Research center construction begins

New Harper Hall cancer research facility to be a collaboration between Notre Dame, IUSM-SB

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

University President Father John Jenkins said the construction of Harper Hall, a center for cancer research for the Indiana School of Medicine — South Bend (IUSM-SB), will perpetuate a "legacy of love" when he spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony Friday.

The cancer research center is made possible by a $10 million dollar gift from Mike Harper, a South Bend native whose wife Josie died of cancer in 1999. Jenkins said. The state of Indiana then matched the $10 million dollars, making Harper Hall a joint effort of IUSM-SB and Notre Dame, he said.

"Cancer touched the Harper family and took Josie, Mike's wife, but in response to that sadness, Mike and his family responded with generosity and vision," Jenkins said.

Jenkins said the research center is at the core of the University’s mission to educate and serve.

"This is an area we really emphasize. The hall is a place that not only passes on knowledge, but discovers knowledge through research," he said. "Science at the service of humanity is what Harper Hall is about."

Students lament unexpected Syracuse loss

Seniors mourn cold, disappointing last game in Notre Dame Stadium to 2-8 Orange

By NORA KENNEY
News Writer

The atmosphere on campus since Saturday’s game has been a grim reflection of the disappointments endured by fans and players this weekend in Notre Dame Stadium. For seniors, this last home game was especially saddening.

Senior Allison Lang was emotional about watching the game from the student section for the last time.

"I personally didn’t care about the score at the end of the game. It was just the fact that it was the first big last," she said. Lang’s emotions were not abnormal. Many seniors were seen crying at the game or expressing anger.

Senior Andrew Balsley, said the game "was definitely a poor showing. Everyone was pretty angry that we lost to such an awful team. There was a lot of swearing and people being mad at Weis for having such an awful game. We at least got to enjoy half-time and the marshmallows and that tradition for seniors. It got worse and worse as the game went on and we couldn’t close it out."

Marshmallows were not the only white objects thrown throughout the game. Students caught throwing

Seniors to choose ‘Legacy’ gift

Students can vote online; gift to Eco-Fund, CSC among three options

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

The senior class has an opportunity to leave a legacy that goes beyond their stories, achievements and memories. The Senior Legacy gift will leave a lasting impact on the University by aiding students in unpaid internships, strengthening community relationships through a gift to the Center for Social Concerns, or growing the size of an Eco-Fund to help sustain initiatives.

Seniors are currently voting on the three options for the class gift. Known this year as the Senior Legacy, Joe Gagnon, a senior and co-chair of the Student Development Committee, said that the committee had a few ideas of their own, and hear suggestions from others.

"The committee voted among the ideas, and selected the top three," Gagnon said. The committee is comprised of about 30 undergraduate students, mostly seniors.

Now, the senior class can vote online — until November 30 — among those three choices: creation of the Unpaid Internship Fund, a gift to the Eco-Fund and planting one tree, or a gift to the CSC for community based projects.

"Two of the gifts are expanding on things that already exist," Gagnon said. The Eco-Fund was created by a gift from the Class of 2008, he said. The fund helps to pay for sustainability initiatives on campus. The donation would double the size of the fund.

Study abroad at SMC reflects national trends

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary’s Editor

The Institute of International Education recently released the 2008 Open Doors annual report with support from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The report shows an eight percent jump in the number of U.S. students studying abroad and a seven percent increase in the number of international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities, a trend reflected by students at Saint Mary’s.

The College has more than 20 different study abroad opportunities in locations in Africa, South America, Europe, Haiti, South Korea and China. With the number of sites more than doubling in the past five years, according to a press release.

There are also seven international students enrolled at the College from the Peoples’ Republic of China, Myanmar, Iran and Guatemala.

College President Carol Ann Mooney said internationalization-
INSIDE COLUMN

LIVING UNDER THE DOME

The Golden Dome has never been this collegiate Mecca located half-way across the world from me. In fact, it's about a 460-mile drive from home. I'm a "townie," and I happen to be very proud of it.

Notre Dame has always been in my backyard, so the saying goes. I grew up tailgating near campus and wearing Notre Dame Cheerleader outfits on Hallowe'en. There were always houses that would give kids extra candy for some Notre Dame pride.

This vintage Notre Dame poster has hung in my living room for as long as I can remember, and even considering going to a state school (i.e. Purdue) was considered treason. Most people here are very proud to live so near to this landmark of college education that people honestly do travel half-way around the world to attend.

I never saw it with its golden halo. Completely abuse the fact that Notre Dame is so near to home. I'm pretty sure the only time I was out of the state was when I got off campus for a few hours when the Indianapolis 500 was being run.

That's the thing- being here feels like I could be 460 miles away from home, not just four. The Notre Dame bubble gets to me. I'm a "townie," and I happen to be very proud of it!

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

Contact Amanda Gray at agrag89@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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OFFBEAT

Turkey bowling part of town's festivities

CINCINNATI - Set up the pins, clear the lanes and try not to roll a gutter bird. Cincinnati is warming up for Thanksgiving with its traditional Turkey Bowl, an annual outdoor event using frozen turkeys in place of bowling balls. Contestants will try to knock down 10 pins Tuesday by sliding rock-hard birds down a lane on the holiday season ice skating ring on downtown's landmark Fountain Square. The person with the highest score after three rounds wins $100 cash and "WKIP in Cincinnati" DVDs including the series' famous "Turkeys Away" episode.

That's the one about a station promotion in which live giveaway turkeys are dropped out of a helicopter to their deaths because the station manager thought turkeys could fly.

Man accused of urinating on arresting officer

ALBUQUERQUE - The Albuquerque Police Department has turned to the want ads for snitches. An ad this week in the alternative newspaper The Alibi asks "people who hang out with crooks" to do part-time work for the police. It reads in part: "Make some extra cash! Drug use and criminal record OK."

Capt. Joe Hudson says police received more than 30 responses in two days. He says one tip was a "big one" but wouldn't elaborate.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A seminar entitled "American's Treasury House: Travel to Mexico in the U.S." Popular Imagination, 1974-1920" will be given by Jason Ruiz, assistant professor in the Department of American Studies. The event will be held in room 208 McKenna Hall today at 4 p.m. It is sponsored by the Institute for Latino Studies' Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar Series.

Zhiqiang Suo, professor of engineering and applied sciences at Harvard University, will present a seminar on the thermodynamics of large deformation in soft active materials on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. The lecture, entitled, "Thermodynamics of Large Deformation in Soft Active Materials," will be held in room 138, DeBartolo Hall. It is sponsored by the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering.

The Entrepreneurship Society is having a series of presentations on business entitled Case Study Challenges. The event is Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. in 155 DeBartolo.

Direct from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Estampas Populares presents a new, fresh look at tango on Wednesday at 7 p.m. A combination of live music, alluring dances and just pure fun, Tango Fire is an event for everyone who wants to move and shake. This event is held in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center in the Decio Mainstage Theatre. Tickets are $48, $38 for faculty/staff, $36 for seniors, and $15 for all students.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY TONIGHT TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

HIGH 34 HIGH 32 HIGH 30 HIGH 35 HIGH 37 HIGH 40 HIGH 40

LOW 28 LOW 29 LOW 26 LOW 28 LOW 26 LOW 24 LOW 22

Atlanta 56 / 35 Boston 45 / 38 Chicago 38 / 29 Denver 57 / 34 Houston 76 / 46 Los Angeles 71 / 53 Minneapolis 32 / 20 New York 46 / 43 Philadelphia 48 / 41 Phoenix 65 / 57 Seattle 55 / 41 St. Louis 49 / 29 Tampa 77 / 58 Washington 50 / 40
**Gift**

continued from page 1

The gift to the CSC was something many committee members felt strongly about, Gagnon said. "We wanted to do something for the University that would really help," said Kevin Marvinac.

"It's important as an alumni... to start giving back early." - Kevin Marvinac

**Game**

continued from page 1

snowballs at fans, players, or needs more money to create the Senior Legacy. "It's really important to give, no matter the gift amount," he said.

"We will choose our official class gift," Gagnon said, but seniors can choose to designate a donation for whatever they desire. "They're technically contributing to the Senior Legacy if they contribute to their dorm, or something else," he said.

The Student Development Committee will promote the chosen gift. Gagnon said. Kevin Marvinac, a senior and the other committee co-chair, said that students can contribute donations of any size.

"It's really important to give, no matter the gift amount," he said.

Graduation is an important time to "start giving back to the University that's given us so much," Gagnon added.

"It's important as an alumni... to start giving back early," Marvinac said.

"Giving back is one very tangible, way that alumni can really stay involved." - Gagnon

added that the focus is not on the amount raised, but the percentage of participation.

"It's our history that we're going to leave behind... it's our way of saying thank you." - Joe Gagnon

**Abroad**

continued from page 1

As a priority for Saint Mary's in her five-year strategic plan: "Path to Leadership 2012," which was released last fall, Monney's plan calls for the increasing of the percentage of students participating in the study abroad program by the time they graduate to 50 percent and increasing the number of international students who study at the College.

Monney announced this fall that the College has joined the American Council on Education (ACE) Internationalization Laboratory to work on achieving these goals, according to the press release.

"We invite a handful of colleges to work in its laboratory for 18 months, the press release said, allowing them the opportunity to review the College's current array of international initiatives, assess the international expertise of the students and faculty, and participate in the review of the College's global education plans, among other things."

"Today's graduates must be prepared to work and compete with colleagues from around the globe and potentially to spend some portion of their careers living outside the United States."

Carol Ann Mooney
President
Saint Mary's College

"To prepare our students fully participate in the emerging global community, we must expand their opportunities for international studies."

Carol Ann Mooney
President
Saint Mary's College

because they started coming early. And I think that maybe it was meant in fun at the start of the game. But it's a dangerous thing. And it's just something I wish would have been avoided."

"We may have got on the wrong side of the street and we did some things a little differently than what we've done all season. I don't know if it's a player thing, a coaching thing but there are so many mental lapses," Monnon said.

In the end, the loss was unable to quell the unending loyalty of Notre Dame fans.

"It was really cool that the seniors all went on the field and saw pictures on the field, Lang said. "We were on the field to take pictures and walk through the tunnel and see all the senior football players with their families, it was a really good interaction."
Harper continued from page 1

The research done at the center is an important connection for so many people, Jenkins said. “The work of discovery [at the center] puts people at ease, even those who suffer and care people,” he said. “If they can have a cure, they will feel better.”

Jenkins said part of Mike Harper’s vision for the project was “to build something that people could venture into the public and private efforts.” The speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives, Pat Bauer, was represented by the money matching the 10 million dollar gift from Harper, he said.

Referring to matching a donation to a private establishment is not a common practice, but he said the center has the potential to do a lot of good in the state.

“When they asked the state to match a gift from a private school, I thought, that’s never been done, but when I saw that amount of money, I thought, we can’t pass this up,” he said.

Research at the center was not too difficult because there was already a partnership between the center and the state. “We were putting the money in an area where we already had a partnership,” he said. “This is part of the center’s thing that’s blossoming in many more ways.”

Dr. Youens, executive associate dean of education affairs at IUSM-SB, said the research center benefits the students who have an opportunity to work there. “Our graduates and medical students benefit because they see their role models conducting research and they want to emulate them,” he said. “There is an important connection between research, education and student involvement.”

Dr. Bodie Youens, assistant dean of IUSM-SB, said that the center’s work benefits the region as well as the students. “In addition to the efforts on the two major universities, the gift has energized the Northern Indiana community,” Navari said. “I’ve received phone calls and emails every day from health care professionals in the area who are excited... and very proud we are going to have a center of excellence in cancer research.”

He said cancer research has always been a high priority with the Medical school and the center will allow the school to expand its capabilities. “We have major resources so we can develop cancer research for the next few years,” Navari said. “This gift will continue to make a difference in the medical school.”

Mike Harper, the benefactor of the gift, thanked both universities and the state for working with him to make the cancer research center a reality.

He said his wife Jonie would be very happy with the center’s potential to help so many people. “She’s very proud right now,” Harper said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Play

continued from page 1

universal theme through various topics like spirituality, genocide, and the catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina. “I imagine that her interest arose from the Schubertian community’s creative activity and a death sentence with an indeterminate span of time,” she said. “Schubert’s illness was one in which you could not know or predict how much time you had left. Although she is confident that she was chosen as a subject to study for her musical scholarship, Youens is unsure of how she was discovered.

“I don’t know how she came to know me. That’s a mystery. I really don’t know how this happened.”

Youens focused on the dedication Schubert showed towards his musical calling, the “absolute devotion to the creation of beauty in sound” and “a kind of struggle that is his craft that I find a completely admirable model for how to live.”

When audiences leave the theatre, she said the people will have a specific goal in mind. “My hope is that people who will leave the play, go to Amazon.com or the nearest record store and buy CDs of Schubert and listen to them all,” she said. “That’s the purpose of my scholarship, to send people to the music.”

After Schubert, she diagnosed with a fatal disease at age 14, a year and a half later. “The nature of the illness was one in which you did not have to find out or predict how much time you had left.”

years of his life knew he had a death sentence hanging over his life,” she said. “He made a conscious decision that that both his life and his music would tell about what constituted and good death and a good life.”

According to Youens, her work on Schubert is also a research project that Smith wanted to explore in her play, “give under pressure.” “It’s as if he said to himself: failure is not an option,” she said. “Music is so intrinsically valuable that it deserves every effort that I can put into it.”

Youens does not necessarily see her selection as an affirmation of her career as a scholar. “Scholarship is about taking part in an ongoing conversation. New generations and new pairs of eyes examine these works and they see things in the way that Smith’s play, Youens laughed.

