Students' beliefs guide discussion

Courses attempt to take objective look at election while factoring in personal views

By JENN METZ
News Editor

Editor's Note: This is the second installment of a series examining the place of politics in the classroom.

Fair, political discussion can take place in the classroom, though that discussion can be guided, whether subtly or overtly, by the beliefs of the professor.

Two University professors, currently teaching courses relating to the 2008 presidential election take the two different approaches regarding the presentation of their own opinions in the classroom.

Students hope Irish can continue winning season against Spartans

By ANDREA ARCHER/The Observer

The game was one of the team's few wins.

NDSP releases campus crime statistics

Officers hope details of past events will inform students, prevent future altercations

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Our Dune Security Police (NDSP) sent crime statistics for the month of August via e-mail to students September 12, which they use to help inform students of possible dangers on campus.

"We want students to be aware of where crime is occurring and they can make decisions about whether they want to frequent these places," Assistant Director of NDSP David Chapman said.

The e-mail reported one burglary, taking place in the Pasquerilla Center on August 4 and 28 accounts of larceny.

Chapman said that a suspect has been identified for the burglary and has been taken into custody.

Of the larceny cases, 20 involved bicycles, one involved a wallet, one involved a purse that was later returned, one involved a laptop computer, one involved an ID card, and one involved an ATM card, according to NDSP officer Keri Shibata.

Other cases involved tools.

Hundreds plan to travel to MSU

Students hope Irish can continue winning season against Spartans

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Hundreds of Notre Dame students will flock to East Lansing, Mich., this weekend to cheer on the Fighting Irish as the team takes on Michigan State Saturday afternoon.

Sophomore Sean McGee is going to the game with over 300 people as a member of the marching band, which traditional travels to away games in the state of Michigan.

McGee said the band usually attracts a certain attention from the opposing team's fans when on the road.

Prendergast urges action on Darfur

By LAUREN KNAUF
News Writer

Human rights activist John Prendergast spoke about the devastation of Darfur in western Sudan yesterday in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Prendergast, who witnessed firsthand the effects of a national genocide, said apathy is not an option, even for students halfway around the world.

"Although Darfur may be in its darkest hour, it is always darkest before the dawn," he said.

Prendergast said, "Only we, in this room, can bring light to Sudan's darkness."

Prendergast began his lecture with a story of a Sudanese refugee named Ameena, who told him her tragic account of the night her village was crushed by the militia. Two of her four children were killed, and she was forced to travel miles through the harsh Sahara Desert. When she was done with her story, she said to him: "Now that you know, you must do something."

The perpetrators of the genocide belong to a militia called the "Janjaweed, which acts "with deadly efficiency, and is backed by the Sudanese government."

See MSU/page 6

See DIVERSITY/page 4

See DIVERSITY/page 4

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See DARFUR/page 6
The news that the long-entrenched Republican Congressman Vito Fossella from New York's 13th district (composed of Staten Island and southern Brooklyn) had been caught for a DUI in Virginia first broke when my parents came to pick me up at Notre Dame at the end of last semester. Slowly, rumors began to circulate that Fossella was actually driving to see his mistress and secret love child in Alexandria, Va. At first, my father Michael McMahon, a Democratic New York City Councilman from the North Shore of Staten Island, dismissed these rumors like everyone else. However, as the press dug deeper, the facts became clear — Fossella had fathered a child out of wedlock, and had kept his second family secret for nearly two years. It appears Fossella was simply a "family values" politician who valued family so much that he decided to have a second one.

Disgraced, he announced that he would not seek office in the upcoming election, opening the door for Democrats to take the seat for the first time in ten years. My father's lifelong dream of serving in Washington now was within reach, and he decided to have a second one.

My father's campaign

While many may think this is a joke, they under­estimate the conservative leanings of Staten Island - a Democrat has not held this seat since the 1960's. In addition, fighting between staff members coupled with having to make 5 or 6 appearances at events and fundraisers has started to take its toll. Despite all this, my father has dis­played a level of competence and professionalism throughout the entire ordeal. His honest approach and great record of service carried him to a 50-point win in the Sept. 9 primary, and I can only hope for the same results in the general election. But whatever the outcome of the election, he has my heart and mind into this cam­paign and demonstrated the values of integrity, hard work, caring and patience. I can honestly say there has never been a point in my life where I have been more proud to call him my father.

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

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmahon05@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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McCain would fire SEC chairman
Republican presidential candidate wants to strengthen institutions

Associated Press
CEDAR RAPIDS — Republican John McCain, buffeted by criticism about his response to Wall Street’s financial problems, said Thursday he would fire the SEC chairman and create a special trust to help strengthen weak institutions.

In all but calling for the firing of Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Christopher Cox, McCain turned on a fellow Republican and former 17-year House member who served on committees overseeing investor protection and U.S. capital markets. President Bush appointed Cox in 2005.

McCain also tried to counter Democratic rival Barack Obama as the two White House contenders jockeyed to explain how, as president, they would fight for the heart of the financial crisis.

"The chairman of the SEC has a long history of opposing government regulation and receives economic advice from former Texas Sen. Phil Gramm, an advocate of free-market principles. In addition, McCain has served on and has been chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, which has regulated — and deregulated — vast parts of the economy. "

"The chairman of the SEC serves at the appointment of the president and, in my view, has betrayed the public’s trust," McCain said in a statement through his campaign. "If this were president today, I would fire him."

Cox attributed McCain’s comments to the heat of the campaign.

"I’ve been in and around politics for many, many years. I’m very happy that as chairman of an independent agency, thousands of men and women at the Securities and Exchange Commission are working very, very hard to protect American markets and investors’ confidence in them," Cox said Thursday night after briefing lawmakers on a plan to rescue banks from the bad debts at the heart of the financial crisis.

"Right now, with so much at stake in our country, there’s no time for political sniping. This is a time and an opportunity for leadership," he said.

In an earlier written statement, Cox said it was good to be in Espanola, where McCain made a campaign stop.

"I’ve been in and around politics for many, many years," Cox said. "I’m very happy that as chairman of an independent agency, thousands of men and women at the Securities and Exchange Commission are working very, very hard to protect American markets and investors’ confidence in them." Cox said Thursday night after briefing lawmakers on a plan to rescue banks from the bad debts at the heart of the financial crisis.

"Today we need a plan that doesn’t wait until the system fails," the senator said. "For troubled institutions, this will provide an orderly process through which to identify bad loans and eventually sell them."

"McCain’s running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, joined him in Cedar Rapids and drew some of the biggest cheers with her stump remarks. She fanned a bit at the start when she said it was good to be in "Grand Rapids" — the Michigan city they’d just flown in from.

"Their speeches were repeatedly interrupted by protesters who were dragged away"

Professor discusses poetry and art

By TARA SCANNELL
News Writer

Poetry works as an act of history and is vital to the true understanding of the past, said Maria Rosa Menocal, a Humanities and foreign language professor at Yale University, during her lecture yesterday at Saint Mary’s.

Menocal said poetry and other art forms are critical in attempting to understand the history of medieval Spain, and specifically how the cultures of Catholics, Jews and Muslims intertwined.

"It is the Arabic culture... that profoundly shapes the culture of its Jewish community," Menocal said.

Although much of the history of medieval Spain was lost, historians are able to look at the art — including architecture of the time — to draw conclusions about the Arabic influence on the country.

"This influence has been largely forgotten and first and foremost it must be said by the Christians of Spain." Menocal said.

By looking at Christian churches and Jewish synagogues, Menocal said that the influence of Islamic architecture cannot be forgotten.

"It is the Arabic culture... that profoundly shapes the culture of its Jewish community," Menocal said.

Contact Tara Scannell at tsccann01@slaint marys.edu
Crime
continued from page 1

"Maybe being aware of the crime that is taking place will help [students] seek options that will make it more difficult for crimes to be committed against them."

Keri Shibata, NDSP officer

Chapman pointed out that none of these cases involved a break-in or forced entry.

"One of the best ways to prevent these things from happening is not to let people in that you don't know. Be suspicious," he said.

Shibata stressed the importance of students reporting suspicious activity or people.

During that time, there were several instances when we would get called several hours after the fact," Shibata said. "It's vital for us that when people see something is suspicious, even if they aren't sure what's going on, or if they're suspicious, call immediately because we have very good response time and if we're given timely information, we can catch the crime at its start."

If students would like to receive e-mail alerts of crime against students in the city of South Bend, e-mail Gil Ichelsinski at phechlsinski@nd.edu, the e-mail said.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscoll@nd.edu

Diversity
continued from page 1

"Anything less than 22 percent [ethnic minority] for next year's incoming class would be considered a definite disappointment."

Dan Saracino, Associate Provost, Admissions

"It amazes me how many diversity students from Chicago don't even know where Notre Dame is."

Gil Martinez, Associate Director, Admissions

"We have been focusing on diversity recruiting in the US and some recruitment in Asia, but we're doing more recruiting in Europe."

Tipton, who grew up in Gary, Ind., said the University's admissions counselors would have to look outside SAT scores and GPAs to find many top-tier diversity students, especially those who were raised in economically-disadvantaged neighborhoods.

"I wish they could look more behind the numbers, more behind the GPA. SAT scores don't tell everything about a student," he said. "A lot of kids are disadvantaged, they don't have the resources to study for the test like other kids do," he said. "Growing up in Gary, Ind., the surroundings aren't conducive to learning." Saracino said he hopes these aggressive recruiting programs help increase the percentage of diversity students to last year's level.

"Anything less than 22 percent [ethnic minority] for next year's incoming class would be considered a definite disappointment," he said. "If our goal is to increase the international student percentage from 3 percent to 4 percent," Saracino was quick to note these are goals, not quotas, for next year's class.

In the long term, Saracino said he would like to increase the number of African-American students to 30 percent within 5 years as well as raise the percentage of students from economically disadvantaged neighborhoods while still maintaining the University's Catholic percent.

Contact Joseph McMahan at jmcmah06@nd.edu

Live, learn, and work in the nation's capital during the fall or spring semester with the UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WASHINGTON PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION Monday, September 22, 2008 117 O'Shaughnessy, 5:00 p.m.

With special guest Tom Kellenberg, Executive Director and Public Policy Professor, Washington Program
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Outrage caused by tainted formula
SHIJIAZHUANG, China — Hundreds of Chinese parents, some crying infants, converged on the company at the heart of the tainted baby formula scandal Thursday, demanding refunds and asking what they can safely feed their children.

Thousands of others filled hospitals, many hovering over sons and daughters hooked to IVs after drinking milk powder tainted with melamine, a toxic industrial chemical that can cause kidney stones and lead to kidney failure.

The scandal highlights the changing family dynamics and economic growth in China. A generation ago, women had to choose between breast-feeding. Now, supermarkets are filled with dozens of brands of baby formula, marketed to women who continue working outside the home even after they give birth.

Swiss atom smasher malfunctions
GENEA — The world’s largest particle collider malfunctioned within hours of its launch last month, but its operators didn’t report the problem for a week.

In a statement Thursday, the European Organization for Nuclear Research reported for the first time that a 30-ton transformer that cools part of the collider broke, forcing physicists to stop using the atom smasher just minutes after turning it up last week.

