Students travel to support Irish football

By KATE ANTONACCI and MARCELLA BERRIOS
News Writers

At noon today, Alumni juniors Mike Ferkovic, R.J. Kornhaas, P.J. Hoffman, Chris Kryro, Lisa Moran and sophomore Steve Barbera will pile in a Buick Park Avenue and endure a six-hour car ride to the University of Pittsburgh.

After buying season ticket booklets for Pittsburgh in mid-July for $85, the Notre Dame students are ready to cheer on the Irish in their opening football game.

Nothing — not even a city that Ferkovic calls “the dirtiest city of all time” — will stand in their way. For three and hundreds of other Notre Dame students driving east this weekend, seeing Saturday night’s game up close and personal is a necessity.

“I definitely have to see Charlie’s first game,” Kornhaas said.

“Charlie Weiss is the man,” said Ferkovic, who will wear

see PITT/page 8

Males adapt to SMC campus life

By NICOLE ZOOK
Assistant News Editor

“Hi, I’m Tony Sylvester, and I go to Saint Mary’s.”

While this statement may be a joke for Notre Dame senior history major Tony Sylvester and his friends, it also rings true when Sylvester enters his education classroom — and sits at a desk in the middle of 25 women.

Sylvester, who is a social studies secondary education student at the College, is one of a handful of male students who comprise part of the small faction of men at the all-women’s school. These men face the challenge of being a minority among the school’s students, faculty and staff.

Big man on campus

Of course, there are challenges presented to men in an all-female environment outside the classroom. Professors on campus find they have a hard time in the small men’s locker room or even finding a men’s bathroom — of which most buildings only have one. There are challenges for men that are specifically tailored to an all-women’s school.

Sodexo General Manager Bart Hoyt is in charge of dining services at the College, sees the Saint Mary’s women who eat in the Noble Family Dining Hall more often than even their professors do and notices all the quirks and habits that come with 1,500 females.

“Yes, it was a culture shock,” he said. “But I think we deal with those challenges extremely well.”

Hoyt, who worked at Notre Dame for nine years before coming to Saint Mary’s, said the differences between a mixed-gender population and

see SMCPAGE 3

New Web site shows complete ND calendar

All-encompassing schedule includes arts, entertainment, academics, religious events

By JOE TROMBELLO
News Writer

Students will have another link today to add to their Internet favorites of esquire.com and nytimes.com: agenda.nd.edu.

Directed by university calendar editor Jennifer Laiber, the Agenda is the University’s new comprehensive calendar launched today encompassing events from arts and entertainment to religious life to lectures and conferences. Although the need for a comprehensive calendar has been recognized for some time, Laiber said the necessity to fully complete the University overhaul of the accounting system prevented attention from being focused on new calendar software.

Another reason that a new all-encompassing calendar never got off the ground was because no other office on campus appeared to want to take administrative ownership of the project,” Laiber said. “The Office of News, and Information did this year.”

The Agenda has been the outgrowth of a number of other more specific calendars. The Under the Dome calendar, begun in the spring of 2003, was an attempt to classify the majority of events that would pertain to students. The McKenna Center for Continuing Education used to sponsor a calendar — well before Under the Dome — that listed academic events. However, no calendar existed to integrate these kinds of events with other activities such as arts and entertainment and religious life, and the Agenda will serve to fill that gap. Laiber said.

“We needed something to bring the two sides together,” Laiber said. “So we decided to have student, faculty, and staff events listed, and if a

see CALENDAR/page 6

Heinz Field is first of bands’ two season trips

By KELLY MEEHAN
News Writer

Notre Dame fans heading to Pittsburgh this weekend won’t be the only ones trying to turn Heinz Field into a home game atmosphere — the Band of the Fighting Irish chose the game as one of its two road trips this fall.

The 380-member marching band will be pulling out of Notre Dame at 8 a.m. Saturday morning and leaving Pittsburgh immediately after the Saturday night game to return to campus at approximately 6 a.m. Sunday morning.

“People were excited to start off the new season and to support our team by doing our best to recreate the essence of a Notre Dame home game,” assistant director of bands Larry Dwyer said.

The decision to send the band to the Pittsburgh game was made after the directors analyzed which away games would be the most reasonable traveling distance and which games would be most beneficial to attend to boost student and team spirit, said Dwyer, who will be accompanying the band to Pittsburgh, along with director of

see BAND/page 4

Above, the band practices. At left, students enter Michigan raffle.

PHOTOS BY BETH WERNET, TIM SULLIVAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2005
INSIDE COLUMN

Culture for outlanders

We were a ragtag bunch. We few, we happy few, we band of auslanders. We came from all over. Some of us met in the airport and suffered through a transatlantic flight in coach. Others we first encountered at curbside, grinning through the sun as it filtered over the tops of the mountains. Still others we waited a while to meet — our roommates and ball buddies, the ones we tentatively introduced ourselves to over a bubbling pot of noodles, a dubbed American TV show in the lounge, a cigarette.

We were the foreigners. French, German, Swedish mostly — and of course American. Little held us in common. For every one of us who skied or rode the breathtaking slopes there was another who halted and stumbled over pronouns picked at random from Frantie searches through her brain.

Well, I guess there was one common thread. Not a one among us had a clue what the Tirolers were saying. They say Notre Dame is a conservative place, and it is. But socially Austria, and mountainous Tirol in the west especially, is a place charitably described as ‘free-spirited,’ more honestly, “slow to welcome,” at least from my perspective. Even their language is something other. German, yes, but like no German you’ve ever met in a classroom or an old war movie. When they want it to be, it is a secret code.

They say it is all about preserving the old ways, when each valley had its own argot — no, that’s French, let’s say as many as four familiar summer sounds blasting music. They were not unfriendly about it. They shared their cooking and back, I didn’t understand much of what they said to me, and much less still of what they said to each other.

They say that study abroad enriches you by allowing you to see other cultures. They are right. There is no culture in the U.S. fighting as strongly as Tirol does for its right to exist where and in the way that it has always existed. And while this makes life a little more complicated for a visiting student there, it gives a new appreciation for culture and “us-ness,” and what people will do to preserve it.

Contact Matthew Smedberg at smedberg@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT SONG DO YOU WANT THE BAND TO PLAY AT HALFTIME THIS SEASON?

Dave Tagler
Drew Cook
Dane Lipari
Kathleen Martinez
Matthew Smedberg

Jeff Paone
junior Dillon
junior Knott
freshman Howard
Sophomore Welsh Family

"Metallica's 'Master of Trumpe... It's... Puppets."
"Immigrant Song, Zeppelin."
"My Humps, Black Eyed Peas.
"Lose Shack, pure '90s awesomeness."
"Bohemian Rhapsody and have the choir sing along."

Players from Carroll Hall and Thunder Roosters compete in one of the final rounds of the five vs. five soccer tournament held at Stepan Field Thursday.

IN BRIEF

Senior finance and business economics majors Stephanie Madia and Brian Mattes have been named the 2005 recipients of Notre Dame's Eugene D. Fanning Scholarships. Madia and Mattes each received $3,500 toward tuition, awarded for excellence in communication skills and personal characteristics.

ND Cinema will host the critically acclaimed documentary "Murderball," about quad rugby Team USA's bid in the 2004 Paralympics, in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center's Browning Cinema tonight and Saturday at 7 and 10 p.m. Tickets are $5 for faculty and staff and $3 for all students.

The Notre Dame women's soccer team will face off against Florida tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Alumni Field.

The Notre Dame volleyball team will play Texas at 5 p.m. on Saturday as part of the Shamrock Invitational in the Joyce Center.

The Alumni Association will host a closed meeting of alumni and trustees of Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in Room 124 of the Center for Social Concerns.

The Notre Dame women's soccer team will play Maryland Sunday at 1 p.m. at Alumni Field.

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

OFFBEAT

Ice cream trucks asked to turn down the sound
NAPA, Calif. — The familiar summer sounds of ice cream trucks — music box ditties that send children scurrying for ice cream sandwiches — will likely be turned down soon in this north­ern California city.

A Napa City Council committee on Tuesday asked the city manager to set a decibel limit for ice cream trucks. The committee also asked the city to draft rules prohibiting music while trucks are stopped and limit how frequently trucks pass through neighborhoods.

The decision came after critics at a city meeting said as many as four trucks pass through their neighborhoods each day blasting music.

"The city was a quiet, peaceful place at one time and we just let it go to heck," resident Rocky Sheridan said.

Clever whale uses fish to catch seagulls
NIAGARA FALLS, Ontario — An enterprising young killer whale at Marineland has figured out how to use fish as bait to catch seagulls — and shared his strategy with his fellow whales.

Michael Noonan, a professor of animal behavior at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., made the discovery by accident while studyingorca acoustics.

"One day I noticed one of the young whales appeared to have come up with a procedure for luring gulls down to the pool," the professor said. "I found it interesting so I noted it in my log."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
Band
continued from page 1

an all-female crowd are evident. "Saint Mary's students' menus, taste and portion sizes are extremely different," he said. "Dining is based on the same concepts (as on co-ed campuses) but here we'll put a smaller sized portion on a smaller sized plate. It's not a self-serve.

Bowlers says he enjoys the unique challenge Saint Mary's offers him and especially likes the opportunity to mingle with students on a day-to-day basis.

"It's really a nice place to work," he said. "Most importantly, I think the students really appreciate what we do."

Perhaps the biggest challenge for students on the Saint Mary's campus is simply fitting in, a problem Notre Dame Law student Tim Keegan encounters on a daily basis. Keegan is married to Opus Hall director Katie Keegan, making him the sole male to actually live in the Saint Mary's campus in a building with more than 70 women.

"I suppose the funniest or most awkward incidents have been times in which I have gotten 'looks' from students' parents who are visiting when they see that I have a key and ID card to get into the building," Keegan said. "I always try to be quick to explain, 'I live here, my wife is the building director.'"

Keegan said even Notre Dame is sometimes confused by his status as a Saint Mary's resident. "I have also had an incident in which Notre Dame Financial Aid called me to inform me that the address I had given them for my place of residence could not possibly be correct," he said.

While Keegan said he is not uncomfortable with his living situation, he attempts to ensure Opus's female residents are comfortable with a man in the building.

"As far as the women in the building, I just try to keep to myself so as not to make any of them uncomfortable by having a man walking around," Keegan said. "Since our apartment is right near the entrance of the building, I pretty much just go in and out of the apartment and try to lie low."

Other males at the College are not lucky enough to "be low." The residence halls. Patrick Nagorski, a Notre Dame senior, has been visiting them on a regular basis since 2003, when he began dating Saint Mary's senior Charlotte Ozell. Nagorski said visiting the all-female residence halls at the College is quite an experience.

"It wasn't really a shock to be around all the girls," he said. "But the first few times I walked over to SMC it felt like I was entering another world. It was weird and pretty cool at the same time."

Nagorski said in the two years he has been with his girlfriend, he has learned a lot about the campus culture and the Saint Mary's women.

"I've really grown to like and love Saint Mary's," he said. "The SMC girls are just girls."

One problem Nagorski and Ozell may encounter is that of parking, which at Saint Mary's requires men to be out of the residence halls by midnight Sunday through Thursday and 2 a.m. on weekends. It is a running joke on campus that Saint Mary's requires the same visiting hours as students' - which are sometimes dispersed in the halls at all times. Only on the on-campus apartment building, Opus Hall is permitted to remain in a student's room after hours.

Changin Times

Executive Assistant to the President at Saint Mary's, Susan Dampeer said during her time as a student at Saint Mary's, part-time only allowed men in the dorms until 10 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. Before those regulations were set in place, male visitation hours were even stricter than that, she said.

"They locked it up right when we got here," Dampeer said.

However, Dampeer also said in the days when McCandless Hall was relatively new the residents liked the short visitation hours especially because it allowed them to walk freely in the hallways with such attire as "pajamas and funny curries."

"All the seniors used to live in McCandless, believe it or not," she said, "every year I was here we used to vote on guys in the dorms - visitation - and we voted it down every year. We overwhelmingly voted it down."

Dampeer said the students back then appreciated the times when men were not allowed to be in the residence halls and the distinction between men and women on campus.

"We liked that. We liked that separation," she said. "It's just a totally different culture now."

Perhaps the biggest change women enjoyed the male-free dorm atmosphere at night was the higher number of men enrolled in classes on campus compared to the present, when relatively few males take Saint Mary's courses.

In Dampeer's day, men from Notre Dame - which at the time was an all-male school - were more likely to attend the new schools to take classes at Saint Mary's, she said. Both Dampeer and current College professor Carol Mundell, who is also a 1972 graduate, are married to Notre Dame graduates who took humanistic studies and education courses in the all-female environment.

"There was a lot of going back and forth for classes between the schools," Dampeer said.

While he did not attend classes at Saint Mary's as an undergradu­ ate student at an all-male school, Kevin McDonnell now teaches them as a philosophy professor in the College. McDonnell, like Dampeer, believes the culture has changed since he was in college, when "there was nothing unusual about single-sex education."

While McDonnell said Saint Mary's has changed "a great deal" in the almost 30 years since he began teaching at the College, he thinks the benefits of the all-female environment remain the same.

"I believe that women's colleges are more important than ever," he said. "Not only are they in the minority, they are in the minority for specific matters, but also for insuring the continuation of genuine diversity in higher educa­tion."

Contact Nicole Zook at Zook9828@smcmail.saintmarys.edu
Students anxious to score Michigan tickets

By BRIDGET KEATING
News Writer

The Irish faithful exiting Legends Thursday were one step closer to scoring tickets to the Sept. 10 Notre Dame-Michigan game in Ann Arbor thanks to a flawless Student Union Board (SUB) ticket lottery.

More than 2,000 student IDs were swept, which officials say is the highest number in the past two years. Ten minutes was the maximum wait incurred during the noontime rush.

Students expressed appreciation for SUB’s smoothly run operation.

“There was no wait when I arrived,” sophomore Andy Maklelskl said. “The whole event was extremely efficient and student friendly.”

“Andy Maklelskl student

said. “It was very easy and enjoyable.”

Even the students working the event seemed happy to be there.

SUB president Jimmy Flaherty said he was glad the Board could play a role in helping students get to Ann Arbor.

“Students seemed to be really excited about the upcoming season and the chance to watch the Irish play in Ann Arbor,” Flaherty said. “Anyone who has been to an away game knows how much fun it is to be there with other Notre Dame fans hoping to see a win on the road. Hopefully, the game will be as successful as the lottery was today.”

Winning numbers when printed in The Observer today. Students need to bring the winning ticket and their ID to the LaFortune Box Office by the close of business on Tuesday, Sept. 6 in order to purchase the tickets, which cost $59 each.

Contact Bridget Keating at bkeating@nd.edu
Chaos plagues city in storm aftermath
Gunshots, looting, riots and rapes frighten New Orleans residents and tourists

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans descended into anarchy Thursday, as mobs gained control of city streets, guns and fires blazed, and some of the survivors battled for seats on buses that would be the last to leave. The tired and hungry wept, saying they had been forsaken. "I'm not sure I'm going to get out of here alive," said Canadian tourist Larry Miguel, who handed a reporter his business card in case he goes missing. "I'm scared of riots. I'm scared of the locals. We never got caught in the crossfire.

Four days after Hurricane Katrina poured in with a devastating blow that inflicted potentially thousands of deaths, the frustration, fear and anger mounted, despite the promise of 1,400 National Guardsmen a day to stop the looting, plans for a $10 billion recovery bill in Congress and a government relief effort President Bush praised as the biggest in U.S. history.

New Orleans' top emergency management official called that effort a "national disgrace" and questioned whether the relief efforts would actually reach the increasingly lawless city.

About 15,000 to 20,000 people had taken refuge in low-lying areas last February generated U.N. and U.S. pressure that forced Syrian troops to withdraw from the Dutchmen's Goose Bay base.

