It's a Fiesta: Bowl excites Irish fans

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

Notre Dame learned Sunday it will face Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 2, securing a payout of $14.5 million for the University and placing some Notre Dame students from Ohio in a tense tug-of-war between hometown Buckeye pride and a fighting Irish spirit.

The Ohio State University is practically in sophomore Chris Doughty's backyard. He grew up a local Buckeye fan — so passionate that he hated Notre Dame when it looked like the two teams would face each other in a bowl game during his sophomore year of high school.

"This is pretty much the worst thing that's ever happened to me," Doughty said. "It was just a dagger in the heart because I've been a diehard OSU fan my entire life. I wept when they won the [2002] national championship and now I have to root against them — it's kind of a big deal.

He said he might lose friends over it, but after a year and a half under the Dome, there's no doubt Doughty will be cheering for Notre Dame.

"Hopefully I'm gonna go because it's not too often that the two teams I would kill for

Better than Ezra concert a moderate success

By KAREN LANGLEY
News Writer

While the instant sellout crowd for the Student Union Board's first event of the semester — a comedy visit on Oct. 8 from Vince Vaughn and crew — was an obvious hit, reactions were mixed after the second big on-campus show of the year, a Better Than Ezra concert Friday night.

Jimmy Flaherty, Student Union Board president, called Friday's Better Than Ezra concert a success, emphasizing strong ticket sales and enthusiastic student reviews.

"We were extremely happy," Flaherty said. "We talked to a lot of people at the show, and they had nothing but positive reviews. A lot of people said this has been one of the better shows they've seen, in the quality of the band and the way they played to the audience."

Approximately 1,000 tickets were sold, a figure not far off of the 1,088 capacity that fire regulations assigned to Stepan Center that night.

The building did not appear full to all the students in attendance. Freshman Bridget Callen said she thought she would see more people at the show but still enjoyed the performance.

"I was expecting more people, but there were a good number of people there," she said. "I really liked it. It was a lot of fun."

Attendance levels were

Better Than Ezra performs Friday at Stepan Center. Approximately 1,000 tickets were sold for the concert.

see EZRA/Page 4

Holiday event benefits children

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

Armed with popcorn sticks and face paint, members of the Arnold Air Society, the service organization associated with Notre Dame Air Force ROTC, and Silver Wings, its civilian counterpart, set about to help 150 local underprivileged children celebrate the holidays in Angela Athletic Facility at Saint Mary's Saturday.

Christmas music blared from the sound system as children lined up to sit on Santa's knee and receive presents donated through the Toys for Tots program. Others sat at tables making Christmas crafts with the help of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's volunteers.

The event was Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings' annual... see WINGS/Page 4

Students use break for service, learning

CSC offers a variety of volunteer opportunities

By SARAH WHEATON
News Writer

As students buckle down for end-of-semester projects and finals, some are also spending extra time in the classroom preparing to participate in winter break seminars through the Center for Social Concerns (CSC). This year, the CSC is offering the always-popular The Church and Social Action seminar — better known as Urban Plunge — in a number of slots all over the country. Also offered are the Organizing, Power and Hope Seminar in Chicago, the Holy Cross Mission in Education Seminar in Arizona and the Border Issues Seminar in Texas and Mexico.

Jay Caponigro, director of the Organizing, Power and Hope Seminar, said he saw an increase in applications this year.

"I believe this is due to word of mouth, advertising and the experience of previous participants," Caponigro said.

Note that's participation in a postseason bowl game has affected some student's plans — some may now have to decide between participation in a seminar and attending a bowl game. However, Caponigro said he does not think the possibility of a... see CSC/Page 4
These people will be receptive to my intent of finishing the article by 8. While at one of the several other available tables or chairs in the room, I avoided eye contact and continued playing an intense game of solitaire, partially covering my notes with his hands, so it moved my notes a little closer to me and continued writing. A few minutes later, another guy came over to my table and greeted me. I kept expecting one of them to look up and notice me, but it never happened. It was as if I was not even there. Time was passing quickly and I needed to finish my article, so I returned to my computer and tried to ignore the card battle taking place just inches away from me.

At 10 minutes before eight, a girl came to my booth — or what had been my booth — and sat down right next to me. She asked the guys if she could show them a magic trick. By this time, I am sandwiched in the corner. My backpack is close behind me and my notebook, my notes are in a pile right next to my computer, and I know my five siblings have never produced distraction like this.

I decide it is not even worth it to ask them to leave, since I have such little time to finish and I am not sure these people will be receptive to my request to move the magic show elsewhere. I begin to gather my things, and suddenly another student emerges from behind a pillar with a videocamera. I was the target of a sociology class's project to see how people react when social norms are ignored. Now when I am in LaFortune, I keep an eye out for wandering card players and hidden cameramen. If I can help it, I will not be starring in any more hidden camera shows.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

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

Ensenar es tomar vidas por siempre

Friday, December 9
9PM - 11PM
Legends
Free t-shirts to the first 50 people
D.J. Food Dancing

ACE goes Latin

Several Saint Mary's groups join together in Christmas donation efforts

By MEGAN OSBERGER
News Writer

As department stores nationwide prepare for the yuletide shopping season, Saint Mary's students prepare for the 12 Days of Christmas, a campus-wide charity drive that will benefit 12 local organizations.

Spurred by the senior class board, the drive includes the participation of every club and organization on campus, and there is an event scheduled for each of the first 12 days in December.

"I thought it would be a really great idea to have unified projects because all of the class boards, campus clubs, athletic teams and offices have separate events every year," said senior class president Lauren Condon.

"While these do work, everyone is competing for money, and if we could all work together, we would be more likely to be successful."

After asking the presidents of the other class boards for help, Condon said senior class officers presented the idea to Carrie Call, director of the Office for Community Engagement, Linda Timm, vice president of Student Affairs, and Patrick White, dean of faculty.

The project is an expansion of previous charitable efforts, according to Call. Saint Mary's will help families through Resources for Enriching Adult Living (REAL) Services, as they have in the past. In previous years, however, only faculty and staff had the opportunity to purchase presents for the families.

This year, students can also directly contribute gifts.

Several different services were used to select the families, including REAL Services and the Minority Health Coalition.

"I was also in touch with (Sex Offense Services) so we can provide for women who can't go home for Christmas due to sexual assaults," said Call.

"The families from the Minority Health Coalition are the ones who need our help the most. They are recent immigrants who have almost nothing."

Three families were also suggested by Marquette Primary School, Saint Mary's partner school, said Call.

"The idea," Call said, "is that we give students more than one opportunity to help, and that is exactly what the 12 Days of Christmas is going to do."

Each year the Business Office, Admissions Office and the Psychology Honors Society Psi Chi sponsor a family themselves. This year, lead by residence advisor Becky Winston, second floor Regina North will also adopt its own family.

"I just think the campus is going to be oozing with Christmas spirit," Condon said.

Contact Megan Osberger at mosber01@saintmarys.edu

"No one on campus will be able to ignore the drive."

Planned activities included a showing of "Home Alone" in Vander Weidner Theater Dec. 4, sponsored by the Student Activity Board. The first-year board will be raffling off the second room-pick number for each of the classes, and Christmas-gifts sponsored by the Student Diversity Board will be sold throughout the drive.

Students around campus are responding positively to the drive thus far.

"I'm really happy about all of the chances we get to help other people to enjoy Christmas," said junior Sarah Lavelle. "The holidays are all about giving to others."

Sarah Lavelle
Junior

Contact Steve Kerins at skerins@nd.edu

ND faculty can now submit grades online

End of fall 2005 semester first for new process

By STEVE KERINS
News Writer

During the summer, the University restructured the process by which faculty members submit their students' end-of-term grades. This month will mark the first time faculty use the new system during the school year.

Several aspects of the process have been redesigned, but the largest change has been a move to online grade submission.

"The new system is very straightforward," assistant registrar Chuck Hurley said. "Faculty members log on to insideND to gain secure access to online grading... The faculty member can submit their grades from home in South Bend or New York or Paris. Because we are no longer tied to a paper process, the instructor has much more versatility regarding time and location."

Hurley said part of the impetus for the change to Internet-based grade submission was the logistical difficulties associated with having faculty submit grades on machine-readable forms at the end of each semester.

"The whole process took a great deal of time and paper," he said. "On the day grades were due each semester, several hundred instructors would have to walk over to the office of the Registrar, often through sleet, rain or snow, and turn in their grade list."

The Registrar's Office does not expect the switch to online grading to cause problems with grade submission on this semester's Dec. 19 deadline.

"During Summer Session 2005, over 600 classes were graded online... the process was simple, and many of the comments we received from the faculty were quite positive," Hurley said.

Hurley also said the office has set aside a room equipped with computers, which will have staff on hand to assist professors with concerns about submitting grades via the Internet.

Hurley said the recent changes might affect students anxiously awaiting first-semester grades over winter break.

"The new procedure should improve the speed and accuracy of (students') grades," he said. "An instructor... out of town can now grade a class online. Or, a person who might have accidentally missed the deadline previously because of a torn paper copy... will now make the deadline."

The Office of the Registrar expects first-semester grades to be available on Tuesday, Dec. 20. Once grades are posted, students will be able to access them within the Student Services channel of insideND.

Contact Steve Kerins at skerins@nd.edu

College plans 12 days of giving

Several Saint Mary's groups join together in Christmas donation efforts

By MEGAN OSBERGER
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Ezra
continued from page 1
where senior Lee Regner expressed:
"When in e-mails [SUB] said it was going to sell out, I knew from previous instances, that probably wasn't the case," he said.
Regner also said he enjoyed Better Than Ezra's performance. He plans for the break.
Wings
continued from page 1
bowl game has seriously affected student participation in his semi-

Several students said that while they would be sad to miss a bowl game, it has not affected their plans for the break.

Urban Plunge Seminar is the largest of all CSC seminars, accommodating up to 400 students from Notre Dame, Holy Cross, and several community centers. Urban Plunge sends students to various cities across the nation, with 43 different sites available this year. During their 48-hour immersion, the students will be exposed to the problems of poverty in these urban centers.

