University officials return from Utah trip

An unidentified man gets into a car after a jet carrying athletic director Kevin White and University President-elect Father John Jenkins landed in South Bend early Friday morning.

Merchants expect strong holiday sales

Early consumer stats promising

By KATIE PERRY
New Writer

While a new football coach had toppled the Christmas wish-lists of many Donors this season, Tuesday's announce­ment may have caused Notre Dame students to lean toward more materialistic gift-giving endeavors and — in concert with the rest of the nation — increase their holiday spend­ing.

Contrary to October's con­sumer surveys, which indicated an overall decrease in con­sumer confidence, recent eco­nomic studies demonstrate a more optimistic prediction of the 2004 holiday shopping sea­sons.

A poll by the National Retail Federation found that the aver­age U.S. consumer will spend over $700 this season, a 4.5 percent increase from last year.

The effects of increased con­sumer confidence were felt in Mishawaka this past weekend as local retailers experienced a flurry of holiday shoppers.

"Last weekend was very busy locally and we have every rea­son to believe that a 4 to 5 per­cent increase over last year is achievable," president and CEO of the St. Joseph County Ch­amber of Commerce Mark Eagan said.

South Bend and its surround­ing areas form a regional shop­ping destination that garners customers from a 50-mile radius. It is the second largest retail concentration in the state outside of Indianapolis, said Eagan.

One of the major shopping destinations in this region experienced an increase in sales this weekend was the University Park Mall. According to mall manager Sara Zappia, heightened con­sumption was mixed with the annual Madrigal Dinners ring in the holiday season.

Cable cut causes Internet outage

OIT uses secondary connection for service

By TERESA FRALISH
Assistant News Editor

Problems with Notre Dame's Internet service provider caused a complete outage of the University's connection to the Internet from 8 a.m. to approximately 11 a.m. Monday morning.

DeWitt Latimer, chief tech­nology officer, said the ISP, Global Access Points, acci­dentially cut cables in Chicago that included part of Notre Dame's Internet con­nection.

"They mistakenly discon­nected our fiber," Latimer said.

Notre Dame alerted the company to the outage, which then began work repairing the cable connec­tion.

Latimer said the Global Access Points service actual­ly did not resume until about 12:30 p.m. but the University chose to implement its sec­ondary Internet connection for the first time Monday.

"We had already been doing work to provide us with a backup ISP," he said.

"We decided that this morn­ing was a good time to acceler­ate that work," he said. "We can no longer suffer complete out­ages."

During the outage, on­campus users could access Webmail, Webville and other page-hosted off main Notre Dame's homepage but could not view outside sites.

Latimer said Thursday's problem was unrelated to another Global Access Points Internet service outage that began around 3 a.m. Tuesday and lasted for about an hour.

"That was routine mainte­nance. ... They gave us about an hour notice," he said.

The University does not anticipate further problems with the Internet connection and intends to retain Global Access Points as its primary ISP, according to Latimer.

The company has provided Notre Dame's connection for about one year.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu
INSIDE COLUMN

Tune in Thursday

I love watching TV on Thursdays; it has become quite a routine. If possible I start at 7:30 p.m., watching "That 70s Show" on Fox, just waiting for "The O.C." to begin. At eight o'clock it feels as if the entire campus is simultaneously watching the TV show of the moment, and I am one more of those O.C. fans. The warm California weather, the infinity pool at the Cohorn home, and the evergreen bar at Harbor high are just some of the things that make Newport Beach so attractive. Of course there also are the day-to-day ordeals all the characters go through.

So many things have changed from last season, it's unbelievable. Just to comment on last night's show, why why why did Marissa get back with the garden guy? All the former couples seem to be getting mixed up with new characters, and I can only approve of Summer and Zack. And don't even get me started on how much I can't stand Julie Cooper. One can only take so much of high school drama though, so after "The O.C." is over, I quickly switch to N.B.I. and join into "The Apprentice."

This show really has me sitting at the edge of my seat! I always think, "What would I do if I were there, or keep up with all these other very qualified people?" Of reality TV, "The Apprentice" is the only show I can stand. I acknowledge that the participants are selected according to their personality in order to cause some conflict between them — that will obviously provide for good ratings — but the fact they are competing in the business world gives it a sort of professional spin. Plus, as a college student one can learn from The Apprentice how to take risks in future ventures and how to avoid being lied.

After "The Apprentice" it is a good time to get ready to go out, since weekends can always start early.

However, for those who'd rather lay low the rest of Thursday night the TV shows keep looking up. There is "Buffy" and the excitement of a Chicago hospital, plus the subplots of the relationships between the participants.

Lena and Conan always seem to have great guests on Thursday nights. Yesterday there was Robert Downey, Jr., Jason Biggs and Alec Baldwin.

By now after all this TV, you should probably go to bed. I mean if you decided to stay in it means you probably had something to do this Friday morning.

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

IN BRIEF

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform Handel’s "Messiah" tonight at 8 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall in DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The 32nd annual Christmas Madrigal Dinner will take place tonight, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Regina North Lounge at Saint Mary’s College.

The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company presents "As You Like It" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are available at the Lafayette Office.

"Napoleon Dynamite" will be shown tonight at 7 and 10 p.m. in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The Student Union Board presents "Collaborative," starring Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx, tonight and Saturday at 8 and 10:30 p.m. in 101 DeBartolo. Tickets are $3.

Stand-up comedian Maria Borgio, O'2004, will perform tonight at 10 p.m. at Legends. The show is free for ND, SMC and HSC students.

Notre Dame's Benjamin D. Foulois Squadron of the Arnold Air Society sponsors Children's Field Day 2004 Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The day features games, food and a festive holiday atmosphere for underprivileged children of South Bend.

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT WOULD YOU BE DREAM JOB?

Bill Lopez senior Siegfried Jenalle Slosar sophomore Welsh Family Katie Chenoweth senior off-campus Katie McGuckin sophomore Lewis Pablo Ortega freshman Siegfried Sergio Bohr freshman Kreman

Kevin McGrath of Benton Harbor, Mich., literally wears his opinion of the Notre Dame football coaching controversy on his sleeve in the crowd at Thursday's Irish women's basketball game. McGrath's grandfather, Musgey McGrath, played football for head coach Knute Rockne.

OFFBEAT

Tight jeans get man arrested

BELLE VERNON, Pa. — A man grabbed of point­ ing a loaded handgun at a police officer says he’s guilty only of wearing tight jeans.

Sean Eldon Duvall, 36, was arrested Tuesday on charges including aggravated assault and reck­ less endangerment for the June 18 incident.

Southwest Regional Police Detective Sgt. James Iega said in court papers that Duvall left his car with the 38-caliber revolver hidden under papers and aimed it at him when he stopped to see if Duvall needed help.

Duvall told The Associated Press that he didn’t need help; he said he was just stopping out of his car to go to friend’s house to play chess.

Sorry, Santa: North Carolina bears dead

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Poor Rudolph won’t join in any reindeer games in North Carolina this holiday season.

State wildlife officials warning chronic wasting disease — the deer-family equivalent of mad cow disease — have banned the transportation of deer, elk, caribou and reindeer within the state. They have also blocked the import of the animals from other states in an effort prevent the spread of the disease to the wild deer population.

That keeps deer farmers from moving the ani­ mals to Christmas parties, hayrides and other holi­ day events and is costing some of them thousands of dollars.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

CORRECTIONS

In the Dec. 1 edition of The Observer, the following statement should have been attributed to ESPN:

"Isabellas director Kevin White and Patriots are longtime friends going back to when White lived around for a season at Maine as a graduate assistant. " The Observer regrets the error.

In the Dec. 2 edition of The Observer, due to a reporting error, it was published that a resolution creating a new hall commissioner position was passed by the Senate. This is incorrect. As the story was presented until the next meeting. The Observer regrets the error.

OFFBEAT
Peace activists Thanos, Schneider share experiences

By APRIL THOMAS

In just one hour Thursday after­noon, activists Terri Thanos and Kathy Schneider attempted to explain their profound individual experiences working with peace and faith in South America.

Speaking first, Thanos expressed a specific interest in peaceful global relations.

"There are more than 40 wars going on around the world. The time of conflict and despair," Thanos said. "Thabo's daughter's involvement inspired her to support the United Nations. The movement is a call to make the world a better place."

The group works toward ending the complicated, dangerous conflicts around Colombia's cultivation of the coca plant, used in cocaine production. Originally fearing for her daughter's safety, the terrified Thanos eventually joined the group as well.

"I knew the only way to get rid of that fear was to go down there myself," Thanos said.

Her firsthand experience shed light on Colombia's challenging situation.

"In a population of 40 million people, 50 to 60 percent live in poverty," Terri Thanos said. "Healthcare is sparse, and one minute you hear it's the terrorists, the next, people are dying. When we eat together, we break down barriers, letting in the spirit of love and community.""
**Shopping**

Continued from page 1

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Based on just the first several days of the season, traffic is definitely up," Zappia said.

Although Zappia and other local retailers are optimistic about the recent trends, experience has taught them not to jump to a hasty conclusion and label the entire season a success.

"The (4.5-percent increase) is probably a good estimate for the season," Zappia said. "However, it is really difficult to gauge after just one weekend.

James Sullivan, an assistant professor of economics and a specialist in labor economics and public finance at Notre Dame, agrees it is hard to make broad estimates on the success of the holiday shopping season when these predictions are based solely on preliminary sales and consumer spending surveys.

"Sales figures for Black Friday show a 10.8 percent increase over last year while the country's largest retailer, Wal-Mart, reported that November sales failed to meet the company's expectations," Sullivan said.

"Given the mixed retail views, retailers are being very cautious in their optimism.

Recent polls indicating an increase in consumer spending figures based on the current financial atmosphere and the way in which Americans perceive the economy, according to the Shopping in America survey conducted for The Macerich Company, show that over the past 6,000 shoppers surveyed felt the economy this season is just as strong or not stronger than last year.

Economists have attributed the general public's faith in the economy in a strengthened job market, a recovering economy and a high level of consumer stability after November's controversial presidential election results.

"The fact that we have elected a president without a prolonged legal battle has bolstered consumer optimism," Sullivan said.

"I cannot give a definite confidence seems to be very sensitive to uncertain-

"Grace Gallaway, the online blogger and holiday shopping expert known as the "Gift Guru," has dubbed this season as the "Techno Retro Year."

According to Gallaway, classic gifts with high-tech elements under trees across the nation this Christmas. Toys such as a super-sized Etch-A-Sketch and electronic Etch-A-Sketch are destined for popularity, said Gallaway.