“No,” she said. “I don’t think I’m qualified to talk about the theatre arts, though I would love to be able to reach out for the favor,” she said. “I think I’ll leave it to theatre critics who know who they’re talking about.”


Contact Robert Singer at rsinger@nd.edu

SOUTH AFRICA

Leaders push to aid Zimbabwe

Carter, Annan decay humanitarian crisis during South Africa visit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNESBURG — Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter and Graca Machel visited a church housing Zimbabwean refugees Sunday as they continued efforts to ease Zimbabwe’s humanitarian crisis, even though they were barred from entering the country.

The former U.N. secretary-general, the former U.S. president and human rights advocate Machel, who is married to Nelson Mandela, said Saturday they were denied visas for a mission to assess the needs of Zimbabweans, many of whom are suffering from hunger and disease.

The three are members of The Elders, a group Mandela formed to foster peace.

They have insisted their visit was needed to provide regional attempts to get President Robert Mugabe and his rival, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, to implement a stalled power-sharing agreement.

On Sunday, the three talked to many refugees and children who have fled Zimbabwe and sought refuge at the Central Methodist church in downtown Johannesburg.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

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GEORGIA

Shots fired at Georgian convoy

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, second from right, and Polish President Lech Kaczynski, right, walk in Akhalgori, Georgia while flanked by bodyguards on Sunday.

Associated Press

THIBILI, Georgia — Shots were fired near the motorcade carrying the presidents of Georgia and Poland on Sunday — the fifth anniversary of Georgia's Rose Revolution — Georgian officials said. No one was hurt in the shooting.

The Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, who led the pro-Western 2003 uprising but whose popularity has waned in recent months, blamed Russian troops in Georgia's breakaway province of Ossetia.

"Frankly, I didn't expect the Russians to open fire," he said at a news conference with Polish President Lech Kaczynski. "The reality is you are dealing with dictatorial people. They weren't happy to see our guest and they weren't happy to see me either."

Kaczynski said the shots were fired from only about 30 meters (100 feet) from the motorcade. He said it was not clear if the gunfire was aimed at the motorcade or shots were fired into the air.

But he said the incident demonstrated the weakness of the French-brokered truce that ended Russia's August war with Georgia over South Ossetia, a breakaway territory that it was not immediately clear whether the pilot was trying to land at the Marshallfield airport or if the plane had just taken off.

Federation aviation investigators were expected to examine the crash scene.

Rhodes scholars announced

Monday, November 24, 2008

Wisconsin plane crash kills three

MARSFIELD, Wis. — Authorities in Wisconsin say a small airplane has crashed in the backyard of a house in Marshfield, killing the three people on board the aircraft.

No one on the ground was injured. Officials said the plane had caught fire after the crash late Saturday and burned the house.

Marshfield Fire Department Deputy Chief Roy Dolens told WSAW-TV that it wasn't immediately clear whether the pilot was trying to land at the Marshfield airport or if the plane had just taken off.

Federation aviation investigators were expected to examine the crash scene.

Rhodes scholarships announced

A Rhodes scholarship has been awarded to an African-American female student at the University of Pennsylvania who organized an exhibit about Lenape Indians living quietly in the state is among this year's winners of Rhodes Scholarships.

Ahigal P. Selindan, of Tierra Verde, Fla., curated the exhibit "Fulfilling a Prophecy: The Past and Present of the Lenape in Pennsylvania," which opened at the University of Pennsylvania Museum in September.

She is one of 32 men and women from across the United States to win the presti­gious scholarships for study at England's Oxford University. The winners' names were announced early Sunday.

Obama chooses commerce secretary

NEW YORK — President-elect Barack Obama has chosen New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson to be commerce secretary, adding a pro­minent Hispanic and one-time Democratic rival to his expanding Cabinet.

Obama planned to announce the nomination Monday, according to a Democratic official familiar with the discussions. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the negotiations and did not reveal the name of the candidate.

Richardson, 61, has a distinguished and visible career in Washington before returning to New Mexico, where he was elected governor in 2002. Richardson served as U.N. ambassador under President Bill Clinton and later as energy secretary.

He was in the House from 1983 to 1997.

Clinton sent Richardson on several high-level diplomatic missions while he was in Congress, including direct talks with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

In Richardson, Obama will get a secretary of commerce who has been described as relentless and competitive, with a peculiar sense of humor.

Richardson is a seasoned interna­tional negotiator who mediated with North Korea over the downsizing of two U.S. army helicopter pilots; ham­mered out a deal with Saddam Hussein for the release of two U.S. oil workers; won the release of three Red Cross workers held captive by Sudanese rebels; and was later sought out by the North Koreans to discuss nuclear issues.

His success, said David Goldwyn, national security deputy at the United Nations in the late 1990s, stems from the many different facets of his personality — whether it's the athlete (he was a three-time college football all-American at the University of New Mexico) or the policy wonk (he worked at the State Department's human rights bureau) or the seasoned diplomat (he was ambassador to Portugal from 1997 to 2001). "Richardson is all about clashing through boundaries," Goldwyn said in 2007. "He says hello to the security guy, and if he's Hispanic he'll say something in Spanish. If he's African-American, he might call him 'his brother.'"
As holidays approach, customers are using more cash and debit cards

Unreviewed meds available to public

Credit card use down, stores find

As holidays approach, customers are using more cash and debit cards

Rhodes scholars announced

Rhodes scholars announced

Philadelphia — A University of Pennsylvania student who organized an exhibit about Lenape Indians living quietly in New Jersey this year's winner of Rhodes Scholarships.

Abigail P. Sodling, of Tierra Verde, Fla., curated the exhibit "Living in Peace and Past and Present of the Lenape in New Jersey," which opened at the University of Pennsylvania Museum in September.

She is one of 32 men and women from across the United States to win the prestigious scholarship, which pays students at Oxford's £32,000-a-year tuition.

"This is a new way of life," said Robert Smith, of Loves Park, Ill., for our part with his wife has been using cash and debit cards to finance their spending, including vacations, since they paid off their credit card debts in July. "It is like being able to pay for what we paid monthly payments when we use a credit card," he said.

"It was a very exciting day, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to study at Oxford," said Rolle after leaving college Park, Md., to play the second half of the game.

"It's an Institute for the advancement of biological and chemical sciences and is one of 32 men and women from across the United States to win the prestigious scholarship, which pays students at Oxford's £32,000-a-year tuition.

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Consumers worried about auto bankruptcy

NEW YORK — Cash-strapped General Motors insists declaring bankruptcy would be disastrous because it would scare away customers. It’s unlikely Chevrolet and Cadillac owners would be left with worthless warrants and no replacement parts, but the headlines about the Detroit Three’s dire situation may already be keeping buyers away.

"If GM is under the imminent threat of bankruptcy or actually declares bankruptcy, I would not consider a GM product," said Kevin Ketels, who might replace his family’s 2004 Toyota RAV4 late next year. "I just don’t know if the company will have the resources to fulfill their warranty obligations. Will they be there for me? There are many unknowns and a car is my second biggest investment next to my house."

The 38-year-old from Groove Pointe, Woodstock, Mich., would be among the 80 percent of Americans who General Motors Corp. insists wouldn’t even consider a GM brand such as Buick, Saturn or Saab if the company was in bankruptcy.

Chief Executive Rick Wagoner brought up the statistic from a midyear test by a financial research last week during his congressional plea for $25 billion in federal loans.

The concerns are intensifying as the Detroit company burns through billions of dollars in cash. It has warned that by year’s end, it could reach the minimum amount of cash it needs to stay in business.

Chrysler CEO Bob Nardelli gave the same warning for his company, but Ford Motor Co., also suffering under the worst sales environment in 25 years, says it should have enough cash and secured credit lines to get through 2009.

Some lawmakers, who want to see the companies’ plans to become competitive and profitable before doing out aid, say bankruptcy should be on the table. A prearranged run through Chapter 11 would give GM more latitude to postpone payments to creditors, renegotiate contracts, raise capital and reorganize to stay alive. But with credit markets frozen, finding the financing to do it when government help may be impossible, and the company may be forced to liquidate.

Warranty obligations would likely be fulfilled by what remains of GM after a reorganization, although the bankruptcy court would have the final say. If there’s a Chapter 7 liquidation, a third-party, like another automaker, could potentially step in and assume warranty obligations as part of a deal to acquire part of GM’s assets.

And the company would still have to address safety recalls, regardless of its financial or operational status. "Bankruptcy wouldn’t discharge your obligations for recalls," said Rae Tyson, spokesman for the Highway Traffic Safety Administration. "We would go to bankruptcy court and argue that they have a responsibility to use a portion of assets to satisfy whatever consumer issues there might be."

But obtaining certain parts would be an issue. Independent collision repair shops get 80 to 90 percent of their parts directly from original equipment sources.

"It’s the area most impacted if there’s disruption in the supply chain of replacement parts in the repair industry," said Ron Pyle, president of the Automotive Service Association, a Redford, Texas-based group representing 10,000 independent facilities.

Obama pushes plan for economy

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama signaled Sunday he will move urgently and aggressively to rescue the plunging economy, demanding swift passage by Congress of a massive two-year spending and tax-cutting recovery program.

"We’re on the threshold of turning this in with a bang," a top Obama aide said.

Obama’s plans, outlined by his transition team in television talk shows, could put aside his campaign pledge to raise taxes on the wealthy. With the downturn in the economy, those tax cuts may remain in place until they are scheduled to die in 2011, said William M. Daley, an economic advisor. "That looks more like now than later," he said.

Obama aides called on lawmakers to pass, by the Jan. 20 inauguration, legislation that meets Obama’s two-year goal of saving or creating 2.5 million jobs. Democratic congressional leaders said they would get to work when Congress convenes Jan. 6.

Though Obama aides declined to discuss a total cost, it probably would far exceed the $757 billion he proposed during the campaign. Some economists and lawmakers have argued for a two-year plan as large as $700 billion, equal to the Wall Street bailout Congress approved last month.

"I don’t know what the exact number is, but it’s going to be a big number. It has to be," said Obama economic advisor Austan Goolsbee.

With the wounded economy worsening, the Obama team’s new assertiveness was a recognition he needed to soothe financial markets with signs of leadership. It also foreshadowed a more hands-on role by Obama to influence congressional action during the final weeks of the transition.

Obama will introduce his economic team on Monday, including Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary and Lawrence Summers as head of the National Economic Council. Obama also has settled on New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as his commerce secretary.

"We don’t have time to waste here," Obama senior adviser David Axelrod said. "We have to hit the ground running on January 20th." Echoing that, the second-ranking House Democrat, Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, said: "We expect to have during the first couple of weeks of January a package for the president’s consideration when he takes office."

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama signaled Sunday he will move urgently and aggressively to rescue the plunging economy, demanding swift passage by Congress of a massive two-year spending and tax-cutting recovery program. "We’re on the threshold of turning this in with a bang," a top Obama aide said. Obama’s plans, outlined by his transition team in television talk shows, could put aside his campaign pledge to raise taxes on the wealthy. With the downturn in the economy, those tax cuts may remain in place until they are scheduled to die in 2011, said William M. Daley, an economic advisor. "That looks more like now than later," he said. Obama aides called on lawmakers to pass, by the Jan. 20 inauguration, legislation that meets Obama’s two-year goal of saving or creating 2.5 million jobs. Democratic congressional leaders said they would get to work when Congress convenes Jan. 6. Though Obama aides declined to discuss a total cost, it probably would far exceed the $757 billion he proposed during the campaign. Some economists and lawmakers have argued for a two-year plan as large as $700 billion, equal to the Wall Street bailout Congress approved last month. "I don’t know what the exact number is, but it’s going to be a big number. It has to be," said Obama economic advisor Austan Goolsbee. With the wounded economy worsening, the Obama team’s new assertiveness was a recognition he needed to soothe financial markets with signs of leadership. It also foreshadowed a more hands-on role by Obama to influence congressional action during the final weeks of the transition. Obama will introduce his economic team on Monday, including Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary and Lawrence Summers as head of the National Economic Council. Obama also has settled on New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as his commerce secretary. "We don’t have time to waste here," Obama senior adviser David Axelrod said. "We have to hit the ground running on January 20th." Echoing that, the second-ranking House Democrat, Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, said: "We expect to have during the first couple of weeks of January a package for the president’s consideration when he takes office."
The current crises in the financial, automotive and real estate sectors of our economy have caused our federal government to consider and implement multiple bailout packages designed to prevent entire industries from failing. James Roeh, Chief Executive Officer of General Financial Services, recently spoke at Notre Dame and said the federal government believed that a bailout would prevent total systemic failure. In other words, every sector of the global economy would have been severely impacted without a bailout.

Notre Dame needs a bailout. Charlie Weis was outcoached by Pittsburgh coach Dave Wannstedt and Greg Robinson—recently fired after posting a combined 10-36 record at Syracuse. Recall that Notre Dame went into the 4th quarter with no timeouts. Recall also the 2nd and 47 field position on one possession in the 3rd quarter. Finally, consider the bland and increasingly predictable play calling. These examples represent only a few of the many fail­ures in coaching that we’ve seen from Weis. The lone exception, the 2005 USC game, is an anomaly and does not speak to Weis’ general abilities, given his subsequent coaching.

The postgame conference was, quite frankly, embarrassing. Weis’ arrogance is well documented, but arrogance is a personality trait generally expected of winners, not of losers. Weis was understand­ably concerned for his seniors, but his demeanor otherwise was unbecoming of a man who is not only the head coach of the University of Notre Dame, but an alumnus as well. Contentment isn’t quite an apt description, but it comes close.

