Class of 2013 receives record aid

Economy contributes to increase in fund allocations; admissions process remains need-blind

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

With historic standardized test scores and high school performance, the Class of 2013 is breaking all kinds of University records — including one concerning financial aid.

"This was the strongest applicant pool we've ever had," said Dan Saracino, assistant provost for Undergraduate Admissions. "But it was also financially needy because of the economy."

Over 50 percent of the Class of 2013, which boasts an average SAT score of 1410 and an average ACT score of 32, requires University need-based financial aid — a percentage that is up from about 44 percent last year.

Saracino said the Class of 2013 not only had record-breaking test scores, but also took more Advanced Placement courses in high school and had the strongest high school transcripts.

"I think the classes are getting stronger because the story of the benefits of Notre Dame is getting out more and more," he said. "It's a fantastic place." 

Saracino said the biggest benefit Notre Dame offers is probably the classes are getting stronger because the story of the benefits of Notre Dame is getting out more and more. "I think the classes are getting stronger because the story of the benefits of Notre Dame is getting out more and more," he said. "It's a fantastic place."

Business booms for local stores

Back to school shoppers still spending money

By KATIE PERALTA
Assistant News Editor

As Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students from all parts of the country make their way back to campus this week, area retailers are enjoying the usual business boom that accompanies students' arrival despite economic concerns.

Retailers like Mishawaka's Super Target, which devotes an entire section of its store to back-to-school items, has not seen a noticeable drop in spending.

"We kind of had a slow start [this year] but there has been no significant decrease in spending from past years," Kim Godfrey, an executive team leader at Super Target, said. She said the store is extremely busy but only for a few weeks, mainly during the month of August.

"The store, however, has seen a spike in back-to-school items this month," Godfrey said. She said that the store prepares for weeks before student arrivals, stocking up on popular dorm items.

"There is a lot of prep work done on our part. We need to keep the store in full form," she said.

Godfrey added the economic impact of back-to-school shopping is significant, second only to that of the fourth quarter, the period right after Thanksgiving.

Frosh-O madness begins again

Freshmen describe orientation activities, move-in process as 'fun' and 'chaotic'

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

New Zealanders, Chicks, Gentlemen and Wild Women alike have arrived on campus to their new home under the Dome. But many incoming freshmen may not be feeling quite at home just yet.

This weekend, Freshmen Orientation, or Frosh-O, aims to make the transition a little easier by helping incoming students get to know each other and feel more comfortable on campus.

"The whole point of the weekend is to make friendships and get integrated, to make this your home away from home," sophomore Garrett Campbell, who is on the Frosh-O staff for Sorin College, said.

In order to make that happen, each dorm has planned different activities for its freshmen, in addition to campus wide activities for all freshmen.

Most dorms used Friday as a time to move in and a chance to get to know one another with ice-breakers.

Sorin College freshman Adam Wisbrock said the move-in process was easy because his Frosh-O staff moved in all of his belongings.

"They moved it all in. It was really easy," Wisbrock said. "By the time we were done registering everything was in here."

Freshman Brittany O'Donnell, who lives in Badin Hall, said the move-in process was a little stressful, but not too overwhelming.

"I'm glad my family is here to help," she said. "At first I thought it was a lot of work doubles," which have bay windows, and super quads," which have private bathrooms. The dorm also has one triple room.

Ryan Hall's improved room options enticed many girls to apply to move. Senior Michelle Muloney, who moved to Ryan from Lewis Hall, said the new dorms have a prettier form," she said. "At first I thought it was a lot of work doubles," which have bay windows, and super quads," which have private bathrooms. The dorm also has one triple room.

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New University building projects seek LEED certification, funding

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Associate News Editor

In a summer replete with economic worries and recession fears, construction continued on the Notre Dame campus with greater emphasis being placed on reducing the University's environmental impact.

James Lyphout, vice president of Business Operations, said the University will not break ground on any project until it has 100 percent of the funds pledged and 75 percent of the cash in hand. Due to this policy, Lyphout said none of the current projects were affected by the recession because the funds were already set aside.

"Perhaps we would be moving faster if we didn't have the recession, but we're very fortunate to have a pretty substantial construction effect," he said. "In the 18-month period that will end at the end of this calendar year, we'll be able to move forward on a number of projects."
Moving in

I moved into Cavanaugh for the fourth and final time this week. You would think, that from experience, I would have learned how much stuff a dorm room can fit. Though I tell my parents every year not to worry, it will all fit, the inevitable happened. I brought too much.

No matter how much you plan, no matter how experienced you think you might be at something, there are going to be some bumps in the road. Moving into a dorm room might not be the best metaphor, but since you all just went through it, I thought it would be applicable.

Judging from personal experience, I’m doubtful your move-in went as smoothly as you planned. Your first class schedule will probably not be what you wanted. Your roommates and next-door neighbors might be your best friends this week, but next week you might wish you lived across campus.

Starting your freshman year in college is one new experience after another, some you might be prepared for, others not so much. Adjusting to your new life at Notre Dame might be difficult at first. But slowly, it will get better. You will find a place for your extra stuff, you will adjust your schedule, and you will find people you can trust. You will learn the words to the Fight Song (if, like me, you hadn’t before arriving), you will take tradition to heart, and you will feel like a true member of this wonderful community.

Things still might go wrong from time to time. You’ll still hit those road bumps. They won’t be as frequent, and when they come they might be more of a surprise. But, seeing as you got yourselves accepted to this University, you’ll be able to handle it. Go for a run around the lakes, drink herbal tea, do whatever you need to do to clear your head, and tackle your problems one step at a time. If you keep things in perspective, they won’t seem so big.

You won’t want to waste your time here worrying about them. Trust me, and trust every upperclassman on this campus, when I say your time here will go by entirely too quickly. Though that 88th awkward bonding activity at Frosh-O might seem like it’s dragging on for ages, before you know it, it will be Winter Break. Then you’ll be DARTing for your sophomore classes. (You’ll figure out what DARTing means.)

Before you know it, you’ll be moving into your dorm again. And you will inevitably still bring too much stuff. It’s not the road bumps that you’ll remember about your time at Notre Dame, though. You have so much to look forward to during your years here — you’ll get involved, you’ll find a family and you’ll leave your mark on this place.

Welcome home.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have found an error, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.
Saint Mary’s welcomes diverse first-year class to campus

Larger class size reflects five-year plan to increase student body to between 1,600 to 1,700 students

By KEVIN SARLO
News Writer

The 438 women of Saint Mary’s Class of 2013 represent the most diverse class in the school’s 155-year history, helping fulfill President Carol Ann Mooney’s goal of enhancing campus diversity. Approximately 15 percent of the incoming freshmen come from historically underrepresented groups. “The need to diversify arises from the role that diversification can play in making Saint Mary’s a more vibrant learning community and preparing all of its students for life and work in a diverse and global world,” said Daniel Meyer, Vice President for Enrollment Management.

Carol Ann Mooney, College president

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Saint Mary’s College Class of 2013

438 students
15% from historically underrepresented groups
33% had higher than a 3.91 High School GPA

Chile, Korea, Panama and Poland will also be arriving on campus.
The Class of 2013 also boasts 16 valedictorians, and one third of the incoming class graduated with a GPA of 3.91 or above.

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Welcome Back Students

Remember: Breakfast is the most important meal of the day... you can eat it anytime at LePeep!

Monday-Friday 6:30-2:00 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday 7:00-2:00 p.m.

"Luke, we are really glad you decided to stay!"

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288-PEEP
Big Groups Welcome..call ahead

Thanks for making us your favorite breakfast and lunch place

ND Coupon
Buy one entree and get the second entree 1/2 off
Valid through 10/4/09
Go IRISH!
Three ROTC branches grow by 100 members

Early weeklong orientation introduces students to cadet life with leadership, marching and training activities

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Writer

Notre Dame's Naval, Army and Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) welcomed its largest group of new members in several years, as 100 students arrived on campus one week early for their own orientation.

Notre Dame ROTC members include students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, Holy Cross and other area colleges and universities.

Naval ROTC held orientation activities off-campus for the first time this year. Notre Dame senior and battalion commander Brad Towne said.

Eleven upperclassmen and three active duty servicemen accompanied the new midshipmen to Fort Custer, near Kalamazoo, Mich. They slept in three active duty servicemen the squad base and learned the fundamentals of military life, physical training, marching drill and land navigation, Towne said.

They also became the only freshman group in the nation to shoot M4 rifles during orientation.

"It's a pretty intense orientation," Towne said. "They really got to see what the military is like."

At Fort Custer, the day lasted from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. without any downtime.

"I think it was a little bit more intense than I had expected," freshman Quinn Kilpatrick said.

"I felt like joining the Navy after my four years here would be a good way to serve my country," freshman Billy Kearns said. "But it also pays for my education, which is a huge benefit."

Army and Air Force ROTC members arrived on campus Monday morning for their orientation activities, which were held on campus.

The Air Force welcomed 30 new cadets this year, new student orientation commander Mallory Glass said.

Freshmen navigate a mock minefield outside of the Pasquerilla Center during the 2008 Army ROTC orientation.

"Part of going into the military is choosing which is great," he said. "It's been great to have the extra energy during orientation, Raymond and other Army ROTC upperclassmen led the new students through Basic Rifle Marksmanship as well as basic movements, marching, customs, drill and ceremony, Raymond said.

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Army ROTC had 33 new cadets at orientation this year, junior Army ROTC member Colin Raymond said. In an average year, there are only 20 new students, Raymond said.

"The program is growing, which is great," he said. "It's been great to have the extra energy."

