Notre Dame bound for Bayou, BCS matchup

Irish to face LSU in the Sugar Bowl

By KEN FOWLER
News Writer

It will be "local flavor" versus "national flavor" as Notre Dame will face Louisiana State in the Sugar Bowl at the Louisiana Superdome Jan. 3, and Sugar Bowl CEO Paul Hoolahan lauded the matchup as just what the doctor ordered "for the struggling New Orleans economy."

"If I had written this script, I couldn't have written it any better," Hoolahan said in a teleconference with media Sunday night. "This is going to be a tremendous atmosphere.

The Sugar Bowl was widely expected to select the Irish.

The Tigers earned their bid after Southeastern Conference (SEC) foe Florida jumped from No. 4 to No. 2 in the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) standings and earned a spot in the BCS National Championship Game against undefeated No. 1 Ohio State. The SEC champion plays in the Sugar Bowl annually, except when it makes the national title game.

With its compensatory selection and first-at-large pick, the Sugar Bowl grabbed the local favorites from Baton Rouge and the national powerhouse from South Bend for the first bowl game in the Superdome since Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans.

We have had some challenges in the past year and a half, and we anticipated these things would happen," Hoolahan said in a teleconference with media Sunday night. "This is going to be a tremendous atmosphere..."

Rhma McKnight and the Irish are headed to the BCS for a second straight year.

see BOWL/page 6

Aidant Project raises awareness

Sophomore's battle with cancer inspires event to benefit patients, educate ND community

By JENNIFER METZ
News Writer

Diagnosed with cancer on Sept. 25, Notre Dame sophomore Aidan Fitzgerald was forced to miss the majority of the fall semester, but he returned to campus this week-end to take part in an event created in his name to raise awareness about cancer in young adults and youth.

The Aidan Project drew more than 200 participants who sat on the floor of the LaFortune Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday to make fleece blankets and hats for a local cancer unit at St. Joseph's Memorial Hospital.

The finished blankets, displayed on a table at the entrance of the ballroom, were tied with a tag that read, "The Aidan Project. This blanket was made with love and with care, for each who receives one, it comes with a prayer." Sophomore Chris Esber, Fitzgerald's roommate, said he and his friends were "shocked" to find out that their 19-year-old friend had cancer. They started the project — which was sponsored by Circle K, Knot Hall and the Class of 2009 — to raise awareness about cancer, especially cancer that affects young people.

"The situation was definitely on (Esber's) mind... he couldn't believe it happened to his roommate," said Jake Teitgen, a Circle K member. "We decided we had to do something." Teitgen, along with fellow Circle K members Gigi Low and Nicole Koors, helped Esber organize the Aidan Project.

"We did the blanket project last year with Circle K," Esber said. "This year we've made (the collaboration) bigger, responding to this situation."

"For now I'm saying I'll probably stay on at the University School of Tropical Medicine, but I could get there and find some other fabulous program," Towle said.

Towle said she had been selected for the prestigious award on Nov. 8, the same day she was interviewed by a committee in Chicago.

see AIDAN/page 5

Health Center nears completion

The Student Health Center building is slated to re-open in January after $8.5 million of renovations are completed.

Bands compete, raise money for charities

By MANDI STRONTE
News Writer

Three bands took the stage at Saint Mary's Student Center Lounge Saturday night to battle for studio time and raise money.

The Battle of the Bands, organized by the Saint Mary's Dance Marathon Committee, was held to raise funds for Riley's Hospital for Children and for the upcoming Dance Marathon in the spring.

Dance Marathon committee leaders said they were proud of the event's success. The committee's co-president, Pauline Kistka, said if they broke even financially, the event had raised some awareness in the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame communities.

Katius, a pop/punk band from Dayton, Ohio, won the contest and the prize — a recording session with Peak Audio Productions. The three bands played to a crowd of about 50 students, mostly from Saint Mary's.

Katius' members were mostly high school students, with no Saint Clair Community College sophomores. Katius' connection to Saint Mary's was through one of their member's, who has two sisters at the College. Katius impressed the judges with their performance of their original song. See BANDS/page 6

Senior Meg Towle's passion for and dedication to promoting international health as an essential foundation for peace building will take her to the United Kingdom next year as one of the 43 Marshall Scholarship recipients for 2009.

Towle said she will use her all-expenses paid scholarship to pursue a M.S. of humanitarian studies at The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, associated with the University of Liverpool.

"I like how the program at Liverpool is about — How do we get public health to work on the ground?" Towle said. "I think it will be so cool to be with people from all over the world and to draw from others' experiences. It will definitely be an international learning experience."

see SCHOLAR/page 8
INSIDE COLUMN

All I want for Christmas

What's that? I'm in college so I'm not supposed to love Christmas toys anymore?

I don't believe you. But, even if I am too old to watch too many commercials, I know that there are the greatest Christmas toys ever made. Each toy's ranking is in parentheses please understand that toys fall under a huge variety of categories and there's no way I'll be able to cover all of your favorites. I'll try my best though.

Let's begin with the Christmas mainstays, toys that seem to have a permanent place under millions of trees every year. There are the Cabbage Patch Kids dolls (61), G.I. Joe action figures (15), the Pogo Stick (11), Barbie dolls (8), Litebrite (14) and Lego building blocks (17).

Of course, there are also the amazing fake toys that show up for one December and bring about the worst in parents like Singal and Arnold Schwartzenegger. A list of Christmas toys wouldn't be complete without these. They include Tickle Me Elmo (16), the creepy Furby doll (20), and the Tamagotchi (15), because who wouldn't want to clean up an electronic animal's poop during the holiday season?

Then there are the toys that every kid wants after watching an awesome movie featuring that toy. The best of this group are the Red Rider B.B. gun from "A Christmas Story" (13, although nowadays, this may only be considered a toy south of the Mason Dixon line), the Talkboy voice recorder from "Home Alone 2" (7), and the toy ridden by that little girl in "The Shining" (just kidding, that didn't make the list).

The rest of the list can be considered a hodgepodge of great memories from the childhoods of people far and wide. Consider the Lego building blocks (17) a one-of-a-kind toy.

Saint Mary's freshman Rebecca Schiappa performs acoustic originals at the College's Student Center Lounge Saturday night. The performer, along with two other bands, competed in a Battle of the Bands to raise money for Riley Hospital for Children.

IN BRIEF

A memorial mass will be held today at senior Caitlin Brann in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5:15 p.m.

Jeff Jackson, the head coach of Notre Dame's hockey team, will discuss the first part of the season and look forward to the remaining games at noon at Legends Wednesday.

The Notre Dame's women's basketball team will play Purdue Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

All full-time faculty and staff are invited to a Christmas open house Thursday by University President Father John Jenkins and Officers of the University. The event lasts from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will be held on the 3rd, 4th and 5th floors of the Main Building.

The Notre Dame Glee Club will perform its Christmas Concert Friday from 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $8, $6 faculty/staff, $5 seniors and $3 for all students.

Christmas at the CoMo Benefit Concert by the ND Celebration Choir is Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the first floor Coleman Student Center. International students will provide reflections of Christmas in their home countries. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be sent to St. Jude's Primary School, Jinja, Uganda.

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

OFFBEAT

Hawking: Humans must colonize other planets

London — Humans must colonize planets in other solar systems traveling there using "Star Trek" style propulsion or face extinction, renowned British cosmologist Stephen Hawking said Thursday.

Referring to complex theories and the speed of light, Hawking, the wheelchair-bound Cambridge University physicist, told BBC radio that theoretical advances could revolutionize the velocity of space travel and make such colonies possible.

"Sooner or later disasters such as an asteroid collision or a nuclear war could wipe us all out," said Professor Hawking, who was crippled by a muscle disease at the age of 21 and who speaks through a computerized voice synthesizer.

Swedes guard Christmas goat from vandals

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — For 40 years it has been torched, vandalized, had its legs cut off and even been run over by a car. But officials in the Swedish city of Gavle are guaranteeing that this year's giant straw Christmas goat — the victim of Sweden's most violent yuletide tradition — will survive unscathed.

The 43-foot-high goat — a centuries-old yule symbol that preceded Santa Claus as the bringer of gifts to Swedish homes — has been burned down 22 times since it was first set up in Gavle's square on Dec. 3, 1966. But for its 40th anniversary Sunday, officials think they have finally outsmarted the resourceful vandals by dousing the battered ram with flame-resistant chemicals normally used on airplanes.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW DO YOU THINK NOTRE DAME WILL FARE IN THE SUGAR BOWL?

Andy Hank junior O'Neill

"Notre Dame 31, LSU 28, in overtime."

Joe Mancuso sophomore Fisher

"Better than Mark May says we will, but not well enough to win."

Kevin Carrier junior O'Neill

"Hopefully better than the Fiesta Bowl."

Meghan Childsey senior off campus

"It will be a piece of cake."

Monica Regnier senior Breen-Phillips

"Better than the Republicans in the last midterm election."

Patrick Miller senior Fisher

"It will be a piece of cake."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

The views expressed in the Inside Columns are those of the author and not necessarily 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 you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-6341 so we can correct our error.

ND Air Force ROTC spreads holiday cheer

Field Day benefits underprivileged children

By LIZ HARTER
Now Write

A Field Day ushered in the Christmas season at Saint Mary's Saturday as underprivileged children visited with Santa Claus and watched performances by the Undertones and the Notre Dame Pum Squad Saturday at Angela Athletic Facility.

Members of the Arnold Air Society (AAS), the service organization associated with Notre Dame Air Force ROTC, and the Silver Wings, the Arnold Air Society's civilian counterpart, hosted the event.

Notre Dame junior Christine Rini, the organizer of the event and an AAS member, said the children came from various "centers" in the area.

"Some were from low-income families that go to after school programs," Rini said. "Others were from homeless shelters, and some came from emotion ally disturbed families."

Volunteers from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's assisted children with making gingerbread houses, decorating cookies, painting faces and making Popscicle stick reindeer.

The children had the opportunity to take their picture with Santa and then his elves handed out presents, Rini said. The presents the children received came from the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. The AAS paid for everything else, including pizza, supplies and transportation. They hired a charter bus to transport children to and from the facility.

Rini said the Field Day had been in existence for approximately the past five years, but said this is only the second year the event was held in Angela Athletic Facility.

In the past, the Field Day was held at the Armory, but Rini said the distance from campus was a problem in getting volunteers from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's.

"This location is excellent because the basketball court is a relatively closed-off area and it's easier to get volunteers to come out [to help us]," Rini said.

Contact Liz Harter at chart01@saintmarys.edu

Professor writes book on St. Nick

Story traces modern versions of Santa Claus to medieval roots

Special to The Observer


The book makes use of ancient and medieval sources as well as more modern and widely familiar poems, sketches and stories to bring Saint Nicholas into sharper focus while avoiding the quarrel of secular and religious holiday makers.

"Christ in Christmas," says Father Ayo, "is rooted in every child's memories of an astonishing intervention of love in their life, found, of all places, in their stockings."

It may be difficult to discern in the heroic and daunt ing figure of the fourth century Bishop of Myra, the "jolly old elf" of Clement Clarke Moore's "Twas the Night Before Christmas" poem. The saint whose feast the Catholic Church celebr ates on Dec. 6 may well have been such a pleasantly avuncular gentleman, but he is also remembered as a powerful leader who rescued many young women from sexual slavery, intimidated vengeful emperors, came between the executioner's axe and the neck of a condemned prisoner, plucked despairing seafarers from perfect storms, and overwhelmed a threatened famine with a miraculous abundance of grain.

