Students promote Sudan awareness

Group distributes green ribbons as part of a two-step plan to inform others of the genocide

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

A group of Notre Dame students has collaborated on campus to build awareness and take action against the atrocities in Sudan.

Senior Stephanie Aberger, one of the founders of the group, said this group was a collaboration of many ideas. "It was originally a sub-committee of Peace Collation but grew into a bigger group drawing from students from groups all over the campus," Aberger said. "What happened was that individuals with different ideas about organizing Sudan events came together and determined that there was a need for an umbrella organization with a focused awareness and coordination events regarding the Sudan."

The group has formulated a two-step plan, awareness and action, to battle the situation in Sudan. Currently the group is in the awareness phase while finalizing plans for action.

"The campaign is now focused on raising awareness — making people aware that genocide is happening right now," Aberger said.

Patrick Corrigan, an original member of the Notre Dame Sudan Steering Committee, said this group was a product of the Student's Union's Vision 2010 initiative.

The group has formulated a campaign is now directed at raising awareness - making people aware that genocide is happening right now. "What we are trying to do is get American students to pay attention to Sudan," Corrigan said. "The group decided it would make the most sense to go through the student's union because they thought that was the best way to make sure this would be brought to every student on campus."

"We're trying to make people aware of the human rights abuses in Sudan, and we're trying to get [students] excited about making their voices heard," Corrigan said. "It's important to tell people about what is going on in Sudan."

The group has distributed green ribbons around campus to promote genocide awareness.

University reviews MegaLife insurance

Policies do not cover all intramural sports

By TRICIA de GROOT
News Writer

For the past 20 years, MegaLife Insurance Company has served as the insurance provider for Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students, but it was until shortly before this academic year that the University came to the understanding that MegaLife did not cover all club sports.

Although many of the 29 club sports affiliated with the University are covered by MegaLife, those in which students are traveling and competing — rather than participating on campus — are not. "Mega always covered our 'club' sports that act like intramurals on campus and only Notre Dame student participants," said director of University Health Services Ann Kleva. "It was an unfortunate assumption by the athletic department that Mega covered any club sport."

The actual policy was identified this year when an undergraduate parent was answered students' questions about his experiences and about studying abroad is important. To me, that's a home run."

Michael McCurry
Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange executive director

"Our national leaders are beginning to understand that study abroad is really important. To me, that's a home run."

After graduating from Notre Dame, McCurry studied in Melbourne, Australia as a Rotary Scholar. He noticed major differences between American universities and more specialized Australian universities. McCurry also spent a good deal of time traveling. "I traveled and was hooked for life," McCurry said.

These experiences drew McCurry to the Information Agency. He worked in China shortly after the Tiananmen Square movement and is now helping establish diplomatic relations between the United States and China through education.

The Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange, where McCurry currently works, oversees 75 foreign exchange programs in the United States.

Contact Adrienne Rufner at arufner@nd.edu
INSIDE COLUMN

A picture is worth...

It's tough to describe adequately a powerful picture with predelinous words, but there are some times when it's worth trying. One saw Saturday night deserves the effort, as it accomplishes what only the great pieces of art do — it tells the story of some- thing seemingly unrelated to the subject matter that is terribly important.

On the left, this photo shows Chilean President Ricardo Lagos and first lady Laura Bush smiling at reporters as they enter the ballroom in which an AUPC gala dinner is about to commence. To the right, President Bush has stopped his progress, and he appears to be decl­ phoring the reason for the commotion coming from the background. He is stuck between going forward and turning back to resolve the problem.

In this case, his problem is that a Chilean police officer refused Bush's top on-site Secret Service agent entrance into the ballroom. Clearly, a question of security arises when a foreign police force prevents the American president's personal security detail from escorting him into a large building.

Stuck with the options of either continuing on the path set before him — walking away from the confrontation and trusting a foreign force to maintain security and safety in what could be a dangerous situation — or going back and ending the possible security threat immediately, Bush chose the latter. Not surprised at the decision? Then what is going on?

The scene that ensued was not as breathtaking as some have made it out to be. Bush rushed into the pile and snapped his fingers, and the dispute was settled — the Chilean police would allow his Secret Service agent into the dinner. It took a little while for the scene to calm down, but Bush's presence was the deciding factor in how the situation would turn out.

In analyzing the sequence of events, maybe you will affectionately joke about the brazen attitude of our cowboy president and that he solves problems the way real people do.

On the other hand, the Pacers PISTONs brawl may seem more serious, and you might think that the most powerful man in the world should not be meddled with.

Whatever you think of the situation, the picture itself includes that story of something completely unrelated but incredibly important — a foreign leader walking away to the left as an American president, to the right, says "Hold on, I have to take care of something."

It demonstrates how tough decisions can be for a president and a country, and it embodies the active, provocative policy of the Bush administration in foreign lands.

In a picture full of personalifications, that's the overriding theme; in a world full of analogies, that's the main conflict of the day.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at c-634 as we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOU NOT THANKFUL FOR?

Tim Clion
sophomore
siegfried

Linden LaSlyone
sophomore
Dillon

Tara Makowski
Chloe Beakavak
sophomores
Badin

Lindsey Martin
freshman
Welsh Family

Tony Schweis
sophomore
Morrissey

Members of the Notre Dame figure skating club perform between the first and second periods at Friday's hockey game. The club was founded in 1997 under the Student Activities Office. One year later, it became a club sport under the University's RecSports program.

OFFBEAT

Norwegian senior roughs up purse snatcher

OSLO, Norway — A purse snatcher in a small Norwegian town picked the wrong 88-year-old woman to rob, since she was with a tough younger man at the time.

And her 78-year-old friend ended up sending the thief to the hospital, and then to jail this week, the local newspaper Moss Aftenposten reported Friday.

The report said the thief was on a bicycle when he snatched the purse in Fladea, a small town about 30 miles south of Oslo. The 78-year-old man reacted instantly, grabbing hold of the thief and struggling with the 30-year-old man.

During the struggle, the senior citizen dragged the young man off his bike and onto the ashphalt.

New crime grips Alabama: Potty tipping

DOTHAN, Ala. — A new crime has reared its stinky head in southeast Alabama: Potty tipping.

Someone has been over-turning portable toilets at four construction sites in the Dothan area, with one out company reporting that four or five were flipped in a week. Several firms have complained.

"They are very upset about it," said police Capt. John Givens said. "And we want it to stop."

Givens said it costs companies to clean the mess. So officers plan to step up patrols in areas where the vandalism has occurred.

"We have started paying closer attention to those sites," Givens said. "Anyone caught vandalizing a portable toilet will be charged with criminal mischief, a misdemeanor."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The lecture "Gender and Transgender Issues: Issues Faced by Transgender College Students" will be given today by Syracuse University professor Rob Pusch from 12 to 1 p.m. at Saint Mary's College in Stapleton Lounge.

The Notre Dame women's basketball team will take on Colorado State tonight at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena.

Kellogg fellow Michael Capogrosso will give the lecture "The Conditional Impact of the Economy on Democracy in Latin America" on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in C-103 Hesburgh Center.

The seminar "An ice-active protein from an Antarctic nematode" will be given by David Wharton, associate profes­ sor of Zoology at the University of Otago, New Zealand on Tuesday at 4 p.m. in room 283 of the Galvin Life Science Building.

The Saint Mary's basketball team will take on Manchester College Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Angela Athletic Facility.

The Notre Dame men's basketball team will take on IPFW on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena.

The Notre Dame men's soccer team will play Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Alumni Field against Ohio State in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

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

Tuesday Schedule

TODAY TONIGHT TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY TONIGHT TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

HIGH LOW

HIGH LOW

HIGH LOW

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HIGH LOW

Alumna named Professor of Year

Special to The Observer

Rhona Campbell Free, a University of Notre Dame graduate and professor of economics at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, has been named 2004 U.S. Professor of the Year. Selected for her outstanding teaching, commitment to undergraduate students and influence on teaching, Free received top honors in the master's universities and colleges category, which includes more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide. The award is presented annually by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Free is the second Notre Dame figure in three years to earn a U.S. Professor of the Year award. Chemist Dennis Jacobs, now a University vice president and associate provost, was honored in 2002 in the research and doctoral universities category.

What makes Rhona Campbell Free unique is the creative and open approach she brings to teaching," said John Lippincott, CASE president. "While she is deeply committed to her discipline of economics, she enthusiastically uses pedagogical approaches and teaching methods more common to other disciplines to reach and motivate students. Dr. Free starts with the premise that all students can be successful in her economics courses, and her optimism enables her to devise different ways of reaching students whose levels of experience and interest vary.

A member of the economics faculty at Eastern Connecticut State University since 1983, Free earned her master's and doctoral degrees in economics from Notre Dame in 1980 and 1983, respectively. She is known for her innovative ideas and cross-disciplinary approaches to instruction. "Some professors take a difficult subject and simplify it," former student Mark Bresnahan said. "It takes a special teacher to be able to take the same subject and make it accessible for all students."

Since 1981, the U.S. Professor of the Year program has recognized excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

"These U.S. Professors of the Year have distinguished themselves in their profession by their commitment to advancing knowledge and to motivating, inspiring and empowering their students," said Lee S. Shulman, Carnegie Foundation president.

"These U.S. Professors of the Year have distinguished themselves in their profession by their commitment to advancing knowledge and to motivating, inspiring and empowering their students," said Lee S. Shulman, president of the Carnegie Foundation.

"Through their contribution to excellence in teaching and extraordinary dedication to their students, they have differentiated and elevated the profession of teaching and created a legacy of knowledge and practice that others can build upon."

MegaLife continued from page 1

department of risk management with her question about coverage, and the issue was brought to the attention of Klava and the athletic department — leading to a change in the understanding of what activities are covered by the policy and the exact benefits of coverage.

The athletic department has been educated on what the student insurance plan entails, Klava said, including an understanding of the difference between the insurance definition of intramural and club sports.

Many students also assume MegaLife covers all sports, Klava said, but do not realize that club sports that involve travel — including water polo, sailing and crew — are not included in the package. Explicit information to the contrary is available, Klava added.