"It's long days but it's been a lot of fun and it's definitely worth it," he said. "Part of joining Army ROTC was the scholarship and part of it is that going into the military is something I've always wanted to do."

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccrystal@nd.edu
Duncan Hall opens

Duncan Hall, the newest male dorm, welcomed its first residents at the beginning of the 2008-09 academic school year. The dorm, which houses 232 students on West Quad, is the first new dorm to be built on campus since 1997.

The dorm cost about $20 million and took 17 months to build.

The Hall integrated itself into Notre Dame life, choosing the “Highlander” as its mascot and hosting its first signature event, the Highlander Games, and will house 246 students. The new building houses 13 different residence halls and improve community relations are also a priority.

The group held "Pizza, Pop and Politics" discussions with students and faculty and recruited a commission from each dorm on campus to help students in the discipline of open a democratic campus.

The new building houses 13 different departments, the Career Crossing Office and the Center for Academic Innovation, the Center for Spirituality and the Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership, as well as classrooms, laboratories, and office spaces and common areas.

"I am amazed how many students are camped in the chairs and sofas. Staff was making plans before the sun rises. I see faculty pouring over their work at their desk.,” Vice President and Dean of Faculty Patricia Fleming said. “It’s an environment that seems to draw our academic community to itself.”

Along with the new academic building, Saint Mary’s is also renovating Madeleva Hall, which will offer up-to-date classrooms and offices.

Dillon Hall cancels annual pep rally

Rector of Dillon Hall Fr. Paul Doyle cancelled the annual Dillon Hall Pep Rally — the dorm’s signature event held every year the Friday before the first home football game – a week before the pep rally was supposed to occur.

The pep rally, an annual campus fixture, mocks various aspects of life at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s. Doyle said the pep rally was cancelled because he failed to give the necessary guidance and the script writing and production was not coming together in a timely manner.

But the writers and directors of the show told The Observer they were surprised by the sudden decision because the script was finished and production was underway.

Dillon Hall residents and other students expressed disappointment over the abrupt cancellation of a Notre Dame tradition and confusion over the reasons for the cancellation.

Student body expresses concerns over BOG budget issues

Early in the fall semester, Saint Mary’s Board of Governance (BOG) began voting on the budget presented by the Executive Board that included a $20,000 stipend for the eight members on the Executive Board.

Some members of BOG and the student body expressed concerns over the amount of the stipend, which was actually only half of what the previous Board had voted on and awarded themselves.

The budget was voted down by BOG and the Executive Board was then forced to change the plans for the budget.

Many members believed that there was a “conflict of interest” and the Board should not be able to choose their own allotments.

“We were not informed of this [happening] last year,” Pauline Kistka, a member of the 2009 BOG, said. “My concern is that I know that six people — and I’m not saying you guys, I’m saying on boards prior — were given the option to receive money. If the decision was in their hands and they’re the ones going to receive the money, I don’t see the open-mindedness of the decision or an unbiased decision regarding it. I guess I kind of see a conflict in getting money in general.”

After over a month of disputes, the students won and went on the third vote and it did not include an executive stipend. The money left over from the stipend was then dispersed between the College Readership Program and a contingency fund.

America elects Obama as president; student groups campaign, educate

On Nov. 4, Barack Obama, a senator from Illinois, defeated Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) to become the first black president of the United States. Obama won with 365 electoral votes and 53.92 percent of the popular vote and narrowly won the state of Indiana.

Attracted by Indiana’s traditional status as a swing state, many students elected to register to vote in Indiana in lieu of voting absentee in their home state.

NDVotes ’08, a nonpartisan group, sprung up to educate students about issues in the election and help get them registered to vote.

The group held “Pizza, Pop and Politics” discussions with students and faculty and recruited a commission from each dorm on campus to help students in the discipline of open a democratic campus.

Students also rallied to campaign for specific candidates.

Notre Dame College Democrats collaborated with students from other local colleges to open a democratic campus.

“NDVotes want to help elect Senator Obama and all the other candidates we are working for,” Notre Dame’s College Democrats then-president Spencer Howard said. “And in the broader scheme of things, [our goal] is to put the country on what we consider the right track.”

Notre Dame College Republicans organized a group of students to attend a political rally in Sterling, Heights, Mich., in support of McCain.

“I hope my rally was absolutely awesome and inspiring,” then-College Republicans president Edward Yap said. “The 25 Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students that collectively drove more than 40 hours to see the McCain/Palin rally in Sterling Heights left ready to do anything and everything necessary to elect John McCain and Sarah Palin.”

Schmidt, Weber elected as student body president, vice president

Grady Sekhora and Cynthia Weber were elected student body president and student body vice president on April 12 and took office on April 1.

Schmidt had previously served as student body vice president and Weber, sophomore class president.

Schmidt and Weber defeated juniors Laura Burdick and Derek Sanchez in a run-off election with 51.9 percent of the vote in one of the closest elections in recent years, according to then-Judicial Council President George Weber.

They took the time to meet and talk with individual students.

Schmidt and Weber promised tax reform and cheaper text book options and said off-campus safety and community relations are also a priority.

Hoffman and Griffin elected to 2009-2010 Student Government Association office

Rising senior Jenny Hoffman and rising junior Meg Griffin were elected as Saint Mary’s student body president and vice president for the 2009-10 academic year.

They were elected April 1, and the duo said they hope to continue the projects of the previous Gruscinski-Dillon Hall residents and other students expressed disappointment over the abrupt cancellation of a Notre Dame tradition and confusion over the reasons for the cancellation.

October 29

The Student Senate passed the budget on the third vote and it did not include an executive stipend. The money left over from the stipend was then dispersed between the College Readership Program and a contingency fund.

November 4

America elects Barack Obama as president of the United States. Many students express their pride to vote in Indiana rather than their home state, and student groups, such as NDVotes '08, Notre Dame College Republicans, Notre Dame College Democrats, campaign for candidates and educate students.
A new Student Government Association Constitution was voted on and approved by the student body earlier this week. Hoffman and Griffin have said they will begin adding amendments in the fall.

Student shot near off-campus home

A Notre Dame student was shot in the arm early morning on Feb. 24 after trying to enter a neighbor's house, which she mistook for her own off-campus residence. The 23-year-old female was shot on the 800-block of E. Miner St. after returning from Club 23, a bar located at the corner of South Bend and Notre Dame Aves., and knocking on the door of a neighbor's house. Police said the victim was intoxicated.

The residents of the house told police they heard knocking on the door, and the woman to leave. When she knocked persistently, they fired a shot through the door.

The student was treated at Memorial Hospital in South Bend with a gunshot wound to the arm.

Students petition to add sexual orientation to non-discrimination clause

Members of the Campaign for Human Dignity, a coalition of the Progressive Student Alliance (PSA), presented the Office of the President with a petition asking that sexual orientation be added to the University's nondiscrimination clause in March. Currently, the clause states the University does not discriminate based on "race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status or age.

The leaders of the group presented University President Fr. John Jenkins with a petition of about 2,300 student signatures and he agreed to a meeting with his group.

At the meeting, Jenkins told the group the University will not change the nondiscrimination clause to include sexual orientation. In his statement, Jenkins said after careful analysis from both the legal and theological perspectives, it was determined that adding the clause may not allow us to distinguish between sexual orientation and behavior, which in a distinction that we must maintain as a Catholic university, "University spokesperson Dennis Brown told The Observer at the time.

But Jenkins told the group he would "open an open channel to talk" with the Notre Dame more welcoming for the GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning) community.

SMC Dance Marathon receives award, raises $91,538

Over the summer, Children's Miracle Network awarded Saint Mary's Dance Marathon with the Incentive Award, the highest award the organization gives to a commitment.

"The Incentive Award is to recognize exceptional Dance Marathons that have broken the mold," Zac Johnson, national director of Dance Marathon in the press release, said.

Saint Mary's College students have so far raised over $90,000 for local hospitals just starting the program. These young women re-imagined what can be accomplished in such a short time and serve as an example to other campuses.

This year, Dance Marathon raised over $91,000 for the Riley's Children Hospital in Indianapolis which is up over $6,000 from last year's total. 400 participants stood for 12 hours in Angola Athletic Facility to try to raise money for the cause. Families and children from the hospital were there throughout the night to visit and encourage students.

Obama accepts invitation to speak at Commencement

The White House and the University announced on March 20 that President Barack Obama will speak at the 2009 Commencement address at the May 17 graduation ceremony and receive an honorary degree from the University.

Catholic and pro-life groups and religious leaders, including Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy, condemned President Fr. John Jenkins' invitation to Obama claiming it violates a document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) that states Catholic institutions should not honor politicians "who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles." Jenkins said the invitation should "in no way be taken as condoning or endorsing his positions on specific issues regarding the protection of life, such as abortion and embryonic stem cell research."

Students rallied both in support and opposition to the invitation.

ND Response, a coalition of student groups in opposition to Obama delivering the Commencement address and receiving an honorary degree, created a Web site, held a prayer rally and organized the first Right to Life March on campus.

The Progressive Leadership Council gathered the support of about 20 campus clubs — including the Progressive Student Alliance, College Democrats, Feminist Voice, the Notre Dame NAACP chapter, Students for Environmental Action and the Black Cultural Arts Council (BCC) — and met with Jenkins to show support for his decision and presented him with a petition with about 1,150 signatures from students and faculty also in support.

Both groups said they will continue to make plans to create dialogue about the issue until the ceremony on Sunday.

Glendon declines Laetare Medal

Mary Ann Glendon, former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, declined the Laetare Medal, an award given annually to an American Catholic since 1983.

Glendon declined the Medal in a letter to University President Fr. John Jenkins.