Notre Dame senior Sara Urban said she will be considering problems that are close to home - literally.

"I chose to do Urban Plunge in Chicago because as soon as you live 15 minutes outside of the city in the suburbs, you see one side of the city," she said. "After doing a Summer Service Project in Chicago last year, I realized that there is an ugly side to the city that I love so much." I wanted to do an Urban

Plunge to learn more about the issues that affect our nation's big cities.

While students participating in the Urban Plunge seminar usually serve in areas near their own home, other seminars require students to travel across the country. Participants in the Border Issues Seminar will serve in both El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

"Better Than Ezra was far away and the most popular choice," Flaherty said. The opening band, Marking Twain, was well received.

"A lot of people at Notre Dame went to high school with the [Marking Twain] members in Ohio," Flaherty said. They are a blues-rock opening band and they got a standing ovation."

"I think Better Than Ezra was a band that was more of my taste, and I liked Harper's decision. He hadn't attended," said sophomore Harper's decision. He hadn't attended, BCS Championship Game, Notre Dame vs. Oklahoma, will be on January 7 at 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. According to a University press release, Notre Dame's ticket allotment is 15,000 tickets and none will be released for public sale.

"I'm really excited. I know our boys will pull out a victory," Liddy said. "We've done well, they've got almost as much tradition, but they're a distant second to us."

Notre Dame's fan base spans the globe. Junior Renel Huan said he will be watching the game from his home in Paris. Although a Frenchman, Huan said he wanted to watch the football team with a national championship. He said the Fiesta Bowl is close enough.

"I'll have to try and find an American bar [in Paris]," Renel said. "I'll be there from midnight to 4 a.m. watching it. And I'll wear my ND outfit and I'll be hooting and hollering all the way through the game."

"As the only independent major football program in the country, Notre Dame does not have to share its BCS bowl money with a conference — allowing the University to keep the hefty payout for itself," Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves said that any bowl money will likely be spent on academic initiatives. Specific outcomes of the distribution discussions should begin by the end of this semester, University spokesman Matt Storin said last month.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Electoral boycott by opposition in Honduras

Candidates aligned with President Hugo Chavez were widely expected to win their legislative majority Sunday in a Venezuelan election a new National Assembly in an election boycotted by the opposition parties.

William Lara, a leading lawmaker in Chavez’s governing party, said internal tallies of the Popular Movement indicated pro-Chavez candidates could sweep all 167 of the assembly’s seats.

Chavez earlier dismissed the boycott as a failed ploy to sabotage legitimate elections and said pro-Chavez officials later blamed a pipeline explosion on government opponents.

“This whole world knows a true democracy is in motion here in Venezuela,” Chavez said after voting at a school where election supervisors greeted him outside.

Volunteers rebuild after tsunami

KINGSTON, Thailand — Four months after the tsunami struck, Andy Chaggar gave up his engineering job in England and returned to Thailand to help rebuild houses near where his girlfriend was swept to her death.

“I am going to work on my old job and work for a profit-making company,” said Chaggar. So now he manages a housing project for some 180 Thai in the village of Phap Tawan, in the Khao Lak resort area.

The killer wave that struck on Dec. 26 killed 5,400 people in Thailand; 2,430 were foreigners. Three days later, 2,400 people were still missing.

In 11 countries affected by the earthquake and tsunami, more than 176,000 people died. The disaster left 50,000 missing and hundreds of thousands homeless across the region.

PAKISTAN

Pakistan says terrorist killed

U.S. denies involvement but straggle at site appears to be American-made missile

Associated Press

MIRAN SHAH — Straggle that appeared to be from an American-made missile was found Sunday at the house where Pakistan said a top Al-Qaida leader was killed in an explosion, although President Bush’s national security advisor declined to confirm the death.

U.S. and Pakistani officials declined to confirm an NBC report, citing anonymous officials, that the attack on the house where Hamza bin Laden reportedly died was launched by a U.S. drone.

But local residents found at least two pieces of straggle at the blast site inscribed with the designation of the Hellfire missile, which is carried by the U.S. Air Force unmanned, remote-controlled Predator aircraft.

“The metal pieces bore the designator ‘AGM-114,’ the words ‘guided missile’ and the initials ‘US.’”

John Pike, director of the defense group GlobalSecurity.org, said the Hellfire is used almost exclusively by the U.S. military.

Al-Qaida operatives would be unlikely to have Hellfire missiles, Pike said, although he said the possibility could not be completely discounted.

A man who lives near the house and his brother at least two detonations and saw a white streak of light before a missile hit the house, sparking a huge explosion.

“I ran to my home fearing it may hit me,” said Mohammad Nasir, adding that residents were convinced that foreigners were living in their neighborhood.

A senior Pakistani intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk to the media, said DNA tests. But a top American intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk to the media, said DNA tests on the body of the dead Al-Qaida leader, which were performed in France, strongly suggest that the body was that of Bin Laden.

A U.S. official said the explosion was not caused by an explosion but by charcoal and timber.

First partial face transplant successful

Associated Press

PARIS — The recipient of the world’s first partial face transplant was thriving medically and psychologically a week after her groundbreaking surgery, her doctor said Sunday.

The 36-year-old woman, whose whose face had been partially disfigured by a dog, appeared relatively normal after the operation and doctors were pleased with her mental state, Dr. Jean-Michel Dubernard said in a telephone interview. Doctors had been worried about the potentially negative psychological effects of receiving part of someone else’s face.

“She is perfect,” Dubernard said. “Psychologically, she is doing very well.”

Dubernard, one of the woman’s two lead surgeons, said that the 36-year-old would remain hospitalized in the southeastern city of Lyon for four to six weeks. She must take drugs to prevent her body from rejecting the donated facial part, which Dubernard has said carry a slightly more elevated risk of cancer.

The woman received a section of a nose, lips and chin in the 15-hour transplant surgery on Nov. 27 in the northern city of Amiens, near her home. The woman, the divorced mother of two teenage daughters, has not been identified by name.

She was mutilated by a pet Labrador in May, leaving her with severe facial injuries that her doctors said made it difficult for her to speak and eat. The dog was put down.

Incentives slow to reach southwest

The state’s new economic development agency has done little to entice firms to locate in southwestern Indiana, a report Sunday said.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation, which replaced the Indiana Development Commission earlier this year, has promised only $7.2 million, or 4 percent of the total, to companies in the southwestern corner of the state, according to an analysis by the Evansville Courier and Press.

FRANCE

First partial face transplant successful
Arabic
continued from page 1

courses has taken off in recent years. "Every semester we get more and more students," said Professor Joseph Amar, director of the Program in Arabic Studies at Notre Dame. "I lost interest in school and trying to learn English, I lost interest in the Arab world."

Amar said the three sections of Arabic offered in 2003 will grow to four by spring 2006.

"Even those, unfortunately, have only 30 sections with 30 students," he said. "We try to accommodate as many people as we can."

In spring 2005, the five sections of beginning Arabic classes did not provide enough options for numbers of students interested, and an extra section was scheduled for the following moment. Amar had to leave the small Arabic program to fill in for a vacationer, but engineering professor Ramzi Bialuan - a native Lebanese - agreed to teach the class.

Upper-level courses in spring 2006 have just one section, but Amar predicted that multiple sections will be available in coming years, as students advance in the language.

Amar, a Catholic priest born in Lebanon, has been responsible for the major in Arabic since its inception in 1999. The major, which is housed under the Department of Classics, features courses in Arabic language, Middle Eastern history and literature in translation.

While some majors must take at least four semesters in Arabic, Amar said it is also important for students to develop a familiarity with the culture of the Arab world.

"The Arabic language is spoken in a part of the world that most Americans are not familiar with, it is important to learn something about that," Amar said. "Even in general, Americans don't know much about countries in which Arabic is spoken except what they saw on TV, and that's bogus."

Natasha Mikha, a senior at the University of Notre Dame major, has had more exposure to Middle Eastern culture since enrolling at Notre Dame. Mikha, whose father is Iraqi, was never speaking Arabic when she entered college, but had stopped using the language long before college. "I was around age eight, but with doing better in school and trying to learn English, I lost it," she said. "When we got to a certain age, my parents switched us to English.

"If you finish with some Arabic and a knowledge of the Middle East, you're one in a million in this country."

Joseph Amar, professor

Mikha spent part of her junior year in Israel, where she found many students who, like herself, were half Arab but not fluent in the language.

"There are a lot of kids who are part Arab who are trying to get in touch with that background," Mikha said. Mikha said only a few of her classmates at Notre Dame are of Middle Eastern descent.

"A lot of kids who study Arabic at Notre Dame are political science and peace studies majors," Mikha said. "They are also studying Arabic because it is important to the world situation."

A few of her classmates are pursuing careers in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) or in other government branches seeking Arabic speakers. Though Mikha plans to pursue a career in law while earning a Master's degree in Arabic, she has seen evidence of growing interest in hiring Arabic-speaking students.

"It's funny because once you start taking it, when you go online, every one in while when you put up a job it says in Arabic 'If you can read this sign out loud and it's from the CIA,' Mikha said.

Amar suggested that most students' strengthened interest in Arabic derives from their professional goals.

"People who study Arabic do it for the professional advantage they get in business, government and the media," Amar said. "If someone has a few credits in Spanish, employers don't look twice, but Arabic jumps out."

And if the number of Arabic majors employment rate is any indicator, Amar's statement is true.

"Our majors are either accepted into grad schools or have jobs before they finish their senior years," Amar said. "If you finish with some Arabic and a knowledge of the Middle East, you're in a much better situation."

Representatives and recruiters from the government, business and media attend each spring solely to meet Arabic majors. Amar said. Though students sometimes think the government would be the most likely career of Arab speakers, both business and media are providing growing opportunities.

"Businesses doing business in the Middle East are learning that more employees can deal with Middle Easterners and negotiate deals effectively," Amar said. If they are not fluent but know some Arabic, it indicates a good level of respect and willingness to understand them on their own ground.

All areas of media are also demanding increased communication with teams around the world, leading to better speakers proficient in Arabic.

