**Leaders discuss building credibility**

Panelists argue Central American democracies risk losing structure in face of problems

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

Panelists participating in a Kellogg Institute-sponsored discussion of “The Future of Democracy in Central America” agreed Central American democracies risk losing their governmental structure if they do not do something to improve their credibility.

Building credibility in government is not something that can be achieved instantly, according to panelist Ricardo Maduro Joest, who was president of Honduras from 2002 to 2006.

During his presidency, he fought frequently with the nation’s teachers in his quest to improve the nation’s education. In negotiations with the teachers, Maduro said that “more often than not, we had to go find Cardinal Rodriguez” to verify the fairness of an agreement "because they didn’t believe in anyone else." He also said: “Who can we believe in? What can we fall back on?”

Are some of the questions that people ask when they feel that their government is not trustworthy, according to Maduro.

Maduro expressed frustration that their government is not trusted by anyone.

**Groups hope Obama will close Gitmo**

Students argue new administration should prioritize ending human rights violations

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

A month before the presidential election, senior Catherine McKinney stood on South Quad beside a makeshift prison in an orange jumpsuit, protesting the existence of the Guantanamo Bay detention center and asking people to sign petitions urging its closure.

Now, with President-elect Barack Obama planning his transition to the White House, McKinney is hoping the Obama administration’s Guantanamo policy will be “significantly different” from President Bush’s. McKinney, the president of Human Rights-ND, said she is in the process of analyzing Obama’s plans to see what will actually happen once he takes office.

“It’s going to be a priority of ours to make human rights a priority of the new Obama administration,” she said.

McKinney acknowledged that the new president will be confronted with many other problems, but said she thinks closing Guantanamo Bay will be allocated the highest priority.

**Disability seminar hosts art show**

Students team up with Logan Center as part of course project

By JOSEPH MCMAHON
Assistant News Editor

Students in the College of Arts and Letters Disability seminar hosted “Art from the Heart,” a showcase of paintings and photographs by the disabled clients of the Logan Center, Thursday evening in O’Shaughnessy Hall.

Professor Essaka Joshua said his 16 students had to design a project with the clients of the Logan Center as a course requirement.

“It’s developed as a project which is part of the assessment for the college seminar on disability,” she said.

Students gather on South Quad to protest the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and to gather petition signatures.

**Syracuse game to be sustainable**

Contest will be first carbon neutral event

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Notre Dame is bringing a green theme to one of its most treasured traditions — a football Saturday. This weekend’s football game will be the University’s first ever carbon neutral game.

There are various aspects of the game that produce carbon emissions,” Rachel Novick, education and outreach coordinator at the Office of Sustainability, said. She said things like lighting, fan travel and gameday waste are examples of activities that produce carbon emissions.

This weekend, the Office of Sustainability will make the game carbon neutral by using efficiency projects that reduce carbon emissions to offset the emissions normally produced at a game.

Various projects throughout the year have increased efficiency and reduced carbon emissions, and those reductions will be allocated towards making the game carbon neutral.

Novick cited the student-initiated gameday recycling project as a major contributor to reducing carbon emissions.

“Recycling really saves a lot of energy,” she said. “Probably the most extreme case is that of an aluminum can. It takes 95 percent more energy to make a new aluminum can — see GREEN/page 8

**Seniors prepare for final home game**

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Tomorrow’s matchup against Syracuse marks the last home game of the 2008 football season, leading Notre Dame’s senior to reflect on their time at the University.

Senior Laura Schwartz said most seniors would consider the 2005 game against USC the best they saw while sitting in the student section.

“You’d be hard pressed to find a senior who doesn’t say the USC game,” said Laura Schwartz. "That's the most extreme case and is the knowledge that you only have a few.”

Senior Kadeja Gaines said she into the end zone to score a last second touchdown.

Senior Tim Champlin agreed about the USC game, adding he was one of the students who pre­maturely rushed the field.

"USC got the touchdown, but by that time I was already twenty rows down behind for the field," Champlin said.

When he felt about the end of his final football season, Champlin said he felt sad.

"It's pretty nostalgic and a little sad," Champlin said. "But I realiz­e that part of what makes a game in the student section spe­cial is the knowledge that you only have a few.”

Senior Kadeja Gaines said she see GAME/page 8

Students from the Disability seminar pose for a picture in the O'Shaughnessy's Great Hall, where the art show was held.

Students team up with Logan Center as part of course project
INSIDE COLUMN

**Christmas is here soon**

I love Christmas. I mean, who doesn’t? However, I love Thanksgiving more and it makes me sad that it has become Christmas season halflife. Christmas songs have already taken over the radio, Christmas staff are beginning to play on the television, and we have all seen the holiday aisles in the stores. So, when did this happen? It confuses me how every year people complain about the early onslaught of Christmas, yet every year it comes sooner and sooner.

I think the first, and most annoying of the early holiday strikes, is the music. There are already whole stations devoted to the cheery tunes. Christmas music, no matter how happy it makes me, gets old. Too much of anything is not good, and that will often be returned. I can even take it all day Christmas Eve, but to hear Jingle Bells before the turkey hits the table is just too much for me.

My next grievance with the early attack of Christmas décor is the holiday items that go up in the stores as soon as Halloween costumes are taken down. As a matter of fact, I was shopping for a costume and I ran into three aisles of outdoor Christmas lights. I couldn’t believe it. We all complain every year that Santa Claus starts popping up sooner and sooner, but every year I hold out hope that there has to be a limit. Clearly, stores want to make as much money as possible, but how much of these things are they really selling in October? I don’t know what worries me more, the fact that they think we will buy decorations so early, or that we actually are buying them and that is why they are already out.

Lastly, are Christmas commercials. They infiltrate the networks earlier and earlier each year, not to be outdone by their fellow mediums. Advertising companies solicit us to subdue our love for the public. Hefreshments, food, contests, and shopping at the supermarket.

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

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharnley@stmarys.edu

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**QUESTION OF THE DAY:** JET-PUFFED OR GENERIC MARSHMALLOWS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Bach</td>
<td>senior off-campus</td>
<td>“Jet-Puffed, because Notre Dame is all about tradition.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethany O’Connor</td>
<td>senior off-campus</td>
<td>“Generic, because you’re going to throw them away anyways.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Heintz</td>
<td>senior St. Edwards</td>
<td>“Generic – more will fit in my flask.”</td>
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<td>Kevin Sonn</td>
<td>senior Alumni</td>
<td>“I’m not bringing any marshmallows.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Oakley</td>
<td>senior off-campus</td>
<td>“Lucky charms, taste the rainbow...”</td>
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**#OFFBEAT**

**Sky-high birth on Finnair flight at 11,000 meters**

HELNSINKI, Finland — Finnair says a Swedish woman gave birth to a girl 11,000 meters over Kazakhstan on a flight from Bangkok to Helsinki.

The Finnish national carrier’s spokeswoman Christer Haglund says mother and baby are fine.

They were met at the airport by a medical team.

Two doctors and two nurses were among the 227 passengers on the 11-hour flight aboard the MD-11 aircraft.

They assisted the birth Thursday with the aid of a satellite link to a medical service.

It was the first time a baby had been born on a Finnair flight.

Haglund said the airline will give the family return tickets to Bangkok.

Iowa zoo manages to recapture a flamingo

Iowa, lowa — An Iowa zoo has recaptured a flamingo that flew over a Des Moines neighborhood, a golf course and the entire zoo during a seven-hour freedom flight.

Blank Park Zoo workers clipped the adult Chilean flamingo’s wings a second time after it was recaptured.

The zoo’s flamingos usually don’t fly because their wings have been clipped.

However, zoo spokesman Terry Rich says the birds can molt and regrow those feathers, enabling them to fly.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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**INSIDE COLUMN**

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**CORRECTIONS**

The Observer regrets as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times.

We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-651 so we can correct our error.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Notre Dame Women’s Soccer will compete against Minnesota in the NCAA Fourth Round Tournament today at 7:30 p.m. on Alumni Field.**

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony for Harper Hall, the new home of expanded medical and cancer research initiatives at the Indiana University School of Medicine — South Bend and Notre Dame, today at 10 a.m. adjacent to Raclin-Carmichael Hall on the corner of Angela Boulevard and Notre Dame Avenue.

The Graduate Student Union will be holding a Graduate Research Symposium from 3-5 p.m. today on the second floor of McKenna Hall. It is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Student Life is having an event called FlipSide: Meijer Madness today at 9:45 p.m. Students who would like to participate need to meet at Library Circle. It is a free scavenger hunt, food, contests, and shopping at the supermarket.

Arts and Entertainment is going to have a concert with the Anonymous 4: “Long Time Traveling” on Sunday at 2 p.m. in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $33 for general admission and $15 for students.

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

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**WEEKLY WEATHER**

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<td>MONDAY</td>
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<td>TUESDAY</td>
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Forum addresses food service issues
Saint Mary's dining hall general manager answers student questions

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

Barry Bowles, general manager of Sodexo at Saint Mary's College, invited students to come ask questions and make comments about food services at an open forum held Thursday night in the Student Center.

"First things first, we are a contract food service company. We don't work for the College, per say ... We work for a company called Sodexho," Bowles said.

Sodexo is the second largest food service in the United States and Saint Mary's is a client of the company, he said.

One of the largest issues addressed was the lack of communication between students and the dining hall. The company is working on ways of improving this problem, Bowles said.

"One thing I want to point out, food services are probably one of the worst ones on campus on getting the word out," Bowles said.

In order to improve the communication problem, Karen Johnson, Vice President of Student Affairs, suggested adding updates on the student homepage. This would allow students to know when popular menu items will be served in the dining hall daily.

Executive chef, Ken Aesta, said it was hard to determine what variety of food to offer.

"We don't really know what everybody wants, but we get the varieties out there so that everybody can put together what they want," Aesta said.

Although the dining hall cannot accommodate everyone, Bowles said the opportunity for variety is there if students get creative with it.

"If you ask, they should be able to get it for you," Bowles said.

The issue of communication again was addressed because students do not know all the services available to them in the dining hall. For instance, at the grill, hamburgers are served, but students can ask for grilled fish or chicken as well.

Bowles also addressed the boycott that was held against the dining hall in mid-October of this year. Two students anonymously slid fliers under the doors of student rooms calling for students to not eat in the dining hall.

"What hurt me more than anything is that I did not know," Bowles said.

He stressed his open-door policy for student concerns and issues and that comment cards are available to students.

"Feedback is feedback. It can only make things better." — Barry Bowles

A general manager

Sodexo

"Feedback is feedback. It can only make things better." — Barry Bowles

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Rescue plan for auto industries collapses

The Observer • NEWS page 3

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Graduate students present research

By EMMA DRISCOLL

Students curious to learn about the different types of research Notre Dame’s wide variety of graduate students perform may enjoy the First Graduate Research Symposium today on the second floor of O’Shaughnessy Hall from 3 to 5 p.m.

“The Graduate Research Symposium has two goals. One is to provide graduate students with a professional development opportunity, the second is to highlight the kind of work that our graduate students do in the University,” Caitlyn Shea, Grad Student Union co-vice president and Ph.D. candidate in Civil Engineering, said. Shea said presenting and communicating research is a ‘primary goal’ of graduate students. But it is not uncommon for graduate students to not know what other graduate students are studying.

“Many different specific disciplines or departments will have their own research symposia,” Shea said. “This is the first one that encompasses all divisions of the graduate studies.

The Graduate Research Symposium will seek to remedy this by creating a forum for graduate student to discuss their work with others who are interested.

The goal is to provide an opportunity for graduate students, faculty, undergraduates or graduate students to learn what graduate students do,” Shea said.

Shea said since many graduate students are “largely unaware” of what their fellow graduate students are studying, it is likely that the rest of the Notre Dame community is also unaware.

“It’s not unexpected that the rest of the University community would not know about some of the exciting and innovative projects going on around campus,” she said.

Undergraduate students can also attend the symposium to learn more about possible research areas that they could pursue in graduate school, according to Shea, particularly since she said University President Fr. John Jenkins encourages undergraduates so consider attending graduate school.

Presenters competed to be part of the symposium. A total of seventy-seven graduate students submitted abstracts of their research in hope of being presenters at the symposium. Twenty-seven students were selected, and each will display their poster to present their research at the symposium.

“It’s kind of an informal environment,” Shea said.

Guests will be able to walk around and see the posters describing the various research projects. This structure gives visitors the opportunity to be flexible with their schedules and choose to learn about the research that most interests them, Shea said.

Students will present research in the divisions of Sciences, Social Sciences, Engineering and Humanities. There will also be a division for the 2008 Notre Dame Forum topic of Sustainable Energy. One winner in each division will receive a prize of $500.

Each division has a panel of judges and will have judges from the administration, faculty and students, Shea said.

The Graduate Research Symposium is open to the public and will be held in conjunction with the meeting for the Graduate School Advisory Council, Shea said.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscoll@nd.edu

Crafts sale helps developing nations

Local fair trade store selling goods from artisans all around the world

By SARAH MAYER

If you’re looking to get ahead on your Christmas shopping and support a good cause in the process, stop by O’Shaughnessy Hall, where fairly traded crafts made by artisans in developing nations are being sold from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today.

Ten Thousand Villages, a local fair trade store, works with 66,000 artisans from 36 different countries, said assistant manager Cheryl Schairer, creating a “long-term relationship” with artisans so that they can have a sustainable income to provide for their families.

Schairer said Ten Thousand Villages is unique in that they pay artisans fair wages before their products are sold, and then “it’s up to us to sell it.”

“Unlike most other companies that send money back if the product sells,” she said.

Ten Thousand Villages is selling its products in honor of International Student Week, including a tea light made by industrial design professor Ann-Marie Conrado.

Conrado designed her product—a small copper tea light shaped like a lotus flower— in 2003 in Nepal. It is designed to float in water, such as in a pool. Because it is made of copper, “you’ll have this wond­erful greenish tint” that comes to resemble the flower the longer it stays in the water, Conrado said.

Conrado’s product alone has helped to revive the dying copper industry in Nepal and since the creation of her product, the employment in the copper industry in Tansen-Palpa, Nepal has increased dramatically, she said.

“It has quadrupled in size just based on the orders of that tealight,” Conrado said.

Conrado receives no profit, and said she does this because she wants to “use design to help support other people.”

In addition to Conrado’s tealight, the Ten Thousand Village stand in O’Shaughnessy Hall is selling an array of handmade crafts, including chocolate and coffee made from fairly traded beans, teapots, soap, scarves, wooden sculptures, plates made of recycled magazines, and jewelry.

Jewelry has been one of the best sellers at Notre Dame, assistant manager Cheryl Schairer said.

Conrado said that another factor that helps to buy fair trade products is coming up on Dec. 5 in Baslin Hall.

“We are going to be doing A Conscious Christmas. There will be products for sale that were actually designed by ND students,” she said.

Contact Sarah Mayer at smayer01@saintmarys.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Copernicus’s remains found in Poland
WAHSAW — Researchers said Thursday they have identified the remains of Nicolaus Copernicus by comparing DNA from a skeleton found in Poland with some retrieved from one of the 16th-century astronomer’s books.

The findings could put an end to centuries of speculation about the exact resting spot of Copernicus, a priest and astronomer whose theories identified the Sun, not the Earth, as the center of the universe.

Polish archaeologist Jerzy Gassowski told a news conference that forensic facial reconstruction of the skull, missing the lower jaw, and hair retrieved from one of the 16th-century astronomer’s books.

The reconstruction shows a broken nose and other features that resemble a self-portrait of Copernicus, and the skull bears a cut mark above the left eye that corresponds with a scar shown in the painting.

U.N. agrees to send troops to Congo
PITTSBURG — The U.N. Security Council unanimously agreed Thursday to send 3,100 more peacekeeping troops to Congo, where rebels said they remain committed to a pullback from the front lines despite an army attack.

British Ambassador John Sawers said the 15-nation council wants to help contributing nations “as best we can in getting troops on the ground rapidly” once they decide to help out.

“Exactly how many weeks it will be, it’s not clear. This is a matter of urgency,” Sawers said.

Countries have not worked out yet who will contribute the additional troops and police.

NATIONAL NEWS

Woman accused of killing FBI agent
PITTSBURG — A judge denied bail Thursday on an arrest warrant of killing an FBI agent during a drug raid that led to her husband’s arrest on cocaine-dealing charges.

Christina Korbe, 40, was arrested early Thursday on a homicide charge in the shooting death of Special Agent Sam Hicks on Wednesday.

Korbe told investigators she thought her husband was being burglarized and that she was shooting at an intruder.

Hicks and other law enforcement officers were there to serve a warrant of killing a drug dealer.

Christina Korbe called 911 during the raid and said her husband had been shot.

Doctors Without Borders in areas of pockets of pockets of pockets of Haiti access that people are facing is the same situation we’re also facing, said Christina Korbe.

Syrian arms dealer convicted
NEW YORK — A wealthy arms dealer long suspected of supplying weapons in some of the world’s bloodiest conflicts was convicted Thursday of conspiring to sell weapons to terrorists.

The conviction of Syria-based arms dealer Abdulhamid Al-Mansour came after a trial in which the government was able to present evidence that he had supplied arms to terrorist groups in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Local News

Bookkeeper sentenced to house arrest
CROWN POINT, Ind. — A former bookkeeper has been sentenced to a year in prison for stealing more than $200,000 from the Merrillville clerk-treasurer’s office.

Sixty-eight-year-old Rosemary Barath admitted Thursday in court that her gambling addiction had led to thefts. Barath pleaded guilty to felony charges of theft and official misconduct as part of a deal with Lake County prosecutors.

She was sentenced to a year in prison and ordered to pay $229,749.46 restitution.

Police close case on chairman’s death
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — City and state police have closed their investigations into last summer’s shooting of Arkansas’ Democratic Party chairman without offering an explanation for why they stopped their searches.

Bill Gwatney died Aug. 13 after being shot three times by a man who lost his job at a Target store that morning.

The shooter, Timothy Dale Johnson, was convicted in Grant County, where he was shot and killed after attacking a store manager.

A police report said an autopsy found Eflorox, an antidepressant, in Johnson’s blood. Investigators said the drug may have played a part in his “irrational and violent behavior.”

Autopsy results said Gwatney died from a shot to the head. Johnson was shot six times.

“I wish there was a conclusion, but there wasn’t,” said Lt. Terry Hastings, a police spokesman.

Authorities discovered a note with a telephone number and the word “Gwatney” on it in Johnson’s home, but the report found that it was a telephone number for Gwatney Towing Company in Jacksonville.

The FBI also reviewed the history of Johnson’s computer, and found that he visited Wikipedia, Yahoo and news sites the day before the shooting.

Johnson also visited the Web site of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms that day, the report said.

The 98-page report says police searched through electronic and paper files and documents, but never turned up Gwatney owned three General Motors car dealerships and was a state senator for 10 years before becoming the state’s Democratic chairman last year.

A separate report released Thursday by Arkansas State Police found that the officers who fatally shot Johnson acted properly. Prosecutor Eddie Easley said no criminal charges would be filed in connection with Johnson’s death.
continued from page 1

citizen with country's inability to
trust a democratic govern-
ment that he felt was trust-
worthy.

"The fact is, you don't build credible institutions overnight," Maduro said. "You need to change certain things for a long time and create credible institutions."

Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States Arturo Cruz said credibility is a major problem in Central American democracies. He attributes much of this to the government's inability to balance meeting people's immediate needs with planning for the future.

"Sometimes, I wonder how you govern a type of society that is always overwhelmed by the need of the people," Cruz said. "There's a fundamental problem with promising the people things and not dealing with the present, especially in a society in which 79 percent of the population lives on less than a dollar a day," Cruz said.

Cruz said, in such impoverished societies, government leaders are often looking for short-term, fill-promising solutions for the future when people are concerned about being able to find dinner.

"How do you manage expecta-
tions?" Cruz asked. "If you are patient, and let the market function, you are close to the future. But the future isn't coming yet...if we pretend to govern as we wish it to be, we have chaos and breakdown."

Cruz said that the best way to deal with this problem is by what he called "responsi-
bility-oriented consensus building," unlike the "structural Adjustment and CAFTA."

Otilo Solís, a former presidential candidate of the Citizens Action Party in Costa Rica, attributes much of his country's problems to the negative impacts of free trade agreements.

