Bengal Bouts combats cyclone damage
Annual boxing tournament helps college still reeling from November natural disaster

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

Last November, the fierce winds of Cyclone Sidr slammed much of the already poverty-stricken Bangladesh, and beginning tonight approximately 185 young men are fighting back — in the boxing ring. Hunter Land, president of the Boxing Club, said Notre Dame's 6th annual Bengal Bouts tournament has even more meaning for its participants because the need for relief in Bangladesh is even greater this year. "Our money is being put to good use over there ... this year it's not just going to the missions, schools and hospitals, but a lot of the country that's in need due to the cyclone," Land said.

Senior captain Patrick O'Brien said the aftermath of Cyclone Sidr gives the competitors more motivation. "The cyclone makes it even more important to kick the fundraising into high gear, and it's also something tangible that the boxers can focus on," O'Brien said.

Since 1931, the proceeds earned from the Bengal Bouts tournament have

Saint Mary's hosts siblings on campus
Little Sibs Weekend features games, activities, as younger guests experience college life

By NIKKI TAYLOR
News Writer

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) sponsored Little Sibs Weekend, an event in which Saint Mary's encouraged students to invite their younger siblings or relatives last weekend on the College's campus.

"I like getting students and siblings involved because in college there isn't a lot of time," event co-chair Jill Swain said. "Also the siblings enjoy being college students, and that's a big part of it." The event this year had a luau theme, centered on the idea that "Ohana means family" — one inspired by Swain's little sister.

Her second grade classroom had a luau. Swain said, "When I came home and told her that I was in charge of Little Sibs Weekend, which she had been to before, she told me it should be luau themed." RHA provided games and activities for students to participate in with siblings of all ages, including an ice cream social, a movie showing, games and karaoke.

"We had a huge turnout at Nick's Patio on Saturday night. The event was well received by all the participants because the need is greater this year," Swain said. "It was a huge success. Many students and siblings wanted to participate in the event next year as well."

ND students, alumni assess third-world health

Prof. examines Chinese protest
Stanford's Andrew Walder shows university impact in Cultural Revolution

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

The story of China's Cultural Revolution was a "political fiasco" that had a deep impact on the country's universities, Stanford sociology professor Andrew Walder said Friday at "The Beijing Red Guard Movement: China's Cultural Revolution in Retrospect."

"They didn't accomplish anything but destruction," he said.


Instead of just purging government officials, Walder said, Mao originally sought the support of students and young workers to ensure that his policies and legacy would continue after his death.

"There's a real logic to what he did," he said. "If he would simply use a purge to get rid of the top officials, he felt he wouldn't have had a lasting impact on the country."

One of the Red Guards functions was to target officials they deemed anti-revolutionary at "struggle sessions," in which the accused would be publicly humiliated and often physically harmed. However, Walder said students disagreed about the rebellion's aim and which people to target.

In his research, Walder had expected to find that the factions originated from the students' social classes. However, he said

Haircuts aid cancer patients
'Project Pink' helps Pantene charity

By ELIZABETH KELLY
News Writer

Students from Notre Dame and St. Mary's said outside Mishawaka's Salo Nouveau Sunday to cut off their ponytails. Part Pangborn Hall's annual Project Pink.

Event coordinator Tricia Hughes described Project Pink as "a campaign to raise awareness about women's issues and celebrate women in society."

Project Pink will donate the ponytails collected yesterday to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a charity organization that turns donated ponytails into wigs for women with cancer who have lost their hair as a result of chemotherapy.

"The Project Pink committee selected this charity last March because it fit with the event's theme of women in solidarity," Hughes said. "But not enough girls had hair long enough to meet Pantene's requirement of eight inches."

"Last year we put up signs all over Pangborn that said 'Don't cut your hair!'" Hughes said.

Through advertising, the Project Pink committee was able to convince 25 students

Prof. examines Chinese protest
Stanford's Andrew Walder shows university impact in Cultural Revolution

By BILL BRINK
News Writer

During a human development symposium Saturday, Notre Dame students and alumni said a lack of resources and knowledge are inhibiting health improvements both in America and third-world countries.

The Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity, and the Center for Social Concerns co-hosted the event, "Solidarity in Pursuit of Authentic Human Development," which took place in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

The effectiveness of traditional development aid in third-world countries took center stage in the presentations. Sophomore Victoria Taebel drew from her experiences in South Africa last summer researching the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"There is $230 billion in aid for the top 40 donors alone," he said. "The obvious question is how can $230 billion not provide us more significant results?"

The stigma of HIV/AIDS
Concerning my father

My father was the coach of my high school's basketball team for 33 years, but going into my senior year, the school informed him he would have to "retire" at the end of that season and not wanting to cause a stir, reluctantly went along.

Thirty-three years of loyalty and dedication meant nothing. The fact that he taught hundreds about basketball and life meant nothing, and the fact that he was the winningest active coach in the state of Pennsylvania meant nothing as well.

Parents who had money to throw around took advantage of a, 500 season our Truman had my junior year to say the game had "passed him by" and to push for his firing. Though only a handful of parents wanted him out, it didn't matter. They had money, and he was gone.

We won over 20 games my senior year, won the district title, but in double overtime in the state quarterfinals, and my dad was named coach of the year in our conference. Still, he could not return for a 34th season. Aside from my sister's battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, this was the most difficult time my family has ever faced. It's hard to give up something you've loved doing for 33 years and not walk away when others make six- or seven figure wages. We depended on part income my dad brought in from coaching and running clinics.

But through that year, there were two people who helped ease the disappointment our family felt, and oddly enough, they were sports writers. One was Dave Konopki, new sports editor for "The Times Leader" in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Dave showed into the story of my dad getting fired. He got it, and was ready to print it and put the school in its place. But my dad did not want this story distracting our team in the middle of the season and so Dave didn't print it.

The other was the now-deceased Jerry Keller. Keller had one of the most well-read columns in the area, and decided to devote a section of his column to my dad and the school, blasting them for firing him.

Two years after my father suffered than during this ordeal, the rare these two writers had for his job made him feel a little better. They must not have completely taken away the pain he felt, but they offered him and the rest of my family temporary solace.

When I began working at The Observer as a sports writer in 2002, I tried to uphold the lessons Dave had left me with — to keep sports in its proper perspective, have sensitivity for the people you cover, investigate when you can, and above all, never write a story to match, and most importantly, speak up when you need to.

My old high school did its best to keep the story about my father under wraps because they knew it would be damaging from a public relations viewpoint. And at an image-conscious institution like Notre Dame, a lot of publicity and being the scenes decision matter getting swept under the rug and concealed. But when something does leak or you somehow something, I will do my best to make sure The Observer uphold the lessons I learned from Dave and Jerry. It won't be easy, and it will be stressful, but it is our duty to do it, because I experienced this effect journalism can have and it is something I will not take for granted.

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

Contact Chris Hine at chine@md.edu

The Michigan State Jazz Orchestra performs as part of the 50th annual Collegiate Jazz Festival Saturday night in Washington Hall. The event featured performances by 12 different university bands.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE OSCARS?

Eileen Hall, freshman, Welsh Fam

“"The musical performances—especially when I sing along.""

Nathan Payne, senior, Zahm

"The rich idols that think they have style."

Johanna Kirsch, sophomore, McGlinn

"The dresses they're beautiful."

Kindr Kiser, junior, Welsh Fam

"Sexy Regis."

Glynis Garry, freshman, Cannavanah

"The wrap-up music."

IN BRIEF

The preliminaries for the Bengal Bouts boxing tournament will be held today at 6:30 in the Joyce Center Field House. Tickets cost $10 and all proceeds go towards Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

Tim Power from the Latin American Center at Oxford University will present a lecture entitled "Changing Evaluations of Brazilian Democracy" at the Hesburgh Center at 4:15 p.m. The event will be hosted by the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies.

Former Senator Rick Santorum will present a lecture entitled "Gathering Storm of the 21st Century" Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the McKenna Hall auditorium. The lecture is sponsored by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute and the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Women's basketball will play South Florida Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

The film "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" will be shown at the DeBenedetti Performing Arts Center Thursday at 7 p.m.

There will be Stations of the Cross Friday at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observernews@nd.edu
Looking for solid business and accounting experience to put on your resume?

The Observer is accepting applications for a 2008-09 Business Manager and Controller. Responsibilities include preparing a yearly budget and handling payroll for a 200-person staff.

Since the Controller will take over as the 2009-10 Business Manager, Controller applicants should be sophomores, or juniors staying for a fifth year.

Both positions are salaried, about six to 10 hours a week.

Please contact Maddie Hanna at mhanan1@nd.edu or Kyle West at kwest1@nd.edu if interested.
sometimes prevents people from seeking medical attention. Lakusta said, and it placed faith in traditional healing methods prevents people from acquiring proper modern medical care.

"If you're at the education level where you think eating food or breathing air gives you the disease, of course they'll want to stay away," Lakusta said.

Senior Nathan Serazin addressed a similar issue with his research. Serazin worked for two summers in the town of Pedro Vicente Maldonato, Ecuador studying alternative medicine.

Serazin analyzed the medicine used by traditional healers and compiled a handbook detailing the similarities between modern medicines and those used by healers. In one case, he noted that healers have patients to treat sore throats contains menthol, a common ingredient in toothpastes. "This is the first line of defense for most people," he said.

Junior Patricia Hughes, who conducted research in Baltimore, Md., said lack of stages of AIDS can be better managed in group homes that allow patients easier access to the care they need.

"If we look at HIV today, it's become a chronic, but manageable, condition," she said.

Lacey Haussman, a 2003 Notre Dame graduate, said refugee camps in northern Uganda presented a Catch-22. While the camps did provide medical services not available in the refugees' home villages, AIDS spread quickly through the camps.

"If they go home, they're losing easy access to these services," Haussman said.

Haussman also said women in the camps do not receive proper prenatal care because the hospitals in the region are understaffed and don't have the necessary supplies to perform birthing procedures.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Sibs
continued from page 1

all the events," Little Sibs co-chair Taylor Flaherty said. "We even had to set up extra tables at crafts, but it was a lot easier to set up than I thought the games were everyone's favorite."

Each morning there was also a breakfast buffet in the residence halls for students and their siblings, Flaherty said.

Freshman Lauren Hartman enjoyed the time she spent with her 11-year-old cousin, Olivia.

"We went to the luau, and game night, and we also had girls' night in my room with popcorn and mini-manicures and facials," Hartman said.