"One of the fastest growing areas is in broadcast and print journalism," Amar said. He added that in other fields, media does not view fluency in the language as important as the ability to simply communicate with journalists in the Middle East.

Arabic's reputation as a difficult language is spoken in a part of the world that most Americans are not familiar with. Americans do have difficulty learning Arabic, it may be a hot topic, not just to the United States, but to the entire world," he said. "I've always wanted to go into broadcast journalism, and Arabic is something people going into journalism need to know."

Bocinsky said he had difficulty studying Spanish and Latin in high school and wanted to try a totally different language.

"I thought learning a new alphabet - instead of just translating - would be a good experience," he said. "I got it through the first half of the semester while we were learning the alphabet, but when we started learning the vocabulary, I realized that I was having the same problems I'd had with other languages."

Bocinsky said the highly motivated Arabic faculty was not the problem.

"The difficulty does not stem from the professors," he said. "Because the program is difficult, it has trouble retaining students.

Still, the Arabic program's increasing popularity and relatively high retention rate speak to the increased awareness of issues in the Middle East among college students.

"For a long time, education has been European-centered, but clearly the trajectory is now towards Asia and the Middle East," Amar said. "Notre Dame is a national university and is putting students in touch with the things that are going on."

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"Because the program is difficult, it has trouble retaining students. Lots of students didn't make it through the second semester."

Kyle Bocinsky, sophomore

"Most students just lap it up, they love it," he said. Mikha said that when Americans do have difficulty learning Arabic, it may be because the language incorporates sounds that are unknown to English speakers.

"It's difficult because it's like nothing you've heard before."

In Arabic, only long vowels are written, Mikha said.

"Certain words are spelled the same but the short vowels make them different," she said. "In reading a newspaper, that can make them difficult for beginners," she said.

For Mikha, the hard work of relearning Arabic has paid off.

"At least on a resume, I will put that I can speak, read and write reasonably well," she said. "I'm not fluent after five semesters, but I'm comfortable enough to pause and fish for words."

While Mikha has done well with regaining her Arabic, some students have more difficulty learning Arabic. "It's a hot topic," Mikha said. "Because people going into journalism need to know it."

"I'm not fluent after five semesters, but I'm comfortable enough to pause and fish for words."

Kyle Bocinsky, sophomore

Want to be Student Body President?

Info Meeting

Pro convoc (Dec. 6) 8PM
LaForte's Foster Room

All interested students are encouraged to attend to learn about rules, requirements, and dates.

Questions?

Contact the Judicial Council at jcouncil@nd.edu
MARKET RECAP

**Stocks**

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**In Brief**

Nationwide gas prices continue to fall. CAMARILLO, Calif. — Retail gas prices have continued to drop across the country, falling an additional 11 cents in the past two weeks, according to a survey released Sunday. The weighted average price for all three grades dropped to $2.16 a gallon on Dec. 2, said Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the semi-monthly Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations across the country.

Self-service, regular averaged $2.13 a gallon in Tulsa, and other similar plans offered by Marathon, Shell and others were all but required to work for an agreement of major net­works, among other areas. Rosenberg's agenda mirrors that of the newly elected president of the Writers Guild of America, west. Patric Verrone also ran on a promise to get tougher with studios and also fired his executive director soon after taking office. Both men justified the fir­ings by saying they needed staff who would push their agendas of increasing membership, fighting the rise of reality TV shows and gaining more economic concessions from studios. Rosenberg's action deep­ened the geographic rift that already existed in the union. Actors outside Hollywood are not as reliant on resid­uals from DVDs and other technologies and are less inclined to endure a lengthy, costly strike over the issue. Those actors also fear Los Angeles-based members, who control the guild because of their numbers, will abuse their power and push through an agenda that ignores the needs of actors in other regions. Rosenberg acknowledges that bridging these differ­ences is his most pressing challenge. "If you have people living in all different areas of the country who feel like they're muzzled and don't have a voice or are afraid they're going to be muzzled," he said. He has visited the New York and Miami branches in recent weeks and plans on visiting other locals in the hope of creating a more unified front for upcoming contract talks.

**Screen Actors Guild takes tougher stance against powerful media conglomerates**

**Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES — The largest union representing actors has promised a new, tougher stance in contract talks with powerful media conglomerates.

Rosenberg and his allies gained a majority on the national board by promising to squeeze more money from the studios in the sale of DVDs and new tech­nologies, including downloading of films and TV shows. He also pledged to unite SAG's founding fac­tions.

Instead, Rosenberg, 55, divided the union up more by immediate­ly firing popular SAG national executive director Greg Hessinger. He had been hired by the previous leadership, which Rosenberg accused of surrender­ing too easily on key economic issues in contract talks last year.

Many union members see the firing as an arrogant display of power by Rosenberg that could finally split the union into two groups — one that rep­resents film and TV actors, primarily based in Hollywood, and another mostly comprised of mem­bers in New York, Chicago and elsewhere who do commercials and voiceovers.

Paul Christie, president of SAG's New York branch, said he talked of a split has been ex­pressed among members. Rosenberg, who was a reg­ular on the TV series "La Law" and a frequent guest at Geisha" is married to Marg Helgenberger. "I think he's capable of better things," Christie said.

With 120,000 members, SAG has always been a fragmented labor union, representing both multimil­lionaire superstars and rank-and-file membership with an unemployment rate of more than 80 percent. Membership in the union is all but required to work in films, television and commercials. Many SAG members also belong to the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, which has jurisdic­tion over the prime-time schedule of major net­works, among other areas. Rosenberg's agenda mirrors that of the newly elected president of the Writers Guild of America, west. Patric Verrone also ran on a promise to get tougher with studios and also fired his executive director soon after taking office. Both men justified the fir­ings by saying they needed staff who would push their agendas of increasing membership, fighting the rise of reality TV shows and gaining more economic concessions from studios. Rosenberg's action deep­ened the geographic rift that already existed in the union. Actors outside Hollywood are not as reliant on resid­uals from DVDs and other technologies and are less inclined to endure a lengthy, costly strike over the issue. Those actors also fear Los Angeles-based members, who control the guild because of their numbers, will abuse their power and push through an agenda that ignores the needs of actors in other regions. Rosenberg acknowledges that bridging these differ­ences is his most pressing challenge. "If you have people living in all different areas of the country who feel like they're muzzled and don't have a voice or are afraid they're going to be muzzled," he said. He has visited the New York and Miami branches in recent weeks and plans on visiting other locals in the hope of creating a more unified front for upcoming contract talks.

**Car wheel maker files bankruptcy**

**Associated Press**

GAS CITY, Ind. — An auto parts supplier has filed for bankruptcy for the second time in a year, citing a loss of business from General Motors Corp. Accast, the St. Louis-based firm now and continued business from GM — the source of about 80 percent of Accast's revenue after it reorganized and emerged from its first Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing last summer, according to court documents. "Now the firm's operations programs has proven to be true," Accast officials said in a news release. "In the meantime, employees will be paid their normal wages and bonuses and all benefit programs will continue uninterrupted," said Richard A. Lindenmuth, Accast interim chief executive officer. "We have funding arrangements in place with our exist­ing lenders to continue operations during the bankruptcy case. We hope to conclude the process as promptly as possible."

In an attempt to restore its own profitability, GM recently announced that it would cease production at 12 facilities within the next two years and eliminate 30,000 jobs. GM officials were aware of Accast's bankruptcy filing, but would not com­ment on any loss of business, said Tom Hill, a spokesman for the automaker.
Nontraditional ornaments adorn national Christmas tree

First Lady chooses to substitute fresh flowers for ornaments to keep with 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' theme

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**WASHINGTON** — The White House is experimenting with a nontraditional Christmas tree decoration this year — laboratory test tubes.

As part of the "All Things Bright and Beautiful" theme selected for the 2005 holiday season, first lady Laura Bush came up with the idea of decorating Christmas trees with fresh flowers. That left White House Chief Florist Nancy Clarke with the problem of keeping all those roses, lilies and azaleas properly hydrated.

"One of my suggestions was that we take a test tube, a regular test tube from any laboratory and wrap it with wire," Clarke said. "We could fill it up with water and actually make a Christmas ornament and still give our flowers a water source."

It worked, and on Wednesday, when Bush presented 1,600 Pennsylvania Avenue Christmas decorations, flower-bedazzled Christmas trees stood in the State Floor rooms.

The centerpiece, Bush said, is the official White House Christmas tree, a 18 1/2-foot Fraser fir adorned with white lilies, crystal ornaments and white Christmas lights. The tree is so tall the Blue Room's chandelier had to be removed.

"I think it is one of the most beautiful Christmas trees I've ever seen," Bush said.

Wearing a Carolina Herrera two-piece suit — what she called "her new red suit" — she also presented simple one-color bouquets of tulips that grazed mantels, and boxwood garlands with gold trim that adorned mirrors. Wreaths with gold-trimmed lime sashes hung in windows and boxes that held evergreens played prominent roles in table centerpieces.

Bush said she deliberately took a simpler approach to the decorations, holiday cuisine and the official Christmas card to highlight the elegance of the official residence.

"We used natural and real flowers, fruits and garlands to show how beautiful nature is," she said.

The natural theme could be seen in the holiday food choices as well. Samples of the cuisine to be served at upcoming parties included cheese from Vermont and Minnesota, Virginia ham and traditional fruit cake and apple cobbler.

Straying from the simplicity, however, was an enormous and elaborate gingerbread House, made by White House pastry chef Thaddeus Delios.
Are you thinking about...

Going to Grad/Law/Med School?
- Med School Mock Interviews
- Resume reviews for applications
- Dossier services

Working for a Fortune 500 Company?
- On campus interviews
- Employer info nights
- GoIRISH database

Working for a non-profit?
- Winter Career and Internship Fair
- Idealist.org
- Non-profit job postings on GoIrish

Looking for job options closer to your hometown?
- City tours
- Careersearch
- Job Search Workshops

Finding a great internship?
- Internship Exchange
- Hot Internships Newsletter
- Local Internship Postings

Exploring your career options?
- Career Center Classes
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POLICIES

Dear Notre Dame,

On Nov. 30, Matt Garber committed suicide. You might not have talked to Matt, but you might recognize him. He was the guy in the pink sweater, eating cookies at Waddick’s. He had a ponytail and wore black glasses. He rode a bike, slept on South Quad benches, wrote like Borges and made movies that were static and firewicks. He might have audited one of your classes.