The faulty transformer has been replaced and the ring in the 17-mile circular tunnel under the Swiss-French border has been cooled back down to near zero on the Kelvin scale — minus 459.67 degrees Fahrenheit — the most efficient operating temperature, said a statement by CERN, as the organization is known.

NATIONAL NEWS

Minneapolis bridge reopens
MINNEAPOLIS — Emergency vehicles with lights flashing led twin processions to open the new Interstate 35W bridge before dawn Thursday, less than 14 months after the shock­ ing and deadly collapse of its predecessor.

Highway department trucks followed patrol cars, fire trucks and ambulances in slow north­bound and southbound parades that passed each other around the middle of the bridge just after 4 a.m. Drivers viewed motorists in cars, motorcycles and buses, many of them honking their horns and a few waving, as they traveled.

Traffic was initially heavy on what had been one of the Twin Cities’ busiest arteries, but it loosened as motorists inched their way along between the morning rush hour.

The three-legged spacecraft has been digging trenches near the Martian north pole since landing on May 25 and its work extends Mars mission going through December.

NASA extends Mars mission
LOS ANGELES — NASA is extending the Phoenix Mars mission another 10 days.

The three-legged spacecraft has been digging trenches near the Martian north pole since landing on May 25 and its work extends Mars mission going through December.

Local News

Students stabbed by lancets
GOSHEN, Ind. — Sixteen northern Indiana students were stabbed by lancets in the middle of their brain by three eighth-grade classmates who tested Thursday for contagious diseases.

The three Goshen Middle School students accused of jabbing their classmates face preliminary charges of attempted murder and battery. They also have been suspended from school for 10 days and face possible expulsion, he said.

“It was just something they decided to do and it was poor judgment,” he said.

AUSTRALIA

Hundreds of new species discovered
SYDNEY — Marine scientists have discovered hundreds of previously unknown species on reefs in Australian waters, including brilliant soft corals and tiny crustaceans, according to findings released Thursday.

The creatures were found during expeditions by the Australian Institute of Marine Science, which funds the research.

“We have been working at these places for a long time and still there are literally hundreds and hundreds of new species that no one has ever collected or described,” said Julian Caley, a scientist from the Australian Institute of Marine Science who is helping to lead the research.

“So it is that sense, it’s very significant in that if we don’t understand what biodiversity is out there, we don’t have much of a chance of protecting it,” he said.

Scientists at several Australian museums have begun the complex process of working with the samples for genetic barcoding and taxonomy, the formal system of naming living things. That work is expected to take years, Caley said.

Among the creatures researchers found were about 130 soft corals — also known as octocorals, for the eight tenta­cles that fringe each polyp — that have never been described in scientific litera­ture, and scores of similarly undescribed crustaceans, including tiny shrimp-like animals with claws longer than their bodies.

The 10-year census, scheduled for final publication in 2010, is supported by governments, divisions of the United Nations and private conservation organi­zations.
MSU continued from page 1
road, "it can be a different atmosphere," McGee said. "I am the opposing team can be really rowdy and hosting a fundraiser. This weekend, McGee expects the same type of reception.

"They probably won't be too friendly, especially because we have a good chance at winning," said Senior Spencer Howard

"I think it'll be a tougher game, but after last week we've got a little more confidence." Spencer Howard senior

Darfur continued from page 1
continued from page 1

government," Prendergast said.

The Sudanese government is making money hand over fist and has a lot to lose if the rebels seize power; therefore, they want to defeat the rebellion if possible. Prendergast said the rebels are making a concerted effort to the entire Darfur region. Prendergast received 637 tickets from the Athletic Department. They were sold 112 tickets from the Special Committee to Spartans sold 370 tickets were originally made available in the lottery.

"Raise your voices for Ameena, for the people of Sudan, for all the people who have been targeted in genocides past and present and say 'not on our watch,'" Prendergast urged the audience to abandon the lottery drawing took place on August 28. About 1,200 students paid $20 for the "Cigers to Darfur," Garst said. The remaining 112 tickets will be auctioned off during the Athletic Department. In addition to a number of tickets, the draw was made available by Michigan State through the Athletic Department. When no further offering was made available, Garst said, "I was very disappointed."

"Traditionally, we do not make a game ticket cost a whole lot," said Kathy Ohmer, the Athletics Director. "Instead, we will sell tickets to people who are interested in the lottery." The Alumni Association will also sell tickets to students and Irish fans at a group rate of $25 each. Prendergast said, "We have an ID get a set of six, or seven, or eight, or nine, or ten, or 10, or 12. We're teaching young adults, and I'm doing my best to be as open a person as possible. I'm not sure if it's right or wrong, but I'm doing it in the best interests of the students."—

John Prendergast human rights activist

John Prendergast began his work in the early 1980s, when he realized the threat to the human rights of the people of Darfur. He founded a non-governmental organization called Human Rights Watch, which focuses on abuses in Sudan. He is currently the president of this organization. Prendergast said, "We have received over 60,000 letters from people around the world who are concerned about what is happening in Darfur. We are trying to raise awareness about the situation and provide support for those who are suffering."—

"I think it'll be a tougher game, but after last week we've got a little more confidence." Spencer Howard senior

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

Hollywood viewer of African nations are "huge champs of despair" and use them as "limiting potential for transformation." Prendergast described both presidential candidates and their camps as red and blue in the cause of the Darfur, but he said they must be "allowed to hear the constituency loud and clear.

Prendergast devoted his talk to Ameena, the "people of Sudan, for all the people who have been targeted in genocides past and present and say 'not on our watch,'" he said.

"Twenty-five years ago," Prendergast began his work in the early 1980s, when he realized the threat to the human rights of the people of Darfur. He founded a non-governmental organization called Human Rights Watch, which focuses on abuses in Sudan. He is currently the president of this organization. Prendergast said, "We have received over 60,000 letters from people around the world who are concerned about what is happening in Darfur. We are trying to raise awareness about the situation and provide support for those who are suffering."—

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Please recall the observer.
Some oil platforms not being rebuilt

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At least 49 offshore oil platforms, all with production of less than 1,000 barrels a day, were not being rebuilt by the Interior Department said Thursday.

It was the latest in a series of oil platform failures in the past week, and some may not be rebuilt. It is the Interior Department said Thursday.

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Sarah Palin initially welcomed the investigation of accusations that she dismissed the state's public safety commissioner because he refused to fire her.
U.S. Rep not expecting charges

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH — Former U.S. Rep. Mark Foley isn't expected to face charges after a lengthy investigation into his lurid messages to underage congressional pages, two federal law enforcement officials told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case, said the results of a state investigation would be announced Friday. They said neither state nor federal charges were expected, although an FBI investigation has not been closed yet.

Foley resigned in 2006 after being confronted with the e-mails and instant messages he sent to male pages. He has since been under investigation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the FBI.

Foley’s attorney, David Roth, has acknowledged that Foley sent the messages to the teenagers, but has maintained that the Florida Republican never had inappropriate contact with minors. Roth had no immediate comment on the pending announcement.

Shortly after Foley's resignation, Roth announced Foley was gay and had been molested by a priest as a teenage altar boy. Foley also checked himself into an Arizona treatment facility for what his attorneys said was “alcoholism and other behavioral problems.”

Mark does not blame the trauma he sustained as a young adolescent for his totally inappropriate e-mails and (instant) messages. He continues to offer no excuse whatsoever for his conduct,” Roth said at the time.

Mother requests medal for son

Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON — The mother of a Marine who witnesses say covered a grenade with his body to save comrades in Iraq plans to appeal to Congress to award her son the nation's highest military honor after learning it was denied by Defense Secretary Gates.

Rosa Peralta said Thursday she made the decision after a Marine general told her that Sgt. Rafael Peralta, would be awarded the Navy Cross rather than the Medal of Honor because the nomination was tainted by reports he was accidentally shot by a fellow Marine shortly before an insurgent lobbed the grenade.

“I'm going to see what can be done, because I'm not satisfied with what they want to do now,” she said in Spanish.

President Bush singled out the Marine's actions in a 2005 Memorial Day speech, saying Peralta "understood that America faces dangerous enemies, and he knew the sacrifices required to defeat them."

"The president spoke of him. So how is this now possible that they do this," Rosa Peralta said.

She said she was considering rejecting the Navy Cross, the second-highest award for valor in combat, that can be awarded to a Marine. Peralta will be the 24th recipient of the Navy Cross for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I still don't know what I'm going to do," she said.

The question about whether to award Peralta the Medal of Honor centers on whether the mortally wounded Marine, who was hit in the head and upper body, could have intentionally reached for the grenade and covered it with his body.

"There was conflicting evidence in the case of Sgt. Peralta as to whether he could have performed his final acts given the nature of his injuries," said Capt. Brenton Bergeron, the exact standard necessary that he receive the Medal of Honor, Bergeron said.

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The report found sufficient evidence existed to believe that Peralta was probably shot by a fellow Marine and that a gunshot wound to the head and injuries to the head from a grenade caused his death.

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Progress towards sustainability admirable but delayed

Earlier this year, the University of Notre Dame received a grade of C from the Sustainable Endowments Institute for its efforts to become more environmentally friendly. The 2008 College Sustainability Report Card averaged grades in eight different categories, including "Administration," "Climate Change & Energy" and "Investment Priorities." With one A, three Ds and four Cs, our campus sustainability G.P.A. rose from last year’s widely publicized D-.

What changed in the span of a year? In terms of the report, in 2007 the University was awarded an F in "Administration," "Green Building," "Climate Change" and "Endowment Transparency." Those grades have risen to C, C, D and D, respectively.

Notre Dame’s highest grade in 2007, a C in "Investment Priorities," rose to an A, with the report citing the University’s goal to "optimize investment return" as well as current investment in renewable energy funds as a reason for the grade increase.

On campus, the changes resulting from the D- are obvious. Recycling bins are more widespread and visible now than before. Programs for the Opening Mass were locally printed with environmentally friendly ink. This year’s Academic Forum, one of President Rev. John Jenkins’ big initiatives since taking office, will focus on sustainable energy, with the goal of continuing dialogue and research across campus well after the Forum on Sept. 24th. Father Jenkins has also repeatedly connected sustainability with Catholic values, such as the stewardship of natural resources.

While the administration’s efforts at change are admirable, it’s surprising that this topic went without notice for so long. Until last year’s report card, "sustainability" was hardly the buzzword it is now. "An Inconvenient Truth" had already permeated American and world culture, and global warming has been a topic of concern for years.

Even the discussion of Catholicism and the environment is hardly new. Every decade or two, essays on the current focus on sustainability is hardly new. Every decade or two, essays on the current focus on sustainability are issued and published across campus. The issue is hardly new.

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Why, then, have environmental issues received so little attention at Notre Dame until now? The administration seems to be taking a reactive, rather than proactive, approach to these problems. Our peer schools have been focusing on sustainability issues for years. In 2007, the Observer reported that Harvard University received an A from the Sustainable Endowments Institute, as well as Dartmouth College, Stanford University and Williams College.

It’s clear that the administration is working to expand the potential of our Lady’s University. One has to ask, however, if the current focus on sustainability is really motivated by a sense of our environmental responsibility.
Us' and 'them' status draws response

**Attitude cause of separation**

Andrew Nesi wrote a column yesterday ("Moving beyond the 'us' and 'them' thinking") on the difficult interaction with South Bend residents apart from just service experiences and footed engagement, which he argues that it can overcome our socioeconomic and historical differences. After all, he argues, South Bend residents are "NASLAC-loving mimeographs of My Name in Earl Chase.

