Irish fans flock to Georgia to show support

By EILEEN DUFFY

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

Welcome to Atlanta where the Irish play this weekend, at least. When the Irish hit the road, well, for the first time — though cramped cars are a far cry from jet planes. Senior Nathan Catanese will be squeezing six people into a car — meaning one person will be sitting between the driver and the front passenger. It’s going to be tight, but Catanese might have a little more tolerance for leg cramps, as this is the first Notre Dame game he’s seen in nearly two years, having studied abroad in London last fall.

“This is the only game I can go to this one and the National Championship game,” he said, without knocking on wood. Students like Shadley and Chapman, who flew home Thursday for the game, are confident in the team’s ability to win.

“I have a lot of high school friends that go to Georgia Tech. It’ll be fun to beat them,” she said, adding a "hopefully!” for good measure.

ND students help Katrina relief

One year after devastating storm, the clean-up effort continues with volunteers

By MARCELA BERRIOS

Tuesday marked the first anniversary since Hurricane Katrina’s raging winds and waters destroyed the homes and lives of countless families living in and around New Orleans.

It may have happened a year ago, but that does not mean the Katrina-affected area is any closer to recovery. Emotional and systemic problems which will take a decade to address, the folks in the Gulf Region to address the systemic problems which will take a decade to overcome.

“Katrina,” said Michael Collard, assistant director of Catholic Social Tradition and Practice.

“As a student body at a religious institution of higher learning, we need to act in solidarity with the folks in the Gulf Region to address the systemic problems which will take a decade to overcome,” he said.

The CSC recently began a Gulf Coast Task Force designed to assist with student interest in continuing the relief and recovery efforts in the Gulf.

Budget, scheduling restrict band away game travels

Group will only play at Michigan State

By KATHLEEN MCDONNELL

As the 2006 Irish football team runs onto Georgia Tech’s field this weekend, an element almost as synonymous with Notre Dame football as Knute Rockne will be missing — the Band of the Fighting Irish.

The band will take only one road trip this season, as opposed to its typical two away appearances. Tight budgeting and scheduling issues forced the band to choose Michigan State on Sept. 23 as its only away game visit, according Larry Dwyer, assistant director of bands.

The band traditionally travels to away games in buses to defray costs. While in the past buses have taken the band as far as Tennessee and Florida State, Dwyer said this year the band chose to save money by traveling only a state away.

“By saving the money from a second away game, it will enable us to go to the Penn State game next year, which is a longer trip,” he said.

This year the Irish play seven home games and only one on the road. With the other away games spreading across the country — Georgia Tech, Navy in Maryland, Air Force in Colorado and USC — distance plays a large role in choosing which games are feasible.

But money is not the only reason the Band of the Fighting Irish does not make appearances nationwide.

“Even if there were money to send the band to every away game, it would almost certainly be the University’s policy not to do that,” Dwyer said. “Our band members have academic schedules and need to study. There are very good academic reasons why we don’t go.”

Unlike athletes on scholarship, band members are volunteers. Home game weekends are packed with band performances, including step-off, drummer’s circle, the concert on the steps and the march to the Stadium, as well as the game. All this adds to a full academic load.

However, if the team qualifies for a bowl game, the band will travel as well.

“[For the members] to see BAND/page 4
Life at the bottom

Bare light bulbs, unfinished walls and cold concrete floors. Typical things you would find in a basement. It is the bottom of the building, the place in your house you were afraid to go by yourself when you were little. Some people might call a basement spooky. I call it my home.

This year I am living in the basement of my dorm, the result of an unfortunately low lottery number during room picks. The first, second, and third floors filled quickly last year, so I resigned myself to living in what is widely regarded as Pangborn’s least desirable room location.

During an introductory exercise on the first day of Spanish class, a classmate asked me what dorm I am in. I replied, since I have not spoken a word of Spanish all summer and could not remember how to say basement.

"The basement," I said in English after he looked at me with a confused expression. Immediately a look of what can only be described as pity registered on his face.

"They have rooms down there?" he asked incredulously.

Rooms and much, much more.

After only two weeks living in the basement, I am officially converted to lower level living. The temperature is cooler, it’s easier to stay up late and move about and there is a slight feeling of detachment from the other floors that can easily be misconstrued as living on your own.

Now, from my dorm room I can walk right down and do homework in the sun at a picnic table in the courtyard. My morning commute is about two minutes and thirty seconds. And without a couple flights of stairs to have to burden basket up and down, I think I can get through the whole year without breaking it like I did last year.

When room picks start at the end of the year, even if I have a high lottery pick, I think I will choose to live in the basement again.

My Spanish friend, don’t worry about my living situation. I may barely be above ground, but I still enjoy windows, plumbing, electricity and a room identical to every other room in the dorm. If you need me, I’ll be in the skonto.

Contact Kaitlynn Riedy at kriedy@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

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

INSIDE COLUMN

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT’S YOUR PREDICTION FOR THE FOOTBALL GAME THIS WEEKEND?

Anna Kronger senior Holy Cross
Brie Anne Eichhorn junior LeMans
Catheline Wagner senior LeMans
Kate Van Damme senior LeMans
Maggie Jespersen junior LeMans
Sarah Patten junior McCandless

"ND will win because they’re going to win every game." "We’ll win because Weis is a god." "They’ll win because I am RA and what I say goes." "They’ll have the support of the Belles behind them." "They’ll win because The Shirt is actually cute this year." "ND will win because they’re going to win every game." "We’ll win because Weis is a god." "They’ll win because I am RA and what I say goes." "They’ll have the support of the Belles behind them." "They’ll win because The Shirt is actually cute this year.

IN BRIEF

Chicago’s “Bowl at the Moon” dueling pool will perform at Legends at 10 tonight. ND, SMU or HCC student ID required for admission.

"An Inconvenient Truth" will be shown at 7 and 10 tonight in Browing Cinema at The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Admission is $6 for general public, $5 for faculty, $4 for seniors and $3 for students.

The women’s soccer team will take on USC tonight at 7:30 at Alumni Field. The game is part of the Inn at Saint Mary’s ND Classic.

The Student Activities Office will host a game Watch on North Quad for the Georgia Tech game on Saturday beginning at 8 p.m. Food and drink will be provided while it lasts.

The Snite Museum of Art will showcase Mexican migration to the United States through a multimedia exhibit that includes Chicano and Mexican visual arts beginning Sunday, Sept. 3 in the museum’s O’Shaughnessy Galleries, Mestrovic Studio Gallery and the entrance atrium.

The sixth annual Saturday Scholar Series will feature six lectures and a performance by leading faculty members on each home football game weekend this fall. The first lecture, "More Than a Movie: Assessing ‘The Da Vinci Code’" will be held, as always, three and a half hours before kickoff on Sept. 10 in DeBartolo 101.

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

OFFBEAT

Bartender gets $10,000 tip on $26 tab

W. HUTCHINSON, Kan.

Cindy Kienow, a bartender at Applebee’s, got a $10,000 tip from a man — for a $26 meal — on Sunday.

“I couldn’t move,” said Kienow. “I didn’t know what to do. He said, ‘This will buy you something kind of nice, huh.’ And I said, ‘Yes, it will.’”

Kienow said the man, whom company officials have declined to name, comes in several times a month and eats at the end of the bar.

“He usually signs his ticket and flips it upside down,” said Kienow, 35, who has worked at the restaurant for eight years. “But this time, he had it right-side up and said ‘I want you to know this is not a joke.’

Stripers help Las Vegas area schools

LAS VEGAS — The Clark County School District kicked off the first day of school Wednesday with scant resources. But it got a major donation from the scantily clad.

The same day the nation’s fifth largest school district began the year with some 400 teaching vacantcies, the nonprofit corporation that supports it, the Public Education Foundation, accepted a $2,500 donation from a strip club, Scores Las Vegas.

Scores raised the funds at an Aug. 23 back-to-school event called “Detention" that featured strippers dressed as teachers, schoolgirls and librarians.

“It’s back to school time and you know what that means. Detention for everyone who has been bad!” one advertisement read.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN校园

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“He usually signs his tick-
College expands handicap access

Ramp to be added to Le Mans west entrance

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Students returning to Saint Mary's campus this fall noticed a new addition to one of the oldest residential buildings. A handicapped ramp, being installed on the west entrance of Le Mans, a building that houses not only students but also many of the College’s administrative offices, the Department of Residence Life and the counseling center.

Bill Hambling, director of Facilities at Saint Mary’s, said while there is a handicapped basement, the new ramp will provide an entrance to the basement. “This new ramp will provide a more convenient entrance (and exit to land) from Le Mans to the center courtyard area,” Hambling said.

The new ramp was designed to fit in with the architecture of the building so as to be aesthetic while serving its purpose, he said. While the existing ramp was believed adequate and served its purpose, students found it to be in an awkward place and poorly marked. “I had no idea that there were any ramps or anything in Le Mans, there was nothing to indicate it,” said Kellie Anderson, a sophomore who lived in Le Mans her freshman year.

The new ramp, Hambling said, is “strategically placed to make it more readily visible and available to use.” The other residential buildings on campus are not being updated, Hambling said.

The new ramp and McCandless Hall are considered to be very accessible to handicapped students, he said. Holy Cross Hall also has a handicapped entrance to the north of the building near the Security Office, next to the Post Office.

When asked why the construction was taking place now, Hambling responded that it was not a matter of neglect, but rather of finding the funds for the project. “College President” Carol (Ann) Mooney and her leadership team are always concerned about accessibility issues and safety of our entire campus family,” he said.

Contact Liz Harter at eharter01@saintmarys.edu

House guards memories of past

Riedinger used for student practicum

By KIM ABEEL
News Writer

A mystery for many students and source of fond memories for many alumnae, the Riedinger House stands as a remembrance of things past on Saint Mary’s Campus. Though no longer used for its original purpose, the house was built in 1939 for use for the student practicum required of all seniors majoring in domestic science, according to Barb Henry of the SMC Alumnae Relations Office.