"I could not help but be dismayed by the news that Notre Dame also planned to award [President Barack Obama] an honorary degree," Glendon said.

Glendon initially accepted the award and Jenkins told The Observer she is "probably the most powerful spokesperson for the Catholic viewpoint in our world today."

This marks the first time the award was accepted and declined.

Instead of choosing a new recipient for the award, the University invited previous Laetare Medalist Judge John T. Noonan to deliver an address at the Commencement ceremony.

Noonan received the award in 1984.

"In thinking about who could bring a compelling voice, a passion for dialogue, great intellectual stature and a deep commitment to Catholic values to the speaking role of the Laetare Medalist — especially in these unusual circumstances — it quickly became clear that an ideal choice is Judge Noonan," Jenkins said in a statement.

Sophomore Kevin Healey dies

Kevin Healey, a sophomore of Sorin College, died on April 24 after a battle with cancer. He was 20.

Healey, a native of the Cleveland area, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of malignant bone cancer, in December 2006.

Attending Notre Dame was a "life-long dream" of Healey's, according to Fr. Jim King, rector of Sorin College.

"We ought all to thank Kevin Healey, at least those of us in Sorin College, with whom he willingly offered friendship and many lessons to learn, even in his final days," sororome Steven Lechner said. "May his memory, which has united us now in this time of sorrow, live on forever in our hearts in thanksgiving to him and to God."

A plaque that says, "Reserved for Kevin Healey '11" is attached to the seat closest to the altar in the Sorin Chapel.

SMC spends a second year on U.S. News and World Report ranking

Saint Mary's has been ranked No. 104 out of 248 schools on the U.S. News and World Report magazine's "2009 America's Best Colleges" list, marking the second year in a row the College has made the list.

"We know we compete on a national level. Saint Mary's excellent faculty and curriculum are meant to educate the whole person set apart. The real proof of our success can be found in our graduates," President Carol Ann Mooney said in a press release Aug. 25.

In addition, the College was named a "Best in the Midwest" school by the Princeton Review, a list of the 250 four-year colleges, Saint Mary's ranks in the top 25 percent, according to a press release earlier this year.

This is the sixth year Saint Mary's has received this designation.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu and Ashley Chanley at acham01@saintmarys.edu

February 24

The Notre Dame student is shot in the arm after mistakingly attempting to enter a neighbor's house.

The 23-year-old female was treated at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.

March 30

The progressive Student Alliance meet with University President Fr. John Jenkins asking that sexual orientation be added to the University's nondiscrimination clause.

Jenkins met with the appeal, but asked for suggestions to make Notre Dame more welcoming to GLBTQ students.

April 24

Sophomore Kevin Healey dies at 20 after a battle with cancer. Healey was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of malignant bone cancer, in December 2006.

Mary Ann Glendon declines the Laetare Medal in a letter to Fr. Jenkins, writing that she was "probably the most powerful spokesperson for the Catholic viewpoint in our world today."

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April 27

Mary Ann Glendon declines the Laetare Medal in a letter to Fr. Jenkins, writing that she was "probably the most powerful spokesperson for the Catholic viewpoint in our world today."
“LIVE LIKE A CHAMPION TODAY AT LEGACY VILLAGE”

Legacy Village is the most luxurious off-campus student housing development in South Bend and is located three blocks east of campus on McEarlain Street between George Street and Ironwood Road and about 200 yards south of Douglas Road. It has ten (10) brand new 3,250 square foot brick homes and each home has 6 bedrooms and 3½ bathrooms. The homes are fully-furnished with high quality furniture and are specifically designed for the lifestyle of college students. No off-campus housing development offers the amenities available at Legacy Village: Legacy Village is sure to set the standard for off-campus housing for the students of Notre Dame, St. Mary’s and Holy Cross for years to come. The following are the features and amenities of a Legacy Village home:

1. Square footage of home: Approximately 3,250 square feet;
2. 6 bedrooms, 3½ bathrooms, foyer, living room, kitchen, family room/dining area, and utility room;
3. Back patio with gas barbeque grill;
4. Spacious yard;
5. Abundant parking; and
6. Other amenities:
   a. Fully equipped kitchen with new refrigerator, range, freezer, oven, dishwasher, microwave, cooking pots/ pans and cooking utensils and dinnerware;
   b. Dining room table with 8 chairs;
   c. Fireplace in family room with granite or marble hearth;
   d. Family room furniture having two (2) couches, a lounge chair, coffee table, end table, table lamp, floor lamp and 42” tv over fireplace;
   e. Laundry center in utility room with washer and dryer;
   f. Hardwood flooring on entire first floor, except for entry way in foyer and utility room which will have porcelain tile;
   g. Each Bedroom area is approximately 11’ x 16’ and has the following design features:
      * Fully carpeted;
      * Vanity cabinet with sink and mirror;
      * Spacious closet;
      * Bed with full-size mattresses, night stand, dresser and desk/chair; and
      * Wired for cable television and internet service.
   h. Each two bedrooms share a porcelain-tiled bathroom (private toilet room and a large shower with seat);
   i. Wireless internet service ready;
   j. Fire sprinkler system;
   k. Fire and security alarm system with monitoring service and Emtek locks with deadbolts for all exterior and bedroom doors;
   l. Top-of-the-line mechanical systems having high-efficiency heat pump systems/air conditioning systems (the “Mechanical Systems”);
   m. Grohe, Kohler and Elkay plumbing fixtures;
   n. Granite and marble countertops;
   o. All windows have wooden-slat style window shades;
   p. The homes are extremely well-insulated with sound insulation in all floors and ceilings and the walls surrounding all bedrooms and bathrooms;
   q. Reduced utility costs because of the quality of the Mechanical Systems and the fact the homes are extremely well-insulated; and
   r. The homes' lawns have a lawn sprinkler system.

Legacy Village is completely rented for the 2009-2010 school year and only four houses remain for the 2010-2011 school year. Hurry, before it is too late! For more information, contact RWD Campus Developments, LLC at (630) 655-3223, (630) 886-7715 or rwd.campusdevelop@sbcglobal.net or visit our website at rwdcampusdevelopments.com.
Princeton review recognizes SMC

By NIKKI TAYLOR
News Writer

Saint Mary's College was named as one of the best colleges or universities in the Midwest by the Princeton Review in their latest edition of America's Best Colleges. The Princeton Review recognizes its students as being among the "Best in the Midwest," marking the seventh year the education services company has profiled colleges and universities in a region.

Saint Mary's has been recognized among the Midwest schools every year in the regional profiles. The Princeton Review does not rank the colleges or universities but rather provides a listing of schools that have been distinguished based on their independent research.

The research behind the recognition includes campus visits, institutional data and recommendations of independent and student reviews from hundreds of schools in each region. Princeton Review's vice president of publishing Robert Franek said the Princeton Review also surveys students, and their responses play a major role in the selection of the top regional schools.

Boon continued from page 1

and before Christmas.

Store manager of Mishawaka's Red Bath and Beyond, Johnny Skeen, said sales increase around 40 to 60 percent during the month of August, the busiest time for his stores.

Skeen said people are spending more significantly. Students still are stock up on dorm items like sheets, mattress pads and pillows like any other year.

Other area stores such as the Futon Factory in Mishawaka enjoy similar profits during the month and offer student specials as well as extended store hours, as advertised on the store's Web site.

"Business is picking up as the students move in," Mary Burry, owner of the Futon Factory, said. "We have a great business from the ND students and always look forward to this time of year."

While spending on school and dorm items is costly to any student, income-eligible students and their parents agree cutting back on essential items for back-to-school is difficult, especially freshman year.

"You can't buy things like sheets," freshman Meghan Smith said. "I am going to have a lot of the stuff I buy for all four years," she said.

Smith said she did, however, compare prices carefully for larger items like bedding before making her purchases from stores like the Company Store, Target and Red Bath and Beyond.

"I probably would have done that any year through," Smith added.

Other students agree that careful spending is important.

"We also take into account what each school's customers — their students — report to us about their campus experiences at them on our 80-question student survey," Franek said.

Notably, Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney is delighted to have been recognized by the company for the seventh year in a row.

"We are very pleased to once again be listed in the Princeton Review," Mooney said. "Our commitment to an excellent intellectual and academic experience for our students is unwavering. Our graduates are our best recruiters. Their accomplishments speak volumes about the quality of the educational experience they received here."

Saint Mary's students are proud of their school's recognition although they said there were other perks that drew them to the school.

"It's exciting, but I don't think a ranking would have changed my mind. I liked the traditions and the liberal arts education of Saint Mary's," junior Mary Beth Iddings said.

Junior Ellen O'Brien agreed, saying that Saint Mary's nationally recognition was like "icing on the cake."

Contact Nikki Taylor at ntaylo1@ saintmarys.edu

"Our biggest emphasis is going to be encouraging students to take personal responsibility for good hygiene and healthy habits," she said.

Because of widespread swine flu contractions worldwide, Health Services resurrected an old germ-fighting campaign with the tag line: "Be a Notre Dame Germ Fighter."

"Students agree cutting back on essential items for back-to-school is difficult, especially freshman year."
OIT revamps insideND navigation system

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

InsideND got a makeover this summer.
Notre Dame's Office of Information and Technology (OIT) launched the latest version of the University's navigation system, resulting in a new look for the site and several new features, said Patricia Sperry, manager of Interactive Web Services at OIT.

InsideND is Notre Dame's major "gateway" — used as a navigation tool to services like web registration and e-mail and also as a way to communicate information, Sperry said.

"It was easier to change because it was all in one package," Sperry said. "We had a new, upgraded version."

A June 18 ND Works article said this was the biggest change to the system in three years.