Matt enrolled at Notre Dame in the fall of 2002. Between then and now, he went to the University of Chicago, worked in a bakery, went fishing and became very, very sad. This fall, he returned to the Notre Dame campus to reconnect and reaply. I last saw him in a Daisy Queen parking lot. He was eating a Blizzard.

Bottom line: Matt was an intense and lovely person. If you knew him, then I am sorry if you didn’t know him. Please take this letter as my equivalent of putting his name in lights across South Quad, and amidst the craziness that is Notre Dame December, say to it yourself a few times: “We miss you, Matt Garber.”

Thank you.

Joey Falco

Forty ounces to Fallo

Yo­

“Rent" is among the most popular movie. The songs are catchy and its themes are motivating, but hopefully audiences will realize that there is a greater problem which does exist here and now. World AIDS day sent a message that I found similar to the movie “Rent”; we are all connected in this world, and we must help one another to live each day.

Katie McNamary
freelance
Been-Phillips hall

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On Nov. 30, Matt Garber committed suicide. You might not have talked to Matt, but you might recognize him. He was the guy in the pink sweater, eating cookies at Waddick’s. He had a ponytail and wore black glasses. He rode a bike, slept on South Quad benches, wrote like Borges and made movies that were static and firewicks. He might have audited one of your classes.

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Forty ounces to Fallo

Yo­
Vatican declaration spurs discussion

Document carries dire consequences

Closing read elicits positive response

I write in response to Andy Barch's negative conclusion and criticism of the document on homosexuals and seminaries. I think Barch, in his attempt to silence the voice of my own feelings. By not carefully examining the document and by relying on emotive rather than logical thinking, he has misinterpreted the document which, in my view, is a very necessary response to the rec-

In the I: Observer, Andy Barchel commented on the Inclusion release in Brazil and the Vatican's new Departement of Vocations with Regard to Persons with Homosexual Tendencies in General and to the Seminary and to Holy Orders. Andy correctly pointed out that, "this document is the first papal document with so small a number of shame as a Catholic and a theologian in training, a confession to have invested in the Church that I have never been part of the Catholic Church, regardless of the fact that I am a fellow theologian, I share Andy's conviction that this document is profoundly damaging to the integrity of the Church.

For this reason, I addressed Mass Sunday with an informal group of a dozen students in the Name of Jesus Christ, who have been silenced and shame, for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities who will receive yet another assault on their dignity as children of God and for the convers-

I am a young man who has been acting as a "protector," a desire to protect the Vatican and ask that they dialogue more with the Church and with the "heterosexuals themselves" as individuals. This is not about gaining the liberal, middle-class right to "pope," but about a desire to be heard by those of us who live under the reign of the liberal state, and to have the strength to act. No wonder they don't work; they amount to little more than begging the authorities for a handout, a medium of respect, a reform that only solidifies their authoritarian power over us. No, I am not a protector. I am a...
CONCERT REVIEW

‘Better’ than ever

Better Than Ezra returns to campus after three years with same talent, new material

By CHRIS McGRADY
Assistant Scene Editor

Although not on top of the charts quite yet, the New Orleans-based band is making a run for the top. Better Than Ezra is back. It played a good show, proving that the band meant business. In this lies the true beauty of Better Than Ezra — they are serious musicians who are seriously talented but who don’t take themselves too seriously.

Better Than Ezra continually joked around on stage, mentioning numerous times that “LSU-Notre Dame would be a great match up in the Sugar Bowl.” This joke stems from the fact that several of the band’s members went to Louisiana State University. One detriment to the concert was the Stepan Center is unfortunately one of the only places on campus available to host a concert the size of the one on Friday. The acoustics in Stepan Center are terrible. The opening act, Marking Twain, was talented, but from the back of the Stepan Center, the group’s lyrics were inaudible. The distorted guitar cut into the lyrics and caused each of the group’s songs to sound the same. Nonetheless, Marking Twain put on a good show and engaged the audience. However, as it should be, the headlining act stole the show.

Better Than Ezra played both new songs and hits from previous albums. Much to the crowd’s delight, Griffin called out, “We aren’t like some bands that only play their new songs. We are going to play everything!” These were encouraging words and a far cry from many bands today that use concert tours solely to promote recent albums.

Perhaps the highlight of the concert was during the song, Griffin called into the crowd for someone to come up on stage and play the guitar part to the song. Making clear that this person would already have to know the song, the student was then torn into a solo that rivaled anything Griffin had played all night. After the song, the student was led back to his seat and was greeted there by thunderous applause.

In this lies the beauty of Better than Ezra — they are serious musicians who are seriously talented but who don’t take themselves too seriously.

Better Than Ezra was founded in 1987 by guitarist and vocalist Kevin Griffin, left, when he and other members were students at Louisiana State University. The band continues to play powerful, high-energy songs.
SHOW REVIEW

Dance Company shows rhythm, ‘Soul’

By LIZ BYRUM
Assistant Scout Editor

For such a new group on campus, the Dance Company has collected a lot of talent. On Thursday and Friday night, this talent was showcased in a performance titled "Soul," which was presented by the company in Washington Hall.

The Dance Company of Notre Dame, which is composed of over 50 members, has only been in existence for three semesters. It recently split into two distinct companies, the Blue and the Gold. It is entirely student-run and is currently led by president Ashley Iacenza. As was evident in the performances this weekend, the dancers put many hours of time and effort into dance, which range from hip-hop and lyrical to jazz and ballet.

"We started the show for the dance in the summer, figuring out the theme and planning dances. Most of the choreography happened over the summer," Maria Lupia, a sophomore Gold Company member, said.

The show both opened and closed with performances by the entire company, and the Gold and Blue Companies were broken down into groups and other pieces including "Numb" by Jay-Z and Linkin Park, as well as "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood" by Soul Brothers Esmeralda.

The mix of music to which the group danced allowed various groups to show off their particular strengths. In "Fever," which was choreographed by Blue Company member Stephanie Korn, a group of five dancers brought together from both companies displayed dancing creativity and intertwined this with their ballet talent.

The Gold Company, led by captain Kathryn Nosek, showed their high level of experience with their rendition of the "Rejoice" section of the Messiah's "The Hope to be Wrong!"

One of the most entertaining and memorable performances of the night was the Gold Company's dance to a medley of hip-hop songs titled "Ballin\". This included pieces by Usher, Lil' Jon and Ludacris, Missy Elliot and "N' Sync.

The members of the Dance Company are obviously talented dancers, but the wide array of costumes worn throughout the show also proved that at least some of the members are talented in other art forms as well.

The Blue Company, led by co-captain Martin Mullin, closed out the first half of the show to the song "Miami." Not only were the costumes creatively made out of cut-up Miami T-shirts, the dancers also put on an impressive performance with dance moves that looked like they belonged on a Miami dance floor.

Freshman Blue Company member Monalisa Iacenza, who performed in "Miami," said she enjoys dancing to hip-hop and that "Miami" was fun because "it was kind of Latin as well." Iacenza, who has been dancing ballet since she was three, said that the dance company "is also a way to make new friends."

Pam of any group's music would have been pleased with at least one performance by Coldplay fans were no exception, as members of the Gold Company performed a beautiful dance choreographed by Meghan Winger to the band's song, "Politik." It was during this performance that the background talent in both costuming and lighting for the night was especially apparent. The colors of both the costumes and the background lighting throughout the song corresponded perfectly with the mood the music set.

The company even succeeded at getting the audience involved throughout the show. A number of dancers filled in the song changes by encouraging the audience to purchase roses for their favorite dancers during intermission, and even had the audience lessened up literally during the "seven ton inning stretch."

The Dance Company of Notre Dame is a great way for dancers to continue doing something they love during college. The great variety of music, creative costuming and beautiful performances made "Soul" a very successful show. Whether someone is looking for a way to continue dancing, or just searching for entertainment for an evening, the Dance Company of Notre Dame is a great place to look.

Contact Liz Byrum at byrum@nd.edu

CONCERT REVIEW

'Messiah' combines great music, performances

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Scene Writer

The Leighton Concert Hall in the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts filled with the sounds of "Hallelujah" and "Laudamus" as the University of Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra presented their annual performance of Handel's "Messiah."

With its stunning music and triumphant atmosphere of celebration, Handel's "Messiah" is one of the most sung and beloved Christmas traditions. The University of Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra did not fail to inspire with their performance of this wonderful piece.

Handel's "Messiah" is a fantastic performance for every audience member. Its elegant melody is emphasized by its strong focus on choirs, soloists and orchestra. It benefits from using all of these elements in a balanced way, just focusing on one. Familiarity also makes it a great performance for frequent attenders of classical musical performances. Likewise, it is just as enjoyable for new audience members.

The summer's heat comes primarily from the Church of England's "Book of Common Prayer" and is in English, which some may find easy understanding. Nearly everyone has heard the popular "Hallelujah" chorus and the universal appeal of "Messiah" is one of the best reasons for its longevity.

Composed circa 1741, Saturday night's performance of "Messiah" marks the 250th anniversary of Handel's masterpiece. The University of Notre Dame Choral and Chamber Orchestra's performance was a success. The orchestra and choir balanced each other throughout the show, and gave a strong performance. The concert also showcased the talent of the Chorale by selecting eleven different singers for the piece's various solos. All did a commendable job with difficult solo parts. The Chorale and Chamber Orchestra managed to create a beautiful performance that ended to a rousing round of applause from the audience.

Contact Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts are making perfection look easier every week.

Now they'll have a chance to keep their historic quest going in the playoffs, too.

With the Triplets in sync and the defense producing another physically dominant performance Sunday, Tennessee never had a chance as the Colts rolled into a 35-3 victory to clinch a playoff spot and remain the NFL's only unbeaten team.