Four students were assigned to live together in the house, along with a live-in supervisor, for a period of nine weeks. Henry said. While there, the students learned advanced home management skills by practicing efficient budget management, planning and preparing meals, shopping, cleaning, sewing and guest hosting and entertaining. While defunct by the mid-1960s, the College’s domestic science programs were considered rather advanced for the time, and students with concentrations in dietetics or nutrition were required to take several rigorous courses in biology and chemistry in addition to fulfilling laboratory requirements.

The program’s courses and laboratory sessions were conducted in what is now Holy Cross Residence Hall. The cost of the construction of the Riedinger practicum house was $21,272, a large portion of which was donated by the Adeline Crowley Riedinger Family. Riedinger, Class of 1864, was the first alumna to serve her daughter, Mary Adalida Riedinger, Class of 1889, to Saint Mary’s.

After an unexpected increase in expenses, however, plans for the house were changed to 7/8 scale. This reduction in size is noticeable primarily in the lowered ceilings, especially upon entering the powder room off the main foyer.

The house was furnished in Early-American style, and the belongings contained Georgian-period style furniture. Much of the original furniture remains today. The kitchen was considered state-of-the-art at the time of its construction and even included a dishwasher. There were three bedrooms, two for the students and one spacious room with a fireplace for the supervisor.

The bathroom was also unique for its time and was designed in such a way that all four students could use it simultaneously, yet with relative privacy. One area of the bathroom housed a tub, shower and sink; another area, a toilet and a sink; the third area, properly called a “dental lavatory,” contained two sinks and a full mirror.

The basement originally served as a state-of-the-art laundry facility, containing an electric wringer-washer and an automatic in-wall steam, dry and press unit.

After the domestic science program ended, Riedinger House was occupied in 1968 by Msgr. John McGrath. The house underwent a major renovation in the mid-1970s, and has been suitably maintained since. Much of the original furniture remains and has been reupholstered throughout the years.

Maintaining nearly all of its charm, the house still bears the original copper scalloped gutters, original casement windows and blue toile adorned dining room with original Hitchcock dining chairs.

The house also contains one of Mother Madalena’s personal bookcases, a silver tea service former­ly of the Sisters of the Holy Cross and an original painting of Norman Laliberte, artist and former art instructor at the College from 1960 to 1965.

Today, the Riedinger House is used by official guests of the College, Alumnae or Trustee Board members or for faculty functions. The rich memorial gardens surrounding the House are open for public use. The House is not available for many alumnae weddings or reunions.

Contact Kim Abeel at kabeel01@saintmarys.edu

you are getting very excited...

HYPNOTIST

Rich Aimes
Friday, September 1
Washington Hall 8pm
The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Friday, September 1, 2006

Katrina
continued from page 1
region.
Students like junior Cathy Schneeman, who visited the New Orleans region in the last year, have become key players in the creation of this program.
"The whole area is in dire need," she said. "There are homes that still haven't been rebuilt yet. It's hard to understand how bad things are until they see them themselves."
As chair of the task force, Schneeman is already organiz­ ing a trip to New Orleans during fall break, with the goal of rebuilding and rebuilding homes.
About 80 people are signed up to travel to Louisiana in October.
Out of all of them is sophomore Luis Crespo, who said it would be his second time helping out in the area.
"The sheer amount of destruction is what shocked me, and I really encourage anyone who has the opportu­ nity to go," he said.
The Alliance for Catholic Education was established in 1985, and is looking relentlessly all year to help with the reconstruction of the city.
Students working as teachers in the ACE program saw the destruction firsthand by being there in Biloxi, Mississippi, destroyed by the winds.
While they were forced to evacuate the region, most of the ACE participants returned in less than one week to help coordinate the efforts of rescue and relief efforts, said John Stand, director of Pastoral Formation and Administration for ACE.
"ACE raised over $150,000 last fall, which was sent to the schools to support the rebuilding and the continued education of students whose families lost almost every­ thing," he said.
Other ACE participants in the area said they were wel­ comed by the storm's refugees, offering daytime and nighttime school sessions to accommod­ ate the region's newly-doubled population, Saud said.
One year after the storm first hit, some students said they haven't returned to their old homes — if those homes even remain.
"Being there was depressing at first, the city is not functional," Deva said of her New Orleans experience. "There are no children playing in the streets, and half of the busi­ nesses are closed, and every­ where there are wrecked homes."
"The local people, though, are absolutely inspiring," Deva said, and her fellow Notre Dame volunteers met the people of every house they cleared, in an effort to connect the work they were doing to real faces and real people.
"We were taught to treat the house as if it were the owner itself," Deva said.
Eventually one house took approximately three days, and while she thinks she may have worked on more than one hun­ dred homes, Deva stressed the many more houses still in need of work and volunteers.
"The people down there don't need prayers," she said. "They need people to come help with the clean-up. There is just so much work that needs to get done."
IRAN

President defies U.S., deadline
Country refuses to abide by U.N. request, insists on right to use nuclear technology

Associated Press

TEHRAN — Iran defied a U.N. deadline Thursday to stop enriching uranium, opening the door for possible sanctions, but U.S. and other officials said no action would be sought before a key European diplomat meets with Tehran's atomic chief next week to seek a compromise.

Iran's hard-line president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, lashed out at the United States, calling it "tyrannical" and insisting Tehran was not "bullied" into giving up the right to use nuclear technology. Other Iranian officials said the country could withstand any punishment.

President Bush called for "consequences to Iran's defiance," saying the "world now faces a grave threat from the radical regime in Iran.

"We must not allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon," Bush said in a speech in Salt Lake City. He said Washington hoped for a diplomatic solution, but insisted "it is time for Iran to make a choice - whether to cooperate with the United Nations.

John Bolton, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the Security Council would wait to consider possible actions until after the European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, met with Ali Larijani, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, sometime in the middle of next week.

"We're certainly ready to proceed here in New York when we're given the instructions to do so," Bolton said.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan also was expected to raise the issue during a visit to Tehran this weekend.

Midnight Thursday — the last day of the Security Council deadline — passed with no change in the Iranian position.

The formal trigger for possible sanctions was provoked by the International Atomic Energy Agency, based in Vienna, Austria.

In a report Thursday, the U.N. agency confirmed Tehran had not halted uranium enrichment as demanded by the Security Council and said three years of IAEA probing had been unable to confirm "the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program" because of lack of cooperation from Tehran.

Iran denies it is trying to acquire atomic weapons in violation of its commitments under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Tehran insists its nuclear program is peaceful, with the sole aim of producing electricity with nuclear reactors.

The Security Council voted July 31 to impose the Thursday deadline for Iran to suspend uranium enrichment and asked the IAEA to report on Tehran's compliance, dangling the threat of sanctions if Iran refused.

Still, with permanent council members Russia and China opposed to quick and harsh penalties, the council appeared ready to delay such action. Senior U.N. diplomats told The Associated Press that Iran had agreed to meet with European negotiators to try to find a compromise.

Iranian ex-patriots demonstrate outside United Nations headquarters Thursday to denounce Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's nuclear weapons program.

Confirming the plans, Bolton said the Security Council would wait to consider any action until after the European Union envoy Javier Solana met with Ali Larijani, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, sometime next week.

An official from one nation on the council said the meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday in Berlin. The official said senior officials from the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany would meet in the German capital the following day. Those six nations offered rewards to Iran in June if it gave up enrichment — but warned of U.N. sanctions if it didn't.

Manned spaceship in the works

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — NASA on Thursday awarded a $912 million contract to build a manned lunar spaceship to Lockheed Martin Corp., the aerospace leader that usually builds unmanned rockets.

The last time NASA chose a manned spaceship contract to Lockheed Martin Corp., its major subcontractor, Boeing built the Apollo lunar lander. Companies bought by Boeing built the Apollo, Gemini, and Mercury capsules, Skylab and the space shuttle.

"NASA decided to do something different and go with a company that has not been in manned space beyond, sort of spreading the wealth and making sure they've got two contractors that know the manned space business," said aerospace industry analyst Paul Nickelsen, president of JSA Research.

Northrop Grumman of Los Angeles and its chief subcontractor Boeing of Chicago. An early version of Northrop Grumman built the Apollo lunar lander. Companies bought by Boeing built the Apollo, Gemini, and Mercury capsules, Skylab and the space shuttle.

"NASA decided to do something different and go with a company that has not been in manned space beyond, sort of spreading the wealth and making sure they've got two contractors that know the manned space business," said aerospace industry analyst Paul Nickelsen, president of JSA Research.
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*WE’RE TALKING ABOUT NEWSPAPERS. HAVEN’T YOU HEARD OF PARIETALS YET?

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

Please Join Us for The Observer Open House at Saint Mary’s Sunday, September 3 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Student Center basement
MARKET RECAP

**Stocks**

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**In Brief**

Silver futures surge to 3-month high

NEW YORK — Silver futures surged to their highest level in three months Thursday, as analysts cited good investment demand a day after the amount of metal held by an exchange-traded fund climbed above 100 million ounces.

Gold followed silver's lead, and a sharp gain in copper, analysts said, was an indication that the commodity market is continuing to rise because of increased industrial demand.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, December gold settled 51 cents higher at $1,303.82 an ounce, which was its strongest level since May 31.

December copper futures added 8.10 cents to close at $1.1043 an ounce, after hitting a one-month high of $1.1053 an ounce.

Copper turned in a strong performance, as the market discounted news that striking workers at Chilean mine Escondida had come to a provisional settlement, which threatens to end a 25-day strike.

Judge halts sale of generic Plavix

NEW YORK — A federal judge blocked sales of a generic version of blood thinner Plavix Thursday while he considers the merits of a claim that a Canadian pharmaceutical company improperly entered the market.

U.S. District Judge Sidney H. Stein issued his written ruling Thursday after a two-day hearing in which Sanofi-Aventis and its partner Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. insisted that the Canadian company, Apotex Inc., must be forced to stop selling its product.

Stein denied a request by Bristol-Myers and Sanofi-Aventis that Apotex be forced to withdraw from the market the generic product it had already sold.

Apotex had argued that a patent protectionศาล was too weak from competitors was no longer valid and that it was in the public interest to permit sales of its generic version of the drug because lower prices mean even more people can use a lifesaving drug.

The Ontario-based Apotex began selling its product Aug. 8 after negotiations between the three companies failed to settle the dispute.

