Play reveals prevalence of assault

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

While it didn’t boast the international scope of “The Vagina Monologues,” cast members and viewers of the Notre Dame-specific “Loyal Daughters” say the play has increased awareness on the issue of sexual assault and rape at the University. The potential to break the reign of “culture of silence” often viewed as surrounding such issues at Notre Dame.

The controversial nature of “The Vagina Monologues” tended to turn off viewers at Notre Dame, said Madison Liddy, who directed both “Daughters” and last spring’s production of the “Monologues.”

“One of the biggest critiques we got was that ‘The Vagina Monologues’ isn’t really applicable to Notre Dame students,” she said. “It’s a very liberal, left-wing way to look at things. Part of me agrees, part of me disagrees... But at some time, (playwright Emily Weisbecker) and I wanted a way for people to talk about sexual and sexual violence without feeling like they’re in the wrong place.”

Feminist Voice member Stephanie Brauer said the independent nature of “Loyal Daughters” might help it succeed. “I think it’s more positively viewed [than ‘Monologues’] on campus, because it doesn’t have a direct association with ‘Monologues’ playwright Eve Ensler, who is a loaded figure in and of herself,” she said.

And “Loyal Daughters,” Liddy said, includes a broader scope of values - like the skit called “The Sisters of the Congregation of the Holy Cross’ unique presence on campus, guiding and influencing Saint Mary’s Congregation President Sister Joy O’Grady said what began as a “family business” of sisters who traveled to Notre Dame, Ind. from Bertrand, Mich. to educate women has flourished into one of the nation’s premier sites of higher education and a retirement home for Sisters who have completed their international work.

Over the years the Sisters’ leadership positions at the College have dwindled, but they have not compromised their stake in assuring that the “excellence of the (Catholic) Church is maintained and fostered within a holistic education,” O’Grady said.

Sisters lead Saint Mary’s through the years

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary’s Editor

When the Sisters of the Congregation of the Holy Cross founded Saint Mary’s in 1844, they could hardly have fathomed what the College would be like in the year 2006.

For the sisters at Saint Mary’s — the first college the international Congregation established in the United States — looking 162 years into the future may have seemed like a challenge, but the decades passed quickly. Intense construction, dedicated educators and unrealized plans to become a co-educational institution marked eras of the College’s diverse history. But one thing has remained constant: the Sisters of the Congregation of the Holy Cross’ presence on campus, guiding and influencing Saint Mary’s Congregation.

“The Sisters of the Congregation of the Holy Cross” is one of three places on campus, including Augusta Hall.

bookstore prepares for last game

Christmas decorations go up in Hammes as holiday season arrives

By LAURA WILZEK
News Writer

When thousands of fans descend upon Notre Dame’s campus for fall football games, they come to cheer the Irish on to victory, listen to the band play and take a picture in front of Touchdown Jesus.

And many leave with cam­pus with a piece of Irish mer­chandise to remember their weekend by.

The Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore is packed every weekend with alumni, fans and students eager to purchase a Notre Dame souvenir, and bookstore management.

McCarthy cracks jokes, gives important tips

By LAURA BAUMGARTNER
News Writer

“I was promoted to sergeant of safety education — now called a public information officer — and inherited the assign­ment from the troopers that did it before me,” McCarthy said. “But it was the one who started using the quip or joke line because when I started giving [the announcements] straight and formal, no one paid atten­tion to them.”

McCarthy’s first stint as a foot­ball season was at the sec­ond-to-last home game in 1966.

“We were having a lot of traf­fic trouble at that time,” he said. “So the next year I thought I’d try something a friend, who was a Chicago policeman with a safety education assignment, suggested.”
INSIDE COLUMN

Owens and 'Little T'

I would like to preface this by saying that it will be the first and last time I will ever make any addition to the most over-publicized athlete in the history of sports. I apologize, but this one was just too hard to let go.

Two days ago a new series of children's books aimed at providing good role models for America's youth was released by Terrell Owens. The story line follows a young ... wait, what?

Terrell Owens, the same man who once pulled a Sharpie out of his sock after scoring a touchdown, will now be signing books for kindergarten kids?

Believe it or not, it's true.

BenBella Books has signed the Cowboys' wide receiver to deliver a series of illustrated stories that will soon be available that will focus on the challenges and lessons that T.O. has experienced throughout his career. Owens started drumming up the idea in his rookie season while with the Vikings but needed to do some additional research before he felt he was ready to begin the writing process.

The first set of books are titled "Little T Learns to Share," "Little T Learns What Not to Say" and "Little T Learns About Painkillers," a piece that is sure to render those annoying childproof pill bottles obsolete. (Okay, so maybe that one was a little bit of a joke, but too far out of a stretch.)

Little T's lessons in the future may also include, but are certainly not limited to, enjoying the outdoors (maybe with a few driveway crunches and curls), playing well with others (just not on the sidelines) and getting a good night's rest (especially in the middle of offensive team meetings).

Owens is currently partnered up with college friend Courtney Parker and illustrator Todd Harris in the project, but once this craze takes off, everyone is sure to want a piece of the action — keyshawn Johnson, Dennis Rodman ... they are even talking with O.J. about a Halloween special.

It's only a matter of time before Drew Rosenhaus manages to wiggle his way into the series as well. Perhaps as the evil money-grubbing Dr. Drew whose negative influence Little T has to overcome to learn his lesson.

Hey, anything to make an extra buck, right Drew?

With all of the wonderful children's literature around today — Dr. Seuss, Roald Dahl, Stephen King — why would anyone ever consider raising by such a monster?

It's really tough to say, all I know is that this avid reader will be sticking with Clifford.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets 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 as we can correct our error.


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"Jedi because the power to destroy a planet is insignificant next to the power of the Force."

"The Jedis, because I've never heard of a female Jedi."

"Da Bears."

"Uh ... I'm way too cool for science fiction."

"No, he's really not."

"With or without Dumbledore? Because Dumbledore's [awesome]."

OFFBEAT

'Grape Guy' catches 116 grapes in mouth

SYDNEY, Australia — An American man caught 116 grapes in his mouth in three minutes in what he hopes will become a new Guinness World Record, his publicity team said Thursday.

Steve "the Grape Guy" Spalding, 44, of Dallas, Texas also set a personal record for endurance grape catching, using his mouth to catch 2,103 grapes thrown from a distance of 15 feet over half an hour, according to publicist Deanna Brown.

No Guinness World Records officials were present at Spalding's grape-gobbling attempt, carried out Thursday in Australia over-looking Sydney's iconic Opera House.

Toys for tots agrees to take Jesus doll

LOS ANGELES — The Marine Reserves' Toys for Tots program has decided to accept a donation of Bible-quoting Jesus dolls, reversing course after saying earlier this week that it couldn't take them.

"The talking Jesus doll issue has been resolved," the organization announced on its Web site Wednesday. "Toys for Tots has found appropriate places for these items. We have notified the donor of our willingness to handle this transaction."

The short note on the Web site did not explain what it would do with the dolls.

Earlier this week, the program declined a suburban Los Angeles company's offer to donate 4,000 of the foot-tall talking dolls. The battery-powered Jesus is one of several Bible-based dolls manufactured by one2Believe, a division of the Valencia-based Beverly Hills Teddy Bear Co.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The marching band will conduct its traditional "step-off" today at 4:30 p.m. heading from the front of the Main Building through campus to its practice in the Joyce Center parking lot.

The pep rally will take place in the Joyce Center Arena at 6 p.m. Students with identification may enter from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. through Gate 11, and the general public may enter through Gate 8 at 5:45 p.m.

The Notre Dame women's soccer team will take on Colorado in the third round of the NCAA Tournament tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Alumni Field. Call (574) 631-7356 for ticket information.

Asian Allure 2006: Illumination will take tonight at 8 p.m. at Washington Hall. The show is open to all Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross College students. Tickets are $7 at the Notre Dame Office — which can be reached at (574) 631-8128 and $10 at the door.

The Notre Dame and U.S. Military Academy Glee Clubs will present a joint concert at 8:30 p.m. in Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are $8 for the general public, $6 for military/ID holders, $5 for seniors and $3 for all students.

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

Contact: Dan Murphy at dmurphy@nd.edu

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TODAY	TONGNIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY

LOCAL WEATHER

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Staff members Steve Mall, left, and Kenny Tschida from the University Maintenance Department mount the Christmas light-decorated 0 on O'Neil Hall Thursday afternoon.
Country has little support for democracy

By JOHN-PAUL WITT
News Writer

Diego Abente Brun, former Paraguayan senator and minister of Justice and Labour, spoke Thursday at the Hesburgh Center on the challenges facing Paraguayan democracy.

Throughout his lecture entitled "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Dilemmas of a Small Latin American Democracy," Abente criticized the state of Paraguay's democratic government and explained the various challenges the country faces.

"I was on the phone for 15 minutes this afternoon and I didn't have any problems at all," Latimer, who was away from his office all day Thursday, said. "We didn't receive notification from carriers that coverage was inconsistent. He has a standard call with a representative from major carriers every Friday and will inquire about reported problems then. Until he makes that call, Latimer said he "will not speculate on the nature of the problem and will not jump to hasty conclusions." "All students can do when the service is bad is notify their carrier," Latimer said. "We won't know about it unless the carrier knows about it. If no one knows about the problem, nothing can be done." Although some students are nervous that poor service will continue this weekend with a football game and predictions of more rain, Latimer does not think cell phones should be affected. "There is no reason why service should at all be affected by the weather," he said.

Service providers Verizon and Cingular currently have stealth antennas located on campus. Although Verizon customers reported difficulties with their service today, Cingular customers did not.

Notre Dame is currently in negotiations with other major cellular carriers to install antennas on campus. Latimer declined comment on the identity of the carriers currently in discussions with the University, citing ongoing negotiations.

Contact John-Paul Witt at jpwitt@nd.edu.

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Paraguayan senator lectures on failures of government

The reason why Paraguay is so unsuccessful, Abente said, lies in the nature of democratic system. Paraguay has always had universal suffrage, he said, so political parties attempt to win over poor voters by providing jobs to members of the most powerful families, who could in turn influence the votes of the poor.

Paraguay has the worst record of economic development, government effectiveness and ability to preserve the rule of law in Latin America. It has the highest gap between the "extremely poor" class and the "poor" class in the region, Abente said, as well as the lowest support for democracy.

The state of Paraguay's democratic government was explored by Abente in his lecture on the challenges facing Paraguayan democracy.

"We haven't signed any contracts yet, but there are serious conversations underway with some carriers," said Abente, who was a senator from the opposition party that was used to pay government employees. "Even if I were a senator from the opposition party that may be opposed to government corruption," he said, "I would need the government to allow me to employ people from my district to ensure I am re-elected.

The Paraguayan government can never rule with legitimacy, Abente said, because Paraguayan society has become an "invertebrate." Citizens expect their government to reward them with jobs and food, and there is no desire for economic growth or change in the government.

Paraguay is between "a rock and a hard place," Abente said, because Paraguay's problems are caused by its democratic system, and democracy itself cannot provide the answer.
History

continued from page 1

The Sisters have gone from dominating the College's presid ency to collaborating and working with campus leadership to currently maintaining leadership roles behind the scenes as members of the Board of Trustees.

And while the majority of Saint Mary's administration is laypersons, Sisters continue to fill important positions — director for mission, professors, director of space planning and assistant director of mission.

The majority of the Congregation, however, is consistently present at Saint Mary's.

They reside in two locations: Augusta Hall, Saint Mary's Convent and Rosary Hall — in the southwest corner of campus. The Sisters' portion of the land-stake exceeds the 500 acres that belong to the College.

As a separate entity, the Congregation owns the vast majority of woodlands that run along the eastbound side of Interstate 80-90, the nature trails and most of the land in the front of Saint Mary's along Route 315. It also leases the Belles' athletic fields to the College.

The unique ownership of the land bordering Saint Mary's gives the Congregation complete jurisdiction of its uses. Most notably, the Congregation entered into an agreement earlier this year with the Holladay Corporation to build a Hilton Garden Inn and conference center, set to open before the 2007 football season, on the northeast corner of campus.

The decision to lease the land for the construction of this hotel and conference center, which took much of the student body by surprise in August 2006, was deemed a "formal business relation" by O'Grady. "Negotiations were developed for some time," she said, "and we kept the College apprised the whole time."

At the final decisions of the time and location of the construction were made, O'Grady and College President Carol Ann Mooney were engaged in close conversation — a quintessential example of the working relationship between Saint Mary's and its sponsor, The Congregation.

Mooney, who has been friends with O'Grady for "many years," said the construction of the hotel was in the best interest of the College, a result of the Sisters' role as "saintly and careful financial planners" as they "find additional ways to bring in revenue due to the shrinking number of their full-time employees in the United States."

"Utilization of their land holdings is one of the ways that they can do that," she said.

While O'Grady said she did not "personally encounter concerns expressed" about the construction, she said she feels the potential problems, which exist within any project, do not outweigh the benefits.

She said this project will "benefit the whole community" — one of the Congregation's most noble aspirations.

"The relationship between the college we founded so many years ago and the Congregation is closely connected and collaborative," O'Grady said. "We see the changing needs of our time ... and continue to commit to issues in the Church, world and society."

O'Grady said the Sisters have watched the College greatly change over the years, and have worked to grow and adapt to the changes — issues that, regardless of the outcome, have "sustained the Sisters' significant influence [they] wish to maintain in the College."

The two entities' close relationship has maintained and fostered Saint Mary's Catholic identity, both modern and historically. "Now that I am proud to work closely with Sister O'Grady and I also have a professional relationship, our friendship enables us to talk easily and about mutual concerns," Mooney said. "We and I have regular meetings and we make every attempt to cooperate and enhance each other's mission."

O'Grady said this relationship also includes the students — the vital link in pursuing and maintaining Saint Mary's mission.

Students are welcome to engage in this "idea exchange," O'Grady said, and they often interact with students through the "Friends with Sisters Program," that students with Sisters foster a relationship through religious and social events.

Although the Congregation plays a large role in the College's decision-making process, O'Grady said it is important to remember they "want to be supportive and collaborative."

"It is our heritage too," she said. "We have watched this school grow, and we are proud of this high quality school." The student body has come to recognize this through their recent appreciation for the history of the College displayed during the first ever "Heritage Week" last January.

Student body president Susan Mellduff said "the student government-sponsored week," which will "take place again during the week of Jan. 22, 2007," has "contributed to students' understanding of the Congregation's History."

Mellduff said one of Heritage Week's highlights was "the family style dinner ... homeless, the leadership of the Congregation as well as approximately 20 other sisters who have influenced the College were invited to come and share their stories."

While plans are in the works to incorporate even more understanding about the Congregation's influence on the College during this year's Heritage Week, Mooney said the positive influence inquisitive students had on the Sisters was impressive. "The Sisters were thrilled with the student interest in their heritage last year," Mooney said.

Contact Kelly Mochan at kmochan@stmarys.edu

“The Semester Around the World

Informational Meetings

Wednesday, October 25, 2006
Monday, November 20, 2006

Room 600, Hesburgh Library, University of Notre Dame
Applications available online: www.stmarys.edu/cwll

Fall Semester 2007

program

HAPPY #22 BIRTHDAY
BRIAN DOLAN
ARCHIE ‘08

LOVE,
MOM, DAD, KEVIN,
ERIN AND CARRIE
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Al-Dhari, head of the influential Sunni Islamic Group, was arrested in Tonga — Police and troops early Friday took control of Tonga's capital, where a crowd of young people had gone on a rampage, setting fires, overturning cars and looting shops in the South Pacific kingdom.

The violence occurred after crosses were burned in the capital, demanding that parliament pass democratic reforms before it ended its annual session Thursday.

"There are number of burning buildings," including several housing businesses and the offices of government ministries, said Tonga's Lord Chamberlain, the Honorable Filekae.

ADDS ABABA — African, Arab, European and Indian leaders agreed in principle Thursday to a joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force for Sudan's Darfur region.

The force could be as large as 27,000, including the existing 7,000-member AU peacekeeping force in Darfur, but the leaders did not lay out how the force to begin work partly because Sudan had some reservations.

Sudan did not get the plan its unconditional approval because officials at Thursday's meeting needed to consult with their superiors, the country's U.N. ambassador, Mahmoud Abdelhameem, said.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the additional personnel could include as many as 17,700 soldiers and 3,000 police officers.

A timetable for the expanded force to begin work was not announced partly because Sudan retained some reservations, including the question of who would be in charge.

"The next step is for the U.N. and AU to call a meeting of the non-signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement ... and the government of Sudan. It should take place in the next couple of weeks to resolve outstanding issues by the end of the year," Annan told reporters.

A U.N. Security Council resolution has been forged for U.N. peacekeepers to take over for the poorly equipped and underfunded AU force, which has been unable to quell a war that has left more than 200,000 dead since Sudan's government has firmly opposed the takeover.

The agreement was announced at a meeting in Ethiopia that brought together senior officials from the AU, the Arab League, the European Union, Sudan, the United States, China, Russia, Egypt, France and a half-dozen African countries.

The expansion of the existing AU force will take place in three phases, said Annan, who had wanted to try to stop the bloodshed in Darfur before he leaves office on Jan. 1.

An African Union Peace and Security Council meeting will be held in the Republic of Congo on Nov. 24 during which Sudan is expected to present its final views, Annan said.

The senior British government representative at the meeting, International Development Secretary Hilary Benn, called on the Sudanese government to "accept the clear view of all the others present."

Benn called the joint U.N.-AU focus on Sudan "the best opportunity we have to bring this crisis to an end. In the mean time, we need an effective cease-fire, with all the parties committing to stop the fighting."

In recent days, pro-government militia forces known as janjaweed have stepped up attacks on villages in Darfur, killing dozens of people, international observers said Tuesday. In one raid, janjaweed militiamen — backed by government troops — forced children into a thatched hut, then set it ablaze, killing parents who tried to rescue the children, rebels said.

After years of low-level clashes over water and land in the vast, arid Darfur region, rebels from ethnic Sudan tribes took up arms against Sudan's Arab-dominated central government in 2003. Khartoum is accused of unleashing the janjaweed. The militia are accused of many of the atrocities in a conflict that has killed some 200,000 people and chased 2.5 million from their homes.

The conflict has destabilized a wide region that includes parts of neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic. The chaos has been exploited by rebels from Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic, and ethnic violence mirroring attacks in Darfur has been seen in Chad in recent weeks.

Local News

Semi chemical leak closes highway

LOWELL, Ind. — A chemical leaking from a semi truck Monday night led to the closing of a section of Interstate 65 in northwestern Indiana for about 30 minutes Thursday after five people complained of breathing problems.

Both the northbound and southbound lanes of the highway were closed for a 17-mile stretch about 20 miles south of Gary as a precaution about 10:30 a.m. CST as hazardous materials responders prepared to neutralize the chemical, sodium hydrosulfite, said Mike Higgins, a spokesman for the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan opens a critical international meeting in Ethiopia to discuss the increasingly desperate situation in Darfur Thursday.

Hoyer selected as majority leader

WASHINGTON — Democrats embraced Rep. Nancy Pelosi as the first woman House speaker in history on Thursday, quickly shuffling her, selecting Steny Hoyer of Maryland as majority leader against her wishes.

"Let the healing begin," Pelosi, D-Calif., said. "We had eased past her preferred candidate, Rep. John Murtha, a prominent opponent of the war in Iraq. The secret-ballot vote for Hoyer was 149-86. She was chosen by acclamation."

Added Hoyer, a 25-year veteran of Congress: "The Republicans need to know, the president needs to know and the country needs to know our caucus is unified today."
therefore I argue that it is
did, as well.
Liddy said, he comes to for­
man who has decided to save
identified the alcohol issue.
that's becoming clearer, and it
discussion" Monday night. ... I'm just not sure people understand that
rape," Bederman said. "As long as
that's not clear to people, both
sexes think they need to get
plastered to have fun and
book up. I don't know what
one play can do ... but this is a
real problem."
"¡e emphasized the
sexual assault
Colleges nationwide — some­
thing worsened by alcohol
abuse, she said, noting that
studies from years past, Notre
had been shown to have
bigger problem with binge
drinking than other schools.
But she said a "culture of
depression at Notre Dame only
ds deepens the problem.
"There is a cultural problem
here — Student Activities
must assume nobody is having
sex, so they can't negotiate
uncomfortable positions on
what constitutes consensual
and nonconsensual sex. ... They
can't drop in the entry box
than thumbs up or thumbs
up just don't do anything."
Other universities, she said,
are going to have extramarital
sex, even promiscuous extra-
relationships. She added that
about shades of gray. ... You
can talk about this question of
rape or sexual assault and
when something isn't con-

I think at other schools
they do that, but you can't
"It's a lot more a
peer judgment than

And students like Cassie
Papak, also a cast member of
Monologues," Papak said.
"Silence exists even among
friends at Notre Dame.
"It's come up in discussions
with girlfriends. They feel
uncomfortable talking about
sexual situations in general,

"He's a real
discussion," he said. "It's the
time when Notre Dame is a
sexual assault-free, rape-free

"Whether Monologues" will be
performed remains to be
seen, although Liddy said her
involvement in an all-woman
performance would prevent her
from participating in "Monologues."
"It's all still possible," she
said.
"The day we don't need
events like this is the day
we've succeeded. It's the
time when Notre Dame is a
sexual assault-free, rape-free

"It's kind of a catch-22," she
said.
Bederman, on the other
hand, suggested that
"Monologues" has its run
already, at least for the
time being.
"It's my impression that's
my impression that's

Contact Ellen Duffy at
duffyl1@nd.edu
Clear Channel agrees to buyout

**The Observer**

Friday, November 17, 2006

**MARKET CAP**

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**AMEX** | 1,996.77 | -13.79 |

**NASDAQ** | 2,449.06 | +6.31 |

**NYSE** | 9,801.55 | +21.08 |

**NASDAQ (TR XXOO)** | -0.01 | 43.00 |

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**SUN MICRO SYSTEMS (SUNW)** | +0.55 | 5.44 |

**MICROSOFT (MSFT)** | +1.20 | 29.47 |

**10-YEAR NOTE** | -0.07 | +0.04 |

**13-WEEK BILL** | +0.10 | +0.05 |

**5-YEAR BOND** | +0.81 | +0.03 |

**Commodities**

**GOLD (FRO/oz.)** | -0.95 | -0.04 |

**CRUDE (cents/lb.)** | +0.95 | +0.04 |

**BELLIES** | +0.81 | +0.03 |

**CRUDE** | +0.87 | +0.04 |

**Company** | **Change** | **Gain** | **Price** |

**NASDAQ (TR XXOO)** | -0.01 | 43.00 |

**INTEL (INTC)** | +0.01 | 22.33 |

**SUN MICRO SYSTEMS (SUNW)** | +0.55 | 5.44 |

**MICROSOFT (MSFT)** | +1.20 | 29.47 |

**Treasury**

**GOLD (FRO/oz.)** | -0.95 | -0.04 |

**CRUDE (cents/lb.)** | +0.95 | +0.04 |

**BELLIES** | +0.81 | +0.03 |

**CRUDE** | +0.87 | +0.04 |

**Exchange Rates**

**yen** | 118.1950 |

**Euro** | 0.9784 |

**Pound** | 0.5254 |

**Canadian$$ | 1.1424 |

**IN BRIEF**

Social Security plan called "off the table"

WASHINGTON — The incoming chairman of the Senate Finance Committee said Thursday he wants to hold hearings on looming insolvencies in the Medicare and Social Security programs but said President Bush's plan to part privatize the Social Security trust fund is dead.

"Don't waste our time," said Democratic Sen. Max Baucus of Montana. "It's off the table."

He said the rising cost of Medicare and other health costs is a priority for the committee, though he did not detail how the committee would approach those problems. He said he will hold "aggressive" hearings on the issue.

Baucus said he will propose legislation to simplify the Medicare prescription drug program by streamlining the number of plans available and making it easier for people to choose one.

Baucus, 64, has been on the committee for more than two decades and briefly was chairman when Democrats took Senate control in 2001, the same year he collaborated with Bush on tax-cut legislation. The senator also sided with Republicans in a Medicare overhaul in 2003, a move that frustrated many in his party who felt the bill was a giveaway to drug companies.

He said the looming insolvency in the Medicare program is a more urgent problem than a similar fiscal crisis with Social Security.

Nobel Prize-winning economist dies

SAN FRANCISCO — Milton Friedman, a Nobel Prize-winning economist who championed individual freedom, influenced the economic policies of presidents and befriended world leaders, died Thursday. He was 94.

Friedman died in San Francisco, said Robert Fanger, a spokesman for the Milton and Alice D. Friedman Foundation in Indianapolis. He did not know the cause of death.

"Milton Friedman revived the economics of liberty when it had been all but forgot­ten," said former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, one of the politicians and colleagues who lauded Friedman on Thursday. "He was an intellectual freedom fighter. Never was there a less dismal practi­tioner of a dismal science."

Citigroup wins bid for Chinese bank

NEW YORK — Citigroup Inc., the largest banking institution, confirmed on Thursday that a China-based consortium has been selected to acquire a majority stake in one of China's biggest regional financial institutions, Guangdong Development Bank.

The consortium will acquire an 85.6 percent stake in GDB for 24.267 billion yuan, or $3.06 billion, Citigroup said.

New York-based Citigroup itself will hold a 20 percent stake — under the 25 percent maximum allowed by Chinese government regulations. International Business Machines Corp., headquartered in Armonk, N.Y., will have a 4.74 percent share.

Meanwhile, two China-based compa­nies — China Life Insurance Co. and State Grid Corp. — will each get 20 percent stakes, while Beijing-based CITIC Trust will hold a 12.85 percent share and Yangpu Puhua will get 8 percent.

GDB, which is owned by the provincial government and has more than 500 branches and about $48 billion in assets, is based in the fast-growing industrial province that abuts Hong Kong.

Citigroup had been fighting since last year to buy the Chinese bank and the announcement of the deal signals that it will be able to greatly expand its operations in China. Citigroup currently has branches in just six Chinese cities.

