**Blue-Gold brings football weekend in spring**

By KATIE PERRY

Forecasters might predict clear skies and sunshine Saturday, but the Irish football team has plans all its own to shake down the thunder as its annual Blue-Gold game — a 77-year tradition that primes players and fans alike for the upcoming season.

BlueGold.com editor Lou Somogyi said there will “absolutely” be fervor among Notre Dame fans on campus this weekend given the success of last season as well as high expectations for the fall schedule. The Irish will likely be a consensus preseason top five pick and ESPN’s Kirk Herbstreit already favors them to win national championships.

“You can definitely feel a

see GAME/page 6

**County smoking ban will affect stadium**

By MAUREEN MULLEN

Notre Dame fans may breathe a little easier at Saturday’s Blue-Gold game — and not just because the Irish are guaranteed a win.

On April 10, a holy debat-ed St. Joseph County smoking ban went into effect in public places — restaurants, stores, malls, public places, private businesses and sports arenas — throughout the county. Notre Dame stadium will not be exempt from the ordinance.

Assistant Athletics Director for Facilities Mike Danch said.

The Blue-Gold game will be the first time that the Notre Dame stadium will hold a crowd under the new “no smoking” regulations.

see SMOKING/page 8

**Weinberg speaks on rock gigs, tours**

Drummer speaks about experiences with Bruce Springsteen, Conan O’Brien show

By KELLY MEEHAN

Saint Mary’s Editor

Saint Mary’s students will notice a few changes and an influx of campus traffic this weekend as the Board of Trustees convene at the College for their annual April meeting.

According to College President Carol Ann Mooney, 28 of the 31 members will be in attendance at the weekend’s meetings, which are closed to the public.

While the meeting’s agenda is also private, students have an opportunity to interact with some trustees throughout the weekend, Vice President of Student Affairs Linda Timm said.

“Some trustees may be

see WEINBERG/page 9

**Trustees congregate at SMC**

Closed meetings will include a student voting representative

By KELLY MEEHAN

Saint Mary’s Editor

When Hurricane Katrina rocked the Gulf Coast last fall, 2000 Notre Dame graduate and New Orleans Times-Picayune reporter Michelle Krupa was faced with the daunting task of covering the biggest domestic news story of the year, one dev-as­ting day at a time.

That dogged reporting won the 27-year-old Krupa — and the entire Times-Picayune staff — a Pulitzer Prize.

She’s the third Notre Dame graduate and Observer employ­ee to win the award in the past six years.

The Pulitzer Board awarded the 2006 breaking news report­ing prize to the Times-Picayune staff for “its courageous and aggressive coverage of Hurricane Katrina, overcoming desperate conditions facing the city and the newspaper.”

The paper won a second Pulitzer for public service for “its heroic, multi-faceted cover­age of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, making excep­
INSIDE COLUMN
Student teachers

My roommate this year is an education major, so was one of my roommates last year, and many of my other friends are as well. This being said, I have witnessed a lot of homework assignments and projects over the last few years which they have had to complete a lot of really pointless assignments and projects. I have never seen anyone do as much busy work as education majors, and while the work may not be the most challenging at all times, they take an extreme amount of time to complete. Education majors are frequently required to create what are referred to as "units," basically consisting of a month’s worth of lessons plans. Now, this might sound like a quick and simple undertaking, however, it gets more complicated when you take into account that not only do they have to design these lessons they actually have to physically create them. This translates into one month’s worth of work sheets, games, evaluations, explanations and more.

What really gets me though is that my current roommate can make a mean game to teach children phonics and word blends, but when it comes to evaluating a student’s writing she has no idea where to begin because this is a topic never covered in her coursework.

Personally, I’d rather know that the people who will be teaching my children in the future have a firm grasp on the English language and are well educated in the various subject standards students should be achieving at different stages of education rather than knowing that they’ve spent $100,000 to spend four years learning how to cut up pieces of construction paper.

Of course, we must remember that the education majors are only doing what is asked of them by their professors, and they are doing it well. Creativity is certainly being fostered, however, maybe a bit too much. But then, I’m not an education major or a professor so how would I know.

What I do know is that these students put a lot of hard work and dedication into their work and really work quite a bit of ridicule from their peers because they aren’t in a "real major."

Because there could not be anything more real about a major which requires you to take on the work of a professional for two years before you can meet graduation requirements. I tutored children in reading and math in the past, and I was only in charge of anywhere from one to four children, but I had a difficult time controlling them and keeping them on task. Education majors on the other hand are usually in charge of thirty children or teenagers depending on what grade level they are assigned to for student teaching. I can only imagine the challenges they have to face in such circumstances.

So, I would like to salute you, the education majors who spend countless hours at "The Learning Tree" coping, cutting, pasting and laminating, and more hours hunched at computer screens typing fifty plus page case studies and lesson plans. All so you can deal with temperamental children, critical parents, and a Kinky paycheck as thanks in the future.

Contact Laura Baumgartner at 82400@maine.mrs.

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: How do you feel about the smoking ban in the stadium?

John Sottis  
freshman  
Morrissey

"It's preposterous!"

Joe Venturini  
freshman  
Morrissey

"As long as we still smoke NFL State, I don't care."

Mike Kaiser  
freshman  
Morrissey

"As long as it keeps Joe out, I don't care."

Connor Kelly  
freshman  
Morrissey

"I'm excited because now that creepy guy with the pipe in the stadium won't be staring at me."

Cathy Davis  
freshman  
Lyons

"Oookay."

Jone Emery  
freshman  
Lyons

"Faaaantastic."

OFFBEAT
Thought to be worthless, old cash gets the flush

A German pensioner flushed bundles of old banknotes worth a small fortune down the toilet because he thought they were now worthless.

"He flushed the cash down the loo because he didn't think it was worth anything," said police spokesman Uwe Voigt.

Police said he dumped some 60,000 deutschemarks — which the euro replaced in 2002 — into the bowl, unaware they could still be exchanged for about 30,000 euros ($49,760).

Sewage workers recovered about half the sodden currency from the 64-year-old’s plumbing.

The remaining notes created a bottleneck in local sewers, where most were flushed out.

"There may have been more that got away," Mr Voigt said.

Car becomes delivery room for second time

A woman in northern Portugal has given birth for the second time while being driven to a hospital delivery room, a daily newspaper reports.

The Jornal de Noticias says Maria Duarte, 35, was on her way to a hospital in the city of Vila Real, some 400 kilometres north-east of Lisbon, when she went into labor in an emergency services vehicle.

The vehicle parked on the side of the highway and she then gave birth to a healthy 2.5 kilogram girl with the aid of a doctor, nurse and two young volunteer firefighters who were accompanying her.

"I was afraid she would die. I was even afraid to push," Ms Duarte told the newspaper.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

Local Weather

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TODAY  TONIGHT  SATURDAY  SUNDAY  MONDAY  TUESDAY


Friday, April 21, 2006

The Oshawa • PAGE 2

The SUB Movie of the Week, "King Kong," is showing in 101 DeBartolo at 10 p.m. today at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are $3.

The 2006 design for "The Shirt Project" will be unveiled at 12 p.m. Friday at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore. Shirts will be available for purchase immediately after the event.

The Irish men’s baseball team will face Rutgers Friday at 6:05 p.m. in Frank Eck Stadium.

The Riley Hospital for Children dance marathon will be held at 6 p.m. in the Saint Mary’s Angela Athletic Facility. The event lasts until 6 a.m. tomorrow. On the spot registration is available.

Madeline Jansi-Aparicio, co-founder and executive director of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, will present two lectures on social justice and service on Friday. The first will be at 11 a.m. in 119 O’Shaughnessy and the second will be at 2 p.m. in 129 DeBartolo.

The Irish women’s softball team will take on Villanova in a doubleheader Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Ivy Field.

Notre Dame will hold its second annual Eucharistic Procession on Divine Mercy Sunday. The procession will set out from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart immediately following the 11:45 a.m. Mass.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obnews@nd.edu.
All-night marathon to raise funds for Riley Hospital for Children

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Senior News Writer

Students will don comfortable shoes and kick up their heels in Saint Mary's Angels Athletic Facility tonight in order to raise money for Riley Hospital for Children in the College's first dance marathon. Organizers said 190 Saint Mary's, Holy Cross and Notre Dame students have already registered to participate in the marathon, which begins at 6 p.m. tonight and runs until 6 a.m. tomorrow. The 55 members of the dance marathon committee will also take to the floor.

"Everyone loves children and everyone hates to see children in pain ... so I think to do something for a hospital that never turns away kids ... is a really great cause," freshman class president and marathon co-chair Francesca Johnson said.

Founded in 1991 in memory of AIDS victim Ryan White, the Riley Hospital dance marathon takes place at universities, colleges and high schools throughout Indiana and raises hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. The only comprehensive children's hospital in the state, Riley hopes to build a neonatal unit in the near future.

It was Johnson who first introduced the idea of staging the fundraiser at Saint Mary's. After hearing about the Riley dance marathons through her brother, a student at Indiana University at Bloomington, Johnson hoped to get the event started at her high school. But as an outgoing senior, she ran out of time. Instead, Johnson made the dance marathon the central component of her campaign platform when she ran freshman class president at Saint Mary's last fall. Immediately after she and vice presidential candidate Pauline Kistka won the election, they began planning.

The freshman class officers teamed up with Residence Hall Association (RHA) service chair Amy Darling to weave through the details of the dance marathon, including fundraising and insurance issues. "Initially" we were very nervous because here we are, freshman who know none of the red tape ... that was why it was such a comfort to be working with Amy," Kistka said.

The three women then had to sell the idea to Saint Mary's students government and to the wider student body. "I think when we first went into Board of Governors and asked for $5,000 dollars (the student government officers were) like 'We are going to give this to freshman? Are they organized enough? Are they responsible enough?'' Johnson said.

The marathon is about much more than just dancing, Darling said, and it was difficult to describe to every curi­ous student about a night of games, food and personal interaction. "By the end, Johnson, Kistka and Darling had assembled a committee of 55 dedicated students who were divided into seven different subcommittees including entertainment, publicity, alumni relationships and morale.

A string of fundraisers to help finance the dance marathon followed, including a freshman dance, sweatshirt sale and chapstick sale. At a campus Mass in February the collection was designated for the event and campus ministry then matched the amount with its own donation. They also received donations from RHA, Student Activities Board (SAB) and the senior class board. Johnson herself stood outside a Walgreens asking patrons for money as they entered the store and raised $500.

Members of the committee went to see marathons at Butler and Purdue to gather ideas and absorb inspiration. "Every time we went we came back with a new idea," Kistka said. "It's a whole more ambition in our blood."

A group also traveled to Riley Hospital in Indianapolis to tour the facility and see where the money raised would be going. "I think it was extremely helpful to see where the money is going," Johnson said. "I think it was the best fit the Saint Mary's community. It's something for a hospital that never turns away families, that has personally benefited from Riley Hospital."

Participants, who paid $10 to enter, are not allowed to sit down, Johnson said, and must remain on the premises the entire 12 hours.

The committee, upon the recommendation of Cain, did not set a goal amount for tonight's 12-hour fundraiser. Participants and committees members together sent 450 letters home requesting financial support, Johnson said. "But while Johnson would not give a specific dollar amount, she did say the College appears to be on track to break the record for the most money raised by any school at its first dance marathon. The total will be announced at the closing ceremony tomorrow morning."

Johnson said the success of the last couple of months should be attributed to the enthusiasm and organization of the committee. "I can't believe it's been this successful, it's amazing," Johnson said.

Contact Megan O'Neil at one9097@stmainters.edu

Kathleen Madigan
May 11/12/13

She was the only comic on NBC's Last Comic Standing to go unchallenged by her peers. Voted Best Female Stand-Up at the American Comedy Awards- Kathleen's ability to talk about serious topics and draw insane conclusions is the reason she sells out comedy clubs and theaters across the country.

www.funnyboneusa.com

www.myspace.com/sbfunnybone

HOSTAGE/300 MILES TO GRACELAND/CASINO
A FEW GOOD MEN/THE WHOLE NINE YARDS
GRUMPY OLD MEN/GRUMPY OLD MEN

KEVIN POLLAK
May 4/5/6

Katherine Cain the committee tailored the dance marathon to best fit the Saint Mary's community. Each hour of the evening will have a different theme and a different activity, Johnson said. Music, choreographed dancing and inflatable games will keep participants energized, she said. They will also have the chance to meet with children and families that have personally benefited from Riley Hospital.

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College welcomes, recognizes donors

By LISA GALLAGHER
News Writer

Saint Mary's College will host approximately 250 people this weekend for its 25th annual Donor Recognition Weekend in honor of those who have made significant monetary contributions to the College.

According to Melanie McDonald, director of public relations at Saint Mary's, guests include members of the Madeleva Society, who contribute $1000 or more annually, members of the Mother Pauline Society, who designate gifts in their estate or financial plans and members of Donors of Endowment Priorities, whose donations support faculty positions, scholarships, the Cushwa-Leighton Library and programs that support a "richer intellectual life on campus."

"[The weekend] provides the opportunity to show donors the significance of their investment in our outstanding faculty and students, in our pro-

for the weekend. Resources, and in our overall campus," said.

On Saturday, donors will have the chance to further explore the Saint Mary's campus by visiting the Shaheen Bookstore, walking the College's Nature Trail or working out in Angela Athletic Facility.

McDonald said the weekend will officially end Saturday evening with Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto, followed by a reception in O'Taughlin Auditorium and a gala dinner to be held in the Noble Family Dining Hall.

Contact Lisa Gallagher at lgall21@stmarys.edu.

Student fast aims to raise awareness

By LAUREN LAVELLE
News Writer

More than 50 Saint Mary's stu-
dents participated in a 12-hour fast on Thursday in effort to raise awareness about hunger in the local community.

Saint Mary's juniors Chelsea Gulling, Etienne Melcher and Amanda Meyer organized the fast as part of the College's first annual Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

"Last fall, we attended the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness Conference in Seattle and really wanted to bring the issue back to our campus," Meyer said. "We wanted to raise awareness about the hunger and homelessness problem here in South Bend."

Fast participants wore white T-shirts with black lettering that read "Today I Am Fasting For..." on the front and listed several statistics about hunger and homelessness on the back. The fast began at 6 a.m. and ended at 6 p.m. During that time, participants were encouraged to consume only water.

Melcher said participating in the fast was important for students because it allowed them to not only sympathize with the hungry, but to empathize with them as well.

"Most people know it is a prob-

and 8 p.m.

"These people believe in Saint Mary's and have invest-
ed in our present and future success," McDonald said.

Activities resume today and include an open house and campus tours, lectures and activities including "Be a Student for a Day" and an opportunity to attend an evening rehearsal of the upcoming Saint Mary's opera, "Winnies."

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Contact Lisa Gallagher at lgall21@stmarys.edu.

"It makes you think about all the people who have to go to work or the kids who have to go to school hungry and are expected to do well and get good grades," Robbins said.

During the discussion, Melcher addressed criticism that particip-

This event officially kicked off yesterday at 7:30 p.m. with a lecture in Moreau Hall by professor of theology at Loyola University of Chicago, Susan Ross, according to the Recognition Weekend Website. It was followed by a reception and book signing at 8:30 p.m.

"It is important for people to real-

it's what raises awareness and makes students take action," Robbins said.

"I'm hungry' when they asked how I was doing. Saying that puts a face to hunger and that is what raises awareness and makes students want to take action," Deitle said.

"Participating in the fast makes people realize they can make a dif-

At 6 p.m., participants gathered in the West Wing of the Noble Family Dining Hall for dinner and an informal discussion about their experience with the fast. Meyer opened the discussion by empha-

while Francesca Johnson said.

"I know a lot of students stopped us today to ask about the shirts and it gave us a chance to explain what we were doing," Meyer said. "Our main goal was to ignite the hope that we have the power to do something, and I think we did that today."

Contact Lauren Lavelle at lavel21@stmarys.edu.

Congregation of Holy Cross

Congratulations Fr. Nate

With joy and thanksgiving,
the Congregation of Holy Cross and Daniel and Susan Wills
invite you to celebrate the ordination of their brother and son

Rev. Nathan D. Wills, C.S.C.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be conferred by
The Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., Bishop of Peoria:
Saturday, April 22, 2006
2:30 p.m.
at Sacred Heart Basilica

"Our mission is the Lord's and so is the strength for it."
(Constitutions, II:20)

vocation.nd.edu
Protester interrupts Hu's speech

Falun Gong demonstrator's shouting insults Chinese President; Bush apologizes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was supposed to be Chinese President Hu Jintao's moment in the sun.

But the sudden appearance of a banner-waving, screaming demonstrators as Hu stepped to the podium during a pomp-filled White House ceremony for the Chinese leader distracted all attention away from Hu's speech — so embarrassing it prompted a public apology from President Bush.

The woman, a 42-year-old Muslim from China, had slipped in with media credentials and shouted at the leaders from a press stand directly in front of them, an awkward development for a White House that had been strategizing to choreograph the visit to give the Chinese consciousness their due as a rising world power without affording Hu the ultimate perk of a state visit.

White House officials said the incident "a momentary lapse" that didn't mar the talks between Bush and Hu.

Indeed, the two leaders just a while later decided to ditch protocol's dictates to sit together at lunch.

The subject: North Korea, the area in which they seemed most in unison during a half-day summit that produced little permanent progress on other sticky problems such as a global standoff with Iran over its nuclear program and with China.

"We watched the day were "candor" and "discussion" — not "agreement" — in the meetings," White House officials stressed the growing sophistication of U.S.-Chinese interactions as an increased personal familiarity between Bush and Hu after five meetings in less than a year as summit achievements.

"We have made progress in building a relationship that is candid and cooperative," Bush said.

In opening remarks after a majestic arrival ceremony, Hu made clear he did not intend to do much more than reiterate past promises — and he did not.

"I have come to enhance dialogue," said Hu from a sunsplashed South Lawn podium, speaking through an interpreter.

But their field of candidates lacks any more successful than al-Jaafari in any sacrifice to achieve their goals.

Falun Gong orchestrated loud protests that drew hundreds to the streets around the White House, only steps from the Blair House guest quarters where Hu was staying. They banged gongs, waved American and Chinese flags and held banners denouncing Hu as a "Chinese dictator" responsible for genocide and other "crimes in Chinese labor camps and prisons."