Investors await employment data

NEW YORK — Wall Street ended an aimless session lower Thursday after investors shrugged off reports about productivity by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and awaited the government's August employment report.

The major indexes ended August with gains.

With Bernanke saying little to dissuade the market in light pre-holiday trading, investors speculated against making any major moves in advance of Friday's report on non-farm payrolls. The Fed chairman, speaking before an economic and development conference in South Carolina, said productivity growth is "likely to continue at a solid rate over the next several months" and that core productivity growth the country has enjoyed since 1995 "is likely to continue for some time."

He also said trend growth in productivity didn't change his view.

There are questions on Wall Street about whether the economy has slowed enough to ward off further interest rate hikes — or whether the Fed's 17 straight increases since 2004 might have slowed the economy too far.

Productivity gains make it easier for the Fed to maintain a stable rate policy.

The market was hard-pressed to hold on to gains from early in the session. It ultimately had little response to a Commerce Department report that consumer spending rose in July and that core consumer inflation rose, supporting the view that the current economic slowdown may not be as severe as some have feared.

Also Thursday, the Labor Department released figures showing a drop in the number of recently laid-off workers filing for unemployment benefits.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average was modestly lower, down 1.76, or 0.02 percent, at 11,381.15. The Dow showed gains in each of the previous three sessions, and is now at a three-month high. For August overall, the Dow rose 1.8 percent, its best showing since April.

**Consumer spending increases**

Strong start to back-to-school shopping season boosts hope for economy prospects

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Consumers increased their spending in July to the largest amount in six months and the back-to-school shopping season was off to a strong start in August, boosting hopes that the economy will not stumble into a recession this year.

The Commerce Department reported that July consumer spending rose by 0.8 percent, double the 0.4 percent gain in June, reflecting a rebound in auto sales.

Meanwhile, many of the nation's retailers reported solid gains for back-to-school shopping in August, led by better-than-expected increases at retail giant Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and many teen retailers such as Abercrombie and Fitch Co. and Wet Seal Inc.

The two reports provided evidence that consumers are continuing to spend despite rising interest rates, a cooling housing market and gasoline prices that hit records this summer above $3 per gallon.

That is good news for the economy, given that consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of total economic growth. A slowdown in consumer spending in the spring contributed to a sharp drop in overall economic activity and raised worries that further consumer cutbacks could short-circuit the economic expansion.

Analysts said Thursday's reports should ease concerns of that occurring.

"Consumers are hanging tough and will continue to support the expansion," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com.

Some analysts said overall economic growth in the second half of this year could come in at a stronger pace than expected, based on the rebound in consumer spending.

But they said it was critical that consumer confidence stabilize in coming months.

The Conference Board reported this week that confidence in August fell to its lowest point since last November, reflecting such adverse factors as the surge in gas prices, the tumbling housing market and the discovery in London of a new terror threat against airline travel.

"Although consumer sentiment has deteriorated, consumers are still spending," said Nigel Gault, an economist at Global Insight, said regarding Thursday's reports.

Many analysts said consumer spending should rebound further as long as the employment situation does not falter.

There was good news in that area as well Thursday, with the Labor Department reporting that the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits dropped to 2,000 to 316,000 last week.

The government will release the August unemployment report Friday and many analysts are predicting the jobless rate will decline from a five-month high of 4.8 percent in July to 4.7 percent with a moderate 125,000 new jobs created.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average edged down 1.76 points to close at 11,381.15 in a day of listless trading as investors awaited Friday's release of the jobs report.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke struck a positive note about the economy in a speech Thursday in South Carolina, predicting that the strong productivity growth the country has enjoyed since 1995 "is likely to continue for some time."

The 0.8 percent rise in spending last month, the best since June, is the highest monthly rise in January, reflected in part higher gasoline costs. However, even with inflation removed, spending rose by 0.5 percent in July, the best performance since a similar increase last December.

An inflation gauge tied to consumer spending that is closely watched by the Fed edged up by just 0.1 percent in July, the slowest monthly gain this year, although over the past 12 months prices are up 2.4 percent, well above the Fed's 1 percent to 2 percent comfort zone.

Customers purchase back-to-school items as a sales clerk assists them at a Limited Too store Thursday in the Brooklyn borough of New York City.
THE OBSERVER

New technologies open campus

The Observer.

What's more, the "bubble"-bursting effort is not the product of a single campus office or organization. Cable television and wireless Internet come from the Office of Residence Life and Housing. The College provost's office, delivering 1,600 copies of USA Today, The New York Times and the Chicago Tribune — is the brainchild of a senator and backed by a faculty-led administrative board. The administration's role in the new technology appears to be one of an immeasurably important cause.

Both should be lauded for their initiatives, and encouraged to continue them. The University and student leaders have made the information available. Their efforts will be measured not by the number of newspapers picked up, but by the world events that should have no excuse for ignorance or complacency. With so much information available, to not know is to not care.
Western role in the Middle East

Stereotypes versus statistics

How many letters can Clare Feeney get published in one week commenting on the current situation in Middle East? We get it. It’s always the West’s fault. That line of thinking is obvious in her first piece (“Israel’s a terrorist state?” Aug. 28), considering her complete failure to mention the thousands of indiscriminate rocket launches at civilian targets in Northern Israel by Hezbollah (some of which, along with the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers, happened prior to Israel’s response) or the fact that those launches came from civilian locations within Lebanon, thus forcing the IDF to retaliate in kind. She also fails to mention that a considerable amount of the infrastructure in Lebanon that was destroyed was done so with the expressed purpose of preventing the re-supply of weapons from Syria and Iran.

In Syria and Iran’s case, I would characterize countries known for their complete lack of women’s rights, minority rights (both ethnic and religious), gay rights and the rights of political prisoners to be uncivilized. Call me crazy, but that probably fits the description in any belief system.

The Left in this country only focuses on those rights when the leader or country in question is an ally of the US. Otherwise, dictators and religious fanatics the world over are given free reign. If you don’t believe me, ask Kim Gandy or Jimmy Carter what they’re doing about forced marriages in the Islamic world. One would think they’d be interested.

As to what Feeney considers our most uncivilized act, the use of nuclear weapons against Japan (“Beware stereotyping,” Aug. 30), it is pointless to discuss this topic without any historical context. The appropriateness of their use will be debated until the end of human history, but two parts of the debate are fact. First, 500,000 Purple Hearts were produced to be given to wounded soldiers during the invasion of Japan. The military would still be using them if they hadn’t changed the design. Let that sink in. Second, Japan is our ally and North Korea is not. When debating the merits of ceasefire vs. unconditional surrender in the Far or Middle East (or elsewhere), the historical results speak for themselves.

Clare Feeney validates a sound-selling objection (“Beware stereotyping,” Aug. 30) to my recent Letter to the Editor (“An invalid assumption,” Aug. 29), suggesting, somewhat sarcastically, that I am merely propagating negative stereotypes, and falling only about half an inch short of simply calling me a racist.

This is a brilliant rhetorical move, but not stopping at simply lacking in substance, Feeney goes on to engage in moral equivocation worthy of Ward Churchill. Suggesting that our possession and historic use of nuclear weapons makes us the moral equivalent of Iran displays moral blindness of the first order. I never made the argument that the West is morally blameless. It is possible for a civilized state to have engaged in terrible acts. Everyone has blood on their hands. But I did advance the suggestion that terrorists are uncivilized and that dealing with them as if they were civilized is a grave mistake.

Civilized people do not deliberately launch rockets into densely populated areas with the express intention of killing civilians. Civilized people do not strap dynamite to themselves and blow up cafes. Civilized people do not use hospitals and churches as staging areas. Civilized people do not routinely use children as human shields. Civilized people do not execute women for being raped. Civilized people do not recruit illiterate teenagers for suicide missions. Civilized people do not fly passenger liners into office buildings. The wrongs may or may not have been done are completely irrelevant — there is absolutely no justification for acts such as the ones listed above. These things are beyond the pale and bar the people who committed them from the ranks of the civilized world. Attempting to deal with those who perpetrate such unspeakable acts as equals or acting as if we’re no better than they is naive.

Ryan Davidson
grad student
off campus
Aug. 31

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A modest proposal

Clare Feeney devotes most of her August 30 letter (“Beware stereotyping”) to diagnosing Ryan Davidson as suffering from a severe case of “savage Arab” stereotyping. This has led him to accuse Iran (which is not an Arabic state) of, in Ms Feeney’s words, “making nuclear weapons for unfriendly purposes.” In fairness to Davidson however, it seems possible that his conclusion might be based on more than just Ms Feeney’s word. She is a grad student, and the accuracy of the translation has been questioned, with some experts suggesting that the phrase is better rendered as “wiped off the pages of history.” Maybe it sounds friendlier in the original Farsi.

Having said that, when Feeney says that America is in no position to make accusations about Iran’s motives since “we are the only one who has actually dropped the bomb” she makes a strong, albeit ungrammatical, point. That is why I propose a radical new approach to the issue, which I call the “Everybody Gets One” policy. According to this policy every state recognized by the United Nations, exception for the United Stark, which has already had its turn, gets to fire nuclear weapons with a total force of 100 kilotons (the total for the two bombs dropped by the U.S., adjusted for inflation based on the increase in the world’s population and rounded up) at a state of their choosing, without any recriminations. Then the survivors can go about the business of establishing a sane and rational global nuclear policy unburred by history on a leveled playing field.

Either that, or we could try to stop judging the actions of nation states, including our own, in terms of friendliness and hypocrisy, as if they were giant superannuated people.

Peter Wicks
grad student
off campus
Aug. 31

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Western role in the Middle East

Stereotypes versus statistics

Clare Feeney validates a sound-selling objection (“Beware stereotyping,” Aug. 30) to my recent Letter to the Editor (“An invalid assumption,” Aug. 29), suggesting, somewhat sarcastically, that I am merely propagating negative stereotypes, and falling only about half an inch short of simply calling me a racist.

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Ryan Davidson
grad student
off campus
Aug. 31
We now bring you a commercial break

It's an awful feeling. You're watching your favorite program or a big game and one of the commercial breaks features the utterly worst commercial you've ever seen.