"The only successful holiday season for Hammes Notre Dame bookstore is still the Internet," Gallaway said.

"Shopping in America survey found clothing to be the most popular holiday gift category — a statistic that points to a successful holiday season for Hammes Notre Dame bookstore.

The bookstore, which boasts one of the largest collections of holiday gifts, is the most accessible and consumers will be able to get to Santa in South Bend.

"It is everything that consumers will spend 20 percent more buying gifts online this season than they did at the same time last year," Sullivan said.

Sullivan is not surprised by this trend, however.

"It is reasonable to expect a rise in Internet sales as the Internet becomes more accessible and consumers and retailers combine online and offline shopping online," Sullivan said.

While the projected growth for 2004 is high, it falls well below 2003's 31-percent increase.

Contact Katie Perry at kerry56@nd.edu

**Dinners**

continued from page 1

New additions to the behind-the-scenes technical team are looking forward to updating the event.

"The new tech team will have the opportunity to bring in new gear for this year," Baxter said. "They can bring in a new look and approach it with a fresh fun.

Different from previous shows, this year's performances feature only Saint Mary's student performers. Sophomore Lauren Knaulsaid anticipation is high among stu-

"This is my second year and everyone seems very excited about it," Knaulsaid. "It is a really fun event overall and the festivities and costumes are really different than other events."

Overall, the Madrigal Dinners are sure to bring fun, food and festivities to guests of all ages and the College as a whole.

"It is a good family atmosphere," Pelier said. "We offer live entertainment and good, clean comedy that brings families out together."

Baxter agreed and thinks Saint Mary's is the perfect place for such an event.

"It is everything Saint Mary's College is about," Baxter said. "It offers great art, great food, and a great setting as a prelude to a great season.

Contact Danielle Lemser at fem6311@sstmarys.edu

**Contact Angela Souad at souad30@stmarys.edu**

**NewsCall from page 1**

The College president Carol Molitor announced the hiring of the College's first assistant professor of professional art for the 2005-06 academic year when Saint Mary's will offer three incentives to three new faculty members slated to start teaching at the College. After the first year, these incentives will be offered to up to two new hires yearly.

In the past, Saint Mary's has received other large grants from the Lilly Endowment including the IN program grant and $12 million for the Center for Women's leadership.

And although White said he was excited about new prospects thus far, he stressed that the grant was just another sign of the College's commitment to attract new professors to Saint Mary's.

"It is just going to help with the recruitment load," he said. "Saint Mary's already has excellent faculty, but the most for faculty is going to increase immensely competitive as both holy orders retire.

Schools place the importance of teaching undergraduate and working with student-intellectual, well-rounded faculty to do this.

Contact Angela Souad at souad303@stmarys.edu

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**International News**

Ambassador appeals to Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan — The top U.S. official in Afghanistan called on the Taliban to give up their three-year insurgency, pledging Thursday that most who surrender will be left in peace if they acknowledge the authority of President-elect Hamid Karzai.

An estimated 100-150 Taliban leaders, including former Mullahs, would command the insurgents and those associated with al-Qaida are ineligible for the offer.

U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad said he was working with Karzai's government on a reconciliation plan that could be expanded to include Afghans exiled by the United States.

Young Afghans, in particular, should surrender to village elders or U.S. troops as an "interval step toward winning," Khalilzad said.

"There's no need to fight, to stay in the mountains. Afghanistan has entered a new stage," Khalilzad told reporters in the capital, Kabul. "It's time for this to end."

Iranians willing to suicide bomb

WASHINGTON — Iran has launched a "suicide commando unit," a group that has since June been seeking volunteers for attacks against Americans in Iraq and Israel.

The ceremony was organized by the Headquarters for Commanndering Martyrs of the Global Islamic Movement, a shadowy group that has since June been seeking volunteers for attacks in Iraq and Israel.

A spokesman, Ali Mohammadi, described the move as "the first suicide commando unit," though another official has claimed members already have carried out attacks in Iraq.

**National News**

Peterson described as friendly

But Bush was firmer than ever.

"The elections should not be postponed," he said. "It's time for the Iraqi citizens to go to the polls and that's why we are very firm on the Jan. 30 date."

Bush's spokesman, Scott McClellan, said elections are essential "to bringing about a stable and peaceful and democratic Iraq."

"This will be an important milestone as they move away from their past of tyranny and oppression and brutality," McClellan said.

On another subject, Bush steered gingerly around allegations of corruption in the United Nations' oil-for-food program in Iraq, allegations that first surfaced in January. Those charges have escalated. Two weeks ago, a congressional investigation uncovered evidence that Saddam Hussein's government raised more than $21.3 billion in illegal revenue by subverting U.N. sanctions against Iraq, including the oil-for-food program.

Bush did not answer two questions about whether U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan should resign, as Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., has urged. But he said a thorough investigation was necessary to ensure taxpayers can "feel comfortable" as the U.S. government pays U.N. dues. American dues to the United Nations this year are $362 million, not including payments to separate agencies such as the IAEA, the U.N. nuclear agency based in Austria.

**Local News**

**Woman celebrates 111th birthday**

MUNICE — A woman celebrating her 111th birthday said she credited her long life to good genes and a relaxed lifestyle.

Bertha Fry, whose birthday was Wednesday, said several relatives have lived past 90.

"I think it started when I was very small," she told the Star Press. "My dad owned just a small farm, and there were no boys. The animals were just for play, and the articles were for us."

****Journal convicts, defrocks minister**

Associated Press

PUGTOWN, Pa. — A lesbian minis-
ster in the United Methodist Church who lives with her partner was found guilty on Monday of violating a church ban on actively gay clergy and defrocked.

A 13-member jury made up of Methodist clergy convicted the Rev. Irene Stroud of breach of church law today.

Stroud has 30 days to decide whether to appeal the verdict.

It then voted 7-6 to defrock Stroud, the same majority necessary in the penalty phase of the trial, though her guilty verdict is considered a "technical" one.

Stroud has 30 days to decide whether to appeal the verdict.

The last time the 8.3 million-member denomination convicted an openly gay cleric was in 1987, when a New Hampshire church court defrocked the Rev. Rose Mary Denman.

Last March, a Methodist court in Washington state acquitted the Rev. Karen Dammann, who lives with a same-sex partner, citing an ambiguity in church law that the Methodist supreme court has since eliminated.

The Methodists are just one of several mainline Protestant denominations in the United States — including the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches — that are undergoing turmoil over the role of gays and lesbians in the church, particularly gay clergy. The Stroud case could easily make the debate over the issue among Methodists that much more intense.
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MARKET RECAP

**In Brief**

Judge signs Jiffy Lube settlement

A settlement agreement approved by District Judge Mike Norman settles at least nine similar law suits from California to New Jersey over envi ronmental surcharges Jiffy Lube charged oil change clients. A similar agreement has been reached in Washington, D.C. The agreement was reached in a case brought by the Washington, D.C., Environmental Protection Agency. It is not clear whether other similar cases will be settled.

Retailers report sluggish sales

The traditional start of holiday shopping failed to meet retailer expectations.

Dialysis chain settles fraud case

Gambro, a Swedish-based dialysis company, has agreed to pay $25 million to settle allegations that it defrauded Medicare.

**Retailers report sluggish sales**

**Holiday season begins with disappointment as anticipated surge never arrives**

**New York — The nation’s retailers had a disappointing start to the holiday season, reporting sluggish November sales as a much-hoped-for surge in Thanksgiving weekend business failed to materialize.**

**As merchants released their first solid results for the season on Thursday, retailers issuing downbeat reports included Wal-Mart, Limited Brands and Federated. Even high-end stores like Nordstrom, which have enjoyed a sales surge over the past year, had modest gains.**

Among the exceptions were J.C. Penney and Sears, Roebuck, which surpassed Wall Street forecasts. Business was boosted by strong sales over the Thanksgiving weekend, as these stores successfully wooed customers with big discounts and earlier store openings. But overall, the industry struggled through the month.

“This can’t bode well for the holiday season,” said Ken Peyser, an analyst at RetailMetrics Inc., a research firm based in Swampscott, Mass.

Consumers, particularly low- and middle-income Americans, have been forced to cut spending on clothing and other necessities as gasoline prices and grocery bills rise. They’re also nervous about jobs — on Tuesday, the unemployment rate was reported that consumer confidence was down in November for a fourth consecutive month.

The National Council of Shopping Centers-USB survey of 66 retailers increased 1.7 percent for November, lower than the reduced forecast of 2.5 percent to 3 percent range.

The tally is based on what the industry calls same-store sales, or sales at stores opened at least a year. They are considered the best indicator of a retailer’s performance.

Wal-Mart, the world’s largest retailer, reported a meager 0.7 percent increase in same-store sales. Its total sales increased 8.7 percent.

Wal-Mart’s results met Wall Street’s forecasts that were reduced earlier this month, after the discounters warned that its business was disappointing.

The traditional start of holiday shopping failed to meet retailer expectations. Analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call expected 5.8 percent gain. Total sales rose 7 percent.

Limited Brands had a 5 percent decline in same-store sales. Far worse than the 4.8 percent increase Wall Street expected. Total sales declined 2.9 percent.

Federated reported that same-store sales were down 1.4 percent, well below the 1.2 percent gain analysts had forecast. Total sales declined 1.6 percent.

Nordstrom had a 3.1 percent gain in same-store sales in November, lower than the 5 percent forecast. Total sales rose 6.2 percent.

But Sears and Penney had results that pleased Wall Street. Sears, which has been languishing in a sales slump and is merging with Kmart Holdings Corp., posted a 2.8 percent gain in its domestic business, much better than the 0.3 percent decline Wall Street expected. Total sales increased 1.9 percent.

Penney had a 12 percent increase in same-store sales for the month, slightly beating Wall Street projections for a 11 percent increase. Total sales increased 9.2 percent.

**ST. LOUIS — The nation’s third-largest operator of kidney-dialysis clinics agreed Thursday to pay the government $300 million to settle allegations it defrauded Medicare.**

The settlement with Gambro Healthcare was one of the biggest in the Justice Department’s Medicare fraud history. The investigation followed a 2001 lawsuit brought by whistleblower Dr. Steven Bauersachs, a former Gambro medical officer.

A U.S. Attorney James Martin said that Gambro paid kickbacks to doctors for referrals to the company’s clinics, submitted inflated bills to Medicare and charged for unnecessary tests and services.

As part of the settlement, the company will pay a $310.5 million civil penalty and $15 million to resolve potential liability in 44 states. Also, a Gambro division, Gambro Supply Co., pleaded guilty Thursday to federal fraud-related charges, agreed to pay a $25 million fine and will be permanently barred from the Medicare program.