"Some of the changes were because of student focus groups," Sperry said. Groups were asked questions about what they used insideND for, such as what links were the most popular and how they navigated the site. This information was used to make insideND run more smoothly.

This leads to one major visual difference — it appears there is less on insideND than there was before, Sperry said. However, all of the same information is available, but a new organization system makes the site appear less cluttered.

"What we did was make it more condensed, but still have all of the information," Sperry said. The site also features drop-down menus, said Lenette Votava, organizational communications analyst at OIT. These menus, which include related links to the menu topic, were determined through the focus groups' opinions, Sperry said.

Other updated areas include the classifieds channel, where students have more options for their listings, Sperry said. Also available are tutorials on customizing insideND, such as removing channels and editing tab content.

While OIT is excited about the new InsideND, some students cite confusion over the new layout.

"I knew where everything was before, and now I'm not sure where everything has been moved to," sophomore Allie Hamman said. "It will just take some time to get used to."

One thing everyone can agree on, however, is how it looks.

"It's aesthetically pleasing," Hamman said. OIT will have several events to welcome new students to campus, including extended Help Desk and Computer Store hours during Freshman Orientation.

To reserve an audition time please go to http://campusministry.nd.edu/about/events/choral-auditions or e-mail dbayless@nd.edu until 2:00 pm Sunday, August 23.

After 2:00 pm Sunday, August 23, please sign up at the coat check in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC)

For more information please phone DPAC at 631-7800

Take a Film Course in the Browning Cinema!

Italian National Cinema

Professor John Welle
LLRO 40545, FTT 40233, BOIT 40503
T R 2:30 - 3:15 in Browning Cinema, DPAC

Taught in English with no pre-requisites

Learn the history of one of the world's most renowned national cinemas. Analyze great films by Pasolini, Rossellini, Fellini, Pupi, Visconti and contemporary filmmakers. Understand the interaction between Italian history, film history, and national identity. Class meets in Browning Cinema in DPAC. Fulfills University Fine Arts requirement, FTT international film requirement, and Italian Studies electives. Instructor is an internationally recognized scholar specializing in the history of Italian cinema.
Ryan
continued from page 1

dorm has much more versa-
tility than her old dorm. "My
friends and I decided to move
to Ryan because it gave us a
lot more room options than
Lewis," Maloney said. "Although
we didn't know at the time that
Lewis was going to be reno-
ved."

Upperclassmen like
Maloney aren't the only
ones excited to move in to
the new dorm. Julienne
Rizzo, a freshman from
California, said she is excit-
ed to be able to spend all of
her time on campus living in
Ryan. "It's amazing," Rizzo said.
"I'm truly lucky to be here,
especially right since fresh-
man year."

Because Ryan Hall is so
new, all of its residents are
starting with a clean slate.
They get to help create the
dorm's cheers, traditions
and signature events.

"It's exciting and fun
because we get to build new
traditions," Ryan Resident
Assistant Neeki Ekwnufe
said. "We're the first
women to live in Ryan and
one of the first halls.
Ekwnufe said she already
feels a sense of community
from the girls in the dorm.
"I feel like everyone's gen-
uinely excited to live here," she
said. "Not just to be back on
campus, but to live in Ryan.

The dorm's rector
Bryan Tornifolio feels the
same sense of excitement.

"The reaction to the
dorm has been extremely,
extremely positive," Tornifolio said. "I think the girls feel
very blessed to be here. They think it's beauti-
ful and exciting to move in to
Ryan Hall.

Like Ekwnufe and the
other residents, Tornifolio
is excited about the chance
to create new traditions for
the dorm.

"I think the greatest part
about Notre Dame is its tra-
ditions, hands down," Tornifolio said. "And it's
really nice to start your
own traditions. It's nice to
see so many women take an
active part in that. There's
a lot of excitement here."

Contact Iona Zajikov at
izaizjikov@nd.edu

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finally admitted that the
class profiles would not be get-
ting higher, but we're working
on designs for right now. We think
to create new opportunities for
the project."

"My perspective is that
we're going to be doing the
projects and raising the funds
for a new building," he said.

"We will get to certain
designs of our new projects
and we will do some planning
and it's getting to look like a
building.

"The number one is one
of the projects we are working
to close the foundation on," he
said. "We won't start a project
until we have 100 percent of the
funds pledged for the building. It is a building
that hopefully we will close the
funding on but we haven't yet."

Lyphout said the recession
did impact raising funds for new
projects, such as a free standing
remodeling of the first and
second floors of the Hesburgh
Library and a new center for exec-
tutive education to the south of
Mendoza. Nonetheless, he said the
University is very close to break­ing
ground on some of these
new buildings.

"Our construction is
totally dependent upon having
the money in place to do the
remodel work."

Like Ekwnufe and the
other residents, Tornifolio
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"I think the greatest part
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Contact Iona Zajikov at
izaizjikov@nd.edu

Frost-O
continued from page 1

My room was a little small, but
once and feeling overwhelmed, and
we think the greatest part
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own traditions. It's nice to
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active part in that. There's
a lot of excitement here."

Contact Iona Zajikov at
izaizjikov@nd.edu

Get Involved in Irish Athletics!
The Sports Information Office is looking for
student assistants for the 2009-10 school year.

Any students interested in becoming active and
involved in Irish athletics should come to
an informational meeting on Mon., Aug. 24 at 7:00
p.m. in the Sports Information Office (2nd floor
Joyce Center; enter at Gate 2). Students with ex-
perience in writing, photography and new media
(web sites) are encouraged to attend. For more
information contact 631-7516.
Saint Mary’s offers money to student service members

New government bill allows College to award scholarships to women serving or who have families in the armed forces

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Saint Mary's is expanding its efforts to help student veterans, service members and their families — with help from grants and gifts.

In July, Saint Mary’s announced it is one of 21 higher education institutions in Indiana to receive a share of $250,000 in grants given by Operation Diploma, a program designed by Purdue University’s Military Research Institute and a $5.8 million gift from the Lilly Endowment. The Operation Diploma grant is designed to help institutions and student veterans organizations implement policies and programs that assist in the transition from combat to the classroom.

The Military Family Research Institute at Purdue Web site said, "With a focus on student service members and veterans — both those beginning their college education and those who are returning to college after extended service or deployment — this grant will enable the College to make the transition from service school smooth for these students.

Studies have shown that students who have served in the military may deal with barriers to their education, such as feeling frustrated, alone and misunderstood on college campuses. A grant of $14,999 will assist with Saint Mary's plans to form a task force to oversee the grant and review the issues involved with recruiting and enrolling veterans, develop a strategy to recruit veterans, train student affairs staff to address the unique issues veterans face and develop a peer support network for veterans.

The number of veterans who have attended and are currently attending the College or those who are eligible for those five students — up to 50 percent of the tuition and fees not already covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill — could potentially cover, and the VA matches this amount.

Up to five qualifying students could potentially attend the school free of charge for the 2009-2010 academic year, as a result of the agreement between Saint Mary’s and the VA. Saint Mary’s is a "Yellow Ribbon Program" school, which does not have to offer the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. The Operation Diploma grant provides one more way for the College to make our college more affordable for more families.

"We believe that we offer the kind of education that veterans and children can contribute in unique ways to the diversity of our student body and enhance the learning experience for all of our students," Kathleen Brown, director of financial aid, said. "By the nature of their experiences veterans and their children can contribute in unique ways to the diversity of our student body and enhance the learning experience for all of our students. Second, this program provides one more way we can make a Saint Mary's education affordable for more families."
Look below the surface

To all you freshmen who grew up reciting Ruckie's speeches, who lay in bed not with visions of signpainters but of Touchdown Jesus and the Golden Dome, who have 37 family members who went here, who watched "Rudy" so many times you know the order in which the players turned in their jerseys to Dan Devine:

Wake up.

Rise and shine, ladies and gentlemen, because life here ain't like that. You may as well have just hopped off the Mayflower, because you've entered a world of conservatism, religion and two months of sub-zero temperatures, a place where alumni treat Barack Obama as though he were Michael Vick. Buckle up.

Airplanes flew over campus this spring touting pictures of aborted fetuses to protest Obama giving the commencement address. Awesome forms get cancelled and controversial plays cause uproars. You can't camp out for basketball games at a la Kryzewskville or the police will run you away. No joy on finishing that movie/home-work assignment/drama in the dorm of the opposite sex after midnight — the rules governing this are called pattis-etals, a word which will soon have the same annoyance as the words "traffic" or "airport security." Boys and girls can't see each other until tonight. What better way to teach kids away from home for the first time to interact with the opposite sex than to keep them apart? Sex is banned on campus. Not Downed upon. Banned. So is hard alcohol.

Welcome to college!

So why am I still here after three years of this nonsense? Why does anyone con their folks into shelling out $200,000 for tuition and make the trek to South Bend rather than party their way through the cheap local state school?

Chances are you know some of this coming in. So there must be something that brought you here anyway, no? You're here for the intangibles, the things that can't be quantified by rules or SAT scores or football records. You're here for the community you've joined and the friends and memories you'll make.

If you're here, you're part of a community that transcends all others, that includes some of the finest people in the world (Conoleeza Rice) but also some of the dumber (Steve Bartman). This school isn't about the Home and TJ, it's about creating drinking games with your friends that your RA can't hear. (Hint: stay away from ping pong balls and quarters. Cards and dice are good. It's about the little things that don't show up in the brochure or on Saturdays on NBC. Those stick with you longest.

You'll get so close to your group of friends that you can literally hear them think. I had the same roommate for two years, and if he were suddenly struck from above. What you learn in classes, however, will be useful ... every once in a while. Shog your way through the requirements so you can take classes you like. Parents reading this, let your kids major in what they want. Wouldn't you rather they graduate with a degree in Latin than drop out after three semesters of chemical engineering?

