Rich tradition of faculty priests, nuns at ND, SMC wanes

Catholic universities rely on lay professors

By MADDIE HANNA
News Writer

The number of priests and nuns teaching at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's has been slowly decreasing in recent years—a trend that applies to other Catholic universities as well.

This year, Notre Dame has 19 Catholic clerics serving as full-time instructional faculty, said Jean Ann Linney, vice president and associate provost.

Ten years ago, that number was 26, according to the Office of Institutional Research.

This statistic does not include clerics who hold administrative positions, such as University President Father Edward Malloy and University President-elect Father John Jenkins, Linney said. And while the percentage of clerics compared to lay faculty has dropped significantly in the past 20 years that does not account for the overall increase in hiring, she added.

The drop in the number of clerics is miniscule compared to the expansion of the faculty in government, Linney said. Twenty years ago, clerics made up 4.9 percent of Notre Dame's full-time instructional faculty, while last year the number was only 2.4 percent, according to data provided by the Office of Institutional Research. The University has gained 253 full-time faculty members during that time, from 530 to 783.

The hiring of priests, however, has not kept pace with the hiring of lay faculty, Linney said. She speculated among the 25 to 30 faculty members hired per year, on average, only one is a priest.

"I wouldn't say that it's any more difficult now to attract priest-professors—it's just that there are no long-term," Linney said.

The dwindling ranks of priest-professors can be attributed to the stable or declining number of priests completing seminary, Linney said, as well as to the added task of obtaining a Ph.D.

While Linney could not speak directly about Notre Dame's recruitment practices, she said the number of priests in this country places emphasis on drawing new candidates, Linney said.

Academic Affairs Vijay Ramana, while experienced, admitted their history of direct involvement in student government is not as long as the others. However, they said their accomplishments will easily match up.

"Charlin Weiss didn't get hired just because he spent some time in the NFL. He got hired because he has two Super Bowl rings, because the fact that he's had success before makes us believe that he will have more in the future," Brede said. "Some of the other candidates have spent a long time in student government, but the true test is, 'What have you done with it?' In that sense, our lead­­ship experience far out­­classes our opponents."

Another mixed ticket is that of SUB director of program­­ming Mark Healy and fresh­­man Bob Costa. Costa indi­­cated his success at bringing big-name bands to his Philadelphia high school—as chronicled in the book "Wonderland: A Year in the Life of an American High School"—as a more valu­­able asset than an official title.

The ticket of Alec White and Surin senator Erik Powers brushed off the importance of student gov­­ern­­ment experience, high­­light­­ing instead the benefits of a fresher perspective.

"We're kind of young pups compared to some of the other tickets," White said. "But we like to view democ­­racy as a trip to the pump for a new dog—people like puppies, and Old Yeller was crazy before he had to be put down."

The freshman ticket of Will Marra and Petro caring cried movies like "Independence Day" and "Air Force One" as training enough to handle a
INSIDE COLUMN

Buffalo's cold reality

Ahb. Super Bowl seasons once again, a treasured time for sports fans. For me, however, this time of year brings a host of tortured memories.

Let me clarify. I'm from Buffalo. Besides wisecracks about the snow, Buffalo also has a history of athletic letdowns. The Bills faced the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXV, I remember vividly. Buffalo had never been to a Super Bowl before, and football fever invaded our snowy city.

I remember having "Bills Days" at school, which I took an extreme with my Bills sweatshirt, my large helmet earrings, and my "Fahs"-striped hat. Bills songs played on the radio, and young boys wore the Buffalo logo in their hair.

Everyone knows how the story ends, but only those from Buffalo will remember the pain of watching Scott Norwood attempt the 47-yard field goal with four seconds to go and Dallas down by one. The echo of that infamous kick still resonates in my head, as do those awful words, "Wide right."

Stunned. Buffalo pride, but nothing hurt as badly as our four-year Super Bowl run in the early 80s.

Though I was only six years old when the Bills faced the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXV, I remember vividly. Buffalo had never been to a Super Bowl before, and football fever invaded our snowy city.

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Clarkson University alumni were the talk of the town when they played on the field against the University at Buffalo.

A hawk warily eyes passers-by on South Quad Thursday afternoon, protecting its freshly slaughtered prey — an innocent squirrel.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HAVE YOU EVER SOLD ANYTHING ON EBAY, AND IF SO, WHAT?

Christina Gullo
freshman
Lyons

Katie Macklin
freshman
Lyons

Patrick Nolan
freshman
Stanford

Eddie Villa
freshman
Alumni

Gina Venturelli
freshman
Lyons

Sean Sweany
sophomore
Kesough Hall

"I tried to sell my roommates."  "My roommate tried to sell me!"

"No, I stick to the gambling business."  "Yes, my dignity ... not really. Just my guitar."

"No, I have nothing anyone wants."  "No, I would, but I don't know how."

IN BRIEF

The film "The Incredible Hulk" will be shown tonight at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in the Bisons Student Union Center.

A performance of the French play "Les Fourberies de Scapin" by Molière will be performed in the Phiibin Studio theatre of the Bellartrio Center.

The Bridal Expo comes to the Student Union Center Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be fashion shows at 10 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are $3 at the door and free from many local retailers.

The men's tennis team will face off against North Carolina Saturday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

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

CORRECTIONS

Due to an incorrect information provided by the Judicial Council, an article in the Jan. 27 issue of The Observer stated that on the student body presidential tickets were run for president and Marra was running for vice president. Actually, Marra is running for president and Harig is running for vice president.

The Observer regrets the error.

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School of Architecture awards $100,000 prize

Terry, educated at London's Architectural Association, was a Home Scholar in The British School in Rome, which promotes education in architecture, fine art and history. He received the European Prize from the Philipe Boileau Foundation in 1984 and in 2002 he was honored with the Arrow Award from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1994, and a private residence he designed in Dorset, England, received the Best Modern Classical House award in 2003 from the Georgian Group.

The Driehaus Prize was established through Notre Dame's School of Architecture because of its reputation as a national leader in incorporating the ideals of traditional and classical architecture into the task of modern urban development. The award's selection committee included: Driehaus; Tom Breshears, principal at Hammond Breshears; Ainge and former dean of the Yale School of Architecture; Adele Chastfield-Taylor, president of the American Academy in Rome; Leon Krier, inaugural recipient of the Driehaus Prize; Michael Lykoudis, dean of the Notre Dame School of Architecture; and David Winkin, architectural historian and fellow at Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

Sorin addressed need for post office

University founder's vision brought campus benefits through the years

The first post office on University grounds was on Notre Dame Avenue.

The first post office on University grounds was on Notre Dame Avenue.
said he is not limited in his work as a priest. “I have to compromise your religious background also prevents me from being a priest. It’s just a lot to do as well as you can.”

According to Gaffney, his religious background also prevents him from becoming a “one-dimensional scholar” and leads to him being more involved in students’ lives and the community than an ordinary professor might.

“We are many ways to be involved in teaching at the University. One is to involve yourself in students, their interests and life stories — but for a priest, this is an important part of our life’s work,” Gaffney said. “I’m always trying to juggle my responsibilities as priest and professor,” diocesan priest and theology professor Father Michael Driscoll said.

Driscoll said his religious background overlapped with being a professor in liturgical studies, and that teaching is a part of his responsibility and role as a priest. “Otherwise, you become an ivory tower liturgist,” Driscoll said.

Although Driscoll must balance the two different occupations, he said he is earning masses, he sees no difficulty or contradiction in his work.

“Everybody has to juggle their own life, figure out how to spend their time,” he said. Father Mark Thesing, Keenan instructor, said teaching a class while managing issues in his work is a perpetual challenge. Thesing said that while teaching is very structured and runs on a set schedule, being a priest is about being flexible and accommodating immediately to the needs of the 290 men living in Keenan. He describes the latter job he describes as “the most multifaceted job I’ve ever had.”

Commenting on priests living in dorms, Thesing said, “There’s a difference between the number of priest-professors available today and 30 years ago, when it wouldn’t have been unusual for half of the faculty to be clerics.”

Stabrowski said he felt recruiting priest-professors was not overly problematic, and Portland "goes its fair share." But because of nationwide priest shortages, priests in high demand, Stabrowski said. "Whenever there is an available priest, we certainly pay close attention," he said. Portland, which, along with Notre Dame belongs to the Order of the Holy Cross, has 20 priests and brothers who work as professors or in administration, Stabrowski said. He did not know the exact number of sisters employed, but said there were at least seven in regular positions.

Sister Jean Kiene, chair of the department, also stressed the importance of having clerics teaching and academic life, and because a number of colleges and institutions want these sisters. "All of the officials agreed upon the importance of having clerics teach at their respective schools." White said that in some ways recruiting sisters has been more difficult in recent years, primarily because there are fewer sisters going into teaching and academic life, and because a number of colleges and institutions want these sisters. "There’s clearly a very strong commitment to having a faculty that practices as well as understands the Catholic mission of this university," Linney said.

The campus also benefits from the unique approach priests bring to the classrooms, she said. "Their seminary training provides them with a different perspective," she said. "For a priest who studied history, their perception of how history is going to be different than a lay professor." Stabrowski said priest-professors are "critical" in perpetuating the image of the Holy Cross classroom. "They provide continuity to an institution, the history, the memory," he said. "That is very, very important." Stabrowski, however, focused on the more "concrete contact" aspect of having priests as teachers. He said the greater the presence of Jesuits in the classroom, the greater the student’s understanding of the Church.

While said the presence of sisters at Saint Mary’s has an important role in the story of the campus. "It’s important for all of us to live out the tradition and the mission of the college as written and designed by the Sisters of the Holy Cross," White said. In response to the idea of "publish versus parish," which compares the importance of having professors who publish work to professors who are members of the clergy, Linney said Notre Dame has a unique arrangement that allows more faculty members more flexibility.

Notre Dame has two categories of faculty, Linney said. There are those in Teaching and Research, who are "expected to publish and publish new knowledge," and those in Special Professional, who are "valued because of their unique experience," she said.