On the other hand, Chinese President Hu Jintao is in Washington for a scheduled summit meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush.

Their chants could be heard during the quieter moments of the arrival ceremony.

As Bush feted Hu and nearly 200 others with a formal lunch of Alaskan halibut and fine wine in the pink-and-gold-adorned East Room, the demonstrators were visible through open curtains.

In a delicate balancing act, the White House greeted Hu with the full 21-gun salute, a traditional U.S. military honor guard in colonial dress and a formal luncheon.

But the Chinese leader did not rate a glib black-tie state dinner, or even the honor of his country's flags flying beside American ones from the lampposts around the White House compound.

President Bush grabs the coat sleeve of Chinese President Hu Jintao as Hu walks down the stairs during an arrival ceremony on the South Lawn Thursday.

IPROTESTER INTERRUPTS HU'S SPEECH

A major earthquake hit a distant, sparsely populated region of Russia's Far East early Friday, causing unknown damage and possible casualties, an emergency official said.

The quake hit around 12:45 p.m. local time in the Kamchatsky region, nearly 4,350 miles north of the largest city in the area, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, said they contacted a duty officer with the regional emergency situations ministry.

Kamchatsky Emergency Situations Ministry said there were reports of damage in several places with her, I would."

Leaders in the seven-party Shiite alliance, the largest bloc in the 275-member parliament, were to meet Tuesday to consider choosing a replacement. But their field of candidates lacks stature and power, raising questions whether the new prime minister will be any more successful than al-Jaafari in confronting sectarian violence and the brutal insurgency.

It was unclear why al-Jaafari suddenly decided to relinquish the nomination that he won by a single vote with backing from radical anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr during a ballot among Shiite lawmakers two months ago. AlJaafari had insisted Wednesday that he won by a single vote with back-up, a new vote so that his fellow Shiite lawmakers "can think with complete freedom and see what they wish to do."
s sense of excitement for the season," Somogyi said. "People are talking about the Charlie Weis era and are remembering the 1960s, and the Holtz and Ara Parseghian eras. It's that whole, 'Hey, we found our hero.' We look at the world, and it's all Notre Dame.

"I love this time of year. It's like all the students are excited to be back on campus each spring." he said.

"I love the fact that it's not just the players buying the shirts, it's the whole student body." -contact Liz harrer at 219-631-7157

"I'm not a big fan of yellow. I really do say football to me." -David Mauro, Sophomore

"I don't really care about the color too much." -The Shirt Project, the largest fundraising effort Notre Dame has ever taken on.

"I'm just really hoping it has more to do with Notre Dame." -Dredell said. "I don't really care about the color too much.

"The Shirt Project, the largest fundraising effort Notre Dame has ever taken on," Dredell said. "We have brought in over $3.5 million in revenue to The Shirt goin to the Shirt Charities Fund and the remaining profit of the funds raised from sales is to contribute to student activities fee.

"From birth until life closes, humanity is a sort of statue, a pose. Ross quoted. "Give us bread, but give us roses.

"I'm not a big fan of yellow, it doesn't say football to me." -David Mauro, Sophomore

"It's more of a social, community event than anything. That's the whole drank of it," Dredell said. "You unvel The Shirt projects a whole new perspective to the football season. It is a way for students in plain clothes to participate in the Notre Dame football tradition.

"We especially expect people to be in plain clothes this weekend." -Coach Charlie Weis

"We expect a good sized crowd for this weekend's Blue-Gold game (probably more than some recent years.)." -Phil johnson, Associate athletic director

"I think we're playing this lit­ terally for the team coach's job," Weis said. "We already have the shirts for that." -The book store is not the only campus venue that anticipates increased business.

"I think it's going to be a much bigger turnout this weekend." -The bookstore is going to kick off the football season.

"We are going to get more people to be in plain clothes this weekend." -Coach Charlie Weis

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"I think it's going to be a much bigger turnout this weekend." -The bookstore is going to kick off the football season.
WASHINGTON — The government plans to crack down ever harder on employers who harbor and hire illegal immigrants, pursuing companies that ignore the law so they can exploit cheap labor.

"We are going to move beyond the current level of activity to a higher level in each month as a matter of policy," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Thursday. He pledged to "come down as hard as possible" on violators.

Federal agents on Wednesday arrested seven current and former managers of IFCO Systems, a manufacturer of crates and pallets, on criminal charges, and more than 1,100 people were arrested on administrative immigration charges across the nation’s 40 IFCO sites in the U.S.

"Our nation’s communities cannot be a wild frontier where illegal aliens and unscrupulous employers subvert our nation’s laws," said Julie Myers, assistant secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Don Sherman, director of the Cincinnati InterFaith Committee for Worker Justice, said pursuing companies that harbor illegal immigrants and their rights, was skeptical about how far the move could go.

"I think the timing is very suspicious because there are a number of rallies coming up around the country promoting immigration reform," he said.

Chertoff said the new focus of the stepped up enforcement, beyond the current raids, is with recent immigration demonstrations, saying the investigations began a year ago.

More than half of the company’s roughly 5,800 employees during 2005 had invalid or mismatched Social Security numbers, the government alleged.

The case began after officials got a tip that IFCO workers in Guilderland, N.Y., were seen ripping up their W-2 forms because they did not intend to file tax returns, Chertoff said.

Six of seven current and former IFCO managers charged with felony conspiracy to harbor illegal immigrants were released on bond and are to appear May 4 in Albany, N.Y., where the criminal complaint was filed and the investigation began at a suburban IFCO facility.

The managers could face up to 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine for each alien involved, as well as forfeiture.

"Just a small fine or a slap on the wrist is not a deterrent," Myers said.

Most of the 1,187 illegal immigrants arrested are being processed for deportation, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Tina Siscoetti in Albany.
Pulitzer continued from page 1

continued from page 1

 clientes, and authorities. This activity is known as the "crossing." It is a common practice among journalists.

It's the end of a long day and time to pack up and head home. The staff of The Observer, who were spread out across the city, are preparing to head home for the day. The newspaper's generators are running, providing power to the newsroom.

"It's a busy time of year," said Michelle Krupa, "but it's also a rewarding time when we see the fruits of our labor."}

Michelle Krupa
Pulitzer Prize winner

"I have a lot of faith in journalism and the kind of people who become journalists."}

Michelle Krupa
Pulitzer Prize winner

The Observer's editorial board will be meeting later today to discuss the possible implications of this decision. They are expected to make a final decision on the matter.

Meanwhile, the newsroom is back to business as usual. The staff is busy preparing for tomorrow's edition.

"We're just trying to do our job," said Pat Smith, the Observer's managing editor. "It's a tough job, but one that we take very seriously."
Trustees

continued from page 1

having lunch in the dining hall Friday and will likely eat with the students," Timm said, noting that several trustees will be unable to do so because they will be in meetings at the time.

Although students may have limited opportunities to interact with trustees during their on-campus visits—which occur in October, February, April and June—they are able to voice their concerns and ideas to the newly named student trustee junior Julie Malone. Malone will replace previous student trustee senior Jill Vlasek, taking on a very prestigious student leadership position.

"Having a student trustee is a very special and honored position," Timm said. "It represents the feeling the College's belief in a shared governance system.

Like Vlasek, Malone will be a "full voting member of the board, not just a voice at the table," and will have an "unusual aspect" when compared to other colleges and universities' definition of the position. Malone, a biology major from Indianapolis, said she is excited to sit a d o w n a w i t h other weekend's events to learn about the full responsibilities of her position.

"I am honored to be appointed to this position and to go to a college where the students are held with such great respect that there would be a student on the Board of Trustees as a full voting member," Malone said.

After completing the vast application process—which included multiple essays, letters of recommendation and thorough interviews with College faculty—Malone was chosen by Mooney to serve as the new student trustee for the upcoming year. "I am very excited," she said. "Since it has been such a long application process, it is nice to finally get things started the Board of Trustees' dynam- ics and how they have such an impact on our college.

Timm said she is "very excited to have Malone. She will come from the student body to help the board get a better understanding of student needs and concerns." Malone will work on the board's education committee to help set up the new student fee for the fall semester.

"This was the best band I had ever played with," Weinberg said.

Weinberg said the ten-year phenomenon of the rock n' roll thing was "very much alive in the '70s, so the band fulfilled his "rock n' roll dreams.

"I had the best seat in the house," he said. To show the crowd what it was like to play in packed venues, Weinberg showed a video of concert footage set to "Born in the U.S.A.'

"I had that Fu Manchu mustache," Weinberg said. "I offer that video as definitive proof that not everyone in the Seventies looked like the Asheton Brothers or Meat Loaf or Ritchie Kutcher.

In October 1989, Weinberg's life and career took a new direction when he got a call from Springsteen saying that he had been working on a new record and needed a new path, and thanked Weinberg for his fifteen years of dedication.

"In retrospect... I probably shouldn't have been surprised it was over," Weinberg said.

He decided to go back to Saint Hall to finish his communications degree, which still required twenty-one more credits. To his surprise, they still had him on the bill and which he probably meant that they knew he would be back when "the rock n' roll thing was over" and he got his "act together." They gave him credit for a book he had written, so only eighteen credits remained until he could receive his degree.

"I figured that was certainly double over two semesters," Weinberg said. "What are you laughing about?"

Weinberg then got a job at a mail order record store, and worked a variety of jobs there for three years, until he was called up to tour with the band "10,000 Maniacs.

"I got to record a drumming again," Weinberg said. A short while later, he auditioned for the Broadway show "Tommy." Twenty seconds into his audition, Weinberg told the director, "Alright, you can be the second alternate sub." Weinberg said he auditioned for the show at the last minute because he was supposed to work a couple of shifts that night when he was called up to tour with the band.

Malone said, "I am very proud to say I'm a law school dropout," Weinberg said. Malone got a job at a mail order record store, and worked a variety of jobs there for three years, until he was called up to tour with the band "10,000 Maniacs.

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Threatening MySpace message tips off police

Associated Press

RIVERV ро., Kan. — Five teenage boys accused of plotting a shooting rampage at their high school on the anniversary of the Columbine massacre were arrested Thursday after a message said warned of a gun attack appeared on the Web site MySpace.com.

Sheriff's deputies found guns, ammunition, knives and coded messages in the bedroom of one suspect, Sheriff Steve Norman said. Authorities also found documents about firearms and references to Armageddon in two suspects' school lockers.

"What the rousing theme is: They were actually going to do this," Norman said.

The four suspects were arrested at their homes; the fifth was taken into custody at the school. None of the names of the teens, ages 16-18, were released.

Attorney General Phill Killor, whose office took over the prosecution at the request of the county attorney, said charges are likely and will be announced Friday, when the suspects are expected to appear in court.

No decision has been made on whether to charge the four suspects younger than 18 as adults, he said.

Deputies' interviews with the suspects indicated they planned to wear black trench coats and disguise their faces with a camera system before starting the attack between noon and 1 p.m. Thursday, Norman said. The suspects apparently had been plotting since the beginning of the school year.

Officials at Riverton High School were investigating on Tuesday after learning that a threatening message had been posted on MySpace.com, he said.

The message discussed the significance of April 20, which is Adolf Hitler's birthday and the anniversary of the 1999 Columbine High School attack in Colorado, in which two students wearing trench coats killed 13 people and committed suicide, the sheriff said.

"The message, it was brief, but it stated that there was going to be a shooting at the Riverton school and that people should wear bulletproof vests and flak jackets," Norman said.

School officials identified the student who posted the message and talked to several of his friends, Norman said.

But Riverton school district Superintendent David Walters said the significance of the threat didn't become clear until Wednesday night, after a report in North Carolina who had chatted with one of the suspects on MySpace.com received more specific information that there would be about a dozen potential victims, at least one of whom was a staff member. The notified authorities in her state, who contacted the sheriff's department, Norman said.

Norman said that the potential victims were popular students and that the suspects may have been bullied. "I think there was probably some bullying, name calling, chastising," he said. He also said investigators had learned the suspects were computer buffs who liked violent video games.

MySpace.com — a social networking hub with more than 72 million members released a statement declining to discuss the case because of the investigation, adding that it had provided users with mechanisms to report inappropriate content.

Kline said school would resume Friday. About 900 students in all grades attend the campus.

FBI analysis suggests mistakes

Indictment alleges the withholding of photos

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new FBI analysis of evidence obtained in a bungled Detroit terrorism trial underscores the recent indictment of the former prosecutor in the case, creating fresh conflicts in a legal drama that has embarrassed the Bush administration.

The 13-page report by FBI Agent Paul George concludes that the same process of a Johannesburg hospital - closely hand-drawn sketches found in 2001 inside the apartment of four Detroit men who the government claimed had surveyed the site as part of a terrorist plot. The new analysis aligns with the Justice Department's argument that photographic evidence did not match the sketches.

George testified at the 2003 Detroit terrorism trial and produced the new analysis around the time he was called to testify late last year before a grand jury that eventually indicted the prosecutor for wrongdoing in the case, officials said. The agent's report was obtained by The Associated Press.

George said the prosecution of the four Detroit men — arrested shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks — were tossed out in 2004 after the Justice Department told the court its own prosecutors withheld photos from defense lawyers that could help them prove the defendants innocence.

Last month, former assistant U.S. Attorney Richard D. Convertino and a State Department investigator were indicted on charges they conspired at the trial to withhold the pictures because they would have undermined the sketches. The original sketches were made with pens, and the sketches were hand-drawn in the Detroit trial and were not turned over to defense lawyers. Convertino said he never saw the e-mail or evidence that could help them prove innocence.

The criminal charges against Convertino are based on the principle that prosecutors must turn over all evidence that could help them prove innocence. Legal experts said the emergence of George's analysis could help Convertino's lawyer create reasonable doubt. Defense lawyers could argue that if photos matched the sketches — instead of dis proved them — Convertino would have no motive to hide them and no obligation to turn them over, experts said.

Important Information if You’re Leaving for the Summer...

If your mailing address changes during the summer months, please notify the credit union of your new address immediately, via fax, mail or in person. Please remember to include your signature!

This ensures that you will receive your mail during the summer!
Enrichment program advances
Brazil's nuclear technology attracts less attention than Iran's

Associated Press

RESENDE — As Iran faces international pressure over developing material for nuclear weapons, Brazil is quietly preparing to open its own uranium-enrichment center, capable of producing exactly the same fuel.

Brazil — like Iran — has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and Brazil's constitution bans the military use of nuclear energy.

Also like Iran, Brazil has clucked key aspects of its nuclear technology in secrecy while insisting the program is for peaceful purposes, claims nuclear weapons experts have debunked.

While Brazil is more cooperative than Iran on international inspections, some worry its new enrichment capability — which eventually will create more fuel than is needed for its two nuclear plants — suggests that South America's biggest nation may be rethinking its commitment to nonproliferation.

"Brazil is following a path very similar to Iran, but Iran is peaceful and democratic. It doesn't have border disputes, is not in an arms race, and strives for good relations with all nations. Its last war ended in 1870. "Brazil doesn't cheat on the Nonproliferation Treaty and it does not exist in an area of high tension," said David Albright, a former U.N. inspector who runs the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security.

The U.S. Embassy in the capital, Brasilia, referred all questions to the State Department in Washington, where spokesman Sean McCormack says Brazil's nuclear program will be capable of enriching natural uranium to less than five percent uranium-235, an isotope needed to fuel its two reactors.

The government-run Instituto Brasileiro de Pesquisas Nucleares says its plant will be capable of enriching natural uranium to less than five percent uranium-235, a material Brazil says it can't and won't produce.

"If you can enrich to five percent, you're decades away from enriching to 90 percent," Odair Dias Goncalves, president of the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission, told The Associated Press. "You need a whole new technology that we don't have."

But former U.N. inspector Albright said he worked with Goncalves at the Brazilian Physics Society on a project to show that the Brazilian centrifuges could be used to produce highly enriched uranium, even if that wasn't their intended use.

"Centrifuges are very flexible," he said. "Reconfiguring the cascades or recycling that has enriched uranium multiple times can allow for the production of weapons-grade uranium."

Brazil has the world's sixth-largest uranium reserves, but until the plant becomes operational, it can't use the fuel for energy without shipping it to one of four other enrichment centers around the world.

The move for Emancipation of the Niger Delta claimed responsibility for the blast late Wednesday at a barracks in the southern oil center of Port Harcourt.

The group's attacks on oil installations in Nigeria, Africa's leading oil exporter, had already helped drive up world oil prices. This country is the fifth-biggest source of U.S. oil imports.

But the movement had not carried out any major attacks since February and never before used a car bomb. Its previous military targets were small military bases.

Wednesday's blast sent a fireball towering over Port Harcourt, a major population center and hub of Nigeria's oil industry.

"We suddenly heard one heavy bang and saw fire shoot up and everybody fled."

Tekena Lawson, witness

NIGERIA

Car bombed kills at least two people
Dispute over oil revenue blamed for attack

Associated Press

PORT HARBORCUT — Militants battling for a bigger cut of Nigeria's oil revenue exploded a car bomb inside a military base, ending weeks of relative calm with a blast that killed at least two people and critically injured six others.

Soldiers cordoned off the military barracks on Thursday with heavily armed troops behind sandbags at the main entrance preventing people from entering.

The group claims to be fighting for the interests of the mainly ethnic Ijaw inhabitants of the Niger Delta, a 40,000-square-mile region of swamps, rivers and creeks that remains deeply impoverished.

Attacks on oil installations this year in the main oil-producing Niger Delta claimed by the movement have cut more than 20 percent of Nigeria's daily oil exports of 2.5 million barrels.

The group also seized 13 foreign oil workers in attacks on installations operated by Royal Dutch Shell in January and February. All the hostages were later released unharmed.

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Near the Airport. Doors Open 11:00 am
$100 Buy-in (includes $25 registration fee)
Limited Re-Buys Available. Food & Beverages & ATM.
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Register Now Online: www.PokerSouthBend.com
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Happy 21st, Blair

Tonight, let your little brother drive.
Eucharistic Procession 2006

Sunday, April 23

Divine Mercy Sunday

11:45 AM Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart

12:45 PM Procession begins
   (Immediately following Mass)

Free picnic to follow

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Sign up today at campusministry.nd.edu
Protest erupts in violence

Thousands gather in streets, throw rocks

Associated Press

KATMANDU — Tens of thousands of Nepalis defied a curfew today in the largest show of discontent with King Gyanendra since demon­stration against his royal dic­tatorship began more than two weeks ago. Security forces responded by fatally shooting three protesters.