The cost of the bailout is expensive, probably around $24 million, but well worth it. Recent history with coaches Bob Davie and Ty Willingham should have caused Notre Dame officials at the time— including former Athletic Director Kevin White—to have a contin­gency plan if Weis failed. Notre Dame should be prepared to dis­miss Weis. He brings the immediate possibility of total systemic failure to this University. We can’t afford not to fire him. Charlie Weis’ continued failure and inability to successfully coach a team that is by all measures supposed to be very talented puts Notre Dame at tremendous risk. The revenue generated from the football program directly finances every other athletic program on campus. The notoriety from national championships and Heisman Trophy winners has, over the years, allowed Notre Dame to become one of the country’s top athletic programs. The notion of establishing national championships and Heisman Trophy winners has, over the years, allowed Notre Dame to become one of the nation’s premier universities in every tangible aspect. Our intangibles set us apart from everyone else. We risk losing it all.

The time has come

Bye, Charlie

Dear Charlie,
I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your coaching and services the past four years. I really appreciate you driving this program into the ground, culminating in a loss to one of the worst teams in college football. I know for a fact that we are not as bad as you have made us. Notre Dame has a winning tradition, and you have put that tradition in jeopardy. It would be a huge mistake for the university to bring you back for another year. I personally am willing to help pay the rest of your contract, although I regrettably do not have $20 million plus at my disposal. From a 3-9 season including a loss to Navy, to getting blown out in any meaningful game, to the crushing loss to Syracuse, you have turned this program into a laughing stock. Please find another job.

Peace out.

Eric Owens

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndsmcobserver.com

Dear Members of the Notre Dame Football team,
I am writing this letter out of a personal sense of duty to shed light on the egregious lack of success that Notre Dame has fans have endured over the past two years. In case you haven’t noticed lately, Notre Dame football has largely disappointed, ago­nized and distressed its supporters around the world.

Brothers, I will be the first to say that the lack of mental toughness on and off the field, is in the fullest sense unacceptable, unwelcome and detestable. The Notre Dame football tradition is one of excellence, hard work, strong will and killer instinct. Fans have suffered painfully as these tradi­tions have been effectively phased out of the game in recent years. The losses over the past two years—especially to Navy, Syracuse and Pitt (among others)—are surely not in keeping with the university’s standards of excellence and truly embarrassing for fans who continue to hype Notre Dame as a football team which is resolute and determined to never quit.

Gentlemen, I challenge you with the responsibility to represent these traditions well and to not allow USC in the Coliseum. Over the next week, you will learn the ins and outs of a team that is nationally renowned as one of the best in the country. Prepare yourselves well—especially in being mentally ruthless—and take advantage of every weakness our enemies have displayed throughout the season. Also, be aware of our own weaknesses and do not give up a millimeter to those unworthy swine.

Let’s regain what makes us great, commit to vic­tory and unite to beat all of our opponents starting now!

Matt Dobbertien

The Observer online

http://www.ndsmcobserver.com

Observe online

Dear Notre Dame fans, your hearts have been broken by coach Charlie Weis. Jim Harbaugh has stated that Notre Dame has a tradition of winning. Our tradition is to win. However, we have let our tradition to slip.

We have a tradition of winning and now we have a tradition of losing. We have moved from a tradition of winning to a tradition of losing. We have a tradition of excellence, hard work, strong will and killer instincts. We want our tradition of winning back.
Dear Mr. Leonard,

York. That was definitely the first thought that came to mind reading through your response. (Later perspective.) Nov. 23 to Melissa Buddie and her Nov. 19 letter "The hook-up culture." At first I thought you were joking, but coming out of your letter I'm not the only one who thinks my college students are behind the "hook-ups" that keep badgering you with simple text messages and phone calls. Life sure seems hard. Did you ever think that perhaps those young ladies felt more than just a "tricky, tricky, tricky, solid time"? Again, I do not want to try and dwell on personal thoughts and beliefs to one main issue.

I am a co-sorry you have the horrible burden to be bothered by those "hook-ups" that keep badgering you with simple text messages and phone calls. Life sure seems hard. Did you ever think that perhaps those young ladies felt more than just a "tricky, tricky, tricky, solid time"? Again, I do not want to try and dwell on personal thoughts and beliefs to one main issue.

I am a graduate of the Class of 2005 — an incredibly proud graduate. Like all of you, I stood through every game and if you count back, those were not the winningest years in Irish history. But something is the matter with me. I believe for one moment that all 23 to 25 or more girls you ravished and conquered with your unyielding sexual skills could have been to consider only for more, more, more.

Perhaps my sister, knowing of college boys and the birds and bees may seem a bit naive, but I know a pig when I see one. I do not live in a big house of.keyCode of college boys and the birds and bees may seem a bit naive, but I know a pig when I see one. I do not live in a big house of.

I was there venturing over on the Sweaty to party the alcohol-induced night away in tears of fear. Not just any type of party but just a party where you would love to get for Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross to set up in some sort of dating service, just to get the utterly awkward process of meeting boys and girls out of the way. One thing is for sure: Though you or I might find someone who wants to call you back, or though you may just thumb may be sore from all that outer crying of your phone, or Observer-reading community knows of a certain bodily digit you just can't keep down.

Sincerely,

Where are all the nice boys are.

Katie Fisher
Lebanon, Ill.
Nov. 23

Hook-up culture revisited

I could approach this from the standpoint of an offended male: You don't know what life is like on this campus. But let's be serious here, you put yourself in the shoes of a Notre Dame student and try to see how it is.

Not only have you generalized an entire gender, but you have sworn to entrust the world of the members of our student body. Snowballs hitting other students, many of whom obviously wanted nothing to do with these shenanigans aiming for visitors, state troopers, the Syracuse cheerleaders, our own players?!

I'd like to know what type of person finds it the least bit funny to strike one of his or her fellow students, who is down there playing for you — for his classmates and his school — with an object that is not nearly as innocuous as it looks. As a physician with specially trained in Sports Medicine — and I have seen my share of head and eye injuries — they're not pretty, trust me. For the level of maturity and intelligence Notre Dame selects for young men and women to admit to its student body, however, it shouldn't have to take a doctor (or our poor bovad) to announce pleading several times during the game) to remind you of this.

Guys and gals, I'm not some cranky old fuddy-duddy who bristles with indignation when students yell a little too loudly or drink a bit more than usual on a weekend when you've earned a well-deserved break; from studies and need to cut loose. Trust me — I was where you are right now and I still enjoy having my fun come Saturday. We did things too when I was (or stood, as the case may be) where you do in the stands right now. What happened Saturday, however, was simply ruled antics to something dangerous, immature and embarrassing. I have heard many fans of visiting teams over the years comment in admiration on how well they were treated at Notre Dame and how impressed they were with the student body. Now imagine, will you, what the Orangemen fans and players are saying to their friends and family that right now they have a feeling for Notre Dame?

For those who threw and continued to throw snowballs during the game, please take a moment to think of the damage you may have done to this school's reputation. If you think I'm exaggerating, take a look at the online sports Web sites, blogs and local newspapers — congratulations, your publicity has made you famous. Your actions have made you infamous. You are Notre Dame, and you're better than that. Please remember that, so that come next November, you're not on the headlines don't read "Notre Dame Player" but Student Trainer Caught Off Field By Paramedics From Student-Thrown Snowballs — Doctors Say Linebacker May Lose His Right Eye." Thank you for your attention.

Student behavior embarrassing

The actions of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students at Saturday's game against Syracuse were ugly, boorish and nearly dangerous. You are undeserving of the University so many of us love. Class of 2009, you are an embarrassment to yourselves and to Domers everywhere. Poor play on the field is nothing to compare to your immature antics. Even if you yourself did not participate, you have an obligation to tell your teammates to stop. Our football program may have sunk in prestige, but it pales in comparison to the disgrace you have brought upon yourselves, and by extension the entire Notre Dame community. Grow up.

Robby Schoder
offcampus
Nov. 19

Snowballs dangerous, immature

I write this letter in the hope of it being published, for all those individuals who threw snowballs at Saturday's Notre Dame-Syracuse game. This is an issue that needs to be addressed for the good of the school and its reputation.

Dear Students and Fellow Domers,

I'm a proud Notre Dame alum, and former cheerleader who has the fortune to live near our beloved university and attend many games and functions. Like you, my experiences in the stands of Notre Dame Stadium came from heartbreak to jubilation, but in 20 years of being a fan, I have never witnessed the type of immaturity and irresponsibility that transcended this Saturday. As unhappy as I was with the game's outcome, that following pales in comparison to the shame and disappointment I feel in some of our member students. Snowballs hitting other students, many of whom obviously wanted nothing to do with these shenanigans aiming for visitors, state troopers, the Syracuse cheerleaders, our own players?!

John Starvaskos
dan of 1992
Nov. 23

Snowball incident disrespectful

Dear Fellow Domers,

I want to share with you a situation I encountered at work this morning. Five minutes after I walked into the building, three of my coworkers approached me. After staring at me for a few seconds, one of them said, "Hey, how about that game?" But not one of them was referring to the score. They went on to ask, "What did you think about the snowballs?" I am a graduate of the Class of 2005 — an incredibly proud graduate. Like all of you, I stood through every game and if you count back, those were not the winningest years in Irish history. But never, not once, did anyone disrespect the members of our own team — our classmates. In throwing those snowballs at our own on Saturday afternoon, you created the first time I have ever felt embarrassed by the students at Notre Dame. What you did before a visiting team, a stadium full of fans and a national television audience was not just dumb, but I wouldn't go around making out with your classmates.

Claire
Virginia fishermen
Nov. 23

Page 9

Monday, November 24, 2008
The fictional series "Twilight" has quickly become a literary and pop culture phenomenon. The first book of the franchise was only published in 2005, but Friday the film adaptation opened after much hype and fan frenzy.

The basic premise of Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" is a love story between a normal but clumsy 17-year-old girl named Bella Swan and an impossibly beautiful vampire, Edward Cullen. But the series and the film contain more than just romance, adventure and horror.

Bella (Kristen Stewart, "Into the Wild") relocates to gloomy and sunless Forks, Washington to live with her father and an impossibly beautiful vampire, Edward Cullen. There she encounters her father Charlie (portrayed hilariously by Billy Burke). There she quickly becomes a literary and pop culture phenomenon. The first book of the franchise was only published in 2005, and the saga boards and sites across the Internet. But in time, Pattinson and Stewart. By portraying a love story that fans were furious. A flurry of angry outbursts littered message boards and sites across the Internet. But in time, Pattinson and Stewart were accepted, and many fans quickly came to love them. In the end, Pattinson and Stewart were the best parts of the movie. Young actors Stewart and Pattinson deserve praise for managing to play the supernatural story with genuine romantic ardor. The circulating rumor that the pair would do anything for each other. Both of their portrayals are impressive, and even when the movie gets a bit silly, they never do. Stewart brings a fresh blend of innocence and feeling to the role. And while Pattinson has already attracted a swooning teen fan base, viewers buy the fantasy because they go beyond good looks to create a character you believe in. However, it is possible that a viewer who did not read Meyer's works. The film succeeds when it focuses on Pattinson and Stewart. By portraying a love that is convulsive and enthralling, they make viewers understand why the books sold millions of copies. Bella could be any heroine in love with a good boy who society misunderstands. "Twilight" revives the classic Hollywood paradigm that there is nothing more cinematic than a close-up of two beautiful people about to kiss.

The rest of the Cullen family also plays an important supporting role in the series. But they do not really get the opportunity to see much screen time. Carlisle and Esme are the adoptive parents of Edward and his adopted siblings, Emmett, Rosalie, Jasper, and Alice. This particular clan of vampires has chosen a "vegetarian" lifestyle in which they only hunt animals, not humans, as a source of sustenance. Viewers should look forward to their contributions in the sequels.

Nonetheless, the film was a hit in its first weekend, making $70.6 million in revenue and topping the box office. This triggered the announcement that the first sequel, "New Moon," will be made into film, most likely with a considerably larger budget. Luckily, all of the main actors signed on for at least two additional films. "Twilight" fans should not be disappointed, since Pattinson and Stewart help Meyer's gripping romance translate to screen.

Contact Caitlin Ferraro at cferraro@njd.edu

All character profiles by Caitlin Ferraro
By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Where do we go from here? Notre Dame fell to Syracuse Saturday afternoon 24-23, losing to an eight-loss team for the first time ever — on senior day. 

"I feel absolutely miserable for the seniors," Irish coach Charlie Weis said. "I feel sick to my stomach."

The Irish dropped their fourth game in the past six contests to drop their season record to 6-5. The Irish were 19 1/2 point favorites and led 23-10 in the fourth quarter. 

"Every loss hurts," senior linebacker Maurice Crum Jr. said. "But there's something added to it, especially today.

The victory was huge for the Orange (3-8), who were playing for their head coach Greg Robinson, who was told earlier in the week that he had been fired, effective at the end of the season.

"It's a great day for our football team. Truly a great day for our program to come into South Bend and to pull it off," Robinson said. "It really isn't necessarily a surprise at all to our football team. They knew that somewhere along the line this team was going to do something special. This was an opportunity that they knew they had to make the most of.

The Irish offense was unable to capitalize on good field position and the defense was unable to stop the Syracuse offense in the fourth quarter, during which the Orange outscored Notre Dame 10-0.

Quarterback Jimmy Clausen completed 22 of his 39 passes for 291 yards and two touchdowns. This was the first of those drives included a 60-yard Brandon Walker field goal resulting on their very next possession with 146 receiving yards and two touchdowns. This was the first game in Tate's career with two touchdown passes.