Thanks Nesi, how gracious of you. Saying “we're people with disparate interests and experiences, nuanced beyond the stereotypes into which we each cleanly fit ourselves and others” sounds lofty and all good. But, how do we negate the patronizing language he used in his opening paragraph to describe his experience?

I'll summarize his unflattering description for those who didn't have the pleasure (I mean chagrin) of reading it yesterday: "The house with the bitch press on the porch — mailbox was shirtless — the dog was comically small — sparse, premature gray hair on his chest." And here’s my favorite: "Lytle, barely low enough that I could see his low从小就, comely, cartoonish pencil line on his face.

I thought from the security of my high rise office, "You're likely to be a distant hillbilly; you should stuck your finger in your pocket and grade yourself minimum courtesy. If they were students, wouldn't you have made yourself to your own neighbors? Why not? Surely your differences should stop you from paying into neighbor‐ hoods where children are trying to get sleep, and show yourself worthy of these policies.

As the entire Notre Dame community, we have to make an effort to resist the temptation that comes over us in alienization — the temptation of self-aggrandizement. Instead of accentuating differences or pitting ourselves against each other, let’s focus on making friendship, and its concrete product, friends.

Cynthia Weber

MSNBC deserves three thumbs down

Chairman Howard Dean without a single Obama quotation. On the surface, both may have been offering similar arguments to viewers, and供需 Deaths spoke political strategy on how to win the red states while Obama's political policy affected legislation. One could argue that management to establish solid neighborly ties with people like Nesi, including supportive community, and the grand daddy of cable news at that time, CNN. Unlike today, commentary was fragmented to clearly see your neighbors today.

Currently, it is obvious just from the information slowingly crawling at the bottom of the screen that ratings, market share and political philosophy drive many cable news networks. For example, recently CNNBC and MSNBC included excerpts from their crawls from a major news program's presidential debate crossover.

MSNBC executives announced that Chris Matthews, host of the political discussion show "Hardball," and Kowtow, host of the political satire show "Countdown," would no longer participate in the network's election night coverage for November. Some noted that the two personalities were so partisan that MSNBC executives averted an internal war with established NBC journalists Tom Brokaw and Brian Williams, whose sense of news reporting never had a political bent. It was no news flash for Hillary Clinton supporters who recognized the duos bias this earlier year. MSNBC and Olbermann had one notable political friend that had turned us. We were stunned, saddened and angered.

Later, in discussing the Olbermann and Matthews removal from election evening coverage, Fox News commentators said that MSNBC had slighted to bridge the gap, and cross-section of liberal viewers were in agreement... a possible foreshadowing of the moment we all became liberal, it will take years for MSNBC to regain our viewers. Until that day, MSNBC will receive every thumb down we can find.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a communications strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. He can be contacted at Gary.Caruso@alumni.nd.edu.

Michael Workman

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

"What I made is likely that you are interacting with them every day and don’t even know it.

How do you know they wouldn’t enjoy that? Have you ever asked them to share a meal with you? For example, Matthews and Olbermann’s demise was no news flash until Fox News decided to exclude us loyal viewers with blatant commentary. For many liberal viewers were in agreement... a possible foreshadowing of the moment we all became liberal, it will take years for MSNBC to regain our viewers. Until that day, MSNBC will receive every thumb down we can find.

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Individuals must begin bridging the gap

Andrew Nesi's "Moving beyond 'us' and 'them.'" (Sept. 18) was anger. His column was part of God’s plan. Maddow played Palin’s remarks to Olbermann - our witty political friend between the surface, both want your neighbors. You need to think alike or dolls alike to have friends. He has you may even come to enjoy doing something about it. Since you don’t know.

Barack Obama, president of the nation. Olbermann couched quotations. Yes, Matthews and Olbermann’s demise... a type of editorial content nonexistent in the network’s election night coverage. He was no news flash for Hillary Clinton supporters who recognized the duos bias this earlier year. "Mind Over Chatter"

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

Mike Winke

**OBSERVER**

**THE OBSERVER**

MSNBC deserves three thumbs down

It is exactly that kind of elitist attitude that gives Notre Dame a bad name in South Bend. The thought from the majority of my high rise office, 20 years removed from my life as a student.

As the entire Notre Dame community, we have to make an effort to resist the temptation that comes over us in alienization — the temptation of self-aggrandizement. Instead of accentuating differences or pitting ourselves against each other, let’s focus on making friendship, and its concrete product, friends.

Cynthia Weber

University Newspaper? I wonder why South Bend Police
Scene Writers Face Off as Chosen by Analise Lipari, "Watch the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards"

**LEAD ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES**

**Analise:** I'd be fun to see "Boston Legal" star James Spader repeat his surprise success from last year, and given the occasionally random tendencies of the Emmys, anything's possible. Still, I'm going with John Hamm as Don Draper, the advertising executive with a whole lot of drama behind those smoky eyes. "Mad Men" is incredible, and Hamm's winning the statuette would be the icing on the cake of a "Mad Men" sweep.

**Chris:** James Spader has won three of the last four years in this category. "Boston Legal" gave him showy speeches to make near the end of his sample episodes. This year, his episode contains a 10-minute diatribe in front of the Supreme Court. Jon Hamm should win, but he's superb performance is understated. Michael C. Hall has a shot for "Dexter." It's hard for an actor to win four Emmys for one role, but Spader is going to do it.

**LEAD ACTRESS IN A DRAMA SERIES**

**Analise:** Confession — I started watching "Brothers and Sisters" towards the end of last season. It got good! Don't judge me! The point, though, is that Sally Field would be a solid winner in this category. In the end, though, I'm going with my longtime favorite, Mariska Hargitay as Olivia Benson in "Law and Order: SVU." You don't mess with Benson, fools. You just don't.

**Stephanie:** I don't care who these mad men are, the maddest of them all is Hugh Laurie as "House." He's insane, unpredictable and the most perfect character on television today. I'm going with him. Still, out of the nominees, anything's possible.

**Chris:** Again, there's a very solid category. I would pick Michael Emerson from "Lost." If anyone deserves an Emmy on what is arguably net- work television's most twisted, it's him. Not everybody can make an island disappear.

**LEAD ACTRESS IN A COMEDY SERIES**

**Analise:** As much as some part of me still loves "Monk," it's time to stop the Shalhoub Machine. I'm going with Alec Baldwin as Jack Donaghy on "30 Rock." Where Steve Carell is funny, Baldwin is outrageous. This year is the year of "30 Rock," ladies and gentlemen. Get ready for a new era of Donaghy Domination.

**Chris:** Most pundits have predicted Steve Carell is funny, Baldwin is outrageous. When Steve Carell is funny, Baldwin is outrageous. Steve Carell is funny, Bacon is outrageous. This year is the year of "30 Rock," ladies and gentlemen. Get ready for a new era of Donaghy Domination.

**Stephanie:** Though I will take Steve Carell any time, Baldwin is running away with all the predictions. And you'd be a fool not to jump onto that bandwagon. Baldwin carries "30 Rock" without blinking an eye. This category is bought somewhere between Steve Carell and "The Office," and I'm going with Baldwin.

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**LEAD ACTRESS IN A COMEDY SERIES**

**Analise:** Every nominee in this category is solid, including last year's winner, America Ferrera. Still, I'm going with Tina Fey, whose recent return to "Saturday Night Live" was only the latest in a series of memorable comedic moments.

**Chris:** Fey is in the "it" girl right now. When she accepted a SAG award last year, Fey compared acting with Alec Baldwin to Fred Astaire dancing with a hat rack and people saying, "Oh, she's got a hat rack, pretty good too." Expect the hat rack to take home an acting Emmy.

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**Supporting Actor in a Drama Series**

**Analise:** Again, I'm not sure what that won't win. No one cares anymore. I would pick Michael Emerson from "Lost." If anyone deserves an Emmy on what is arguably network television's most twisted, it's him. Not everybody can make an island disappear.

**Chris:** Again, there's a very solid category. I would pick Michael Emerson from "Lost." If anyone deserves an Emmy on what is arguably network television's most twisted, it's him. Not everybody can make an island disappear.

**Supporting Actress in a Drama Series**

**Analise:** There is only one choice in this category. Yes, technically there are five, all of whom are deserving of the award. Christina Applegate, I adore her, but I must admit this category is bought somewhere between Steve Carell and "The Office," and I'm going with Baldwin.

**Chris:** I'm going with Tina Fey, whose recent return to "Saturday Night Live" was only the latest in a series of memorable comedic moments.

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To Predict Emmy Winners
CHRIS HINE AND STEPHANIE DEPREZ
AWARDS LIVE ON ABC THIS SUNDAY

OUTSTANDING DRAMA SERIES

Stephanie: I'm picking safe and going with "Lost." Michael Emerson holds his own on what truly is a hit show. Could "Lost" be the "Buffy" of our generation?

Analyze: While either "Dexter" or "Lost" would be solid choices, the media attention alone has made the thinking that "Mad Men" will take this category. The incredible attention to period detail alone shows how high quality the production level is here. Add to that the superb performances of January Jones and Jon Hamm, and you've got a recipe for dramatic TV perfection.

Chris: "Mad Men" has all the buzz and deservedly so. It's a layered drama featuring outstanding performances, particularly by Jon Hamm and Elisabeth Moss. Expect this to win; however, past champ "Lost" is the dark horse now that it's finally back in the race after getting snubbed the past two seasons. But this category has two glaring omissions from the nominee list — "Friday Night Lights" and "The Wire."

Stephanie: HOUSE! HOUSE HOUSE! Just give it to them, please. The writing is brilliant, the characters are fascinating and the show is about as addictive as Vicodin. They were left behind in the water this year when the strike hit, but these crazy kids managed to salvage the season and leave it propelled up to launch the next. Kudos, Princeston Plainsboro Teaching Hospital. I salute you.

OUTSTANDING COMEDY SERIES

Stephanie: I love Sandra Oh. I've loved her ever since she fawned over Julie Andrews in "The Princess Diaries" and I love her even more today. She walks the line between serious actress and funny woman.

Analyze: I have to go with "30 Rock" on this one. As much as I love the office, Tina Fey, Alec Baldwin, Kenneth the Frog and one of the best rotations of guest stars in the business equals victory, victory, sweet Emmy victory. Did you see the Carrie Fisher episode? Fantastical.

Chris: Both 2006 winner "The Office" and 2007 winner "30 Rock" tailed off a bit from their funny-winning seasons, but "30 Rock" still has the coolness factor with voters since its win last year. No new comedies have come along to challenge it, so expect "30 Rock" to defend its crown.

Stephanie: Why mess with a good thing? Tina Fey is at the top of her game and Alec Baldwin is a goat. "30 Rock" is my pick. That being said, nothing really soothes the soul like a good episode of "The Office." But I do think this is the year of the Rock.

OUTSTANDING REALITY SERIES

Stephanie: I am forever grateful to Neil Patrick Harris for his Freeze Ray wielding stint as Dr. Horrible. That is to be his only memorable moment, though, as this loose stock has never been the Harris Wilson. "The Office" deserves its due, and it's coming in right here.