The nearly two dozen demonstrations, which brought as many as 100,000 people into the streets around the capital Katmandu, ranged from festive pro-democracy rallies to angry riots of young men who hit honfres and hurled bricks at police. Some demanded the death of the king, while others appear increasingly unable to control the crowds.

By midday, soldiers were patrolling in armored vehicles, and at least one police post had been attacked, its window smashed by bricks.

Gyanendra came under more diplomatic pressure on Thursday to cede the power he seized 14 months ago from an interim government. Despite a curb imposed to head off protests, an alliance of seven opposition parties that has organized 15 days of protests and a general strike managed to draw as many as 100,000 people into the streets, according to estimates by police, organizers and wit­nesses.

While there have been bloody days since the protests began, much of Nepal's life — political and economic — is centered in Katmandu, and Thursday's demonstrations dwarfed all others in the city.

"We've been behaving in their own zones is frightening," Adams said from London. "They've publicly said they've killed those who they believe to be political opponents of theirs. They don't allow free speech, they have invoked child soldiers, they have a political policy that would not seem to allow plurality."

"Based on their record, if not their rhetoric, it's safe to say that if they come to power there would be a human rights disaster in Nepal."

At the summit last month in Cancun, Fox once again told Bush that he would do more to promote an accord to encourage Washington to legalize millions of migrants. Fox noted that his government already had strengthened enforcement of its southern border to stem the tide of illegal migrants into the United States from around the world has become a $1 billion-a-year industry, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials. Global crime networks use Mexican smugglers to sneak in Africans and Chinese, according to Interpol, the internation­al police network.

Border experts say the price for Mexican migrants has quadrupled from $300 to more than $1,200 since 1994, when the U.S. last tightened the rules. The price is higher for migrants from Central and South America — Brazilians, for example, said they pay $10,000 to $15,000 for a package that includes airfare to Mexico City and crossing the border into the United States.

President Vicente Fox's administration has been caught between promoting itself as the migrants' protec­tor and serving to U.S. pres­sure to crackdown on gangs smuggling migrants across the border. Although smugglers have been blamed for abandoning some migrants in the desert heat, the Mexican government has been hesitant to move against them, knowing the death toll would climb if people crossed on their own, Clark said.

"Migrant traffickers have become a necessary evil," he said.

Corruption also taints Mexico's efforts to stop human trafficking. Clark, who heads the Tijuana-based Binational Center for Human Rights, said his group interviewed 50 detained smugglers and found 39 of them were simply migrants who were handed over to authorities after the border crossing.

"Human trafficking is not a priority for Mexican politicians more concerned with kidnapp­ings, drug trafficking and murders, border experts say..texthelp
The Observer
Honorig Pete Duranko

The Blue-Gold game, which traditionally draws upwards of 30,000 fans to the Stadium each spring, gives alumni a whiff of the Irish football experience to come in the fall. Interest has peaked in this year's game, but there's another cause that Notre Dame faithfully will support this weekend: Pete Duranko deserves the benefit dinner his former teammates and classmates are hosting in his name Saturday at the Joyce Center. And those friends — and the Notre Dame athletic department — deserve praise for their efforts.

The motivation behind "For the love of Pete," a fundraiser for the Monogram Club's Catastrophic Relief Fund, is that not the ALS-stricken Duranko was on the national championship 1966 football team. Nor is it his selection as an All-American at defensive end.

The reason why hundreds of alumni and friends will pay $125 a plate for dinner Saturday night in Pete's honor — and that's the way it should be.

Duranko's former teammate David Martin recalls a young Pete as a hard worker who often lightened the mood on the sidelines of practices as part of "a bunch of really good guys from that 1966 team." That way of life earned Duranko respect. That respect earned him lifelong friends who want to help him through.

Six years after being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease — Duranko maintains an upbeat attitude that inspires the people who know him best. In 2002, he was in South Bend singing the Notre Dame Victory March in what he claimed to be Polish.

But as Lou Gehrig's Disease advances, things have gotten tougher for Duranko. His former teammates are helping the Monogram Club direct a large portion of the money raised in his name — up to $100,000 — towards his friend.

And the people who are helping him now are doing the right thing. Martin chose to dedicate time and organizational skills because he thought that was the best way to support Duranko.

Former Notre Dame baseball player and author Cappy Gagnon joined with Dick Swiatkland to compile a contact list of a slew of Duranko's former teammates.

Martin credits former director of athletics Stan Wilcox and associate athletic director John Heister for bringing in athletic director Kevin White in offering support and resources to the initiative. As soon as Charlie Weis was approached, he said he would do what he could to help the cause and named Duranko an honorary captain for this year's Blue-Gold Game.

Duranko's former teammate and fellow All-American Jim Lynch and 1953 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Lattner agreed to come to support his friend.

Along with Lynch and Lattner, White and Weis, former Notre Dame standout Bob Kuechenberg and Jim Seymour will be in attendance. So will alumni players like Kevin Hardy, Larry Conjar and George Goodolke.

The outpouring of support for Duranko from so many people is a testament to who Duranko is — and who the supporters are.

Letters to the Editor

Open 'The Shirt'

Call me impatient — but I couldn't wait to see this year's edition of "The Shirt." Whether or not you agree with the color used, "The Shirt" is a great way to show our solidarity each and every football game. Unfortunately, as much as "The Shirt" is a great way to show our loyalty, the issue is that the design is selected anything but unifying. In order for a shirt design to be considered during the annual contest, it must be created and submitted by an undergraduate student. This is ironic because "The Shirt" began in 1990 because of a graduate student.

In 1989, sociology student graduate student Zhengde Wang was the victim of a hit and run automobile accident. Although not a single house was broken, the impact to the back of his neck severed all nerve endings. Zhengde was left paralyzed for the rest of his life and basic skills such as chewing and swallowing had to be learned all over again. The first edition of "The Shirt" was created to help provide financial assistance to Zhengde and his family.

Money raised helped pay for his medical expenses, helped to support his family who came from China to visit him, and later helped Zhengde and his family go back to China. What is sad is that, if Zhengde were still a student today, he would be ineligible to submit a shirt design on the grounds that he be a graduate student. This is exactly what some graduate students living in Fisher-O'Hara Grant found out earlier last year as they tried to submit a shirt design.

Freshmen, sophomore, junior, senior or grad student — We Are ND. That should mean more than just dressing the same on game day.

Shawn Ahmed
Graduate Student
April 19

Observer Poll

Are you going to the Blue-Gold game?

a. Yes, I go every year.

b. Maybe, if the weather is okay and I can make it.

c. No, I don't really care.

*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 113 respondents.

Observer Editorial

"Tockey" offensive

On Sunday, April 9, we, a group of Saint Mary's and Notre Dame students, faculty and administration, gathered to discuss your publication of the "Tockey" comic on April 6, 2006. Among this discussion was our consensus that the reprinted joke published in The Observer is deeply insul­

tation and unacceptable. Despite the common history of pride and respect Saint Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame have shared over the years, animosity has grown between the schools, which is evident through White and Powers' complaint.

It is distressing that Saint Mary's students help fund editors who choose to include degrading comments in our campus newspaper. Why didn't the current Notre Dame editors of The Observer understand how unacceptable this is in a professional publication? What is the deeper issue that "tockey" poorly articulated with its "parody" comic? While this is not the first time Saint Mary's students have found "tockey" offensive, we do not want to have our dignity as students, as an institution or as a community called into question again. As long as we continue to fund and support this publication — and are represented by it — we demand that you make a commitment to us, the Saint Mary's community, to avoid this issue in the future by holding yourselves to a higher standard and exercising greater editorial responsibility in the future.

Megan Osberger
and over 150 Saint Mary's students
Conor Megan is a member of the Observer editoral board.

Do you want to submit an editorial cartoon to Viewpoint?

E-mail: Joey@Viewpoint, Iand.edu

Quote of the Day

"It is well to remember that the entire universe, with one trifling exception, is composed of others." - John Andrew Holmes

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a. Yes, I go every year.

b. Maybe, if the weather is okay and I can make it.

c. No, I don't really care.

*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 113 respondents.

Observer Editorial

"Tockey" offensive

On Sunday, April 9, we, a group of Saint Mary's and Notre Dame students, faculty and administration, gathered to discuss your publication of the "Tockey" comic on April 6, 2006. Among this discussion was our consensus that the reprinted joke published in The Observer is deeply insul­

tation and unacceptable. Despite the common history of pride and respect Saint Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame have shared over the years, animosity has grown between the schools, which is evident through White and Powers' complaint.

It is distressing that Saint Mary's students help fund editors who choose to include degrading comments in our campus newspaper. Why didn't the current Notre Dame editors of The Observer understand how unacceptable this is in a professional publication? What is the deeper issue that "tockey" poorly articulated with its "parody" comic? While this is not the first time Saint Mary's students have found "tockey" offensive, we do not want to have our dignity as students, as an institution or as a community called into question again. As long as we continue to fund and support this publication — and are represented by it — we demand that you make a commitment to us, the Saint Mary's community, to avoid this issue in the future by holding yourselves to a higher standard and exercising greater editorial responsibility in the future.

Megan Osberger
and over 150 Saint Mary's students

E-mail: Joey@Viewpoint, Iand.edu

Quote of the Day

"It is well to remember that the entire universe, with one trifling exception, is composed of others." - John Andrew Holmes
Father Wilson Miscamble, C.S.C., has written an Open Letter disagreeing with the views of former Notre Dame President John Jenkins in the Notre Dame debate, specifically the decision to ban "The Vagina Monologues" from campus. In a response, Father Hesburgh would come to Indianapolis for the annual Mass and Father Hesburgh's column, as though it will not continue to be a positive link to the University named in honor of that first printing. The Catholic university: commending Jenkins' position

The Catholic Church, as an institution, has a different view of what that relationship, in which physical intimacy is a profoundly sacred manifestation of God's infinite love. Just as light shines brightest when it is not enough to say that the sick man has need of the physical healing which permits them to participate with their neighbors and with God in the way that best man can do so, I wholeheartedly agree with Miscamble's analysis of the underlying moral problem: The painful reality is that much of the violent anti-woman sentiment which is fostered from a sick view that separates sex from love and genuine relationship, from the commodification of sex, from the portrayal of women as objects, from the blatant objectification of women's bodies, from the lack of dignity and respect. I was married for 29 years, privileged to have been with a woman of a total, committed love, and have received the same. I am fully aware of the truth of that relationship in which physical intimacy is a profoundly sacred manifestation of God's infinite love. But, contrary to Miscamble's suggestion, there is no contradiction between that essential link between intimacy and love, and the approval of "the continued production of a play that [at least to Miscamble] forces women to choose to be seen as sexual objects." While such an interpretation of the play may involve exploitation, chasteningsuch as that which missions entail, it allows and what it requires.

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From king to don: a gangster take on 'Richard III'

By GRACE MYERS
Scene Writer

The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company will perform "Richard III," a play which, contrary to the theater company's name, is all about royalty.

Taking place this weekend in Washington Hall, this powerful, classic play of a man starved for power and willing to manipulate or even kill those who stand in the way of the throne, is sure to engage and interest theater enthusiasts. Richard III is hated by many and feared by all and yet the audience still sympathizes with this corruption and a portrayal of the dangers of totalitarianism, "Richard III" is as gripping as it is powerful.

This production is sure to be entertaining for all, because of its original and interesting interpretation. Set in 1950s American gang country, "Richard III" is directed by Jeff Eyerman, the Company Manager/Executive Director of Summer Shakespeare at Notre Dame.

"I honestly never really fancied myself a director, I like acting much more," Eyerman said, "but this summer I happened to watch 'The Godfather' in close conjunction with McKellen's 'Richard III,' and the similarities really struck me."

This interpretation makes the historical character of Richard III more accessible to the modern audience, as well as comments on the other instances of hatred and terror within history.

The audience sees how Richard resents his brother's power and happiness, suffers from a physical deformity and is to finish. Whereas many modern horror movies lose their momentum about halfway through, "Slither" steadily builds his inspired, grossed-out climax.

Part of this can be attributed to veteran screenwriter James Gunn. His screenplay experience covers everything from the "Dawn of the Dead" remake to the live-action "Scooby Doo" films.

Starla Grant (Elizabeth Banks) wields a shotgun against people-turned-zombies while town mayor Jack MacReady (Gregg Henry) looks on in horror.

The sharp dialogue writer's sense of reality is never mocked. In "Slither," town beauty Starla, played by Elizabeth Banks, is married to the town rich man, Grant Grant, played by Michael Rooker. Unfortunately, their marriage is less than perfect and after a spurned advance, Grant goes off on the town.

While at a bar, he meets Brenda, played by Brenda James, and they go off into the woods together. While there, they find an asteroid and an alien life form. The alien attacks Grant, entering his body, and over the course of the next couple of days, it begins to transform him into something less than human, spelling trouble for the small town of Wheeledy.

Written and directed by James Gunn, "Slither" pulls off the rare feat of being entertaining and engaging from beginning to finish. Whereas many modern horror movies lose their momentum about halfway through, "Slither" steadily builds to a well-earned, crowd-pleasing climax.

Part of this can be attributed to veteran screenwriter James Gunn. His screenplay experience covers everything from the "Dawn of the Dead" remake to the live-action "Scooby Doo" films.

This performance by the Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company is all about royalty. "Richard III" will be performed on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are available both through the LaFortune Box Office and at the door.

Contact Grace Myers at gmyersl@nd.edu

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbe­mender@ed.edu

Creepy-crawly movie 'Slithers' its way into theaters

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Scene Editor

"Slither" is must-see movie for true horror fans. Its success is derived not from the scares it creates, but from the atmosphere it inspires. A simple procursory examination of the movie wouldn't create very high expectations for the film. At first glance, the plot of space slugs and carnivorous zombies seems hackneyed at best. However, the film pulls off the absurd premise beautifully, and the cast's sense of reality is never mocked.

In "Slither," town beauty Starla, played by Elizabeth Banks, is married to the town rich man, Grant Grant, played by Michael Rooker. Unfortunately, their marriage is less than perfect and after a spurned advance, Grant goes off on the town.

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MOVIE REVIEW

‘Smoking’ lights up debate

As Nick Naylor, a tobacco spokesperson, actor Aaron Eckhart adopts a defensive position for big tobacco companies in the media war over smoking.

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

· Smoking is bad. Smoking is good. PR can paint tobacco in either light, as the satirical new film “Thank You For Smoking” reveals. The film takes shots at the tobacco industry, the anti-tobacco lobby and public debate in America in general. With a great cast, fresh directing and a unique satirical perspective, the film succeeds in making an entertaining film that questions just how fluid media debates can be.

The film’s opening scene shows Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart) dressing down a tobacco baron (Robert Duvall), paying off a former Marlboro Man (Same Elliott) and dealing with a Hollywood agent (Rob Lowe) and his hypocritical assistant (Adam Brody).

The most noticeable thing about the film is the unique style of the film, which is quick, quirky and matches the spin technique perfected by the movie’s protagonist. Jason Reitman, son of “Ghostbusters” director Ivan Reitman, gives the film a fresh feeling that balances its tongue-in-cheek approach with the seriousness of the topic.

The film also balances its criticism of the tobacco industry by pointing out the near-hysteria surrounding anti-smoking lobbying in a way that keeps it from feeling like a propaganda film or a lecture.

While the style of the film makes it unique, the cast of “Thank You For Smoking” allows the film to balance its sensitive topic nature with the right blend of humor and satire. Eckhart is excellent as Naylor, and the supporting roles are played to perfection. Bello and Koechner are hilarious Naylor’s counterparts. Macy, Duvall and Lowe are all great in small parts. Another notable player is “Spider-Man” actor J.K. Simmons, who plays Naylor’s intense boss Bud “BB” Rohrachuer.

From an acting perspective, perhaps the only weak link in the film is Katie Holmes — not because she can’t act, but because she doesn’t seem to possess the right combination of seduction and manipulation needed to pull off her part. “Thank You For Smoking” is a smart, funny look at how public debates take place in our society and just how ridiculous they can be.

The plot of the film is fairly simple, but the real joy is watching different situations and seeing just how Naylor talks his way out of them. He does everything from sucking up to a tobacco baron (Robert Duvall), paying off a former Marlboro Man (Same Elliott) and dealing with a Hollywood agent (Rob Lowe) and his hypocritical assistant (Adam Brody).

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Oakland wastes Zito's best season of effort

Bedard continues his winning streak and Orioles cruise to win

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Brandon Inge kept hitting away, trying to show off his int makeup closer Justin Ducheneather would not back down or be an easy out.

Inge walked after a 15-pitch plate appearance, then Curtis Granderson drew a free pass with the bases loaded to bring home the go-ahead run in the ninth inning, and the Detroit Tigers rallied to beat the Oakland Athletics 4-3 on Thursday.

Inge was determined to wear down Ducheneather (1-1), who pitched in place of Huston Street because the 39-year-old closer has a mild strain of a muscle in his chest. "I was hitting absolutely as hard as I could," Inge said. "A pitcher would rather have a walk hit off him than have someone stand up there and keep hitting them. That's frustrating for a pitcher. He thinks this is the pitch and you had a chance to know as a catcher that I wasn't frustrated. I think it was a great opportunity for a hit, a walk, anything. Once I was three, four minutes into the at bat, I'm thinking I have to get on base sooner or later."

Tigers skipper Jim Leyland joked that Inge stood in there so long he had enough time to smoke more than one cigarette.

"One-and-a-half Marlboros," Leyland said. "That was a tremendous at bat. He showed great discipline up there. When people see that, they see the way it can be done."

As manager Ken Macha opted to stick with Ducheneather rather than immediately to reliever Kirk Saarloos, who had already been warming up for several minutes.

"I felt like I was in control," Ducheneather said. "I made some pitches and he kept getting a little piece of me. I tried to battle and just beat myself."n

Fernando Rodney (1-0) pitched two innings, working out of a two-out jam in the ninth to extend his scoreless streak at the season's start to 7-2-3 innings. He struck out pinch-hitter Adam Melhuse to end the ninth.