"Olivia said that she loved it and wants to come back next year," Hartman said.

Freshman Gina Sorel also had a good experience with her little sister's visit as well.

"It was so nice to see my little sister and spend time with her and have her meet my friends," she said.

Saw said that her major goal of the weekend was to provide entertainment for the children.

"Anyone likes to say that their own event was a success, but the kids seemed to have fun, and if the kids are happy, then it was a success," Saw said.

Flaherty agreed and said she is looking forward to next year.

"It's a great weekend. I'm really glad everyone volunteered from RHA. Hopefully next year's will be great as well."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

N. Y. Philharmonic to visit North Korea
HILTON - North Korea was taking down anti-American posters that line the streets of Pyongyang in preparation for the N. Y. Philharmonic's unprecedented visit, the ensemble's president said Sunday on the eve of departure.

The musicians said they hoped personal contacts with North Koreans could help bring the countries closer. But some also worried their performance Tuesday wouldn't change anything, and instead be misused for political ends.

"We hope after the government comes into power, they will not make the mistake of continuing the existing policies and will bring peace to the people of tribal areas," Taliban-e-Tehrik spokesman Maulvi Umar told The Associated Press by telephone. "We want peace and are looking for dialogue with those who got elected."

CUBA

Raul Castro becomes president

Havana - Cuba's parliament named Raul Castro president on Sunday, ending nearly 50 years of rule by his brother Fidel but leaving the island's communist system unshaken.

In a surprise move, officials bypassed younger candidates to name a 77-year-old Fidel's former revolutionary leader, Jose Ramon Machado, to Cuba's No. 2 spot - apparently assuring the old guard that no significant political changes will be made soon.

"This is a big step for Cuba, and it shows the profound respect on the part of the people for President Fidel," Cuban President Raul Castro told parliament.

The vote ended Castro's 49 years as head of the communist state in America's backyard. He retires as his own career in government has eroded since July 31, 2006, when he announced he had undergone emergency intestinal surgery and was provisionally ceding his powers to Raul.

The younger Castro has headed Cuba's caretaker government in the 19 months since then, and Fidel Castro has not appeared in public.

In his final essay as president, Castro wrote that preparations for the parliament meeting "left me exhausted," and he said he did not regret his decision to step down.

"I slept better than ever," he wrote in the commentary published on Friday. "My conscience was clear and I promised myself a vacation."

In Old Havana, Maria Martinez, a 67-year-old retiree, watched the announcement on a Chinese-made television in her dark living room. "He's a trustworthy man," she said. "He won't make mistakes."

Obama claims Clinton waffled on NAFTA

Associated Press

LORAIN, Ohio – Barack Obama accused Democratic presidential rival Hillary Rodham Clinton on Sunday of "lying" and "walking away" from a long record of support for NAFTA, the free trade agreement that he says has cost 30,000 jobs in Ohio alone over the past decade.

"The fact is, she was saying great things about NAFTA until she started running for president," Obama told an audience at a factory that makes wallboard, located in a working-class community west of Cleveland.

Later, at a rally in Toledo, he rebuked the former first lady's statement that her husband had merely inherited NAFTA when he won the White House from former President George W. Bush. "President Clinton "championed NAFTA," passed it through Congress and signed it into law," Obama said. "A spokesman for Clinton, Phil Sager, said the former first lady was critical of NAFTA long before she ran for president. He cited reports from March 2000 in which she said, "What happens to NAFTA I think was not inheritable."

Singer also said that in 2004 in Illinois, Obama spoke positively of the trade agreement, saying the United States had "benefited enormously from exports under NAFTA."
Bengal

continued from page 1
gone to the Holy Cross brothers in Bangladesh who work to establish elementary and secondary schools, provide shelter to low-income families and provide medical care and outreach programs to the poor.
Former football coach Knute Rockne brought boxing to the University in 1928, but it wasn’t until 11 years later that tickets for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. According to Land, the club has already raised $55,000 — not including ticket sales. Land also said that donations are still coming in, and the Botus hopes to raise even more money than last year.
“We donated $60,000 to the Holy Cross missions last year, and we’ll love to donate more than that this year,” he said.
After all expenses have been accounted for, the Holy Cross missions will receive the proceeds of the tournament during the summer, Land said.
Funds come from ticket sales, advertisements sold in the tournament program, and donations from alumni clubs and individual supporters.
“Every year we have Bengal Bouts alumni that come back because they just can’t get enough of it,” Land said.
O’Brien said the 185 contenders in this year’s tournament make up the second largest group in the history of Bengal Bouts.

Boziers include both undergraduate and graduate students and the best of this year’s competitors even includes a 39-year-old, O’Brien said.
Training for new boxers began last fall in the novice season, and the 300 potential participants that originally showed up have been whittled down to 185 contenders.
“A lot of the boxers are training five months for one night,” Land said.
O’Brien said what makes the Botus so unique is that many of the participants train for five months only to fight for a few minutes.
In addition, practices from Bengal Bouts are held five times a week, and participants are only allowed to miss five practices during the regular season. Land said that most boxers would not participate if it wasn’t for the charitable cause of the tournament.
“I think that the practices are so demanding that people would drop out more if it wasn’t just for them and not for someone else. They stick it out and continue with training when they know it’s for someone else,” Land said.
O’Brien said while the Botus so unique is the tournament, the most important part of the Botus is that he was helping someone was even more rewarding.
“For most of us, it’s the first time we’ve ever seen our ab muscles before. So rewarding because win or lose, you know that it was the hardest you ever worked,” O’Brien said. “And even if you don’t win, you can always look back at how hard you worked, which it was for someone else.”
Land said the intensity of the boxers makes the tournament competitive year after year.
“The participants take [Bengal Bouts] really seriously,” Land said. “[Boxing] is the most pure sport — just two guys in the ring, nothing pays off more for boxing than hard work. They push themselves as hard as they can.”

Contact Becky Hogan at hogan2@nd.edu

Pink

continued from page 1
to grow their hair for the charity. The committee also received 15 additional ponytails from girls who had previously cut their hair, and Hughes estimated that Pantene Beautiful Lengths will be able to make seven wigs.
Stylists from Salon Nouveau also donated their services for the event, which they heard about from a customer who lives in Pangborn.
Hughes said some of the volunteers were nervous about cutting their hair.
“The girls with the longest hair were the most nervous,” she said. “But in the end nobody chickened out. We were all there together for support.”
Hughes was very pleased with her new hairstyle.
“Oh, really like my new do,” Hughes said. “And now I can sleep later because I don’t have to spend so much time on my hair.”
Yesterday’s hair donation drive was the first portion of the hall’s two-part event.
The second part of Project Pink, scheduled for March 14 in the La Fortune Ballroom, is the first portion of a fashion show fundraiser featuring the residents of Pangborn in pink outfits.
Contact Elizabeth Kelly at eckelly@nd.edu

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Multicultural Student Programs and Services
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Friday, February 28, 2008
7:00 PM
Location: Hesburgh Library Auditorium

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Monday, February 25, 2008

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS

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20% off your 1st laser service when you mention this ad! (up to $200)
States cope with sagging tax revenue

WASHINGTON — Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire said on Monday that high-profile mortgage and banking executives will meet with industrywide losses and lavish executive compensation packages.

"Everything's been going great for us and now the national downturn has slowed us up," she said according to Associated Press.

As many as 18 states have deficits, totaling $14 billion in the current budget, and 20 forecast spending shortfalls for 2009 — $34 billion when combined.

"It's so bad that some governors are debating whether to pressure Congress for a second economic stimulus plan," she said.

The basic principles of feng shui are responding positively and have been popularized by countless coffee table books and TV shows such as HGTV's "Fun Shui." It's also used in the designs of the Panda Express Chinese food chain.

The McDonald's in this Los Angeles suburb boasts wood ceiling, silver-coated chairs, plus red accents throughout the dining area to symbolize fire and "good luck, laughter and prosperity," said Brinda Clifford, who designed the dining area.

"You might point the fire element at the chef's stove," she said. "The wood element near the dining area invites the customers to stay a while.

The textured walls patterned after ocean waves symbolize "life and relaxation" — the balanced things that you want in your life," she said.

Customers are responding positively, whether or not they recognize the feng shui elements.

Associated Press

HACIENDA HEIGHTS, Calif. — The only thing signifying that McDonald's is in this large Asian community are the golden arches, the drive-through and the menu.

Gone are the plastic furniture, Ronald McDonald and the red and yellow palette that has defined the world's largest hamburger chain.

"We thought if we were going to redecorate, we ought to have a chance to do something different," said Brenda Clifford, who designed the dining area.

The makeover elements are meant to help diners enjoy healthier meals and not just fast food. But the restaurant's owners say the designs are aimed at creating a soothing setting that will encourage diners to linger over their burgers and fries, and come back again.

"The concept is an unlikely fit with the economy recover, help American families stay in their homes and change the law so this never happens again," said Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois, the Senate's second-ranking Democrat and author of the proposal to ease bankruptcy rules.

Also included in the Senate legislation is a measure mandating $200 million for foreclosure-prevention counseling services — a near doubling of funds already committed by Congress — and an allowance for states to issue more tax-exempt bonds so that housing agencies could help homeowners refinance high-cost mortgages.

In the House, lawmakers are considering whether the federal government should shield banks from lawsuits brought by investors whose holdings of mortgage securities are negatively affected by changes in loan terms or other measures intended to help at-risk borrowers. The plan was first put forward by Rep. Mike Castle, R-Del., but appears to have attracted support from key House Democrats.
In Japan, a man was arrested and charged with the murder of his wife, which occurred in 1981. The woman was shot in the head and died the following year. The man, who had already been convicted of murder in 1994, was located and brought back to Japan. He was initially held on suspicion of murder and later confessed to the crime. The case has caused a great deal of public interest and has led to debates about the responsibilities of husbands and the justice system in Japan. It is a reminder of the importance of addressing gender-based violence and the need for better legal and social support for victims.  

For more information on this case and other international news stories, please visit our website: [http://news.udel.edu](http://news.udel.edu)
**Kosovo**

Serbs protest Kosovo's split
Russia criticizes countries that recognized nation's independence

Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo — Kosovo marked its first week of inde­pendence in quiet celebration Sunday, as angry Serbs protest­ed in the fledgling nation's tense north and in capitals across Europe.

The Russian envoy to NATO, meanwhile, unleashed a torrent of criticism on countries that recognized Kosovo's split from sally Serbia, including the United States.