It beat a competing bid from a consortium led by France's Societe Generale AG.

A signing ceremony was held in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province.

Citigroup said in a statement posted in New York that "this trans­action represents the first time a major international financial services institution, leading a consortium of co­investors, has been permitted to obtain substantial ownership and assume a significant management role in a Chinese financial institu­tion."
Hammes continued from page 1

predicts they will see similar
by marketing their store.“Our
a Kerry
people to focus on safety,
1993 record
is being away
and the hooded
Tim McCarthy
the only
Star Tribune article,
and afterward
paper to it after
arrived at the
University and the

McCarthy has provided comic
relief at every home game since
but emphasizes the importance of
his words are not his clever
punch lines, but rather the safety-
morning. He said, the "idea
wasn’t making fun of the
announcement, but to use
jokes as a gimmick to make
people pay attention.”

"The big thing is trying to get
people to focus on traffic safety,
and I know that’s hard for them
to do after an exciting
day of football and
tailgating,” McCarthy
said. "I really think we
have a great safety
record as far as accidents are
concerned." The importance of
McCarthy’s announcements became
obvious Nov. 4 as the Notre Dame
defeated North Carolina —
when a car struck Indiana state troop-
er Thomas Zeber Jr. as he
was directing traffic at the intersection
of Indiana 933 and Cleveland Road following
the game. "The people who are really
important are the police officers
standing out on the corners
directing traffic," McCarthy
said, "and I did that before I started
to go up to the press box." According
to a Nov. 6 South

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COLDWELL BANKER COMMERCIAL

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Friday, November 17, 2006

Notre Dame on the front of it,
which
McCarthy used in a following
game. "It was a great line," McCarthy
said, "I couldn’t believe I didn’t think of it before.
A long time Notre Dame fan


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Garbage man found guilty of rape, murder

**Cape Cod criminal receives life sentence**

**Associated Press**

**BARNSTABLE, Mass.**— A garbage man was convicted Thursday of rape and murder in the slaying of a fashion writer who was found beaten and stabbed in her Cape Cod home, her 2-year-old daughter clinging to her body.

Christopher McCowen, 34, received the automatic sentence of life in prison without parole for the 2002 killing of Christa Worthington, 46.

"I never meant for this to ever take place," said McCowen, who thanked the judge and court officers for showing him respect during the six-week trial. "Your honor, all I can say is I'm an innocent man in this case."

McCowen, who worked in the small town of Truro where Worthington lived, initially denied having any physical contact with her. After police told him his DNA had been found on her body, McCowen said they had consensual sex and he had beaten her. But he said a friend plunged the knife through her chest.

"We put the boots to her," McCowen said, according to police. The friend was never charged.

McCowen cried as the jury came into the courtroom, and his attorney, Robert George, wiped a tear away with the sleeve of his suit coat. McCowen bowed and shook his head "no" as the verdict was read.

"People ask about closure, but there will never be closure because Christa is never coming back to us," said her cousin Mary Worthington, who read a statement before sentencing.

Defense attorney Robert George reminded the jury that police had focused on Worthington's former boyfriends before finally arresting McCowen nearly 3 1/2 years after the crime.

George said police decided Worthington was raped because they could not believe that McCowen — a black, uneducated garbage man — could have had consensual sex with Worthington, a white, sophisticated woman who worked for years as a fashion writer in New York and Paris.

"The black man didn't get justice; I really believe that," said McCowen's friend, Janice Blacklow.

George also said police failed to seriously consider a report from a neighbor who said he saw a white man driving a dark-colored van or truck speeding out of Worthington's driveway about the time she was killed. Police also believe she was killed.

**Seniors to see final home game**

**Students say goodbye to student section, reminisce about past seasons**

**By MAGGIE DUNN**

News Writer

Four years ago, they set foot in the Notre Dame Stadium and experienced the overflowing pride of Irish fans, football players and students on their own turf. Now, as Saturday's matchup against Army approaches, thousands of seniors face the bittersweet goodbye that is their last home game as students.

"It's pretty sad because it's been a part of my life for four years and to say goodbye is going to be tough," Saint Mary's senior Lauren Sheldon said. "Although I'm pretty sure I'll go to games after I graduate, I'm not going to miss the student section because it is a different experience from the regular seats."

"At my first Notre Dame game before I was a student, I would watch them in fascination," she said. "Then when I got to be a part of that, it was amazing."

Not only are senior fans leaving, but 28 football players are graduating as well — which, students say, makes Charlie Weis' upcoming third season unpredictable.

"It's going to be a test of Charlie Weis' coaching ability because a bunch of new recruits are coming in, like Jimmy Clausen," said Buckle. "And a lot of freshmen are going to be put in starting spots, so it should be an interesting year. We'll see if they can step up or not."

Contact Maggie Dunn at mcdunn01@saintmarys.edu

**Fall 2006 Schedule**

Experience an intimate discussion with Notre Dame's most engaging faculty speakers on some of the most pressing issues of our times.

- **9/9—Penn State** "More Than a Movie: Assessing *The Da Vinci Code*"
  (10 DeBartolo Hall)
  James Collins, Professor of Film, Television, and Theatre
  Mary Rose D'Angelo, Associate Professor of Theology
  Charles Barth, Associate Professor of Art, Art History, and Design

- **9/16—Michigan** "The Impact of the Dead Sea Scrolls on Our Bible"
  Eugene Ulrich, Rev. John A. O'Brien Professor of Theology

- **9/30—Purdue** "Successful Aging"
  Cindy Bergeman, Chair and Professor of Psychology

- **10/7—Stanford** "The Bone Collector"
  Susan Sheridan, Associate Professor of Anthropology

- **10/21—UCLA** "Completing the Constitution: The 14th Amendment"
  Michael Zuckert, Nancy Breyer Denus Professor of Political Science

- **11/4—North Carolina** "The Role of Religion in Peacebuilding"
  R. Scott Appleby, Professor of History, John M. Regan Jr.
  Director of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

- **11/18—Army** "Seeds of Change A Musical Performance"
  Georgine Resick, Professor of Music
  John Blacklow, Assistant Professor of Music

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"Seeds of Change," a program of French music from the first half of the 19th century, includes works by Berlioz, Chopin, Listz, Gounod, and Saint-Saëns, as well as spoken commentary drawing parallels between the music of the period and concurrent trends in literature, the visual arts, social history, and politics.
Tornadoes strike east, cause flooding, deaths

Power losses result from string of storms

Associated Press

BOGEYWOOID, N.C. — A tornado flipped cars, shredded trees and ripped mobile homes to pieces in this little riverside community early Thursday, killing at least eight people, authorities said.

The disaster the two-day death toll from a devastating line of thunderstorms that swept across the South to 12.

Kip Godwin, chairman of the Columbus County Commission, said authorities had nearly concluded their search of the area where all the deaths occurred — a cluster of trailers and an adjacent neighborhood of brick homes — and had accounted for everyone.

Hospital officials said four children were in critical condition.

The storms that began Wednesday unleashed tornados and straight-line winds that overturned mobile homes and tractor-trailers, uprooted trees and knocked down power lines across the South.

In Louisiana, a man died Wednesday when a tornado struck his home. In South Carolina, a utility worker checking power lines Thursday during the storm was electrocuted.

In North Carolina, two mobile homes were damaged before the tornado crossed a highway and leveled three brick homes. Some of the dead were believed to be children.

Household debris, including carpet and a laundry basket, was scattered along a road. The storm dumped a minivan in a ditch, and an open refrigerator that still had food inside was washed down a river.

County Commissioner Sammie Jacobs said four to five mobile homes were demolished, and there were "houses on top of cars and cars on top of houses."

"We’ve stepped across bodies to get to debris and search for others here this morning,” Jacobs said.

The storm knocked out power to 45,000 customers in North Carolina. But the electricity was back on in most places by mid-afternoon.

The storms also caused minor flooding in the Washington area, where rescuers grabbed several people stranded on top of cars and roofs, and slowed commuters as far north as Washington, D.C.

Gamers line up for new PS3

Customers anticipate U.S. debut of Sony device after 6-month delay

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Die-hard gamers and entrepreneurs prepared to shell out $600 or more for the new PlayStation 3 console that goes on sale Friday, many of them after waiting in line for days despite the likelihood they’d go home empty-handed.

Retailers across the country arranged midnight sales at some of their stores. Lines sometimes stretched around the block, even where the first consoles wouldn’t be sold until Friday morning.

Deliveries went down to the wire with FedEx vans sending boxes of the sleek black or silver consoles to individual stores Thursday.

Nine months pregnant, Julie Mosley said she tried to ignore her cravings for the chance to score machines for her family, her daughter’s father and her younger brother.

"I’m going to hold out as long as I can," Mosley said Thursday as she sat on a cooler in the 19th spot outside a Circuit City in Mount Laurel, N.J., joking about giving birth on the sidewalk.

Potential customers braved freezing temperatures in Fargo, N.D., and heavy rain and winds in Baltimore and other East Coast locations Thursday.

"Katrina could come through here and I wouldn’t switch," said Marco Cajas, 20, of Baltimore. "I spent the night on the cold side.

Short supplies and strong demand could be the formula for trouble as Sony Corp.’s PlayStation 3 makes its U.S. debut Friday, as seats are scarce because of problems completing work on a built-in, next-generation DVD player.

The struggling electronics company, which has contended with laptop battery recalls and traits rivals in key products such as music players and liquid crystal displays, is counting on the PS3 to maintain and build its dominant position in video game consoles.

In Palmhale, Calif., authorities shut down a Super Wal-Mart after some shoppers got rowdy late Wednesday and started running around inside the store.

At a Best Buy in Boston with 140 machines for sale, employees simply gave out tickets for the first 140 in line so that everyone can go home.

At San Francisco’s Sony Metreon mall, a "sacred scroll" notebook kept track of the first 300 people in line so they could go to the bathroom or pick up food without losing their spots. Some even got windshirts guaranteeing a unit.

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It drew fewer critics, featured far fewer vaginas and probably went unnoticed by many on campus.

But while in the past there was no avoiding the "Monologues" — a play with material explicit enough to rock a Catholic campus into debate — for those who attended one of this week's productions of "Loyal Daughters," the message was inescapable. Sexual assault is a problem at Notre Dame. And so is Notre Dame's culture.

When a girl tells the story of how she was raped not once, but twice at a party on campus — and then found herself locked into a torturously silent semester abroad with the first rapist — it's clear that there's a problem.

When two guys sit in front of an audience, ridiculing a girl for "crying rape to Real-life" as they play video games, it's clear that there's a problem.

And when 25 men and women get up on stage and explain, one by one, how they were abused or assaulted on Notre Dame's campus or during breaks from school, it's painfully clear that there's a problem.

"Loyal Daughters" does a far better job than "The Virginia Monologues" at making its point and pertaining to the University community. It includes males, and it does that in several important contexts: as the wrongdoer and the wrangled, as straight and homosexual, as an adult both aware and confused. "Loyal Daughters" also focuses on the role alcohol plays in sexual violence — a point that is essential to the play's goals, since alcohol abuse is all too frequently a disastrous factor in incidents of sexual assault. It's impossible to undermine the real stories of real Notre Dame students. And it includes extra material that — while maybe not directly related to sexual assault — points at what several professors and students have referred to as a pervading "culture of silence." It's not easy to talk about sex and sexuality in a Catholic context — and that's why it's necessary to do so.

While the "Monologues" may have enjoyed more visibility, the play generated attention for the wrong reasons. Controversy over whether a skit glorifies lesbian rape or a dominatrix's relationship toward her clients doesn't contribute to the overall goal of rape prevention. Discussion about potential problems within the Notre Dame culture does.

That's exactly what "Loyal Daughters" contributes to this campus — and exactly why it should contribute in the future. A student-written production based on extensive interviews won't breed as much irrelevant controversy.

This isn't an issue that pertains to a small group of people. Sexuality — and the ability to freely address it — concerns every person on this campus. A play that attempts to involve as many of those people as possible is an effort that should be praised, promoted and, above all, continued.

Letter to the Editor

'Loyal Daughters' part of solution

After reading the articles on "Loyal Daughters" in Tuesday's Observer ("Loyal Daughters draws hundreds" and "Professors, playwright discuss sexual assault"), I was disappointed to find that the real solution to the problem of sexual violence was not presented. However, Professor Gail Bederman did allude to it when she said, "rape happens far more often now... because of a different sexual freedom culture... and sexual violence.

So what is wrong with these cultures? In the Epistle to the Galatians, St. Paul writes, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatries, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousies, wrath, strife, envies, drunkenness, revellings and such like... they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (5:19-21). Thus, we believe that drunkenness and fornication (i.e. pre-marital sexual relations) are great offenses against God and will kill his grace in our souls.

Obviously, these are the issues we ought to be fighting against. The problem with our hedonistic culture and its pleasure are allowed to have free rein, these restless souls are driven culture, pre-marital relations are permissible as long as those involved have made a free choice. However, this is a disordered view of sexuality which leads men and women to focus

On the other hand, if you decide to play with fire, there's a good chance that you're going to get burned.

Jonathan Kaltenbach
senior
Keggi Hall
Nov. 14

EDITORIAL CARTOON

"Is this your idea of a hard battle?

"be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."
In the first half of the nineteenth century, the United States undertook an unprecedented experiment in democracy, liberal and European social activists such as Robert Owen and Fourier despaired of the two social virtues of liberty, and equality could both be realized within a single frame. Equality seemed possible, they admitted, in the absence of private property, and the rise of public education. But why, despite the advent of egalitarian programs result in a general mediocrity? Everyone may be literate and competent at arithmetic, but the natural genius might suffocate among his spellin' and cipherin' peers. Universal suffrage would guarantee each person a just society.

As our current party system endured in the century and more since the end of America's antebellum experiment (although some identifications are, I think, too kind) of democratic government were too grave to continue without the absolute check of a federal executive and judiciary, we have typically come to think of the party system as the party of equality and the Republicans as the party of liberty. Although such identifications are, I think, too kind, I would suggest you see this party in which the two social virtues of liberty would spread across several decades.

This project of liberty, in the meantime, has brought about an ever more concentrated concentration of projects and policies, which have and are to continue mattering. While I have some sympathy with the traditional idea of a "classless" and just society, I would suggest that the project of national unity has not been as much a matter of equality as of democracy.

The lesson of the Great Society programs is still being learned in most of our major cities, where literally hundreds of thousands of persons are crammed into high-rise apartments, in which they have no control over their living conditions and have no reason to believe that their lives could ever be sufficient to become a home. Most of the apartments in which they are cramped have been left unloved. The project of democratic liberty exists reality in the　agreement of the large entreprenuers who are the vast majority of persons "wage slaves," whose sole freedom is their ability to find a job from one job or one town to another as necessity dictates.

Both of these programs, in fact and principle, pay inadequate attention to the one locus where both liberty and equality may be found: the private home, and the private owned home. Although the rise of communism in the east during the last century made the specter of the absolute state expropriating the masses a real threat, in fact the greatest real threat to private property has been the free reign of corporations, merely abetted by the servile state. Joe Louis was observed in "Agriculture and the State" that: independence of federal judiciary guaranteed corporations the full rights of persons under federal law, so that by state law, longstanding efforts to guarantee a wide distribution of private property (land) became impossible. Where once U.S. home, and the U.S. state prohibited the growth of more acres of land than was necessary to provide for the family that owned it, the 19th century corporations had gotten such limits overturned and set up the massive and powerful (in all but dominate American agriculture.

When a society attempts to guarantee as wide a distribution of private property as possible (and that means equal ownership), it is not just a matter of the right of a person to own a field, but the right that can be imposed by state law, longstanding efforts to guarantee a wide distribution of private property (land) became impossible. Where once U.S. home, and the U.S. state prohibited the growth of more acres of land than was necessary to provide for the family that owned it, the 19th century corporations had gotten such limits overturned and set up the massive and powerful (in all but dominate American agriculture.

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The view expressed in this article is as good as the script of "Loyal Daughters"; students and faculty may not agree with the author, politics have become so muddled that morality may as well be a swear word. One can only do so much, however, to change it.

I do not mean to suggest that it is as good as the script of "Loyal Daughters"; students and faculty may not agree with the author, politics have become so muddled that morality may as well be a swear word. One can only do so much, however, to change it.

We are all in a state of free for all, and we are not likely to see a change in the arena into something a bit more respectable. It is as good as the script of "Loyal Daughters"; students and faculty may not agree with the author, politics have become so muddled that morality may as well be a swear word. One can only do so much, however, to change it.

The continued expansion of government powers will not solve this debate, nor should we expect our government to help solve some desperate cases, but as often serve to rationalize and conceal the consequences of reckless corporate growth. Rather we need small government, the smaller the better. Contrary to John McCall's true Republican posturing, we do not need to limit government in order to serve the American people.

Political liberty is not a universal value, but merely a local possibility. The only liberty that can aspire to be universal pertains to Truth and to the Catholic Church and must be created as such. It is not this one.

Letters to the editor

Leaders needed in politics

In response to the recent Inside Column "Gone before I get going," I believe we need not be shocked that with a European social democratic model of the state, which would seek equality by governmental safety and welfare programs covering not prima-

Marcie O'Brien's letter in Weekend Section on "Loyal Daughters" (problematic for campus community) in a disparating revelation of her inability to understand what a play is. Some tells me to think. But many plays — including, for example, plays by Shakespeare — take a route and demand that you think, without telling you what you ought to think.

They present characters who speak and whose actions are perfectly clear and present in our thoughts. Our task is to think through the characters and their own ethical beliefs (which may or may not correspond to the Church's teachings) connect with the realities of the experiences of the spectators. It is not the script of the play that form the basis for the drama that has been created as "Loyal Daughters." For O'Brien there is no diffi-

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Letters to the editor

Loyal Daughters' prompts thought and awareness

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Marcie O'Brien's letter in Weekend Section on "Loyal Daughters" (problematic for campus community) in a disparating revelation of her inability to understand what a play is. Some tells me to think. But many plays — including, for example, plays by Shakespeare — take a route and demand that you think, without telling you what you ought to think.

They present characters who speak and whose actions are perfectly clear and present in our thoughts. Our task is to think through the characters and their own ethical beliefs (which may or may not correspond to the Church's teachings) connect with the realities of the experiences of the spectators. It is not the script of the play that form the basis for the drama that has been created as "Loyal Daughters." For O'Brien there is no diffi-

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The continued expansion of government powers will not solve this debate, nor should we expect our government to help solve some desperate cases, but as often serve to rationalize and conceal the consequences of reckless corporate growth. Rather we need small government, the smaller the better. Contrary to John McCall's true Republican posturing, we do not need to limit government in order to serve the American people.

Political liberty is not a universal value, but merely a local possibility. The only liberty that can aspire to be universal pertains to Truth and to the Catholic Church and must be created as such. It is not this one.

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By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Suse Wool

Bearing the official seal of the University of Notre Dame, the Irish and Army Glee Clubs pride themselves on their versatility. Songs from the likes of Bach, Beethoven, Schubert and Beethoven escape their vocal chords weekly. But, according to Suso, the group's mission is simple one — seeing their audiences light up, no matter what they play or where they play it.

At a show in Cleveland during the group's 2006 winter tour, Choral President Michael Suso got a glimpse of just such an occasion. "It came time to sing the ND fight song and alma mater," the senior said. "When singing, the look of joy on the faces of ND alumni and friends in the audience as they sang along with us conveyed clearly to our entire group for what and for whom we were performing. It was a very humbling experience and stood as a rallying point moment for the Chorale.

Comprised of 52 men and women from nearly every major, including both undergraduate and graduate students, the Choral acts as the official concert choir for the University. Open to students from all walks of Notre Dame life, the group hosts campus concerts and periodically tours throughout the United States and Europe.

"Though we are a group of roughly 60 singing webox, we will meet thousands of alumni and friends," Suso said. "When singing, we represent those that come before us and those that will take our places long after we have graduated - the Irish Glee Club's devotion to its proud lineage.

Choral's devotion to its proud lineage takes center stage this Saturday. On the eve of the final home football game of the season, the vocal troupe will perform in the fall concert alongside the Chamber Orchestra, one of two joint performances this semester. Held at the Leighton Center for the Performing Arts, the event will begin soon after the Notre Dame Army game.

"We have been rehearsing the pieces that we will be performing during our fall concert since September," Suso said. "This concert is our chance to not only sing, but convey the composer's feelings and passions through song.

Among these composers are classic musical poets like Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Richard Wagner and Franz Peter Schubert. And lest the audience completely lose itself in the 17th and 19th centuries, the group makes time for a few sentimental favorites — the Notre Dame Victory March and the Alma Mater.

Transitioning freely between classical, baroque and renaissance music, the Chorale offers its listeners a unique sound rich in tone and emotion. According to Suso, the group's mission is a simple one. "When performing, as long as we convey the originality that makes the music popular and put smiles on the faces of those in the audience, we could not be happier," he said.

Led by director Alexander Blackly and accompanist Patti Kiel, the Chorale continues to define itself as a renaissance of talents - one that melds the varying talents of its members to breathe life into timeless song. The founder-director of Pomerium, an international ensemble, the Notre Dame vocal ensemble, Blackly has been active for over 34 years as both performer and scholar.

"He's an esteemed, world-renowned musician — a consummate professional," says the group's former and scholar, Lieutenant General Hal Moore (Ret.), who was named the Choral's guest conductor for its 2006-2007 season.

Ekhoff is the perfect representative of the group's strives for versatility — a talented accompanist who can sight read and play music without any prior knowledge of the piece, Suso said. "She is truly an invaluable asset to the Choral and an exceptional musician," he said.

Every year, the Choral invites new members into its fold. This year's iteration is no different, according to Suso, and has flourished with a unique blend of voices. "Approximately half of the Chorale is made up of new voices. We have a rich blend of new talent and veterans," Suso said. Beyond this weekend's festivities, the Chorale has one more signature event on the horizon this semester — dual performances of Handel's "Messiah" Dec. 9 and Dec. 10. Besides their spring concert, the group will be touring with the prestigious New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

For now, though, Choral's focus is on just one performance — the next one. "The bright lights of the Leighton Concert Hall, the group's versatility will once more be front and center. "Those in attendance will hear classical, renaissance and a taste of what makes Notre Dame great," Suso said.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottu@nd.edu

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Anatmeal Scene Editor

While the Notre Dame Fighting Irish and the Army Black Knights may be squaring off on the gridiron this weekend in a battle for conference supremacy, the two groups have programs, the Notre Dame Glee Club and the West Point Glee Club being the musical forces for a concert tonight. These two programs are full of history — the West Point program will continue this Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Leighton Concert Hall, the group's versatility will once more be front and center. "Those in attendance will hear classical, renaissance and a taste of what makes Notre Dame great," Suso said.

Photo courtesy of Marty Schroeder

The Notre Dame Glee Club will perform a joint concert with the Chamber Orchestra Saturday at 8 p.m. Football tickets grant fifty percent off admission.

Irish Glee Club joins forces with West Point peers

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The Notre Dame Glee Club will perform a joint concert with the Chamber Orchestra Saturday at 8 p.m. Football tickets grant fifty percent off admission.

**The Notre Dame Glee Club will perform a joint concert tonight alongside the United States Military Academy Glee Club at the Leighton Concert Hall.**

**Nathan Catanese**

**Irish Glee Club President**

"This is a great opportunity because of the tradition of the two schools.

"I think you can attribute that to the hospitality at Notre Dame. It will be a good chance to share Notre Dame with them," Catanese said.

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The Notre Dame Glee Club members, along with members of Notre Dame Army ROTC, will be hosting the Army Glee Club members.

The Notre Dame Glee Club, the Irish Glee Club and the Army Black Knights have been performing in joint concerts since 1903.

Catanese said. "The spirit of sportsmanship - a quality the two schools share — is truly an invaluable service to country by the group's many talents."

An active member of the group's many talents. "The spirit of sportsmanship - a quality the two schools share — is truly an invaluable service to country by the group's many talents."

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The Irish Glee Club is directed by-immunologist Cameron Blackly. A native of the film "We Were Soldiers." The author of the book the film was based upon, Lieutenant General Hal Moore (Ret.), will be in attendance.

The Irish Glee Club and the Army Black Knights have been performing together since 1903. The program promises to be an excellent opportunity to see both groups.

"This is a great opportunity because of the tradition of the two schools."
Mobbing the Manor

Morrissey and O'Neill take their top-notch running games all the way to Notre Dame Stadium.
Crowded backfield keeps offense fresh, defense guessing

By JOHN TIERNEY
Sports Writer

Morrissey and O'Neill will put the pride of their dorms and their one-loss seasons on the line Sunday in the Men's Interhall championship game at Notre Dame Stadium Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Both teams advanced to the Championship game with a relatively easy trip through the postseason. O'Neill started off at No. 5, but easily knocked off No. 4 Carroll 21-5 in the opening round. O'Neill then advanced to the finals by virtue of a 12-0 shutout victory over Sanford on November 5. The Mob was led by quarterback Chris Stroh, who threw for 147 yards and completed 12 of his 16 passes. Running back Braden Turner ran for 34 yards on 10 carries with a touchdown, while fullback Mike Mattingly rushed for 47 yards on 10 carries. Both the running backs and the quarterback credited the offensive line for their performances, as the line opened up the field.

Morrissey’s opening round game against Zahm was much closer than O'Neill's, with a failed two point conversion by Pieh with a minute left in the game against the Rabid Bats marking the time to find open receivers. The teams enjoyed having a two-week layoff to heal injuries and allow for extra practice time. "The two-week layoff has been great. The team is rested and ready for Sunday," Conley said. But after the week off, both teams are ready to get back to playing games that count.

"The anticipation of playing in the stadium is so great that it can be hard to stay focused in practice," Klein said.

"I think that it stops defenses from keying on one player, which is very important in this league," Mattingly said. "If a team places its emphasis on stopping one of us, the other is wide open."

Such a successful running game also sets up the pass since defenders are quick to anticipate a run. "We have had no conflicts in our running game, you often see opponents' defensive backs cheat on the run, leaving our very athletic receivers wide open," Mob quarterback Chris Stroh said.