"Special Professional faculty, according to Linney, are instructors who like to devote more time teaching than to publishing. Therefore, the expectations for publication are different. Despite this distinction, Linney said the same level of quality from all of their professors. There are both priest and lay professors in both categories of faculty, she added, meaning priests are not held to different standards than lay professors. "Notre Dame is not about compromising its standards," she said, "but we recognize that professors are different and make contributions overall to excellence."
Train wreck suspect faces charges

GLENDALE, Calif. — The suicidal man who authorities say caused the chaos of a train derailment that killed 11 people has been charged with multiple counts of murder and is facing the death penalty, the district attorney said Thursday.

Juan Manuel Alvarez, 25, left his sport utility vehicle on a railroad track near Los Angeles late Wednesday evening, convincing his girlfriend that he was headed to a hospital's jail ward after apparently slitting his own wrists and stabbing himself in the chest.

In addition to the 11 dead, nearly 200 people were injured. The last person reported missing was accounted for Thursday and firefighters ended recovery efforts all day, but one of the dead had been identified.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said prosecute
tors filed charges late Wednesday for 10 counts of murder with "special circumstances" of committing murder through a train derailment. Cooley stressed however that the case were still being evaluated. Under state law, special circum

LOCAL NEWS

More flu virus available

INDIANAPOLIS — Flu shots in Indiana are now available for anyone who wants a vaccination, regardless of age or health conditions, as long as supplies last, after federal public health officials today said the OK for eliminating restrictions and state and county public health agencies for the recommendation within hours.

Visiting Nurse Service, generally the largest source of flu shots in central Indiana, scheduled eight first-come, first-served clinics for the general public beginning Feb. 6.

Sylvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of Italy, sets a candle onto the memorial in the former Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau during the commemoration. As he recalled, "I never imag

Today we shall not only remember the past but also be aware of all the threats of the modern world," he said. "Terrorism is among them, and it is no less dan

teresting than fascism."

The leaders placed cand

eys, in blue glass holders, at a memorial as they left. New Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko made the sign of the cross after gently setting his down.

Earlier in Krakow, Cheney noted that the Holocaust did not happen in some far-off place but "in the heart of the civilized world."

"The story of the camps shows that evil is real and must be called by its name and must be confronted," he said.

Putin won long applause when he acknowledged that anti-Semitism and xenopho

In our country, in Russia, which did more than any to combat fascism ... we sometimes unfortu

nately see manifestations of this problem and I, too, am ashamed of that," Putin said.

Survivor Franciszek Jozefik, 80, said efforts to educate new generations about the Holocaust should
Trent continued from page 1

Father, Gregg. "Once she found out we had a professional plumber come in to look at everything, she stopped threatening us," Russwurm said. "We have had contractors, cleaning crews and even FBI agents, all working 24/7 to repair the damage."

But now the tenants are seeking an explanation for why their furniture, now covered in drywall dust, was not removed from the apartments before the repairs were made.

Local general contractor Mosby told Russwurm he was hired to repair the drywall in the apartments, said Gregg Boyd, commending the company's professionalism and practicality.

"I did suggest that it would be a good idea to move the furniture out before I began working, but they (management) told me that they couldn't move the furniture because the students had to be there to give them the okay," Mosby said.

Gregg Boyd and his daughter, however, maintain a different story.

In a document Gregg Boyd compiled on the problems he has encountered with Paramount, he wrote, "Paramount refused to pay the fees required to move out the furnishings of the tenants. Thus they were piled up in the middle of the rooms, left wet, wet, getting moldy."

Amid all the controversy, other students living in the damaged apartments are seeking a peaceful reconciliation.

"I would just like to move on and just make sure everything is covered," said Paramount's neighbor, senior Conner O'Keeffe. "But as far as my anger is toward Paramount, I'm still disappointed in the way they handled it."

For the Boyds, filing a lawsuit is the next step.

"The suit would be against all the parties that have been involved," Gregg Boyd said. "They have been persecuting these students that have been devastated by something that did not need to happen."

Russwurm told The Observer for the Jan. 12 article that Paramount did not intend to file lawsuits against the student tenants.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone@nd.edu

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Damage

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ITALY

Country begins 2006 Olympic preparation

Associated Press

TURIN — Figure skaters glide across the freshly laid ice at the renovated Palavela arena. Short-track speedskating is a big hit with the locals. Ski and bobsled races come off without a hitch in the sur­rounding Alps.

One year before the 2006 Winter Olympics, Turin and the Piedmont region of northwestern Italy are getting a taste of the real thing. So far, so good.

Despite continuing budget, sponsorship and housing problems, a series of successful test events has raised concerns over the state of preparations for the Feb. 10-26, 2006, showcase — the first Winter Games in Italy since Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956.

"I don't want any triumphalism — I'm aware that we still have a lot of work to do," said organizing committee chief Valentino Castellani. "But we don't have delays or emergencies."

A few months ago, Turin's preparations were being compared to Athens' inoperative last-minute race to get ready for the 2004 Summer Olympics. Now there's a sense of relative calm among local organizers and International Olympic Committee officials.

"I don't think there is any possible comparison between the two," said Giampiero Grassi, Turin's chief of public relations.

The venue for figure skating is ready. The venues for cross-country, ski jumping and all the Alpine skiing are ready, so there is nothing to compare with Athens. They are on track.

Felli spoke after attending this week's opening of the European Figure Skating Championships at the 8,500-seat Palavela, featuring an arching cement roof resembling a threshing sail.

Workers were still painting and lathering with wires days before the event, but completed the job just in time.

The Palavela also hosted the European short-track speedskating championships this month, drawing full crowds for a sport with little following in Turin.

Cross-country ski races took place Jan. 22-23 in Pragelato, bobsled and skeleton events were held Jan. 20-23 and huge events are scheduled for Feb. 5-6 in Cesana-Pariol. In December, the World Cup ski circuit made its annual stop in Sestriere, a resort founded by Fiat's Agnelli family that will be the center for Alpine events during the Olympics.

Ice sports will be in downtown Turin and snow events in Sestriere and surrounding villages, about 62 miles from the city. There will be three Olympic villages — one in Turin for 2,500 athletes and coaches and one more in the mountains for an equal number of competitors. Housing problems are less serious in the Alpine village for fans, media and others.
Ford recalls trucks and SUVs

Ford recalled nearly 800,000 pickup trucks for an electronic control switch that could fail, which has prompted some companies to add a fuel economy penalty to the price of their cars. The recall, which follows a similar one last month by Toyota, affects nearly 800,000 pickups and sport-utility vehicles.

The recall covers approximately 792,000 Ford F-150 pickups, five midsize and full-size Lincoln luxury vehicles, and Lincoln Navigator SUVs from the 2006 model year. Ford will notify owners of the recall in the next few weeks and dealers will replace the cruise control switch for free.


The Justice Department has been investigating the bank executives’ handling of accounts involving foreign transactions, including those held by Saudi diplomats in Washington, D.C., that officials say were used to support the Bank’s regime in Equatorial Guinea.

"Ribes aggressively cultivated the Pinochet and Equatorial Guinea accounts, and profited from their business," Kenneth Wainstein, the U.S. special counsel for the District of Columbia, said at a news conference.

"Despite these former employees’ claims to the contrary, regulators, Ribes courted customers who were a high risk for money laundering and helped them shield their financial transactions from scrutiny," Wainstein said. "This long-term and systemic misconduct was more than simply blind neglect; it was a criminal breach of the banking laws that protect our financial system from exploitation by terrorists, narcotics dealers and other criminals."

Earlier, at the hearing before Urbina, prosecutors detailed a lengthy list of deceptions that they said were used by Ribes managers to conceal Pinochet’s ownership of the assets, including setting up dummy offshore companies and altering his name on some of his accounts. This occurred at a time when prosecutors in several countries were trying to freeze Pinochet’s assets and bring him to justice for alleged crimes against humanity.

Ribes, an old-line Washington bank that drew prestige from its near-exclusively diplomatic franchise with the capital’s diplomatic community, is a midsize institution with some $6.4 billion in assets.

The DOJ has said it would take the case to trial if Urbina rejects the fine, and the prosecutors have said they would renegotiate the settlement if the bank did not appeal.

The judge said he would consider reneging on the plea deal if the bank realized from the questionable accounts was "significantly less" than the amount, but did not quantify it.

The civil fine imposed in May by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency was for alleged violations of laws to prevent money laundering in Ribes’s handling of millions of dollars in the accounts controlled by Saudi diplomats and Equatorial Guinea officials. The bank, which has since sold its diplomatic and international businesses, did not admit to or deny wrongdoing in the civil case.

The plea agreement does not cover the Saudi-held accounts.

Midway to become ATA’s focus

Midway International Airport will become the airline’s headquarters, on a deal reached with the airport. The airline is planning a $450 million, four-story office building.

The Regional Airline Association has released a report that said that the airline’s primary focus should be on expanding the airport’s capacity to handle more passengers.

The new headquarters will be located near the airport’s main runway, which is used for takeoffs and landings.

The airline has been working to increase its capacity, and the airport has been seeking to expand its facilities. The deal, which is expected to be signed later this month, will allow Midway to expand its operations and attract more passengers.

associated Press

Indiana Pacers have signed a deal with a major airline company to become the airline’s primary sponsor. The team has agreed to a $50 million, four-year deal with the airline, which will become the team’s primary sponsor.

The team has been working to increase its revenue, and the deal is expected to help the team’s finances.

The deal will also include the airline as a sponsor of the team’s arena, which will be called the "Airways Arena." The team’s current home, Conseco Fieldhouse, is expected to be renamed as well.

The airline has been working to increase its presence in the market, and the deal with the Pacers will help the airline’s visibility.

The deal is expected to help the team’s finances as well, with an estimated $5 million in revenue from the sponsorship deal.
Charity is not a competition

In the tragic and confusing aftermath of the Dec. 26 tsunami, some of the world's leaders lost sight of that fact. Donation to the South Asian and African victims, which started as a noble and empathetic act, took on the ugly impression of a bidding war.

But Notre Dame's leaders knew better. Their efforts were communal from the beginning.