The ban does not apply to Gambro Healthcare itself.

Martin said he does not know how much money overall Gambro allegedly bilked from Medicare. He declined to say whether individual doctors could face prosecution.

Four years ago, the company and two subsidiaries paid more than $53 million to settle similar fraud allegations.

In a statement, Gambro said that despite the allegations, the quality of care the company provided its patients was "never in question."

"We cooperated fully with the government to settle this matter and put behind us issues that arose during a period of rapid and complex industry consolidation in the 1990s," Gambro president and chief executive Larry Buckley said.

For his part in the case, Bander will receive "a very significant pay out" from the settlement money being paid by Gambro, Martin said.

Gambro is a unit of Sweden-based Gambro AB, which has an American headquarters in Denver and Nashville, Tenn. It provides about 6.5 million dialysis treatments a year to more than 40,000 kidney patients in 550 clinics nationwide.

**Dialysis chain settles fraud case**

**Women sort through the handbag selections at Macy’s in San Francisco on Friday.**

**The observer**

**BUSINESS**

MARKET RECAP

**STOCKS**

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**At Large**

The dollar fell back to $1.3270 in high-volume trading late in New York to $1.3267 in early trading; The previous record of $1.3383 in mid-week was set Tuesday.

The dollar is at its lowest point in nearly five years against the Japanese yen, falling briefly in Tokyo to 101.83 yen — the U.S. currency's highest level since Jan. 8, 2000, when it was 101.66 yen in Tokyo. It rebounded in late New York trading to 101.68.

Traders attributed the dollar’s rally to profit-taking, and to positioning ahead of Friday's release, and to positioning ahead of Friday's release.

**ST. LOUIS — The nation’s third-largest operator of kidney-dialysis clinics agreed Thursday to pay the government $300 million to settle allegations it defrauded Medicare.**

The settlement with Gambro Healthcare was one of the biggest in the Justice Department’s Medicare fraud history. The investigation followed a 2001 lawsuit brought by whistleblower Dr. Steven Bauersachs, a former Gambro medical officer.

A U.S. Attorney James Martin said that Gambro paid kickbacks to doctors for referrals to the company’s clinics, submitted inflated bills to Medicare and charged for unnecessary tests and services.

As part of the settlement, the company will pay a $310.5 million civil penalty and $15 million to resolve potential liability in 44 states. Also, a Gambro division, Gambro Supply Co., pleaded guilty Thursday to federal fraud-related charges, agreed to pay a $25 million fine and will be permanently barred from the Medicare program.

The ban does not apply to Gambro Healthcare itself.

Martin said he does not know how much money overall Gambro allegedly bilked from Medicare. He declined to say whether individual doctors could face prosecution.

Four years ago, the company and two subsidiaries paid more than $53 million to settle similar fraud allegations.

In a statement, Gambro said that despite the allegations, the quality of care the company provided its patients was "never in question."

"We cooperated fully with the government to settle this matter and put behind us issues that arose during a period of rapid and complex industry consolidation in the 1990s," Gambro president and chief executive Larry Buckley said.

For his part in the case, Bander will receive "a very significant pay out" from the settlement money being paid by Gambro, Martin said.

Gambro is a unit of Sweden-based Gambro AB, which has an American headquarters in Denver and Nashville, Tenn. It provides about 6.5 million dialysis treatments a year to more than 40,000 kidney patients in 550 clinics nationwide.

**Dialysis chain settles fraud case**

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**Dialysis chain settles fraud case**
Meyer

continued from page 1

in Salt Lake City at about 7 p.m. EST. The Associated Press reported that when White and Jenkins arrived, they did not talk to reporters as they traveled to and from the airport in an SUV with tinted windows.

The University of Florida could have an interest in Meyer as well. The Palm Beach Post, Desert Morning News and The Salt Lake Tribune reported that Florida was the team relocations to meet with Meyer. The Gators are looking to replace head coach Ron Zook, fired in October.

A report was registered to Gainesville Aircraft Sales, Inc. left at 9 p.m. EST from Sunnyvale, Calif. to Colorado Springs, Co. That phone, tailnumber 9572

Congo

Zimbabwe, Angola and six-nation war. rebel groups held much international inaction in response when it killed intnrernal trouble. Somn bnlinvn thnn llined intnrernal trouble. "When it lived internal trouble." The Associated Press reported.

Hwandan and Rwandan Hutu rebels still had much international inaction in response when it killed intnrernal trouble. Somn bnlinvn thnn llined intnrernal trouble. "When it lived internal trouble." The Associated Press reported.

Congo.

As of Thursday, the world response has been muted. Some believe guilt over the inaction in 1994 likewise stilled international objections when Rwanda invaded Congo in 1996 and 1998 — the latter sparking a devastating civil war.

In 1998, Rwandan and Ugandan forces seized and held much of north and east Congo on the grounds that rebel groups there threatened regional security. Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia sent forces on behalf of Congo's government.

The war stabilized, with all sides plundering Congo's mineral wealth, until international pressure forced out the foreign armies in 2002.

On Thursday, U.N. officials cited growing suspicions that Rwandan forces may have rearmed Congo. U.N. ground and air patrols photographed recently occupied encampments and unidentified, well-equipped troops. U.N. observers said they encountered what they believed to be 100 Rwandan troops at a base inside Congo — before the suspected troops retreated to Rwanda.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the Security Council urged Rwanda Thursday to refrain from any military action in Congo. The comments came after the council held a closed-door briefing on the situation.

Rwanda on Thursday denied any incursions, but the country's estimated 3.2 million war victims died, most civilians claimed by disease and malnutrition.

The key question is how much of a genuine threat the Rwandan Hutu rebels hiding in east Congo's forested, volcanic hills still pose to Rwanda and its military — widely respected as tough and, by African standards, well-disciplined and well-equipped.

public this week, wrote U.N. and African leaders on Nov. 25 that he hoped to have any new operation in Congo end within 14 days.

A key issue: Congo's lawless east contains not only numerous armed groups — but also fortunes in diamonds, gold, cobalt, copper and timber.

If Rwanda doesn't act, its leaders say, it risks nothing less than renewed genocidal attacks.

Congo fears a renewed Rwandan occupation of its east, where most of the country's estimated 3.2 million war victims died, most civilians claimed by disease and malnutrition.

The key question is how much of a genuine threat the Rwandan Hutu rebels hiding in east Congo's forested, volcanic hills still pose to Rwanda and its military — widely respected as tough and, by African standards, well-disciplined and well-equipped.

SENEGAL

Bloody past haunts Rwanda

Country seeks revenge on nearby Congo

Associated Press

DAKAR — Smaller but mightier than its neighbors, Rwanda's greatest cient may come from its nightmares past: a widespread sense around the world that the country was largely aban­
doned in 1994 to face Hutu extremists who slaughtered more than a half-million people.

Concluding that only action can safeguard its people, Rwanda is now threatening to invade neighboring Congo for a third time — if it hasn't already — in pursuit of the last remaining culprits from that genocide.

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EW, then left Colorado Springs and landed in Salt Lake City at 3:27 a.m. EST Friday.

Meyer is 21-2 in his two seasons at Utah. This year, the Utes are 11-8 and may need a BCS Bowl berth. Meyer is a former assistant coach at Notre Dame, where he coached wide receivers from 1996 to 2000.

Mitt Romney contributed to this report.

Donors

continued from page 1

limit donations or write letters to the University, student workers said.

"There have been some people who were so excited," Phone Center student employee Danielle Palkert said. "There were also people who weren't happy that it had been done because of how well it conducted itself... I would say of the people I talked to it was probably 50-50."

Palkert said at least one alumnus she talked with intended to contact the University about complaints to the University.

"I was definitely surprised that it was so mixed," she said.

Student caller Diana Duran said while alumni generally seemed positive about the firing, others criticized the University's judgment.

"For the most part, people were excited. Other callers had complaints," said Diana Duran student caller.

Mike Brach, a senior director for development at the University, said news of the firing did not appear to generate significant altered responses from alumni to phone solicitations.

He said student callers keep logs of their contacts with alumni and they did not show a strong shift.

"I don't received any more (phone solicitations). If you were to say how many references the football program received in their calls compared to last week it probably wouldn't have been about the same," he said.

But Brach said he could not speculate further on the impact of Willingham's firing for alumni donations.

Because of deadlines for inclusion in the alumni ticket lottery and tax returns, Brach said December was one of the busiest times of the year for contributions.

A Special Tour ...

Basilica of Sacred Heart at Notre Dame

Thank you

Michelle McCarthy
And the Class of 2006
for the WINTER HOLIDAY Parents Night Out!

Happy Holidays
from your favorite kids on campus and their parents at University Village

Now leasing quality houses

close to campus for the 2005/6 and 2006/7 school years.

Call Sean at
Anlan Properties
574-532-1895

for the
International Students, Scholars and their Families

Sunday, December 5, 2:30 p.m.

Fr. Peter Rocca, CSC, Rector of the Basilica, will share with you stories and descriptions of this very special place at the heart of the University. Reception follows. Bring your friends and families!

Sponsored by:
Campus Ministry
Fischer, O’Hara-Grace Graduate Residences
International Student Services & Activities
University Village

Contact Teresa Fralik at
fralik@nd.edu
Reserve Judgement for future

Notre Dame football is not a program that rests easily with failed expectations. It is trimmed by a web that pulls it in all directions — with pressure coming from the fervent Irish football nation, the "victory is necessary for benefactors, the impatient students and the Holy Cross brass."

Fighting a four-year trend of putting faith in a coach who has a history of inconsistency — for example, at Stanford — or on Saturdays and saw a face like their own.

The factors that drive the college football season do not necessarily match the pillars that uphold this institution. Notre Dame values both academics and sports, and thus has been unique in the way its program has functioned within the machine. However, Notre Dame football cannot sacrifice one of its two supports for the other. It demands excellence in both.

Tyronn Willingham learned that the hard way. Had the former Irish head coach developed the moral character of his players, command the respect of his players, guide this team towards winning regular seasons, earn the right to play in two bowl games and coach his players to defeat two top-10 teams this year? Yes.

Willingham might have had an easier time that lost to rival Southern California three times by 31 points, suffered five losses by athletic. Notre Dame’s unique in the college football universe. At many schools, coaches and administrators turn a blind eye to players and recruiters who scoff at NCAA regulations, bending the rules in pursuit of dollars and fame.