Writing of these older and more stirring accounts of his patron saint, Father Ayo remarks that "it does not take much imagination to wonder if the Santa Claus, who descends upon our roof, or the comic book superman, who swoops down upon our city, owe some of their inspiration and the cut of their figure to the original aerial wonder worker, good Saint Nicholas."

He also insists that these older stories are far more hyperbolic folk tales. In recalling the story which inspired Gentile da Fabriano's 15th century painting,"Saint Nicholas Saves a Ship from Sinking," Father Ayo observes that "here is prayer tested and grace pledged whatever the trial."

The presence of the Church in Bishop Saint Nicholas overcomes the sinking feeling that human life is doomed and we are about to perish in the vicissitudes of history or the personal disasters of our lifetime without rescue from a saving God."

High praise for the book came in an early review by University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy, who recommended its "marvelous blend of scholarship and effective narration," adding that Father Ayo "has traced the stories connected to good Saint Nicholas (generous spirit and miracle worker) with the development in the cultural context of secular America of the Christmas season tradition of joiness and gift-giving for which Saint Claus is the most popular carrying image."

Undoubtedly, the infectious joy of this plump, ebullient and snowy-bearded saint dispenses the deadly serious mission he comes to accomplish, but of course the same could be said of the adorable Baby whose birth he so conspicuously assists us in celebrating.

Ceramic Sale!

Pottery made by faculty, graduate and undergraduate students

Dec. 4, 5, 6th

From 9:00am to 4:00pm
Riley Hall of ART
Room 122
Come get your Christmas gifts!

Want to draw a comic? Call Mike at 631-4542.
A MEMORIAL MASS
FOR CAITLIN BRANN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006, 5:15 PM
BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

CAITLIN M. BRANN
OCTOBER 30, 1984 - NOVEMBER 10, 2006
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

One dead in Islamic religious clash

BEIRUT — Violent clashes broke out Sunday between Shiite and Sunni Muslims in the capital, leaving one man dead from gunshot wounds and 21 others injured at a time when local forces throughout Lebanon threaten the country’s fragile sectarian and political balance.

The government has been running high in Lebanon, particularly since Friday when Hezbollah supporters began an open-ended sit-in in Beirut in an effort to bring down the government of Prime Minister Fuad Siniora. Siniora, emboldened by Arab and international support for his U.S.-backed government, vowed on Sunday to stay in office despite the ongoing protests.

Amid the sound of revolutionary and nationalist songs blaring from protesters’ tents set up in the heart of Beirut, a Mass was held at Saniora’s office in memory of the perpetrators. It was attended by Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, who has galvanized the opposition by promising to unseat a man he accuses of edging the country toward totalitarianism.

Waiters voted for hours in snaking lines, and election officials predicted a record turnout. An independent AP-Ipsos poll last month gave Chavez a double-digit advantage.

Hopefuls prepare for 2008 bid

Sen. Clinton, Bayh step up exploratory efforts for White House candidacy

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton met on Sunday with New York’s Democratic governor-elect to solicit his support for her likely White House bid, the latest indication she is stepping up plans to join a growing field of potential contenders for 2008.

One rival, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, announced Sunday he was establishing an exploratory committee to raise money for a possible presidential run. He expects to decide over the Christmas holidays whether to seek his party’s nomination.

Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., speaks in Denver July 24. Bayh announced his intention Sunday to take the first official step toward a 2008 presidential campaign early next week.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush: Changes, troops needed in Iraq

WASHINGTON — White House President Bush acknowledges the need for major changes in Iraq, but he will not use this week’s Iraq Study Group report as political cover for bringing U.S. forces home, aides said Sunday.

“We have not failed in Iraq,” Stephen Hadley said as he made the talk show rounds, “We will fail in Iraq if we pull out our troops before we’re in a position to help the Iraqis succeed.”

But he added:

“We just had a great, wide-ranging meeting on so many issues that affect the city, the state and the country,” Clinton said as she left the morning show.

Last week she contacted leading lawmakers, including Democratic Reps. Charles Rangel and Nita Lowey, and the state party chairman, Denny Farrell, to assess her prospects and seek their support.

Clinton’s Senate colleague, Chuck Schumer, and reporters Sunday that Clinton had called him to arrange a meeting next week. But he was coy about the nature of the discussion, saying it was too early to say.

“The White House readied for an important week in the debate over Iraq. Bush planned a meeting with the bipartisan Iraq Study Group. And aides said they understood that we need to have a way forward in Iraq that is imminent and possible.”

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Power loss intensifies storm damage

ST. LOUIS — The temperature barely rose into the 20s Sunday as hundreds of thousands waited for their electricity to be restored after it was knocked out in a devastating snow storm.

Tawana Jean Cooper and her family spent Sunday at a Red Cross warming center in St. Louis, which they reached a day earlier from her suburban home after roads were cleared of ice-doused power lines and broken tree limbs.

“They know this is not home. They know this is a disaster,” Cooper said as she cradled her 5-month-old granddaughter in her arms.

LOCAL NEWS

Prison guard charged with sex crime

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — A female former correctional officer has been charged with felony sexual misconduct after police say she had sex with an inmate at the Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility.

A judge on Friday entered a not guilty plea for Verna J. Willet, 27, who was fired from the facility in October. Wiley has been charged with felony sexual misconduct and official misconduct in connection with an inmate.

Wiley was released from jail on a $3,250 bond and was ordered not to contact the boy. Wiley faces up to four years in prison if she is convicted of the charges.

CHILE

Pinochet to face rocky recovery

Associated Press

SANTIAGO — Gen. Augusto Pinochet, whose 17-year dictatorship carried out thousands of political killings and disappearances, was fighting for his life in a Chilean hospital from a heart attack. But doctors said his condition was improving after an emergency procedure to restore blood flow to his heart.

Doctors initially said they planned bypass surgery Sunday on the 91-year-old former strongman but they later ruled it out. Dr. Juan Ignacio Vergara, a member of the team treating Pinochet, said the surgery was not needed after an angioplasty performed in the morning to clear a heart artery obstruction "allowed improvement in his condition.

"No bypass has been performed and we expect no open heart surgery will be necessary," Vergara said on Sunday afternoon, explaining that such surgery was extremely risky for someone of Pinochet’s age.

"There is a trend toward improvement," he said. "He is conscious, he communicates with us and with his family.

But Vergara made clear Pinochet’s condition continues to be serious ‘‘and the next 24 to 48 hours will be critical to see whether other complications appear.’’ He said an accumulation of fluid in Pinochet’s lungs ‘‘was a secondary problem that has been solved.’’

Earlier Pinochet’s younger son, Marco Antonio Pinochet, said his father had been "virtually rescued from death" with the angioplasty. The former leader’s spokesman, retired Gen. Guillermo Garín, said last rites had been administered.

"We are now in the hands of God and of the doctors. My father is in very bad condition,” the son said at Gen. Luigi Pellegrini Military Hospital.

Vergara said earlier in the day that the heart attack was ‘‘indeed life threatening,” especially because of Pinochet’s age.
Health  
continued from page 1

environment.

"The way it's positioned, it's going to be a better way to bring in students and give them the opportunity to receive services," she said.

University Health Services plans to use the renovated building as both a Ukrainian and new health programs. It will house including "Hard to See," as well as through an independent vendor for students and staff. The South Australian Ministry will also extend its hours when the new building opens.

The renovation was undertaken at this time because the old building — built in 1917 with the cost of $250,000 — had not undergone any major renovation or original construction and that it needed to be modernized more modern than its 1930s design.

Bands  
continued from page 1

song "Another Day" and their covers of other bands. Harper's, a band made up of students, includes Will Weicher, Chris Tersichere, Chris Urban, Jim Weis and Chris Doolin played several songs, including as well as a cover of a Dave Matthews Band song.

"The old building was completely gutted, the walls, everything," Kleva said. "She only said a few parts of the original building, like the exterior walls, the front steps and the original terrazzo surfaces that the stairways were left. The bottom of the chimney from the building were originally built on the site also remained. Rebecca says she was good and the plumbing and the heating," she said.

The William K. Warren Foundation funded the renovation. William Warren, a Class of 1956 alumnus, is a member of the Notre Dame Board of Trustees.

The building will be renamed St. Liam Hall, after St. Liam of York. The name was chosen to honor Warren's father, William Warren, Sr. Liam is the English nickname for St. Liam.

Kleva said the old Security building provided an ideal space and was practical for Health Services as an interim home. It was actually an improvement over the former building, she said, but the newly renovated St. Liam "will be a much better location than the current location."

Health Services will start its new building Dec. 16, and will be open for students Jan. 15, the beginning of spring semester.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler.1@nd.edu

Wolfe main

"The way it's positioned, it's going to be much easier for students to receive services."  

Ann Kleva  
Health Services  

Kleva said she was delighted to be coming to New Orleans area, and "to pick LSU because that's a perfect setup."  

Throughout the year, the LSU basketball program has extended its hours when the Tigers were at home. It's a perfect setup. When the Tigers were at home, they extended their hours to benefit Tiger fans to visit the city. It's a wonderful place and a better way to spend $295,000."  

"It's a perfect setup. We're delighted to be here," said Chris Urban, the LSU basketball coach. "I'm just representing the whole LSU family, and it's a perfect setup.

"I'd like to congratulate Coach Weis on having a great year and a tremendously quality team."  

Les Miles  
LSU coach  

The Wolverines remained No. 2 in the two-human polls that are a part of the BCS formula. But after Southern California beat Notre Dame last week, the Wolverines jumped Michigan and took a slight lead for No. 2. When USC lost Saturday to intra­city rival UCLA Saturday and Florida beat then-No. 9 Arkansas in the SEC title game, LSU fans leapfrogged both USC and Michigan in the human polls to earn their bid in the BCS National Championship Game.

Even Weis — whose squad lost by 26 to the Wolverines — says he's a Michigan graduate — had different opinions on who should go. Weis said because the Wolverines "beat us soundly at home," he felt it was the "right thing to do" by voting them No. 2 over Florida. Miles said he wrestled over the options and went with the Gators, who played one more game than Michigan.

"I feel like the winner of the SEC conference with one loss should have the opportunity to play in the national championship game," Miles said.

The other non-title bowl was USC's victory in the Rose Bowl. No. 6 Southern Illinois versus No. 14 Wake Forest in the Orange Bowl and No. 8 Boise State against No. 10 Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl. Wake Forest earned an automatic entry into the Orange Bowl by winning the Atlantic Coast Conference title game Saturday, Oklahoma won the Big XII's spot in the Fiesta Bowl by winning its conference championship game Saturday, also.

Leahishville earned an automatic berth into a BCS game by winning the Big East. Undeclared Boise State of the Western Athletic Conference used a provision of BCS by-laws intended to protect teams from smaller conferences to snag an automatic spot by finishing in the top-12 of the BCS standings.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler.1@nd.edu
In Brief

Calderon confronts wealth disparity
MEXICO CITY — As a man who touts creating jobs as the cure-all for Mexico’s ills, President-elect Felipe Calderon couldn’t be taking office at a better time.

The economy is projected to expand by as much as 4.8 percent by year’s end — its fastest growth in six years — thanks to exploding business in construction, automobile and service industries. High oil prices have poured money into government coffers, the peso has remained steady and Mexico is on track to create 1 million jobs this year.