"It is specifically stated annually in the insurance brochure under 'exclusions' that club sports are not covered," she said. "It is unfortunate that students don't read their brochure or check their policy, or attend educational classes that are offered in the insurance department to discuss their program."

In January 2005 there will be a review of the current policy, Klava said, in which MegaLife will provide the University with two plans, one with complete club sport coverage and one without the new consideration.

The Student Medical Insurance Advisory Committee will be helping reevaluate the policy in the upcoming months and will take into consideration the expense increase a more inclusive plan would require.

"We can only have one plan, as the number of students who could use the sport benefit is not high enough to bear the total financial risk," Klava said.

Students playing club sports are not the only group the University will need to take into consideration during its review process.

Currently, there are 1,850 graduate students and 175 undergraduate students using MegaLife as their insurance provider. The University requires all graduate students either to enroll in the school-sponsored plan or to show proof of comparable insurance coverage, while such a mandate has not been established for the undergraduates.

Therefore, the needs of the students, including allergy medicine coverage and increased coverage for nuclear medicine, must also be taken into consideration.

However, in the mean time, Health Services does not see the current plan as a problem.

"I have never received a question or complaint about this (club sports) exclusion while I have received many questions about other exclusions," Klava said.

Contact Tricia deGroot pdegroot@nd.edu.
Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra
Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 8 p.m.
Handel's Messiah
www.nd.edu/~music/ensembles/chorale.html
www.nd.edu/~music/ensembles/corch.html
Leighton Concert Hall
Tickets $6, $5 faculty/staff, $3 all students

The Notre Dame Glee Club Christmas Concert
Saturday, December 4, 2004 at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
http://gleeclub.nd.edu
Leighton Concert Hall
Tickets $6, $5 faculty/staff, $3 all students
All proceeds benefit the Center for the Homeless.

Empire Brass Christmas Concert
Friday, December 10 at 8 p.m.
http://performingarts.nd.edu/empire.shtml
Start your holiday season at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center with a Christmas Concert by The Empire Brass in the Leighton Concert Hall. These fabulous musicians will play some familiar holiday favorites as well as some music from Christmases past. There will even be a sing-along. The Empire Brass enjoys an international reputation as North America’s finest brass quintet, renowned for its brilliant virtuosity and the unparalleled diversity of its repertoire.
Tickets $44, $35 faculty/staff, $15 all students

The Chieftains
Sunday, January 3 at 8 p.m.
http://performingarts.nd.edu/chieftains.shtml
Leighton Concert Hall
The first word in Irish Music is the Chieftains. In 1969 the Republic of Ireland appointed them the official musical ambassadors for Ireland. They have exported Irish music to every corner of the world and finally they come to Notre Dame. Their appearance is far overdue. There are a lot of groups who play traditional Celtic music, but they all owe a great debt to the Chieftains who paved the way for them. There are few concert experiences as completely fulfilling as an evening spent in their company.
Tickets $48, $38 faculty/staff, $15 all students

St. Petersburg State Ballet Theatre performing Romeo and Juliet
at the Morris Performing Arts Center Thursday, January 13 at 8 p.m.
A timeless love story danced by one of the leading ballet companies in Russia. This Romeo was choreographed by Sergei Vikulov to the beautiful score by Sergei Prokofiev. St. Petersburg State Ballet Theatre draws upon the long and storied history of Russian Ballet. Under the direction of Askold Makarov, former leading soloist of the Kirov Ballet, the company enjoyed a growing reputation for its ability to innovate while interpreting the classics of the Romantic period. After Makarov’s death in 2000, Yuri Petukhov took the reins of the company and has considerably widened the scope of the company.
Tickets $15-$38
Call the Morris Performing Arts Center Ticket Office at 235-9190 or buy on line at www.MorrisCenter.org

Discounted tickets are underwritten by the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. There are a limited number of student discounts available.

sign up for updates at http://performingarts.nd.edu
Call 574-631-2800
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Violence continues in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents battled American troops in the streets of Baghdad on Saturday, killing a U.S. soldier in an ambush and gunning down four government employees, Iraqi officials said. The signs that the guerrillas remain a potent force despite the fall of their stronghold of Fallujah. Nine Iraqis also died in fighting west of the capital.

In Fallujah, where U.S. Marines and soldiers are still battling pockets of resistance, insurgents waved a white flag of surrender before opening fire on U.S. troops and causing casualties. Marine spokesman 1st Lt. Kyle Gilbert said Saturday without elaborating.

Associated Press

Scientists warn of fish toxins

LAS VEGAS — Each day at 4 p.m., the tradition goes, the tides of the Vegas strip allow with giant bass, mackerel and squirming eels, at the end of a food chain that links family dinner tables to pot-ent, consumers.

Besides mercury which can damage the brains of fetuses and young children and can affect healthy adults, there are PCBs, dioxins and flame retardants with unknown long-terms effects.

It is the same from ancient Mediterranean towns like Sest to big cities in Asia, America's Gulf ports, or harbors in seeming-ly pristine Nordic waters. Industrial waste permeates to fund the proposed $3 million project to turn the 54-room Best Western into a shel­lter.

NATIONAL NEWS

House passes $388-billion bill

WASHINGTON — Republican wields a $388 billion spending bill through the House on Saturday, a mammoth measure that underscores the dominance of deficit policies by cutting dollars for everything from education to environmental cleans.

Democrats approved the measure by a biparti-san 344-51 margin on what might be the last day of their postelection session. The $388 billion - a document that was taking longer in the Senate. Arbitration-rights supporters there were opposing a provision in the bill making it easier for employers to avoid arbitrators to decline to provide arbitration or offer counseling and referrals.

9/11 commission reforms fail

WASHINGTON — In a defeat for President Bush, rebellious House Republicans on Saturday derailed legislation to overhaul the nation's intelligence agencies along lines recommended by the Sept. 11 commission. Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., sought unsuccess­fully to persuade critics among the GOP rank and file to swing behind the measure.

House action to send lawmakers home with­out a vote drew attacks from Democrats and capped an unpredictable day in which prospects for even one of the three measures seemed to grow, then diminish, almost by the hour. He left open the possibility of summoning lawmakers back in session early next month.

LOCAL NEWS

Plans for shelter put on hold

VALPARAISO — Plans to convert a Porter County motel to a homeless shelter have been shelved after the state turned down a social agency's request for funding.

Chicagoland Community Action officials said the Indiana Housing Finance Authority turned down its grant and loan applications to fund the proposed $3 million project to turn the 54-room Best Western into a shel­lter.

Lawmakers hope for intelligence bill

WASHINGTON — Unwilling to concede defeat, congressional leaders expressed hope Sunday that lawmakers can find a compromise this month to resolve a turf battle that has blocked passage of an overhaul of the nation's intelligence agencies. Much depends on whether President Bush is more active in the negotiations, according to House Democrats who are shaping the legislation.

"For us to pass the bill in early December it will take significant involvement by the president and the vice president," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn. "It will take real focus on their part."

During a chaotic Saturday that was intended as the final meeting of the 108th Congress, negotiators announced a compromise on the intelligence bill. Hours later, opposition from the Republican chairmen of two committees stymied the legisla­tion, which would create a national intelligence director.

Reflecting Pentagon concerns about the legislation, California Rep. Duncan Hunter of the House Armed Services warned that the bill could interfere with the military chain of command and endanger troops in the field. Wisconsin Rep. James Sensenbrenner of the House Judiciary Committee demanded that the bill deal with illegal immigration. Congress did manage to pass a $298 billion spending bill that covers most nondefense and non-security programs for the budget year that began Oct. 1.

But there will be a delay in getting President Bush's signature. The hang-up is because of a single line in the bill that would have given two committees chairmen and their assis­tants access to people's income tax records.

The Senate approved a resolution nullifying the idea; House leaders promised to pass it on Wednesday. Then, the spending bill will head to the White House.

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RIBBONS
continued from page 1

The Notre Dame Sudan Steering Committee consists of about 20 students, staff members and faculty members, with a large number from Amnesty International and Africa Faith and Justice Network.

"Most people don't know about this," Corrigan said. "If people at Notre Dame learned of the atrocities, it would shock their conscience, and they would want to take action."

The team of students comprising the steering committee has finalized plans to build awareness. Members of the group are passing out green ribbons, as part of a larger national campaign which began at Harvard University. One hundred humanitarian and faith-based organizations are now wearing green ribbons.

"Wearing a green ribbon is something for everyone," Corrigan said. "People from engineers to business people to peace studies and everything in between can wear these ribbons, because it is an all-response to our government's response to the horrible situations in the world."

The committee has posted signs around campus with a photo of an innocent, victimized young girl reading "Never Again" and is providing facts on the genocide.

Currently, the group is also working to place a petition to be read at Sunday dorm masses. After heightening awareness, the group plans to take action. A ribbon drive set for Jan. 26, the committee will formulate a symposium composed of highly qualified speakers on the Sudan genocide. A possible speaker is Nick Kristof, a New York Times journalist who has written on Sudan. The committee is also working with the U.S. Catholic Bishops and is planning to send letters to the presidents of all Catholic universities.

"Most people don't know about this," Corrigan said. "If people at Notre Dame learned of the atrocities, it would shock their conscience, and they would want to take action."

Patrick Corrigan
Notre Dame Sudan Steering Committee

Despite being more technologically advanced, DeWitt said the new system will not cost extra to what the University currently pays for phone service.

The transition between the current Centrex-based system and VoIP will take place over a period of three to five years, starting with a six-month trial with a limited set of users early next year, said DeWitt.

"If all goes well with the trial, we'll start rolling it out to the balance of the campus," DeWitt said. "The exact order of doing that hasn't been decided, but new construction like the Jordan Hall of Science will get it if it's ready. Regardless of how many users the University connects to the system, DeWitt said he sees a potential problem in users' adaptation to the new technology."

"I don't foresee any problems with the actual system, but I think most of the energy and potential angst will come from the way it's marketed," he said. "We know some people are apprehensive about the transition, which is why we're really going to put the emphasis on user training aspects of this."
**Business The Observer **

Monday, November 22, 2004

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**Nike co-founder resigns position**

Phil Knight stepped down as president and chief executive officer of Nike Inc. He will be succeeded by William D. Perez, head of S.C. Johnson & Son Inc.