Not so at Notre Dame. The University spent decades cultivating the reputation of a football program that exemplified integrity at every level, from the hometown-sprayers to the walk-ons to the starters to the head coach.

This reputation took a hit with the George O’Leary firing, then firing friesce in December 2001, and sank further in March 2002 when five Irish football players were charged with offenses ranging from rape to conspiracy to commit rape. The class that had been Notre Dame’s trademark was beginning to fade.

Enter Tyronn Willingham.

At a University known for its integrity and class, the coach brought back up to speed a football program that was lagging in both. At a University with demanding academic standards, he motivated his team to embrace and meet them. At a University with a distinctive character, his own Notre Dame family.

Notre Dame family knows that it was better off with a man who exemplified integrity at every level — Tyrone has done some wonderful things. While said: "But on Saturday we’ve struggled." While I want him back," said "I understand that I didn’t meet the expectations or standards that I set for myself in this program."

Notre Dame football is not a program that rests easily with failed expectations. It is trimmed by a web that pulls it in all directions — with pressure coming from the fervent Irish football nation, the "victory is necessary for benefactors, the impatient students and the Holy Cross brass."

Fighting a four-year trend of putting faith in a coach who has a history of inconsistency — for example, at Stanford — or on Saturdays and saw a face like their own. The Notre Dame family knows that it was better off with a man who exemplified integrity at every level — Tyrone has done some wonderful things.
Caring for our common home

The Observer

Friday, December 3, 2004

The Columbia River winds for 1,200 miles from British Columbia, through Washington and Oregon, and finally into the Pacific Ocean. It irrigates desert regions of Washington, producing many of the apples and pears that are consumed in the nation’s markets nationwide. Its water carries a burden of tiny, razor-sharp particles of the large radiated by the tritium in nuclear-reactor waste. The Columbia, like many other rivers in the nation, serves as a nursery for species threatened with extinction.

John Irnfrance

Poetry

The choice of the right words for a root cause. The most daunting challenge stands between us and this problem. Bloom’s firsthand historical research serves now for the first time, bringing to light an important aspect of the nation’s environmental history that bears directly on our future. Our ecological footprint grows larger, and the consequences of this action are now clear. Environmentalists and engineers are working together to find solutions that will significantly reduce our impact on the environment.

Bill Rinner

A Voice of Reason

The Washington Post that the voice is needed now. The nation’s leaders must acknowledge the moral issues that will continue to shape the nation’s future. The nation’s educational leaders must be willing to take the lead in shaping the nation’s educational future. The nation’s leaders must recognize the urgent responsibilities to the nation’s future.

Intellectual diversity benefits every student

Recent studies on higher education have lent empirical evidence to the familiar notion that university professors are a necessary and valuable resource. A survey of 1,000 professors in the humanities and science programs found a seven-to-one ratio favoring professors to students. A similar survey conducted thirty years ago revealed a similar ratio. This ratio is significant for the following reasons. First, the ratio indicates the lack of intellectual diversity in our nation’s universities. Second, the ratio indicates the lack of intellectual diversity in our nation’s universities.

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

Bill Rinner is a senior economics major. His columns appear every other Friday. He can be reached at hotliner@uqal.com.
I am writing to express dismay at the summary dismissal of Tyrone Willingham. Actions do speak louder than words, and the one ill-considered action we have erased much of the moral standing the University has worked so diligently to proclaim and embody. By not giving Willingham the customary five or six years to prove his effectiveness, we have sacrificed the principles of fairness and respect for person to the most pernicious philosophy afloat in our society at this moment—"just win at all costs." Is this really what we want to communicate to students and to the world at large?

Firing a faculty member who has been celebrated as a superb teacher and a sterling representative of the University underlines the core values for which we stand. What is additionally distasteful about this particular unjust action is that in dismissing Willingham we also have removed from the faculty our most prominent black spokesperson. His presence on the faculty has been of inestimable assistance in our ability to recruit diverse students, faculty and administrators to our campus. His removal will surely damage our efforts to realize one of our most oft-stated but elusive goals.

Stephen Freedman
English department chair
Dec. 2

Termination will hurt diversity

The Black Alumni of Notre Dame (BA of ND) is both shocked and disappointed with the University’s decision to let Tyrone Willingham go three years prior to the end of his contract. The decision made by the administration is both premature and unprecedented. It disregards his outstanding first season, off-field success and increased integrity and academic strides among our football players.

The University’s decision is about more than just football. In hiring Willingham, the University displayed an unspoken commitment to ethnic diversity and an open mind to hire the best regardless of color. In firing him before the end of his contract, the University sends another message entirely. This decision will affect the black community more than the University might anticipate in areas of recruiting, student and faculty retention and Alumni participation and contributions in the future.

In just a few years, Willingham has captured our utmost respect as a coach to the football team and as a man to the entire Notre Dame community.

Unfortunately, we have already witnessed some negative effects of the University’s decision and expect these and more negative ramifications of the University’s decision in the future. The BA of ND Board will be available to assist the University in repairing the damage resulting from this decision because of our commitment to Notre Dame.

Danielle D. Bouchere
Chairperson, Black Alumni of Notre Dame
Dec. 2

Do not justify mediocrity

I really hate how Tyrodine Willingham’s firing is being spun into a blight on the University’s character. Somehow, by firing a coach, Notre Dame has abandoned honor, abandoned integrity and in fact abandoned any care about our football program and players other than that they win? Winning and class are not mutually consistent. I am sure we’ll expect our next coach to have class, too.

But winning is a big part of the job, and that’s exactly the way it should be. We shouldn’t sacrifice classiness, dignity and honor. But why should we use those as a crutch, forcing us to accept mediocrity? If you lose a competition, it’s good to be able to reflect on that loss and say “at least I lost with dignity.” It may even be good to think “better to lose with dignity than to win poorly.” But have we now reached the point where we would rather lose with dignity than win?

That is a deplorable attitude that accepts mediocrity and attempts to justify mediocrity as good. That attitude prevents a realistic assessment of problems and solutions. And I guarantee that attitude is not held by the people we reverence, the people who accomplish their goals, the people who change the world. Instead, it is the attitude of the self-righteous loser who doesn’t want to change.

Lee Holtz once told us not to lower our standard. I remember people who wore that shirt around campus, proudly bearing its message—"we should set our goals high and never compromise them. Yet now, it seems that some people are not only eager to lower the standard, but they don’t even want the standard anymore. That, more than any of the football team’s losses this year, is a disgrace.

Mike Romano
alumnus
class of 2006
Dec. 2

Majority misreprented

When Tyrodine Willingham was dismissed from his coaching responsibilities at Notre Dame, many people were shocked and upset, according to the press. While I have the utmost respect for him, I was not one of these people. I, however, am shocked and upset by the way the media is handling this situation. For the most part, the media, including ESPN and even The Observer, has been misrepresenting the opinions of the majority. According to these news outlets, most people did not want Willingham to be fired and were very happy with Notre Dame’s mediocrity in football. While I have not taken a poll of all the people who have an opinion on this subject, I feel very confident in saying that nobody would feel this way. Ask most alumni, read Notre Dame internet sites like NDNation, and you will see the majority actually was happy with this decision.

I may not be a professional journalist, but I do know a thing or two about journalism. One thing I do know is that the news is supposed to be objective not sided as it has been in this case. It seems as if they have been hunting and pecking to find the interviews that support the point they want to stress, that Willingham should not have been fired. I am not asking The Observer or any news outlet to just report on what the true majority feels, but on both sides. Instead of merely interviewing or printing letters from Notre Dame “fans” (and I use that term very loosely) that know little to nothing about college football or Notre Dame’s football history and tradition, throw in letters that represent the other side, what I and most others feel is the true majority.

Ellen Fitzgerald
alumnus
class of 2003
Dec. 2

Identity lost

I am appalled and ashamed that Notre Dame released Tyrone Willingham Tuesday, with two years remaining on his contract. In a Washington Post article Thursday morning, athletic director Kevin White is quoted as lauding the integrity and academics of the program under Willingham. Yet it seems only winning on Saturdays count. I was once proud of my alma mater’s football program and, win or lose, its emphasis on clean play and academic standards. When talking of sports and Notre Dame, I would often speak to friends and colleagues about that emphasis and how Notre Dame balanced athletics, academics and spirituality—each firmly entrenched in the University culture. Willingham personified that balance and showed great dedication to the young men who will go on in life without football, but with college degrees.

I am now appalled and ashamed that we have placed winning as our number-one priority and treated Willingham badly. We have lost our identity and our hallowed place in athletics to join the ranks of other football factories.
The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company

presents ‘As You Like It’

One of Shakespeare’s lesser-known comedies is performed by a student group

By MARIA SMITH

Starring: Elizabeth Grams, Justin Smith, Sarah Loveland, Marty Schroeder, Jeff Eyerman, April Flores, Kevin McCarthy, Ian Novick and Tom Sutton

Stage Manager: AnaMarie Ortiz

As is the case with most comedies, the play ends happily, with love realized for most of the characters.

"As You Like It" is a typical Shakespearean comedy of mistaken identities mixed in with the intertwined lives of all the characters.

As You Like It

A comedy by William Shakespeare

Director: Meghan Tabor

Starring: Elizabeth Grams, Justin Smith, Sarah Loveland, Marty Schroeder, Jeff Eyerman, April Flores, Kevin McCarthy, Ian Novick and Tom Sutton

Stage Manager: AnaMarie Ortiz

The two central female friends, Rosalind, left, and her cousin Celia, help each other through the confusion of love and fighting family in "As You Like It."

The plot of the play is not as well known or as distinctive as some. When the usurper Duke Ferdinand banishes his niece Rosalind from his court, she flees to woods where her banished father, Duke Senior, also lives in hiding, disguised as a boy. She takes the name of Ganymede. Her cousin Celia, the Duke’s daughter and Rosalind’s close friend, flees with her and adopts the role of Ganymede’s sister under the name of Aliena. The court jester, Touchstone, accompanies them to the woods. However, before fleeing to the woods, Rosalind had fallen in love with Orlando, the younger son of the recently deceased Sir Rowland de Bois, a close friend of Duke Senior. Orlando, whose elder brother Oliver refuses to grant him his inheritance or birthright, has also retreated to the woods. He begins tacking poorly composed but utterly sincere love poetry to Rosalind on the forest trees, where his lover and her friend eventually encounter and read his verses. Rosalind, still in disguise, begins to act in the role of matchmaker for her love and the other people she encounters in the woods.

The scene in which Jaques utters the line, "All the world’s a stage, and all

the men and women merely players" may be the one every audience member will recognize. The hero who is inclined to melancholy and unable to participate in

As You Like It

the frolicking of the other men and women in the forest may not have achieved fame as a character, but is distinguished by the line which has perhaps come to characterize Shakespeare better than any other.