These agreements, according to Cruz, neglected an "oriented consensus building," while instead pursing "outward secret acts, like in the case of Structural Adjustment and CAFTA."

Solís also denounced corruption in c.c.s. "Decentralization of power and accountability in popular practices" are areas in which better policies are nec-
essary, according to Solís.

"People are used," he said. "Perhaps the worst country in this is my own country, Costa Rica."

Because the governments are weak, the issue of advantage of the people, according to Cruz, the whole system of democracy is called into ques-
tion.

"Will the governance weaknesses continue to be blamed on the institutions of democ-
archy?" Cruz asked.

"They have weakened democracy," Solís said. "Costa Rica is the worst case. More people think it would be bet-

ter to have a dictatorship because some people have talked against the very insti-

tutions that they have." Cruz

In spite of all the corrup-
tion, the panelists agree that there is hope for Central American democracies.

Solís attributes this hope a predicted return of "more pragmatic policies" under the incoming administration of President Barack Obama. "We are still h o p e f u l because of the A merica n e n v i r o n m e n t, growing prac-

tices of market introduction and "the fear of new populist leaders elected" in Central America.

Central American democracies have also not been without success, according to Cruz.

"We have finally had — my God, especially in my country — some level of peace," Cruz said.

"We're also having great statistics when it comes to crime," he said.

A third achievement of the Nicaraguan democracy is the equitable system, but that electorate system could begin to be somewhat problematic, according to Cruz.

"Since 1990, Nicaragua has citizens that can change government without killing or dying," he said.

Similar participation in the democratic system is essential in Honduras, according to Maduro.

"What can keep us from extremes?" For the only way to do it is to delegate more," he said.

Under the current Honduran government, citizens are scared to participate in democracy.

"Now we're being persecu-
ed if we have an opinion and speak out," he said. "How do we get back so people are willing to partici-
pate?"

Contact John Tierney at jtmetz@nd.edu.
**Market Recap**

**Stocks**

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### In Brief

**Black Friday sales may disappoint**

NEW YORK — After pushing steep discounts throughout November that are usually reserved for the day after Thanksgiving, retailers from Kohl’s to Toys "R" Us are offering even bigger cuts and promotions for Black Friday in a frantic bid to pull in shoppers.

By far the biggest bargains turning up for the early morning specials on toys and TVs are not expected to be found with the same gusto as a year ago, as they fret about tightening credit, massive layoffs and shrinking retirement funds.

Not to mention that consumers are already jaded by all those "60 percent off" signs plastered across storefronts. Analysts say shoppers may stick to smaller gifts like cosmetics rather than $1,000 flat-panel TVs in a holiday season expected to be the weakest in decades.

Another concern? There aren’t any must-haves so far, even in toys — though some items have been popular, such as Spin Master Ltd.’s Bakugan.

### Congress aims for "greener" legislation

WASHINGTON — Democrats steered the Capitol to a bruising intraparty fight.

The switch could help President-elect Barack Obama’s party, capping a bruising December through the House to keep unemployment checks flowing through the December holidays and into the new year for a million or more laid-off Americans whose benefits are running out.

The economic picture was only getting worse, with 1.2 million more jobs lost in November that are usually reserved for the day after Thanksgiving, retailers from Kohl’s to Toys "R" Us are offering even bigger cuts and promotions for Black Friday in a frantic bid to pull in shoppers.

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Another concern? There aren’t any must-haves so far, even in toys — though some items have been popular, such as Spin Master Ltd.’s Bakugan.

### Stocks tumble for second straight day

**New York — Stocks plunged for a second straight day Thursday, falling to levels not seen in at least five years as financial and energy stocks tumbled while demand for the safety of government debt spiked.**

**Stocks saw the most intense selling late in the session after hopes Tuesday that the government would quickly assemble an aid package for U.S. automakers and as Standard & Poor’s 500 index broke through lows established in 2003. That breaks the key technical threshold that sent a shudder through the market and touched off further selling.**

**The Standard & Poor’s 500 index fell 6.7 percent to its lowest close since April 1997. The Dow Jones industrial average, meanwhile, fell 445 points, or 5.6 percent, to its lowest close since March 2003. The decline brings the Dow’s two-day drop to 873 points, or 10.6 percent, its worst two-day percentage loss since October 1987.**

**Financial stocks plunged on worries that the government’s financial rescue won’t be sufficient to cover banks’ losses. Meanwhile, a sharp drop in oil prices weighed heavily on energy companies.**

**Thursday’s pullback came amid heavy volume, a welcome sign for some investors who are looking for the market to experience a cathartic sell-off that could lay the groundwork for a recovery. Heavier volume can signal investors are scared enough to sell rather than simply sit on the sidelines, which can result in relatively light volume. Observers said the selling highlighted the entrenched pessimism about the prospects for the economy.**

**Unrelenting gloom has taken over the markets,” said Dana Johnson, chief economist at Comerica Inc. “The economic news, the concerns about some major financial institutions, the concerns about the auto sector, earnings reports, everything is coming out in a way that is just provoking a massive selling in the stock market.”**

**“Back in October we were looking at a potential catastrophic meltdown of the credit markets, and that didn’t happen,” he said. “But that doesn’t mean tremendous damage hasn’t been done to the economy.”**
**Disability**

continued from page 1

Larson said, "It's a chance for the students to create, in partnership with the Logon Center, an event and a display of art." Joshua said the project allowed her students to see the importance art plays in the lives of people with disabilities. "It's a student project investigating how art impacts the lives of people with disabilities," she said. "What I wanted the students to do was to assume the idea of inclusive art in the context of the Logon Center. The idea was to put people with disabilities behind the cameras as well as in front of the cameras."

Logon Center community-based learning coordinator Nichole Maguire originally suggested the idea for the art show. "I geared them towards doing an art show because it's really cool to see the artwork for our clients and how they express themselves," Maguire said. "It's visually stimulating for the clients and it's also just fun. I like the idea of giving them a blank slate ... that way they can really be creative and express themselves." Joshua said the project was to closely interact with the clients and was mutually rewarding. "Once we started talking to the clients and saw how excited they were for it we knew it was definitely a good idea," he said.

Deska said he was often surprised by how many of the photographs were of high quality, and he said it was hard to decide which images were the best. "There was one role where there was only one picture that was even usable, but there were some where it was hard to single out one as the best," he said.

Sophomore Casey Larkin said she was surprised by the creativity of some of the clients she worked with, who took pictures around the Logon Center with disposable cameras. "We just kind of wandered around Logon Center and told them to take pictures of anything they liked the idea of giving them a blank slate ... that way they can really be creative and express themselves," Joshua said. Some of the clients had amazing artistic vision and were able to find amazing pictures. "They had better eyes than I did. There were some where I was thinking, 'Why would you take a picture of that?' And they see you it and you think, 'Oh my goodness,'" she said. Joshua said it was important for her students to become integrated into the work of the Logon Center clients, and the project helped teach them many valuable lessons about working with people with disabilities.

"The clients at the Logon Center did their own compositions and they've been going through classes learning how to hold cameras, and I think students were excited to be involved in that because it's a service placement and they're learning about the mechanics of charitable organizations and project management," she said.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmaho6@nd.edu

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**Game**

continued from page 1

believes the Fighting Irish will be able to win tomorrow. "I think we will win," Gaines said. "Hopefully winning will give us a better chance of going to a bowl game." Gaines, who works for Notre Dame's recruiting department, has had some unique memories over the years thanks to her job.

"My favorite was seeing Notre Dame students doing push-ups with recruits five times their size," Gaines said.

For Schwartz, a highlight of the game will be seeing all of the senior football players getting a chance to play. "I'm really excited that it's senior day," Schwartz said. "It'll be fun to see my classmates get a chance to contribute to the game." Champin is excited for the marshmallow fights that take place in the senior section during the final home game. "I just want to let the ushers know that if they do see me throwing marshmallows I'm just returning them to their rightful owners," Champin joked. "Please don't throw me out. I'd probably start crying and make a scene." Gaines will miss the end of football games in the student section. "Notre Dame football has become such a part of our lives here and it's going to be really weird not having it in our lives," Gaines said.

Syracuse, who is 2-8 this season, is coming into the game off a 39-14 loss to Connecticut. Syracuse recently fired head coach Greg Robinson. However, he will finish out the season before stepping down.

The game will take off at 2:30 p.m. A pep rally will be held tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

Contact Irena Zajkova at inajkova@nd.edu

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**SYRACUSE PEP RALLY**

6:00 pm - Senior Night

WEAR GREEN in support of NBC's annual "Green Week" and efforts to Green ND

Seniors can enter Gates® at 5:30 pm to line up at the front of the line.

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Notre Dame students are often called apathetic when it comes to their awareness of the goings-on on their campus and in the world. Talk of "the bubble" aside, students on this campus are busy people with busy lives, and that preoccupation can translate to a lack of involvement on the part of those students when it comes to campus organizations or events.

Without dwelling too much on the stereotype, it's safe to say that it's an ongoing task for those planning these campus events to get students involved.

Which is why Bob Reish, Grant Schmidt, the Academic Affairs Committee and Student Government deserve praise for the very successful beginning to their "Last Lecture" series, a featured lecture by Anthropology professor James McKenna.

The "Last Lecture" concept — asking professors and faculty to give a hypothetical final lecture on what matters most to them — is not new. It garnered nationwide attention in 2007 when Randy Pausch, a professor of computer science and design at Carnegie Mellon, gave a similar lecture titled "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams." Pausch had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer a year prior, and his message and lecture have since been published and inspired a nationwide audience.

This year, the Reish-Schmidt administration decided to bring the Last Lecture series to Notre Dame. Through polling and surveys, one name repeatedly came up: Professor McKenna, the University's Edmund P. Joyce C.S.C. chair in Anthropology and an expert in mother-child co-sleeping and primate behavior.

This feeling was reflected in the high attendance at McKenna's "Last Lecture" on Nov. 12. Students crammed into the Coleman-Morse lounge, most standing and crouching to see and hear McKenna's lecture. Some students were unable to stay and listen, due to a lack of space.

The choice in venue would have encouraged a more intimate setting for the lecture, an idea which has merit. However, with the high level of attendance, it was impractical and cramped.

Student Government should be encouraged for the stellar attendance levels at the first event in the "Last Lecture" series. It's clear proof that no matter how apathetic students may appear to be, their attention can be successfully grabbed by compelling events and speakers. Planning the lecture series took initiative and creativity, and that spirit should continue in other Student Government efforts as the academic year continues.

We also want to encourage the student body to continue to support the efforts of Student Government by attending these types of events when they're offered each semester. The best way to break the apathetic stereotype is to pop the bubble yourselves.
Giving thanks for the cathedral steps

On any evening in Washington, D.C., when you walk a few blocks north of the White House to the Connecticut Avenue side of the Cathedral of St. Matthew, you may notice a lump inconspicuously tucked away to the right of the main doors on the top of the cathedral steps. At times, especially after drizzle, it is difficult to see since the lump blends into the shadows of the evening. During the summer, the lump takes on the outline of a cardboard square — or it is running, a large black open umbrella. Other times, including now with sub-zero degree weather, the lump is completely wrapped in a black sleeping bag.

Having served as a lector at St. Matthew's Cathedral for nearly two decades, I cannot recall a time when the lump was not at the top of our cathedral steps. While last summer, our priest reminded us that cathedrals were made so that no one could meet the congregation, I did not obviously think of the woman who forms that daily lump. Yet, for some unknown reason this year, I regularly think of her, and especially now as we approach Thanksgiving week. Does she give thanks for anything other than the reliable step upon which she seeks her nightly solace?

To see the woman in person, the average visitor at the cathedral would not know that she was homeless. She is tall and carries herself in a stonier manner. Her clothes are clean. Her makeup immaculate and applied with bright red lips. She always wears a black dress, and her black hair is pulled back but has a large white streak which reminds me of the bride of Frankenstein. Most notably, though, her constant pacing on the top step or inside the cathedral reveals some personal uneasiness.

While I do not know her name, she assists the staff whenever the cathedral is open. She will replace the booklets in the pew holders and even stack the books at the main entrance. When I directly pass her, she nods slowly without saying a word. I sometimes watch her walk past my home, which is located four blocks from the cathedral. I imagine that she uses some facility nearby to groom herself, but I am at a loss to discover where that may be.

Recently, I thought of her when I was in the Cathedral Club located next door to the Democratic National Committee Headquarters building. It was karaoke evening when several congressional staff and a few congressional wives belted out tunes to the cheers and applause of the crowd. Television commentator Donna Brazile and campaign wizard Joe Trippi were among several congressional representatives and a European ambassador who were enjoying the amateur entertainment. Surely, none of us were ever curled up in a lump at the top of cathedral stairs.

Yet while sitting among these seemingly carefree, materially wealthy and nationally famous personalities, it struck me that everyone needs some type of safe place in life. I wondered to myself how many of the people around me are Ebenezer Scrooge whose life revolves around the security of a dollar. With all of the status and power in the room, I also imagined how many of us are not only but.

For my entire adult life, Thanksgiving has always been a trip over the Potomac River and through the woods of suburban Pennsylvania. I am at home with family. For most who attended karaoke night, that is considered the ultimate Thanksgiving. But with my parents now both passed on, my dog, Peso, and I will remain in the nation's capital next week to enjoy the annual turkey tour at the White House for one last glimpse of the Oval Office before the new president redecorates. It is a time killer like the Notre Dame — USC game will be the previous year.

Thanksgiving this year is not about bounty, friends or family for me. This Thanksgiving will be my own — a personal experience replete with introspection and solitude. Ironically, I will think about how in many ways, the top of the cathedral steps is an extremely lonely place.

And in my mind, I will search for my private set of cathedral stairs upon which I can find the comfort and stability that represent home to me. To all in the Notre Dame community and beyond, the best of holiday wishes from Peso and me.

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

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

What's with all the hate? It took guts for Melissa (“The hook-up culture,” Nov. 19) to come out and talk about something that so many girls refuse to acknowledge: she's kissed a few boys. Most girls I know are so uptight about discussing anything even related to sex with a guy that it is a breath of fresh air to hear a girl admit that she's kissed someone before, let alone yelling it in the entire campus. If she had told me this personally, I would have given her a happy-sad smile and said “yes, girl!”

Too many guys have such an awful view of hook-ups just because you kiss someone — or even do something more — doesn't mean you can't treat them like a person afterwards. I believe that Melissa should have dropped an anonymous letter (and I suspect that her very public announcement isn't the girls I've hooked-up with - or, probably more common, struck out with - there have definitely been more than a few that just refused to even seek something as simple as a friendly acquaintance.

I remember the second week I was here, I kissed a girl on a bench. It was nothing too big, and I proceed to spend the rest of the night babysitting her “friend” - read drunk ball elephant - before walking her and the baby Deo to a taxi. After multiple unspended toasts over the course of a week, I saw her again at Flackers. I talked to her a bit, and I walked with her and her friends to Blinkys. She hasn't talked to me since, and that's not for my lack of trying. I think that Notre Dame has a huge problem with hookups: people take things way too seriously. College is a time when thousands of young singles — many of whom are just starting to explore their sexuality — live basically as next-door neighbors. Obviously, some sparks are going to fly, some start fires that burn, some for an hour (or if you're from Fisher, as long as she needs it).

People hooking-up is a healthy, natural part of life — don't swear off it, get jiggy with it — but that does not excuse disregarding people's feelings afterwards. Whether it is a guy or girl, no one enjoys another person avoiding them and pretending not to know them. It is true that most people who hook-up will not become b.f.s.; however, a simple wave at a friend and a while never killed anyone. At least not yet.

In defense of Buddie

After reading the barrage of letters denouncing Melissa Buddie (“The hook-up culture,” Nov. 19) in yesterday's Viewpoint, I felt as though I would offer some words of encouragement.

Melissa — have made out with six guys this semester. I have not received much appreciated phone calls or lunch offers, nor even the curious poke on Facebook. And Melissa, if you think your lovely autumn stroll on South Quad are made awkward by your actions, eye contact with my former lovers is beyond awkward on so many levels.

Stay Strong Melissa! (And Easy!) Sincerely, Dan Komma

A product of the system

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JORDAN GAMBLE
Scene Writer
A forgotten piece of Notre Dame legend returns to campus tonight.
Out of print for years, the 1931 film "The Spirit of Notre Dame" was eclipsed by 1940's "Knute Rockne-All-American" and 1993's "Rudy." Even the most observant Notre Dame fans haven't seen it or even know it exists. Knute Rockne III, the grandson of the legendary coach, hopes that will change after this Friday, when "The Spirit of Notre Dame" screens at the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 7 pm and 9:30 pm. Tickets are $3 for students and $5 for faculty and staff.
"I think it's a great idea they're re-introducing this," Rockne III said in a telephone interview from his home in Utah. "It leads to the history and mystique of Notre Dame. I hope that every time they show it, it's a sellout crowd."
"The Spirit of Notre Dame" and the history of its production should be the stuff of legend.
"One of the tidbits about this movie is that this is the movie that killed my grandfather," said Rockne III. "When he was going to California, he was going to write this script and put it into production," and it was on that trip that Knute Rockne's plane crashed in Kansas.
The whole story can be found in Murray Sperber's book, "Shake Down the Thunder," Sperber, along with the help of University Archives, found letters from Knute Rockne to the University president. Rockne wrote that although the film's creators offered him $50,000 to portray himself in the movie, he had no intention of accepting the money.
"The only thing I thought perhaps there might be a chance to put out a picture that might be instructive and educational as regards Notre Dame in every sense of the word," Rockne wrote in a letter dated March 20, 1931, one day before he died.
Ted Mandell, a faculty member in the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre, said the University went ahead and allowed the film to be made, for the sake of Rockne's widow and in the hopes that it wouldn't hurt Rockne's original intent.
"This came out because of that (Rockne's) death. Universal rushed out this film, and it came out seven or six months later, kind of taking advantage of the tragedy," Mandell said.
Universal Studios took the commercial approach for the story, focusing on football more than the University would have liked. The story has a Rockne-esque coach butting heads with a George Gipp-esque player, with cameo appearances by none other than the original Four Horsemen.
"Notre Dame football players were these mythical characters. That's how the legend all began, and it still persists 70 years later," Mandell said. "The University is now very careful to not be known as a football school, which started all the way back in 1931 when it got taken advantage of by Hollywood with this film."
In his book, Sperber describes the film as "a sports potboiler exploiting the school's name."
But Rockne's grandson sees merit. "I think this movie really does go beyond football. Football is the vehicle by which the message and values of Notre Dame are shown," Rockne III thinks the movie is important because of, he says, "how it deals with the atmosphere and psychological makeup of Notre Dame in that particular period of time."
Christine Sopczynski, the outreach specialist at FIT, agrees with him. "The film itself isn't that strong" she said, "but it shows the football culture and what it was like. The film's screenwriter actually came and lived with the football players for a few weeks. From that perspective it's fascinating."
But just getting a copy of the film to show to any crowd has been a journey, said John Vickers, the Managing Director at the DPAC. The idea to resurrect "Spirit" came after the University announced its fundraising campaign also called "The Spirit of Notre Dame." But unlike the other Notre Dame films, "Spirit" was not on DVD, video, or even in the university archives. With funding from the College of Arts and Letters, Vickers used his contacts in the film industry to track it down.
"I basically went to Universal Studios and convinced them that we should have a copy of one of their film titles here on campus. They took one of their negatives and struck a new print," he said.
That new $35 million print will be shown Friday night before finding a place in the Notre Dame library, and Vickers hopes other groups, such as alumni clubs across the country, give the film life outside of campus.
Rockne III, who will be at the screening Friday and will flip the coin to start the Syracuse game Saturday in honor of his grandfather, has high hopes for the future of "The Spirit of Notre Dame.
"I really hope that every student on campus goes to see it."

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu
Up for the Challenge

Underdog Keenan hopes to take down Undefeated Siegfried in the Interhall Football Championship this Sunday.
Siegfried running back Marcus Young, left, takes a handoff from quar­ terback Max Young during the Ramblers' semifinal win over Morrissey.