Detroit eliminates 75 fire dept. jobs

DETROIT — The city said Thursday it would cut 75 more fire department jobs and devalue some first-responding units to help address a budget crisis that also has forced reductions in the police force and other city services.

The cuts are in addition to the 113 department cuts announced in July and come as Detroit faces a possible state takeover of its finances. The latest cuts involve 65 firefighters and 10 battalion chiefs.

"Everyone in the Detroit Fire Department is going to have to do more work," Fire Commissioner Tytus said.

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick said the cuts amount to nearly 8% of the $123 million "This is $7 million still out there," he said.

LOCAL NEWS

Ind. Natl. Guard to assist victims

INDIANAPOLIS — At least 2,000 Indiana National Guard troops are heading south to help in hurricane relief efforts in coastal areas.

An advance team of 20 soldiers were expected to leave Wednesday, said Capt. Lisa Kopczyzny, a National Guard spokeswoman. Officials were still determining exactly how many guardsmen will be called up.

"This will be sizable," she said.

Additional troops could leave over the next few days to aid efforts in coastal areas of the Gulf region devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Associated Press

Dutch teen released in Holloway disappearance

Amsterdam, 19-year-old Frans van der Sloot was released Wednesday after being held for nearly three months in an American correctional facility.

Judge Paul van der Sloot said the youth had admitted to the crime but would be freed this weekend, the youth’s family attorney said.

Paul van der Sloot said the judge ruled there was no reason to hold the suspect in the 1989 slaying of Natalee Holloway, a 19-year-old American teenager who disappeared in the Bahamas.

The suspect was released on bond by phone late, defense attorney Antonio Caro, disputed part of the father’s statement, saying van der Sloot, 18, remains a suspect in Holloway's murder but will be released Saturday pending the outcome of the investigation.

The decision to release van der Sloot “only has to do with the pretrial detention. The primary condition is he has to remain available to police,” Carlo said.

In a statement, the prosecution office declined to comment on the ruling, saying it hadn’t received all of the decisions from the judge.

Ruben Trapenberg said, without giving further details.

The ruling was significantly delayed to a day after the hearing in which Carlo argued that prosecutors have produced no evidence that his client was involved in Holloway’s disappearance or that a crime had been committed.

Associated Press

Hamid Karzai, a Briton of No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri, said July 21 that you understand. "I'm not sure I'm going to get out of here alive," said Canadian tourist Larry Miguel, who handed a reporter his business card in case he goes missing. "I'm scared of riots. I'm scared of the locals. We never got caught in the crossfire.

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Calendar
continued from page 1

visitor to the University came to the site, they would know what was going on.

Lalier said she believes the cal-
endar will be especially helpful to prospective students and their parents, who may be in need of an activity to fill a space in time during their campus visit. Before the Agenda, visitors needed to search for specific information on any number of specific department, College, or Notre Dame organizations' Web sites to find out about a variety of events. Now all that information will be in one place.

"If they wanted specifics, they would have to go to 50 to 60 Web sites," Lalier said. "It would take too long to find everything that is going on on-campus within a small time frame."

The main component of the cal-
endar is its nine specific tabs, including topics like religious life or health and recreation. On the right hand side of the Web page, additional event searches can be conducted in more specific areas like the College of Arts and Letters or the School of Architecture. Web site visitors can search using one of these specific tabs for events pertaining to that day, week, two weeks, month or year, or they can search by a specific date.

Lalier said she is also promoting the Web site to the community at large, through such mechanisms as local Chambers of Commerce and advertisements in the football programs sold at home football games. "We are just trying to spread the word to the full-time campus occupants as well as visitors," she said.

Eighty-plus Notre Dame staff members will have the proper passwords and administrative authority to upload events to the Agenda calendar. Lalier said students wishing to contact any of these people can do so using the Agenda's contact tab, which will list all of the specific administrators for a variety of functions.

Harriet Baldwin, director of academic conferences, is the administrator for events relating to the College of Arts and Letters and lectures and conferences. She said the new calendar will be especially helpful in promoting the academic activities that occur on-campus to people outside of campus, such as visitors or prospective students and faculty members.

"The scholarly atmosphere of Notre Dame has been a well-kept secret to the public for a long time," she said. "The new calendar presents not only to the University but to the outside world a real picture of the lively academic debate that goes on at this campus."

Baldwin also said the calendar will help to address a number of campus event planners' concerns about how the lack of a comprehensive calendar caused problems with scheduling conflicting events that actually drew from the same audience.

"The calendar will help to address a number of campus event planners' concerns about how the lack of a comprehensive calendar caused problems with scheduling conflicting events that actually drew from the same audience.

"The calendar evolved out of event planners' on campus ... frustration at not seeing a master calendar on conflicts," she said. "Now they can look at that calendar and see what else is going on to plan that event with less conflict."

Priscilla Wong, assistant director of administration and cross cultural ministry for Campus Ministry, said the comprehensive calendar will be of particular help to home football game visitors, many of whom inquire about when Masses or other liturgical events will occur at particular residence halls.

"Now they can check from home and know that or plan that while they are here," she said.

Wong also said she believes an advantage of the calendar is its ability to classify one event in multiple places, increasing the exposure to a program that might encompass both student and religious life, for example.

She also noted that the new cal-
endar will not alter Campus Ministry's ongoing efforts to pro-
mote their events through resi-
dence hall commissioners or advertisements.

"For the immediate future, we will still have the posters, Observer ads, [and] Campus Ministry commissioners in the dorms," Wong said. "I think that the calendar is a real plus, but not necessarily to replace those mechanisms that go directly to the students."

Peggy Ilnatusko, assistant director of student activities, said the Agenda is an improvement over The Dome in its ability to publicize events that were closed to the general public.

Contact Joe Trombello at jtrombel@nd.edu

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Want To Be On TV Cheering On Your #1 Ranked Women's Soccer Team?

This Friday, Sept. 2nd College Soccer Game Day Invades Alumni Field

Meet at Alumni Field at 6:15 pm and YOU will receive...

- A FREE 2004 National Champion shirt, while supplies last
- FREE face paint to show your Irish pride on TV
- FREE Pizza, while supplies last

The women's soccer team is looking for crazy students to show their Irish pride to thousands of TV viewers!

Stick around to watch...#1 Notre Dame battle it out against #13 Florida at 7:30 pm

Admission is FREE, with a valid student ID!
Northwest warns of bankruptcy threat

America's fourth-largest airline could lose $400 million this business quarter

Northwest mechanics on strike shot at a replacement mechanic outside of a Minneapolis hotel Thursday. In the midst of a mechanic strike, the airline is facing the possibility of bankruptcy.

Associated Press

Northwest Airlines Corp. warned on Thursday that it is running out of time to avoid bankruptcy because of spiking fuel prices, and that it will lose as much as $400 million this quarter. Company officials said they would negotiate a new round of pay cuts.

The carrier said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that its cash had fallen to $1.7 billion as of Wednesday, down from $2.1 billion on June 30. Some of the decrease was due to holdbacks required by the company that processes its credit card transactions, a situation that has also squeezed rival Delta Air Lines Inc. in recent weeks.

Northwest said its third-quarter loss would be $350 million to $400 million, but possibly worse depending on the financial impact of Hurricane Katrina.

Eagan-based Northwest has been seeking $1.1 billion in annual labor cost savings. It said it will probably increase that target, partially because of rising fuel prices, though the company didn’t offer a new dollar figure.

Northwest said it expects to pay $1.90 to $2.05 per gallon of jet fuel, for a total of $900 million for the quarter. It expects to spend at least that much in the fourth quarter for a total of $5 billion for all of 2005. That’s a 50 percent increase over the $2.2 billion it spent on fuel in 2004.

Northwest mechanics are on strike, but the national contract with the carrier has continued to fly by using replacement workers. On Thursday, it said the strike has not had a significant impact on revenue.

Northwest said it has run out of collateral for additional loans.

Pilots said Northwest’s financial troubles are driving them back to the bargaining table.

"We feel that the threat of bankruptcy is high," said Capt. Mark McCain, chairman of the Northwest branch of the Air Line Pilots Association. "If we can avoid bankruptcy, we feel that we can get a better settlement in negotiations voluntarily with Northwest without the threat of a bankruptcy court."

Northwest is in talks with flight attendants and ground workers. But only the pilots have agreed to pay cuts, accepting a 15 percent cut last fall that contributed $300 million in savings toward Northwest’s $1.1 billion goal when combined with cuts for managers.

The pilot talks are voluntary; their pay-cut agreement last year called for Northwest asking for additional cuts until other unions had also agreed to concessions.

In the SEC filing, Northwest repeated its claim that it needs pension law changes and employee pay cuts to avoid a Chapter 11 filing. "As a result of the recent spike in jet fuel prices, the time period for the Company to resolve these problems has been reduced," it said.

Savings rate, manufacturing industry weaken

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans’ savings rate fell to an all-time low in July while manufacturing showed signs of slowing. Both trends were worrisome economic news amid uncertainty about how much of Hurricane Katrina will hit the economy.

A group of economic reports on Thursday showed the economy was buffeted by high oil prices even before Katrina shut down production along the Gulf Coast earlier this week and sent the price of gasoline and other products soaring.

The Commerce Department reported that consumer spending rose by 1 percent in July, partly matching a strong June gain, as Americans streamed into auto showrooms to take advantage of sales discounts.

However, incomes rose by just 0.3 percent, not enough to cover the increased spending. As a result, the savings rate fell into negative territory at minus 0.6 percent, the lowest level on record.

That negative 0.6 percent meant that Americans did not have enough left over after paying for gas to cover all of their spending in July. As a result, they dipped into savings stored up in prior months to cover the shortfall.

Big retailers reported Thursday that sales held up well in August even in the face of rising energy costs. But now with gasoline topping $3 per gallon in parts of the country because of Katrina’s forced refinery shutdowns, the worry is that consumers will be forced to cut back on discretionary purchases, especially given their stretched family budgets and record low savings.

"The economy is going to be hit hard," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. "With the surge in gasoline and home heating oil prices, consumers will have a difficult choice to make between filling their gas tank or spending on other things."

Another report showed that American manufacturers were feeling the adverse effects of higher energy costs even before Katrina hit.

The Institute of Supply Management’s manufacturing index declined to a weaker-than-expected 53.6 percent in August, down from July’s reading of 56.6 percent. While that level still indicated factories’ output would expand in coming months, manufacturing is about three times more sensitive to rising energy costs than the overall economy because manufacturing is so energy-intensive. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 21.97 points to close at 10,459.03 as consumers grappled with the disappointing economic reports and the latest news of Katrina’s damage.
Service seminars remain popular

Despite early due date, over 300 students apply for six projects

By ANTHONY IANNAMORELLI
News Writer

The Center for Social Concerns (CSC) received over 330 applications for this fall’s service seminars, despite a much earlier application due date.

This year, applications were due early, before school began — as opposed to within the first few weeks. But the change of date is intended simply to coincide with the Registrar’s add/drop class schedule, and students who applied did not seem to mind the timing change.

“I really didn’t feel any rush for the fall service project because the application was really simple and it only took 20 minutes of my time,” said Dan Geffre, who will be attending the Appalachia Seminar. “I’m very happy I’m going to be able to go to Appalachia this semester because my friends have told me so many good things about the things they did and people they met.”

The seminar requirements extend beyond the week of Fall Break.

“For those that are accepted, there are required classes and reading prior to the immersion and written reflection and analysis afterward,” said Jay Bradenberger, CSC director of experiential learning and developmental research. But the extra work does not deter many students. Those who have participated say the experience proved invaluable.

“It is one of the most enriching experiences the University offers.”

Jeff Mullin senior

CSC seminar descriptions:

◆ Appalachia will allow students to work closely with people while being immersed in the history, culture, and challenges of the region.

◆ The Gospel of Life Seminar will focus on controversial and pressing issues such as stem cell research, euthanasia and abortion. Discussions will be conducted with public servants and Church leaders.

◆ Students will be immersed in the interesting Gullah culture in the Gullah Seminar, held on the Sea Islands of South Carolina and Georgia.

◆ The Cultural Diversity seminar will take place in Chicago. It will examine the “problems of urban life and racism.” Students will enter into dialogue with community leaders while fully experiencing the ethnic cultures that thrive there.

◆ Pre-professional and health-care minded students will get a chance to examine the shortcomings of our health care system while gaining hands on experience at the Global Health Initiative Seminar.

◆ The Washington, D.C. Seminar is meant to allow students to gain a deeper understanding of the workings of our healthcare system. They will meet key players in the decision making process while covering a variety of issues.

Contact Anthony Iannamorelli at ainamore@nd.edu

Pitt

continued from page 1

a Joe Montana jersey instead of The Shirt, which he calls “ugly.”

The five Alumni juniors will be staying at Perkovic’s sister’s house at a nearby university in Pittsburgh, which will see a dispro­portionate number of Domers flocking to Heinz Field for the season opener. Some students traveling to Pittsburgh, like junior Patrick Schafer, are away-game veterans.

“I try to go as many away games as possible, and I’m very excited about this one,” Schafer said. “A group of people and I are driving the four hours and it should be a lot of fun.”

Others are looking forward to their first football road trip.

“I haven’t been to a Notre Dame away game yet, but I’m from Pittsburgh so this sounds like the perfect one to attend,” senior Ryan Brennan said. “Me and eight friends are driving over there in the morning, and we’re really excited.”

On the home front, stu­dents are preparing dorm room gardens while campus-wide watches will be held on North Quad and Legends. For freshmen, this will be the first exposure to the football frenzy on campus.

“I’m dying to see it, the atmosphere of the school as the football season begins,” freshman Stephanie Grandits said. “I’ve watched the games before but now that I’m actually here there’s definitely a new excitement to it.”

Much of the excitement revolves around Weis, who already has students wearing shirts in his honor, bearing slogans like “Straight Nasty” and “Weis Guy.” Last year, the Irish fell to the Panthers 41-38 at Notre Dame after a last-second field goal. But Notre Dame has won 16 out of its last 19 season openers and has been triumphant in five of its last six trips to Pittsburgh.

Contact Kate Antonacci at can­tonac@nd.edu and Marcella Berrios at berrios1@nd.edu

Congregation of Holy Cross

Join us as our brother in Holy Cross, Nate Wills, CSC, celebrates his profession of perpetual vows and consecrates himself to Christ forever.

Saturday, September 3, 2005
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
1:30pm
Congress approves hurricane aid

Emergency $10.5 billion allocated for victims of Katrina disaster

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Congress rushed to provide a $10.5 billion down payment in relief aid for Gulf Coast victims of Hurricane Katrina on Thursday as President Bush ordered new action to minimize disruptions in the nation's energy supplies.

"Don't help us if you don't need it," he urged consumers already hit by sharply rising prices.

Amid lawlessness in flooded, chaotic New Orleans, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced plans to deploy 1,400 additional National Guard personnel each day for the next several days.

"Frankly, what we're doing is we are putting probably more than we need in order to send an unambiguous message that we will not tolerate lawlessness or violence or interference with the evacuation," he said.

Despite fresh pledges of help from Bush and other officials, there were stirrings of discontent from officials over the amount of aid earmarked for New Orleans.

"America stood with New York in its time of need and we will stand with the people of the Gulf states now that they need us," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-New York.

Cochran, whose home state of Mississippi was hit by Hurricane, said the $10 billion would be the first of at least three bills to help with relief and recovery.

Bush, who intends to visit the devastated area on Friday, expressed sympathy with the victims. "I know this is an agonizing time," he asked his continued patience as recovery operations unfolded," he said.

Congressional officials said $10 billion in relief aid would go to the FEMA, the government's primary defender in case of natural disasters. The remainder is ticketed for the Pentagon, which has dispatched ships and other assistance to aid in the relief effort.