Rosalind is also remembered as one of Shakespeare’s wittier and more graceful heroines. In the guise of Ganymede she instructs her lover and the other men and women around her in the ways of love. Unlike Jaques who can observe love but not participate, she falls for its folly in her own right and proves herself neither a hopeless fool nor a staunch critic.

"As You Like It" is not the best performance the company has ever put on, but does not lack its merits. The cast sometimes gets tripped up with the meaning of the language, and since the play is not one with which most students are familiar, it is more difficult to follow the development of the plot and figure out exactly who all the characters are. Several scenes seemed as though the cast had rushed
Much of "As You Like It" focuses on the trials of love that is not immediately returned, but eventually gained.

through them without really examining their deeper import, and the characters were not as distinct as they might have been. Several of the wittier dialogues of the play also might have been. Several of the characters were not as distinct as they might have been. Eventually, gained.

With a large cast of characters, "As You Like It" stays interesting and involved throughout the play, keeping the stage engaged in action. The trials of love that is not immediately returned, but eventually gained.

Hosalind is the saving grace of the play, which is perhaps as it was intended to be. Elizabeth Grams charms everyone, including the audience, in pants, hat and a jacket. Even Orlando seems to enjoy the process of learning to woo with the fluidity but not imperceptibly.

If you are particularly fond of Shakespeare you might want to take advantage of this chance to add to the list of plays with which you are familiar. If you want to see Not So Royal in its true luster, it would be better to wait for another performance. Or you can disregard the opinions of a critic and watch the adventure of another set of Shakespearean characters yourself — just as you like it.

Recipe courtesy of Claire Kalpakjian, Copyright © 2004; www.allrecipes.com. All Rights Reserved

Devil's Food Cookies

1 box (18 1/4 ounces) devil's food cake mix
2 eggs
1/4 cup hot coffee or hot water
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 cup semisweet chocolate pieces
1 cup chopped pecans
1 1/2 cups bits of chocolate-toffee candy

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). In a medium bowl, cream together butter, brown sugar and white sugar. Mix in the egg and vanilla. Combine flour and baking soda; blend into creamed mixture. Stir in the rolled oats, coconut and white chocolate chips. Drop dough by rounded tablespoons onto un-greased cookie sheets. Cool on wire racks.

Recipe courtesy of Family Circle. Copyright © 2004 Television Food Network, G.P., All Rights Reserved

Peppermint Hot Chocolate

1 1/2 cups heavy cream
1 1/2 cups milk
1/4 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
6 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped
3 drops peppermint oil

In a saucepan, combine the cream, milk, sugar and salt. Heat over medium-low heat. When the cream mixture just begins to steam, add the chopped chocolate and stir until melted. Stir in the peppermint oil. Divide the hot chocolate among mugs and top with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Recipe courtesy of Jackie Riley. Copyright © 2004 Television Food Network, G.P., All Rights Reserved

Contact Maureen Malloy at mmalloyl@nd.edu
Irish look for fourth win against Michigan

By PAT LEONARD

Spartans continued from page 2

Erwin. She had just an outstanding game."

After a poor first half, Notre Dame freshman Charel Bowen might have nicked Michigan State forward Josh Bowen as the Spartan star fired a desperate 3-point attempt that seemed in danger of finding its way through the net only to have Bowen commit a foul on the three-point attempt. The Irish star sank the foul shot, giving Notre Dame leads of 69-67, 69-67, 69-67 and 70-67.

But Irish freshman Charel Allen fouled Lindsay Bowen when she was shooting a 3-pointer, and Lindsay Bowen sank all three of her free throws, to get the Spartans within 70-67.

"I thought we should have won the game in regulation," McGrath said. "In the second half, the foul call on the three-point shot, I think that affected the entire game around. That was the difference in the game."

With the Irish up 69-67, Megan Duffy hit one of two free throws to put the lead at three. But with 14 seconds to play, Bowen hit a 3-pointer from the corner to tie the game at 70-70. Preseason All-American Jacqueline Batten missed a turnaround jumper to win the game for the Irish.

McGrath said she was disappointed after the Irish played with 33 personal fouls, vs. 22 for the Spartans. "I think we did a decent job on the boards," McGrath said. "We got 33 assists, 22 of which we scored off of."

And when you add a critical foul, uncharacteristically poor free throw shooting and an amazing 3-pointer from the corner, you've got Notre Dame on Thursday night.

The only thing left for the Irish now is to work out. backlight. They're starting to fade. That's gone. They could have maintained or improved their No. 2 ranking. At least Notre Dame had the opportunity to put another game against a top 10 team with a 'W' column by the first weekend in December. That chance is now out the window as well.

It's more than disappointing to lose such a hard-fought game, but it shouldn't have long-term effects for Notre Dame. They've got a much needed week off. They play several weaker teams in the next few weeks. And the loss was Notre Dame's first of the season.

Hurt continued from page 2

this learning experience shouldn't have happened in the first place.

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ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish take on Valpo in NCAA's

By MIKE GILOON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has won 15 of its last 18 matches. But this weekend they have a chance to win respect.

The Irish will compete in the first round of the NCAA volleyball tournament tonight at 5 p.m. in a match against Valparaiso in Madison, Wis. Despite capturing both the Big East regular season and tournament titles, the Irish are not ranked in the USA Today/CVV Top 25. A win over the Crusaders combined with a victory Saturday against the winner of the Loyola Chicago-Wisconsin match should propel the Irish into the national spotlight.

However, with a school record mark of 29-4, Valparaiso is a difficult first-round opponent for the Irish. The Crusaders, champions of the Mid-Continent conference, snapped an 18-match losing streak against Notre Dame on Sept. 7 with a five-game triumph in the Joyce Center. The Irish won the first and fourth games but fell 12-12 in the decisive fifth game.

Valparaiso is making its second straight NCAA tournament appearance and is led by MCC player of the year Lauren Moulton, who averaged 3.36 kills per game with a hitting percentage of .233. Setter Katie Iova averages nearly 13 assists per game and was named first-team all-conference along with Moulton.

Notre Dame is on a roll after winning the Big East tournament title two weeks ago and victories over Boston College and Pittsburgh in the semifinals and finals, respectively. Just last week, the Irish won the Baden Thanksgiving tournament in Long Beach, Calif. over NCAA qualifiers Long Beach St. and UC Irvine. Notre Dame swept UC Irvine and then needed five games to beat Long Beach State. Outside hitter Emily Loomis came up big for the Irish as she turned in a career-high 29 kills and hit .414. Long Beach State was up 14-12 in the fifth set but needed only one more point to win the match before Notre Dame rallied for four straight points and the first victory over the 49ers in program history.

One positive for the Irish this weekend will be the presence of Lauren Kelbly. The junior has been bothered lately with a foot injury but is expected to play against Valparaiso tonight.

This will be the 13th consecutive NCAA tournament appearance for Notre Dame, one of only eight programs in the country to have appeared so often. It is the second longest streak of its kind among all Irish varsity sports as only fencing has more.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

FENCING

Backups get chance in Culver

By MATT PUGLISI
SPORTS WRITER

Notre Dame's second stringers will have a chance to prove their value this weekend when the Irish travel to Culver, Ind., to compete in the Culver Cup Individual Championships at 8 a.m.

"This coming weekend is for junior-varsity fencers -- it's for our walk-ons, for others," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "We wanted to give them the opportunity to compete in a sectional competition and give them an opportunity to progress. Our first squad will not go there, but all others who have the goal or ambition to be on the team should show up, the class, the progress."

With the six-day North American Cup event slated to begin December 10, the Irish will hold back the cream of the crop and continue training for the prestigious event instead of sending it to Culver this weekend.

"Generally, we are not sending our first team, because they will compete a week later at the North American Cup, which is kind of the trials for the national Olympic team," Bednarski said. "The best will go then. We have two weeks in which we need to check all of our fencers."

Nevertheless, while the first squad might be staying at home this weekend, Bednarski does not believe the talent level at the Culver Cup Individuals will be diluted.

"It's not a national competition or collegiate, it's open to everybody," Bednarski said. "Sometimes such a competition is strong -- non-collegiate fencers are strong, too, sometimes better than collegiate fencers. In some weapons it's a very tough tournament."

In addition to the World Cup event and the Penn State Max Garret Open in early November, the upcoming Culver Individuals and North American Cup event provide Irish fencers with a chance to demonstrate their skills and boost their individual rankings -- a key to success come the NCAA championships.

"We give them individual opportunities to rise in the rankings," Bednarski said. "That's why we compete in the individual competitions -- to give our fencers a higher rank. Later, we bring the ranks to the collegiate NCAA tournaments, and they are seeded according to how they are ranked. First job is to have a good ranking, and they will fight for a ranking according to their levels."

Contact Matt Puglisi at mpuglisi@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles to face Olivet Saturday

By KEVIN BRENNAN
SPORTS WRITER

Saint Mary's will look to return to its recent winning ways Saturday.

The Belles travel to Olivet, Michigan to take on the Olivet Comets at 3 p.m. at the Upton Center. Saint Mary's will attempt to rebound from Wednesday's disappointing loss to Albion. In that game, the Belles led at half, but watched the game slip away as Albion mounted a 23-4 second half run to secure the victory.

Before the loss, Saint Mary's had been hot, winning its three previous games. The Belles defeated Manchester College and won twice last weekend at the Knox College Classic. Saint Mary's was never really challenged in any of the three games.

Olivet, a rival member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, should pose a stiff challenge for the Belles. The Comets, under coach Deanna Richard, have started the year with a 4-1 record. Most recently, the team won the Comet Invitational and defeated Division II opponent Northwood 64-49 Saturday.