**In Brief**

Legal complaint filed against Russia

MOSCOW — The main shareholder of the embattled oil company Yukos has filed a legal complaint against Russia over the planned auction sale of Yukos’ biggest production unit, the company said Saturday.

The Russian government announced a day earlier that it will sell a majority stake in production unit Yuganskneftegaz to meet Yukos’ multibillion-dollar back-tax bill.

Group Menatep Ltd, the main Yukos shareholder, took legal action because of the Energy Charter, an international treaty for protecting investments in the energy sector.

Group Menatep’s managing director Tim Osborne said Saturday that Russia’s business plan creates superior conditions because of the tax bill.

“Russia is adequate, the company said in a statement.

**Markets Recap**

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**PeopleSoft rejects Oracle’s bid**

Associated Press

PLEASANTON — PeopleSoft Inc.’s board of directors said it rejected Oracle Corp.’s $9.2 billion takeover bid Saturday, continuing its staunch resistance a day after the company’s own shareholders tendered more than 60 percent of shares to Oracle.

The board unanimously concluded that Oracle’s latest all-cash tender offer is inadequate, the company said in statement posted on its Web site Saturday.

PeopleSoft has until 5 p.m. Pacific time to give its shareholders the chance to tender shares in an offer that could result in the Pleasanton-based business software company being taken over by Oracle, a company that’s been interested in buying PeopleSoft since late 2000.

**Portland**

Phil Knight, who built Nike Inc. into the world’s largest shoe maker while catapulting celebrity-athletes endorsements to new heights, has stepped down as president and chief executive officer of the company he co-founded.

Knight, who left the helm of the $12 billion athletic shoe and clothing company on Thursday, will be succeeded by William D. Perez, head of S.C. Johnson & Son Inc., maker of Clorox air fresheners and Brano drain cleaner.

Knight, 66, will remain chairman of the company’s board of directors, the company said. He did not give a reason for his resignation, which is effective Dec. 28.

“I am confident that as CEO of Nike, Inc., Bill will lead Nike’s extraordinary team of people to create an even bigger and better global company,” Knight said in a statement.

A former University of Oregon star, Knight founded Blue Ribbon Sports, Inc., with Bill Bowerman in 1968.

Knight’s first shoes, which he sold out of the trunk of a shoe car, have soles made on Bowerman’s garage floor.

The company was renamed Nike in 1972.

Under Knight, Nike has redefined celebrity-athlete endorsements, launching stars such as Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods as emblems of the company’s ethic.

Along the way they’ve made the swoosh one of the most recognized trademarks in the world.

In September, Nike reported a 25 percent increase in first-quarter profits. The company also reported a large increase in its U.S. orders, up 11 percent to $1.4 billion — reversing a declining trend in the national shoe market over the last several years.

Knight’s combined salary and bonuses for this year were nearly $3.7 million, up from nearly $2.5 million last year.

He was ranked No. 22 on this year’s Forbes list of the 400 wealthiest Americans, with an estimated net worth of $7.4 billion.

Knight still owns about 28 percent of the voting shares of Nike Class B stock and 92 percent of the nonvoting Class A stock, according to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Phil Knight stepped down as president and chief executive officer of Nike Inc. He will be succeeded by William D. Perez, head of S.C. Johnson & Son Inc.

**PeopleSoft board requests a meeting as soon as possible and extending its offer until Dec. 31.**

But PeopleSoft decided to fend off Oracle, saying: “numerous conversations we have had with our largest stockholders over the past 10 days” led the board to believe that a majority of stockholders don’t think the offer reflects the company’s real value.

“This majority is comprised of stockholders who did not tender their shares,” as well as stockholders who tendered but told Oracle that they believe PeopleSoft is worth more than $24 per share, George "Skip" Battle, lead director on PeopleSoft’s transaction committee, said in the statement.
I miss kickball. It can actually be quite calming to reminisce back to the half dozen kickball evenings in elementary school when the most taxing issues on my mind were things like remembering to run to first base — not third — after bowling the ball into the outfield, and when expressing my attraction to girls was as simple as not pegging them in the face as they trod around the bases. Without a doubt, though, the most exhilarating aspect of playground kickball, at least for eight-year-old, popularity-driven narcissist like me, was the guaranteed-to-elicit-tears process of picking teams.

Of course, there were the natural athletes who were always among the first picked. Most often, after that, came some of the more athletic girls — the tomboys, as they were so flatteringly referred. Then, the rosters were usually rounded out with the necessary picks of the less-coordinated boys, the girly-girls and the kids who would clearly prefer to be reading Goosebumps books instead of getting their sneakers dirty on a kickball field. Finally, there was always the inevitable battle over which team would get stuck with the fat kid, regardless of how good he may or may not have been. As silly as it sounds, that superficial playground precedence for choosing sides in a competition really has left lasting implications on the way in which adult society operates today, especially in the world of politics. America’s two major parties, after all, have been picking and trading players for their teams from a lineup of ideas and ideals for the past 150 years, each desperately searching for those key platform policies that will consistently clear the bases with their powerful kicks. Needless to say, today’s Democratic Party is playing with a bench full of fat kids.

As the 22 percent of Americans who voted for their president based solely on his stance on issues of morality know, Democrats have been stuck with adding to their team two of the worst political policies: those key platform policies that will consistently clear the bases with their powerful kicks. Needless to say, today’s Democratic Party is playing with a bench full of fat kids. As the 22 percent of Americans who voted for their president based solely on his stance on issues of morality know, Democrats have been stuck with adding to their team two of the worst political policies: those key platform policies that will consistently clear the bases with their powerful kicks. Needless to say, today’s Democratic Party is playing with a bench full of fat kids.
I have never been one to trust the supposed rite of springtime that involves one's fantasies turning to love. The only loving going on in the spring is between the birds and the bees, who are getting together to make baby butterflies, as my understanding of reproductive science goes. Spring is too easy to fall in love — with its flowers and soft pastels, and my junior high school poetry. No, I'm made of sterner things.

That's why for me, the greatest season for romance is the late fall. There's something about those days when snow and rain and grayness combine into one big stew called "Midwest November" that stirs my passions. The first brisk chill that requires me donning a sweater sends a secret message: it's time to go out without a jacket and act now.

But above all, gentle reader, there is one ultimate reason why the fall is the perfect period for romance. This reason cannot be measured by the heart nor understood by the mind. No, it only can be explained by the good people of Flex Points.

I'm talking, of course, about Flex Points. With the coming of the Frost and the Great Pumpkin, arrogant times have returned. I am sure that you have run out of Flex Points. This, I have come to find out, is a common experience for most of our campus. Unlike the U.S. with intelligence and represents the majority of the students here on campus. If you disagree with the shirt, you have the freedom not to buy one.

I do not support the effort to have these symbols of who we are removed. Like it or not, we are Americans in America. This is our country and we should be able to express our sense of national pride.

Just because not all of us are American does not mean that we should walk around with eggs on our shoulders. We should respect their right to display national pride, and in turn, they should respect our freedom of speech. We are free to disagree, if we disagree with the symbols on our gear, then they have the ability not to wear it.

For the regular fans of Notre Dame like me, the hope of impressing a young lady is an uphill battle. I have heard that the football team, winning can't be done on the cheap. A big-money lobbyist firm, Flex Points pebbles influence committees. To add to that, I am a man worthy of their affection for I am the great provider of submarine sandwiches.

For the regular fans of Notre Dame like me, the hope of impressing a young lady is an uphill battle. Thanks to Flex Points, however, we have two powerful allies — Burger King and quarter dogs. Yes, I believe it was Sir Francis Bacon who professed in his famous essay, "The Essene" of the varsity athlete. What I lack in looks and letterman status is made up for in the ability to purchase smoothie.

In days of yore I would simply ask my father for a piece of the family estate, thus providing a small year¬ly income that would allow me to maintain a cottage, a country wife and a pack of hounds. But alas, this is modern-day America and this is not the first time 21st century notions of dating have let me down. As I have come to find out, for those of us not on the football team, winning can't be done on the cheap. Like a big-money lobbyist firm, Flex Points pebbles influence committees. To add to that, I am a man worthy of their affection for I am the great provider of submarine sandwiches.

Bob Masters
Fall on the Floor and I Laughing

Flexible heart muscle

Colin Powell's recent resignation as Secretary of State was bad enough. It was one thing to lose one of the greatest public servants this country has seen in years, but to make things worse, Powell's replacement will be Condoleezza Rice. So much for President George W. Bush's plan to bridge the gap in this already divided country.

In his Nov. 3 acceptance speech, following the concession of Sen. John Kerry, Bush admitted he failed at unifying the people of the United States. The gap between the left and right was wider than ever when Bush won a second term, but he said he would do everything in his power to fix the problem. He isn't off to a good start by placing someone who is possibly farther to the right than he is as the nation's top diplomat. Any balancing that Powell was doing in the Cabinet has all but disappeared. And as the Iraqi situation gets worse and worse, and the death toll rises higher and higher by the day, we need Powell's pres¬ence more than ever.

Replacing Powell, on the other hand, is about as far from a downgrade as you can get. She lacks the experience on the diplomatic stage that Powell possesses and has never been one for diplo¬my. She represents everyone that is destroying a part of who we are. Like it or not, we are Americans in America. This is our country and we should be able to express our sense of national pride.

Just because not all of us are American does not mean that we should walk around with eggs on our shoulders. We should respect their right to display national pride, and in turn, they should respect our freedom of speech. We are free to disagree, if we disagree with the symbols on our gear, then they have the ability not to wear it.

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This article originally appeared in the Nov. 19 issue of the Massachusetts Daily Collegian, the daily publication at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
by Maria Smith, Molly Griffin, Christie Bolsen and Rama Gottumukkala

scene

Top ten online time wasters

Taking a look into the top 10 ways that the Internet distracts college students from school

By MARIA SMITH, MOLLY GRIFFIN, CHRISTIE BOLSEN and RAMA GOTTMUKKALA

Scene Writer

People have praised the Internet as one of the greatest tools ever to be invented. It has no end — communication, learning, e-mailing professors, or putting this year's yearbook online. No one can deny that it has provided endless ways to avoid your work. In honor of the approach of finals, here are some of the biggest time wasters provided by the Internet.