Analyze: Despite the guilty pleasure status of "America's Next Top Model," I'm picking "Project Runway" in this category. I love Project Runway. It's quirky, creative, and downright fun to watch. Plus, an Emmy could be a great final note if the show goes to pot when it moves to Lifetime next year. You're either in, or you're out.

Chris: Top Chef. Top Chef. That's all I can say. It's nearly impossible to describe the glory of "Top Chef." "Project Runway" can't forget it. "American Idol" is always a joke. Nothing can stop the awesomeness of "Top Chef."

Stephanie: It's hot, it's cool, and it's oh so here. "Project Runway" is the ultimate in reality TV. Anyone including your dad, can be "taught in it's web about ten minutes into an episode. Is it the designers? The clothing? Klum's I-can't-believe-that's-actually-authentic accent? No competition here, folks.

OUTSTANDING MINISERIES

Stephanie: I've given my props to my darling Broadway Baby, Kristin Chenoweth. The woman is funny. Gotta go with the SNMP series, though. Who can resist "The Producers as Hillary Clinton? Not!!

Analyze: Despite the guilty pleasure status of "America's Next Top Model," I'm picking "Project Runway" in this category. I love Project Runway. It's quirky, creative, and downright fun to watch. Plus, an Emmy could be a great final note if the show goes to pot when it moves to Lifetime next year. You're either in, or you're out.

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Stephanie: Is Larry still even on TV? God bless Colbert. Now, come on and speak and graduation, why doncha.

BEST VARIETY SHOW HOST

Stephanie: Colbert get my due in this category. Each of the past two years, a legendary singer has won this category — Barry Manilow and Tony Bennett — and another legend is in it this year, albeit a comedic one, Don Rickles. But I have a feeling voters have waited long enough to honor Colbert.

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Stephanie: The views expressed in this column are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.
WOMEN'S INTERHALL FOOTBALL

Chaos hope to defend women's title as new season begins

By NATHANIEL LEE, CHRIS MASOUD, KELLEN MATH- ERS, WILLIAM B. SH有机, and MOLLY SAMMON

This Sunday the Cavanaugh Shamrocks will begin the quest for a second consecu- tive conference championship as they look to defend their title against the veteran McGlinch Shamrocks.

The Shamrocks, led by Senior Quarterback Captain Katie Dunn, have only one goal in mind: win it all.

"This year is about a repeat, but it's also about getting freshening playing time," Dunn said. "Basically, we're going to dominate.

"We're going to march down the field and I don't care how we get it done," Bishop said. "We won't be looking for the long play, but if it happens we'll like it.

With the return of Kate Sylva and Mary Jane Jenkins at the defensive line, the Ducks will look to step up to the new challenges for women's defense and will be key in the Ducks' success this year.

Chaos will also be looking to return to the playoffs this year after a successful campaign last season. Led by junior captain Claire Connell, the Lions are poised to make a name for themselves.

"We had a solid team last year, but we just didn't have enough bodies," Connell said. "This year we have plenty of young talent to support our veteran core.

"We have to take advantage of our speed and quickness because it only takes one big play to take your team out of the game," Dunn said.

The Lions faces Lyons at 2 p.m. at Lahr Fields.

Walsh vs. Farley

With the arrival of falls comes a much anticipated football for the ladies of Walsh and Farley Halls.

The Wild Women of Walsh, led by Captains Kehau Meyer and Cindy Bronner are looking to inspire the upperclassmen to build a healthy dose of young talent.

"We have a very young team," Meyer said. "We are just hoping that our seniors and upperclassmen set an example for our young girls that Walsh takes Interhall seriously.

Walsh returns plenty of talent on both sides of the ball and, along with winning records from incoming freshmen, could field a potentially fearsome squad.

Farley's Finest are excited about their prospects as well. Coming off a loss in the semifinals, Farley hopes to build on their past success along with a renewed moti- vation and energy. "We're a lot younger," Farley captain Jenny Rols said. "We're a pretty moti- vated defense.

Offense, an old-fashioned aerial attack. "We have a solid set of receivers and our quarter- back is a good job hitting them," Rols said.

Defensively, an experienced linebacking corps led by the finest for the year. Overall, Rols said Farley has focused on "getting back into the swing of things," while still installing some new plays in practice.

As for Sunday, though, Rols is unsure what to expect from the ladies. "We had a great game with the PSU last year, probably our best game of the year," she said. "But they lost a lot of play- ers, so it's a new year.

Meyer envisions an inspired, if not flawless performance. "We always expect the first game to be entertaining because there will be a lot of freshmen out there," she said.

The teams face off Sunday at 5 p.m. at Lahr Field.

Pangborn vs. Walsh Family

The Pangborn Whirlwinds are looking forward to a point A championship game against the Walsh Family Whirlwinds.

This will be the second straight year with Pangborn, and Pangborn open the season against each other. Last year's game ended with Walsh Family Whirlwinds defeating Pangborn Whirlwinds 46-14. This game is at 3 p.m. at Lahr Field.

Brenn-Phillips vs. Badin

Brenn-Phillips alumni are looking forward to a game against Badin this Sunday.

"Everyone is hungry. We have been anticipating this game for the entire Interhall season off with a win," Badin's Lauren Breen said.

"We're excited because we have a large group of girls," Badin senior quarterback Katie Rose Hackney said. "The freshmen girls are really pumped. They're a really close group.

Badin had a rough 1-5 season last year and hopes to improve that record. Keeping the roster full has been a problem for the Whirlwinds, and recruiting is difficult because of the dorm's small size, but the class of 2012 brings new hope for the season.

Badin does, however, return two very strong players in safety Kelsey Young and wide receiver Courtney Raines are two key compo- nents in Sunday season opener.

Jenny Gargula is a very aggressive wide receiver and has a great knack of reading the ball." Hackney said.

The seniors, especially, are looking forward to a season opener with anticipa- tion.

"For us seniors, this year's season is going to be very important to put our- selves out there," Jenny Gargula said.

Badin's Lauren Phillips' key returning players include senior wide receiver and halfback Tara McCarr, sophomore wide receiver Gabby Mottol, and senior safety Christy Golubski.

"We have been working on things like catching the ball," Meagher said. "Fundamental skills with catching and flagging are also key. We always work on team communication on defense and in the secondary.

Neither team is willing to field a guess as to the outcome on Sunday.

You never really know what to expect in the game," Hackney said. "It's all about learning what's going to work best together.

The game is at 3 p.m. at Lahr Fields.

Contact Nathaniel Lee at allee50@nd.edu, Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu, Kellen Mathers at kmather@nd.edu, Shane Steinberg at steinb2@nd.edu, and Molly Sammon at msammom@nd.edu.

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Friday, September 19th, 2008

NCAA Football
AP Top 25

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NCAA Football
USA Today Coaches’ Poll

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MIAA Women's Volleyball Standings

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around the dial

NCAA FOOTBALL
Baylor at Connecticut
9:00 p.m., ESPN

Los Angeles Dodgers closer Jonathan Broxton celebrates with teammate Manny Ramirez after closing down the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 12th inning to preserve a 4-3 win in Pittsburgh yesterday.

Schilling blasts Ramirez for attitude

Associated Press

BOStOoN — The media called Manny Ramirez’s quirks “Manny being Manny.” Curt Schilling sees it differently.

In an interview Wednesday on Boston radio station WEEA-AM, the injured Boston Red Sox starter took his former teammate to task, saying Manny’s “level of disrespect to teammates and people was unfathomable.” Ramirez was dealt to the Los Angeles Dodgers at the trade deadline after complaining the team had tried to turn the fans against him and that the Red Sox no longer deserved him. Ramirez was in the last year of his contract, with the team holding two one-year options for $20 million each.

In eight seasons in Boston, Ramirez’s quirks were widely seen as harmless, or dismissed as a small price to pay for having such a gifted hitter in the lineup. But Schilling, speaking with “Big Show” host Glenn Ordway and former Red Sox players Brian Daubach and Lou Merloni, said Manny’s antics disrespected his teammates.

“The guy got to dress in a locker away from the team for seven years,” Schilling said. “And then when he’s on this crusade to get out of here, all of a sudden he’s in the locker room every day, voicing his displeasure without even having to play the game that night.”

Manny’s behavior was hardest on Red Sox manager Terry Francona, Schilling said.

“Nothing makes a guy that respects the game and respects human beings like Manny Francona feel worse than looking at a guy and saying, ‘Go ahead, I'mma, I'mma, with me, I'mma, with my teammates, I'll put you in the lineup,’ and then turn around to a guy who’s there every day early working his butt off who gets 110 at-bats a year and says, ‘You know what? Yeah, I can’t put you in there tonight,’” Schilling said.

“Manny being Manny” has taken on new meaning in L.A., where Ramirez has been an RBI machine at the plate and Mr. Congeniality in the clubhouse.

“There were times when you had players who were on like fire duty. Show up tomorrow, I’m not sure if you’re playing or not, we’ve gotta find out what [Manny] wants to do.”

That’s not fair to anybody.

In Brief

Sore hamstringing side lines Vikings’ Peterson

SEDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota’s sparring offense could be without its biggest star against Carolina on Sunday.

Running back Adrian Peterson, the NFL’s leading rusher and the 2007 offensive rookie of the year, missed practice on Thursday with a hamstring injury. Peterson said he is hopeful he can play against the Panthers, but he took a step back one day after participating in practice on a limited basis.

“It’s a concern,” coach Brad Childress said. “Your legs are your legs. We’ll just see how he comes out by the time we get to Sunday.”

Before practice began, Peterson told reporters that he injured the hamstring late in last weekend’s 18-15 loss to the Indianapolis Colts. Peterson rushed for 160 yards in the game and has 263 yards on the season, 1 yard ahead of Atlanta’s Michael Turner for the league lead.

NFL

Los Angeles Dodgers closer Jonathan Broxton celebrates with teammate Manny Ramirez after closing down the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 12th inning to preserve a 4-3 win in Pittsburgh yesterday.

Criminal charges filed against Broncos’ Marshall

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Prosecutors in Georgia have filed two counts of simple battery against Denver Broncos wide receiver Brandon Marshall stemming from a 6-month-old domestic violence complaint.

The charges were filed Sept. 10 in Fulton County State Court. Police allege Marshall threw his ex-girlfriend on a bed, slapped her and doused an Atlanta apartment on March 4.

Marshall said Thursday he had been waiting for charges to be filed, but it wasn’t clear why they came so long after the complaint.

“Like I said before, that’s my past,” he said. “Everything that came out in camp was from last year and there was an incident in March, but that’s still an open case and we’ve been waiting six months for those charges to be filed,” he said.

We among leaders at LPGA Qualifying School

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — Michelle Wie salvaged a ragged round with a birdie-birdie finish to remain among the leaders after the third round of an LPGA Tour sectional qualifying tournament Thursday.

Wie’s closing birdies gave her 2-over 74 on the Dinah Shore Tournament Course at Mission Hills Country Club, the home of the LPGA Tour’s Kraft Nabisco Championship.

That left Wie at 7-under par after 54 holes, five strokes better than her 209 entering Friday’s final round. She was fourth and still comfortably inside the top 30 players and ties who will advance to the final qualifying tournament in Florida in December.