Contact Kevin Brennan at kbrennan@nd.edu

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Men’s Basketball
ESPN/USA Today Top 25
(rank record points)
1. Wake Forest (22) 5-0 705
2. Kansas (3) 2-0 732
3. Illinois (1) 4-0 684
4. Georgia Tech (1) 3-1 653
5. Syracuse 4-0 629
6. Connecticut 1-0 594
7. Oklahoma State (1) 3-0 580
8. Kentucky (1) 3-0 564
9. Michigan State 3-0 528
10. Duke 3-0 486
11. North Carolina 4-1 467
12. Maryland 3-0 434
13. N.C. State 4-0 428
14. Pittsburgh 3-0 337
15. Texas 3-0 308
16. Washington 4-0 291
17. Louisville 3-1 263
18. Notre Dame 3-0 250
19. St. John’s 3-0 195
20. Missouri 2-1 183
21. Mississippi St. 3-1 181
22. Arizona 4-1 170
23. Indiana 3-0 129
24. Pittsburgh 3-1 127
25. Virginia 4-0 77

Men’s Basketball
AP Top 25
(rank record points)
1. Wake Forest (40) 5-0 1,737
2. Kansas (16) 2-0 1,679
3. Syracuse (4) 5-0 1,582
4. Georgia Tech (7) 3-0 1,500
5. Illinois (1) 4-0 1,540
6. Oklahoma State (2) 2-0 1,420
7. Connecticut 1-0 1,309
8. Kentucky (1) 3-0 1,284
9. North Carolina 4-1 1,134
10. Duke 3-0 1,129
11. Michigan State 3-0 1,073
12. Maryland 3-0 1,018
13. Pittsburgh 3-0 1,072
14. Washington 4-0 779
15. Mississippi St. 3-1 743
16. N.C. State 4-0 722
17. Louisville 3-1 584
18. Texas 3-0 556
19. Florida 3-0 447
20. Notre Dame 3-0 482
21. Arizona 3-2 413
22. Alabama 4-1 381
23. North Carolina 3-1 381
24. Virginia 4-0 236
25. Wisconsin 2-1 116

Men’s Central College Hockey Association

IN BRIEF

Friday vote to approve Expos move to Washington
WASHINGTON — With or without an agreement with Peter Angelos, baseball appears ready to officially award the Montreal Expos to Washington.

Commissioner Bud Selig scheduled a conference call for Friday for a vote by the owners to approve major league baseball’s first relocation in 33 years. The vote, originally set for Nov. 18, was delayed in part because Selig had hoped to work out a deal with the Baltimore Orioles owner to ensure a unanimous decision.

"I like 30-0 votes," Selig said Thursday after a speech to the Greater Washington Board of Trade. "But every so often I don’t get 30-0 votes."

Bob DuPuy, baseball’s chief operating officer, met with Angelos this week in an attempt to reach an agreement that would protect the value of the Orioles franchise, which Angelos says will be hurt by having a team just 40 miles away. Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich said this week the matter could wind up in court.

"There will be a vote this week," Ehrlich said. "The Expos move to Wash­ington will now be a reality." Washington is the overwhelming favorite to land the Expos, with Angelos expected to buy the team for a record $375 million.

Selig declined to discuss the negoti­ations with Angelos, other than to say there was no deal yet.

"We have had a close relationship and we still have a very close relationship," Selig said.

NHL union to resume negotiations after 3 months
NEW YORK — The NHL accepted an invitation from the players’ association on Thursday to return to the negotiating table in an effort to avoid the lockout that began nearly three months ago.

In a letter sent to NHL commissioner Gary Bettman on Thursday, players’ association executive director Bob Goodenow proposed that the sides meet next week in Toronto and said the union is working on a new proposal.

No official talks have occurred since Sept. 9, when the union made its last offer. The lockout reached its 78th day Thursday.

"We look forward to meeting with the NHL Players’ Association next week," said Bill Daly, the league’s chief legal officer. "We are hopeful that the NHLPA’s offer will be a meaningful effort to address the league’s economic problems. When we receive the proposal, we will evaluate it closely and respond appropriately.

The last offer by the NHLPA was a luxury tax-based deal that was rejected by the league, and the lockout began one week later. As of Thursday, 334 regular-season games, plus the 2005 All-Star game, have been wiped out.

The offer to resume talks came just hours before the league’s general managers prepared to get an update from Bettman during a dinner meet­ing in New York.

The players’ association said its new proposal should provide the basis for a new collective bargaining agreement.
Hockey

No. 5 Michigan awaits the Irish arrival

Team will play at Ann Arbor tonight and home Saturday

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

While Irish students prepare to get ready for finals, the Notre Dame hockey team is getting ready for a major test of its own.

Notre Dame (3-6-4, 2-5-3 in the CCHA) faces conference powerhouse No. 5 Michigan (9-4-1, 7-1-0) in a two-game home-and-home series this weekend. The Irish will travel to Ann Arbor for a game tonight before returning to the Joyce Center for the second game of the series on Saturday.

The Irish shocked Michigan near the end of last season, sweeping the Wolverines in a two-game series at the Joyce Center by scores of 4-1 and 5-2 in February. Notre Dame also won in its last trip to Michigan's Yost Arena — a 4-3 victory on Nov. 23, 2002.

Notre Dame comes into the game after a split on the road last weekend against Alaska Fairbanks. The Irish won the first game in that series by a score of 3-2 before falling in the second game by the same score.

The Wolverines, meanwhile, are in a bit of a slump, having lost their last two games. Both losses came to non-conference teams, however, so the Wolverines have maintained their second-place position on the CCHA standings with 14 points, one point behind leader Ohio State. Notre Dame's nine points is currently tied for eighth in the conference with Miami of Ohio and Bowling Green.

Last season, the Irish were aided in their sweep of the Wolverines when star goalie Al Montoya was injured early in the first game of the weekend and did not play at all in the second game. Montoya, a junior who was picked sixth in this year's NHL entry draft by the New York Rangers, is healthy and is expected to be in net in this weekend's matchup.

He has had a bit of a slow start to this season, only collecting a .903 save percentage and a 2.69 goals against average, ranking him 105th in the league in both categories. Irish senior goalie Morgan Cey, by comparison, has a 2.44 GA and a .909 save percentage.

"In the tapes that we saw there were a lot of rush goals (against Michigan) so that might have affected his numbers a bit," Poulin said. "It's still the real deal. Michigan has a unique way of only bringing in one goalie every four years and having him start his whole career, with guys like Steve Shields and Marty Turco and now Montoya. They've maybe been a bit lucky that there haven't been any major injuries, but what they've been doing with their goalies has worked for many years."

Even without the expected performance from its star goalie, Michigan is still able to win games by virtue of its explosive offense. The Wolverines average 3.64 goals per game, third in the CCHA, compared to Notre Dame's last place 1.92 goals per game.

The Michigan offense is led by talented sophomore T.J. Hensick, the 2003-04 CCHA rookie of the year, and junior forward Jeff Tambellini, who have each scored 16 points so far this season (both have scored six goals and collected 10 assists). The Wolverines also sport one of the league's most talented offensive defenders in senior Eric Werner. Werner's 11 points (three goals, eight assists) rank second in the league in scoring among defensemen.

"They're a very skilled team — I think they've got something like 14 draft picks and 10 are forwards," Poulin said. "But we've been working on our defense as well, daily. We simply have to work harder at getting the puck to the net and scoring some sloppy goals.

"Sometimes when you don't score you try to make things perfect, and we just need to get some ugly goals. They count just as much as pretty ones."

The Irish face Michigan at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor tonight with puck drop scheduled for 7:35 p.m. Notre Dame then returns home to face the Wolverines at the Joyce Center on Saturday with a scheduled 7:05 p.m. face-off.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

The South Bend office of Indiana Legal Services (ILS) seeks volunteers and unpaid interns to conduct initial interviews with low-income persons seeking legal assistance in select civil cases in Northern Indiana.

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Junior Tim Wallace awaits a pass in a Nov. 5 game against Bowling Green. The Irish will take on Michigan this weekend, who is currently 9-4-1 on the season.

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

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SPORTS

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Baer continued from page 20

Some issues more than anything else. I don’t think anyone can really imagine what it’s like.

Baer was selected by the players to serve as interim coach at the Insight Bowl, which will be either against Arizona State, Oregon State or UCLA. He acknowledged that it might be difficult to get the team prepared in light of the recent events.

I have loyalties to Tyrone Willingham. I’ve been with Tyrone for 10 years. He still has benefits to this team and staff Notre Dame, as that’s the reason we’re doing it,” Baer said. “We want to do it as an entire group, united as an entire group. We’ll move forward and I think it’s going to work out for the best.”

As defensive coordinator under Willingham, Baer consistently put together a team that was capable of stopping the run and typically took advantage of opportunities to create turnovers and score. As of today, the Irish are ranked eighth in the season in rushing defense, having only allowed 94.4 yards per game.

Rauer fueled reports that he is a top candidate for the Utah State head coaching position with his comments Thursday.

“Tyrone for eight years. I’ve been at Oregon State and had to deal with its football banquet. But with its student-crews, both pro- and anti-Willingham, have either been planned or taken place on campus this week. But the recruits did not view the controversy as a negative.

“Just shows how much the students care about the football team,” Smith said.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

Meyer continued from page 20

Meyer has Utah at 11-0 and poised to play in a BCS bowl. The second-year Utes’ coach former­ly was the head coach at Bowling Green and a wide receivers coach at Notre Dame and Colorado State. The Chicago Sun-Times reported Wednesday that Utah is doing everything it can to keep Meyer from returning to South Bend.

“We’ve had ... conversations, and we’ll continue to do so,” Utah athletics director Chris Hill told the Sun-Times. “All I can tell you is that Utah has done a great job at Utah.”

“I realize people are going to be interested, and we’ll do everything we can to keep him,” Hill continued. “Right now, things are just out there as rumors and speculation. I don’t want to comment on other jobs and speculate on that. We’ve got a great job here at the university.”

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

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Contact Justin Schuver at jjschuver@nd.edu

Recruits continued from page 20

shocked,” Wilson said.

The key remaining recruits are still committed to Notre Dame but expressed disappointment along with surprise at the decision.

“Three years is not enough,” Marshall, Mire, quarterback Evan Sharpley said. “The guys that were playing for Willingham were not his recruits. So we didn’t get to see what they’ve done with the type of players that he wanted.”

“I was really surprised,” Highland Park, Ill. linemen Chris Smith said. “It was just something that came out of nowhere.”

David Bruton was not so reserved.

“Bulls—t,” the defensive back from Miami-Dade, Fla. said when asked how he felt about Willingham’s firing. “I was comfortable with coach Willingham.”

The 6’3” 205 lb. Bruton chose Notre Dame over Louisville, Ohio State and Wisconsin. His commitment still stands but he will have to wait and see who the new coach is going to be.

On the other hand, a wide receiver from Arizona’s 6’5” and weighs 225 lbs, is not set on coming to Notre Dame no matter who the new coach ends up being.

“I chose Notre Dame for the education and the football tradition,” Smith said. “There are so many more things than the coaching staff. That’s something that I think you’ve got to understand when you go through this process.”

Urban Meyer is the most popular candidate among Irish fans, but the recruits opinions ranged from positive to neutral on the possibility of the current Utah coach taking over at Notre Dame.