This place has spirituality without parallel. If you're religious, Notre Dame provides ample opportunity to practice. If you're not, Notre Dame surrounds you with nice people who don't care.

Your fellow students don't become your best friends by accident. You all came here for similar reasons: You chose a school known for its solid academic programs and top-tier athletics with a manageable size and close-knit nature. You're most likely willing to sacrifice some freedoms other schools provide to take part in these things. It's worth the sacrifice.

In the scheme of things, the negative aspects of this place stand out to the outsider. You have the rare chance to see the inside, to experience the joys of this place that lie below the surface. So you'll leave respectfully at 11:55, you'll tolerate the insane views of the University's supporters, you'll find other ways to prepare for basketball games. Trust me, you'll live with the restrictions and negatives, even embrace them, because the greatness of Notre Dame will eventually shine through.

The friends and connections you make here last and the community of the place — put it this way, I've been here three years and can't accurately put it into words. I've tried to do so in this column, and you still have no idea, do you? Give it some time. By the Michigan State game you'll know what I mean.

Bill Brink is a senior History major and Journalism minor who hopes you still want to be here after reading this. He can be reached at dbrink@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The words “all women’s college” were a huge red flag in my mind. Not because I’m boy crazy, but because I’ve grown up in a house of all women, and couldn’t imagine adding another 1,500 females to that list. However, orientation day later, I knew there was no other place I would rather be.

Being a northern Indiana girl, I had visited Notre Dame a few times with my family. In all those trips to the golden dome though, I never once went to see Saint Mary’s. Unlike many of the girls here, no other women in my family had gone here. So, I stopped on campus with my idea to what I expected. I had come from a public school, so the concept of an all-women’s Catholic college was completely foreign to me.

Saint Mary’s gave me the welcome speech at orientation, and she began to talk about the type of women who had been accepted into Saint Mary’s. She talked about the scholarship opportunities, and the opportunity to meet new people and getting the work done. However, I’ve been here for the first year of my college career and I will find myself missing everyone about your future. The last night of lunch sessions with the girls, the junk food menu, and the girls in the trenches with the professors gave you two papers and a test on the same day will make you long for fall to come.

So, for those of you who were like me and worried about moving to the all-female world that is Saint Mary’s, fear not. I’m here to tell you that Saint Mary’s is one of its strengths, not one of its weaknesses. This is a place where women can thrive, find themselves and form bonds that nothing can break. This isn’t just a place of higher education, but a home where you can grow within yourself. My best advice to you is come here, but more than that, come here and get to know the amazing women that are here. Because there is no other place where so many talented, compassionate and intelligent women will gather together. Take advantage of the company you are privileged to keep for the next four years.

I know you are nervous now because you are moving into a new home and a new town that you may not have ever been to before. You may be nervous about moving into an all-female college for the first time and everything that comes with it. You may be thinking about how you will make friends, what to do, and how to feel comfortable. But I want you to know that Saint Mary’s will become your second home, not only for the next four years, but for the rest of your life. Saint Mary’s will never just be a school to me. It is where I decided where to go in life, met inspiring professors and found my closest friends.

You’ll do well in your classes, maybe even monographs at Saint Mary’s. I’ve been surprised at how many of my professors have been so helpful to me. I have found myself missing everyone about your future. The last night of lunch sessions with the girls, the junk food menu, and the girls in the trenches with the professors gave you two papers and a test on the same day will make you long for fall to come.

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Welcome to the Notre Dame Family. Whether you join us as a first-year undergraduate, a transfer student, or a new graduate/professional student, it is an honor to be among the first to welcome you to the University of Notre Dame. On behalf of all of us who serve in Student Affairs, we are glad you are here and hope that you will soon feel comfortable calling this place home. This University offers a host of incredible resources that exist to help you do just that. Our 28 undergraduate residence halls and two graduate residence facilities are at the heart of the very real sense of community that is one of the most distinctive features of a Notre Dame education. The quality of the student service departments in the Division of Student Affairs is unparalleled; these offices include Alcohol and Drug Education, Campus Ministry, the Career Center, the Counseling Center, the Gender Relations Center, Health Services, International Student and Scholar Services, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, the Office of Residence Life and Housing, Notre Dame Security/Police and Student Activities. The staffs in your residence halls and graduate residence facilities are present to assist you and to accommodate your transition to life at Notre Dame. Although we provide a variety of services, we share a common desire to do everything we can to help facilitate your intellectual, spiritual and personal growth.

As a community, we draw our strength from the unique and diverse gifts offered by each of you. We hope that all of you will be able to achieve the goals you set for yourselves this year. I hope that I will have the opportunity to come to know as many of you as possible in the months ahead.

Until I am able to greet you in person, please know that I have my very best wishes for a year filled with all God’s blessings.
By ERIC PRISTER
Scene Writer

What to do, what to do?
You’ve arrived on campus, gone to your dorm, moved a life-time’s worth of belongings into a room the size of a walk-in closet, met your roommate and had a meal in North Dining Hall.

But now, you have a weekend to spend (albeit with some Frosh-O activities) in South Bend, Ind. with your parents before they return home and leave you to your own devices.

Now, South Bend has never been described as the most interesting city in the world, but you do have options for entertainment in the city and the surrounding areas.

For sports fans, or at least college football fans, South Bend is home to the College Football Hall of Fame. From busts of the greatest athletes to ever step on the gridiron to interactive areas allowing visitors to feel included in the game, the Hall of Fame would provide hours (though maybe only two) of enjoyable family time. Also, stop by the South Bend Chocolate Café while you’re downtown and try their homemade chocolates.

For those families who prefer something more active, the East Race Waterway, a white-water rafting facility and one of the 2004 Olympic Trial locations. For both beginner and advanced kayakers, the East Race can provide an afternoon of fun for you and your family.

Golf fans have a multitude of choices for hitting the links in South Bend. Notre Dame itself is home to two courses, and South Bend’s Blackthorn ranks in the top 50 public courses, according to “Golfweek.”

Lake Michigan is also within an hour of campus. Although the Lake Michigan beaches do not compare to either the Pacific or Atlantic coast, they do serve as a decent replacement. The beach in New Buffalo, MI is particularly appetizing, if only because of its proximity to Redamak’s, which serves some of the best hamburgers in the area.

However, one could still contend that the most exciting, beautiful and enjoyable place to spend time in the South Bend area is the very place that you will be spending your next few years. Notre Dame, with its park-like atmosphere, is a perfect place to enjoy your last few days with your parents.

Take a walk around the lakes, visit the Golden Dome, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center and the Grotto, or just play catch and have a picnic on one of the quads. Your experiences at Notre Dame will surely shape your life, and your parents certainly would enjoy experiencing some of its greatness with you.

Contact Eric Prister @ eprister.nd.edu
We could all use tips when it comes to the difficult choices made when decorating our respective college habitats. Unpacking is only one step in the process of making a dorm your home-away-from-home, but decorating takes a room from the place where you keep your things to the place where you can feel comforted, inspired, and relaxed. Here are a few ideas to keep in mind during this process.

To Theme Or Not To Theme?

Themed rooms are a very common way for roommates to bond over a common interest. Common themes include beach paradises, black and white motifs, pink and polka-dotted looks, and even “High School Musical” devotion that extended past graduation into Notre Dame move-in.

Sometimes a chosen theme can help navigate the wide range of room decor options. With a theme, roommates can go wild in the creation of a cohesive ambiance. But there are some downsides to a theme. A tropical haven might not seem so warm with the change of seasons. Or the phrase “orange is the new pink” might make you panic if your room looks like set from “Legally Blonde.”

It’s important to decide if a theme will be overbearing or too inflexible for you before you commit to it. Once you gauge this, dive into your chosen motif or divert to a more eclectic, diverse look.

Points for Creativity

Making dorm room decor takes a lot of flexibility and compromise. You have to combine the tastes of anywhere between two and six people. Being considerate and letting each person’s preferences have a presence in the room not only will make for peaceful roommate relations but also for peace of mind. Eclectic nirvana can be achieved by making everyone happy in your living space.

At the heart of compromise is creativity. Creatively incorporating all parties allows for a new comprehensive look. Creativity is not only vital to the personality of a room but also essential for making the room functional. Creativity is crucial in making the most of small or oddly shaped rooms found in older dorms and in spicing up boring, homogenous spaces in newer dorms.

Stay Classy, Stay Yourself

Your dorm room environment should be a place where you feel comfortable, and one great way to increase your comfort is to surround yourself with things that you like. This can mean pictures from home or posters of your favorite movies. Obviously taste is subjective, but certain interests begin to scrape the bottom of the barrel. The best and most prevalent example of this is found in rooms that are adorned purely with drinking memorabilia and posters of ladies who are wearing varying amounts of clothing. It’s clear that you like women and drinking. But is it really the best interests to highlight? Well, not only does it generally lack class, it also lacks originality.

The message here is not to be someone that you aren’t but rather to show how diverse and high-quality your interests are. Allow your room to speak to your credit rather than your detriment. Be prepared to use both sides of your brain when it comes to dorm room problem solving, and you will be ready to tackle any obstacles in the way to making the room of your dreams.

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffel@nd.edu
Freshmen continued from page 32

won national titles and lost national titles before and we continue to be very resilient and have that hunger to achieve this year's capitol Of We had the potential to go all the way.