Magglio Ordonez led off the ninth with a single, pinch-hitter Alexi McGowan doubled and Chris Shelton singled to make it 3-2 with no outs before Carlos Guillen's tying single.

Orioles 9, Indians 4

Erik Bedard remained unbeaten, Miguel Tejada homered and the Baltimore Orioles rallied for a 9-4 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

Javy Lopez, Jeff Conine and Tejada each had two hits, including Lopez's two-run single that erased a 3-4 deficit and gave Baltimore its sixth win in eight games.

Eduardo Perez and Victor Diaz each had three hits for Cleveland. Martinez was 2-for-4, extending his hitting streak to 15 games, the longest in the major leagues this season.

Bedard (4-0) pitched six innings and joined Boston's Curt Schilling and Atlanta's Omar Vizquel as the majors' four-game winners. Bedard allowed four runs — three earned — six hits and two walks, striking out seven.

Martinez put Cleveland up 4-3 in the sixth, but rookie Fasso Curva (1-1) couldn't hold the lead. The Orioles sent 10 men to the plate in the top of the seventh and had three runners in scoring position before they batted around against the Indians.

Jay Gibbons singled off with a double and scored on Lopez's two-out homer, his first of the year, for a 4-3 lead. Kevin Millar's walk. Corey Patterson's single and Brian Roberts', international walk loaded the bases. Jason Davis relieved and gave up Jeff Conine's two-run, bloop single down the right-field line. Melvin Mora fouled out, and, after a double steal, Tejada lined a two-run single that made it 9-4.

Carmona allowed eight runs, eight hits and three walks in 5-1-3 innings. Cleveland went ahead in the first when Patterson bobbled Travis Hafner's single off his glove, allowing Jason Michaels to score. Patterson then had an RBI single in the second and Tejada homered in the dard for a 2-1 lead. The Orioles hit a two-run homer in the fourth. Mora tied it at 3-3 with a two-out, two-run double in the fifth after Roberts tapped a bunt to second on to move up.

Angels 6, Twins 4

Francisco Rodriguez wasn't known for walking in his days as a Minor LeagueSettings version ended in a game his team eventually lost, the Los Angeles closer was back in form — keeping the Minnesota Twins from another comeback.

Jose Molina's two-out double in pinch-hitter Maicer Izturis to break an eighth-inning tie, Rodriguez got four outs for his fifth save and the Angels beat the Twins on Thursday.

"I felt confident. I went out there and threw hard and made the right pitches," said Rodriguez, who struck out Lew Ford with two runners on to end the eighth.

Minnesota rallied from a 9-4 deficit and forced extra innings by getting two hits, two walks and the tying run against Rodriguez in the ninth on Wednesday night. The Twins won it in the 10th.

Tony Batista, who went 3-for-4 with two RBIs, singled with two outs in the ninth against the hard-throwing Rodriguez, who effectively mixed his fastball and sliders, striking out Torii Hunter to end it.

"He's tough," Batista said. "The movement he's got, it makes you surprised sometimes."

Jose Crain (1-0) threw 2-2-3 scoreless innings until Edgardo Alfonzo hit a two-run homer in the eighth. Izturis entered, Molina hit him in with the double and then Adam Kennedy followed with an RBI single to make it 6-4 — after shortstop Nick Punto's throw home to get Izturis bounced away for an error and allowed Molina to move to the plate.

Kevin Gregg (1-0), recalled from Triple-A Salt Lake the night before, threw four strong innings of relief and made a case to join the rotation next time with Bartolo Colon on the disabled list.

They know what I can do. They know the stuff that I can offer. They know that I'm comfortable in that role. That's where I want to be," said Gregg, who gave up one run and three hits while walking two and striking out six.

Detroit right fielder Magglio Ordonez breaks his bat against Oakland Thursday. The Tigers won 4-3.

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The Observer CLASSIFIEDS

Friday, April 21, 2006

MLB

Los Angeles reliever Kevin Gregg releases a pitch against Minnesota Thursday. Gregg was recently called up from Triple-A.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the News Office, 324 South Dearing Hall. Deadline for next day classified is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid.

The charge is 3 cents per character, per display. All spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

Paul Summer Internship. Kymano,UCC is seeking 2-3 stus with energy, talent & a desire to learn about the Biopharma industry. Engineering/technical majors preferred. Highland Park, IL. Go to http://www.kymano.com for more info. Mrs. Perry will tell you on campus 27-26850 for possible interviews.

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Happy birthday, Lea! 22 is a magical age. I wish I had been able to celebrate on your birthday. We should go out.

Chef's dead!!!

Yes, I love Tab. The league is a back. Heiny.
Former Minnesota Vikings running back Moe Williams leaves Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis.

Jury convicts former Viking Williams

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Former Minnesota Vikings running back Moe Williams, charged last fall with disorderly conduct after a raunchy team boat party that tarnished the team's season, was found guilty of disorderly conduct.

Williams also was found guilty of indecent conduct and lewd or lascivious behavior. Williams was accused of touching the breasts of a dancer in a public space during the boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka.

"I never intended to do anything that would basically make anybody feel uncomfortable," Williams said after the verdict.

Hennepin County District Judge Kevin Burke fined Williams $300 and ordered him to complete 30 hours of community service that benefits women or children.

Burke determined that Williams guilty of just one charge, the jury determined he touched the woman in view of other people or where other people could see but that he hadn't intended to be lewd or indecent.

Afterward, Williams complained about being treated unfairly, saying he wondered why the captain of the cruise, who is white, wasn't charged despite evidence that he kissed a dancer's breast.

Prosecutor Steven Tallen denied that race was a factor in his decision about filing charges, and he has said he made the case against the captain was shaky.

Williams, 32, was the first player tried on charges related to the Oct. 6 party, in which Vikings rookies arranged to take veterans out onto Lake Minnetonka on two boats. Tackle Bryant McKinnie and cornerback Fred Smoot faced the same charges and are set to go on trial in May. Charges against former Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper, who has since been traded to the Dolphins, were dropped.

Prosecutors described the party as "a floating orgy" in which women on the boat changed into thong underwear and bras, gave players lap dances and, in some cases, stripped naked. They said they thought the crew was frightened and intimidated.

As one witness testified, "After we left the dock, it turned into a strip club."

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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Eastern Conference, Central Division

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Western Conference, Northwest Division

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Western Conference, Pacific Division

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Western Conference, Southwestern Division

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NCAA Women's Softball Top 25

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NHL

Edmonton at Detroit, 8 p.m., Outdoor Life Network

Los Angeles Kings have called a news conference for Friday to announce their new general manager, with former San Jose Sharks GM Dean Lombardi the leading candidate to replace the fired Dave Taylor.

Lombardi worked this season as a scout for the Philadelphia Flyers.

Taylor was dismissed as president and general manager Tuesday after the Kings failed to make the playoffs for the third consecutive year. Taylor was asked to remain with the organization in a different capacity. Assistant GM Kevin Gilmore was assigned to a position with Anschutz Entertainment Group, which owns the team.

Also in the shakeup, interim coach John Torchetti and his staff were released. Torchetti will be interviewed for the coach's job by the new GM.

A round the dial

NHL

Edmonton at Detroit, 8 p.m., Outdoor Life Network

Edmonton at Dallas, 7 p.m., Outdoor Life Network

IN BRIEF

Woods to take break while father battles illness

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Tiger Woods will take time off from the PGA Tour while his father battles cancer, the world's No. 1 player said.

"Woods said it was possible he would not make an appearance in a tournament before the U.S. Open in June."

Westwood said he did not give specific details of his planned break, except to say he would not start playing "for a while," and the failing health of his father, Earl, would have a major influence on his future schedule.

"It's kind of up in the air with the situation back home, so I don't know what's gonna happen," said Woods, who is in New Zealand to attend the wedding of his caddie Steve Williams. "I'm taking time off. I'm here for this event and for Steve, and to enjoy time off and be with my father, so I won't play for a while," Woods said.

Yankees first team to top $1 billion, according to Forbes

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees became the first baseball team valued at more than $1 billion in the annual estimates made by Forbes magazine.

"The Yankees' value increased 8 percent to $1.026 billion, the magazine estimated in its May 8 issue, which was released Thursday. New York had revenue of $354 million last year before paying $77 million in revenue sharing and $34 million in luxury tax."

"Forbes estimated the Yankees had a $50 million operating loss before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization."

The Boston Red Sox were pegged with the second-highest value at $617 million, followed by the New York Mets ($604 million), Los Angeles Dodgers ($482 million), Chicago Cubs ($448 million) and Washington Nationals ($440 million).

Kings set to name new GM in Friday news conference

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Kings have called a news conference for Friday to announce their new general manager, with former San Jose Sharks GM Dean Lombardi the leading candidate to replace the fired Dave Taylor.

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Toronto fires coach Quinn

Coach spent seven years behind bench

Associated Press

TORONTO — Pat Quinn missed the playoffs for the first time in seven seasons as Maple Leafs coach.

Apparently that was enough to get him fired.

Quinn was let go Thursday, two days after Toronto’s season ended without a postseason bid. The 63-year-old Quinn, who had one year remaining on his contract, missed the playoffs for only the second time in his stellar 19-year coaching career.

Longtime assistant Rick Ley was also fired.

“We did not achieve a chance to compete for the Cup,” said general manager John Ferguson, whose Original Six club hasn’t won the Stanley Cup since 1967.

Ferguson declined to answer when asked whether Quinn would have kept his job had the Leafs made the playoffs. A late season surge got Toronto back into contention but they were eliminated in the final days of the season.

Quinn served as general manager of the Maple Leafs before Ferguson replaced him in that role in 2003.

Ferguson is expected to name Paul Maurice — who coached Toronto’s minor league affiliate in the AHL this season — as the new coach, but he said he’ll consider other candidates. Maurice last coached in the NHL with Carolina.

“We certainly have a proven, capable, successful NHL head coach as our head coach in the American Hockey League,” Ferguson said. “Paul is an obvious prime candidate.”

Ferguson wants a coach who will give younger players a more prominent role. Quinn was criticized for sticking with veterans who couldn’t adapt to the quicker, new NHL.

“We’re going to be quicker,” Ferguson said. “We’re going to rely on players who continue to improve. We’ll have a new coach to lead us in that direction.”

Overall, Quinn went 300-222-52 with 26 shootout and overtime losses as Leafs coach, twice leading Toronto to the Eastern Conference finals. The team lost to Buffalo in 1998-99 and Carolina 2001-02.

He’s fourth all-time in coaching victories with 657 behind Scotty Bowman (1,244), Al Arbour (781) and Dick Irvin (692).

He never won a Stanley Cup as a coach although he led the 1980 Philadelphia Flyers and ’94 Vancouver Canucks to the final.

He is perhaps best known for coaching Team Canada to Olympic gold in 2002.

“He has represented this organization in a first class manner for many years,” Ferguson said.

Ferguson dismissed reports he and Quinn had been locked in a power struggle.

Richard Peddie, president and CEO of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment, said Ferguson isn’t in danger of losing his job, but they won’t extend his contract this summer even though he has one year left on it.

“Why not? They signed me for two more years, don’t you think?” Ferguson said.

“We’re going to have a multihomer game. We’re going to have a great gift to play the game of baseball, and I want to play until I’m 50. If He gives me two more years, don’t you think He’s going to give me another one?”

If Ferguson lasts that long, he’ll turn 50 during the 2008 season.

The fan who ended up with the ball gave it to Franco in exchange for a bat. Anticipating a call from the Hall of Fame, Franco said he’d send either the ball or the bat, but not both.

The Mets had as many hits in the six-run eighth as they did in their previous two games, when they were the victims of consecutive three-hitters by the Atlanta Braves.

Franco, in his 29th season in pro ball, signed with the Mets as a free agent on Dec. 9. The oldest player in the majors, his one-out homer came with former Padres player Xavier Nady aboard.

Franco said, referring to Padres ace Jake Peavy, who left with a 2-3 lead after seven. “We lost 2-1 yesterday, and it wouldn’t be good to lose 2-1 today. It makes it more of an accomplishment.”

Franco, Mets rally to knock off Padres, 7-2
NCAA BASKETBALL

UCLA guards declare, but don’t hire agents

Afflalo, Farmar can still return next year

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — UCLA guards Arron Afflalo and Jordan Farmar both declared for the NBA draft Thursday, but neither will sign with an agent, giving them the option to return to the Bruins for their junior seasons.

Afflalo and Farmar plan to hold individual workouts for specific teams that ask, with each player paying his own way to the work-out sites.

“My goal as a basketball player is to play in the NBA,” Farmar said. “I can always come back with a great team. It’s a good situation for me to test it and see what people think about me and where I am.”

UCLA coach Ben Howland said he talked to 17 or 18 NBA general managers, who projected Afflalo and Farmar would be selected late in the first round or early in the second round of the June 28 draft.

“Whether they both go this year or come out at the end of next year, they’re both going to be in the NBA. That’s a given,” Howland said at a campus news conference. “I am totally 100 percent behind them, as is our whole UCLA basketball family in their decision to test the waters.”

Like Farmar, Afflalo said he would return to school if he wasn’t assured of being a first-round pick.

“If it’s not the smartest situation possible, I’m coming back to a great team,” he said.

Farmar added, “A lot of guys don’t have UCLA and the success we had to come back to.”

The players have until June 18 to withdraw their names from the draft.

Afflalo’s and Farmar’s individual workouts won’t begin before May 20, when they will be required to drop one of the three classes they’re taking during the spring quarter and become part-time students. The quarter ends in mid-June. At that point, the players will no longer participate in individual workouts with the UCLA team.

The duo said they wouldn’t participate in the NBA pre-draft camp in Orlando, Fla., because it doesn’t allow players to showcase their individual skills as much as solo workouts do.

Afflalo and Farmar were the first two recruits Howland signed when he took over in Westwood three seasons ago. The sophomores led the Bruins to a runner-up finish in Florida in the national championship game April 3 after helping them win the Pac-10 regular-season and tournament titles.

NFL

Johnson reworks contract

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Chad Johnson got a minimum one-year contract extension Thursday as part of a reworked contract that substantially increases his pay and could keep him with the Cincinnati Bengals through 2011.

The Bengals also got a tentative deal with Anthony Wright to become the backup quarterback while Carson Palmer recovers from reconstructive knee surgery, leading an offense that counts heavily on Johnson.

"Chad has been very patient and went about this the right way," Drew Rosenhaus agent

The three-time Pro Bowl receiver had been under contract through 2009. The new deal runs through 2010, with a club option for 2011, and would give him $10.75 million more than he would have made under the old contract, agent Drew Rosenhaus said.

"It’s something we’ve been working on for over a year, and Chad has been very patient and went about this the right way,” agent Drew Rosenhaus said. "There was nothing negative, he never missed any time."

There were concerns that Johnson would become unhappy with his previous deal, which paid him far less than some of the game’s top receivers. For instance, Terrell Owens — another Rosenhaus client — could make up to $25 million on his new three-year deal with Dallas, if he stays out of trouble.

Owens got a $5 million signing bonus and $5 million base salary for 2006. By comparison, Johnson would have made a $2.75 million salary this season under his old deal. The biggest annual salary Johnson could have made under the old contract was $3.6 million.

Johnson led the AFC with 97 catches last season. He also set a club record with 1,432 yards, leading the conference in that category for the third straight year. He became one of the league’s most-noticed players with his touchdown celebrations.

The Bengals have been trying to lock up key parts of their offense. Fullback Jeremi Johnson got a six-year deal last Friday that will pay him $7 million over $3.6 million.

Johnson did not immediately return a phone message.

During the season, he said he’d like to spend the rest of his career in Cincinnati, trying to set NFL passing records with Palmer.

Palmer had a breakout season in 2005, leading the NFL in touchdowns and completion percentage. He led the Bengals to their first winning record and first playoff appearance in 15 years, but tore ligaments in his left knee during a first-round loss to Pittsburgh.

Palmer needed reconstructive surgery and is expected to miss most of training camp and, most likely, part of the season. With backup Jon Kitna gone to Detroit as a free agent, the Bengals have been trying to sign a backup who could start the season if Palmer isn’t ready.

They had an agreement Friday on a one-year deal with Wright, a free agent from Baltimore who was expected to come to Cincinnati to complete the contract in a day or so, agent Joel Segal said.

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ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Top seed Irish battle No. 8 Rutgers

Team hopes to secure seventh Big East title

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The top-seeded and No. 2 Irish begin their quest to earn their seventh Big East title as they face eighth-seeded Rutgers in the quarterfinals today at 9 a.m. in Tampa, Fla. Notre Dame is not only looking to defend its title but to reach the finals — a feat they have never failed to achieve since joining the conference in 1996.

"[Notre Dame] has always done really well [in the Big East Conference Championships]," Irish junior Catrina Thompson said. "We are just looking to keep doing well here and build off all the success we had [in the regular season]."

Notre Dame earned the top seed and a first-round bye in the 12-team competition after finishing the regular season 21-1. Despite its success, the team is not looking past any competitor.

"Even though we had a great year, you can never look past who you're playing," Irish junior Christian Thompson said.

"Everyone on the team just needs to stay focused in every match. If we do this, we are going to do really well." The Scarlet Knights enter the match after winning a close 4-3 contest over Marquette in the opening round of the championships on Thursday — their first Big East Tournament victory.

During the contest, the Golden Eagles took a 1-0 lead after winning two of three doubles matches. However, Rutgers was able to bounce back in singles by claiming four wins to defeat Marquette. Critical wins came from No. 1 freshman Katrina Elder-Bush, who defeated the Golden Eagle's sophomore Reba Calbeto 7-6 (2), 7-5 and No. 2 freshman Dana Gordon, who clinched the victory for the Scarlet Knights after topping freshman Lauren Little 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

"Rutgers is definitely going to be ready to compete against us because we're the top seed," Christian Thompson said.

"The top seed is always a target in big matches like the Big East," Notre Dame enters the contest with last year's Big East Championship Most Outstanding Player Catrina Thompson. No. 31 Thompson enters the tournament as the highest ranked singles player in the conference. In addition to Thompson, the Irish have other players ranked — No. 80 sophomore Brook Buck and No. 99 Christian Thompson.

In doubles, Catrina and Christian Thompson are the highest ranked duo at No. 6. The Thompsons are followed by the No. 38 pairing of Buck and freshman Kelsey Tefft for the Irish.