The third quarter saw the Irish go 13-of-25 passing with 146 receiving yards and two touchdowns. This was the first game in Tate's career with two touchdown passes. The third quarter saw the Irish be led by a third-quarter drive that began the third quarter, during which the Orange outscored Notre Dame 10-0.

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The Irish responded with a fourth-quarter lead and put themselves in a position to win.

The first quarter started off with a good special teams play by senior special teamer Mike Anello who forced Syracuse's punt returner Ryan Howard to fumble the ball on his own 23-yard line. The Irish went three and out but converted on a 34-yard Brandon Walker field goal to put the Irish ahead.

The Orange answered back a couple drives later with a field goal of their own from 48 yards even up the score. The situation started to begin to look dicey when Syracuse drove 81 yards down the field to score on their very next possession. The Irish responded with a field goal and a touchdown to end the half, including a 33-yard strike from Clausen to wide receiver Golden Tate, and seemed to have all the momentum going into halftime with a 13-10 lead.

Tate had an impressive game with 146 receiving yards and two touchdowns. This was the first game in Tate's career with two touchdown passes. The Irish got the ball back with 42 seconds remaining in the game. Clausen led the Irish down the field with a series of incompletions and a 40-yard prayer to Tate put Notre Dame on the Syracuse 14-yard line with five seconds to go. The Irish lined up for the 53-yard field goal, but Walker's accurate boot fell just yards short of the goalposts.

The added field goal saw the Irish have a 13 point lead going into the third quarter. These would be the last points the Irish would score in the game, as Syracuse quarterback, and son of Notre Basketball great Adrian Dantley, Cameron Dantley would lead his team on two touchdown drives in the fourth quarter for the win.

Dantley went 13-of-25 passing for 126 yards and the game winning 11-yard touchdown pass to Donte Davis with 42 seconds left to put the Orange on top 24-23. The Irish put the ball back with 42 seconds left in the game, and a series of incompletions and a 40-yard prayer to Tate put Notre Dame on the Syracuse 14-yard line with five seconds to go. The Irish lined up for the 53-yard field goal, but Walker's accurate boot fell just yards short of the goalposts.

The concern after the devastating loss is how the Irish will respond next week against USC. The Irish are in serious danger of falling to 0-10 for the year and looking at the bottom of the barrel for potential bowl games.

"You can roll around and sit there and feel sorry for yourself, and if you do that you can go to LA and they will humiliate you," Weis said. "We'll see how the team looks on Monday."

The Irish will have to get their psyche in the right place and change the attitude of the team if they want to put up a fight against Southern California.

"We have to have short-term memory and come in ready for USC," Tate said. "We can't mope around and go into depression. We have to go in Monday ready to work, and we have to work harder this week."

Contact Jared Jedick at jajedick@nd.edu

No Ex-'Cuse
Lame duck coach, 2-8 Orange shock the Irish on senior day

Daniel Jacobs/The Observer

Irish sophomore quarterback Jimmy Clausen, left, comforts senior safety David Bruton after Syracuse pulled off a 24-23 upset at Notre Dame Stadium Saturday. Clausen threw for 291 yards and two touchdowns. The Irish responded with a fourth-quarter lead and put themselves in a position to win.

Despite the inability to convert in Syracuse's side of the field, the Irish were able to build a 23-10 fourth quarter lead and put themselves in a position to win. The first quarter started off with a good special teams play by senior special teamer Mike Anello who forced Syracuse's punt returner Ryan Howard to fumble the ball on his own 23-yard line. The Irish went three and out but converted on a 34-yard Brandon Walker field goal to put the Irish ahead.

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Contact Jared Jedick at jajedick@nd.edu

Syracuse 24, Notre Dame 23

Syracuse running back Antwon Bailey scored three touchdowns in the game. The true freshman rushed for 126 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries.

Total points the Irish scored on three third-quarter drives that began inside the Orange 25-yard line

The Irish offense was unable to capitalize on good field position and the defense was unable to stop the Syracuse offense in the fourth quarter, during which the Orange outscored Notre Dame 10-0.
It's hard, but let's be proactive

I live in Annapolis, Md., about 15 minutes by car from the Maryland Naval Academy. My parents hold Navy season tickets, and in 2003 we had tickets to the Army-Navy game in Philadelphia. Neither team was particularly good, but the rivalry made the game interesting every year. It would have been a great experience, in retrospect, to see what the game was like.

I didn't go. I stayed home to watch Notre Dame lose to Syracuse, 38-12, in the Carrier Dome.

And the Irish committed displayed the process that this team is not well prepared for. The penalties stunk this season, in obvious passing situations and on a second down, with - if not beat - upper-echelon opponents. Let's try to fix the problem.

Against a 2-8 team, winning the game can't come down to two long drives that begin inside the 50. The ball to the original line of scrimmage, in sub-zero temperatures, is like performing surgery. To bring the parts together again.

Likewise, Notre Dame can't just fire a coach, or change quarterback, or play its star recruits. The system needs a broader change to bring the parts together again.

Want more thoughts on Notre Dame sports? Check Out The Casual Observer at observersportsblog.21cr.info.
Lack of running game kills Irish

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

Irish running back Armando Allen tries to escape a group of Syracuse defenders during Notre Dame's 24-23 loss Saturday.

Weis: team not good, 'but decent'

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

Charlie Weis is not worried about his job status, Notre Dame's head coach announced at his press conference Sunday.

"I think that the team has a chance of being pretty darn good next year," Weis said. "I can't worry about my job status, that's the head football coach. And that's what I intend to be."

Weis was declining to comment on questions regarding his job security. "I have never said what I think," he said. "Of course I had some thought to some of the big-picture issues."

"The kind of reflected off of last year to this year to next year," Weis said. "So last year I think we have a couple, especially my football team ... There were multiple games last year where we didn't do very well. And I felt we were basically noncompetitive as the game went on."

Weis said that while the Irish have lost five games this season, they led three by double-digits — a sign the team is improving, he said. "As a matter of fact, in none of the games were you non-competitive. There wasn't one game where you didn't have a chance to win the game, unlike last year where there were multiple games where the games were over early and just put away," Weis said. "So what you've really done is you have taken these guys who were a bunch of pups and now have a year under their belt.

"Going from a crummy team to what I think is a decent team. I wouldn't say we're anywhere near good but I would say we're decent," Weis said.

"The team's progression should be "at least as good, if not better" heading into next season," Weis said.

With "a good portion of these guys now with two years of their belt coming back for next year, you'd have to say you have a chance of being at least as darned good," Weis said.

Still going bowling?

Expected to beat Syracuse, the Irish were projected by most to receive an invite to the Gator Bowl — the Bowl game's information sheets were even circulating around the press box during Saturday's game.

After losing to the Orange, however, ESPN analysts have the Irish headed to the Sun Bowl.

Asked Sunday whether Notre Dame would consider declining a Bowl invitation if it loses at USC Saturday to finish at 6-6, Weis said the opportunity to develop young players with extra practice time would be one advantage a Bowl game would provide.

"No one's jumping up and down to go to a Bowl, if you were to lose the USC game and end up 6-6, no one is jumping up and down to do that," Weis said. "But at the same time that's multiple practices and development that could be going on that you end up losing out on. And I think, in your program's sake, I think it ends up hurting you in the long run."

Last chance, career days

Several Notre Dame seniors saved their best for last, pouring big days in their final chance to play in Notre Dame Stadium. With freshman Michael Floyd unavailable, wide receiver David Grimes posted a career-high 83 receiving yards on a season-best seven catches. His 31-yard reception was also his longest of the season.

Linebacker Scott Smith, who has seen increased playing time with the injury to sophomore linebacker Brian Smith, forced the first fumble of his career. It set up an Irish field goal.

Defensive tackle Pat Kunta's seven tackles were a season high, and he added 1 1/2 for loss. Defensive back Ray Henri posted a season-high six tackles, including the first sack of his career.

And special teamer Mike Anello continued to justify his cult hero status by forcing a turnover on Norte Dame's first punt and later deflecting a Syracuse punt.

Contact Matt Gambar at mgamber@nd.edu.

scoring summary

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First quarter

Notre Dame 3, Syracuse 0
Brandon Walker 45-yd field goal with 11:39 remaining. Drive: 4 plays, 8 yards, 1:20 elapsed.

Second quarter

Notre Dame 3, Syracuse 0
Patrice Shade 48-yd field goal with no time remaining. Drive: 5 plays, 32 yards, 2:28 elapsed.

Third quarter

Notre Dame 13, Syracuse 10
Jimmy Clausen 23-yd pass to Golden Tate (Walker kick with 10:22 remaining). Drive: 5 plays, 76 yards, 3:40 elapsed.

Fourth quarter

Notre Dame 23, Syracuse 17
Antwan Bailey 45-yd field goal with 12:30 remaining. Drive: 9 plays, 60 yards, 4:04 elapsed.

Notre Dame 24, Syracuse 20
Brandon Walker 23-yd field goal with 1:34 remaining. Drive: 4 plays, 6 yards, 37 elapsed.

Notre Dame 23, Syracuse 17
Antwan Bailey 20-yd field goal (Shackle kick with 12:30 remaining. Drive: 8 plays, 66 yards, 3:01 elapsed.

Notre Dame 24, Syracuse 23
Camerson Bradic 53-yd pass from Donte Davis (Shackle kick with 47:27 remaining. Drive: 8 plays, 64 yards, 4:16 elapsed.

Statistics

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Contact Matt Gambar at mgamber@nd.edu.
Seniors get G-Robbed

The Irish went 3-9 last season, but at least that team’s seniors got to take one last lap around Notre Dame Stadium following a win over hapless Duke. Notre Dame may have doubled its win total this season, but this Irish squad will be remembered as the team that suffered a shocking senior day loss to a 2-8 Syracuse team with a lame duck coach. As the Irish trudged toward the disgruntled student section in utter disbelief, the Orange stormed the field and mobbed their head coach, Greg Robinson, who was informed of his dismissal earlier this week. Gathered in front of television cameras, the Orange players chanted “G-Hob! G-Hob!” and exclaimed words of support like “He’s our coach!” Cameron Dantley, the son of a Notre Dame basketball legend, led a last-minute drive that culminated in an 11-yard touchdown pass to Donte Davis that gave Syracuse a 24-23 lead with 42 seconds to play. Facing fourth down from his own 26-yard line, Irish quarterback Jimmy Clausen threw up a prayer to fellow sophomore Golden Tate (seven catches, 146 yards, two touchdowns), who hauled it in at the Syracuse 34-yard line. The Irish lined up for a last-minute 51-yard field goal, but Brandon Walker’s attempt fell just short.

Clockwise from top, Kyle Rudolph can’t haul in a deep pass on Notre Dame’s final comeback attempt; Duval Kamara can’t come down with the ball on the previous play; Cameron Dantley eludes the Notre Dame pass rush; Golden Tate fights through a herd of Syracuse tacklers; Scott Smith forces a Syracuse fumble.
ALEXANDRA KILPATRICK
Scene Writer

The Killers may fall into the same post-punk revival category as bands like The Bravery and Fall Out Boy. But unlike other pop punk bands of our generation, Brandon Flowers and company are less about the music style while delivering insightful yet relatable lyrics and giving off energy you could clean your room to.

The Las Vegas band's 2004 debut studio album "Hot Fuss" was an excellent indie pop album at that brought them quick mainstream success. "Hot Fuss" would go on to receive five Grammy nominations, and even earned a spot as one of the five most recent albums in Robert Dimery's "1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die."

"Hot Fuss" certainly has classic rock influences and a poppy glam musical style reminiscent of David Bowie and Duran Duran, appealing to fans with a layered sound that combines loud yet controlled garage vocals with simple beat beats and electronic hooks. The Killers create a music genre here that is the stuff rock, but rock that you can dance to.

Beginning with the narrative connotation of murder in opener "Jenny Was a Friend of Mine" and later "Midnight Show," it's still rock, but rock that you can dance to.

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Brandon Flowers took on more vibrant vocals for their second studio album, 2006's "Sam's Town," also featuring pounding guitar riffs and keyboard sounds which lacked dynamics for good reason.

In 2007, the Nevada-based group released "Sawdust," a compilation album of 8-sides, riddles, remixes and covers, including an impressive version of Joy Division's "Shadowplay."

Dave Mustaine's "The Killers" and piano-themed "Shadowplay" are the highlight of the album, proving that the band was able to push their boundaries and create something truly special.

"Hot Fuss" was released on September 27, 2004, and has since become a staple of the modern rock genre. The album features hits such as "Mr. Brightside," "Bones," and "Somebody Told Me." The band's unique blend of rock, pop, and electronic elements has earned them critical acclaim and a dedicated fan base.

The Killers have continued to release music and tour extensively, solidifying their place in the rock music landscape. They have collaborated with various artists and have been featured on soundtracks for movies and TV shows.

The Killers continue to be a driving force in contemporary rock music, with their music consistently touching on themes of love, loss, and the human experience.
Giants roll to 10-1 with win over Cardinals

Patriots' offense explodes for 48 against Dolphins; Turner runs for 2 TDs in Falcons' win over Panthers

Giants quarterback Eli Manning throws a pass during the first quarter of New York's 37-20 win over Arizona.

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Eli Manning insists he never flashed back to his previous game in history. Everyone who watched him Sunday must have.

Manning threw for three touchdowns in his return to the scene of his previous game in Arizona. The Cardinals beat Arizona 37-29 to snap the Giants’ seven-game home winning streak.

"It's just a totally different feel, it's a totally different game," Manning said. "You never really compared it to the last time we were here. We knew we'd have a tough contest with Arizona."