This makes things much easier for Calderon, who took office Friday promising to build an economy that creates enough jobs so that millions of Mexicans don’t have to cross into the United States.

“Mexico has all it needs to be a country that receives investment and generates employment for its people,” Calderon said, voicing optimism in his inaugural address as president.

The vast divide between rich and poor has fed the social tensions that have rippled across Mexico since Calderon won the July 2 election by less than 1 percent.

Niche citrus industry still reeling
JESUIT BEND, La. — Last year’s hurricanes flooded beet 3Beets’ celery groves with saltwater, thrashed three of its greenhouses and workers’ quarters and destroyed or otherwise damaged hundreds of orange trees.

And he was one of the lucky ones.

Further south in Plaquemines Parish, Katrina and Rita laid waste to entire communities, destroying houses and livelihoods and threatening the future of the state’s priced, niche citrus industry.

“They’ve lost a lot before,” with hurricanes and freezing temperatures killing trees, if not groves, agricultural agent Alan Vaughn said. But this is different, he said. “With freezes, you could go back and plant trees. Now, the grove is the low man on the list, when you have to rebuild your house.”

With harvest under way and the parish’s weekend opening orange festival set to begin Friday, farmers like Becnel, with navel oranges and satsuma mandarins to sell, are trying to fill strong demand, while older producers such as 73-year-old Gerald Ragas are struggling to start over.

MARKET RECAP

Stocks dip as manufacturing slows
Pfizer reacts to rising pressure

Company plans to slash staff after ending development of key cholesterol drug

NEW YORK — Pfizer Inc. will likely slash staff and accelerate merger talks, restructuring and licensing deals as the pressure on it to improve its failing performance intensi­fied after the weekend’s announcement that it would end development of a key drug, analysts said.

Analysts differed on how much Pfizer stock would fall when it opened on Monday. Barbara Hug, an analyst at Deutsche Bank, said she believed the dividend yield of roughly 4 percent would keep shares from a free fall, but another analyst estimated the stock could plunge to $20. Pfizer shares closed Friday at $27.86 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The world’s largest drug­maker said Saturday that an independent board manage­ment, a study for cholesterol treatment torcetrapib, which was supposed Pfizer to revi­talize stagnant sales that have been hurt by numerous patent expirations on key products. It has said it was spending around $800 mil­lion to develop torcetrapib, which was expected Pfizer to make the void when its best-selling drug, cholesterol treatment Lipitor, loses patent protec­tion in either 2010 or 2011.

This is obviously unfortunate, said the world was the biggest opportunity in their opinion, also said Ryan. “Clearly there is more pressure on them to do cost cutting.”

Two months ago, Pfizer said it would detail plans in January to turn the company into a more nimble organization that would go beyond the program announced last year to cut $4 billion in expenses by 2008. Patent expirations will cost the company $14 billion annually between 2005 and 2007.

In the statement Pfizer issued Saturday, Jeff King­inder said the company’s pace of transformation will be expedited because of the loss of torcetrapib although he didn’t give any specifics. Last week, Pfizer announced it was cutting 20 percent, or 2,200 jobs, of its U.S. sales force.

Ryan said Pfizer may lay off as many 10,000 people in near future. Pfizer employs roughly 100,000 people.

Ryan added that he expects Pfizer to hire its annual divi­sion from 96 cents to $1.10 per share in the next few weeks in the hopes of putting a floor on the stock.

But Jason Napodano, an analyst at Zacks Indepen­dent Research, doesn’t think the yield will be enough to prop up the shares. He points out that by the end of last month, Pfizer pulled out of its deal with drugmaker Organon to develop schizophrenia treatment amsnap­rine. Napodano said he expected that drug to add $500 million in sales by 2010 while by that time torcetrapib’s sales would total $3 billion.

“Losing amsnaprine was a hole in the boat. Now they have hit an iceberg,” said Napodano.

Pfizer reiterated it hopes to introduce six prod­ucts to the market by 2010, but Napodano said its pipeline just doesn’t have another drug which offers the sales potential of torcetrapib.

Ryan and Napodano both expect Pfizer to act swiftly to bring new products into the fold, either through acquis­i­tion or licensing. But Napodano said that until investors see what those products are, he sees little reason to buy the stock. He said he intends to review his “hold” rating on the stock.

Torcetrapib was designed to raise levels of HDL, or what’s commonly known as good cholesterol. Pfizer has two other products in early development to raise HDL, using the same method as torcetrapib.

Associated Press

In weekending Friday, the Institute for Supply Management said its index on manu­facturing fell to 49.9 in November from 51.2 in October. Economists had been expect­ing a reading under 50.1 indicates the manufactur­ing sector is contracting.

The report, based on a survey of cor­porate purchasing managers, was seen by some on Wall Street as posi­tively indicating that the Federal Reserve might have overshot the mark in more than two years of interest rate hikes that ended in June. Wall Street had been expecting the Fed would hold interest rates steady at its Dec. 12 meeting, and now there is a growing belief the central bank may soon cut rates because of economic weakness.

“This is just additional confirmation that the economy is not only slowing but quite possibly going into a recess­ion,” said Hugh Moore, a partner with investment firm Martech Advisors. “It’s not just the housing and auto industry anymore, now we’re finding out that manufacturing in general is slowing.”

Moore said an ISM number below 50 has preceded every U.S. recession since the 1960s.

Leading the Big Board lower in volatile trading were shares of manu­facturers like 3M Co., Caterpillar Inc., and United States Steel Corp. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 27.80, or 0.25 percent, to 12,194.13.

Broader stock indicators also declined. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index dropped 3.92, or 0.28 percent, to 1,296.71, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 18.56, or 0.76 percent, to 2,413.22.

The drop does not bode well as Wall Street hopes to finish the final month of the year with double-digit growth. The Dow is up 13.78 percent so far this year, while the S&P 500 has gained 11.89 percent and the Nasdaq is up 9.43 percent.
Scholar

continued from page 1

"I don’t think it really hit me until I called my brother, who’s a freshman here (at Notre Dame), and was like ‘Well, you can come visit me in England next year.’" Towle said. "It’s just been kind of surreal."

She said her application process wasn’t an extremely long one; she found out the deadline for the scholarship was Sept. 1 as she was in the process of packing up boxes to go back to school at the end of the summer.

She approached the application with the same energy and spirit that has enabled her to do so much with her time at Notre Dame: she said she dug through some boxes to find her computer and just got to work.

"My first loves are Latin America and Africa," Towle said, and she hopes her study in England will contribute to her ultimate goal of working in international health.

She said she is especially interested in studying HIV and AIDS in conflict-ridden areas and looking at healthcare for refugees and displaced populations, "especially women’s health."

Towle said her passion for international health was sparked in high school after she traveled to La Paz, Bolivia as part of a medical mission trip with a team of doctors from Kansas, her home state.

She said her dad, who was traveling as part of the mission, told her that he thought it sounded like a wonderful opportunity and if she could fundraise the money for the trip, she should get on board.

In Bolivia, she said she watched numerous reconstructive surgeries performed — "children with cleft lips and horrible burn victims, for example."

Towle came to Notre Dame intending to major in pre-med, but decided after freshman year to double major in anthropology and international peace studies.

"I was more interested in the health of communities than of individuals," she said.

An honors student, Towle has earned a spot on the Dean’s List every semester. She was also named one of only 20 Presidential Scholars at Notre Dame when she was a freshman. According to Notre Dame’s Office of News and Information, the Presidential Scholars are "recognized as top academic students and potential leaders" in the Notre Dame community.

Outside of the classroom, Towle’s activism in international health issues and community education and empowerment has been evident.

During her freshman year, Towle and fellow classmate Steve Cartwright founded LeadND, a program that promotes leadership development and service learning among local middle school students.

Now in four local schools, LeadND relies on a large number of "wonderful volunteers" from Notre Dame and members of the local community who have supported the vision of the program, she said.

Towle said being involved with LeadND has been one of the best things about her time at Notre Dame. "It’s been like a full-time job for me these past few years," Towle said.

She and Cartwright joke "that we are the grandma and grandpa of the program ... we are currently in the process of transitioning the leadership," she said.

Other formative experiences during her undergraduate career include time spent studying abroad in Mexico, spring and researching and working in the African nation of Lesotho last summer, Towle said.

While in Mexico, Towle taught global health to middle school students and did a research project on how globalization has affected HIV/AIDS in Mexico, especially the migrant population she said.

During her time in Lesotho, she did research on community-based health and worked at Touching Tiny Lives (TTL), a child’s safe home and HIV/AIDS outreach program founded by a Notre Dame graduate impacted by his Peace Corps service there, Towle said.

"TTL is not an orphanage; the whole goal of the program is to reunify (children with their families)," she said.

She said she was especially interested in exploring how transmission of HIV from mother to child might be prevented.

Towle said that a UROP grant enabled her to employ the help of a translator while in Lesotho to aid her in her research. She said that her translator allowed her to "learn so much more by cutting down on the language barrier."

Conducting research in Lesotho was especially exciting for Towle as she was instrumental in founding the Touching Tiny Lives Foundation, a nonprofit with a mission of "ensuring the health and reclaiming the dignity of children impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Lesotho."

Towle said the Foundation "does a lot of fundraising and there is a big effort in furthering education about issues that affect Lesotho."

Towle said she would love to see similar Foundations based on the Touching Tiny Lives model directed at supporting other countries.

Despite all of her academic accomplishments and involvement in the local and international communities, Towle is humble about being chosen for a Marshall Scholarship.

"This is the effort and support of so many people and a sign of how awesome of a place Notre Dame is."

Meg Towle senior
The ballroom's walls were cov­ ered by a huge, inflated sta­tue depicting cancer awareness and survival rates and the importance of screening. The shirts were also sold to benefit Riley Hospital for Children, a hospital for children in Indianapolis.

Several people attended 1 p.m., so the final hour of the event was a flurry of blanket­making, which Fitzgerald said he was thrilled to witness. 

Fitzgerald, who said he loves Notre Dame football, was able to make it back to a few games each semester. He helped coach the Cavanaugh Interhall football team, and is a member of the Notre Dame basketball team.

"I don't know what to expect ... my roommate put this together," Fitzgerald said. "I'm almost speechless. It means a lot to see people come out for the cause. I know a lot of people here, but there are also a lot of people who don't feel this is full-wall-to­wall in here, which is huge."

Koors called the turnout "ex­citing."

The influx of people grew from the "Cheese Factory Bash last year," she said.

Teigten said the organizers ordered double the supplies they did last year, and "ran out ... which was awesome."

"We did so much better than last year," Koors drink­ing to see this many people come out and support the cause ..." she said.

For freshman Erin Dolan, who was one of the few who attended the event, it was a great opportunity to make a difference.

Dolan, who is a sophomore at the University of Chicago, said she was excited to be a part of the event and to see so many people come out to support the cause.

"I'm glad to see that so many people came out to help this cause and support Aidan. Fitzgerald said he couldn't appreciate it more."

"We're giving two different minds of the health care profession and promoting health and living obesity is a huge medical prob­lem ... and then implicitly encouraging this to happen," said Fitzgerald.

As temperatures fell below freezing, officials warned Saturday that some people could be without power for weeks.

The storm was blamed for at least 15 deaths as it spread Saturday that some people could be without power for weeks.