"Our doubles is what has really set us apart from other teams this season," Catrina Thompson said. "We haven't lost a doubles point all season, and it has really made the difference in all of our 4-3 wins this season."

The winner of this contest will face either fourth-seeded DePaul or fifth-seeded St. John's on Saturday at 9 a.m. in the semifinals.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jsapetil@nd.edu

BLUE AND GOLD WEEKEND

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Track

Athletes travel all over U.S.

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

In preparation for the upcoming Big East tournament in two weeks, the Notre Dame track and field team will head to Arizona this weekend to the Oregon Invitational at the University of Oregon and several sprinters to the Central Collegiate Invitational this weekend.

Notre Dame junior runner Kurt Benninger, already an automatic NCAA qualifier in the mile and 3,000 meters, will try to channel the spirit of Prefontaine as he attempts to qualify for the Mideast Regional meet in the 5,000.

Sophomore Austin Wechter will compete in Ypsilanti in the 400-meter hurdles, hoping to improve his time by .15 seconds to qualify for the Mideast Regionals.

"I've really done nothing different from the beginning of the year. I've just kept working hard and I hope to get it," he said.

Also competing in the Central Collegiate meet are junior Maryann Erigha and a 4x4 relay team of Erigha, sophomore Dominique Manning, junior (Keeli) Ogbusinzi and sophomore Brienne Davis.

Erigha pulled within .02 of a second of Mideast qualifying time in the 400-meters last weekend at the Mount San Antonio relays and will try to top that time this weekend.

The relay team is within .14 seconds of a Mideast qualification.

The majority of runners will attend the meets to stay in top form for the Big East meet in two weeks.

"You have to be there for one or two meets on the year, but you have to prepare for the Big East like it's any other meet," sprint coach John Millar said. "You have to control your anxiety or else it becomes detrimental."

On the year, Notre Dame has dozens of Big East and 17 Mideast regional qualifications.

Anxiety will surely heighten in the weeks to come, especially for the women's team, as it has a possibility of executing the triple crown in the indoor, outdoor and cross-country portions of the Big East meet. No women's team has accomplished this feat since Villanova in 1987.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu
SMC TENNIS

Saint Mary’s falls in a 5-4 nailbiter to Bethel

By GRGE ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

In its final tune-up before Saturday’s conference final against Calvin, Saint Mary’s fell short against Bethel College 5-4 Thursday at Saint Mary’s tennis center.

With the two teams tied at four wins each, senior Kristen Palombo battled back to win the second set of her match against Robin Braun.

With the sunlight rapidly fading, the two girls were forced to play an all-day six-baker in place of the third set, and Palombo came up just short losing by a score of 6-4, 6-7 (10-8).

Before its match against Bethel, the team talked about its concern with winning the key points in close matches. The squad’s inability to do so was a major reason it lost 9-0 to Albion. The same problem also plagued the Belles against Bethel.

In addition to Palombo’s match, the team of junior Kelly Merz and junior Calle Mulcahy lost their doubles match to Robin Braun and Bree Olens by the score of 9-7, and the team of Palombo and junior Grace Quaglia were defeated by Emily Lamport and Missy Vermilla by the score of 9-8 (3).

“We did better than we have in the past in the close games,” Palombo said. “But it was still very frustrating, because we weren’t able to get over that final hurdle.”

Saint Mary’s also played Thursday’s match without the services of sophomore Tara O’Brien, who has recently occupied the No. 5 singles spot for the Belles.

Freshman Melissa Dingler filled in for O’Brien and she won her singles match over Sherra Miller 6-4, 6-0.

O’Brien’s absence, however, meant that sophomore Cassie Quaglia, who had yet to play a singles match this season, was pressed into action at the No. 6 singles spot. Quaglia was competitive against Bethel’s Jade Walters, but she ultimately fell by the score of 7-6 (5), 6-1.

Irish ready to battle Lehigh

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

After dropping from No. 9 to No. 19 in the USILA Coaches Poll with two losses last week-end out west in the Rocky Mountains against Denver and Air Force, the Irish 3-2 GW1LL head to the eastern reaches of the Appalachians to clash in a match against the Lehigh 7-5, 3-2 Patriot League.

After a travel day Monday and an off day Tuesday, the Irish have only had two days of practice so far to prepare for Lehigh. But senior co-captain midfielder Drew Peters was very open about how much more than up for the number of days.

“Yesterday’s and [Thursday’s] practice was a little tough, but real good,” Peters said. “It was good to have a day off and then go real hard for a few days. I think it was beneficial for our team. A lot of drills, a lot of running, but I think we did well yesterday.”

Palombo said the practices were just what the team needed to release leftover bitter emotions stemming from last weekend’s loss to Colorado.

[The intensity] was definitely very good, and we carried it into [Thursday],” Peters said. “Everyone was -1 day spent after two hard hours of practice. We’re hoping for [the effort] to carry over against Lehigh game.

Irish coach Kevin Corrigan also expressed general satisfaction with his team’s effort.

“The Notre Dame team tournament hopes suffered a major blow last weekend,” Corrigan said. “Everyone was -1 day spent after two hard hours of practice. We’re hoping for [the effort] to carry over against Lehigh game.

“It’s a very tough thing about [the injury]. We’re hoping for [the effort] to carry over against Lehigh game.

“IThe frustrating thing about it is how erratic we are,” Corrigan said. “We play two shutout quarters against Denver, and then we give up four goals in the fourth quarter.”

Though Corrigan said the Irish project aren’t things he typically sees in practice, he hopes this week’s grueling practices will serve to focus the Irish coming game time.

“If you don’t do it when the lights are on, it doesn’t matter what you do [at practice],” he said. “We have to bear down on game days and not make those kinds of mistakes.”

When Taylor Clagett takes the opening face-off for the Irish at 2 p.m., they will be looking at a team in its last tune up before it competes for an NCAA bid. Lehigh qualified for the Patriot League Tournament by defeating Holy Cross 13-6 last Saturday on Senior Day.

Sunday’s game will be Notre Dame’s first ever contest against Lehigh and from the video it has seen, the team expects a solid all-around showing from the Mountain Hawks.

“They’re a very well balanced team,” Corrigan said. “I think the challenge they present is that they do a little of everything well.”

Lehigh is No. 30 in the country in scoring offense at 8-42 goals per game and its defense has held opponents to 7-17 goals per game — No. 6 in the nation.

After looking at their film, Peters said the Irish do not expect Lehigh to throw anything at them style-wise they have not seen throughout the year.

One thing that sophomore goalie Joey Kemp is certainly used to seeing is the game’s venue. A Georgetown Prep graduate, Kemp will return to the field on which he played for the nationally-ranked Hoyas for four years, including as team captain and MVP in his senior season.

Corrigan said he likes to arrange games in the areas from which he draws his players, whenever possible.

“We wanted to play a game in the area,” he said. “Joey’s high school coach [Kevin Giblin] is a friend of mine so we worked it out to play it there.”

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdoagher@nd.edu

New Courses - FALL 2006

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Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
The Observer  SPORTS page 25

SMC Golf

Bellevy look for strong finish before NCAAs

Varsity golfers ready for the Grizzly Invite

By BECKI DORNER Sports Writer

Although the SMC/Bethel Invitational took place Wednesday, the Franklin Grizzly Invitational this weekend will be the first match in over a week for a majority of the traveling members of the varsity squad.

Most of the normal travelers on the squad did not compete in the tournament Wednesday co-hosted with Bethel College. Instead, the junior varsity tried to compete in the difficult Blackhorn Golf Club in nearby South Bend.

The most recent performance for the traveling squad was the IUW Spring Fling in which the Belles placed third of 18 teams.

Saint Mary's senior Megan Mattia led the way for the Belles by finishing seventh with a 162.

Belles freshman Alex Sei had her best round under head coach Mark Hamilton, shooting a 77 during the second round to card a two-day 166 (tied for 13th).

The Franklin Grizzly Invitational will be the last regular season match for the four seniors on the team—Mattia, Kirsten Fantom, Nicole Beltino and Erin McQueen. All four have been members of the team since their freshman years.

Some junior varsity players will also be traveling this weekend.

Senior captain Kirsten Fantom emphasized that the girls have been working hard in their lay-off week for their final meet before the postseason, especially concentrating on greenside play.

“We’re continuing to work on our short-game in preparation for the weekend,” she said. The Belles continue to anticipate the NCAA tournament at the end of the spring.

Contact Becki Dorner at rforomer@msuden.edu

NHL

GM Craig Patrick leaving the Penguins after 17 years

Jagr, Crosby, Francis all acquired in tenure

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Craig Patrick made some of the best trades in NHL history. He oversaw some of the best drafts, built some of the best teams and signed some of the best players and coaches.

Consider this Hall of Fame resume: Drafted Sidney Crosby and Jaromir Jagr. Traded for Ron Francis, Joe Mullen and Larry Murphy. Re-signed Mario Lemieux so one of hockey’s greatest players could play his entire career in Pittsburgh.

Hired coaches Scotty Bowman and Bob Johnson.

But it was obvious, after the Penguins sank into bankruptcy for a second time in franchise history and were forced to tear apart a longtime contending team, their general manager lost his drive. Patrick’s creative touch also disappeared, and many of the player and coaching decisions he made were bad ones.

Just as significantly, Patrick confused in few and hired fewer still — to the point the Penguins had a smaller front office staff than most low-level minor league teams.

Patrick did all the hiring, firing and decision-making and, as a result, player personnel decisions seemed to be based more on hunches than reasoned thinking.

So, after four consecutive last-place finishes, the Penguins did what ones would have seemed unthinkable: They let Craig Patrick go, failing to renew a contract that expires on July 1. That Lemieux, the team’s primary owner and a close friend of Patrick, would agree to such a move illustrates how far the Penguins have fallen since making the Eastern Conference final in 2001.

“It was a very difficult decision,” team president Ken Sawyer said Thursday, about an hour after calling Patrick to deliver the news. “But we both stood back and did what’s best for the team.”

Despite averaging only 23 victories over the last four seasons, and the uncertainty over whether the team will get a new arena, the Penguins don’t expect to have trouble finding a qualified replacement. Sawyer will conduct the search and make the hire, but has no timetable for making his decision.

The new general manager will be allowed to bring the Penguins up to NHL standards in the scouting and player personnel departments. But he won’t hire a new coach — Michel Therrien, the former Montreal Canadiens coach hired by Patrick at midseason, will be brought back.

“This is a young team that is only going to get better,” Sawyer said, pointing to the expected addition of former No. 2 draft pick Evgeni Malkin to a Crosby-led team next season.

“We’re very happy with the job Michel Therrien has done. He will be the coach next year.”

After starting this season with a veteran team, the Penguins made a dramatic mid-season switch to mostly youth and, despite finishing 22-46-14, appeared to improve markedly over the final two months of the season.

The 18-year-old Crosby became the youngest player in NHL history to reach the 100-point mark by scoring 102.

But it was another former No. 1 pick, Lemieux, who led the Penguins to their greatest successes under Patrick.

Patrick was hired to succeed Tony Esposito as the Penguins GM in December 1989 and, within 18 months, had built a team around Lemieux that would win the Stanley Cup in 1991 and 1992 and have the NHL’s best record in 1992. His 1991 trade for Francis and defenseman Ulf Samuelsson is widely regarded as being the final piece needed to transform what had long been one of NHL’s worst teams into a Stanley Cup winner.

But after former ownership led by Howard Baldwin drove the team into bankruptcy, Patrick was forced to dismantle as stars such as Jagr, Alex Kowalev, Martin Straka and Robert Lang went elsewhere.

Still, Patrick’s ultimate downfall may have been his inability to bring in a quality coach after his initial two hires couldn’t have much been better: Johnson in 1990 and, less than two years later, Bowman. Bowman moved from the front office to behind the bench after Johnson died of brain cancer only six months after winning the Stanley Cup in 1991.

Of his final five coaches, not counting interim coach Herb Brooks in 2000, Patrick fired four: Kevin Constantine, Ivan Hlinka, Rick Kehoe and Eddie Olczyk. Hlinka, Kehoe and Olczyk had no prior NHL head-coaching experience, yet were hired without Patrick considering other candidates.

Despite making a long series of excellent trades, Patrick also made some glaring misjudgments, including what is often called the worst in NHL history — dealing future scoring star Markus Naslund for journeyman Alex Stojanov in 1996.

University of Notre Dame

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AN ARMY OF ONE
Irish hope to build momentum in Big East

Team set to host pair of conference rivals

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame welcomes two Big East teams to South Bend this weekend as it continues its quest to reach the top of the conference standings. The team hopes to be able to rack up four more victories, as it will play doubleheaders against Villanova and Rutgers.

Both teams are currently in the cellar of the conference with only six wins between them. But an upset win over a top tier team could be uplifting for the struggling clubs. "These games are very important, because they won't play like the bottom teams," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "(Rutgers and Villanova) always tend to have their best games against us."

Notre Dame (22-14, 9-1 Big East) is currently in second place in the conference—one game behind the undefeated South Florida. With a showdown against the Bulls next weekend, the Irish will seek to build momentum against the weaker competition at home this weekend.

The Bulls (38-19) have totaled eight wins in Big East play so far this year. However, they are just entering the toughest part of their schedule. In the next week, USF will face off with Pittsburgh and Syracuse before coming to Notre Dame on April 29. All three of the teams are in the top half of the conference standings.

"Right now the only thing I am concerned about is winning this weekend," Gumpf said. The fifth-year skipper is not looking past Saturday's games with Villanova. The Wildcats have taken seven of their last 10 games and have exploded on offense in recent games. Freshman Meghan Morese has also been driving the ball out of the park — she leads the team with 10 home runs. Morese has played shortstop, third base and catcher for the Wildcats this season.

"We're not going to pitch around her, but we will definitely give her the respect that she deserves at the plate," Gumpf said.

Junior catcher Cassie Koenig and sophomore second baseman Jackie Dimpsey have also added to an offense that has posted 32 runs in its past four games. Both players have started all 41 games for Villanova and are both hitting over .300.

The Rutgers pitching staff—which Notre Dame will battle Sunday — was able to shut down the powerful offense for two wins (9-1, 4-3) on April 15. The Scarlet Knights pitchers have been able to keep their opponents off balance by consistently changing speeds.

"We just have to make early adjustments," junior Stephanie Brown said. "I tend to try to drive the ball the opposite way just so I don't get too far out in front."

When the Irish have been able to make the necessary changes early on, they have been successful. After starting out slow on Wednesday afternoon, the offense took off the second time through the order and ended up winning the game, 5-0.

"We can't let these teams stick around with us, we need a couple of big wins this weekend," Brown said.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Irish freshman Linda Kohan stretches to catch the ball during Notre Dame's 6-0 win over Ball State April 11.
Overrated also picks up victory, advances

By JAY FITZPATRICK and DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Despite an intense effort, Bird Flu could not overcome No. 20 Sparkle Motion’s dominant play in a 21-3 loss Thursday.

Before the game, Bird Flu captain Colin Meyer was confident about his team’s chances in the game — but Sparkle was the faster, stronger and overall better team.

Sparkle played tough defense throughout the game, forcing turnovers that led to multiple fast-break points for Sparkle. Sparkle Motion was able to spread the ball around on offense, getting the whole team involved.

The Bird Flu guard Brogan Ryan led his team’s offense.

“I think we played well today, and we were glad we scored as many points as lives we saved by giving blood,” Ryan said.

Unfortunately for Sparkle, the team had trouble shooting the ball and was forced to make second and third possession shots in order to get its baskets.

“It was disheartening, but we still feel we played well,” Meyer said. “We look forward to the fact that they missed more shots. We took. Although the score showed a very disappointing game, Bird Flu still played hard. Bird Flu played tough defense and got defensive rebounds. But they also caught a lot of bad bounces on most of their shots.

But Bird Flu could not over come Sparkle’s speed, sending Sparkle to the round of 64.

Overrated 21, Show Killers 13

The Show Killers came close to knocking Off No. 32 Overrated, but a 2-1 run before halftime swung the momentum in Overrated’s favor, leading to a 21-13 win.

Both teams came out strong in the first half, keeping the game close behind quick offense with good ball movement by both teams.

The Show Killers were able to drive the ball inside well in the first half, getting off a lot of tough shots while also working on hard-fought rebounds.

The Killers also shot well from outside, especially guard Dan Klaus. Klaus brought Bird Flu’s offense with multiple long-range jumpers and then worked the ball back inside to the Killers out in front for most of the first half.

But Overrated would not be kept down, including a comeback just before the break to go into halftime with an 11-10 lead — one the team would not relinquish the rest of the game.

The key to the win for Overrated was its defense, especially in the second half. Overrated used its height and speed advantages to block the Killers’ inside shots while also quickly getting back outside to defend the long range shots.

Overrated captain Matt Young was proud of his team’s defense in the win.

“They were a good test for us, but we were able to get the quality win and make it to the round of 64,” Young said.

We KNOW Where You Got Your Tan 21, Team Jorts 9

Team Jorts was slowed down by its overalls and flannel as it lost to We KNOW Where You Got Your Tan Thursday.

Tan, a group of O’Neill speedos, used its speed to dominate the game as the team had three of its players register more than five points.

Gabe Mascaro led the team with six. He also had the highlight of the game when he made a three to end the first half, taking.

“The shot was a special play we worked on in practice,” Mascaro said.

Mascaro also made major contributions on the defensive side as he consistently disrupted the passing lanes and came up with five steals which led to multiple fast break opportunities.

Brendan Ryan and Tim Goldschmidt also had five baskets each. Goldschmitt used his size to grab rebounds and finish plays. Ryan used his slashing ability and outside shooting to create his offense.

“When it rains, it pours,” Ryan said.

Ryan said it was able to jump out to an early 3-2 lead but quickly faded as it was shut out for the remainder of the first half. John Furrey, the tournament’s answer to Adam Morrison, had three early points for the team. Eric Powers also scored three for Jorts, despite suffering from mono.

The team made another late run, scoring six in the second half, thanks to the outside shooting of Patrick Hartendorf.

However, it was not enough to overcome the speed of Tan.

“I’ll Was a night game, we didn’t take the lights into effect,” Powers said. “Maybe if we had added some rhinestones to our jorts we would have done better.”