"Rather than competitive, the backfield relationships are symbiotic. The backs realize that victory more than anything depends on when they work together and support each other," Stroh said.

"We feed off each other and enjoy each other's successes," Pieh said.

"The older guys have helped me develop more as a runner," Mattingly said.

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Pangborn, PW ready for title game rematch

By MIKE BURDELL
Sports Writer

Different year, same teams. This year’s Women’s Interhall championship promises a rematch of last year’s title game between Pangborn West and Pasquerilla West.

Looking for a repeat from last year’s 1-3-0 win in the championship, the Purple Weasels understand the excitement surrounding the game and believe they will be able to handle the pressure.

“We won [the championship] last year so we know what it’s like playing in the stadium,” Purple Weasels captain Mo Spring said.

Although the Purple Weasels have aspirations of repeating their title, they aren’t the only ones, Pens Suburban coach Tom Holder said.

Annie Brusky said. “We’re definitely big rivals since we lost [the championship] last year, all of us, especially the seniors, agreed that we wanted it to be our last loss ever. The girls just really want to win the championship,” Holder said.

The Purple Weasels feel that the most important thing for them to win is to focus on their own play. A team led by its senior leadership, Pasquerilla West has confidence in its ability to execute its plays well enough to retain the championship.

Pasquerilla West is a real good opponent. They’re a pretty strong team. I think it’s more how we play our game than trying to expose their weaknesses. We have to play how we’ve been playing,” Spring said.

But on the other sideline, Pangborn feels it can rely on its mistakes it feels Pasquerilla West will make. If the Phoxes are able to effectively exploit the Purple Weasels’ weaknesses, they think that will be enough to win.

“Both teams really know each other well, so the team that can avoid turnovers and not give up the big plays should win,” Holder said. “It should come down to coaching, execution and taking care of the ball.”

Both teams have used similar styles of play in their return to the title game. The Purple Weasels and the Phoxes throughout the season have both relied on the play of their defenses and their quarter-backs — Cara Davies for Pasquerilla West and Katie Mooney for Pangborn.

Because of the similarities and history between the two squads, Holder expects an exciting game Sunday.

“The fact that we fell short last year doesn’t play a factor,” Holder said. “The teams are very evenly matched, so it should be a good game.”

Kickoff is noon Sunday at Notre Dame Stadium.

Contact Mike Burdell at mburdell@nd.edu

Purple Weasel defense takes team back to the stadium

By COLIN REIMER
Sports Writer

"Offense sells tickets; defense wins championships.

Nothing matters more to a college team or program than winning a championship. It is a staple of the game and is always on a team’s mind.

That is why it comes as no surprise that the primary reason why Pasquerilla West has an opportunity to defend its Women’s Interhall championship is its smothering defense.

The Purple Weasels have shut out three opponents this season, including previously undefeated Welsh Family in the semifinals. Pasquerilla West also leads the nation in points allowed, an average of 4.2 points in six games.

"We pride ourselves on shutting out and goal line stands," Pasquerilla West cornerback Annie Brusky said.

But Pasquerilla West also understands that at this point in the season, defense is essential in winning games because it sets up the offense.

"The defense this season is what ignites our offense," Pasquerilla West captain Mo Spring said. "They get our field position.

The Pasquerilla West defensive unit has been quite efficient this year in setting up their offense for easy scores, but with the lockdown corner back Brusky and ball-hawking safety Bridg Bufflin patrolling the secondary, it’s a rarity when the Purple Weasels get the ball in their own territory.

"Our defensive secondary is huge in our defense," Holder said. "We’re able to keep teams out of the backfield.”

Because of the success of their defense, the Purple Weasels have the ability to win with their defense, according to Holder.

"We like to be an aggressive defense, and try to dictate the pace of the game," Spring said. But it’s all about balance. You don’t want to expose yourself too often, or you’ll get burned."

In addition to having a strong defensive mentality, the Purple Weasels also have the athleticism needed to make the big play.

"Maureen [Spring] and Bridg [Bufflin] are phenomenal athletes, but we have a balanced team," Brusky said. "There is not a weakness in our defense. We can shut down anyone defensively.

But athleticism and ability are not the only ingredients to a dominant defense. Spring says that the biggest keys to a successful defensive performance are its communication and chemistry.

"We work as a unit," she said. "Everyone knows their role, and everyone executes.

Meanwhile, Brusky said that the excellent communication between her players is the result of years of experience.

"Our starting defense is all seniors with the exception of one player, so we’re very familiar with each other’s styles of play," Brusky said. "It’s not the most glamorous part, but it’s very important," Brusky said. "It’s also key to have football smarts. It helps to be able to recognize formations that indicate when a team will run the ball.

But perhaps the most important factor in the success of the Purple Weasels’ defense is the mentality that they bring to every game.

"We all love the game,” Brusky said. "We all enjoy going out and competing on game day.”

Contact Colin Reimer at creimer@nd.edu
Rematch at Rock's House
Pasquerilla West and Pangborn return to Notre Dame Stadium to square off in a replay of last year's championship game.
Hollywood infidelity a plague on populace?

A serious look at the role of celebrity marriage (divorce) in our culture

By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

Diamonds are forever — celebrity marriages are not. Often times when celebrities tie the knot, that sparkling rock on the ring finger is nothing more than a fleeting symbol of a doomed union under the scrutiny of paparazzi and adoring fans. The divorce rate in the United States has reached 50 percent, and while an exact statistic is not available, the divorce rate in Hollywood is certainly higher. When celebrities marry, the question is always "How long is it really going to last?"

The recent weeks and months have brought a slew of high-profile celebrity divorces, the most recent being that of Britney Spears and the newly christened "FedEx." The message that these celebrity divorces is sending is that marriage is temporary, happiness can be found with someone else and moments of hardship can be evaded instead of confronted.

This message is most evident among those celebrities with short or multiple marriages. Spears' short-lived first marriage to the non-"Seinfeld" Jason Alexander lasted a mere 55 hours. The childhood friends wed in Las Vegas as a joke only to get it annulled shortly thereafter. The pop princess, a role model to thousands of young girls, demonstrated at the age of 21 the extent of disrespect to the institution of marriage and displayed little regret for her actions.

In a slightly longer marriage, Renee Zellweger and Kenny Chesney married after a four-month courtship, but Zellweger annulled the marriage 128 days later, citing "fraud" on Chesney's part. The marriage between the Oscar winner and the country superstar is an example of celebrities marrying too quickly, only to go for the easy fix when they realize they do not know each other as well as they thought they did. This irresponsibility in choosing a spouse often leads to multiple marriages. Think Jennifer Lopez (three marriages), Nicolas Cage (three marriages), Billy Bob Thornton (five marriages) and most infamously, Elizabeth Taylor (eight marriages).

Of course, the death knell of many Hollywood marriages is a cheating spouse. Infidelity is sad, tragic and unacceptable. However, celebrity couples rarely stay together when one is caught cheating. Nick Lachey, All Landry, Dennis Richards and Jennifer Aniston all left their respective spouses after reported infidelity. Most recently and shockingly, Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillippe announced their separation after reports surfaced that Phillippe carried on an affair with Australian actress Abbie Cornish on the set of their upcoming movie "Stop-Lose."

Witherspoon and Phillippe may be amicably sharing their children, but the nation is about to observe a bitter custody battle between Spears and Federline. Celebrity divorces are perhaps most tragic when children are involved. They become the victims of the faults of their celebrity parents by being pushed into the limelight as their parents partake in weekly tabloid cover stories.

Are there cases in which divorce is beneficial for a celebrity? Perhaps there may be. Few will argue that Whitney Houston's decision to finally leave Bobby Brown will harm her more than help her. After 14 years of marriage scattered with drug abuse, Houston seems to be reclaiming her career and her health.

Others will argue that Spears is also justified in leaving her spouse, who is perhaps the most embarrassing man on the planet. Kevin Federline has spent his two-year marriage with Spears squandering her fortune, getting her pregnant and using her fame to launch a "music career" that culminated in the sale of only 6,000 copies of his debut album during its first week. Spears is now in the process of staging a glorious comeback and career resurrection by ending her toxic marriage to her former back-up dancer. The celebrity divorce mystery is indeed a difficult one to solve. Why do celebrities divorce with such ease and frequency? Perhaps it is because they can afford to. Celebrities do not have to rebuild their savings accounts after their wedding day and they could most likely bounce back financially from divorce rather quickly.

Maybe divorce is prominent because celebrities live by a different moral code than the rest of the United States. Venus is a part of everyday life of Hollywood and scandal and gossip are expected by the masses. The media and celebrity watchmen pounce upon the details of the latest Hollywood divorce and savor the juicy ness of a good scandal. celebrities have often blamed the media for the demise of their relationships. Whether they use the media as a mere scapegoat or not is much discussed, but the media's critical gaze does not make maintaining a private life any easier.

Perhaps the rampant failure of marriages is the reason many celebrity couples choose not to marry, but to remain committed partners nevertheless. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are the most current couple to take this route. The two will most likely not marry, even though Pitt has officially adopted Jolie's children and they have now created little Baby Shiloh. The arrangement works for them, much like it works for Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis. After one divorce and four broken engagements, Depp remains in a successful eight-year relationship with Paradis and they share two children to prove their happiness.

Despite the consistently high rate of celebrity divorces, Hollywood love is not impossible. Success stories exist, like those of Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson, William H. Macy and Felicity Huffman and Warren Beatty and Annette Bening. However, notice the exclusion of young couples because, as Phillippe and Witherspoon have taught us, forever is not a guarantee. The exception to this cautionary tale would be Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith, who married in that union appears impeccable and their dyad is considered "perfect" and surely be categorized as one of the trials and tribulations preceding the Apocalypse.

Overall, celebrities can marry happily, but the length of that happiness varies, sending a negative message to the American public. More often than not, it seems, celebrities divorce and then get married again in a flash from the beginning. However, in typical Hollywood fashion, as one marriage dies another one is born.

The impending nuptial of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes is the latest internet obsession, but TomKat would do wisely to re-write their vows to take each other "for better or for worse as long as we both shall live or until we get lazy and stop trying." Perhaps their vows would do much in assuaging the public instead of the broken promises made by so many divorced celebrity couples before them.

Contact Cassie Beleck at cbelek@nd.edu
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Brian Rolston's shootout goal was the difference in the Minnesota Wild's 7-4 victory over the Nashville Predators on Thursday night. Rolston scored in the second extra round of the tiebreaker after Nashville's Paul Kariya squandered a chance to win the game with a penalty shot with 38 seconds left in overtime. After Rolston's goal gave the Wild a 3-2 lead in the shootout, Josef Vasicek couldn't find the net on the Predators' final shot.

Minnesota scored three goals in each of the first two periods, but the Wild responded with five goals over the final 40 minutes to force overtime.

David Legwand gave Nashville a 1-0 lead with a breakaway goal at 8:09 of the first period. Minnesota answered at 10:09 when Wes Walz skated alone through the slot and one-timed a shot between the legs of Manny Fernandez for the first time this season.

Nashville's Peter Forsberg scored with 38 seconds left in overtime to lift the Predators to their third win in four games. The Predators had lost four of their last seven games for the first time this season.

For more info call 574-243-5547.
Steroids

轨 coach Trevor Graham remains free after posting $25,000 bail. The one-time coach of Olympic champions Marion Jones and Justin Gatlin lied to federal investigators in 2004.

Trainer refuses to testify on BALCO

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Two central figures in the BALCO steroids probe were front and center Thursday, accused of obstructing the federal grand jury investigating performance-enhancing drugs in sports.

Elite track coach Trevor Graham pleaded not guilty to hindering the grand jury’s probe, while Barry Bonds’ personal trainer was ordered back to prison for refusing to cooperate with the same investigation.

Graham remained free Thursday on a $25,000 bond, but a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ordered Greg Anderson to report to the Dublin federal prison by noon Monday.

“We are disappointed,” Anderson’s attorney, Mark Geragos said of the 9th Circuit ruling. “But it is certainly not over.”

Geragos said he is considering asking a 9-judge panel of the San Francisco-based appeals court, or even the Supreme Court, to consider Anderson’s plight.

Outside his arraignment in federal district court, Graham did not comment after his attorney, Gail Shifman, entered the plea on his behalf.

“He’ll be vindicated,” Shifman said. According to a Nov. 1 indictment, Graham, who coached Olympic champions Marion Jones and Justin Gatlin, lied to federal investigators in 2004 when he told them he neither supplied his athletes with performance-enhancing drugs nor informed them about where drugs could be purchased. Anderson repeatedly has refused to tell the grand jury about alleged steroids use by Bonds, whom authorities suspect of lying to a 2003 grand jury. Bonds testified he believed Anderson gave him flossed oil and arthritis balm, not steroids.

In Brief

Cardinals re-sign Spiezio to two-year deal

ST. LOUIS — Scott Spiezio and the St. Louis Cardinals agreed to a $4.5 million, two-year contract on Thursday, keeping one of the team’s top reserves with the World Series champions.

The deal includes a club option for 2005.

The 34-year-old Spiezio revived his career with the Cardinals last season. He signed a minor league contract and made the team as a utility player, making 61 starts and playing five positions. The switch-hitter batted .272 with 13 home runs and 52 RBIs in 119 games.

He led the team with eight pinch-hit RBIs, including a three-run triple on the final weekend of the season to help St. Louis hang on and win the NL Central title.

The World Series champions’ first two moves of the offseason have been retaining key players. Jim Edmonds signed a two-year, $15 million contract last week.

A’s bench coach promoted to Manager

OAKLAND, Calif. — Bob Geren will be promoted from bench coach to manager of the Oakland Athletics, according to a high-ranking baseball official.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the team won’t introduce Geren as its new manager until Friday, filling the final managerial vacancy in the major leagues this offseason, one month after the A’s fired Ken Macha.

General manager Billy Beane went with the most experience and the familiar face, his longtime friend and former high school baseball opponent in San Diego. Of the three finalists, a list that also included Colorado Rockies bench coach Jamie Quirk and ESPN baseball analyst and former Texas Rangers pitching coach Orel Hershiser, only Geren had managerial experience.

around the dial

NBA
Washington at Detroit 8 p.m., ESPN
Philadelphia at Phoenix 10:30 p.m., ESPN

NCAA FOOTBALL
Central Michigan at Northern Illinois 8:05 p.m., ESPNU
NBA

McGrady doubles up on Bulls in Houston win

Rockets nearly blow 21-point lead but hang on for victory

Associated Press

Tracy McGrady had 21 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists and Yao Ming had 20 points and 12 rebounds to help the Houston Rockets, who nearly blew a 21-point lead but hang on to beat the Chicago Bulls 101-100 Thursday night.

Rafael Araujo scored 19 and reserve Scott Padgett scored 11 to spark a first-half run as the Rockets beat the Bulls for the seventh time in eight meetings.

McGroyd, a sophomore, scored on a drive with 2.4 seconds left to tie the game for the second time. Houston started the second half with a 12-2 burst — capped by McGrady's banked-in 3-pointer — before hanging on to beat the Bulls 101-100.

The Rockets missed 12 of their first 19 shots before Padgett's 3-pointer late in the first quarter triggered a 20-point runs.

McGroyd scored all of his points and grabbed five rebounds during the spurt and Kirk Snyder finished it with a three-point play that gave the Rockets a 37-30 lead.

After hitting six of their first seven shots, the Bulls missed 17 of their next 23.

Yao had nine rebounds in the opening half and banked in a turnaround just before the half-time buzzer to put the Rockets up 50-39.

Houston started the second half with a 12-2 burst, capped by McGrady's banked-in 3-pointer. McGrady shrugged his shoulders and high-five team owner Les Alexander as he trotted down the court.

But the lead was hardly secure. On Tuesday, Houston led San Antonio by 19 late in the third quarter, then missed 22 of its last 27 shots to lose. The Rockets also nearly blew big second-half leads in narrow wins over Memphis, Milwaukee and New York.

And about the same time the Rockets had collapsed against the Spurs, it started happening again.

Gordon's pull-up jumper with 3:50 left in the third quarter cut Houston's lead to 74-75 — the exact score when San Antonio started its comeback two nights ago.

"I'm not happy at all," McGrady said. "You've got to be happy about the win, but the overall picture is not good. We know some of those games can slip away."

NCAA Men's Basketball

Spartans upset No. 19 Longhorns

Junior guard scores in waning seconds to secure MSU victory

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Drew Neitzel scored on a drive with 2.4 seconds left to give Michigan State a 63-61 victory over No. 19 Texas on Thursday night in the semi-finals of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Neitzel, the only junior in the Spartans' starting lineup with two freshmen on the court, took an incoming with 8.4 seconds left.

"Give him credit, he did a heck of a job," Spartans coach Tom Izzo said of Neitzel. "He bust right through. I think they were worried about a shot and they were pretty spread apart."

Neitzel dribbled behind the 3-point line, from where both teams seemed to be taking the majority of their shots, put the ball on the floor and drove right down the lane for the winning points.

Texas called a timeout and had a final chance, but A.J. Abrams' long shot from a step inside halfcourt bounced off the rim.

Michigan State (4-0) will play Maryland for the championship on Friday night at Madison Square Garden.

The Terrapins (4-0) beat St. John's 92-60 in the other semi-final.

In a game of two young teams, freshmen were key for both.

Raymar Morgan had 18 points for Michigan State, while Kevin Durant had 21 for the Longhorns (2-1), one less than Abrams, a sophomore.

Michigan State finished 9-for-17 from 3-point range, while Texas was 7-for-26. Abrams was 6-for-13 on 3s, well off the 11-for-17 he was in the Longhorns' first two games.

The Spartans used a 12-0 run — nine of the points coming on 3s — to take a 34-47 lead. Abrams hit consecutive shots from behind the arc to get the Longhorns within one.

Abrams had his last 3 of the game with 5:26 left to pull the Longhorns within 59-58 and Durant made two free throws with 4:02 left to tie the game.

Abrams made two free throws and five timeouts before Neitzel came up with the winning play.

"We decided to guard Abrams on 3s, he can hot then from all over," Izzo said. "Overall, we did a decent job on him."

Neitzel finished with 15 points and six assists and Maurice Joseph added 12 points for the Spartans.

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SAINT MARY’S COLLEGE NOTRE DAME, IN
Slaton, White and West Virginia run past Pittsburgh

Mountaineers total 641 yards of offense in primetime victory

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Two stars, two exceptional games. Pittsburgh has already seen enough of West Virginia’s Pat White and Steve Slaton to last a lifetime, and the Panthers still might oppose them two more times.

White and Slaton crossed up Pitt by teaming as a passing combination in a high-scoring first half, then put away the Panthers for the second season in a row with a string of long runs in a comeback second half to lead No. 8 West Virginia’s 45-27 victory Thursday night.

The Mountaineers (9-1, 4-1 Big East) beat their biggest rival for the fourth time in five seasons, though not quite as easily as in last year’s 45-13 romp in Morgantown where White and Slaton combined for 399 of West Virginia’s 451 yards rushing.

Pitt (6-5, 2-4) led 27-24 at the half before being overwhelmed by West Virginia’s play-making defense in a scoreless second half in which the Mountaineers had 371 of their 436 yards rushing. West Virginia finished with a 641-295 edge in total yardage, outgaining Pitt 373-36 in the second half.

White, the sophomore option quarterback whose quickness again was too much for Pitt to handle, threw for 204 yards and hit three deep passes while his running back, Steve Slaton, he does pretty much everything.

Their two-season totals against Pitt: White has 440 yards and four touchdowns rushing and 245 yards and three touchdowns passing. Slaton has 394 yards and four touchdowns rushing and seven catches for 146 yards and three touchdowns as a receiver.

“We’re just showing our talent,” Slaton said.

Pitt must beat No. 10 Louisiana on Nov. 25 to avoid a season-ending five-game losing streak after starting 6-1. The Panthers already are assured of their first losing record in the Big East since 1999. West Virginia remains in contention for a BCS Bowl despite losing in Louisville two weeks ago, with games remaining against South Florida and Rutgers.

Pitt quarterback Tyler Palko tried to keep the Panthers in the game with two touchdown passes, but was sacked eight times and got nothing going in the second half.

“We were pretty pleased at halftime,” Palko said. “We were feeling pretty good. But we couldn’t come out and execute. We wanted to do in the second half.”

The 99th edition of the game now known as the Backyard Brawl kicked off one of college football’s most awaited weekends, the rivalry week that features No. 1 Ohio State vs. No. 2 Michigan on Saturday.

West Virginia’s offense was everything it expected to be in the first half, except for its reliance on throwing rather than running. The major surprise was that Pitt, held to 10 points by Rutgers in its last home game, not only kept up but led 27-24 at halftime as Palko threw touchdown passes of 23 yards to Nate Rehman and 15 yards to Oderick Turner.

The play that Pitt fans will remember is Darrelle Revis’ adventuresome 73-yard punt return down the Panthers sideline that put Pitt up 24-17 with 4:26 remaining in the half. Revis took off after a thunderous block by wide receiver Derek Kinder so leveled West Virginia’s 14-game winning streak to two weeks ago against Pitt.

The only problem was Revis’ return left West Virginia with plenty enough time to score, with White hitting Slaton for 67 yards on their second pass play touchdown of the half. After West Virginia was held to 67 yards rushing in the first half, White got outside on the second play from scrimmage of the second half for a 64-yard scoring run that gave the Mountaineers a 31-27 lead. On West Virginia’s next possession, White needed only four plays to drive them 97 yards for a touchdown.

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The University of Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, David Solomon, VP & M.B. White Director, announces its 7th annual fall conference:

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Aslador Maclntyre to Deliver Keynote Address Thursday, November 30th

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Hokies, Tigers, NCAA investigating lawsuit

Lawyer allegedly gave cash to former Virginia Tech cornerback

Associated Press

NORFOLK — Two universities and the NCAA are investigating allegations that two pro athletes received cash and other items from a lawyer when they were still in school, officials said Thursday.

Virginia Tech is working "in a spirit of cooperation with the NCAA" to investigate claims against former Hokies football player Jimmy Williams, now a corner back with the Atlanta Falcons, school athletic director Jim Weaver said.

Weaver said the investigation resulted from a lawsuit that attorney Carl C. La Mondue of Norfolk filed last week demanding Williams and his father, James Williams Sr. of Newport News, Va., that he was in court. La Mondue wanted to become his agent, according to the NCAA's Web site. Such benefits include a loan of money.

Jimmy Williams had not responded to the lawsuit against him, filed in Norfolk Circuit Court.

Williams told the Daily Press of Newport News, Va., that he and his father never accepted gifts or money from La Mondue.

"He's saying he gave us some ridiculous amount of money, which is not true," Williams said of the newspaper.

Williams said La Mondue wanted to become his agent, and that he had met with the attorney in November 2005, but that La Mondue "wasn't big enough." Williams hasn't hired a lawyer, and said the NFL Players Association is "handling" the situation.

"I'm not worried about it. I'm good," Williams said. "The truth will come out."

Falcons spokesman Reggie Roberts said Thursday that the team had no comment.

Weaver confirmed Thursday that La Mondue was an attorney.

"These are matters that are substantiated," he said.

Weaver and other university athletic directors are working with the NCAA and are working cooperatively with that organization to investigate these allegations against the athletes.

The NCAA generally does not comment on specifics about investigations, she said.

The NCAA prohibits athletes and their relatives from receiving "nonpermissible awards, extra benefits, or excessive or improper expenses not authorized by NCAA legislation," according to the NCAA's Web site. Such benefits include a loan of money.

La Mondue told The Virginian-Pilot newspaper for a story Thursday that he did not return telephone calls seeking comment from the Falcons.

La Mondue did not return telephone calls seeking comment Thursday either.

Virginia Tech is working "in a spirit of cooperation with the NCAA" to investigate these allegations against the athletes.

"There was no reimbursement for almost $50,000," La Mondue said in the courtroom.

Roberts said Thursday that the team had no comment.

"These are matters that are substantiated," he said.

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**Athletics hire Green to replace Macha as manager**

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Bob Geren will be promoted from bench coach to manager of the Oakland Athletics, ending a monthlong search for Ken Macha's replacement.

Two A's players told The Associated Press that Geren called them Thursday after he was hired. The team scheduled a news conference for Friday afternoon to formally introduce Geren as their new manager. He fills the final management vacancy in the major leagues this offseason, one month after the A's fired Macha.

General manager Billy Beane went with the most experience and the familiar face, his longtime friend and former high school baseball opponent in San Diego. As closer Huston Street said he heard Thursday from Geren, who told the pitcher he got the job.

"I'm really excited," said Street, the two-time AL Rookie of the Year. "He's already called me and we’ve spoken a little bit. I spent my first full year in the big leagues with him in the bullpen. He was the first professional coach I got a feel for and got to understand. What he brings is someone dedicated to the team and dedicated to his players. He's got a good feel for the team and also a real positive attitude for all of us."

Of the three finalists, a list that also included Colorado Rockies bench coach Jamie Quirk and ESPN baseball analyst and former Texas Rangers pitching coach Orel Hershiser, only Geren had any managerial experience. He was the first to interview for the job on Oct. 30. Beane and assistant GM David Forst both were traveling Thursday night and not immediately available for comment.

Messages left for Geren went unreturned.

Geren, a catcher for five seasons with the New York Yankees and San Diego Padres, spent the 2006 season as bench coach in Oakland after three seasons as bullpen coach in his first stint on a major league coaching staff. "I think it helped him quite a bit," Beane said Tuesday in his first and only public comments about the search. "But until you sit in that chair, the only preparation is really doing it."

Geren joined the A's organization in 1999 as manager of Class-A Modesto, then spent the next three seasons managing at Class-A Modesto and also has managed in the Dominican Winter League and managed during the this year's five seasons in the Red Sox organization from 1994-98. He has a 394-390 record in seven seasons as a minor league manager.

As center fielder Mark Kotsay also received a call from Geren on Thursday with the news — exactly the kind of communication players appreciate, Kotsay said.