1. AIM

AIM Instant Messenger ranks among the biggest computer time-wasters available today, and it has quickly become an integral part of the lifestyles of many college students. You assign yourself a screenname, and you can "chat" with other people via typing using AIM's instant messenger. You can keep a buddy list with all of your friends' screennames, and you can spend hours checking away messages that people put up when they aren't around their computer. If you ask most college students, Instant Messenger is more than just a time waster — it's an integral part of how they communicate with other people.

2. The Facebook

Talk to anyone about the Facebook, and you'll probably hear them complain about how much time they waste on it. The Facebook is a kind of online yearbook, but you get to choose your own photos and create your own profile. If you happen to be surfing the internet and see someone that you know, you can invite them to be your friend, and they can confirm or reject you. The Facebook is a spreading presence at universities across the nation, so it's quite possible for you to spend hours looking for people from your high school. Find out that you or your child is usually a large number of Facebook profiles of classmates or browse through the wide variety of clubs, such as the Awkward White Guy Club or the Committee to Relocate Notre Dame to the Bahamas.

3. ESPN.com

Between the Facebook and AIM, there's plenty of time wasting to go around. But just in case, ESPN.com is easily a top choice amongst a home away from home for procrastinators — at least those that happen to be sports fans. Whether you want the latest results or a video from a game you missed, ESPN.com is the place to go. On top of that all, it's easy to find one of the best sites on the net for live scores, stats galore, columns from sports experts, game wraps and fantasy leagues that'll keep you occupied until the end of the season. Also, ESPN.com offers collections of its news articles in book form for those who wish to spend even more time reading slightly made-up news.

4. Online shopping

The irresistibility of online shopping can be summed up in two words — convenience and selection. Even people who are too lazy to get up out of their chairs can max out their credit cards at the Gap, Best Buy and virtually any other store that more motivated shoppers actually walk around in to go shopping. Besides the allure of being able to sit in your underwear, there's the fact that you can shop online at stores which might not exist in South Bend except on the World Wide Web.

5. Lyrics

When you need the perfect song for your profile or away message, your other time-wasting Internet pastime, you can now Google those mumbled songs that you hear on the radio. Plus, you can now use search engines to learn lyrics and impress people with your ability to sing all the words to "Callin' Baton Rouge." Whatever your reason for needing to know all the lyrics to any song, you can spend your time on lyricsdepot.com instead of writing your papers.

6. Online Games

Back in elementary and middle school, it was easy to waste hours playing Tetris, solitaire or Snoo on the computer. Sadly, nowadays, nothing has changed. At least back then you couldn't take it off your computer. Now, you can look up almost any game online instantaneously, and before you know it another hour of your life is gone. Particularly addicting games can easily be found at www.msn.com and even our own www.ndtoday.com. Use with caution, because the closer finals come, the more tempting they are.

7. The Onion

The Onion is to newspapers what "The Daily Show" is to TV news. The Onion mocks everything from politics to the bural details of everyday life, and does so by making it all so matter how silly, read like a real news articles. With news headlines like, "Teen Handed Awesome Responsibility - More Than One Million Dollars!" or editorials titled, "What Happens At Yucca Mountain Stays at Yucca Mountain," you can waste a lot of time reading and hearing commentary on chil­dren's this year, the more pertinent questions and doomsday predictions for those who wish to spend even more time reading slightly made-up news.

8. Homestarrunner.com

If you want to figure out how big a time waster www.homestarrunner.com has become, try mak­ing your buddy icon a picture of Trogdor and see how many people recognize a picture of Kofi Annan. The results may be frightening. Homestarr Runner and his cartoon buddies can become a true addiction; at first, they may only be mildly funny, but before long, you may be spending the better part of an afternoon sitting through Strong Bad e-mails, cartoon shorts, character videos and the course Teen Carl Seed, a girl who even feels like the characters have become your friends. But remember, real friends will help you pass your classes.

9. Blogs

The blog scene has been growing continuously over the past several years, and has recently exploded. Admittedly, some of these blogs are used easily a top choice amongst a home away from home for procrastinators — at least those that happen to be sports fans. Whether you want the latest results or a video from a game you missed, ESPN.com is the place to go. On top of that all, it's easy to find one of the best sites on the net for live scores, stats galore, columns from sports experts, game wraps and fantasy leagues that'll keep you occupied until the wee hours of the morning — or at least until 15 minutes before that 8 a.m. biology exam.

10. Maddox

A lot of people only know www.maddox.xmis­sion.com from the famous page "I am hotter than your kids," featuring critical commentary on children's artwork. People who take the time to explore the rest of the site will discover that Maddox is rude to every other class of people. The kids' pictures are funny, but an article about why Christopher Reeve is a model is not only an efficient way to waste not only your own time — you can waste the time of many of your friends simultaneously. Keeping in touch with your friends, you say? How many times have you read multiple entries out of a journal of someone you barely know or never met? This is clearly a huge time waster.

Contact Maria Smith, Molly Griffin, Christie Bolsen and Rama Gottumukkala at mbolsen@nd.edu, cbolcen@nd.edu, mgriffin@nd.edu and rgtorme@nd.edu
"Fusion" of cultures

Saturday night's Asian Allure impresses a full house with fashion, dancing and more

By JANE MITSCH
Scene Writer

Roots and wings seemed to be persistent themes throughout Saturday night's Asian Allure. After last year's stint off campus, this year's performance came back to its original venue at Washington Hall, but took off with a new theme, "Fusion," featuring a whole new blend of traditional and contemporary fashion, dance and culture.

As in the past, the organizers and performers did not fail to pack the house. Crowd-pleasing featured guests at Asian Allure included TroopND, First Class Steppers and the brand new addition this year, Project Fresh. The emcee Liz Tran best described the "Fusion" performances as "a little bit of old school, a little bit of new school, a lot of crazy school."

Asian Allure model organizers combed campus for versatile clotheshorses to show off traditional, formal and casual fashion. "Old school" couture, belonging to the clubs and the models' own closets, included authentic traditional pieces ranging from India, Korea, Japan, Hawaii and the Philippines. Formal and street clothes were also picked out by the models.

The Vietnamese Student Association featured a new lineup this year with the flirtatious Non-La Bamboo Hat Dance and the humorous New Year Mua Las Dragon Dance. The Filipino American Student Organization performed its perennial crowd-pleaser, Tinikling, with the traditional costumes and steps, as well as a modern version with a hot hip-hop beat and street clothes. The brave men in loincloths also performed the solemn warrior dance, Uya-Uy. The Hawaiian Club performed a graceful hula dance.

The Korean Student Association incorporated a rich Korean history with a beautiful fan-dance put on by the women, with a talented contemporary culture as shown by K-Pop's boy band, EXO.

The Japan Club presented a seamless blend of traditional and modern culture with its Fisherman's Dance Plus, with everything from kimonos to cheerleaders. The Indian Association once again put on a highly energized, colorful and well-received dance, culminating in an exciting gymnastic feat.

"Since most of us have never been to all these places in Asia, these clubs bring the exotic diversity right here to South Bend," sophomore Indian dancer Himanshu Kothari said. "If the students in the audience were unsure before about the value of diversity on campus, this entertaining show will convince them."

Some of the non-ethnic clubs featured at "Fusion" were also big hits. The Notre Dame Martial Arts Institute demonstrated the skillful grace and threatening strength of the Kwan Do and Jujitsu. TroopND brought the freshest moves to Washington Hall, putting the SYR and Boat Club dance floors to shame. The First Class Steppers outdid themselves again this year with more acrobatic moves and participation from the ladies. Last but not least, a brand new club on campus called Project Fresh made its debut, winning the crowd approval right away for an auspicious initiation into the hearts of students.

By now most of the individual ethnic clubs have their own performances, like the Indian Association's Bhangra Bash and FASO's Fiestang, but the coordinators and Asian Allure veterans believe this "Fusion" is still necessary.

"We thought that Asian Allure was a good chance for all the clubs to come together with a united front and feature a multifaceted Asian culture," senior model Joe Tan said. "And we all believe in the diversity dialogue. Not only ethnic diversity but other minority participation hopefully encourages some more students to break out of their comfort zone and see what we can do together."

Contact Jane Mitsch at jmitsch@nd.edu

Above, the show featured dancers dressed as a dragon. At right, the Indian Association performs a bhangra dance. Bottom right, the Vietnamese Student Association performs the Non-La Bamboo Hat Dance. Bottom left, the Korean Student Association performs a fan-dance.

PHOTOS BY CLAIRE KELLEY
SMC Basketball

Women start season with disappointment in loss to Hanover

BY KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's basketball season did not start out exactly as the Gaels had hoped, as the Gaels struggled to do anything going offensively, scoring only 19 points in each of their last two games. The Gaels lost by 21 percent from the floor in those games.

"We just had a rough first game," Belles' point guard Bridget Lipe said. "Our shots were off. We had a lot of turnovers, and I think we just punished Sarah. Saint Mary's had no answer for Hanover's star forward Laura Little. Little scored 17 first-half points to give Hanover a 31-19 lead at intermission. Belles were unable to gain any ground in the second half.

Lentz out Green Bush led Saint Mary's with nine points, and forward Emily Creacham contributed seven points and seven rebounds. The Belles struggled much better in Saturday's contest at Franklin College, despite failing to pick up the victory, losing 66-57. Saint Mary's jumped out to an early 12-6 lead, but experienced an offensive lull late in the first half, and Franklin led by 18 points at the break.

The Belles refused to stop fighting, however. Saint Mary's opened the second half with a 10-2 run, closing to within 26-38 at halftime. The team stayed relatively even with Franklin for the remainder of the game. Bush hit a turnaround jumper in the lane to cut the Franklin lead to 55-53.

In the final two minutes, however, Franklin was dominant. The Belles were defeated on 9-of-10 free throws, and Saint Mary's was unable to score for the big shots to make a final run. Junior guard Bridget Lipe led the Belles with 22 points. She hit seven of 13 field goals for Saint Mary's comeback attempt. Freshman Allison Kessler also played a vital role in the Belles' second half run. Kessler brought energy off the bench through fresh blood points in the second period.