Up to 1,000 people protested peacefully in the ethnically divided northern town of Kosovo's capital Belgrade on Monday.

The past two days of muted demonstrations in Belgrade, where demonstrators stormed the U.S. Embassy and set part of it ablaze.

The U.S. ambassador in Belgrade demanded Serb lead­ers ensure there would be no future violence against diplo­matic missions. "I'm very angry at what happened. It had better not happen again," ambassador Cameron Muster told The Associated Press Sunday.

Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo maintained barricades with their new status.

"People keep celebrating every night," Artan Dedushaj said. "This is something that all Albanians have waited cen­turies for — and changes will come soon."

In the capital, Pristina, people gathered around a graffiti­covered sculpture of letters spelling out "NEWBORN." One person had scribbled in English: "We love you Kosovo!"

The vast majority of Kosovo's population is ethnic Albanian. Serbs represent just 10 percent of the region's 2 million people, but they view Kosovo as the cradle of their culture and an abomination.

The territory had remained a part of Serbia even though it has been administered by the U.N. and NATO since 1999, when NATO air strikes ended former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic's crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists, which killed 10,000 people.

Thousands of Serbs held demonstrations in European capitals Sunday.

In Vienna, Austria, more than 5,000 protesters waved pro­Serbian banners, and a few purple hart shaped balloons with American flags. Later, demonstra­tors smashed bottles and the win­dows of a cafe. Two police offi­cers were arrested, officials said.

In Geneva, up to 4,000 people gathered peacefully outside U.N. offices, and in Brussels, several hundred Serbs chanted "Kosovo is Serbia" outside EU offices.

Russia's ambassador to NATO said Sunday that Kosovo's inde­pendence bid was a result of an imperialistic American effort to "divide and rule," which would lead to Russia's Boosting its mil­itary to ensure its own security.

"We are faced here with pow­erful hegemonism, imperialism on the part of the United States," Dmitry Rogozin said on Russia's state-run Vesit-24 tele­vision.

Western nations that recog­nize Kosovo's statehood were replacing international law with a system in which "there will be only one rule: he who has brute physical power is strong and in right," he said.

"Russia will not go to arms over Kosovo, but instead will "use to the maximum our politi­cal and moral authority," he said.

Serbia's nationalist prime minister, Vojislav Kostunica, called on the U.S. to revoke its decision to recognize "the fake state of Kosovo" and allow the U.N. Security Council to "reaf­firm" Kosovo as part of Serbia's territory.

Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci visited the grave of the late pacifist Ibrahim Rugova — revered Christian Albanian leader and architect of the Kosovo independence movement.

Russia's ambassador in Belgrade, Dmitry Medvedyev, said he would demand a U.N. Security Council meeting and denounced "imperialistic American efforts that are violated all human rights and international law.

"Russia will never recognize the independence of Kosovo," he said.

"We reject any local or foreign attempts to interfere in our internal affairs. We respect the right of nations to determine their own fates and to decide their future in accordance with the generally recognized principles of international law," he said.

The conflict started in 1984 and has claimed as many as 40,000 lives.

Turkey has assured that the operation would be limited to attacks on rebels. The United States has backed the action, arguing it is an only operation geared to cleansing the ter­ritory of PKK fighters, which is ruling party. "Our Iraqi friends, brothers and civilians should know that they will never be targeted by the armed forces.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Sunday that the region the regional Kirgizia and adminis­tration in northern Iraq, would take a broader approach to the conflict, in­cluding efforts to bring the rebels to the negotiating table.

"After a certain point peo­ple see this as a terrorist force and a threat to the region, we will not blend them with these kinds of nonmilitary initia­tives, at that then a certain point the military efforts become less and less effective."

Massoud Barzani, head of the regional Kurdish adminis­tration in northern Iraq, said the PKK would face a large-scale resistance if it tar­geted civilians in its incur­sion.

The spread of the PKK in Turkey has posed a major threat to NATO's new members, which include in the region the regional Kirgizia and adminis­tration in northern Iraq, would take a broader approach to the conflict, in­cluding efforts to bring the rebels to the negotiating table.

The Iraqi government said Sunday's operation by Turkey's military would cross the frontier. Turkish media reports put the number in the thousands.

**Turkey**

Helicopter crashes in cross-border operation

Associated Press

CUKURCA, Turkey — A Turkish helicopter crashed in Iraq and eight soldiers were killed during an attack on the Kurdish rebels who flanked booby traps on the ground of the rebel compound, Turkey's military said Sunday.

The guerrillas said they had shot down a Turkish military helicopter near the Turkish-Iranian border.

Turkey's military said tech­nicians were inspecting the wreck to determine why the helicopter crashed near the border. It was not clear if any of the reported troop casual­ties were on board. Their deaths bring Turkey's since the start of the incur­sion, which began Saturday, the military said on its Web site.

Thirty-three rebels were killed in Sunday's fighting, bringing the rebel death toll since Thursday to 112, according to the armed forces.

The incursion is the first con­firmed Turkish military ground operation in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

The rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, are fighting for autonomy in predominantly Kurdish south­eastern Turkey and have car­ried out attacks on Turkish targets from bases in the semi-autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq.

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Turkey has assured that the operation would be limited to attacks on rebels. The United States has backed the action, arguing it is an only operation geared to cleansing the ter­ritory of PKK fighters, which is ruling party. "Our Iraqi friends, brothers and civilians should know that they will never be targeted by the armed forces.

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"After a certain point peo­ple see this as a terrorist force and a threat to the region, we will not blend them with these kinds of nonmilitary initia­tives, at that then a certain point the military efforts become less and less effective."

Massoud Barzani, head of the regional Kurdish adminis­tration in northern Iraq, said the PKK would face a large-scale resistance if it tar­geted civilians in its incur­sion.

The Iraqi government said Sunday's operation by Turkey's military would cross the frontier. Turkish media reports put the number in the thousands.

**England**

Virgin Atlantic flies first biofuel aircraft

Associated Press

LONDON — Virgin Atlantic carried out the world's first commer­cial aircraft powered with biofuel on Sunday in an effort to show it can cut down carbon dioxide. The flight was the latest example of how the world's airlines are looking at the environmental bandwagon by trying to find ways of reducing aviation's carbon footprint.

"It's great that somebody like Richard is willing to put some of his hitches in front of an experiment aimed at reduc­ing the climate change impact of aviation," said James Hutslar, an airline analyst at the London stock­broker Dawson Day lobstar.

"But there are a lot of unanswered questions about the potential of biofuels in the battle against global warming," he said.

"Richard is leading the way, and we can all be proud of him for doing it," he said.

"But the flight is an important step in the right direction. We must continue to work on this to find ways of reducing aviation's carbon footprint."

Some analysts praised the jumbo jet test flight from London to Amsterdam that was fueled with a mixture of coconut and car­bon dioxide. The flight would take a broader approach to the conflict, in­cluding efforts to bring the rebels to the negotiating table.

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The Iraqi government said Sunday's operation by Turkey's military would cross the frontier. Turkish media reports put the number in the thousands.
Most people reading this, I assume, remember the college admissions process. Trying to write the perfect admissions essay, giving your teacher evaluations, worrying about your score on the ACT, SAT, AP, 10 ... basically jumping through one academic hoop after another. This parade of standardized tests and statistics is the rite of passage for high school students. —an attempt to assess academic performance, which is a euphemism for "learning not to make mistakes."

By the time we start thinking beyond high school, we have had it drilled into our heads that the worst thing in the world is to make a mistake. Mistakes have dire consequences in high school: Missed points on tests, bad grades, parent-teacher conferences and, ultimately, not getting into the right college.

But there's something profoundly disquieting about trying to boil something off-hand intellectual capacity into a meaningful statistic, which is what these multi-hour standardized tests supposedly do. Granted, they show whether or not someone has mastered a basic skill set on some level the mere fact that someone is taking them is a sign of motivation. But I defy anyone to honestly tell me that after they finished taking the SATs, they felt like the test had been thorough and adequate assessment of their intellectual capacity.

And yet these tests shape the way secondary education takes place. Because they are supposed to be objective, each subject gets boiled down to whatever parts can be assessed quantitatively. It's not a problem for disciplines like math, chemistry or physics, where half the battle is knowing and applying the right formula, theorem or procedure. Humanities and social sciences, however, aren't as skills-based or procedural. Knowing the facts is simply a starting point that allows people to take part in the informed debate that is really the heart of any humanities discipline, and can't really be tested via scantron.

Because students' enduring memory of history or English as a subject comes from how they are assessed, their view of humanities disciplines is distorted. No wonder some people think history is just a chronological assortment of trivia. And you can forget about the arts; self-expression and aesthetics are some of the least objective things imaginable.

Funnily enough, the curricula of most secondary schools prioritize math and science first, followed by the humanities and social sciences and the arts last. The reason these subjects get money and classroom time in that order, as a result, history, English and philosophy, sometimes get lumped into catch-all "humanities" classes, and the arts more often than not are demoted to extracurriculars if they even exist in the first place. If someone becomes really passionate about music, English or history, not only do they get a disjointed view of how each discipline really works, but they also learn that those subjects are really not considered important, which is why they're underfunded or missing entirely from their school. These sorts of administrative decisions further reinforce the perception of high school graduates that the only two worthwhile activities are objective and not making mistakes.

Objectivity and correctness aren't bad, of course, but to make them the whole of the educational experience leaves high school graduates unprepared for the real world, which is not as black and white or always rational. There is more than one way to be correct, and not everyone claiming to be objective really is. But without the ability to think critically, we wouldn't be able to figure out who is in and who isn't. Unfortunately, developing analytical thought and the creative impulse is hard to do and hard to measure, but most of all, it means that people need to be free to approach problems their own way. Even more anathema to the current practice of education, there is no guarantee that everyone will arrive at the same answer. The humanities and social sciences — which are essentially debates about the real world — are the subjects where students learn these skills; they deserve not to be demoted to secondary place in the educational hierarchy.