By SAM WERNER

Siegfried featured in ESPN.com story

"I really appreciate how he did that for us." Kevin Kelly, Siegfried captain

Gonzalez, who has carried the Knight offense on the ground with his powerful running game, will be inactive with a broken thumb. This will be the third time in his interhall career he will be inactive for the championship game with an injury. "It's a terrible feeling, but I just want to be able to motivate my team on the sidelines."
Welsh Fam looks to stay perfect vs. McGlinn

By RYAN O'CONNELL
Sports Writer

West Quad neighbors Welsh Family and McGlinn haven't played each other in more than three years, but the unfamiliarity will end Sunday when the teams face off in the Interhall Championship game.

"We haven't played them since my freshman year," Welsh Fam senior captain Jenni Gargula said. "We don't know what they look like as a team, but we never focus on who we play from week to week. We only focus on our game plan and playing our best.

This strategy has worked well for the Whirlwinds, who are currently undefeated. However, going undefeated, at least in the regular season, is nothing new for Welsh Fam.

"The past two years we've gone undefeated in the regular season," Gargula said. "Both our offense and defense are great. Anyone on our team is capable of making a big play. As far as our passing game, we spread the ball around. No one receiver has caught most of the passes. Also, our secondary has made a lot of interceptions. All our players are talented and anyone is capable of making big play."

McGlinn, on the other hand, overcame low expectations for the season to make it all the way undefeated and has been putting pressure on themselves and anyone else.

"I put pressure on myself every game to perform well. Even if we win and I don't play as well as I should have, I'm not happy about it."

Jenni Gargula
Welsh Fam captain

"I don't want us to have gone four years without getting a championship because we have been so successful," Gargula said. "It just doesn't feel right that we would end up with a h a m p i -

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

Welsh Fam quarterback Jenni Gargula runs with the ball during the Whirlwind's Oct. 3 win over Farley.

"I don't want us to have gone four years without getting a championship because we have been so successful," Gargula said.

"We've even set a new standard for ourselves. I think a lot of that pressure I put on myself as well. I have really high standards for myself. I feel pressure in every game, I put pressure on myself every game to perform well. Even if we win and I don't play as well as I should have, I'm not happy about it."

The time nears for the pressure to produce the desired results for Gargula, and no one on the Whirlwind team is about the specificity of the desired results.

Our goal has been to not only get to the championship, but definitely to win," Mulhern said. "We know what it feels like to go into the Stadium and lose. We don't want that feeling again," Gargula said. "We're looking to end our careers on a high note and finally get that elusive championship, which has been our entire focus this year.

When teammates old and new say things such as "We know what to expect of Jenni," and "Jenni is the center of our offense," Mulhern and Baldassare, respectively, did, it is clear that Gargula will be the focus of both teams on Sunday. Yet, the most pressure she feels will be from within herself. She would have it no other way.

"Our time is now," Gargula said. "Our goal is to win."
WILD, WILD WEST QUAD

Neighbors Welsh Fam and McGlinn square Sunday in the Interhall Championship game... with West Quad supremacy on the line.
Dear Father:

The enclosed letter speaks for itself. I came up to see you and found you would be out of town for the day. I leave this letter entirely in your hands. They have offered me fifty thousand ($50,000) dollars for this proposition, which, however, doesn’t interest me at all. The only thing is I thought perhaps there might be a chance to put out a picture that might be instructive and educational to Catholic Notre Dame in every sense of the word.

Please wire me collect at the Hotel Biltmore, Los Angeles, where I will be Wednesday.

Sincerely yours,

Kern to Rev. Charles L. O’Donnell, O.S.B.,
Office of the President,
Notre Dame, Indiana.

March 30, 1931.

Irish in the Huddle!

letter from K. E. R. to K. E. O. re offer from Universal for him to play himself
NCAA Women's Basketball

Toliver highlights an 18-3 run to lead Terrapins to win

Five Huskies score double-digit points in win over San Diego State; Posehn sparks Boilermaker's victory

Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland was locked in a tie game with James Madison when Kristi Toliver took it upon herself to end the drought.

Slicing through the lane at every opportunity, the 5-foot-7 guard scored 10 points and two free throws during a pivotal 18-3 run that carried the 11th-ranked Terrapins to a 90-76 victory Thursday night.

Toliver finished with 27 points and 10 assists to break Maryland (12-1) extend its home winning streak to 23. The score was 57-all with 11:46 left before the Terrapins, led by their senior point guard, pulled away.

"When the game was getting close, that's the time to attack the rim," Toliver said. "I just wanted to attack their bigs, because I know I was faster than them. You have to take advantage of what the defense gives you."

Toliver gave Maryland the lead for good with a layup, and a jumper in the paint by Maryland's Maryland Madison made it 57-55. After Dawn Evans hit a 3-pointer for the Ducks, the Terrapins sealed off 14 straight points to seal the win.

"We had a couple of mental breakdowns in the defensive end and we had some easy opportunities for them," James Madison coach Kelly Boykins said. "And even when they missed, they cleaned up with defensive rebounds. We just let it get away from us, didn't execute, and it cost us.

Evans led James Madison (11-1) with 33 points on 14-for-24 shooting. And Corenye Hammer scored 12 of her 16 points in the first half.

The Ducks, who had their 30-game home winning streak ended by Maryland last year, are 1-7 against the Terrapins.

"We're not into moral victories, but I'm proud of the effort they gave," Boykins said. "If we continue to get that kind of effort, it will equal results."

Maryland guard Kristi Toliver, right, puts up a shot against James Madison's Dawn Evans during the second half of Maryland's 90-76 victory on Thursday.

Maryland's Dawn Evans (25) spins to the hoop past James Madison's Mary Madison (12) for a game Tuesday, and then head to Hawaii. That's over 10,200 miles in eight days.

Boilermakers 70, Pilots 50

Fabbara Malone made four of six 3-pointers in scoring 17 points and No. 21 Purdue beat Portland Thursday night. Chantel Posehn scored 13 points off the bench for Purdue, which scored 26 points off turnovers. Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton shot 6-of-8 from the field and scored 14. Danielle Campbell added 11 — nine on free throws — for the Boilermakers (7-0).

Laiken Dollente had 19 points to pace the Pilots (1-2).

The Boilermakers led by as many as 29, buoyed by 41.4 percent shooting from the field and 75 percent shooting on free throws. Portland managed just 34.8 percent from the floor and 68.4 percent from the line.

Purdue scored 18 points off offensive rebounds, while the Pilots scored just four.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 624 South Dining Hall. Deadline for daily classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds may be repaired. The charge is $5 per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without incurring fees.

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Corporation tax-exempt, looking for someone to move house.

Man, you've been naughty, you be your face grow long.

I am the sage... They are the aphins.

They are the gods... I am the god. goo goo god.
COWBOYS running back Felix Jones, left, stands next to Dallas running back Marion Barber during practice at their Irving, Texas, training facility on Wednesday. Jones tore a ligament in his left big toe two weeks ago.

Dallas RB Jones out for rest of the season

IRVING, Texas — The mystery surrounding injured Dallas Cowboys rookie Felix Jones has been solved, and the running back will not play again this season.

Jones has a torn ligament beneath his left big toe, sustained two weeks ago while doing rehabilitation on the left hamstring he hurt Oct. 12. The hamstring is healed, but he will need surgery on the toe and up to six months to fully recover.

"Obviously disappointed, certainly for him and us," coach Wade Phillips said. "But long term, he's going to be all right."
Hal officially takes over the Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK — George Steinbrenner is boss of the New York Yankees on more. The omnipresent owner's colorful 35-year reign of pro

ouchements, threats and fir

ings ended Thursday when he

passed control of baseball's most famous franchise to his

youngest son, Hal.

The elder Steinbrenner has gradually withdrawn from the Yankees' day-to-day opera

tions in recent years as his health faded, and brothers Hal and Hank were appointed co-cha

irmen in April.

"I realize it's a great responsibility," Hal Steinbrenner, who turns 40 on Dec. 3, "My dad is, need

less to say, a tough act to follow." 

George Steinbrenner, now 77, had headed a group that bought the club in 1973 for an $8.8 mil

lion net price and became one of the most high-profile owners in all of sports. He dominated the back pages of New York's tabloids, earn

ing the nickname "The Boss" as he spent lavishly on play

ers and changed managers 20 times during his first 23 years as owner, feuding with Billy Martin, Yogi Berra and Dave Mau

field.

The Yankees regained their former glory, winning six World Series titles and 10 American League pennants from 1976-99. They also tr

ansformed themselves into a sports empire that owns a cable television network and four conces

sion companies and is preparing to move into a $1.1 bil

lion, 61,000

yankee

Stadium next year.

Steinbrenner was baseball's longest-serving current owner, but has cut back his role with the team

following fainting spells that required hospitalization in December 2003 and October 2006.

His speech in public has been halting and weak since the second fall, and he has been walking. From a golf cart, he delivered the balls for the ceremonial first pitches at July's All-Star game at Yankee Stadium, then stayed home in Florida to watch the 16-year-old park's final game on television in September.

Baseball owners unani

mously approved the change in control during a meeting Thursday, ending an era in which Steinbrenner became the team's defining image as much as Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio did in earlier eras.

"He's been slowing down the last couple years," Hal Steinbrenner said. "Really, for the last two years I have been intimately involved with all aspects and all depart

ments of the company. It's what I've been doing day-to-

day. My duties aren't really going to change and my workload isn't going to change much. So, I mean, it's as much a procedural thing within the family, I think, as anything at this point."

Hal Steinbrenner shuns attention as much as his father craved it. But while 51-year-old Hank has become the public voice of the team's ownership in the past year, Hal was at Yankee Stadium far more frequently than his brother. Hal is responsible for financial opera

tions of the club, and Hank oversees general manager Brian Cashman and the base

ball operations.

"I'm not going to ask the people in the fami-

ly why they picked one against the other," said base

ball commissioner Bud Selig, who visited Steinbrenner in Tampa, Fla., before Game 2 of the World Series last month. "I get enough trouble as commissioner. I don't need to get into family squabbles."

Major League Baseball said Steinbrenner request

ed the change in control be made, and the Yankees said Hank Steinbrenner voted in favor of it. George Steinbrenner retains his title as the team's chairman and his wife, Joan, is a vice chair-

person along with their dau

ghters, Jenni

fer Steinbrenner Swindal and J

essica Steinbrenner.

Before Hal, each son-in-law of the owner emerged as heir apparent, only to divorce the owner's dau

ters and depart

the team.

Joe Molloy, married to Jessica Steinbrenner, was a general partner from 1992-

97. Steve Swindal, married to Jennifer Steinbrenner, was a general partner from 1998-

06, then became chairman of Yankee Global Enterprises LLC, the team's holding com

pany. He was publicly desig

nated by George Steinbrenner as his successor in June 2005 but Swindal departed after his driving under the influ


Hal Steinbrenner became more active in the team's operations following Swindal's arrest.

"George is still going to be involved," Yankees president Randy Levine said. "This is really just a codification, with the commissioner's help and input, of what's been going on for the last several years."
Quinn to play with broken finger

Associated Press
BEREA, Ohio — Brady Quinn got his first NFL win as a starter almost single-handedly.

Quinn broke his right index finger during the first half of Monday night’s game against the Buffalo Bills, but Cleveland’s new starting quarterback stayed in and led the Browns to a 29-27 victory.

Despite the injury, Quinn will try to play Sunday when the Browns host the Houston Texans.

"At this point, it’s just a little sore," he said before practice on Thursday. "Just doing the best we can to take all the precautions to make sure it’s all right."

Quinn didn’t seem to be bothered by the finger while throwing during the 30-minute segment of practice open to the media. He didn’t favor the finger while taking snaps and fired a few right spirals while working out in the team’s indoor practice facility. Later, the team’s injury report said Quinn participated in the full practice.

The Browns initially thought Quinn only bruised his hand after banging it on the helmet of a Bills player. But after he complained of soreness following Wednesday’s practice, X-rays were taken and revealed a fracture on the tip of his finger.

Quinn was cleared to play by a specialist at the Cleveland Clinic.

"The hand specialist says because it’s a fracture, soreness initially will be the thing that he has to deal with the most," coach Romeo Crennel said.

He looked fine, he said. "If you didn’t say a word to me or anything in this locker room, I don’t think anybody else would have even known."

Making his second career start and first on the road, Quinn finished 14-of-36 for 183 yards against the Bills. He didn’t throw a touchdown pass or an interception. Late in the fourth quarter, the former Notre Dame star completed passes of 12 and 16 yards to Jones and 19 yards to Phil Dawson’s winning 56-yard field goal with 1:39 left.

Quinn banged his hand on a helmet in the first quarter and then again in the second. He was surprised to learn that it was broken and said he has never had a similar injury.

Cleveland’s most popular player, Quinn was promoted two weeks ago when Crennel benched Derek Anderson following a loss to Baltimore. Crennel said he didn’t consider making the switch back to Anderson a Pro Bowler last season, after Quinn got medical clearance.

"If the specialist had said he can’t play, then we wouldn’t play him," Crennel said. "But the specialist says he can practice and he can play. I think that the organization wants to do what’s best for the player in this situation, not what the medical staff tells us. When the doctor said that he can play, then we’re going to let him play."

"That’s the way we treat all the players," he added. "If the doctor says they can play we let them play."

Baseball institutes new postseason rule

Associated Press
NEW YORK — There has never been a rain-shortened game in the postseason, and now there will be.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig announced the sport will enact a rules change stating that postseason games cannot be shortened because of bad weather.

"All postseason games, All-Star games and that, will be full-length affairs, and the rule will be so written," Selig said Thursday following an owners’ meeting.

Selig said the change also will apply to tiebreaker games that decide division titles and Wild Card berths.

"Any game that has significance for the postseason," he said. "It will be very clear now. Everybody will know exactly."

Under baseball’s rules, games are official and as the trailing team has made 15 outs.

During World Series Game 5 between Tampa Bay and Philadelphia last month, it appeared that it wouldn’t be cut short because of pouring rain. Just before the Rays tied it in the top of the sixth, umpires bailed out the game and the game was suspended for 46 hours.

Selig said that if the Phillies still led 2-1 when play was stopped, the game would have been gone into a rain delay until it could resume — even if that took several days.

"We’ll be here if we have to celebrate Thanksgiving here," he said.

Management lawyers will discuss the contemplated change with the players’ association.

"I think that will be having discussions with the commissioner’s office about that rule in the weeks to come," union general counsel Michael Weiner said. "I don’t want to prejudge it one way or the other."


Selig saw no need to substantiate what Volcker said. "Me substantiating Volcker would be like you substantiating Grantland Rice," he told a reporter.

Selig won’t speculate on whether the economy would slow the potential purchase of the Chicago Cubs, who were put up for sale when Tribune Co. agreed in April 2007 to be acquired by Sam Zell. The next round of bids is due Dec. 1, and representatives of four groups have met with MLB officials in recent weeks.

"The process is in Sam Zell’s hands," Selig said. "Time will tell. The bids will come in and then we will be able to make a judgment — he’ll be able to make the judgment."

There has been widespread speculation that the bidders will have trouble financing any deal given the lack of liquidity in the credit markets.

"I don’t know what economic problems the bidders have or what the market is saying," Selig said. "And I don’t know that the Tribune knows it, either, frankly."

At the meeting, owners unanimously approved 39-year-old Hal Steinbrenner as controlling owner of the New York Yankees, ending the 35-year reign of George Steinbrenner, who is 78 and in declining health.
MLB

Yankees pitcher Mussina hangs up the cleats after 18 years

A few hours before his official announcement, Mussina showed the media around his home in Montoursville, Pa. He likes small-town life, often coached basketball and football at the local high school and intends to spend a lot of time watching his 10- and 5-year-old sons play ball.

In five years, Mussina will become eligible for the Hall of Fame, and it figures to be a lively debate. He acknowledged there are solid arguments on both sides.

"It's not my decision to make," he said.

Mike Mussina

**Yankees pitcher**

"I don't have any regrets with what I decided. This is the right time."

A man of diverse interests, Mussina said on a conference call.

"I don't think there was ever a time when I was around and said, 'You know what, I'm going to change my mind,'" he said. "It was like the last year of high school. You know only one's going to end and you enjoy the ride."

Mussina finished 270-153 with a 3.68 ERA in 18 seasons with Baltimore and New York. A thinking man's pitcher who relied on sharp control and more than overpower hitting, he ranks 32nd on the career wins list and 19th in strikeouts among pitchers in wins history.

"I love baseball, I love playing, I love pitching. This is good for me. This is it."

Mike Mussina

**Yankees pitcher**

Mussina never won a Cy Young Award or a World Series championship and was a 20-game winner just on the final day of his career. He was 7-8 with a 3.43 ERA and 90 strikeouts in 156 innings in 2003 ALCS, when he made the first relief appearance of his career and threw three scoreless innings against the Red Sox.

"My numbers match up well with guys who are in the Hall of Fame," he said, adding other pitchers have won more games and been left out.

Mussina said he couldn't envision himself working in baseball in the foreseeable future, though he was open to someday helping out young pitchers.

Money isn't an issue. He left Baltimore to sign an $88.5 million, six-year contract as a free agent with the Yankees before the 2001 season and finished with a $23 million, two-year deal.

Mussina graduated early from Stanford with an economics degree — he won the College World Series with the Cardinals — and came to the Yankees with a reputation as an ace pitcher with a prickly personality. He softened over the years, with the end becoming a charity clubhouse and churches for reporters chalking up his witty observations and thoughtful answers.

Mussina frequently sat in front of his locker doing crossword puzzles. In fact, he appeared in the 2006 documentary "Wordplay" and kept a thesaurus in his stall for knotty problems.

Mussina's last day as a pitcher was a nice way to end a career.

"It was a nice way to finish," he said.

As for what's next, "I don't really have any plans," he said.

A man of diverse interests, no telling whether he'll get to enjoy the things he sometimes talked about — going to the Daytona 500, seeing his favorite Irish setters in the Westminster Kennel Club dog show.
Saint Mary’s begins life without Kessler
By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Tonight begins a new era for Saint Mary’s basketball. When the Belles take on an Ohio Wesleyan tonight to open their season, they will do so without Alison Kessler, who graduated last spring as the program’s all-time scoring leader.

“There certainly was a void to fill after the graduation of Alison,” Belles coach Jen Henley said. “She holds five other school records. ‘But even our program goes through that transition as your seniors graduate. The team has adjusted well.’

The Belles will be led this season by their four seniors — guards Meghan Conaty and Katie Rashid along with forwards Nicole Beier and Erin Newsom. Newsom had six double-doubles last season, and she combined with junior forward Annu Kamrath to amass 551 points, and 432 rebounds last season.

“I expect us to have more depth in our offense this season,” Henley said. “I think the seniors will have what it will take to win the games and keep them balanced.

This team has adjusted well,” Henley added. “It’s tough to be specific since it’s the first game of the season for both teams,” Henley said. “The only stats we have are from last season. Those do not give an accurate view of a team’s potential.

The Belles will play in either the tournament’s consolation or championship game on Saturday before their home opener against Wheaton on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrab01@smu.edu

Recycle
The Observer

Pitt becomes fast team to visit Notre Dame this season
Tim Welsh
Irish coach

“Ohio State may be the fastest team to visit Notre Dame this season.”

The Belles are coming off a fourth-place finish in the MIAA conference last season in which they went 13-13 overall, 8-8 in conference. The MIAA pre-season coaches’ poll picked Saint Mary’s to finish fourth again this season with Hope, Calvin and Albion predicted to finish in the top three in the conference.

The Belles went on to win three of their first five games, including a three-point win over Hope. Jen Henley
Belles coach

Men’s Swimming

Buckeyes burst out Rolfs
By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame faces its toughest season of the championship when on Saturday it travels to the Rolfs Aquatic Center at Ohio State to take on an undefeated 3-0 record on the season.

The Irish enter the meet with a 3-2 record on the season. In their most recent meet, they swept a dual meet at Cleveland State against the Vikings and Miami (OH). The Irish improved their record against Cleveland State to 22-2 under Coach Tim Welsh. But in the MIAA conference meet against top-25 competitors, the Irish fell to No. 16 Purdue, 187-108.

Unfortunately for the Irish, it doesn’t get much easier against the Buckeyes. “Ohio State may be the fastest team to visit Notre Dame this season,” Tim Welsh said. “They are very strong in dual meets, and we are expecting this to be one of their toughest of the season. Hopefully this will bring out fast swims on our end as well.”

The meet is the first of at least two in a row for the Irish who will face off against the Buckeyes on Saturday at 5 p.m.