With the Republican-controlled Congress officially on vacation, top leaders said they would pass the relief measure without waiting for lawmakers to return to the Capitol. Instead, they announced the money would be cleared — by Friday — without the formality of a vote, as is often the case on non-controversial measures.

"America stood with New York in its time of need and we will stand with the people of the Gulf states now that they need us," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Bush, who is committed to the destruction wrought in New York by the terror attacks of four years ago, "New Orleans is more devastated than New York was and just physically devastated, as is the coast of Mississippi," he said in an interview with ABC.

Republican Sen. Thad Cochran, whose home state of Mississippi was hit by Hurricane, said the $10 billion would be the first of at least three bills to help with relief and recovery.

He said the second measure would follow in two or three weeks, and a third bill once more precise damage estimates were available.

"Over half a billion dollars a day is being spent by FEMA," said Cochran, who is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Separately, Sen. Bernie Sanders, chairman of Bush's Council of Economic Advisers, said some estimates of insured damage have been on the order of $25 billion.

While Republican leaders jointly announced plans to rush the spending bill to the president for his signature, Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., expressed some misgivings over a longer-term rebuilding effort in a newspaper interview in his home state.

Asked in an interview with The Associated Press, whether it made sense to spend billions rebuilding a city that lies below sea level, he replied, "I don't know. That doesn't make sense to me."

While expressing sympathy with victims of the storm, he said there needs to be a second look at rebuilding efforts. "But I know we build Los Angeles and San Francisco on top of earthquake fissures and they rebuild, too. Stubbornness," he said.

Bush, meanwhile, kept to a schedule filled with meetings designed to meet challenges in the Gulf region.

"It's a region which worsens each year. That's the reality of West Africa and the situation in which we're working," de Lys said of the region lacking many of the world's least-developed nations.

"There are economic conditions and conflict that cause mass movement, so our efforts to contain the disease that causes death by dehydration from diarrhea and vomiting, de Lys said.

"Cholera is treatable easily if patients are hydrated quickly.

"Cholera is a disease that is transmitting by infected water, rarely by a problem in rich nations, in an all-too-common region of HIV, litrantes, untreated drinking water support of communal wells.

Chlorinating wells, improving sanitation and boosting knowledge of how the disease spreads are the key to help in the spread of cholera, experts say.

The U.N. said West African countries are far surpassing cholera infections and deaths are Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Guinea, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone, which were 108-fold the region's deadly food crisis.

Farther south, a cholera outbreak among soldiers and civilians killed at least 19 people and sickened over 700 in recent days.

Cholera epidemic spreading in Africa

Supplements become routine in teen athletes

Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — A cholera epidemic spreading across West Africa has sickened tens of thousands of people this year and killed nearly 500 amid a long-term deterioration in health services in one of the world's poorest regions, the United Nations said Thursday.

Cholera has stricken 31,259 people in nine West African countries since June and 488 are reported dead in what the United Nations said was an "unusually high incidence" of the disease. Year-ago figures weren't provided.

"We have a crisis that needs immediate attention," said Herve Ludovic de Lys, head of the U.N.'s humanitarian-affairs coordination efforts in the region. "This crisis needs a rapid response."

As heavy rains continue across West Africa, the disease often transmitted by infected water is likely to spread into Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad in coming months, the world body said in a statement.

The increase in cholera this year is part of a longer-term deterioration of health services in West Africa, de Lys said.

"It's a region which worsens each year. That's the reality of West Africa and the situation in which we're working," de Lys said of the region lacking many of the world's least-developed nations.

"There are economic conditions and conflict that cause mass movement, so our efforts to contain the disease that causes death by dehydration from diarrhea and vomiting, de Lys said.

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Supplements become routine in teen athletes

Associated Press

BANCO CORDOVA, Calif. — Checking himself out in the weight-room mirror, 16-year-old Marshall Sailor flexes his right arm and smiles wide.

He's looking for new muscles that helped him win a spot as starting defensive tackle on the varsity football team at Cordova High School in suburban Sacramento. Sailor credits the strength to hard work, a timely growth spurt and a hormone that promotes muscle growth.

But he can tell the difference in his body, saying that his muscles have grown more quickly than usual.

"I saw what everybody else was lashing and I wanted to lift that, too," he said, adding that he was talking about Steroids, the products after failing to see results from exercise alone.

Like many high school athletes, Sailor is barely aware of the federal government's new summer in California over Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's support for state's of nutrition and creative products. But he can rattle off the name brands of supplements and creatine products. He can tell you how he thinks they work, what they cost and when to take them.

For Sailor and many of his peers, navigating the world of nutritional supplements has become part of the formula for success.

Eight percent of girls and 12 percent of boys age 12-18 said they used supplements in pursuit of a better body, according to a survey funded by the National Institutes of Health and cereals and milkshake maker Kraft published this month. For high school athletes, the survey found, the percentage may be far higher.

"Everybody's tried them, pretty much," said quarter back Andrew Davis, surveying the Cordova locker room Wednesday, where the team spends at least one hour a day in the weight room.

Most popular are protein shakes and powders that add calories and protein to shakes in that can be the often blends of whey protein and a nitric oxide.
WE’VE BEEN PUTTING OUT* EVERY NIGHT FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS.

*WE’RE TALKING ABOUT NEWSPAPERS. HAVEN’T YOU HEARD OF PARIETALS YET?

Meet editors from News, Sports, Viewpoint, Scene, Photo, Graphics, Ads & Business to find out what you could do for the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s daily

The Observer publishes daily throughout the school year and is located in the basement of South Dining Hall.

Call 1-4541 on campus for more information.
**California votes to allow gay marriage, sparks debate**

Gay rights advocates cheer a historic victory as state becomes first legislative body in nation to back idea.

As promised, a 12-1 vote Thursday hand-scramble for votes in the Assembly.

Gay rights advocates cheer a historic victory as state becomes first legislative body in nation to back idea.

Arnold Schwarzenegger's office had no comment Thursday on how the governor would respond if the bill reached his desk, said spokeswoman Margi Thompson.

Several senators have the struggle for gay marriage to the civil rights movements, they said arguments against the bill were similar to arguments in support of slavery and segregation.

"This is probably the most profound civil rights movement of our generation," said Sen. Jackie Speier, a Democrat who supported the bill.

"Gay and lesbian people fall in love. We settle down. We commit our lives to one another. We raise our children. We try to be good citizens," said Sheila Kuehl, a Democrat who wrote the bill.

"It would be very disappointing for the body not to do it to stand up for civil rights," said Mark Leno, a Democrat who wrote the bill. "We are so very close," said Vermont Democrat who supported the bill.

"We are so very close," said Vermont Democrat who supported the bill.

Police Superintendent says white police brought up the bill Tuesday and promised for using profanity during the hearing.

"The moment I got out of the car over because he witnessed a Sept. 13 incident, but that he was justified in pulling his gun because the suspect was two 16-year-old suspects.

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"This is not the right thing to do. We should protect traditional marriage and uphold all of those values and institutions that have made our society and keep our state together today," said Dennis Hollingsworth, a Republican.

This was rejected earlier in the court's decision.

"Many of us are multi-racial. We are not just Hawaiians," said Max Lindsey.

"Many of us are multi-racial. We are not just Hawaiians," said Max Lindsey.

Forty Hawaiian and the Pacific beyond, the prestigious school serves as the university's largest and most important private elementary and secondary school in the nation.

About 5,100 Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian students undergo at least 16 hours of grade placement classes on the schools' three campuses.

Funded by a $6.2 billion budget, it is also Hawaii's largest private landowner, with 365,000 acres, including resort, commercial and residential holdings.

Former student Joshua Irvine said textbooks should be taught, not used, but what he learned when he transferred to the Oahu campus, a public high school in a poor neighborhood.

Poverty was no longer an issue, said Irvine, whose new friends were collared blue and white uniforms and spoke "proper English," instead of the pidgin English spoken by many local youth in the school band and played at Hawaiian cultural events.

Since its humble start with a couple of dozen boys, Kamehameha has expanded to a full campus in three on other islands, becoming the largest and richest independent private elementary and secondary school in the state.

"We stand up for dignity and our society and keep our state together today."

"We stand up for dignity and our society and keep our state together today."

Mike Chun, who has been a "fierce advocate" of the "gay marriage between a man and a woman," said that Hawaii might legalize gay marriage and was attended to California from recognizing gay marriage performed elsewhere.

"Equality is a thing of the past. Pass as a state statute court considered appeals of a San Francisco ruling that overturned California law banning recognition of gay marriages."

At the same time, opponents of same-sex marriage are trying to qualify initiatives for the 2006 ballots that would place a ban on gay marriage in the state.

Defenders of same-sex marriage took a longer view.

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Defenders of same-sex marriage took a longer view.
As images of death, anarchy and despair from one of the biggest natural disasters in American history splash across newspaper pages and television screens, even the so-called Notre Dame bubble is not immune from Hurricane Katrina’s damage.

These same images exceed our realm of understanding. But the words of two Notre Dame professors trapped in a New Orleans hotel — and the worries of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students from affected areas — are accessible Hemingway’s concern.

At a University with national roots, any national tragedy is bound to have spokes that strike close to home. The Notre Dame roots stretch to the flooding in Gulf Port, Miss., and the lodging in New Orleans.

We couldn’t keep this tragedy outside the Notre Dame bubble if we tried. In times of need, we depend on our family and close friends to support us. At this moment, members of our Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s families need our assistance. We have a moral obligation to those who need us to take on this task and comfort them. We must give them understanding and be there for them when they need a shoulder to cry on. This is a pivotal time in their lives — a time they, and we, will never forget.

Some of us have taken literature classes in our college careers have probably become familiar with Ernest Hemingway, one of the great authors of the early 20th Century. In his works, he often describes characters that embody certain traits that his reader would aspire to. Such a character has come to school and two friends who need our help. These

Perhaps it football season, and you have old friends visiting from another school. Their seats are across the stadium from the student section, but they want to spend time with you. The Hemingway Hero is someone to make friends into the student section is not always the case. The Hemingway Hero is someone who has a car, a sober driver or calls a cab and heads to Michigan where you can buy beer seven days a week. Though Hemingway was actually said to have purchased a glass bottle of vodka to hold in his hand, he is the Hemingway Hero.

What does the modern Hemingway Hero do? He perseveres. He finds a sober driver or calls a cab and heads to Michigan where you can buy beer seven days a week. Though Hemingway was actually said to have purchased a glass bottle of vodka to hold in his hand, he is the Hemingway Hero.

With the threats of an oil crisis sweeping the country, we must realize that production facilities have been greatly crippled by the storm. So carpool to class or to the Pitt game. Leave the gas for those who need it most — the people who are helping with cleanup efforts.

But most of all, pray. For our fellow Americans who survived and those who mourn their friends, possessions and family to this storm. The other side of the bubble needs its family now more than ever.

When the tsunami hit Southeast Asia last winter, Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students and faculty members rallied together to raise money for relief efforts. But with a natural disaster hitting closer to home, we must come together once again to raise money and donate items to those who need our help.

Give anything you can. Donate any clothes you can. Pledge money to the Red Cross or Catholic Charities. The American Red Cross estimates it will need almost $30 million in relief aid in the next 12 months. The needs for people is extensive and great, a figure equal to the total amount spent on all four of last year’s destructive hurricanes that hit the United States.

And with the threats of an oil crisis sweeping the country, we must also take steps to conserve energy. We must realize that production facilities have been greatly crippled by the storm. So carpool to class or to the Pitt game. Leave the gas for those who need it most — the people who are helping with cleanup efforts.

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In short, this modern day Hemingway Hero is someone to aspire to be for at least friends with. The Hemingway Hero realistically faster than they would have to. And with the threats of an oil crisis sweeping the country, we must also take steps to conserve energy. We must realize that production facilities have been greatly crippled by the storm. So carpool to class or to the Pitt game. Leave the gas for those who need it most — the people who are helping with cleanup efforts.

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Molly Acker is a senior at Saint Mary’s. She is a double major in communications and humanistic studies. Molly hopes you all have a great weekend. She can be reached at acker6758@stmarys.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
International support exists for U.S.

Jumping to conclusions

The suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina is nothing less than tragic. The horrible loss of life and extensive damage to property that the hurricane inflicted will have a lasting effect on the lives of many Louisianaians and the entire nation. The sympathies and prayers of the Notre Dame community are with the people of Louisiana and the entire nation. The University of Notre Dame has acknowledged its sorrow at this disaster. Haoward also seems to consider international aid for the disaster insufficient compared to that given to the countries affected by the tsunami. He grandly acknowledges that the United States is richer than these Asian nations. However, Thailand’s GDP per capita is a mere 20 percent of the United States’, while Indonesia’s is less than 10 percent. This is an incredibly striking disparity, especially considering that between 170,000 and 250,000 people died in the tsunami while New Orleans mayor has declared that the death toll for Katrina is likely to be in the tens of thousands.\r

Sarah Harward’s Viewpoint letter to the editor regarding Hurricane Katrina (“Double Standards,” Aug. 31) highlights a major problem with the response to this disaster. Rather than suggest ways of helping, Harward instead spends her time politicizing the crisis. Harward criticizes Green Day and Michael Moore for viewing south Louisiana as “lower down” for being American. Even if this falsehood were true, it has nothing to do with the current state of the disaster. Harward also criticizes the international community for their “apathy” and “anti-Americanism.” This is simply not true. Scott McCollan said in his daily press conference that the White House has received many offers of assistance from other countries, but has elected to wait and see how much we can accomplish before accepting aid. This politicizing of the ongoing tragedy needs to stop. We can assess blame later when people are out of harm’s way. Now is the time to help the people of Louisiana and Alabama. Visit www.red­ cross.org or call 1-800-HELP-­NOW to offer financial and other assistance. Do not waste your time criticizing the government’s red tape for this. Do whatever you can. Stop the divisive rhetoric and invest your energy to make a difference.

I am writing in response to Sarah Harward’s Aug. 31 letter to the editor, “Double standard.” The claim that the global community has turned a blind eye to our Gulf Coast’s plight is false. I recommend you actually check with the global community. I do not know if news.bbc.co.uk, or www.corriere.it, or www.china-­independent.com, or just about any other news organization based outside of the United States. You will find that the latest about Katrina’s wrath on every front page of every newspaper, not just American newspapers. Every nation who can back up its foreign aid promises and obligations rightly gets criticized for doing so. If you believe the United States just routinely gives away free money to the needy, you might have been under­lyung stupid. I would like to suggest you have some more reading to do.

A few textbooks are still available at a $4 discount from the listed bookstore price. Basically, it would cost more with shipping and handling. My total so far is $510.35 and I am still missing two course books. According to the National Association of College Bookstores, wholesale prices of college textbooks have risen nearly 40 percent in the past five years. Add to the fact that a newer edition of a book is churned out every two to three years. These same books are found at cheap used prices. My proposed solution? Publishers need to cut back on rights and just publish a single true edition. We all know the cost of paper isn’t the only cost. And I don’t think anyone would be opposed to required readings on recycled paper, to ensure that we’re not running out of trees and inﬂating the cost of books even more.

The Observer

Is the elderly always a burden? Should we ask for their continued support? Is the question of their well-being a matter of concern or just another way to exploit their resources? These are questions that deserve serious consideration. The elderly have contributed greatly to society and their contributions should not be underestimated.\r

As I finally get done with all of my move-in and grocery expenses, and I’m ready to breathe a sigh of relief, I get my list of books. The relief dissipates immediately.

Of course, I had looked at my book list earlier, but I was sure I would be able to find a great deal on the Internet for discounted prices, as I did last year. I was wrong.

All the books I found online cost me an additional $4 difference from the listed bookstore price. Basically, it would cost more with shipping and handling.