"Bob seems to be a good communicator and he probably reached out to everybody on the club and let them know he's the manager of the Oakland A's and is looking forward to managing us," said Kotsay in a phone interview. "Obviously he's very familiar with the team. He's familiar with the staff. His experience over the last couple of years as bullpen coach and bench coach will help him be a great manager for our ballclub."

The 45-year-old Geren, the best man in Bean's second wedding, had to at least have some confidence in his status with the organization. He bought a house in the Bay Area this year.

Neither Beane nor Geren wanted this to be about their friendship but rather strictly about business, though they believe that having an understanding and a trust certainly won't hurt.

Geren said his credentials should speak to his ability. Beane has long considered Geren managing material interviewing him last year when the club briefly parted ways with Mancha before re-signing him about a week later.

Geren thought working as bench coach for a season benefited him because he could see what worked and what things he might have done differently in the big job.

"There were a lot of potential candidates and a lot of people deserving of the job," Street said. "Billy's going to do what's best for the organization. I really wasn't worried about who the manager would be. We trust Billy and his decision making. I think he made the right move.

"Bob is going to bring a lot of positives to the table and a lot of baseball knowledge."

Macha was fired after four seasons on Oct. 16, two days after Oakland was swept by the wild-card Detroit Tigers in the AL championship series.

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**ND VOLLEYBALL**

**Bearcats wrestle Irish in Big East**

No. 5 seed Notre Dame seeks upssets in league tourney

By KYLE CASSILY

Sporst Writer

Notre Dame enters the Big East tournament this weekend in an unfamiliar position, but will face a very familiar opponent.

The No. 5 seed Irish will play No. 4 seed and tournament host Cincinnati in the quarterfinals tonight at 6 p.m. at Fifth Third Arena. The Irish (16-1, 10-4 Big East) won the tournament last year by beating Louisville in the championship game, and split the regular season title with the Cardinals. But this season has been a rebuilding year as six freshmen have seen significant time.

"The team is very excited," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "We've disappointed and a little bit frustrated with how things ended up. But they know it's a new season now and everyone is starting at zero and zero. I think we're going to confidence and believing in each other."

Junior captain Adrianna Statuik and sophomore outside hitter Mallorie Croal were named first team All-Big East at the postseason awards banquet Thursday at the University of Cincinnati. Sophomore middle blocker Justine Sremlek was awarded second team All-Big East honors.

"I thought they were really well-deserved," Brown said. "It's great for each of them to be recognized — and for the team overall."

Statuik missed several matches in the latter half of the season after suffering a high ankle sprain Oct. 22 against St. John's, but Brown said that she is back to her dominating form. "(Adrianna's) definitely in a really good place with that," Brown said. "We're definitely keeping it heavily taped, but she's playing really well."

Notre Dame faced Cincinnati at Fifth Third Arena a little over a month ago when the Irish were swept 0-3 by the Bearcats. It was the second loss in a three-game skid that also saw the team fall to conference powerhouses St. John's and Louisville before dropping from first to fourth place in the league.

"I think it's good to play at Cincinnati again because we've been there earlier in the year and played on the court before," Brown said. "I honestly don't see it as huge advantage for them. We're very ready to play."

In that Oct. 28 match against the Bearcats, the Irish were defeated 20-30, 26-30, 22-30. Cincinnati got out to a strong start in the first game, and the outmatched Irish could not recover, although they put up a fight in the second game.

"Last time we played them, our serving and passing weren't very good at all," Brown said. "They're very solid at the fundamentals of the game. We need to do a good job of getting pressure on them."

Brown said that in preparation for the quarterfinals, the team has been practicing difficult接球 and taking advantage of all of its substitutes in an effort to utilize the entire team.

"We've looked at every scenario we could have used them in to maximize all the talent that we have," she said.

In other matches, No. 1 St. John's will play No. 8 South Florida, No. 2 Louisville will face off against No. 7 Connecticut and No. 3 Pittsburgh will battle No. Marquette — all matches will be held today, with the semifinals to be played Saturday and the championship Sunday.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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**SMC BASKETBALL**

**Belles set to commence season**

Saint Mary’s will face nationally ranked opponent in tournament

By KEN FOWLER

Sports Editor

Tipping off the season with a new coach and eight freshmen, Saint Mary’s wants to look forward. If the Belles are searching for an opportunity to gauge their status, they need look no further than this afternoon’s matchup with nationally ranked Wheaton.

First-year coach Jennifer Henley and Saint Mary’s take on the Thunder, ranked No. 5 by D3hoops.com, at 3 p.m. in the first round of the Lee Pfund Classic in Wheaton, Ill. Wheaton finished 23-5 in 2005-06 and reached the round of 16 in last season’s Division III NCAA Tournament.

"Bridget and Alison, along with Broderick, have done a great job helping our freshmen with the transition to the college game," Henley said. "They are doing exactly what we want them to do as leaders."

Lipke, Broderick and Kessler have seen Saint Mary’s improved markedly over the past few seasons. In 2003-04, the squad went 7-19, including 2-12 in NCAA play under coach Suan Bellina. A season later, the Belles earned an 11-15 mark and 6-10 league record.

Last season, Saint Mary’s brought in a new coach, Steve Bender. The Belles again finished 11-15 overall but 9-7 conference record was the program’s best-ever NCAA mark. After the season, Saint Mary’s declined to renew Bender’s contract for undisclosed reasons. Henley was hired in July to take over as the third Belles coach in as many years.

"The team as a whole is very focused on what we need to do this season," Henley said. "We are all looking forward to the tough competition we have on our schedule. Our goals are to improve upon last season’s success and continue to build this program."

Depending upon the outcome of the Friday games, Saint Mary’s will play either Wilmington or Wisconsin-Whitewater Saturday to conclude the four-team tournament.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

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Irish Go-pher back-to-back titles
Ranked squad defends Minnesota Invite

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

No. 20 Notre Dame travels to the University of Minnesota this weekend to defend their title in the Minnesota Invitational against 12 other challengers, including the No. 16 Gophers.

"There are a lot of good teams coming this year," freshman Vivian Healey said. "This year the competition is harder, but our team is also better this year."

The Irish have a 3-0 record in dual meet competition with wins over Purdue, Pittsburgh and Michigan State. This year's 39-member squad features 16 freshmen.

Healey said that invitational meets are a good time for the individual swimmers to focus on events in a dual meet instead of improving times to meet Big Ten time standards.

"It's a certain team, a certain time," she said. "Instead of worrying about swimming multiple events in a dual meet to outscore an opponent.

"Instead of our goal being to beat a certain team, like in the dual meets, you just want to be able to swim a certain time," Healey said. "We want to get good times for the Big East tournament, and we also have the U.S. Open coming up in two weeks. Healey will try to improve her time in the 100-yard breaststroke. The U.S. Open time is 1:05.19 seconds, while Healey has a time of 1:05.21.

"You need to be really focused. You work on all sorts of things — turns, head position, body position," she said. "It's not just conditioning. Like last week, I worked on head position."

Healey's win last Saturday in the 100-yard breaststroke contributed to Notre Dame's 188-112 win over Pittsburgh. In that meet, senior Katie Carroll set another school record in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 49.80 as Notre Dame won 9 of 16 events on their way to victory.

The day before against Michigan State, Notre Dame won 10 of 13 events in their 155.5-86.5 win. Freshman Achbee Edgell picked up her first win of the career in the 200-yard individual medley, while junior Caroling Johnson picked up two wins in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly.

In their first dual meet of the year, the Irish drowned the Minnesota Invitational in five of those events as faster than the times posted by Saint Mary's last weekend.

Dombkowski understands the challenge the Belles face, but believes the Belles have a fighting chance.

"On paper, we don't have the horses to run with Albion," he said. "But several of the events should be very close and the point swings could determine the meet. We have to win all of those battles.

The intensity level and excitement of the team helped Saint Mary's beat Rose-Hulman and must be present again for them to swim well against Albion.

"If we can refine her technique and her races, she has great potential," Lindsey Nels said. "In order to maintain that excitement we have to once again bond together as a team and show our support even more.

Dombkowski agrees, placing the burden of motivation on the team.

"Great swims come from preparation and motivation," he said. "The closer I can help them to take care of during the season, the better they will come from within themselves and from their teammates."

Nels was one of four Belles to win individual events last week and one of the three freshmen to do so.

The Belles need to focus in order to match up against a talented Albion squad.

"Albin is much faster than Rose-Hulman up front and even deeper," Dombkowski said. "We would need to have several spots to have a chance, but that's why you swim the meet."

Contact Bill Brink at sbrink@nd.edu
Hockey

continued from page 28

150-pound sophomore goalie Jeff Lerg. Last year, Lerg was named CCHA Rookie of the Year, as well as MVP of the conference tournament. He posted the seventh-best save percentage in the nation at .929.

Lerg held the Notre Dame offense in check the first two wins over the Irish in his rookie season. "This weekend isn’t going to be about scoring the pretty goals. It’ll be about scoring those rebound goals in front of the net because of the way they play their defense," said Sciba, who has one career goal against the Spartan neminder.

With the way goaltender Dave Brown and the Irish defense have been playing so far this year, the team won’t need to worry too much about filling up the net.

The defensive unit is currently the top-ranked squad in the nation, allowing only 11 goals in their first 10 contests. "As long as we stick together out there and shut down their top couple lines, I think we will be fine," O’Neill said.

The Spartans top line, made up of three sophomores in three goals in their first five games, is our first goal, but right now we just want to focus on tomorrow night," Sciba said. "Getting a victory Friday night would be huge, so we can’t really look beyond that."

"Trying to get to Joe Louis [Arena, host of the CCHA tournament championship] is our first goal," Kenney said. "If I was really upfront with my players with two goals and six assists dating back to the start of the season. Sophomore center Erik Condra was named last week’s CCHA Player of the Week and the also received national player of the week honors from InsideCollegeHockey.com. Condra had two goals and three assists in last weekend’s two home wins over Bowling Green.

With a win and a tie this weekend, Notre Dame could move into a tie for first place in the CCHA, putting them in great shape as they get into the bulk of their conference schedule in the next few weeks."

"It's nerve racking," he said. "(Irish coach Charlie) Weis was really upfront with us. Pretty much everyday you weren’t sure if you would cut it but it was a great experience."

Kenney said he is dedicated to playing his role as the opponent’s defense week in and week out on the practice field and getting the starters ready to take the field on Saturdays. "If we can’t really look beyond that." Tickets for the game have already sold out, but 500 seats will be available for Notre Dame students on a first come, first served basis.

Kenney continued from page 28

Two years later Kenney managed to walk on to play with O’Neill said. "If I had to do it again I don’t know if I would want to be away from Notre Dame that long," Kenney said. At the end of his time here in South Bend, Kenney is still uncertain about where he will go or what he will do. A career in politics is a possibility, but he also is exploring his options with graduate schools.

"It piqued [Schwarzenegger’s] interest to hear that I was a football player. I asked him for some advice on how to gain some weight and get bigger."

"It’s nerve racking," he said. "(Irish coach Charlie) Weis was really upfront with us. Pretty much everyday you weren’t sure if you would cut it but it was a great experience."

Kenney said Belvidere’s defensive backs coach was a role model for him both on and off the field.

"He is real good guy who is easy to get along with, but he is very serious when it comes to football," Kenney said. "He wouldn’t mind returning to the Bucs to coach along with old mentor, and continue to surround himself in football tradition."

Kenney also spent a semester in Puebla, Mexico in order to help with supplementary Spanish major. Kenney was nervous about missing football and campus for such a long period of time but he had to leave in order to fully learn the language.

"I had to do it again I don’t know if I would want to be away from Notre Dame that long," Kenney said. At the end of his time here in South Bend, Kenney is still uncertain about where he will go or what he will do. A career in politics is a possibility, but he also is exploring his options with graduate schools.

Kenney also has three assists in the current hot streak. He is joined by fellow sophomore Tim Crowder, who is in the middle of his own five-game point streak with two goals and six assists dating back to the start of the season. Sophomore center Erik Condra was named last week’s CCHA Player of the Week and the also received national player of the week honors from InsideCollegeHockey.com. Condra had two goals and three assists in last weekend’s two home wins over Bowling Green.

With a win and a tie this weekend, Notre Dame could move into a tie for first place in the CCHA, putting them in great shape as they get into the bulk of their conference schedule in the next few weeks.

"Trying to get to Joe Louis [Arena, host of the CCHA tournament championship] is our first goal," Kenney said. "If I was really upfront with my players with two goals and six assists dating back to the start of the season. Sophomore center Erik Condra was named last week’s CCHA Player of the Week and the also received national player of the week honors from InsideCollegeHockey.com. Condra had two goals and three assists in last weekend’s two home wins over Bowling Green.

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"Getting a victory Friday night would be huge, so we can’t really look beyond that." Tickets for the game have already sold out, but 500 seats will be available for Notre Dame students on a first come, first served basis.

Contact Dan Murphy
dmurphy6@nd.edu

The Observer • SPORTS
Friday, November 17, 2006

Notre Dame • Army Weekend
at the College Football Hall of Fame • November 17 & 18

We’ve got a lot of exciting events planned. No matter what team you’re rooting for, you’ll see that the Hall of Fame is the place to be on the Fridays and Saturdays before a Notre Dame home game.

• Don’t miss the 46 Notre Dame Hall of Famers and 28 Army Hall of Famers enthroned in the Hall!
• Meet and greet both players and coaches of the U.S. Military Academy Team as they tour the Hall, Friday, 1:30 pm
• Autograph session with Notre Dame Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown, Friday, 2:00-4:00 pm. Cost: $50
• Enjoy a night of music as the South Bend Symphony performs “Salute to the Irish” Friday, 8:00 pm at the Century Center. Cost: $18 adults, $16 seniors, $5 students/children. For tickets call 574-235-9190.
• Autograph session with the 1958 Army Football Team, Saturday, 10:00-11:00 am. Hall of Famers Pete Dawkins and Bob Anderson highlight members of the undefeated 1958 team. Autographs are limited to one item per person and are FREE with full price admission.

Notre Dame or Army Weekend at the College Football Hall of Fame on November 17 & 18

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Extended ND home game weekend hours:
Friday & Saturday: 8 am to 8 pm
Sunday: 8 am to 5 pm

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on the Leopards the next night, jumping out to an early lead and coasting to a 92-60 win.

After playing two games in two days, Irish coach Mike Brey ran his team through a light workout and film session Wednesday before giving them Thursday off. Brey himself was sick Thursday morning, but forward J'Mel Everhart continued from page 28 himself was sick Thursday morning, but forward J'Mel Everhart while forward J'Mel Everhart continued from page 28 himself was sick Thursday morning.

Guard Vytasaus Valilis leads The Citadel in scoring with 10.0 points per game, while forward J'Mel Everhart has dominated the boards by grabbing 11.3 rebounds per game.

The task of keeping Everhart off the glass will go to Notre Dame forwards Luke Harangody, Luke Zeller and Bob Kurz.

Harangody, a freshman, is averaging 15.7 points and 7.7 rebounds so far this season. Kurz is Notre Dame's leading rebounder at 8.7 per game and is averaging 13.0 points per game. Zeller is averaging 5.3 points and 3.3 rebounds per game this season.

Carter is Notre Dame's leading scorer with 18.3 points per game and fellow guard Colin Fells is the only other player averaging double figures for the Irish, with 10.3 points per game.

The two seniors have combined for 16 three-pointers this season on 46 percent shooting from behind the arc.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

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- **Monday nights**—catch the Monday night game with 35 cent wings from 8-close (with student id) $3 tall coors lt.
- **Tuesdays**—Wing Tuesdays!! 35 cents all day!!!

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12 big screens, 53 tv's, free ntn trivia and texas hold 'em, and all the big games!!

**ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

**Penn State hands Irish first loss of '06 season**

After a Tulyah Gaines jumper tied the game at 2-2 early in the game, the Lady Lions went on a huge run, capped by a three-pointer from guard Kamela Gissendanner to stretch the lead to 14. Notre Dame (2-1) was 0-0-4 from the floor in the run and 0-0-2 from the line, in part because of Penn State's strong defense throughout the game.

"We missed some open shots. We didn't throw when I don't think they were guarding us tightly," McGraw said. "We needed to get better shots I think. I have to credit their defense with that."

The Lady Lions (0-4) held the Irish to 27.9 percent shooting from the field and 6-of-23 from the paint. Penn State had six blocks to Notre Dame's two, and out-rebounded the Irish 39-27 — 32 on the defensive end.

Leading this inside stand was center Amanda Brown, who notched 12 points and eight rebounds for Penn State.

Because of this defense, Notre Dame was unable to get things started offensive­ly all night. Irish starters center Melissa D'Amico, guard Brenna Gray and forward Crystal Erwin totaled six points combined.

Notre Dame also lacked a spark off the bench — something freshman Ashley Barlow brought against Bowling Green Monday night with her 16 points and 10 rebounds. Notre Dame's bench was outscored 10-0 by the Lady Lion substit­utes led by freshman guard Tyra Grant — who scored a game-high 19 points.

"Our sixth, seventh and eighth man are all freshmen so when we do sub, we get younger," McGraw said.

Another problem for the Irish in their comeback attempt was Penn State's ability to shoot the three. In the closing minutes of the first half, with Notre Dame down only 12 points Lady Lions guard Adrienne Squire drained a three to stretch the lead back to 15. As the second half began, Squire (nine points) continued her shooting display with another three-pointer to put the Irish further behind.

"I thought they looked like a veteran, poised team playing at home," McGraw said.

"They really, to me, seemed to have a good equal-opportunity type of offense where everybody contributed."

The Irish return home Sunday at noon where they will try to rebound against Western Michigan. The Broncos (10-0) have a high-scoring team in their two losses, putting up 80 points per game this season.

"We just need to turn around and try to rebound against Western Michigan," McGraw said.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa@nd.edu
Sweet 16 continued from page 28

years, they will face an upstart Colorado squad (14-5-4) led by a national freshman of the year finalist striker Nikki Marshall. In her first season as a Buffalo, Marshall’s 17 goals and 38 points have set new school records. Colorado won a pair of 2-1 games against Colorado College and Denver last weekend in Boulder to earn the trip to Alumni Field.

Notre Dame, meanwhile, enters the match after beating Oakland (Mich.) 7-1 last Friday before struggling to win, despite the way for the Irish players are in a familiar situation. I think we were a little outshoot—

"I thought the performance was, I'd be shocked if we don't come out Friday very good."

Randy Waldrum

Weissnhofer some of the positions in the Irish held scored in the outside backs in to cover fifth minute, as Michele Freshman D a m e

Friday before struggling to win, despite the way for the years he has been at Notre Dame’s closest margin on the year.

"We're just really focusing on making sure our touches are good, getting used to this awful weather." - Knm Lorenzen Irish captain

Waldrum said the Irish defense will need to control the ball more than they did Sunday to give themselves the best chance to win. “On Sunday we found ourselves defending a lot,” Lorenzen said. “In optimal situations we don’t want to be defending as much as we are.”

Waldrum said the Irish defense will face a dangerous challenge tonight in Marshall and Co.

“She’s deadly fast,” he said. “They’re going to be one of the better teams we’ve played this year. If the wind tape holds up when we get them here in person.”

The Irish should be aided by the return of senior defender Christie Shaner who sat out last weekend due to illness. Although Shaner and sophomore Brittany Bock did not practice Wednesday, Waldrum said they were precautionary measures due to the rainy weather this week. He expects both to play tonight.

In addition to Irish health, the weather may affect conditions on the pitch, which has been rained on all week. However, precipitation is expected to start several hours before game time.

“We’re just really focusing on making sure our touches are good, getting used to this awful weather and getting used to these conditions,” said Lorenzen about practice this week. “Because chances are it will be like that Friday.”

Whatever the weather brings, Waldrum expects his team to be focused and ready.

“At least this time of year I guess you can’t be too critical if you’re still playing the next game. As disappointing as I thought the performance was, I’d be shocked if we didn’t come out Friday very good. The kids have had a good week of training. And they know, They don’t need us to beat (last Sunday’s) game to death all week. It’s behind us. We can’t go back and replay that game.”

Admission for the first 100 students to arrive at Alumni Field will be waived, as the Irish play potentially their penultimate home match this season.

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougher@nd.edu

NCAA continued from page 28

and there certainly aren’t any easy games in the round of sixteen,” Irish coach Bobby Clark said Wednesday after Notre Dame’s win over Illinois-Chicago. “Maryland’s the defending national champs. We’re very aware of the enormity of the task ahead of us.”

Notre Dame surprised the two-time defending champion Indiana Hoosiers 2-0 in Bloomington to advance to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament last season for only the third time in school history.

Now the 2006 Irish will try to do what neither of the 2005 team nor any group in program history has been able to do — advance to the quarterfinal round of the NCAA Tournament. Despite Notre Dame only having four appearances in the third leg of the NCAA Tournament — including this year — many of the Irish players are in a familiar situation.

When the senior class was in their first year at Notre Dame in 2003, the Irish advanced to the third round before falling to Michigan on penalty kicks. One year later, No. 5 seed Notre Dame was upset in the second round by Ohio State. And last year’s team followed its upset win over Indiana with a 1-0 loss at Clemson.

Punching a ticket to this year’s Elite 8 will not be easy for Notre Dame.

Maryland and the defending National Champion on Wednesday night — defeating red-hot St. John’s 2-0 in their second round matchup. The Terrapins held a 17-6 advantage in shots on the evening, and their two goals ended a St. John’s 674-minute shutout streak — a Johns Hopkins school record.

Maryland, who is currently No. 7 in the NSCAA/adidas national rankings, enters Saturday’s game 16-4-1, including Wednesday night’s victory over St. John’s, the Terrapins have won 13 consecutive NCAA Tournament games played in College Park.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

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Friday, November 17, 2006

THE OBSERVER
Sweet cookin'

Colorado stampedes into Alumni Field for round of sixteen

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Assistant Sports Editor

After squaring by Wisconsin-Milwaukee last Sunday 1-0, Notre Dame hopes to regain its top-ranked form against the Notre Dame region's No. 4 seed Colorado tonight in the Sweet Sixteen round of the NCAA Tournament at 7:30 at Alumni Field.

Though the Irish are making their 12th NCAA Sweet Sixteen appearance in the last 14 years, this year's team is without a doubt a different animal - a younger, more athletic squad that is still searching for its identity.

The Irish are led by senior center Tim O'Neil, who has been voted as the team's Most Valuable Player each of the past two seasons. O'Neil is averaging 12.7 points and 5.7 rebounds per game this season and has scored in double figures in all 21 games.

However, the Irish's biggest asset may be their defense, which has held opponents to a 39.6 percent shooting clip. The Irish have held two of their last three opponents to single-digit scoring totals.

Defending National Champs stand in way of Irish and Elite 8

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

When No. 12 seed Notre Dame takes the field Saturday against No. 5 seed Maryland in College Park, the Irish will not only have a chance to advance to the Elite 8 for the first time in school history - they will also be attempting to knock off the defending National Champion for the second consecutive year.

"There are no easy games in the round of thirty-two," said Irish forward Justin McGeeey.

"We need to come out and make sure we stay on an even keel and not let our emotions get the best of us," said Irish forward Justin McGeeey.

"It's our first big chance to prove ourselves," senior defenseman Wes O'Neil said.

Kenney focuses on sport, political life

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

For 6-foot, 180-pound defensive back Tim Kenney, donning the blue and gold for the past two years has fulfilled a life long aspiration.

Kenney grew up just over two hours away from campus in Belvidere, Ill. He is a third-generation Domer, with both his father and grandfather having graduated from Notre Dame.

"I grew up wearing a gold helmet and being a Notre Dame fan all through high school," Kenney said.

Kenney kept himself busy by captaining his football, basketball and baseball teams in his senior year. He was All-State in football in his final season.

The political science and Spanish major headed to the University of Illinois for his third year of college. He was in the process of walking on to their team when he learned that he had been accepted to Notre Dame.

"I was in the process of walking on to their team when I learned that I had been accepted to Notre Dame."

FOOTBALL

Spartans march into Joyce Center for historic match

No. 5 Notre Dame welcomes No. 4 Michigan State for most anticipated home hockey match since Feb. 5, 1999

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Seven years ago, No. 4 Michigan State and No. 9 Notre Dame played to a 2-2 tie in the last showdown between top-10 ranked teams in the Joyce Center - until tonight.

The Irish (8-1-11), now No. 5 in USCHO's national poll, will face off against No. 4 Michigan State (5-2-11) in a home-and-home series this weekend. The action starts at 8:05 and will be nationally broadcasted by CSTV Saturday night's game at Munn Ice Arena will be televised by Comcast starting at 7 p.m.

"It's going to be exciting. It's our first big chance to prove ourselves," senior defenseman Wes O'Neil said.

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"It's our first big chance to prove ourselves," senior defensema
The Send-off
Notre Dame says goodbye to one of its toughest — and greatest — senior classes.
There's one group to thank for the Irish revival

It took them a little while to get where they are, but that was surprising. A few freshman struggles are expected. A legendary coach's inspiration isn't.

Notre Dame football didn't know how to win. Not even Brady Quinn of Arlington Heights, Ill., and Tom Zbikowski of Auburn, Ohio, and John Carlson of Livonia, Mich., had been a national side dish.

Weis' offense or faster players turned-safety, had been a national side dish. Weis lit a fire to help the younger guys were doing have to improve yourself as an overall.

Ndukwe said. It's a winner. "You can talk about them for ever," Ndukwe said. It's not just the psychology of his pro boxing secondary coach and the leg-end with each passing game.

One eight-game stretch aside, Notre Dame — the most prestigious football team in America — had been a national side dish for 10 years.

Four years later, Quinn, Zbikowski and the rest of the Notre Dame football team is different.

It's Ndukwe. The reason? It's not Charlie Weis, or his offensive or faster players, or longer grass. It's one word.

Toughness.

The senior class is the toughest in school history. Not one group has endured more hard times. Not one group has turned those bad experiences into wins, wins and more wins.

It's the handled pressure that goes along with being the most talented members of a team, even as freshmen, when Ryan Harris was starting at offensive tackle and Quinn was slotted at quarterback. It's handled a firing that many didn't want to go with to a new coach and a new sys-tem.