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Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

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I'M SORRY, MA'AM, THAT'S MORE THAN I CAN AFFORD...

COULD I MAYBE BUY JUST A THUMB?

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Douglas who hosted TV's first nightly newscast
8 Capital of Spain under Moorish rule
15 Classic sitcom that jumped from CBS to NBC after its first season
16 English passage
34 Large quantities
38 1981 Literature
42 Large quantities
50 Sheep's
51 1994 film
53 Gloom
55 You can be yours if you take part in a charity event or activity you believe in. A partnership will lead to a new adventure. ***
57 Number
58 Beach
61 Gatehouse site
65 Like some swimming strokes
67 An unaffiliated
69 Skilled laborer
70 Murphy's rule in "Bevery Hills Cop"
72 A category
73 Ma Rainey's music
26 Chigger, for one
27 Signs of softness
29 Ranting preacher, in oldingo
31 Stockpiled item
32 A Moore
35 Trailing the field
39 1981 Literature
40 Organizer
41 Builder of cells
42 One might read a few lines from it
43 Opposite of influx
44 "How ___!
49 Ringside shout
50 Fired the tank
26 Religious treatise by St. Thomas Aquinas
29 1994 film
30 Featuring Gary Oldman as Beethoven
31 Cup holder
32 Gloom
33 Thomas Aquinas
35 The tank
37 Sweet-talks
46 A job well done will be your safety net.
47 Unaffected
48 Many, including
49 Communication
50 Polo
51 You will impress everyone and attract interest in yourself as well as in your future plans. ***
52 Large quantities
53 Member of the tank
54 You will impress everyone and attract interest in yourself as well as in your future plans. ***
55 You may be in the right, but that isn't likely to help you today. Steer clear of disputes. **
56 To form four ordinary words
57 UNSEEN
58 To form four ordinary words

WILL SHORTZ

1 Adjustable
2 State
3 Not full-strength
4 Stakes
5 Takes calls
6 Downtown
7 Quarantine
8 Harder to follow, as a trial
9 Awards for Tony Kushner
10 Unaffected
11 Gatehouse site
12 Like some swimming strokes
13 Soi-author of "Venus" and "Mars"
14 Skilled laborer
15 Treasures hunters' finds
16 Murphy's rule in "Bevery Hills Cop"
23 Categorize
24 Ma Rainey's music
25 Devoreh's ___ Island
40 Polo field?
41 Catch-22
42 Book after Esenziel
43 Cruel
45 Signs of softness
52 Communication
53 Member of the tank

Horoscope

Happy Birthday: Your ideas are amazing, so don't hesitate--his while the iron's hot. As long as you believe that you have a good plan, push until you look up with the right people to make it happen. Your determination and drive will be impressive. Your numbers are 3, 18, 19, 23, 51.

aries (March 21-April 19): Communication will help you get ahead and reach your goals. You will impress everyone and attract interest in yourself as well as in your future plans. ***

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Don't let your personal irritations with other people affect your work. Focus on the job and push for advancement or a career move. ***

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Listen to the advice being given. You will be able to make a physical alteration that will bring back youthful looks. Love relationships will develop. ***

Cancer (June 21-July 22): There will be lots of entertaining events going on in your life today. Enjoy what you can, but don't neglect something you promised to do. ***

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Focus on others and what you can do to help. The less emphasis you put on you and the more on those in need, the better. People will be impressed with your actions. ***

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Watch out for someone who is trying to make you look bad. A job well done will be your safety net. Communication will clarify what you want to do.***

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make headway today, no matter what you do. Professional and personal gains are apparent. Someone you haven't seen in a while will surprise you. ****

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your mind will be on money--making more of it among the top of your personal goals and contractual matters. Stand up for your rights if you want to be respected in the future.****

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An opportunity to meet someone special or to begin anew. A partnership will lead to a new adventure. ***

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put everything you've got into work. The more you can differentiate yourself from others, the better. A unique approach will put you ahead of the competition. ***

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The time to begin something new is now. You will pick up new skills or develop a talent if you put your mind to it today.****

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Back down if someone is on a rampage. You may be in the right, but that isn't likely to help you today. Steer clear of disputes. ***

Birthday Baby: You are a go-getter, giving your all to everything you do. You are a deep thinker and will always come up with an answer, suggestion or solution. Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugenialast.com.

The Observer

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The Observer • TODAY
Recruits respond to change

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Like the propellers on the plane flying University offic­ials in their search for a new coach, the heads of Notre Dame's eleven verbal recruits were spinning after Tyrono Willingham was fired Tuesday.

"I was shocked," Akron, Ohio, defensive lineman Lawrence Wilson said. "I couldn't believe it happened when I first heard about it.

Wilson, who was in class Tuesday afternoon when his father called with the news, has taken back his verbal commit­ment to play for the Irish next season. He is now considering Ohio State, Michigan and Pittsburgh along with the Irish.

"No [selling on the head right now], I'm still pretty

see RECRUITS/page 18

By PAT LEONARD
Assoc. Sports Editor

Set a few more places at the Meyer dinner table. Utah's head coach has visitors.

On Thursday afternoon, local television station WNDU reported that a University plane left South Bend Regional Airport after 3 p.m., carrying athletic director Kevin White and University President-elect Father John Jenkins as passengers.

The plane was bound for Salt Lake City.

Local television station KTV said after the plane landed, White and Jenkins got into a black sports utility vehicle without making any comment.

Meyer was targeted most likely as the top choice to fill the vacancy left by fired Notre Dame head football coach Tyrone Willingham.

The Utah student newspaper, The Daily Utah Chronicle, said Meyer met with White and Jenkins after Thursday's Utah practice ended at 4 p.m.

The Chronicle also said Meyer told his players follow­ ing practice which scholarships were being pursued him. Meyer would not go into specifics when approached by the media.

Before the WNDU reports surfaced, Notre Dame assis­tant athletic director John Heisler would not comment earlier Thursday afternoon on rumors of a meeting.

"As Kevin said on Tuesday, regardless of what you may see or what is reported, we don't get into the business of confirming or denying reports until we've hired a head coach," Heisler said. "We don't intend to contribute to the ongoing discussion before it doesn't serve the University's purposes."

The initial reports surfaced Thursday morning in the New York Times of the scheduled meeting between Notre Dame officials and Meyer.

see MEYER/page 18

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

Home was no longer sweet Thursday night for the Irish.

After opening the second half with a 17-2 run, No. 3 Notre Dame lost its mountain and lost its home win­ ning streak at the end in an 82-73 loss to No. 15 Michigan State (5-1) in overtime. The loss was the first for the Irish at home in 25 games and their first of this season.

Coach Erwin, who fin­ ished with a career-high 20 points and five rebounds, led the Irish.

Notre Dame made a comeback in the second half after falling behind 41-30 at the half. The Irish played poor defense in the first half and struggled on offense.

"I thought that we got down at halftime— we played really, really poorly in the first half," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought we were able to come back, and I think mostly thanks to Crystal.

"But it didn't carry over to the third and fourth quarters."

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish fall to Michigan State

Squad suffers first home loss in last 25 games

This one hurts.

Up six points with 32 seconds remaining, Notre Dame seemingly had No. 15 Michigan State beaten despite the Irish playing their worst first half in which they know how long. All Notre Dame had to do was hold on to pull off the come-from-behind victory to complete the Spartans and make for the NCAA tournament.

They didn't do either.

The result? A 82-73 loss to Michigan State. The team's first loss of the season. The first defeat at home in 25 games. Needless to say, it's a tough pill to swallow.

"We made so many mistakes," Megan Duffy said.

True, the Irish can learn from this latter experience. It can teach them that no lead is safe, and mistakes down the stretch will, in fact, cause you to lose games.
FRESHMAN SENSATION

Newcomer Amanda Cinalli has burst onto the scene this season helping the Irish reach the Final Four.
By any stretch of the imagination, it’s difficult to find anything lacking from Notre Dame’s seventh trip to the Final Four in program history. However, for those who follow the sport especially those of us who cover it, this is not the way the Final Four was supposed to shape up. Yes, the Irish were supposed to redound from their loss in the Big East Championship and they were supposed to cruise into the national semifinals. But it wasn’t supposed to be against Santa Clara.

This was supposed to be the marquee matchup, North Carolina against Notre Dame, the top two women’s soccer programs in NCAA history. This was supposed to be a rematch of the 2000 season in which the Irish would try and avenge their previous loss to the Tar Heels in the national semifinals. This was supposed to be the game that would decide who the polls couldn’t, as the two teams exchanged the top-ranked position over the course of the regular season.

It just didn’t work out the way we expected. Santa Clara beat the Irish to the punch and got to North Carolina first. The Irish have shut down every opponent they have faced to get to the Final Four but the Tar Heels couldn’t hold up its end of the bargain. But none of this takes anything away from what this team is accomplishing. Clearly, North Carolina didn’t deserve to play the Irish; a place in the Final Four is a reward for consistently excellent play, for always finding a way to win.

“You want to play the best going through the tournament, but the way I look at it is Santa Clara beat [North Carolina],” Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. “I think we’re playing the better team.”

This team has bigger fish to fry than worrying about a matchup that makes for a better seed, better upset. The Irish have played like they have something to prove. They believed they were No. 1 all along and wanted a chance to prove that they deserved the ranking. Now that chance is well within their grasp, only two wins away.

Should they win the national championship, they don’t want anyone to be able to question they weren’t the best or didn’t play their best competition. They don’t want any excuses. Should they lose, then so be it. Just don’t question them if they win.

And they shouldn’t be questioned. In some respects, playing as the highest remaining seed makes the going more difficult than as the underdog. Suddenly all eyes are on the Irish. Other teams will now go looking past their current opponents, anticipating a matchup against Notre Dame. The fire and motivation of being the underdog and not getting any respect must be replaced only by self-motivation. And don’t forget the fear of failure that can sap a favored team into a state of paralysis.

However, don’t suppose this will happen to the Irish. They have come too far to let too long for Walshrump to let something like not getting to play North Carolina get in the way of his team’s ultimate goal. Notre Dame knows that at the end of the day, it is not the losers but the winners of the national championships who are remembered. And they suppose it should be them.

This is Randy Waldrum’s third trip to the Final Four with Notre Dame. His one-game-at-a-time philosophy has worked all season, but he needs to help the Irish win the big one.

Notre Dame is on a streak right now, believing they could and should win every game. Waldrum will not let the Broncos sneak up on his team.

Offense

The offense is clicking at all the right times with clutch goals. Katie Thorlakson can score or set up a score from just about anywhere, any time.