Nearly 600 Amtrak passengers in Illinois and Missouri were delayed until 10 hours and Friday. Mayor's spokeswoman said she was thrilled to witness.

About 17 percent of U.S. chil­dren are considered obese and many doctors think heavy consumption of calorie-laden fast food is partly to blame.

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"We're giving two different minds of the health care profession and promoting health and living obesity is a huge medical prob­lem ... and then implicitly encouraging this to happen," said Fitzgerald.
I would like to compliment The Observer for running the two-part series of stories investigating some of the changes which have taken place in Zahm Hall over the past couple years.

Before I attended Notre Dame, an aged alumnus told me, "The experience of being a student at Notre Dame is having graduated from Notre Dame!" And despite all of the ill-fated fun I had there as an undergrad, despite all of the playful jibes I received, I realize that resident and despise of the times I had to just stand in front of the Office of Residence Life and shout and shake my head in bewilderment. I grew from the experience and now can enjoy the best part — being a Notre Dame graduate.

Alums of Zahm or any other dorm gather and shoot the bull about how "wild" or "crazy" their college days were — right up to the often touted Regis Phiblin. I recall his visit to campus clearly, when I was a freshman in fall 2001, when, in front of all the lights and cameras, he hopped into his former room, 222, jumped in the left and told all those present what a "crazy" time he had in that room, breaking all the old, silly rules. People love to reminisce and tell stories about old traditions or "how things used to be done," mostly because it's a way of reminding those moments without actually having to do them again. Here are two suggestions regarding "stories:" 1) They are probably exaggerations, and 2) nothing in the present, in reality, can top those stories.

So what does this mean for the current men of Zahm? Enjoy the elevated status which goes with being a resident in the House. Some will call it a "bad boy" or "whipping boy" image or claim that "it really worries the parents." If you actually believe those things, then you are taking college life way too seriously. Guys living with guys, girls living with girls — the two allegedly enjoyed not only each other but staying the night together — now that is a joke the rest of the young people in America laugh at and are extremely purged by, all the same.

So if Zahm's image counters who you are, fight it; if it doesn't have anything to do with you, ignore it; if it is everything you think you want out of college, embrace it. My point is this: anyone who lives in, or has lived in, Zahm makes choices about who they want to become. Some choose to destroy its image, and some have worked very hard to perpetuate it.

To assume that every resident should align with one ideology and not be uniquely creative is outlandish. To force every student to align with an ideology is not only repressive, but also counterproductive to the educational process. After reviewing The Observer's articles on the changes within Zahm Hall, it appears that the hall's administrative figure, the rector, believes that he should dictate its direction, like a surrogate parent.

Perhaps what is misunderstood here is that the urge some of the men of Zahm feel to be 'fraternal,' and at the same time be set apart from the typical Notre Dame community, is a normal male attitude during formative years, as opposed to bucking authority. I know it exists, because I have been there. The last time I checked, college was supposed to be an educational experience for the students, without all of the codding mentality.

But that's the way it goes at Notre Dame. So love it while you can. You can live there and leave it when you're ready (or get kicked off campus!). Either way, you will have enough stories to tell all of those freshmen when you are a senior, and hopefully half of them are true.

And picture this, men of Zahm: life only gets better after you graduate from Notre Dame.

Drew Updike
Class of 2005
Dec. 1

**Animal** term assessed

Animal nature shouldn't be denied

It may be in everyone's interest to take a step back from the debate sparked by Daniel Amrit's thought-provoking letter to the Editor on human nature ("Encourage chastity, not 'free talk,'" Nov. 21), and in true Catholic fashion treat it on a universal scale. That being established, and with all due respect to Pope John Paul II, it must assert that his words should be taken within the framework of the exercise of his highest functions, is and always was the domain of sea algae and plants.

We have already seen in the section above that mankind are either animal or plant. Considering the quote from the pope provided by Speelman, namely that "a man, even if seriously ill or disabled in the exercise of his highest functions, is and always will be a man, and will never become a 'vegetable' or an 'animal.'"animals are eliminated and we are left with only one option for the nature of mankind: non-vegetal species.

Neither a vertebrate nor an arachnid nor a cephalopod, neither a broccoloid nor a tomatodote, mankind is left to the domain of sea algae and mushrooms.

Chad Lamivoniere
junior off campus
Dec. 1

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"By swallowing evil words unsaid, no one has ever accomplished all of the good." — Winston Churchill, former prime minister

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." — Theodore Roosevelt, former president

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Each Zahm resident unique

Niki Hira
junior off campus
Dec. 1

**NEWS**

Sports
Kate Gales
Lauren Baumgartner
Steve Kehoe
Joe Piruli
Viewpoint
Bethany Whitfield

**SCENE**

The Saint Mary's Review
November 2006

**ONLINE OBSERVER**

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The Observer is committed to providing a forum for the expression of all opinions through letters to the Editor. Letters to the Editor must be short and signed, and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief, Mike Gibbons.
Band funding not so simple

I truly hope that I am one of many people replying to Joe Anderson's Letter to the Editor ("Band overlooked," Nov. 29). This letter was a blatan...
Incubus explodes creatively with ‘Light Grenades’

By CHRIS McGrady
Scene Editor

Perhaps there is such a thing as audio schizophrenia, and this album will have the listener either smoking two packs a day or chewing enough Nicorette to choke a horse. Incubus’ newest effort, ‘Light Grenades,’ is an album that once it makes its way to a person’s stereo, may stay there for an entire career. ‘Light Grenades’ is the type of CD that once it makes its way to a person’s stereo, may stay there for an entire career.

The stagnancy of that bitterness, then, is one of the reasons why the band, originally formed in 1991 (while the members were in 10th grade), consisted of Brandon Boyd (vocals, guitar), Alex Katunich (a.k.a. Koppel), Mike Einziger (guitar), and Ben Kilmer (drums). Later they added DJ Lyfe (Gavin Koppel). Since then, the only things that have changed are the presence of Gnaulich, who has since been replaced by Ben Kenney and the replacement of DJ Lyfe with DJ Klimore (Chris Kimler).

Incubus exploded creatively with ‘Light Grenades’

For the first four years of its existence, Incubus spent most of its time touring and making a name for itself, honing a sound from the likenesses of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Korn, and the Deftones. With the release of ‘Fungus Amongus,’ Incubus departed from the musical homogeneity of the pop-rock scene and found its own niche in a crowded genre. At times sounding like metal, at other times rock and folk, Incubus stretches its musical identities to the max, and “Light Grenades” proves this can be done.

It’s evident early on the album is going to be good. It opens with the song “Quicksand,” a vaguely electronic, enigmatic track that features Boyd’s voice synthesized as if it’s floating in the distance. This song quickly fades into track two, “A Kiss To Send Us Oil,” which quickly up the energy and evokes tracks from early in Incubus’ career. The next song, “Dig,” is one of the most addictive on the album and begs to be put on repeat. Don’t be surprised to see this song released as a single and climb both up the Alt-Rock and Pop billboards.

Coming on the third track, “Anna Molly,” is a sound reminiscent of songs from Incubus’ previous work “A Crow Left of the Murder,” and it showcases Boyd’s vocal abilities as well as the musical capabilities of the other members of the band. Other album highlights include “Love Hurts,” a semi-romantic ballad, and “Earth To Bella” (Part I and “Earth To Bella” (Part II). Both parts of “Earth To Bella” successfully blend acoustic strumming and electric rock guitar to a David-esque perfection, proving artistry extends beyond the realm of sculpture and paint and right into the genre of music.

The diversity of sound and the talent of Incubus gives “Light Grenades” a fighting chance for album of the year, and can easily be considered in the same breath as “Sam’s Town” by The Killers and “Stadium Arcadium” by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The tracks are addictive, intriguing, cut-grooving, but still produces a satisfying finish. This album is one of the Top 40 today.

Recommended tracks: ‘Dig,’ ‘Anna Molly,’ ‘Love Hurts’ and ‘Earth To Bella’ (Part I/II)

Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrady@nd.edu

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The stagnancy of that bitterness, then, is one of the reasons why the band, originally formed in 1991 (while the members were in 10th grade), consisted of Brandon Boyd (vocals, guitar), Alex Katunich (a.k.a. Koppel), Mike Einziger (guitar), and Ben Kilmer (drums). Later they added DJ Lyfe (Gavin Koppel). Since then, the only things that have changed are the presence of Gnaulich, who has since been replaced by Ben Kenney and the replacement of DJ Lyfe with DJ Klimore (Chris Kimler).

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It’s evident early on the album is going to be good. It opens with the song “Quicksand,” a vaguely electronic, enigmatic track that features Boyd’s voice synthesized as if it’s floating in the distance. This song quickly fades into track two, “A Kiss To Send Us Oil,” which quickly up the energy and evokes tracks from early in Incubus’ career. The next song, “Dig,” is one of the most addictive on the album and begs to be put on repeat. Don’t be surprised to see this song released as a single and climb both up the Alt-Rock and Pop billboards.

Coming on the third track, “Anna Molly,” is a sound reminiscent of songs from Incubus’ previous work “A Crow Left of the Murder,” and it showcases Boyd’s vocal abilities as well as the musical capabilities of the other members of the band. Other album highlights include “Love Hurts,” a semi-romantic ballad, and “Earth To Bella” (Part I and “Earth To Bella” (Part II). Both parts of “Earth To Bella” successfully blend acoustic strumming and electric rock guitar to a David-esque perfection, proving artistry extends beyond the realm of sculpture and paint and right into the genre of music.

The diversity of sound and the talent of Incubus gives “Light Grenades” a fighting chance for album of the year, and can easily be considered in the same breath as “Sam’s Town” by The Killers and “Stadium Arcadium” by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The tracks are addictive, intriguing, cut-grooving, but still produces a satisfying finish. This album is one of the Top 40 today.

Recommended tracks: ‘Dig,’ ‘Anna Molly,’ ‘Love Hurts’ and ‘Earth To Bella’ (Part I/II)

Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrady@nd.edu
Late rally falls short, Irish lose to Tar Heels 2-1 in NCAA finals

By CHRIS KHOREY
Assistant Sports Editor

CARY, N.C. — After 26 games, Notre Dame finally met its match. North Carolina dominated the previously unbeaten Irish for most of the game en route to a 2-1 victory and a National Championship berth in the finals of the NCAA Women's College Cup final at SAS Stadium.

"I'm not disappointed in my team, but I am disappointed for them," Notre Dame coach Randy Waldrum said. "I thought we had a good chance to win this one."

The quicker and stronger Tar Heels outshot the Irish 20-9, controlled possession for most of the game and took a 2-0 lead early in the second half. Notre Dame made a late run, scoring with 10 minutes left in the game, but could not complete the comeback.

"The deficit was the first time the Irish seniors had been down 2-0 in their careers," Waldrum said.

"I think we responded to being down okay," Waldrum said. "But we shouldn't have gotten down 2-0 in the first place."

The Irish were denied their second National Championship in three years, while North Carolina won its 18th NCAA title and its first since 2003.

Notre Dame finished its season 25-1-3, while the Tar Heels set a school record with 27 wins against one loss.

"The deficit was our fault. We were over 8,000 that was clad mostly in Carolina blue and the Tar Heels even took a 2-0 lead on the 25 minute trip down I-40. But Waldrum said the best are not always going to do with the outcome of the game.