Whenever a commercial featuring Willie Nelson, Joan Cusack, old men and women exercising, and promoting Frys, Dr. Scholls or any Scion or Bend car dealership pops on the screen, my anger and disgust start to arise like bile. I had this exact experience recently with a certain Dr. Scholls commercial. Part of the Why? series, the commercial plays on the word "gollin" and rhymes it with as many words as possible in an attempt to be funny. I became painfully aware of the fact that the writers of the commercial were trying far too hard to be funny, and the end result was a total failure.

"Why," I wondered, "can't all commercials be funny and enjoyable?"

I had in mind such commercia as the Geico caveman ads, Aflac commercials, anything featuring Red Stripe and even the Vons commercials where a commercial writer was trying for hours on end. In one or two minutes other than the Super Bowl, any commercial ad can have produced many outstanding commercials in past years such as the Office Linebacker and a probiotic for Ford's spot, just as many good commercials have come from Super Bowl ad spots. Given large amounts of money and a large public forum, writers overexerted themselves and turn out horrible advertisements that in turn make it all right for more ads like those to be produced at times other than the Super Bowl.

In the face of poor advertisements like the ones mentioned here and many others flowing around the airwaves, it is necessary to ask what can be done to end the good bad about better commercial watching. Doing away with Super Bowl ads is not an option given that some of the best commercials originate here. Simply muting the television or changing the channel when a horrible commercial airs can serve as an escape. The offending ad will still play even if you try to stay away from one person who revolts against the television powers that be.

I propose that a really television show be developed in which commercial writers are subjected to a jury of "ordinary Americans" that has the power to sentence writers of bad commercials to punishments of watching their own commercials for hours on end. In one or two seasons, a show like this could weed through the entire populace of commercial writers for how many can there possibly be?

In this way, I believe we can rid ourselves of bad, unfunny commercial advertisements forever. Until then, we return you to your regularly scheduled programming.

Contact Sean Sweany at sweany@nd.edu

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

Friends With Money
Full and WideScreen Edition
Sony Pictures

DVD Review
Friends a smart, bold film

By LAURA MILLER

Writer/director Nicole Holofcener's latest film "Friends With Money" is absolutely shocking. Joan Cusack (Franny), Frances McDormand (Jane), Jennifer Aniston (Olivia) and Catherine Keener (Christine) play four best friends who are struggling in the adjustment to middle age. Although it is advertised as a comedy, it most assuredly is not. It is funny, but it rises above this label (evidenced by it opening the Sundance Film Festival this year) and is also quite possibly one of the most well-written and true-to-life movies to come out this year.

The best thing about the script is that it allows the actors and actresses to be distinctive human. There is no illusion of beauty. They look frumpy in the morning, they eat ice cream for breakfast and they bicker. At first, it feels like a film that might take 88 minutes to go absolutely nowhere, but Holofcener gently ties the film together in subtle outbreaks of the characters talking about each other. It is these clips of the more intimate discussions that tastefully integrate the themes of the movie without forcing any social message down the viewer. Holofcener is wise in leaving issues open-ended, allowing the audience to draw their own conclusions and richly make it all right for more viewers.

Overall, the acting was phenomenal, but it is clear that Aniston is not as comfortable out of the comedic setting as her costars. This is the first film in which Aniston been departing from her traditional role — and while it is not a seamless transition, her acting is promising at the very least. Cusack nails her wealthy soccer-mom persona and McDormand's picture of Jane going through menopause is so perfectly scary that it leaves the audience praying that their mothers (or themselves) are never that bad.

Keener also does a fantastic job showing a woman struggling with her marriage with not going out too far. These depictions are what make this movie great. It is real and the problems encountered are real problems. Money. Friends. Divorce. There is no spastic soap opera plot with the ex-wife's husband getting pregnant, but rather, a thoughtful outlining of everyday problems and event in the life of the middle aged — getting burned in the stove, noticing wrinkles, etc.

The film also translated well to DVD, in part because of the simplicity of the cinematography and a larger emphasis on dialogue. The extras are sparse, but actually worth watching. Deleted scenes or music videos are absent, replaced with actor and director interviews. If the movie didn't make the viewer see these actors and actresses as real people, the extras certainly do. They show crew at the Sundance Film Festival clad in jeans and casual shirts, hair in ponytails and minimal make-up. These women looked their parts. They were passionate in their interviews, describing the script in terms of an emotional process — not a "this movie was fun to make" response. It was refreshing to see some big Hollywood names looking and feeling so comfortable in their own skin.

Over the past years, few good movies about women's issues have been released. This movie achieves what films like "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" and shows like "Desperate Housewives" have miserably failed to achieve — a woman's perspective on family life that is not anti-male. If nothing else, this movie is educational.

Contact Laura Miller at lmillr@nd.edu

Friends With Money
Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Catherine Keener stars in the emotionally complex and highly engaging "Friends With Money" as Christine, a woman struggling with her marriage who finds comfort in her friends.
By ANALISE LIPARI
Assistant Scene Editor

It’s been more than a year since Tom Cruise took to the couch on an unassuming British television talk show "Late Night with David Letterman," declaring his love for much younger actress Katie Holmes. Viewers were intrigued — albeit somewhat shocked — at this up-close-and-personal exposure to Cruise’s very private life.

Cruise’s antics during the year that followed only added to the image of the通常被称为“疯子之父”的人的家庭。生活中的混乱、金钱与经营的失败，让这个原本受欢迎的系列节目遭受了批评。

It is true that "Mission Impossible III" did yield more than $400 million dollars worldwide during its on-screen run. However, Cruise’s recent split with former wife Katie Holmes, his famously callow behavior during "The Tonight Show," while still few in the public eye, is probably the last thing that Cruise fans thought about on their minds.

The experiences of Cruise and other celebrities, such as the recently maligned Mel Gibson, call to mind the question public perception in an entertain-er's career. When entertainment magazines revealed the details behind the break-up of Oscar® winner and fellow "Mission Impossible III" star Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, it created a public furor. How does one deal with such a public scandal? As Americans have seen throughout the years, the answer is often the same: silence.

The 13-episode third season continues to show the Bluth family and the Bluth boys traveling to Iraq in search of the future success of men such as Cruise and Gibson remains to be seen. The future success of men such as Cruise and Gibson remains to be seen. The future success of men such as Cruise and Gibson remains to be seen. The future success of men such as Cruise and Gibson remains to be seen. The future success of men such as Cruise and Gibson remains to be seen.
A-Rod stops slump as Yankees defeat Tigers

Devil Rays win in 10; Royals fall to Twins

BY STEVE MUNOZ	STAFF REPORTER

NEW YORK — For Alex Rodriguez, hitting is no big myst-
er. "It’s a matter of getting a good pitch and putting a good swing on it," Rodriguez said after he had three hits including his 27th home run of the season in the
New York Yankees 6-4 victory over Detroit on Thursday. "You have the ability, it’s a matter of going out and being assertive with the swing," he said.

So how come A-Rod was 0-for-10 and 1-for-24 going into Thursday’s game?

That’s the mystery of baseball. Rodriguez offered some explanation.

"I swung the bat much better," he said. "It was just a matter of everything. When you swing well, it doesn’t matter what they throw. The focus is not on what I do. The focus is on what the team does." But Rodriguez was the American League MVP last sea-
son and the highest paid player in the game. So it’s hard to avoid the comparisons. It’s a question of when has he committed 22 errors, gone through long hop-
less stretches at bat and been the target of repeated booping at Yankee Stadium?

It was a welcome change for him when the select crowd demanded a curtain call follow-
ing his seventh-inning home run. For Rodriguez, it was as if he had nudged him out of the dugout. "I didn’t think about it," Rodriguez said. "I haven’t had one in awhile." Before Rodriguez homered, Detroit manager Jim Leyland was ejected by plate umpire James Hoye for complaining on base of a strike. It was his sec-
ond ejection this season.

"I didn’t get it," Leyland said after the umpire got real trigger happy. I felt there
was absolutely no just cause to throw me out of that game," Leyland said.

Bless the Lord, and forget the fruit of the spirit. And then he said..."I was disappointed about the ninth inning," he said. "That’s me." Rodriguez struck out looking at the end of the inning.

"He’s got an arm," Leyland said. "I don’t pitch a quality ball." Pat SantAnna said.

Johnson struck out eight and walked one. Eight quality innings didn’t mean much of a thing to him. "I didn’t pitch a quality run," he said.

After Thames’ homer, Mariano Rivera finished for his 33rd save in 33rd chances.

He gave up a double to Omar Vizquez off the center, then retired Carlos Guillen, pinch-hitter Sean Casey and Brandon Inge on ground-
outs.

Devil Rays 5, White Sox 3

The Chicago White Sox kept their wild-card hopes alive. Jorge Cantu hit a two-run sin-
gle, and Esteban German’s just-barely
crash the fence off starter Freddy Garcia.

Tampa Bay Devil Rays beat the White Sox Thursday to keep their wild-card hopes alive within 3 1/2 games of first-place Detroit in the AL Central.

"We don’t do any good when Detroit is losing and we’re los-
ing," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "We need to win the most games we can, and obviously we would have nice to win today and be one game (closer), but we didn’t. Watching the scoreboard right now is too much, at least for us." Chicago, which remained a half-game ahead of Minnesota in the AL wild-card race, has not been within 3 1/2 games of first place since July 19.

"This is a game we should’ve won. We had chances and we just didn’t get it done," said A.J. Pierzynski, whose two-run home run in the sixth gave the White Sox a 3-2 lead.

Guillen said it with an eighth-inning hommer off Matt Thornton.

Guillen’s homer, the defending World Series champions became the first major league team to hit 200 home runs in seven straight seasons.

"Congratulations," Guillen said sarcastically. The New York Yankees have hit 200 home runs in the past six seasons and have 167 this year. "I don’t mean anything," Pierzynski said. "It’s nice we’ve hit 200 home runs, but we need-

To pry into the wild-card race.

"Two out of three from now on, I’ll take that," Guillen said.

Delmon Young led off the 10th against Brandon McCarthy (3-5) with his fourth hit of the game, took second on a wild pitch and advanced to third on a ground out by Casey Kotchman. Josh Beckett intentionally walked Navarro and walked four pitches, loading the bases for Cantu, who singled to left.