First, Campus Ministry announced that all money from collections taken at the two Notre Dame and all residence hall Masses the week students returned from winter break — bringing the campus community to full size and strength — would go towards relief efforts. Then other student and administrative leaders joined in, as representatives from Student Government, International Student Services and Activities, the Athletic Department and the Office of Student Affairs chose to work together to organize various collections and fundraisers, from basketball games to benefit dinners. In recognizing that they could do more together than apart, the Student Relief Drive's planners acted with savvy, generosity and perspective.

Notre Dame's response to the tragedy was not only remarkably collaborative, but also unmistakably Catholic. University President Father Edward Malloy immediately offered his prayers, and urged others at "Our Lady's University" to "be worthy vessels of God's grace, helping to ease the suffering of the victims for this tragedy and for our whole world."

The first Basilica Mass was specifically offered up for the dead and suffering, and for those aiding them. Furthermore, it was decided that all donations collected through Notre Dame Volunteers, Catholic Services, reflecting the University's commitment to the Church's charitable mission.

In all, approximately $173,000 was collected from the Notre Dame community during the past two weeks — enough to make a difference in rebuilding hundreds of homes.

A similar amount of money could very well have come from individual donations. Any money is all the same to the victims. But the fact that Notre Dame's relief efforts were staked on strong foundations of cooperation and the University's sense — makes the University an admirable public example.

And the best part is that it wasn't trying to be.
When I returned to my room after class Wednesday I had a wooziness from my mom. She wanted me to read the society portion of the latest New York Times. I liked it. Not many good things about the president of Harvard, science and the indigenousness of women. I love science and I can read a book, and not many good things about the president of Harvard, science and the indigenousness of women. I read in that article a few days ago, and not many good things about the president of Harvard, science and the indigenousness of women. I hope they don’t like the nation. Without the president of Harvard, science and the indigenousness of women.

I love science and I can read a book. It’s bad enough that my mom wants me to read about the indigenousness of women. I don’t want to change the nation. What I read in that article I know. I don’t want to change the nation. I love science and I can read a book.

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I want to change the nation. I love science and I can read a book.

I love science and I can read a book. I want to change the nation. I love science and I can read a book.

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Slam poets examine issues of race and religion


By Christie Boisen

Ted Koppel, the vast majority of Notre Dame students don’t know what it’s like to be wrongfully arrested, or how it feels to face the world as a Jew or skinhead.

It’s not that easy to get an inside look into a world with so many differences from what’s familiar. But at the Race and Religion Symposium, students may get a chance to see a world very different from the one they know uncovered.

Three spoken word artists will bring their experiences with police and racial discrimination. Bryonn Bain, a Harvard law student, became a national focus of racial discussion when he was handcuffed and thrown in jail for a night by the NYPD when he and his friends were leaving a nightclub in New York. Bain wrote an essay called “The Bill of Rights for Black Men” after the incident that became a cover story for Harvard Law’s Village Voice.

Ted Koppel, Chris Matthews, Johnny Cochran and Oprah Winfrey all discussed the racially charged incident and Mike Wallace also interviewed Bain on CBS’ 60 Minutes.

Bain, who placed second in the International Poetry Slam, will speak about keeping your goals in sight despite barriers and a future of equality.

Jason Carney, the second performer, is a former skinhead who was sent to a juvenile detention center as a young man because of his violence stemming from gay and racial intolerance. After rooming at the center with a young man who was HIV positive, his views changed.

When Carney discovered after his release from the center that his friend had died from AIDS, he made it his mission to eliminate the intolerance he once harbored. He even uses his art to reform and heal, and has performed on Russell Simmons’ Def Poetry Jam on HBO.

Kevin Coval, the third performer, is a poet, emcee, essayist, activist and educator who has performed around the world in countries including South Africa and India. His range of experience includes opening for Ani DiFranco and also appearing on Def Poetry Jam. Coval also works toward contributing to the youth writing community in Chicago, where he teaches workshops for Young Chicago Authors, the Guild Complex and the University of Hip-Hop.

His art takes a critical look at the current cultural and political environment, and also explores his Jewish identity. His hip-hop lyrics deal with the impact of whiteness on people of color as well.

Tatiana Nealon, Student Union Board cultural arts programmer, attended a conference in Kentucky in October where she saw Jason Carney perform to a standing ovation, and was struck by his power and effect on the audience. She hopes the conference will build up interfaith awareness on campus, as well as spark discussion on the important issue of race.

“By bringing in a Jewish person to talk about his experiences, it can help people realize what it’s like for someone of a different religion to grow up in a predominantly Christian nation,” Nealon said.

Workshops run by the visiting poets, such as the one on Social Entrepreneurship from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Mill Room today, will give students a chance to further explore issues.

The Race and Religion Symposium will take place at this week’s Under the Dutch Toast event in the LaFortune Ballroom. The symposium will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

Contact Christie Boisen at cbolse@nd.edu

Banda Rika and Matt Wertz hit Legends


By Becca Saunders

Matt Wertz did not begin his life with aspirations of becoming a songwriter and performer. In fact, earlier in his life his aspiration was actually to become a shoe designer. Fortunately for Matt and the crowd that will be at Legends Saturday, Matt left those dreams behind after he began writing songs during his freshman year of college.

The acoustic guitar player claims his Web site that originally, “When I began writing songs, I never intended for anyone to hear them . . . It was simply the natural outpouring of my heart.” Fans of Wertz across the country are grateful his songs, comparable to the likes of John Mayer and Jack Johnson, have come out and met the receptive fan base Wertz has started to create for himself through national touring in the last year and a half.

Wertz’s show is sure to be light and engaging.

Matt Wertz will be preceded by Notre Dame senior Kevin Leicht. Matt will begin playing at 10 p.m. at the club side of Legends. If an enjoyable and laid-back show is what your Saturday night needs, then Legends will most probably be the place for you.

Contact Becca Saunders at rssunder@nd.edu
Irish Ambassadors

The world-famous Chieftains bring their premier Irish music to Notre Dame

A sold-out Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center awaits another world-class performance from the Chieftains, some of the best-known ambassadors of Irish music.

The Chieftains have been successful partly through bridging a gap between modern and traditional Celtic music and reaching out to both fan bases. The group plays traditional Celtic reels and ballads with the best, but branches out in performing with premier artists from many genres. Some artists have lost credibility through similar endeavors, but the Chieftains have succeeded in mixing many styles their own.

The Chieftains were formed in Dublin in 1962 with the intent of performing traditional Celtic music. The group's legacy bears a semblance to the English group the King's Singers who performed at the Leighton Concert Hall in November. Paddy Moloney founded the original group and still performs today as its front man. Moloney performs on the Uilleann pipes and tin whistle. Other musicians include Kevin Connell on the Bodhran (an Irish drum pronounced "bough-rawn") and vocals, Sean Keane on the fiddle and Matt Molloy on flute.

The Chieftains have crossed over to rock music by performing with guest artists including Pete Townshend, Bob Dylan, Elvis Costello and fellow Irishman Van Morrison. On "Long Black Veil" (the group performs with the Rolling Stones, Sting, and even Tom Jones. On "Down the Old Plank Road: The Nashville Sessions" the Chieftains also performed with bluegrass greats like Bela Fleck, Tim O'Brien and Allison Krauss.

Since its creation, the group has enjoyed the luxury of an appreciative audience. The band first garnered acclaim in Ireland and England, when it maintained a semi-professional, part-time aspect to its work. The band broke out internationally with its scoring of the 1975 film "Barry Lyndon." After a four-decade long career, the Chieftains have released 44 albums, with their next album, a tribute to departed member Derek Lowe, due in stores Feb. 22.

The Chieftains also set several performance milestones for Western music, becoming the first Western music group to tour China in 1983 (a tour that included a performance on the Great Wall of China), and breaking worldwide concert records with a 1979 concert in Dublin before 1.35 million people including Pope John Paul II. The band's current tour takes it throughout the United States up until late March, and includes performances at Orchestra Hall in Chicago and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

So great is the Chieftains' reputation for traditional Irish music that in 1989 the Republic of Ireland appointed them the official music ambassadors for Ireland. Even so, the band has proved to not only be a driving force through Irish music, but through the popular music culture as a whole. Its work has received 10 Grammy nominations, and it won the award multiple times throughout the 1990s. Its "Barry Lyndon" scoring was awarded with an Oscar, and it has provided music for numerous film, television and stage productions.

The Chieftains take the stage at the Leighton Concert Hall Sunday at 8 p.m.

Contact Brandon Hollihan at bhollihan@nd.edu
Brady trying to downplay Montana comparisons

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb held the NFC championship trophy above his head, closed his eyes and savored the moment. Brian Dawkins clutched his two Super Bowl rings, took a lap around the field, and handed it off to teammates to pass around before giving the hockey players a chance to see it.

"I'm very flattered," Brady said when asked if he thought he was already level (and) still trying to get better.

When he's in the zone, I don't think there's anybody hotter," tight end Christian Fauria said.

The charismatic star has made such an impression that his teammates hear about it at home.

"Troy Brown tells me his little kid says I'm his favorite player," Brady said. "So when you hear stuff like that from your own teammate you get the biggest kick out of it."

As his achievements pile up in a career that should last many more years, more fans will wear his No. 12 jersey and admire the kid who once hoisted a football in a driveway not far from where Montana was becoming an idol.

"Brady is probably playing with tougher competition than Montana," said Patriots third-string quarterback Jim Miller, a 10-year veteran. "I just think Tom's got a great feel for the game. He just has a great feel when to move in the pocket, when a certain guy's going to be open."

Brady has improved his accuracy and game management, too. He took the starting job after Drew Bledsoe was hurt in the second game of the 2001 season.

"This thing isn't over," McNabb said, the Five-Time Pro Bowl quarterback. "It's a stepping stone toward our goal and strap on that championship belt for the Super Bowl. You don't have to worry about our team being overly excited about winning the NFC championship game. For everyone in Philadelphia, they feel like the curse has been erased. As a football team, we don't think of any curse.

"We're going to the Super Bowl, those fans won't be crushed if the Eagles lose to the defending champion New England Patriots on Feb. 6 in Jacksonville, Fla.