"It was loud, but once that whistle blows the crowd doesn't matter all that much," he said. "Maybe when you're right down near the goal and they start yelling you can hear it, but it shouldn't affect you too much.""

The Tar Heels scored their first goal with 28 minutes left in the first half. Forward Heather O'Reilly made a run down the left side with no Notre Dame defenders in sight. Irish goalkeeper Karas ventured well out of the box to try to cut O'Reilly off.

Karas was for a slide tackle but whiffed and O'Reilly put the ball easily into the empty net for a 1-0 lead.

The defensive breakdown put the Irish on their heels.

"For the first fifteen minutes or so, I thought we were all right," Waldrum said. "But that first goal, the way it happened, took the wind out of our sails a little bit.

The Tar Heels almost added to their lead with 18 minutes left in the half on a shot from just outside the box by forward Whitney Engen, but Karas made a diving save to keep Notre Dame in the game.

North Carolina continued to pressure the Irish net, forcing Karas to make another diving save with one minute left before halftime. Forward Sterling Smith beat Irish defender Kim Lorenzen and got a shot off, but once again Karas made the play to keep the deficit at one.

Notre Dame had a solid chance to score just before the half, when forward Brittany Bock flicked on a free kick with her head but midfielder Amanda Cinalli couldn't get it before Tar Heel keeper Anna Redeschug smothered the ball.

At halftime, North Carolina had outshot the Irish 10-2.

Immediately after the break, the Tar Heels scored again. Forward Casey Nogueira streaked into the box and headed a perfect cross from Engen into the net for a 2-0 lead with 43 minutes left.

Nogueira made a game of it in the last 10 minutes, scoring with nine minutes left to play. Sophomore forward and Hermann Award winner Kerri Hanks lifted the ball into the box, where Rock emerged from a crowd to head it into the net and cut the lead to one.

"Getting a goal gave us some confidence," Cinalli said. "Unfortunately, we couldn't get in another one."

After the score, the Irish went into an all-out attack mode, sending nearly every player forward and generating several more chances.

"Sometimes you play better when you have nothing to lose," Waldrum said.

The best Irish opportunity after the goal came with eight minutes left. A flip throw-in by freshman Michele Weissenhofener bounced around in the box, but Rodenbaugh managed to corral it and end the threat.

Hanks also had one last effort for Notre Dame, earning a free kick just outside the box with one minute remaining, but her shot flew just to the right of the net.

"It was really close," Cinalli said. "It just barely missed."

While Waldrum was pleased with the late rally, he wondered aloud after the game why his team didn't wake up until the game was almost over.

"I like our intensity in the last 15 minutes," he said. "But we should have played like that for the entire game."

Notre Dame 2, Florida State 1

Notre Dame scored twice in the first two minutes late in the first half, then held off a furious Florida State comeback attempt to win a 2-1 thriller Friday to advance to the final against the Tar Heels.

"Being up two is probably the most dangerous lead you can have," said Todd. "Sometimes you would rather maybe be up just one, because you don't want to sit on a two-goal lead, but you don't want to give up a quick goal either."

The Seminoles kept the pressure up on the break and cut the lead to one in the early second half. Senior India Trotter blew past Irish freshman defender Haley Ford and beat Karas.

Krikorian said he's not concerned at halftime because the scoreboard indicated.

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Senior class leaves behind impressive legacy

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Space Writer

CAIRN, N.C. — Somewhere underneath the tears of the Irish seniors following their 2-1 College Cup loss to North Carolina twinkle the glowing accomplishments of a class that made its long-awaited return to the championship stage.

Friday's semifinal victory over Florida State gave Notre Dame its 92nd win over the past four years, surpassing the soccer Class of 1997's 91 victories for the most wins by a Notre Dame senior class in the program's history.

The loss brought the senior class's career record to 92-8-3 over that same time span, which includes four years playing with my best friends and the friendships that we developed, the National Championship in 2004, and I think now we have a little better perspective. But it'll be a few years from now that we really realize that it was a great four years.

In addition to the 2004 title, Krivacek said one of the great legacies left by the seniors is their dominance at Alumni Field, where they posted a 53-2-1 record and had not lost since Michigan beat them 1-0 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament during their freshman year.

"Senior forward Molly Barcell and I were talking about this [Saturday] night," she said. "That we felt for the girls who had to go off on a loss losing at home at Alumni. I think what we took pride in as a senior class is we never had [another] loss at Alumni Field in our four years. We protected our home field.

The seniors dominated in their showing at Alumni Field, knocking off No. 8 Penn State 4-0 in front of their home crowd.

"That game against Penn State was a great way to leave Alumni Field," Krivacek said. "Even after stumbling in their final act, Krivacek has no regrets. "We had the opportunity to play Carolina in our four years and there's no other way to go out than to play Carolina," she said.

"Unfortunately we didn't win, but it was a very good Carolina team." It was also a very good Notre Dame team, one that carried a No. 1 ranking and its accompanying bullseye almost the entire season.

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"Unfortunately we didn't win, but it was a very good Carolina team." It was also a very good Notre Dame team, one that carried a No. 1 ranking and its accompanying bullseye almost the entire season.

It was the type of team that elicited those same kinds of remarks from the teams the Irish brought down on the way to Cary. When the Irish beat Colorado 3-0 at home in the Sweet 16, Buffaloes midfielder Katie Griffin was thankful for the opportunity to go out against No. 1 Notre Dame.

"If you have to lose to somebody you might as well go out to the number one team in the nation. We've never played Notre Dame before."

When someone finally pulls the plug on the torch atop Grace, there is nothing anyone can do to extinguish the legacy of these seniors.

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougherty@nd.edu

National Championship

Nov. 10
Notre Dame 7
Oakland 1

Nov. 12
Notre Dame 1
Wisconsin-Mil. 0

Nov. 17
Notre Dame 3
Colorado 0

Quarterfinals
Notre Dame 4
Penn State 0

Semifinals
Notre Dame 2
Florida State 1

North Carolina 2

Semifinals
North Carolina 2
UCLA 0

North Carolina 1

Quarterfinals
North Carolina 3
Texas A&M 2

Nov. 18
North Carolina 6
Tennessee 2

Nov. 10
North Carolina 7
UNC Ashville 0

Nov. 12
North Carolina 4
Navy 0

MADELINE NIES/Observer Graphic
CARY, N.C. — The gloves were off Saturday against the most storied program in NCAA history.

When former Notre Dame star Kerri Hanks lined up for the opening kickoff of the North Carolina-NOTRE DAME 2, Florida State 1 opening round of the NCAA women's college soccer tournament Saturday, she finally met her match.

The Fighting Irish and the Tar Heels battled to a 2-2 draw in the opening game of the NCAA 2000 season.

North Carolina was the home team at the Meade Stadium in Chapel Hill, but the Fighting Irish were the home team in the minds of many fans.

"It was an incredible game," said Hanks, a senior forward for the Fighting Irish. "The Tar Heels are a great team, and we knew it would be a tough match."
Too little, too late

Notre Dame's matchup with North Carolina pitted the then-No. 1 Irish against the perennial powerhouse Tar Heels. After surrendering goals to Heather O'Reilly and Casey Nogueira, the Irish attempted to pull off a late game comeback. Forward Jill Krivacek's goal in the 81st minute cut the North Carolina lead to one, but Notre Dame couldn't find the equalizer before time ran out on the game and its season.
Between the finals, papers and general stress of the end of the semester, the fact that Christmas is around the corner sometimes gets lost. But fear not. Christmas trees are appearing across campus, Christmas music is playing on the radio and television stations are starting to play all of the classic favorites. There is something about Christmas movies that makes it feel like its the holiday season again. Whether its because they were all we watched for a month when we were kids or because of their simple animation, its not Christmas without a certain few.

10. "Its a Wonderful Life" — There cant be a Christmas movie list without this Frank Capra film starring James Stewart. This touching story reminds us of the importance of life, pure and simple.

9. "Rankin/Bass Christmas Specials" — These famous stop-motion and animated shows, including "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "The Year Without a Santa Claus," "The Little Drummer Boy," "Fred Claus," "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" and "Jack Frost," have been played on TV stations ever since they premiered in the 1960s. Something about their simple animation and spirit make it all the better.

8. "Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer" — A stop-motion Christmas classic enjoyed each year. It is one of several Christmas movies that signify the spirit of the holidays.

7. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — The head may not be screwed on just right if you can resist the original animated version. Dr. Seuss unforgivable story of the mean and cynical Grinch who sets out to destroy Christmas for the Who's helps us remember that Christmas Good is the only one who will buy him is the tan-

6. "Meet Me in St. Louis" — This movie could be included solely because it is the birthing place of the song "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," sung by Judy Garland, but its sweet love stories make it all the better.

5. "The Santa Clause" — Starring Tim Allen, this is one of the funniest Christmas movies and definitely one of the best in recent years. The story of what happens when Santa gets replaced by the son of one of the cast's characters, "The Santa Clause" will warm your heart either from sincerity or laughter.

4. "The Small One" — I have yet to find anyone else who remembers this one, but I can resist including the movie I had practically memorized as a little girl that made me cry every time. A short 1978 Disney animated cartoon. "The Small One" tells the story of a boy who must part with his pet donkey, but the only ones who will help him are the tan-

3. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" — In my favorite, Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Woodstock, you cant go through the holidays without having a laugh about the all-time greatest Christmas movie in the history.

2. "A Christmas Carol" — Whether it stars Alastair Sim, Patrick Stewart or the Muppets, you can go through the Christmas season without watching some version of Dickens classic tale.

1. "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" — The original Broadway cast of "Putnam County Spelling Bee," pictured above, helped make the musical win two Tony Awards in 2005. Chicago's cast is performing in an open run.
UCLA crushes USC’s title hopes; Florida wins SEC crown
Trojans 13-9 loss to Bruins opens door for Gators to play Ohio State in BCS National Championship Game


Associated Press

One of College Football's most anticipated games was played under the spotlight Saturday night. The No. 2 Trojans were unable to solve the Bruins. Riley Skinner followed Swanson's pick with long completion to set up the go-ahead score.

Riley Skinner followed Swanson's pick with long completion to set up the go-ahead score.

UCLA's Jarrett Brown threw the go-ahead score and West Virginia knocked down Mike Teel's 2-point conversion pass to preserve a triple-overtime win over Rutgers, denying the Scarlet Knights a berth in the Sugar Bowl.

Brown ran for one touchdown and threw for another in his first career start to help No. 15 West Virginia (12-2, 5-2 Big East) cap its second straight 10-win season. Brown started for Pat White, who missed the game because of a sprained ankle.

"What a ball game," West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez said. "It was a great night of college football.

The ending was a peculiar finish to an improbable run through the regular season for No. 13 Rutgers (10-2, 5-2). A loser for so long, the Scarlet Knights decided to do something about it. Riley Swanson did.

Swanson intercepted a pass from Reggie Ball on the next play, sparking a comeback that gave Wake Forest its first Atlantic Coast Conference championship in 36 years and sent the Demon Deacons to the biggest bowl game in school history.

"I'm going to see Darlene Love!," Skinner said.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 204 South Dung Pk. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 2 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid.

The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to the Observer reserves the right to...
Associated Press

Florida players celebrate with the SEC Championship trophy Saturday after a 38-28 win over Arkansas. The Gators came from behind to edge out Michigan in the rankings and face Ohio State in the BCS Championship Game.