My total so far is $510.35 and I am still missing two course books. According to the National Association of College Bookstores, wholesale prices of college textbooks have risen nearly 40 percent in the past five years. Add to the fact that a newer edition of a book is churned out every two to three years. These same books are found at cheaper used prices. My proposed solution? Publishers need to cut back on rights and just publish a single true edition. We all know the cost of paper isn’t the only cost. And I don’t think anyone would be opposed to required readings on recycled paper, to ensure that we’re not running out of trees and inflating the cost of books even more.

Problem No. 2: I have to buy 15 textbooks for four courses, which is roughly four books per class. Realistically, the odds of me reading all 15 textbooks is rather low. I know that professors just want to make sure that we are well equipped and learning from our courses, but the idea of the four course books is more discouraging than encouraging.

We need to find a way to go back to the high school style textbook, where you had one year’s work in one textbook. So, what options are students left? An effective resource is the Student Senate’s student book exchange, which is under development, or Googling the book and attempting to buy it overseas. Congress launched a congressional hearing to address the issue of textbook prices last summer. The Government Accountability Office has started an investigation, so some hope has been offered. But really, does Congress have to get involved to lower the cost of course books? Most likely, none of us will wait any longer when a resolution last reached.

This article originally appeared on Sept. 1, 2005 in the Daily Trojan, the daily publication at the University of Southern California.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The nicknames “Rap Master,” “Scat Girl” and “Lyric Queen” don’t sound like the usual descriptions associated with an a cappella group. That is, until recently, when Toxic Audio burst onto the contemporary a cappella scene.

Tonight, the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts will kick off its second season with a show unlike any Notre Dame has seen before. Toxic Audio is leaving its standing show at the Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas for a one-night appearance in the 900-seat Leighton Concert Hall in the DPAC.

Las Vegas-based group Toxic Audio brings its unique voice to Notre Dame

Las Vegas got its start in 1998 in Florida, where members of the group were working as singers in various different a cappella groups. The founder, Rene Ruiz, decided that it was time to “take [this art form] out of the barbershop and bring it to more modern times.”

While the group was being formed, Ruiz was looking for a name that was as far from a barbershop quartet-type name as he could find. “A group called Toxic Audio would be the last place a person would expect to find the types of a cappella sounds that our group creates,” Ruiz said.

The group now includes five permanent members, as well as a few guest vocalists who perform in its Las Vegas show. Each member comes from an extensive performance background. They have attended a variety of music programs at universities around the U.S., and have since performed in many off-Broadway shows and other theatrical events.

Toxic Audio’s performances are an entertaining mix of music, comedy and other theatrical elements. Using only their voices, the group members create sounds ranging from drumbeats and bass lines to guitar-like solos and other vocal stretches. The group’s repertoire includes contemporary pop songs, such as Britney Spears’ “Baby One More Time,” classics, including “Hooked on a Feeling,” and original compositions. The group’s performance style is known to develop amazing improvisations while on stage, as well. While hearing a song about life at Notre Dame isn’t out of the question, don’t expect something ordinary from the band.

“If the venue and audience felt right, chances are, we would probably make up a song on the spot,” Ruiz said.

The group has received recognition in many areas since it came together in 1998. In 2004, Toxic Audio was awarded the New York Drama Desk Award for “Best Unique Theatrical Performance.” Shalisa James, the group’s resident “Vocal Queen” also received the award for “Favorite Female Vocalist” in the A Cappella Community Awards in 2005. Toxic Audio’s more famous corporate clients have included Disney, Mitsubishi, IBM and McDonald’s. However, the largest client yet seems to be the most recent; the Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas. Toxic Audio’s performance in Las Vegas is in the middle of a successful stint at the famous hotel, the same venue where the Blue Man Group, a famed experimental music act, got its Las Vegas start.

The Vegas experience has been eye-opening so far for the group. Toxic Audio has enjoyed enthusiastic and attentive audiences during its run there. “It’s pretty exciting to get into Vegas and see your billboards up over the strip,” Ruiz said.

After some time off for the holidays, the group will be off to Japan where it will be performing its unique style of music for entirely new audiences during a six-week tour.

Contact Liz Byrum at lbyrum@nd.edu
German drama transcends language barriers

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Assistant Scene Editor

"Head-On" is a relentlessly, deeply affecting melodrama, one of 2004's best films and a bold new work from Turkish director Fatih Akin.

The film won the award at the 2004 Berlin Film Festival, and it's not hard to see why. This is an excellent picture about love and loss, with the viewer long after the credits roll.

"Head-On" follows two characters, Cahit (Birrol Unel) and Sibel (Sibel Kekilli), and their bizarre relationship over the course of several years. The two meet in a psychiatric ward after respective suicide attempts. Sibol uses Cahit the opportunity to escape the scrutiny of her demanding family.

While Cahit, a depressed widower, resists initially, he eventually agrees to marry Sibel. This marriage of convenience is not based on love, but on the hope to escape the confines of their world, which does not bode well for either character. The essence of the plot begins after their marriage, as the film follows the relationship and the tragedies that follow.

It would be easy to categorize "Head-On" as mere melodrama, but the film's plot is surprisingly unpredictable. Just when the audience thinks it knows what is going on, a new twist is introduced that somehow seems exactly right.

Ultimately, the various twists and turns serve the story, which keeps the plot from sinking under the weight of its own pretenses. Many things happen to the two characters, much of it quite unpleasant, but somehow they endure. This works because "Head-On" is, at its core, not a movie about plot, but characters. Cahit and Sibel are sad, depressed people who feel trapped in their limited existence.

"I am not living. I am only surviving," Sibel says at one point, and that sentiment echoes throughout the whole of the film.

The acting, especially of the two leads, is quite good. Akin, a German-born director, draws fantastically moving performances from the protagonists, while carrying the weight with sensitivity and panache.

Birrol Unel (who often looks like David Carradine in "Kill Bill") brings depth and sadness to the motionless, sad Cahit. Sibel Kekilli is equally compelling as Sibel, a character whose party-girl demeanor hides a startling perception. Since the two characters dominate the plot, their believability and forlornness is essential, as it keeps the audience interested throughout.

"Head-On" is also doggedly cinematic, at times recalling (or perhaps even explicitly referencing) the French New Wave's penchant for excess. From a technical perspective, the film is unrelentingly well-made, using camera angles, freeze-frames and rapid editing to provide emotional impact. At times, these elements recall the best tradition of Scorsese and Truffaut, two directors who also used cinematic techniques to enhance (rather than substitute for) the narrative.

"Head-On" is aattering ram of a movie that tramples forward and takes no prisoners in its wake. For all its attributes, it is essentially a depressing movie about depressed characters. Though it is an unforgettable picture, its unfailing approach to its material may not sit well with all audiences. Sex, drugs, violence and suicide all play prominent roles as the lives of Sibel and Cahit crumble around them.

Yet, the film is so well-made and so movingly indelible that it's impossible not to recommend. Movies as arid and affecting as "Head-On" are rare and a writer/director as sensitively attuned to the world as Akin are even rarer.

Contact Brain Doxtader at bdootxade@nd.edu

By CHRIS MCGRADE
Assistant Scene Editor

An absence in the Notre Dame music scene has been filled at last.

Hot Mildred, a student cover band that focuses primarily on music from 1945-95, has stepped into the spotlight, focusing on a decade of much musical growth and diversity. Many current Notre Dame students will relate to the hits from this era as songs that they grew up with.

Senior Larry Bailey, bassist and back-up vocalist for Hot Mildred, refers to the band's time period of choice as "the fantastic musical decade that was 1965-1992." This decade was marked by a continuation of great music from bands such as U2, as well as debut tracks from current pop chart mainstays such as Third Eye Blind.

Not Mildred covers songs from both of these popular artists. In fact, U2 is the only band with more than one song in Hot Mildred's set.

The band has changed names several times, and was until recently known as (Blrol Unel), left, and Sibel (Sibel Kekilli) arrange a sexless marriage-of-convenience in Turkish director Fatih Akin's foreign language film, "Head-On.

"Head-On" arranges songs from both the music that fits that description, as well. The band has several songs by the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and others.

"We choose songs that are within our ability level and try our best to make them sound good," Larry Bailey senior says.

Hot Mildred's set is varied, and Bailey says that the band has a different vision for each performance. This is a student band that does its best to be "fresh and exciting."

Larry Bailey senior says that the band's goal is to "write and perform in a way that will make people dance and enjoy playing the music."

"We think people can relate to songs they have heard before," Bailey says.

Student cover band fills gap in campus music scene

Cahit (Birrol Unel), left, and Sibel (Sibel Kekilli) arrange a sexless marriage-of-convenience in Turkish director Fatih Akin's foreign language film, "Head-On."
Wright forced to leave game as Yankees lose

Associated Press

The New York Yankees thought the line drive that knocked out Wright out of the game cost them a victory. Still, they were happy to leave Seattle with the pitcher on the team plane instead of in the hospital.

Bauer Ibanez’s sixth-inning line drive Thursday hit Wright on the right collarbone and the right side of his neck, forcing him out of the game. X-rays were negative, but the Mariners pulled for a win.

“I don’t know what it was a momentum changer,” Alex Rodriguez said. “He was breathing along and getting stronger.”

“It’s a momentum changer,” Alex Rodriguez said.

The right-hander stayed down on the mound for a few minutes as players rushed to his aid and then helped him to his feet. Without taking any warmups, he walked to the dugout under his own power.

“It hurts right now,” an obviously uncomfortable Wright said. “It hurts my neck and I have a headache. But it could have been worse.”

Yankees manager Joe Torre feared the worst. He was afraid the ball hit Wright in the face. Instead, it hit him in the collarbone and then ricocheted off his neck.

“That’s about as scary as it gets,” Torre said. “We’re just happy the results are what they were.”

Playing third base, Rodriguez also was concerned.

“I was scared to death,” he said. “That ball looked like it was 110 mph off the bat. Obviously, the last thing you want your pitcher is the most important thing.

Wright pitched 5 1-3 innings, allowing one run and three hits. In his eight starts of the season, his fourth since coming off the 60-day disabled list on Aug. 15 following a shoulder injury. It was the eighth time he was on the disabled list in his nine-year career, the sixth because of a shoulder problem.

Boston 7, Tampa Bay 4

John Olerud homered twice and drove in six runs Thursday night as the Boston Red Sox clinched the AL East. The Red Sox beat the third consecutive game, beating the Tampa Bay Devil Rays to complete a four-game sweep.

The Red Sox have won 19 of 20 games, including all seven runs in their last 14 games at Fenway Park. They’ve won five in a row overall.

Bronson Arroyo (11-9) allowed four runs and nine hits. He struck out six in seven innings for his first win since Aug. 10. Jonathan Papelbon worked a scoreless eighth before giving up consecutive singles to start the ninth. Mike Timlin got three outs for his fifth save.

Doug Waechter (5-9) allowed six runs, five earned, and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Boston rallied from a 5-0 deficit on Tuesday and trailed 5-1 on Wednesday before winning both games 7-6. The Red Sox trailed 2-0 and 4-2 on Thursday night before scoring one in the ninth, then hit a two-run shot in the sixth to give Boston its first lead of the game.

With the Yankees’ 5-1 loss to the Seattle Mariners earlier Thursday, Boston moved 3 1/2 games ahead of New York in the AL East. The Red Sox led by as many as 5 1/2 and as few as 1 1/2 games in August.

With the left-hander in the second to give the Devil Rays a 2-0 lead, Olerud matched the two-run shot in the bottom half. Tampa Bay walked up 4-2 in the fourth on Travis Lee’s two-run homer.

Edgier Benteria hit a sacrifice fly to cut the deficit to one run in the fifth. In the sixth, Trot Nixon hit a leadoff single, Jason Varitek walked and, one out later, Olerud hit his fifth homer of the season.

It was the 17th multihomer game of Olerud’s career. The two-time All-Star and former AL batting champ has been fighting for playing time with Kevin Millar, who homered twice on Wednesday.

Olerud added an RBI double in the eighth.

Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 3

Jay Gibbons and B.J. Surhoff hit back-to-back homers in the sixth inning to lead the Baltimore Orioles to a victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday.

The Orioles, who have won two straight after losing 10 of 11, released pitcher Sidney Ponson before the game because of his conduct and problems with alcohol.

Miguel Tejada led off the sixth with a bunt single before scoring on Gibbons’ 3-run home run. Surhoff followed with his fifth to give Baltimore a 4-3 lead. Both homers were off Dustin McGowan (1-3).

Baltimore’s Bernie Castro went 2-for-4 with a triple, and walked in base in his major league debut. Castro, called up from Triple-A Ottawa on Thursday, showed his speed, beating out a grounder to third base in the third inning for his first major league hit. The Blue Jays have lost 10 of 13 and dropped below .500 (66-67) for the first time since July 19.

Baltimore’s Hayden Penn (3-2) recalled from Double-A Bowie on Thursday — allowed three runs two earned and seven hits, striking out four and walking two in five-plus innings. The 20-year-old right-hander is in his second stint with the Orioles this season.

B.J. Ryan pitched the ninth for his 29th save and the Orioles took two of three from Toronto for their first series win since sweeping two games two weeks ago.

Tampa Bay Devil Rays pitcher Doug Waechter, right, watches a home run by John Olerud of the Boston Red Sox sail over the fence. The Red Sox won 7-4.
Braves top Nationals on Jones' homer in tenth

Greene knocks in winner for Padres over Milwaukee; Oswalt holds Cincinnati to one run as Astros complete sweep

Associated Press

Andrew Jones gave his MVP campaign another boost, leading off the bottom of the 10th inning with a towering homer that gave the Atlanta Braves an 8-7 victory over the Washington Nationals on Thursday night. The Braves squandered a 7-1 lead before salvaging a split of the four-game series with their NL East rival.

The crowd chanted "MVP! MVP! MVP!" as Jones led off the 10th. Luis Ayala (8-7) got ahead in the count 1-2, then tried to blow a high fastball by him.

Jones sent a drive toward the seats in left-center, the ball seeming to hang up forever as he trotted down the first-base line, watching its flight. Brad Wilkerson and Marlen Byrd both leaped at the wall, but the ball settled in the first row for Jones' 44th homer and 110th RBI of a career season.

Kyle Davies (7-3), called up from the minors earlier in the day, got the win with three scoreless innings. Jeff Francoeur hit a three-run homer and Chipper Jones added a two-run shot for the Braves, who were cruising early.

Chipper Jones' home run came in the first, and the Braves scored five more times in the third, highlighted by Francisco's 11th homer since being called up from Double-A in early July. Also in the inning: Rafael Furcal scored on a wild pitch and Andruw Jones drove in a run with a sacrifice fly. The Nationals put two on with two outs, but Byrd came around for the Braves on a wild pitch and Andruw Jones' double.

In the fifth, the Nationals put the first two runners on, and newcomer Helvi Cruz lined a single to right with one out. Coach Dave Huppert wisely held up Byrd coming around. It was the third straight win for the Padres (67-66), who are above .500 for the first time since Aug. 12. They remain in first place in the NL West Since Aug. 12, they have won eight in a row. They have been hitless in the last two games.

Atlanta Braves players Jeff Francoeur, left, and Chipper Jones celebrate after Francisco's third-inning home run against the Washington Nationals. The Braves won 8-7 in 10 innings.

Jason Lane of the Houston Astros collides with Cincinnati Reds catcher Javier Valentin Thursday. Lane scored on the play, and the Astros won 3-1.

San Diego, Milwaukee 5

Khalil Greene hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning and the San Diego Padres crept back above .500 with a victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on Thursday night.

Joe Randa hit his career-high 37th double with one out in the eighth. After Xavier Nunez grounded out, Greene hit a foul ball that fell into the stands, three rows beyond the reach of Brewers first baseman Lyle Overbay. On the next pitch, and an 0-2 count, reliever Kane Davis (1-1) left a fastball over the middle of the plate, and Greene hit his 11th homer of the season.