"She really lit a spark and carried the team in that last 10 minutes," Lipe said. Belles senior Kiefer and Kate Seryak hit 10 of 10 free throws, and Creacham pulled down 10 rebounds for Saint Mary's in the loss. While disappointed with the outcome, the team showed excellent character by battling back in the second half, refusing to give up. Lipe attributes this toughness as the key of this year's team.

"We were down, but came back to fight," Kiefer said. "That's who we are. The chemistry and the bond that was because of the chemistry and the girls on the team. Chemistry is going to be a key for us for the rest of the season."

The Belles hope this chemistry will translate into success on the court in the future, Saint Mary's will look for its first win Tuesday night when it takes on Manchester College at the Angela Athletic Center.

Contact Kevin Brennan at kbrennan@nd.edu

Women hold first annual Baraka Bouts finals

BY TOM DORWART, RYAN KIEFER and KATE SERYAK
Sports Writers

After three months of training, hundreds of hours of push-ups and sit-ups and hours of running, the women boxers finally stepped into the ring this week. For 22 boxers, their hard work was finally going to pay off.

Sunday at 2 p.m the first bell sounded, at the Joyce Center, for the inaugural Baraka Bouts and the women's boxing championships. For the first time ever, the women's boxing club was able to hold a tournament. Last year the women fought in exhibition bouts.

"No other school has women's boxing," Emily Rickert said. "It's a good opportunity for the women to showcase their skills."

White def. Paladino, flyweight

In the flyweight championship bout, junior Paige White defeated freshman Meghan Paladino, in a split decision, after three one-and-a-half minute rounds.

"I put in a ton of work during the season — long hours," White said. "Getting in the ring and coming out on top in front of a large crowd of people definitely makes it all worth while. It was a great match. I'm just excited to have come out on top."

Runde def. Hickey, featherweight.

In the featherweight division, senior Grier Ruiz overpowered junior Jessica Hickey for the title. Leading into the third round, the bout was still close, but Ruiz cornered Hickey nearly 30 seconds into the round and dealt several solid blows. Ruiz held on to her lead the rest of the way for the title.

Rickert def. Burton, junior featherweight

Emily Rickert edged senior Sarah Burton in the final, in a tight, hard-fought battle.

"It's a great workout," first-time boxer actress Jen Galinaro said. "I thought it was a really aggressive bout. It was a good fight."

Irving def. McCormick, junior lightweight

Senior Emily Irving used her experience to her advantage as she defeated freshman Colleen McCormick in a unanimous decision.

The senior was savvy and aggressive, using combinations to gain the upper hand early. McCormick gave a valiant effort, but found herself on the receiving end of too many blows from her opponent. Irving wore down McCormick in the later stages, putting her on a defensive position for the majority of the final round. Irving's consistency throughout the three rounds reflected her seniority and was enough to give her the win. Williams def. Jackson, lightweight

In a match marked by early aggression from both fighters, freshman Emily Williams emerged victorious in a unanimous decision over junior Erica Jackson. Williams used her left hand to keep her opponent off-balance, a strategy that gave her an early advantage in the fight. As the match progressed, she began using a right jab to set up her powerful left, using this technique to pin her opponent against the ropes in the final round. The final round featured an early spurt, followed by defensive tactics from both fighters. Williams's combination punches were enough in this bout proved enough for her to cut the victory.

Canavan def. Wu, junior welterweight

Domination from the outset, sophomore Kelsey Wu lost the title on classmate Awan Wu in a unanimous decision. Wu was poised to attack from the opening bell, landing several jabs that sent her opponent to the canvas within the first minute of the first round. Wu was able to hold a tournament. Last year the women fought in exhibition bouts.

The trend continued in the second round, as Wu was unable to prevent Miller from backing her into the corner and gaining the upper hand. Despite having her strongest performance in the third round, Wu was still forced to go on the offensive as Miller tried unsuccessfully to deliver the knockout blow. Miller's consistency throughout was more sufficient to award her the decision.

Borys def. Wehanal, middleweight

Senior captain Amanda Borys was masterful in a textbook performance that resulted in a unanimous decision over sophomore Kelsey Miller. In the first round, Wehanal boomed up out for the majority of the round, landing combinations that left Borys stumbling. The second round saw Wehanal round yielded limited action.

In a bout that proved to be one of the more closely contested fights of the day, Megan Canavan defeated her sophomore classmate Julie Liceb in a split decision. Both fighters threw aggressive combinations in the early stage. This bout was tight in the closing rounds, as Canavan cut the corner, taking the early advantage.

Up next was back with an inspired performance in the second round, however, attacking early and landing a high percent of her punches. It was Canavan's most effective round as it propelled her to a victory despite suffering a blow in the third round that sent her mouth guard flying out of the ring.

Popoff def. Pangborn, supermiddleweight

The final round match was a battle for the Weapon of Pangborn was won by sophomore Agus Galinaro who earned the unanimous decision over fellow sophomore Kelsie Moon. The fight appeared even on the same floor of Pangborn, were cautious at the outset as the first round yielded limited action.

The battle of the Bells saw the penultimate fight come to fruition after the Belles have been fighting for their title in a unanimous decision over junior Kathleen Moon. The two finished up the round, while the same floor of Pangborn, were cautious at the outset as the first round yielded limited action.

The final round match was a battle for the Bells' title. This bout was dominated by the Belles, as they took the win after a unanimous decision.

Contact Tom Dorwalt, Ryan Kiefer and Kate Seryak at tdorwalt@nd.edu, rkiefer@nd.edu and kseryak@nd.edu

Galmalin def. Mooney, middleweight

To the battle of the Phoenix of Manger was won by sophomore Agus Galinaro who earned the unanimous decision over fellow sophomore Kelsie Moon. The two finished up the round, while the same floor of Pangborn, were cautious at the outset as the first round yielded limited action.
College Football Polls

AP Coaches

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Men's Swimming & Diving

CSCAA Top 25

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NBA

NBA commissioner David Stern handed out suspensions Sunday to nine players on the Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons for their involvement in Friday night's brawl. Stern suspended Pacers forward Ron Artest for the entire season.

Associated Press

NEW YORK - Ron Artest was suspended for the rest of the season Sunday, and two of his Indiana Pacers teammates must miss a total of 55 games for fighting with fans during a melee that broke out at the end of a game against the Detroit Pistons.

Overall, the NBA issued some of the harshest penalties in its history by banning nine players for more than 140 games. Artest's suspension is the strongest ever levied for a fight during a game.

"The line is drawn, and my guess is that won't happen again - certainly not by anybody who wants to be associated with our league," commissioner David Stern said.

Indiana's Stephen Jackson was suspended for 30 games and Jermaine O'Neal for 25. Detroit's Ben Wallace - whose shoe of Artest after a foul led to the initial fracas. O'Neal's suspension will cost him nearly 25 percent of his $14.8 million salary for the current season.

Players union director Billy Hunter, calling the penalties excessive, said an appeal would be filed immediately.

"We have to make the point that there are boundaries in our games," Stern said. "Our one of our boundaries, that have always been immutable, is the boundary that separate the fans from the court. Players lose control and move into the stands." - Artest, O'Neal and Jackson began serving their suspensions Saturday.

Artest's penalty was the most severe because of his checkered history. Artest being provoked into running into the stands by a fan who threw a drink did not appear to be a mitigating factor in Stern's decision.

"It was unanimous, one to nothing," Stern said.

IN BRIEF

Breath wins Pebble Beach Invitational by one stroke

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. - Jeff Brehaut made a 5-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole Sunday for a final-round 6-under 69 and a one-stroke victory over Kevin Sutherland at the Pebble Beach Invitational.

Brehaut, who is wireless in five PGA Tour seasons, finished at 9-under 279 at Pebble Beach Golf Links and was one of just three golfers who broke par in windy conditions. The event included players from the PGA, Champions, Nationwide and PGA Tours, as well as mini-tour players, club pros and amateurs.

"All of us were in trouble out there," said Brehaut, who finished 149th on the money list with $448,914. "But I hung in there and did I want to do it." - Strong winds blew throughout the round, leading to firm greens and comparisons to the course's conditions when it hosted the U.S. Open.

"The wind was tough, and it was a tough day to get a birdie and an easy day to get bogeys," said Brehaut, who earned $60,000 of the $300,000 purse. "The final putt was a perfect, easy putt and I knew I had to do something with it." - Freshman point guard leads Virginia over Arizona

CHARLOTTEVILLE, Va. - Highly touted freshman Sean Singletary came to Virginia to play in the ACC. He arrived at a school picked to finish eighth in the conference and not expected to make much noise.

Two games into his college career, the former Philadelphia schoolboy star is already working to change that. He had 13 points and made several big plays Sunday night as the Cavaliers beat no. 10 Arizona 78-60.

"We just have something to prove," the 6-foot point guard said. "I know a lot of people are overlooking us. They picked us to be in the bottom of the ACC. We're just going to stay humble about this win.

"We're in the beginning of the season, so it's nothing to be all hyped up about. We're going to stay humble and go to practice and work hard." - The Cavaliers (2-0) looked like the more highly touted team against the Wildcats (2-1), who left after the game for New York and a Preseason NIT semifinals game against Michigan on Wednesday night.

Eagles move to 9-1 behind McNabb's four touchdowns

PHILADELPHIA - Rattled, hurried and battered for 2 1/2 quarters, Donovan McNabb kept his poise, stayed in the pocket and picked apart Washington's secondary.

McNabb tied a career high with four touchdowns passes, leading the Philadelphia Eagles to a 24-6 victory over the Redskins on Sunday. Three of those scoring passes came in the second half.

The Eagles are 9-1 for the first time since the 1960 season, when they opened 11-1 and went to the Super Bowl.

around the dial

Around the Nation

NFL New England at Kansas City, 9 p.m., ABC

NCAA Basketball

Davidson vs. Duke, 6 p.m., ESPN2

BYU vs. North Carolina, 9 p.m., ESPN2

The Observer's Wire Services

Page 13

Compiled from The Observer's Wire Services
Irish deserved more in wins

PITTSBURGH — The Irish were gyped.