Pundits, politicians and teachers alike are as worried about the short-comings of education and a growing sense of anti-intellectualism as ever, but they are trying to solve the deficiencies in teaching creative and analytical thinking by placing their faith in further tests and rubrics. Ironically, they are guilty of the same failure of imagination that they themselves are cultivating, and sacrificing more young minds on the twin altars of objectivity and correctness is not going to change the downward spiral of the American educational system.
Racist still present

Some of you reading this right now might be thinking that we're not apathetic or ignorant of the socioeconomic issues impacting our nation's student body, Notre Dame, and for the most part, we all get along. And on the surface, yes, we do. We can chant our school spirit song field together and sit in classes next to each other. No one refers to a racist epithet, none more? Others might agree that perhaps it does linger, not so much in the form of vocal racism as in subtle acts of ignorance (because what's the point?), careless remark, a misguided elitist remarks and actions. Wabuda’s advisor, G. David Moss from Student Affairs, offered some insight and an elitist remark and potential perpetuation of stereotype, "the angry black woman." I’m not malignant and I’m not accusing anyone of anything I won’t admit to myself. But I am heartbroken. There has to be some middle ground between passive and hostile responses to racist and elitist remarks and actions. Wabuda’s advisor, G. David Moss from Student Affairs, offered some insight into how to best effect change in a positive and meaningful way. He urges all of us to not let fear limit what we do. It is only through challenging ourselves that change occurs. We could start with acknowledging the problem and talking about it. Then move to action, which could be as simple as reaching out to the various communities on campus. One way to do this is to attend the various events hosted by groups celebrating their heritage. It could be black or male to attend the Black History conference, in the same way that one doesn’t need the permission to go to Asian Allure, or Latin to participate in Latin Expressions. It’s about challenging assumptions, stereotypes and apathy. When do we say, "Oh, well, that’s just the way it is," and make excuses instead of challenging the status quo. Let’s not go down this road before we are resigned. Let us dare to face our fears. Let us dare to try something new.

Time to update National Anthem

When I hear the word “America,” a few things come to mind. One is apple pie. Other than freedom, hot dogs and Journey, what is possibly the greatest song ever written since Beethoven penned his ninth symphony (and probably greater than that too) Don’t Stop Believin’. When I think of America, a few things don’t come to mind. One is sushi. Another is rap. I’m not even sure what a rap artist is. In fact, I don’t think anyone actually knows what a rap artist is. However, everyone knows what streetlights, people, city boys, small towns and midnight trains are. Why then, does our National Anthem mention rap artists while omitting streetlights and midnight trains? "The Star Spangled Banner" was written by Francis Scott Key 194 years ago, and while it may have been awesome enough to be our national anthem then, today it is hopelessly outdated. No one even knows it’s last three verses. It no longer captures the essence of the contemporary American spirit, and as such, it ought to be replaced by a song that reflects the passions of our great nation and is known and loved by the entire country. I have seen Olympic athletes cry when they stand atop the podium, have a gold medal placed around their neck, and hear “The Star Spangled Banner” played in their honor. While some would say that these tears are inspired by feelings of immense joy and patriotism, I cannot help but believe that they are crying because our National Anthem is so bad. Have you ever seen people sing along to the National Anthem with any hint of enthusiasm? People I know don’t even sing the words, but just wait impatiently until the song is over so that whatever sporting event they are about to watch can finally begin.

On the other hand, I have seen people climb atop tables in order to sing "Don’t Stop Believin’". I have seen incredible displays of air-guitar virtuoso to singing along with, and many have even come out and sang along with the famous chorus. People sing along with the song because it reflects the passion of our great nation and is known and loved by the entire country. I have seen Olympic athletes cry when they stand atop the podium, have a gold medal placed around their neck, and hear “The Star Spangled Banner” played in their honor. While some would say that these tears are inspired by feelings of immense joy and patriotism, I cannot help but believe that they are crying because our National Anthem is so bad. Have you ever seen people sing along to the National Anthem with any hint of enthusiasm? People I know don’t even sing the words, but just wait impatiently until the song is over so that whatever sporting event they are about to watch can finally begin.

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The ladies’ man

On Feb. 5, Kimberly Crenshaw and Man Yuen Lee published an important article on The New York Times Online. In a头痛mantra “Not in Our Name” to condemn “feminist ultimate” in America, they were referring to the constant and mounting plague of violence against women during this time.

The vote for Hillary Clinton or compromise your feminist principles; endorse the feminist ultimate in America, they were referring to the constant and mounting plague of violence against women during this time.

The vote for Hillary Clinton or compromise your feminist principles; endorse the feminist ultimate in America, they were referring to the constant and mounting plague of violence against women during this time. The ultimate irony, and perhaps unfair reality, is that Hillary Clinton is as much a victim of sexism as anyone, and in fact, she may be more victimized than many because of her political status. Women have grappled with these questions in every feminist wave, struggling to see feminism as something more than a "me too" bid for power whether it be in the family, the party, the race or the state.

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The hit song is everything. In this day and age, the music industry has become increasingly oriented toward hit-singles. For example, you probably own an iPod. Do you have a lot of artists on your iPod? But how many songs by each artist do you have, exactly? I’m sure you have a few full albums from your favorite bands in your plastic pack. But how many songs are there, on average, under each artist?

This is an issue that has become more pressing as the years have gone by. No longer is an artist appreciated for his or her album, but instead are more well known for their one or two song contribution to your mix. This is fine for the artists out there who really did blow their talent on one song, but for all the iPods I’ve spent shuffling through, I’ve come upon a artist I really like, picked it, and found there to be two songs available. This is not only frustrating, but also unnerving. Are all great musical artists doomed to have only their top two songs listened to? It bothers me to scroll down and realize there is not one full album on a person’s iPod. That’s like taking survey classes all your life and never committing to a major. Albums are precious, a snapshot of an artist’s life.

Songs are rarely written to stand on their own. They are usually part of a bigger work, and if one song presides over the others it’s because that song is the calling card. To listen to an album is to experience the journey as a whole, to go start to finish with the singer or the band. To listen to an album is to experience the journey as a whole, to go start to finish with the singer or the band. Death Cab for Cutie’s “Plans” is brilliant. And, even though “I’ll Follow You Into the Dark” is great on its own, it gains a new level of meaning when listened to as a part of the album.

Look at the rest of the songs on the album, and trust that there may be more to them than a 30-second snipped determined to be the “highlights” of the song. Take a chance on the album as a whole.

To really get at an album, you usually have to do it on your own time, while doing homework or driving in the car alone. There may be certain songs that are more enjoyable or hold more weight for you personally, but their impact should be set against the backdrop of the rest of the album.

Next time you go to buy a song on iTunes, think about what it is you are not buying. Look at the rest of the songs on the album, and trust that there may be more to them than a 30-second snipped determined to be the “highlights” of the song. Take a chance on the album as a whole. You might just find that little gem of a song that rocks your world.

Contact Stephanie Deprez at sdeprez@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
At about 4 p.m., I really started to feel it. It started earlier in the day as a low grumble in my stomach, but by the time my last class ended the grumbles were roaring every thirty seconds, and getting noticeably louder.

To take my mind off the fact that I would not be consuming lunch, I went to the Rock and pushed the stomach pains to the back of my mind with a few sets of push-ups and sit-ups. But around 4 p.m., serious fatigue set in. I began to dose off at my desk, my head started pounding and my parched tongue began to scream for water. I longed for food.

My plight was not unlike that of many other boxers, starving and sweating in an attempt to shed a few pounds before weigh-ins on Tuesday and Wednesday. After months of intense training, involving countless hours of pushing their bodies to the utmost limit and just as many hits to the face, starvation was the last thing any of us wanted to do.

As a friend casually remarked to me the night before, such starvation can be viewed as personal reminder of the season of Lent. Especially in light of the cause Bengal Bouts represents, a day of starvation is a small price to pay.

However, not everyone has to suffer. While the roughly 200 boxers train, sweat, punch and starve, they do so willingly so you can watch them beat the tar out of each other. For $10 you can come see many of your friends, classmates and even enemies get socked in the face repeatedly.

Campus entertainment does not get much better than this. When a friend of mine purchased a ticket from me on Saturday she joked that $10 was a great deal to watch me get punched in the face. But this motive is as good as any for coming out and supporting the 78th annual Bengal Bouts.

For $10 you can come see many of your friends, classmates and even enemies get socked in the face repeatedly.

Campus entertainment does not get much better than this. However, not everyone has to suffer.

Mark Witte
Scene & Heard

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Louisville hands Pittsburgh its third straight loss

No. 10 Wisconsin beats Ohio State to remain tied for Big Ten lead; No. 12 Xavier wins 10th consecutive game

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Louisville couldn't be playing much better in February. The Cardinals can only hope it leads to a great March — and maybe, April, too.

David Padgett bounced back from a rare poor game to make three of four free throws in the final 32.1 seconds and Louisville (No. 23 ESPN/USA Today, No. 18 AP) moved back into a first-place tie in the Big East, holding on to beat Pittsburgh 75-73 Sunday for its seventh consecutive victory.

Padgett finished with 21 points and reserve Edgar Sosa had 15 of his 18 points in the first half as Louisville (22-6, 12-3) led Georgetown (22-4, 12-3) for the conference lead and became the first visiting team to win twice at Pilt since the Petersen Events Center opened in 2002. Pitt is 9-10 there.

Sam Young and DeJuan Blair scored 20 points each for Pitt (19-8, 7-7), which once was 15-2 but has since skidded into an eighth-place tie in the Big East by losing three in a row and six of 10. Pitt had lost three straight conference games once previously in coach Jamie Dixon's six seasons, to Villanova, West Virginia and Connecticut in February 2005.

Louisville, positioning itself for a high seed in the Big East tournament, won its ninth in 10 games and improved to 8-2 on the road. The Cardinals have won their last 12 games in February, seven this month.

"I do," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said when asked if he thinks these Cardinals have a deep tournament run in them. "I think we have depth and we execute well, and that's the key. Padgett just helped everything offensive and defensively. It's like having a coach on the floor. Generally you don't see 7-footers do that, show that much leadership ability."

Last season, Louisville's 66-53 upset win over then-No. 7 Pitt propelled the Cardinals to a six-game winning streak to end the regular season and an NCAA tournament berth. The NCAA looks to be a lock for the Cardinals this season, but Padgett likes how they're playing well again when the numbers really count, especially on the road.

"This is a tough place to play and their crowd really seemed to be going today," Padgett said.

Padgett came back with a strong game — 9-of-13 shooting with six rebounds in 28 minutes — after being limited by foul problems to one shot and one point in 17 minutes during a 61-50 win over Syracuse on Monday. He averaged 16.3 points in the Cardinals' previous 10 games, after missing 10 games early in the season with a broken knee cap.

Pitt never led in the second half — the Cardinals led by as many as 13 — but Blair got the Panthers back to within a point at 71-70 by making two free throws with 2.6 seconds remaining. After Padgett responded by making both ends of a 1-and-1, Blair tried to score inside and missed with 7 seconds left when Pitt needed a 3-pointer to force overtime.