And now, it's paying off. Notre Dame has a shot at a national title. Thank Kansas State. Thank Georgia. But most of all, thank these seniors.

They're the reason that Irish fans talk national title this late in the season for the first time in almost 13 years. That's a long time for the greatest program in college football history to suffer serious signs of distraction.

It's these seniors that brought it back. It's Quinn, enduring sack after sack against Purdue, only to toss touchdown after touchdown in West Lafayette.

It's Rhema McKnight, keeping mind and body fresh through injury and returning to the starting line-up a better player. It's Samardzija, growing into his hair and his legend with each passing game.

It's Zbikowski, reinventing the punt return from flashy to pun-ishing.

There's others too.

John Sullivan hated losing. He's made it happen on his watch. Wooden has taken more criticism than anyone; but all he does is pick his head up, smile and play. Chiclengh Ndukwe doesn't just do that to set a fire in the safety's heart. He's always things I can talk about with you, they all have certain adversities. They all have ups, they all have downs, and it does bring you closer together, because that's what a team is all about."

"It's tough everyone is, noth-ing," he said." "They leave here Saturday, with legacy intact. But they didn't finish."

A young Ryan Harris said he wanted a few national championships by the time he left. An older Harris and his classmates just might get one.

They've come too far to stop now.

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

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgillon@nd.edu

CHINEDUM NDUKWE

Ndukwe's all right talking about his best friend

Receiver-turned-safety was forced to drop 20 pounds to keep his starting job for final season

By KEN FOWLER

Sports Editor

Many of the questions Chinedum Ndukwe fields center on his relationship with quarter-back Brady Quinn. But Irish coach Charlie Weis directed a fair share of focus toward the 6-foot, 290-pounder last spring.

Sophomore safety Ray Herring played his way up the depth chart in March with April, and Ndukwe's job security became an issue.

"It was known throughout everybody that a couple of young guys were doing well," Ndukwe said. "You can't really tell that worry you. You always have to improve yourself as an individual first to be a hero overall."

If Herring's play didn't worry Ndukwe, well, it was all under the receive-r-turns, the guy who tapped the scales nearly 235 pounds. "Coach set a challenge in front of me. 'He's like, 'I want you to lose 20 pounds.' But I was pretty cut up. I was like, 'From where?' He basically said if I didn't do that, I wasn't going to play."

Chinedum Ndukwe Irish free safety

hit home because the safety respected the coach's thorough understanding of personnel adjustments. But Ndukwe didn't so sure that Weis wasn't just doing it, using the defensive back's play.

"Everything the coaches do is for a reason," Ndukwe said. "Coach Weis, for instance, is really into the psychology behind sports. I'm not sure — who knows — but he could have just been justifying just a family legend.

And Ndukwe would know. The business major with a concentra-tion in counseling has a dual major in psychology.

"That stuff definitely sparks my interest in a lot of ways," he said. "People do a lot of things for different reasons."

Ndukwe came to the school after his brother Kelechi Ndukwe and his sister graduated from Saint Mary's. But he came with them just a family legend.

The person Ndukwe is clos-est with at Notre Dame, Quinn, was Quinn. He was Quinn's 1 target at Dublin Coffman High School in Ohio, catching 150 passes for 2,174 yards and 24 touchdowns during their high school days.

As they entered Notre Dame together, their friendship helped Ndukwe adjust to the new college atmosphere. But Ndukwe didn't think that Weis just wanted his "brother" to him, Ndukwe said he never minds answering questions about his high-school pal.

"When you love someone, when you care about someone — you can talk about them for ever," Ndukwe said. "There's always things I could say.

And that applies both in media sessions and while the two are together away from the football field".

"I'm usually with Brady a lot off-campus, so [people] usually just assume I'm Ndukwe," said. "So I just roll with the flow."

As high school friends' relationships have thrived at Notre with Quinn, Ndukwe's relations-ships with his teammates. Ndukwe started at safety as a freshman, after switching from wide receiver in his sophomore sea-son.

While that may have been a difficult adjustment, Ndukwe said, everyone has their rough times at times — and those similar experiences create bonds.

"Every person's situation is dif-ferent," Ndukwe said. "Even though they're on the same team as you, they all have certain adversities. They all have ups, they all have downs, and it does bring you closer together, because that's what a team is all about."

Ndukwe's senior season has been his best, and his 22 tackles against Air Force were 14 more than his career high entering the 2006 season.

"Throughout the past couple years, it's been a roller coaster ride of emotions," he said. "The success of this team is beyond imagination. Having a great time, it's been worth everything we've gone through."

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Irish safety Chinedum Ndukwe intercepts an Anthony Morelli pass during Notre Dame's 41-17 win over Penn State Sept. 9

stats.jpg

Mike Gilloon Sports Writer

IRISH INSIDER
Tough enough to handle

Why Brady Quinn is who he is and how he's evolved through the years

Editor's note: This story first ran Dec. 12, 2005.

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn leads the Irish out of the tunnel before their Oct. 15 game against USC. Quinn passed for one touchdown and ran for another in the 34-31 loss to the Trojans.

Brady Quinn's spirits have raised along with his play. The Irish say he is more vocal as a leader this season, a characteristic reflected in his confident, focused demeanor on the field.

Quinn's statistics have accumulated, the quarterback said, in part because Weis has taught him a lot about ceramics—short-term memory and not dwelling on mistakes. And Quinn has been able to receive that advice and apply it—no matter how hardly the coach instructs at times—because of his mature attitude.

"I think that Brady was mature enough to realize regardless of the personality or if there had ever been a personality conflict—which it sounds like (Brady and Weis) get along perfectly fine—Brady knew he was going to respect and appreciate what Coach Weis had to add and bring to the table," his mother said.

Quinn has endless and accurate observations about how he has learned from Weis beginning in spring practice and continuing into his BCS-bowl preparation.

"This offseason places a lot of responsibility on the quarterback, and it deals with a lot more mental things coming up to the line of scrimmage and playing in the game," Quinn said. "I learned that there was a lot more to playing quarterback in different systems and in our particular offense than I had realized before.

But while Weis believes quarterback recruiters should be lining up for the chance to play for an NFL offensive mind like his, he understands Quinn's value as more than just a good listener.

In the case of Quinn's development, it's not only what the offense has done for him, Weis consistently says. Notre Dame's success is just as much about what Quinn does for the offense.

Whether or not the Heisman Trophy will recognize Quinn as being worthy of a New York City visit, the junior knows his place short of the ultimate goal.

"Everyone who is there (for the Heisman announcement) is unde-
Defensive end Victor Abiamiri was a prep standout in Baltimore. Four years later, he's back to show how far he's come with the Irish.

"I came in and was about six-four, 250 as a freshman — about the same size I was as a junior. There are two things and they’re both important: you’ve got to be a frenemy and talented and smart. And he was both.

Brady Quinn
Irish quarterback

Irish defensive end Victor Abiamiri, right, leaps over a pile to ensure that Stanford quarterback Trent Edwards, left, doesn't escape a tackle in a 31-10 win over the Cardinal Oct. 7.

Projected by some to be a first-round pick, Abiamiri is playing under the careful eyes of scouts. Like he did during his senior year of high school by announcing his commitment after the season finished, Abiamiri is pushing any NFL Draft talk aside.

"He's one of those big, mean guys that really doesn't like to be mean. I think that's why he kind of likes playing football.

Brady Quinn
Irish quarterback

Coach says, is something NFL scouts love about the senior.

"The one thing I do know about Abiamiri that I didn't know when I got here is that he has a very, very, very high character. He's got a better grind - he'll help that Irish defense by announcements his commitment after the season finished, Abiamiri is pushing any NFL Draft talk aside.

"You've got to go home and play in front of family and friends, he said.

"It's awesome to be able to go home and play in front of family and friends, he said.

"But against an option team, his job is a little different.

He will have to replace his bull rush pushes in to the offensive line and fullbacks come full steam-ahead toward the corner, Abiamiri's task will be much different.

"We might not even block one of Vic, much less double him," Navy coach Paul Johnson said Tuesday. "We will read him on.

That means Abiamiri will be forced to watch Midshipmen quarterback Kaipo-Noa Kaeleku-Enada, who he scarries to the corner. If Abiamiri takes the wrong angle or bites at the wrong time, Navy could run right through the Irish line.

"It’s the most frustrating offense in all of football," Tuck said, glad, glad, glad, that it's against the Giants. "You need some help there.

Abiamiri thinks he has that. He thinks he'll be able to stick with him on every play and be patient.

For most defensive ends, going patience is tough. But for one who's used to being as calm off the field as he is for some between the sidelines — maybe not.

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Tough, 'Zibby' style

Strong safety Tom Zbikowski leads Irish defense with attitude and experience

Editor's note: This story first ran Sept. 16, 2005.

By PAT LEONARD
Sport Writer

The offensive player in him just wouldn't shut up. Tom Zbikowski needed the ball, and he needed it now.

It had been since high school that Zbikowski had run an offense, when he played quarterback, safety and returned kicks at Buffalo Grove High School in Buffalo Grove, Ill. But one touch of the ball was all he wanted.

Never mind that he had already intercepted Michigan State quarterback Stephen Beaves to set up the first Irish touchdown on Sept. 18, 2004.

On a routine Michigan State running play to tailback Jason Teague, with the score tied 7-7, Zbikowski ripped through the line, tore the ball from Teague's hands and bolted 75 yards for a touchdown on the end zone before even Teague could say, "Who's that guy?"

Everyone knows now. The 5-foot-11, 208-pound strong safety made nine tackles and intercepted Michigan quarterback Chad Henne last Saturday. He is the most feared player in the Notre Dame secondary the past three seasons.

And like that, he was named special teams captain last year.

But it's very easy for his teammates to see what he's all about," Lewis said. "Because everything he does on the field he does full speed. That speed was fast enough to gain recognition as Gaterade Player of the Year in Illinois Zbikowski's senior high school season, when he threw for 1,382 yards and 11 touchdowns, rushed for 1,287 yards and 23 touchdowns, caught up 41 tackles and made three interceptions.

And like that, Zbikowski was tabbed as a first-team All-American. The Chicago Sun Times labeled him the Chicago area player of the year. And Notre Dame made him one of their top recruits.

Right now, fifth-year senior linebacker and defensive captain Brandon Hoyte is already a leader on defense. But Zbikowski's command in the secondary also distinctly benefits the younger players and the entire defense — he called the defense's practices before Michigan "sloppy." "It's not just his confidence," Weis said. "It's his understanding of playing."

Irish strong safety Tom Zbikowski has seven return touchdowns in his career, two shy of the NCAA record.

Zibby the teacher

Zbikowski could have walked with the Notre Dame defense in the spring, turned to face the quarterback, looked to his left and right, and felt completely lost.

He was the only starter remaining in the defensive backfield, albeit one that surrendered too many passing yards and touchdowns through the air last season. Zbikowski instead saw the new season, with the new coaching staff, as an opportunity.

"Whenever he sees something that I could possibly be doing better, he'll mention it," said starting free safety Chinedum Ndukwe. "That's just the kind of guy he is. He'll step up to say 'Maybe you need to take that one more step when you hit someone' or 'Take that extra step when you're backing up.'"

"He knows what he's doing back there. He has a good football mind." Zbikowski is not only new to the starting secondary. He is new to defense altogether. The former wide receiver tried everything the way he'd coached it to do," Lewis said. "He's very easy to coach.

"What is so important, and what I appreciate about him, is he takes and goes from the classroom to the practice field and can take things from inside [to the outside]. You talk about a game plan, [and] he can go out on the field then and start to work on executing it."

The strong safety's discipline and work ethic are contagious and evident. Though he red-shirted as a freshman and has only played one full season for Notre Dame, Zbikowski gained the reputation as a confident and experienced player unusually quickly, simply because people noticed his style.

"It's not a boisterous guy, but it's very easy for his teammates to see what he's all about," Lewis said. "Because everything he does on the field he does full speed."

"Because you're winning, you've got to know how to survive without getting knocked out."

Notre Dame finds itself in that exact predicament Saturday against a team that has had the Irish's number in Notre Dame Stadium. Despite coaching and win streaks and rebounds from unsuccessful seasons, it takes attitude to reverse trends, win games and prove a point.

Enter Tom Zbikowski.

What Michigan State has been saying in the media, they don't really have any fear when they come in to play us," he said. "But we've got to put fear in them."

And as the Notre Dame defense grows, on the shoulders of a young man who stands under 6-feet tall, so will the abilities of a player who still has a long time to improve — scary, isn't it?

"I think as we go down the road, every week I'm going to raise the bar on Tommy and expect more of him," Lewis said. "And I think he's got that kind of ability."

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Tom Zbikowski, left, runs off Heinz Field after the Irish beat Pittsburgh 42-21 on Sept. 3, 2005. Zbikowski has been a staple in the Notre Dame secondary the past three seasons.
Irish receiver Rhema McKnight, left, battles Cardinal cornerback Wopamo Osakal for a pass. McKnight suffered a torn ACL in 2005 and came back for the 2006 campaign.

**Rhema McKnight**

**Medical man**

Wide receiver had ACL surgery last fall, spent time with sick and injured children since

By ERIC RETTER 
Assistant Sports Editor

During the past 15 months, senior receiver Rhema McKnight has spent a lot of time in hospital rooms. After tearing his ACL in Notre Dame's second game of the 2003 season, McKnight spent time in the hospital rehabilitating his injured knee, which has healed enough to allow McKnight return and start each of Notre Dame's ten games this season.

Lately, however, he's been returning to Memorial Hospital for a different reason. McKnight has become somewhat of a regular in Memorial Hospital's pediatric ward, visiting kids going through tough times.

"Last year there was a teenager that was really facing a life-changing surgery, something nobody would want to go through, and he was just scared to death," McKnight said. "Memorial pediatric nurse Julie Kowalenko said I gave McKnight a call, and he did not hesitate to come up to the hospital and spend time with him.

Kowalenko said she received a letter from the boy's mother about a month ago thanking her and McKnight, saying that the ball was his "prized possession" and that "all of his friends were green with envy.'

From time to time, McKnight also gets letters from the parents of kids to whom he has reached out. After reading them, he generally sends them to the boy's mother back in Inglewood, Calif.

"I guess she's making a scrapbook," he said.

Outside of McKnight's relationship with the hospital started when she was introduced to him through senior Brandon Lenk, who was McKnight's roommate for two years. McKnight also noted that Notre Dame center Bob Morton and quarterback Brady Quinn have dropped by on similar occasions.

"They do so much for us and we never think of it as a big deal, but it's a huge deal," she said. "(The kids) look up to them, they watch them on TV. They don't think of them as local TV, they think of them as movie stars.'

McKnight, however, downplays his involvement.

"It wasn't anything serious," he said. "She called me, asked me if I could come down, and I was like, 'Cool, no problem.'

As recently as last week, McKnight met Kowalenko at the concourse of Hesburgh Library to sign memorabilia and visit Memorial. When he arrived, he faced a young interviewer who wanted to know everything from his favorite color to whether or not he got to choose his jersey number.

McKnight, whose favorite color is blue, explained that he was No. 1 in high school, but that, upon arriving at Notre Dame as a freshman, the only single digit available was No. 5, so that was the jersey he chose.

"Rhema answered every single question," Kowalenko said.

If things go according to plan, McKnight would be wearing the jersey of an NFL team somewhere. McKnight, who has contributed since his first game in a Notre Dame uniform, led the Irish in catches in both 2003 and 2004 — with 47 and 42, respectively — and his career was about to take off under then-first-year head coach Charlie Weis's offense.

However, the knee injury he sustained in a play in that season's second play — where he took down the would-be catcher of his plan — McKnight spent the year watching the sidelines, but he says that year helped him change his perspective.

"As you get older, things become repetitive and you don't continue to enjoy every moment," McKnight said. "I'm not taking things for granted this year.

While he had already established himself as the first player McKnight rededicated himself to having fun on Saturday afternoons.

"A big thing is that I've learned to make sure I enjoy it, because it can be taken away from me at any moment," he said. "Winning a football game is tough, a lot of people don't realize that, and anytime you win a game you gotta make sure you enjoy it.

Despite missing a whole season, McKnight regained the on-field relationship he had enjoyed with Quinn before Notre Dame's first official snap.

"The good thing is we'd done it before prior to my injury," McKnight said. "We got to picking it back up during the summer, and hopefully we'll keep progressing throughout the rest of the year.

In his final season, McKnight has been a pivotal player for the Irish, catching 55 passes, a team high he shares with senior Jeff Samardzija, for 726 yards and 12 touchdowns — a team high he owns alone.

In last Saturday's 39-17 win over Air Force, McKnight set the Notre Dame career reception record with his 158th catch, and he is not surprised that he has had the kind of success he has had this season.

"In the offense we have, you know you're going to sling the ball around a little bit," he said. "It's more of us going out and making plays." As McKnight's final game at Notre Dame Stadium approaches, he reflected on last season's senior day and saying goodbye to the class he came in with.

"It was tough not being able to go through it the first time and watching those guys leave," he said. However, after five years — which he noted have seemed long at times — he is ready for his home finale.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said. "There's definitely a different buzz in the air, with the seniors, it's their last game, too.

Outside of football, the major difference between McKnight's two senior seasons is his academic standing. McKnight, who graduated last December, is currently pursuing a master's degree in psychology.

McKnight said the structure of his graduate classes offers a sharp contrast to his pursuits the past four years.

"It's not like everything is in class or due the next day," he said. "A lot of the things you do are on your own terms of research.

He also draws equal contrast between graduate student housing and on-campus dorm life, where he lived until graduating.

"I was close with a lot of guys, especially in my section," he said. "I had a great time." After moving into graduate student housing, he lived with a French student until early this semester. At the moment, McKnight — a consensus extrovert — does not know his current roommate's name.

In addition to psychology, McKnight also graduated with a supplementary major in Spanish and a degree in computer applications.

Perhaps surprisingly, in his time as a student, he has shown an interest in computer buff, and he discovered a passion for technology.

"A lot of the scholarship I had was on computers, and I found I love computers," he said. "I love what they have to offer.

McKnight said he followed the budding interest because of current trends in the professional market.

"That's the way the world's going now," he said. "Technology is improving every day, why not pick up something that'll last me a long time."

However, when he first came to Notre Dame, McKnight was not nearly as well versed in the technological language.

"I wasn't exactly the fastest type," he said.

And right now, McKnight's focus remains on football. After the season winds down, he will begin preparing for April's NFL draft and exploring the options that he had planned on exploring a year ago. Despite his focus on preparing to enter the ranks of the professional athletes, McKnight will still be a student next semester.

Even before his college football career concluded, McKnight has already started thinking about life after the NFL.

I have aspirations of playing in the NFL, but nothing's guaranteed," he said. "I want to make sure I set myself up in terms of my long term future, whether it's going back to the inner city working with kids or hopefully owning my own practice and doing other psychology things."

In preparing to walk away, McKnight credits his time in South Bend with helping him get ready for both athletic and academic professions.

"I've come a long way," he said.

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Irish receiver Rhema McKnight picks up a block on a 5-Yard reverse against North Carolina Nov. 4.
The overachievers

Two walk-ons have a whole lot more than football to fall back on, but their experience at Notre Dame has been shaped by the team

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Matt Augustyn and John Lyons

By Ken Fowler

In the backfield of Notre Dame's scout team offense are a fullback who worked as a parliamentary intern in London and a pre-med student on his way to medical school. Take senior fullback Matt Augustyn and fullback John Lyons, both walk-ons who played football and in school. For Lyons, Weis extended his offer in the summer of his first semester. When Augustyn returned to the United States from England, he had planned on pursuing a career in law, but his interest in football was reignited. Lyons was looking for a backup running back, so Augustyn was offered a spot on the team.

Augustyn is a physical and a workout, where trainers determine whether walk-on hopefuls would risk injury to themselves or other players. He passed that test and won an invitation to spring practice to show the coaching staff what he could do.

The fullback said former Irish running back Jeff Jenkins gave him advice on the first day of spring practice. When Lyons admitted he was nervous, Jenkins told him that the collegiate game was "no different" than high school ball — "except the players are bigger and faster."

Even though he's still on the team three years later, his first impression that day was not the best.

"The very first practice I had, we were on the 'jugs' machine," Lyons said. "This is the very first thing I've done in spring ball, the first thing I'm doing in practice with the team. The [ball] fires out right through my hands and hits me in the face. My mouth guard goes flying and my helmet slides away."

Drive and recognition

"I was willing to drop it to be on the team," Augustyn said. "But both [Irish running backs] coach [Michael] Haywood and head coach [Charlie] Weis said no, they said no penalty. And there it is.

When Augustyn returned to the United States from England, he took an internship with Congressional Chris Chriferm and after the summer and worked out to gain back the 20 pounds of muscle he lost in London. For Lyons, Weis extended his understanding during summer camp and after the summer. "The last thing I want is to bring back from medical school," Lyons said.

"I was a decent high school football player," Lyons said. "I went from Notre Dame early action and not in here. In high school, I was the best in the country, isn't intimidating."

Matt Augustyn

Irish fullback

"Any dog would be lying if they said going into Notre Dame, walking on with guys who are the best in the country, isn't intimidating."

Augusyn's junior year, Weis told him that Notre Dame would be willing to give him a scholarship. "But Notre Dame was willing to give me only place I was willing to go to give up football."

"We have a lot of people coming together this year," Lyons said. "And they're going to be a lot faster.'

As their final game, Lyons and Augustyn look forward to blocking touchdowns and scoring points at Notre Dame. "It sounds great, but Asaph's injury — I've kind of benefited from," Augustyn said. "I'm pre-med so I'm going to take my loans and pay them back."

But the focus for both right now is on Army. With sophomore starter Asaph Schwapp's injury earlier this year, Augustyn has seen the field in late-game situations.

"It sounds awful, but Asaph's injury — I've kind of benefited from," Augustyn said. "I'm still searching for his first game experience. As the show-team tailback, he's used to facing a first-team defense in practice. But that also means he's used to expectations of failure."

Senior fullback Matt Augustyn high steps in practice Nov. 8. Augustyn studied in London as a junior and interned with Adam Holloway, a conservative member of Parliament.

"If we're down running scout team, it's sort of anticipated that you're going to lose," Lyons said. "We're going up there against the first-team. We're not anticipating six, seven-yard gains."

As their final home game approaches, Lyons and Augustyn have worked together for two years — with the 6-foot-1, 220-pound Augustyn working every practice to open holes for the 6-foot-1, 220-pound Lyons. Now, they hope that work on the show team will replicate itself Saturday at Notre Dame Stadium.

"It would be great to block for John [in the Army game]," Augustyn said. "It would be a fantastic thing."

And if either crosses the goal line, they'll know exactly what to do.

"All the walk-on guys have 19, 20 touchdown conversations planned," Lyons said. "Of course you have expectations to do something fun."

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\*Not a number

"We're going forward, both Lyons and Augustyn hope to continue their education."

"I'm probably looking to work in the business realm for the next couple of years before I look into law school," Augustyn said. "So that way I have some sort of financial foundation to pay for it, so I'm not 100,000 dollars in debt."

"I just figure I'm going to dig myself in, nice and deep," Lyons said. "I'm pre-med so I'm going to take my loans and pay them back."

But the focus for both right now is on Army. With sophomore starter Asaph Schwapp's injury earlier this year, Augustyn has seen the field in late-game situations.

"It sounds awful, but Asaph's injury — I've kind of benefited from," Augustyn said. "I'm still searching for his first game experience. As the show-team tailback, he's used to facing a first-team
Nothing off the top

A nationally ranked wrestler in high school, Trevor Laws is Notre Dame’s resident free spirit

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Sports Writer

On a team where the hair-style names the man, Trevor Laws’ long, at natural length locks stand out. But when Tim Zbkowski may have his Mohawk and Jeff Samardzija his shag, Laws can’t get it setting the trend with his mane.

“It’s a natural look, man,” Laws said with a laugh. “It’s nice and easy to take care of, so I like it.”

Except for a brief and regrettable — period during his freshman year, the senior defensive tackle has his distinctive long locks undisturbed by the wind and blue and gold.

As a freshman, his senior teammates buzzed down his hair to a clean shave. For Victor Abiamiri, Laws’ roommate and a fellow defensive lineman, that story remains a fond memory, one that reveals as much about Trevor the person as it does Laws the football player.

“He had the hair exactly the way he has it now,” Abiamiri said. “But once I saw him on the field and I got on them for something, they get on me. It’s a great mix. Trevor’s one of the characters of the group,” said Oliver, passing for emphasis.

“Probably the character,” — much to the only member of the Notre Dame football family to use the word “character” to define Laws.

“When I first met Trevor, he was the same way he is now,” sophomore middle linebacker Maurice Crum said. “So I was like, ‘Man, who is this character here?’ Is this guy ever serious?” But once I saw him on the field in play, I was like, ‘I see when he gets serious.”

‘A great technician’

As a person, Laws has every reason to be proud of his collegiate career — looming large in front of him is a Senior Bowl victory over the Bruins (49-0 his junior year) that he'll end up in the NFL Draft.

He helped his Apple Valley High School to three consecutive state titles as a sophomore, junior and senior. He finished his career with a 145-5 record (49-0 his junior year) that marked the two-time All-American and the No. 1 heavyweight wrestler in the nation.

“I took up wrestling to improve my football skills, actually,” Laws said. “I also love wrestling, but I always knew that if I was good enough to make it to the NFL I would prepare me in terms of agility.”

Laws’ teammates are no strangers to the tackle's shiftiness moves on the mat. Senior offensive lineman John Sullivan another nationally ranked heavyweight wrestler in high school — is a prime target for the occasional rumble for old time’s sake.

While these throwdowns are more infrequent nowadays, Laws has made his wrestling supremacy loud and clear.

“They can’t touch me,” he joked.

Living the great outdoors

A proud native of Apple Valley, Minn., Laws Prefers a Midwestern warm ethic he credits to his family and friends. An admitted outdoorsman, he enjoys camping, wrestling, cooking and summer snowboarding in the off-season.