Wie again declined requests for interviews after the round.
25th Annual
DOMER RUN

3-Mile, 6-Mile Runs
& 2-Mile Fun Walk
9:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 20, 2008

A pizza party and hall points for the hall with
the highest representation

T-shirts to All Finishers
Full Breakfast Buffet at Legend's after run/walk
Awards to First-Place Finishers in 28 Divisions

For more information visit recsports.nd.edu or call 631-6100
Go on... Hit someone with a tomato.

Saturday, September 20th
Lyons Basketball Courts
12:00 - HIGH NOON

MLB

Cubs extend lead in NL Central with win
Lee singles in winning run in twelfth inning

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Geovany Soto and the Chicago Cubs can almost taste the champagne after one of their sweetest and most improbable victories of the season.

Soto hit a tying three-run homer with two out in the ninth inning, Derrek Lee singled in the winning run in the 12th and Chicago beat the Milwaukee Brewers, 7-6, on Thursday to move closer to the NL Central title.

The Cubs’ magic number for winning their second straight division championship was reduced to two as they sent the Brewers to a crushing defeat.

"Wow," So­to said. "This year’s been really, really crazy. I’m just here for one reason. I want to win and keep our division championship as long as possible and then we hope to better our place this year.

One of our goals for the team this year is to improve upon our finish in the con­ference," McClowry said. "Last year we got fourth place, which was the highest place we had gotten, and we hope to better our place this year. One of my goals, along with some of the other girls is to consistently break the 20-minute barrier in the 5K.

Contact Katelyn Grabarek at kgrabaO@saintmarys.edu.

MLB

Go on... Hit someone with a tomato.

Saturday, September 20th
Lyons Basketball Courts
12:00 - HIGH NOON

Redd Johnson’s sacrifice. Alfonso Soriano was intention­ally walked before Ryan Theriot flew out, sending Marquis to third.

Lee then singled to center off Carlos Villanueva 4-7, leading to a win­ning celebration for the Cubs. With the trifield drawn in, Craig Counsell was hit out with the runners holding. When Jason Kendall hit a bouncer to third, Aramis Ramirez threw home and Hardy was caught in a rundown and tagged for the second out. Pinch-hitter Joe Dillon then grounded out.

We had a good chance to win, Counsell said. "But I didn’t get it done.

With the Cubs down to their last out in the ninth, Ramirez hit a sinking liner to left that got past Ryan Braun for a dou­ble, and Jim Edmonds followed with an RBI single. Mark DeRosa singled and Soto hit the next pitch deep into the left-center field bleachers as the crowd erupted.

"It was my fault," Torres said. "I should have sealed the deal. I felt like I let the team down, especially given the nature of the game.

The Brewers appeared to have Thursday’s game under control with four unearned runs in the sixth off reliever Jeff Samardzija.

Samarzijda gave up a one-out, two-run single in the sixth to Prince Fielder. Then the first baseman drew a second walk, bringing up Alfonso Soriano, who is on the DL with a strained quadriceps.

Brewers manager Ron Roenicke decided to go with solo workhorse Francisco Rodriguez, who has 4-2 lead.

Prince Fielder drew his sec­ond intentional walk as the Brewers loaded the bases for the third time in the game. Randy Wells relieved and walked Hardy on four pitches to force in a run.

Hart added an RBI double in the eleventh inning, giving the Brewers a 7-6 lead. Marquis, who moved up on
**ND Cross Country**

Teams to compete at Catholic race

Race to be held at Notre Dame Golf Course; men and women both look for repeat wins

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

It's fitting that the Notre Dame cross-country team historically dominated an event its coach created.

The men's and women's cross-country teams will run at home today in the National Catholic Championships, which head coach Joe Piane started in 1980.

"It was a nice concept, all the Catholic teams competing," Piane said.

The Irish men have won 19 of the 28 runnings, including 17 of the past 20. The women have won 16 of the last 20, and both took the title in 2007.

Piane said only one of the seven runners who ran last year will be competing in the race, but that does not worry him.

"I think we're really prepared. We have a bunch of young guys and it should be an exciting meet for us."

Joe Piane
Men's head coach

Included in the lineup for the women are sophomore Marissa Treece and junior Lindsey Ferguson, who took first and fourth, respectively, at this event last year. Treece also finished first of 61 runners at the Valparaiso Invitational two weeks ago, while Ferguson finished second.

"[Treece] is training really well, I expect her and [Ferguson] to run well on Friday," Connelly said.

Both teams go into the race with added pressure because they were ranked in the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association poll.

The USFCCCA ranked the Irish men No. 20 in the nation, out of about 320 teams. The men were also ranked third in the Great Lakes Region, behind Michigan and Wisconsin. The women were ranked No. 4 in the region, behind Michigan State, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

"It's flattering that people think we're that good," Piane said. "But pre-season rankings are based more on history than quality."

Piane said the team would need to prove it deserved the ranking.

"It's all guessing and speculation at this point," he said. "I think it's a realistic picture of where we are. We will have further to go."

Both teams can start to prove themselves today at 3:30.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu.

**MLB**

Reds to host Civil Rights Games

The Cincinnati Reds will host the majors' first two regular-season Civil Rights Games.

Major League Baseball made the announcement on Thursday at Great American Ball Park. The Reds' game against the Chicago White Sox on June 20 will serve as the first one to be held during the season, followed by another to be played in Cincinnati in 2010.

The first two Civil Rights Games, intended to raise awareness of the civil rights movement and baseball's part in it, were held before the season in Memphis, Tenn.

"When we went to Memphis, we always knew we'd grow this into a major league game," Jimmie Lee Solomon, executive vice president of baseball operations in the commissioner's office, said.

MLB started looking at potential sites in July and decided on Cincinnati in late August, Solomon said. One of the main reasons Cincinnati was chosen was the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, which is located next door to the ballpark and was a major part of the Reds' presentation.

"It's pretty exciting that they're having the game here, especially when you've got the Freedom Center right next door and the history of the town," said Reds manager Dusty Baker, who is black.

**THIS WEEK IN IRISH SPORTS**

**Cross Country**

9/19 Natl. Catholic Championships

9/19 vs. St. John's @ 7 pm
9/21 vs. W. Michigan @ 2 pm

**Volleyball**

9/19 vs. Liberty @ 7 pm
9/20 vs. UC Irvine @ 7 pm
9/21 vs. W. Michigan @ 2 pm
Big Red
continued from page 24
top as well. Last year, the Big Red lost in the first round of the playoffs to eventual champion Stanford. Cugliari thinks his team has a good chance at improving on their 2-1-1 record from last year because of their style of play. He said that his team was looking to hit hard on both sides of the ball.

Like Bono, Cugliari also said his team will have the best chance at victory on Sunday if they execute well and don't turn the ball over.

The teams play at 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon on Riehle Field.

Keenan vs. Keough
After falling short in the championship last year, the Keenan Knights have one mission: a return to the title game. Keenan team captain Barton Dear is optimistic about his team's prospects for the upcoming season.

"We lost a few key players," Dear said. "But I think we can replace them and hopefully win it all.

"Our balance of talent on both offense and defense makes them a formidable threat.

"We should be pretty strong on both sides of the ball," Dear said. 

"Last year defense was our main strength, but we have evened out a little more this year.

"Dear added that the line play on both sides of the ball, and how Keenan's two freshman quarterbacks handle pressure, will be key. Freshmen Terry Mahoney and Pat Kelly will split time behind center for the Knights.

"We are really going to be counting on our quarterbacks... to come through for us," Dear said.

On the other sideline, Keough will try to rebound after a 1-3-1 season last year. Captain Nazur Ahmed is cautious about the upcoming season for the Kangaroos.

"We are a lot more organized than in the past. We have a lot of new talent we are excited about," he said.

In addition to some key new players, Keough will rely on its solid receiving corps led by Chris Kossinski and Dorian Inunza. Ahmed said Inunza was, "extremely athletic, quick and powerful. We rely on him heavily and he always performs.

"While Ahmed understands Keenan's reputation, he said his squad isn't afraid of them.

"We have a lot of respect for Keenan. They are perennially a very tough competitor," he said. "But we prepare for anything.

The two will meet Sunday at 3 p.m. at Riehle Fields.

Fisher vs. Sorin
A year ago, the Fisher Green Wave came within one game of the interhall championship, losing to eventual champion Stanford. This year's team will have a new look, returning only nine players. Nonetheless, team captain Brian Monson isn't worried.

"Fisher football hasn't skipped a beat from last year," he said.

The Green Wave hopes to back up that confidence with a strong defense. Monson points to a few key returning starters on defense to uphold the Fisher tradition.

The young Fisher team will have to mature quickly, as they face Sorin Sunday.

Otters captain Bob Gallic pointed to his team's offensive line as their greatest asset. The line hopes to plow a path for highly-touted freshman Bobby Sullivan. The Otters are so confident in Sullivan's ability that they have adopted the phrase "Wanna win? Let Bobby spin," as their team motto.

Both teams know the importance of starting the season off with a victory, and each squad is eager to finally gauge where they are as a team. In a four-week regular season, each contest can be the difference between the Stadium and the dorm room.

The game kicks off Sunday at 2 p.m. at Riehle Fields.

Duncan vs. Knott
Duncan Hall and Knott Hall will kick off their respective Interhall Football seasons at 2 p.m. Sunday on the Riehle Fields.

This will be the inaugural season for Duncan Hall — nickname to be announced. Led by senior captain Garrett Burke, Duncan will try to begin a winning tradition Sunday.

Duncan will field a young team, with many freshmam players. However, Burke said the team's experience will be a factor.

"Our team has a handful of upperclassmen with strong leadership that has helped our freshman get ready for game time," he said.

Burke also added having a lot of freshmen on the team may be beneficial. Many of the freshmen played large roles on their high school football teams only a year ago.

"They are still sharp from years of high school experience," Burke said.

On the offensive side of the ball, Duncan has high hopes. Wide receiver Mike Kearney and quarterback Chris Toups.

"Toups is pretty good if you like 6-foot-2 230-pound quar­ terbacks with a laser rocket arm," said Burke, referring to one of Colts quarterback Peyton Manning's many mercenaries.

On the other side of the ball, Knott will try to rebound from a disappointing 1-3 campaign last season.

Junior captain Aidan Fitzgerald said that Knott's ground game will be one of the team's strengths and they expect to establish a dominant rushing attack.

"We have a very deep back­ field which will allow us to keep fresh legs carrying the ball," he said.

While the Juggerknotts lost one of their biggest threats at wide receiver, Nate Prochaska, to graduation, they return many starters from last season's squad.

Sophomore Cam Smith and Junior Jeff Skorup return, and should provide stability at the rushing and receiving positions, respectively. While fellow returning sophomore J.T. Redshaw will make his first start at quarterback for Knott.

Both teams are ready to begin their runs at the stadium.

"We are looking forward to hitting the middle for a change," Fitzgerald said.

Alumni vs. Morrissey
Interest was so high in the Alumni Interhall Football squad that it took three practices to make cuts and finalize the roster. The result of those cuts? A team that consists mostly of freshmen and sophomores.

After a rough season last year, the team will try to be a force in the league. "There are quite a few freshmen with a lot of experience from high school, that the team will be relying both offensively and defensively," captain Luke Betterman said.