"I was just trying to put a good swing on the ball and get on base so the people behind me could drive me in," Young said. "Cantu came through." Triunfo.

Twins 3, Royals 1

Two of Minnesota’s best start-
ners are ailing, and the Royals are try-
ing to stay in post-
season contention.

Johan Santana shuttled off the burden and got another big win.

Dominant at the Metrodome,
Santana struck out 11 in seven innings to help Minnesota end a three-game losing streak with a win over the Kansas City Royals. "It’s his ballgame," said manager Ron Gardenhire.

Rodolph White homered for the Twins, who moved within five games of first-place in Detroit in the AL Central. The Rays have the most games we can, and

Santana was a pretty safe bet.

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With rookie Francisco Liriano still working toward soreness and weaknesses in his left arm and veteran Brad Radke fighting per-
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As long as Santana is around, anything is possible.

"I don’t try to put pressure on myself or anything like that," Santana said. "I just want to do my job. Hopefully everyone will get together and win some games.

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### Major League Baseball

#### American League East

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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<td>79-53</td>
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<td>Boston</td>
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#### American League Central

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<td>Kansas</td>
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#### American League West

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<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<td>reigning champion Philadelphia</td>
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### NSCAA/adidas Men's Soccer Top 20

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<td>4. Virginia</td>
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<td>5. North Carolina</td>
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<td>6. Vermont</td>
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### MLB

**Former Red Sox pitcher David Wells throws against the Seattle Mariners on August 26. Wells was traded back to the San Diego Padres Thursday for minor league George Kottaras.**

**Slumping Red Sox trade Wells to Padres**

**Associated Press**

SAN DIEGO — Left-han­der David Wells was traded­ Thursday from the Boston Red Sox to his hometown San Diego Padres, who are seeking pitching as they contend for a playoff spot.

"He’s thrilled to be head­ing back to San Diego and, hopefully, helping get them into the playoffs," said agent Gregg Crasnick, who has an injured non-kicking foot.

Wells, who pitched with the Red Sox in the seventh inning of Thursday’s loss to the Kansas City Royals, is 2-3 with a 4.98 ERA. Since returning from the disabled list on July 31, he is 2-2 in six starts.

"My health is fine. The doctors have told me to rest today and practice Saturday so I can be ready to return to the playing field on Saturday," he said Thursday on radio station 710-AM in his native Dominican Republic.

**IN BRIEF**

Tigers skipper stops arguing for "God Bless America" in New York — Jim Leyland put his argument with umpires on pause of a moment of patriotism.

The Detroit Tigers manager was ejected in the seventh inning of Thursday’s 6-2 loss to New York, and came on the field to argue with plate umpire James Iloye.

Leyland got to the plate and started jawing with Iloye when Yankee Stadium public address announcer Bob Sheppard called for a moment of silence followed by the playing of "God Bless America." Leyland backed off, stood at attention and respected the moment before resuming the argument.

"That was a little embarrassing," Leyland said. "I certainly in no way, shape or form would I ever be disrespectful. But you don’t tell the umpires. ‘Hey, I’ve got to listen to Kate.’"
The Sacramento Shock are taking the ball straight at its defense, which was what got us the win, and that's the type of team that we are," Walker said. "That's the type of team we've always been, and we know we can't win without it. We also know Detroit is going to come back at us in Game 2, so we've got to keep our focus and remain steady and not worry about what Game 1 Game 1's over.

When they weren't pounding it inside, the Monarchs were lighting it up from the outside. Former Shock draft pick Kara Lawson scored 22 points, 18 from 3-point range — another finals record.

The Monarchs forced 24 turnovers. But the Shock did have a few bright spots they hope to build upon.

Ford scored a career playoff-high 22 points, many of which came from short range or the free-throw line after being fouled under the basket. And Katie Smith scored 21 points, living up to her status as the all-time leading scorer in women's professional basketball in her finals debut.

Ford, Smith and Deanna Nolan, who had 14 points, scored 60 of the team's 71 points. Ford and Nolan had 31 points each, leading the Monarchs to a 22-point victory.

On the offensive end, the second-seeded Shock overwhelmed Emile Loit 60-61.

The 19-year-old Russian won 29 of the first 31 points, and maybe there was some payback involved — in 2003, Sharapova was knocked out of her first U.S. Open by Loit.

Sharapova came out wearing a relatively simple pale blue dress. The previous night, she put on a sequined, black cocktail number that she said was inspired by her Audrey Hepburn "phase." Trying far her third U.S. Open title, Williams defeated No. 17 Daniela Hantuchova 7-5, 6-3. She got off to a shaky start in her first set, not that she was keeping score.

"Was I down 5-2? I didn't even know it," she said. "I just started focusing. She was doing everything right." Williams advances in Open

	

NEW YORK — Maria Sharapova switched it up for a power lunch while Serena Williams changed her early luck, with both advancing to the third round of the U.S. Open with straight-set victories Thursday.

Lindsay Davenport served up the most impressive win — a "double bagel" in tennis terms — and joined fellow former Open champions Justine Henin-Hardenne and Svetlana Kuznetsova in posting easy wins.

"I just started focusing. She [Daniela Hantuchova] was doing everything right," Serena Williams said in her press conference following her 7-5, 6-3 win over Hantuchova.

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Sharapova, Davenport move to third round

Associated Press

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The Observer • SPORTS

Saturday, September 1, 2006

BASKETBALL

Coach K succeeds with NBA stars

USA to play Greece in Worlds semifinals 

Associated Press

SAITAMA, Japan — As practice wound down, Mike Krzyzewski approached Lelmon James, who was shooting baskets alone on a side court.

James listened intently as the coach spoke and motioned to a spot in the lane. The two talked for about 10 minutes before Krzyzewski rejoined his staff on another court and James went back to shooting.

Who said NBA stars would never listen to a college coach?

"You know the high-intensity coach that you see on TV," James said later. "You get a chance to really know him."

When USA Basketball appointed Krzyzewski coach last October, skeptics wondered whether a college coach, even one as respected as Duke's Hall of Famer, would be able to connect with a pampered pros. But those questions have subsided as Krzyzewski has led the U.S. to the semifinals of the world championships.

"This is an incredible, unique experience," James said after a recent practice. "But I'm not going to be going to the NBA. I love coaching in college. Whenever I get through coaching in college, that'll be it, whenever that is. I'm not saying that it's imminent."

The 59-year-old Krzyzewski, a West Point graduate, accepted this job because he wanted to restore the U.S. to prominence in world basketball. Krzyzewski has won 753 games and three national titles in 26 years at Duke and five at Army. But he has led a team to an Olympic gold medal, although he was an assistant on the gold-medal-winning Dream Team in 1992.

U.S. forward Shane Battier played for Krzyzewski at Duke and remembers the same vigor at the worlds.

"He's enjoyed the journey because it's so different from what he's been doing the last 30 years," Battier said. "And he is an individual who really gets off on those sorts of experiences and those challenges."

At the outset, it was fair to wonder whether rich NBA players would be sufficiently motivated. But when Krzyzewski and Colangelo required players to commit through the Beijing Olympics, the tikes of James, Kobe Bryant, Carmelo Anthony and Dwayne Wade bought in.

Once the U.S. had assembled its roster, Krzyzewski didn't worry about his wealth of NBA talent. He dealt with his players as people, not celebrities.

During training camp in Las Vegas this summer, Krzyzewski spent much of his time talking to players individually, just as he did with James at practice in Japan. He understands this is the NBA offseason and knows not to push too hard.

"Even when we're doing five-on-five, if a guy's sitting out, I might go up to him and be able to do that instead of saying, 'Will you come to my room and have this meeting?'" Krzyzewski said. "That's relationships-building. At least the first three days in Vegas, that's all I was doing.

"Somebody would say, 'Well, who's the head coach?'" Krzyzewski said with a grin. "I don't know. There's this guy walking around talking to everybody."

The players may have envisioned the sort of fiery speeches Krzyzewski uses when Duke faces North Carolina. But his approach has been more low-key.

"I really didn't know what to expect coming in," guard Kirk Hinrich said.

OXFORD, Ohio — With his number on their helmets and his nickname on their hearts, Randy Walker's players gave him one more tribute.

Eryn Cobb blocked a punt and returned it 79 yards for a touchdown Thursday night, helping Northwestern finally get beyond two months of mauling with a 21-3 victory over Miami University.

The entire night was a tribute to Walker, the 52-year-old Northwestern graduate who died two months ago of an apparent heart attack. The season opener featured a lot of emotion but no points in the first half.

Coach Pat Fitzgerald, who was Walker's close friend and top assistant, watched his Wildcats find their stride in the second half behind red-shirt quarterback Mike Kafka, who threw a 19-yard touch­down pass.

Terrell Jordan made the Miami fans head for home with a 4-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter that made it 21-3 — too much for Walker's alma mater to overcome.

Walker scheduled the game when he left Miami in 1999, agreeing to make Northwestern only the second Big Ten team ever to visit Oxford. Walker was remembered during a pregame tribute behind one of the end zones, where a plaque with his likeness was unveiled.

There was a moment of silence before the kickoff, and Walker's wife, Tamy, went on the field for the coin toss.

Players from both teams wore a decal with Walker's uniform number and nickname just to his left.

Northwestern players also had a rectangle that said "WALK" sewn on the front of their jerseys over their hearts.

Video and photos of Walker's career were shown on the scoreboard at halftime, lending the feel of a memorial instead of an opener. Two list­less offenses provided little distraction in the scoreless first half, a reflection of the Wildcats' inexperience at quarter­back.

In Walker's wide-open spread offense, his Wildcats averaged more than 500 yards per game last season behind Brett Basanez, the school's career passing leader. His replace­ment started out playing like a freshman.

Kafka went 7-for-11 for a measly 26 yards in the first half. In two passing throws, he bounced passes at the feet of wide-open receivers on back­to-back plays.

His counterpart had his own problems. Junior Mike Kokal made only his second career start for Miami, which man­aged 54 yards in the scoreless first half against a defense that finished last in Division I-A last season.