Gators to play Buckeyes in title game

Associated Press

Florida football team record points

Associated Press

Gators to play Buckeyes in title game

NEW YORK— Florida beat Michigan on Sunday in the only game that mat
tered. The Gators, who envisioned this victory, were
pless to play No. 1 Ohio State for college football's Tostitos BCS Championship Game, ending any chance for the Wolverines to get the rematch they so
desired and thought they deserved.

After the numbers were crewed, it was Florida —
bar

barely. The Gators had a BCS average of .944, and the Wolverines were .936
behind at .934. The teams were tied in the computer
rating, but Florida had a 16-point lead in the Harris poll and a 26-point
advantage in the coaches' poll.

The close selection was sure to set off renewed
calls to scrap the Bowl Championship Series and

get to a playoff system.

Southerners California was a step away from the title
game if only it had beaten UCLA on Saturday. Instead, the second-ranked Trojans were upset 13-9, dropping in the standings and clearing the way for Florida (12-1) or Michigan (11-1).

"The Gators leapfrogged

the Buckeyes and deserved, and I'm proud of it," said
Florida coach Urban Meyer on the Gators' selection.

The championship game is Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz.

Michigan's consolation prize is a Rose Bowl bid to

play USC, a classic Big Ten vs. Pac-10 matchup of
teams left to wonder what could have been.

For the first time in the BCS's eight-year history, the championship
matchup was a mystery heading into

selection Sunday. When the Wolverines ended their regular season with a 42-39 loss to the Buckeyes two weeks ago, they talked about getting

another swing at their Big Ten Title.

While Michigan was left to wait and hope, the other contenders still had games to play.

Florida made its final
case by beating Arkansas, but second-year coach Meyer became very vocal about getting a chance to

play Ohio State, especially when it appeared the Buckeyes would be left out.

"It's an imperfect sys-
tem," said Meyer of the BCS. "If you want a true

national championship, the only way to do it is on the

field.

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel, however, is not in

favor of a playoff.
Steelers finally find stride against Tampa Bay

Pittsburgh dominates; Titans victorious on late 60-yard field goal

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers saw last week what happens when a hurried quarterback has no time to make throws, set up in the pocket or get any rhythm going.

Too bad for them they waited until it was too late in the season to figure out how to do the same.

The Steelers didn’t do much on offense for the second week in a row, but it didn’t make much difference as they capitalized on repeated mistakes by Tampa Bay rookie quarterback Bruce Gradkowski to beat the Buccaneers 20-3 on Sunday.

In a matchup of two of the league’s most disappointing teams, Ben Roethlisberger bounced back from one of the worst games of his three-season career to throw touchdown passes to tight ends Jerame Tuman and Heath Miller _ both of their sixth in seven games. The quarterback has no time to figure out how to do the same.

Roethlisberger was sacked nine times and threw two interceptions last week in a 27-0 loss to Baltimore that effectively ended any chance the Super Bowl champion Steelers had of repeating. He wasn’t that much better against Tampa Bay, completing fewer than half of his 25 passes against one of the league’s weakest pass defenses, but did throw scoring passes of 16 yards to Miller and 2 to Tuman. He also was sacked only once.

The Bucs avoided their second straight shutout when Matt Bryant kicked a 27-yard field goal on the final play, promoting coach Jon Gruden to say, “I probably will get criticized for it.”

“There’s kind of an unwritten rule against it but, if I had been them, I probably would have kicked it, too,” Steelers linebacker Joey Porter said.

Roethlisberger (12-of-25 for 198 yards) threw his league-high 20th interception less than four minutes in, making him the first Steelers quarterback since Cliff Stoudt in 1983 to throw that many. Stoudt had 21 interceptions in his one and only Steelers season as a starter.

New Orleans 34, San Francisco 10

Like his father, Reggie Bush was a 49ers fan growing up.

Not on Sunday.

With San Francisco in town, Bush’s father, LaMar Griffin, attended a game in the Louisiana Superdome for the first time since his son turned pro, wearing Bush’s No. 25 Saints jersey. Bush delighted his parents and everyone else wearing black-and-gold, showing like never before that all those electrical plays he made in high school and college could translate to the NFL.

“Oh, obviously, I haven’t had the flashy runs or the breakthrough game like everybody was expecting, but at the same time, I’m adjusting to the NFL, I’m learning,” Bush said. “It’s the kind of a game I’ve been waiting for, too. It finally came today.”

Bush tied Joe Horn’s franchise record by scoring all four of the Saints’ touchdowns and gained 168 total yards as New Orleans beat the San Francisco 49ers 34-10.

The victory helped New Orleans (6-4) remain alone in first place in the NFC West by 1 1/2 games this season.

San Francisco quarterback Alex Smith was Bush’s high school quarterback in San Francisco.

They won a pair of championships together. Their high school coach also was at the game. And Bush said he needed an outlet after watching his school, Southern California, lose its chances for a national title by falling to rival UCLA a night earlier.

“I was sick last night. I wanted to throw up. I couldn’t believe they lost,” Bush said. “I had a little extra aggression and I wanted to take it out on the 49ers.”

Tennessee 20, Indianapolis 17

Magic is in the air around the Tennessee Titans. Just ask Rob Bironas.

Bironas kicked a 60-yard field goal _ the franchise’s longest ever _ with 7 seconds left, and the Titans ousted Indianapolis for their first victory over the Colts since December 2002 and their second straight amazing comeback.

The team that tied for the NFL’s second-biggest comeback in the final 10 minutes last week against the New York Giants struck again Sunday against the Colts (11-2), who had lost only four of their previous 36 games.

With the wind at his back, Bironas needed every gust to lift the longest field goal in his short career over the crossbar for his second consecutive game-winning kick. He became the sixth kicker in NFL history to connect from 60 yards or better.

“I needed that wind behind me today,” Bironas said. “It was all at my back … I let the wind take it the rest of the way.”

Peyton Manning said the wind was a big factor for the Titans in the fourth quarter, and never bigger than on Bironas’ field goal.

“The guy made a heck of a kick,” Manning said.

The Titans (5-7) didn’t trail by 21 this time, but they were down 14-0 in the first half before starting this comeback with 10 points just before halftime. They intercepted Manning twice, and Vince Young threw for two touchdowns and used his legs to help keep the ball away from the two-time NFL MVP.

Indianapolis needed a victory to clinch the division for a club-record fourth straight year and its seventh playoff berth in eight years. Seemingly easy enough for a franchise that had won 12 straight divisional games coming into Sunday.

Instead, the Colts blew a 14-point lead for the first time in coach Tony Dungy’s career.

“They make a 60-yard field goal, and you take your butt off to them. We put ourselves in that position where a field goal beats you, and it did,” Dungy said.
NFL

Arizona easily tops struggling St. Louis

Cardinals win 34-20; Cowboys defeat NFC East rivals New York; Patriots edge Detroit

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The normally soft-spoken Marc Bulger had too special this St. Louis had just lost to the Arizona Cardinals at home, and the Rams' mistakes made it obvious to the quarterback that some of his teammates are no longer committed.

"I know there's some guys in here who don't care," Bulger said after a loss to Arizona that shed off a flurry of finger-pointing.

Prized by his coaches for his calm demeanor, the quarterback kept his voice down and didn't single out anyone after the Rams (5-7) were whitelined for a season-high 126 yards in penalties. But aside, he said, is the repeated mistakes throughout the season.

"There's more than one guy in this locker room that could care less that we're losing, or thinks it's OK to make mistakes," he said. "When we get embarrassed and you think it's OK and keep making the same mistakes, it's not OK."

Everything seemed OK for Arizona (9-3) on Sunday. Marcel Shipp scored three touchdowns, Edgerrin James had 114 yards rushing and Matt Leinart won for the second time in seven pro starts for Arizona, which made the most of the Rams' mistakes to win for the first time on the road this season.

"I think we're getting better every game," said Leinart, who was 15-for-24 for 186 yards and one touchdown. "Every six years for Arizona's feature back.

James, who had 94 yards in the first meeting against the Rams in the third week of the season, didn't mind his teammates ending off drives.

"I had an opportunity to go in, and I said, 'No, let Shipp go in,'" James said, "because they've been so supportive of me in practice and every­thing."

New England 28, Detroit 21

The Patriots know how to finish games. The Lions just can't seem to finish themselves off.

Corey Dillon scored two of his three touchdowns in the last 8:35, Detroit turned the ball over on its last three possessions and New England avoided a stunning upset with a victory.

Dillon gave the Patriots their first lead of the second half with a 1-yard scoring run with 2:23 left, backhopping Tom Brady's deft that the Patriots nearly always have a chance to win.

"At some time there's time left on the clock, we think we can," said Brady. "For so much of that game we didn't play with much energy or enthusiasm."

The Patriots' closing, considering Detroit has the NFL's worst record over the last six years (23-69) and is 2-10 this season. It's a surprise, though, considering the Patriots (9-3) talked all week about not taking any opponent for granted.

"Embarrassing, frustrating, but a win is a win," fullback Heath Evans said.

The Lions took an 18-13 lead after Evans was tackled in the end zone for a safety when he fell on Brady's fumble. Heath Evans made it 21-13 less than two minutes into the fourth quarter.

The Patriots needed a touchdown and a 2-point conversion just to tie. They could actually lose to a team that started the day with nine losses one week after the Patriots beat a team with nine wins in a 17-13 victory over Chicago on the same field.

Well, Detroit did squander a 10-0 lead in a 27-10 loss to Miami in its previous game.

Dallas 23

New York Giants 20

Bill Parcells has never been crazy about kickers. Marting Gramatica may have changed the Dallas coach's opinion.

Gramatica, signed last Monday after Parcells cut the enigmatic Mike Vanderjagt, kicked a 46-yard field goal with a second left to give the Dallas Cowboys a win over the New York Giants a two­game lead in the NFC East.

"I've got to thank the Cowboys for giving me a sec­ond chance," said Gramatica, once a top kicker who had just one field goal in three games since 2004.

"It's been a rough couple of years for me," the journeyman said, "being out all last year and then not making any teams this year."

The winning score was set up by a 42-yard pass by Tony Romo to Jason Witten and came just over a minute after the Giants, wearing their red jerseys for the first and only time this season, had tied the game at 20-all on a 5-yard TD pass from Eli Manning to Plaxico Burress.

Grammar, who also kicked field goals of 41 and 35 yards, was signed last week after the Cowboys cut Vanderjagt, who had received a three-year $5.3 million contract in the offseason.

"It's been a rough couple of years for me," the journeyman said, "being out all last year and then not making any teams this year."

But being the new guy didn't keep Gramatica from bursting into one of his over-the-top celebrations: The diminutive kicker leaped into the arms of his teammates, while coach Bill Parcells broke into a wide smile on the sidelines as the ball sailed through.

"Gramatica made me look good," Parcells said with a smile. "For a first game back in the league, you can't get more pressure than that for the division lead.

It didn't look so good for Parcells on Gramatica's first kick, a 44-yard attempt on the Cowboys' opening drive.
NCAA Men's Basketball

Huskies cruise to victory over Texas Southern

Price puts up 20 in Connecticut's victory; FSU upsets Florida

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — The Connecticut men's basketball team making the most of an extended stay at home from the season.

A.J. Price scored 20 points, Hasheem Thabeet had 12 points and 12 rebounds in the Huskies' second straight victory that ended their first loss since the nation's top-ranked team in 11 years. They beat Long Beach State by 30 points last Tuesday night. Now they are in the Top 25 team in 11 years. They beat Long Beach State by 30 points last Tuesday night. They did a good job in the second half standing our ground. We're going to do it again.