"Anything that comes along with winning, you accept," two-time MVP Peyton Manning said.

The Colts are the fifth team in league history to go 12-0, but must wait until next week at Jacksonville for a chance to wrap up their third straight AFC South title and first-round bye in the playoffs. If the past few games are any indication, that's only a matter of time.

Indianapolis has won seven of its last nine by at least 17 points, averaging more than 35 points. The Colts even routed Tennessee on a Sunday morning to destroy all last-second hopes in the AFC West showdown.

But the latest victory epitomized how Indy continues to win — by overcoming anything opponents try.

On Sunday, the Titans (3-9) wanted to play keep-away. It didn't work.

Manning completed 13 of 17 passes for 187 yards and three touchdowns, giving him a near-perfect passer-rating of 151.2 and extending his NFL record to eight straight seasons with at least 25 TD passes.

Edgeridge James carried 28 times for 156 yards and three scores, becoming the third-fastest player in league history to reach 1,000 yards. In 93 games, James has rushed for 9,067 yards.

Eric Dickerson and Wilbert Montgomery both did it in 82 games; Jim Brown did it in 88.

Chiefs 31, Broncos 27

With a little help from instant replay, the AFC West race suddenly got a lot tighter.

The Kansas City Chiefs received a favorable ruling when they challenged the spot a run by Damien Johnson in the closing seconds of the Denver first down near midfield on a fourth-and-1 play with 2:01 left.

Then the Chiefs (8-4) ran the clock down and preserved a 31-27 victory that pulled them to within one game of the AFC West champion.

With the win, Kansas City tops Denver in AFC West showdown; Dolphins overcome 20-point fourth quarter deficit to beat Bills

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning looks for a receiver in the Colts' 35-3 win over the Tennessee Titans Sunday.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Observer office, 624 South Chandler Mall. Deadlines for one-day classifieds is 3 p.m. before publication day. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without incurring refunds.

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Rental property, 3 bedrooms, $1,500/mo. Contact 756-5502.

FOR SALE

GEOX, size 8, $35.

FOR RENT

Apartment, 2 bedrooms, $950/mo. Contact 908-574-1104.

FOR RENT

1 bedroom apartment for rent 1 block from ND. $1050/mo + $100 deposit. Call 754-292-6880.

FOR RENT

Dolphins biggest comeback victory since 1997. Chambers caught a lobbed 4-yard pass from Sage Rosenfels on fourth down with :21 to go and preserved a 31-27 victory that pulled them to within one game of the AFC West champion.

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**B.C.S. Top 25**

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**A.P. Football Top 25**

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**Men's Big East Basketball**

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**MLB**

**Furcal signs 3-year deal with Dodgers**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Shortstop Rafael Furcal and the Los Angeles Dodgers have reached an agreement on a $39 million, three-year contract, his agent said Sunday.

Paul Kinzer said a physical was scheduled for his client on Monday.

Dodgers spokesman Josh Rawitch would only say no announcement was planned before baseball’s winter meetings, which begin Monday in Dallas.

Los Angeles beat out Atlanta and Chicago Cubs for Furcal, who had spent his entire six-year career with the Braves.

"He liked all three this," Kinzer said.

Kinzer said the Dodgers entered the negotiations late, but that now general manager Ned Colletti and owner Frank McCourt made a persuasive argument.

"Earlier in the week, we were about finished when they got involved," Kinzer said. "They asked if we could listen. We have a tremendous amount of respect for Ned."

Adam Katz, Kinzer's representative, said a four-year, $48 million deal was also on the table but Furcal was impressed by McCourt.

"He told Ray his vision of where he wanted the team to be and how he will fit," Kinzer said. "Once this Dodgers went to $33 million, the Cubs and Braves weren't moving to that point."

Furcal will receive $9 million next year, with $5 million of that to be called a signing bonus. He gets $13 million in cash in each of the following two seasons, and there is a final $4 million payment in January 2009.

"It's going to be tough. This is going to be the first time he's ever been without Bobby Cox," Kinzer said, referring to the longtime Braves' manager.

It was the first major move for the Dodgers under Colletti, hired in mid-November as the successor to Paul DePodesta.

Before Los Angeles got involved, Cubs manager Jim Hendry appeared to be the favorite.

"Jim Hendry really wanted it, worked hard," Kinzer said.

**In Brief**

**Colts’ Manning, Harrison and James reach Milestones**

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts triplets again were setting milestones at a frantic pace Sunday.

Marvin Harrison became the 12th receiver in league history to top 12,000 yards receiving in the first quarter against Jacksonville. He did it on the Colts’ opening drive, catching a 36-yard pass to top the mark and then catching a 10-yard TD pass from Peyton Manning to extend the duo’s NFL record to 92 touchowns.

In the third quarter, Manning and Edgerrin James got their own accomplishments.

On the opening drive, James carried for 8 yards with 11:29 left. Manning completed the drive with a 27-yard TD pass to Reggie Wayne. That gave Manning 25 touchdown passes this year, extending his NFL record to 92 touchdowns.

Free agent pitcher Byrd signs contract with Indians

CLEVELAND — Free agent starter Paul Byrd is close to finalizing a $14.25 million, two-year contract with the Cleveland Indians, filling one of the club’s biggest needs in the eve of the winter meetings.

Byrd, who went 12-11 with a 3.74 ERA in 31 starts for the Los Angeles Angels last season, was trying to complete a deal with the Indians, a person familiar with the negotiations said Sunday night, speaking on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet in place.

Byrd’s decision to sign with Cleveland was first reported by ESPN.com, which said the sides had reached an agreement. The person familiar with the talks told the AP that there were a few outstanding issues remaining but that a deal could be struck later Sunday or Monday.

The Los Angeles Angels, Baltimore and Texas also sought Byrd.

His deal with the Indians would include an option that could raise the value to $22 million over three seasons.

Pacers finish road trip without Croshere, Timely

SEATTLE — The Indiana Pacers were without starters Jamaal Tinsley and Austin Croshere when the team closed out a five-game road trip Sunday night against the Seattle SuperSonics.

Timely missed his second straight game with a sore groin. He was inactive Friday against Portland.

Croshere, who injured his abdomen against the Trail Blazers, started five straight games before Sunday. In 10 starts this season, Croshere averaged 9.3 points and 7.3 rebounds.
Duke topps Virginia Tech on last-second shot
Dean bounces back from slump to lead Louisville over Arkansas State; UCLA overcomes slow start to beat Coppin State

Associated Press

DUKE -- Duke's men's basketball Indoor Stadium is alive and well. Coach Mike Krzyzewski drew up a play with freshman Josh McRoberts throwing the inbounds pass, and he lofted a perfect one to Dockery just over McRoberts' head.

\[\text{He finished with a season-high 19 points} - \text{the first time he's been in double figures all season} - \text{and was 4-of-5 from 3-point range. Of course, the final one was the most important.} \]

\[\text{Collins led the Hokies with 25 points on 12-of-17 shooting, and Dowdell added 15.} \]

\[\text{It proved to be short-lived.} \]

Louisville 67, Arkansas State 55

\[\text{Taquan Dean's shooting slump didn't last long.} \]

\[\text{The Louisville guard made six 3-pointers and scored 24 points as the seventh-ranked Cardinals overcame a sluggish first half to pull away from Arkansas State at the Colonial Classic on Sunday.} \]

\[\text{Dean knocked down three shots from beyond the arc during a decisive 19-0 run in the second half when Louisville (9-0) shook free of the Indians (2-4) in the final 10 minutes.} \]

\[\text{"He's the target on everybody's backboard," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said.} \]

\[\text{"Taquan is the man. Every coach is screaming "Don't let him shoot."} \]

\[\text{Dean entered the game shooting just 27 percent from the field and 19 percent from 3-point range. It looked like his struggles would continue against the Indians. He missed six of his first nine shots, most of them long jumpers that bounced harmlessly off the rim.} \]

\[\text{A quick evaluation of his shooting motion by Pitino set Dean straight.} \]

\[\text{"I was moving back on my jump shot, I wasn't landing in the same place," Dean said.} \]

\[\text{"Coach told me that at halftime, now I feel more comfortable with my shot. I feel I'm in a little groove now."} \]

\[\text{Juan Palacios had seven points and nine rebounds, Brandon Jennings scored 11 points, and David Padgett added five points, five rebounds and four assists for Louisville.} \]

\[\text{Derek King led Arkansas State with 20 points, most coming in the first half on an array of circus shots that allowed the Indians to keep it close.} \]

\[\text{We executed well and didn't back down," Arkansas State coach Dickey Nutt said.} \]

UCLA 69, Coppin State 57

\[\text{Fortunately for UCLA, college basketball is played in two halves. The Bruins needed the last 20 minutes to make up for an unpleasant first.} \]

\[\text{Arren Afflalo scored 20 points and keyed a second-half rally with Cedric Bouman that helped the 16th-ranked Bruins beat Coppin State Sunday.} \]

\[\text{The Bruins (6-1) won their fifth straight at Pauley Pavilion, but needed another comeback to put away an inferior opponent.} \]

\[\text{Last Tuesday, they blew all of a 19-point lead and trailed by one before ousting Atlantic 73-65.} \]

\[\text{"We're definitely concerned because we play much better teams (in the future)," Afflalo said.} \]

\[\text{"It's always tough when you know a team is 0-5. You just got to come out and play hard. We picked it up a little bit in the second half."} \]

\[\text{The Eagles remained winless, falling back to 0-6 for the first time since starting the 1999-2000 season. They are playing their first 14 games on the road, including a brutal December filled with stops at No. 5 Oklahoma, No. 12 Illinois, Pittsburgh, Michigan and No. 11 Michigan State.} \]

\[\text{They have to play games on the road to raise money for their budget.} \]

\[\text{UCLA coach Ben Howland said.} \]

\[\text{"We know we're small and young and they have the name and we don't, but we played extra hard. We were in it for the first half," McKeer said.} \]

\[\text{"We just have too many young players, but we're learning."} \]

Trailing by three, the Bruins ran off seven straight points to take their lead, 42-38, since early in the first half. Bouman had four points and Afflalo added two free throws as UCLA went ahead for good.

\[\text{"We lost our composure," Coppin State coach Ron Mitchell said.} \]

\[\text{"We gave them a lot of easy baskets to start the second half. You can't do that if you want to win at a place like this."} \]

\[\text{Coppin State wasted five of its next six possessions on turnovers, while the Bruins put together a 25-10 spree that extended their lead to 60-48 with 4:23 remaining.} \]

Portland nnded UCLA's perfect run in the first half, giving it a 25-20 lead, the first time since starting the 1999-2000 season. They are playing their first 14 games on the road.
**ND WOMEN’S SWIMMING**

Irish hold off Truman, win ND Invitational

Carroll breaks meet and pool records in 1,650 freestyle race

By GREG ARBOGAST

The women’s swimming and diving team got out of the blocks quickly and never looked back on their way to a comfortable victory in the Notre Dame Invitational this weekend. The Irish led the meet start to finish, accumulating 1,822 points while holding off five-time defending Division II champions Truman State (1,431 points).