When T.O. went down, everybody thought they were done, said Rich Mallisi, a season ticket holder who wasn't among the lucky ones to win a lottery for a chance to buy Super Bowl tickets. "I proved those so-called experts wrong. They were wrong in 2000. Win or lose against New England, they made us proud,"

It may be the City of Brotherly Love, but it has been called the City of Losers in recent years because none of the major professional sports teams have won a championship since the 76ers captured the NBA title in 1983.

The 76ers were the last team to play for a championship, losing four straight games to the Los Angeles Lakers after opening the 2001 NBA Finals with an overtime victory. The Flyers were swept by Detroit in the 1997 Stanley Cup Finals.

They were two wins away from winning their second World Series in 1993, before Joe Carter's dramatic walk-off homer in Game 6 gave Toronto its second straight title.

"Until we win a championship, not just an NFC championship, we'll be known as loser city," Anthony Simonelli said while selling Eagles T-shirts and hats on a street corner in South Philly.
Delgado’s four-year deal with Marlins finalized

Associated Press

MIAMI — Carlos Delgado and the Florida Marlins finalized their $52 million, four-year contract Thursday, a move that could change the balance of power in the NL East.

Delgado, who hit at least 30 home runs each of the past eight seasons with Toronto, passed his physical Wednesday and was introduced at a news conference.

"I want to put myself on a team that has a chance to win, and that's the Florida Marlins," Delgado said. "I can't wait to meet the guys." 

Florida won out over the New York Mets, who also offered $52 million, and Baltimore and Texas, which each offered $48 million.

"I think this is the best fit for me to have a chance to win," Delgado said. "And the fact that it's a four-year deal here, the fact that it's only only two hours from Puerto Rico, yeah, it is very nice as well, it's gravy."

His addition is a boost to the Marlins, who are trying to put together a financing package for a new ballpark.

"It shows my desire to win," Delgado said. "Everybody knows how much I hate to lose," Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria said. "This signing makes perfect sense for this team at this time.

Florida is trying to end Atlanta's record streak of 13 consecutive division titles.

"I still think they're the team to beat," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said. "They find a way to come up with the players. Everybody gave the Braves a goodbye last year, and look what happened."

There's no assurance the Marlins will be better than last year after losing ace Carl Pavano (18-8) and closer Armando Benitez (47 saves) to free agency.

General manager Larry Beinfest and his analytics director Edler take Pavano's spot in the rotation.

"I hope to become a first-time closer as part of a revamped bullpen," Beinfest said.

A left-handed power hitter has topped McKeon's wish list ever since he became manager in 2003. Delgado's one of the best.

"Jack, I guess you now know you've got the left-handed bat that you want," Loria told McKeon, seated near him at Thursday's hiring press conference.

"About time," McKeon quickly responded.

Delgado has already started to earn his keep. The Marlins sold $100,000 worth of season tickets Wednesday, five times their daily norm.

"This ballclub has a very good lineup, a very good pitching staff and a very, very good chance to make it to the playoffs," Delgado said.

Delgado is the city's newest Latin celebrity but hardly the Marlins' lone star. He'll be one of seven regulars to have been acquired in the off-season. And the rotation, the team's strength the past two seasons, still includes Josh Beckett, A.J. Burnett and Dontrelle Willis.

"The Marlins were good before Delgado, and now they're a better team than they were last year," said Mike Schmiel, who pitched the past seven seasons for the Mets. "With the considerable movement of players in the NL East, it's up for grabs. No disrespect to the Braves, but there's a size that everybody has a shot.

NBA

After slow start, Bulls begin to pick up steam

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Coach Scott Skiles gets paid a lot to make sure the glass always looks half full. Anybody else who says they saw the Chicago Bulls in the playoff hunt midway through this season is either lying or had better have a doctor's note explaining they're "burnt out.

The reason has little to do with the speed of the Bulls' turnaround or the lack of precedent. The NBA's mantra, after all, is "everybody makes a run," and just last season, the Miami Heat stumbled 0-7 leaving the gate and still managed to close a respectable 42-40 and make the playoffs.

So why not the Bulls? Before we tackle that question, a word from Skiles.

"That 0-9 start was probably the scariest thing we'd had to endure this season," Skiles said. "After practice the other day, I was going, 'Well, even then, we never saw ourselves being any 0-9 team. At least it didn't feel that way. So that gave us a mental head start in turning things around."

We always had confidence that we are a good team.

With Thursday night's visit by the Charlotte Bobcats marking the official midpoint of the season, the Bulls suddenly look like a very good team. They came in having won four straight, 11 of 12, and 17 of the last 21. Even in a weak Eastern Conference and a league filled with surpris­ings, that has to be the most sur­prising development of all.

Skiles, of course, had a per­fectly reasonable explanation.

"We went from virtually last in the league to first in one major defensive statistic," he said, referring to his team's ability to hold opponents to a league-low 41 percent field-goal shooting percentage. But play­ing great defense is a symptom and not the cause of the Bulls' success.

Credit for that belongs mostly to Skiles and general manager John Paxson, who recently as six weeks ago had no reason to believe that their commitment and tough love were about to be rewarded.

Franchises reach tipping points all the time, and at that moment, this future of Chicago's looked a lot more like the Clippers than one just a half­down years removed from the salad days of Michael Jordan.

What the Bulls had in common with the Clippers was a handful of losing seasons, a team loaded with underachieving draft picks and disgruntled veterans, and a new coach viewed Chicago as a rest stop on the way to the Playoffs.

Paxson turned out to be shrewder than his predecessor Berra, better at bridging the gap between the veterans and the draft, and patient­ly pruned the roster instead of cutting down the tree and start­ing over one more time. Then he quit meddling and let the hard­nosed Skiles do the rest.

Even so, as recently as December, the Bulls were flaking and offer­ing and trades were coming in for Eddy Curry and Tyson Chandler, the high school pheno­mons whose arrested develop­ment was the legacy of the last administration.

Paxson sur­rounded them with a better mix of veterans and four rookies that turned out to be much better than advertised.

Global Geopolitics

A View from the Top (and the Inside)

John Mroz
President and Founder
EastWest Institute

Since 1980, the EastWest Institute has worked to bridge divides along the fault lines of world geopolitics. Under its auspices, world leaders come together to explore solutions to pressing security, economic and political challenges. Our speaker is a tireless promoter of world peace, and an individual with a profound inside knowledge of the thinking of major world figures.

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Spartans defeat Wolverines 64-53

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — When Michigan State met at halftime, the Spartans talked about putting away Michigan in the first 5 minutes of the second half.

They did.

Maurice Ager scored 18 points and No. 12 Michigan State started the second half strong, making six straight baskets leading to a victory over the Wolverines on Thursday night.

"That was huge," Ager said of scoring the first eight points after halftime. "We got a lot of energy out of that. Guys got after it, and got on the floor. You can't help but go on a run.

The Spartans (13-3, 5-1 Big Ten) have won 11 of their last 12, and 11 of 12 against Michigan (12-8, 3-3). Michigan State plays No. 1 Illinois on Tuesday at home after a nonconference tuneup against Oakland on Saturday.

The Spartans were subdued in the locker room after handing their rivals easy because they knew, a similar effort against the Fighting Illini would lead to a loss, hurting their Big Ten title hopes.

"That's just kind of a sign of where we are and that we do have a good idea of the big picture," guard Chris Hill said.

Benoit Benjamin and Courtney Sims each had 12 points for the Wolverines, who were without standout point guard Daniel Horton. He was suspended indefinitely after being charged with domestic violence Monday and without him, Michigan had 23 turnovers against the Spartans' pressure defense.

Harris said the Wolverines missed Horton a lot.

"I think we just broke down offensively and defensively," Harris, who had six turnovers. "They pressured me every time I got the ball, they

SMC SWIMMING

Belles look to move up in the conference

By JUSTIN STETZ

Spartan Wire

The Saint Mary's swimming team will be traveling to Albion College Saturday to face the Bronchos and the team of Calvin. The Belles currently reside in sixth place in the MIAA with a record of 1-3, but can overtake Albion for the No. 5 spot. The goal is to win this meet and move into the top four in the conference with a record of 3-0 as it dominates most of its competition to this point.

Last year, Saint Mary's suffered losses to both teams during conference action. Albion defeated the Belles by a score of 128-106, while the Bronchos bested the Belles with a relatively easy 119-84 win.

In the meet against Albion, Bridget Leboiez finished second in the 200-yard freestyle and teammate, Kelly Nellis placed second in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.66 seconds. Nellis also won the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:30.

Against conference rival Calvin, Nellis finished second in the 200-yard freestyle event, while Sarah Nowak had a strong performance in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:27. The team also captured first in the 200-yard freestyle relay finishing with a time of 1:46.

Heading into this weekends meet, Saint Mary's is coming off of a dominating win over Kalamazoo, a

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Chauncey Billups scored 20 points and Tashyaun Prince had 16 points and seven rebounds as the Detroit Pistons used a balanced scoring attack to defeat the Indiana Pacers 98-76 Thursday night.

It was the second meeting between the teams since Nov. 19, when Pacers players braved with Pistons fans after Ben Wallace shouted Ron Artest. Both games have been in Indianapolis, and both times the Pistons have won.

The teams face each for the last time this regular season in Detroit on March 25 at Detroit. That will be Indiana's first trip back to the Palace of Auburn Hills since the fight.

Detroit won its second straight after losing four in a row, while Indiana has lost three straight and five of seven.

The Pacers dropped under .500 for only the second time this season.

Thursday's game was full of emotion, too.

Indiana fans booed loudly as the Pistons were introduced and boomed again each time Ben Wallace scored. The game also was marred by five technical fouls, and fans jawed with Pistons players, sometimes playfully, in the final minutes of the game.

Ben Wallace finished with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

The game got off to a contentious start. Two days after five Pistons players appeared in a Detroit courtroom, Reggie Miller, Rasheed Wallace and Pacers coach Rick Carlisle all drew technical fouls in the first half, with Wallace picking up another technical early in the third quarter.

The Pacers' lead was carried by O'Neal and Stephen Jackson, who were both involved in the November melee. O'Neal finished with 27 points, six rebounds, six assists on six others and seven steals in his second game back after a 30-game suspension for his role in the fracas.