The team's first game, against Michigan on Sept. 1, should be played in the brand new Alumni Stadium, which Clark had the opportunity to see last week. "It's exciting," he said. "It looks like a castle. Hopefully it will be a fortress for Notre Dame soccer." Clark also boasts a strong incoming freshman class, led by Canadian forward Tereza Stastny, whom Waldrum said he expects to contribute early. "Freshman Tereza Stastny from Canada can step in and put up a lot of goals," Waldrum said.

We're looking to Melissa Henderson, who's into her sophomore year as one who's fully capable of stepping up and filling that goal-scoring role," Waldrum said. "Bobby Clark is the last piece to the puzzle. We're very happy for them. We've got what it takes. The schedule may be even harder to navigate. If you look back at last season, we've got what it takes." The Irish will have an opportunity for success.

"If we've got what it takes," Bobby Clark Irish coach

Waldrum said he expects to replace many of their graduating seniors, including two-time Hermann Award winner Kerri Hanks. Although the Irish return few proven goal scorers, they return a great number of talented players who have the ability to light up the box scores this season. Among those who Waldrum expects to step up and produce is sophomore forward Melissa Henderson, the reigning Big East Rookie of the Year who ranked second in the conference behind Hanks in both goals and points.

"We're looking at Melissa Henderson, who's into her sophomore year as one who's fully capable of stepping up and filling that goal-scoring role," Waldrum said. "She has the ability to score a lot of goals." The Irish also boast a strong incoming freshman class, led by Canadian forward Tereza Stastny, whom Waldrum said he expects to contribute early. "Freshman Tereza Stastny from Canada can step in and put up a lot of goals," Waldrum said.

"It's exciting," he said. "It looks like a castle. Hopefully it becomes a fortress for Notre Dame soccer." Clark said he is looking for the Irish to make it further into the NCAA tournament this season, and though another Big East title is also a big goal. "I think the league is the true measure of success, but in fairness the way we are going to be judged, the way we really want to judge ourselves is if we can win the championship," he said.

However, even qualify for the NCAA tournament is a tough task. "Making the tournament makes it a successful season," Clark said. "But to make it a great season, I'd say the final four is what we're looking to get.

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Wildcats continued from page 32

"Northwestern is a great team, but we felt that we didn't want to prove ourselves," Clark said. "It's exciting," he said. "It looks like a castle. Hopefully it becomes a fortress for Notre Dame soccer." Clark also boasts a strong incoming freshman class, led by Canadian forward Tereza Stastny, whom Waldrum said he expects to contribute early. "Freshman Tereza Stastny from Canada can step in and put up a lot of goals," Waldrum said.

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Jackson

continued from page 32

No. 1 in the national rankings last year, and claimed both the CCHA regular season and playoff Championships, earning the latter with a 5-2 come-from-behind victory over Michigan at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit.

Jackson said the Bemidji State loss has stuck with him over the off-season, and said with NECC regulations prohibit much contact between coach- and players over the summer, Jackson said he trusted in his team's work ethic.

"They were so focused group," Jackson said. "And I think that will be the bar for what we wanted to do this year or two before we make the jump into the CCHA."

The biggest question mark heading into the new season will be the freshmen to leave their mark on the program. Erik Johnson, Nick Larson, Kyle Palmieri are going to be some of most decorated net-sweeping, one of most decorated net-sweepers who are going to be the starter this season. They were among the key players in the 2007-08 campaign.

"That's the biggest question mark going into the season, but I have full confidence that Brad can do the similar type of step that Jordan Pearce went on to become one of most decorated net-sweepers in Irish history, setting program records in single-season wins and shutouts as well as career wins.

Jackson said Phillips, who missed all of last season because of a leg injury, would be the starter this season with O'Brien and freshman Mike Johnson serving as suitable back-ups.

Jordan Pearce, when he got his first opportunity he never looked back, and we hope that Brad can do the same thing," Jackson said. "That's going to be the biggest question mark going into the season, but I have full confidence that Brad can take the similar type of step that Jordan took.

As far as Phillips' injury goes, Jackson said he expected Phillips to be fully recovered from the surgery, which was done last October. Phillips returned to the ice last spring for some light practice before the NCAA Tournament. He looked pretty good for a guy that hadn't played or practiced all year," Jackson said. "The biggest thing for Brad is going to be his mental approach to the game."

In addition to Pearce, the Irish also have to replace seniors Erik Condra, Christian Hanson, Garrett Regan and Justin White. Jackson said he expected the current senior class, specifically players like Ryan Thang and Kyle Lawson, to take on a larger role.

Rounding out the roster will be the six-man freshman class of forwards Kevin Nugent, Nick Larson, Kyle Palmieri, and Biley Sheahan, defenseman Sam Cailabrese, and Johnson.

Jackson said Palmieri, selected 26th overall in the 2008 NHL Draft by Anaheim, and Sheahan, second cousin of former Irish player Brock Sheahan, have the best chance to contribute immediately, though he expects all the freshmen to leave their mark eventually. "That's my question that Kyle Palmieri is going to be ready to play right away, and I hope that Biley Sheahan will as well," Jackson said. "Not sure what we need contributions from across the board if they expect to successfully navigate a conference schedule that includes four games each against rivals Michigan and Michigan State and two against last year's national runner-up Miami (Ohio). Outside of CCHA player, Notre Dame has a home game against perennial power Boston College, a potential match-up against North Dakota in the midseason Shillelagh Tournament in Chicago, and, to top it all off, a fall break trip to Boston to play defending national champion Boston University.

"I don't want to go through the season without having some bumps in the road so that your team gets better and knows how to play teams of that caliber," Jackson said. "The agreement with Boston University stipulates that the Terriers will play a return game in South Bend in 2011, Notre Dame's first season in the new Lefty Smith Ice Rink, which will break ground this spring.

"There's motivation to prepare our team, but there's also motivation to bring teams into our building as well," Jackson said. The Irish open their season with a non-conference two-game series against Alabama-Huntsville on Oct. 9 and 10 in the Joyce Center.

Note

◆The CCHA voted on Aug. 11 to deny admission to Alabama-Huntsville. The Chargers currently play in the College Hockey Association, a four-team conference that is set to disband after the 2009-10 season. This fall, they will be dropping to 11 teams after the 2007-08 season, as Nebraska-Omaha will be joining the WCHA.

"We certainly didn't do it out of disrespect for Alabama-Huntsville," Jackson said. "We were just more worried about the members of our conference and making sure our league is in full health for the future. It's disappointing and I hate to see that happen, but it is based on a lot of different reasons."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Brey

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East teams will face.

"We lost four seniors who were such a key part of our fabric, it just changes the personal- ity of the team, which is neat about college basketball," Brey said. "You always have new personalities to add."

Hansbrown averaged 10.5 points per game in his last two seasons at Mississippi State, and will join Jackson on the perimeter as the likely shooting guard. Martin, a 6-foot-8 swingman with range from outside, will replace Ryan Ayers at small forward. Martin averaged 8.5 points and 3.8 rebounds per game in his only year with the Boilermakers.

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Evans
continued from page 32
open practice last Saturday, and Weis likes the flexibility his presence gives the rest of the Irish offense.
"We all know Michael and Golden are going to be on the field a bunch," Weis said. "So does he end up as backup to Golden, because he has similar type speed? Or do you put him opposite of Golden, and now you have speed on both sides out there, rotate him in with that three-wide group?"
Fellow receiver Roby Toma, Te'o's high school teammate, has caught his head coach's eye by exceeding early expectations, particularly as a blocker, despite his 5-foot-9-inch, 175-pound frame.
"Everyone thought that Roby was a throw-in. He's the Punahou throw-in," Weis said. "But that's not the way it's working out. He's been competitive." Tailbacks Cierre Wood and Theo Riddick both look significant reps in Saturday's open practice last Saturday, it's working out. He's been a very pleasant surprise for us.
Though offensive linemen Chris Watt, Alex Bullard and Zach Martin aren't likely to see much, if any, playing time with an experienced group of linemen ahead of them, Weis said all three impressed him.
"In some other years, I think they might be playing in the two-deep right now," Weis said. "Fortunately, we can wait a little while. We'll see how it goes. But we've been happy with all three of them.
Fellow freshman offensive lineman Jordan Cowart has already been named the starting long snapper.
On the other side of the ball, defensive lineman Tyler Stockton has impressed the coaching staff but might remain behind several talented veterans on the depth chart.
"He's done a really nice job, but there's a perfect situation of he might be a luxury item," Weis said. "Here's a guy that you could spend that year developing, because he'll be that much better of a player."
Depth at the linebacker position will likely preserve a year of eligibility for both Carlo Calabrese and Dan Fox. In the secondary, corner E.J. Banks has been joined by fellow early enrollee Zeke Motta, who moved from linebacker to safety. Motta emerged as one of the team's quickest, most athletic players in the spring, and Weis said he'll see the field immediately.
"We need to play him on special teams," Weis said. "I see him playing on all four teams, and don't be surprised if you end up, as the year goes on, seeing him play on defense too."
Both punter Ben Turk and placekicker Nick Tausch have challenged returning upperclassmen for starting roles. Weis said Thursday "the punter situation is too close to call" between Turk and senior Eric Maust, though using Maust to preserve a year of eligibility for Turk is an option Weis will consider.
"As far as leg strength, there's no one here with the leg strength (Turk) has," Weis said. "He's got big-time pop."
With the quality and depth of Turk's/Maust's early years, the Irish have talent classes, the Irish have talented returnees at virtually every position that will allow most of the newcomers a year to grow accustomed to the college game. Still, though, there are the few who have already secured a spot in the rotation — no small feat, Weis said.
"The guys that get on the field now as freshmen are getting on the field because they're really good, or they're playing on special teams," Weis said. "But I'm telling you, on offense and defense right now, to get on the field, that means you're pretty good."
For more notes from Notre Dame's freshman media day, check out The Casual Observer at observersportsblog.wordpress.com
Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Freshman wide receiver Shaquille Evans runs through drills during Notre Dame's practice Friday.