Midfield

In Jen Buszkiewski and Jill Krivacek, the Irish have two tremendously versatile and talented midfielders who can have their way on the field against anyone.

Defense

Anchored by Melissa Tancredi and Gudrun Gunnarsdottir, the Irish are experienced and playing well to boot. They have only given up one goal in the NCAA tournament.

Goalkeeping

This is the only area of potential weakness on the Irish team. The defense gives up very few shots on goal so Bohn will need to work to stay sharp.

Coaching

This is Randy Waldrum’s third trip to the Final Four with Notre Dame in six years with Notre Dame. His one-game-at-a-time philosophy has worked all season, but he needs to help the Irish win the big one.

Intangibles

Notre Dame proved they can knock off the big guns with a 1-0 top-seeded round win against top-seeded North Carolina. The Broncos also want to average a 3-2 loss to the Irish earlier this year.

With a trip to the finals on the line, both teams have a lot to play for. The two schools have very similar soccer-rich traditions and are no strangers to playoff pressure.

Analyses

Santa Clara does not have any quick-strike offensive threats. Megan Kaehlert scored the game-winner against North Carolina, but the Broncos have few consistent scorers.

The defensive-minded Broncos will try and stop the Irish attack before it can get started. Leslie Osborne is the only real offensive threat.

The Broncos defense has been impenetrable of late, especially against quality opponents. Santa Clara has only given up two goals in its last 11 games.

Julie Ryder has been a brick wall in the secondary. She can play under pressure, too, as she kept No. 1-seeded North Carolina out of the net in the Broncos dramatic 1-0 overtime win.

Jerry Smith knows how to win the big games. He took Santa Clara to the 2001 national championship and then to overtime of the finals in 2002. The Broncos will be ready to play.

Santa Clara proved they could knock off the big guns with a 1-0 top-seeded round win against top-seeded North Carolina. The Broncos also want to average a 3-2 loss to the Irish earlier this year.

The Irish have too much firepower up front, especially with the emergence of freshman Amanda Cinalli and a healthy Candace Chapman. If they can get the ball deep, Notre Dame will dominate.

Both midfields play excellent defense, but defensively the Irish have the advantage. Osborne is a goal-scoring threat again but Buszkiewski has the ability to find people even when she doesn’t have a shot.

The Bronco’s defense has been impenetrable of late, especially against quality opponents. Santa Clara has only given up two goals in its last 11 games.

Bobby is a solid goal-keeper but has been subject to fluke goals all year long. Rydz is managing to keep even those out of the net, and will be a definite obstacle to the Irish offense.

Small goal the nod because he has been Waldrum’s choice, he has put his mark on this program.
Finding her place

After scoring two goals to send the Irish to the Final Four, Amanda Cinalli is ready for the nation's best

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

Scoring two key goals in the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament is not an easy task for any player — especially if you’re a freshman.

Last weekend, Irish forward Amanda Cinalli scored two goals in the 3-1 win over fifth-seeded Portland to send the Irish into the semifinals. Not only did this win keep the team’s hopes alive for claiming the national title, but it solidified Cinalli’s freshman year of being nothing less than impressive.

"The expectation was always there for her to come in and contribute right away," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "But we don’t look to our freshmen to be scoring goals. We look for them to be solid and consistent from a week-to-week basis. But she has really exceeded that."

Cinalli began her remarkable season in the first regular season match against Baylor. She contributed two goals and one assist in the 7-2 win. This match was also a clear indication that the quicker and more aggressive style of college soccer would take little time for her to adjust to.

"She has carried our team in some respects. To come in and do that says a lot about how she adjusted to the college game because it is so much quicker and going against more faster and physical defenders," Waldrum said.

In addition to competing against tough opponents, Cinalli had to make a notable presence with the Irish so she could find playing time in a team deep with talent, including Hermann Player of the Year candidate Katie Thorlakson and senior Candace Chapman.

"It shows the heart she has on the field and she gives everything in practice and that is what we really liked about her," Waldrum said. "They don’t have that heart and competitiveness, it is hard to get it. But she is a warrior and the credit is all hers."

It is clear that Cinalli continued to battle throughout the regular season as she scored against Wisconsin Green Bay and made the game-winning shot against Connecticut and Villanova.

"It shows the quality of player she is," Waldrum said. "She has only had to worry about competing to get playing time and the rest has been icing."

Waldrum also attributes her success this season to her unique style of play.

"She has a blend of what Candace does, finding a way to get her body in there and stick with the loose balls and stick in the net," Waldrum said. "But she also has a little bit of Katie on how she can get the ball and turn quickly. She has a little bit of both and it gives you a whole new dimension up front. That’s what makes it hard for the opposition. She just gives you a third option that is completely different."

Playing like a veteran

But what’s really set Cinalli apart this season has been her achievements in the post-season.

Not only did she score against Eastern Illinois in the opening round of the NCAA tournament, but her maturity on the field has also grown since her first game against Baylor.

"From Day 1, she has come in like a veteran and hasn’t played like a freshman. Where you can see her growth is how she has really started to develop a better mindset of going at people," Waldrum said. "Earlier she was trying to hold the ball before she could make a decision. And lately, the first thing she is looking to do is go to the goal."

Cinalli’s aggressive play was last shown against Portland. Her two goals put her season total at 10, the third highest on the team behind Thorlakson and Chapman. Cinalli credits this feat to her growth since the beginning of the year.

"Towards the beginning of the season, I was a little hesitant to go for the goal," Cinalli said. "I learned that you can’t have that fear and you just have to challenge yourself and take a chance. Our team is so talented. They are great role models and you learn a lot from them." Cinalli also credits the team for her success.

"Throughout the season, the team has helped me with the confidence and we are like a family," Cinalli said. "When scoring against Portland there was so much joy and pride in our team. Everyday they are pushing me to be better and I credit the team a lot. They are an amazing group of girls and help me grow as a player."

One in particular player who has influenced Cinalli this season has been Thorlakson, who is not only one of Notre Dame’s best, but the country’s best as well.

"Her skill on the ball and ability to hold it is amazing and I’m striving to be more like her in that way," Cinalli said."

Waldrum is hoping that Cinalli will take advantage of the opportunity of playing with players such as Thorlakson and Chapman and continue to learn and grow from these experiences.

"She can be doing the same things for us that Katie is doing this year in the future. She has all the ability to be that forward that leads the team for the next three years," Waldrum said. "Amanda has the ability to challenge being one of the best forwards Notre Dame has ever had."

One last characteristic Waldrum believes Cinalli highly adds to the team is her presence off the field.

"They (the team) love her. She has got one of the best, most outgoing personalities on the team. You won’t find a better kid," Waldrum said. "She is just so appreciative of everything... and she has been such a great fit."

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Early-season matchup previewed Final Four

By MATT MOONEY
Sports Writer

For fourth-seeded Notre Dame (23-1-1), the theme of this year's NCAA tournament run has been deja vu all over again.

The Irish have already played against two teams (Eastern Illinois and Connecticut) that they met previously during the season.

Now, as the team advances to the Final Four of the Women's College Cup for the seventh time in program history, they will also face No. 16 seed Santa Clara for the second time this season.

Friday's game in Cary, N.C. will be a rematch of the Adidas Classic Championship game at Alumni Field in which then-No. 2 Notre Dame ousted then-No. 4 Santa Clara by a 5-3 score.

The Broncos stayed close for much of the game until late in the second half when the Irish exploded for three goals in less than four minutes. Katie Thorlakson played a big part in the offensive outburst with a hat trick and two assists.

However, Irish coach Randy Waldrum feels that a lot has happened in the 12 weeks since that game.

"You could throw that game out the window," he said. "Santa Clara coach Jerry Smith has got some players playing different positions than he did when we played him. The same goes for us. After [Mary Boland] broke her leg we were going with Annie Scheller up front and we've now got [Candice Chapman] back to where she's playing. Ashley Jones, Jill Kriwack, and some of those kids who are playing great now were just getting their feet wet at the beginning of the year."

This time, however, the Irish are catching a surging Broncos team riding the wave of an 11-game winning streak. Santa Clara's success has been due in large part to a stifling defense. During their streak, the Broncos have only allowed their opponents a miserly total of two goals.

This meeting may turn into a much more defensive battle than the first game as the Notre Dame defense has been almost equally suffocating. In their four NCAA tournament games, the Irish have allowed only six shots-on-goal and given up one goal.

"For defender Candace Scheldt and Gunnarsdottir, successful defense requires a complete team effort," Waldrum said.

"The whole team has been playing defense very well, even the forwards," she said. "It all starts up there."

Solid defensive efforts have left fourth-seeded Notre Dame as the highest seed remaining in the tournament. North Carolina, the No. 1 seed, was the only other top-four seed to make it into the third round and they lost 1-0 in overtime to the Broncos.

In recent years, high seeds have not fared well. This marks the third time in the last five years that one of the top four seeds has successfully advanced to the Final Four.

Waldrum, however, refuses to let that distraction get in the way of the team's preparation.

"At the end of the day [the seed] doesn't mean anything," he said. "Santa Clara, they are the 16th seed and here they are in the Final Four. We're all smart enough and have been in it too long to let those kinds of numbers make a difference to us."

"We're just gonna come out like we do for every game," Gunnarsdottir said. "We're not going to do anything different.

Thus, following last week's victory over fifth-seeded Portland, Waldrum was pleasantly surprised to see his players subdued in their celebration. He hopes that only in a way that they are still taking nothing for granted.

"It's not over just because we got back to the Final Four, and I was really happy to see them respond like that way," Waldrum said. "They're still ready to see if they can finish this thing out."

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Midfielder Jen Bukowski heads a ball deep in Broncos territory for a goal against Santa Clara in a 5-2 Irish win on Sept. 5.

Road to the Final Four

Santa Clara 2, California 1
Santa Clara 1, Stanford 0 (2 OT)
Santa Clara 1, No. 1 North Carolina 0
Santa Clara 2, Illinois 0
No. 16 SANTA CLARA
No. 4 NOTRE DAME
Notre Dame 3, No. 5 Portland 1
Notre Dame 2, Connecticut 0
Notre Dame 1, Wisconsin 0
Notre Dame 4, Eastern Illinois 0

Princeton 5, Central Connecticut State 0
Princeton 1, Villanova 0 (2 OT)
Princeton 2, Boston College 0
Princeton 3, No. 15 Washington 1
No. 7 PRINCETON
No. 14 UCLA
UCLA 1, Pepperdine 0
UCLA 2, Duke 0
UCLA 3, San Diego 0

UCLA 1, Ohio State 0