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The Brewers made it a one-run game when Wes Helms grounded out, Greene hit a foul ball that fell into the stands, three rows beyond the reach of Brewers first baseman Lyle Overbay. On the next pitch, and an 0-2 count, reliever Kane Davis (1-1) left a fastball over the middle of the plate, and Greene hit his 11th homer of the season.

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Randy Saberz (6-1) earned the win with one inning of relief. Padres starter Adam Eaton hasn't won in his last three starts after winning eight in a row. He gave up three runs and three hits in six innings.

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Oakland wins 13-6 over New Orleans; Kerry Collins throws game's only touchdown to Randy Moss in 1st quarter

Associated Press

Joe Horn planned to head for Houston with the intent of helping one refugee family hurt by Hurricane Katrina. He’ll go by limo, van or rental car.

Across the country from their devastated city, the New Orleans Saints somehow played a competitive football game when it’s probably the last thing some of them wanted to do... and then they turned their thoughts to aiding those in need and reuniting with family members over the weekend before returning to work Monday.

“Jim Haslett said.

He was patted on the back by the people. I think the one will be the Marriott Riverwalk.

New Orleans Saints quarterback Todd Bouman passes against the Oakland Raiders Thursday. The Saints, recently displaced from the Louisiana Superdome, lost 13-6.

“Everybody on our team is heartbroken.

They feel for the people.”

Jim Haslett
Saints head coach

120 yards.

The Saints chose to rest most of their regulars, including quarterback Aaron Brooks, Horn and running back Deuce McAllister.

New Orleans came into the game hoping to improve its run defense and appeared to make strides, limiting Oakland to 61 yards after allowing 151 yards to Baltimore’s Chester Taylor in a 21-6 loss to the Ravens last Friday.

The Saints (1-3) celebrated good plays and were best- neslike from warmups to the final tick of the clock. They don’t yet know where they will play their home opener Sept. 18 against the New York Giants.

The Raiders (1-3) earned their first exhibition victory exactly a week before they open the season in a nationally televised game at Super Bowl champion New England.

Moss scored his second TD of the preseason in the only series he played and also had a 9-yard reception before tak- ing a seat. Collins and almost all the other starters also played only one series.

“The first drive was good,” Moss said.

“One thing that we wanted to do was get out there and get ourselves ready for next week. With everything that we have gone through as far as training camp, presea- son and today’s game, we are headed in the right direction.”

The Saints never consid- ered not playing this game, even with heavy hearts.

“I wouldn’t say it’s over- whelming,” said general manager Mickey Loomis, who doesn’t know whether the team will play in New Orleans again this season. “They understand they have a job to do. They know their families are safe. Once you know your family is safe, you go back to your business. What’s over- whelming is what’s going on in New Orleans, Mississippi and the entire Gulf Coast.”

In the seats behind the Saints sideline, New Orleans resident Chad Seeger held a sign reading, ‘The Dome will rise again!’... a reference to the Louisiana Superdome, which became a temporary refugee camp for thousands of the city’s stranded citizens but was heavily damaged in the storm.

Seeger came to California last week for vacation and was supposed to fly back today, when the hurricane hit. He is staying with his girlfriend and her family in San Francisco.

Another Saints fan, New Orleans native Jimmy Lasley, held a sign reading, ‘Forget, Iraq. Help our own.’

Third-string Oakland quar- terback Andrew Walter, a third-round draft pick out of Arizona State, returned after missing the previous two exhib- ition games with a strained groin. He went 13-for-20 pass- es for 221 yards, including a 52-yard completion to Johnnie Morant.

Coffee and Conversation

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Tuesday, September 6th
(and every first Tuesday of the month)
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

The student members of the Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs invite gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the Notre Dame family, their friends, and supporters to an informal coffee at the Co-Mo.

Everyone is welcome and confidentiality is assured.

“Coffee and refreshments will be served”
AP College Football Preseason Top 25

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Former Philadelphia Eagles' all-Pro defensive tackle Corey Simon sits at a press conference last January. Simon signed with the Indianapolis Colts Thursday after a contract dispute with his former team.

Colts sign all-Pro Simon, bolster defense

Colts sign all-Pro Simon, bolster defense

Associated Press

Indianapolis - The Indianapolis Colts, hoping to fix their one glaring weakness, reached a multiyear agreement Thursday with Corey Simon, a Pro Bowl defensive tackle released by Philadelphia in a contract dispute.

Simon wanted a long-term deal with Philadelphia and refused to sign a one-year franchise tender. The Eagles removed the franchise tag on the former first-round draft pick Sunday, making him an unrestricted free agent.

The Colts were one of the places he wanted a long-term deal with Philadelphia and refused to sign a one-year franchise tender.

Simon, 25, is a five-year NFL veteran who started 46 games in five seasons for the Eagles. He had 20 tackles and 32 sacks last season, but the Eagles did not sign a one-year, $5.13 million franchise tender before hitting his second-round draft pick.

Simon's agent, said he wanted a long-term deal with Philadelphia and refused to sign a one-year tender. He's going to have to get used to that, get used to our terminology. It's not going to be the same thing where he's going to come and in all of a sudden everything's going to click for us. We've got to get him going.

"He played in a system similar to this at Florida State, so it'll be a little bit of muscle memory. But he'll help us very quickly, I think." Simon was the Eagles' first-round pick and the sixth overall selection in the 2000 draft.

In Brief

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You can chase a lot of these guys, but if they don't have a motivation, you're usually spinning your wheels," Colts coach Tony Dungy said after Thursday's practice. "When we talked to him early on, it was evident we were one of the places he was truly interested in. We felt we had something good to offer, and he felt the same way." The negotiations didn't take long.

Roosevelt Barnes, Simon's agent, said he finished the deal with Colts president Bill Polian on Thursday morning and that Simon, who has 32 sacks in five-year NFL career, would probably be in Indianapolis on Friday for a physical. Dungy said Simon might join the team in Cincinnati for the final preseason game Friday night, but he would not play.

"It's going to be different for him," Dungy said. "We play a completely different style than Philadelphia. He's going to have to get used to that, get used to our terminology. It's not going to be the same thing where he's going to come and in all of a sudden everything's going to click for us. We've got to get him going.

"He played in a system similar to this at Florida State, so it'll be a little bit of muscle memory. But he'll help us very quickly, I think." Simon was the Eagles' first-round pick and the sixth overall selection in the 2000 draft.

In five seasons with Philadelphia, he had 270 tackles and 33 sacks. He had 24 tackles and 5 1/2 sacks last season, but the Eagles did not sign a one-year, $5.13 million franchise tender before hitting his second-round draft pick.

He was selected to the Pro Bowl in 2003. He skipped all of Philadelphia's minicamps and its training camp.

In Brief

Bowie leads early in LPGA State Farm Classic

BURLINGTON, Iyi — Heather Bowie, who led the U.S. Solheim Cup team after finishing 12th in the standings, was at even-par when she bailed a 14-foot wedge shot on the fourth hole at the I'lll golf Club. She followed with five birdies in her bid for her second career title after winning the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic in July.

Sherri Turner, who missed most of last year with a shoulder injury, birdied five of her first six holes and was tied for the lead before hitting a 7-iron into the water and making a bogey at the par-3 16th. The 48-year-old Turner finished a stroke back at 6 under along with Natalie Gulbis and Tina Barrett.

Dina Ammacapane, Jenna Daniels, Rachel Hetherington, Pat Hurst, Vikki Laing and Karrie Webb were tied at 5 under.

Rockets sign Ming to multiyear deal

HOUSTON — Yao Ming signed a five-year contract worth more than $75 million Thursday, keeping the 7-foot-6 center with the Houston Rockets through the 2010-11 season.

The extension, the maximum allowed under the NBA's new labor deal, ended days of speculation about Yao's future. Owner Leslie Alexander called the agreement "as important as anything I've done as an owner."

"I think he could become one of the greatest players in the history of the game," Alexander said during a conference call from New York. "To have the next great big man tied up for a long time is very, very important for this team and I believe it will give us a chance to compete for the championship for many years to come.

After three tiebreakers, Agassi advances

NEW YORK — Size doesn't matter in tennis.

Neither does age.

Andre Agassi, aged 11 inches shorter than 6-foot-10 Croatian Karlovic, span serves almost 50 mph slower, and logged fewer miles on court.

The ace count went to Karlovic, 30-5, as he checked serves consistently in the 130-140 mph range, but the second-round victory at the U.S. Open on Thursday went to Agassi, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4).

At 35, nine years older than the gangling giant across the net, Agassi came up bigger on the big points to continue his run for one more Grand Slam title in his 20th visit to the Open. His wife, Steffi Graf, and 3-year-old son, Jaden, watched at courtside. 

around the dial

MLB

Philadelphia at Washington 6 p.m., Comcast
Chicago at Pittsburgh 6 p.m., Comcast
Cincinnati at Atlanta 6:35 p.m., TBS
St. Louis at Houston 7 p.m., Fox Sports

NCAA FOOTBALL

Indiana at Central Michigan, 6:30 p.m., ESPN

Tennis

U.S. Open Day 5 Coverage 10 a.m., 6 p.m.

LPGA Tour

State Farm Classic 2 p.m., ESPN 2

PGA Tour

Deutsche Bank Championship 4 p.m. USA

Network

Network
Chargers beat 49ers, Giants knock off champs

Cleo Lemon throws game-winning TD in Chargers' victory

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Alex Smith threw a touchdown pass in his homecoming game. Philip Rivers and Cleo Lemon had scoring passes, too. And now they all get to sit on the bench to open the season.

Lemon, San Diego's third-string quarterback, threw a 52-yard field goal with 1:11 left to give the Chargers a 28-24 victory over the San Francisco 49ers in an exhibition finale on Thursday night.

Lemon's second TD pass of the fourth quarter came shorty after Joe Nedney kicked a 27-yard field goal with 1:11 left to give the 49ers a 24-21 lead. That drive was keyed by fourth-string Cody Pickett, who had a 15-yard scramble and a 41-yard pass to Rashan Woodall.

Midway through the fourth quarter, Lemon was flushed all game at 14.

San Diego quarterback Philip Rivers, center, is sacked in Thursday's game against San Francisco. The Chargers won 28-24.

Giants 27, Patriots 3

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Jared Lorenzen made his final bid for the No. 3 quarterback spot on the New England Patriots on Thursday night, the spotlight was on the competition for backup jobs and it shone brightest on New York's quarterback.

"There will be some discussions. About a lot of positions," Coughlin said. "And that will certainly be one of them."

Most regularly, especially for New England, sat out the game to avoid injury and give coaches a chance to watch players still fighting for roster spots.

New York (3-1) got its first touchdown in two games, having managed only five field goals by Jay Feely in a 12-14 loss over the New York Jets. New England (2-2) played much poorer defense than it did in last Friday's 27-3 win at Green Bay, but will have its starters back when it opens the season next Thursday night at home against Oakland.

"We had a chance to look at a lot of our younger players," said Patriots coach Bill Belichick, facing the NFL dead-line Saturday to reduce his roster to 53 players. "We are in a much shorter window now that you would be if you opened a week from Sunday."

New England's Tom Brady and New York's Eli Manning, who missed his second straight game with a sprained right elbow but is expected to be ready for the season opener Sept. 11 against Arizona, both sat out. That gave the No. 2 quarterbacks — former Boston College player Doug Flutie of the Patriots and Tim Hasselbeck of the Giants — a chance to start and each played four series.

The Giants scored on two of theirs on Feely's field goals of 47 and 48 yards that gave them a 6-0 halftime lead.

Jets 37, Eagles 14

PHILADELPHIA — Even being spectators didn't bring Donovan McNabb and Terrell Owens together.

McNabb watched from the press box and Owens looked on from the bench as the New York Jets' backups dominated the Philadelphia Eagles junior varsity in a victory Thursday night.

"I'm not happy with their performance out there. It wasn't very good." - Andy Reid, Eagles coach

The NFC champion Eagles opened the season in Atlanta on Sept. 12 in a rematch of the conference title game. The Jets open at Kansas City a day earlier.

With most of the starters sitting out, both coaches got extended looks at players fighting for roster spots and jockeying for positions on the depth chart. Herman Edwards said to be more pleased than feid.

"He's right where he's supposed to be," Jets coach Herman Edwards said of Pennington. "Everybody made a big deal of how he played last week. It was his arm. It was his decision-making."

Falcons 20, Dolphins 27

MIAMI — The Atlanta Falcons did little to help the Miami Dolphins resolve their quarterback situation, stopping both Gus Frerotte and A.J. Feeley.

Etric Fruit scored on a 51-yard interception return and the Falcons allowed no first downs in the opening 25 minutes, helping them win Thursday in the final exhibition game for both teams.

While Feeley and Feeley struggled, third-stringer Sage Rosenfels threw for 217 yards and two touchdowns against reserves in the second half. New Miami coach Nick Saban didn't rule out giving Rosenfels the starting nod for the season opener Sept. 11 against Denver.

"I was pleased with the way Sage played," Saban said. "It looked like he had some command out there and did a good job. Those things are factors that need to be taken into consideration."

"We want to pick the quarterback that's going to give us the best opportunity to win. I'm not prepared after watching that game to make a statement about that."

Giants' quarterback Tim Hasselbeck is sacked in Thursday's 27-3 victory over the Patriots.
**NCAA FOOTBALL**

**Spurrier's Gamecocks earn first win, 24-15**

**South Carolina rides quick start to victory over Central Florida**

Associated Press

South Carolina had as many fumbles as touchdowns Thursday night and needed its defense to save a win over an opponent that came in with the country's longest losing streak.

Steve Spurrier dreamt of a flasher return to college football that he Gamecocks' 24-15 win over Central Florida.

"Well, I'm not going to feel too bad, because a few plays here and there and they beat us," he said.

Spurrier's attitude? Forget the mistakes and let his young team enjoy a win.

"It was a tough night," Spurrier said. "But we're one and oh and we're not going to sit around and cry about it.

The Gamecocks (1-0) overcame three fumbles and got a fourth and goal stop from the UCF late in the game to send Spurrier out a winner.

The Golden Knights (0-1) dropped their 16th straight game, the last 12 under former Georgia Tech and Notre Dame coach George O'Leary. Still, UCF cut a 2-3 lead to nine points and were for driving for another touchdown late in the game.

"We started off a little big

South Carolina students show their enthusiasm for the Gamecocks' new head football coach, Steve Spurrier. A sellout crowd of 82,753 packed South Carolina students show their enthusiasm for the Gamecocks' new head football coach, Steve Spurrier. A sellout crowd of 82,753 packed South Carolina's new head football coach, Steve Spurrier.

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"We started off a little big

South Carolina head coach Steve Spurrier celebrates after a Gamecocks touchdown in the first quarter against Central Florida Thursday.

On another series South Carolina moved from its 8 to UCF's 5.

Again, the Gamecocks falt­ ered in the red zone, settling for Josh Brown's 22-yard field goal.

In the third quarter when backup quarterback Antonio Hill fell flat, Spurrier shuffled his papers to the ground in disgust.

And things figure to get rougher next week when the Gamecocks go to Georgia in Spurrier's first SEC game.

Bulldogs fans remember all too well how Florida scored a late touchdown in a 52-17 blowout in 1995 so the Gators could be the first opponent to hit the half-century mark at Sanford Stadium.

"We got to get better on defense, we got to get better on offense, we got to get better everywhere," Spurrier said. "Simple as that.

**WNBA**

**Swoopes leads Comets over Storm**

Associated Press

Sheryl Swoopes converted two defensive stands by Houston into four points in the final three minutes, and the Comets rallied from a 10-point second-half deficit to beat the Seattle Storm 67-64 Thursday night.

The Comets' best-of-three WNBA playoff series is tied at 1-1. Game 3 will be Saturday night in Seattle.