Badgers 58, Buckeyes 53

They'll seldom win a slam dunk contest or get featured on a SportsCenter highlight. Heck, most of them don't look like they could touch the rim.

About all that's impressive about the Wisconsin Badgers is how hard they play, particularly on that unglamorous half of the game known as defense.

Jason Bohannon came off the bench to score 16 points and the Badgers (No. 10 ESPN/USA Today, No. 11 AP) relied on their gritty defense to hold off Ohio State on Sunday.

"We played some great defense, especially down the stretch when they were trying to get the [tough] 3-pointers," Bohannon said. "They didn't really get a clean look at the hoop.

The Buckeyes didn't score over the last 2:15 and had only one field goal in the final 8 1/2 minutes. For much of that time, they were a little bit short of catching the Badgers. But the Badgers weren't having any of that.

Part of that was due to the young Buckeyes' shot selection, but most of it was Wisconsin's physical, stiff defense, which allows just 22.4 points a game, second best in the nation.

"On defense, they locked us up and we locked up," Wisconsin's Brian Butch said. "It was a typical Big Ten finish. We just happened to make a few more plays on the defensive end. It's not like we made a lot of plays on the offensive end, but it was plays at the defensive end that won that game and allowed us to win.

The victory kept the Badgers (23-4, 13-2) tied with Penn and Indiana for the Big Ten lead heading into the final two weeks of play.

Wisconsin used a late 9-0 run to take the lead and then put the clamps on Ohio State (17-10, 7-6).

Musketeers 57, Flyers 55

Drew Lavender was back to working full time Sunday, and Xavier (No. 12 ESPN/USA Today, No. 10 AP) needed every he could muster.

Lavender made four free throws in the final 32 seconds and beat Dayton. After being limited to just 14 minutes in Xavier's win over Duquesne on Thursday because of a sprained left ankle, Lavender returned at point guard and played 33 minutes.

It was the Musketeers' 10th straight win and assured them of at least a share of the Atlantic 10 championship.

"I gave Drew full credit for playing while being hurt," Xavier coach Sean Miller said. "Drew could have said 'I'm taking a couple of games off', but he didn't. He really stepped up and set the tone for us."

Josh Duncan scored 14 points, and Lavender finished with nine for Xavier (24-4, 12-1 Atlantic 10).

"We've got a great team special is that we have great balance and a bunch of players who can score," Miller said.

Brian Roberts led Dayton (17-9, 5-4) with 15 points.

Nobody else reached double figures, though Xavier went into the game with six players averaging 10 or more.

"They are a solid defensive team and they made it tough to get some shots," Roberts said.

"We fought, we played hard and it was a battle throughout the whole game. They just came out on top."

Dayton tied the score five times in the first nine minutes, but never led. The Flyers were 12-24 from the field in the first half and trailed 29-27 at halftime.

Dayton stayed close until a free throw by Duncan, a basket by Diane Jackson and a pair of free throws by Jason Love gave Xavier its biggest lead of the game, 41-31 with 12:44 to play.

"We did a lot of things today that we would have liked, just it was not enough," Dayton coach Brian Gregoire said. "We were playing really solidly against a team who has won every close game they've played in and you have to make certain plays down the stretch in the last five minutes."

"We wanted to be within striking distance in the last five minutes and we were. They made a couple of big plays and had a couple of offensive rebounds. When you play a team like Xavier, the margin for error is much smaller."
**NHL Standings**

**Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division**
- New Jersey 37-21-5 79 170 140
- Pittsburgh 35-21-7 77 166 171
- NY Rangers 31-24-8 70 176 138
- Philadelphia 36-25-7 87 186 179
- Islanders 36-25-7 87 156 180

**Eastern Conference, Northeast Division**
- Boston 32-21-9 75 195 100
- Buffalo 33-23-6 79 165 187
- Boston 31-24-10 68 155 174
- Detroit 28-30-6 81 172 200

**Eastern Conference, Southeast Division**
- Edmonton 29-26-6 64 175 174
- Colorado 30-25-7 67 156 195
- Minnesota 34-23-5 82 175 184
- Atlanta 30-30-4 69 167 157
- Tampa Bay 25-30-7 57 177 203

**Western Conference, Central Division**
- Detroit 42-17-4 107 201 161
- Nashville 32-24-8 72 166 181
- Columbus 29-26-9 67 156 196
- St. Louis 29-23-10 65 155 171
- Chicago 28-26-4 64 175 174

**Western Conference, Northwest Division**
- Calgary 33-22-8 74 180 178
- Minnesota 33-25-9 76 194 187
- Vancouver 32-22-8 72 187 187
- Colorado 31-25-6 68 170 171
- Edmonton 27-30-5 59 166 188

**Western Conference, Pacific Division**
- Dallas 38-22-5 83 195 163
- Anaheim 35-23-7 77 161 180
- San Jose 32-20-5 69 167 101
- Phoenix 31-26-5 67 171 171
- Los Angeles 36-24-4 86 186 212

**PGA**

Woods cruises to fifth consecutive title

Tiger Woods celebrates after defeating Stewart Cink to win the Accenture Match Play Championship Sunday in Marana, Ariz. This is Woods' fifth win in as many tournaments dating back to last season.

**Men's Basketball Big East Conference Standings**

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<th>Rank</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Georgetown</td>
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<td>Louisville</td>
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<td>Syracuse</td>
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**In Brief**

**Western Conference, Central Division**
- Dallas 38-22-5 83 195 163
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- Phoenix 31-26-5 67 171 171
- Los Angeles 36-24-4 86 186 212

Cubs’ DeRosa released from hospital, to see cardiologist

**PGA**

Woods cruises to fifth consecutive title

That's my intent," he said. "That's why you play. If you don't believe you can win an event, don't show up." Relentless as ever, Woods broke a scoring record for the fourth straight tournament, collected his fifth straight victory worldwide and didn't so much as crack a smile when someone asked him if a perfect season was within reach.

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SMC BASKETBALL
Belles win big, clinch home-court advantage

By GRIFFIN DASSATI
Sports Writer

Forget what the schedule says, Saint Mary's just wasn't going to lose this one. The Belles went on to win 74-62, clinching a home-court advantage for the biggest opponent of the year, the University of Notre Dame.

Coming into Saturday's game against Olivet, the Belles were 0-7 against A-MAC teams, but tonight they showed that they were ready to take down the top teams in the league. The Belles had a solid week with wins over Mount St. Joseph and DePauw before the big game against Notre Dame.

The second half began much the same as the first, with the first 10 minutes seeing six ties and neither team leading by more than four. Then, midway through the period, Notre Dame went on a 12-0 run, putting the game out of reach for Saint Mary's. The Belles went on a 1-2-0 run, putting the game out of reach for Saint Mary's. The Belles went down 11 rebounds for the game.

The Irish would drop the next two matches 8-12, 6-2, bringing their overall record to 2-0-0 in the dual season.

After losing to Notre Dame in the first set, which was 7-6, 6-2, the Belles went on to win the second set 7-6, 6-2, giving them a win in the dual season.

Junior Katie Poske led the Irish with a time of 8:14.74, which beat the previous record of 8:14.74 held by Patrick Reilly. The Belles won the final four games to take the victory, 7-6, 6-2, 11-0, and 8-1.

The Belles will play their last home game on Friday, February 14, against Antioch. The game will be at 7:00 pm. The Belles are currently 10-0 in the MIAA and 25-4 overall.

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS
Irish salvage one win on trip

Team beats Wake Forest, falls to North Carolina for 1-1 weekend

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Following a tough loss to No. 8 Duke Thursday, No. 15 Notre Dame brought a 1-2 record back from its trip to Tobacco Road.

Notre Dame 4, Wake Forest 3

Many of the Demon Deacon faithful in attendance in Winston-Salem expected a win for Wake Forest. The Demon Deacons picked up their first two singles matches, but the Irish won the other three.

After securing the doubles points, Notre Dame had some struggles, but eventually turned up the pressure when they needed it.

The No. 3 doubles tandem in the nation, junior Kelly Tefft and senior Brook Buck, earned their fourth consecutive doubles victory with an 8-4 win over the No. 28 pair of sophomore Sasha Kulkiva and senior Alex Hirsch.

After freshman Kristen Ruudal and sophomore Kali Krisic dropped their doubles match 8-0, senior tag-team Cosmina Ciobanu and Colleen Hickey took care of business with an 8-5 win over junior Sierra Poske and freshman Emilie Nyhus, ensuring that the Irish would win the early lead.

In singles play, it appeared as though Tefft would have hands full against Hirsch after the first set, which was 7-6, 6-2, in the dual match season.

With the match tied at 2-2, junior Katie Potts gave the Irish a lead with a 7-6, 6-2 win over McVey. After taking the first set tiebreaker, Potts won the first five games of the second set to ensure the victory.

With the Irish up 3-2, one win away from dropping Notre Dame needed to seal the deal. Krick stepped up with her match-clinching 7-5, 6-2 win over junior Skye Buck to claim the singles point.

Krick continued her impressive play, earning an 8-5 win over sophomore Sanaz Marand and Karista Tsang and bringing the pair's winning streak to five consecutive matches. North Carolina, however, ended that streak Sunday, beating one of the three Irish pairs.

Buck and Tefft continued their impressive play, earning an 8-5 win over sophomore Sanaz Marand and Karista Tsang and bringing the pair's winning streak to five consecutive matches. However, both groups of Ciobanu and Hickey and Ruudal and Krisic could not overcome a Tar Heel charge, giving North Carolina an early 1-0 lead.

Krick got some redemption, picking up the only singles win and the only point Notre Dame would get in the match in a 6-4, 6-3 victory over junior Meg Fanjoy. With the win, Krick ensured an undefeated road trip and, more importantly, brought the score to 3-1.

The Irish would drop the remainder of the singles matches, ending the road trip on a sour note. Notre Dame now returns home for what should be one of its most competitive opponents of the season.

Saturday at the Eiler Tennis Pavilion, consensus No. 1 Georgia Tech comes into town in a match up of two squads that are quite familiar with each other. Last year, the Irish dropped two matches to the Yellow Jackets, both by a score of 4-2.

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu.

MEN'S TRACK
Team takes second in Big East

By PAT STYNES
Sports Writer

The Irish finished second, 28 points behind Connecticut, in the Big East championship Sunday at the New Balance Track & Field Center in New York, NY.