Junior Lauren Brewster earned an unanimous selection to the Big East All-Big East First team and was named Sports Writer Tournament MVP while junior Lauren Kelbel and senior Emily Loomis garnered spots on the All-Big East Second team and honorable mention respectively.

Still, somehow that doesn't seem sufficient.

Notre Dame was the first Big East Champion ever to fall to win a major award, as Pittsburgh collected honors for the player of the year and rookie of the year. It is surprising that Big East coaches have failed to determine the awards' recipients — didn't recognize more Irish players.

Notre Dame has proven itself more than deserving of accolades and praise throughout the season. The team has proved their case this weekend, handing losses to the bewitched Boston College and Pittsburgh teams — both of which anticipated wins against last Notre Dame for the Big East Championship.

After defeating the Irish earlier this season, Boston College expected to repeat its success and cruise to a spot in the championship game. Pittsburgh had its sights set on a back-to-back championship after beating Notre Dame last year at the Joyce Center en route to a Big East title.

But both teams had other plans.

Boston College kept Notre Dame at arm's length throughout the first game, capitalizing on the collectively listless Irish team. Wide-eyed and visibly frustrated, the Irish relied on individual efforts and could not put together a group-based attack to overcome.

The Irish had to face the Big East Championships, the Irish set lofty expectations for themselves. As the first-seeded team in the tournament, defeating like an unlikely option for the talented Notre Dame team. Thriving on their momentum from the second game, the Irish collected wins in each of the following games they played last weekend — including those in their match against Pittsburgh.

The Irish did a bunch of things we had to done before. But it was all within the structure of (a nice) how we supplement what we've done so that we're better.

Krakowski, the current Notre Dame record holder in the 50-yard freestyle, helped his teammates Doug Bauman, Tim Randolph and Louis Cavallisto post a first-place time of 1:30.96 in the 200 medley relay. He would go on to win the 100-yard butterfly race, with a time of 51.51, and set the pace again in the 100-yard freestyle (47.88) event.

The 100-yard freestyle race proved to be one of the top two points for the Irish, as the Irish claimed seven of the top eight spots in the event. Junior Tyler Grenda led the way in the other race, winning the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 59.66, as Notre Dame took the top nine spots in the event.

"I think one of the key features of this team is that we are a very focused group of guys," Welsh said. "We have been focused on our ambitions and our desires for achievement ever since the first time we met in August and we have been able to sustain that in each one of our meets."

"I think we'll take to the water again on Dec. 2-4 as they return to the Ball Arena in South Bend to participate in the Notre Dame Invitational. The annual championship-style meet will close out the team's fall season and it will be the third time the Irish have hosted the event on the first weekend after Thanksgiving.

"We think of it as our final exam for the first semester," Welsh said. "We look at this event and say, 'Okay, where are we at the end of the fall?' and then we try to adjust what we want going into next that meet. I think what we're all learning is that we have a chance to be a pretty good team. We know that we have to keep on improving to do it, and we do that to a chance to be a pretty good team."

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumu@nd.edu

Irish defend rank versus Louisville

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA

With a national ranking to defend, the Irish were no time in presenting the new direction for their program over the weekend.

Swimming at Louisville in a three-season, championship-style meet, No. 21 Notre Dame (6-1) finished strong in its first-ever meet as a nationally-ranked team, posting a 242-117 victory against the Cardinals.

"That was very exciting news for us but we're trying to try to put absolute no attention to the ranking," Irish head coach Tim Welsh said. "We're glad that the ranking happened and we think that it gives some validity to what our ambitions are for the year. But we know that ranking doesn't make us one hundredth of a second faster and we know that if we're not faster in February, we're not going to be happy with our performance."

After being tied with Louisville 4-4 after Friday's events, Notre Dame came out strong and pulled away on Saturday. The Irish won 11 of the 15 events on the final day of the meet, garnering strong performances from senior Frank Krakowski. Krakowski led the way for the Irish, winning both the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard freestyle and also taking part in the first-place 200-medley relay.

The Irish rotated their swimmers out of their normal events during the meet but won 10 of the 15 events. Swimmers such as Krakowski, who were used to swimming key strokes in relays, were rotated to individual stroke events and they performed very well.

"Balance and depth are our two best features," Welsh said. "Because we were not limited by the number of swimmers we had put in each event (at this meet, we did a bunch of things we hadn't done before. It was all within the structure of (asking) how we supplement what we've done so that we're better."

"We think of it as our final exam for the first semester," Welsh said. "We look at this event and say, 'Okay, where are we at the end of the fall?' and then we try to adjust what we want going into next that meet. I think what we're all learning is that we have a chance to be a pretty good team. We know that we have to keep on improving to do it, and we do that to a chance to be a pretty good team."

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumu@nd.edu
ND WOMEN’S SOCCER

Notre Dame beats Connecticut, avenging its only loss of the season

By DAN TAPETILLO Sports Writer

Notre Dame has consistently proven itself to be among the best in the nation this year. Today at the NCAA championships, the team looks to continue that pattern. With second-place finishes at the Great Lakes Regional, the No.3 ranked men's team and the No. 6 women's team qualified for the NCAA championships along with 31 other teams.

Despite beginning the season unranked, the men's team has delivered in big meets — most notably a one-point victory over Georgetown to claim the Big East title. "It's been an amazing year to go from unranked to fillis," Irish coach Joe Plati said. "They've been on a high for the past six weeks, and we hope to continue that for the next five or six days." The women's team began the season with high expectations but has had to overcome injuries and other setbacks along the way. After missing the regional race with a sore foot, star runner Molly Huddle may still not run today. Huddle had been a top finisher all season and placed 41st overall at last season's NCAA championship. "At the beginning of the year we had better hopes but things have not fallen into place," Irish head coach Randy Waldrum said. "They've been an amazing year to

ND CROSS COUNTRY

Irish travel to Terre Haute for NCAA Championships

By STEVE COVER Sports Writer

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ND VOLLEYBALL

Wins over Pitt, BC give ND title

By MIKE GILLOON Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Their coach likes to call them the "two Laurens." Others just call them Big East champions.

Notre Dame wins over Pittsburgh 30-23, 30-26, 30-26 to win the Big East Tournament title behind the consistent, strong play of Lauren Brewster and Lauren Kohley. Brewster, named the tournament's most outstanding player, recorded five blocks in the charts.

Irish defensive specialist Meg Henican digs a ball Sunday in the Irish win over Pittsburgh in the Big East Tournament Championship.

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Batteast named MVP of WNIT in Irish win

By JOE HETTLER Sports Writer

On the best offensive night of her career, it was Jacqueline Batteast's defense that sealed Notre Dame's victory. Batteast tallied a career-high 32 points and made a critical block of a potential game winning shot. Irish forward Jacqueline Batteast goes up for a shot.

Irish forward Jacqueline Batteast goes up for a shot.

ND Women's Basketball Men win against Harvard

By MATT LOZAR Sports Writer

Irish coach Mike Brey summed it up best. "If you get 18 more shots than your opponent, turn them over 19 times but only score 66 points it's going to be interesting," Brey said. It was interesting to say the least Friday night in Notre Dame's 66-25 win over Harvard in the season opener at the Joyce Center.

After building a 16-point halftime lead, the Irish allowed the Crimson back into the game in the second half by scoring another goal...
Observer in your home. nytimes.com/learning/xwords. For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, (is a 42 Brunch cocktail 52 Former Mideast good sign)

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DILBERT

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, ASOK, I TOO SOUGHT THE THRILL OF VICTORY AND THE PLEASURES OF THE FLESH.

BUT AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF NOT GETTING EITHER ONE, I MADE CONVENIENCE MY NEW MISTRESS.

PEANUTS

WHAT IF I DECIDED TO BECOME A WAITER SOME DAY?

I'VE HAD A LOT OF EXPERIENCE FEEDING MY DOG...

PROBABLY, HOWEVER, NOT THE SORT OF THING TO PUT ON A RESUME...

WILL SHORT Z

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

HOROSCOPE

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Goldie Hawn, Ken Griffey Jr., Troy Aikman, Cherry Jones. Happy Birthday! You have a strong creative ability that is in a highly disciplined cycle this year. Don't waste time, but rather focus on your dreams and aspirations. Put aside the time you require to take a honest stab at fulfilling your creative goals. Your numbers are 3, 12, 15, 13, 33, 37, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be very intuitive today. This trait could go to your head, if you aren't prepared. Be careful or prepare to be defensive.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Get back to basics and check out some of the old familiar places you used to go to. A chance meeting with someone from your past may lead to an array of new possibilities.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. The more you accomplish, the better you will feel about your present and your future. Avoid disputes.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You need to get away and have some fun. Visit a friend (or invite someone to stay with you). It wouldn't hurt to be a little selfish today.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Do a little decorating or check out real estate properties that interest you. The more you do to budget your books before the end of the year, the better.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be offered some information that will enable you to make an important decision. Family matters can be tended to. A little help offered will bring you a huge return later on.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put on a little overtime and you will have a head start. You are up for a challenge and can easily find solutions to any work-related problems that you are facing.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Today is all about doing things that will improve your emotional and mental outlook. Pamper yourself and take some time to read or do the things you enjoy should be on your mind.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Everything will center on your home. The better you are, the better. Books about your area or places to get involved in neighborhood events are a good idea.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do a day trip that will help you to see familiar places from a different perspective. You will be outspoken, and this cycle will have some fun. Visit a friend or invite someone to stay with you. It wouldn't hurt to be a little selfish today.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Remember past experiences and the people you've met along the way. An old goal may surface, giving you a new outlook on future prospects. It's never too late to go back.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be outspoken, and this should lead to some answers you've been searching for. Once you have the information required, make your move swiftly.

Birthday Baby: You are highly intuitive. You have a creative ability and are sensitive to others. You are caring and understanding, always putting the ones you love first.

Check out Eugenia's Web site at astrowiz.com and eugeniastat.com.

THE OBSERVER

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Kills 54 after the afternoon. Much for that bus as she played this week. Committee [that selects the tournament] for us at the net hitting and for a .343 hitting percentage.

