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Illustration by Ian Gavlick and Blair Chemidlin
‘Floor general’ Jackson heart of Irish team

By CHRIS MASoud
Sports Writer

Tory Jackson missed the game-winning 3 in a 64-62 loss to St. John’s, it could have marked the end of a brilliant four-year career.

“It looked good when I let it go, it felt good, but it didn’t end up going down,” Jackson said. “I think about it all the time, even when I hit the buzzer beater against Providence.”

Trailing No. 7 West Virginia by 40.8-percent clip and is hitting 3-pointers at a remarkable six-game winning streak and taking that shot, and that’s what makes me.”

Coupled with a passion for the game and the willingness to sacrifice individual success for the sake of the team, it was an easy decision for Irish coach Mike Brey to name Peoples one of the team’s captains.

“Unselfishness,” Jackson said. “Growing up, I always loved to get my team involved. I do whatever it takes to win. At the same time, especially when a guy’s hot, why not? If that’s going to help us win, I’d rather take the five-point shot than 50 points and lose. That’s not good.”

A prolific scorer in high school, Jackson ranks third all time on the Michigan scoring list as the state’s two-time player of the year.

Upon coming to Notre Dame, Jackson said he knew he would have to rely on his ball handling skills and court vision to break into a Big East starting lineup. Leading the conference with 5.6 assists per game to go along with a 10-10 assist-to-turnover ratio, it’s safe to say the senior guard has made the transition successfully.

“To do that and take care of the ball at the same time, it’s a great thing if it can get us more possessions,” Jackson said. “Being ranked up there in the assist-turnover ratio, that’s real good for me, that’s real good for any point guard.”

Playing in every contest since his first day at Notre Dame, Peoples has an immediate impact as a freshman. Named to the All-Big East rookie team, Jackson relied on his strengths as a defender before expanding his overall game.

“Just figuring out ways to stay on the floor,” Jackson said. “I wasn’t a big time, 30-point scorer, but I played well defensively when I was younger, especially sophomore year. As the years went on, I had to become a little bit of a scor- er, getting more assists, and also defending the best player on the opponent.”

Guarding the likes of Villanova forward Javier Rosa can be a daunting task for any defender, let alone one who is 5-11. But what he lacks in size, Jackson said he makes up for in toughness.

“I hate when anybody scores,” Jackson said. “It’s a passion. I take pride in my defense.”

To the senior forward, Peoples quickly accepted.

“Great guy and he knows how to lead,” Jackson said. “We still have to prove something.”

As the seniors stay together as a team but return to the Big Dance for the third time in four years.

“It’s been a battle. I think we stayed together as a team but we lost games by not doing little things,” Peoples said. “We still have to prove something.”

Looking to Peoples and Notre Dame will look to prove they can advance to their first Sweet 16 of their careers starting against Old Dominion at 12:25 p.m. today.
Luke Harangody returned to lead Notre Dame's senior season and will leave an all-time great legacy

By BILL BRINK
Senior Staff Writer

On March 3, Luke Harangody became the first-ever Irish player to be inducted into the Purcell Pavilion's Ring of Honor. His No. 44 jersey climbed to the rafters, capping four years of awards, accolades and success. After four seasons with the Irish, Harangody became the first senior since Troy Murphy to score in double figures in his first five games. (The NCAA Tournament freshman year) was a pretty memorable season because it was my first go-around with things," he said. "It was something I'll always remember." Harangody, like any athlete, said he believes in off-season improvement, so he used the summer to hone his game as well as his fitness. The next season, he averaged 20.4 points and 10.6 rebounds per game. "It all has to do with work ethic," he said. "Every summer, whether it's been working on my body or working on another part of my game, just get better every year. It was that season that earned him conference Player of the Year honors. The Irish earned a No. 5 seed in the Dance that year and beat George Mason easily in the first round. Despite Harangody's 22 rebounds, No. 4 seed Washington State took down the Irish in the second round.