Alumni will try to win? Let Bobby spin," as their team motto. Most of the key players are freshman running back Barrick Morrissey.

"Our quarterback can throw a great ball, we have a physical fullback, and look to be an attacking defense," said Bollmann, who is looking forward to his first taste of Notre Dame Interhall football.

As a whole, Alumni's strength lies in its speed, and the team has also made an effort to spend quite a bit of time in the classroom during preseason, which it hopes will give them an edge on Sunday.

Captain Joe McBrayer said Morrissey is "ready to go, ready to play," and will be counting on a strong defense to bring them the win. On the other side of the ball, the team has been working on a new spread offense, with the quarter­ back receiving most snaps out of the shotgun.

"For the past few years we were a three and a cloud of dust running team, but this year our offense will be much more explosive and fluid," sophomore Phil Yuhas said.

A key to their success in the past, Yuhas should be a strong force on an aggressive defensive squad.

Alumni quarterback looks to run for this fall into the hands of Memo Carl Anderson, and left tackle Mike Kanan. The Alumni are also hoping to use speed to their advantage on both sides of the field.

Due to the recent rainfall, the two teams have had limited practice opportunities and are currently working to fit in a few extra practices before the big game.

Alumni and Morrissey will face off at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, at Riehle Field, in the opening game of the men's interhall football season.

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SMC GOLF

Belles head to MIAA jamboree in third place

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will continue conference play this weekend as they head to the SMC Golf Club in Angola, Ind., for the second of four MIAA jamborees.

After the first jamboree, the Belles sit comfortably in third place in the conference with a team score of 340, four strokes behind Hope and eight strokes behind first-place Olivet. Sophomore Rosie O'Connor led the team in round one after shooting an 83, good for 10th place in the individual standings. Outstanding freshman Natalie Matsoukas carded an 84 and finished in 11th place.

The Belles have had mild success this season facing a tough competitor. In the opening tournament of the year, hosted by Ferris State, Saint Mary's finished ninth out of a field of 16 which featured several top Division II teams. In her collegiate debut, Matsoukas had the highest individual finish among all NCAA Division III golfers in the tournament.

Most recently, the Belles competed at the Dartmouth Invitational against a very tough field, including Dartmouth, Harvard and Brown. Saint Mary's finished last in a field made up of Division I and II teams.

As the Belles return to conference play, they will look to their young talent for continued leadership in gaining ground on the field. The top performers on the team — O'Connor and Matsoukas — have only one year of collegiate experience between them. Behind them, freshman Christine Brown has been a solid third option so far this season.

With such a young and talented team, Saint Mary's should continue to improve as the season matures.

The MIAA one-round jamborees and the final two-rounders, which are tallied, the leading team will be proclaimed the conference champion for the fall season. However, the conference's automatic NCAA tournament berth will not be awarded until the spring.

The second jamboree, hosted by Trine University, will begin Saturday at 1 pm.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker19@nd.edu

SMC VOLLEYBALL

Belles to play Depauw after two home wins

By PAT STYNES
Sports Writer

A day after off, Saint Mary's returns play tonight at DePauw Invitational, located at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind.

The Belles will take on North Central at 4 pm on Friday and St. John's at 8 pm. On Saturday they will play Anderson at 10 a.m., and that afternoon, the Belles will battle Franklin, Gallaudet, Heidelberg or Hope-Fullman.

The team is coming off two consecutive home wins, the first of which this season has it been able to string together consecutive victories. The Belles picked a good time to crank up the gas, as both games were conference matchups, boosting their MIAA record to 2-5. Saint Mary's success will depend upon the recent emergence of outside hitter Lorna Slupczynski. The 5-foot-8 junior had 25 kills against Albion and Olivet, both home matches.

The Belles' AVP conference play begins at 5 pm against a Milwaukee squad. The Red Storm return nine starters from last year's team that went 7-9-5 before bowing out against Notre Dame in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament.

Saint Mary's leads the team in kills on the season after missing his second straight practice Thursday, but he seemed relieved that tests earlier in the week did not reveal a more serious problem.

“It's a lot better,” Hester said after practice. “It's improved a lot, and I'm feeling a lot better.”

Hester was taken from the sideline on a cart during the third quarter of last week's 20-17 loss to North Carolina. Hester said he felt some pain earlier in the game when he landed on another player while being tackled and aggravated it a kick-off return following a 45-yard field goal by Carolina's John Kasay. The Bears were leading 17-6 when Hester caught the ball a yard into the end zone and sprained his ankle, where he felt a "real sharp pain" as he twisted to his left before heading out of bounds at the 23.

Hester was still in motion when Julius Peppers, trying to slow him down, extended his right arm and was seen about a second later clutching the left side of his rib cage. He walked over to the Chicago sideline and was carted away with what he thought was a more serious injury.

For more information, call (574) 631 5466 or visit our website at www.nd.edu/sports.
Frank

continued from page 24

said. "They're telling him that wherever he can get on the field first is where he'll play. In the end it might end up hurting Notre Dame, but they're right in it with Penn State and Rutgers for the lead."

Defensive end Chris Bonds out of Columbus, S.C., soaked in his first visit to the Notre Dame campus and came away impressed. Another person who enjoyed the experience was Bonds' mother, who could influence the selection process.

"Bonds came in thinking, 'I don't know about Notre Dame,'" Frank said. "But he left thinking 'this is actually a really nice place.' The key for the Irish is to continue giving him attention. They've got a defensive coordinator (Corwin Brown) recruiting him and he's been great at reeling in top talent."

"He's been looking at schools in the Southeastern Conference, and the leaders are Alabama and Tennessee. If Tennessee continues to play poorly, Notre Dame has a chance. More importantly, his mother came away impressed and she could be influential in the final decision.

Dawon Custis, another defensive end considering the Irish, is from Columbus, Ohio, and was on campus for an unofficial visit against Michigan. The Irish worked themselves back into the mix, and once Custis could make his final decision when he returns for his official visit later this season.

"With Davon, it's interesting," Frank said. "He likes Notre Dame, but Boston College was kind of leading. The Irish opened his eyes on the latest visit. There aren't too many defensive ends left on the board, so he's a big target. He'll probably have his final look at Notre Dame on his official, and that could solve all his questions."

"Although sometimes inclement weather spells trouble for recruiting during game days, the rain heightened the passion and atmosphere of the crowd — something the high school seniors were able to pick up on.

"It's huge for the Irish," Frank said. "The most important thing for them was that kids wanted to see a winner again. They want to see emotion and passion in the environment, and I think Michigan was perfect for that."

After the big rivalry win, the Irish improved their standing with some of the recruits, but did they do anything to warrant a commit in the near future?

"I think Nyshier Oliver is the most likely at this point," Frank said. "He's still taking his visits and looking around, but they need a speed receiver and he would be a huge get."

In addition to the high school seniors, Notre Dame laid some solid groundwork on the prospects of the recruiting class of 2010. Of the 13 that have been offered scholarships thus far, six were present against the Wolverines.

"They really did a great job of bringing in some top junior talent," Frank said. "They set themselves up for the future with a great win. Also, the recruits were able to meet each other and spend some time together which is always good."

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Dome
continued from page 24

the Golden Dome Invitational.

"We are not looking ahead right now," Brown said. "We are looking at each team we're going to play about to face.

Coming into its ninth Golden Dome Invitational, Notre Dame is 3-13-8 all-time, having won 10 of its last 12 matches in the event.

The Irish are entering some uncharted territory, however. They have not faced Liberty, UC Irvine or Western Michigan in a long time, according to Brown.

"We have played before, but not recently," Brown said. "We do know that they are having pretty good seasons."

Up first for the Irish on Friday is Liberty with an impressive 8-2 record and a decent schedule. The Flames won their first eight matches of the season before finally losing their first two matches against Northern Iowa and No. 18 Kansas State.

Liberty likes to rely on its star sophomore middle hitter Nicki Spreng, Brown said. "They try to get her the ball a lot," Brown said. "She's got a good serve and serve aggressively," Brown said. "We need to take their best options away."

Contact Jareed Jobick at jjobick@nd.edu

Ranking
continued from page 24

about it, and people are putting them on the back about it." Waldrum said. "We haven't discussed it but it's there and I'm sure there's extra motivation to keep it."

Waldrum said even though DePaul is 2-6, the match-up is a dangerous one for the Irish because it is the first Big East game for both teams.

"It's the first conference game so you always have to see what everyone in the conference is like and you want to rack up as many conference wins as possible," the coach said.

In addition, DePaul plays on a small, turf field that Waldrum said makes some of Notre Dame's athleticism "The factory of excellence," he said. "Hopefully it keeps us sharp and we realize that it might pose some difficulty for us."

The Blue Demons have won two of their last three games after dropping their first five contests.

After facing off against DePaul, Notre Dame will fly from Chicago to Pennsylvania to take on No. 17 Penn State. Brown upset Penn State at last Friday before beating No. 25 Connecticut Sunday. Penn State fell in three, though, as a factor Waldrum said could make the home team hungry when the Irish come to town.

"Almost all of them haven't lost to Brown that might have added some fuel to their fire," he said. "And with us being No. 1 they're gonna be ready to get us out of there."

Penn State beat the Irish 2-1 at Alumni Field in the teams' only meeting last season. Waldrum said his squad outplayed the Nittany Lions in that game but the visitors had one great equalizer — then-sophomore goalie Alyssa Naeher.

"I think she's the best goaliekeeper in the country," Waldrum said. "Last year when they beat us she was responsible for [the win] ... that's not the case this year and this year she's playing as well as ever."

In the team's first road trip this season, Notre Dame topped both then-No. 3 North Carolina and then-No. 12 Florida. Waldrum said he hopes for similar results this weekend.

"This is just another one of those tough games that we've been off," Waldrum said. "But if we could sneak out of [Penn State] with a win, we should be in really good shape for the meat of our Big East schedule."

The contest against Penn State is the last non-conference game for the Irish during the regular season. And, beginning with DePaul Friday, Waldrum said his team is ready to begin Big East play.

"We've done so well in the conference regular season; we typically win our league," he said. "We're excited to get going and we really have an opportunity to win our conference tournament."

Last season, the Irish made the trip to West Virginia in the Big East tournament semifinal match and Waldrum said they are eager to get another crack at it.

Still, he emphasized that it is more critical for his team to have a solid regular season than to worry about the postseason at this point.

"The regular season in the Big East (in the regular season) is much more important to us than the postseason, honestly," Waldrum said. "And usually by the time the conference tournament rolls around, we've done enough with our body of work to get in.

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Sports

Friday, September 19, 2008

SOCcER

Creams of the crop

No. 1 women open Big East competition

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

Another weekend, another tough road trip for the Irish. Top-ranked Notre Dame (6-0-0) opens Big East play at DePaul tonight before heading to State College to take on No. 17 Penn State Sunday.

The Irish have not talked as a team about the No. 1 ranking that they earned for the first time of the season this week. But coach Randy Waldrum said he knows his players will have added incentive to win this weekend in order to retain it.

"The program and the team is used to being the No. 1 but I'm not naive enough to think the girls don't read..."

See RANKING PAGE 21

INTERHALL FOOTBALL

Young Carroll squad seeks improvement on 0-4 season

By CHARLIE SPOKES, ALEX WEST, KYLE SMITH, DOUGLAS FARMER, MATTHEW WILSEY AND LIZA NAVARRO

Sports Writers

Despite different results last season, both the Red and Carroll will try to get their interhall seasons off to a hot start on Sunday at 1 p.m. at Rehle fields.