The O’Neill speedos seemed determined that nothing would have distracts them from coming away with a victory Thursday.

“We’re here of a mission to find out where everyone in this tournament got their tans,” Ryan said.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick and Dan Murphy at jfitpz5@nd.edu and dmurphy6@nd.edu

FALL 2006 SPANISH COURSE LISTINGS

ROSP 20230 INTERMEDIATE GRAMMAR AND WRITING
9:35-10:25 MW, F. Ameriks

ROSP 20237 CONVERSATION AND WRITING
12:30-1:45, 2:00-3:15 TR, G. Colonna

ROSP 27500 APPROACHES TO HISPANIC CULTURES THROUGH WRITING
Various Times MW, F. Americo, G. Maldonado, J. Muñoz

ROSP 30310 TEXTUAL ANALYSIS
Various Times MW, F. Arellano, K. Brown, Staff

ROSP 30710 SURVEY OF SPANISH LITERATURE I
11:00-12:15, 12:30-1:45 TR, E. Jarabek-Almeida

ROSP 30720 SURVEY OF SPANISH LITERATURE II
11:00-12:15 TR, 1:30-2:45 MW, C. Mejía-Fuente, Staff

ROSP 30810 SURVEY OF SPANISH-AM LIT I
11:45-1:00, 3:00-4:15 MW, 9:30-10:45 TR, P. Boyd, Staff

ROSP 30820 SURVEY OF SPANISH-AM LIT II
2:00-3:15, 12:30-1:45 TR, 1:30-2:45 MW, H. Verani, Staff

ROSP 40615 STUDIES IN COLONIAL LITERATURE
12:30-1:45 TR, J. Anadón

ROSP 40770 GLOBALIZATION AND THE INHUMAN
12:30-1:45 TR, R. López-Abía

ROSP 40780 MEXICAN LITERATURE
1:45-3:00 MW, K. From

ROSP 40891 BEYOND THE ISLANDS: LATIN/A CARIBBEAN LIT & CULTURE
9:30-10:45 TR, M. Mosquera

ROSP 53490 SEN SEM. WOMEN WRITERS IN CONTEMPORARY SPANISH LIT
9:30-10:45 TR, C. Jarre-Fuente

ROSP 63110 FROM RECONQUEST TO RENAISSANCE: MEDIEVAL SPANISH LIT
12:30-3:15 TR, J. Saenz

ROSP 63911 PSYCHOANALYSIS AND THE BAROQUE
2:30-4:00 TR, R. Ross-Avila

ROSP 63970 SPANISH AMERICAN SHORT STORY
3:30-4:00 W, H. Verani
ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish looking for success at Big East championships

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

After being forced to withdraw from the James Madison Invitational April 8 and 9 due to a flight cancellation, the Irish women's golf team looks to rebound next Monday and Tuesday at the Big East championship in Duke City, Fla.

The tournament is the final event of the spring season before the NCAA Regionals and will be important in determining whether the Irish earn an NCAA bid.

"We're a bubble team right now," Irish coach Debbie King said.

"The NCAA tournament committee will certainly look at our scoring average."

The Irish will not have an opportunity to improve their NCAA head-to-head record because no other teams from the Mid-East Region compete in the Big East.

Notre Dame expects stiff competition as the tournament will feature all seven Big East teams, whereas in the past only four qualified for the event.

"We're especially excited to face South Florida and Louisville," King said. "Those are both pretty strong teams."

The Irish are scheduled to arrive in Florida Saturday afternoon and plan on playing a practice round Sunday.

The two-day event gets underway Monday at the Lake Jovita Golf Club.

"This is our biggest tournament of the year besides the NCAs," King said.

Before the spring season began, King said that the team's long-term goal was to earn a spot in the NCAA tournament.

"A win in the Big East Championship sure wouldn't hurt us (in earning a spot)," King said.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu.

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Bookstore

continued from page 32

defense, we were able to get out and run the court very well," Reckers noted.

Reckers noted that aggressive style of play an 11-4 halftime lead while the View struggled to find its offensive groove.

Down 11-4 at the half, the View missed its first four shots before finally making a short, turnaround jumper. Meanwhile, Reckers didn't miss a beat. Hitting a number of long-range jump shots and continuing to press the ball going up court, Reckers quickly increased its lead to 17-6.

The View tried to make a run to get back in the game, but again struggled finding momentum on either end of the floor.

After trading buckets, Reckers was finally able to put the game away on a baseline jumper by Small.

"We lost," The View forward Jeff Mullin said. "That's all there is to it."

Indy Xperience 21, Khakis In the Dumpster 12

Indy Xperience, a team composed solely of executive MBA students, defeated Khakis in the Dumpster 21-12 on the Bookstore courts.

Indy, whose players boast an average age of 38, relied on hot shooting to propel them past the younger, quicker Khakis.

Several times, it appeared as if Khakis was poised to make a run, but Indy was able to maintain its edge through each challenge. The win didn't come without a price, though.

"We may have pulled some muscles tonight, but we'll definitely get over it."

Steve Champlin
Indy Xperience guard

The Irish won the event.

Despite losing the game, the Irish players did not suffer from any self-esteem loss.

"They were the better team, but we were better-looking," Litschi said.

Litschi's teammate Benjamin Carriere added a similar opinion about his team's superior appearance.

"In the beginning of the game, we offered to play shirts-and-skis but they were too intimidated," Carriere said.

Contact Joe Quinn and Fran Tolan at pquinn6@nd.edu and ftolan@nd.edu.

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So don't wait...run over to www.hcc-nd.edu and sign up today!
Rebound
continued from page 32
for the Irish on themselves, some­thing that has clearly worked thus far this season. The major focal points for Notre Dame in the days leading up to the match up with the Scarlet Knights have been their ability to re-defend once they have lost possession. Also key in the Irish game plan will be their ability to run a suc­cessful fast break, avoiding going into their set attack plans until absolutely necessary.
Sophomore attack Heather Ferguson said the Irish need to focus not only on their tactics and play on the field, but also their mindset off it. "Coach Coyne has told us to keep our heads up, because there is still the season ahead of us, and we need to get ready to make an impact on the tournament," Ferguson said. "We need to buck­le down and concentrate on the next three games."
The Irish will also look for sen­ior attack Cristi Foote to be heav­ily involved in the attack as she has all season — she is second in the nation in points-per-game. Foote’s performance this season has also led to her Tewaaraton Trophy nomination. The award is given to the nation's best male and female col­lege lacrosse players, making her the only the second Irish player to be nomi­nated. Freshman attack Jill Byers has played well all season and Notre Dame will look for that to contin­ue this weekend. Byers has already broken Irish freshman records for assists (16) and points (54) and is only one goal away from breaking Courtney Calabrese’s record of 38 goals in a freshman season.
Overall, the Irish feel confident about their contest with the Scarlet Knights, and believe that it will be a good win for the Irish after two of their toughest losses in recent memory. "We should be very successful if we play our game," Ferguson said. "We just need to continue playing the way we have and we should come out with a win." Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitz­pe5@nd.edu

Like to talk?
Love Notre Dame?
Pick up an Undergraduate Admissions Tour Guide application at the Reception Room (2nd floor) of the Main Building. Applications are due by 5 pm on Friday, April 21. Contact Son Nguyen at sn Nguyen@nd.edu with questions.

NASCAR
Kyle Busch wins the pole for race in Phoenix

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Kyle Busch picked up where he left off at Phoenix International Raceway, winning the pole Thursday to put himself in prime position to win a second straight race in the desert. Busch, who won at Phoenix last November, ran a lap at 133.745 mph to take the top qualifying spot for Saturday night’s Subway Fresh 500. His lap bested Greg Biffle, who qualified second with a lap at 133.383, and Tony Stewart, who was third at 133.299.

"It seems the young Jedi has done well. He learns quick, he's putting all his knowledge from his own team and what I've given him to work with," Kurt Busch NASA driver said sarcastically of the cele­bration tactic Busch’s older brother, Kurt, has recently adopted.

Stewart can mock if he wants, but the Busch brothers are hot in Phoenix. Kurt won this race last year, giving the Busch brothers a sweep in the flat, mile-long oval. "It’s not whether you are getting boos or cheers, it’s who gets the most noise," Kyle Busch said. "Right now it’s the young Jedi who wins the cheers, it’s who gets the most noise."

"Do snow angels," Stewart said sarcastically of the cele­bration tactic Busch’s older brother, Kurt, has recently adopted.

"Right now it’s the young Jedi who wins the cheers, it’s who gets the most noise," Kyle Busch said.

"It's the sister car, so hopefully we can make it just as good, if not better," Matt Kenseth qualified fourth and was followed by Carl Edwards, who has a new crew chief this week after the shake­up at Roush Racing. Denny Hamlin was sixth, Kurt Busch qualified seventh and then boasted about how far his little brother has come in his short Cup career. "It seems the young Jedi has done well," Kurt Busch said. "He learns quick, he's putting all his knowledge from his own team and what I've given him to work with."

"He's got the fastest car in the county today. Clint Bowyer was eighth and Martin Truex Jr., and points leader Jimmie Johnson round­ed out the top 10. For Biffle, his qualifying run was perhaps a sign the bad luck that has plagued him through the first seven races of the season may be lifting. Accidents or mechanical fail­ures have taken him out of contention several times this sea­son and Biffle, who finished second to Stewart in the final standings last season, is cur­rently 23rd in the points.
SMC SOFTBALL
Belles look to rebound in game against Olivet
Saint Mary's lost both
games of Wednesday's
doubleheader to Albion

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's hopes to
ger up on this Saturday when it travels to Albion. The Belles (23-9, 9-3) enter Saturday's game on the heels of a doubleheader loss to Albion, 3-0 and 6-2, on Wednesday.

"I want our team to come back with the enthusiasm we had," Sullivan said. "It is important to play our

game and not underestimate our opponent," Grall said. "We play because we love the game, we need to show that love."

Olivet (44-6, NAIA) comes into the contest Saturday coming off a long break. Its game scheduled for Thursday was

canceled. Grall has relied on freshman
designated hitter Danielle Martin as a source of power at the plate. Martin leads the Comets with 20 RBIs this season.

The Belles will look to shut down Olivet early.

"We are going in there ready to play whatever team is there," Grall said.

This is the second-to-last conference game the Belles play before heading to the MIAA tournament. Sullivan said the team has been focusing on the tournament all season.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at
dkrasula@nd.edu

The Irish (15-7, 1-1 Big East) face unranked Georgetown (4-3) in 10 innings. The close game did not surpris

Maimieri. "There've been a lot of close games in this (winning) streak," Maimieri said. "We've had some late game heroi

cies. It gives the guys a greater amount of confidence that they can do what it takes to win."

The Irish have been bitten by the injury bug this past week, with third baseman Brett Lilley and second base

man Ross Brezovsky both missing time with shoulder injuries. Lilley took batting practice Thursday and is

designed to play this week

den. Maimieri said Brezovsky will be a game-time decision for each of the contests with the Scarlet Knights.

Notre Dame junior Righthander Jeff Samar
drazi will start today's game, which starts at 6:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium. Samar
drazi is 5-

1 this year with a 3.83 ERA, 28 strikeouts and 23 walks. Junior righthander Jeff Man

ship will take the hill in Saturday's game for the Irish, which will begin at 3:05 p.m. Man

ship is 4-1 on the season with a 2.04 ERA, 61 strikeouts and 14 walks. Senior left

hander Tom Thornton will cap the week

end on the mound for Notre Dame, starting Sunday's 12:05 p.m. contest. Thornton has a record of 5-1 this season

with a 3.78 ERA, 39 strikeouts and four walks.

Notes:
• Notre Dame head football coach Charlie Weis is schedu

ed throw out the first pitch

Friday. Between Weis' appearance and the start by the popular Samar

drazi, Friday's attendance is expect

ted to be among the largest of the season at Frank Eck Stadium. Maimieri said he will try to keep his team focused despite the hoopla.

"We're throwing a lot of gasoline on the fire," the coach said. "It's going to be a wild weekend."

• Today's game sold out by 5 p.m. Thursday evening, marking the first-ever advance sellout in the 13-year history of Frank Eck Stadium.

Contact Chris Khorey at
ckhorey@nd.edu

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BY ADAM FAIRHOLM

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**CROSSWORD LAST**

**ACROSS**

29 Match, e.g. 56 Caesar's

1 Talk big 58 American

5 Five-digit extension 44 Adlai's

9 Hovenweep home 45 Vaulted areas

17 Quality of Barba's music 49 Heaven-born

18 Bar 50 Tomb marker

19 Your first-grade teacher, now 55 Strawberries

24 Certain wing of

26 Spiders 28 It rarely takes

27 The Plaides, e.g. 33 Peas

28 Cardhoo's problem 34 Saw

37 Naval init. 40 French

39 To a smaller degree 41 Drawn

42 French 42 French

43 Coal substutues 43 Coal substutues

44 See 53 Down 45 Like composer

49 See 53 Down 50 Like composer

55 Ranch animal, informally 50 "Suspect" star.

56 temple, for 51 Nebraska's

57 1600 Evony Brothers hit 52 Adlai's

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE


13. Rapdick group briefly 13. Rapdick group briefly


15. Food for miles 15. Food for miles


17. Certain wing feather 17. Certain wing feather

18. Stick around to see 18. Stick around to see

**DOWN**

1 "I don't " 14 Like composer

2 Placed on a scale 22 1950's

3 Links in certain chains 23 Tiger Woods' word?

4 Composer 24 Certain wing of

5 Heaven-born 25 French

6 French alfi 26 The Plaides, e.g.

7 Take home 27 The Plaides, e.g.

8 Clear orders 28 It rarely takes

9 Grandmother 29 Match, e.g.

10 "Works and Days" poet 30 Meets

11 Very close friends 31 Means of

12 Bad weather portal 32 Links in certain chains

13 Rapdick group briefly 33 Peas

15 Bishop who supported Richard II, in Shakespeare 34 Saw

17 Quality of Barba's music 35 Gazebo wall

18 Bar 36 Together

19 Your first-grade teacher, now 37 Naval init.

24 Certain wing of 39 Mexicans do

26 Spiders 40 French

27 The Plaides, e.g. 41 Drawn

29 Match, e.g. 42 French

36 Together 43 Coal substutues

37 Naval init. 44 Adlai's

39 To a smaller degree 45 Vaulted areas

42 French 43 Coal substutues

49 See 53 Down 50 Like composer

55 Ranch animal, informally 50 "Suspect" star.

56 temple, for 51 Nebraska's

57 1600 Evony Brothers hit 52 Adlai's

**HOROSCOPE**

**EUGENIA LAST**

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jovy Lawrence, 30; Caren Flanary, 34; Don Mattison, 45; Crist Howard, 67; Jessica Lange, 57; Ryan O'Neal, 65; Pinta Pach, 82

Happy Birthday: Look at all your options before you plunge ahead. You will have to learn to say no, and prepare to do things yourself if you want to achieve the goals you have set for yourself. Don't hesitate to delegate the jobs you can't manage. You really have to control what's most important in order to get ahead. Your numbers are 15, 16, 20, 26, 30, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't take life too seriously today. Self-improvement programs started keep you a good result. You can get things done but should avoid things that go against your values and principles. You can get things done but should avoid things that go against your values and principles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Listen to what's being said and you will know how to handle the situations and people you face today. A change may not be welcomed by everyone, but you will help their community. Keep a close attention to detail.****

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Make a financial move based on knowledge and expertise, not emotions. A business partnership that will bring more to the table should be considered. Don't disagree with other relations who are coming on you.****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Money matters can be resolved. A professional change may not be something you relish but it will be worth your while. Don't let emotional matters continue to affect you. Keep your mind clear so you can make the best decisions possible.****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make a difference if you get involved to bring about needed reform. Your contribution will put you ahead of any competition you face and lead to advancements. Investments made today will be terrific.****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expand your interests, your friendships and your perspective. You need to be more open andweitely focused. A professional change may not be something you relish but it will be worth your while. Don't let emotional matters continue to affect you. Keep your mind clear so you can make the best decisions possible.****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Difficulties will develop with loved ones if you shirk your duties at home. Don't let personal issues interfere with your family. You have the discipline to finish what you start, so don't let that steady stream you have taken note.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Good ideas will unfold if you communicate openly. Physical activity will get your mind moving and will lead to a greatly-needed change. Traveling for business will lead to progress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let money matters get the best of you. Personal relationships must be dealt with even though you don't wish to discuss the way you feel. Once you clear the air, you will be able to get on with what counts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be feeling a little vulnerable if you have an emotional moment drag on. A friend or employer will upset you if you commit a situation you feel is unfair. It's best to keep your thoughts to yourself and your duties at home. Don't let personal issues interfere with your family. You have the discipline to finish what you start, so don't let that steady stream you have taken note.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be able to break out of your rut and become more accepting of others. Mind your personal relationships that you can teach you something you know little about. It will give you a different slant on something you must get a different slant on something you must make a decision about.****

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Change is good and now is the time to follow through on a creative opportunity. A present will take the initiative. Slow down and let everything else.

Happy Birthday: You are emotionally unpredictable but very practical about everything that comes your way. You are strong, aggressive and stubborn when you want something or are fighting for a cause.

Eugenias Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

**JUMBLES**

By MIKE ARGIRION

**JUMBLES**

UNANSWERED ANSWERS TO JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

(TEXTMEP)

Unscramble these four letters to form four ordinary words. Unscramble these four letters to form four ordinary words.

(Answers today)

A: 35-Down

B: 17-Quality of Barba's music

C: 49-See 53 Down

D: 68-Future experts

Answer: When the best-selling biography became a movie, it turned into THE WIZZ'S STORY

**ALGOT**

**GWEED**

**ALBUE**

**TEXMEP**

**THERPHS**

**GUEWS**

**TRJNB**

**SCGDY**

**JUMBLE**

**THE RUNNING SHOE COMPANY**

**STRIPPER TO ---**

**Saturday's Jumbles CAMEO SHEEP)**

**Answer:**

When the best-selling biography became a movie, it turned into "THE WIZZ'S STORY"
**BASEBALL**

**Streak at stake**

Game sold out by 5 p.m. Thursday night

By CHRIS KHOREY

It's going to be a busy weekend at Frank Eck Stadium. Notre Dame heads into a three-game home series against Rutgers Friday, Saturday and Sunday following a single-season school-record 19-game winning streak and looking to continue that success against a team that has been its arch-nemesis since both schools joined the Big East in 1996.