As the middle of three children, Laws fondly remembers his first brushes with football — in the front yard with his two brothers.

“My family’s real close and we’re always doing something as a family. They’re a big part of my life,” Laws said.

Both of his siblings attended the University of Minnesota, where his younger brother is still an undergraduate.

As for Laws, a marketing major, entering the workforce is still a few years out depending on how long he pursues a professional career in football beyond the gridiron, his dreams revolve around sports marketing.

“I’ve been looking into that lately; maybe help marketing for a pro team or something like that,” Laws said. “It’s pretty interesting.”

For now, though, he’s spent time left in South Bend. When teching as a wrestler, he’s got a lot of vivid memories are involv- ing the deafening roar of a crowd, whether it was at a road contest in Tennessee his sophomore year or playing spokel- lers in the Vir- ginia Tech match at home.

“One of the first games I played in, was versus Michigan (20-17),” Laws said. “Every­ body rushed the field and I got in for the game. I got a tackle for loss like one of my first few plays in there and I remember going crazy, so that was a big moment for me.

Iron chef, animated warrior

With the last two games of the season — and possibly the end of his collegiate career — looming, Laws has made a point of noticing the little things about his life at Notre Dame, whether it’s in the huddle or relaxing with his teammates.

“Every time you go out on the field . . . you remember those little moments within the game,” Laws said. “They are sonumerous, but it’s hard to recollect right now. Looking beside you and knowing you have guys that can count on you so much can be a great thing.”

Laws hasn’t yet made up his mind about returning for a fifth year, saying that a lot will depend on projections of where he'll end up in the NFL Draft.

For that reason alone, his team­ mates and coaches are savoring the remaining time they’ll have with him. Even if those mem­ ories involve serving up a good meal, another of Laws’ many talents.

“One great thing I can say about him is that he’s a great cook,” Abiamiri said. “He whips up some good pasta at times . . . He’s got some good eats.”

As for Laws’ best dish? Abiamiri doesn’t hesitate.

“Probably his barbecue chick­ en with baked beans and corn bread. He does that pretty well,” he said.

Whether it’s his play on the field, his antics off it or his excursions as a wrestler, chef and prankster, it’s clear that Laws will be missed when he hangs up his helmet — by his teammates, the fans and the program in general, according to Oliver.

“The personality is conta­ gious, now,” Oliver said. “Because somebody’s just around when they’re here, and if you’ve got somebody who’s got a great spirit about them and can put a smile on somebody’s face, that picks you up. That makes them practices harder and work harder.

“We’ll miss a lot of that, because he’s contagious.”

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Bobby Renkes

Texan will head home for position with KPMG

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Bobby Renkes has always been a good student. When the Dallas Morning News named Renkes one of the top-20 players in the region as a junior in high school, "the Texas schools" began recruiting the place kicker. But a leg injury in the second game of his senior season kept him off the field so much that it scared away the Lone Star State's top three universities - Texas, Texas Tech and Texas A&M - from offering Renkes a scholarship. "It was kind of tough because I thought I might have been able to get a scholarship," Renkes said. "But it was really sort of a blessing. ... Had that not happened, I might not have ended up at Notre Dame." But the diligent student had some other options. Several Ivy League schools showed interest in Renkes, and his grades opened other avenues for him to attend a football school. He turned down those prestigious universities in the Northeast and enrolled in South Bend as a non-athlete who was anxious to wear a college uniform.

Four years later, Renkes will graduate a semester early, take more classes in the spring and begin his professional career with financial powerhouse KPMG back home in Dallas. "I'll save my parents a semester's worth of tuition," Renkes said.

Renkes interned with the CPA firm last summer and jumped on the chance to work as a certified public accountant, provided he passes the CPA exam. And it was the kicker's school - not his sport - that helped him fit in with the company. "It was amazing, the Notre Dame connection," Renkes said. "Just talking to anybody at the Chicago office, everybody from Notre Dame who works for KPMG goes to Chicago. But as soon as Dallas knew that they had a chance to get a Notre Dame person, they were all over it." Renkes said Dallas KPMG partner Rick Ehrman, a Notre Dame graduate, was one of his best influences during his internship. "He kind of took me under his wing," Renkes said. "Every time he comes up for a game he calls me about the tailgate." Henkes has gotten into four games as Notre Dame's kickoff specialist this season, starting at the position from Georgia State through the Michigan State game. He averaged 60 yards per kickoff on 21 attempts before freshman Ryan Burkhart (29 attempts, 58.9-yard average) took over the starting job.

"I didn't see the field one bit, I would have been just as happy being a part of the Notre Dame football team," Renkes, who didn't start playing football until his standout junior season in high school, said. After playing soccer "forever," he finally saw his first collegiate action on the gridiron only three years after his first ever football appearance. Against Stanford in 2004, he had three kickoffs of 58, 59 and 50 yards - the last being a touchback after a personal foul penalty against the Cardinal. "It was a little overwhelming," Renkes said of that first appearance.

Renkes got five more starts that season, making 20 more kickoffs with three more touchbacks. He finished the season with 1,319 yards for a 57.3-yard average. Renkes didn't see any action as a freshman or junior, but the senior with a 3.67 GPA (and 3.733 GPA in the spring of 2006) is happy with his four-year journey from talented soccer goalie I could punt the ball couldn't put one over the crossbar into the starting lineup this year. Renkes has averaged more than 45 yards per kick this year and has another year of eligibility remaining. "I always grew up thinking of Notre Dame as a great school to be a student at," Renkes said. "It's been a lot of the Ivy League schools for academic purposes and a lot of the other schools for football purposes, and Notre Dame was the one that really put the two together."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Geoff Price

Price always was the Kid with the Big Leg

The senior punter's first coach was his father; a technique change boosted his yardage this summer

By CHRIS KHOEY
Associate Sports Editor

From the time he first kicked a soccer ball, Geoff Price has been the Kid with the Big Leg. The senior Notre Dame punter discovered his talent while playing the "other football" in early elementary school.

"In soccer, when I played goalie I couldn't punt the ball really far," Price said. "It started out as a hobby and then I realized I had a little talent." Price's journey from talented elementary schooler to Division I starter has been a process of refining his technique and trying to harness the howitzer leg he was blessed with.

His first coach was his father. "One day my dad and I were out in the yard and he pointed a spiral and I said 'Wow, how did you do that?" Price said.

Later, Price gave up soccer and became a standout high school athlete in Colleyville, Texas and college football opportunities started rolling in. There was only one place Price wanted to go South Bend, Ind. "I was a big [Notre Dame] fan growing up," Price said. "I remember coming home from a soccer game and seeing them on TV and wanting to come here. It was a life long dream." His first three years playing for the Irish were frustrating, however. Behind D.J. Fitzpatrick on the depth chart, Price struggled with his consistency. He would boom kicks 60 yards and then have one go off the side of his foot or, worse, get blocked.

"Price knew what he had to do to correct the problem, but for some reason he couldn't put it into practice," Price said. "When I was kicking and D.J. would see something, he would try to correct me." Price said. "I would do the same thing with him. In fact, I think I could explain things to him better than I could do them myself." Then, once Fitzpatrick graduated and Price was thrust into the starting lineup this year, everything suddenly clicked.

"My problem was trying to kick the ball too far and I was overstriding," Price said. "Now I try to stay short and compact and it's paid off." Price practiced by putting a towel a couple of yards in front of him and making sure he kicked the ball before he got to it. Suddenly, he was consistent and talented. It was the recipe for starting a soccer ball, his father. "I've gotten some random DMs and Facebooks. I try to take it all in stride and enjoy it, because how often does that happen?"

Price has another year of eligibility remaining, an option he will discuss with Irish coach Charlie Weis after the season. But right now the Kid with the Big Leg is focusing on the upcoming season, making sure he has another year of eligibility remaining. "I'm not too concerned about next year now," Price said. "Right now I'm just living in the moment with this team."
Of faith and football

An anchor of the Irish offensive line, Ryan Harris has gone from reality show star to freshman All-American to aspiring politician

Editor's note: This story first ran Sept. 29, 2006.

By KATE GALES
Associated Press Sportswriter

MTV. ESPN. Next up, C-SPAN.

Notre Dame senior left tackle Ryan Harris has started 36 games on the Irish offensive line and been featured on MTV’s “True Life” series— but he really wants a career in politics.

It might not be the typical life path for a student-athlete, but Harris isn’t typical.

He’s a devout Muslim at one of the nation’s most famous Catholic universities, where he embraced living on campus and being part of the Notre Dame community. After football, he’s thinking about law school and politics.

But right now, he’s ready to help the Irish offense get back on track—even though his football career got off to an inauspicious start.

“I don’t know how” to hit

The Minnesota native remembers watching the Minnesota Vikings at family events, sitting alone in front of the television and trying to make sense of the game. Later, he’d go to his father—who played offensive tackle at the University of Wisconsin-Stout—with questions.

“My first question I tried to figure out was why they always ran into where everybody was, up the middle,” he said. “When they were running the ball, why don’t they just run around everybody?”

Over time, he picked up on the nuances of the game. But eighth-grade football brought another humbling moment.

“I’ll never forget the first day we got pads,” he said. “Everyone made fun of me because someone said, ‘Hey, let’s hit,’ and I said, ‘No.’ And they said, ‘What? And you said, ‘I don’t know how.’ Everyone laughed at me.”

Re tails the story, he even laughs at himself. He can laugh at tennis court, as a standout at Creighton-Durham Hall in St. Paul. Harris starred on the defensive and offensive lines.

“Especially being a bigger kid when you’re younger, you go to a sport where they need ‘true people,’” he said. “I was the 6-foot-5, 292-pounder. It’s definitely something you can enjoy and be yourself in.”

He was widely recruited out of high school, but his decisions came down to two schools—Notre Dame or Pittsburg.

“For all the reasons that I talked to coach [Tommie] Ryan, I loved Miami,” he said. But his family loved Notre Dame, and Harris felt it fit what he wanted in a school.

“I wanted to come out with a degree that meant something,” he said. “I also wanted to have the most competitive athletic schedule and environment I could, and Notre Dame—it doesn’t get better than that.”

His own celebrity fit club

Harris was the smallest lineman at Notre Dame when he arrived, and one of the smallest—if not the smallest— linemen recruited in his year.

That’s why, when MTV’s “True Life” called him to do a segment on positive weight gain, they called up Creighton-Durham and asked for Harris. The segment aired without much fanfare at Notre Dame and Harris and his family at home. But when he arrived at Notre Dame, it was clear that more than a few people had seen the show.

So did his new teammates in South Bend make fun of him?

“All the time,” he said. “I mean, all the time, especially when I first got here as a freshman. That was the joke, they were calling me names—MTV, you can imagine coming in as a freshman. They’re just looking for a reason to get on you, that was definitely my opinion.”

Some on-lookers told him he needed to gain 50 pounds to be successful as a college defensive lineman.

“Maybe that’s not quite right,” he said. “I’ve gained about 17 in the past four years and was on several preseason All-American award watch lists.”

Over the most recent off-season, he focused on strength conditioning, particularly in his upper body, which he received as a weakness.

“If I needed to get stronger,” he said. “And that’s still something I strive for, something I worked on all summer, from May until—well, I’m still working on it.”

On down the line

Harris’ first start was at Pittsburgh in 2003—an upset victory for the Irish and a memorable experience for the true freshman. That was the night Julius Jones broke the school rushing record with 262 yards.

He played right tackle and started the final eight games of the season for the Irish, becoming only the third true freshman in Notre Dame’s history to start for the unit.

As a sophomore, Harris moved to left tackle, one of the most difficult offensive lineman positions, to protect Irish quarterback Brady Quinn’s blind side.

“I think there’s a lot more exposure playing,” said Harris about the position. “I expect a lot of myself. I was very humbled because there’s so many things that come with being the left tackle, so many things that I can take pride in. I just think being there’s been real fun for me.”

Offensive linemen are judged by the success of the unit, and most of the facets of the offense depend on how strongly it plays. Harris has embraced the opportunity to excel as an individual and as a part of a group.

“You’ve got four other guys,” he said. “If one of you makes a mistake, it can cause problems across the board. As a unit, you protect the quarterback—everything starts there. If we don’t protect, Brady can’t throw to [Jeff] Samardzija or Rhema [McKnight] or anyone else.”

And then there’s the running game.

“We don’t block, Darius [Walker] can’t run in the holes and he can’t get yards,” Harris said. “We really take a lot of pride and onus of responsibility on ourselves, and that’s what makes it so special, to be part of a unit and also being an individual.”

“Every time I go out even today, if somebody asks me, ‘How’s it going?’ everybody?” he said. “There’s a lot of responsibility resting on my shoulders but that’s what I love.”

Defensive linemen don’t usually make the stat sheets, but for Harris, winning the game means that they’ve done well enough.

“If we win, we did something right,” he said. “Then if Brady’s been hit, if Darius doesn’t get a lot of yards, those are definitely things that we look at.”

“Every day I go out and film and try and correct for the next week in practice.”

“Being in an environment where they practice faith and appreciate faith and there’s so many opportunities for people to exercise their faith really makes it easy for me to feel welcome.”

Ryan Harris
Irish left tackle

Harris is far from finished with his football career. But he’s already making plans to take what he’s learned at Notre Dame outside the campus.

He hopes to go into politics or teaching after graduation.

“I wanted to prove to myself that I could handle the academic rigors of Notre Dame and do both things— I’m not just an athlete,” he said. “There are so many rivalries, every week, so much exposure, and you’re in the classroom the next day. It’s the best of both worlds. I’m just very happy I’ve been able to take advantage of both opportunities.”

Harris will graduate with a double major in political science and economics. He’s a devout Muslim and he said he made lifelong friends as a resident of Siegfried Hall.

But Harris’ Muslim faith is also a central part of who he is. Being a predominantly Catholic school, he said, doesn’t make him Muslim harder. “It’s easier,” he said. “Because people understand that faith is an every day thing—not something you do just once a week. Being in an environment where they practice faith and appreciate faith and there’s so many opportunities for people to exercise their faith really makes it easy for me to feel welcome and for me to do the same in my own way.”

From faith to football, Harris has taken on every aspect of his life in his own way.

Harris has many goals for his life after this season and his graduation. But wherever he goes, Notre Dame will go with him, he said.

“The morals and principles that Notre Dame teaches—to be a Notre Dame man,” he said. “It means someone who is a contributor member to the community and who stands for ethics and good things.”
Blue-collar senior values dedicated teammates

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Nick Borseti talks with a thick New England accent and a straightforwardness that fits perfectly with Charlie Weis' style.

Borseti is a fan of football players who like to keep their focus in two places — between the sidelines and on their classes.

The social atmosphere as opposed to other colleges isn't much to toke about," Borseti said. "I just like the fact that people who come here, come here to play football, and that's it. They come here to play football and get a good education, and they're not concerned with the social atmosphere or any of these outside influences. You've got a really dedicated student athlete when they come here.

Borseti said the senior kicker has taken him from his first academic love to another.

He began as a mechanical engineering major but switched to industrial design because football interfered with his engineering classes.

"Academics are really important coming here," he said. "I'm an industrial design major now, and I'm in love with that major as well. It's definitely important that I'm leaving with a degree, and I'm proud of it.

With that degree, Borseti said, he hopes to enter the world of automobiles and consumer electronics as specialities he would back to back to back to his classes at Notre Dame have been important in that regard.

"They do a great job each year narrowing you down and you just situations. They're really just taking the classes in all the ways you want to have your degree major," Borseti said. "This isn't the type of school where you have to be embarrassed about being a football player...

When teachers do recognize me as a football player, they don't treat me any different.

And that's just how Borseti would have it. He credits his father, John, with his work ethic.

"Everything I've done I've worked for," he said. "I never got anything handed to me.

Borseti said most of his team mates have the same dedicated mindset as him, and that's what he respects the team so much.

"It's always great coming to a program and onto a team because you immediately have 100 friends," he said. "We have a lot of good guys on the team and they make lifelong friends."
Dwight Stephenson, Jr.
Defender just the latest in a line of athletes

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Dwight Stephenson is a family man, and the Stephensiens are a football family.

The senior defensive tackle grew up in Delray Beach, Fla., with his parents, brother and sister.

"Everybody looks out for each other, and everyone's based on working for the family," he said. "The best thing I learned from my family is to know how to give to the people that you love." While at home, Stephenson attended Pope John Paul II High School where he played three sports — track and field, basketball, and football. He won three varsity letters in football and served as the captain for the Eagles in his senior season.

Then a linebacker, Dwight had 22 tackles for loss and 27 sacks in his senior campaign — good enough to earn him all-county honors and a spot in the Cal-Florida All-Star game. Stephenson, who now wears No. 57 for the Irish, has a strong football pedigree. He was born to a hard-working mother and an NFL Hall of Famer. His father, Dwight Sr., spent four years at Alabama, where he was named an All-American center, before going on to play with the Miami Dolphins for seven years.

"He's been around great football all of his life, but now I think he's just proud to see his son playing football and trying his hardest," Stephenson said.

The 6-foot-2, 250-pounder has batted a deep defensive line for playing time the past two seasons. Last year Stephenson played in six games for the Irish on defense and made nine appearances on special teams.

"I think the coaching staff just feels it's unfair to unleash me on regular college football players, but when they do it'll be quite an experience," he said.

Stephenson had the same level of confidence when moving from his linebacker position to the defensive line after his freshman year. The only change was in the first few steps for the defender that he just needed to get to the ball. When Stephenson isn't waiting to be unleashed on the gridiron, he spends his time working on a degree in management from the Mendoza College of Business.

"As long as football is available to me I'll be chasing it," he said. "But my second passion is in business, I love big business.

Stephenson is interested in development, commerce and investment banking. Football has kept from gaining as much as experience as he would like, but he has managed to find ways to fit the taste of the business world.

He has spent short stints interning with several companies and has done a lot of work with his father, who now runs a Florida construction company. Sometimes down the road, he wouldn't mind getting himself into sports management.

In the meantime, he has more pressing issues on his mind. This Saturday against the Black Knights may be the last time that Stephenson has the privilege of running out of the tunnel to the tune of 80,000 screaming Irish fans. He isn't sure if that's the end just yet.

"As long as it was going to be exciting at that time, but after the game it will be more present (that it's over), before then we have a game to play ... my mind will be focused on (Kicking) Army's butt." Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy@nd.edu

Joe Brockington
Linebacker steps up when his number is called

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

On Sept. 30, Notre Dame's starting defense took the field against Purdue with one key addition: outside linebacker Joe Brockington in his first career start for the Irish in four years.

"This year when I started against Purdue was one of my best moments because I finally got on the field," Brockington said. "It's been a journey since I've been here." Brockington's journey to Notre Dame began in central Pennsylvania, where his mother raised him and his sister on her own.

"She worked two jobs pretty much since I was born — supported my sister and I by herself," Brockington said of his mother. "We've had hard times but our family is the best. So far, the best of my life." While in high school at Pymatuning Valley School in Pymatuning Valley, Pa., Brockington was already a standout football player, rushing for 1,046 yards and registering 110 total tackles during his junior season. Even though he was side-lined by a shoulder injury in his senior year, Brockington was still recruited by schools in the Big Ten, ACC, Big Ten as well as Notre Dame.

"Picking Notre Dame was a combination of academics and the coaching staff that was in place at the time," Brockington said. "It was more of a decision my family and I made together. Notre Dame was the best opportunity for me.

Another major influence in Brockington's decision was whether he would get to play Penn State, a school known for having many of his friends and neighbors. "I knew a bunch of people that I said I should go to Penn State for a little bit. I wasn't good enough to play college football," Brockington said. "It was definitely something I looked at when I was looking at schools. It was the opportunity for everyone in my area that I can play college football.

Brockington was redshirted his freshman year, missing his second consecutive season.

"It was tough. I was practicing still, doing some things," he said. "But it was definitely tough, it was hard to deal with and having to get back out here for me was tough. But with my family, they helped me get through it." Brockington continued to work while at Notre Dame, but at his academics if not athletics. Brockington entered school as a business major student and spent his sophomore year in the Mendoza College of Business before switching in his junior year to become an American Studies major with a minor in computer applications.

"Then I was looking into different majors, and I decided on American Studies because the classes they let you take were just more interesting than any other major I could find in arts and letters," Brockington said of his decision.

But despite the hard work Brockington exerted on the field and in the classroom, he feels the most important part of his experiences here at Notre Dame were those that happened with his friends outside of football, the kind of regular students he might not have met at another university.

"The interaction that you have with other students is different than at other schools," he said. "All through college I haven't [roomed] with a football player. It's helped me meet some new people. Now I look back on (form life) and it helped build some relationships that I will have for the rest of my life.

But despite the great memories from Notre Dame, Brockington's journey is at the crossroads. Because of his redshirt freshman year, Brockington could come back for a fifth year under the Dome or leave school to start life in the real world.

If Brockington does decide to forgo his fifth year, he plans to take the LSAT in June, work all of next year and then enter law school. But, with the chance to play in Happy Valley next season as the Irish travel to Penn State, Brockington says he may return.

But even if Brockington does return for his fifth year, he knows that law school will be his next step.

Regardless of when he leaves, Brockington says the most important thing he will take with him is not the games played on the field or the lessons learned in the classroom, but the people he met here.

"The people that I actually met here, the friends that I made here just because the people that actually go to school here kind of grew up in a different situation than I did," Brockington said of his favorite experience at Notre Dame. "It was good because I learned some things from them and they learned some things from me.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@nd.edu
Positive outlook is a common thread for lineman

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

The smile on Dan Chervanick's face tells his story this year.
The fifth-year senior was a defensive lineman until last spring, when Irish coach Charlie Weis moved him to the offensive side of the ball to help compensate for Notre Dame's thin depth chart. After playing two seasons and recording just two tackles in his first four years at Notre Dame, the transition lifted his place on the depth chart, but his work ethic rewarded him in another way.
The valedictorian of Holy Name High School in Reading, Pa., Chervanick was both dedicated and important to the team with the offensive line situation in question. And he had some experience on offense. Along with winning all-league academic honors in Berks County, Pa., Chervanick was an all-league offensive tackle and defensive interior lineman.

With Chervanick's mother helping move in his sister, Marie, a junior at Notre Dame, in late August, Weis awarded Chervanick a scholarship for his dedication.
"My mum was crying," Chervanick said. "And I called my dad, and told him, 'You know those loans [for my post-graduate year]?' Don't worry about it, we'll figure it out.

Weis said the mid-week work and optional lifting sessions are the toughest part of the season — but also the place where he has forged the strongest bond with teammates.
"The friends I've made — it's been wonderful," Chervanick said. "I wouldn't give anything away for it.

The tireless work that led Chervanick to a 3.596 four-year GPA at Notre Dame and a 3.75 average in his final undergraduate semester — impressed his coach, who likes to treat football as a business. But such a relationship should probably be expected, with Chervanick earning a degree in accounting as well as history.

And he already knows exactly what he'll be doing with the business degree and the Master of Science in Accountancy which he will have earned by May.

Chevanick interned with Citigroup this summer and, after interviews with New York financial powerhouses Merrill Lynch, Cantor Fitzgerald and others, he accepted a position at UBS next fall as an analyst in the company's fixed-income sales and trading program.

But as the Army game approaches, Chervanick has a second chance to up on the mentors from practices and team meetings, until the final lap around Notre Dame Stadium.

Contact Ken Fowler at klfowler@nd.edu

Dan Santucci brings defensive mentality to O-line

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Fifth-year offensive lineman Dan Santucci has had to switch to a different side of the ball and swap positions mid-game, but the one thing that has remained constant for the starting right guard has been his teammates and his ability to adjust to change.

In spring practice before his third year at Notre Dame, Santucci was asked by former Irish coach Tyone Willingham's staff to switch from the defensive line to the inside of the offensive line. The proposition came after Santucci played in all 12 games his sophomore season on special teams and made a brief appearance against Stanford at defensive tackle, earning his first monogram.
"At first it was a little bit of an adjustment, because I'm sitting there playing D-line and all of a sudden I get moved," Santucci said. "But when they asked me, I went home and thought about it, that night — I was just real excited.

He carried that excitement over onto the practice field that spring and made a big enough impression to earn a recurring spot in the trenches in 2004. He played in 11 games at guard — including 45 special team appearances — and made his first start, at left guard, against Oregon State in the Insight Bowl.

The hardest part of the change, Santucci said, was sitting back on pass protection, when he had been accustomed to playing aggressive with the defensive pass rush. He already knew, however, how to block for the rush after playing tight end in high school.
"It was about after the sixth or seventh game, at Navy of my senior year, I felt like after that game — I played almost all half — and I felt comfortable starting," Santucci said of the position change. "I just got more and more comfortable as the year went on, just worked hard at it and tried to get better.

And Santucci, a Chicago native, knew a little bit about working at things to get better before he enrolled at Notre Dame. During his junior year at St. Patrick High School on the city's north side, his team went 2-7. But the following season, he led the Shamrocks to a 7-4 record and a playoff win — the school's first since 1988.
The summer prior to that season in 2001, Santucci turned down scholarship offers from Nebraska, Purdue and Northwestern to pursue a scholarship from then-Irish defensive coach Bob St. Peter and Mattison — the weekend after Mattison offered it.
"I got offered a scholarship and being from Chicago, going to a Catholic school and watching Notre Dame my whole life — it was a pretty easy decision," Santucci said.

Santucci had only a season to settle into his new role as an offensive lineman, before his role was rattled yet again with the entrance of Charlie Weis in 2005.

Weis instituted a four-man rotation between the two guard positions and center, rotating Santucci with current seniors John Sullivan and Bob Morton and current New England Patriot Dan Stevenson. He accepted the change in stride, and despite his desire to play every down, he looked on the team's depth chart with enthusiasm.
"The friends I've made — it's been wonderful," Santucci said. "I wouldn't give anything away for it.

The tireless work that led Santucci to a 3.596 four-year GPA at Notre Dame and a 3.75 average in his final undergraduate semester — impressed his coach, who likes to treat football as a business. But such a relationship should probably be expected, with Chervanick earning a degree in accounting as well as history.