Strength for today's race lead by Vern Gibson Course. Irish with a 21st place finish at King, Stephanie Madia, and Kurt Benninger, Kaleb Van ready performances if they are to finish Nationals. The Irish will rely on Lauren King led the Irish in 2002. The men's squad will be at full coach Tim Connelly said. "We're healthy and enthusiastic also will compete.

The Irish improved their all-tie more confidence when she's in the starting role. She's a dominant presence for the Connecticut offense.

"She gives you so many weapons," Waldrum said. "She is just a warrior. I think she is one of our best players and one that we can't do without. And she is probably one of our most unselfish ones."

The Irish improved their all-time record in the NCAA tournament to 29-10-1. Notre Dame will now face the second highest seeds left in the tournament, No. 5 Portland in the quarterfinals.

Heading into the next round, Notre Dame is the highest seed remaining in the tournament. Top-seeded Notre Dame faces Santa Clara 1-0 in the quarterfinals.

"I think even as short of a time period of eight to 10 years ago, it was still just Carolina, and it was a shock in some ways that they got knocked out this soon," Waldrum said. "But now I think there is a lot of teams that can win it."

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetillo@nd.edu

Notre Dame's Candace Chapman celebrates her goal against Connecticut Saturday night in the 2-0 Irish win.

Dream of being published?
Submit to the Journal of Undergraduate Research!

DEADLINE: December 8 at 5:00

The Journal of Undergraduate Research is a peer-reviewed journal in the College of Arts and Letters. Submissions should be 20 pages in length, based on original research by an undergraduate, and emailed to ujournal@nd.edu.

Questions? Contact Marianne at ujournal@nd.edu

Connelly said. "In the past we've run fairly well there."
OSU continued from page 20

Hockey
U.S. National Team defeats Irish handily

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Weekly Editor

Youth was served at the Joyce Center Friday night, as the U.S. National Team defeated Ohio State University’s Under-18 team in a 7-2 exhibition game.

Special teams accounted for five of the Under-18 team’s seven goals, with three goals coming on the power play and two goals scored while Team USA was shorthanded.

“It was a tough night all around for us,” Irish coach Dave Poulin told und.com. “Team USA was a good hockey team, especially in the first period. Team USA took many 2-on-1s and 3-on-1s and scored on several unanswered goals — to take a 4-2 lead after the Irish scored a shorthanded goal early in the game.

Three more goals for Team USA in the third period put the game out of reach.

The Under-18 team continued its impressive performance so far in the 2004-05 season. Team USA improved its record to an impressive 4-0-0. The Irish fell to 0-1-2 in the exhibition portion of their season before their first game of the World Division II championships.

When game time began, forward Josh Selby opened the scoring at 14 minutes, 24 seconds of the first period. Selby collected a pass from a teammate at the net and then whipped around behind the net to score on a rebound from the Irish goalie. Selby then added another goal on a power play 16:33 into the first period, when he scored on a pass from Colton Foisy.

The Irish lead was shortened, as just 22 seconds later Ryan Siout beat Irish goalie David Brown for a goal. Poulin said the Irish would score again just 1:15 into the second period, and PSU followed at 8:02 — both goals were shorthanded.

The second period was dominated by Team USA, who scored five more goals to lead 6-2 entering the third period.

Junior Lawson and Jack Johnson scored goals for Team USA in the third period to put the game out of reach. Irish goalkeeper Ryan Siout faced 29 shots.

Buckeye Carly Millard turned the ball over and didn’t let the Irish score, keeping the Buckeyes in the game, even after giving up three straight goals at the beginning of the third period.

The Irish were the victors, winning 7-2, and moving up to 2-0 in the exhibition portion of the season.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

ND Women’s Basketball

Team responds to challenge

Irish use late 12-0 run to put away Buckeyes

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Weekly Editor

There were just over five minutes left in the game, down by eight, it was time for the Irish to break their bench and Division II collegiate teams.

When game time began, forward Josh Selby opened the scoring at 14 minutes, 24 seconds of the first period. Selby collected a pass from a teammate at the net and then whipped around behind the net to score on a rebound from the Irish goalie. Selby then added another goal on a power play 16:33 into the first period, when he scored on a pass from Colton Foisy.

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OSU continued from page 20

game-tying 3-point attempt failed with 11:04 left. The Buckeyes did give the Irish a scare with two seconds left to secure No. 10 Notre Dame’s 62-54 victory against the No. 10 Buckeyes in the final of the pre­ season Women’s NIT at the Joyce Center on November 9.

The Irish lead early in the game, and Team USA came back to tie the contest at one point. Team USA took the lead at 6:01 in the first period. Team USA then expanded their lead to 12 points, scoring unanswered goals — to take a 4-2 lead after the Irish scored a shorthanded goal early in the game.

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Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu
Irish needed an early scare

First comes the preseason talk. Then comes the season. As Notre Dame found out Friday, that walk is not an easy one.

But the Irish are safe after their first reg­​ular season game, even after struggling for a half against Harvard. Notre Dame may not have done enough to Nowe Notre Dame's first – it was a home game against an opponent who finished 4-3 last sea­​son – exposed areas of concern, even for a team whose senior point guard called for 30 regular season wins.

The Crimson out-rebounded the Irish and outsured them in the paint, out-scoring Notre Dame by almost seven points.

It was Notre Dame's first game.

Dennis Latimer was making his debut, looking for a spark.

There were only two Irish players in double figures. And among those, the biggest maybe.

Irish coach Mike Brey was not mad, but he was not happy.

"We've got to score more. It's real simple."

"I don't think we're mad that it wasn't a blowout," Notre Dame forward Jordan Cornette said. "I guess we had to perform at a certain level that I had expected us to perform to. I think it might have been a blowout, just because I think we do have the more talented players; but Harvard played a heck of a game out there.

"Notre Dame does more have talent. But the Crimson's two leading scorers, forward Matt Sieleh and center Brian Cusworth, outplayed the Irish frontcourt and almost created a world Notre Dame backcourt performers.

Cusworth exhibited flashes of excellence that have appeared in only two other players in the past two seasons at the Joyce Center: in 2002, Marquette's Dwayne Wade; in 2003, Syracuse's Hakim Warrick.

"I thought Cusworth was a big threat for us," Notre Dame forward Brian Johnson said.

"I thought it's going to be a battle for 40 minutes, so I think we saw we got out double digits and thought we started playing comfortable and you can't do that.

"When you smell blood you have to go for the kill.

The Irish (1-0) used a 1-7 run in the middle of the first half to open a game tied at eight to a 25-11 advantage. During that run the Irish had five steals in and half of the Irish had ten steals and forced 13 Harvard (1-0) turnovers overall.

Chris Quinn led the Irish in the first 20 minutes with 14 points. Jordan Cornette led the team by seven points.

All of the second quarter led to a 40­-point lead. Notre Dame had one win.

And as far as an optimist Thomas is concerned, that means his team only needs 29 more.

The opinions in this column are those of The Observer and not necessarily those of the author. For every top-25 blowout there's a closer call like Notre Dame's win over the Crimson.

When we smell blood we have to go for the kill."

"When you smell blood you have to go for the kill."

Jordan Cornette Irish forward

"When you smell blood you have to go for the kill."

"I guess if we had performed to the level that I had expected us to perform to, I think it might have been a blowout, just because I think we do have the more talented players, but Harvard played a heck of a game out there.

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FEARED OR LOVED? CITY OR COUNTRY? DOG OR CAT?*

you have priorities. Let them guide you as you build your career. Define what’s important to you and see what’s important to others.

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After an early exit last year, the toughest defense in the country is focused on leading the Irish to a national championship.
Heartbreak wears a variety of masks. When Michigan midfielder Mike White beat Irish goalkeeper Chris Sawyer in the decisive fifth-round of penalty kicks in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament last month, Matt Pugsly the Irish and their faithful were crushed with the crushing blow of the tie-breaking showdown.

Almost a year later, in the quarterfinals of the Big East Championships Nov. 6, the Irish found themselves swallowing the same bitter pill.

After a pair of early-season, holed contested losses to the No. 2 seed Indiana (14-4-1) and Big East rival West Virginia (12-7-1) — both on the road — nearly dropped the Irish out of the NSCAA/Adidas rankings. No. 5 Notre Dame (13-2-3) bit its strike, raffling off 11 consecutive victories without a loss (9-0-2).

However, the double-edged sword of tournament soccer allows for advancement without out victory and elimination without a battle.

Heading into the Big East Championships as the No. 1 seed courtesy of a regular season conference title — the program's first since joining the Big East in 1995 — Notre Dame's bid to win the conference championship for a second consecutive season earlier this month was short-lived. Hosting No. 8 seed Seton Hall at Alumni Field Nov. 6, the Irish battled the Pirates for 110 grueling minutes — 90 regulation minutes plus a 10-minute golden-goal overtime periods — yet neither squad was able to find the back of the net.

The necessary evil of penalty kicks was the consequence. Remaking defense — save the goalkeeper — from the equation, penalty kicks function not as an appropriate measure of a team's talent, but instead, of nerve, and often, sheer luck.

Matching Seton Hall shut for shot through the first seven rounds, the heavily-favored Irish continued to stave off elimination. But when Pirate Matt Salotis slotted the ball past Sawyer in the eighth round and Notre Dame midfielder Nate Norman's attempt sailed over the crossbar, the Irish found themselves with a tally in the tie column — and a "thanks for playing" ticket home.

In the end, then, if the Irish are to continue to build on the impressive foundation coach Bobby Clark has built over the past four years and move into the Elite Eight for the first time in program history, not only will the wanted Notre Dame defense — the undisputable backbone of this Irish team — need to continue to play the asphyxiating shutdown defense that has resulted in the nation's lowest goals-against-average, but it's equally essential the young, growing Irish offensive unit take advantage of prime scoring opportunities and finish those chances — a problem that has plagued the team for much of the season.

Without a doubt, the seeds of a potent Irish attack to buttress the nationally-acclaimed lock-down defense are present.

Sophomore forward Justin McGeeaney has paced the offense thus far this season, posting 12 points (five goals, two assists), while classmate midfielder Ian Etherington has flashed the unique ability to因素 in a pair of talented freshman forwards in Joe Lapaia (three goals, two assists) and Alex Yoshinaga (three goals, two assists), Irish co-leader in goals scored junior forward Tony Megna (five goals, Norman (two goals, three assists) and the veteran leadership of senior midfielder Luke Roughen (two goals, four assists), and it's apparent the Irish have the ability to score — they simply must capitalize on opportunities, albeit a task easier said than done.