Check out the Casual Observer at observersportsblog.wordpress.com

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Notre Dame:

Volleyball falls just short in Big East championship; Men's swimming earns conference crown in last race;  

Observer Staff Report  

Volleyball

Despite finishing fifth in the Big East regular-season standings, the Irish compiled enough points for a share of the conference crown, falling in a close match to Louisville in the Big East championship game.

"We continued to improve as a team and as individuals," junior outside hitter Debbie Brown said. "And that allowed us to have a really strong finish.


"I feel like we had a really strong finish and were playing really well at the end of the year," Brown said.

The Irish started the season in four nonconference tournaments, going 5-7 in those events. One of those defeats, though, was a tight loss to then-No. 4 Washington State in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"The win over Washington State was mainly a result of her performance," said head coach Randy Waldrum. "And with the way that she could control the game in a Big East match, it was a big win for us.

Senior libero Dara Nelligan said of Kaelin, "I always felt like he had a great chance to be a great player, and he proved it this year.

The Irish went 4-1 in their final six matches of the season, including a 3-0 win over Seton Hall in the Big East championship game. "It was a really important for us," said senior middle blocker Justine Artists aboard. "And with the way that he could control the game in a Big East match, it was a big win for us.

Notre Dame had a successful weekend at the Big East championships to earn the conference championship. Last season's most valuable players Mackenzie LeBlanc and John Lyle Miller were both in attendance, and hope to lead Notre Dame to another championship.

"It's a long season and there are a lot of ups and downs," senior middle blocker Justine Artists aboard said. "But it was still a good win overall, and I hope to lead Notre Dame to another championship.

The Irish will return several key players from this year's squad, and should be in good position to compete for the third consecutive conference championship. Last season's most valuable players Mackenzie LeBlanc and John Lyle Miller were both in attendance, and hope to lead Notre Dame to another championship.

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Men's Swimming

It took a dramatic last-second finish, but the Irish walked away with the 2009 season's second consecutive Big East title.

The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Mike Lyle, Andrew Hoffman, senior Paul Springer and then-sophomore Matt Attoc finished first with a time of 3:15.23, securing Notre Dame its first conference title in three years.

"The highlight for our team was our performance at the regional meet," senior Paul Springer said. "And with the way that he could control the game in a Big East match, it was a big win for us.

Irish women's Rowing

The Notre Dame women's rowing team was a force to be reckoned with in the Big East again this year.

The biggest meet of the year up to this point, the Big East championship, was a success for Notre Dame, winning both the regular-season title and the regional meet. Irish women's rowing coach Mike Lyle said it was the "best way to finish the season for us."

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"It's a long season and there are a lot of ups and down..."
Sandman, Fortner help young men’s golf team mature; Men’s wins second consecutive league crown

the second varsity eight finished fifth in the IVW Final. In a three-team competition between in-state rivals Indiana and Purdue this year, Notre Dame was able to capture victories in four out of the five races.

The Irish have found success this year, and head coach Martin Stone has said a simple formula all year. “To go faster than your opponents is good enough to win the Big East.”

The team is repeatedly working on conditioning and strength, always searching for that physical edge on the competitor. The next step is to be fast enough to compete in the NCAA Championships, which is the ultimate goal for the crew.

As is the case for any successful team, the Irish have had excellent leadership, especially from the seniors. “I think all the seniors have shown themselves to be leaders this year,” Stone said. “They are all very passionate about the sport and work to see the program succeed.”

Several of those seniors were recognized for their performance both on the water and in the classroom. Erica Copeland, the second member of the varsity eight crew, was named the Top Gun Award as well as the Notre Dame Club Athlete of the Year. Sophomore Emily Crosby and junior Bragan Padley were named to the Rockne Student-Athlete Award.

The Irish will return the majority of its team for next year in the fall, with some good players coming in the new few years,” Holt said.

With the success of the last few seasons, the Irish women’s team has a tough act to follow from their 2007-2008 campaign. The defending Big East Championship team took to the links in February at the NCAA Regional. After missing the 2008-2009 season due to injury, Sandman is the team’s top returning player with a program record for scoring average.

“I’ve been fortunate enough to watch him in so many stages of development,” Irish coach Jim Kubinski said. “He’s my first player to have gone through a full four years, as I arrived in the program with a hunger and a thrill for me to watch him grow, not only becoming a top player and leader on our team but how he has grown as a student and as a person.”

Kubinski, who missed the fall and spring seasons due to back surgery, watched as a young Irish squad endured a tumultuous season. Junior Doug Fortner, the Irish’s only freshman, who started consistently, was the rock for a team ever-changing lineups with his team-leading 74.24 stroke average. Freshman Max Scodro emerged as a solid collegiate golfer, picking up medalist honors at the UNCG Bridgestone Intercollegiate and four top-10 finishes. Both Scodro and Fortner are All-Big East honors for their efforts.

Notre Dame shared defeat along with its successes. Youth and inexperience hurt the Irish at times during the season. Victories of Sandman and Fortner allowed the younger golfers to mature quickly.

“Sandman has meant experience to our team, to keep our guys on their toes,” Kubinski said. “I’m not even sure how to measure his contributions. He has not only related to each and every one of our younger players but has been able to contribute to their growth. He has never given up on them, always been there for them. As to today, I can’t say, ‘important’ or ‘old.’ Quite the contrary.”

With Scodro, Fortner and Sandman returning alongside a variety of other younger golfers, the future is bright for Notre Dame.

Men’s Golf

The Irish made back on a season marked by both success and failure from its young team, it will welcome back senior Josh Sandman, who will return for his final year of eligibility after missing the 2008-2009 season due to injury. Sandman is the team’s top returning player with a program record for scoring average.

“We’ve got a lot of talent right now and some good players coming in the fall,” Holt said. “I think it’s a sign of things to come for the program.”

The Irish will be returning four of the five major contributors on the team, including senior Co-Captain Beau Huffer and sophomore All-American So-Hyun Park.

Men’s Track

When the athletes of the men’s track and field team look back at the 2009 season, they will most likely remember their comeback to win the Big East Championship.

The Irish repeated as the Big East Champion in the Big East Championships in Philadelphia, Pa. on March 1 when they squeaked past second-place Boston College in a close finish to win the conference.

Leading the Irish this season was senior captain Lisa Maunu. Maunu was one of four Irish golfers named to the All-Big East team after the Big East Tournament, and finished first individually in the NCAA Tournament. Notre Dame competed at the NCAA Central Regionals this past weekend, ending the season with a 16th place finish.

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for the 2009—2010 Academic Year
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Ms. Ann Firth
Associate VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631-3965

Mr. William Kirk
Associate VP for Residence Life
316 Main Building
631-8144

Sr. Susan Dunn, O.P.
Assistant VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631-5550

Mr. M. Brian Coughlin
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315 LaFortune Student Center
631-9314

Dr. G. David Moss
Assistant VP for Student Affairs
316 Main Building
631-5550

Ms. Jennifer Monahan
Executive Assistant to the Vice President
316 Main Building
631-5550

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316 Main Building
631-3869

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631-7870

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UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
The Core Council for Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual & Questioning Students

Welcomes the Class of 2013

We Core Council members are administrators, and gay, lesbian, and ally students who are a resource in identifying the ongoing needs of our gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual students. By implementing campus-wide educational programming on gay, lesbian, and bisexual concerns, we strive to eliminate homophobia, and to make Notre Dame a welcoming and accepting place that prides the uniqueness of all its students.

Meet student members of the Core Council and find out more about resources available to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning students on the Notre Dame campus.

A RECEPTION
For Interested First-Year Students
Hosted by The Core Council
Thursday, August 27th
1:30-3:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse Building
(3rd Floor Lounge)

Visit our web site at corecouncil.nd.edu

The Core Council for Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual & Questioning Students also sponsors:
Coffee & Conversation at the Co-Mo ★ Gold Room “Conversations” ★ Solidarity Sunday ★ CommUnity NETWORK Sessions ★ StaND Against Hate Week ★ Day of Silence
ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team returns all players, adds top recruits for new season

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Turnover and graduation are staples of college sports, but this year it seemed Notre Dame had a lot of free cards. Not one player from last year's team left the addition of one of the country's best high school players to top things off.

That doesn't erase last seaon's first-round loss at the Joyce Center in the NCAA Tournament, which coach Muffet McGraw and the Irish have not forgotten about.

"I'm sure not over it. I'm, pretty sure they're not either," McGraw said. "It was a really devastating blow to us."

The Irish finished 22-9 last season, 10-6 in the Big East Conference. They drew a No. 7 seed in the NCAA Tournament and faced No. 10 seed Minnesota, who beat them 79-71.

The only senior on last year's team, guard Lindsay Schrader, has one more year of eligibility because she redshirted her sophomore season after tearing her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) Schrader sat out 12.5 points per game last season and led the team with 7.4 rebounds per game. Schrader, along with seniors Melissa Lechlitner, Ashley Barlow and Erica Williamson, understand they only have one more shot.

"They are trying to get together the rest of the team to kind of get on that page of, 'Hey this is it for us,'" McGraw said. Turn ACG's kept the Irish short-handed for much of last season as well. Junior forward Devereaux Peters and guard Britanny Mallory both tore their ACLs early in the season. Mallory was cleared to play in July, McGraw said, and got a chance to play with the Irish over the summer.