That senior season didn't pan out quite like he planned. At first the Irish played well, but once they got into conference play they had two rough stretches, losing three out of five and four out of seven at various points. Worse still, Harangody suffered a bone bruise in his knee on Feb. 11 against Seton Hall and missed five games because of the injury. At one point the Irish were 6-8 in the conference and the season's funeral march was beginning. Even with a serious injury, Harangody wouldn't be slowed. He missed the next game, against St. John's, but convinced everyone he would play against Louisville on Feb. 17. "He kind of talked us into he was going to try and play," Brey said. "He had everybody, the doctors the trainers, me. I'm going. I didn't bring any street clothes. I'm playing." It took Brey to stop him. "He wasn't feeling good (after the shoot-around)," Brey said. "I told him after shoot-around. "Well I'm not playing you so how's that? Does that make the decision easier? You're not ready." But then a funny thing happened. Notre Dame slowed down its offense and had success. The Irish lost in double overtime to Louisville, but won their next three games, including two over top-15 opponents, to finish the season. All without Harangody. "What I've been really happy with, since he's been down, how he's been helping (freshman forward Jack Cooley and junior forward Carleton Scott)," Brey said. "His voice with those guys during the game, halftime, I could hear his voice in the locker room. He's a leader and kind of a coach for us." "I think you just try to keep their confidence up," Harangody said of his approach with Seton Hall. "At first, the first game against John's after I could guys didn't really know how to approach it. But it as it went on and they got more practice time it was like night and day." Harangody recovered enough to play in Notre Dame's last regular-season game, an overtime win on the road against Marquette. He came off the bench for 11 minutes and scored 10 points. He also played in all three of Notre Dame's Big East tournament games, averaging 14 points and 24 minutes per game.

Harangody said after Notre Dame's 50-45 win over Pittsburgh in the quarterfinals that his knee was getting better but not yet 100 percent and that he was proud of what the team had done in his absence. "I was curious to see how two games in a row would go with my conditioning so I said. "I'm still not there yet. But I think every day it's getting a little better." This run we made at the end of the season, it was pretty special. These guys have played great without me. He's back now, ready to add NCAA Tournament success to his extraordinary career. "He got here, he made us believe again," Brey said. "He was an impact guy last year. He started at what he's done throughout his career. He's been one of the greatest to ever wear a uniform here. Flat out."

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Walk-on Andree makes impact leading underclassmen

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

Luke Harangody and Tory Jackson will undoubtedly leave major legacies as four-year starters and the leaders of Notre Dame’s winningest senior class.

While walk-on senior forward Tim Andree won’t leave the same mark on the face of the Irish program, his impact on the Notre Dame program could have long-term effects because of his work this season with freshmen Mike Broghammer, Jack Cooley and Tom Knight.

“I’ve done a lot of stuff in this offseason with the freshmen,” Andree said. “Just a lot of getting extra work-outs with them and helping them get in shape. We haven’t really had a true group of freshmen in a while like this. They’re all really good players and fun to be around.”

As a walk-on, Andree knew his biggest role wouldn’t necessarily be on the court during games. His primary role as a practice player has taught him “to let the little things go,” he said.

“I know going into every year what the deal is,” Andree said. “Basketball’s a fun game, we’re all playing the game of basketball because we enjoy it and have fun with it.”

Andree’s father, Tim, played at Notre Dame under legendary coach Digger Phelps from 1979-83. While Andree’s career obviously didn’t follow that of his father, he said he has enjoyed his Notre Dame experiences, especially those with the Irish team.

“My dad came in here in a totally different situation than I did. He was a McDonald’s high school All-American, I clearly wasn’t,” Andree said. “I’ve just tried to come out and play hard and be my own person. It’s sometimes tough living in the shadow of it, but it hasn’t been too hard.”

Andree’s mother also attended Notre Dame, and so accepting a role with the Irish program was almost a no-brainer, Andree said.

“I grew up always wanting to come to Notre Dame, so when [Irish coach Mike Brey] told me I had the opportunity to play here, it was tough to turn down,” he said.

Andree said the bonds he has formed with his teammates has reaffirmed that decision and made his Notre Dame experience. Andree lives off campus with Harangody and senior guard Ben Hansbrough.

“When we’re not here on the court, we’re just friends,” Andree said. “We’re not really thinking about basketball, but living a normal life.”

A management consulting major and theology minor, Andree said he is waiting to hear from law schools. While his future almost certainly won’t be in basketball, he said he will miss his experiences with the Irish basketball team, and especially with Brey.

“Coach Brey treats us all like men. There’s a lot of mutual respect between us,” Andree said. “He’s very funny, he’s got a great personality, and he’s a lot of fun to be around. He’s given me a lot more confidence.”

“My high school coaches, they relied more on a negative style of coaching. Here, it’s all about the positives, and he makes you believe in yourself.”

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Irish forward Tim Andree handles the ball against North Florida in the second half of an 86-65 Notre Dame victory. Andree, a walk-on, has been a standout in practice working with freshmen this season.