"We don't need any incentive when we play Rutgers," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "They've been our big rival since we've been in the Big East. We both entered the conference in the same year, and we've been pretty consistently the top two teams in the league ever since."

The Irish (29-8, 11-1 in the Big East) have not lost since March 25 against Georgetown. Mainieri said the team did not acknowledge the streak — the longest ever for Notre Dame in a single season and longest overall for the Irish since 1907 — until a team meeting Monday, and no one in the clubhouse has mentioned it since.

"The winning streak kind of snuck up on us since we've had so many big games along the way," Mainieri said. "We had big series against Pittsburgh and St. John's and a big game against Ball State. I decided to mention it on Monday, and our goal was to get those two victories and break the (single season) record."

With the record in hand, Mainieri said the Irish are looking forward to Rutgers, not back at their last 19 contests.

"We accomplished what we wanted to do, which was break the record. Anything else is just gravy on top of that," he said. "We need to beat Rutgers for the fun of beating Rutgers."

**BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL XXXV**

**Reckers All Americans advance**

By JOE QUINN and FRAN TOLAN

Sports Writers

The Reckers All Americans used a selfless style of basketball to rout The View Tavern on the corner of Niles and Jefferson 21-9 Thursday.

Reckers jumped out to a 3-0 lead after forward Jimmy Small dunked on a breakaway. On that basket, Small cut his hand for the second time. Unfortunately for the members of the View, those cuts didn't slow him down.

After a quick turnaround jumper from the free throw line by The View, Reckers went on a 4-0 run to stretch the lead to 7-1.

Reckers used superior defense, and was able to run the court extremely well.

"We played very aggressive defense, maybe too aggressive at times," Small said. "Because of our defense, we were able to run the court extremely well."

**SPORTS AT A GLANCE**

- **BOOKSTORE**
  - Sparkle Motion 21, Bird Flu 3
  - Despite shooting trouble, captain Colin Meyer and Sparkle Motion advance to the next round.

- **ND SOFTBALL**
  - Irish set to host pair of tough losses to Denver and Air Force when they hit the road to face Lehigh Saturday at 5 p.m.

- **SMC GOLF**
  - After skipping the SMC-Bethel Invitational Wednesday, the Belles varsity squad is ready to play in Grizzly Invitational this weekend.

- **MEN'S LACROSSE**
  - The Irish hope to rebound from a pair of tough losses to Denver and Air Force when they hit the road to face Lehigh Saturday at 5 p.m.

- **SMC TENNIS**
  - SMC Tennis Bethel 5, Saint Mary's 4
  - The Belles dropped a heartbreaker to Bethel Thursday afternoon.

- **ND WOMEN'S TENNIS**
  - The No. 1-seed Irish play No. 8-seed Rutgers in the quarterfinals of the Big East Tournament at 9 a.m. today.

**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

**Rutgers next Irish opponent**

By JAY FITZPATRICK

Notre Dame hopes to rebound from two tough losses to ranked opponents Saturday against Rutgers.

The one-goal losses to No. 1 Duke and No. 3 Georgetown leave the Irish (10-3, 2-1 Big East) still ranked No. 7 — proof of the tough road the Irish have faced this season. The loss against Georgetown moved the Irish to second in the Big East.

Notre Dame wants to turn around this weekend and keep winning in the Big East, where it will face Rutgers (6-6, 2-1) and finish up a five-game road trip that started March 31. The Irish have faced the Scarlet Knights only six times, with Notre Dame holding the overall edge at 4-2. Rutgers won the two teams' last meeting April 25, 2004 in Piscataway, 7-6.

As always, Irish coach Tracy Goya has tried to keep the focus on staying down here you get a little acclimated to the heat," Bayliss said. "It's about 87 degrees today and very humid. That's something no matter what we do we aren't used to yet. As we try to do here you get a little more acclimated..."

The team arrived in Florida Wednesday night.

"They key is, we only have two days to practice and prepare," Bayliss said. "We won't be here long enough to totally get acclimated to the heat, and at the same time, we don't want to overdo it so we're exhausted come Friday or Saturday or Sunday."

The other challenge for the Irish is to adjust to new courts.

"It's been a balance of both," Bayliss said. "That's the biggest thing, just getting used to the speed of the court and the heat and humidity and trying to get your fine tuned the way we need to do a little better."
After a season in which Notre Dame set dozens of offensive records, Irish defensive coordinator Rick Minter is now responsible for finding the same success on the other side of the ball.
It's all for the love of Pete

Members of the 1966 national championship squad organize event to raise money for former teammate

By KEN FOWLER

David Martin knew his time was more than the 15 minutes he'd allowed himself to put together his checkbook to Pete Duranko, his former teammate from the 1966 national championship Notre Dame football squad who suffers from ALS, a debilitating condition most commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

So when he and his friend Pete Samardzija talked about raising money for Duranko a couple of months ago about the best way to help support Duranko, Martin said he'd dedicated his free time to organizing an event to raise money for the former All-American offensive tackle.

"In this case, I can't simply write a check to Pete to cover a lot of the costs," Martin said. "Honestly, I've spent more time than I ... really expected. But in this case, I'm using my time and resources as a labor of love."

Thanks in large part to Martin's initiative, the Blue-Gold Game this Saturday, March 24, is also be a celebration for the captain of the game.

"Irish back Charlie Weis said Martin's personality is what fosters such sentiment among his former teammates.

"When you have guys who are involved in national championship teams that are as well-respected as Pete ... I think the fact that of the people around him want to give him his just due is justifiable so," Weis said Wednesday.

Duranko's final year at Notre Dame was his senior season in 1965, but he earned a than -a-remarkable medical redshirt season to compete on the 1966 team that took the first national championship in University of Notre Dame football history since 1947.

"It's a terrific guy and he's terribly unselfish," Martin said. "It's just a real rober of ability."

David Martin Notre Dame alumni

Irish look for help from new faces

The statisticians have their penrolls ready. The Brady Quinn season preview show kicks off Saturday.

But while the whole nation expects the soon-to-be-senior Irish quarterback to throw for a better Blue-Gold Game this season than in 2005, some analysts can predict all they want.

But they might as well just draw straws with any of the top 20 teams in the nation — any one could find themselves deep into the BCS calculation.

Not many expected a young quarterback from a small town like Walkerville, Michigan, to stand in front of the Helms Award winning Raghib Ismail and have the impact depth chart for the national champion Irish in 1988.

Not many expected Kevin Mays, who went from barely seeing the 1993 Notre Dame squad to within a field goal of a national title.

But they might as well be a dartboard right now.

Sure, Quinn, Samardzija, Walker, Zbikowski and the rest of last year's performers will take care of business.

But how about Travis Thomas, Leo Ferrone and Maurie Cram, Jr.? Notre Dame's chances rest on players like them — guys with more toughness than talent who are itching for an opportunity to play.

For example: Corey Mays, the Irish linebacker entered as a stud recruit out of Chicago in the fall of 2001, only to spend the next four years playing almost exclusively on special teams. Last season — his into Saturday's Blue-Gold Game — he's been nearly impossible to tackle and along with Brandon Hoyte, comprised the fierce core of the Irish defense.

In a sense, he was a bonus in Weis' inaugural campaign.

Hoyte's contributions were expected when 2005 kicked off.

Mays' abilities weren't fully appreciated until the season ended.

The expectations haven't been as high for the Irish since David Gorden and that Jesuit college from Massachusetts kicked Notre Dame out of the No. 1 spot back in 1993.

And if the hopes of Notre Dame followers are to be fulfilled, another Corey Mays must bloom. It could be James Aldridge. It could be Casey Cullen. It could be Terrail Lambert.

Who knows?

But there's no reason to worry right now.

Of course it's nice to watch Trevor Laws beat up on the second string defense during the MVP performance in last season's Blue-Gold game.

K'll be entertaining to watch Zbikowski flex and fly around the field.

Quinn — red jersey or green jersey — is worth the price of admission and more.

But it's a practice — the 15th and final of spring football.

A funny practice in front of a half full Notre Dame Stadium, yes.

But a practice nonetheless.

Spring games always seem to cause more teeth gnashing than watching the San Antonio Spurs or the Clippers on NBA TV.

No one really wins.

But for the excitement to be had after a crisp Quinn-to- Samardzija touchdown pass Saturday, there will be an equal amount of grumbling over who turns the Irish secondary is any better than it looked against Troy Smith, Ted Ginn and Ohio State.

For all the oohing and ahhing over a pancake block by freshman offensive lineman Phil Curley, Clipper Câmara is sure that theἴ�οκίοιjίοθΟϊλλήextrs, another Corey Mays must bloom.

And for all the thrill of gold helmets gathering in the tunnel before the squad takes the field, there will be the disappointment of another half month to see just how good Notre Dame will be.

Contact Mike Gillon at mgillon@nd.edu

Blue-Gold Game Schedule of Events

9:00 a.m.

VIP brunch with players Enter Joyce Center Gate 2

9:45 — 10:30 a.m.

Autograph session Open to public via Joyce Center Gate 3

10:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Fan Fest, Joyce Center South Parking Lot

11:30 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.

Alumni Flag Football Game, ND Stadium

1:30 p.m.

Blue-Gold Game Kickoff

Ticket Costs for Blue-Gold Game:

Adults: $12

Students: Free

2005 Offense

Rushing Offense

# Navy 318.67 yards per game
# 55 ND 147.08 yards per game

Median - Boston College - 145.00

Passing Offense

# Texas Tech 388.8 yards per game
# 4 ND 330.3 yards per game

Median - Colorado - 222.8

Total Offense

# USC 729.77 yards per game
# 10 ND 477.33 yards per game

Median - Florida State University - 376.6

Time of Possession

# 1 Nevada 33.12 minutes per game
# 3 ND 32.51 minutes per game

Median - Stanford - 30:01

Observer Graphic by JAHRED WAFFER
Quinn deals with life under pressure — from within

By KEN FOWLER
Sport Editor

It's all about winning games. Everything else will come later.

That's how Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn handles the hype surrounding his upcoming senior season. The early favorite for the Heisman Trophy, Quinn handles the pressure the way Irish coach Charlie Weis and quarterbacks coach Peter Van Vaast want him to — ignore it.

"The Heisman hype is obviously flattering, but at the same point in time, it's something that's handled after the season, so it doesn't really matter," Quinn said. "If everything's gone well for us, good things will come.'

Quinn said he knows the stat-tracking media and Heisman hype will be omnipresent during the 2006 season, but he's confident he can put the outside pressures aside and focus on game strategies and the offensive playbook.

At the annual spring media day March 21, Vaas said Quinn's experience as a starter since freshman year has helped him learn to handle pressure.

"Obviously, the quarterback position at the University of Notre Dame is an extremely high-profile position," he said. "To be able to handle that on a daily basis is what's important. Handling it on a daily basis means you got it and you do your job with the expectation that you're going to get better."

Weis, that's an imperative.

The coach who told his team "9-3 is not good enough" expects Quinn to hone his mental and physical abilities.

"He has very few limitations physically," Weis said at the media day. "I think mental is what holds you back more than anything else. (But) I think now we're at the expanding mode." Less than a month later, Weis was a little more forthcoming about Quinn's mental progress.

"If I slip up, he knows it," Weis said at a press conference April 12. "I can't hide if I make a mistake with him. If I call a play and then it's a little bit wrong, he'll say, 'You mean this?'

Weis said part of Quinn's development mentally is attributable to the way the team critically assesses itself, even when it succeeds.

"When you look at a play in the game and it's a completed pass, you'd say that's a nice job," Weis said. "I'll say to him, 'What's your first read? Was he beat? Did you see him? Did you even look at him?'

Weis said that approach works for Quinn because of the source of his drive to improve.

"The one of the things that's nice about Brady is that he is an extremely self-motivated individual," Vaas said. "I wouldn't think he'd use [the attention] as a motivational tool, not at this point in time — because that's him — he just works at (getting better) every single day.

Quinn, every single day is a day not just for improvement — the days are for ignoring the hype.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Quarleer Bradford Quinn is front and center with the cameras at a press conference on April 19.

Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn fields questions from more than half a dozen media members during the annual spring media day March 21.

McKnight and Samardzija are old faces with a new dual role

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

It's a tale of two stars sharing a marquee for the first time.

Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame's All-American wide receiver, returns for his senior season as quarterback Brady Quinn's favorite target.

But Samardzija only emerged as an elite wide receiver after Rhema McKnight, who led the Irish in receiving for two straight years, went down with a leg injury in Notre Dame's 17-10 win over Michigan Sept. 10.

This spring, McKnight and Samardzija will take the field together again, leading one of the most dynamic receiving corps in the country.

"You start taking baby steps just to make-sure it feels right. ... You have to find a way to let go and just be free out there," McKnight said.

"It's a psychological ramifications of the injury that have troubled McKnight the longest as he returns from full strength.

"As far as progressing mentally as well as how I'm feeling physically, I think we've been heading in the right direction and hopefully we can continue to build," he said.

McKnight and Samardzija have very different styles of play — just take a look at their size differential.

Samardzija stands 6-foot-5, seven inches taller than the 6-foot-2 McKnight.

"Jeff obviously, he's a big, big guy," Quinn said. "He's got great hands, he kind of brings almost what [former Irish receiver] Maurice Stovall had last year, but he kind of has his own flavor to it. Rhema's more of a shifty (receiver), he gets the ball in his hands and creeps out routes, finds ways of getting open.

McKnight had a chance to watch Samardzija as he spent the season on the sidelines recovering from his injury.

"I think Jeff has done a fantastic job," he said. "When I got hurt last year, he came in and he stepped his game up and he's one of the best receivers in the country. You can't always come from a player who basically went from being third guy to being this guy known all across the country. Hopefully he and I can come out and make things happen for next year.

After watching McKnight in practice, Quinn said psychologically likely that he would be a starter again this fall.

"He knows how to play the game (and) he's got exceptional quickness," Weis said. "He's just doesn't have okay quickness, he has exceptional quickness and I even forget about it, because it's been so long since he's been out there now, I think that he has all the skills to be a top line receiver.

McKnight is not apprehensive about returning to the gridiron with Samardzija, who earned a following among fans last season with his long hair and laid-back persona.

"I think one thing you learn, being in a program like Notre Dame, it's not so much about being in the spotlight, he said. "You have to kind of know what you're doing and know the things you can and cannot do.

He does not anticipate a clashing of egos for the two stars.

"You can't be concerned about losing the spotlight and who's number one and who's number two," he said. "You have to find a way to be a major contributor to this team and I think throughout our three years here I have done that as well as Jeff.

Samardzija will take the field for the Irish baseball team tonight against Rutgers at 6 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium before taking the field with McKnight and the Irish for Saturday's 3:30 p.m. Blue-Gold game at Notre Dame Stadium.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

Shark and McKnight are old faces with a new dual role

By DUSTIN DUSTIN DUSTIN DUSTIN
Sports Editor

Our Dame quarterback Brady Quinn fields questions from more than half a dozen media members during the annual spring media day March 21. After finishing fourth on the national ballot in 2005, Quinn will enter his senior season as one of the early favorites for the Heisman Trophy.

Notre Dame at Minnesota Memorial Coliseum
A history of success, Former and current coaches call Notre Dame's defense the best in the country.

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

It was an unforgettable moment in a season where Notre Dame reestablished itself as a national power. Leading 27-20 with 1:46 remaining, Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith handed off to running back Antonio Pittman — hoping to kill time and keep the ball away from an Irish offense that found its groove late in the game. Instead, Pittman found a seam, took the ball outside, sprinted down the sideline and scored the game-sealing touchdown.

Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel celebrated on the sideline with his team's second Fiesta Bowl win in two years a virtual lock. His quarterback, Smith, had put his name on the list of players to watch for the upcoming season and his defense had manhandled the Irish offensive line.

But on the other sideline a far less cheerful figure loomed. Notre Dame defensive coordinator Rick Minter had seen his team give up its fourth big play of the game, and subsequently, its fourth touchdown. It was a reality, and a problem, that haunted Minter's unit all year.

On many occasions during the regular season, the Irish were able to compensate for a defensive lapse by forcing a turnover or outstanding opponents with their explosive offense.

But when the problem reared its ugly head one final time on Notre Dame's biggest stage of the year, the Irish never had a chance to cover it up. The numbers 85, 68, 56 and 60 were not those visible across either team's offensive line. Instead, they were the yardage on each Ohio State touchdown.

The game reaffirmed a pressing issue: Minter had addressed all season — eliminate the big plays. His defense excelled in stopping opposing offenses and limiting them to small gains. But it would also allow 20-plus yard plays that kept games painful for the Irish.

And in Notre Dame's two regular season losses to Missouri State and Southern California, the defense gave up big touchdowns — six went for more than 20 yards.

Minter was accountable as the team's defensive coordinator. Irish head coach Charlie Weis spent much of his first season at Notre Dame working with the offense, creating a unit that set dozens of school records. Much of the defensive work rested on the new coordinator's shoulders. And while the defense struggled as it did against Ohio State, Minter grew frustrated.

After all, allowing opposing teams to exploit his defense was not on Minter's resume. The coach took a spot bought up under former Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz and Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin — and alongside Southern California coach Pete Carroll and Syracuse coach Greg Schiano.

Minter was responsible for taking Cincinnati and he underachieves the game on a level that inspires his fellow coaching staff.

"It's a relatively simple philosophy from a football standpoint," Minter said in order for the Irish to be at their best on both offense and defense. Those who know Minter defend him as the key to the Defense.

Minter philosophy 101:

Talking defense with Minter is much more complicated than Xs and Os. Minter has football insight that goes beyond play calling and schemes, understanding the game on a level that inspires his fellow coaching staff.

"For defense, it's a difficult job regardless of a coach's experience and intelligence. Minter was responsible for picking up the pieces of a 6-6 football team that gave up over 37 or more points three times this year, and teaching a new system.

"We all want the same thing ... in our case, defensive excellence at all times," Minter said.

Minter's development as a defensive coordinator did not take place at Notre Dame. And in order to understand the improve- ment Notre Dame needs to make next season and why Minter is successful, a defense has to take away what his opponent does best and force its opponent to move away from where it's comfortable in order to create the most problems.