Maybe that was another appropriate tribute. Walker never minded a low-scoring game, a star tailback at Miami, he preferred the slog­­-it-out style — his Spread offen­sive was a matter of neces­sity, not deeply held philoso­phy.

Cobb, a senior tight end, broke the stalemate by breaking through the line on Miami's first punt in the sec­ond half and batting Jake Abratt's kick to the ground. The ball bounced straight up, and Cobb caught it cleanly and ran 8 yards for his first career touchdown.
Sanchez leads league in average

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Batting championships once carried relentless regularity for the Pittsburgh Pirates, who won nearly one-quarter of all the National League titles during the 20th century.

But who expected Freddy Sanchez, the Red Sox castoff and a utility infielder at the start of the season, to challenge for their 25th title and first since 1983? Certainly the Pirates didn’t.

Sanchez, in his first season as a regular at 2B, takes an NL-leading .347 average into September after batting .301 or better every month this season.

If he can maintain that consistency, and no one behind him gets unstoppable hot, Sanchez could join former Pirates such as Honus Wagner (eight titles), Roberto Clemente (seven) and Paul Waner (four) as an NL champion.

He would be their biggest out-of-nowhere winner since Matty Alou, once a journeyman outfielder, changed his batting approach after being traded by the Giants and jumped his average from .231 in 1965 to .342 in 1966.

Can he do it? Sanchez doesn’t know, and doesn’t talk much about his unanticipated pursuit of the silver bat. But after hitting .354 in August (39-of-110) — he hit 360 in May and .380 in June — he has answered the doubters who suspected he couldn’t stay in the race long-term after moving into the lead July 3.

“I do have confidence in my ability, but I was always labeled as a utility guy and it can be hard to shake that label,” he said. “This isn’t something I thought about and it’s just happened.”

If anyone with the Pirates says he saw this coming, he’s not telling the truth. As manager Jim Tracy said, “I did expect him to contend for the batting championship.”

Sanchez hit .291 in 453 at-bats last season, mostly at third base, yet the Pirates went out and signed Joe Bata斯塔 to a million-dollar contract to be their third baseman.

Sanchez? He was supposed to be their super sub, a guy who would get regular at-bats at every infield position.

If nothing else, this illustrates why the Pirates are one loss away from their 14th consecutive losing season. They had a potential batting champion and NL All-Star on their roster, yet didn’t make him a regular until he forced them to do so in early May.

“He never complained,” Tracy said. “Give him a lot of credit, he handled it very professionally.”

The 5-foot-10, 180-pound Sanchez is more than a singles hitter. He has 45 doubles, two off Pittsburgh’s Pud Cook.

“He can flat out hit,” said Pirates pitcher Marty McLeary, who came up in the Red Sox system with Sanchez. “He’s always found a way to get it done.”

Sanchez also has been exceptional in the clutch. His two-run single in the 11th inning Wednesday gave the Pirates a 10-9 win over the Cubs and raised his average with runners in scoring position to .419, the highest among NL players with 40 or more such at-bats.

And while Albert Pujols often is called the NL’s best clutch hitter, consider this: Going into Thursday’s games, Sanchez had 60 RBIs with runners in scoring position to Pujols’ 68, even though Pujols had 39 homers to Sanchez’s 6.

Pujols, by the way, is making $14 million this season to Sanchez’s $342,000.

“He’s been Mr. Clutch all year,” Jason Bay said of Sanchez, who is trying to become the Pirates’ first batting champion since Bill Madlock in 1983.

Sanchez’s enthusiasm, always-personality and love of the game have turned his teammates into his biggest fans. He still likes taking batting practice, much as he did when he passed up Friday night dates as a California high schooler to hit in batting cages.

In the minors, he had averages of .339, .328 and .341.

“There isn’t a guy in that clubhouse who isn’t rooting for this kid to win the batting championship,” Tracy said. “He’s just amazing. If you handed out bel­lots at the start of the season listing potential candidates to win the batting championship, I don’t know of his name would have been on the list. Now he’s a player who people will keep an eye on for years to come.”

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Teammates such as Jack
Irish forward Kerri Hanks tracks down a ball during Notre Dame's 9-0 victory over Iowa State at Alumni Field Saturday. Notre Dame hosts the Inn at Saint Mary's Classic this weekend.

Broncos continued from page 20

soccer because two top teams play each other early every year.

"Notre Dame's first game of the Classic will be tonight at 7:30 against USC. Despite Notre Dame's intense football rivalry with the Trojans, the two women's soccer teams have not played a regular season game during Waldrum's tenure.

"Certainly, the two institutions have a lot of competition with each other, but the only time we've played them while I've been here was in a spring exhibition game," Waldrum said. "I'm hopeful that after getting them here this year, this is a relationship we can continue after this year."

The Broncos and Irish, on the other hand, have played several hard-fought games over the last few seasons. In 2003, Notre Dame won 2-1 in Santa Clara on a goal by then-sophomore Katie Thorkelson. In 2004 the Irish beat the Broncos twice — once by a score of 5-2 in the regular season and then 1-0 in the national semifinal.

Last season, Santa Clara ended its losing streak, beating the Notre Dame 1-0 at the Broncos' home field.

The Broncos are generally known for the explosive offense, but have only scored two goals in their first two games — a pair of 1-0 victories over Wake Forest and Utah. Irish defender and senior captain Kim Lorenzen said Notre Dame still has to respect Santa Clara's forwards.

"Santa Clara is a challenge for us because they're very technical and creative where they're on the attack," Lorenzen said. "They're one of the best attacking teams in the NCAA."

The Irish back wall will be once again without sophomore forward Carrie Dew who, along with sophomore forward Brittany Boek, is competing in the U-20 World Championships in Russia. Freshmen Amanda Clark and Haley Ford have alternated in Dew's spot and will be called upon to help slow down the powerful Bronco attack.

"Clark and Ford have really stepped up," Lorenzen said. "We haven't missed a beat with Carrie gone, but at the same time we're really excited to have her back starting next week."

As for the Trojans, they come into tonight's contest 1-0-1, with a 4-1 win over UC-Santa Barbara and a scoreless tie with UC-Irvine last weekend. While the two teams haven't played in a while, Lorenzen said the Irish have been focusing on USC this week and trying not to look ahead to Sunday against the Broncos.

"We haven't played USC since I've been here," Lorenzen said. "I don't know anyone personally on their team, but most California schools are really good programs. We're not looking past them at all."

Notes:

◆ Lorenzen, sophomore forward Kerri Hanks, and freshman midfielder Courtney Rosen saw reduced playing time last week due to muscle pulls in their legs, but Waldrum said all three are healthy for this weekend.

◆ Waldrum said he has not decided which goalie — freshman Kelsey Lysander or junior Lauren Karas — will start against USC tonight. Lysander started last Saturday against Iowa State, while Karas started last Sunday against Ole Miss.

"We'll make a decision of who we start on Friday and then maybe we'll decide to start the other one on Sunday again, or not," Waldrum said.

◆ USC and Santa Clara will both play Harvard this weekend as part of the Inn at Saint Mary's Notre Dame Classic, but the Irish will not face the Crimson, nor will the Broncos and Trojans play.

◆ Waldrum said he expects big crowds for the two home games, especially tonight.

"I'm hoping that we get a really good crowd," he said. "I'm sure the students want to do something the night before football season gets started."
Indiana

continued from page 20

The Irish expect the competition to be just as stiff this year. "Whereas last weekend's tournament had three top-20 teams, you're talking about four top-20 teams this weekend," Notre Dame head coach Bobby Clark said, referring to Saint Louis, Indiana and No. 16 Connecticut. "These are all potential Final Four teams."

Competitive games are nothing new when Notre Dame and Indiana take the field together. Over the past five seasons, the two teams have split their six contests, and it was the Irish who ended the Hoosiers' bid for a second consecutive national title last November with a 2-0 win in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

"There's a very healthy respect for the other in both camps," Clark said. "It's been a hard fought rivalry with great games, and we're lucky to have such a quality opponent in such close proximity."

Indiana will enter this weekend with a record of 2-0-0 after finishing in first place at Notre Dame's Burtsewski tournament last weekend. The Hoosiers defeated Creighton 1-0 in double overtime and edged UAB 2-1. The Irish, who finished in second place with a record of 1-1-0 in the tournament, will have a chance to repay the favor this weekend.

Notre Dame's other opponent this weekend, Saint Louis, has an impressive history at the Classic — owning an all-time record of 10-1-3. The Billikens also have a 9-3-1 record all-time against the Irish. Notre Dame, however, won the only match-up between the two teams last season by the score of 1-0 in overtime.

Clark sees this as a positive in the high levels of competition this weekend for his team. "I believe in playing the best possible schedule you can," he said. "You only have eighteen regular season games, and you want to make every game as good as possible. Athletes love pitting themselves against good competition, and that's when you find out who the true competitors are."

Plus, two of this weekend will send a message.

"It's an early opportunity to make a statement," he said. "We should be able to either pass that opportunity or grab it with both hands. I hope we grab it with both hands."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

CSTV

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have a chance to win all of them."

With the strenuous schedule of the Invitational and its early position in the season, Brown sees the tournament as a starting point from which the Irish can gel rather than a must-win series.

"It's important that we play in a sport that there's a tournament a week. It's something that will be critical to the success of the season. It is something that will help develop the chemistry and confidence of the team. We know that we're going to learn a lot from the weekend, no matter the outcome."

This will be the first match the Irish have played since a 3-0 victory over Bowling Green on Saturday — a match in which freshman Christina Kaelin had 24 kills and earned Big East rookie of the week honors.

Despite the Falcon shutout, Brown said she would like to see her individual hitters improve their efficiency in order to increase the team's overall performance during successful shots made.

The team has also been working all week on shot selection, serving and transition offense in practice. "I think it's really realistic. It's going to be a hard thing to do," Kaelin said of earning four wins this weekend. "We're going to have to play well since we have so many new people on the court. We need some time to work out the kinks."

Valparaiso (3-0) comes into the weekend off a three-win showing at the Chicagoland Classic. The Irish are 20-3 all-time against the Crusaders, who are the second most-common opponent in Notre Dame history. Idaho (0-3) has struggled in the early season, losing three matches to Oklahoma, Arkansas and North Carolina. This will be the third time the Vandals and Irish have met, with the series tied at one apiece.