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Contact Ken Fowler at klfowler@nd.edu

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Irish senior Dan Chervanick runs with the defense in 2005 before making the switch to offensive line. A fifth-year senior, Chervanick accepted a job with UBS for his first post-graduate job.
It's the last home game for Brady Quinn. There's no way the toughest Irish quarterback since Joe Montana leaves Notre Dame for this game. Quinn goes up top early to Jeff Samardzija and Rhema McKnight before Darius Walker runs behind an overpowering O-line for an easy win over the Black Knights. The seniors sing the Alma Mater one more time before focusing on the group's first win over Southern Cal next week.

**Final Score:** Notre Dame 45

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**Irish experts**

**Mike Gilloon**
Editor in Chief

**Bob Griffin**
Asst., Managing Editor

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**Note:**

The Irish are too well coached and too focused. They have had a tough year, and they haven't been able to break even in their season. But they are giving up 164.3 yards per game, which is a good sign for them. The Black Knights are giving up 164.3 yards per game in the air, but they have picked off nine of their opponents. The team has a total of nine quarterback sacks for a loss of 57 yards and have broken up 22 passes this season.

**This is the kind of game where a smaller running back can break free of tacklers and put up yards and touchdowns.** If the Irish go up early, the game might be over before the running backs hit the field.
Friday, November 17, 2006

**The Observer • IRISH INSIDER**

**Armed Forces**

**Head**

**Army Black Knights**

**Army 2006 Schedule**

- Sept. 2 at Arkansas St. — L
- Sept. 9 KENT STATE — W
- Sept. 16 at Texas A&M — L
- Sept. 23 at Baylor — W
- Sept. 30 RICE — L
- Oct. 7 VMI — W
- Oct. 14 at Connecticut — L
- Oct. 21 TCU — L
- Oct. 28 at Tulane — L
- Nov. 3 AIR FORCE — L
- Nov. 18 at Notre Dame
- Dec. 2 at Navy

**Black Knights Passing**

- The Irish secondary has a disturbing habit of giving up big plays to mediocre passing attacks. Opponents gain 195.5 yards per game against Notre Dame and have scored 18 touchdowns through the air so far this season.

**Black Knights Rushing**

- The Black Knights pass for an average of 135.8 yards per game, led by Jeremy Trimble, Walter Hill and Tim Dunn. Trimble and Dunn are tied for the rest of the team has combined for just four.

**Special Teams**

- The Black Knights have accumulated 18.2 yards per kick return and 18.5 per punt return. They've given up just 16.1 yards per punt return. They did, however, give up a kickoff return for a touchdown.

**Intangibles**

- Senior Days aren't always happy. This class remembers a loss to Pitt in 2004 that closed out home season on the wrong side of an upset. With so much at stake, the team can't afford to look past Army to USC on the horizon.

**Black Knights Rushing**

- Army runs the option sometimes, and has a fairly strong rushing attack, coming in at 137.1 yards per game. Quarterback Wesley McMahand leads all rushers with 643 yards on 133 attempts and Tony Moore has five scores.

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

- The Irish managed to hold Air Force and Navy to a combined 31 points in two games this season. Army has more of an air attack than the Midshipmen, but a weaker running game. The Irish should dominate the line of scrimmage.

**INTANGIBLES**

- Notre Dame's special teams play has been up and down through the season. Army seems to have done a good job keeping returns to a minimum, but the Irish will be the best team that the Black Knights face this season on all sides of the ball.

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**NOTRE DAME**

**PASSING**

- The Irish average 216.6 yards per kick return and 8.3 yards per punt return. They give up about 18.9 yards per kick return and 11.1 yards per punt return. They did, however, give up a kickoff return for a touchdown to UNC.

**RUSHING**

- Army has already said it has nothing to lose.

**INTANGIBLES**

- Army is No. 1 in the nation in charitable giving—a +1.6 turnover ratio. Nice.

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**Notre Dame does not hate America. It does, however, like to post one-sided wins over the service academies. This isn't meant as a disrespect to those serving our country. The teams have a long and storied history that has shaped the face and look of American athletics. But it's Quinn & Company's last hurrah in the house that Rock Built. The score won't even be close.**

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**Roster**

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**Experts**

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Chase Anastasio
Receiver makes biggest impact on special teams

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Somewhere deep in the Notre Dame archives, the record for most blocked punts sits in bold capital letters:

Whatever name holds that spot has some competition from a wide out sometimes mistaken for Jeff Samardzija but much more lethal than No. 83 when Notre Dame drops back to punt a punt.

Over the past four years, Irish wide receiver Chase Anastasio has blocked three punts. In fact, all three came last year — one against Washington, and a pair of deflections at Stanford.

"Someone told me that if I get one or two more, I'll have the school record," Anastasio said. But that he would have two blocks by this point of his career is no fluke. Anastasio, usually the man attacking the right side of the offensive line when opponents are punting, advantagefully gets to the pin.

"I can get a little frustrating," he said. "But you go out there each time with the same motivation.

And, he said, the record has no place in his mind. "I'm just trying to help the team on every single play," he said.

Anastasio has just three receptions in his career, but that makes him the leading pass-catcher at wide out with another year of eligibility left. After sitting out as a freshman, he saw most of his action on kickoff returns as a sophomore. Anastasio returned a team-high 19 kicks for an average of 18.6 yards per attempt. He also had one catch for 15 yards.

As a junior, Anastasio touched the ball only three times — his three big plays on special teams.

He said he is used to being a role player and works just as hard every day because helping himself improve helps the team improve overall.

Anastasio grew up in Burke, Va., and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax, Va. Like many of the role players on the Irish, he was a star before coming to college. Anastasio was a member of USA Today's top-100 team. As a senior, he rushed for 681 yards and seven touchdowns on 112 carries to go along with his 20 catches for 433 yards and six receiving scores.

At Notre Dame, the receiver is a sociology and computer applications double major with a 3.17 GPA, including a 3.5 in the spring of 2006. He said he is on track to graduate in May.

Anastasio said he wasn't sure if he would return for a fifth year yet — he wouldn't dedicate time to think about that until December, when Irish coach Charlie Weis said he would meet with all seniors with a fifth year of eligibility remaining.
Irish senior tight end John Carlson's first love was basketball, and his early days as a football player had him anywhere but his current spot.

Irish senior tight end John Carlson dashes around Penn State safety Anthony Scirrotto in Notre Dame's 43-17 win Sept. 9. Carlson had four touchdowns before being sidelined with an injury.

"We spend so many hours meeting and practicing with the same people that sometimes it gets monotonous and sometimes you have a bad day — a bad practice or something, just to go and get away from that and kind of have that as a release, I really enjoyed that experience." - John Carlson, Irish tight end

"I'm trying to be a complete player. I'm not there yet and I feel like I really need to improve my blocking especially. But as far as receiving goes, there's still a lot of things to sharpen up on, route running, precision in route running is important." - Anthony Fasano, who graduated last year and was taken in the second round of the NFL Draft by the Dallas Cowboys, was an all-conference selections in college.

"I learned a lot from him as a player, not really by what he told me but just what he showed me on the field," Carlson said. "The intensity he played with, his physicality in blocking, the way he ran routes — I learned a lot from him as a player.

What next? A history major, Carlson is on track to graduate in May. He has another year of eligibility left, but could join Fasano in the NFL. He's also considering graduate school, law school or teaching.

And at this moment? He's not thinking much past Saturday's game.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu
Leitko appreciates ND more during time away

After taking a year off, defensive lineman returns to the University with renewed vigor for athletics, academics

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Sports Writer

Travis Leitko didn’t fully understand Notre Dame until he was away from it.

The 6-foot-7, 270-pound defensive tackle missed the 2005 season during a year-long hiatus, but found himself back under the dome in 2006, looking to complete his degree and finish his college football career.

"You miss things you don't realize," Leitko said. "The time off definitely allowed me to sit back, regroup and rethink about what I want and where I am."

As a dedicated student-athlete, Leitko explained how difficult it can be to balance academics with athletics, especially at a rigorous institution like Notre Dame.

"I was constantly in overdrive just trying to survive," Leitko said. "With that year off, I was able to finally take a breath and look at where I was at what I was doing and not just myself, 'Is this what I want?'"

The answer for Leitko was yes. Upon his return, the Woodlands, Texas native hit both the field and the books harder than ever, taking on both academic and athletic challenges with a newfound energy.

Leitko arrived at Notre Dame as a defensive end, but has since shifted to defensive tackle.

"It's been challenging, but I've enjoyed it," Leitko said. "I've been able to adjust pretty well. I'm just trying to do my best."

As a history major, Leitko has found plenty of challenges and opportunities off the field as well.

"I've always been interested in history," he said. "I love the motivations behind what has happened, what moves our society and world, and I think it's a great concentration for your life because it gives you a great base in analytical thinking and human behavior."

"I've been working hard, studying a lot, trying to finish my degree," Leitko said.

Yet the year off has clearly given Leitko better perspective, as he recognizes the pressure that many college students put on themselves.

"As a society going on, we're so pushed to go to college, graduate, get a real job, work, and I think a lot of people are pushed by that timetable," said Leitko. "I think it narrows your scope of how you think, and what you do."

Leitko has tried not to be limited by such a narrow focus, working for Davidson Interhall to scholarship player.

"I really asked myself, 'Is this what I wanted?'" Leitko said. "I think it best explained how a breath and look at where I was."

Hard works pays off for son of '77 grads, now off to law school

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

It seems too improbable to be true.

A young football player comes to Notre Dame with dreams of suiting up in blue and gold. He spends his first semester playing Interhall football, but unlike many others, he does not abandon his dream of making the varsity squad. He keeps working, and eventually earns a spot as a walk-on.

That still does not satisfy him. He hustles everywhere in practice to make himself better, earn the respect of his teammates and make the coaches take notice of him. Eventually, they do spot him, and reward the young man when he comes through in every game — and a scholarship to boot.

It sounds like something out of a movie, but that is exactly what happened to sophomore special teams player/defensive end Casey Cullen.

"I was never really expecting the scholarship," Coach Weis told the senior walk-ons during the spring when he first got here, when I was a junior, that he was going to offer walk-ons a scholarship," Cullen said. "I didn’t know if it was going to be a senior type of deal, but I told myself, 'All right, I'm going to work as hard as I can to just show him I can play.' As I did that I gave more time to play."

Cullen comes from a family with a strong Notre Dame tradition. Both of his parents are 1977 graduates of Notre Dame and his great-grandfather, Christie Flanagan, was a two-time All-American halfback at Notre Dame in the late 1920s.

He attended Saint Joseph High School in Victoria, Texas where he was named to the all-state team as a linebacker his senior year. Cullen's primary responsibility on the team is on special teams, both as a blocker on kick returns and a gatherer on kickoff returns.

"On special teams, there's a definite rush and there's not nearly as much responsibility. It's just use your athleticism and make a play," Cullen said. "It is a lot of fun because you get to hit a lot of people. It's my way of contributing to the team so I like it."

His first taste of action — and the highlight of his career — came against Miami in the opening game of the 2005 season, when Cullen dressed for the first time, and forced a fumble.

"Coming out of the tunnel and knowing I was going to be on the field at the very beginning whether it was kickoff or kick return, I was going to be the first guy on the field," Cullen said. "Coming out of that tunnel their scholarship players were right on top of us, and coming out there for that opening kickoff was great."

It’s been intimidating making the team at first because these guys didn’t know who I was or if I could play football. It was just you had to prove yourself everyday, earn a little respect everyday. It wasn't until Coach Weis got here that I really got to make a contribution," Cullen said. "My grandfather, Dick Cullen, and my parents have been a big inspiration for me ever since I was little. They’ve always been there for me, always there to talk to me and be real with me."

After school, Cullen plans on following in his father and grandfather’s footsteps and going on to law school.

"They’ve led me in the right direction so far," he said. "So I look to them and do what they do."
Derek Landri

Making his presence felt

Irish senior Derek Landri has key role in Notre Dame's defense, strong love for his community

By BOB GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

Derek Landri's journey through Notre Dame — athletically and socially — hasn't exactly followed the classic pattern for a highly touted recruit out of California high school powerhouse De La Salle.

On the outside, he's a fierce defensive lineman who blocked two extra points in Notre Dame's 45-26 win against Georgia. He is third on the team with 44 tackles (5.5 for a loss) and second in sacks with three on the team with 44 tackles (5.5 for a loss). He was a big unknown when he arrived on the scene.

His teams with senior defensive tackle Trevor Laws (39 tackles, 3.5 sacks) to anchor an interior line that has been a leading force on the defense all season.

If one looks deeper intoLandri, he encounters an intriguing story about who has dealt with more on the football field than most college players.

He's seen four coaches in five years. And when he comes in as a freshman in 2002, he's not even sure Landri will make the little-known walk on.

But once Landri grew tired of the Notre Dame bubble, he looked elsewhere. And in the process, he met two friends.

Landri met Oliva the last of the spring, before the school's April 23, and Mike Oliva are not Notre Dame stu­dents. In fact, they aren't students at all — one's a doctor and one's a landscaper.

Landri met Oliva the last of the spring, when he was looking to join his old high school as freshmen — Landri the big-time recruit and Oliva family — a couple families that are just in the community.

"I formed a good relationship with different people — the Delpira family, the Oliva family — a couple families that are just in the community," Landri said.

Derek Landri
Irish defensive tackle

"The college experience has been great," Landri said. "I'm happy as anything that I'm here at Notre Dame."

"I never really got the West Coast thing until I came out here and people started coming in here and put­ting me in the category with (Chris) Frome and (Anthony) Verragino, the type of player, the type of guy, when he's out there, he's an animal," Oliva said. "He's an outstanding individual.

So what do his teammates think of his friends outside the Notre Dame community?

Fellow defensive tackle Trevor Laws could barely help but laugh when discussing Landri's buddies in the South Bend area.

"He definitely has that Italian connection," Laws said with a smile. "He knows a lot of people that I don't know. He's more recently, Jacksonville Jaguars running back Maurice Jones-Drew — a good friend of Landri's from their high school playing days Jones-Drew was a year behind Landri while at De La Salle, Landri established himself as one of the top players in the school's history.

"I don't think it's anything that I've had to do — the kid from California who is unknown mentioned alongside the big households, the big names, the big schools," Landri said.

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But Landri doesn't need the support of those on television when he's playing for a while, that's a dream, I'm sure it's a dream for a lot of people but hopefully I'm playing for a while, he said.

"Where, it doesn't really mat­ter — I just enjoy playing football.

Finding his place

Landri has three regular season games left in his Notre Dame career, and if the Irish win all three, they will most likely be headed to the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans provided a near-miracle doesn't propel them into the BCS Championship game.

But Landri isn't the type who's concerned with where Notre Dame ranks in certain polls or how the group is perceived by TV commentators.

In fact, Landri — a sports fan growing up — doesn't watch much ESPN anymore at all.

"I don't think too fondly of people that comment on that," Landri said. "We're overrated and we don't have a defense and that type of thing.

"Growing up, a sports kid, ESPN's one of your favorite shows, you just want to dis­like it. But I think that's just the way life is, the way the world is.

"I don't watch it nearly as much as I used to because I don't want to listen to some­one who doesn't know too much about the in and outs."

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Defensive tackle Derek Landri sacks Michigan State quarterback Drew Stanton in Notre Dame's win on Sept. 23.

But he is an avid surfer.

"When he's in the water, he's a surfer boy," Landri said with a smile. "I don't watch it nearly as much as I used to because I don't want to listen to some­one who doesn't know too much about the in and outs."

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Contact Bob Griffin at rgriff@nd.edu
AMBROSE WOODEN

Versatile cornerback sees football as ‘ticket’

Defensive back describes friendships with teammates but remains ‘haunted’ by big play against USC last season

By KATE GALEs
University Sports Editor

In his career as a football player, Ambrose Wooden has been a punt returner, defensive lineman, receiver, and most recently, cornerback. He said it’s his hardest position so far.

“In football, you get beat everyone,” he said. “You make one play, one wrong step and you give it up. It’s exciting, you can never take a play off.”

“Every year, Wooden is a self-starter, he goes out and does his part,” said Michael Bryan, who recruited Wooden from Adairsville High School.

Wooden’s senior year, entering three games at starting position and another as a backup, he said, “I just got to go out and be myself. Day in and day out, I like to smile a lot, I’m a happy kid. You see me on Saturday, I’m a happy kid.”

He said he is most excited for his final season as a Notre Dame student-athlete.

“Every game day, win or lose — the wins are definitely the notoriety of the Notre Dame football program has mesmerized me,” Wooden said.

Wooden is a former resident of Savannah, Ga., and one of his closest friends is running back Chinedum Ndukwe and Zbikowski, his former teammate at Notre Dame.

Wooden said that he is happy to be within the whole team, the football and the Cancer Awareness Program he started at Adairsville High.

He looks forward to winning more games — his favorite part of football.

“Everything game day, win or lose — the wins are definitely the best part,” he said.

ASHLEY MCCONNELL

Fullback’s college career was difficult transition

Small-town native has learned to balance both football and academics

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

It’s been quite a journey for Ashley McConnell, a senior at Adairsville High School and fullback for the Notre Dame football team.

McConnell’s hometown is a one-stop-light town where you know everyone to a pretty big college, and it was a big change,” McConnell said.

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“Everything just to play on special teams,” McConnell said.

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Contact Kate Gailes at kgailes@nd.edu
Two-sport star

Jeff Samardzija excels in the end zone and on the pitcher's mound for Notre Dame

Editor's note: This story first ran on Sept. 23, 2005.

By HEATHER VAN HOOGARDEN Sports Writer

Jeff Samardzija was just waiting for an opportunity.

The opportunity to catch a pass in the end zone. 

The opportunity to play two sports in college. 

And now that he's finally caught not just one, but five touchdown passes, after not finding the end zone for two years, and now that he is a key member of the Notre Dame football team as well, he's just looking for more opportunities.

"If they were going to throw the ball my way five times in the end zone I would have expected to have five touchdown receptions," the junior wide receiver said. "You've got to think you're going to make those five catches. It's just a matter of personnel and being in the right place at the right time, and then just taking advantage of the opportunity.

A slow start in the fall

Samardzija came into Notre Dame as a highly touted recruit from nearby Valparaiso High School after excelling in football, basketball and baseball.

Samardzija never missed a start in his four years.

He was an all-state center-fielder in baseball, he finished second in the voting for Mr. Football in Indiana and he was a starting receiver in the state of Indiana.

However, his freshman year at Notre Dame, he was hidden behind then-senior receiver Rhema McKnight and Maurice Stovall as well as then-senior Omar Jenkins. Samardzija played in all 12 games but caught just seven passes for 53 yards.

Last year, although he emerged as quarterback Brady Quinn's go-to receiver on many third down conversions, he was still a quiet player for the Irish, catching 17 passes for 274 yards on the season, but still no touchdowns.

"If you're a receiver, just throwing the ball your way is what helps you succeed," the 6-foot-5, 216-pounder said. "I guess that's all it comes down to is getting the opportunity to make plays, and when you do get those opportunities, just to come through and make the plays to keep that confidence going within the team."

But he didn't have that opportunity — that is, until this season.

This year Samardzija has caught 13 passes in just three games, including five touchdown passes for second in the voting for Mr. Football in Indiana and he was a starting receiver in the state of Indiana.

This year Samardzija has been the recipient of being in the right place at the right time.

"I wasn't surprised to see his counterpart put up big numbers thus far this season," Stovall said. "It doesn't surprise me at all," Stovall said. "I know the ability that Jeff has. The things that you see in the game are the things he does in practice, so it wasn't a surprise to us at all."

Samardzija says he's just getting more opportunities to have the ball than he was in the past — there's nothing more to it.

"I don't think there's too much of a difference," Samardzija said of this year and previous years. "It's just getting the opportunity to make a play. If you're in the right position to make a play coming your way — I think last year there were a couple chances I may have not taken. I didn't make the play. There's no problem. Maybe I made a play or two early that gave the coaches confidence to put me out there in different situations.

The 'other' sport

When Irish baseball coach Pete Mainieri read an article that said now Notre Dame baseball's star Jeff Samardzija wanted to play college baseball if he could, he immediately talked to then-coach Tyone Willingham, and he said it was alright to look into the possibility of him playing baseball as well.

"So I started asking him about professional opportunities," Mainieri said. "I told him, and they said they'd seen his work and that he's not bad."

So Mainieri sent his pitching coach at the time to watch Samardzija and scouting him. Mainieri led him to ask him if he wanted to play baseball for the Irish.

And with Willingham's blessing, Samardzija became a two-sport athlete. Mainieri said now he and Weis have also come to an agreement to let the pitcher/wide receiver play both sports.

"Charlie's been great as far as supporting Jeff," Mainieri said of Weis, who he said attended one or two of the games in which Samardzija pitched.

As far as Samardzija, he is just glad he got the opportunity to play both college baseball and football.

"It kind of just worked out for me," Samardzija said. "There were some places who said I could do both, and there were other places that said I couldn't, so that had a little bit to do with what school I went to, but it's kind of nice that it just worked out.

In 2005, Samardzija earned All-America honors and signed a professional baseball contract with the Chicago Cubs.

"I think last year there were a couple chances I may have let slip away and I didn't make the plays, and I think this year maybe I made a play or two early that gave the coaches confidence to put me out in different situations."

Jeff Samardzija

Irish wide receiver

"I think the opportunity that Jeff has," Mainieri said. "There's no question in my mind when he's out on the mound that he looks like a Major League pitcher."

Balancing act

Although these two sports keep Samardzija plenty busy, he has not had to miss a spring football practice due to his baseball commitment. His days, however, are scheduled to the fullest, balancing sports as well as a marketing major.

"I think balancing, it just comes down to time management," he said. "I think my schedule's pretty much down to the half hour. A lot of it comes down to just before it happens, he ready to go to whatever that day's calling for."

Rooney said he is impressed with the way Samardzija is able to balance all of his commitments.

"It's a real credit to Jeff for the self-discipline and the time management skills that he has," Rooney said. "Obviously he has a challenging schedule for both sports, but it's a credit to Jeff and the way he goes about his business. He's a very determined guy. He has a very structured routine that he does every day."

But even with all the scheduling, Samardzija sometimes finds that 24 hours is not enough to fit everything in a day.

"Sometimes there's not enough time in the day to do everything you want," he said. "Just getting it all in is pretty tough and what's his best sport? Whatever he's playing," Mainieri said.

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A tale of two talents

Special teams captain adjusts to position change in his senior year and becomes a vocal leader in the process

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

For three years, Travis Thomas usually was on the bench when the Irish offense had the ball. As a senior, that's still the case. But almost everything else is different.

As special teams captain in 2006, Thomas is the least glorified and least scrutinized of Notre Dame's three official leaders — Brady Quinn represents the offense and Tom Zbikowski heads the defense. But even though he's not the one usually projected onto television sets, Thomas is the most vocal of the three, a role he had to get used to.

"I find myself being more vocal, especially being on the defensive side," Thomas said. "There's a lot of help from Zibby obviously, but I just feel real comfortable with that."

Thomas has had to work hard to become a good linebacker and a vocal leader, but he said that's something with which he's accustomed.

After earning two-time conference MVP honors in high school and totaling 18 rushing touchdowns as a senior, Thomas didn't see the field as a freshman. He finally played — and started — in the first game of his sophomore season, but it was a topic even though he carried and as many fumbles — two — as yards. He carried only 19 more times that season as Darius Walker and Ryan Grant picked up the bulk of the attempts.

A gifted athlete with good size, he more than doubled his carries in 2005, but Irish coach Charlie Weis felt 63 rushes was not good enough for "one of the 22 best players on the team."

So the 6-foot, 215-pound product of Washington, Pa., about 20 miles southwest of Pittsburgh, went from a spot-carry, change-of-pace running back to a speedy linebacker in one offseason.

"Whenever I got my opportunity I tried to shine," Thomas said. "I think it was noticed, and I think it was a good decision for everyone to come together and make the choice and move me to the other side. I think it was a good thought on Coach Weis' part. I just think it was a good decision overall."

As a senior, Thomas has started eight of Notre Dame's 10 games, sitting two out after injuring his ribs on the final play of the 49-37 Irish win over Michigan State Sept. 23.

When Notre Dame recruits ask Thomas about his emergence, he has a simple message for them.

"I just try to let them know that you're going to have to work for everything you earn here," he said. "You're going to have to earn everything. Nothing's going to be given to you. Every game is a championship game for the people you play against, and academics are tough, so if this is what you're really looking for, then you're going to get it."

One of the things Thomas has gotten out of his time at Notre Dame has been his relationship with his newfound mates in the linebacker corps. Thomas said his fellow senior Joe Brockington, an outside linebacker from Palmyra, Pa., developed a good relationship when they first arrived at Notre Dame "just because we're from Pennsylvania."

Thomas, who's a consulting major in the Mendoza College of Business, said most of his work deals with problem-solving in discussion groups.

"Things are going real well in the classroom," he said. "You're not only going to be a football player, but you're going to have to go to class and work with your classmates."

But Thomas has dreams of playing on Sundays before he goes pro in something other than sports. Having played offense, defense and special teams, Thomas just wants to get to the NFL, no matter the role.

"Special teams has been a niche of mine, so maybe at the next level I'm obviously going to have a role there," Thomas said. "You know, the object is just to get there. So the fifth year, like I said, that's going to take care of itself once the season ends. Coach [Weis] and I will meet, but it's no a concern of mine right now."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu
MIKE RICHARDSON
Cornerback has two different personalities

Richardson says his favorite moment was joining the team and I actually
said. "But I knew of Coach Weis, I knew of his rep­u­tation, and he came with a great staff. He was very posi­tive about it."

Richardson was recruited at Stanford by former coach Tyrone Willingham. When Willingham
accepted the coaching job at Notre Dame, Richardson took a visit to Notre Dame. I ended up liking it, deciding that that's where I needed to be," Richardson said.

He had been playing organized football since he was nine. I used to play back­yard foot­ball with my friends from school," he said. "They were all playing organized football and they were like, 'You should come out and play.' So I went out and joined the team and I actually turned out to be pretty good."