The Stedsmen, who had a 3-2 record last season, return sophomore quarterback Matt Abeling.

"Last year was totally unexpected and fun after St. Ed's supposedly failed to score a single point during the previous four seasons," team captain Andy Nester said. St. Ed's has been working extensively on perfecting its kickoff return and coverage teams and is intent on playing together as a team.

"We really want to stress team unity and being on the same page," Nester said. The Vermin are looking to improve their team after going 0-4 last season.

"We had our ups and downs," captain Nick Ruof said. "But we've been working on smashmouth football with our double tight-end formations and a clever defensive scheme."

Carroll's squad is comprised mostly of young players, but does return last year's quarterback Kris Kast.

"We just want to have some fun and score more points than the other team," Ruof said.

Dillon vs. O'Neill

The Dillon Big Red and The Angry Mob from O'Neill square off Sunday in a season-opening matchup of two teams searching for redemption.

After a disappointing 2007 season, the Mob are determined to rebound. Hopes were high after reaching the championship game in 2006, but O'Neill couldn't get things together last year.

"We had a lot of talent, we just didn't get much out of it," Captain Matthew Bono said of last year's squad. "All I can say is that it's a different offense from last year."

"The Mob is changing their offensive strategy, Bono said their best chance for victory will come from good execution and playing mistake-free football.

Big Red team captain Chris Cugliari also said a rebound is possible for O'Neill.

"We're not taking O'Neill lightly," he said. "We believe they will be back at the top this year."

The Big Red captain is confident in his team's ability to be on...

See BIG RED PAGE 19

ND VOLLEYBALL

Golden chance to improve

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame looks to build momentum this weekend when it hosts the Golden Dome Invitational against Liberty, UC Irvine and Western Michigan.

The Irish (3-0) had a tough couple of weeks against some of the best competition in the country. They faced No. 11 Minnesota, No. 4 California and No. 16 Cal in a span of only three days.

"We have learned so much in the past few weeks," head coach Debbie Brown said, "Now we used to apply what we have learned."

The Irish want to build momentum this weekend to carry over into Big East play next week, but Brown said the team's focus is still squarely on...

See DOME PAGE 21

FOOTBALL

Rainy game may have attracted top recruits

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Imagine being a highly touted recruit visiting one of the premier football programs in the nation on a fall Saturday in September, in which the hosts played its most hated rival in a rainy, raucous atmosphere to pick up a convincing win.

For the high school talents in attendance at Notre Dame's 35-17 win over Michigan last week, this was precisely the case.

As a result, the Irish coaching staff is thrilled with the progress made toward receiving verbal commitments from some of these young talents. Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame football for Scout.com, said the win over the...
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(2-1) W, 17-0, FAU | vs. Notre Dame
(1-1) L, 32-26, Oregon | vs. C. Mich.
(1-2) L, 31-14, TCU | vs. San Jose St.
(2-0) W, 44-12, Rutgers | vs. Va. Tech
(0-3) L, 55-14, Okla. | Idle
(1-1) Idle | vs. Iowa
(1-1) Idle | vs. UCF
(1-2) L, 41-31, Duke | vs. Rutgers
(0-2) L, 55-13, PSU | vs. Northeastern
(2-0) W, 35-3, OSU | Idle

The Observer • IRISH INSIDER Friday, September 19, 2008

COMMENTARY

Defense's turn to lead ND to victory

Against Michigan it was turnovers. Against San Diego State it was ... well, it was San Diego State. Against Michigan State it has to be stopping Javon Ringer. Two weeks in a row Notre Dame has been able to point to a specific reason why it came away with a victory. If the Irish want to be 3-0 Saturday night, they will have to do it to shut down Ringer, Michigan State's running back. Ringer has rushed for 498 yards and nine of his team's 12 total touchdowns. So, saying he is a focal point isn't exactly breaking new ground.

The question is: is it possible for Notre Dame to slow down the 3-foot-9, 202-pounder who looks like he is flying out of a slingshot every time he touches the ball? Last Saturday, Michigan freshman Sam McGuffie torched the Irish defense for 131 yards on the ground. Like McGuffie, Ringer is a ball handler with a great burst of speed. But Ringer brings even more to the table.

His great vision and agility allow him to slip through the eye of a needle to find daylight, and once he gets a step on you there is no catching up.

With all the areas that Notre Dame has to noticeably improved, the one department that is lagging behind is the run defense. In their season opener, the Irish gave up 4.7 yards per carry to the Aztecs—a predominantly passing team.

The following week the same off-tackl e play sprung McGuffie again and again for big gains. It's usually not a good sign when the top two tacklers on your team are both safeties.

The problem comes from the fact that in the first two games, Notre Dame faced spread offenses that normally kept at least three receivers on the field. The extra receiver meant the Irish have spent most of the season in a nickel package with five defensive backs. Safeties David Bruton and Kyle McCarthy have both done good jobs coming up and making plays, but by the time they read the play and get to the ball carrier, he is already a few yards downfield.

The extra man in the secondary meant that linebackers Brian Smith and Maurice Crum were on an island as the third backer, usually John Ryan, moved down to a three-point stance where a defensive end would normally play.

Playing out of position, Ryan has been about as effective as a screen door on a submarine. Right now he has as many solo tackles as wide receiver Duval Kamara—one. While Ryan struggled, defensive ends Ethan Johnson and Maurice Richardson watched big chunks of the game from the sidelines. If Ryan's job was to clog up the works up front rather than make tackles, it makes more sense to have an end in the game who is more comfortable using his hands to get free in tight spaces.

Michigan State does not run the spread offense. This week defensive coordinator Corwin Brown will be able to return to his normal 3-4 set that puts an extra linebacker on the field. The extra man in the box should help in getting to Ringer a little bit quicker, but bringing him down will still be a challenge.

The defense has definitely improved its tackling since last season, but it is still not where it needs to be against a slippery back. McGuffie proved that last week when he turned a two-yard catch into a 40-yard touchdown littered with missed tackles in the second quarter.

In week one, the offense—especially the line—stepped up to avoid an embarrassing loss to the Aztecs. In week two, the special teams created good field position and big turnovers to set the tone early.

In week three, it's the defense's turn to carry the burden and lead the team to a victory.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Check Out The Observer sports blog, The Casual Observer, at Observersportsblog.21cr.info.

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Man of the house

Irish safety Kyle McCarthy anchors both a tough Irish defense and his off-campus home

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

"Take off your shirt!"

Kurtz said, "He's got boxers on, but that's about it.

Quinn called McCarthy the day of the house, but Kurtz called the mom. McCarthy agreed to show it and PLAY for McCarthy to unbundle.

McCarthy refused. So his housemates — Kurtz, offensive tackle Paul Duncan and line­backer Steve Quinn — along with linebackers John Ryan and receiver Bobbi Parriss, conspire to create the most ridiculous setting imaginable for a picture.

McCarthy, who is respectful and intelligent, put up with the nonsense. He refused to show himself for the most part but exuded a quiet sense of humor. He looks sur­prised, how­ever, when told he led the nation in solo tackles with 17.

"You're honestly the first person that told me that," he said after a pause. Before long, it will be hard to ignore.

Full house

McCarthy painted quite a picture of his off-campus home. There's Pat Kurtz, the resident child, making a mess and being a little brat. There's also mac and cheese and an entire season of McCarthy and his girlfriend's Netflix. There's also the TV show "TNG" and McCarthy's own logo.

"It was a tough decision, but the lure of playing big-time college football really won me over," he said.

Kyle McCarthy

Path to success

But years before he was man of the house, McCarthy played quarterback at Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio. He rushed for 1,273 yards and 14 touchdowns and passed for 327 yards and five touchdowns as a senior. He also played safety, recording 70 tackles and five interceptions his senior season.

When colleges came calling, McCarthy heard from MAC schools as well as service academies who were interested in him as a quarterback. Tempting, but not right for him.

"It was a tough decision, but the lure of playing big-time college football really won me over," he said. "When you're playing for Notre Dame, it's a whole different story."

When he arrived at Notre Dame, McCarthy fought for his starting job and battled injuries and the depth chart. He himself became a quarterback. McCarthy had the lead, he said, "but I'm a nice, hardworking kid, and I don't want to be boastful, but I'd say I'm a nice, selfless guy." McCarthy would, reluctantly, call himself a nice guy.

"I don't want you to believe me when I say I'm a nice, respectful and kind of person," McCarthy said. "But years ago, I was a child, making a mess and playing cards and watching on him in the meeting with Paul." McCarthy said, "I don't want to be boastful, but I'd say I'm a nice, hardworking kid.

Myself became a quarterback. McCarthy had the lead, he said. "But years ago, I was a child, making a mess and playing cards and watching on him in the meeting with Paul."

Kyle McCarthy

Irish safety

Notre Dame defensive coordinator Bob Elliott didn't want to get McCarthy's hopes up. He agreed with Quinn.

"Take McCarthy, right? I hope they underestimate me. And it kind of motivates me, to be honest, to get my respect."

McCarthy said he learned the workings of the defense from watching on the sideline, but the transition from being a big deal in high school to a relative no-name his freshman year was a bit of a letdown.

"It taught me that no one's going to give you anything, you've got to work for it," he said. "I've tried to keep my head down, keep working."

He knew he was on the right track, however, near the end of his junior season, when he started getting more playing time. His confidence never wavered, he said, but playing in front of 80,000 people can take some getting used to.

McCarthy's older brother Brian graduated from Notre Dame in 2006, and his younger brother, Dan, is a freshman this season.

McCarthy said he enjoys having his brothers around, both during football and outside of it.

"We pick on him a little bit," McCarthy said. "But years ago, I was a child, making a mess and playing cards and watching on him in the meeting with Paul."

Kyle McCarthy

Irish safety

Time to come

"We've got that kind of talent. We've got to be prepared, to come up and tackle him."

Kyle McCarthy

Irish safety

Now plays for the Baltimore Ravens, in front of him, but he said the two became close.

"I'm the new guy, right? I hope they underestimate me. And it kind of motivates me, to be honest, to get my respect."

McCarthy said he learned the workings of the defense from watching on the sideline, but the transition from being a big deal in high school to a relative no-name his freshman year was a bit of a letdown.

"It taught me that no one's going to give you anything, you've got to work for it," he said. "I've tried to keep my head down, keep working."

He knew he was on the right track, however, near the end of his junior season, when he started getting more playing time. His confidence never wavered, he said, but playing in front of 80,000 people can take some getting used to.

McCarthy's older brother Brian graduated from Notre Dame in 2006, and his younger brother, Dan, is a freshman this season.

McCarthy said he enjoys having his brothers around, both during football and outside of it.

"We pick on him a little bit," McCarthy said. "But years ago, I was a child, making a mess and playing cards and watching on him in the meeting with Paul."

Kyle McCarthy

Irish safety

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Irish senior safeties David Bruton (27) and Kyle McCarthy wrap up Wolverines running back Sam McGuffie during Notre Dame's 35-17 victory Saturday.

Tackling Ringer

"Is he a Heisman hopeful? He's got that kind of talent. We've got to be prepared, to come up and tackle him."