Fred Jones added 14 points off the bench, and point guard Jamaal Tinsley was particularly ineffective after missing Wednesday night's game in Boston with the flu. Tinsley missed all six of his shots, finishing with two points and four assists after being in foul trouble most of the night.

The Pacers used a run of 13-2 and 6-0 to build a 39-25 lead.

The Pacers rallied just before the half, scoring the last five points to close to 47-40. But half, half, and Jermaine O'Neal took back the lead by scoring five straight points and pulled away with a 7-0 spurt that made it 66-51 with 2:18 left in the third quarter.

Kings 90, Spurs 80

The Sacramento Kings played San Antonio twice this week — the first time with Peja Stojakovic, the second without him. The Kings lost both times, but on Wednesday they were more competitive minus their No. 2 scorer.

Manu Ginobili scored 25 points and Tim Duncan added 20 for the Spurs, who fended off a late rally for win.

Stojakovic, averaging 20.3 points, sat out with back spasms. The Kings lost the previous meeting by 30 points.

"I hadn't been happy just because it was closer," Sacramento's Chris Webber said. "We played better.

The Kings cut San Antonio's lead to 78-77 when Webber stole the ball and passed to Brad Miller for a layup with 5:06 left. The Spurs then went on an 8-0 run as Robert Horry made three free-throws, Bruce Bowen hit a 3-pointer and Duncan worked inside for a layup over Miller.

Sacramento missed nine of its last 10 shots after Miller's layup.

"The only way we are going to win this game is to play good defense," Howard said. "We were very fortunate that we contested shots and they missed those shots.

Bowen finished with 14 points, 10 of them in the second half. Tony Parker finished with 12 points, and Duncan had 12 rebounds.

"We didn't play our best basketball," Duncan said. "We gave them too many opportunities to get back in the game.

Miller scored 19 points, Mike Bibby 17 and Webber 16 for Sacramento. Webber trailed by double digits several times, Matt Barnes, starting in place of Stojakovic, had eight points on 3-of-5 shooting.

Kings coach Pual Adelman said his team held its own, but that San Antonio executed better on the stretch.

"Obviously they are the best team in the league right now," Adelman said. "They hurt us getting to the basket — Parker in the first half and Ginobili in the second half.

Parker had a hand in 10 of the Spurs' first 12 baskets, scoring four of them and recording assists on six others. San Antonio fed Parker's ability to penetrate in building a 23-11 lead with 4:49 left in the first quarter.

Sacramento shot 5-for-8 to start the first quarter and then made its first five of the second quarter to take its only lead of the game at 35-34.

On the go-ahead basket, Miller hit Darius Songaila with a long toss for a breakaway dunk while Malik Rose, assigned to defend Songaila, was looking his face in his jersey after a turnover.

DOWN HILL SKI TRIP

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BUS LEAVES LIBRARY CIRCLE AT 6:00 P.M.

Cost: $40.00 Lift ticket, snowboard & transport $35.00 Lift ticket, ski rental & transport $225.00 Lift ticket, snowboard & transport RETURN BUS LEAVES SWISS VALLEY AT 10:00 P.M.

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DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 3, 2005 @ 5:00 P.M.
Top-seeded Roger Federer tosses his racket after losing a point to fourth-seeded Marat Safin in the semifinal round of the Australian Open. Federer's 26-match winning streak ended after a five-set epic battle.

Top seeded Roger Federer falls in Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer was on his hands and knees, his racket gone after he stumbled chasing a shot.

All he could do was watch as Marat Safin tapped a gentle forehand into an open court to cap a thrilling 1-2-hour Australian Open semifinal and end the top-ranked Federer's 26-match winning streak.

Safin fed off a match point in the fourth set, then needed seven much points of his own before putting off a 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (6), 9-7 upset of defending champion Federer and advancing to his third Australian Open final in four years.

"It's always going to hurt, no matter how great the match was," Federer said. "But at least you can leave the place feeling good about yourself, because I gave it all I had!"

The fourth-seeded Safin next meets No. 2 Andy Roddick or No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt, whose semifinal is Friday.

The women's final is set, featuring past champions Serena Williams and Lindsay Davenport. Williams' 2-6, 7-5, 8-6 victory over Maria Sharapova in a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final produced about as much drama as Federer-Safin.

Williams saved three match points, then leaped three times after ending it with a winner.

The top-ranked Davis Cup team, who contemplated retiring in 2004, came back in to beat No. 19 Nathalie Dechy of France, 2-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4. Davenport also reached the doubles final, pairing with Corina Moraru to face Svetlana Kuznetsova and Alcira Molk for that title.

With Federer trailing 8-7 in the fifth set and serving on match point, he lunged to retrieve a deep shot wide to his forehand side. He swept back a desperation shot, but slipped and dropped his racket. Safin converted the putaway.

"It's like a brain fight, it's more mental than physical against Roger," said Safin, who smashed his racket to the court two points before he lost the third set and later halted a ball into the stands.

The mercurial Russian, whose lone major title came in the 2000 U.S. Open, showed that it is possible to frustrate Federer. The Swiss star won four of the previous six Slams.

Tennis

Rockies revamp roster, frustrate fans

DENVER — The Colorado Rockies have tried winning with pitching, hitting and speed. They've thrown money at free agents, rebuilt through minor league deals and gone after players with high character.

None of it has worked and the Rockies are asking fans to stay patient as they change tactics yet again.

Tearing apart the roster and starting from scratch with top prospects might be the best plan yet, but some fans are growing weary of an organization that seems to switch philosophies like a runway model goes through clothes.

"If I would have known a couple of months earlier what I know now, I would have dropped out," said Joe Girardis, a season-ticket holder from Fort Collins. "It seems like the owners and GM are depleting the team. They are making it into a minor league team at major league prices."

In Brief

Rocks revamp roster, frustrate fans

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Turf struggles to find support, funds for '06 Winter Olympics

TURIN, Italy — It seemed like a perfect match: Fiat and the Olympics. The Turin-based carmaker and its flamboyant skiiing chairman, Gianni Agnelli, would ensure the financial security of the 2006 Winter Games in the Piedmont capital and surrounding Alps.

It hasn't worked out that way. With just over a year to go before the opening ceremony, Turin is scrambling to line up sponsors, overcome a $196 million budget shortfall and drum up national support.

Flat, meanwhile, is in deep financial trouble due to dwindling car sales and has gone through five CEOs in less than two years. Agnelli died in 2003 and his brother, Umberto, died last May.

Fiat companies are contributing only $22 million to Turin's overall $1.5 billion Olympic budget, much of it in payment-in-kind services such as 3,000 cars and 900 buses.

Karl debuts against former team

DENVER — George Karl had been involved with basketball since the seventh grade, so not having it in his life for nearly two years left him feeling empty.

Now that he's headed back to the NBA, Karl has a greater appreciation for what the game has meant to him.

Out of the NBA since the Bucks fired him in 2003, Karl was back in Milwaukee on Thursday to take over as coach of the underachieving Denver Nuggets. He's expected to be on the bench Friday night, making his debut with the Nuggets against his former team.

"The last 18 months was the first time I was not with a basketball team for 38 years," Karl said. "I now realize how fun and what a privilege it is to be with a basketball team."

The Nuggets hope his enthusiasm rubs off.
**Hockey**

Solid finish would move Irish up in the CCHA

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associated Press Editor

That's just a three-win difference that confident roll and your streak heading into every team I've been associated with here at Notre Dame has had a roll where things happen for you, and you get that confident roll and your energy level picks up.

"That hasn't happened for us over a stretch of time, yet, and I think it's ahead of us for this final stretch."

Notre Dame will hope to start a winning streak this weekend as they take on Bowling Green in the annual rivalry meeting with the Irish meeting the Falcons at night road tonight and returning home to the Joyce Center to close out the series Saturday night.

The Irish are currently mired in a six-game losing streak, dating back to a 2-1 victory against Minnesota on Jan. 2.

Notre Dame has also failed to score a single goal in its last 156 minutes, 50 seconds — dropping two 2-0 shutouts to No. 5 Wisconsin last weekend.

On the season, the Irish are averaging just 1.5 goals per game, the second worst average in all of Division I (Army is last with a 1.39 goals-per-game average). In the 26 games Notre Dame has played to date, the Irish have scored one goal or fewer in 15 of them.

"We're trying to focus on the simplicity of not talking about goals," Poulin said. "We're trying to talk about completing a pass, completing two passes in the neutral zone, getting our feet moving, being in better position for our teammates.

"We've sort of gone back to the fundamentals of hockey and not focused so much on the topic of goal scoring.""

If the Irish can establish that they can get a few goals per game, they should have a good chance of winning the season series. Notre Dame's goaltending has been phenomenal, even if the final results don't show it.

Senior goalie Morgan Ceey has been strong all season, but especially in the month of January, where he has a 2.23 goals against average and a .926 save percentage. His record during that month was just 1-6-1 however.

"Our defense has been really good all season," Poulin said.

"Our goaltenders played well and our penalty kill was especially strong. Three of the four goals were rush goals, and Wisconsin has some guys that can finish plays."

"We did play well defensively in that series and we have to keep that up through the last part of the season."

Notre Dame has already faced Bowling Green this season, losing to the Falcons 3-1 on Nov. 4 and tying 4-4 on Nov. 5.

That tie was perhaps the best offensive output all season for the Irish, with the team getting 54 shots on goal against goalie Jordan Sigala.

The four goals are also a season high.

"This is a team that we've had 50 shots at against this year, and that's the kind of effort it's going to take against one of the top goalies in the country," Poulin said.

Notre Dame faces off against Bowling Green Friday at 7:05 p.m. in Bowling Green, and Saturday at 7:05 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

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**WOMEN'S TRACK**

No. 11 Irish continue non-conference tune ups for Big East

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's track team has been on a quest in its initial meets this season.

The team has been developing an identity as a team, an identity in which the team hopes, will carry the label "Big East Champion" by the end of the season.

With the indoor conference meet still weeks away, the Irish know they need to establish this identity this weekend at the Notre Dame Invitational.