Defensive end Justin Tuck, though, admitted to "a little deja vu."

"Once you got back out here, you see the field and this stadium looking like a space ship, you start to think about that right and how it felt," he said.

With starting running back Brandon Jacobs out with a knee injury, Manning took to the air to win their sixth in a row. Manning completed 26 of 33 for 340 yards with no interceptions as the Giants moved to 10-1, tied for the best record in the NFL.

"He just continues to do whatever he has to do to win a game," New York coach Tom Coughlin said.

Kurt Warner, under fierce pressure most of the afternoon, was 32-for-52 for 351 yards and a touchdown, and he was intercepted once and fumbled once, both leading to Giants touchdowns.

"They're a good defense and we matched them with them very well and went toe to toe with them for 60 minutes," Warner said. "Of course, you never want to go away a loser and that part is disappointing, I think you leave from this game and move ahead. If we eliminate some of the mistakes we can play with anybody in the league."

Besides the turnovers, the Cardinals allowed two kickoff returns to set up scores.

"Whenever you can put our offense in that type of field position, it's a great thing," Tuck said, "especially with the weapons that we have.".

On the field where they upset New England in last season's Super Bowl, the Giants (10-1) took the lead in the first half and never relinquished it.

That's a well-coached football team with a tremendous amount of depth that doesn't make many mistakes," Arizona coach Ken Whisenhunt said of today's outcome. "We just made too many mistakes.

"The second half, Manning completed 18 of 18 for 156 yards and two scores.

Warner topped 300 yards for the fifth consecutive game, one shy of the NFL record he shares with Steve Young and Rich Gannon. Warner's 5-yard touchdown pass to Anquan Boldin cut the lead to 30-26 with 4:02 to play. The Cardinals' subsequent onside kick bounced off the hands and chest of Arizona's Ralph Brown and was recovered by Chase Blackburn for New York.

"It hit the ground and came up on me quick," Brown said. "I felt somebody coming on me up on me the right. When it came to my hand, I kind of looked away and it bounced off my hands."

John Carney's third field goal from 33 yards, put the Giants ahead 37-26 with 1:55 remaining. Neil Rackers' third field goal, a 44-yarder, cut to 37-29 with 12 seconds left, but New York's Steve Smith recovered the onside kick.

Sixth on the day, Manning threw for three touchdowns, including two passing plays of more than 60 yards to開 touchdowns in his return to the scene of his previous game in Arizona. The Cardinals beat Arizona 37-29 to snap the Giants’ seven-game home winning streak.

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**NCAA Football**

**BCS Top 25**

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**NCAA Football**

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**NCAA Hockey**

**USA Today Rankings**

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**NFL**

**Packers at Saints**

8:30 p.m., ESPN

**Jets hand Titans loss in blowout**

JETS quarterback Brett Favre drops back to pass in the fourth quarter of New York's 34-13 win over the previously undefeated Tennessee Titans. The loss snapped Tennessee's streak of 13 consecutive regular season wins.

**IN BRIEF**

**San Diego State fires coach Long after 10-loss season**

SAN DIEGO — Chuck Long spent the last 4-weeks presumably thinking his job as San Diego State's football coach was safe through next season.

His bosses, president Stephen Weber and athletic director Jeff Schiempen, spent the last two weeks working behind Long's back to raise just more than $1 million in private money to help buy out the remaining two years of his contract.

Once the money was secured, Long was gone. The school announced Sunday that Long was fired; the coach was informed of the move by athletic director Jeff Schiempen on Saturday morning, several hours before the Aztecs' surprising 42-21 win over UNLV.

San Diego State finished 2-10, the school's first 10-loss season.

Hired in December 2005 with no previous head coaching experience, Long was 9-27 in three seasons.

**Montgomery admit's doping before Sydney Olympics**

NEW YORK — Disgraced former world record holder Thailand's Montgomery said he took testosterone and human growth hormone before the Sydney Olympics, and does not deserve the gold medal he won in the 400-meter relay.

The admission was made during an interview scheduled to air Tuesday night on HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel."

Montgomery never tested positive for drugs, but he was banned from track for two years and his world record in the 100 was erased after he was linked to the BALCO investigation. He retired after the ban was imposed in 2006.

The International Olympic Committee has taken a tough stance toward doping, stripping entire relay teams of their results and medals if even one member is found to have cheated. The U.S. men's team that won the 1,600 relay in Sydney had to give up its medals after Antonio Pettigrew admitted doping.

**Paterno undergoes successful hip replacement**

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Penn State coach Joe Paterno had successful hip replacement surgery Sunday, a day after the Nittany Lions clinched the Big Ten title and a trip to the Rose Bowl.

The 81-year-old coach was expected to get back on his feet Monday following the procedure at Mount Nittany Medical Center, the team said in a statement. Dr. Wayne Sebastianelli, the school's director of athletic medicine, led the surgical team.

Paterno is expected to resume coaching on Dec. 1, when players return to school following Thanksgiving break.

He said Saturday after the 49-18 win over Michigan State that he planned to return in 2009. It was the Hall of Famer's 33rd career win, most among major college coaches.

Paterno suffered his injury while demonstrating an onside kick two days before the season opener on Aug. 30 against Coastal Carolina.
NFL

Owens leads Dallas to victory

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — With Tony Romo scrambling, Terrell Owens kept chugging down the sideline. Once the pass went up, Owens went to work.

It was the third of seven catches for 213 yards and the seventh of his five longest catches for 213 yards and the

Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo drops back to pass in the third quarter of Dallas’ 35-22 win over San Francisco.

"It's steaming into December in the NFC West. I've got to do a better job for us to be in the mix," said Romo.

Dallas (3-0) was looking to build off its first win in a month against the 49ers. The 49ers certainly had their chances early, but the Dallas defense refused to buckle.

San Francisco missed a 33-yard field goal on its opening drive, then reached first-and-goal from the 4 on its next two drives — yet managed only a pair of field goals. That's lead shriveled into a 29-6 deficit early in the third quarter. The 49ers trailed 32-9, getting only a field goal out of two drives inside the Dallas 20, before finally getting into the end zone.

"I've been telling you guys all along, it's nothing wrong with me," said Owens, who faces a probable Sunday discipline hearing.

The Cowboys take the second-best record of the NFC West into their game against the Chargers (6-3) on Sunday. If Dallas wins, the charge toward the division title will be on full force.

"He's still got it," quarterback Tony Romo said of Owens. "He's the best receiver in the league."

"I'm not saying that I'm perfect," said Owens, who also was sacked four times, including consecutive plays inside the 20 in the first quarter. He threw a pair of late TD passes, to Isaac Bruce and DeShaun Foster.

The Cowboys also limited Frank Gore to 26 yards on 14 carries and one catch for six yards.

Romo was 23-of-39 for 341 yards and three touchdowns in his second game playing with a splint protecting a broken pinkie on his passing hand. He probably will need the protection for another game.

"I don't know if I could aggressively make the throws I made today without the splint on it," Romo said. "It was still painful when I tried this week."
Stampeded win Grey Cup

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Sandro DeAngelis led Calgary to its sixth Grey Cup championship Sunday night, kicking five field goals in the Stampeded's 22-14 victory over the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League title game.

DeAngelis gave Calgary a 16-14 lead with a 21-yarder on the last play of the third quarter. He connected from 30 yards early in the fourth and completed the scoring with a 50-yarder with 4:12 left.

"This is one of the greatest days of my life," DeAngelis said. "We are immortal... I am very proud to be a member of this Calgary Stampeders organization. This has been a dream for me since I was a little kid.""""

Game MVP Henry Burris threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Brett Ralph late in the first half to cut Montreal's lead to 13-10. Burris complet­te six yards in the game at Olympic Stadium, beating Winnipeg in 2001. Montreal lost for the fifth time in six Grey Cup appearances since 2000.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and we just let it slip through our hands," Montreal quarterback Anthony Calvillo said. "This is what you thrive for, to compete, to get a chance to play in this game and of course to win it and the record is not good on our side, and it's never fun losing your chance. It's going to make it a long offseason and it's not going to be fun.""""

McNabb replaced in Eagles loss to Ravens

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Pulled at halftime after a second straight dreadful performance, a perfectly healthy Donovan McNabb was asked the last time he left a game under similar circumstances.

"Never," he replied, shaking his head. "Never.

While Kevin Kolb ran the Philadelphia offense, McNabb watched stoically from the sideline as the Baltimore Ravens beat the Eagles 36-7 on Sunday, present­ing first-year coach John Harbaugh with a lopsided victory.

Seven turnovers in seven quar­ters was evidently enough for Philadelphia coach Andy Reid, who benched McNabb and turned to Kolb, a second-round pick who had attempted nine­ throws in two seasons before Sunday.

"I thought it might be a little bit of a spark, and we might be able to get some things going," said Reid, who had quarterbacks coach Pat Shurmur tell McNabb of the decision.

"My first (reaction) was, 'Wow.' But you go along with it," McNabb said. "I am upset about us losing the game, and I am upset that I wasn't able to contribute. But I am going to focus on trying to help this team get better by eliminating mistakes and turnovers."

Kolb failed to cure the ailing Eagles (6-5-1), going 10-for-23 for 73 yards and two interceptions — a 15.3 rating. One of his interceptions was returned an NFL-record 108 yards for a touchdown by Ed Reed.

"Obviously, it didn't go good and I'm not going to pretend that it did," Kolb said.

Reid said he would decide Monday whether to start McNabb or Kolb in Thursday's home game against Arizona.

"That will be a decision he will make. The thing I will do is I will continue to prepare as if I am the starter," McNabb said. "I've been a part of this thing for 10 years. You have to have short-term memory in this league, be able to focus on who you're playing and be able to move on.

Philadephia's lone touchdown came on a 100-yard kickoff return by Quintin Demps in the first half. Baltimore (7-4) went up 12-7 at halftime.

"I'm going to focus on trying to get some things going," said Reid, who had quarterbacks coach Pat Shurmur tell McNabb of the decision.

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http://studyrish.nd.edu/
**ND Men's Basketball**

**ND hangs on to win in L.A.**

**Harangody scores with seven minutes remaining, weather, the Irish did just second straight three pointer steals.**

**Irish junior Luke Harangody skis to the hoop during Notre Dame's 94-58 win over USC Upstate on Nov. 16 at the JACC.**

By GREG ARBOGAST

By JAY FITZPATRICK

Managing Editor

Coming off a 96-61 blowout of Evansville Wednesday night, Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said there were a number of things her team needed to work on before they played Boston College Saturday. McGraw also mentioned that the Eagles were playing better as of late.

The team faced those problems in a big way in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

The Eagles exploded to finish out the 17-game series between the two teams.

McGraw said, "I think we can do a lot of things better."

But even with the 48-28 win, McGraw still said she saw some room for improvement.

"I think we can do a lot of things better." said McGraw.

**Irish coast**

**McGlinn continued from page 20**

**ND Women's Basketball**

**Irish soar past Eagles for blowout victory**

**By JAY FITZPATRICK**

Managing Editor

Brittany Mallory with 14 and Lindsey Schrader with 13 points. Center Erica Solomon and guard Ashley Barlow each chipped in 10 points in the win.

"We played a lot of defense tonight. We were incredibly unselfish tonight. We plugged in the defense and we did a lot of good things."

The Irish did not stop there. They were able to bring the defense out on the circle. They were able to get inside the game. They were able to get inside a little bit more. So it worked well for everybody, she said.

Coming into the matchup with Boston College, McGraw said she wanted to see how they were going to handle their defense. She said she could have put the defense on the line and it really opened the game up.

"We were up 24 at half time and we talked about it was 0-0, it was 0-0, we go out and start over and we got up 24 again. So we were very consistent from half to half," McGraw said.

McGraw also said she was proud of her team's defense. She said they played a great and defensive game against the Eagles.

McGraw said, "We were offensively, just flowed so well. We were incredibly unselfish tonight."
Hanks

continued from page 20

The snow and ice covered field kept the Irish from spreading the Gopher's formation and finding holes. With at least eight players obstructing the Irish offense, Notre Dame had to send players on runs into the box. Hanks sent Rose Augustin into the box half way through the first half, but the Minnesota defense cleared her shot. The ball rebounded back to Augustin, who's second shot narrowly missed the net — one of many close calls for the Irish.

"I thought we were just a couple of times a pass away or just a step away from getting that look that we really needed to get the earlier goal," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said.

And a large part of that was in the Gopher's Big Ten style of play — a far more physical game than the Irish had seen all season until taking on Michigan State last week.

"I think sometimes it can take you out a little bit, the Big Ten, that conference is kind of known for that, more of a physical style of play and not so much a finesse and a skill set," Waldrum said. "So I think you saw a Minnesota team that's played in that conference and that's what they're used to doing ... I think our kids can get physical with anybody if they want to, I think they can handle it well."

In the second half brought the Irish a chance to adjust their style of play. Just two minutes into the second half, Hanks and Augustin paired up again. Augustin drilled a shot at bare, forcing the rebound back to Hanks. Hanks curled a shot just over the Gopher's crossbar, and the score remained tied at zero. Despite falling to post a score, the Irish remained relentless in their offensive game.

"I thought we really started to dominate the game in the second half, I thought we were the better team in both halves, but I think they had some good opportunities in some of the play in the first half, but I thought the second half we really came out with a purpose," Waldrum said.

Waldrum also noted the field, which had been cleared of the snow that had fallen earlier Friday and Thursday, acted as an equalizer for the two teams. The Irish even feared that the field conditions might end their tournament run.

"We were just worried all along that they'd catch us on a counter, some kind of a counter, that we'd be attacking and turn a ball over in a bad spot or something like that on the field and miss something and so you're hoping that you don't give a mistake," Waldrum said.