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Charlie Weis proved he can handle the rigors of coaching after taking a shot to the left knee Saturday. Now he has to prove he can coach a team against a power run game.

In his second year at Michigan State, Mark Dantonio has the Spartans at 2-1, with the loss coming against a decent Cal team. A home game against a hot team will challenge his abilities.

Charlie Weis head coach
Michigan State: 1-2

COACHING
QuARTERBACKS
IRISH RUSHING
IRISH PASSING

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Notre Dame 2008 Schedule

Sept. 6 Sdsu — W
Sept. 13 Mich — W
Sept. 20 at Mich. St.
Sept. 27 Purdue.
Oct. 4 Stanford
Oct. 11 at unc
Oct. 25 at WASH
Nov. 1 Pitt
Nov. 8 at bc
Nov. 15 Navy
Nov. 22 Syracuse
Nov. 29 at usc

COACHING

QuARTERBACKS

IRISH RUSHING

IRISH PASSING

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Notre Dame can now play-fake effectively, which adds one more tool to its passing repertoire. With height (DaVonte Kamura) and speed (Tate) at receiver, Michigan State's secondary will have to respect the pass.

Notre Dame looks like a whole new team after trouncing Michigan last week. Clausen has set to be sacked and the running backs have looked better. Javon Ringer has a big day on the ground, but the inopt Spartan passing attack will allow the Irish to stack the box all day. The team plays a complete game in all three facets and stays undefeated.

None of Michigan State's defensive linemen weigh more than 285 pounds, so bruiser Robert Hughes and Notre Dame have an advantage. But the Spartans haven't allowed a back to rush for more than 57 yards since week one.

All four members of the Spartan secondary are 6-1 or taller, giving them a leg up over shorter Irish receivers like Tate and David Grinnage. But with Will. "bombs-away" mentality, Notre Dame will drop a big play or two.

I'm excited about several things in this game. I think when Notre Dame gets a bona fide offensive line on the field, the Irish defense will improve. I think Clausen shows some talent without the rain to contend with. We can expect the offense to make a big play, and the Irish extend their winning streak in East Lansing to four.

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Michigan State Spartans

Michigan State 2008 Schedule

Aug. 30 @ CAL — L
Sept. 6 E. Mich. — W
Sept. 13 FAU — W
Sept. 20 Notre Dame
Sept. 27 @ Indiana
Oct. 4 Iowa
Oct. 11 @ Northwestern
Oct. 18 Ohio State
Oct. 25 @ Michigan
Nov. 1 Wisconsin
Nov. 8 Purdue
Nov. 22 @ Penn State

The Observer • IRISH INSIDER

SPARTANS RUSHING

Notre Dame had all sorts of trouble bringing down Sam McGuffie, who rushed for 131 yards last week. The Irish have been playing a smaller front four that struggles to stop backs at the line of scrimmage.

SPARTANS PASSING

The Irish secondary took advantage of the wet conditions and limited Michigan State's threat of effectiveness. David Bruton and Gary Gray both had interceptions, while Raeshon McNeil and Robert Blanton both played well.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Eric Maust averaged 39.9 yards per punt in the first two games. Kickoff returns have been OK. Notre Dame averages 18.9 yards per kick return. Bruton and Mike Anello have destroyed opposing return units.

INTANGIBLES

The painful signs of last season's loss have faded with the win over Michigan. The offensive line kept Clausen on his feet and created holes for the running backs. Don't forget the dominance of the defensive red zone; the Irish have an interception and two fumble recoveries there.

NOTRE DAME

When in doubt, hand it off to Javon. That will be Hoyers main weapon Saturday, and by all rights it should be effective. But Hoyers strategy is that if Hoyer and receiver Mark Divill have had some success as well: Divill has a touchdown and averages 24.6 yards per catch.

The wind in Notre Dames sails is too strong for Michigan State to derail the team. The Irish are playing complete football and will continue to do so. They will be hard to take down even on the road.

Michigan State

Mark Dantonio
1st season at Michigan State
career record: 25-23
against Notre Dame: 1-0

Michigan State

Roster

Michigan State Spartans

Record: 2-1
AP: NR
Coaches: NR

Mark Dantonio
head coach

Dan Murphy
Sports Editor

As usual, a battle with the Spartans will be hard-fought and high-scoring. The passing game is good for a few big plays, but the ground game will struggle. Javon Ringer will run wild with another 1000-yard performance, but Notre Dame can continue to play stingy defense in the red zone, it will hold off Sparty.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 35
Michigan State 28

Celebrity Pick

Luke Harangody
Irish forward

Haringody averaged 20.4 points per game and 10.6 rebounds per game in his sophomore season and was named Big East Player of the Year. His performances included a career-high 40 points at Louisville and a 32-point game at Connecticut.

After last week's convincing win over Michigan, the Irish have already surprised a few people, and they have their first true road test this Saturday. Michigan State always plays Notre Dame tough, but Robert Hughes will run all over the Spartans in the end; I see the Irish pulling it out in the fourth quarter.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 35
Michigan State 28

Dan Murphy
Sports Editor

Irish experts
Crunching the numbers

2007 Season Averages Per Game

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What's your favorite spot on campus?
I'm going to have to say Siegfried Hall.

If you got to go anywhere in the world where would you go?
I wouldn't mind seeing the pyramids in Egypt. I think that would be pretty cool.

If you weren't playing football, what sport would you play?
I like baseball. I mean I stink at it, but I like baseball. I played when I was a little kid, but it's been a long time. I played third base back then.

What's the least favorite class you've taken at Notre Dame?
Wow, there's a whole bunch of them, it's tough to narrow it down to one. I think I'd have to say Calc II.

What is the best memory you'll take away from your time here?
Probably my freshman year when we beat Stanford to get into a BCS bowl, because of that bowl game.

Who's your favorite team to play against?
I'd say Michigan State. They're a bunch of tough guys and you have to play tough to beat them. I like banging.

Who talks the most trash on the field?
Actually, it's probably a freshman, Rob Blanton. He's got a big mouth on him, man.

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Hughes earning approval of coaches, fans

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

"Huuuhhhhhhh!!!" That chant — heard every time sophomore running back Robert Hughes carries the ball — has bellowed from the student section 35 times this season, and Hughes has been listening each time.

"I definitely like it, just to get the crowd into it, to know they're having fun in the stands," Hughes said Tuesday after practice. "It's entertainment and I appreciate the fans getting behind it and it definitely helps the offensive line. They get behind it and it helps me run better, it motivates me."

But coming into the season, it was hard to tell how many times the students would get to yell that chant. Hughes, a powerful runner who's rushed for 139 yards in two games, is one of three running backs the Irish use. The other two, sophomore Armando Allen, more of a speed back, and junior James Haywood said.

"Hughes is also called upon. Against Michigan, Hughes scored twice on short touchdown runs. So will the goal line one day become Robert Hughes' territory?"

"I wouldn't say that," Hughes said. "I'd say it's Notre Dame's territory. Because our goal is to get the ball in the end zone every time we're inside the 20-yard line. Your mentality is always score, no matter where you are on the field, you want to score. Whether you drive the ball in 13 plays or one play, you have to score."

Even if hp doesn't get the majority of carries every game, the coaching staff has shown that it trusts Hughes to shoulder a high percentage of the workload in the backfield, something he's worked hard for since coming to Notre Dame from Hubbard High in Chicago.

"I rely more on just my eyes and making the right reads and the right cuts," Hughes said. "In high school, it was all instincts. Now, the game has changed. You have to use proper technique, you have to lower your pad level."

"Lowering his pad level has been a constant point of emphasis for Hughes. All of the power he generates when he runs could be negated if he lowers straight up, allowing a defender to easily send him backwards. But by working to lower his pad level, Hughes has tried to use that power to gain yardage after contact."

"If you've worked on finishing runs and lowering your pad level, I worked on it going into spring ball. I've tried to do it, but you can always get better at it," Hughes said. "You always want to make sure you're finishing through with positive yards. Those two or three yards are the difference between third and one and a touchdown.

"If Hughes can get those pads down, he can help Notre Dame by doing a little more of his favorite thing.

"Getting points on the board," he said.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Gameplanning will be easier, but stopping RB Ringer won't

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Going into last week's game against Michigan, the Irish defensive coaches had a lot of questions when game-planning from the quarterback to the new spread system. This week against Michigan State are a lot easier.

The Spartans boast what Irish head coach Charlie Weis called one of the best running backs in the country in Ivory Jones.

"You don't have to worry about whether or not they're going to take him out of the game plan, because that is not going to be the case," Weis said. "So you better bring your lunch pail with you because they're going to get behind those big linemen and hand him the ball and you'll have to stop him."

Ringer has been the Big Ten offensive player of the week the last two weeks, both wins for the Spartans. On the season, Ringer has already racked up 713 all-purpose yards and nine touchdowns, including 282 rushing yards and two scores against Florida Atlantic last weekend. The senior tailback also made the "Top Ten" list of goals for this week's game because he kinetics Ringer will be an integral part of the Michigan State offensive game-plan.

"You might stop [Ringer] a few times but that's not going to stop [Dantonio] from giving him the ball," Weis said.

"Ringer's individual performance made the team's "Top Ten" list of goals for this week's game because he kinetics Ringer will be an integral part of the Michigan State offensive game-plan."

"You might stop (Ringer) a few times but that's not going to stop (Dantonio) from giving him the ball," Weis said.

"It's the toughness, it's the attention to detail, it's the confidence, it's the work ethic [that set him apart]," Dantonio said Saturday in his post-game news conference. "When you have a tough opponent like that, they know you're running the football, so for him to get the ball and for him to sort of control the game in moments was impressive. It's not like it's the type of person he is."

Weis said Ringer's individual performance made the team's "Top Ten" list of goals for this week's game because he kinetics Ringer will be an integral part of the Michigan State offensive game-plan.

"You might stop [Ringer] a few times but that's not going to stop [Dantonio] from giving him the ball," Weis said.

"Ringer has been the thorn in Notre Dame's side throughout his career at Michigan State. During last year's 31-14 Spartan win at Notre Dame Stadium, he carried the ball 26 times for 144 times, but the Irish kept him out of the end zone. However, Michigan State used his and then-senior running back Jehu Caulker's 20 carries for 83 yards to set up the passing attack."

In that game, quarterback Brian Hoyer had mediocre numbers (only 2 of 24 for 135 yards and one pick), but also connected with receivers for four passing touchdowns.

Hoyer, now a senior who has started all three of Michigan State's games this season, continues to have below-average numbers. The 6-foot-3 quarterback has completed only 44 percent of his passes (33-of-75) for 557, one touchdown and two interceptions. Last Saturday against FAU, he only went 5-of-15 passing for 88 yards and a pick.

But Weis said that despite the numbers Hoyer has improved since taking over for former Spartans quarterback Drew Stanton last season.

"Now he's got a year under his belt, and he looks like a much more competent quarterback than when he first took over, I think he's done a really nice job," Weis said.

Weis also said Hoyer has the talent to be a top-tier quarterback, but hasn't had to because of Ringer's spectacular season thus far.

"If anyone could kind of stifle [Ringer] at all, I'd still think they'd feel confident enough that Hoyer can make enough plays to win for them," Weis said.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@nd.edu
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