After starting the meet in strong fashion Thursday with nine top-three finishes, Notre Dame refocused and delivered stronger results on Friday and Saturday.

During the final two days, the Irish garnered 12 top-three finishes, eight first-place finishes and surpassed season-best times, one NCAA “B” cut time and two meet and pool records.

“You always want to finish the meet strong,” Irish coach Carrie Nixon said. “I felt that our best performance was on Saturday night, and that was very pleasing.”

Carroll head coach

**ND VOLLEYBALL**

Team advances to Sweet 16

Sixth-seeded Irish defeat Northwestern 30-27, 30-27, 30-28

By TOM DORWART

Sixth-seeded Notre Dame (30-3) advanced to the NCAA’s Sweet 16 for the first time since 1997 in a second-round victory Friday evening over Northwestern (20-12) 30-27, 30-28.

“We’re really excited about moving on to the next round and being in the Sweet 16,” Irish coach Debbie Brown said. “It has been a long time for the program since we’ve been there.”

The Irish — who have dominated the Big East for more than a decade — finally got the monkey off their back and will travel to College Station, Texas, for the Sweet 16 Friday.

“I’m very pleased with the way the team came out tonight,” Brown said. “We struggled recently in games three and, two, and started off poorly in game three, but the last half of game three we played really, really well to finish it and just competed hard.

“It’s a really good team win. We’re excited that we get to keep playing.”

Senior Lauren Brewer said her team can play without the pressure of being the favorite, and, now, they don’t care who’s their opponent in now, they’re playing for the nation’s best.

“I think we’re going to be able to focus on our team a lot more now,” she said. “We know that the better we’re going to be, each round in the NCAA tournament, there are going to be top teams and they’re going to play well.

“I think before...there was more pressure on us to have to win. Now, it’s just about having fun and down to the 16 best teams. We’re happy that we’re going to show up and play.”

Notre Dame will play No. 1 Wisconsin (28-1) and No. 14 Purdue (25-8). The two will square off at 5 p.m.

Against the Wildcats, sophomore outside hitter Adriana Stasiuk finished with 16 kills, including one cross-court rocket that landed within five feet of the net, and a match-high 19 points. Kerns drilled 13 kills, while Brewer spiked 10. Senior Carolyn Cooper added nine.

Defensively, senior Meg Honton nabbed 21 digs, while Stasiuk and junior Danielle Herndon added 10 and seven, respectively. Brewer led the team with nine blocks. Cooper also had eight.

The Irish halted for a 2-0 lead against the Wildcats. The second game was neck-and-neck the entire way, with Irish having two lead changes. Despite the 2-0 deficit Northwestern knew it had a chance.

“Everyone’s fallible,” senior outside hitter Christie Gardner said. “We knew we had a good chance to win. We knew we were capable.”

When the Irish went to the locker room for the break in between games two and three, they, no doubt, had their previous two matches in the backs of their minds.

In their last match before the NCAA tournament, the Irish lost to Tennessee in five games after leading 2-0. In Thursday’s NCAA first round, Notre Dame went up 2-0 on Dayton and eventually won a tight fifth game.

This time, the Irish wanted nothing to do with a fifth game. They didn’t even want a fourth.

“We’ve just a mental hurdle to get over,” Brown said, referring to finishing the third game. “It was good. I liked the way the team talked in the locker room between games two and three, and I liked the way we finished.”

This time with the season on the line, the Irish knew they would get the job done.

“I went home and I thought about it and tried to figure out what went wrong yesterday,”Kelbley said. “I was really excited to get out there and make it happen. I tried to reflect on my teammates and make sure everyone knew we were going to win this match today, and that there was no other option.”

For Brown and the Irish, especially the five seniors, each win brings another chance to play together.

“We love playing,” Brown said. “It’s the most exciting time of the year.”

For the seniors, who have been gearing for this moment their entire careers, the Sweet 16 is that much sweeter.

“I think we were really determined,” Brewer said. “I love the NCAA tournament. We’ve been trying to get to the Sweet 16 for four years we’ve been here, so that was a motivating factor for all of us.”

Though the Irish took the third game from the Wildcats, it wasn’t easy. They went down 4-7 to start the game.

That had Brown thinking they were in for yet another momentum swing.

“I thought, ‘Down 4-7, oh no, here we go again.’ It needed to stop right there, she said. “And the team did a great job of coming out of the timeout and having the commitment and the resolve to get it done. The competitors came out.”

Contact Tom Dorwart at tdorwart@nd.edu
**HOCKEY**

Brown shuts out Western Michigan in 3-0 win

Juniors earn fifth shutout of career in Saturday victory as Irish, Broncos split weekend home-and-home series

By CHRISS HOREY
Sports Writer

Early this season, Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said he was waiting for a goalie to step forward in this third quarter of Friday's 4-3 loss to the Broncos in Kalamazoo, Mich. He made several saves and did not allow a goal as Notre Dame stormed back from a three-goal deficit in the final period.

Brown started and earned the fifth shutout of his career Sunday in a 3-0 victory at the Joyce Center.

The win ended a five-game winless streak for the Irish and improved Notre Dame's record to 4-9-1 and 3-6-1 in the CCHA.

"Brown has played well all season," Jackson said of Saturday's performance. "I thought we played well in front of him, didn't give them a lot of chances. There were no back-door situations. He made the saves we needed made, and he made some when we really needed them made.

"Junior defender Wes O'Neill opened the scoring for the Irish Saturday with a power-play goal 1:46 into the second period. O'Neill were given a great pass from [Sciba]."

The game was one of the best game he's played for us this year," Jackson said of the junior. "Confidence is a funny thing. When [player(s)] lose their confidence, they don't play as well. I had a little talk with him this morning about his game last night and how he prepares himself to play, and he was one of the players in the ice tonight.

"The Broncos threatened to even the game after the puck went into the corner. Junior defenseman Tom Sawatske was called for clubbing a player in the back of the head in the ensuing melee. He was penalized with one of his arm for a delayed penalty, another called Seib for tripping.

Both Irish players were sent to the penalty box and Notre Dame found itself at a 5-on-3 disadvantage.

The Broncos were unable to score however, as the Irish defense cleared the puck four times and allowed only one shot, which Brown saved easily.

"That was a turning point in the game for us, to be able to kill off a 5-on-3," Jackson said.

P enalty killing hasn't been our specialty, but guys were blocking shots and sacrificing and realizing what they needed to get done.

The Irish added to their lead at 5:59 mark of the third period. After a charging call on Western center Sean Weaver gave Notre Dame a power play, O'Neill found himself with the puck behind the Broncos net. He flipped the pass into a crowd between the face-off circles and senior left wing Mike Walsh batted it past Bellissimo.

Notre Dame capped off the game with its first five-on-five goal of the night at 17:31 of the third when junior center Jason Paige rocketed a shot past Bellissimo from the point.

The game was one of the closest the Irish have played this year, with only ten penalties committed between the two squads, including just one in the third period.

"It was good game because the official called the game," Jackson said. "He didn't call what everyone wants him to call. He didn't make things up, which added more tempo and flow to the game."

Brown shuts out Western Michigan in 3-0 win

Western Michigan 4, Notre Dame 3

The Irish fell behind 4-1 Friday in Kalamazoo, but mounted a comeback that gave them some momentum for Saturday night.

"Coach talked about us making sure we get back to the little things that make us a complete hockey team," O'Neill said of Jackson's second intermission speech that carried over to the next night.

The game got off to a fast start with a goal by both teams in the first 30 seconds.

Notre Dame forward Tim Wallace took a loose puck off the opening face-off and skated down the ice to score just nine seconds into the game. Unfortunately for Notre Dame, it would give up four goals before finding the back of the net again.

Twenty-four seconds after Wallace's goal, Western right wing Dave Brown blasted a shot into a crowd in front of the Irish net from the right of the circle.

The puck hit a stick and flew up in the air, landing behind Notre Dame goalie Daniel Bellissimo, who had to work to get the puck out of the net. Ten less than three minutes later, Brown scored star forward Brent Walton scored the first of his three goals on the night.

Walton took a pass from defenseman Ryan Mahre, skated into the Notre Dame zone and ripped the puck past Pearse's outstretched glove to give the Broncos a 2-1 lead 3:23 into the game.

"I thought that Western Michigan came out flying for the first ten minutes, but after the first ten minutes, we played pretty well," Jackson said.

Walton would add to the lead in the second period. His slap shot from the left circle skipped along the ice and got underneath Pearse's pads to put Western up by two.

Just 44 seconds later, Walton completed his hat trick when he fought through a crowd to get to the rebound of a shot by defenseman Jason Moul.

"We gave up a couple of bad goals on shots Jordan Pearse would usually stop, but a couple of them went in the net, which really put us on our heels," Jackson said of the game's scoring outburst.

The Irish would answer after Paige stole an errant pass in the Western zone and banged home his first goal of the year.

Brown replaced Pearse in goal and held the Broncos scoreless, but Notre Dame could only muster a Seib goal at 10:04 of the third period and the comeback fell short.