Although the Irish and Buckeyes have met against each other in a dual meet in quite some time, they both participated in the Ohio State Invitational in each of the past two seasons. The Buckeyes swept a dual meet over the Irish in 2006 and fourth in 2007 while the Buckeyes swept the Irish in both years. The University of Michigan came in first in each.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

NCAA Football

Pitt offense runs through McCoy

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — If Pittsburgh’s Top 25 game at Cincinnati is tight in the fourth quarter, there’s a good chance both teams will know what happened on the Panthers’ opening drive.

The same thing that happened in last week’s Panther Bearcats game. The Pitt-Notre Dame meeting is this week’s matchup. The Pitt vs. then-No. 2 West Virginia game last season. Larry Scott, Pitt’s football coach, said, “We probably have the most balanced team on our roster this year.”

McCoy is often at his best when the games are the biggest, a quality not all 1,000-yard rushers possess. Especially in road games, where McCoy has gained more than half of his career yardage.

McCoy does not want to take the ball out of Shady’s hands,” offensive coordinator Matt Cavanaugh said.

For good reason, too. During Pitt’s 39-36, four-overtime win at Notre Dame on Nov. 1, McCoy rushed for 101 yards in the fourth quarter, finishing with 169 yards and a touchdown. That performance earned him Pac-10 player of the week.

McCoy has rushed for 142 yards or more in each of his last five road games, and has gained 120 yards or more in each of his nine career games away from Heinz Field.

McCoy has been held below 100 yards only twice on the road and had been held to a single four-yard carry, the fourth of his career, against Georgia Tech in his nine road games, an average of 131.6 yards.

According to Stats, Inc., the only running back on Top 25 teams who has rushed for more road yardage than McCoy the last two seasons are Michigan State’s Mike Bell (1,247 yards in nine games) and Chris Wells (1,212 yards in nine games). A big game from McCoy is again necessary for the Pitts to win at Cincinnati, which can only be topped by a victory in a Big East title and a BCS bowl bid with a victory. The Bearcats’ only remaining conference game after Saturday is against Syracuse (2-8, 1-5).

“Cincinnati, I’m sure they’re going to do their best to stop the run,” quarterback Bill Stull said. “Louisville put a lot of extra time into doing that and was successful, but that allowed us to mix in a couple of other things with some success. We run the ball when we know we should.”

Stull was so geared up to stop McCoy, limiting him to 39 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries on Nov. 8, that the Pitt backfield did not do what it wanted. Stull passed for 216 yards and a touchdown and the Pitt defense scored two touchdowns during a 41-7 victory.

Cincinnati’s rushing defense is the third best in the Big East, allowing an average of 112 yards.

“They probably have the toughest defense we’ll face all season,” Stull said. “They have a lot of talent, and we believe they’ll try to stop the run first. That’s fine with us. We’ll open the door for the Panthers to win the conference if they can beat West Virginia and Connecticut in their final two games.”

“Maybe we can be the team to do what we did to West Virginia last year, we can back everybody out.” McCoy said. “That’s our mindset. We have three tough games left, but we’re a tough team, so the way we look it is we want to win.”

“The leaders on this team, they want it bad. ... So does coach,” Coach, he wants this real bad.”
Recruits continued from page 24

In addition, a pair of junior wide receivers from the Chicagoland area is visiting this weekend. Corey Cooper, who committed early to the University of Illinois, is still keeping his options open and will take his second unofficial visit to Notre Dame Saturday. Cooper is from the same high school as Irish safety Sergio Brown. Provo, Utah.

The other receiver is Kyle Prater who is a teammate of Cooper's and has had a solid junior campaign thus far.

"Kyle's had a really nice year," Frank said. "He's put up some good numbers and he's a guy to keep an eye on because I know Notre Dame is pretty interested.

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING
Belles look to push record over .500

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will continue its 2008 season with the Patrick Woschner Invitational, a two-day event starting today.

The Belles are coming off a solid win against conference opponent Alma College, which improved their overall record to 2-2, not including a 4th place finish in the Notre Dame Invitational. Their performance has been led by stellar performances from underclassmen, Sophomore Maggie Williams and freshman Eva Cavadini lead the team with seven first-place finishes after the weekend.

Sophomore Jody Denny has performed well with six first-place finishes of her own.

Last year in the Patrick Woschner Invitational, the Belles finished in last place, but they hope to improve on that performance in this year's meet.

The invitational is hosted by Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN. It will begin tonight at 6:00 P.M. in the Class of 1950 Natatorium in the Allen Athletics and Recreation Center.

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu
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Diggins continued from page 24

me next year." And at first I thought she meant we had too many guards and I didn't think she was going to fit, and I had a moment of 'I better explain this right away.'

"And then I just realized she was saying 'Yes.' There was some pandemonium in the locker room.

Unlike with most players, who start getting heavily recruited later in their high school careers, Diggins' process began much earlier. McGraw said she first offered the 5-foot-9 guard a scholarship in eighth grade.

"We had seen her play and I knew she was going to be a great player," McGraw said. "... She was really special and I think we could tell that right away."

Previously, the earliest McGraw said she offered a scholarship was during the sophomore seasons of current juniors Ashley Hartlow and Melissa Lechlitner.

"They both committed at the offer, so that's why we thought it was supposed to work," McGraw said jokingly.

One of the things that made signing Diggins more difficult than any other prospect during McGraw's long tenure at Notre Dame is that she is by far the highest ranked prospect to commit to the University in program history. McGraw said the national attention Diggins received made recruiting her a lot more stressful than her experience with other players.

"It is a long process, and I think it got a little more stressful as the process went on," McGraw said.

"We were just trying to put pressure on her, and trying to let her come to the decision herself without trying to rush her into it."

The fact that Diggins is a South Bend native helped ease the process, McGraw said, since she and her staff could put in a lot of face time at Diggins' high school games. McGraw said she almost had to "guard her turf" because of the number of coaches flying into South Bend to watch Diggins play.

"We keep talking to people at the airport to delay the flights coming in, put that fence up around town, charge a toll to get in. We could have made a lot of money this year," McGraw said.

Regardless of the extra attention on Diggins, McGraw said the process remained the same as it has with all of her other players.

"Most of the girls on the team committed so early in the process, none of them except for sophomores forward Devereaux Peters, took any other official visits," she said.

Diggins is currently 19th on the all-time scorers list but in Indiana high school girls basketball with 2,036 points. She has averaged 24.8 points, 5.6 rebounds, 2.4 assists, 4.1 steals and 1.3 blocks per game during her three years on the varsity team at Washington.

She has also started 81 of 82 games at the school — which has a 76-6 record in the last three seasons — and won the state championship her sophomore season.

Diggins joint point guard Kaila Turner from Joliet, Ill., and Marian Catholic High School as this year's recruiting class — ranked between No. 13 and No. 18 by national recruiting services. This marks the twelfth consecu­
tive top 25 recruiting class for the Irish, a first only by perennial powerhouses Tennessee and Connecticut.

McGraw said her recruiting is likely done, unless a big name post player comes up later in the process. If current senior guard Lindsay Schrader opts to take her redshirt fifth-year (earned after tearing her ACL two seasons ago), the Irish will have 13 players on the roster next season.

But looking into the more immediate future, the Irish will take on Boston College Sunday at Chestnut Hill, Mass.

The Eagles currently sit at 3-0, thanks in large part to their frontcourt duo. Center Carolyn Swords stands at 6-foot-6 and forward Stefanie Murphy have helped lead the scoring so far this year for Boston College. Swords is first on the team, averaging a double-double through three games at 21.7 points and 10 boards, while Murphy is third with 11 points per game.

"We're going to count on Erika Williamson and hope our post defense can really come through for us," McGraw said.

McGraw said the team will be working on boxing out and rebounding this week at practice to make up for the size differen­
tial. In Notre Dame's last game, a 96-61 win over Evansville Wednesday night, the Irish were outrebounded 42-36.

McGraw said she doesn't expect her team to play as much man-to­
toman defense to avoid mismatches, but added that this game will come to which scheme will work best.

"We'll be it's a speed issue or a size issue, what's going to win," she said.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitp@nd.edu

Sweet 16 continued from page 24

The perfect season has been finalized, and I don't think our team will be too disappointed. We've played well enough to take care of business, but we're not satisfied with our game.

"That's a 50-50 record so far this season," Waldrum said.

"But that's not the case this time around."

Randy Waldrum Irish coach

"Usually we look at the cold weather as a homefield advantage for us. But that's not the case this time around."

South Dakota State heads into tonight's matchup with the Golden Gophers with the intention of focusing on one game at a time. And Waldrum said the team cannot wait to take the field.

"I think everyone's ready to go, and excited," he said. "Even with the cold weather, we're ready."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu
FOOTBALL

IRISH SAY ALOHA TO TOP OUTSIDE LINEBACKING PROSPECT IN COUNTRY

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Hailing from Honolulu, Hawaii, and Punahou High School, Manti Te'o is perhaps the most sought-after outside linebacker prospect in the nation, thanks to his speed and tackling instinct. The blue-chip talent has received special treatment from coach Charlie Weis, as he has personally flown to Hawaii twice in the past year to recruit Te'o.

Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame football for Scout.com thinks very highly of Te'o, and would be an excellent addition to an already solid class of 2009. "Manti is a game-changing type of linebacker," Frank said.

"He's a guy that can make big, big plays. He's a guy with incredible speed and the ability to run sideline to sideline. He's got the kind of speed and athleticism that they've been looking for at linebacker."

If Te'o were to give his verbal commitment to Notre Dame, Frank believes that the linebacker would have an immediate impact, even as a freshman.

"He's the type of guy that if he comes in as a true freshman, he has the ability to get on the field quickly, maybe even start," Frank said. "He really has that kind of skill."

One of the more interesting aspects of Te'o's recruitment is that the high-school senior wishes to go on a Mormon missionary trip in between his sophomore and junior seasons. Coach Weis has already granted Te'o approval to embark on the mission if he pleases.

Te'o will be on campus this weekend for the Syracuse game.

Another 2009 recruit that will be on hand is fullback Tyler Ga'Fhay of San Diego.

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

ROUND THREE

Notre Dame ready for Gophers' attacking style, cold weather

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

In round one, Notre Dame delivered a series of punishing blows to its helpless opponent. In round two, the team traded punches with its foe before the Irish delivered a late uppercut to gain the upper hand. Now it's time for round three.

After blowing out Toledo and squeaking past Michigan State last weekend, No. 1 Notre Dame (23-0-0) prepares for a slugfest against No. 22 Minnesota (22-3-1) tonight at Alumni Field.

Irish coach Randy Waldrum said the Big Ten champion Golden Gophers play an up-tempo, attacking style. "They love to attack, they love to pressure the ball, they really..."

see SWEET 16/page 20

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Diggins stays in South Bend

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Managing Editor

After years of waiting, Muffet McGraw can finally relax.

That's because the Notre Dame coach finally landed Skylar Diggins — a five-star senior guard from Washington High School in South Bend. Diggins signed her letter of intent to play for the Irish beginning next fall earlier this week.

But that doesn't mean she didn't give McGraw one last scare. "I kept looking over to the seats wondering when she was going to get there because she wasn't there at the beginning," McGraw said at a press conference announcing the signing Thursday. "And then after the game she came in to the locker room with the stat and she kind of looked down and said 'Boy, I'm just wondering where you're going to play..."

see DIGNINS/page 22

HOCKEY

Recruits sign for Fall 2009

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

Irish coach Jeff Jackson locked up five recruits Thursday that will arrive at Notre Dame next fall, continuing the tradition of strong recruiting that Jackson has developed since arriving in 2005.

Defenceman Ryan Caliguice and Cam Fowler join forwards Kyle Palmieri, Nick Larson and Riley Sheahan to form one of the most highly touted five-man recruiting classes in the nation.

"We're very excited about this group of players and have been waiting a long time for their arrival," Jackson said in making the announcement. "This class is as good a class as we've ever had at Notre Dame. They will definitely be one of the elite recruiting classes...

see RECRUITS/page 20

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Weather, competition heat up for Notre Dame

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Let the test begin.

Faced with arguably the most difficult schedule in the country, No. 9 Notre Dame will begin its difficult non-conference slate with a West Coast swing that begins tonight against Loyola Marymount.

The Lions aren't the difficult part. Loyola Marymount has lost all three of its games this season, falling to Milwaukee, Iowa State and UC Davis.

The Irish likely will bring emotions in Friday night's contest with the Irish, though, as the game will serve as the team's home opener as well as a commemoration for Hall of Fame and LMU alum Pete Newell, who died on Monday.

Things get tougher for the Irish, as following the weekend they head to Hawaii for the Maui Invitational. The Irish have a potential stretch of three games in three days after battling Loyola Marymount only two days prior to the start of the tournament.

The Irish will face in-state rival Indiana in the first round in a nationally televised game on ESPN2 at 5:30 p.m. Eastern time. After the Hoosiers were faced with scandal under former coach Kelvin Sampson, they brought in a familiar face for many Irish fans, former Marquette coach Tom Crean, to take the program.

Crean appears to still be settling into his new role. The Hoosiers have looked far from the team's home opener as well as the tournament. The Lions aren't the difficult part. Loyola Marymount has lost all three of its games this season, falling to Milwaukee, Iowa State and UC Davis.

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IRISH INSIDER
Friday, November 21, 2008

Odds GREAT
and SMALL

Graphic illustration by MARY JESSE/The Observer
There’s no shame in shedding tears

"A League of Their Own" Jimmy Dugan is arguably the most memorable coach in American cinematic history. Dugan's legacy may not stack up against the likes of our own All-American R. Kelly, Norman Dale from Hoosiers, or even District Five's Gorden H. Boman. But he will forever be remembered for his one famous rule: "There is no crying in baseball.

The rule has been broken plenty of times, and if it is applied across all sports the number of infractions jumps exponentially. So, is it really wrong to shed a few tears in either joy or despair after an emotionally draining game, season or career?

Cowboys' star Terrell Owens certainly doesn't think so — he proved that during his bumbling defense of his "teammate" Tony Romo after a playoff loss last year.

Neither does the one and only Michael Jordan. MJ cried his eyes out after winning his fourth NBA title on Father's Day in 1996, only three years after his own father was murdered.

Any athlete worth his weight in Kleenex knows that sports are played with raw emotion. Sometimes those emotions spill over into the aftermath, and despite what Jimmy Dugan may have to say on the matter, it's part of the game.

So, don't be surprised to see some waterworks following Saturday's game against Syracuse as a group of 23 seniors leave the beloved tunnel for the very last time. Irish coach Charlie Weis sure won't be.

"This is a tough game for a lot of players, personally," Weis said. "You see them in the locker room before and after the game, you'll see kids after the game that you didn't even know how much they cared and they're bawling, just crying because how emotional it is.

This year's senior class, both those who have played and those who have watched, have had their up and downs inside Notre Dame Stadium.

For four years the senior class has put in endless hours in the weight room, in practice and in meetings to perform on Saturdays. Many have overcome injuries and adversity throughout their tenure, and for most this is the end of the line for a game that has consumed their lives.

Leaving behind football will be like losing a family member — definitely grounds for weeping.

Some of the half dozen walk-ons, some that we now know better than others, the journey has been hard. All of them started their careers in the dead of winter with 5:30 a.m. workouts every morning. While most of us were snug in our beds after a long night of complaining about bowl losses, they were hard at work trying to fix the problem.

Who is going to tell Nik Rodriguez or John Leonis they don't deserve a good cry? They have already given the Irish their blood and sweat, why not their tears?

Ironically enough, 65 fictional years ago when Dugan first handed out his decree to Evelyn Gardner they were standing — where else? — in our very own South Bend, Ind. Dugan's Rockford Peaches were taking on the South Bend Blue Sox when he put a ban on bawling in 1943. The same year that Frank Leahy won his first National Championship and Angelo Bertelli won Notre Dame's first ever Heisman Trophy.

The Stadium has seen seven more championships and six more Heisman winners since then, but none of them were legally allowed to celebrate with tears.

This year, it is finally time that we lift the ban.

So, seniors, this Saturday when all is said and done leave everything you have on the field, the sidelines or even in the stands. And remember, it's your party so cry if you want to.

Asaph Schwapp
Irish senior

Available in stores now
Buy 4 Oxford World's Classics titles and get an Oxford tote bag free!*
Steady Hand

While others transferred, Sharpley remained consummate teammate

By CHRIS HINE
Ediors-in-Chief

After Brady Quinn graduated in May of 2006, Evan Sharpley was one of four possible candidates to replace Quinn as the starting quarterback. But Sharpley wouldn't lead the offense against Georgia Tech to open the 2007 season. Demetrious Jones did. Sharpley may have been upset, but he didn't show it.

Then when Sharpley was by-passed again for the starting job the following week, again he didn't show his disappointment. And when Sharpley wasn't named the starter after he relieved his disappointment. And

"I didn't really expect that. That was something I talked about in the spring. Jimmy's getting the job and it was his job to lose," Sharpley said. "We all backed up and supported him and he's doing a good job for us and as a team we need to support him. That's the type of guy I am, that's kind of my M.O."

Sharpley didn't transfer, as Zach Frazer and Demetrious Jones did, he didn't cause dissention amongst his teammates; rather, he stayed at Notre Dame and did all he could for his team.

Any time someone else is named ahead of you, no one wants to sit the bench, everyone wants to play. When something like that happens, it's tough," Sharpley said. "We all put in hard work. I thought I put in a lot of hard work, but that's up to the coaches and you have to be supportive and be there for the rest of the team."

"Even if something's bad, it's always in God's hands and you may not understand the reason why it's happening, and it may be out of your control, but the only thing you can control is your attitude."

Evan Sharpley
Irish quarterback

"Any time someone else is named ahead of you, no one wants to sit the bench, everyone wants to play. When something like that happens, it's tough."

Evan Sharpley
Irish quarterback

Irish quarterback Evan Sharpley audibles at the line during Notre Dame's 44-44 loss to Navy on Nov. 3, 2007. Sharpley threw for 140 yards and two touchdowns in the game.


"Early on in camp, I came up with a nickname for the quarterbacks. We all wear red jerseys during practice, so I coined ourselves the 'red army.' We have our own secret codes and we have secret missions. It's pretty good stuff. We have our own secret names. I could probably give you some stuff, but there's too much classified information. We'll just put it this way, I'm the leader of the red army and they kind of follow my lead."

But when he's not joking around, Sharpley said he tries to pass along to the younger quarterbacks the same lessons Quinn taught him when he was a freshman and sophomore.

"I think I learned from the work ethic that he had, studying film off the field, the type of person that he was off the field and on the field the type of leader he was with the guys and also the type of student he was," Sharpley said. "I was like that before, but I think it was also good to see someone doing it himself."

Sharpley said Quinn helped him navigate through his challenging freshman season, when Sharpley didn't see any action.

"Everybody usually comes from a situation where you're playing all the time, so it's kind of tough for a freshman to come in and not play, but I understood that obviously," Sharpley said. "It was an opportunity for the first two years to sit behind Brady, watch him do well and learn from him and I think I've taken a lot of his game, a lot of his personality both on and off the field and try to tailor it to my game."

And Sharpley said his relationship with Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis has become stronger over the past few years.

"It's progressed greatly since freshmen year," Sharpley said. "With me as a freshman and him coming in as a new head coach, it was a little different and I think now him and I have a very good relationship, him helping with my future and different talks. He's really become a pretty good players' coach. I think he's really on board with helping us players whether it's on the football field, playing professionally in the near future, or getting a job, something in the real world."

Sharpley, who's also a member of Notre Dame's baseball team along with his brother Ryan, can apply for a fifth-year on the football team, but not on the baseball team. He said he'll make that decision later this year.

"It's going to be all baseball in the spring, I need to do very well and help my team win and we'll take it from there, but once the season comes around, we'll be focused on baseball."

Sharpley may not have played as much he wanted during his Notre Dame football career, but even if he doesn't come back for a fifth year, it's clear that his impact will be felt in the program for years to come.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu
Mike Turkovich

Turkowski eases into left tackle position

By Jay Fitzpatrick
Sports Writer

Editor’s note: This story originally ran on Sept. 26, 2008.

So far this season, Notre Dame’s offensive line has given up three sacks, which is as many as it surrendered in the first quarter of last season. On major part of that is the personnel changes made in the trenches, especially at left tackle.