Coach Calhoun said. "We’re a good defensive team in this league and we’re going to do what we have to do to win." Huskers open the season at the 20th-straight home game. They beat Florida State 6-0 and built the lead to 55-41 before Walter Hodge’s 3-pointer with 3:02 left got the Gators within 62-59. Hodge shot an 18-7 Florida run. Hodge hit another from long range to cut it to 68-66 with 53.2 seconds left, but Florida State's Tony Douglas blocked a 3-point attempt by Taurean Green with 4 seconds left and Thornton was fouled as he picked up the loose ball.

Pittsburgh 74, Auburn 66

The missed free throws down the stretch bothered Jamie Dixon. Dixon said Gray, who developed the blisters late in Pitt's last game against Robert Morris.

"It's a shame he has to go out and get 28 points every night for us to win," Hamilton said. "Tonight we had to go up and down, and we played really well."

Thornton scored 18 in the second half and grabbed 12 rebounds despite playing with a painful blister on his left foot and spending most of the second half in foul trouble.

"There's no doubt he was ready to play tonight," Hamilton said. "The Seminoles (5-2), who had lost their previous two games to a total of 37 points, led 36-31 at the half and built the lead to 55-41 before Walter Hodge’s 3-pointer with 3:02 left got the Gators within 62-59. Hodge shot an 18-7 Florida run. Hodge hit another from long range to cut it to 68-66 with 53.2 seconds left, but Florida State's Tony Douglas blocked a 3-point attempt by Taurean Green with 4 seconds left and Thornton was fouled as he picked up the loose ball.

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Saint Mary’s falls to 1-5 after loss

Team hopes to rebound against Carthage in tonight’s home game

By DAN COOPER and BILL BRINK
Spen Winer

In another close game, the Belles came up short Saturday night, losing to Washington University 66-62 at home. The win improved the Bears record to 3-3 while the Belles dropped to 1-5, extending their losing streak to three.

“We just need to get out and play and get a win,” guard Allison Kessler said. “We need to focus on the next game.”

Junior guard Allison Kessler was near-automatic from the charity stripe, making 15 of her 17 free throw attempts as the Belles out shot the Bears from the line (66%-60%).

“We just need to get out and play and get a win. We need to focus on the next game.”
Allison Kessler
Belles guard

Saint Mary’s hopes to rebound against Carthage in tonight’s home game.

The Bears jumped to an 18-point lead in the first half, senior guard Bridget Lipke hit a jumper to pull the Belles within five, sending the Belles into the locker room down 29-34 at halftime.

“The win improved the Bears record to 3-3 while the Belles dropped to 1-5, extending their losing streak to three.”

Despite trailing for the first 35 minutes, the Belles surged to a 20-10 run and took the lead, 56-55, with 4:55 to go. Saint Mary’s matched the Bears in forced turnovers (15) and points scored off turnovers (17), but were out-rebounded (38-32) and shot a lower rate from the field (42 percent compared to Washington’s 46).

Washington regained the lead with an 8-2 run and held on for the win.

Junior guard Allison Kessler was near-automatic from the charity stripe, making 15 of her 17 free throw attempts as the Belles out shot the Bears from the line (66%-60%). Recent struggles were “not due to anything we haven’t been doing,” Kessler said. “We need to get better at what we’re doing right.”

Saint Mary’s will hit the road at Carthage (2-2) which has dropped its last two games. In those contests, Carthage has averaged 56 points per game, down from 70.5 in its first two.

“It’s more of not really changing the way we play, but trying to cause more turnovers on their side.”

Allison Kessler
Belles guard

Belles guard

ND VOLLvbEY

Badgers overcome Notre Dame again

Wisconsin knocks the Irish out of NCAA Tournament for third consecutive season

By DEVIN PRESTON
Spen Winer

Wisconsin had knocked the Irish out of the NCAA Tournament two consecutive times.

This weekend, the Badgers made it three, beating the Irish 34-36, 26-30, 21-30 at UW Fieldhouse in Madison, Wisc. Although the Irish strung together some impressive plays, they were not able to keep their season alive against the superior Badgers.

Before the game, Irish captain Adrianna Stasiuk said that the history between the Irish and the Badgers gave the Irish an “edge” of motivation. But that edge didn’t overcome the talent of 10th-seeded Wisconsin.

Notre Dame’s offense was led by Stasiuk who tallied 12 kills. Wisconsin freshman Brittnay Dolger dominated with 21 kills at a hitting percentage of .545. The Badgers outhit the Irish .204-.294. A well-balanced offense was key for Wisconsin. The three Badgers with the highest kill counts all had hitting percentages above .294 — higher than Notre Dame’s team leader Kris Kratoch.

Senior libero Danielle Hornson led all players with 17 digs, playing a big role in keeping her team’s hope of an upset alive.

“They’re all aggressive, and they’re scrappy, and their defense was great, especially in the first game they were out digging us by five or six,” said Wisconsin coach Pete Waile.

The scrappy play from Notre Dame forced Wisconsin to seven game points before they were finally able to put the Irish away.

“We played really well,” said setter Janell Nicholas. “We executed our game plan and fought for every point.”

Although Notre Dame was able to tie the score with Wisconsin late in the game, needing only two points to take the game, it was unable to win the battle for momentum and fell behind Wisconsin later in the match.

“We would have liked to win,” Nicholas said, “but it didn’t set us back at all.”

Wisconsin opened the second game in dominant fashion with a 6-2 run. The Irish were able to go on a 7-2 run out of a timeout and take their first lead at 9-8. The team did not allow the Badgers to gain more than a two-point lead until late, when a service error from Kristoff presaged Wisconsin’s 8-2 run to put the Badgers ahead 24-22. After a timeout, Wisconsin was able to win its second game of the night off a kill from junior Audra Jeffers.

Notre Dame lost stride early in the third game with Wisconsin Nutter tying it at four points before they were cut back at all. The Irish made an attempt to regain control of the match with a kill from Mallorie Croal kicking off five consecutive points to narrow the Wisconsin lead to 15-13. But the Irish were unable to overcome the Badgers, falling 21-30 after another Jeffers kill sealed the match.

Contact Devin Preston at dpreston@nd.edu
**Bowl**

continued from page 24

"We want to stop answering questions about Notre Dame not winning bowl games," said captain and strong safety Tom Zbikowski. While Zbikowski was rewarded that goal began at 6 a.m. today when Notre Dame was scheduled to hold its first practice after learning of its opponent.

Irish coach Charlie Weis said Sunday that that much of Sugar Bowl fan interest is on lining up "good guys against good guys." We'll spend the next few weeks with the No. 1 offensive unit practicing against the No. 1 defensive unit," he said, in an effort to simulate game competition during this week's bowl preparation.

"USC made more plays than us," Thomas said. "But I don't see speed as the reason." Thomas and his defensive teammates will try to slow LSU's fleet-footed pack of receivers — part of a squad that finished No. 4 in the final BCS standings and fell only to No. 2 Florida and No. 9 Auburn on the road. That will be a tough task, given that the Sugar Bowl will be in front of a New Orleans crowd, just 80 miles from the Tigers' Baton Rouge campus. Still, Notre Dame said Sunday that it's confident in its abilities.

"It's not like we don't have talent and can't match up with these guys," Thomas said.

Notes:
- Both Weis and LSU coach Les Miles disclosed who they voted No. 2 in the coaches poll released Sunday, Weis, citing the Wolverines' win at Notre Dame in September, put Michigan in the second spot behind Ohio State. Miles, despite losing to Michigan in the Big Ten Championship Game, voted Florida No. 2 because it won the SEC title. Florida finished No. 2 in both the AP, coaches and BCS standings and will face Ohio State in the National Championship Game Jan. 8.
- Notre Dame and LSU both entered the Sugar Bowl as at-large berths. Notre Dame was picked after finishing No. 11 in the final BCS regular-season standings while LSU finished No. 4.
- The Irish held their annual football banquet Friday evening in the Joyce Center, with several players taking home awards. Quarterback Brady Quinn won the Notre Dame Monogram Club MVP award, offensive tackle Ryan Harris won the Guardian Lineman of the Year Award, while offensive lineman and defensive end Victor Ohenum won the Lineman of the Year Award from the Moose Krause Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame.
- Thomas won the Nick Preitoreano Award as "the individual who best exemplifies the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication and pride shown by the late Irish All-America fullback." Finally, offensive guard Dan Santiago took home the Knute Rockne Student-Athlete Award from the Notre Dame Club of St. John Valley and tight end John Carlson won the West Virginia State Farm Student Athlete of the Year Award.

Editor's Note: The Sugar Bowl is sponsored by Allstate.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgillow@gmail.edu

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**SMC SWIMMING**

**Gerbeth leads Belles to sixth place at DePauw Invitational**

By BILL BRINK Sports Writer

Sophomore Melissa Gerbeth scored 48 of Saint Mary's 238 points en route to a sixth-place finish at the DePauw Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Gerbeth won the 1:57.75-200 yard freestyle event with a time of 11:04. She finished second in the 500 free in 5:22.69 and 9th in the 200 free. Finishing in 2:05.70. She also finished fifth in the 500 medley relay.

Gerbeth's victory has had additional benefits to the program.

"It was a relief for us to see Saint Mary's swimmers winning events and moving in the right direction," Ryan Dombkowski, head coach, said. "We have a couple recruits at this meet, and it's great for them to see Saint Mary's swimmers winning events and moving in the right direction. They see that it's possible to come to Saint Mary's and be a great student and a successful athlete."

Saint Mary's had eight swimmers score points in the meet. Junior Kelly Tylski finished 11th in the 100 breaststroke, finishing in 1:38.14. "Tighe had a great meet. She moved down half a second in the 50 free," Dombkowski said. "It was an encouraging move. She was stuck in the low 27s the entire year, and moving up was even more exciting."

Freshman Kayla Ferguson finished 12th in the 100 backstroke in 1:08.24. Freshman Lindsey Nools finished 11th in the 200 freestyle in 2:05.10, and again in the 500 free with a time of 5:34.51. She also swam the 100 free, finishing in 1:02.59 and placing 16th.

Senior Sara Niemann swam the 50 freestyle in 26.44 and 50th place. She also swam the 100 free in 54.95 and 16th place.

Junior Tim Neeley finished fifth in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:06.47 and 14th in the 500 free in 5:40.87.

Some relative unknowns also performed well. Freshman Katie Carroll placed 10th, in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:44.59. Sophomore Shannon Hansen finished 16th in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:33.37. Freshman Jennifer Leibsdotter swam the 200 butterfly in 2:35.67, good for 14th place.

The relay teams also performed well, combining to score 128 points.

"Both our A and B relay teams swam well at the end of the meet," Dombkowski said. "They showed a lot of heart and determination at the end of two long days."

The days were long indeed. The team leaves 5:30 a.m. Friday and drove four hours to the meet, arriving in time for morning warm-ups. It was the first time the freshmen had swam a same-day prelim-final meet. "It was rough," Dombkowski said. "The problems that we had in the morning and the finals in the evening." It was an energetically taxing day on the entire team.

Several other Belles, although not part of the scoring, posted new season bests. Tighe, Niemann, Carroll, Hanson, sophomore Jennifer Nicol, sophomore Leah Boscicki and senior Sara Wolz all lowered their best times on the season.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrik@smc.edu

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RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
Revenge continued from page 24

defenseman Kyle Lawson (goal, assist).