While the Irish are shuffling their lineups this weekend to Trackwire.com, will host several events, including the running of the Meyo Invitational.

Notre Dame hopes to build on the momentum from last weekend's dominating performance in which its 4x100 relay team won 10 of 15 events at the Meyo Invitational.

The competition this week is expected to be of a similar caliber according to coach Tim Connelly.

"We expect good competition in some events, in particular the 800-meter, but we realize that in other events, our athletes' main competition will be their teammates," he said.

Part of determining the identity of a track team is determining it early in the season in which events athletes will participate and more importantly, in which events they will race.

Notre Dame made adjustments in its lineup entering last weekend's meet, and that team plans to do much of the same this week.

"We can be challenging some people," Connelly said. "Some of our athletes will be running events they don't normally run. For example, Stephanie Madia will be running the 800 this week, even though we'd normally place her in the 3K or 5K. She'll be getting some speed work."

Connelly also said it was difficult to say exactly what events the team would have its official lineup, as key distance runners, including All-American Molly Huddle, are still nursing injuries from cross country.

In addition to the action on the track, the field events are certain to draw attention this weekend, especially in the high jump competition.

Stacey Gowans' clearing of 5 feet, 10 inches last weekend left her just an inch and a half short of her own school record, one which she hopes to break this season.

The field events will begin Saturday's meet at 10:30 a.m., with running set to begin at 2 p.m.

Contact Ryan Kiefer at rkiefer@nd.edu

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**MEN'S TRACK**

Runners prepare for Invitational

By JOHN EVERETT
Sports Writer

The Irish will take to the track Saturday in the annual Notre Dame Indoor Opener.

The Irish men will be competing against runners from Marquette, DePaul, Loyola, Butler and Michigan State.

The meet is another event designed to prepare the Irish for the Meyo Invitational on Feb. 4 and 5, which is seen as the first big meet of the season.

Notre Dame has proven itself in other preparatory events, which has head coach Joe Piane excited heading into the track season.

"This will be a pretty good event, the men's 800-meters and hurdle races should be good, and the 3,000-meter race should be excellent," Piane said.

"The 3,000-meters is expected to be a very competitive race, considering the depth the Irish possess in distance runners.

"The Irish distance squad, featuring runners such as Kurt Benninger, who won the mile at last week's meet, and junior 800-meter runners Brett Adams and Jake Watson, will be a large factor.

"However, other schools will prove to be a challenge considering the squad from Butler finished fourth at the NCAA Cross Country Championships, and that Michigan State has Steve Shearer, an All-American, running in the race.

"In the hurdle races, the Irish will look to Selin Nuradenc, who has already turned in several outstanding performances in this young indoor season.

"Paine stated he was very pleased with the way the season was turning out.

"Things are coming along well, when you realize that most of our guys have only run at one meet," he said. "Right now our goal is to get guys qualified for the Big East Indoor Championships."

Contact John Everett at jevrett@nd.edu

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MEN'S SWIMMING

No. 21 Irish look to bounce back on road trip

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

January 28, 2005

True, last weekend's loss to No. 14 Northwestern may have left Notre Dame a little rattled. But more than anything, it increased their resolve to prove just how much potential they possess.

"We were a little bit out of racing practice," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "It took us some time to get back in the competitive spirit. But now we know what we need to do to win this weekend, and we're ready to win."

Although the No. 21 Irish (6-2) enjoyed their share of success last weekend, the team also took a number of lessons away from the competition. Junior Tim Randolph emphasized what a crucial role intensity plays in winning a race.

"When you race, you just have to know that you can't give up one inch to the competition, no matter how long the race is or who you're going up against, Randolph said.

Notre Dame will take that hard-earned attitude on the road this weekend, facing Cleveland State (5-1-1) and Canisius (0-5).

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Swimmers excited for rematch with No. 13 Michigan

By MIKE TENTANN
Sports Writer

The No. 21 Irish find themselves in familiar waters today as they travel to Ann Arbor for a last-meet showdown with No. 13 Michigan.

This weekend will be the third time the Irish will face the Wolverines in the month of January. Both teams also traveled to the Caribbean for their winter training trips.

The Wolverines beat out the Irish in their annual exhibition on Jan. 2, outsourcing Notre Dame 199-157. The Irish follow with another first place finish in South Bend. This time, the Wolverines were in South Bend as part of a tripe dual involving Illinois. Notre Dame only scored against Illinois.

However, head coach Bailey Weathers does not see the two teams' familiarity making a difference this weekend.

"I don't think it's an advantage or disadvantage," Weathers said. "Our girls know we weren't as strong as they did on the training trip. The Irish have had the last week off after an exciting final relay gave Notre Dame a 175-172 victory over the Illini two weeks ago.

Meanwhile, Michigan is coming off a tough loss to No. 23 Northwestern, its first Big Ten dual meet loss since 2002.

"I think they're going to be ready for us," Weathers said.

Leading the Irish into Ann Arbor will be record-breaking diver Meghan Perry-Eaton. The All-American fifth-year senior was named 2005 Big Ten, Big East Championship Most Outstanding Diver.

As part of a tripe dual involving Illinois, Perry-Eaton set records on back-to-back days, giving her all four records at Notre Dame's Rolfs Aquatic Center. She has won 14 of the 15 events she entered this season.

Sophomore Ellen Johnson took first place in the 100-meter backstroke at St. Lucia, beating out Michigan's NCAA qualifier Kailyn Brady.

The 400-meter freestyle relay team of Carroll, Grove, Ellen Johnson, and Bourouin won their event in the Caribbean over their Wolverine counterpart by more than a full second.

In South Bend, the 400-yard freestyle team of Carroll, both Johnson's, and Grove beat the Illinois team by .86 seconds to win the dual for the Irish.

"We have got a lot of kids who are going to swim well," Weathers said. "We're all very ready to swim."

After this Irish, the team has one final meet against Oakland in Rochester, Mich., before the Big East Championships.

They're looking at the Michigan meet as a stepping stone for the Big East Championships. They understand the dual meet is part of the process of preparing for the Big East Championships, just like the Big East is part of the process for the NCAA Championships," Weathers said.

The swimming will start tonight at 6 p.m.

Contact Mike Tennant at mtennon@nd.edu

Irish Athletics "Be There" Weekend

Saturday, January 29th
Men's Hockey vs. Bowling Green
7:05 p.m.
Joyce Center Fieldhouse

•First 500 fans receive
Trading Cards of the
Irish Juniors sponsored by Chevy!

•Stick around after the
game to get autographs
from the Irish Juniors!

Saturday, January 29th
Men's Tennis vs. North Carolina
2 p.m.
Eck Tennis Pavilion

Saturday, January 29th
#4/Fencing Notre Dame
Duals 11:00 a.m.
Joyce Center Fieldhouse

Saturday, January 29th
#10 Track and Field
Notre Dame Invitational
Noon
Lofts Center

Saturday, January 30th
Men's Basketball vs.
#13 UConn
3:45 p.m.
Joyce Center

•This game sponsored
by Papa John's and one lucky fan
will win pizza for a year!

•One lucky fan will win a free
cell phone and a year of service
from Centennial Wireless!

•Project Playground
performing at halftime!

The 400-meter freestyle relay team of Carroll, Grove, Ellen Johnson, and Bourouin won their event in the Caribbean over their Wolverine counterpart by more than a full second. In South Bend, the 400-yard freestyle team of Carroll, both Johnson's, and Grove beat the
Irish forward Megan Duffy looks for the pass in a game against Purdue Jan. 16.

"Winning the doubles point makes it easier," captain Sarah Jane Connelly said. "But even though we have the talent to do it, we are still going to have to focus.

Playing No. 1 for the Irish will be Ashleigh Carrington and Christian Thompson. They will face the No. 33-ranked team of Keerti and Ashlee Davis.

"Winning doesn't mean anything because anybody can upset anybody," she said.

However, after achieving wins over Ohio State and Michigan, Sarah Jane Connelly has full confidence in her team's capabilities.

"Everyone is really competing. Girls have been down and have been able to come back. It's the past couple of matches," Connelly said. "But we have to know that we can't take anything lightly. We can't look at rankings because everyone is tough and everyone is out to get us.

"We are so supportive of each other, especially when you're the last match out there. So it is great to know your team is there for you," she said.

Contact Eric Renter at erenter@nd.edu

Dubals

continued from page 20

However, both Penn State and Ohio State come armed with two bids in each. Penn State comes with 2002 and 2003 All-Americans Nonpatat and Pacem. 2003 women's épée champ Katarzyna Trzopek competing for the Nittany Lions.

Competing for Ohio State will be foilist Boaz Ellis and sabreist Arpad Horvath, who placed second and fifth at the NCAA championships in 2003.

In fact, the only defending NCAA champion not competing in the event is men's epeeist Arpad Horvath of St. John's.

"The Notre Dame Duels will also feature new equipment that has also altered the way matches are scored and approached. The International Fencing Association (IFA) recently made changes to the IFA rules. One of these changes shortens the time allowed to score a point from 50 to 10 seconds."

"The IFA also recently made changes to the IFA scoring system that will help us install over winter break, machines."
**DILBERT**

**Scott Adams**

Hey, I got a response from the newspaper columnist I reached for using the word "boggle." "Dear Nutbag... link to a dictionary... um... oops... it appears that I was wrong." Now do you apologize? Plan B: I accuse him of having minorities.

---

**PEANUTS**

**Charles Schulz**

Forty-three and nine and twenty-six, and thirteen, and fifty-seven... HAH...