Senior Mike Turkovich took over the duty of protecting quarterback Jimmy Clausen’s blind side this season, replacing senior Paul Duncan.

Turkovich had played all of last season, starting every game at left guard, before making the transition in the spring. He said the transition was a result of the rotation (the offensive linemen did during training camp) to find the best fit.

“In the spring, we were rotating guys around and (offensive line) coach (John) Latina said, ‘Could you go in at left tackle today?’ And I was working with (the backups) because I was getting back in the rotation (after) an injury,” Turkovich said.

Turkovich said that he felt comfortable with the switch to left tackle right away. “I thought, ‘Hey, this is your position,” he said.

Latina said that the transition from guard to tackle is a more difficult one than from tackle to guard because you are more isolated and facing a different kind of rusher. Playing in what the coach called “a phone book amount of space,” a guard is generally matched up against a large defensively tackle. But an offensive tackle has to block speedier defensive ends and linebackers one-on-one.

One main reason Turkovich has been able to transition so easily is because he has played the position before. His first two years at Notre Dame were spent as a tackle before he moved inside last season. Turkovich said he made the switch to guard because Latina said it would be his best fit.

Turkovich also played tackle in high school, but started his football career as a tight end.

“In high school I was a tight end that ate himself into the tackle position,” he said. “I weighed 215, 210 my junior year of high school, bulked up my senior year.”

Turkovich also credited his teammates with easing his transition back to tackle, especially left guard Eric Olsen.

“When you play next to a guy like Eric Olsen, he’s a good player and he makes it easier on you. You know he’s going to do his job,” Turkovich said. “You can trust him. Same thing with tight ends, you can trust them. It’s made the transition easier.”

This season, Turkovich has been a solid performer on the line, as evident by the fact that Clausen has yet to be hit from his blind side. And during last week’s 23-7 loss to Michigan State when the line surrendered its only three sacks of the season, the Spartans blitzed when the Irish were in empty backfield formations, putting the offensive line at a disadvantage.

Turkovich said the offensive line is better than it was last season, but still has room for improvement — especially after netting only 16 yards rushing against the Spartans.

“We can get better as far as the run game and get better with our fundamentals,” he said. “... Last game they were getting pressure and getting sacks and we can’t win if that happens.”

But even with the line’s marked improvement this season, something Turkovich has been a major part of, he remains his own harshest critic.

“Even if I make a block on a play, I’ll still (thinking) I could have done better,” the senior said. “I think that I’ve done good things, but there’s definitely room for improvement still.”

Turkovich said the most important thing for him this year is to make sure he leaves Notre Dame on a high note. After last season’s debacle for the linemen, he wants...
By BILL BRINK

For David Grimes, growing up in Michigan made him want to beat Michigan.

The senior wide receiver from Detroit said he came to Notre Dame for the same reason many other athletes say they come here — the combination of good academics and solid athletic programs. But before giving the party-line response, Grimes mentioned the Wolverines.

This year, the win tasted particularly sweet.

"Last year, having that disappointing loss, and then to come back and get the win is huge," he said. "Eventually I had to go back home and just put up with all the Michigan fans, and now I can talk a little trash myself."

Whatever his motivations for coming here, Grimes has made an impact. Heading into tomorrow's game, he is the active leader in career tackles with 79. This year, Irish coach Charlie Weis rewarded him by making him an offensive captain.

He's had the best of both worlds, visiting two BCS Bowls before playing for the worst team in Fighting Irish history.

"It was frustrating and frustrating but I think the best part we got out of that season is that we made an effort not let that happen again," Grimes said. "I think that's kind of what we fed off in that game."
THOMAS BEMENDERFER

Offensive lineman to enter medical school after graduation

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Managing Editor

While some of his classmates will be looking into the job market and others will be preparing for classes in April, lineman Thomas Bemenderfer will be getting ready for another kind of test — the NFL draft.

The Mishawaka native only applied to one school — Notre Dame — and said he feels confident about being accepted there. He has already taken his interview for the NFL, but has not heard back yet.

Bemenderfer is a Science Pre-Professional major enrolled in the College of Science, and has also made the Dean's List. He said that combining a rigorous academic schedule with football has been one of the more rewarding parts of his college experience.

"It's probably one of the most valuable things I've learned by taking hard courses and doing football at the same time, it's time management," Bemenderfer said. "You always have to realize what you have to do and study hard to succeed. You have to put a lot of time in.

Bemenderfer added that the benefits that come from his hard work should pay off in the long run.

"One of the things you sacrifice is free time, but it's worth it. It's worth it to do well in school, it's really worth it to do well in football," he said.

Despite seeing limited playing time during his time at Notre Dame, Bemenderfer has taken his work ethic from the classroom and applied it to the practice field.

"You can never take a play off, you can never choose to be lazy, because if you're doing that you're not getting better," he said.

Offensive line coach John Latina said this hardworking player is one of the things that has made Bemenderfer such an asset to the line during his time at Notre Dame. One major result of his hard work is that Bemenderfer can play at all three interior line positions.

"He's a guy who's been around a long time. Understands concepts, understands our blocking schemes and our plays. It's a great advantage when we can do that," Latina said.

Latina added that Bemenderfer has been a great role model for other players in terms of his work ethic and attitude.

"I think a lot of the younger players see him because they respect his hard work ethic, he's a tough kid, he's got it," Latina said. "They see that he's played multiple positions, and the only way you do that is become a student of the game. And they also know his off-the-field habits in the classroom. I think he's a great guy to emulate if you're a young player."

Even though Bemenderfer grew up in South Bend and had two older brothers attend Notre Dame, his first choice was Northwestern, where he received a full athletic scholarship. However, after the death of former Wildcats coach Randy Walker, Bemenderfer decided to transfer to Notre Dame.

Bemenderfer said the decision was a tough one to make since he was walking away from a guaranteed free ride without any guarantee of making the football team.

"I took a leap of faith without any promises and without talking to the coaching staff and everything turned out really well and I got really lucky," he said.

But when it came down to it, Bemenderfer decided he had to follow his dreams.

"When it comes down to it, you only live one life, you might as well do it the way you want to and live your dreams," he said of his decision to transfer.

Going to Notre Dame was always a dream for Bemenderfer, one that started when his father would take him to games as a child.

"It was just an incredible experience, walking around, seeing all the people, the emotion, walking around campus and seeing the tradition. Everything about Notre Dame is magical," Bemenderfer said. "All of Bemenderfer's hard work and gutsy decisions have paid off so far, as he has earned a scholarship each of the last two seasons."

"It puts you on top of the world when you get that scholarship and you know that all your hard work had some kind of result. But not even that could top Bemenderfer's head."

"The scholarship just motivated me to work harder," he said.

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PAUL DUNCAN

Injured offensive tackle laments the loss of season

By MATT GAMBER
 Associate Sports Editor

The fact that he'll likely have the opportunity to return for a fifth year's not making offensive tackle Paul Duncan sit out his senior season, he says.

"It's not cool at all," said Duncan, who started all 12 games last year and is the Irish's top returning offensive tackle.

"I've been pretty upset to miss the opportunity to be out there with a lot of the guys I came in with and aren't going to be here next year. But you know what, there's still a lot to look forward to."

The Dallas, Ga. native was expected to compete with fellow senior Michael Turkovich to start at left tackle. But torn cartilage sidelined Duncan during preseason drills, and Irish coach Charlie Weis announced on Oct. 21 that he was out for the year.

"We're lucky, and I love the opportunity to see Turk play," said Duncan, a manager on the team's academic leadership major. "It was really disappointing for me in camp when the real battle went down and I got hurt and couldn't fight for a spot or for Turk, and he's played really well."

Though unable to suit up on Saturdays, Duncan has taken pride in his role as a substitute, an extension of an offensive line that was much-maligned a year ago.

"We could have obviously all last year and going into the spring, just been like 'Oh geez, we're horrible,' " he said. "But we just kept pushing, kept growing and kept learning. We just learned how to work, how to get ready and get me time experience."

The lessons learned during a disappointing 3-9 season have carried over into the line's revamped attitude this year, Duncan said.

"It's been really exciting just to see them do well. I like to think I have a little part of it, especially from the spring with a lot of the development, and just to see it come to fruition during the season has been great."

"The opportunity to sit back and watch the offense, go more into the details, kind of coaching ... being able to sit back and help guys with different pointers and techniques has helped me."

Offensive line coach John Latina said Duncan's contributions to the line's continued development have not gone unnoticed.

"I obviously hate the fact that he's not out there for us now, but he's a very intelligent player and a smart player who understands a lot of offense," Latina said. "I think he learned a lot of light on that that was really gone on for him."

Duncan's teammates have helped him keep that light switch on — literally. Duncan lives off-campus with Turkovich, defensive lineman Pat Kuntz, safety Kyle McCarthy and linebacker Steve Quinn in a house that they call "the light house." Duncan said.

"We try to keep it low-key, don't get too crazy, which is nice. We keep it nice and clean," Duncan said. "In the house, you rely on four roommates! so much more than in dorms — for the gas bill, the electric bill, all that stuff. It's just a different aspect of life."

But living on campus for three years and two in O'Neill, then one as a junior in Knot is not something he would trade, Duncan said.

"I've got great bonds with the guys in O'Neill, I love those guys and I spent a lot of time with them," Duncan said. "And to be honest, if I had always lived with just athletes, I probably wouldn't have met my girlfriend (who graduated last spring). Just being a regular student, hanging out — you've got to be with other people in different roles of just being in college."

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Irish offensive lineman Thomas Bemenderfer warms up before Notre Dame's 27-21 win over Navy on Nov. 15.
Irish fifth-year senior middle linebacker Maurice Crum Jr. has given all he can over the past five years, on and off the field.

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Editor's note: this story originally ran on Nov. 7, 2008.

It takes a pretty good excuse for Irish coach Charlie Weis to sit a player to miss practice. This summer fifth-year senior Maurice Crum Jr. came up with one that was good enough to miss a whole week of workouts.

Crum spent a week in Accra, Ghana bringing much-needed computers and books to a local orphanage.

Crum along with several others from Students Bridging the Information Gap (SBIG) arrived in Africa on June 10 to spend a week at the orphanage and deliver 15 new computers and over 2,000 donated books to the children there.

The group also raised enough money to construct a brand new, air-conditioned computer lab to house the new machines.

“The trip was really special,” Crum said. “Having a chance to see someone else’s lifestyle and being welcomed into their culture really put my life in perspective.”

Maurice Crum Jr.
Irish linebacker

“Having a chance to see someone else’s lifestyle and being welcomed into their culture really put my life in perspective.”

While in Africa, Crum helped set up the new library and taught some of the 300 children living at the orphanage how to use the computers. They also had some time for fun.

“I got to play a soccer game with the kids. They were younger kids, but they killed us,” he said. “Next time I go back, I think I’ll bring a football.”

The program intends to visit and donate to a different orphanage in Africa each year. Crum said he plans to attend and do as much as he can to help out.

Playing soccer with the kids inspired Crum to want to start his own charity called Crumbal for Kids to distribute clothes throughout the continent. He is currently in a graduate class that teaches the ins and outs of getting help from the United Nations. Crum said that he plans on setting work to set it up once the football season slows down.

In the meantime, Crum has a few things to keep him busy on the field.

This Saturday against Boston College, Crum has a chance to crack the Irish record books. He is currently five tackles away from joining the top 10 tacklers in Notre Dame history. Crum is third on the team this season with 49 tackles through eight games, bringing his career total to 290.

“That is stuff you dream about. I’ve been in the right place a bunch of times to make a bunch of tackles,” Crum said. He is also only 10 tackles away from passing former safety Tom Zbikowski for eighth place all-time. Bob Crable, who played in the late 1970s, has a safe hold on the No. 1 spot with 221 career tackles.

“Leaving my mark on this place is something special and something that at least I’ll be in books for something,” he said.

Ironman

Crum already holds an impressive spot in the books with the longest games played and games started streaks in the program’s rich history. Crum was red-shirted his freshman season, since then he has played in every single game for the past four years.

“I feel like my greatest attribute is my toughness,” Crum said. “If I can help the team and be effective, I’m going to play.”

Crum has also started 44 of those 45 including 43 in a row to start his career. Crum’s only miss was two weeks ago against the Huskies in Washington. Crum sat out the first play because of the formation Washington opened the game with.

And he has never missed a game due to injury.

“It has a lot to do with will power. You’re going to get beat up, but for me the greatest cure for pain is for the next play to occur,” he said. “As long as you are out on that field and the adrenaline is pumping, nothing else really matters.”

Crum needed all the adrenaline he could muster during his sophomore season when he played the majority of the season with a back injury. Crum said that he frequented his local chiropractor throughout the season, but didn’t want to get the necessary surgery until the season had ended.

“No need to say, it hurt, but my will power and my desire to help the team kept me on the field,” Crum said.

The back hasn’t been a problem since his surgery, but there are plenty of other bumps and bruises that a middle linebacker picks up during games.

“ Bruised legs, turf toe, you know, just the regular kind of football stuff.”

Crum said that a big part of his will to play through injuries comes because he wants to set a good example for whomever may be watching.

“I don’t know who’s watching me or who wants to be like me and I don’t want them to get the wrong idea.”

There’s a difference between being hurt and being injured.

Leading the way

Crum is very conscious of his role as a leader of the Irish team. He is one of the 17 players to be named captain twice. He was the only captain who was not a fifth-year senior and this year he was a shoe-in for the spot along with offensive captain David Grimes and special teams captain David Bruton.

“Being a leader of a team means that you have to be whatever your teams needs you to be,” Crum said.

Crum said that in a season full of many highs and lows, his job has changed on a weekly, or even daily basis. As middle linebacker and the oldest player in a young defense, Crum has had to be a rock for his team on and off the field this season.

Crum attributes most of his leadership skills to his father, Maurice Crum Sr. who was a linebacker at the University of Miami.

“My dad has always been a very important factor in my life. Him being around and knowing the game, it helps,” Crum said.

Crum said that he was forced into being a veteran player pretty quickly with such a young team. He did get the chance to watch players like Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays, which helped him learn how to work well together.

They all had a role, one was the hammer one provided the energy. I had a different group of guys to study and take their skills and apply them to my own play,” he said.

Crum couldn’t define a specific role for himself because he has had to wear about every hat there is in the past four years for his team.

All of his hard work has certainly paid off. The entire nation is starting to recognize Crum’s work on and off the field.

He is currently a finalist for the Lowe’s Senior CLASS Award, which is given to a senior from each sport every year for their leadership on the field, in the classroom and in their communities.

Crum graduated from Notre Dame last May with a degree in Sociology and enrolled in graduate school after the University approved him for a fifth year on the field.

Crum attributes the praise of that award to his family.

“The way that raised me and teaching me values, teaching me to be that well-rounded guy. The award is just a result of my upbringing,” Crum said.

The winner of the award is based on nation wide fan voting and will be decided on Dec. 10.

Between a degree from Notre Dame, a place in the Irish record books and another trip to African orphanages Crum certainly has the resume to win.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Irish fifth-year senior middle linebacker Maurice Crum Jr. prepares for a play during Notre Dame’s 28-21 win over Stanford on Oct. 4. Crum had four tackles in the game.
After injury, Herring still has unfinished business

By GREG ARBOGAST
"Sports Writer"

Ray Herring is no stranger to grabbing the attention of tens of thousands of people.

Before his senior year at Holy Trinity High School, Herring was asked by the Florida Today newspaper to keep a diary of his final season. Plenty of people were interested in what Herring, a starter both ways during the first four years of varsity football at Holy Trinity, had to say.

"Anytime I had thoughts, I wrote them down on the website for Florida Today," Herring said. "The day I committed to Notre Dame, I think I had 100,000 people visit my site. (Florida Today) said that was the most they'd ever had, even more than when The Challenger blew up, so I broke that record on that."

While Herring is a bit of a celebrity in his tiny hometown of Melbourne, Florida, he's still trying to achieve the same status in South Bend.

Pegged by the Notre Dame coaches as a strong safety, Herring came to South Bend behind Tom Zbikowski on the depth chart. The former Irish All-American didn't leave much opportunity for Herring to play over the next three years.

Herring did make one start, in 2006 against Stanford when Zbikowski was out because of an injury. Herring made the most of his opportunity, recording nine tackles during a 21-10 Irish victory, and he recalls that game as one of his favorite memories of his Notre Dame career to date.

"It was good because it was my first start," Herring said. "I was pretty nervous." Other than that Stanford game, Herring was primarily consigned to special teams duty his first three years. His freshman year, Herring made his first appearance on special teams against Washington, and he recorded five tackles in 115 special teams appearances on the year.

Herring's role expanded slightly his sophomore year as he became a mainstay on special teams and received playing time at safety late during several games. On the year, he finished 13th on the team with 18 total tackles, and he also added two pass break-ups. After playing both ways for four straight seasons in high school, Herring had to adjust to more limited playing time at Notre Dame.

"It was kind of hard," Herring said. "But at a good program like this where you have good players, sometimes you got to wait your turn."

Ray Herring
Irish Strong Safety

Irish strong safety Ray Herring runs stride-for-stride with wide receiver George West during a practice April 5, 2008.

"It was kind of hard," Herring said. "But at a good program like this where you have good players, sometimes you got to wait your turn. I believe everything happens for a reason."

Herring may still be searching for the reason why his junior season went down the drain. Four games into the year, Herring injured his groins and wouldn't play for the rest of the season. Although Zbikowski's decision to return for his senior year in 2007 meant that Herring was still blocked on the depth chart, Herring's injury opened the door for teammate Kyle McCarthy. McCarthy hasn't looked back as he assumed the starting strong safety spot and currently leads the Irish in tackles with 89.

"I kind of had to start over on the depth chart," Herring said on the effect of his injury. "I had Kyle (McCarthy) behind me, and he's a good player. He got in front of me, and it was kind of hard to pass him because he's a good player too, so I kind of have to wait right now."

Herring has received academic eligibility for a fifth season, and he
Tough it out

Whether it’s opponents’ offensive lines or teammates’ sanity, Pat Kuntz is a disruptive force

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Editor’s note: this story originally ran on Oct. 3, 2008.

No matter what Pat Kuntz faces — opposing offensive linemen, public speaking engagements or Halo challenges — he toughs it out. That’s why, in his senior year of high school, he played his last four games with a broken right arm.

Not a hairline fracture that didn’t show up on an X-ray. A teammate’s helmet squashed his arm as Kuntz made a tackle, and Kuntz had a cast from his wrist to above his elbow. He played anyway. After one game without elbow flexion, he decided he needed more mobility and cut the cast down so his arm could flex.

“It hurt a lot, but it was my senior year,” he said.

It’s that attitude that helped Kuntz become what defensive line coach Jerry Oliva calls his most disruptive player and what defensive coordinator Gerwin Brown calls a “tough guy.”

“I’d say that I kind of have some of those qualities,” Kuntz said.

Before he was disruptive, he was tough at the high school level. Kuntz holds the career sack record at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis with 22.5 sacks, something he is quite proud of. He bet an older teammate who previously held the record that he would break it, and then did just that.

“I've had a lot of 3-technique my first two years. It's definitely different, but it reminds me a little bit of it,” Kuntz said.

“Stanford’s running backs, Toby Gerhart and Anthony Kimble, present a two-sided challenge to Notre Dame’s defense Saturday. To quell the running game, Brown said, the defense has to control the line of scrimmage.

“If running backs run the same when there’s no hole,” Brown said, “then there’s no hole or the holes are small, it’s harder for them to be effective.”

For that to happen, said Kuntz, the entire defense needs to be better.

“Disruptiveness isn’t a physical trait, Oliva said. It’s mental.

“The way we call our defenses helps that because we call an aggressive style of defense,” Oliva said. “It’s their attitude, just wanting to get there.”

That aggressive play-calling hasn’t produced much in the way of tangible results this season — only one sack — but that didn’t concern Kuntz or Brown.

Kuntz said there were other stats, like completion percentage or turnovers forced, that showed the success of a defensive scheme. Brown’s philosophy, he said, is to keep the offense off the sticks at all cost.

“If the other team could complete 70 percent of their passes, he said, but as long as they were short passes and the defense forced three-and-outs, he’d be okay with it.

“You can be very effective with the pass rush by not getting sacks,” Kuntz said.

“Getting your hands up, allowing throws, things like that.”