Missouri (3-1) and Santa Clara (3-0) are both top-25 ranked teams and fresh faces for the Irish — this is the second and first time, respectively, that Notre Dame has faced these opponents. Santa Clara advanced to the NCAA tournament semifinals just a year ago before losing to No. 1 Nebraska and Missouri made it to the NCAA round of 16 — as did the Irish.

"It's hard at this point, everyone has just played one weekend," Brown said of gauging the competition. "A lot of it, we're going to have to be able to use the depth we have on the team. By the time we play on Sunday, fatigue comes into it. But I feel we're in really good shape. It's just going to be the ability to concentrate on one match at a time for sure."

Notre Dame has won the Invitational eight times — including five in a row — and holds a 27-4 all-time record in it. "I'm excited. It's something I've never been a part of before, we're all looking forward to it," Kaelin said of the tournament. "It's a challenge, and we're all ready for it."

Contact Kyle Cassidy at kcassidy@nd.edu

FRIDAY, SEPT. 1st @ 7:00 vs. Valparaiso
FREE SCHEDULE GLASSES TO THE FIRST 250 FANS
SHAMROCK INVITATIONAL
FRIDAY, SEPT. 1st @ 7:00 vs. Valparaiso
-FREE SCHEDULE GLASSES TO THE FIRST 250 FANS
SATURDAY, SEPT. 2nd @ 12:30 vs. Idaho
-FREE PENNANT TO THE FIRST 500 FANS
SATURDAY, SEPT. 2nd @ 7:00 vs. #13 Missouri
SUNDAY, SEPT. 3rd @ 2:00 vs. #6 Santa Clara
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2 Preserved game 6 American spacecraft
3 Authentic 7 City near O'Hare
4 See 19 and 38-Across 8 Windy City
5 Soreness 9 Jobs
6 Like a horsehoe 10 Computer
7 Miners' landmark 11 Advantages
8 Thirsts 12 Reason for soreness
9 Members 13 horseshoe
10 Thrills 14 Mormon
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16 Stitches over 20 Construction
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18 What prisoners may wear 22 Construction
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22 Rarely 26 Birthday Baby
23 Rarely 27 Make checks payable to:

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2 On the shelf 3 Aryan
3 Move 4 Slater
4 38-Across is one 5 Getting there
5 Ear 6 Aryan
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7 Letter 8 Aryan
8 Cancelling 9 Telling
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10 Aryan 11 Crying
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The Observer
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ND SOCCER

Sunday showdowns

Clark ready to take on perennial power Indiana on Sunday

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

After two difficult games in the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament last weekend, Notre Dame will have no time to relax this weekend as it takes on No. 8 Indiana and No. 25 Saint Louis in the AdidasCAU Credit Union Classic in Bloomington.

This will be the fourth consecutive season Notre Dame has participated in the Hoosiers’ annual event, one of the most competitive early-season tournaments in the nation. On nine separate occasions, the eventual NCAA champion has participated in the Classic.

Left, Irish junior Kurt Martin dribbles past Creighton midfielder Danny Minutillo during Notre Dame’s 4-1 victory over the Bluejays Sunday. Right, Irish senior Jen Buzzkowski scores the first goal in Notre Dame’s 5-2 victory over Santa Clara Sept. 5, 2004.

ND VOLLEYBALL

Shamrock attracts top foes

Squad set to host six-team Invitational at Joyce Center this weekend

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

No. 21 Notre Dame looks to improve its offensive game this weekend as it hosts the 12th annual Shamrock Invitational at the Joyce Center.

The three-day tournament’s first serve is today at noon with No. 6 Santa Clara facing off against Valparaiso. The Irish play Valparaiso in its second game at 7 p.m. The two other teams in the tournament are No. 13 Missouri and Idaho.

Notre Dame will play Idaho Saturday at 12:30 p.m. before a match against Missouri that will be broadcast live on College Sports Television Network at 7 p.m. The four-game home weekend concludes with the toughest test for the Irish — a 2 p.m. Sunday standoff against Santa Clara.

"I think we’re going into every match feeling confident that we have the ability to win," Notre Dame head coach Debbie Brown said. "It’s challenging, four matches in three days. We absolutely believe we can win our first game and expect to win the tournament."
Last year's offense was the most prolific attack in school history with Rhema McKnight on the sidelines. Now the fifth-year senior is back on the field and ready to contribute on the No. 2 team in the nation.
Irish remain underdog despite polls

Hang up your "Herbstreit for President" T-shirt for just a minute. Scrap the latest Las Vegas lines. Don't book a flight to Arizona just yet. Notre Dame is still an underdog. Not in the traditional sense. Even Mark May's mother has the Irish at the top of her contender's list this season.

Notre Dame is an underdog because it must be one. Aside from his headline, Charlie Weis' best tactic against the Yellow Jackets will be making the Irish believe they aren't better than they really are.

For the Irish to win their season opener Saturday night, they don't have to win with style.

Brady Quinn doesn't have to be a Heisman finalist — he just needs to avoid interceptions.

Tom Zbikowski doesn't need to knock anyone out in 49 seconds — he just needs to make sure Calvin Johnson doesn't have any 49-yard touchdowns.

Sam Young doesn't have to set a school record for pancake flips — he just needs to give Darrius Walker a little room to run.

A win over Georgia Tech won't cause much celebration. The big victory parties are reserved for Penn State in a week.

The best way for the Irish to make headlines this Sunday is if they have read their headlines all summer long.

The Irish beat Pittsburgh in last year's season opener because they weren't sure how good they were.

They fell behind big to Michigan State early in last year's home opener because they knew how good they could be — they just didn't play that way for three quarters.

The talent — and the home crowd — on Notre Dame's side last September against Spartans should have put the Irish over the top. But it didn't take a miracle

Calvin Johnson is a second-year receiver's hands smothering a football on the cover of the Yellow Jackets media guide, check it out. The guy could palm a Volvo.

Aside from his headline, Charlie Weis' best tactic against the Yellow Jackets will be making the Irish believe they aren't better than they really are.

Trannon.

A fourth-quarter comeback attempt in front of an electrified Bobby Dodd Stadium crowd and against a suddenly confident Tech squad isn't the easiest way to start a season.

Despite that Calvin Johnson is this year's Matt Trannon.

If you haven't seen the picture of the Tech wide receiver's hands smothering a football on the cover of the Yellow Jackets media guide, check it out. The guy could palm a Volvo.

That's why this game might rest in his hands.

The Notre Dame defensive backs must keep Johnson in front of them and out of the end zone. If not — and the Irish fall behind early — the self-confidence that oozed out of every magazine cover from Sports Illustrated to ESPN The Magazine will plummet.

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By BOB GRiffin
Sports Writer

Notre Dame wide receiver Rhema McKnight stood gingerly at the sideline, his crutches tugged under his shoulder pad. Free No. 34, he watched the team run plays under first-year head coach Charlie Weis — but from afar, preventing him from being part of the process.

McKnight witnessed teammate Maurice Stovall go from a junior with 21 catches for 312 yards to a third-round NFL draft pick. He saw his replacement, Jeff Samardzija, transform himself from an unknown receiver to a national celebrity.

He observed his battery mate, quarterback Brady Quinn, pick apart opposing defenses as if they were Pop Warner squads, and tight end Anthony Fasano draw safeties away from the sideline routes he used to run with ease.

And while he watched his teammates find success, his own place on the sidelines was a reminder of how close he came to being a part of it. McKnight came into 2005 with high expectations after a strong junior season (42 catches, 610 yards, 3 touchdowns), but saw it fade away with one play in Ann Arbor.

But instead of viewing that ill-fated crossing pattern as a hint that the lessons he learned would have been wasted, McKnight put on his shoulder pad and studied old film of McKnight and Quinn's 32 touchdowns last year.

And while McKnight stored the information for a time when he would return to the field, he also shared it with his teammates — notably Samardzija and Stovall — who would benefit from his knowledge.

"Any time you have a veteran like that on the sidelines, unfortunately on our sidelines, he adds to what you see," Samardzija said after practice Tuesday. "He sees things that you can't.

McKnight and Samardzija share a unique relationship. It's unlikely the other players who haven't had that first-hand glimpse of the professional game would find the same statistics if his work ethic hadn't been healthy last season. Samardzija said after practice Tuesday, "He's done that for us. It's just a small part.

But McKnight is the only receiver behind Stovall and McKnight, and had fewer opportunities to showcase his abilities.

But instead of harboring bad feelings for his own misfortune, McKnight encouraged Samardzija and gave him advice throughout the season. This year, the two have been working on their rhythm since spring practice began.

"Any time I had an opportunity to say, 'Hey, you know look out for this, watch out for that, McKnight said. "I'm pretty sure Samardzija took the advice and worked with it.

McKnight said. "He made the best of an unfortunate situation and look where he's at now."

Finding his own role

Regardless of his status as one of Notre Dame's most talented offensive players, he is still faced with a glaring reality — having not played during the Irish resurgence, McKnight is in the rare position of having to form his own identity as a sixth-year senior.

It's documented that Quinn and Samardzija have one of the top receiving tandems in the country as a quarterback-receiver tandem. The two hooked up for 32 touchdowns last season.

"I've had the opportunity to sit back on the sidelines, just watch other players, see how they rotate, watch corners ... I've been able to capitalize on the opportunity just to sit around and watch," McKnight said.

Rhema McKnight Irish receiver

"I've had the opportunity to sit back on the sidelines, just watch other players, see how they rotate, watch corners ... I've been able to capitalize on the opportunity just to sit around and watch." Rhema McKnight

The bigger picture

But when the clock hits 8 p.m. on Saturday and the Irish begin a season where many expect them to contend for a BCS National Championship and the Heisman Trophy, McKnight will be on the sidelines, watching the Irish take on the Sooners at Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

"I don't think they'll adjust everything they do with that position ... But him being a great athlete, they'll be able to plug him in there," he said.

by the numbers

Notre Dame wide receivers Rhema McKnight, bottom, and Jeff Samardzija participate in a roll drill during practice at McGlinn Fields on Aug. 15. McKnight showed no signs of his injury.