---

**CROSSWORD**

Across 1. Insistence on precise standards 32. Lincoln's 44. Poultry cabinet for food around 61. Summer Olympian 69. Longines Disney exec
52. Judgment Day 56. Travel guide 59. Soaking 60. Lost
62. Where do you get eggs? 68. Linchpins

---

**JUMBLES**

That scrambled word game by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

---

**JUMBLE**

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

1. CINER
2. DEGEH
3. URKEEB
4. RECCO

---

**HOORSCOPE**

Eugenia Last

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**The Observer**

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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**Sunday Crossword**

ACROSS

1. Insistence on precise standards (6)
2. Capital of French Polynesia (7)
3. "The Facts of Life" actress (8)
4. My life, open book (10)
5. Play in a way (9)
6. Passer-by-pass (9)
7. Can opener (9)
8. Somebody nice to love (9)
9. One loved by Hercules (9)
10. Organization of 1661 (12)
11. Gatley (9)
12. Coronal (15)
13. Gaelic Wars chronicle (16)
15. Ones making lots of changes (21)
19. Where (16)
23. Fly swatter (7)
26. Inclined (7)
28. The old college chair (13)
29. Have a loan from (13)
32. It enters things (13)
48. Weed killer (13)
51. . . . de coeur (17)
52. Judgment Day (17)
56. Travel guide (18)
59. Soaking (18)
60. Lost (18)
62. Where do you get eggs? (9)
68. Linchpins (9)

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**Today's Puzzle**

Across 1. Insistence on precise standards 32. Lincoln's 44. Poultry cabinet for food around 61. Summer Olympian 69. Longines Disney exec
26. Inclined 28. The old college chair 29. Have a loan from 32. It enters things
48. Weed killer 51. . . . de coeur
52. Judgment Day 56. Travel guide 59. Soaking 60. Lost
62. Where do you get eggs? 68. Linchpins

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**Puzzle Key**

For answers, call 1-900-285-6566, $1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-614-5554
Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS

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**Jumbles**

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

1. CINER
2. DEGEH
3. URKEEB
4. RECCO

---

**Horoscope**

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mini Rogers, 49; Alan Cumming, 44; Bridget Fonda, 41; Cris Collinsworth, 46.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: You can finally get down to business and log on to the future. There is no time to waste wallowing around. You may have some wonderful inventions, but thinking about them and putting them into play are two very different situations. You've got the energy, now muster up the confidence and go all the way to victory this year. Your numbers are 7, 19, 21, 25, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is not the time to make waves with people who can affect your future. Do whatever you have to do to get on with it. Being accommodating can lead to getting what you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make some very crucial decisions today that will enable you to accomplish something really important to you. Forget about the little things; focus on the job you can do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may want to take note of what others are telling you today. Not listening will result in missing a tide that you can use to your advantage in the future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Partnerships may have a different spin in them today. Others often tell you and you will be much more inclined to make the right choice. Help will be offered if you need it.

LION (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make a change that will open or to making more money or giving you more of a positive challenge. You will be able to make personal improvements as well as narrate your own love life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Not a good day to set your hair up your head. You will be set off by comments or a criticism. Keep in mind that most of what an outsider can see about your situation can more likely come from you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take the stone you believe is most likely to help you avoid conflict. Something may be going on behind your back. Rely on yourself and keep an eye on everyone else.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): From alliances with anyone who can contribute to your future. Consider changing your direction or trying something new. Use your creative attributes in order to get ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't mix the heat being busy or meeting everyone you want. Aggressive action will lead to trouble. Put your energy into something constructive that will bring good results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Go after what you want. Love and romance are in a high cycle. The more you do please someone you about, the more you will get in return. Travel will lead to knowledge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A little time spent visiting through your belongings, having a garage sale or putting a little effort into your home will pay off. You will feel better about yourself and your future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep a close eye on what everyone else is up to. Someone may try to set you up or do something that brings you down. Do your best, but don't let anyone take you for granted. Change may be inevitable.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: You have the drive, determination and dedication to get things done. An incentive is the best that you can be. You will never settle for anything less than the best. You are perfectionalist.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugeniaelast.com.
ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Time for redemption

No. 9 Connecticut used a win over the Irish earlier this year to turn around its season

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sporst Editor

No. 9 Connecticut saved its season Jan. 12, when it beat Notre Dame 67-50 at home. Senior Ashley Battle called it a “turning point” at the time, and that it has been.

Since that game, the Huskies have been red-hot, winning four straight, including a 73-57 defeat of No. 15 Texas and three straight Big East wins, leaving them undefeated in the conference.

Sunday, No. 6 Notre Dame (17-3, 5-2 Big East) looks to end this winning streak as the Irish travel to Hartford to face Connecticut for the second time in less than a month.

“They’re on a roll right now,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “I think we put them on a roll. The win over us really got their confidence back.”

The lost confidence came after the Huskies (13-4, 6-0 Big East) dropped four of their first 12 games, losing at No. 12 North Carolina and Arizona State and at home to No. 11 Michigan and No. 5 Tennessee.

And Connecticut will be even

Irish forward Jacqueline Batteast attempts a shot over Purdue’s Erin Lawless on Jan. 16. The Irish look to avenge their loss earlier this season to Connecticut on Sunday.

ND WOMEN’S SWIMMING

Irish set to face No. 30 Wake Forest

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sporst Writer

This Sunday, the No. 21 Irish (12-12) are looking to avenge last season’s 7-0 loss to currently ranked No. 30 Wake Forest (2-0).

To achieve this feat, Notre Dame is looking to start the meet strong.

“A year last season’s loss, we know they are going to be tough,” junior Liz Donohue said. “So we are going to have to make the most of our home-court advantage and play like we have nothing to lose.”

The Irish are hoping to set the tone early in the contest by winning the crucial doubles point. The Thompsons are currently ranked No. 2 in the nation in doubles.

FENCING

Ohio State and Penn State come to Duals

13-team field set to face off at the JACC

By ERIC RETTER
Sporst Writer

First looks, second chances and three national title contenders are descending on South Bend.

The Irish have a very busy and important weekend ahead of them, as they compete against Northwestern, Penn State and top-ranked Ohio State. The Buckeyes topped both the women’s and men’s teams last weekend at the NYU duals.

In addition to these teams, a host of other combatants in a 13-team field will be filling the JACC. This weekend is the first time the Irish and each other in the Notre Dame Duals which brings Saturday at 8 a.m.

Both Irish squads will be trying to answer for their defeats from last weekend, including a 14-13 thriller between the women’s squads.

“We would like to get revenge and try to beat them on the women’s side and improve our performance on the men’s side,” Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

The Duals will feature more than a season’s worth of NCAA individual champions who will look to defend their claim to their 13 collective titles. Three of these champions, senior foilist Alicja Krczalo, senior epeeist Kerry Walton and sophomore sabre Valerie Providenza, will be competing for the Irish, giving the squad more individual titlists than any of their competitors.

ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Bayliss is ready for a challenge

By KATE GALES
Sporst Writer

Thrashing their way to a 4-0 start, the Irish are ready for some tougher competition — and this weekend’s matches against No. 18 North Carolina and No. 41 Florida State will provide just that.

Top teams? Of course. But coach Bobby Bayliss is ready for a challenge.

“I feel pretty good about our team,” he said. “I think we’ve grown and its time to take on a big challenge and it’s here — so let’s get it on.”

After compiling a 4-0 record, including last weekend’s wins over Indiana and Wisconsin, the team is seasoned and making the in-season adjustments necessary to success.

“We had two matches over the weekend, so the first thing we did was to make sure we had a day off and kind of regrouped,” Bayliss said. “I was pretty pleased with the singles last weekend, and we’ve still got a
DEFENSE
AND
ATTITUDE
MAKE JORDAN CORNETTE A LEADER
Survival necessary during tough 4-game stretch

Treading water. Playing the hand you’re dealt.

Surviving. Call it what you want, that’s what the Irish have to do during the next four games. Their postseason hopes hang in the balance.

The schedule looked daunting when released in September, now it looks out of control. But of all the things the Irish must do during the next two weeks, the most important one might be surviving.

Not just surviving on the scoreboard, but off the court as well. No. 19 Pittsburgh — after a disappointing goose egg, double starts to appear. Those doubts won’t just stay in seats at the Joyce Center, living rooms around the country or dorm rooms on campus. It’s perfectly logical to think those doubts will linger in the Irish locker room.

All the Irish have to do is think back to last season when it took them until game No. 20 to get their first big win. Three wins in eight days later put the Irish square on top of the proverbial bubble.

Everyone knows what happened on Selection Sunday.

Four games, four top 20 opponents, 14 days. Scary — yes. Impossible — no. Survival — vital.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

The Irish start a stretch of four games in 14 days against top-20 opponents Sunday when they host Connecticut.

COACHING

Notre Dame

Mike Brey’s success in South Bend has resurrected the program from the dark days of the 1990s. Now, national television can count on seeing the Notre Dame name with a competitive team against anyone in the country and that obviously brings ratings.

However, no one expected the Irish to be this good. And it really isn’t fair when you see the Irish playing Syracuse, Connecticut and Pittsburgh twice every season.

Look at Villanova and Georgetown, two teams battling the Irish for the last spots in the NCAA tournament from the Big East. Georgetown’s easy two-time opponents are Rutgers and St. John’s while Villanova gets Seton Hall and Providence.

Notre Dame’s two easy team are — yup, you guessed it — Villanova and Georgetown. It’s especially unfair come March, when you have to compare their conference record not only in the Big East but also across conferences for postseason berths.

Look at last season for evidence: Notre Dame was 9-7 in the Big East and received a NIT bid. UTEP was 13-5 in the Western Athletic Conference and earned a No. 12 seed in the NCAA tournament.

Fair or not, Brey has come to accept it. His team knows how to deal with it.

“When you get in this stretch, you can’t get too high after a great win, and we can’t get too low after a disappointing loss,” Brey said. “I think that this group is, they’ve been pretty good as far as knowing we’re going to have to.”

But of all the things the Irish must do during the next two weeks, the most important one might be surviving.

Not just surviving on the scoreboard, but off the court as well. No. 19 Pittsburgh — after a disappointing goose egg, double starts to appear. Those doubts won’t just stay in seats at the Joyce Center, living rooms around the country or dorm rooms on campus. It’s perfectly logical to think those doubts will linger in the Irish locker room.

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STYLE OF PLAY

A big focus in the off-season was to play better defense, and the low-scoring games are a result of that. Usually, Brey likes his team to score 80 points in a game, but this team is struggling from the inside so that can’t happen.

Simply put, Francis and Lattimore are struggling. Neither of them can get in a rhythm for 40 minutes or carry the Irish when the 3-point shooting goes cold. Cornel shows that was the Huskies twice last year, so he could sneak into the rotation.