Irish senior Kurt Benninger continued his record-breaking season by posting a 4:00.12 mile, which is the fastest time ever recorded at the Big East championships. He was not the only Notre Dame standout in the mile, however—senior Jake Watson finished third in the event with a time of 4:02.72.

Junior Patrick Smyth also had an impressive weekend, winning the 5000 with a time of 1:35.57 and finishing fifth in the 3000-meter run with a time of 8:14.74.

Sophomore Matt Schipper showed the depth of the Irish squad. In just his second year on the team he pulled off a first place finish in pole vault. His teammate, junior Brian Mahon, followed him close behind, nabbing the third place spot.

Freshman Greg Davis finished fourth in the weight throw, and freshman Denez Vives was 46 meters away from winning the shot put, but fell just short with a second-place distance of 17.12 meters.

Contact Pat Stynes at pstynes@nd.edu
**FENCING**

Nelip continues to dominate

Freshman takes top individual honors, leads team success at JACC

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame could have been left out of the gold medal ceremonies this weekend, but freshman epeeist Ewa Nelip would have none of that. Nelip won the individual women's epee title at the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships Saturday at the Joyce Center, and then was the driving force for the women's epeeists Sunday in the team tournament.

With Notre Dame leading Northwestern 3-1 in the women's epee final, Nelip battled back from a 2-0 deficit for a crucial 5-4 victory over Wildcat Kayley French. Irish junior Kim Montoya then defeated Northwestern senior Megan Ross to clinch the individual competition. A low placing in pool play gave him a poor seed for the direct-elimination bracket, and sensation Jason Pryor, a junior from Ohio State, knocked Howard out of the tournament.

Howard said he simply didn't fence well Saturday. Though Bednarski would have liked to see a better performance, he said he is turning his attention to the NCAA Midwest Regionals, which begin in two weeks in Detroit. In fact, he said he would "gladly trade in" a poor performance this weekend if he could qualify the maximum 12 fencers from the regional to the national tournament.

Bednarski said he was very close in the last set of team results. Notre Dame's only team title this weekend if he could qualify one or two fencers to the national tournament.

"We have to improve tactical gains because obviously we should be a little bit smarter."  - Janusz Bednarski, Irish coach

The Irish improved to 9-3 on the season with the victory over Purdue. Stahl improved to 19-5 on the year in singles, 13-6 in doubles and 5-1 in the fall tournament.

Irish freshman David Anderson broke a 1-1 match-losing streak with a tiebreak victory over Kaela Stahl.

Irish freshman Dan Stahl continued his stellar singles play with a straight sets victory over Purdue sophomore Paul Foley, 6-2, 6-3. With that win, Stahl improved to 19-5 on the year in singles.

The Irish improved to 9-3 on the season with the win. The Irish will be back in action when they face Kent State on March 28, when it faces No. 2 Ohio State.

The Irish travel to Eugene, Ore., to defend national runner-up Illinois Saturday.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

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**MEN'S TENNIS**

Notre Dame shuts out visiting Boilermakers

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

In its first match since last weekend's trip to Seattle, Wash., for the IAIA Indoor Championship, No. 12 Notre Dame shut out in the first round Purdue 7-0 at the Eck Tennis Pavilion Sunday. The Irish victory was Notre Dame's 19th consecutive win over the Boilermakers.

Notre Dame took the doubles point from Purdue, but the Boilermakers did not go down easily.

The Irish No. 1 pair of senior Sheeva Parbhu and junior Brett Helgeson trailed 6-5 in their match against Purdue sophomore Branko Kuzmanovic and sophomore Slavko Biljeica, but came back to win in a tiebreaker, 9-8 (8-6).

The new pair of senior Andrew Roth and junior Santiago Montoya defeated Purdue junior P.J. Rosae and freshman Eric Ramos 6-4.

Freshman Stephen Haven and Tyler Davis held off the Purdue pair of redshirt junior Jose Fuenmayor and junior Steve Nienberg in another tightly contested 6-4 match to seal the doubles point.

The Irish dominated singles play this weekend. Notre Dame's six singles wins came in straight sets. National No. 32 Helgeson won the first Irish singles point over Kuzmanovic in dominating fashion, winning 6-1, 6-1.

Helgeson improved his impressive singles record to 22-4 with the win. The Irish got their second singles point from Parbhu, who defeated Biljeica 6-2, 6-1. The Irish then took their third point from No. 35 senior Ewa Nelip from Notre Dame a 3-0 advantage.

Notre Dame's third singles victory came from freshman Dan Stahl, who snapped a six-match losing streak with the win. Roth defeated Rose 6-2, 6-2.

To round out singles competition, the Irish turned to three of their highly talented freshmen. Havens won the fourth point with a 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5) victory over Purdue's Paul Foley.

Notre Dame freshman David Anderson broke a 1-1 match-losing streak with a tiebreak victory over Kent State.

Irish freshman Dan Stahl continued his stellar singles play with a straight sets victory over Purdue sophomore Paul Foley, 6-2, 6-3. With that win, Stahl improved to 19-5 on the year in singles.

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The Irish travel to Eugene, Ore., to defend national runner-up Illinois Saturday.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

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**ND SOFTBALL**

Irish lose two of five games in Florida trip

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

A busy weekend for the Irish ended with a 5-2 loss to No. 7 Florida in the championship game of the Aquafina Invitational in Gainesville, Fla.

Gator pitcher Stacey Nelson struck out 13 in her 11th win of the season. The Gators scored five runs of the day, with the final three coming on a home run by Brittany Bargar.

Irish sophomore Heather Johnson got two runs with a single in the sixth inning, but that was as close as the Irish would get. Junior Brett Helgeson pitched six innings and allowed four earned runs on seven hits in the loss.

The Irish improved their first contest, 3-2, Friday to Gardner-Webb. Freshman starting pitcher Cody Valdivia pitched 3 and 2/3 innings, struck out seven and allowed three earned runs. The Irish were in a good position to prove they all Gardner-Webb would need.

Johnson and Christina Lon dow in freshmen Karly Kuehl and sophomore Katie Luing, respectively, in the sixth inning, but the two runs were all the offense could muster in a losing effort.

The Irish won a defensive battle over North Florida, 1-0, later Friday.

Bargar, who pitched 3 and 3/3 innings of shutout ball in relief against Gardner-Webb, started the next contest against North Florida and pitched seven scoreless innings and struck out seven batters.

North Florida loaded the bases in the bottom of the third, but Bargar got two groundouts to retire the side. Notre Dame's only run came when sophomore Ashley Ellis scored from second on an RBI single from Kuehl.

Valdivia earned her first win in an 11-4 victory over Austin Peay, which North Florida Saturday, another 1-0 victory. She pitched seven innings, allowed one walk, and struck out seven on route to the win. The lone run of the day came on an RBI single from junior Linda Koban that drove in senior Sarah Smith.

Bargar pitched well against the Gators in Saturday's second contest, but Florida came back to win, 3-2. The Irish got out to a 2-0 lead on two runs from freshman Sadie Stahl.

The 2-3 weekend record moves the team's overall record to 4-5. The Irish will be back in action when they face Pacific on March 1 to open the North Invitational in Fullerton, Calif.

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**Creative? Funny? Thought-provoking?**

Submit your works of art and literature to The Juggler

Notre Dame's student literary magazine

E-mail written submissions (poetry and short stories) to juggler@nd.edu by March 14.

There is no limit to the number of pieces you may submit, but no individual work can exceed 2500 words.

Works of art longer than 11x17 or 3-D pieces require slides. There is no limit to the number of pieces you may submit.

Submit art to Mary in 306 Kf on e-mail as a high-resolution (300dpi) image file to juggler@nd.edu.

http://www.nd.edu/~juggler/

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The Observer
**BASEBALL**

**Notre Dame drops two of three to start season**

**By MICHAEL BRYAN**

Notre Dame lost two of three this past weekend to begin the season and are a good team. The Irish fell 5-2 to Penn State, before losing 10-8 to Iowa Saturday.

The Irish started the season with a 5-2 victory over Penn State, but were swept last weekend.

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**Notre Dame**

**Despeling South Bend for the weekend, the Irish didn’t avoid the same weather and gloomy results — in Greenville, S.C.**

After heavy rains at Jack Russell Stadium, Notre Dame played for nearly six hours Saturday. Notre Dame dropped both games at the Greenville Classic.

The Irish opened their season with a 5-2 victory over Penn State, but were swept last weekend.

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The Irish opened their season with a 5-2 victory over Penn State, but were swept last weekend.
Irish capture third Big East title in four years

Team dominates final day, sets several school records in championship meet that 'really began one year ago'

By CHRIS DOYEN and ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writers

Notre Dame captured its third Big East championship in four years this weekend at the Nassau Aquatic Center in East Meadow, N.J.

After a close loss in last season's conference championship, Irish coach Tim Welsh, who won his 30th league title, said the team was hungry for this meet since last year.

"Everyone who was at the meet last year knew what it felt like to be 4.5 points short," Welsh said. "We didn't want to have that feeling again. And so this year's meet really began one year ago."

Heading into Thursday's competition, the Irish trailed by six points (74-68) to Louisville, but Welsh was confident in his teams abilities.

"We were very happy with Wednesday," Welsh said. "There were only two relays, and Louisville was seeded first in both of them, and we won one of them. So our confidence was high."

After Thursday's competition, the Irish sat in first place with over 300 points, in front of Louisville (225) and Pittsburgh (166.5). The diving squad secured two of the top three spots on the one-meter board to earn points for their team. While Pittsburgh junior Alex Volovetski captured the title, Irish junior Michael Bulfin and freshman Eric Lex finished right behind.

"The diving work was tremendous, and it gave us a big advantage," Welsh said.

Once again the Irish 200-meter freestyle relay team performed well, taking second place in the event that was previously held by Moore.

Sullivan snagged fourth place honors in the 200-backstroke, while divers senior Sam Stoner and Bulfin dominated the three-meter board taking second and third place.

The 400-freestyle relay team also set a school record taking second place with a time of 2:59.65.

Welsh said the team's goal was to simply swim as fast as possible in all seven sessions — and the Irish did just that.

"We tried to look at the scoreboard as seldom as possible and focusing our energies to swimming faster than we had all year," Welsh said.

The day began with Deters taking second place and setting a school record in the 1650 free with a time of (15:12.91). LeBlanc and sophomore Andrew Deters placed third Friday and sophomore Andrew Peters and freshman Michael Sullivan grabbed fourth and fifth place, respectively, in the 400-individual medley.