If disruptive describes Kuntz on the field, messy describes him off of it. He’s an eccentric guy, outgoing with a vibrant personality. His hair reflects the many sides of his psyche; so far this season, it went from long, flowing brown hair to a thoroughly terrifying skullet to a shaved dome.

“Everybody’s open game. It doesn’t matter if you’re a freshman or a senior. If you do something stupid, everybody’s going to get after you,” he said.

Pat Kuntz
Irish senior

Senior defensive lineman Pat Kuntz attempts to break up a pass in Notre Dame’s 23-7 loss to Michigan State on Sept. 20.

“Everybody’s open game. It doesn’t matter if you’re a freshman or a senior. If you do something stupid, everybody’s going to get after you,”

Kuntz agreed.

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R e c e n t l y , Kuntz had a problem with nose tackle Ian Williams’ dreadlocks. Sheding hair onto his team, running during meetings. After Williams ignored Kuntz’s warnings to stop, Kuntz pulled out wads of his long locks and spread them all over Williams.

“And I didn’t tell him until after the meeting,” he said.

Kuntz’s act will soon go public; he’s scheduled to speak at tonight’s pep rally. He won’t give any hint as to what he’ll say, but he has “a little something something” planned.

“I’m a pretty good public speaker. Let’s just say I’m probably going to have a good time,” he said. “People might like it, people might not. We’ll see what happens. I told somebody that they better put Jimmy first because I’m going to be a tough act to follow.”

Contact Bill Brink at wibrink@nd.edu

IRISH SENIOR Pat Kuntz lines up in the rain against the Michigan offensive line. Kuntz helped Notre Dame to a 35-17 win over the Wolverines on Sept. 13 at Notre Dame Stadium.

ALLISON AMEIRO/TH3 Observer

Tough it out

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

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Contact Bill Brink at wibrink@nd.edu
Walk-on balances football with aerospace engineering

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Most students would disagree with John Leonis when he says he is nothing special. The walk-on from San Antonio, Texas native, had no plans to try out for Notre Dame's football team when he arrived at school. Whatever time is left goes to studying, because Leonis is an aerospace engineering major.

“It's a lot of balance between what I do on the field and my social life. A little bit, I enjoy trying to spend time with my friends — I can't go out with them much, but I drive them around sometimes.”

Leonis didn't even arrive at Notre Dame expecting to play football. The 1990s Irish varsity football all four years at his small Oregon high school, he had no plans to continue. However, after meeting a football player in his dorm and playing intramural football, Leonis decided to try out.

His first season was unsuccessful his freshman year, but that did not stop him.

“I wasn't really prepared to try out so I came back after that and I rededicated myself, I refocused, came out my sophomore year, and, well, here I am.”

Leonis said tryouts were difficult, especially in the early stages when the potential walk-ons had to work out at 5:30 a.m. three times a week.

“It was shell-shocking, really, because you didn't really make it until after the Spring Game, and you had to find out if you'd be invited to camp,” he said. “And you can't be running out of the locker room with hands down. I mean, I got to run out for the Spring Game, the Stadium was half full, and it was crazy, I didn't know what to do with myself.”

Leonis is part of the defensive show team, which simulates the opponent's defense to help the offense gain the right looks during plays. He performs a similar function on special teams as well, but the positions do not come with a lot of glory.

“We each have our own role. I still do it, I can't get the offense ready with show teams, but that's what they said.”

Despite the negatives, though, Leonis said he wouldn't do things differently.

“It's been really fun, he said. “I wouldn't trade my experience for the world.”

Leonis said he would miss the football team's camaraderie once the season ends.

“It's a special group of guys in there, and I'm just glad to be a part of them.”

John Leonis
Irish commenter

"It's a special group of guys in there, and I'm just glad to be a part of them."

— John Leonis Irish commenter

Along the way, Leonis did things differently. He walked on to the football team, even though he had no experience, but that did not stop him.

“I'd like to get a job, that's primary number one,” he said. “I just hope to get a job with Lockheed Martin or a similar company, and preferably on the coast, so he can be closer to home.”

Leonis said he would miss the football team. He said there is one thing he wants people to remember about him.

“I am not Mike Anello,” he said. “Last year when we did show team, Patrick Graham, our defensive graduate assistant who runs our show team, used to call me Mike Anello.”

Leonis said he would miss the Irish walk-on coordinator John Leonis, right, participates in a stripping drill in practice.

"I'm just glad to be a part of this great tradition."

— John Leonis Irish commenter

After going through a lot of rehab, it took nearly 11 months for me to get back to shoulder surgery to require.

“When the next year's tryouts came up, I'm not starting to get back into shape. I told myself that this is what I wanted to do, and I went out and gave it another shot.”

The second time went according to plan for Rodriguez who successfully made the Irish squad as a running back.

“The whole thing was definitely a trying experience for me,” he said. “But I wouldn't have traded it for the world.”

Things didn't get any easier once he joined the team.

During spring practice earlier this year, Rodriguez suffered a shoulder injury that threatened to end his final season with the Irish before it even started.

Rodriguez suffered a torn rotator cuff that normally requires season-ending surgery to fix.

“Just like before, calling it quits just never seemed to be a viable option for Rodriguez. He elected to play through it.

“The doctor told me he should have surgery at some point,” Rodriguez said. “But the surgery went to prevent me from playing this season and I didn't want that to happen. It's painful to walk in the world, but it's not like it's going to get any worse.”

Wearing his uniform for the first time, he took the field at Notre Dame Stadium during the final time.

“Unfortunately, we haven't fully hit me up to the point where I'm able to believe my athletic career is about to come to an end.”

— John Leonis Irish commenter

The whole thing was definitely a trying experience for me. But I wouldn't have traded it for the world.

— Mike Anello

I don't consider what I did anything special. I just came out here and did what I wanted to do for the school, and football presented itself as an opportunity, so I took it.

Contact Laura Myers at

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Nikolas Rodriguez
Walk-on halfback

Walk-on halfback refuses to let injuries stand in his way

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

It isn't easy walking on to one of the nation's premier sports programs in all of college football. Throw an injury into the mix and it only becomes downright impossible.

Nikolas Rodriguez found that the hard way his freshman year after a severe hamstring injury left him unable to finish walk-on tryouts.

“I made it all the way through the tryouts before I got injured,” Rodriguez said.

But since I couldn't play spring ball, they didn't know I could really play, they had to let me go.”

Coming off injury and with the odds a r e d s again against him, giving up and giving in to the Interball route seemed to be a more likely scenario. But that option just wasn't in the playbook for this San Antonio, Texas native.

“I just couldn't see myself being done with football.

Since "I couldn't play spring ball, they didn't know if I could play and they had to let me go." — Nikolas Rodriguez Irish halfback

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Although the past few seasons have not been ideal for the Irish, Rodriguez has one memory that he won't soon be forgetting.

“Mom was in the crowd too so it was even better to be able to share that experience with her.”

— Mike Anello

As for the future, Rodriguez hopes to get a job in advertising before returning to school to get his MBA. Rodriguez attributes what he learned on the field at Notre Dame as helping him figure out what he wants to do after football.

“It has certainly improved my time management,” he said. “Having to deal with school and then football on top of that is pretty stressful, but when I have to prioritize things at work, I think I will be prepared.”

Rodriguez also said that playing under Charlie Weis taught him some things that he would not have learned playing in another program.

“Since [Weis] comes from the professional ranks, he expects us to be more mature than your average program,” he said. “It's a good thing because he treats us like grown men and that helps you grow up faster and know what to expect when you get out in the real world. It's a professional and expects you to always give your best effort.”

Rodriguez doesn't take for granted the opportunity he enjoyed representing the Irish as a member of the football team.

“It's definitely an honor to be a part of this team,” he said. “There a ton of people who would do anything to be in the position that I was in, to play football for Notre Dame. This is the top program in the history of college football and it was truly special to be a part of this great tradition.”

Contact Alex Barker at

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IRISH INSIDER

Irish walk-on coordinator John Leonis, right, participates in a stripping drill in practice.

The Observer • IRISH INSIDER

Friday, November 21, 2008

John Leonis

Walk-on balances football with aerospace engineering

Nikolas Rodriguez

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Contact Alex Barker at abarker@nd.edu
Justin Brown didn't play football until his senior year of high school, but he is making up for lost time.

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Managing Editor

Editor's note: this story originally ran on Nov. 14, 2008.

During his career at Notre Dame, Justin Brown has been a solid, steady presence on the defensive line. The fifth-year end has 60 tackles, including nine for loss and 2.5 sacks, in his career for the Irish while adding depth to the front four. Not bad for a guy who didn't start playing football until senior year of high school.

From the hardwood... Brown grew up on a basketball court, as a forward who played competitively during middle school and high school.

Brown said he was a solid basketball player, starting for the varsity team at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md., during his junior and senior seasons.

Brown was originally going to go to college to play basketball, he said. Starting his junior season, he began to shop himself around to some Div. I programs for a scholarship.

"Going into the summer time, I focused more on trying to get scholarships for basketball. What was happening was I started getting injuries — ankle injuries. Just going to camps and going to AAC tournaments where a lot of scouts are, I just had ankle injuries," Brown said.

Those ankle injuries kept him out of competing in other camps and tournaments later in the summer. Brown said his interest in playing basketball during the offseason — and in turn impress college scouts and coaches from big time programs — led to Brown not getting the offers he wanted.

But Brown had another plan to get his scholarship at Notre Dame, playing football through — start playing football.

... to the gridiron...

"I was only 200 pounds [in high school]. They just put me on the field and let me run around and make plays," Brown said.

Justin Brown
Irish defensive end

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"I was only 200 pounds [in high school]. They just put me on the field and let me run around and make plays," Brown said.

Brown played a sort of hybrid defensive end/outside linebacker that season, but said that his position didn't matter to his game plan. Joseph and the other coaches gave Brown simple instructions for playing.

"Just go and get the ball carrier. Just go and run and make plays." And that's what I did. I was only 200 pounds. They just put me on the field and let me run around and make plays," Brown said of his high school coaching.

This plan was immediately successful, and Brown finished his first year of organized football with 65 tackles, nine sacks and three fumble recoveries. As his senior season wore on, he started getting more looks for that big-time college scholarship, he did not get in basketball.

While Brown was initially recruited mostly by local, small Div. I schools, like Richmond and Towson, eventually Boston College started showing more interest in him. After the Eagles, teams like Notre Dame, Penn State, Michigan and Florida all started looking at Brown.

Brown said that the biggest reason for this increased attention was the work of Joseph and his father, Michael Brown.

"After a couple of games, I played really, really well and my dad was just, 'We need to send some of these tapes out.' So between my dad and my coach, they made some tapes. My dad just sending tapes everywhere, probably like 50 schools, or something like that," Brown said.

Brown said he didn't know how he was so lucky that he could wind up playing football at Notre Dame after only one year, but said that he was meant to be here.

"That was God's work, I say. It's interesting. I play for Notre Dame and through God in there, and it's such a religious institution. There's a reason for everything happening. I'm supposed to be here, I guess," he said.

Brown said that when Notre Dame first started recruiting him, he had no idea about the school's history or tradition, but knew it must have been a special place because of how others created it.

"The thing that struck me was this place had to be special because of the reaction I would get from everyone. It was the reaction that people gave me that kind of gave me the desire that this was some place special. And when I came up here, it sort of proved itself true," he said.

But after giving the Irish another look, he said the school would be expected for "three-fourths"-fit for him.

One of the things that stood out to me was that people talk about — you get a degree from Notre Dame, you're set for life. A lot of people talk about that kind of giving — there is so much going on, on a football field. There was a lot I had to learn. Probably for the first two or three years here I felt like I was playing catch-up to everybody else physically and mentally," he said.

Justin Brown
Irish defensive end

"Probably for the first two or three years here I felt like I was playing catch-up to everybody else, physically and mentally," he said.

Brown said the most difficult part of that adjustment period was learning how to take on blockers, something which he became much more as he has put on 77 pounds during his five years with the Irish.

But in the football field, one big adjustment for Brown was a role change after his freshman year. Brown said that, while he sat out the year and was not fully integrated into the system and therefore the change did not have as big of an impact on him, Williamson's firing was still difficult for him to deal with.

"You always see those things happening to other teams on TV. When it happened to us, it was kind of shocking. It was shocking and surprising, but it was something we had to deal with and move on," he said.

... and beyond

After this season, Brown said his dream would be to play in the NFL. But, just like in high school, he has a contingency.

"And if that doesn't work, I always have my Notre Dame degree to fall back on," he said. Brown graduated in May with a double major in Film, Television and Theater and Sociology. He started with the FTT major with a concentration in television, something he has always been interested in, he said.

"I'm really interested in media. Coming into college, I wanted to work with advertising, so that's where I went. I really like the creative aspect of things. I was happy when I saw that they have a film program here," he said.

Brown said he added the sec-ond major because he thought it would be a good fit with the FTT.

He is currently enrolled in a non-degree graduate studies program, taking some sociol-ogy courses and a special studies class. For the special classes, he is working on a multimedia CD for his brother's wedding, which was in October.

But in the much more imme-di ate future, Brown said he is excited to play Navy and excited to see his family.

"I guess, it's kind of like my Thanksgiving. I don't get to go home before Thanksgiving, so that's always good to see my family around this time of year. People don't always get to see their families, so I'm fortunate to see mine.

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Brown said he didn't know how much time he would get to spend with them, but it won't be enough if this year is any-thing like his last trip to Maryland two years ago.

"Last time, they were calling me to get on the bus because I wasn't ready to leave yet," Brown said.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa@nd.edu
Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Roster

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Notre Dame 2008 Schedule

Sept. 6: SDSU—W
Sept. 13: MICH—W
Sept. 20: at MSU—L
Sept. 27: PURDUE—W
Oct. 4: STANFORD—W
Oct. 11: at UNC—L
Oct. 25: at WASH—W
Nov. 1: PITT—L
Nov. 8: at BC—L
Nov. 15: NAVY—W
Nov. 22: SYRACUSE
Nov. 29: at USC

Coaching

Offensive coordinator Mike Haywood will miss practice again this week, putting Charlie Weis in charge of play-calling once again. Charlie Weis is on the other side of the ball. Brian Rabb has been his defensive play-caller all season. After four years as the leader of the Orange he has racked up a grand total of nine wins.

Quarterbacks

With Charlie Weis guiding the helm once again this week, the Irish offense will continue to thrive. Jimmy Clausen has turned the ball over six times in his last two games. But last week against Navy we seemed to be getting back on track completing 15 of his 18 pass attempts. Senior Evan Sharpley might also see the field in his final home game.

Iris Rushing

Last week Notre Dame dedicated itself to the run and this week Notre Dame offensive line continued to work on its running game. But last week against Navy we seemed to be getting back on track completing 15 of his 18 pass attempts. Senior Evan Sharpley might also see the field in his final home game.

Iris Passing

For the first time in four years the Notre Dame passing offense has taken a back seat to the ground game. Clausen threw only 18 times last week, but did so efficiently after a few early misses. The passing game will be hurt with the loss of star receiver Michael Floyd.

Syracuse doesn’t crack the top 100 in FBS pass defenses, but they are experienced at corner-back and have come up with seven interceptions so far this season.

Without Floyd the Irish are going to be even less potent in the passing game. Clausen-led offense has taken over and has come up with seven interceptions so far this season.

Bill Blank Sports Editor

Notre Dame 34
Syracuse 14

FINAL SCORE:

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

The Irish experts
Syracuse Orange

2008 Schedule

Aug. 30 at NW’ern — L
Sept. 6 AKRON — L
Sept. 13 PENN-ST. — L
Sept. 20 NE’rn — W
Sept. 27 PITT — L
Oct. 11 at WVU — L
Oct. 18 at USF — L
Nov. 1 Lvuille — L
Nov. 8 at Rutgers — W
Nov. 15 UCONN — L
Nov. 22 at Notre Dame — L
Nov. 29 at Cincinnati — L

Syracuse Orange

Orange Rushing

Brinkley presents the Irish rushing attack. Curtis Brinkley recently moved to 14th all time on the Orange rushing list. He averages over five yards every time he touches the ball and has a supporting cast of other impressive backs.

The Irish have struggled throughout the year to shut down feature backs allowing several hundred yard rushers. However, last week they held the No. 1 rushing offense in the country to 180 yards on the ground.

Strength meets strength in this category as Brinkley presents the Irish defense with its biggest challenge this week. He will have plenty of attention to wear him down, but if the Irish defense from last week shows up, that might not be enough.

True freshmen Antwon Bailey and Marcus Sales have come on late in the season and present big play threats for the Orange. The team also likes to use their tight ends a lot in the passing game.

With three seniors starting in the defensive backfield the Irish bring a level of experience that Syracuse cannot match. Branton, McCarthy and Lambert will be eager to make the most of their Senior Day with some big plays.

Patrick Shadle has only missed one field goal of less than 50 yards and has 12 total on the season for the Irish. Syracuse opponents have only punted eight times so low numbers have only punted eight times so low numbers can be blamed on the special teams in that department.

Syracuse cannot match the consistency all year. The team also has only punted eight times so low numbers can be blamed on the special teams in that department.

When I was a sophomore, my friends and I agreed that, since I’m kind of a big guy, I would only go up for push-ups if Notre Dame hit 40 points. That hasn’t happened in a few years. I think this week I’ll finally get another chance in my last home game as a senior. Hopefully the Irish can put this one away early and let some of those seniors get in their final home game in the Stadium.

ORANGE PASSING

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The Irish have struggled throughout the year to shut down feature backs allowing several hundred yard rushers. However, last week they held the No. 1 rushing offense in the country to 180 yards on the ground.

Syracuse Orange

Special Teams

Last week, Torny Smith had the highlight of his career kicking the ball off the field the Irish bring a level of experience that Syracuse cannot match.

The team also has only punted eight times so low numbers can be blamed on the special teams in that department.

Syracuse has shown consistency all year.

ORANGE INTERCEPTIONS

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Syracuse has shown consistency all year.

ANALYSIS

The Irish defense dominated again in a freezing cold, possibly snowy game. Picking a win against Syracuse isn’t a bold statement to go out on, so don’t be surprised if the Irish finally pick up that game after they’ve been looking for it.

Dan Murphy

Sports Editor

Syracuse has absolutely nothing to lose this weekend, which makes them scary. Expect to see plenty of trick plays and weird risks from the Orange. But even the Annihilation of Puerta Rico (see Little Giants) wouldn’t be enough for this weekend.

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FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 42
Syracuse 17

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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

Editor's note: this story originally ran on Oct. 19, 2008.

"Take off your shirt!" Kyle McCarthy shakes his head, unable to hide a sheepish grin.

"Take off your shirt!" the yell comes again. It's not from a female student dying to see a football player topless, but rather, so McCarthy, Pat Kunz, one of McCarthy's housemates - or "roommates," as he heard McCarthy, a senior safety, would have his picture taken, Kunz had to be a part of it, and he kept asking - no, pleading - for McCarthy to undress. McCarthy refused. So his housemates - Kunz, offensive tackle Paul Dunne and linebacker Steve Quinn - along with linebacker John Ryan and receiver Bobby Zbikowski, consented to create the most ridiculous setting imaginable for a picture.

McCarthy, who is respectful and intelligent, up with the nonsense. He reserved himself for the most part but exudes 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 Kunz, the resident child, making a mess and playing Halo 3. There's Paul Dunne, the nicest person McCarthy's ever met. There's Steve Quinn, who loves gymmy bears for some reason McCarthy can't fathom. There's also tackle Mike Turkovich, who... McCarthy couldn't think of anything but ask if he had a nickname.

"He always wears boxers," Kunz said.

"Yeah, he never swears clothes in the house," McCarthy said. "He's got boxers on, but that's about it.

Quinn called McCarthy the dad of the house, but Kunz called him the mom. McCarthy agreed with Quinn.

"I'm the dad of the house," he said. "Put's a child. I have to whip him into shape every once in a while.

The five of them carried campus, but no one put their weight. McCarthy and Kunz are the main drivers - the two leaders, Kunz said - while Dunne slacks in the tradition.

"Duncan, I don't think he's ever started his car," McCarthy said. "He's trying to save gas money.

Learne the wrong idea, McCarthy was quick to mention, that the five of them clean the house once a week.

"I don't want you guys to get the wrong impression, it's not a shack. It's like a house," he said.