Irish goalie Dave Brown made 38 saves in two games, surrendering just three goals.

The two teams combined for only 16 penalties in two games despite a first contest dominated by big checks and numerous scrums in front of the nets.

"Can you imagine college football teams playing Saturday and Sunday night?" Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "Hockey is an emotional, physical sport and Saturday nights are usually toned down from Friday nights.

In the first game, three quick goals midway through the third period gave the Irish a 3-1 victory.

Thang got the scoring started with a second-period goal at 9:14. Junior Michael Bartlett hit Thang with a pass at center ice and the freshman skated down the right side of the ice, muscled past an Alaska defenseman and slid the puck through Johnson's pads.

The goal, Notre Dame's fourth short-handed tally in two games, gave the team a much needed spark as it pounded in two more goals in the next two minutes.

Thirty seconds later defensemen Brent Blatchford scored his first collegiate goal when he put a wrist shot past Johnson's blocker side. Center Garrett Regan picked up this assist, his third of the season.

The final goal came when Van Gulder took control of the puck in the Nanooks zone. The junior right wing skated towards the middle and got off a shot as he was being tripped up. The goal ended Van Gulder's four game scoring drought, which went back to a 4-0 win over Bowling Green Nov. 11.

"It takes a lot of pressure off, it was pretty nice to get one tonight and hopefully we can keep it going," Van Gulder said.

Despite outshooting the Nanooks 34-22, the Irish trailed for most of the game as Alaska picked up an early goal 10 minutes into the contest. Sophomore Ryan Muspratt ripped a shot that bounced off Brown's facemask and rang the inside of the crossbar. Referee Matt Shegos initially waved the goal off but when Notre Dame scored the puck up and scored on the ensuing odd-man rush, the call was reviewed and reversed.

"On the bench we all thought the Alaska shot had gone in," Jackson said. "That's why we have instant replay." 

Alaska held on to the lead for two periods before the Irish offense exploded in the third. Notre Dame was able to come from behind by physically wearing down the Nanooks and beating them to the loose pucks late in the game.

"I think the key of watching guys stand around and fish for pucks. Too many guys stand there like they're holding a hoe — get a shovel."

Tavis MacMillan
Alaska coach

"I'm sick of watching guys stand around and fish for pucks. Too many guys stand there like they're holding a hoe — get a shovel."

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"I'm sick of watching guys stand around and fish for pucks. Too many guys stand there like they're holding a hoe — get a shovel."

Tavis MacMillan
Alaska coach
Upset

continued from page 24

...that tonight were making plays," guard Colin Falls said. "We really grew up tonight and I think it's a great confidence builder for us to continue on our non-conference schedule." Notre Dame had four players in double figures. McAlearney led all scorers, followed by forward Rob Kurz (16 points), Falls (14 points) and guard Russell Carter (13 points). Sophomore Zach Hillesland made his first career start and contributed with eight points, nine rebounds and four assists. The Irish trailed the Terrapins 32-29 at the half after Eric Hayes nailed a 3-pointer to take the lead into the break. The teams traded baskets early in the second half until McAlearney took over. Tied at 49, the sophomore scored eight consecutive points — two 3-pointers and one after a timeout — to take the lead and force Maryland coach Gary Williams to call a timeout with 8:18 remaining.

"This was a big stage and I'm not the type to back down from anyone," Kyle McAlearney Irish guard

"We really grew up tonight and I think it's a great confidence builder for us to continue on our non-conference schedule." Colin Falls Irish guard

The game remained within two points the rest of the game, with the Irish going on a 9-0 run from which Maryland would not recover. The Irish outscored the Terrapins 22-12 over the final 10 minutes, including a stretch where they made 11 consecutive field goals from 13:58 to 7:23 left in the game. "We just stayed really poised in an away atmosphere, they have all the fans and everything," McAlearney said. "Sometimes it's tough, it's hard to get going because they have such a great team but we just stayed real poised, put good pressure and we just controlled the tempo. And we just knocked down shots." Notre Dame limited Maryland's production on the offensive end after it got up 60-49 relying on a combination of zone and man-to-man defenses. The Terrapins cut the lead to six points after guard Greivis Vasquez nailed a 3-pointer with 3:50 remaining, but would never pull any closer. "If we can defend, we're going to be a dangerous basketball team," Falls said. "We're an NCAA Tournament team if we defend and rebound. I'll stick to that and in the years past if we had needed and rebounded better we would have been in the NCAA Tournament." Notre Dame controlled the tempo from the beginning of the game, jumping out to a quick 7-2 lead heading into the media timeout with 15:55 left in the first half. Kurz had five points in that stretch — the first two baskets of the game. Maryland would respond with a 10-5 run of its own to tie the game at 22 with 5:20 remaining in the first half. Terrapins forward Ekene Ilokeke (13 points on 5-of-7 shooting) led Maryland in that stretch with seven points. Maryland guard D.J. Strawberry led the Terrps with a combination of 17 points on 6-of-11 shooting to go along with his six steals. Notre Dame now turns to Alabama, who visits the Joyce Center Thursday — the team's second consecutive game against a ranked opponent.

McAlearney said he's excited to combine the momentum from Sunday's win with Notre Dame's home atmosphere. "I love our fans and hopefully all of them show up on Thursday," McAlearney said. "They've been great so far this year."

Contact Bob Griffin at rgriffin@nd.edu

Write Sports: Call Ken at 631-4543.

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I didn’t read the last page last night.

What are you doing now?

- ELMERT WILLOWSON

ALEC WHITE

Nothing always seems to go wrong in the foregone minutes.

I read the whole thing.

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JOCULAR

Monday, December 4, 2006

CROSSWORLD

WHO'S THAT OVER THERE?

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ADAM FAIRHOLM

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DOWN 1 "Start singing" 2 Reply to "Who's there?" 3 Brownish gray 4 Annual award named for a Muse 5 Stressful spot 6 The Sultan of Swat 7 Small 8 Uncle Sam facial feature 9 Director Tarantula 10 Arm bone 11 Major defense contractor 12 "But I heard him explain, __ take__ me_" 13 Dineaway 14 Bye-byes 23 Reviewer 27 French political divisions 28 3D rex, for short 29 City on Biscayne Bay

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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brian Bonall, 25; Anna Chisholm, 60. Holy Marie Comba, 33; Julianne Moore, 40. Happy: Birthday: Ask when you think you have everything and everyone figured out, you will end up with a whole new set of circumstances. Learn to deals with what you start if you want to get ahead this year. Your returns will be 11, 20, 23, 17, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Venture out and try to have hand at something new. Take in a trade show or attend a function that will allow you to meet people who have similar interests. An e-mail or phone call will have an impact on your future. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your emotions will take over, so plan a quiet day with passion and rest instead of rushing time with someone you quasi enjoy being with. Keep things simple and you will avoid any traumatic events. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Spend time nurturing a meaningful relationship. The more attention you are willing to give, the better the connection will become. This isn't a time to keep secrets. Share your important thoughts. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change of plans will lead to an exciting adventure that you won't want to miss. Get out and socialize or invite people over if you want to get the full benefit of the day. 4 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Getting together with friends, family or doing something with children will leave you with mixed emotions regarding your own personal plans for the future. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be treading on thin ice. Someone may give you the expresssion every thing is OK when it is really dependent on how much you do or what you say. 2 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do something nice for a friend, neighbor or relative and you will get something in return. If you have children, plan something you can do together. A new, challenging exercise will make you feel good. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The more activities you have going on your own space, the better. You can accomplish plenty if you organized and sit in a time frame around each thing you do. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your mind will be on work. Don't waste too much time or thought over something you can't change. There are things that you aren't fully aware of but will in the near future. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do something nice for the ones you love. Someone will appreciate your time if you help them or her now. Naming names may not be what you enjoy doing most, today, it will pay off in the future. 5 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The possibility of making extra money will arise. Don't turn it down but make sure everything is legitimate before you proceed. 2 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get involved in whatever deal is on the table. You should make some money. Someone will give you a gift turn you on to an investment. Don't go overhead. 4 stars

Birthday Baby: You are a leader of fame and fortune. You enjoy life and live it to the fullest. You are an exciting and demanding individual with plenty of potential.

FOOTBALL

Irish earn date with No. 4 LSU in Sugar Bowl

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame was selected to face LSU in next month's Sugar Bowl - the program's second BCS berth in as many seasons — but the Irish said Sunday after bowl pairings were announced that the January trip to New Orleans will be more about business than pleasure.

The Irish (12-3-1, 7-2-1 CCHA) have struggled in their last three games against marquee opponents — falling 34-20 to Ohio State in last year's Fiesta Bowl, 47-23 to Michigan on Sept. 16 and 44-24 at Southern California Nov. 25. "We need to get off to a fast start in the Jan. 3 matchup with the Tigers (10-2)," said Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn. "Any time you get behind by two or three scores ... you almost get desperate." That might also be a good way to describe Notre Dame's feeling toward winning a bowl game — a feat the program hasn't accomplished since the 1994 Cotton Bowl against Texas A&M. Since then, Notre Dame has played in eight bowl games, and lost them all.

Not that the statistic will hamper the Irish, said captain and linebacker Travis Thomas. "I think morale is strong," he said. "We obviously want to end that streak of not winning bowl games for sure.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Shell shocked

Notre Dame upends No. 23 Maryland in BB&T Classic 81-74

By BOB GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame guard Kyle McAlarney scored a career-high 18 points on 6-of-11 shooting and the Irish defeated No. 23 Maryland 81-74 in the BB&T Classic at the Verizon Center in Washington D.C. Sunday — their first game against a ranked opponent all season.

It was Notre Dame's second consecutive victory against Maryland, the last coming in the first round of the BB&T Classic in 2002 when the Irish knocked off the defending champions 79-67.

"Younger guys on this team that really haven't been in posi-

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team goes 1-1 against Big 10 foes

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame split two games against Big Ten teams this weekend, losing to Michigan on the road 61-58 Friday before falling to Indiana 54-51 Sunday.

The games were both close to the finish, marked by tough defense and strong play down the stretch. Unfortunately for Notre Dame, it was only able to pull out one win.

"I thought that was a really disappointing loss (to Indiana) especially in light of how we came out and played our last game [at Michigan]," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought we had the game in hand and just really beat ourselves.

Indiana 54, Notre Dame 51

With only six seconds in the game, Irish guard Charel Allen lost her dribble with the Irish down three, leading to a steal from Hoosiers forward Whitney Thomas to cement Indiana's 54-51 win.

After the steal, the Irish fouled Hoosier guard Kim Roberson. Roberson missed the free throw attempt, but the Irish could not get a last-second shot off, ending the game.

Going into the final seconds, Notre Dame and Indiana had traded leads throughout the second half, but a turnover by Allen gave the Hoosiers the ball back, letting Indiana guard Nikki Smith nail a jump-shot to push the Hoosier lead to three. On the possession following the Smith jumper, the Irish could not find the look they needed.

SMC BASKETBALL

Wisconsin eliminates the Irish in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

SMC SWIMMING

The women's team takes third in the U.S. Open, while the men's squad takes third in The Ohio State Invitational.

ND SWIMMING

Irish fall to North Carolina 2-1 in National title game after topping Florida State 2-1 in semis.