While an Irish defense that yielded a meager seven goals in 18 contests affords Notre Dame a slightly larger room for error on the offensive side of the ball than the typical soccer squad, following last year's heartbreaking Sweet 16 exit and Nov. 6's stunning upset loss to a clearly inferior Seton Hall squad, no one seeds to remind the Irish of the potentially crushing consequences that an offensive drought would have on a post-season NCAA Championship run — or, should Notre Dame fail to put away the opposition during both regular season and tournament games, the stingers of penalty kicks.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Pugsly at mpugsly@nd.edu.

Forward Justin McGeeaney battles for position of the ball in Notre Dame's 3-0 victory over Michigan at Alumni Field in October.

The Irish suffered a big upset, rivaling last year's 0-1-1 during the NCAA Saint Patrick's Day Tournament in Jamaica, N.Y. over fall break.

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The final goal

They want a national title — and the nation’s toughest defenders are ready to prove they can bring it home

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

Seven
If a defense is measured by the number of goals it allows, then the Notre Dame defense is second to none.
In 163 shots over 18 games, goalkeeper Chris Sawyer has reached into the back of net just seven times with the tangible proof that the rock-solid Irish back line has broken down.
For anyone without a calculator handy, that works out to a 0.37 goals-against average — the lowest in the country and a crucial factor in the Irish record of 13-2-3.
"It's really just the defense plays as a whole," said Sawyer. "It's really the concept of team defense that we work on every single day at practice — it starts right up with the forwards and goes all the way to the back."
The three senior co-captains — Sawyer, Jack Stewart and Kevin Goldthwaite — have led matches.
Goldthwaite, the left central defender, has controlled the two goals in crucial early-season games, particularly in their stingy defense that we work on every number of goals it allows, then the Irish have given up just one goal.
Add in Christopher High working the middle with Stewart and Ryan Miller patrolling the right side, and you see a team that allowed an average of just 9.1 shots per game this year.
The numbers they've put up aren't too shabby for a program that is making history every year under coach Bobby Clark. In his fourth season with the Irish, Clark emphasizes the importance of defensive mindsets.
"It's been coach Clark instilling that defense wins championships," Stewart said, "and all the guys on the team's dedication to our defensive shape and not getting beat off the transition."
A loss to defending national champion Indiana, who is seeded second in this year's NCAA tournament, marked the only game in which the Irish have given up multiple goals.
The Irish rebounded quickly from the early-season setback, going 8-1-1 in conference play and winning the Big East regular season title.
"Our back four is absolutely amazing" Sawyer said. "They're absolutely amazing — the best back four in the country."
Aside from their primary responsibility of protecting Sawyer in the net, the four backs have contributed to a rebuilding defense throughout the season. Stewart and High both put up two goals and Goldthwaite registered two assists.
"Everyone on our team is at license to go forward but everyone must also take the responsibility of defending," Clark said.
The team attitude is also reflected in the player's individual achievements.
The Irish brought a gold mine's worth of hardware back to South Bend after the Big East Conference named its top awards for the 2004 season — with particularly glowing recognition of the defense.
Sawyer repeated as Goalkeeper of the Year and Jack Stewart was named Defensive Player of the Year.
Goldthwaite joined his co-captains on the first-team all-conference. On the second team, central midfielder Greg Dally, outside midfielder Ian Etherington and forward Justin McGowen were honored.
According to Clark, the awards reflect on the depth of the program.
"We're very conscious that individual honors reflect the general success of the program," he said. "We take it really as a team honor ... we put it down to a plus group."
Clark's players reflect similar team-oriented attitudes.
"It's more of a tribute to the team than it is to me," Stewart said. "The guys like Dalby and the mids and the forwards make our job as a defense a lot easier."
Named an All-American last year, Sawyer credited the strong defense as crucial to bringing home the Goalkeeper of the Year title.
"My award, and Jack's award as well, is really a compliment to the entire defense," Sawyer said. "I'm sure I wouldn't be in a position to get an award if we didn't have such a low goals-against average."
In a group that emphasizes teamwork to such an extent, individual awards are perhaps general to the overall goal of winning an NCAA championship.
"Whether it's the top player on the team or the practice player on our squad, everyone has contributed to getting the team to where it is," Clark said. "It's a team game."
It's the all-pervasive sense of the teamwork concept that makes the Irish believe this could be their year to bring home the most coveted trophy in collegiate soccer.
"Our main goal from the beginning of the season was to win a national championship and be the best team in the country," Stewart said. "For me and the other seniors, this is our last hurrah — we have to make it count."
After a heartbreaking penalty-kick elimination by Seton Hall in the first round of the Big East tournament, they have something extra to prove, even with a No. 5 seed in the Big Dance.
"One of the positives of being eliminated by Seton Hall (was that) it gave everyone a timely reminder of what could happen in the NCAs," Clark said.
It was reminiscent of last year's early trip home after being eliminated by Michigan in the second round.
"Perhaps if we get into the same situation again it will be the third time lucky for the Irish," Clark said.
Last year's historically successful season did not result in a championship, and that is something the returning players have carried with them all year.
"The past few weeks we've taken it one step further every single year," Sawyer said. "We just have to realize as a team that we are perfectly capable of winning a national championship, and that's what we're in it to do."
In fact, an easy exit from the conference championship might be just what the doctor ordered for the Irish if they are to achieve this goal. In the last week of regular-season play, a nasty stomach virus ran through much of the team, sending them in Health Services instead of the practice field. Fully recovered, the Irish were able to spend the extra time off getting into top physical shape.
"You know, I think, right here it should be," Sawyer said. "We're just completely focused on taking this one game at a time. I think having almost two and a half weeks off before this game could really be a blessing in disguise."
The Irish are ready to move ahead, however — and they don't plan to stop anytime soon.
"[After the hard work and dedication we put into it ... the guys are ready to come out and show the country what Notre Dame soccer is all about."
Jack Stewart
Irish captain

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Outside defender Ryan Miller carries the ball up field against Connecticut on Oct. 30. The Irish defeated the Huskies 2-0, scoring twice late in the second half.
Offense has stepped up to season's challenges
Young players and team attitude prove crucial to team's successes in 2004

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

Filling the cleats of last year’s quick-strike offense wouldn’t be easy for any collegiate soccer team.

For a young and opportunistic Irish offense, however, the challenge was a welcome one.

“I think our team, our young players have stepped up a lot this year,” said midfielder Ian Etherington, who has started three goals and five assists so far in 2004.

“The leadership on our team helped our young players to step up so quickly, they were able to guide us.”

A lot of people have played well all season, it obviously has been a nice,” coach Bobby Clark said.

“Someone had to step up to injuries and one thing or another.

The score point have been spread generously among the front line and midfield players, with forward Justin McGeeney leading the team with five goals and two assists.

In the 13 games he played this season, forward Tony Megna put up five goals, and Alex Yoshinaga and Joe Lapira added three goals and two assists apiece.

In addition to Etherington, midfield players Nate Norman, Luke Bouguen, John Mousino and John Stephens added crucial points to the Irish score board.

“All our midfield players look to get on the score sheet,” Clark said.

With Greg Babby, the team’s captain, missing in action in a more defensive mindset, the outside mids are able to penetrate deep into the opponent’s territory — and that has been key to Irish success so far.

“If we’re going to go far it’s going to be very important for John Stephens and Luke Bouguen to get a lot of the goals we need goals to come from that area,” Clark said. “It’s very important that [they] get some goals in this run in.

The defense has been crucial to offensive efforts, and not always in immediately visible ways. Although Christopher High and Jack Stewart combined for four goals this year, the defensive strength of the team allows midfielders to become more involved in scoring plays.

“From our system, the outside mids are able to get forward a lot more, and I’m comfortable leaving Kevin Goldthwaite behind me,” Etherington said.

“If I lose the ball ... I’m comfortable with our backs and our defense to be able to play down men. The task goes both ways, according to Clark.

“Everyone has to be challenged to get forward and attack but everyone has to take up the cause of being good defenders,” Clark said.

As the season progressed, however, different players were able to step into the role of go-to man when it came to finding the net.

“Our team is just team-oriented — we try to stick and play all together,” Etherington said. “I think the reason we’re so successful is that everyone’s out for the team, for all 26 or 27 of us — I don’t think anyone on this team is playing for himself.”

Ian Etherington
Irish midfielder

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Irish midfielder

The leadership on our time helped our young players to step up so quickly.

Central defender Jack Stewart challenges the Georgetown goalkeeper in a Sept. 18 game. Defenders like Stewart played important roles in scoring plays for the Irish this season.

Our plan is to win the national championship and if we’re going to win that — the loss to Seton Hall — it just helps us reassure that everyone’s out for the team.

Despite its impressive accomplishments so far, the team is ready for more.

“Our plan is to win the national championship and if we’re going to win that — the loss to Seton Hall — it just helps us reassure that everyone’s out for the team.”

Etherington said. “We played really good that game, we were just kind of unlucky and it doesn’t really hurt our mind- set.

He also noted the positive aspect of the additional time to prepare for the most important target — the NCAA tournament.

“We just had tons of time to prepare, just preparing for the tournament,” Etherington said.

Finishing 8-1-1 in the Big East conference means that the Irish know tough competi­
tion. Six teams from the conference received berths in the NCAA tournament. The Irish aren’t looking to change their agenda — just step up the firepower.

For a team that has scored 28 goals in the past 18 games, it should come naturally by now.

“I think [if] we start scoring a lot more goals and just creating more opportunities, we’ll have a lot easier opportunity to win the national champi­
onship,” Etherington said.

Behind a hungry young offense, this may be the just team to do it.

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Left, midfielder Ian Etherington lines up for the second goal in a 4-0 Irish victory over Loyola-Chicago on Oct. 3 while teammate Tony Megna crashes the net. Right, freshman Alex Yoshinaga battles a Cal State-Fullerton defender at Alumni Field on Sept. 12 in a 0-0 early season-matchup.