By implementing this idea goes beyond physical execution. Minter called it a "cerebral" process. A defensive unit has to be equally present mentally as it is physically to maximize its potential.

"The bottom line is it doesn't matter what I know, it's what I get them to execute," Minter said.

Minter stresses the importance of working with his group on a daily basis. He likes the constant interaction with his team, even when the linemen — given his early role as linebackers coach.

That one-on-one aspect has paid off so far in cases like sophomore linebacker Brandon Holtz,

Minter's best players have been his individual and he's got a great understanding of the game of football, and he's got a great understanding of defensive football.

"He's as good as anybody I've ever seen," Minter said.

"He's a brilliant individual and he's got a great understanding of the game of football, and he's got a great understanding of defensive football.

"He is so devoted and so dedicated to the game and to the defensive side of the ball ... it has been a pleasure for me to work with him.

But installing a new defense in one season is a difficult job regardless of a coach's experience or intelligence. Minter was responsible for picking up the pieces of a 6-6 football team that gave up over 37 or more points three times this year, and teaching a new system.

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The group Kiffin put together at North Carolina State was a role call of now well-known, astute defensive personalities. Minter was assigned to coach linebackers under Carolina defensive coordinator Kevin Robinson. He was also on this staff.

Things came full circle in the 2005 Notre Dame season as Minter coached against both Carroll and Robinson — losing to USC 34-31 and defeating Syracuse 34-21.

In hindsight, Minter had no idea as to what extent Kiffin would progress in football. He knew Kiffin was a good coach at the time but he could not have guessed his mentor would become a future Super Bowl defensive coordinator.

"Little did I know 25 years ago I was around what is now turned out to be one of the best defensive guys going in our business, which is Monte Kiffin," Minter said. "He just taught me a fundamental technique — a sound (way) of looking at how you defend.

"Over the next decade, Minter combined his innate football sense with lessons he learned as a Kiffin's assistant and began pursuing bigger jobs with more responsibility. In 1984, he took a spot at New Mexico coaching linebackers. From there, he accepted the defensive coordinator position at Ball State (Muncie, Ind.) from 1985-91.

"North Carolina State was probably when I gained my initial confidence of what I like to do, but nothing was better than becoming a coordinator on my own at 30 years old down at Ball State University," Minter said. "I had a chance for six years as a coordinator and my own philosophy as a culmination of what I did over the past the six or eight years prior to that.

"But before the problem reared its ugly head one final time on Notre Dame's biggest stage of the year, the Irish never had a chance to cover it up. The numbers 85, 68, 56 and 60 were not those visible across either team's offensive line. Instead, they were the yardage on each Ohio State touchdown.

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"Little did I know 25 years ago I was around what is now turned out to be one of the best defensive guys going in our business, which is Monte Kiffin," Minter said. The former and current coaches call Notre Dame’s defense the best in the country.
Defensive coordinator a respected mind in the ranks

Friday, April 21, 2006
The Observer • IRISH INSIDER page 5

Minter was a defensive coordinator at Notre Dame from 1993 to 1996, and after his tenure, his impact on the program was significant.

1993 season was a turning point for Minter. He became the defensive coordinator of the No. 2 team in the nation, and under Lou Holtz, he led Notre Dame to an undefeated season. He was known for his ability to turn around struggling programs, and his success at Notre Dame was no exception.

Minter was named the defensive coordinator of the year, and his efforts were recognized by the College Football Coaches Association. His reputation as a defensive coordinator continued to grow, and he became one of the most sought-after coaches in college football.

Minter's success at Notre Dame was not just limited to the field. He was also known for his ability to develop players, both on and off the field. He was respected for his integrity and his ability to lead, and his impact on the program was significant.

Minter was also known for his work as an offensive coordinator. He led William & Mary to a number of successful seasons, and his ability to lead offensively was praised by his peers.

Minter's success as a defensive coordinator was evident throughout his career. He learned from his experiences, and he continued to grow as a coach. His ability to adapt and learn from his mistakes was one of the things that made him a respected mind in the ranks.

Minter's impact on Notre Dame is still felt today. His legacy is one of a coach who was able to lead his team to success, and his influence on the program is undeniable. He was a true leader, and his impact on Notre Dame football will be remembered for years to come.
Vacant spot looms large for returning kick specialists

By ERIC RETTER
Associate Sports Editor

Coming into spring practice, Notre Dame faced the unenviable task of replacing graduating senior D.J. Fitzpatrick — who had been the team's primary place-kicker and punter in each of the last two seasons — with players who lacked significant game experience.

"In terms of our kicking game this spring, I think it's pivotal that we get two or three specialists to step into those roles taken by the seniors and take over both the distance and hangtime of his kicks," Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis said.

Weis calculated Price's average distance at 43 yards per punt, and was pleased with both the distance and hangtime of his punts.

"The biggest problem is that there've been a couple times he's underkicked the coverage," Weis said.

Weis, however, isn't likely to officially name a starter at punter or kicker until after the team returns to begin the season in the fall with the incoming freshman class — including kicker Ryan Burkhardt.

"I don't know if we've got anything set in stone in terms of the depth chart, because we still have about three weeks, by my calculation, until we open the season," Weis said.

"That's my plan, the guys who have been inside more than anticipated this time will have been able to get substantial work in.

"We've had to try and get that, and that's fine, that's the plan," Weis said. "What we need is to spend a lot of time on is a lot of technical issues. Okay, we're going to work on this one skill, this one phase of a skill and let's just, you know, work on that. For instance, we've spent a lot of time with [Price] on the footwork in his punts, whether it's inside or outside, he can work on the consistency of his footwork or his drop.

At kicker, junior Dan Gins has begun to display the skills that allow him to play in the park, which included fifth-year senior Craig Cardillo and rising senior Mike Santucci. However, he will also have competition from Burkhardt in the fall.

"Right now, Carl is clearly the No. 1 guy, but we got this young kick — Burkhardt coming round here pretty soon, and he's going to have a chance to beat him out," Weis said.

While Burkhardt is highly regarded among the coaching staff, Polian stressed the difficulty of a player making an impact in his first year out of high school.

"It's this spring, I think it's pivotal that both the distance and hangtime of his kicks is clearly the concern," Weis said.

"I'm really excited for the green jerseys, to go both ways," Duncan said. "This is the real fun — it's sort of like the backyard football, all day, every day sort of deal, going both ways.

Sam Young, Matt Carufel, Eric Olsen, Garley Webb and Dan Wenger signed with the Irish in February and will arrive on campus this summer.

"Hopefully spring will give us an answer," Latina said. "We also know we have a lot of good football players coming in in the fall as well.

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Finding fifth starter is no small challenge for Irish

By KATE GALEs
Associate Sports Editor

A 300-pound offensive lineman dangling off a cliff is a terrifying image.

Even more frightening is the idea that the only thing holding him up is a teammate.

But that's the picture that inspires Notre Dame's starting center Bobby Morton as he prepares to lead the depleted group of offensive linemen into Saturday's Blue-Gold game.

"It's an image called holding the rope and we firmly trust everybody," Morton said. Most of us have played together and the guys that haven't are starting to realize that we need to be able to trust him to hold that rope.

The Irish have three returning starters this spring along with Morton in the middle, left tackle Ryan Harris, guard Dan Santucci and guard John Sullivan.

As Latvia and several other returners are minimal, Paul Duncan emerged as a key contributor in spring practice, and Michael Turkovich will be in the mix as well as early-enrolling freshman Chris Watt.

But Irish offensive line coach John Latina said he was unfazed by the low numbers.

"You get to focus more on the ones you have because you have more time to spend on individuals as opposed to a group of twenty kids," Latina said. "You take it as what it is and make the best of the situation.

"It definitely helps," he said. "You don't have as many people, you don't have as many things to learn about everybody, I think I'm definitely growing.

In addition to the line becoming more cohesive as a unit, the extra repetitions have meant extra conditioning for the linemen in practice.

"Has it been a little tiresome going a lot of reps? It has, I'm not lying," Morton said.

"But it's not really a concern because of the development we've been able to make.

Morton said the physical aspect has been the most difficult part of the spring camp, especially in particular, learning to snap to different quarterback's hands which has been particularly challenging.

"That's been the toughest things, taking different snaps with different quarterbacks," he said.

The development of Dan Cherwanick, a former scout team defensive lineman, into a center has helped take the pressure off Morton.

Cherwanick, who graduated in May but will return for a fifth year, is unfazed by his position change, attributing much of his development to Morton.

"After being in the program for so long, being there for four years now, you know what to expect, so a position change — especially just playing in the same system — is really exciting for the guys,

Duncan said that the individual attention has helped him develop over the spring.

"I'm really excited for the green jerseys, to go both ways," Duncan said. "This is the real fun — it's sort of like the backyard football, all day, every day sort of deal, going both ways.

Contact Kate Gales at kgaless@nd.edu
Young gun showdown

New faces compete for spots on roster that includes nine returning starters on both offense and defense.

By KEN FOWLER and CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writers

While Notre Dame returns nine starters on offense and another nine on defense, new faces will likely contribute significantly to the team in 2006.

Paul Duncan
right tackle

With the graduation of starting right tackle Mark LeVoir, Irish coach Charlie Weis will choose from among fifth-year senior Brian Mattes, sophomore Michael Turkovich and sophomore Paul Duncan for the new starter at that position.

Although Weis has said that Duncan is the leading candidate after spring practice, he has been quick to point out that the position is still up for grabs. Duncan, a 6-7, 270-pounder from Dallas, Georgia, played in five games in 2005.

"(Right tackle) is going to be wide open," Weis said. "Somebody is going to have to take that position, whether it is Duncan, Mattes, Turkovich or a player that's not here yet.

But Duncan enters as the favorite not only because of his spring, but also his size. Among the returning players, his 6-foot-7, 270-pound frame stands out. Duncan could use a little more muscle mass on his body to thicken up, but that won't be too difficult under Irish strength and conditioning coach Ruben Mendoza.

Duncan has the footwork necessary to patrol the outside of the line and the vision needed to avoid incoming blitzers. Irish offensive line coach John Latina said that communication among the young linemen has improved, which will make Duncan's possible transition into the starting five easier.

So long as Duncan beats out incoming freshman Sam Young, a top-10 offensive line recruit, he will see considerable development throughout the course of the season.

David Grimes
wide receiver

After serving as Notre Dame's No. 4 receiver for the majority of last season, Grimes will enter the 2006 campaign one spot up but behind a different 1-2 punch. Grimes took the No. 4 slot in 2005 when Rhema McKnight suffered a season-ending knee injury against Michigan Sept. 16. Working behind Maurice Stovall and Jeff Samardzija, he caught just two passes for 19 yards but was on the field for a majority of the team's three-receiver sets in the latter part of the year.

Grimes will be in the shadow of Samardzija, a returning consensus All-American, and the fifth-year senior McKnight, who was Notre Dame's leading receiver for the two years prior to his injury.

Grimes is probably the fastest returning receiver and possesses the hands necessary to make catches in traffic down field. He returned 15 kickoffs for an average of 22.5 yards and one punt for 17 yards last season.

James Aldridge
running back

Aldridge entered spring practice as one of Notre Dame's three early-enrollment athletes, surrounded by the hype he gained as a top-10 running back recruit. The 6-foot-1, 215-pound athlete out of Chicago suburb Crown Heights, Ind., is expected to see considerable time in the backfield this season behind the veteran duo of junior Darius Walker and senior Travis Thomas.

Aldridge brings a combination of Walker's patient outside running and Thomas' hard-hitting style to the table, a prospect that will allow Weis to use him in all game situations. Weis said Wednesday that Aldridge's presence will allow him to get "creative" with the playcalling.

Although Aldridge has seen slightly limited time in the spring, the 15 extra practices will quicken his learning curve compared to the rest of the freshman class.

George West
wide receiver

West joins Aldridge and offensive lineman Chris Stewart as the third of Notre Dame's early-enrollment freshmen this spring.

West has seen significant time returning kickoffs this year and likely will join Grimes deep on returning times next season. West has enough quickness to drastically increase Notre Dame's production on kickoff returns. Last season, the Irish averaged 19 yards per return in the category. West should be able to make an impact on special teams within the first few weeks of next season.

At 5-foot-8, 172 pounds, West is smaller and lighter than most receivers, but he possesses enough speed to make him a kind of deep threat Matt Shelton was for Notre Dame in 2004.

West, a native of Spencer, Okla., likely will be listed as the team's No. 5 receiver — behind Samardzija, McKnight, Grimes and rising sophomore Theo Ford. But expect West to catch a considerable amount of plays if he has a good game as defenses focus on the team's top-three receivers.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu and Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu
2006 Projected Starters

**OFFENSE**

**RUNNING BACK**
Darius Walker  
Junior  
Walker rushed for 1,274 yards in 2005 and added another 374 receiving to become a true dual-threat back. He enters his junior year approaching 2,000 career yards and is one of the team's leaders.

**QUARTERBACK**
Brady Quinn  
Senior — Captain  
As a junior and in his first year in Charlie Weis' offense, Quinn set 35 records for Notre Dame. Weis will expect continued development from the 6-foot-4, 232-pound Quinn as a senior.

**WIDE RECEIVER**
Rhema McKnight  
Senior  
McKnight was Notre Dame's leading receiver in 2003 and 2004 but suffered a season-ending knee injury last season. Charlie Weis liked his return to the pickup of a veteran free agent in the offseason.

**TIGHT END**
John Carlson  
Senior  
After serving as the team's No. 2 tight end behind Anthony Fasano last season, Carlson (and Marcus Freeman) will provide reliability for a first-year starter in 2006.

**TACKLE**
Ryan Harris  
Senior  
Notre Dame's offensive line returns four starters in 2006 and likely will include rising sophomores Paul Duncan at right tackle. In 2005, the offensive line was able to protect Brady Quinn with unparalleled success compared to the past three seasons. Behind left tackle Ryan Harris and left guard Bob Morton, the Irish allowed just 21 sacks in 12 games.

**GUARD**
Bob Morton  
Senior  
Morton was part of the four-man rotation including himself, fifth-year senior Dan Santucci, senior John Sullivan and the now-departed Dan Stevenson that played center and the two guard positions. Sullivan joined the starting lineup in 2004, making all blocking calls for the Notre Dame offensive line. He started all 12 games that year, logging 367 minutes of playing time.

**CENTER**
John Sullivan  
Senior  
The final member of the offensive line will be Duncan, who checks in at 6-foot-7 and 270 pounds. The rising sophomore ends spring practice as the No. 1 right tackle but will face stiff competition from incoming freshman Sam Young, a 6-foot-8, 302-pound lineman.

**LINEBACKERS**

Weis said Wednesday that he is not sure where Maurice Crum will play entering the 2006 season, but he is comfortable putting Crum at any of the three linebacker slots in Rick Minster's defense.

Playing with Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays, Crum picked up 57 tackles (32 solo, including 3.5 sacks) for Notre Dame in 2005. Maryland running back Kevin Jones was able to stay with opposing tackles and scored past the secondary.

One open spot for Crum doesn't fill in 2006. Brackett has served as a backup linebacker for the past two seasons after red-shirting his freshman campaign. Another option at linebacker is rising junior Anthony Vernaglia. Vernaglia came to Notre Dame as a defensive back but added muscle mass last season and saw limited action at linebacker. In 2006, Vernaglia could play the Apache position.

Other options for the Irish at linebacker include rising sophomores Steve Quinn and incoming freshman Morrice Richardson. Quinn played in nine games — mostly on special teams — and recorded two sacks in 2005. Richardson is a 6-foot-3, 235-pound prospect who likely will challenge for backup time. The linebacker battles will be the closest-watched competition in fall camp.

FREE SAFETY
Chinedum Ndukwe  
Senior  
Ndukwe will enter his second season as a starter and recorded 50 tackles in 2005 and recovered four fumbles, made two interceptions and forced another fumble. Notre Dame's cornerbacks will be watched to see if they can stay with opposing receivers. Wooden is faster than Richardson, and both have had mixed success in 2005.

Wooden saved the Irish several touchdowns with hustle plays in the red zone, and Richardson is the veteran of the group as a fifth-year senior.

CORNERBACK
Mike Richardson  
Senior  
Richardson is a senior with starting experience on the Irish defense. He has the speed, size and ability to step up and make tackles in the secondary. The Irish return five starters to the defensive line that had success against the run but not against the pass in 2005.

LEFT END
Victor Abiamiri  
Senior  
The Irish return four starters to the defensive line that had success against the run but not against the pass in 2005.

Left end Victor Abiamiri led the team in sacks in 2005 with eight, and Irish coach Charlie Weis said Abiamiri will be watching tapes of New York Giants left end Michael Strahan to help improve his technique.

In the middle, veteran seniors Derek Landri and Trevor Laws will be responsible for stopping the run in 2006. Both Landri and Laws started all 12 games in 2005 and helped Notre Dame hold opponents to 132 yards per game on the ground — a total 16 yards less than the Irish offensive averaged.

On the right end, Chris Frome returns for his fifth year after suffering a season-ending knee injury against USC Oct. 15 last season. Frome was replaced by rising junior Ronald Talley, who made 14 tackles in five games as a starter. Frome made six tackles in six games and recorded a sack for a loss of 10 yards against Pittsburgh in Notre Dame's 42-21 victory on Spet. 3.

After Notre Dame tallied just 21 sacks in 2005, Weis said his biggest goal for the defensive line was to increase the pass rush. He said he had a plan to do so but declined to disclose the specifics.

**CORNERBACK**
Ambrose Wooden  
Senior  
Wooden is faster than Richardson, and both have had mixed success in 2005.

Wooden saved the Irish several touchdowns with hustle plays in the red zone, and Richardson is the veteran of the group as a fifth-year senior.

**STRONG SAFETY**
Tom Zbikowski  
Senior — Captain  
Zbikowski is the starting strong safety for the Irish. He is a physical player who excels against the run.

**FREQUENT STARTER**
Chinedum Ndukwe  
Senior  
Ndukwe returns four starters to the defensive backfield, a unit that was prone to giving up big plays in 2005.

Tom Zbikowski enters as the defensive captain and face of the secondary. As strong safety, he recorded five interceptions last season and returned two for touchdowns. His fumble recovering is something Weis hopes to see more in 2006.