Swoopes scored 20 points for the Comets, 14 in the second half. Tina Thompson added 13 points, Janeth Arcain 12 and Michelle Snow 10.

Betty Lennox led Seattle with 16 points, but made just 6-of-20 shots. Nursing a sprained back

Lauren Jackson added 14 and Janell Burse had 12.

The Comets trailed 47-37 with 15:30 left after consecutive 3-pointers by Iziane Castro Marques and Sue Bird.

The Storm's shooting struggled from there, as they scored just eight points over the next eight minutes, allowing the Comets to rally and take a 57-55 lead with 6:14 left on a reverse layup by Janeth Arcain. It was Houston's first lead since 2-0.

Lennox then scored five straight points for Seattle, making a 20-foot jumper, then beating Dawn Staley on a baseline drive and converting a three-point play after being fouled by Snow, with 4:08 left.

Thompson scored for the Comets and Burse responded for Seattle, giving the Storm a 62-59 lead. Snow scored on a tough reverse, then Swoopes stole a pass from Bird and scored to put the Comets up 63-62 with 2:06 left. Lennox was then called for a charge, and Swoopes was fouled at the other end, making both free throws.

Lennox scored on a layup with 10 seconds left, and Houston turned over the inbound pass.

Lennox missed a short jumper, but Staley stole the rebound from Burse.

Arcain was fouled and made both free throws. Bird and Lennox missed tough 3-point attempts in the final seconds.

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Hurricane Katrina

Evacuees moved from Superdome to Astrodome

The home of the New Orleans Saints became unsuitable for occupation due to extreme heat and overflowing toilets

Associated Press

New Orleans played final preseason game Thursday in Oakland

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Injured New Orleans linebacker James Allen hobbled through the tunnel minutes before kickoff with a cell phone in one hand.

The Saints' preseason finale against Oakland was far from his mind, he needed to check in with a few people first to make sure they were fine in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"I've never witnessed anything so chaotic and disastrous," he said. "You always see things on TV or in the movies, but this is real life. Of course everybody says it puts football in perspective. It's damn hard to describe our feelings.

Donna Stallworth, the mother of Saints receiver Donnie Stallworth, lives in New Orleans, and had 15 players for dinner Sunday night after the team arrived. She cooked all day Thursday, sending the team to Texas with everything from barbecued ribs, cornbread, ham, fried chicken, red beans and rice, macaroni and cheese, brownies and lemon cake.

Donna Stallworth's friends are still unable to find two brothers, Wayne and Mark Kendricks. Her older son, Larry Jr., left Donna's home in a western suburb of New Orleans early Sunday and went to Houston along with the player's rotweiler, Bishop.

"It's really hard to describe how we feel," she said, dressed in her son's No. 83 jersey. "They don't know when they're going back or whether they even still have homes.

Many California residents felt helpless, and just wanted to do something. David Jacobs, a 45-year-old, who recently evacuated, had a baby named Alameda. "It's the least I can do," he said. "I can't get away from it. I can't get away from it. I have to do something." Jacobs and his family were able to find a new home in Santa Monica. They are now living in an apartment. They have been able to find a new home in Santa Monica.

The Saints left their city last week, but are back on the field for a last-minute blood drive sponsored by the American Red Cross outside the Coliseum.

The Saints filled their vacuum city late Sunday, beating the worst of Hurricane Katrina and the worst storms ever by coming early to California and practicing. After this game, they were headed to San Antonio with no idea when they'd be back or whether they even still have homes.

"We're hoping to see their family back home," said one of the players. "We're doing everything we can to help them."

Lease term must be 12 months or longer. Not valid on any lease applications generated before 8/29/2005 or after 12/31/2005. **No restrictions apply.**
Healthy Panthers anxious to play at full strength

Falcons another possibility as NFC South winner; Newman's own team could also contend; Bucs expected to struggle

Associated Press

No team was ravaged by injuries in 2004 more than the Carolina Panthers. Yet, they almost made the playoffs after a 1-7 start.

Imagine how a healthy Carolina might do? Maybe well enough to get back to the Super Bowl, which the Panthers lost in New England on the final play of the 2004 season.

The Panthers will need a strong turnaround to win a division that once was among the NFL's weakest and now is one of the best. Atlanta, which makes a habit of beating Carolina — winning nine of the last 10 meetings — will be a tough foe and their matchup on New Year's Day to end the season could decide the NFC South.

New Orleans also could challenge, provided he gets steady play from quarterback Aaron Brooks and a dangerous pass rush to overcome unimpressive linebacking.

Tampa Bay hasn't done much since winning the Super Bowl in January 2003, and probably won't do much of a factor this year, either.

Coach John Fox never let the Panthers give up even as many starters were going down a year ago. If DT Kris Jenkins, WR Keyshawn Johnson and both top rushers, DeShaun Foster and Stephen Davis, are out this year, Carolina could be Philadelphia's main threat in the division.

Wesley, the Panthers extended the contract of wide receiver Kevin Boss, one of their key players. Along with fellow 1B Willy Wittingham, SS Mike Minter, DE Derrick Burgess and DB Mike Rucker and, especially, WRKEYSHAUN Foster, this could be one hellacious defense.

"Obviously, you weigh everything when you are dealing with a situation like this, but we believe that's a difference maker for us," GM Marty Hurney says. "He made the Pro Bowl last year and deserved so. He's a first-round draft pick and we wanted to him to be here and finish his career here, if possible."

"That is something we think is very important if you can get your first-round picks or very good players who make a difference, to stick around."

Some of the other good players on offense are quarterback Jake Delhomme, both runners, Smith, tackle Jordan Gross and middle linebacker Mike Karney.

Already, the injuries have hit Carolina, however. Starting free safety Colin Branch (knee) is out for the season. For the backup with the additions of fSedre Baltic and CB Ken Lucas, the Panthers are better equipped to handle the loss.

But they have Peppers, who appears ready to stamp himself as the best defender in football. "We call this the next evolution of the man," says Jenkins, a shutdown cornerback. "Some of the things he does just doesn't make sense."

Still, with dynamic players such as Vick, Crumpler and Wurrick Dunn on offense, complemented by the steady guard Kynan Forney, fullback Justin Hartwig and developing receiver Michael Jenkins, Atlanta should be a winner again.

Much will depend on a defense that needs upgrading on the secondary, even with a strong pass rush that netted a league-high 48 sacks. Coach Jim Mora, a defensive mastermind, needs to see 2004 top pick DeAngelo Hall blossom into a shutdown corner.

The line backers, particularly in January.

But remember that Atlanta never has had two straight winning seasons. Never.

"I know the history of the Falcons," tight end Alge Crumpler said. "It's always been tough to double up.

"They will have more than their share of distress after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans.

"If we can deal with this, we'll be a first-round team in the long run," coach Jim Haslett said.

"I think the Saints won their final four games last year and just fell short of the playoffs. They showed lots of fortitude with Haslett's job on the line."

In Deuce McAllister, the Saints have a running back to build around. He shied at an ankle sprain for much of last season, yet had 1,074 yards and nine TDs on the ground. He received a seven-year contract extension and doesn't seem the type to let it make him complacent.

New Orleans' line backing is weak.

Nobody can say that about Tampa Bay as long as the sensational Derrick Brooks is around.

Hermida's shot landed in the 10-15-foot zone on Wednesday night.

The ball sailed 373 feet to right field and was caught by a fan, who traded it back to members of the Marlins' bullpen in exchange for two signed basebals.

Only two other players — William "Frosty Bill" Duggleby in 1899 and Bobby Bonds in 1969 — had hit grand slams in their first major league game, with Duggleby also doing so in his first at-bat. Hermida is the only one of the three to do so in pinch-hit fashion.

"This was a day when getting called up and everything else, was realizing a lifelong dream," Hermida said Thursday. "It's tremendous, because the three guys before me got to hit in the lineup."

"They got at his first swing, a tremendous hit that stuck nothing but the grass. The slam came two pitches later.

"We'd seen too many of his hits. We absolutely knew the ball was gone," Tammy Hermida said Thursday, shortly before she and her husband flew down for the Marlins' weekend series with the New York Mets. "I think run out of the room. And my husband fell to floor, screaming. That's my boy! That's my boy!"

Hermida's parents are both Florida natives. Tammy is from Hollywood, just north of Dolphins Stadium; Larry hails from Tampa, and played some college baseball at South Florida. When their boy was 3 or 4, Larry Hermida began taking him to his first ballgames, and clearly, those, back yard lessons paid off.

"He had home runs and 63 RBIs in 118 games for Double-A Carolina — with the Marlins' first-round pick, No. 1 overall, in the 2002 amateur draft.

The Observer • SPORTS page 23
Belles take reputation into weekend tournament

By ANNA FRACANO
Sports Writer

This weekend marks the start of more than one varsity sport in the Notre Dame-Saint Mary's community. Before the football team will even get a chance to call the coin toss, the Belles volleyball team have completed the first round of its first tournament of the fall season.

The Belles won't be facing teams of thousands of fans, and there are unlikely to be any post-tournament press conferences. What the team will face, however, are expectations — the kind of expectations that come from being one of the most successful women's volleyball programs in the nation. In the last three years, Saint Mary's golf has captured three conference titles and made three NCAA appearances. Coach and players alike have high hopes for another successful season, and a good showing at the start of the season is what they can expect.

The Belles will travel to Ferris State University this afternoon to compete in the Bulldog Invitational, a tournament consisting of two 18-hole rounds to be played on Saturday and Sunday. The team has performed well at the event in past years, but this year the invitational takes place at a new course, one that the Belles have yet to face.

The competition will have little effect on the outcome of the fall 2005 golf season, however. It's not a conference tournament, and although the results will factor into early-season rankings, scores will not have any effect on conference standings. What this weekend will be for the Belles is a good indicator of what they can expect for the rest of the season.

"I feel like it's our job to show the freshmen how to act, to represent as well and to play well." — Megan Mattia, Belles golfer

Saint Mary's travels to Minneapolis on Thursday to take on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee this weekend.

Belles play Wisconsin and Elmhurst this weekend in tourney

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Julie Schroeder-Biek has some high expectations. The Belles could perhaps push up the conference ladder and be a force in the MIAA, the Saint Mary's volleyball coach said. "I feel that this team, they're going to do it."

The road to achieving this end begins this weekend, as the Belles open the regular season at the twelve-team Elmhurst College Invitational in Elmhurst, Ill.

On Friday, Saint Mary's will open against the Wisconsin-Oshkosh and then challenge No. 12 DePauw. The teams will be re-seeded Saturday morning, and then elimination rounds will continue throughout the day.

The Belles believe they will turn in a solid performance at the tournament. "We've been playing well in practice and in our scrimmages (Tuesday)," junior and outside attacker Michelle Turley said. "I feel our chances are very good that we will end up with a positive outcome."

A great deal of the Belles' confidence derives from their performance in an exhibition game against the University of Chicago on Tuesday at the Angela Athletic Center. Saint Mary's defeated the Maroons in five games — 26-24, 28-30, 29-31, 30-21 and 13-12. The Belles often jumped out to big leads and then allowed Chicago to claw its way back into the games. But Schroeder-Biek was proud of her team's performance.

"We had a couple times we were down and then we closed the gap on us," Schroeder-Biek said. "For us to be able to maintain our confidence back and finish the match up strong, I think it said a lot for the girls."

Saint Mary's is coming off a disappointing 2004 campaign.

"Our goal is to climb the conference ladder and be a force in the MIAA." — Julie Schroeder-Beck, Belles coach

The Belles finished the year in seventh place in the nine-team MIAA conference, recording an overall record of 6-19 and a conference mark of 2-11. However, Schroeder-Biek is confident her team will turn things around this year. Saint Mary's returns a core group of veterans, highlighted by Turley, junior outside hitter Kristen Playko and senior middle hitter Shelley Wyder.

Turley thinks this group will lead Saint Mary's to a big season.

"I think if we play the best we can play, we're going to show some people what Saint Mary's volleyball is all about." — Julie Schroeder-Beck, Belles coach

NBA

Chandler re-signs with Bulls

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tyson Chandler and the Bulls agreed Thursday to a multi-year contract, keeping the restricted free agent and former No. 2 overall draft pick in Chicago.

The team declined to release the length of the contract or the terms, but Chandler said it's a six-year deal.

"I'm ecstatic that this contract is in place," said Chandler, who was drafted out of high school in 2001. "To know that I will be in Chicago for the next six years is definitely a dream." The 7-foot-1 Chandler played in a career-high 80 games in his fourth season with the Bulls and averaged 8.0 points, 9.7 rebounds and nearly two blocks a game. He shot 49 percent from the field and 67 percent from the free throw line.

"In this business, things don't always happen at the pace you would like, but I knew from the beginning this would make this happen," Bulls general manager John Paxson said in a team release.

"Tyson's play last season was an important factor to our success and we hope to take the next step forward with Tyson being a major contributor to our team," the Bulls made the playoffs for the first time since 1998 last season before being eliminated in the first round by the Washington Wizards.

Still unsigned is fellow prep-to-pro Eddy Curry, also a restricted agent, whose future has been clouded by heart problems.

CONTACT ANNA FRACANO AT africana@saintmarys.edu

SPORTS Writer

The Observer • September 2, 2005

Wednesday September 7th
5:30pm
Coleman Morse Lounge
RSVP to MSPs: 1-6841 by Sep. 5th

Presented to you by Multicultural Student Programs and Services

Defining Diversity

Join us for dinner and dialogue with your fellow students.

Intercultural
Texas
continued from page 28

Statius's return. "She's obviously a very talented player and an important player for the team."

While Brown would like to have her, Statius players are stepping up in Statius's absence. Freshmen Mallorie Cox and Madison Clark played in the opening match and will likely see more time this week­end. Sophomore setter Ashley T musiał has set 40 assists last Saturday and will continue to garner the Irish offensive attack.

The Sun Devils finished 10-17 in 2004. The Devils (1-2) have already played three matches in this young season. They fell in their opener to St. Mary's (Calif.) 3-0, defeated Cal State Northridge, and were swept by UNLV. all on the road.

Junior outside hitter Nicole Morton averaged 3.55 kills per game in the three matches. She had a double-double in each match as well, with at least 10 kills and 10 digs. The Sun Devils hail from the consistently tough, powerhouse Pac-10 Conference.

The Longhorns front line can be quite intimidating. Their out­side hitters include 6-3 sopho­more Jen Chamberlain, 5-10 junior Dariam Acvedo and 6-5 fresh­men Ruthuron Feng and Lauren Huth.

The veteran teacher believes her pupils are ready. She knows they've studied — maybe even crammed.

"Every time we play it's another test for us," she said. "And obviously Texas is a good team. It will be a challenge for us, but I think we're in a posi­tion where we want to be chal­lenged, and we want to be pushed."

Pushed by their opponents and pushed by their desire to succeed, the Irish have spent two hours this week in practice hon­oring their game. They have dil­igently watched opponents' game films, as well as their own. They've sifted through pages of playbooks. So, Brown, realizing her team's potential this season with five seniors — including two all-Big East picks — and nine of 10 top players, wants to make sure the Irish don't miss a step.

"It's so early in the season, so there's so much room for improvement," she said.

In a season with such lofty goals, the Irish, like most vol­leyball teams these days, came up with a fitting team motto — as Statius said, "raising the bar."

"We definitely have high expectations, and we want to get out there and play again," Brown said.

The bar has been raised. The grueling season has already been elevat­ed. Now, it's time for the Irish to pass the test once again.

Contact Tora Dorwart at tdorwart@nd.edu

Travel
continued from page 28

Duke Hashimoto. SMU will look to make up for two exhibition losses, after falling to Akron and UConn two weeks ago, at the Westfield Cup in Akron, Ohio.

Like SMU, Wake Forest is coming off a big 2004 season. The Demon Deacons won the ACC and entered last year's NCAA tournament as the top seed. But the team was upset in the round of 16, losing to VCU on penalty kicks.