However, neither of them have unlimited potential. Both are close to their best, averaging a double-double and are major factors the Huskies lead the conference in rebounding.

Connecticut is the best in the Big East in rebounding the 3-point. Sunday is going to be a battle of styles. Whoever controls the tempo will determine who comes away with the win.

But the plan for this year is to go for turnover. The Huskies had a turnover in the Big East.

It’s a slightly different gange for the Irish. Thomas controls the tempo and Fallis is shooting the lights out. If these two get hot, the Irish should be able to overcome their deficit in the frontcourt.

Bench

The Huskies have young post players in Boone and Villanueva, but the two of them have unlimited potential. Both are close to their best, averaging a double-double and are major factors the Huskies lead the conference in rebounding.

Brey is playing for a stretch of four games in 14 days against top-20 opponents Sunday when they host Connecticut.

NOTRE DAME

Calhoun had to deal with the loss of two juniors to the NBA this off-season, but he still has a highly-recruited freshman to Illness.

This team is young, and Calhoun is still looking for his identity.

Not surprisingly, the Irish are not a deep bench. Brey is happy with the way Carter’s playing well behind the arc. Quinn is Notre Dame’s depth key to the program from the dark days of the 1990s. Now, national television can count on seeing the Notre Dame name with a competitive team against anyone in the country and that obviously brings ratings.

However, no one expected the Irish to be this good. And it really isn’t fair when you see the Irish playing Syracuse, Connecticut and Pittsburgh twice every season.

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But of all the things the Irish must do during the next two weeks, the most important one might be surviving.

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Connecticut

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But the plan for this year is to go for turnover. The Huskies had a turnover in the Big East.

Both teams need this game. If the Irish had a better track record of playing well at the ACC, so confidence has to be an issue. A national television win to start this difficult four-game stretch would do a lot for the team’s psyche.

The Huskies have nine players averaging double-digit minutes, and all nine will get into the game on Sunday. Kellogg has scored 12 total points in the last seven games. Williams is playing well at the point.

The Huskies have young post players in Boone and Villanueva, but the two of them have unlimited potential. Both are close to their best, averaging a double-double and are major factors the Huskies lead the conference in rebounding.

The one player the Irish have to contain is Anderson. He can come in and make two 3-pointers in 30 seconds. Kellogg has scored 12 total points in the last seven games. Williams is playing well at the point.

The Irish need this game. They haven’t played well in big games at the ACC, so confidence has to be an issue. A national television win to start this difficult four-game stretch would do a lot for the team’s psyche.

The Huskies need to lose their third game this early in the Big East schedule. Calhoun always has his team at the top of the Big East by the end of the year, but three losses would be crippling.

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Leading by example

Jordan Cornette does the little things to keep the Irish together

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Jordan Cornette walked, uniform on and right middle finger taped, down the hallway and into a rising Notre Dame arena. He had practiced that day and lifted weights. Now, he would be in front of the camera.

It was time for a photo shoot. The newspaper needed a shot of the Notre Dame senior for an upcoming issue, and the only lights in the arena glowed across the front of the scorer’s table. "Big East Conference, "Notre Dame" they read. They were words that told a story in progress.

But the photographer needed the main arena lights to complete the day’s work. Cornette, who had spent the past three hours in the gym and weight room, obliged to help.

"Really basketball keeps your life in check when you’re here for these four years playing ball," he would say later.

Walking casually with a smile on his face, the senior asked a passing security guard to help with the situation. You’ve been here four years and you don’t know how to turn the lights on,” the security guard jeered.

“I’ve never had to,” Cornette said. "They’re always on when we come in.

How appropriate that Cornette did not know, considering the lights are never pointed his way.

How ironic that the senior could not do the simple task himself. During the course of the past four years, his coaches have asked him to do everything else.

The little things:

When the buzzer sounded on Notre Dame’s 67-66 win over St. John’s Jan. 15, Jordan Cornette finished with nine points, seven rebounds, four assists, three blocks and one steal.

One of the blocks—a last-second swat of Red Storm guard Darryl Hill’s potential game-winner—sealed the Big East victory.

There’s a fine line between winning and losing, as you can see through our season so far," Cornette said. "There are going to be close games, and it’s going to come down to ... making the right decision at the end and grabbing that loose ball.

What makes this senior so valuable to the Irish, his coach said, is his knowledge and desire to do both.

“He really knows his role and how to fit in with our group,” Irish coach Mike Brey said.

Cornette brings a confident presence when he’s on the floor. While he has started 12 of 17 games this season, the senior has been consistent playing time due to depth and matchup issues with opponents.

In the St. John’s win, Cornette played 34 of a total 40 minutes. One week later against Georgetown, he played just 12, but Cornette’s whose left bicep tattoo proclaims the nickname "Jay-C" insists his unselliness and attitude are not unique.

"I think I’m no different from any of the other guys on this team in terms of whether it’s playing five minutes or playing 40 minutes,” Cornette said. "If the team’s winning, then you’re happy.

With Connecticut, Syracuse, Boston College and Pittsburgh waiting on the upcoming conference, not being happy demands the obvious things—few turnovers, strong defense, good shooting. But most importantly, the Irish need a leader who has been through these stretches before.

Nothing new:

Since Jordan Cornette has averaged 3.9 points and 4.5 rebounds during his four-year career, his name only gets skipped over in discussions of players to watch. Mention leadership, however, and “Jay-C” seems synonymous with the term.

"I definitely feel comfortable in that [leadership] role," Cornette said. "From sophomore year through I’ve had that type of role. So it’s nothing new.

Cornette has played on different teams with different faces, but his attitude has remained consistent.

In his freshman season, the Irish lost a near upset of No. 1 Duke when Cornette’s classmate Chris Thomas was already scoring significant playing time at point guard. But a 22-11 season under coach Brey was built on, and with Cornette’s minutes going up to almost 20 per game during the 2002-03 season, the Irish went 24-10.

Notre Dame reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament that season, but in 2003-04 the Irish failed to make the NCAA’s, earning a bid to the National Invitation Tournament and losing in the third round to Oregon.

Cornette, who has been a constant through the ups and downs of a rising Notre Dame program under Brey, appreciated the far response to his team’s showing last season.

"Last year we ended up playing in the NIT, and a lot of people looked at the season as a throwaway," Cornette said. "Just being a part of that program shows how far this program has come.

As the Irish make a run at returning to the Big Dance, Cornette and Thomas are the two seniors responsible for setting the tone. They are guiding their teammates through the mid-to-late season wars that are Big East conference full tournament battles.

But Cornette — vocal leader, loose-ball chaser and shutdown blocker — is the do-it-all, selfless player that encompasses what being a senior is all about.

Identifying:

Heading into Wednesday’s game against Villanova, Cornette’s 138 career blocks were 13 away from breaking LaPhonso Ellis’ (1988-92) career mark at Notre Dame.

"He’s a-boat-lot our anchor defensively," Brey said. "You do a great job defending. He not only guards his man, but a lot of times he is also guarding the other four guys, too.

Though Cornette has stepped out and knocked down the occasional 3-pointer as his role on the team has evolved from big man to swing man, he established his reputation — and maintains it — on the defensive end.

Cornette’s defense is indicative of the overall intangible strength he provides for the Irish.

"We know he can block shots," Brey said. "The interesting thing about his blocked shots is they never go out of bounds. They are always in play for us to pick up and go to the other end.

Whether Cornette does this consciously or unintentionally, he is constantly aware of being the face and the voice of Notre Dame basketball in his senior season — and he plays it like it.

"Your role becomes increased in a lot of different areas," he said. "You’ve got to be one of the voices on the court, trying to keep the team’s mentality.

"He really knows his role and how to fit with our group." Mike Brey

Irish coach

Despite being 6-foot-9 Jordan Cornette’s, coach Mike Brey encourages him to shoot from behind the arc.

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Jordan Cornette is second on the Notre Dame all-time blocks list behind LaPhonso Ellis.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu
Free throw line becoming just that for the Irish

Big East leaders have seen the importance in conference play

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

They’re called free throws for a reason.

The Irish are taking full advantage of that generosity. Sitting at the top of the Big East, and in the best 10 percent of the country with a 74.7 free throw percentage, the Irish have kept themselves in games with their success from the stripe. That mark improves to 82.1 percent when only Big East games are factored into the equation. Likewise, it’s been an even bigger factor in their conference play.

Go back to the home win over Villanova. The Irish made all 19 of their free throws en route to a 78-72 victory over the Wildcats. Then move forward to the St. John’s game where in trying to pull the upset at the Joyce Center, the Red Storm only made 10 of 22 free throws. That inability to cash in from the line allowed the Irish to stay close and gave Chris Thomas the opportunity to make a huge weapon for us. We’ve got to do a better job of driving the ball and getting out big guys touches where they get fouls. “I know we’re leading the league, it’s a weapon that we have and want to continue to use it.”

In this next stretch of high-profile games, later in the Big East tournament and if they qualify for the NCAA tournament, solid free-throw shooting is an overlooked aspect of college basketball, but it’s a weapon the Irish have. Thomas brought up the fact that Wake Forest hit a 3-pointer to tie its game against Florida State with 4 seconds remaining, and had the opportunity for a rare four-point play. As a team, the Demon Deacons had made a NCAA record 50 consecutive free throws, but Taron Downey, Wake Forest’s best free throw shooter, missed.

The Demon Deacons lost in overtime, their only conference loss this season. “Free throw shooting is huge for any team,” Thomas said. “It’s such a crucial part of the game that you can’t take it for granted and have to work on it every day.”

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Chris Quinn’s free-throw percentage of 85 percent ranks third in the Notre Dame backcourt behind Chris Thomas (90.5) and Colin Falls (93.2).

slam poets Kevin Coval, Bryonn Bain, and Jason Carney

race & religion symposium

7pm-9pm in laFortune ballroom
reception to follow

slam poetry on issues dealing with interrace and interfaith awareness, followed by a discussion with the audience on the poet’s experiences.

*Symposium is first come, first serve
**Valid ND, SMC, or HC id required
***ND Faculty and Staff welcome if space permits