"It's a sign that we're ready to take the next step," Welsh said.

From here, some swimmers will turn toward preparation for their respective countries' Olympic trials, while the divers will focus on the upcoming NCAA zone diving meets. After that, training for next year will resume soon, Welsh said.

"Swimming is a year-round sport," Welsh said. "We won't resume training tonight, but it will be seen enough."

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Notre Dame brings home 12th straight crown

Nixon honored as conference's top coach for second consecutive season, watches her own school records fall

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

A perfect dozen — more than a motivational catch-phrase for the Irish this year — these words represented the making of history, as Notre Dame won its twelfth consecutive Big East title, a feat that has never been accomplished before in the Big East, Irish coach Carrie Nixon said.

Coming in with a final tally of 767 points, the Irish blew away the field with their highest Big East championship total ever. Second-place Louisville trailed by 239.5 points once the final day of racing was completed.

Head coach Carrie Nixon was named 2008 Big East coach of the year for the second consecutive year.

"It is a really special honor for me and my coaching staff," Nixon said. "It is done by peer voting, so that makes it a real honor.

Junior Christa Higgins was the standout young talent was a standout performer for the Irish, relay, and breaststroke, clearing the bar for the Irish freshman Amywren Miller also had an excellent meet, attacking some records held by Nixon herself. Miller tied Nixon's record time of 22.39 in the 50-freestyle for the victory, and NCAA 'A cut' time, and surpassed Nixon's record in the 100-freestyle with a time of 49.10 to come in second place. Nixon was a 12-time All-American swimmer who graduated from the University in 2002.

"It was a dream of mine to see these girls beat some of my times," Nixon said. "And now I got to see Amywren do it.

Freshman Sam Maxwell achieved two NCAA 'A' qualifications in the 100-breaststroke and the 200-breaststroke with times of 1:02.68 and 2:12.76 respectively. These were both new Notre Dame records, and the 200-breaststroke beat the Big East record by nearly a second.

"Sam is such a competitor," Nixon said. "Especially coming from a small high school program, her ability to perform at such a high level all the time is really incredible.

Winning the victory was freshman Katie Casey, winning the 200-butterfly with a time of 1:59.37. Also performing well was an inspired diving effort by sophomore Natalie Stitt.

Driven by the absence of hospitalized senior Laura Ringle, the divers went on to lead the Irish. "They were really our knights in shining armor," Nixon said. "They executed everything perfectly and really stepped up to fill Laura's shoes."

Holding together this outstanding young talent was a team spirit the coaching staff has never seen before.

"It have never seen a team come together like this before ever since I have become a coach," Nixon said. "It is really inspiring to see them take advantage of the opportunity the they were given."

The Irish now need to prepare to send three to six girls to the NCAA Championships in Columbus, Ohio, on March 20.

"We want to show that we have arrived at the national level," Nixon said.

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Announcing the Year 2008 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2008 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made to amounts not to exceed $3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame;
2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;
3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;
4) a budget indicating the costs involved;
5) two letters of recommendation;
6) a transcript showing all grades and courses completed;
7) a list of other sources of funding (being sought or confirmed) for the same project (i.e. Office of International Studies, Nanovic Institute, etc.)

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship Program in Italian Studies
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
University of Notre Dame

Write Sports. Email Chris at chine@nd.edu
Irish take sixth place in conference tourny

By ANDY ZICCArellI
Sports Writer

With 62 points, Notre Dame finished sixth in the Big East championship this weekend. Connecticut won the title with 103.5 points and Georgetown finished with 93.

One of the Irish highlights was the finals of the 500-meter dash. The Notre Dame duo of Cora Dayon and Natalie Johnson finished second and third, respectively. Dayon crossed the line in 1:12.13 and Johnson finished in 1:12.37.

Freshman Marissa Treece burst into the conference scene, finishing sixth in the 300-meter run with a time of 3:33.95.

"Marissa is a very talented young lady with a lot of desire and a strong work ethic; everything that she needs to be successful in this sport," Irish coach Tim Connelly said.

While the Big East Championships may be the end for some, the Irish will compete in the Alex Wilson Invitational, which is scheduled for March 7 at Notre Dame. The NCAA Indoor Championships will be the following weekend, on March 14 and 15.

Contact Andy Ziccarelli at aziccare@nd.edu

Bouts
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The fighters.
Taped to the door of the boxing room in the Joyce Center basement is an article reporting the immense damage inflicted upon Bangladesh after last fall's wave of natural disasters, with the number of death and casualties highlighted in yellow. It serves as a reminder to every fighter who passes through those doors what cause they are fighting for.

"We think of the sacrifices that we make here, whether its time, academics or just effort," Land said. "We realize that these sacrifices are hope­fully contributing to the sacrifices that people worldwide have to make half a world away."

Contact Andy Ziccarelli at aziccare@nd.edu

NBA
Six Pistons in double figures in win over Suns

Irish junior guard Lindsay Schrader looks to pass during Notre Dame’s 81-66 win over Phoenix on Feb. 10.

"We missed some shots, we turned the half over a little bit," McGraw said. "The ball just slipped through our hands." From there, the score would stay within five for the rest of the game. DePaul took a 24-18 lead after Quigley made two free throws with 7:30 left in the first half, but the Irish went on a 19-6 run to end the half. In the first two minutes, Allen and freshman guard Brittany Mallory hit back-to-back 3-­pointers to help widen the lead.

Note: Sophomore guard Melissa Lechlitner got her first start of the season in place of Barlow, who missed practice this week after her granddaughter’s death. Barlow met the team in Chicago Sunday after spending time with her family. "(Lechlitner) scored the first four points, got us off to a great start," McGraw said. "When she made those first shots, I was proud of her." McGraw said Barlow played well given the circumstances and that she will probably regain her starting role.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Wallace scores 22 points in 26 minutes

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Detroit saves its best for last as the Pistons were more than ready for Shaquille O’Neal. Rasheed Wallace scored 22 points in 26 minutes to lead six Detroit players in double fig­ures. The Suns were terrible and the Pistons dominated from the third quarter, the Suns’ biggest deficit of the season.

"It’s embarrassing, it’s disap­pointing, it’s everything," Suns­point guard Steve Nash said. "It’s tough, no matter who you play to lose by 30 points. Their most one-sided loss of the season left the Suns 2-2 since O’Neal started playing for Phoenix on Wednesday.

"Maybe we won all the adren­aline left these last two games," coach Mike D’Antoni said of the Suns’ 25-6 win over the Lakers on Wednesday, fol­lowed by a victo­ry over Boston on Friday. "Emotionally, we’ve been on a high for the last three days and you wake up on Sunday at noon and we’re not quite ready to play."

O’Neal, who turns 36 in two weeks, had seven points and 11 rebounds in 34 minutes and was 1-for-8 from the foul line, "I still have to be realistic about things," he said. "I’ve only been here about eight days, this is only my third game with the guys, so we still have a lot of figuring out to do. If everyone just sticks with their role, we should be fine."

Amare Stoudemire scored 31 for Phoenix. Leandro Barbosa added 18. Nash was the only other Sun player in double fig­ures with 11 points and just six assists.

Detroit dominated from the start, using a 7-0 spurt to go up 25-14 on Hamilton’s 14-footer with 1:20 left in the first quar­ter. Phoenix shot 29 percent in the first quarter.

The 25-14 lead put the Pistons ahead 39-22 with 8:49 left in the half. The Suns climbed back into it briefly with an 11-2 run to get it to 40-30. The Pistons scored the last nine points of the quarter to open the second half for an 81-54 lead. The Suns shot 11-for-39 from the field in the second half to end the game.

"Emotionally, we’ve been on a high for three days and you wake up on Sunday at noon and we’re not quite ready to play.

Mike D’Antoni
Suns coach

Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace shoots over Suns forward Amare Stoudemire during Detroit’s 216-86 win Sunday.

"We have a lot of energy, more energy than we did O’Neal said. "And it seemed like they couldn’t miss there. ... It was just one of those games. Everyone was flat, including myself."" Saunders said it’s understand­able that the Suns will struggle trying to adjust following the trade that brought O’Neal from Miami for Shawn Marion and Marcus Babby.

"They had an identity of how they played when they had Shaw," the Pistons coach said.
Shooting
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Tourney
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Tourney
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Ohanian’s bench scored 1-0 while the Buckeyes remained without a goal until 17:45 when O’Connell finally scored. Peoples scored seven points and dished out an assist in extended playing time in the first half after starting point guard Tony Jackson got in trouble.

"I went with Lake Zeller, [and] (People) just wasn't getting the catalysts off the floor," Ayers said. "We all three played differently."

Ayers dunked the ball on an 11-6 run over the next three minutes, finishing with three figures at 66-58 with 10:35 to play.

Then McAlarney went back to work, hitting two straight 3-pointers to extend the lead to 76-64 with 7:23 left.

"The orange had one last run in them, and we were forward Arizone 0-10 on the free throw line," Ayers brought them within six at 78-72 with four minutes left. After a media timeout, the Irish responded with straight points from Harangody, the second basket a dunk on a pass from junior forward Zach Auguste.

Harangody had his eighth double-double in nine games with 14 points and 14 rebounds. littlefield finished the game with six points, six assists and six rebounds.

Syracuse resorted to foul trouble in the final two minutes remaining and managed to close to within six at 93-87 before falling to 87-85 at the buzzer that was as close as Orange could get.

With the win, Notre Dame improved to 22-6, 8-4 in the Big East, one game back of the conference co-leaders Louisville and Providence who tied in the loss to the Orange. The Irish take on Louisville Thursday afternoon at the Rupp Arena in Louisville, Ky.

Notes:

◆ Former Irish guards Colin Falls (2003-07), Matt Carroll (1999-2003) and Eric Atkins (2002-06) had the previous Notre Dame record for 3-pointers in a game was Carroll with 16 last February twice, once against Seton Hall on Feb. 18, 2006 and the other against Purdue on March 5, 2005.

◆ We have great shooters because we're playing the game the way we're supposed to, but I'm sure they'll back off a little today," Ayers said.

Notre Dame's top eight players have held on against the rotation in the conference. And if the Irish get hot (correction — stay hot), they will do more than simply hold their own.

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

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

“I'm going to call Colin [Falls] up tonight and rub it in his face.”

Kyle McAlarney Irish guard

“I think that pressure has hurt us in the pressure of higher expectations and pressure of that tournament situation.”