The Irish get only two days off before traveling to Mankato, Minn., against Minnesota State Tuesday.

Contact Chris Horey at chorey@nd.edu

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**SMC BASKETBALL**

Cold second half leads to loss for Saint Mary’s

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

The Belles took a 25-23 lead into halftime, but poor second half shooting led to a 55-49 loss Saturday against North Park in Chicago.

Both teams shot poorly, but North Park's 29-percent from the floor was enough to defeat St. Mary's, which shot 20 percent on the game — 19 percent in the second half.

The Belles fell 7-of-15 from three-point range and 70 percent from the free throw line. The Belles also had 38 rebounds to the Lady Vikings 37, but committed 13 fouls which has out rebounded an opponent this season.

"We just didn't make shots in either half," Belles coach Steve Bender said. "That game was just a couple of shots from being a different game."

"We played hard. [The girls] interest has been great every game."

Erin Newsom led the Belles with 14 points and also had nine rebounds and a blocked shot. Bridget Boyce led the team with three assists and

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2006-2007

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Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu
Quinn proves to be a warrior despite loss

Plenty of very good players have the ability to take over a game. They just don’t have the heart. It’s the fire that burns inside a player after scoring six first-half points. It’s the desire and determination that forces a player to put the game on his shoulders, for better or worse. It’s the desire to take over a game.

Irish point guard Chris Quinn proved Saturday — at least for one afternoon — he simply has it. Quinn missed a potential game-tying floater after Michigan guard Dion Harris made it a two-point game with 17 seconds left. But that’s fine. He had a good look, and he had no intention of passing it up. Many good basketball players come to some special but fall short because they don’t have this heart. It happens all the time at the pro level.

Philadelphia. There was forward Chris Webber, a perennial all-star, disappears faster than the premiere in the fourth quarter. Sacramento Kings forward Peja Stojakovic averaged 24.2 points per game in the 2003-04 season before scoring eight points on 3-of-12 shooting in a Game 7 against the Timberwolves.

Anybody can score in the first half when the crowd is quiet, but only a special player wants the ball when it matters. The numbers tell the story. In the first half Quinn was 3-of-6 from the field for six points. In the second half, Quinn exploded on 6-of-12 shooting for 20 points, including 4-of-5 from 3-point range. He played the entire 20 minutes and hit all four of his free throws down the stretch.

Quinn has been waiting for this moment. While former point guard Chris Thomas didn’t always live up to expectations, he always welcomed the pressure. Sometimes he forced shots and sometimes he made turnovers, but he did it knowing he had to step up more than anyone else.

Anybody can score for the poster boy for the motto that teams should live and die with their best player.

Quinn watched and learned. Revisit Kyle McAlarney’s layup that tied the game at 52 with 8:17 remaining. It was the last Irish basket that wasn’t credited to Quinn. Michigan took a 30-second timeout, and Quinn scored Notre Dame’s final 15 points — only forcing one shot in that entire span.

“Looking at his numbers, I’m not sure anybody’s presence was going to stop Quinn this afternoon,” Michigan coach Tommy Amaker said. And Quinn almost did. Saturday what Thomas could not do his senior year, with the exception of last season’s St. John’s game — finish a big game with a bigger basket.

Thomas’s last missed shot does not discredit his performance. Irish forward Torin Francis said after the game that Quinn hits that shot nine out of 10 times. There is no doubt he will have more chances this season in close games, and Quinn will come through.

“I think he needed a game like this, as the man, this year,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “The lights were on, and he answered the bell comfortably.”

The only question that remains is where this attitude, this hustle, this determination will take Notre Dame in the long run. Great players make good teams out of average ones. Let’s see if Quinn can do the same.

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Followed by the Thursday night 12:15 AM showing of “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe” at Movies 14 on Edison Road

Movie ticket sale in Morrissey: Monday, December 5, 4-6 PM $10 (includes ticket and concession voucher)

For additional information, please visit our website at http://ethicscenter.nd.edu/narnia.shtml
**MEN'S SWIMMING**

Irish win fifth consecutive Notre Dame Invite

Bulfin, Stoner earn highest combined total of careers; team has not lost at Rolf's Aquatic Center since 2003-04 season

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

The Irish swimming and diving team continued to dominate at home this weekend with their fifth consecutive first-place finish at the Notre Dame Invitational.

Notre Dame has yet to lose at the 2006-07 season and has only suffered defeat once in South Bend since the 2003-04 season — a stretch that includes eight dual meet victories and six first-place finishes in tournaments. Its only loss came last year in a 163-134 loss to a strong Northwestern team.

"Being at Rolfs is where we are most comfortable," Irish captain Patrick Heffernan said. "It's where we train every day, and everyone is always ready to swim at home."

The Irish were ready this weekend as they came out strong, opening up a 40-point lead on the first night of competition. The lead of the first race until the last.

Over the three-day meet, Notre Dame was able to gain over 2,813 points — almost twice as many as its closest competition, Utah, who ended with 1,366.

Many of the individual swimmers and divers had career-best weekends while helping the team to their overall title.

Jay Vander Berg placed first in both the 500 and 1,650 free style races while posting his season's best times in both events.

The diving team helped out the Irish with Michael Bulfin and Sam Stoner achieving their highest combined scores since arriving at Notre Dame.

Chris Barnes also had a career day by qualifying for the Big East conference meet for the first time in his career in both the 100 and 200 freestyle events.

"This was my last Notre Dame Invitational and our last meet of the semester, so it was crucial for all of us to get good swims in before our Christmas training trip," Barnes said.

The Irish began training for the second semester almost immediately. Irish coach Tim Welsh gave his team little time to celebrate, as they will be back in the pool for practice on Monday morning, focused on their ultimate goal of the season, defending their Big East Championship.

This weekend's invitational, which Welsh referred to as a "dress rehearsal" for the Big East Tournament, left Notre Dame feeling confident about the second semester of their season.

"We have a little ways to go, but compared to this point last year, I think we are doing very well," Heffernan said.

No. 19 Notre Dame does not swim again until Jan. 13 when they take on Evansville on the road. Only a month remains before the conclusion of the season in Long Island, N.Y.

"If we continue to swim as well as we have been and then exceed some of our own lofty expectations, then the Big East championship will be something special to see," Barnes said.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

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**NCAA FOOTBALL**

Kansas St. hires new head coach

Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State has hired Virginia offensive coordinator Ron Prince to replace Bill Snyder as head coach, athletic director Tim Weiser said Sunday.

Weiser said the school will formally announce the hiring Monday.

The 36-year-old Prince, raised about 20 miles from Manhattan in Junction City, will become only the fourth black head football coach in Division I-A, joining Washington's Ty Willingham, Mississippi State's Sylvester Croom and UCLAs Karl Dorrell.

Prince was defensive coordinator at Dodge City Community College and Missouri Valley, Iowa. He spent three seasons at Virginia, the last three as offensive coordinator.

He also coached at Dodge City, Alabama A&M, Cornell, South Carolina State and James Madison, and spent four seasons as an NFL Minority Fellowship intern with Jacksonville, Washington, Atlanta and the New York Giants.

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Penn State and Illinois said Friday that the Buckeyes will finish fourth in the Big Ten.

No. 8 Oregon, which became BCS-eligible with its ninth win on Nov. 26 at Stanford, moved up to sixth in the BCS after Saturday's games, earning an automatic at-large bid. Ohio State and Ohio are the Buckeyes' nearest competitors, finishing the fourth in the final BCS standings. These teams are also receiving automatic spots. No. 6 Oregon was squeezed out of the BCS picture, despite finishing BCS in the BCS standings with a 10-1 record. However, since both the Buckeyes and the Irish moved into the top six in the final BCS standings, both teams were guaranteed a BCS bid, leaving the Ducks to play in the Holiday Bowl, which they were already facing Oklahoma.

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said Sunday his team was looking forward to playing the Irish, who have lost only two games this season.

FOOTBALL

The Irish running back Darus Walker hurdles defenders in Notre Dame’s 34-10 win over Syracuse on Nov. 13.

"It was more or less an ideal situation," Quinn said. "Playing in a bowl game out there in the Fiesta Bowl against a team I always grew up watching, basically in my backyard." But last season, the Irish won a bowl game was also the last time the Irish finished the regular season in the top five in the polls.

In 1993, the Irish finished No. 4 with a 10-1 record and then went on to defeat No. 7 Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl, finishing the season as the No. 2 team behind Florida State, who then basked earlier that seas­on 31-24, before losing to Boston College in the final game of the regular season. But since then, the Irish have lost seven straight bowl games.

The Irish lost in the Fiesta Bowl to end the 2000 and 1994 seasons, the Orange Bowl to end the 1995 season and the Independence Bowl to end the 1997 season. Most recently, the Irish lost to the Gator Bowl to end the 1998 and 2002 seasons and the Insight Bowl at the end of last season. But both Irish captains are ready for that streak to end.

"I think it’s something that’s a motivational factor," Boyle said. "Just to be able to for personally to leave this program the way it should be and make sure Notre Dame stays on top through my tenure." Quinn smiled at the question, knowing the answer immediately.

"That’s something that obvi­ously needs to end," Quinn said of the losing bowl record. "It’s something that’s gone on far too long and we’re working toward that as one of our goals, ending that streak." Contact Heather Van Hoagarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Quinn, Samardzija named co-MVPs at banquet

By HEATHER VAN HOAGARDEN

Brady Quinn and Jeff Samardzija were named co-MVPs at Friday night’s football banquet, which was highlighted by coach Charlie Weis addressing the team as the guest speaker.

Holts spoke in front of a sellout crowd of 4,600 before a soldout after last year’s banquet was held private­ly, as the Irish were preparing to fireing of Tyrone Willis­ingham. Holts said Friday before the banquet that it was good to be back at the place where he used to pick up his young kids.

"It’s just special every time you come back to this Notre Dame," Holts said. "You just get up beat and uplifted." Quinn and Samardzija have

shattered Notre Dame records this year. Quinn setting records for touchdown passes and passing yardage — both single-sea­son and career — and Samardzija for touchdown receptions and single-season receiving yardage.