Wake Forest enters 2005 ranked 10th in the NCAA pre­season poll. Head coach Jay Yidovich must replace four players who were selected in the 2005 MLS Superdraft. The Demon Deacons have gone 2-0 in exhibition play, defeating Charlotte and Furman.

North Dame is excited to face two high quality teams so early in the year.

"It's a great challenge for us and we're looking forward to it," tri-captain Dale Rellas said.

"We're both going to present different challenges for us, but it's something that we look for to work against," Clark said.

The Irish have played two exhibition games already, tying third ranked New Mexico on Aug. 22 and edging Michigan 2-1 in Ann Arbor on Sunday. Junior Nate Norman has led his team's play thus far, but insists improvement is needed. The coach stressed that the team needs to continue to come together as a unit and develop better chemistry, say­ ing that so far the Irish have only found "pockets of rhythm."

Clark and his staff have already named a starter in goal for Notre Dame this season. Senior Justin Michaud and junior Chris Cahill have split time in the net for the Irish during the two exhibitions. Clark has liked what he has seen from both keepers, but appears to be inching closer to a decision.

"They're doing very well," Clark said. "Whoever gets the nod, whoever he gets the nod, it's up to [him] to clinch the deal."

There is going to be an opportunity for one of them against SMU. And then after that it's going to be up to him to capitalize on that opportunity.

Senior Dane views this week­end's tournament as a valuable opportunity to pad its resume with impressive wins over highly ranked teams.

"Any time you go to play a ranked team it helps with NCAA selection," Bell said. "It also helps us build our confi­dence. If we beat these teams, then we've got a lot of confi­dence going into the Big East."

Clark is hopeful about the momentum that wins at the tournament could create.

"We've got a great squad of players," Clark said. "If we can get it right then we can build on this. We just have to keep it moving, then it could be a very exciting season."
Orr continued from page 28

"Our keys to winning are going to be high energy and being the first to put pressure on the other team."

Carrie Orr
Belles captain

Senior Shannon Culbertson said that the new zone attack will be successful in adding offense without sacrificing a defense that allowed two goals or less in every game last season but one.

"We will still have a great defense because our middles will still be strong," she said.

With a tough opening schedule that sees the team begin the season with three consecutive road games and facing tough rivals Hope and Calvin Colleges on the road, the team will need to perfect the new offense quickly if the Belles hope to improve on the solid 9-6-1 MIAA record last year.

But the team can not get caught looking ahead, as it first must navigate through the Marietta tournament and then travel to face a tough Illinois Wesleyan team.

Contact Nate Dyer at ndyer@nd.edu

Home continued from page 28

"They've got this tradition of being a really good athletic team."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

"I'm really happy with where we are now: The mindset is good — I think we'll come out with a good weekend."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

The Irish, though, have quite a few offensive weapons of their own. Reigning national player of the week Kerri Kerns leads the team with 15 points (7G-1A) in her first two college games, and preseason Big East player of the year Katie Thorlakson is second with eight (2G-4A).

Freshman Brittany Bock, sophomore Amanda Cinalli and senior Maggie Manning are tied for third on the team with six points. With five players who can start at forward on his team and only three forward spots, Waldrum said that the coaching staff is "really managing players now."

That, he says, includes convincing every player on the team "that each player may have to give up some playing time for the benefit of the team in the long run to keep us healthy."

He says that, thus far, the team has responded very well to that idea.

"That's been the really fun part of it," he said. "They're a great group to work with ... and we had a really good week of training."

They will have to work well together not only on Friday, but also on Sunday at 1 p.m. against Maryland to keep the team's home winning streak alive.

Last year, the Terrapins upset then-No. 3 UCLA in the Virginia Soccer Classic early in the season. This year, they will be looking to unseat Notre Dame in an early-season classic.

Waldrum says that the Terrapins will be ready to play the Irish, as they have been preparing for a very strong ACC conference schedule. However, he believes that the Irish will be focused on defeating the Terps, and that the team will not overlook Maryland as UCLA may have a year ago.

"I don't think they'll overlook Maryland at all," he said. "Last year in the NCAA tournament, [Maryland knocked off Notre Dame, so we know what they're capable of doing."

Thus far, Waldrum says, the team is happy with the season and excited to open up the full schedule.

"I'm really happy with where we are now," he said. "The mindset is good — I think we'll come out with a good weekend."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu

"Our keys to winning are going to be high energy and being the first to put pressure on the other team."

Carrie Orr
Belles captain

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But the team can not get caught looking ahead, as it first must navigate through the Marietta tournament and then travel to face a tough Illinois Wesleyan team.

Contact Nate Dyer at ndyer@nd.edu

This will be a question asked often on campus, beginning today as Notre Dame launches a new, unified, Web-based calendar system that will list events for all segments of the University community.

It will be the one place where students, faculty, staff and the general public can read about all the major events scheduled on campus.

Agenda will organize events by category, such as Arts & Entertainment, Academic Dates, Student Life, Health & Recreation, Lectures & Conferences, and Service as well as by day, week, month and even year.

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ND WOMEN’S SOCCER

Alligator hunters
No. 1 Irish kick off home season with game against Florida

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

After dominating New Hampshire and Vermont on the road to start the season, the Irish return to Alumni Field tonight at 7:30 p.m. for the team's home opener against the Florida Gators.

The game is the first of two for the Irish this weekend in the Inn at St. Mary's Notre Dame Classic, as they are set to play Maryland Sunday.

"I think everybody is really excited to open at home," Notre Dame coach Randy Waldrum said. "There's something special about getting out there (on Alumni Field)."

For the Irish, "something good happened," Waldrum said.

Irish defender Carrie Dew, center, works in practice on Aug. 16. After getting off to a 2-0 start, the Irish will host Florida tonight in Notre Dame's home opener.

ND VOLLEYBALL

Texas presents Notre Dame with challenge

Team faces No. 11 Longhorns, ASU in home tournament

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

The Irish passed their first test of the fall semester rather easily.

But it's time to take another one — only this time, against the 11th-ranked team in the nation.

"Texas is a great team," coach Debbie Brown said.

But to Brown and her Notre Dame volleyball team, this is no test to get stressed out about. While a student might cringe at the thought of anything resembling an exam, Brown's students welcome the challenge.

"Everyone's really focused," said sophomore opposite/outside hitter Adrianna Stasiuk, who is waiting on a decision from her doctor on whether or not she will be able to play this weekend. "We've been watching film and having really good practices."

Texas and Arizona State come to Notre Dame this weekend for the Inn at Saint Mary's Shamrock Invitational. The invite begins Friday with Texas hooking horns with Arizona State at 7 p.m. The Irish open Saturday with a match against the Longhorns at 5 p.m. The round-robin event concludes Sunday with Notre Dame and Arizona State at 2 p.m.

"We feel really good and comfortable," Stasiuk said. "I'm really excited for this weekend."

Stasiuk, who broke several ribs over the summer, has been watching film and having really good practices. For any college athlete, one's senior year is supposed to be the best year of his or her life. For senior captain Carrie Orr, this senior season for the Saint Mary's soccer team will be the final chapter of a book she has been writing since childhood.

"I just want to have fun with my teammates," Orr responded when asked about her final season. "This is my last year playing soccer, and I have been playing it my whole life, so I am going to just play it to the best of my abilities and work hard out there everyday.

As the team heads to Marietta, Ohio for a two-day

SMC SOCCER

Excited Orr anticipates final year
Senior's season will commence Friday in New York tourney

By NATE DYER
News Writer

For any college athlete, one's senior year is supposed to be the best year of his or her life. For senior captain Carrie Orr, this senior season for the Saint Mary's soccer team will be the final chapter of a book she has been writing since childhood.

"I just want to have fun with my teammates," Orr responded when asked about her final season. "This is my last year playing soccer, and I have been playing it my whole life, so I am going to just play it to the best of my abilities and work hard out there everyday.

As the team heads to Marietta, Ohio for a two-day
SPOTLIGHT ON THE SIDELINES

CHARLIE WEIS AND DAVE WANNSTEDT KICKOFF THEIR COLLEGE COACHING CAREERS, LEAVING STORIED NFL PASTS BEHIND
Charlie Weis era finally begins

Finally, it’s here. The day Tom Zbikowski has been waiting for since the end of last season. The day Irish fans have been anxiously anticipating since Dec. 13. Finally, on Saturday, the Charlie Weis era of Notre Dame football begins.

The 1978 Notre Dame grad returns to face former Pitt offensive tackle Dave Wannstedt, who makes his own coaching debut for the Panthers. True, the coaching matchup is a nice side show, but the real story lies in what happens Saturday night on Heinz Field.

"I've been wearing the same white jersey every single practice since the beginning of spring ball," Irish center Bob Morton said. "I hate putting it on. I hate putting on the same old raggedy helmet — the gold paint hasn't been put on in a long time. We're ready to get off the Carrier Fields and back into the light that we're here for."

And despite the fact that the players are tiring to play, there are still many unanswered questions about this team. How is third-year quarterback Brady Quinn going to run the new offense? What about the inexperienced secondary, which faces a quarterback in Tyler Palko, who tore them apart last year for 334 passing yards and five touchdowns? What about the rest of the defense that is unproven — can it stop freshman tailback Rashad Jennings and get pressure on Palko? Is special teams going to be as pitiful as last season?

What about sophomore tailback Darius Walker — how effective will he be now that he is no longer a surprise to opposing defenses? The fact of the matter is that no matter how "nasty" Weis is or how many recruits he has gotten to commit, it is yet to be seen what he will do with this Irish team on Saturdays. Optimism abounds, but there are still so many unanswered questions. Once on the field this season will have to prove to the nation that it is not about to have another 6-6 season. And nobody knows that better than Weis himself.

"We'll see how popular I am Sunday," the first-year coach said. "You know how that goes. I think that I've done a lot of things to bring a positive vibe to the program, but it still really comes down to how you play."

This game is important, no doubt about it. And it won't be easy. Playing on the road against a top-25 team is never a walk in the park, especially one coached by a staff filled with NFL experience. It's time for the Irish to see how they measure up.

"We just need to find out where we are and there's no better way than going to play the 22nd team in the country," defensive coordinator Mike Haywood said.

And so Charlie Weis has a chance to make a huge statement with this game — if he wins, he will be showered with even more praise, and he will have set the tone for his tenure as a collegiate coach.

But what if he loses? Well, it's not the end of the world, despite what many will say. The season is 11, maybe 12, games long. But it doesn't change the fact that the Notre Dame football program needs a win. Fans need something to be excited about besides Charlie Weis’s 0-0 career record and four Super Bowl rings. Students and alumni need to see their team win. And Weis says he's ready to play.

"Honeymoon officially ends Saturday night at 8:07."

Charlie Weis
Irish coach

"We're ready to go. We want this level of competition."

Rick Minter
Irish defensive coordinator

"It's probably going to come down to the quarterback. It usually does in high-energy games."

Dave Wannstedt
Panthers head coach

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GAME WATCH
SEPT 3RD PITTSBURGH
2 LEGENDS
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THE OBSERVER • IRISH INSIDER
"Getting off on a good start would set the tempo for the season."

Bob Morton
Irish offensive lineman

"It's really time to find out ... where we are on defense."

Heather Van Hoegarden
Sports Writer

Weis's Irish head coach

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu.
By PAT LEONARD  
Sports Writer

It isn't about just them. 
In fact, both Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis and Pittsburgh 

dave Wannstedt would argue Saturday's game is not 

about them at all. 
I think Dave Wannstedt would say: 'you know, Charlie Weis 

is why you come to the 
Navy and two national 

championships — one as a pla 
yer and one as an assistant coach. 
On Saturday, the two men 
will be only a football field — a 

college football field, that's it. 
Everythings that's happening 
around the city and around the 
nation — it's an exciting time," 
Wannstedt said, "and you can 
just start to sense that a little 
bit." 
Returning home 
Wannstedt played left tackle 
for Pitt in the early 1970s, block 
ing for Tony Dorsett and helping 
the 1973 squad win its senior year a 
6-4-1 record and a Fiesta 
Bowl berth. He graduated in 
1974 but built a program that was 
run to win a national cham 
ionship three seasons later. 
His history has caused every Pat 
fan to circle Sept. 3 on the 
calendar. 
I always reference everything 
back to the fans and our players," he 
said, "I tell them, This is 
you come to the 
University of Pittsburgh." 
The same goes for Weis at 
Notre Dame. Though he did not 
play a varsity sport in college, 
the new Irish captain had love 
and knowledge for sports that 
sent him as high as the NFL 
ranks after he graduated in 
1978. In NFL, Weis coached 
under the likes of Bill Parcells 
and Bill Belichick. 
But he also felt he had the 
ability and the attitude to coach 
to college on which, unlike 
the NFL, players also had to attend 
classes. These would be student 
-athletes without million dollar 
contracts. 
I think that college has been 
more enticing to guys in the NFL 
because if you have the person 
ality to coach in college — it 
doesn't fit for everyone — but 
certain people kind of enjoy it," 
he said, "I do, and I haven't 
talked to Dave recently [but] I 
think he enjoys it, too." 
 Numerous coaches have made 
the NFL-to-college move recent 
ly, and many also have done so 
with great success. Nick Saban, 
the current Miami Dolphins head 
coach, was once an assistant 
with the Houston Oilers (1988- 
89) and Cleveland Browns 
(1991-94) before coaching col 
lege in the early 70s at Michigan State (1995-99) and Louisiana 
State. Al Groh (New York Jets to 
Pittsburgh Saturday. Weis is 
almost best known anyway for 
his ability to adapt his game plan 
within a game, like he did 
in the Patriots' recent Super 
Bowl win over the Philadelphia Eagles. 
From a preparation standpoint, 
this is as good as it gets 
because you have the person 
ality to coach in college. 
"It basically comes down to 
whether our players actually 
were mentally prepared and that 
shows up on the field," he said. 
Harnessing experience 
One of the biggest adjustments 
to the college game for both 
coaches has been the time ele 
ment. Oddly enough, each coach 
has a different take. 
For the playmaker Weis, hav 
ing spring and fall camps with 
two-a-day practices has given 
him more than enough time to 
install a thick playbook, at least 
will prepare the team for 
Saturday. Wannstedt, on the 
other hand, has more experience in the 
college game but indicates he 
would like more time to prepare his 
team. 
"My experience has been that 
there's never enough time," he 
said, "I don't care if you were in 
training camp for six months. 
You're leading into that last 
week, and you say, 'Boy if I had 
just one more week,' or 'If I 
could just get one more practice, 
then we'd be OK.'" 
But then you really get to 
the point, and we're almost there 
now, where you're ready to play."
What to expect 
The most interesting aspect of 
Saturday's game, in terms of 
game play, will be Weis' famil 
arity with Wannstedt's defensive 
style, and vice versa concerning 
Weis' offense. 
"I know Dave [Wannstedt] 
don't know much," Weis said. "Now, 
that doesn't mean that's what's 
going to end up happening, but 
from you can anticipate the 
other factors that are involved." 
Both coaches have seen each 
other in action have and pre 
pared for the game accordingly. 
A former defensive coa 
tor, Wannstedt had head coach 
ing stints in the NFL in Chicago 
and Miami. He coached with 
Notre Dame's current tight end 
coach Bernie Parmalee, as well, 
making his possible understand 
ing of the Irish strategy more 
comprehensive. 
With Charlie Weis running 
the offense, we're going to see 
the majority of the Patriot stuff," 
Wannstedt said. "Charlie and I 
are friends and we get along, but 
we probably know each other from an 'X' and 'O' standpoint a 
lot better than we know each 
other personally. 
We are preparing for some 
New England scheming. We are 
preparing for a couple of other 
assistants that are on that staff." 
Weis has gone as far as antic 
pating Wannstedt's use of Pitt's 
offense. 
I expect Dave to look like 
since we've had Pittsburgh in the past," Weis said. 
Both coaches indicate in their 
comments that they know foot 
ball, they know each other, and 
they know what is expected of 
them. But on Saturday their 
careers begin on a different level 
from before, in different tenures, 
within a different atmosphere — 
with ESPN Gameday in atten 
dance. At least for each coach, Weis 
and Wannstedt, it will still be the 
same school. 
Contact Pat Leonard at 
pleonard@ad. edu

by the numbers 
Number of passing touchdowns by Tyler 
Palko against the Irish in 2004 — then 
a Notre Dame Stadium record 
8 
Notre Dame head coaches, out of 13, who 
won their first career road game — includ 
ing Beckman, Leachy, DeVine and Willingham. a 
Yards Darius Walker rushed for against 
Pittsburgh last year, with two touchdowns 
122 
Times Weis and Wannstedt have faced each 
other as opposing coaching staffs. Weis' 
staffs have won 12 of the 22. 
22 
Preseason rank for Pittsburgh's receivers 
and tight ends 
3 
Collective years of coaching experience by 
the Irish staff 
214 
Passes completed by third-year starter 
Brady Quinn — fourth on Notre Dame's all 
time lists 
348 
214 
Collective years of coaching experience by 
the Irish staff 
3 
Notre Dame's record in night games in 2004, 
including a loss in the road opener at BYU 
1-3

Dave Wannstedt, left, accepted the coaching job at the University of Pittsburgh after two stints as an NFL head coach, while Charlie Weis, shown here at the Blue-Gold Game on April 23, worked as an offensive coordinator.