And McCarthy, would, reluctantly, call himself a nice guy, "I don't want to be boasted, but I'd say I'm a nice, hard working Midwestern kid," he said.

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 11 touchdowns and passed for 557 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 Division II programs.

"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 McCarthy arrived at Notre Dame, however, he battled both injury and the depth chart. He had safely Tom Zbikowski, who now plays for the Baltimore Ravens, in front of him. McCarthy was barely being penciled in.

"Zibby and myself became real good friends right off the bat," McCarthy said. "We both play the same position and have the same interests. I felt like his style of play and my style of play were pretty similar, but we're both our own player."

McCarthy's role was to learn 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 humbled him.

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

"I'm not in the starting rotation, however, near the end of his junior season, when he started getting more playing time. His confidence has never wavered, he said, but playing in front of 30,000 people can take some getting used to.

"Will and every day, everybody isn't bollering his name, but at the end of the day when you look at the film and you look at the stat sheets and he's doing his job."

McCarthy said it wasn't a neg- ative that other offenses focused more on him, in fact, it gets him going.

"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 and Brutton got to know each other well coming in as freshmen from Ohio, and despite disagreements over music - Brutton likes rap, McCarthy likes rock, and they can't reconcile the two - they got along both on the field and off.

"We'll watch film together, we'll talk about schemes together," he said. "We've got our differences, but we generally like football the same way.

Targeting Ringer

McCarthy, Brutton and the rest of the Irish defense have a new task this weekend: stop Spartans running back Javon Ringer, who has nine touchdowns in three games this season.

"The guy that they've got, he's a Heisman hopeful, he's got that kind of talent," McCarthy said.

"We've got to be prepared, the defensive line, linebackers and safeties to come up and tackle him."

Tackling Ringer, he said, was not so much a matter of positioning as of being prepping oneself for a potential big hit.

"Honestly, you probably just have to buckle up a little bit tighter," McCarthy said. "It's a guy that will jake you, but he's got some weight to him, some muscle to him. He'll try to run you over at times."

If one were to look at his team- mates' stage theatrics for his photo shoot, however, one might think McCarthy capable of stopping anyone. In various poses, with Kunz as the art director, he has a foot on Parriss' gut while Kunz holds on for dear life. Kunz, who wanted no part of any of this, stood in hysterics in the background.

Will McCarthy to live up to his teammates' view of him, as well as his lead to solo tackles? He doesn't know, but he's not wor- ried about it. His thoughts are elsewhere. After learning he had the lead, he said, "I guess I hope I lived at the end."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

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

Senior safety David Bruton works toward career in NFL

By CHRIS HINE

Editor in Chief

Editor's note: this story originally ran on Sept. 26, 2008.

This time last year, the NFL was still a distant dream to Bruton. Now, playing in his final season for Notre Dame, Bruton has developed a knack for getting it done.

"I'm here to provide a positive and use it as a motivational force," Bruton said.

David Bruton
Irish safety

Bruton said Jaden's birth last year showed him that football was merely an affectionately called "Knucklehead".

"I'm not here to just shoot the crap. I'm here to provide and hopefully get a good future for my son.

Getting ready for the future

But before Jaden can see his father play on Sundays, Bruton said he needs to make it to the NFL.

"I'm here to provide and hopefully get a good future for my son.

Finding football

In high school, Bruton dreamed of becoming an Olympic sprinter, much like his cousin, Tyson Gay.

"I'm in my 4th year and I have a pretty good level and not enough to make him captain.

Enrolling at Notre Dame, Bruton said he would like to be a man or a football player that he is today.

And if Bruton has anything to say about it, he'll be in the vicinity of a lot of deep passes for years to come after his final season at Notre Dame is over.

But Bruton in the NFL is something Irish defensive coordinator Corwin Brown doesn't want to imagine right now.

"Oh, I'm not going to go down that road," Brown said Wednesday.

"But I will say that I've been around guys and I've seen guys that have done it at a pretty good level and if he does things the right way he can do it.

David Bruton
Irish safety

On the field, his teammates in the secondary play a little differently because they know Bruton is there to back them up.

"He's got range back there. He's not a lot of safeties have," corner- back Raeshon McNeill said.

"It allows me, T e r r a i l L a m b e r t. R o b e r t Blanton, Gary Gray, whoever's in there, to play a little more confidence and be a little more aggressive because you know anytime on a deep ball, Bruton's going to be in the vicinity.

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"I'll say that I've been around guys and I've seen guys that have done it at a pretty good level and if he does things the right way he can do it. I'll just leave it at that. I want to focus on him being a good college player right now. I don't want to put him in Canton.

Canton may seem far away for Bruton at this point, but a few years ago, so did the NFL.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu
**Paul Kuppich**

Tight end joins squad after transferring from Columbia

By SAM WERNER  
Sports Writer

Even though senior tight end and long-snapper Paul Kuppich is a walk-on in his first, and last, year with the Irish, he is trying to make the most of his Notre Dame experience.

Kuppich transferred to Notre Dame from Columbia after his freshman year, and he said the biggest difference he has experienced between the two schools is Notre Dame's sense of community.

"It's more of an undergraduate feel," Kuppich said. "People are really supportive of each other. Not only supportive of the team, but just everyone in general.

"It's kind of cliché to say 'We are Notre Dame,' but it's real once you get here."

Kuppich did not apply to Notre Dame out of high school, as he wanted to play football in college and Notre Dame did not offer him a scholarship.

At Columbia, Kuppich was the Lions' second-string tight end and played regularly on special teams. However, during his freshman year, the Columbian, Ohio native decided that the New York City school just wasn't for him.

"Because there's so much going on outside of school in New York City, it kind of takes away from campus life and support," he said.

Kuppich said he contacted Ron Powloski, who was at that time Notre Dame's director of player personnel, to gauge whether or not he'd be able to walk-on with the Irish, though Kuppich said that football was not the primary factor in his decision to transfer.

"It played a small part," he said. "But it wasn't the end-all, be-all."

After sitting out his sophomore year due to NCAA transfer regulations, Kuppich walked on in the winter of his junior year, and suddenly realized that he had stepped up a level from Columbia. But he didn't back down from the challenge.

"In a sense it's humbling, because you realize you've stepped up a level and so the competition's going to rise, but I think that's something that everyone wants," he said. "As an athlete, you thrive on competition, being able to compete and make the team better.

That competition was highlighted in Kuppich's first training camp with the Irish this fall. He was listed as a co-starter at long-snapper with four other players.

"Every time you go into a training camp, you're coming from my experience at Columbia too, is that it's really a competition. That's to push people to become better themselves, but also to push others to become better. They put people on equal footing to see who comes out," Kuppich said.

Kuppich said his goal as a walk-on, it's not about yourself, "You're supposed to be making the guys across from you better."

He also said that, even though he's a walk-on, the rest of the team doesn't treat him any differently than any scholarship player.

"There aren't divisions or labels. Everyone's a Notre Dame football player," he said. With the glory and prestige of being a Notre Dame football player though, comes the responsibilities associated with it.

"The players treat you the same, the coaches are going to treat you the same as a scholarship player," Kuppich said. "They're going to expect you to know the plays, they're going to expect you to be on time, they're going to expect you make every meeting.

That hard work paid off for Kuppich against San Diego State, though, when he put on the gold helmet for the first time and got to run out of the tunnel as a Notre Dame football player. Even though he wasn't a Notre Dame fan growing up, he said it was definitely a special moment for him.

"It's kind of surreal in a way. As a kid, you always dream of playing for a big-time college program. Once you're here, you're seeing everything you always dreamed of."

That feeling wore off quickly, however, when Kuppich realized that he had work to do.

"You have to actually become what you've always looked up to," he said. "You expect to kind of take it all in, but in reality you're so focused on the game, you weren't in awe any more. You had to take it seriously."

While he wasn't with the team last year, Kuppich said he suffered through the team's 3-9 season as a student, and was working hard to fix it.

"While I didn't experience it first-hand, I'm still working as hard as I can for those guys who did because everyone deserves to be respected as a Notre Dame athlete, especially a football player," he said.

Kuppich, who plans to attend law school after graduation, will have one more chance to take the field as an Irish player this weekend against Syracuse.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

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**“Before and Beyond Modernism: Icons as Art”**

Charles E. Barber,  
Professor and Chairperson, Art, Art History, and Design

**11:00 a.m.**  
Saturday, November 22, 2008  
Annenberg Auditorium,  
Snite Museum of Art

The icon is both ubiquitous and a highly successful medium for religious art with visual qualities that appear archaic and strange. Yet it also embodies the comfort of a timeless tradition and can be found in churches and homes of all denominations. Barber will discuss these qualities in light of modernist aesthetics and postmodern theology.

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**Fall 2008 Schedule**

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

**09/06—San Diego State**  
"Faith Taking Shape: Early Christianity and the Arts"  
Thomas F. Noble, Professor and Chairperson, History

**09/13—Michigan**  
"Peter Pan as Cultural Icon"  
Susan C. Ohmer, William T. Carey and Helen Kuhn Carey Associate Professor of Modern Communication, Film, Television, and Theatre

**09/27— Purdue**  
"Electoral 2008: Race, Gender, and Faith"  
David E. Campbell, John Cardinal O'Hara, C.S.C., Associate Professor, Political Science

**10/04—Stanford**  
"The Sub-Prime Mortgage Mess and Federal Reserve Policy"  
Christopher J. Waller, Gilbert F. Schafer Professor of Economics

**11/01—Pittsburgh**  
"Catholics and Evolution: Old Tensions and New Directions"  
Phillip R. Sloan, Professor, Program of Liberal Studies

**11/22—Syracuse**  
"Before and Beyond Modernism: Icons as Art"  
Charles E. Barber, Professor and Chairperson, Art, Art History, and Design

3-1/2 hours before kickoff in the Annenberg Auditorium,  
Snite Museum of Art (unless otherwise noted).

For more information, visit http://saturdayscholar.nd.edu
Walking tall

Former walk-on Anello earns scholarship, playing time and respect

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Editor's note: this story originally ran on Sept. 11, 2000.

Less than a month ago, Mike Anello walked into Notre Dame Stadium and was told by an employee he had to leave. The area was for play­ers only.

"I walked down and they told me to stop," Anello said. "I thought they confused me for a student manager."

At a press conference earlier this week Anello found himself surrounded by reporters jam­ming microphones and cam­eras in his face. They all knew exactly who he was.

Last week the former walk­on was just another name on the depth chart. But after four big special teams tackles against San Diego State, the Irish punt team and is thought I had done some­thing wrong," Weis said.

"I thought I had done something wrong," Weis told him.

"I was all set to head to the Big House."

"I remember I had a good week on the scout team the week before," he said.

"During practice, Coach [Charlie] Weis started yelling, 'Where's Anello?'" Weis had him crack the depth chart and would be going to Ann Arbor that weekend.

Anello decided to do that and work out all week for the coaches to pull him out of the spot, but it never hap­pened. On his second trip down to South Bend he got to walk on the field and recorded his first col­legiate tackle.

"It was kind of a surreal ex­perience, if you had told me a few years ago that I would even be on the Notre Dame team I would've probably laughed at you," he said.

The road to where he is now was not an easy one.

As a 120-pound sophomore at Carl Sandburg High School outside of Chicago, he didn't see the field once. His coaches told him he was too small and had a little bit taller or weighed a few more pounds he could get some playing time.

After a frustrating year, Anello and the team to focus on wrestling. By his senior year the coaches rec­og­nized their mis­take and convinced Anello to join the team again. "I said it a lot," Anello said. "My senior year I just felt like some­thing was missing. I don't like to have too much free time."

Anello was named a week­ly captain eight times and helped lead the team to the state final­phases that year. He didn't give this kid a schol­arship," Weis said.

"I didn't want to spend four years doing that and worrying about cutting weight all of the time," he said.

But all of that work in the ring wasn't lost. Anello said that a lot of his work ethic and ability to train as hard as he does comes from wrestling.

"Weis and the coaching staff also told that wrestlers often make good football players. "I think that was fine with me," Anello said. "I thought not an easy one."

The road to where he is now was not an easy one.

"I walked down and they told me to stop. I think they confused me for a student manager." Mike Anello Irish defensive back

Mike Anello Irish defensive back

Anello's top sport throughout all of high school was wrestling. He had the oppor­tunity to wrestle in college but decided against it because of the wear and tear on his body.

"I've seen the guys who wrestle in college and they don't seem like fun. I didn't want to spend four years doing that and worrying about cutting weight all of the time," he said.

Irish senior defensive back Mike Anello runs downfield on kickoff coverage in Notre Dame's 17-0 loss to Boston College on Nov. 8. Anello had three tackles in the game.

Despite the chal­lenges, Anello never once thought of giving up. The thrill of throw­ing on the gold helmet every day was enough to keep him going.

Hard work pays off

Those sunrise workouts and 100-hour weeks paid off in a big way this August when Weis announced Anello was given a full scholarship for his contributions to the team.

"I didn't give the kid a schol­arship because of his appear­ance. I gave it to him because he earned it," Weis said.

Anello's par­ents were in town to watch the practice and witnessed the moment.

"I was the last one he called so I was getting a little bit nerv­ous," Anello said. "But when coach started saying 'This next guy is 5-foot-2, about 12 pounds,' I knew who he was talking about."

Weis continues to remind Anello how undersized he is on almost a daily basis.

"At first I was 5-4, then 5-2, now I think I'm under five feet according to him. For some reason, I keep on shrinking," he said.

Anello might be shrinking in "eyes, but to the rest of the Notre Dame football world, he can't get much big­ger.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

I didn't give this kid a scholarship because of his appearance. I gave it to him because he earned it."

Charlie Weis Irish coach

"That was really tough, doing all that [hard work] and not even knowing that you would make the team," he said. "They were only about 30 minutes long, but man, sometimes you would leave those workouts crawling out the door."

Anello made the team that spring, but as so often hap­pens, his reward for hard work was more hard work. He continued to train hard to move up the depth chart and make himself and the team better.

After his sophomore season, Anello got an internship at an investment banking firm that had him logging upwards of 80 hours per week, but still he found time to get up early and go for a run or hit the gym after a full day's work.

"That was probably the toughest part, working that hard and then having to go work out afterwards. There were plenty of days when I didn't want to be there," he said.

Weis said. "You think that it does comes from wrestling."

"Mike Anello Wrestling Star: Anello's ascent from unrec­ognizable to a fan favorite may seem like it happened fast, but it was the result of years of tireless work."
Scott Smith

Linebacker matures "physically and mentally" at ND

Irish linebacker Scott Smith lines up during Notre Dame's 27-21 win over Navy on Nov. 15.

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Assistant Managing Editor

What you see is what you get. At least that's what senior line­backer Scott Smith thinks about himself.

"I like to think I'm a pretty simple guy," Smith said.

But even though Smith isn't the most boisterous presence in the room, he's the self­known over his years on the gridiron. An improving as the years went on.

As a freshman Smith saw field time primarily from spe­cial teams. But his first tackle for Notre Dame was one that came at a tough moment of the season—against Michigan. And even though Smith's tackle was a big one against a powerhouse team, it wasn't necessarily an easy thing.

"When I came in as a freshman I kind of didn't know what to expect, everything was a lot faster, the guys were a lot bigger, doing things you usually hear when you first play college football," Smith said.

But with three years under his belt, things looks a little dif­ferent.

"I think I've matured both physically and mentally and just having the opportunity is something I've just kind of rel­ished, every time I've gone out there just to practice, being able to put that gold helmet on every day, being the captain and one that I'm going to remember for a long time," Smith said.

Smith didn't see the field in 2006, but he was back and strong in 2007. Smith said action in all 12 games as he recorded a career­best 18 tackles (seven solo).

And so far Smith is on track to break last year's numbers. Smith has brought Smith playing time in a number of ways including his play with the team for the upcom­ing game against Navy. Kevin Smith's tackle was Smith's last chance to play when he was number's called, and that's something I've just tried to do is go out there and make things happen to help this team win.

"It's really just staying in game mode because no matter what you're doing you really just have to stay attacking you have to play physical you have to play fast," Smith said. "A lot of what you do on defense transfers over to special teams and vice­versa, just being able and willing to go and make a play when you're number's called, and that's something I've just tried to do is go out there and make things happen to help this team win.

But with three years under his belt the last one Smith sees as a student­athlete. With a fifth year not a guarantee, Smith has started thinking about life beyond the gridiron — a possible career in coaching.

Smith being a student­athlete may not have been enough for him to play when he was number's called, and that's something I've just tried to do is go out there and make things happen to help this team win.

But with three years under his belt the last one Smith sees as a student­athlete. With a fifth year not a guarantee, Smith has started thinking about life beyond the gridiron — a possible career in coaching.

Kevin Smith

Smith takes time off from football to head to Beijing

By MIKE GOTTIMER
Sports Writer

As a linebacker on Notre Dame's scout team, Irish senior Kevin Smith spends much of his time on the practice field mirroring many of Notre Dame's opponents, preparing linemen to help his teammates prepare for what opposing teams will show them on the field each Saturday. But most of the players that Smith mir­rors each day on the football field won't have an extremely diff­cult time mirroring Smith's accomplishments off the field.

Smith walked on to the Notre Dame football team in the spring of his s 2006, and he is nearing the end of his sec­ond fall on the Irish roster. Before joining the Irish, Smith had a busy extracur­ricular life. Although Smith was very active in outreach as a member of Knott's inter­national football team and the rugby team — before it was officially reinstated — he was an equally involved in student government. Smith served as Knott Hall vice president, was a member of Student Senate and a repre­sentative on the freshman class council.

This past summer, howev­er, Smith was absent from the team's training camp as he traveled across the world to participate in the experi­ence of a lifetime. Smith was an intern with NBC, and he traveled to the Olympics in Beijing to work as a logger for the network's coverage of the games. As a logger, Kevin would log video and sound clips so that they could be called up faster at a later time.

He specifically worked on some of the lesser­known events, such as BMX, road cycling, and the triathlon. In addition, Smith's creden­tials allowed him to attend many of the other events, including a number of United States men's basketball games.

"As a student majoring in political science and peace stud­ies, the experi­ence was an interesting aca­demic experi­ence for Smith. During his time in China, Smith was able to see China and how impressive their opera­tions are.

"The Olympics were extraordinary, and the Chinese put on a good show," Kevin Smith Irish linebacker

"Normally they announce the player of the week is at the end of the practice, but coach Weis called me into his office and identical twin Brian is a line­backer on Navy's undefeated football team.

Because Kevin's brother plays for the Naval Academy, he had to travel to the final set for last weekend's game against Navy. Kevin was asked by the scout team player of the week was how to travel with the team for the upcom­ing game. Knowing that this would be his last chance to play in front of his brother, with whom he says he is extremely close with, Smith was determined to win the chance to travel.

"Each week the scout team player of the week travels with the team, so I worked really hard in practice," Smith said.

But with three years under his belt the last one Smith sees as a student­athlete. With a fifth year not a guarantee, Smith has started thinking about life beyond the gridiron — a possible career in coaching.

Kevin Smith's parents and older sister wound up making it to the game to see the youngest member of the Smith family play with each other. The trip wound up being Kevin's fondest memory of his time on the Irish football team.

"Navy was amazing," Kevin said. "Traveling with the team makes you feel so involved, and I even got to play on a few plays.

"I'm really happy that I've been a part of it," he said. "I'm grateful that I've had the chance to do it.

After graduating from Notre Dame, where he has had a unique and extraordi­nary college experience, Kevin plans to Teach for America and eventually attend law school.
Muscle Man

Asaph Schwapp has had to work hard his whole life to get where he is, and he wouldn’t have it any other way.

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

At six feet tall, 260 pounds, Asaph Schwapp is an imposing figure, and that’s after losing weight during the offseason.

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Asaph Schwapp is an imposing figure, and that’s after losing weight during the offseason.

Despite dropping nearly 20 pounds last winter, Notre Dame’s fullback remains a bruising force on the field — a force that is perhaps topped only by his handiwork in the weight room. Schwapp is widely regarded at the team’s strongest player. This summer, he bench pressed 530 pounds, that is more than double his body weight.

"Yeah, I still hold that title," Schwapp said. "I love bench pressing and that type of stuff."

Schwapp said he’s been a gym rat since his days in high school and still likes to get in a few extra sets in the off-season after he is done with the team’s regularly-scheduled lifts.