Senior offensive guard Dan Stevenson won the Guardian of the Year Award as the top offen­sive lineman, while junior defen­sive end Victor Abumere won the lineman of the year.

Three seniors and one junior won the Nick Petrosante Award as individuals who best exempli­fied the courage, loyalty, team­work, dedication and pride shown by the late Notre Dame fullback. Linebacker Corey Mays, wide receiver Maurice Stovall, tight end Anthony Fasano and safety Tom Zbikowski shared the award.

Meanwhile, co-captain Brandon Hoyte won the Knute Rockne Student-Athlete award, as he boasts a 3.4 grade point average as a double major in psychology and management.

Finally, defensive tackle Trevor Lawes and offensive guard Dan Sanucci won the Westwood One State Farm Student-Athlete of the Year award.

Before the banquet, Holts talked about a number of different things, from comparing his Irish teams to this team to his relationship with Mark May of ESPN.

On the Gugllelmino Athletics Facility: "It’s really fantastic. Notre Dame’s changed an awful lot. You have tremendous facilities. You pay coaches now. But the one thing that you didn’t do — Notre Dame has not changed its feels, its philosophies and its mis­tion. All the things you’re talk­ing about, facilities and stuff, that doesn’t change. It enhances Notre Dame. It’s not like you want to build a great football program at the expense of certain things. Notre Dame will always be the same, regard­less.

On whether any of his teams compared to the current Irish team: "It doesn’t remind me of mine. Number one, I wouldn’t throw the ball as much as I do now. On Charlie Weis as a leader: "There isn’t any doubt he’s in charge. People can name you the head football coach. What they can’t do is name you the leader. Titles come from above, leaders are determined by the people, the players, the students, the fan­ base. The person that they’re going to choose as a leader is someone who has a vision and a plan for the future. From talking to Charlie, he has a vision and a plan.

On sparring with Mark May about Notre Dame: "Mark May is one of the more intriguing people. He’s int­elligent people that express them­selves exceptionally well. He’s a person that doesn’t like Notre Dame, he would have to answer, but boy he sure would be right on the button. You call him on the air one time you’re gonna look like a dun­ a sty if you keep thinking this." Contact Heather Van Hoagarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu
Badgers
continued from page 24
also had five assists, six rebounds and two steals.
was one of four Irish players to
finish in double digits. Freshman
also had five assists, six
two away from a double-double.

Harris
continued from page 24
Dame's final 15 of the game, but he
cooled inside the lane in the second half and
for three seconds on the clock rimmed
out. The Irish (2-2) lost their second
date after falling to North Carolina
State on Tuesday, only the

"That one [miss] at the end of the game, especially with
where our team was last week," Quinn said. "But I think this was a
lot better effort than we had last game" as far as a team

Coach Mike Brey made
adjustments with spacing on the offensive
end of the floor to free up
more scoring chances and create
better flow. Notre Dame bene-
fitted by scoring 19 more points than it
had against the Buckeyes and
by returning to an inside-out
mentality at first. Center
Torrian Cook scored 26
points on 8-of-16 shooting, grab-
ing 13 rebounds and making 7-of-
7 free throws. Notre Dame fed
Francis early, and he scored seven of his 11 points
But again, as in the loss to North
Carolina State, the opposing
defense forced the ball away from
the post and into the hands of
Notre Dame guards. And
point guard Daniel Horton
to lead the Irish

"We wanted to cheat a little bit, and [Horton] made a senior
play," Brey said.

Harris had limited Houston
opportunities as he
received four bowl games - five
beginning next season - the
BCS was originally founded
and Notre Dame agree to

It is unclear when McGraw
will be healthy enough to coach
the Irish again. Notre Dame's
next game is Wednesday night at
Purdue after a week off for final
exams. Then the Irish hit the road for the first time in the
Desert tournament, which starts
Dec. 17.

"The Irish shot 55.1 percent
Sunday, shooting 27-for-49 from the field. Those figures included
Duffy's 5-for-14 shooting, which made the rest of the team 22-for-
35, an impressive shooting perfor-
cence of 62.8 percent. The
55.1 percent was the best shoot-
ing percentage of any team
Wisconsin has faced this season.
Notre Dame was 25 free
throws, making 20 of them, good
enough for them, instead of
the other hand, just 9-for-13 from the charity stripe.
Contact Hope Van Hoegarden
at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

"If we keep coming into this
place that Wisconsin's a tough
to play," Washington said.
"They're a Big Ten team, so
we're going to be a tough team
on the boards," he added.

Contact Heath Van Hoegarden
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Quinn sank two free throws
to stretch the lead to four with 2:19
remaining, but Brown made a
layup and two free throws on consecutive
possessions to tie it at 67. Notre Dame
freshman Luke Zeller, who
shook off an injury to his
arc in the game already,
missed a three-point attempt
that gave Miami the ball, which
then led to the game-winning
 jumper.

Irish guard Russell Carter
was guarding Francis early, and
Brey called for a 2-3 zone,
intending to force Horton as a
ball handler out of a 1-on-1 situation.

"I think this team is slowly
finding itself and finding its iden-
ty," Quinn said. "And I think one

of our hallmarks is going to be
that we're a true team. I think
that everybody else is starting to see
that on any given night they
can go out and play big games.
As they get their confidence
night-in and night-out, I think
we're going to be a tough team to
defend."
JOCKULAR

ALEC WHITE AND ERIK POWERS

The Observer • TODAY

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JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION

THE OBSERVER

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Name ________________________________
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BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg pleased with this year's selection process despite Congress

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The Bowl Championship Series (BCS) generates annual controversy over the college football postseason. But Sunday's announcement of this year's matchups did not follow that lead.

BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg, also the Big 12's commissioner, was especially pleased that the 2005 version of the constantly evolving playoff formula slotted the consensus top two teams — USC and Texas — in the national championship game Rose Bowl.

"I really feel like we have a marquee championship game of two unbeaten teams ... that wouldn't be together in a bowl game if not for a BCS arrangement," Weiberg said during a 6 p.m. EST teleconference following the announcements. Critics as high up as Capitol Hill are continuing to pressure the BCS and its methods despite this year's "consensus" results.

On Friday, the Associated Press article reported the chairman of a congressional subcommittee had called a

Irish have made big strides in one full season under Weis

Anyone who said Notre Dame would be even close to a BCS bowl at the end of Charlie Weis' first season as coach probably would have been ridiculed in September. Forth Worth, Shreveport or some other low-budget December destination looked like a safer bet for the Irish.

Fiesta? That sounded more like an SVU theme than a realistic possibility for Notre Dame.

But here they are. The Irish are headed back to the BCS bowl under first-year head coach Tyrone Willingham, Notre Dame has earned a trip to a BCS bowl under first-year head coach Charlie Weis and staff.

No. 5 Notre Dame faces No. 4 Ohio State in the Jan. 2 Fiesta Bowl at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz. on Jan. 2. The site is sive coordinator Kent Baer, said football postseason. But it was playing for Willingham, who was fired Nov. 30, 2004, just two days after the Irish had accepted the bowl bid. But this year's bowl game and Notre Dame team is very different from the one of a year ago.

"I smile a lot more," Irish co-captain and fifth-year senior Brandon Hoyte said of this season. "For me as a fifth-year senior, for our fifth-year seniors who have no eligibility left, it gives us a chance to go out on top and feel as if we've left a mark on the Notre Dame pro-

program, to leave it in the right hands."

This time around, the stakes are much higher for the Irish, as Notre Dame is to play in its first BCS bowl game in five years following a 9-2 regular season, compared to last year's 6-5 finish before the loss in the Insight Bowl.

"We as a team realize where we came from and where we see FIESTA/page 21

\[USC\]

FOOTBALL

BCS slots Irish into Fiesta Bowl

No. 6 Notre Dame will play No. 4 Ohio State in Tempe, Ariz. on Jan. 2

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

One year after a 6-6 season ended the tenure of former coach Tyrone Willingham, Notre Dame has earned a trip to a BCS bowl under first-year head coach Charlie Weis and staff.

No. 5 Notre Dame faces No. 4 Ohio State in the Jan. 2 Fiesta Bowl at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., it was announced Sunday evening. The site is close to where the Irish played last year when they lost 38-21 to Oregon State in the Insight Bowl, played at Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix. The team at the time, coached by defensive coordinator Kent Baer, said it was playing for Willingham, who was fired Nov. 30, 2004, just two days after the Irish had accepted the bowl bid. But this year's bowl game and Notre Dame team is very different from the one of a year ago.

"I smile a lot more," Irish co-captain and fifth-year senior Brandon Hoyte said of this season. "For me as a fifth-year senior, for our fifth-year seniors who have no eligibility left, it gives us a chance to go out on top and feel as if we've left a mark on the Notre Dame pro-

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"We as a team realize where we came from and where we see FIESTA/page 21

\[USC\]

Harris jumper beats Irish

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Michigan guard Dion Harris sank a corner jump shot with 17 seconds remaining to take a 69-67 lead and send the Wolverines to a 71-67 vic-

tory in the Joyce Center Saturday after-
town, despite Notre Dame's at-

tempt at its own late-game heroics.

Irish point guard Chris Quinn scored 26 points, including Notre

see HARRIS/page 22

\[USC\]

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Duffy pushes Notre Dame past Badgers

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

In their second game playing without head coach Muffet McGraw, the No. 11 Irish found a way to defeat Wisconsin 77-72 at the Kohl Center in Madison, Wis., winning their sixth straight game to open up the season.

McGraw missed her second straight game due to illness and did not make the trip to Wisconsin. She also missed Tuesday's game at the Joyce Center against Iona.

Irish associate head coach Coquese Washington, who coached the team for the sec-

ond straight game in McGraw's absence, said she was content with her team's play on Sunday.

"I was pretty pleased with our overall team play, Washington said. "We got a lot of contributions from every-

body. It was a wonderful team effort and a big win. This was a huge win for us."

Senior point guard Megan Duffy led all scorers with 20 points, including 9-for-10 from the free throw line and six free throws down the stretch. She

see BADGERS/page 24

\[USC\]