The Observer  IRISH INSIDER
Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Record: 0-0

AP: NR

Coaches: NR

Charlie Weis first season at Notre Dame
career record: 0-0
against PIR: 0-0

Charlie Weis head coach

Notre Dame 2005 Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
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<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>MICHIGAN ST.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>at Syracuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>at Stanford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td>at Stanford</td>
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COACHING

Though Charlie Weis has never been a head coach at any level above high school, he begins a much-anticipated first season at the helm of the Irish Saturday. Weis' success as an NFL offensive coordinator speaks for itself. Now, he will walk the sidelines in blue and gold.

Irish Rushing

Darius Walker is a quick, shifty back running behind an offensive line that is thin, though it returns all starters from last year. Travis Thomas and Rashon Powers-Neal add depth, while freshman Asaph Schwapp might be a nice surprise at fullback.

Irish Passing

Seniors Ibhama McKnight and Maurice Stovall enter their last season hoping to fully realize their potential. Jeff Samardzija, Matt Shelton and a deep tight end group led by Anthony Fasano could prove plenty of points on the board for Notre Dame.

Notre Dame Offense

Brady Quinn has started every Notre Dame game since Purdue in 2003. His experience, talent and receiving corps should help him in his junior year. Weis took Tom Brady to the Super Bowl, and Quinn will benefit immediately from his new tutor and head coach, also.

Notre Dame Defense

Tyler Palko burned Notre Dame for 334 yards and five touchdowns last season. The left-handed junior is a gritty leader who gives the Panthers a chance to win as long as he is on the field. He will thrive in the national spotlight, but if he goes down, so does Pittsburgh.

Like Weis, Wannstedt is back at his alma mater. His love for Pittsburg's experience as a head coach in the NFL for 11 years and defensive expertise make the Panthers dangerous. His move back to college mirrors the path of USC head coach Pete Carroll.

Quinn is a third-year starter with Weis on his sideline. But last season Palko caused a stir with his performance in South Bowl, and Quinn threw two interceptions in the 41-38 loss. On Saturday, like last season, the quarterback battle will decide the game's outcome.

Weis vs. Wannstedt is a matchup of offensive guru vs. defensive specialist. Neither has been a college head coach, but both are gaining experience in their respective fan bases. The two coaches will have to adjust their schemes to college talent and gameplay.

Brady Quinn vs. Tyler Palko is the matchup in this game. The quarterback who plays better will earn a "W" for his team. Palko lit up the Irish secondary last season, and there's no reason to discount the possibility he could do it again. But Weis and Quinn will eat up the clock, keep the defense off the field and score enough to win.

Walker ran for an Irish freshman record 786 yards last season. Notre Dame's line has the ability to push the young Panthers around. Asaph Schwapp is a buldozer of a lead blocker. And if the blocks hold onto the ball, the Irish run game will eat up yards.

In this one, the Irish can assemble a pass rush, Pittsburgh will give up little through the air.

Irish Rushing

The loss of three-year starters Vince Cronichans and Dan Stephens leave the Panther Dline with little depth. Ends Chris McKinley and Joe Cremo must not let Walker break outside or the Irish could have another performance like Julius Jones' 262 yard day in 2003.

Irish Passing

Josh Lay and Darrelle Revis are all-conference caliber players at CB. Senior Ryan Morris adds his 35 career starts to make up the deepest, most talented position on the Panther roster. If the D-line can assemble a pass rush, Pittsburgh will give up little through the air.

Stovall dropped 15 points in the offensive end zone and McKnight is a big play threat. Their matchup against Lay and Revis will be a challenge, but if Quinn is as accurate as Weis believes he can be, the Irish will throw efficiently against the Panthers Saturday.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks Brady Quinn and Tyler Palko will both have outstanding games, but Darius Walker will be the difference in this one. The Notre Dame secondary will keep Palko out of the endzone a reasonable amount, and the Irish will come out on top on the road. Weis will have his first win at Notre Dame, and a big one it will be.

Irish experts

Pat Leonard
Managing Editor

Final Score: Notre Dame 17
Pittsburgh 14

Heather Van Hoegarden
AME

Quarterbacks Brady Quinn and Tyler Palko will both have outstanding games, but Darius Walker will be the difference in this one. The Notre Dame secondary will keep Palko out of the endzone a reasonable amount, and the Irish will come out on top on the road. Weis will have his first win at Notre Dame, and a big one it will be.

Final Score: Notre Dame 34
Pittsburgh 31

Pittsburgh defense

Notre Dame defense
PANTHERS RUSHING
Derek Landri, Brian Bedatich and Trevor Laws all return to an interior of a defensive line that ranked fourth nationally against the run in 2005. Laws looks like Irish legend Keith Zordeh. If he plays like him, it will be hard to establish a run game against ND.

New offensive coordinator Matt Cavanaugh vows this year's offense will focus on running the ball. Pittsburgh returns both leading rushers from last year but will need to improve upon a 103th national ranking with 97.8 rushing yards per game last season.

Tom Zbikowski and Mike Richardson are the only starters returning on a paper-thin Irish secondary. This group was torched by the Panthers last year and will need help from defensive end Victor Ahsiamir's pass rush for the Irish to have a chance.

PANTHERS PASSING
Greg Lee was injured early in fall camp but is expected back at full speed for the game. If the Pittsburgh line can give Patlo time to get the ball to the all-Big East receiver, the Panthers are a good bet for a couple scores through the air.

Weis has renewed an emphasis on special teams this year. Freshman David Grimes is a slippery returner but whether he can handle the pressure under the lights is unknown. DJ Fitzpatrick is solid handling both the punting and kicking duties.

Kicker Josh Cummings and punter Adam Graselle both earned first-team All-Big East honors in 2004. In a tight game, Graselle's 43.3 yard punt average could give the Panthers a leg up. Marcus Forman and Allen Richardson will handle the returning duties.

Pittsburgh has a new coach, a fiery quarterback and the advantage of playing under the lights at home against a rival. The Panthers pact will be popping and they would love to spoil Weis' debut while setting themselves up for a BCS run in 2005.

The Irish secondary is the biggest weakness of any position on the field. Paleke had five touchdowns of fun last year at Notre Dame and if McGee continues with Lee for an early big play, Pittsburgh could be in for a very enjoyable evening.

The Irish kicking game is safe. With DJ Fitzpatrick around, Pittsburgh has all conference specialists as well in Cummings and Graselle. If Grimes holds under the pressure of returning punts, one turnover could tilt the game to Pittsburgh.

NOTRE DAME

Pittsburgh Panthers

Pittsburgh

Record: 0-0
AP: 23
Coaches: 25

Dave Wannstedt
first season at Pittsburgh
career record: 0-0
at Pitt:
0-0
against Notre Dame: 0-0

PITTSBURGH Offense

PITTSBURGH 2005 Schedule
Sept. 3 NOTRE DAME
Sept. 9 at Ohio State
Sept. 17 at Nebraska
Sept. 24 YOUNGSTOWN ST.
Sept. 30 at Rutgers
Oct. 8 CINCINNATI
Oct. 15 SOUTH FLORIDA
Oct. 22 SYRACUSE
Nov. 3 at Louisville
Nov. 12, Connecticut
Nov. 24 at West Virginia

INTERGIBLES

INTANGIBLES

Pittsburgh小巧的弱点是任何位置上的防线。帕尔克有五个触地得分，但帕特里克在他身边的比赛上很会踢，比赛可能会以他们1-0的优势来接近匹兹堡。

Pittsburgh的踢球很可靠。有DJ帕特里克在身边，匹兹堡有所有比赛的专家作为球队的头球—坎宁安和格拉斯勒。如果格里姆在压力下仍能保持优势，一个失误可能倾斜了对匹兹堡的比赛。

Notre Dame会以他哈的教练来对匹兹堡。所有的爱尔兰球迷都会参加的比赛。在霍尔顿的比赛中，匹兹堡和匹兹堡对在决斗的决定开始于瓦茨坦德的刺激，它是一个家，它可能对匹兹堡有很好的影响。

A year after Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Pallo shaved the Notre Dame secondary, the Irish will finally get a chance for some revenge. If an efficient Irish offense can cut up the defense and keep Pallo off the field, the Irish defense should bend, but not break. Notre Dame takes a closer game than the score indicates.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 31
Pittsburgh 20

Pittsburgh Panthers

Notre Dame has the offensive talent and a coaching mind capable of manufacturing a slow of points. But a question-mark secondary and Pallo's competitive fire will keep the Panthers close. The Irish sound like they believe in Weis. If they play to their potential for him, Notre Dame will end up with a win.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 31
Pittsburgh 26

Pittsburgh Panthers

The Panthers have the offensive line and a coaching mind capable of manufacturing a slow of points. But a question-mark secondary and Pallo's competitive fire will keep the Panthers close. The Irish sound like they believe in Weis. If they play to their potential for him, Notre Dame will end up with a win.

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FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 31
Pittsburgh 26
## Sizing up the Irish and the Panthers

### AVERAGE PER GAME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTRE DAME'S OFFENSE VS PITTSGURGH'S DEFENSE</th>
<th>PITTSBURGH'S OFFENSE VS NOTRE DAME'S DEFENSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total yards gained</td>
<td>345.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>total yards allowed</td>
<td>369.4</td>
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<td>127.4</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>total points scored</td>
<td>24.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total points allowed</td>
<td>24.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Notre Dame yards penalized                  | 548                                         |
| Michigan yards penalized                    | 560                                         |

### NOTRE DAME'S SECONDARY

The Irish will start newcomers Ambrose Wooden and Chinedum Ndukwe at cornerback and strong safety, respectively. Tom Zbikowski, above, will hit the Panthers hard at free safety and cornerback Mike Richardson is the most experienced secondary member.

### PITTSBURGH'S QUARTERBACK

Tyler Palko, above, tossed 24 touchdowns last season. Five of those were racked up against the Irish, the most ever by an opponent in Notre Dame Stadium.

With all-Big East wide receiver Greg Lee looking healthy, Palko will be salivating over the chance to deliver coach Dave Wannstedt his first collegiate win and pad his stats against the weakest unit on the Notre Dame squad.

The Irish will be focusing on Palko all night. But if he strikes early with a deep pass, the Panthers will roll and spoil Charlie Weis' high-profile debut.

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Walker ready to run into the spotlight again

By MIKE GILLOON
Special Sports Writer

Darius Walker showed his ability to adapt well to college football in 2004. He scored two touchdowns in his debut against Michigan, set the Irish freshman rushing record with 766 yards and maintained his composition when the coach who recruited him, Tyrone Willingham, was fired after three years.

But there’s one change the Irish running back wasn’t prepared for when Charlie Weis was hired as Irish coach on Dec. 12 — the playbook. “I wish Weis gave us our phone books — that’s what I like to call them because they are so complex,” he said. “Coming in as a freshman, I got the playbook, and it’s really complex. It was something new for me so I didn’t think it could get much worse. But then the next year coming in with this coaching staff, it not only got much worse, it got a lot worse.”

Walker and the Irish open the 2005 season Saturday at Pittsburgh, and he believes he will need to know the “phone book” well to run successfully against the Panthers and their defensive-minded coach Dave Wannstedt. Pittsburgh linebacker H.B. Blades and Wannstedt have both remarked on Walker’s ability and say he will be one of the main players on whom the Panther defense will focus.

The Panther defensive line is inexperienced, losing veteran tackles Vince Crocchian and Dan Stephens. And defensive coordinator Paul Rhoads wants to keep Walker from rushing for 112 yards and two touchdowns like he did against Pittsburgh last season.

But Walker isn’t worried about the pressure that comes with being a marked man.

“I think I thrive on competition,” Walker said. “I hear [Wille]des say that is actually good. I’ll tell him to go in and come with it because I’m going to bring my ‘A’ game.”

Walker’s ‘A’ game will be explosive, especially with a strong effort from a seasoned offensive line.

By MIKE GILLOON
Special Sports Writer

Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko evades a sack in Notre Dame Stadium last season, where he passed for 334 yards and five touchdowns.

Panthers’ Palko prepared for breakout year

By MATT PUGLISE
Assistant Sports Editor

The last time Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko took the field against Notre Dame, he left the backfield behind — carved into the Irish record book.

Palko’s 41-38 Panther victory last Nov. 13 was the beginning of the end for the Irish, as Palko’s Notre Dame opponent record five touchdowns passes — to go along with 334 yards and no interceptions on 26-of-42 passing — sparked a three-game Irish losing streak that culminated in former head coach Tyrone Willingham’s firing and a lopsided Insight Bowl loss to Oregon State.

“We’ve got great respect for Tyler Palko,” Irish defensive coordinator Rick Mirror said. “I think he’s kind of a Brett Favre-type guy with better speed. He’s got you with his head, arm and legs — that’s just a complete quarterback and I think he’s probably that he’s a winner.”

In the months after Palko lit up the Notre Dame Stadium scoreboard — and later lit up in WCNJC phone lines when he used profanity in the post-game interview — Notre Dame gets another challenge against the Pittsburgh Panthers.

Junior quarterback, veteran receiving corps return to field

By MATT PUGLISE
Assistant Sports Editor

“I think we’re more focused (this time),” safety Tom Zabowski said. “That’s in the past, and we want to get that out, but it did happen. We’ve got to be ready.”

Combined with his accurate arm and gritty demeanor, Palko being left-handed could pose problems, at least initially, for the Irish defense.

“You know, it’s a little different right off the bat, because you have a lefty quarterback coming out of the gate, and it’s a different mentality against a guy that respects what Lve’s one of the best receivers in college football.”

Bill Lewis defensive backs coach

“Sullvans one of the best receivers, so that will present a challenge,” defensive backs coach Bill Lewis said. “They’ve been especially impressed with their tight ends. I think they’re a very solid group, a whole with a couple of very outstanding players, namely Lee.”

After all the talk of last season’s defensive meltdowns against the Panthers, Minter is more concerned about tomorrow’s contest than what has already happened.

“L’m a guy that came in here last year at our house and did a heck of a job rallying this team,” Minter said. “We respect what he’s done, but our coaches weren’t here last year — now we’re here. We want to help him figure out how we can compete this Saturday night than last year’s Saturday.”

Contact Matt Pugliese at mpugliese@nd.edu.
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