"I never felt like they were gonna score one in the run of play, but I felt like these are the kind of games that a mistake can happen." But even an icy field couldn't break the Irish concentration, and yet again they found a way to win.

Notre Dame remained calm even as the final seconds of regulation time ticked off the clock. Hanks in the five minutes before the start of overtime, Waldrum said the players did most of the talking, confident they could step off the field with a win.

When Hanks stepped up to take her penalty kick, Waldrum wasn't even looking — mainly out of superstition. Like she had 12 times previously this season, Hanks had the keeper going in the opposite direction of her penalty kick, and she made it with a spot in the quarterfinals.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

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Coach Zimmer said his team was playing short-handed and short-handed and short-handed.

"All season long we've grinded out victories," Zimmer said. "This is a senior-laden team that's downright gritty at times. When we can run the football, we have success." The Rambler defense continued to pressure Mahoney, who flushed another throw that was intercepted by senior Vince A n d e r w s . A n d e r w s returned the ball to the Keenan 29-yard line. The Ramblers were unable to score another touchdown, however, as Dear and the Knights defense recovered a fumble late in the third quarter.

With time running out, Mahoney led the Knights down the field as they tried to launch a historic comeback for the Interhall title. The balanced Knights' offense converted consecutive first downs, as running back Andrea Villalba fought for yards on the ground. On the ninth play of the drive, Mahoney hit Zeanker for a 25-yard pass, who eluded multiple tackles en route to the end zone. The Knights failed on the ensuing two-point conversion, and all but sealed their fate. Zimmer, though, applauded his opponent's decision.

"He's a great game," he said. "We would have made the same call in that situation."

"We have an extremely good pair of duo of Care and Young effectively ran down the field, as Siegfried held on to win the Interhall Championship and take its place as one of the most successful teams in interhall history.

For the Keenan seniors, Sunday's loss is a bitter pill to swallow. This is the third year the senior Knights have lost in the Stadium in their standout season.

"It feels terrible losing all three years, but it's an honor playing in the Stadium where so many greats have played," Zeanker said.

"Playing my last football game in the Stadium is the greatest experience I ever. I will never forget my interhall career."

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

JESS LEE/ The Observer

Sophomore forward Rose Augustin miss loads high during a 1-0 Notre Dame win over Minnesota to qualify for the Elite Eight.

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page 17

Ramblers

continued from page 20

eled to attempt the two-point conversion, which would give them a one-point lead. But the Rambler defense stepped up as it has all season, halting an intended pass for senior receiver Jim Zeanker.

"It was a risky decision, but we thought we could get it," Keenan captain Barton Dear said. "There's no guarantee we would have executed a good snap, hold, and kick for the PAT, that's disappointing, but I'm still proud of those guys."

The Ramblers established themselves from the first whistle, forcing Keenan to go three-and-out on the first drive of the game. Siegfried proceeded to block the punt, giving the offense excellent field position well within Keenan territory.

Senior quarterback Max Young and the Rambler offense wasted little time putting points on the scoreboard. Resident running back Dex Cure powered through the holes for an 18-yard run on the second play of the drive. Rolling out of the pocket, Young found receiver Gary Burks in the back of the end zone for a 5-yard touchdown pass. The PAT made the score 7-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The Knights were poised to score on the subsequent drive when quarterback Terry Mahoney completed multiple passes to his receivers for large gains. But the Siegfried defensive line simply overwhelmed Keenan in the trenches. Led by senior Jamie Silversmith and sophomore Pat Kelly and Chris Skalits, the Ramblers sacked Mahoney twice and forced a fumble that was recovered by Skalits.

"They're a big bunch of guys, bigger than any other team's line," Siegfried head coach P.J. Zimmer said. "They start off slow, but once they get going they thrive off hitting the quarterback."

Nevertheless, Keenan refused to end the first half with zero points on the board.

After forcing a Siegfried three-and-out, the Knights scored on the first play of the drive when Mahoney hit Zeanker with a 6-yard pass. The Rambler proceeded to sprint 65 yards downhill, weaving between defenders and breaking no less than six Siegfried tackles on his way to the end zone. "Zanker had a great game for us," Dear said. "He's been a playmaker all year, today was no different."

Entering halftime with a 7-7 tie, Keenan seemed to have all the momentum. But in the second half the Ramblers defense showed the fans in attendance why Siegfried is undefeated and untied.

Cornerback Gary Burks intercepted a Mahoney pass, who was hit by the Siegfried defensive line as he was throwing. Gary returned the ball down to the Keenan 17-yard line, giving the Ramblers excellent field position.

The offense took care of the rest, as three different players carried the ball on the ground. Senior Marcus Young displayed great vision and agility as he stepped over Keenan defenders and ran the ball into the end zone. After the extra point, the Ramblers led Keenan 14-7.

"This is a senior-laden team that's downright gritty at times." P.J. Zimmer Siegfried coach

Waldrum said.

Career Center

DAME

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Big East
continued from page 20
third set. The Irish hit at a .419 clip as they took the set in convincing fashion, 25-15.

The loss ended the Irish's season, but the Irish still have one more victory showed what the No. 1 seed

Irish came on at the end of the season both offensively and defensively to build momentum going into the Big East Championships. Fifth-seeded Notre Dame swept an impressive Connecticut team to open the tournament before knocking off the No. 1 seed St. John's in convincing 3-1 fashion. These victories showed what the team is capable of when they are at their best.

Stremick and Draly both earned all-tournament honors for their impressive efforts on the likely run. Coaches and players were unable to commit following Sunday's game because they were returning to campus.

Contact Jared Jedick at jaredj@nd.edu

Falcons
continued from page 20
said, "I think our depth has helped us be successful with that because right now I can trust pretty much anybody on the ice in those situations."

The Irish added another goal at 17:49, when junior Christian Minella hammered a Hanson rebound past Spratt. "The puck was bouncing around and I could see out of the corner of my eye Spratt coming over so I knew I had to either tuck it in the post or bank it off his leg." Minella said. "It kind of hung up there but then it trickled in."

Hanson notched his second goal with less than a second left in the second. After breaking his stick, Hanson went back to the bench and picked up a stick from teammate Teddy Ruth, who plays with a heavier stick than Hanson. Skating into the offensive zone, Hanson was blocked twice at the top of the left circle, Hanson took a third swipe at the puck and this time slammed it past Spratt. "I looked up and saw there was about five seconds left, so I tried to just get a shot on goal," Hanson said. "The first one got blocked, but I think the momentum from the 10-pound Ted Ruth stick continued and I got a second art of it."

Jackson praised Hanson after the game, and said he was proud of the way the senior has worked and improved since his freshman year. "I used to tell him, 'Kevin Deeth's 5'8" and he plays with all kinds of jams, imagine what you could do if you were playing with that same level of intensity,'" and he does that now," Jackson said. "He's a much more effective player."

Jackson also said he was pleased with his team's physicality and aggressive play against the Falcons. "We have to always remember that you always have to get a little gritty around the net if you're going to score goals," he said. Most goals aren't pretty."

Saturday night the Irish continued their offensive explosion by putting up nine goals - six in the final period - to finish the weekend sweep of the Falcons with a 9-1 win.

Notre Dame scored six of its goals on the powerplay and added another one short-handed in what quickly became a very physical game. Bowling Green collected a total of 46 penalty minutes on the night, leaving them shorthanded for more than two periods of the game.

Sophomore forward Calle Ridderwall continued his recent hot streak to lead the Irish with a hat trick. His three goals, "I'm just trying to get a shot on goal. I'm not trying to just get a point," said.

I'm trying to play a little more physical too. We have to always get a little gritty around the net."

Ben Ryan, Ryan Guentzel, Erik Condra and White all added goals as well.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu and Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu
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THE EUGENIA LAST

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LEO (July 22-Aug. 21): You are ready to take on new challenges. Focus on your work and be more productive. This time will help you to complete tasks you've been putting off for a long time. Be more organized and make a plan for the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 22-Sept. 22): Enjoy the people who appreciate you. People at home will be in need of attention if you stick around. A change in your personal life may be on the way. If you are working, you may be in need of some rest. Take care of any personal issues that arise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Overreacting to problems you can do without. You are ready to take on new challenges. Focus on your work and be more productive. This time will help you to complete tasks you've been putting off for a long time. Be more organized and make a plan for the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Talk to someone you haven't seen in some time. Discussing freely with our significant other will help you to gain some new insights. This is a great time to talk about your feelings and innermost thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are ready to take on new challenges. Focus on your work and be more productive. This time will help you to complete tasks you've been putting off for a long time. Be more organized and make a plan for the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Overreacting to problems you can do without. You are ready to take on new challenges. Focus on your work and be more productive. This time will help you to complete tasks you've been putting off for a long time. Be more organized and make a plan for the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A money deal or settlement to some much-needed alterations. This is a great time to talk about your feelings and innermost thoughts. You are ready to take on new challenges. Focus on your work and be more productive. This time will help you to complete tasks you've been putting off for a long time. Be more organized and make a plan for the future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Spend some time with someone you love. An opportunity will soon arise to show your personal life may be on the way. If you are working, you may be in need of some rest. Take care of any personal issues that arise.

ARIES (March 21-Apr. 19): Don't let your plans go astray. Focus on your work and be more productive. This time will help you to complete tasks you've been putting off for a long time. Be more organized and make a plan for the future.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Spend some time with someone you love. An opportunity will soon arise to show your personal life may be on the way. If you are working, you may be in need of some rest. Take care of any personal issues that arise.

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CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take care of your responsibilities. Focus on your work and be more productive. This time will help you to complete tasks you've been putting off for a long time. Be more organized and make a plan for the future.

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**ND VOLLEYBALL**

**Irish run comes up just short in Big East Championship**

**By JARED JEDICK**

Sports Writer

The Irish brought some inspired play to the Big East Championships, beating two consecutive higher-seeded opponents in No. 4 Connecticut and No. 1 St. John’s before finally falling to No. 3 Louisville in the finals match 1-3 (25-23, 28-26, 25-15, 25-22).

The Irish (16-14) reached the Big East tournament for the 13th time since joining the Big East in 1996, and Louisville (18-10) won the finals for the second time in the past three years.

Notre Dame kept pace with Louisville throughout most of the match, at times even dominating the Cardinals, and yet they could not sustain the strong play long enough to defeat the Cardinals.

Senior middle blocker Justin Stremick paced the Irish with 18 kills and four blocks, while junior outside hitter Christina Kaelin and sophomore outside hitter Kelly Seiacca added 12 kills apiece. Freshman outside hitter Kristen Dealy had 11 kills and 11 digs, and freshman Frenchy Silva had 10 digs. Junior setter Jamel Nicholas had 49 assists.

The first set started off well for the Irish with a quick 9-4 lead. Louisville stormed back, however, tying the set 14-14. The two teams traded points all the way to the wire until Louisville squeaked out the 25-23 victory.

The Irish outplayed Louisville for most of the first set with six more kills in the set, but they suffered from several faults and receiving errors that were very costly.

The poor play continued into the second set as the Cardinals built an 11-3 lead. Things turned around quickly, however, as the Irish went on a 6-0 run to get back in the game. The Irish took the lead at 14-13. The Irish had set point at 24-23, but could not convert and Louisville took the second set 28-26.

Coming out of the break, the Irish were on fire, seeming to take control of the match in the third set. A Justin White goal gave the Irish a two-goal lead 14-12. The Irish extended their win streak to eight games, and did so in convincing fashion, pounding Bowling Green 5-1 and 9-1 this weekend.

Friday night in the Joyce Center, Notre Dame (8-3-1, 4-2-1 CCHA) took advantage of two goals and an assist from senior Christian Hanson and cruised to victory over the Falcons (5-6-2, 4-4-1-0). Hanson got the Irish on the board first at 16:04 of the first period. With the Irish on the powerplay, Hanson found himself all alone in the low slot and pointed Kevin Deeb’s centering pass past Bowling Green goalie Jimmy Spratt to give the Irish a 1-0 lead.

**Golden goal clinches win**

**By DEIRDRE KRASULA**

Assistant Managing Editor

One mistake was all anybody needed — fortunately for the Irish, Minnesota tripped up.

In the sixth minute of overtime senior Kerri Hanks was dropped down from behind in the box. Given the chance Notre Dame had at a penalty kick to knock off Minnesota 1-0 Friday night and secure a spot in the elite eight of the NCAA tournament.

That goal wasn’t the only mistake the Irish made. The Irish outplayed Minnesota, holding them scoreless for 80:32 minutes of play. The Irish had 17 shots on goal, 13 saves, and 7 corners. The Irish were on fire, seeming to take control of the match in the third set. A Justin White goal gave the Irish a two-goal lead 14-12.

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Cast of Characters

Each of Notre Dame's four senior captains brings his own unique style of leadership to the team.

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Irish schedule is high risk, high reward

Notre Dame coach Mike Brey joked during his media day press conference that he didn’t know what to call this Irish team, which he viewed as "one of the toughest teams in the country" in recent memory. The Associated Press school rankings, however, could not agree, listing Notre Dame at No. 8 in the nation for this season.

"I believe people overstate the case when they call us a top 10 team," Brey said. "We're not really a top 10 team. We're a good team."

On paper, Notre Dame might play as many as nine ranked opponents this season, with top-1 teams such as UCLA and Arizona joining the 2010 Maui Invitational in Maui, Hawaii. Later this season, the Irish could face No. 8/9 Notre Dame, who finished third in the Big East. The end result of all these top-1 teams is the reality that the Irish are "a good team that isn't as good as you might think," Brey said.