He started playing at running back and safety. With the Irish, he sat out his freshman year as a rookie cornerback, and played primarily on special teams as a sophomore.

As a junior, Richardson started five games. That season, he had 33 tackles, one interception, forced three fumbles and was credited with three broken pass­es.

Then there was a coaching change, as current Irish coach Charlie Weis replaced Willingham. "It was tough losing some of the people that brought me in," Richardson said. "But I knew of Coach Weis, I knew of his rep­u­tation, and he came with a great staff. He was very posi­tive about it."

Last season, as a senior, Richardson was sixth on the team with 55 tackles and started all 12 games. He also had a crucial intercep­tion in Notre Dame's loss to USC on Oct. 15, 2005, ending a poten­tial Trojan scoring drive in the third quarter. That game remains one of Richardson's most vivid memories.

"The USC game last year was crazy," he said. "Just being on the field it seemed like it was the loudest the stadium's ever been. Towards the end, my heart was beating out of my chest."

"It was cool being on campus. I kind of miss the dining halls now living off campus, he said. "That's the best feeling I ever had, even though we lost."

So far in 2006, Richardson has 40 tackles, five for a loss, and five pass break ups and one quarterback hurry. He said he's developed by becoming more vocal.

"It helps with communication in the defensive backfield," he said. "Being a more confident person when I'm playing and not being afraid to make mistakes — that was a big thing that limited me when I was younger. I was scared to make mistakes and I was playing ten­tative. That's when you do make mistakes."

"Aside from football, Richardson enjoyed the dorm life of Notre Dame. "It was always off-campus house. Although Richardson didn't regret the jock, he describes himself as a friendly guy. I'm a real friendly guy," he said. "A lot of people see me like, oh yeah, Mike Richardson, he's nice, he's a student, he's to take people heads off all the time. He's pretty probably mean. But I'm really easy to talk to. I'm easy to initiate conversations with."

After this season concludes, Richardson hopes to play in the NFL. Weis likes his chances there.

"When I got here, everyone told me how crummy [Richardson] was," Weis said. "Since I've been here, he's gotten solid, he's gotten better, and bet­ter, and better. And I'm the only one noticing. He's going to be playing for somebody else next year. He's not done playing."

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

MITCHELL THOMAS
Linebacker came to Irish as coveted prospect

For Mitchell Thomas, sports are life.

Thomas excelled in every sport he tried in high school. He was a two-time letter winner in basket­ball and track to go with football, as well as being named captain to all three of those teams in Smithfield Station High School in Smithfield, Va. I grew up in the country, went to a city school," Thomas said. "That was my life — sports. I did that year round."

In order to do be that involved, Thomas relied heavily on his par­ents for support. He credits them for developing Thomas as an ath­lete for no other reason than they helped him make the games. [My parents] had to drop me off, pick me up," he said. "My sis­ter was in the band — she's a year younger than me, so they'd have to drop her off, come back and get me, back and forth."

One of the most important games Thomas played in was not even on the football field, but on the track. "My junior year we had a 4x400 team that was fourth in the state that was going against supposedly the number one 4x400 team in our state. And we went against them and beat them," Thomas said. "That was the best sports moment I had."

But the sport Thomas truly excelled in was football, where he made 70 tackles and rushed for over 500 yards in five games his senior year before sidelined with an injury. Despite not play­ing most of his senior year, Thomas was still named to the all-state team and was a sought­recruit coming out of Smithia­Station.

During his senior season, Thomas' top three schools were Florida, Notre Dame and Arizona.

"After the coaches left Alabama, [Notre Dame] was my top. I think it was just a good balance of academics and athletics," Thomas said. After joining the Irish, Thomas began to expand his interests beyond sports into the classroom, where he began pursuing a man­agement consulting degree.

"After football! I plan to try going into the consulting field, see how that turns out, see if I like it, if not, I'll try to find something else," he said.

Even with the classroom load, Thomas still had a passion for football. He had to wait to play, however, and get the chance to start at the beginning of this sea­son against Georgia Tech. Because he redshirted his freshman year at Notre Dame, Thomas still has the option to return for a fifth year, although he does not yet know whether or not he will.

Even if Thomas does come back, he is unsure of his future — and whether it will include football.

"If I do come back, it'll depend on what kind of year I have. I might try the NFL, but I might just get a job and get on with my life."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu
BRIAN MATTES
Finance, fraternal spirit draw Mattes to ND
By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Brian Mattes came to Notre Dame as an Associated Press Pennsylvania Big School All-America at defensive end as a senior. Little did he know, offensive line members would soon become his closest friends on the Irish team.

Now a fifth-year senior who graduated last May with a degree in finance, Mattes says he will always remember the fraternal nature of the Irish linemen.

"Every day, the D-Line section of the locker room is a lot of fun," Mattes said. "Someone's always ragging on someone else. It's just very entertaining."

After not seeing any action as a freshman defensive end in 2002, Mattes was moved to the offensive line before the 2003 season. He cited that transition period as one of his greatest challenges since arriving at Notre Dame.

"Just changing my body makeup was kind of difficult," said the 6-foot-6, 287-pound Mattes. "I had some trouble putting on the weight necessary to become an offensive lineman."

Another change for Mattes, who hails from Larksville, Pa., was the process of evaluating his own pass rush. As a defensive end, his success could be measured in numbers like sacks and tackles. But he said it is impossible for an offensive lineman to analyze his production statistically.

"I've learned that the best way to evaluate my performance is to go back to the (game) film," Mattes said. "You have to check your fundamentals. With good fundamentals, your skills will be successful nine times out of ten."

Mattes, who had 10 sacks as a junior at Wyoming Valley West High School in Plymouth, Penn., quickly took to playing on the opposite line.

And, consequently, he has become very close with the other Irish linemen.

"I've learned the best way to evaluate my performance as an offensive lineman is to go back to the (game) film," Mattes said.

Brian Mattes Irish offensive lineman

Irish defensive end and Chris Frome has 17 tackles and three quarterback hurries this season. He is still remembered for a dramatic moment during the 2006 USC game.

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

It's one of the enduring images from last year's game versus USC. Notre Dame defensive end Chris Frome, only minutes removed from an injury that would end his season, passionately waved his arms while being carted off the field in an effort to reenergize the suddenly silent student section.

"There was so much energy in the stadium and everybody was so quiet when I was down that when I did pop back up, I wanted everybody to really fire back up again," Frome said. "Some of the guys still give me a hard time about it, but it's something to look back on.

With Notre Dame up 21-14 late in the second quarter and the Irish crowd still reeling in Tom Zbikowski's 60-yard punt return for a touchdown, USC quarterback Matt Leinart rolled out towards Notre Dame defensive end Victor Abiamiri. Abiamiri would tally his only sack of the day on that play, but Frome, in an effort to bring down the rugged Terrier, was penalized for roughing the passer. Frome was kicked out of the game.

"I knew after it happened, I knew," Frome said. "My knee just didn't feel right. I couldn't bear weight on it at all, and I know my season was over.

"While many know the events that unfolded in the hours immediately following Frome's injury, few know what Frome endured over the following months. Rehab. Lots and lots of rehab.

After having surgery only three weeks after it happened, Frome said. "Before the injury, I thought he played strong, but he seems like he's playing stronger. He's a more confident individual."

Judged by his performance so far this season, Frome isn't feeling any lingering effects of his knee injury. Through nine games this season, Frome has seventeen tackles, five pass breakups, including a pick, a fumble, and three quarterback hurries. Compare those numbers with Frome's career numbers entering the 2006 season: seven tackles, four pass breakups, zero sacks.

"I didn't think I would play at all this year," Frome said. "I only had surgery in April and didn't really think I'd play for Michigan."

"I only played for Michigan and I always had a feeling of superiority in me, knowing that I couldn't play for Michigan," Frome said. "I didn't think I'd play at all this year."

"I know this past winter, Frome said. "I didn't think I'd play at all this year, but I'm grateful I'm healthy and playing football."

"I'm very grateful for everything that happened to me," Frome said. "I've grown a lot and had a lot of positive things happen to me."

"Graduating from here is obviously a huge advantage," Frome said. "The Notre Dame alumni base can really help you get your foot in the door with some big companies."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

From USC Injury to senior season, Frome thrives on drive line camp, big games for 2006

By PHIL HUDELSON
The Observer

Irish defensive end and Chris Frome has 17 tackles and three quarterback hurries this season. He is still remembered for a dramatic moment during the 2006 USC game.

Phil HUDELSON/The Observer

I have to make sure I'm not too happy, that I don't do things that will cause the recruits to lose interest."

"I don't think he's having the luxury of a lot of stats, but he does have enough to let others be the recipients of plays," Oliver said.

The others referred to by Oliver usually take the form of senior defensive linemen Abiamiri or Trevor Laws, or Mattes.

"I know it's such an amazing place," Frome said. "I've spent my time both rushing the quarterback and blocking in his coursework. A business major who graduated with a degree in finance from the Mendoza College of Business last spring, Frome finished his undergrad-
Irish pull together for guard after father’s death

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

For offensive lineman Bob Morton, the 2006 football season was not just a chance to showcase the skills he developed with his "brothers," but also an opportunity to honor the memory of his father.

Robert Morton, who played football for the Irish, died Aug. 22 from strokes sustained at the age of 54. Bob Morton returned home to McKinney, Texas to be with his family in their time of need, but he quickly returned to his teamates.

"I don't think I've ever felt that kind of camaraderie," Morton said. "When those guys came to me before the game and let me know they were playing for my pops, I never felt like I was alone."

Bob Morton
Irish guard

"When those guys came to me before the game and let me know they were playing for my pops, I never felt like I was alone."

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

The outcome of the game wasn't really in doubt, but that didn't diminish the significance of Freeman's touchdown catch last Saturday against Air Force any less impressive.

Freeman had logged just three catches throughout the season, all when the Irish were in multiple tight-end sets. But when first-team tight end John Carlson went down with a knee injury early against the Falcons, Irish coach Charlie Weis had no doubts about the backup's ability to step into a starting role.

"He's been solid all year," Weis said. "It's just that a lot of balls haven't come in his direction. So a lot of times when a guy doesn't have a whole bunch of catches, people correlate that with not having a good year."

Freeman came into the Air Force game with three catches in 2006. He had a 10-yard grab against Georgia Tech, a 2-yarder against Penn State and a 25-yard catch against St. Paul's in 2005. Freeman came from quarterback Brady Quinn in the end zone of Falco Stadium last Saturday in his first career touchdown.

"That catch wasn't the only part of his play that stood out to Weis, though. "I also think for the touchdown as his one catch for the day," Weis said. "That the fact that John went down — when you have a guy that's been in college for a long time and he's been playing well like John has, and he goes down, a lot of times, it's a little disheartening and sometimes team gets rattled a little bit."

In the previous three years, Freeman had 12 catches for 50 yards. He redshirted in 2002, his freshman year. His career high in receptions came at BYU in 2004, when he caught three balls.

"As his career continued, though, the support of his parents was important. They come to many of his games, including that one."

Freeman has seen his family and friends come to him in his time of need, but he quickly returned to his teamates.

"I don't think I've ever felt that kind of camaraderie," Morton said. "When those guys came to me before the game and let me know they were playing for my pops, I never felt like I was alone."
Sizing up the Irish and the Black Knights

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Would you like to work for The Observer? If so, contact one of the following editors:

News — Mary Kate Malone, 631-5323
Scene — Brian Doxtader, 631-4540
Sports — Ken Fowler, 631-4543
Viewpoint — Joey King, 631-5303
One and only

With personality, talent and drive, this year’s seniors led Notre Dame out of one of the worst stretches in school history. From a field-storming win over Michigan in 2004 to a near-toppling of No. 1 Southern California in 2005, Brady Quinn, Tom Zbikowski and the Irish have lifted Notre Dame to the top of college football once again.
Senior Dance

Despite contrasting styles, guards Colin Falls and Russell Carter have one goal for their final season — leading Notre Dame back to the NCAA Tournament.
New year brings new chances for fresh group

Midway through October, Notre Dame held its annual media day. Coach Mike Brey answered questions and reporters had their first opportunity to speak with the team about the upcoming year.

The mood was strikingly different from last season. After a 2006 Big East Tournament run defined by close losses, the Irish players were loose and optimistic, speaking openly about their NCAA Tournament dreams. It was an attitude that can only result from feeling no outside pressure or expectations. Because let's call a spade a spade. With three upperclassmen on the Irish roster in a league (the Big East) where battle-tested seniors rise to the top — see Gerry McNamara's 2006 Big East tournament — nobody's expecting much out of Notre Dame.

But that doesn't mean the Irish lack the ability to turn some heads. On paper, they lost their two biggest names, but guard Kyle McAlarney and forward Francis Okoro. As strange as it sounds, the team is better off without them. Francis peaks his freshman season, as nagging injuries slowly transformed him from an NBA draft pick into a Euro pro. And for all of Quinn's brilliance — he was the leader of the team's undisputed leader — he was perhaps carrying more weight than his slender 200-pound body could handle.

What did that last season's group was clearly lacking was game it was either establish­

CLEAFL LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

By CHRISe KHOReY Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame's second exhibition game against Bellarmine, Terry Jackson got to the free throw line 10 times.

The slashing freshman point guard attacked the basket with regu­

larity, getting the ball off his energy-embodifying coach Mike Brey's new up tempo, aggressive style for the Irish.

\"When we push the ball, they\'re even going to feel us out or let us get an easy basket,\" Jackson said.

Going off a 3-of-5, six point per­

formance off the bench against Youngstown State, Kyle McAlarney has shown the Irish what he can be. With his ability to stretch the floor, in the early part of this season — in his maturity and intuitive on-court aware­

ness.

In the team's second exhibition game against Bellarmine, McAlarney found himself on a fast break after stealing the ball near the 3-point line. Instead of taking a shot by himself, he threw a casual bounce pass up to Kyle Jackson — who until that point had never been having a slow night. McAlarney under­

stands the need to get involved, and playing that was more important than adding to his own point total in stead. Mature decisions like that from the Staten Island native will pay huge dividends on the young, developing team.

Notre Dame has its most athletic for­

wards in Brey's tenure at Notre Dame in forward Kyle Jackson, guard Luke Zeller and Zach Hillisland. Jackson is a legitimate inside threat for the Irish. His quickness, stamina and agility separates him from the less complete forwards on Notre Dame's roster, and it wouldn't be a sur­

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Falls has the height to play down low, but is too physical for most guards and too quick for most forwards. And while teammates stood around watching.

But that doesn't mean the Irish lack the ability to turn some heads. On paper, they lost their two biggest names — guard Francis Okoro and forward Kyle McAlarney — which is in better shape than the last few seasons, which has the athletic explosiveness Notre Dame has been missing at the point since Thomas' emergence in the Big East as a team leader. And for all of Quinn's brilliance — he looks more athletic and quicker to an energy guy,\" Brey said after that game. \"A little too excited.\"

But while McAlarney and the other upperclassmen have been showing the newcomers the ropes, Jackson and fellow freshmen forward Luke Harangody and sophomores Luke Zeller and Zach Hillisland have been more important than adding to his own point total in stead. Mature decisions like that from the Staten Island native will pay huge dividends on the young, developing team.

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leticism to spread out defenses.
Senior guards Colin Falls and Russell Carter have different games but similar goals for 2006-07

By CHRIST HOREY
Associate Sports Editor

One is a spot up shooter and a quiet teacher. The other is a slashing force and an emotional firebrand. They both have one goal — leading Notre Dame to its first NCAA Tournament berth in four years.

Sharpshooter Colin Falls and all-around athlete Russell Carter have opposite styles on the court, but as the only two scholarship seniors on the Irish roster, their leadership will be key for a Notre Dame squad bent on returning to the NCAA.

Whenever we go out on the floor, whoever we're playing, we're playing for the NCAA Tournament," Falls says.

When Falls and Carter arrived on campus, NCAA appearances were a regular occurrence. The Irish had made the Tournament three straight years and advanced to the Sweet 16 in 2003, the spring before the two seniors arrived on campus.

"When I got here expectations were higher," Falls says. "We've played below expectations a little bit for whatever reason, but it'll be good if we can leave on a high note."

Now, as seniors, Carter and Falls are looked up to by their underclassmen teammates and have worked together to instill a new mindset.

"If we've got something to say, we'll say it to the group," Carter says.

And what they're saying has been far, far, far, as an Irish team that features five freshmen and four sophomores is talking seriously about being a contender this year.

"We need to make the NCAA Tournament," Falls says. "That's the only thing on our minds.

The quiet marksman

Falls was born in Chicago, Ill. and grew up in the northwest suburb of Park Ridge. From a young age, he had clear basketball abilities.

"But he wasn't always just a jumpshooter. In high school he led his Loyola Academy team with 25 points, seven rebounds and four assists per game as the starting all-time leading scorer. He was Mr. Everything for the Ramblers, one time scoring 51 points in a game."

When he got to Notre Dame, however, he found himself behind guards Chris Thomas and Chris Quinn. Falls knew he had to find niche he wanted to get on the court, so he worked tirelessly on perfecting his jump shot.

"When I got here, my role the first few years was to spot up and take passes from Chris Quinn and Chris Thomas, so I've really worked on my shot a lot," Falls says.

His freshman years, Falls averaged almost 16 minutes a game and drained 37 threes, a huge total given that he only made 47 shots. It was during this season that he gained his reputation among Irish fans as a three-point specialist.

The next year, Falls played a much larger role, starting 22 games alongside Thomas and Quinn and averaging 12.6 points per game. He hit a Notre Dame single-season record 91 threes that years, including eight in one game against Hartford.

Having solidified his spot in the starting lineup, Falls found himself called upon to be one of Notre Dame's top scoring threats last year in his junior season. With Thomas having graduated, Falls was the second leading scorer for the Irish with 13.8 points per game. He also set the school record for three-pointers in a season (102).

Of course, last year wasn't all rosy for Falls, who saw the Irish struggle in numerous close games. On Jan. 24, with the Irish trailing by four and less than 10 seconds to play, Falls launched a desperation shot which caught Loyola guard Brandon Bowman.

The shot hit nothing but net, and he capped the clutch free throw as the Joyce Center crowd screamed in amazement. It was a game that summed up last season for Falls. Something would go well, only to be countered by another numbingly close loss. He had sweats and downs as well, as any shooter does, getting hot one game and finding the cold the next.

"We've benefited from that," Carter says. "Falls credits coach Mike Brey with keeping him going through the rough stretchess."

"Every year you're going to have a couple games when you go 0-1, 2-0, from the three-point line," Falls says.

"That's why Coach Brey's the best. He sticks with his guys and keeps you out of a rhythm. Shooters go through slumps and you have to stay with them."

The quiet marksman's calm wisdom translates into Falls' leadership style on and off the court. He's not very vocal, but he's the consummate professional. Carter stresses that one of Notre Dame's exhibition games this season is one of his career highlights.

"I had judgment on an out of bounds call with a simple "that was off by 45," Falls says. "Before turning in play defense."

But young players credit him with patiently teaching them when they were confused or made mistakes on the court.

"Russell and I are opposites," Carter says. "Falls is as loud on the court as Russell is quiet. He routinely screams and whoops after a made basket and always say things trying to fire up the crowd."

"It's not that Carter wants to draw excess attention to him - itself - it's just the way that he learned to play growing up in Paulsboro, N.J., across the river from Philadelphia.

"I love playing basketball," Carter says. "It's fun being out there. Playing back at home, when you play basketball you always get to talk a little something to show your strength."

Carter has had plenty of fun through the years of his college career. He averaged 10 points per game in leading Paulsboro high school to a 24-4 record his senior year.

His first year at Notre Dame, Carter made up for his playing time by being a valuable contributor off the bench. He was the first to get in games and collectively - this season.

"A lot of upperclassmen have battled injuries, especially Colin Falls," freshman point guard Dame says. "He's really helped me understand what's going on out there."

The key player's spot in the starting lineup, Falls found himself called upon to be one of Notre Dame's top scoring threats last year in his junior season. With Thomas having graduated, Falls was the second leading scorer for the Irish with 13.8 points per game.

The next year, Falls moved into the starting lineup and became a major contributor, averaging 11.6 points per game, good enough for third on the team. He also increased the size of his cheering section with his dramatic athletic plays and soaring dunks.

"When a play breaks down, you have to be innovative and that's when creativity will shine," Carter says. "Who doesn't like to show their creativity? That's basketball."

Sometimes, however, Brey's definition of "when a play breaks down" is different than Carter's. The coach has made it no secret to the guard that he wants to see him work within the offense more.

"We must piece truck so much of our motion offense," Carter says of Brey's game plans. "We can't be robots but we generally stick to the script."

Carter is ready to become a star for the Irish in his senior season. He led the team with 20 points in the opening win against IPFW Nov. 10 and added 20 more against Lafayette Tuesday.

But through it all, Carter just wants to have a good time.

"We need to continue to have fun," he says. "If we have fun, then everything will follow course. If we treat it like a job and people don't want to be here we won't have success."

The future

If either Falls or Carter is going to have a career in the NBA, a lot is riding on their performance this season. But neither has given up the dream of playing professionally yet.

"If you don't want to go to the next level, why play basketball?" Carter said.

Falls has even gone so far as to pursue Irish citizenship, which he can get through his grandfather, in order to make it easier for him to play overseas next year — if he doesn't find a spot on an NBA roster.

"I want to play basketball for as long as I can," he said.

But before that, Carter and Falls have one more goal for their time at Notre Dame — make good on their last chance to reach the NCAA. This year is the odd couple's chance to shine, with Falls Irish leadership and clutch jumpers and Carter's emotion and crowd-electrifying plays leading the Irish in the Big East.

"Because for as much as Carter and Falls are opposites...they want the exact same thing this season. Maybe they're not so different after all.

Contact Chris Horey at chorey@nd.edu

Irish senior Colin Falls drives baseline past Villanova guard Allan Ray in the Wildcats' 72-70 win over the Irish Jan. 28.

"Who needs to make the NCAA Tournament," Falls says. "That's the only thing on our minds.

The odd couple"
2006-07 OUTLOOK

TIM ANDREE
FORWARD
6'8", 238 lbs.
No. 41 — FR
Senior H.S. stats
Minutes 14.0
Points 8.0
2006-07 expectations
Andree joins the team as a freshman walk-on and is a valuable addition to the Irish roster. One of five freshmen on this season’s roster.

RYAN AYERS
GUARD/FORWARD
6'8", 210 lbs.
No. 42 — SO
2005-06 stats
Minutes 6.8
Points 2.2
Rebounds 0.7
2006-07 expectations
Ayers exploded in the second half of last season but should continue to be one of the top offensive options this year. Potential rebounder for his size.

RUSSELL CARTER
GUARD
6'4", 220 lbs.
No. 43 — SR
2005-06 stats
Points 11.5
Rebounds 3-point % 41.0
2006-07 expectations
Carter exploded in the second half of last season and should continue to be one of the top offensive options this year. Potential rebounder for his size.

COLIN FALLS
GUARD (Capt.)
6'7", 200 lbs.
No. 15 — SR
2005-06 stats
Points 14.5
Rebounds 3-point % 39.7
2006-07 expectations
Falls assumes a leadership role as one of two captains. The deadly shooter has shown an ability to contribute off the ball and looks more athletic early on.

LUKE HARANGODY
FORWARD
6'8", 250 lbs.
No. 44 — FR
Senior H.S. stats
Points 23.6
Rebounds 12.8
2006-07 expectations
Harangody looks strong early in the post and should be a key factor in Big East play. He’s a “blue collar” player who understands the power forward position.

JOE HARDEN
FORWARD
6'7", 212 lbs.
No. 11 — FR
Senior H.S. stats
Points 17.0
Rebounds 10.0
2006-07 expectations
Harden is coming from a strong U.S. team, and one of the bigger guards in the Big East. He’s shown athleticism and promise during preseason play.

ZACH HILLESLAND
FORWARD
6'9", 227 lbs.
No. 33 — SO
2005-06 stats
Points 0.6
Rebounds 2.2
2006-07 expectations
Hillesland is an exciting player who has all the tools. His minutes will fluctuate on a game-to-game basis, but the forward will be a factor in the Big East.

LUKE ZELLER
FORWARD/CENTER
6'11", 245 lbs.
No. 40 — SO
2005-06 stats
Points 3.4
Rebounds 1.3
Minutes 13.7
2006-07 expectations
Zeller looks stronger after a summer playing abroad, but still needs to prove he can handle post duties. He’s an excellent outside shooter for his size.

MIKE BREY
HEAD COACH
7th season
112-95 overall
2005-06 record
Season 16-14
Big East 6-10
2006-07 expectations
Brey has not taken the Irish to the NCAA tournament yet, but will likely be the key to the season.

JONATHON PILLARS
GUARD
6'3", 214 lbs.
No. 20 — FR
Senior H.S. stats
Points 1.5
Rebounds 3.0
2006-07 expectations
Pillars offers Notre Dame an athletic option off the bench, but will likely be used sparingly. He’s already shown an ability to get to the basket in preseason.

TORY JACKSON
GUARD
5'10", 235 lbs.
No. 20 — SO
2005-06 stats
Points 10.0
Rebounds 9.0
2006-07 expectations
Jackson is a second-year walk-on from Enfield, N.Y., who is a solid practice player at point guard behind McA1arney and Jackson.

KIERAN PILLAR
GUARD
6'7", 198 lbs.
No. 35 — SR
Senior H.S. stats
Points 20.3
Rebounds 8.0
2006-07 expectations
Pillar is a second-year walk-on from Enfield, N.Y., who is a solid practice player at point guard behind McA1arney and Jackson.

2006-2007 SCHEDULE

Notre Dame’s pre-Big East schedule includes two tough games that will be a measuring stick for the Irish.

The Irish and Cardinals played a hard-fought OT game last year, and Louisville returns guard Tyler Hansbrough.

Georgetown is a veteran group that’s highly ranked pre-season, led by center Roy Hibbert.

Syracuse has a new coach this year, who is the former coach of Gary McArther.

Marquette comes into the Joyce Center led by point guard Dominic James.