are going to try to take Jackie away, and she's going to have games where she's double-teamed and not even able to get the ball so I think the more Teresa, Courtney and Megan can score, the harder it's going to be for the other teams to take her away.

She's incredibly hard to guard now, and I think it would be a huge challenge for a team to take her away completely, but I think we have to have the other weapons ready.

Playing on the perimeter

This season, Batteast will play mostly the three-guard spot. With Burton, LaVere, Crystal Erwin and newcomer Melissa Delicious in the mix, the Irish have plenty of depth at the power forward and center positions. So the best possible Irish lineup includes shifting Batteast to play the third guard position.

Batteast is a versatile 6-foot-2 and can face-up or back down defenders. Despite her versatility, Batteast said it's even an adjustment to play as more of a guard — especially on defense.

"Guarding guards is really tiring," Batteast said. "I have to run a lot. I'm not used to that playing post defense. [Now], I'm chasing someone through screens and trying to get the rebound and be the first one down on offense, so that's a lot of running. It takes some adjusting, and if I keep practicing I should get into shape.

Batteast also worked on her outside shot this summer to prepare for her new position.

"I knew this year I would be playing a little more guard and on the perimeter, so I worked on my outside jumper and quickness trying to guard guards on defense," Batteast said.

But even with her new position, Batteast wants to keep a high field goal percentage. Last season, she shot 45.2 percent from the field. She said she wants to get that number closer to 50 percent this season.

"I want to try to come in, rebound well and score," Batteast said.

More than just a scorer

Although Batteast is known as a scorer, she's more than that. With three talented freshmen on the roster in D'Amico, Tulyah Gaines and Charel Allen, Batteast is a player they can look up to.

"[Batteast] absolutely makes people better," McGraw said. "And I think this team loves to play — we're trying to be a little more creative and not run so many plays just let them go and see what we can get in transition. And I think that they really enjoy playing with [Batteast]. Batteast also serves as a role model for the freshmen, all of whom should see significant playing time this season.

"We love watching her when she's having fun and things are going well," McGraw said. "And it's great for the younger players to look up and see how she got to where she is with all the hard work she's put in."

McGraw said sometimes the Irish find themselves watching the Batteast.

"It's fun to watch," McGraw said. "We sometimes have to stop sometimes at practice and almost high-five each other because we're so excited at what she can do. She's so tal¬
ent. She's just really gifted. And she enjoys playing.

And Batteast won't let the hype of all the preseason awards get to her. In fact, she is trying to put them out of her head so she can focus on the tasks ahead.

It's a lot of pressure to be considered one of the best players in the country and one of the best players in the Big East," Batteast said. "There are a lot of expectations but I'm trying not to take those awards as seriously because they're preseason.

"I think if I do what I'm supposed to do and I've reached my goals, there's no stopping this team. Everyone else is ready to step up."

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McGraw, Irish inching closer to top

If the 2004-05 Irish make a serious run at the national title — and they can — people may look back to a game during the 2003-04 regular season as the starting point. Against No. 4 Connecticut at the Joyce Center in mid-January, Irish forward Jacqueline Batteast showed the country just how good she could be.

Taking the spotlight away from National Player of the Year Diana Taurasi, Batteast poured in bucket after bucket on route to 23 points, 11 rebounds and a crucial block of Taurasi that sealed Notre Dame's 66-51 upset victory.

Just like that, Batteast found her stroke. With Batteast leading the way, Notre Dame assaulted many of its remaining opponents and turned a 7-6 start into a 21-11 season. The Irish are a veteran team, returning players like Teresa Burton, Megan Duffy, Tulyah Gaines and Allen give Duffy some more help in the backcourt. Last season the Irish were thin at the point, with only guards Jeneka Joyce and Freshman Susie Powers as backups.

But with the addition of Gaines and Allen, the Irish have four guards, including a more experienced Powers, who can contribute when needed.

D'Amico has an incredibly soft touch on her jump shot for a 6-foot-5 18-year-old. She clogs up the paint, has the ability to knock down the 15-foot jumper and should rebound well thanks to her tall frame and long arms.

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Women's Basketball 2004-05 Preview:

At Their Fingertips

With a potent scorer and a strong supporting cast, the Irish have the weapons to make a run at the national championship

Big East Preseason Player of the Year
Jacqueline Batteast