"Rough and tumble," Brey said of the season that is scheduled to begin Tuesday night in the Paradise Jam with a game against Lafayette. "I think people need to understand that having a great non-conference schedule isn't an indication of how good you are. It's a measure of what you play against. I think the league champion can have 12 wins. Brey said. "I swear to God, it's just too hard a league.

"But that's not necessarily a bad thing. It can actually set Notre Dame up for a deep run in the NCAA Tournament, regardless of what seed they end up with." Let me explain.

My father coached high school basketball at the same school, the now defunct Bishop Hoban High School, in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., for over 30 years. For a few years in the mid- to late-1990s, his teams were classified AA, or even AAAA teams — bigger schools that usually had more talent — on a nightly basis. Needless to say, their schedule was brutal, and for a few years, his teams finished at .500 or barely above in the regular season. But then the playoffs would roll around, when Hoban was playing AA competition against AAAA teams on their level, his teams would be ready.

Routinely, they would enter as a low seed in the district playoffs, but run through the top teams in the district to get into the state playoffs. One year they entered as the No. 8 seed, the last team to make the playoffs, and ended up finishing second in the state.

Brey's Irish have also put together two seasons by accident. For a few years in the late 1990s, the Irish were built to have 12 regular season losses. They made runs deep into the state playoffs, and even the state title, when Notre Dame was able to regularly get to the semifinals and even make a state semifinals appearance before the league was finally realigned. Back then, I was the Irish head coach, and my dad said the schedule, while tough at the time, benefited my teams in the long run.

So all bragging for my father's coaching philosophy aside, the Irish are in a similar situation this season. Their schedule is tough and they will have their share of bumps and bruises along the way. But come Tournament time, if Notre Dame is as good as some are predicting, they should still be in good shape to make it into the second weekend of the Tournament.

After that, the Irish will be playing those top-tier teams again and all bets are off, just like all bets were off for dad's teams when they made it into the state playoffs. Only the Tournament will be the time when Notre Dame shows whether or not it can win a national title. Any conclusion that is reached before this point is premature. Notre Dame might learn and improve more from a couple of tough regular season losses than from wins.

So hang on for a bumpy ride this season, but don't get off before reaching the final destination.

The view in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Tory Jackson, a kid in a candy store trying to control himself

By GREG ARBOGAST

Like a kid in a candy store. That's how Irish coach Mike Brey described point guard Tory Jackson's play during his first two seasons at Notre Dame. And why not? What point guard wouldn't be excited to play with the likes of Colin falls, Russell Carter, Kyle McAlarney and Luke Harangody. The Irish haven't finished in the top 20 nationally in scoring offense the past two seasons by accident. Leading an offense blessed with so many weapons has its challenges. In his first two years, like any kid sur­rounded by sugary goodness, Jackson found that deciding between his many options hasn't been the easiest task. "I think when he was young and had weapons, he said to me 'There's so many options I can use, and that was youth speak," Brey said.

If preseason expectations are indication, Brey's point guard isn't now all grown up. Entering his third season on the Irish offense, Jackson has learned what each of his weapons' firepower is, and how to maximize each contributor's potential within such a dynamic offense.

In other words, the candy store is still just as stocked and Jackson still likes to go, but he doesn't lose control upon entering the way he did in the past.

"I think the biggest thing is he's really learned how to use these weapons that are around him," Brey said. "I'm not saying McAlarney likes it, I can get it to him in these three spots. He's really learned how to distribute and at what time to get the ball to people.

What gives Brey such optim­ism that his point guard has turned the corner? After all, Jackson's key offensive stats from his freshman and sophomore year are nearly identical. As a freshman, Jackson started 20 games and averaged 3.3 assists-per­game, a 58 assists-to-turnover ratio. Last year, Jac­kson assumed a more prominent role as the offense's facilitator averaging 5.8 assists-per-game, but his assist-to-turnover ratio remained a near identical 1.82.

Perhaps Brey's optimism stems from the studying Jackson put in this off-season. Over the summer, Jackson spent his time studying video of two point guards — Steve Nash and Chris Paul — who run their offenses like the way that Jackson hopes to run this year's Irish offense. "I'm trying to make myself better," Jackson said. "I take some of the good things they're doing and use them in my game. With some of the weaknesses I have, I try and figure out what they're doing to make myself better.

In Nash, Jackson sees a point guard whose decision-making has managed to involve multiple key players in a dynamic offense. Over the past four years, Nash has seamlessly integrated Steve Nash, Amar'e Stoudemire, Joe Johnson, Amare Stoudemire, Dwight Howard and Deron Williams into the Suns' seven to eight offense. The scary thought for opposing defenses is the ramifications if Jackson becomes a similar type offensive facilitator.

In Paul, while averaging 11.4 points and 8.8 assists to score 21.4 points per game, Jackson would like to for opposing defenses is the ramifications if Jackson becomes a similar type offensive facilitator.

In Nash, Jackson sees a point guard whose decision-making has involved multiple key players in a dynamic offense. Over the past four years, Nash has seamlessly integrated Paul, Steve Nash, Amar'e Stoudemire, Joe Johnson, Amare Stoudemire, Dwight Howard and Deron Williams into the Suns' seven to eight offense. The scary thought for opposing defenses is the ramifications if Jackson becomes a similar type offensive facilitator.

In Paul, while averaging 11.4 points and 8.8 assists to score 21.4 points per game, Jackson was not able to join the team and would like to for opposing defenses is the ramifications if Jackson becomes a similar type offensive facilitator.
Back for an encore

Luke Harangody returns after dominating a sophomore season, still with a lot to prove

By CHRIS HINE
Edmor-in-Chief

Last season, every so often, Notre Dame coach Mike Brey would slip press clippings into forward Luke Harangody’s locker, clippings that criticized Harangody’s ability on the floor. Those clippings would provide a little extra motivation for Harangody to go out and put up big numbers.

This year, Brey didn’t want to do that anymore, in an attempt to keep the Big East player of the year on an even keel throughout the season — but then Hasheem Thabeet opened his mouth.

There it was, on the cover of ESPN the Magazine, a quote from 7-foot-3 Connecticut center: “I played Luke Harangody and he was not tough.”

“I try to downplay it now because I don’t think there’s anything to be any extra juice,” Brey said. “Almost try to say they kind of baited Thabeet into it. Try to diffuse it because I don’t think any extra juice is needed for him. I don’t want him distracted.”

Thabeet may or may not have been joking, but Harangody is taking it personally.

“That will go up in my locker,” Harangody said. “The fact that the junior won’t let it get under his skin too much.

“I think if this would’ve happened freshman or sophomore year, my emotions would take over. The way you talk to coach Brey now, he’ll tell you I’m more mature enough to realize that I’m not going to go out in that game and be all crazy thinking about, ‘Hey, I’m going to put 40 up on UConn because he said that.’ Harangody said. “I’m just going to go out and do the same thing I always do.”

With that extra motivation, if Harangody does the same thing he usually does on the floor, he may very well put up close to 40 points on Connecticut, and a lot of other teams for that matter.

A season to remember

For Harangody, last season was a transformation. He improved his game offensively and became one of the best big men in the country and when he knew it or not, Thabeet had a hand in that transformation.

It was Notre Dame’s first match-up against the Huskies last season that provided the inspiration for Harangody to expand his game.

On Jan. 5, the Irish downed Connecticut 73-67 in the Joyce Center even though Harangody shot just 5-for-23 from the field. He struggled against Thabeet, who finished with 10 blocked shots.

“That motivated me a lot because I realized in that game that I couldn’t power through people and bully people and that my game has to be more finesse at times,” Luke Harangody Irish forward

Over the past two seasons, Harangody expanded his offensive arsenal and can now regularly hit mid-range jump shots and take defenders to the basket off the dribble.

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“That motivated me a lot because I realized in that game that I couldn’t power through people and bully people and that my game has to be more finesse at times,” Harangody said.

But questions still lingered about Harangody’s ability to go up against the taller, dominant players of the Big East — like Thabeet, Hoy Hibbert of Georgetown or David Padgett of Louisville.

Before playing Louisville and Connecticut for a second time last season, Harangody told The Observer: “I’ve watched tape and saw where I could use my body to get around (the big guys) and bring them away from the basket. I’m learning. This is the first year I’ve really played against players like that. That’s one of the things this year that I’ve had to deal with the most and learn the most from.”

And he learned pretty fast.

Harangody may not have remembered — or just forgot to mention to ESPN — that Harangody scored 32 points on 13-of-24 shooting and grabbed 16 rebounds in that second meeting in Scranton, Conn. Harangody put on an offensive display in that game, hitting that jumper from the outside multiple times, driving to the basket, and scoring with his usual hustle and intensity in the paint.

Harangody wasn’t done. He put up 40 points on Louisville just days later. Then he picked up some hardware for all that hard work, the Big East title, and the program, so he’s going to do a lot of attention, a lot of double teams, something he’s definitely improved on the last few weeks.

The numbers he put up last year were pretty impressive and a lot of people will be quick to say if he doesn’t put up the same numbers he’s not as successful, which I would disagree with,” McAlarney said. “There are a lot of other things that he can bring to the table that really can help him down in a better player.”

“I think you have to work on both,” he has a leadership role on this team. He’s the base of our program, so he’s getting a lot of attention, a lot of double teams, something he’s definitely improved on the last few weeks.”

Harangody hopes he can parlay all of his hard work and success into a career in the NBA.

“I’m learning regularly, a lot of other things that he can bring to the table that really can help him down in a better player.”

Oddly, there’s a certain big man in Connecticut who would be glad to see him go, even if he says otherwise.

ContactChris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Harangody won the Big East player of the year award for a sophomore campaign in which he averaged 20.4 points and 10.5 rebounds per game.
By GREG ARBOGAST and FRAN TOLON
Sport Writers

Notre Dame’s leadership is special. Just ask Ben Hansbrough. Who better than the sophomore transfer from Mississippi State to explain what makes the Irish team dynamic unique?

“Mississippi State did not have the leadership that Notre Dame has at all,” Hansbrough said. “The whole core is all about the team. Nobody’s individualized in any way. Just being around this group makes you feel like you’re welcome.”

A family-like atmosphere. That’s what’s described above by Hansbrough, and it’s the word senior co-captain Luke Zeller used to describe the culture that pervades the entire Notre Dame team.

This family-like atmosphere has multiple meanings for the Irish. It means that a culture of inclusion exists where each player feels comfortable and equally part of the team. It means that the leaders of the family know what the team is capable of, and they won’t allow each other to settle for anything less. As such, the Irish players constantly push each other to work harder and improve their flaws.

The Irish have leaders of this family-like atmosphere. Notre Dame’s senior quartet of captains are Kyle McAlarney, Zach Hillesland, Ryan Ayers and Zeller — each work to create this singular culture, but each goes about it in his own way.

And for Notre Dame, their strength lies in that diversity.

Kyle McAlarney: The serious leader

This role was filled by Rob Kurz last year. So, it’s no wonder that coach Mike Brey has said the workaholic McAlarney sometimes gets the “Kurz face.”

McAlarney said he has made a conscious effort to play the part of the serious leader for Notre Dame.

“I think more than anything else on this team is my role,” he said. “I think the most important thing for me this year is to be a leader, to be a solid rock for these guys.”

Brey agrees. The Irish coach noted that his senior guard has developed into the true leader of the team and the one most responsible for getting his teammates to focus on the task at hand.

“He has become our best voice,” Brey said of McAlarney. “Just hearing Kyle talk this year it’s been his team, a lot of responsibility.”

McAlarney said his willingness to take that responsibility has developed steadily over the course of his Notre Dame career.

“Coming in as a freshman here was a really humbling experience... You really learn from the older guys,” he said. “My freshman year I kind of said to myself, ‘I’m going to learn, take a backseat and learn from the older guys and just wait my turn.”

Former Irish captains have had a profound effect on McAlarney in the past four years.

“Chris Quinn, Colin Falls, Rob Kurz — those guys really set a great example for me about how to lead a team and that’s what I’m looking to do this year,” McAlarney said.

When Notre Dame practices are about to start, McAlarney almost always has a ball in his hand. He said he hopes the eagerness to work on his game rubs off on the younger Irish players.

“Part of it is leading by example, being here early, doing your work every day, being professional about it,” he said. “… Hopefully it filters down to these young guys. We have a great culture of work in this program, we have a lot of guys who work really hard.”

Perhaps, McAlarney works harder than McAlarney, though. He said he spent much of the off-season trying to improve his defense.

“My defense right now, I feel like I made the most improvement as far as just guarding the ball and being in a good position,” McAlarney said. “I’m a senior here now so I understand how we kind of play defense and I’ve really become accustomed to that. That’s one thing that’s definitively improved in my game this year.”

Still, McAlarney’s serious leadership on and off the court might be just as important for the Irish to maintain the culture they’ve created over the course of their Notre Dame career.

“I’m a senior, a veteran guard and I’ve watched when we’ve been successful is when it starts at the top — those guys just really leading the young guys,” he said. “I think that’s my role bigger than anything else with this team, so I take that very seriously.”

Zach Hillesland: The relaxed leader

Serious would not be the first word used to describe Zach Hillesland.

If McAlarney says the things needed to get the guys to focus, Hillesland says the things needed to get guys to relax.

Part of Notre Dame’s family-like atmosphere is a light-hearted culture in which every member on the team feels comfortable joking around with each other, and nobody is more important to that particular culture than Hillesland.

“I think so,” Hillesland said when asked if he’s the lead joker on the team. “My teammates would describe me as unique. There aren’t too many topics that I don’t have a joke for.”