"I think mentally she's over the bump of coming back in terms of testing out her knee and feeling it's strong, she got knocked down a couple of times so she'll be ready to go," McGraw said. Peters tore the ACL in her left knee for the second consecutive season, but had more time to rehabilitate since she suffered the injury so early. She had a seminarian surgery last year to clean out the knee and another surgery in July, both of which were successful, McGraw said. She will not be ready to play until December.

"It really takes a year," McGraw said. "She's going to be 1 year out and I think she's going to be really ready to go.

The Belles are looking to build upon a season in which they finished fifth or better in six of eight meets.

Fifth-year head coach Jackie Bauters, a 2004 Saint Mary's graduate and former student-athlete, said she is pleased with the progress the Belles have made under her watch.

"The program is steadily building in a positive direction, and as an alumna, it means a lot to me," Bauters said. "Being able to build upon the success of the most improved performer of the MIAA during my tenure has been a great thrill.

All eyes are on senior captain Megan McGowen, who earned second team All-MIAA honors in last year's MIAA Championships. McGowen - who finished 18th in last year's conference meet - was only the fourth Belle in program history to earn conference honors.

"My wish for [McGowen] is that she has her best season yet - filled with happy memories and good lights," Bauters said. "She is a wonderful athlete to coach and has a lot of natural talent, so I really hope she reaches all the goals she strives for this year."

Bauters named senior Ellen Pfister as captain alongside McLowry and believes that her work ethic, enthusiasm and spirit will help carry the team this year.

"[Pfister] is a leader by example," Bauters said. "[Pfister] is a great vocal leader. I believe our captains make the biggest impact on the team, as far as seniors, but our junior class is very strong and their work ethic, enthusiasm and spirit will help carry the team this year too."

Junior Catie McVey and sophomore Joanne Almond were key contributors to the 2008 squad's success, routinely placing near the top of the Saint Mary's finishers, while sophomore Arianne Rodriguez and junior Daro McKey look to make strides from their promising 2008 seasons.

The Belles begin the season Sept. 5 with a Saint Mary's alumniae exhibition meet. Formal competition kicks off Sept. 12 at NIU Huskie Open. Before the opening of MIAA competition at the Calvin Invitational Sept. 19.

"Returning to the Calvin meet is exciting," Bauters said. "Last year there was great competition on a beautiful course early on. It's a great event, and I'm excited to take the women back. The MIAA meets are of obvious importance to us.

Contact Michael Blasco at mjblasco@nd.edu
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MEN’S GOLF

Sandman returns to squad in 2009

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

After missing all of last season because of an injury, Irish coach Jim Kubinski said, “We have some growing pains but gained a great deal of experience. We’re going to build on those experiences and are looking forward to a great season this year.”

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Sandman will return for a fifth year as the school’s best career stroke average. In his junior season, he recorded two top-5 finishes and five top-10 finishes and was also named to both the PING All-East Region team and the All-Big East team.

Sandman will be joined by senior Doug Fortner, who led the Irish last year with a 74.24 scoring average and has been named to the All-Big East team two years in a row. He also ended last season with a career-high finish in the Big East tournament.

“Fortner is primed for a big year,” Kubinski said. “Given the experience he gained as a season player in his rookie season, I feel we’ll have two number one type players in our lineup.”

Sophomore Max Scodro is another player in the Irish lineup looking to improve on a solid 2008-09 season this year. The only player to finish in the top 10 in his collegiate career stroke average, Scodro finished tied for first place in the UNG Bridgestone Collegiate Championship. The university said the team needs a solid performance against some very lofty expectations and is looking to move forward.

“Last year’s results were somewhat predictable given the timeline of our program and the low returning our best player and lone senior, Josh Sandman, before the season began,” Irish coach Jim Kubinski said. “We have some growing pains but gained a great deal of experience. We’re going to build on those experiences and are looking forward to a great season this year.”

We'll be fired up for our event. We won't do that again. We'll be fired up for our event. We won't do that again.

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu

SMC SOCCER

Belles hope to bounce back after disappointing 2008 campaign

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

After a difficult 2008 campaign that ended with a 2-13-1 overall record, the Belles are looking to continue to improve and stay focused on Saint Mary’s soccer. I also feel the players have a better understanding of my expectations. While we struggled in 2008 to win close games, I feel in 2009 we are all more highly motivated to turn those results around.

The team is returning 17 players in 2009, many of whom saw playing time during the 2008 season.

Crabbe would like to see the team finish their games better. In 2008 the team lost eight games by one goal and Crabbe is hoping this will provide increased motivation for the players and get them to take more responsibility when scoring goals.

The team will be led by senior co-captain Bridget Ronayne, who has been a mainstay on a tough defense for the Belles.

“Bridget is a very mature player on the field,” Crabbe said. “She is a good leader and her same respect her. Her success playing in the back for us comes from her ability to read the game and make good decisions under pressure. She is very good at minimizing mistakes which is key as a defender.”

The Belles will count on Ronayne and other veterans to lead a freshman class that is coming in from all over the country. “We have players coming from Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Indiana,” Crabbe said. “We look to have between eight and 10 freshmen competing for spots on this year’s roster.”

Senior Patty Duffy will also be a force for the Belles as the goalkeeper this season. Duffy regis­tered 81 saves in 15 appearances last season for the Belles.

“Duffy has a tremendous competitive spirit,” Crabbe said. “She has spent many extra hours on her own in order to get better at her position. Having a full sea­son in 2008 and the number of minutes she played she should translate into an advantage for her coming into the 2009 season that she did not have last year.”

The Belles begin their season with a tough road trip when they play Centre and Transylvania Colleges on Sept. 5 and 6 at Centre College’s Tournament.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrab01@saintmarys.edu
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More information is at: http://uhs.nd.edu

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One phrase can motivate a team or damage a team before the season even starts, and that phrase describes this year's squad: high expectations.

The Irish received five first-place votes and a total of 178 points in the pre-season Big East coaches poll and sit tied at No. 2 with Cincinnati. The high rank comes despite a less than spectacular 2008 season in which the Irish finished 14-13 in the regular season and took second in the Big East tournament.

The Irish may need to avoid turning the preseason poll into a jinx. After last season's preseason coaches poll had Notre Dame finishing fourth in the Big East standings, the team fell to fifth with a 9-5 record in conference play.

The Irish will be counting on more than luck to carry them to victory during the length of the season. Senior Christina Kaelin and junior Kellie Sciacca return to lead the squad. Both were all-Big East selections for the Irish last year and will likely have to continue their dominance in the conference for the squad to have success.

Kaelin, a 5-foot-10 outside hitter, made an immediate impression during her freshman year by amassing 24 kills against Bowling Green in her first collegiate experience, which tied an Notre Dame record for the second-best mark in a three-game match. Kaelin was also twice named Big East Rookie of the Week. Sciacca adds depth and talent as a 6-foot-1 middle blocker to an already experienced team that features six returning seniors and four juniors. Like Kaelin, Sciacca wasted no time in making a name for herself during her freshman year. Sciacca became only the second Irish player to earn the AVCA Northeast Region Freshman of the year honor.

But this year's most promising sign may be the return of assistant head coach Robin Davis, who spent five years on the Notre Dame volleyball staff from 2002-2005. Davis spent the last three seasons as the head coach at Boise State and replaces former assistant coach Greg Smith, who was named head coach of the University of Toledo in May.

"I'm really excited to have Robin back on staff," Irish coach Debbie Brown told und.com. Led by experience both on the court and on the sidelines, the Irish will begin the 2009 season with a Big East title on their minds from start to finish.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu
This gray box is not creative, funny or topical.

If you have an idea for a comic strip, e-mail Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu
Hawaiian linebacker leads deep, talented freshman class of 17

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

The expectations surrounding heralded linebacker Manti Te'o could be summed up by the scene at Friday's freshman media day, where he was undoubtedly the center of attention.

Since the prized recruit announced his commitment to the Irish on signing day, any discussion of Notre Dame's freshman class has begun with the Honolulu, Hawaii, native. But when he first greeted the Irish media contingent in the Guglielmino Athletics Complex, Te'o downplayed the attention he has received.

"I just try to be myself and take every day one at a time." I don't pay attention to all the hype," Te'o said. "Just like everybody else, I'm just trying to make the team better."

Te'o has been somewhat limited in camp by a hamstring injury, but Irish coach Charlie Weis said Thursday that the linebacker has only missed "parts" of practices. The injury won't keep Te'o out of the rotation in the season opener against Nevada on Sept. 5. Weis said.

"I expect to see him on the field in the opener," Weis said. "I don't think we'll be seeing him standing on the sideline very long."

Return of Harangody gives Irish high hopes for 2009-10

"We just want to fight back and get one of those seven or eight (Big East) bids," Irish coach Mike Brey said at the press conference announcing Harangody's return.

"I think with [Harangody] back and what we have, we can realistically say we can make a run at one of those bids, period." The senior class of Harangody and guards Jonathan Peoples and Tony Jackson has a chance to become the winniest in school history, and will break in the newly renovated Joyce Center this year. Harangody can cement his legacy at Notre Dame by placing himself in the record books alongside the program's all-time greats. After three years, Harangody ranks eighth in points (1,823) and fifth in rebounds (499). Both school records are in reach this year, but the power forward said the individual achievements are far from his top goals.

"It's good to be on a team again with guys that are family, and I'm just looking forward to winning this year and not individual statistics," Harangody said.

ND hungry after early tourney exit

As the prominence of the Notre Dame hockey program has grown over the past few years, so too have the expectations. Those lofty standards came crashing back down on the Irish last spring in a 5-1 upset loss to Bemidji State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

"We had a great season, and I don't want to take away from that," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "But the last game of the year, we weren't the same team that we were for the majority of the season."

Notre Dame rose as high as