Jeff Jackson Irish coach

"It's trying to make simple plays and getting it to the guy who can score goals.”

Ian Cole Irish defenseman

"I know it's not that they're not trying, they're not trying to do anything. It's just a matter of right now we're playing is playing tough.”

Jeff Jackson Irish coach

"They're a really athletic group," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "They're able to keep the ball out of the backcourt and out of bounds."

There were 13 turnovers by Syracuse (17-11, 7-8) had 24 offensive rebounds and coughed up three steals in its second chance points.

Saturday, Mar. 7, 2009

Tourney: Notre Dame 87, Syracuse 72

Notre Dame posted 13 straight points in the final 2 minutes 45 seconds to put away Syracuse Saturday morning at home in Purcell Pavilion.

"There’s no limit," Irish forward Luke Harangody said. "I think everyone’s real excited with <NAME> right now as well."

The Irish are getting major production from players once thought of as role players, leaving the squad with the ability to compete with the nation’s best teams.

Five players scored at least three goals against Notre Dame and reserve Ryan Horak had a goal and an assist for the Fighting Irish.

"I feel better than I did during the regular season," McAlarney said. "It's mind-blowing to see what's going on, "Noturn Damn Tournament.

Tourney: Notre Dame 91, Syracuse 71

Notre Dame forward Luke McAlarney scored a game-high 21 points as the Fighting Irish pulled away from the Orange late in the game Saturday night to advance to the Big East Tournament quarterfinals.

Syracuse (17-11, 7-8) had 24 offensive rebounds and coughed up three steals in its second chance points.

In the third period, Notre Dame scored 19 points, shooting 7-11 from the field, including 4-5 from behind the arc.

"I'm excited," Irish forward John Conlon said. "I'm just excited to go back to the Bahamas."

But on the other hand, the Buckeyes have been led in scoring by freshman Chris_planeson, who has averaged 4.5 points per game and fifth in the Big Ten in scoring.

"I didn't shoot better than Gerry," Brey said. "I thought that...""No, I don't think that," Brey said.

If McAlarney catches fire like he did against the Orange, the Irish are capable of winning any game in March.

"I'm not sure they're listening. It's more of those," Brey said.

But I'm sure they'll back off a little today," Ayers said.

Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said the team's confidence level appears to triple every game, as was evident in his team's two-game winning streak on Sunday. After getting a steal on the last ball of the game two months ago might have pulled the ball back to win for a second victory.

Notre Dame's three-weekations are over. The season's festivities and let it get loose."

After Ayers' dunk, the game was up 79-74 on an 11-6 run over the next three minutes, finishing with five figures at 66-58 with 10:35 to play.

Then McAlarney went back to work, hitting two straight 3-pointers to extend the lead to 76-64 with 7:23 left.

"The orange had one last run in them, and we were forward Arizone 0-10 on the free throw line," Ayers brought them within six at 78-72 with four minutes left. After a media timeout, the Irish responded with straight points from Harangody, the second basket a dunk on a pass from junior forward Zach Auguste.

Harangody had his eighth double-double in nine games with 14 points and 14 rebounds. littlefield finished the game with six points, six assists and six rebounds.

Syracuse resorted to foul trouble in the final two minutes remaining and managed to close to within six at 93-87 before falling to 87-85 at the buzzer that was as close as Orange could get.

With the win, Notre Dame improved to 22-6, 8-4 in the Big East, one game back of the conference co-leaders Louisville and Providence who tied in the loss to the Orange. The Irish take on Louisville Thursday afternoon at the Rupp Arena in Louisville, Ky.

Notes:

◆ Former Irish guards Colin Falls (2003-07), Matt Carroll (1999-2003) and Eric Atkins (2002-06) had the previous Notre Dame record for 3-pointers in a game was Carroll with 16 last February twice, once against Seton Hall on Feb. 18, 2006 and the other against Purdue on March 5, 2005.

◆ We have great shooters because we're playing the game the way we're supposed to, but I'm sure they'll back off a little today," Ayers said.

Notre Dame's top eight players have held on against the rotation in the conference. And if the Irish get hot (correction — stay hot), they will do more than simply hold their own.

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

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“I'm going to call Colin [Falls] up tonight and rub it in his face.”

Kyle McAlarney Irish guard

“I think that pressure has hurt us in the pressure of higher expectations and pressure of that tournament situation.”

Jeff Jackson Irish coach

"It's trying to make simple plays and getting it to the guy who can score goals.”

Ian Cole Irish defenseman

"I know it's not that they're not trying, they're not trying to do anything. It's just a matter of right now we're playing is playing tough.”

Jeff Jackson Irish coach

"They're a really athletic group," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "They're able to keep the ball out of the backcourt and out of bounds."

There were 13 straight points in the final 2 minutes 45 seconds to put away Syracuse Saturday morning at home in Purcell Pavilion.

"There’s no limit," Irish forward Luke Harangody said. "I think everyone’s real excited with <NAME> right now as well."

The Irish are getting major production from players once thought of as role players, leaving the squad with the ability to compete with the nation’s best teams.

Five players scored at least three goals against Notre Dame and reserve Ryan Horak had a goal and an assist for the Fighting Irish.

"I feel better than I did during the regular season," McAlarney said. "It's mind-blowing to see what's going on, "Noturn Damn Tournament.

Tourney: Notre Dame 91, Syracuse 71

Notre Dame forward Luke McAlarney scored a game-high 21 points as the Fighting Irish pulled away from the Orange late in the game Saturday night to advance to the Big East Tournament quarterfinals.

Syracuse (17-11, 7-8) had 24 offensive rebounds and coughed up three steals in its second chance points.

In the third period, Notre Dame scored 19 points, shooting 7-11 from the field, including 4-5 from behind the arc.

"I'm excited," Irish forward John Conlon said. "I'm just excited to go back to the Bahamas."

But on the other hand, the Buckeyes have been led in scoring by freshman Chris_planeson, who has averaged 4.5 points per game and fifth in the Big Ten in scoring.
THE SINGLE LIFE

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Sheila: Linda, tell me about your day.

Linda: How was your day? I don't feel like talking.

Sheila: Well, I had a good day. I worked a lot today.

Linda: That's nice. I'm happy you had a good day.

Sheila: Thanks. I appreciate your company.

Linda: It's nice to have someone around. I can talk to you.

Sheila: Yes, it's good to have someone to talk to.

Linda: I'm glad we can talk.

Sheila: Me too.

Linda: What did you do today?

Sheila: I worked on my project. I'm almost done.

Linda: That's good. You're making progress.

Sheila: I hope so. I need to finish it soon.

Linda: You'll get it done. You're a hard worker.

Sheila: Thanks. I know I can do it.

Linda: I'm sure you can.

Sheila: You're very positive.

Linda: That's good. You need to be positive.

Sheila: I'll try.

Linda: It's good to have a positive attitude.

Sheila: I agree. It's important to be positive.

Linda: I think so too.

Sheila: Thanks for talking to me.

Linda: No problem. It's nice to talk to someone.

Sheila: I appreciate you.

Linda: Anytime.

Sheila: Bye.

Linda: Bye.
**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**En fuego**

Guard's nine threes lead Irish to victory

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

When he stood behind the arc, it seemed like Kyle McAiarney couldn’t miss. The Notre Dame junior nailed a school-record nine 3-pointers, some from well beyond the 3-point line, as the Irish won their 36th straight home game, 94-87 over Syracuse.

"He’s the best shooter I’ve ever seen," junior forward Ryan Ayers said.

McAiarney scored 30 points on 9 of 13 shooting, with only two of those misses coming from 3-point range. "I felt really confident tonight," McAiarney said. "Especially because they were in zone. I knew my teammates would get me the ball."

Notre Dame (21-1, 11-0 Big East) never trailed, despite being out-rebounded 51-33 by the Orange.

**BENGAL BOUTS**

After months of training, boxers ready to fight

By ANDY ZICARELLI
Sports Writer

The members of the Notre Dame Men’s Boxing Club have done countless push-ups, sit-ups, jumping jacks and boxing drills since October for this week’s 78th annual Bengal Bouts tournament tonight at 6:30 in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

Men’s Boxing Club President Hunter Land sees a lot of potential in this year’s crop of boxers. "I’m so excited, we have a great group of fighters," Land said. "There are a number of returning finalists and champions from last year’s tournament, Land said. But he also warned spectators not to count out the newcomers in this year’s tournament. "We have a great group of novices who look really talented," Land said. "They have transformed since October from being athletes to becoming boxers now in February, and I am very excited to see what they are capable of here in the ring. I definitely wouldn’t be surprised to see a bunch of novices come out and shock a lot of people.”

Around 200 fighters will compete in 12 different weight classes. Fighters must make it through four rounds in order to become champions.

Because of the size of field, Bengal Bouts will make another bit of history tonight. For the first time, two rings will be used in the Fieldhouse for the preliminary rounds. They will accommodate the 91 matches that will take place, which is also a record number of fights for a single night.

The Bouts are a fundraiser used to benefit the Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh. Donations raised and advertisements sold will aid the missions, as will the proceeds from each ticket sold for the tournament.

"We have grown to become the single largest benefactor for the missions. It’s something we are really proud of," Land said. "The cause is something that makes the intense training so worthwhile to us.”

**HOCKEY**

Tourney hopes dwindling

By KYLIE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame continues to slip and slide its way farther away from the NCAA Tournament in the second half of the season after a strong first half created high expectations for the young team.

The No. 9 Irish (21-11-4, 14-8-4 CCHA) needed a sweep, or at least no losses, against Ohio State to maintain a grip on a spot in the NCAA tournament, but after a 3-1 loss Friday night and 2-2 tie in the overtime.

**ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Revenge exacted for ND in win over DePaul

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

On Saturday, Notre Dame avenged its one-point loss to DePaul earlier this season — beating the Blue Demons in McGrath Arena for the first time in 17 years and grabbing a one-game lead over Syracuse for fourth place in the Big East standings.

Sophomore center Erica Williamson had 16 points and eight rebounds and No. 14 Notre Dame beat DePaul 66-64 in a tight finish. The Irish (21-6, 9-4 Big East) have won six of their last seven games. The loss dropped the Blue Demons to 18-8-17-6 Big East.

The Irish led 60-55 with less than six minutes remaining, but freshman forward Felicia Chester and senior forward Caprice Smith each hit shots to bring the Blue Demons within one. From there, DePaul’s fouls undid sophomore guard Deirdre

**THE OBSERVER**

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