Hillesland’s joking nature with his teammates is reflective of more than his personality on the team. It stems from his approach to life and off the court.

“I don’t believe in getting too worked up about things,” Hillesland said. “Whether we’re playing an exhibition game or getting ready for a Big East tournament game, I think my tone will be the same as far as keeping it light and just trying to go out there have fun and play our best.”

It’s an approach which Hillesland tries to instill in the rest of the team, believing it will help each member of the team play at his highest level.

“It all works towards having people feel comfortable out there and play their game,” Hillesland said. “You don’t want guys to get too worked up, too tense out there. You want guys to go out and play loosely and have a lot of fun, not be afraid to make mistakes. That helps everyone to go out and play their game.”

That’s not to say that Hillesland is all laughs all the time. While Hillesland believes in being too serious, he certainly believes in honesty and saying what needs to be said, and Hillesland still manages to combine that honesty with his lightheartedness.

A simple story about Hillesland and teammate Luke Harangody illustrates the point.

“Aerry a game, ‘body will be like ‘Yeah t
ME GOAL

In their final season, Notre Dame's senior captains are ready to lead the Irish deep into the NCAA tournament.

Ryan Ayers: The teaching leader

Ayers brings a necessary complement to McAlarney's down-to-business mentality and Hillesland's joking nature—teaching. If McAlarney gets the Irish to focus while Hillesland provokes Notre Dame from getting too wound up, Ayers ensures that the entire team learns in the process.

Having been in South Bend for three-plus years, Ayers has been through a wide range of experiences, from his freshman year when the Irish made the NIT to the bitter NCAA Tournament exit of the past two seasons.

He now feels his role is to pass that information on to the underclassmen.

"I think it just comes with experience," Ayers said. "The more you have, the more you can tell, the more you can share with everybody. I'm the oldest guy on the team, so I feel I have a lot of knowledge to spread to the younger guys.

"It's just from being here and learning from all the older guys. I'm trying to use what they taught me and tell the younger guys the same thing I learned where we play.

"I feel like I can reach out to anybody," Ayers said. "I think guys feel comfortable coming and talking to me. I have a real good rapport with everybody on the team, and I take pride in that."

Why is Ayers able to connect so effectively with his teammates? It comes back to his personality, which helps each teammate feel comfortable around him and open themselves up to Ayers' advice.

"I'm very personable," Ayers said. "I'm very friendly with everyone on the team. My style is being there to comfort them and also lead. The guy that goes come to, talk to about the game, just someone they can easily lean on."

Ayers has the ability to be a teacher for many of his teammates, but just as importantly for Notre Dame, it's a role he's ready to assume.

"I do feel much more comfortable now. I think guys feel more comfortable because I am a senior this year," Ayers said. "It's just something that's developed over time. It's something you kind of work for and earn here."

Luke Zeller: The quiet leader

With the other three senior captains having no qualms about opening their personalities to lead by example,

"I'm quiet, lead by example. I don't always say everything, but joke around with Zeller," Zeller said.

Zeller said that, through his play, he has inherited a leadership role rather than seized it over the years. Still, he takes the label of captain seriously.

"Getting respect of the teammates over the years, I have the huge responsibility to take that and use it for the team, bring everybody together," he said. "The other guys know that we've been through a lot, they know we've played a lot, understand the game, done well. With our experience, I think they rely on us."

And Zeller said that, even though he is quiet, he communicates well with the other three captains.

"We're all very close, we've gone through a lot of stuff. Sometimes we can say one or two words and we'll be able to say more than people say in a five-minute conversation, so that makes a huge difference," he said.

Zeller's eagerness to lead by example was evident in his career-high 18 points against USC Upstate last Sunday. He was taken out of the starting lineup due to the return of Hillesland—who had been injured during the exhibition season — but Brey said Zeller did not complain.

"I give Luke Zeller a lot of credit. I mean, he was like, 'No problem, coach,'" Brey said.

And the coach said the performance was no surprise, given the way Zeller has been playing in practice.

"What he did [Sunday] — that's how he's been practicing," Brey said. "I think every shot he gets off is going in right now, that's how well he's played in practice. I'm shocked when he misses."

But despite Zeller's 6-for-9 shooting against USC Upstate, Brey said one of the biggest plays of the game was a charge Zeller took before Notre Dame took the lead for good.

"The charge he took, that came at a time we were trying to find ourselves a little bit defensively," Brey said. "They were getting to us and he gets all the way back and takes that charge."

Zeller said little things like that epitomize his leadership style.

"Just working hard, always showing up on time, coming early, staying late," he said. "I just put in extra work whenever I can, getting in the gym late at night, shooting, working out, just trying to get guys caring about what's going on."

Advantages for the Irish

The Irish don't have many flashy players who will be guaranteed exorbitant contracts and endorsement deals once they leave college. They don't have anybody who generated mass hysteria when they announced where they would be playing college ball.

But what the Irish do have can be just as important. They have a team that genuinely likes each other and enjoys playing with one another. They have players who are committed to the idea of staying for four years and developing within the Notre Dame family. And they have four leaders who foster this family, and work tirelessly in their own way to bring the best out of each member.

"It really helps to be around guys that you like, guys that you fit in with, and that's something you really can't put a price on," Hillesland said. "I think if you ask anyone on our team what their favorite thing about being at ND is, they'd say their teammates, and I think that's a rarity in college basketball."

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Notre Dame's resident goofball Zach Hillesland, top, likes to keep his teammates loose while Ryan Ayers, bottom, passes on what he's learned from his past three seasons.
Big East at a glance

By CHRIS HINE, CRANSTON and FRAN TOLAN

BY CHRIS HINE, CRANSTON and FRAN TOLAN

Sports Writers

Likely Tournament teams: (Teams in no particular order, unless otherwise noted)

Connecticut: The preseason No. 2 team in the country and the coaches’ pick to take the Big East regular-season title this season. Connecticut possesses a lot of weapons. Hasheem Thabeet can handle things in the backcourt while A.J. Price gets back into the swing of things following an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear in Connecticut’s final game last season. Connecticut will be tough to beat, but the same can be said about a lot of teams in this league.

Louisville: The Cardinals made it to the Elite Eight before losing to North Carolina last season and look poise for another deep Tournament run. Louisville adds the high school USA Today National Player of the Year, Samardo Samuels, to a frontcourt that was already one of the best in the Big East. In the country. Forwards Terrence Williams and Earl Clark were both seniors who could have been NBA draft picks after last season, give the Cardinals something to get used to.

Marquette: The Golden Eagles have had basically the same team for the past three years. Coach Tom Crean left for Indiana, replaced by Buzz Williams – who has a lot of talent on his squad. The backcourt trio of Jamal MSsley, Matthews and Jerel McNeal are among some of the best guards in the country and McNeal is a great lockdown defender. If Marquette wants to go far this year, they’ll need some help in front court from Lazar Haywood.

No. 2 Virginia: The Cavaliers have a great team in the backcourt with Michael Scott and a frontcourt with the likes of Greivis Vasquez and Al Thornton. The frontcourt can give teams fits, but you have to handle the backcourt or you might not be able to keep up.

No. 3 Pittsburgh: Pitt is always difficult to deal with. It has great backcourt play with Jaron Johnson and DaJuan Wagner, and frontcourt play with the likes of Gilbert Strickland and Arione Osunna. This team could very well win the Big East.

No. 4 Syracuse: The Orange should easily win the Big East. They have the conference’s best backcourt with starters Jonny Flynn, Eric Devendorf and Andy Rautins, as well as transfer Arizne Onuaku. All four averaged double figures in scoring in 2007-08. If Syracuse hopes to improve this year upon their NIT berth the last two seasons, it needs to improve a defense that yielded 15.1 points per game last season.

Provide: The team Irish coach Mike Brey said will sur- pass last season’s 17-15 won’t have its hands full as a pair of freshmen will start in the backcourt for the once-proud program.

DePaul: After just missing the NCAA Tournament two years ago, DePaul took a step backward in 2007-08. The Blue Demons won only six conference games, finishing 13th in the Big East and failing to qualify for a postseason tournament. Things don’t look much better this year as the Blue Demons lose leading scorer Draelon Burns and his 17.6 points per game. If DePaul wants to improve this season, they’ll need guard Dar Tucker and center Mac Kochwal to improve after strong freshman campaigns.

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Big East prediction: FRAN TOLAN

Big East prediction: Chris Hine

Big East Prediction: Greg Arboagast

Big East Prediction: Editor-in-chief

1. Pittsburgh
2. Connecticut
3. Louisville
4. Notre Dame
5. Marquette
6. Syracuse
7. Georgetown
8. Villanova
9. Providence
10. West Virginia
11. DePaul
12. Cincinnati
13. Seton Hall
14. St. John’s
15. Rutgers
16. South Florida

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12. South Florida
13. Wisconsin
Nash and Scott, competitors for minutes, remain ‘family’

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame has seven upperclassmen that will see the bulk of the team’s playing time this season. So between the pair of sophomores that will fight for limited remaining minutes — Tyrone Nash and Carleton Scott — there must be some animosity. Right?

Wrong, according to Scott.

“We’re tight off the court,” he said after practice two weeks ago. “We never really get into too many arguments unless it’s about the NBA or something like that. But like I said, we’re like family off the court.”

But don’t get confused — the two sophomores are certainly competitive on the court. After all, they are both forwards and fall behind a group of experienced players on the Irish depth chart.

“We want to get out there and show everybody our stuff,” Nash said. “So we’re both really competitive and I think it’s a healthy competitive nature.”

The sophomores realize the only way to crack the Irish rotation is to focus on doing whatever they can to do to help the team win.

“We concentrate on all the small things — getting boards, screening, just every small detail,” Scott said. “They help — anything little — because [Irish coach Mike Brey] loves the small things.”

Brey, for his part, said his second-year players will see significantly more minutes than they did a year ago. Last season, Scott sat out the season to preserve a fifth year of eligibility while Nash saw the court only during garbage time of blowouts. This season, another sophomore, Tim Abromaitis will sit out and preserve a year of eligibility.

Nash said spending time at the end of the bench helped him and Scott learn Notre Dame’s system.

“This year is really based off our experience last year,” he said. “We really got a lot of chances to watch and learn, so we will take the things we learned last year and try to apply them this year.”

And with the departure of forward Rob Kurz from last year’s squad, the sophomores will be asked to chip in to make up for that loss.

“We’re going to need those bodies. Somebody asked me who is the eighth guy, and I would say (both of them),” Brey said in his media day press conference. “We’re going to need them ... because this is a long haul and a brutal schedule.”

Nash said one of his biggest assets is the versatility he developed during a year of preparatory school after high school.

“They can’t defend you (at) every position so you can try to cause matchup problems on the floor and you got the advantage,” the New York native said. “It makes you hard to guard.”

Scott, meanwhile, has shown off his dunking ability for over a year during warm-ups and said he could not wait to display his athleticism in game action. He got his first shot Sunday against USC Upstate and didn’t disappoint the crowd. Scott threw down several thunderous dunks in the second half of a 94-58 win.

“I finally get to put my dunking ability to use, get out there and actually show it to people,” he said.

Nash said he and Scott are both mature but they know how to have fun with each other off the court.

“I mean, we’re young but when it’s time to get to business, it’s time to get to business. And when it’s time to have fun, it’s time to have fun,” he said. “You’ve got to know how to balance that and I think we know how to do that.”

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu
Home streak a source of pride, motivation

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

When Tony Jackson was reminded that he, Luke Harangody and Jonathan Peoples have yet to lose a game in the Joyce Center entering their junior years at Notre Dame, he looked around for a piece of wood. "Luke Harangody, Jonathan Peoples and I talk about that a lot," the junior guard said after he knocked on a wooden table. "Our class, the junior class. We talk about it a lot... We kept it as a nice accomplishment, but winning streak at home, the second longest such streak in the country, is a source of pride and serves to motivate the Irish at home, especially in close games that we aren't worried about our winning streak, they don't think it's a confidence-giver. We play so well here, they love playing here. Our sixth man, our students, have been awesome here. At times, I've been a little distracting by it but it's all about what the guys like." If Notre Dame wants to keep the streak going this season, it certainly can't have an off night. Opponents on this year's home slate include No. 23 Georgetown, No. 15 Marquette, No. 3 Louisville and No. 2 Connecticut. "I have not put that as a goal for this group, but they have," Brey said of staying undefeated at home. "They'd like to keep the thing alive. Our schedule's so tough that for us to do it a third straight year with what's coming into this building would be a through the roof accomplishment." Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Notre Dame's players said the support of their fans and students have propelled them to a 36-game home winning streak, the second longest home winning streak in the country.

"We feel so comfortable here. We have the fans behind us. After the game, when we thought about it, it was a little like 'Phew. That was close. We almost blew it right there.' As much as the players enjoy the streak, they don't think about it as much as their coach does. "I think it's a challenge," coach Mike Brey said. "I think I get distracted by it much more than my team and that's a good thing. They see it as a confidence-giver. We play so well here, they love playing here. Our sixth man, our students, have been awesome here. At times, I've been a little distracting by it but it's all about what the guys like." If Notre Dame wants to keep the streak going this season, it certainly can't have an off night. Opponents on this year's home slate include No. 22 Georgetown, No. 15 Marquette, No. 3 Louisville and No. 2 Connecticut. "I have not put that as a goal for this group, but they have," Brey said of staying undefeated at home. "They'd like to keep the thing alive. Our schedule's so tough that for us to do it a third straight year with what's coming into this building would be a through the roof accomplishment." Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

This one credit-hour course will explore issues, ideas and trends likely to affect business and society during the next decade. A series of separate lectures on selected Friday mornings will feature a wide range of experts.