"I do the program with the team and then I have some stuff at my high school coach-es showed me that I’ll do on my own."

Schwapp has some stuff on his body. His right arm is a portrait of United in Brotherhood" spans a banner above his initials. His left arm, the Latin translation of "United in Brotherhood" spans a banner above his initials.

The senior was raised by his aunt and uncle since his days in high school. His uncle will be in town this weekend for his nephew’s last pep rally and home game.

On the field Schwapp has also had to deal with his fair share of adversity on the field during his career at Notre Dame.

As a freshman, he was thrown right into the mix appearing in all 12 Irish games that year. He racked up 67 yards on 27 carries including eight in his biggest game of the year against BYU. The Irish won that game 49-23.

Schwapp looked like he would continue to be a major part of the Irish offense at the start of his sophomore season. However, his season ended less than two games in against Penn State.

Late in third quarter of a 41-17 win over the Nittany Lions, Notre Dame ran a toss play and Schwapp was hit awkwardly, aggravating an old knee injury. This time, it required surgery that would leave him on the sidelines for the remainder of the season.

"It definitely set me back a little bit," he said. "I worked it out and rehabbed pretty hard and I was able to get back into the swing on things," Schwapp said.

After surgery in October, it was back to the familiar confines of the weight room. He put in two or three sessions every day in order to rebuild some of the hamstring and quadriceps workouts to regain the muscle mass he lost as a result of the surgery.

"It wasn’t fun," he said, "It was tough, I had never had anything like that in my life, never had surgery in my life. It took some getting used to."

Schwapp’s hard work put him back on the field for Notre Dame’s strength for the season opener in 2007 against Georgia Tech.

"It was great not having to wear that knee brace anymore and being able to run with no worries," Schwapp said.

With the brace gone, Schwapp was able to get back to doing what he loves the most — making holes.

In 36 career games, No. 44 has racked up exactly 44 carries for 99 yards, but that’s just fine with him. Schwapp said he gets the most joy out of leading the way for his fellow running backs.

"I’m always fired up to play, every time I hit the field I’m just trying to bash somebody," he said.

That’s the way it’s been for the senior since his days playing midget football in Hartford, Conn.

"I was always a blocking fullback just because I was pretty good at it," he said.

When he moved up to high school football at Weaver High School in Hartford, Conn., Schwapp continued to focus on blocking.

"But his strength and speed allowed him to stack up some impressive numbers despite the minimal amount of touches. As a junior he rushed for over 1,300 yards, averaging 12 yards per carry."

"I really didn’t carry the ball more than six or seven times in a game until my senior year, so that really didn’t take any getting used to here," Schwapp said.

Schwapp’s senior year he racked up another 1,100 yards on his way to being named Connecticut’s Gatorade Player of the Year.

Schwapp’s hard-nosed style of play is slowly disappearing from the game, especially at the next level. Spread offenses and limit-ed player rosters have caused most NFL teams to move down to one or no true fullbacks on their rosters. Schwapp isn’t discouraged.

"I’m still trying to turn this into a career," he said. "I think I’m good at what I do and if I can get to a team that will use a fullback, I think they’ll like me."

Schwapp is scheduled to graduate this May, but because of his injury he is eligible for one more year with the team. He has decided not to make the decision about whether or not he will apply for a fifth year until after this season comes to a close.

Whether he decides to enter the draft or not, Schwapp still has at least one more game at Notre Dame Stadium and right now that’s all that’s on his mind.

"It’s gonna be emotional for a lot of guys and I wouldn’t be surprised if it was pretty emotional for me too," he said. "Even if I do end up playing next year, it’s the last time I’ll be playing with a lot of these guys."

The senior said it’s just starting to hit home that this could be the end of the road.

"First thing that goes through my mind is, man I’m getting old. Time flies," he said.

Schwapp said that he feels that he has grown up a lot in the past four years. His time at Notre Dame has prepared him for whatever is next whether it is a trip to the NFL or another year in South Bend trying to push that bench press up to 540 pounds.

Contact Dan Murphy at dnmurphy@nd.edu.
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More than MSU

A mainstay in the secondary for the past three seasons, cornerback Terrail Lambert leaves an extensive legacy

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

Many Notre Dame fans will always remember Terrail Lambert for his two interceptions against Michigan State in 2006, which helped the Irish erase a 17-point deficit before winning 40-37.

But Lambert, now a fifth-year senior, hopes the comebacks against the Spartans is just a small part of his legacy.

"Honestly, I just want to be remembered as someone that just became part of the Notre Dame family and be remembered as a guy that did everything in his power to leave it better than it was when I first got here," he said.

Lambert first got here by the grace of a position change in high school.

Picking a position

Lambert did not even play on the defensive side of the ball until after he entered high school. As a freshman at St. Bonaventure High School, he went on to play running back at St. Bonaventure Secondary and was back at Florida State.

But St. Bonaventure coach Jon Mack said that Lambert might be a good fit at defensive back.

"Interestingly enough, it was a playoff game . . . I got a toss, and needless to say I was in the backfield, the corner came up, I ran him over and he had a concussion," Lambert said. "And then the following spring my coach, he was like we're gonna see how

this works on defense because obviously I've got a lot of aggression.

Even though Lambert became a defensive back by an accidental event, he has assimilated well to the position. He said he loves the pressure cornerbacks face on every play.

"Playing defensive back, especially corner, is a lot like sky-diving," he said. "You're living life on the edge and it's a rush. All these things can happen in the blink of an eye so it's just a challenge itself just being able to think on your feet and having that chess match, one-on-one with the receiver you're lined up across from. It's just a euphoric experience to say the least."

Excelling at the position

Because Lambert had the mindset of a cornerback before adopting the position, he said the switch from offense to defense was not very difficult for him.

"I think from the defensive standpoint, I decided on that side of the ball and particularly to focus on it, think at this level is just because it just seemed like the right position for me, it suited me," he said.

"I've always been the type of high pressure situations, I thrive off of it. It would make somebody else more nervous or a little bit uneasy. I just love being in that position."

Lambert anchored the St. Bonaventure secondary and had named to the California all-state second team. He chose to attend Notre Dame because of its tradition, and said he is satisfied with his decision.

"I played pretty decent, had a pretty good [high school] career, part of what's now a formula-blo program on the West Coast," he said.

"I sort of got my name out there and a m o m o h a reached here and by the grace of God I'm here."

Lambert said his best memories at Notre Dame are the 2006 game against Michigan State and the team's win over UCLA the following year.

"Playing defensive back, especially corner, is a lot like sky-diving. You're living life on the edge and it's a rush"

Terrail Lambert
Irish cornerback

Lambert's performance at the time.

Against the Bruins, Lambert made an interception with his mother in attendance.

"The only reason I say that was a great memory was at that was another comeback win for us and b) my mother was able to see me make a play in college, live in person," he said.

"That was the first time I really made a great play that she was there to see."

And against Michigan State, every Irish fan should know the story. Lambert said he hopes the two interceptions against the Spartans don't define his career. But certainly no recap of his career would be complete without the story of that game.

Michigan State 37, Notre Dame 33

In the driving rain in East Lansing, Lambert said he knew he and his teammates had their backs up against the wall. But before the Spartans set up at the line of scrimmage for a third down late in the fourth quarter, the Irish got a sign that their fortunes might be changing — the rain stopped.

"I remember breaking the huddle, the rain had just stopped the series before that it was just pouring rain like coming in sideways," he said. "And fans were screaming, everyone's just getting on their feet and it's just super loud."

Lambert said he got in his
cornerback position and anticipated the receiver he was covering would run an outside route. Lambert was wrong, but fortunately for the Irish, it didn't cost him. As Irish linebacker Maurice Crum blitzed Michigan State quarterback Drew Stanton, Stanton hurried his pass.

"The receiver takes off inside so I just chased him on his hip and Mo's blitzing and Stanton gets rushed and he sort of overthrows him," Lambert said. "And the ball just kind of falls into my hand and I catch it with one hand because I had one hand on the receiver."

Lambert said he noticed a change in the crowd as soon as he made the pick.

"I just looked down as and as soon as I saw him the ball in my hand it was like dead silence, I could have heard a pin drop," he said. "As loud as it was, I couldn't hear anything other than the way to the end zone."

Notre Dame 40, Michigan State 37

After the interception, Lambert took the ball 23 yards to the endzone. He then copped off the win for the Irish when he picked off another Stanton pass on the final play of the game.

Lambert said he did not fully realize the magnitude of his performance at the time.

"I really didn't hit me until I woke up in the morning the next day and I see my highlights on ESPN."

Terrail Lambert
Irish cornerback

Irish comeback Terrail Lambert drops back into coverage during Notre Dame's 21-13 win over San Diego State on Sept. 6. Lambert had six tackles in the game.

IRISH INSIDER
Walk-on tackle living the life he never thought he could have

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Jeff Tisak

Offensive tackle Jeff Tisak took the long and hard road of a walk-on to the Notre Dame football team, but he doesn’t regret a second of it. Being a part of the Notre Dame football tradition has been an experience beyond what he ever imagined.

“Notre Dame is something that you do not even think is real,” Tisak said. “It is something that you see on television and could never imagine being a part of. It goes way beyond just being a fan. It is like being a part of a family or a legend.”

Tisak said he is honored that he was given the chance to just keep playing.

“I love being part of the tradition, being around a great group of guys and a great bunch of coaches, and play for the University,” Tisak said.

Growing up in the small steel town of Ambridge in western Pa., with his two younger siblings Becky and Jon, Tisak never knew that he could be a part of something as special as playing football at Notre Dame. But Tisak drew inspiration from his father who was both a lieutenant colonel in the marines and is now an FBI agent in Duluth, Minn.

“We came from a blue-collar town,” Tisak said. “With my father being an FBI agent and a member of the military, he has really been an inspiration to me.”

The beginning of Tisak’s love for Notre Dame really came seven years before his acceptance into the University when his family would make trips between the Pittsburgh area and Duluth. They would make stops along the way that would inevitably include the Notre Dame campus.

“When I first visited Notre Dame, it was already like a second home to me,” Tisak said. “I had been here and at the time, I knew the ins and outs of the campus and knew a lot of people already on campus.”

But getting on campus and joining the football team was not as easy as just being familiar with them — it would take a lot of hard work. Tisak had to first get into Notre Dame academically and then go through the arduous process of walking on under Irish coach Charlie Weis.

“In high school, I had to work really hard to get all the grades to even get in,” Tisak said. “Then I had to work very hard every day on the practice field and in the weight room.”

That hard work has to extend even further to Tisak accomplishing a double major in the fields of political science and sociology. Balancing that heavy workload with playing on the football field has not been easy.

“You don’t sleep very much. You come out of practice late, get something to eat, and start studying,” Tisak said. “You have to make do with what you’ve got. You have to just make do.”

Tisak finds relief from the work and inspiration from his two siblings, Becky and Jon. Becky is a trainer on campus and Tisak gets a chance to see her from time to time around the facilities.

“It is great just to see her around every once in a while,” Tisak said.

Tisak is also proud of his younger brother Jon, who is currently at the end of his high school career and is looking into possibly coming to Notre Dame.

“My brother Jon plays football and baseball and he has excellent study habits,” Tisak said. “He is hoping to get in, but it is up to the coaches. He is a good student and a good player.”

Tisak’s first experience on the field at Notre Dame Stadium in his junior year was an odd but exciting one, as he did not get to block for quarterbacks Brady Quinn or Jimmy Clausen, but instead he was looking for junior safety Tom Zbikowski, who lined up in the quarterback position.

“It was great just trying to open up a hole for Zibby,” Tisak said.

But the experience was more a novel one for Tisak, it was the experience of a lifetime.

“You are wearing maybe 20 or 30 pounds of pads, but you don’t even feel it. I felt the fastest I have ever been, and I felt the lightest I have ever been, and I felt the strongest I have ever been,” Tisak said. “I went out there and played hard.”

Irish tackle Jeff Tisak came from a small town in Pennsylvania to walk-on to the Notre Dame team.

Tisak said some of his best friends on the team are center Thomas Bemenderfer, junior guard Chris Various, and junior linebacker. “He [Bemenderfer] is honest, Tisak said. “He is learning to tease him, as all good friends should.

One of those little things that he will always remember is his nickname, "Tis." According to Tisak there is no reason why his teammates call him "Ted," but it is a name that stuck. That type of camaraderie and rapport among the offensive line is something that he will keep with him for a long time to come.

Following his graduation, Tisak would like to stick around Notre Dame and try to get into law school. After that, he may look to join the Association of the United States Army as a lawyer.

“I want to go to law school,” Tisak said. “But I would like to see if I can end up being an AUSA, or something like that. But I want to stick around here.”

When asked what he would tell people who knew him here to remember his as, Tisak remained humble.

“I want people to remember that I was a good guy,” Tisak said.

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Kevin Washington

Despite a diversion from planned outcome, Washington thrives

By MATT GAMBER
Assistant Sports Editor

Kevin Washington, 42, along with lineeman Morrice Richardson, make a tackle during Notre Dame’s 28-7 win over Duke on Nov. 17, 2007.

Irish linebacker Kevin Washington, 42, along with lineman Morrice Richardson, make a tackle during Notre Dame’s 28-7 win over Duke on Nov. 17, 2007.

By MATT GAMBER
Assistant Sports Editor

asked at his Tuesday press conference to talk about the positive attitudes of upperclassmen who have been surpassed on the depth chart by younger players, Irish coach Charlie Weis had no problems in particular.

"Kevin Washington has been here for four years, hardly has played at all — a little bit on special teams," Weis said of the senior linebacker. "I can tell you, this year if we wanted to, we could make him the defensive show team player of the week every single week. And what we would expect is for guys like him as examples ... this is the way it’s supposed to be done, this is the way you practice ... [but I have] a lot of respect for players like that." Washington said the motivation behind his practice habits comes from the sense of family that he and his teammates developed over the last four years at Notre Dame.

"My role on the team didn’t play out as most recruits like myself would have wanted it," Washington said. "But you guys have to go out and say "OK, since I’m not playing, I’m not going try my hardest or give the best looks I can. That would just be letting the team down ... Anytime you have the chance to make your team better and prepare them for what they’re really going to need, it’s something to do." Washington might not have that choice to make at all.

"There’s always another aspect to where you could devote time or energy that will also have a positive [outcome]," Washington said. "You don’t have to look at one negative thing and think of all the other things that you can also do being other different things.

"But that doesn’t make actual playing time any less significant for Washington, who made the only tackle of his career in last year’s home finale against Brigham Young.

"Anytime you get on the field and actually play, that’s what you came here for," Washington said. "You’re going to be excited about it, regardless of what capacity it’s in ... Your parents are still going to call you anytime they see you on the sidelines, let alone in the game. Anytime you get on the field it’s gratifying.

And perhaps more than anything, the lack of playing time for Washington over the last three years doesn’t bother him.

"It’s just being able to roll with the punches, honestly," Washington said. "It’s not how exactly pictured me or maybe wanted it, but there’s still positive things you can bring of that — the relationships I’ve built with teammates, a lot of the connections I’ve made outside of football. There’s so much more I can take from that."
STEVE QUINN

Linebacker earns larger role in final season of play

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Come Saturday, Steve Quinn will walk out of the tunnel at Notre Dame Stadium for the last time as a football player. For the senior linebacker, the experience is one that will surely be a bittersweet moment that will return him to friendly memories. "I'll have mixed emotions," he said. "It will obviously be my final game so I'll go out of the tunnel and see all the fans going crazy. I got excited for every game so in that sense it will be the same, but at the end of the game, when we walk out, it will be a much different feeling."

Knowing well that his time is almost done as almost as a player, Quinn has learned to appreciate what remaining time he has as a student-athlete. "I mean, I've only got a couple of games left," Quinn said of the waning moments of his career at Notre Dame. "I've really got to give everything I've got because I want to take advantage of the couple of games I have in me, so I won't have any regrets." The path hasn't always been so clear for the Cherry Hill, N.J., native, as he was relegated to special teams duty for the majority of his career and played the role of a reserve linebacker. This season, Quinn has certainly made a huge leap and new role as he's beginning to understand the ins and outs of his position. Part of the reason for the added contributions was the switch in defensive philosophy that came when Corwin Brown was appointed as the defensive coordinator. "I think it really has kind of clicked for me," Quinn said. "Taking back too long ago with the defense that was installed really kind of made sense to me and I was able to pick it up and I wasn't thinking as much and just reacting because I knew what I was doing out there, more so. It was just working, coming early in the spring, working hard in the spring and it's kind of paid off this year for me." Quinn has seen the progression Quinn has made, and as a result, has put his confidence in the senior in an array of situations. "I think Quinn has worked his way into this position," Brown said. "The light bulb, I think has come on, but it's because of things he's done. He's put himself in that position. We haven't given him anything. He's earned it. He kind of deserves it and that's what happens when you're an older guy and it matters to you." Earlier this season, Quinn picked up a sack that forced a punt against Pittsburgh. Perhaps his most memorable moment of the field, however, dates back to 2006, when he blocked a punt against Southern Cal that sparked a touchdown. "Honestly most people, when I tell them who I am, they say, 'Oh are you that kid that blocked that punt at USC?' I guess that's what I'll remember forever — that I was that kid who blocked that punt at USC," he said with a laugh. "What will he remember the most, however, is the friendships that he has acquired through the years in the program. "Oh, yeah, I mean, there have been a lot of great guys since I was a freshman, that I've had a lot of fun with," Quinn said. "Guys like (Phil) Keutzy, (Kyle) McCarthy, Robby Parrish, all of those guys that I'm close with." As the time winds down on Quinn's career as a football player and graduation looms on the horizon, the senior wants to have a career in federal law enforcement. One thing that Quinn can take with him once he ventures into that field in the early mornings he's had to endure at Notre Dame.

"Getting used to all those early morning workouts," he said. "Getting up early and working hard. I guess in that sense, I'm already ready for the working world." So in the near future, if you ever run into an Officer Steve Quinn, be sure to ask him about that kid who blocked that punt at USC in 2006.

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Kris Patterson

Patterson achieves career goal, gets to travel with team

Patterson, who last season was named to the Associated Press All-American team, has already accepted a business school scholarship to the University of Michigan that will pay dividends when he heads out into the real world. "The Notre Dame network, they just watch out for each other," Patterson said. "I can't say enough about Notre Dame. I'm a better man because of it." The next day, he called me aside and I thought I was in trouble. He just said, 'Nice catch.' It was kind of funny." Patterson has already accepted a job as a business analyst for Target in Minnesota for next year. He said he knows his experience at Notre Dame will pay dividends when he heads out into the real world.

"The Notre Dame network, they just watch out

of Thursday practice and I got scout team player of the week," Patterson said. "I mean, they let me travel to Ann Arbor but I was kind of bouncing on the sidelines." But Patterson didn't give up on his goal of logging minutes over the Irish. He rehabbed for the remainder of the school year and suited up again for summer training camp. "This season before the Irish were set to travel to Washington, Patterson was again named the top player on the scout team. But this time it was different — and probably worth the wait. Patterson, a Seattle native, finally got into a game and his family and friends were there to see it. "Obviously that's my hometown so it was special, but it was also about the one-year anniversary of when I got hurt. So it had a special meaning," Patterson said. "It was kind of a turning point in my career. I thought, 'I remember the first time coach Weis knew who I was. Fall of my sophomore year we had a scrimmage in the Stadium and I caught a touchdown,'" Patterson said.

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

Irish receiver Kris Patterson helps a teammate prepare for an automatic spot on the Irish roster that weekend. For Patterson, it was a dream come true. But the dream did not play out as he had planned. He sustained a severe knee injury before he had a chance to see the field against Michigan that Saturday. "It was actually pretty bittersweet because I got hurt the second-to-last play of the game, the outstanding scout team performer earns an opportunity to strap on that gold helmet and run out of the tunnel. It's indescribable." Kris Patterson

Irish receiver

"I can't say enough about Notre Dame. I'm a better man because of it."

"Just being able to play every day with my friends and my teammates, being able to strap on that gold helmet and run out of the tunnel... it's indescribable," he said. "I mean, you really can't explain it until you run out of the tunnel. It never gets old."

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Irish receiver Steve Quinn, 48, shouts to teammate John Ryan prior to a play during Notre Dame's 35-17 win over Michigan on Sept. 17.

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