Notre Dame wide receivers Rhema McKnight, bottom, and Jeff Samardzija participate in a roll drill during practice at McGlinn Fields on Aug. 15. McKnight showed no signs of his injury.

McKnight and day

After being injured, Rhema McKnight returns to the field hoping to make an impact in 2006

Glen rode him, Ariz., in his periphery. So while McKnight begins his own individual quest to return to his level of on-field production, and potentially surpass it, Notre Dame will be faced with the same challenge.

Last year's 9-3 finish, and loss to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl, was a start — a stepping stone for what could happen if Notre Dame's potential manifests itself in victories during the 2006 season.

And if the Irish do outperform last season's team, then and only then, can people begin to sit back and speculate about the effect McKnight had on the process. When this happens, he can become the story — an integral part of the 2006 team that was missing one year earlier.

But as of now, McKnight just wants to get back to playing football.

"Sitting back and watching every game hurt, but it is what it is," McKnight said.

Contact Bob Griffin at rgriff@nd.edu

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McKnight and day

Notre Dame wide receivers Rhema McKnight, bottom, and Jeff Samardzija participate in a roll drill during practice at McGlinn Fields on Aug. 15. McKnight showed no signs of his injury.

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Contact Bob Griffin at rgriff@nd.edu
Charlie Weis
2nd season at Notre Dame
career record: 9-3
at Notre Dame: 9-3
against Georgia Tech: 0-0

Roster

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COACHING

Charlie Weis has mixed experience with a long layoff. To start the 2005 season, Notre Dame tore through the Pittsburgh defense. But Notre Dame struggled mightily against Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl, as the defense couldn't do the job against the speedy Buckeyes.

BRADY QUINN

Brady Quinn completed 64.6 percent of his passes for 3,919 yards and 32 touchdowns — the best year in history for an Irish quarterback. He also managed to escape the pass rush, being sacked just 10 times, and threw just seven picks in 2005.

QUARTERBACKS

Both signalcallers have had their ups and downs (37). But his ability to perform against Stanford in 2005 and 90 yards on just 16 carries against a top-10 OSU defense. Walker will have Asaph Schwapp blocking for him.

IRISH RUSHING

Darius Walker doesn't have the speed to impress but does have impeccable vision. His successes include a 186-yard performance against Stanford in 2005 and 90 yards on just 16 carries against a top-10 OSU defense. Walker will have Asaph Schwapp blocking for him.

IRISH PASSING

Jeff Samardzija was a consensus All-American in 2005 with 15 touchdown receptions, and Rhema McKnight led the team in receptions and yards in the previous two seasons. McKnight's career average of 13.3 yards per catch is impressive, and Samardzija's is even better.

ANALYSIS

Despite the Irish performance in the Fiesta Bowl, Gailey said Weis is one of the best coaches at finding his team's comparative advantage and exploiting it. Gailey's teams simply haven't had that success, losing at least one game per year by three touchdowns or more.

Both signalcallers have started since they were true freshmen, but Quinn is a pre-season favorite for the Heisman Trophy for a reason. The Dublin, Ohio, product is one of the nation's most effective quarterbacks at reading defenses and checking off receivers.

There isn't a more imposing receiver in college football than Calvin Johnson. And at the end of the Fiesta Bowl, there didn't look like a more beaten defense than Notre Dame's. But this is a new year and the Irish have too much to lose to allow the All-Americans to spoil a championship season before it begins. Brady Quinn keeps the ball moving as 2006 kicks off with an efficient performance.

Charlie Weis 2nd season at Notre Dame
2006 Schedule
Sept. 2 at Georgia Tech
Sept. 9 PENN STATE
Sept. 16 MICHIGAN
Sept. 23 at MSU
Oct. 7 STANFORD
Oct. 21 UCLA
Oct. 28 at Navy
Nov. 4 UNC
Nov. 11 at Air Force
Nov. 18 ARMY
Nov. 25 at USC

NOTRE DAME OFFENSE

The Yellow Jackets return all four starters on the offensive line, a unit which held opponents to a career record. He also managed to hold targets in 2005 and 90 yards on just 16 carries against a top-10 OSU defense. Walker will have Asaph Schwapp blocking for him.

GEORGIA TECH

The dual threats of Samardzija and McKnight for the Irish may equal the nations most feared and productive combination of receivers. Scott is an excellent corner, but he is only one member of a four-man unit three-deep.

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FIGHTING IRISH

Charlie Weis 2nd season at Notre Dame

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Charlie Weis 2nd season at Notre Dame
Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets

**GEORGIA TECH 2006 Schedule**

**JACKETS RUSHING**

Notre Dame returns five linemen with at least six career starts, with Victor Abiamiri a skilled left end and Landri a solid force against the run on the inside. The Irish front four held five of its 12 opponents in 2005 to less than 100 yards rushing.

**JACKETS PASSING**

Opponents scored the Irish pass defense in 2005, gaining 264.6 yards per game in the air. Tom Zbikowski had five interceptions last season but was often fooled by play-action fakes, while Ambrose Wooden and Mike Richardson are serious questions at corner.

**SPECIAL TEAM PASSES**

Notre Dame replaces D.J. Fitzpatrick in all three kicking categories. Geoff Price has a strong camp but only has punted twice in his career. Carl Gales has a low trajectory on field goals, and Bobby Banks has five appearances as a kickoff specialist.

**INTANGIBLES**

Weiss is undefeated in official road contests, winning all six road games in 2005. The Irish hold a 26-5-1 series advantage over Samford. Anyaibe Zuniga of the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla.

In 1976, Georgia Tech beat Notre Dame without throwing a pass. Now the Yellow Jackets have beaten a ranked team in each of the past 11 seasons.

Calvin Johnson has never missed an extra point for Georgia Tech and is 19-for-22 on field goals shorter than 40 yards. Bell's 136 career points place him eighth on the Yellow Jackets' all-time list, and he likely will climb to third by the end of the season.

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**NOTRE DAME GEORGIA TECH**

**ANALYSIS**

If Johnson shows up, his athletic ability will be enough to allow the Yellow Jackets to be a threat against the Irish secondary.

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Sizing up the Irish and the Jackets

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Reggie Ball has rushed for nearly 1,097 yards in his career, scrambling around defensive ends and slicing through linebackers. If Notre Dame's corners are able to cover the two Johnsons well, Ball will try to make the most of broken plays by using his speed and shiftiness with the ball tucked in his arm.

His main cohort in the backfield will be Tashard Choice, who is taking over in a starting role for the Yellow Jackets. Choice averaged 4.4 yards per carry in limited action last season.

The Notre Dame's linebackers were strong against the run last season, but had trouble in pass coverage and against dual-threat quarterbacks, including Michigan State's Drew Stanton. With junior Maurice Crum the only returning starter, it remains to be seen whether new starters Travis Thomas and Mitchell Thomas bring enough of an upgrade in speed to mitigate the unit's lack of experience.

Even if they can keep up with Ball and Choice, it's no guarantee they can tackle them.

---

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Johnson’s big play ability worries Irish

Size, strength, speed will test vulnerable secondary in opener

By KEN FOWLER
Sport Editor

He’s bigger, he’s stronger and he’s got better jump than almost anyone else on Notre Dame’s depth chart. But that doesn’t mean he possesses the Notre Dame-USC defensive backs coach's confidence in his ability to be the starter.

“Mike knows that I have a guy who looks like him, but he’s not him,” said Lewis. “He’s got unbelievable hands, Lewis said. “He makes catches that are circus catches. So you look at him and you say, ‘This guy lacks nothing as far as being a great receiver.’”

For Lewis’ defensive unit that is trying to demonstrate it is better than the unit’s 617 yards surrendered to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl, Johnson creates quite the task.

“I think we have an awful lot to prove,” Lewis said. “Johnson will be one of the toughest physical receivers we will see all year and Lewis didn’t name the other receivers in that class.

Inconsistent

Although unlike most receivers in many ways, Notre Dame may have a downside. His 2005 season earned him national honours, but he was often criticized for being inconsistent.

“Going out, you have to worry about what kind of team is going to be there,” Soares said. “It’s not as if they lose and go to bowl games, they lose and go to bowl games.”

In the early twentieth century, the Ku Klux Klan planned an attack on the University and the social culture surrounding the fledgling university, however, was less conducive to its growth.

The social culture surrounding the fledgling university, however, was less conducive to its growth. It’s a 43-inch vertical jump. You put that on top of a 6-foot-4, 6-foot-5 guy — that’s what makes him play so big. He’s a 6-foot-4, 6-foot-5 guy — that’s what makes him play so big.

When the national’s great college football rivalries are discussed, the Notre Dame-Georgia Tech series is seldom mentioned. It doesn’t have glamour and prestige that Notre Dame-USC possesses. The Yellow Jackets do not have the same significance in Notre Dame history as the Navy Midshipmen. And while Notre Dame has dominated Georgia Tech in the past, possessing a 26-5-1 record, the rivalry extends well beyond that when you consider the games.

First of all, the Notre Dame-Georgia Tech series gave college football one of its greatest stories — Rudy. It also saw a game where the Yellow Jackets were without completing a pass. It included the Reduded collection of Notre Dame Stadium in 1997 decades after Knute Rockne walked the sidelines.

And it’s an important piece of American social history, as well as two of college football’s most storied powerhouses.

Looking back, Notre Dame wasn’t a world-renowned university in the early 20th century. It was never a world-renowned university, but it was the sport’s most prestigious.

“Rudy,” Soares said, noting that the anti-Catholic Klan was based in Atlanta. “But all of this happened before today's students were born. The college-aged Irish fans making the trek from South Bend to Atlanta this weekend might not be familiar with the anti-Catholic tradition of Georgia Tech. Perhaps their strongest Georgia Tech memories come from the movie “Rudy.” The climactic scene is set at the Notre Dame-Georgia Tech game, a 24-3 win where Daniel Director recorded a sack in the waning minutes.

Some might have been present for the stadium rededication in 1997, a 17-13 win over the Georgia Tech, that marked Rudy's debut.

“Rudy” was a big deal while Notre Dame-Georgia Tech was a big deal. It was a memorable match-up for the national title in 1981.
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