Flying High

GAME WRAP pg. 20 | HOMECOMING pg. 3 | FAN REACTIONS pg. 7 | PHOTO ESSAY pg. 11
INSIDE COLUMN

Simply the best

SAINT LOUIS

At Notre Dame, we expect the best. And our women's basketball team gave us exactly that. The mistake is to think that we became the best last night when Byrne Field was the true freshman that earned Notre Dame the national championship.

But this team was something special when they stepped on the floor for the first exhibition game in the Joyce Center. For those games, as well as many regular season games, there was no question of who would win. The only uncertainty was whether Notre Dame would win by 20, 30 or 40 points.

Yet the Irish put on a great show for the fans who turned out to watch the Sweet Sixteen. They displayed their talent, grace and athleticism for anyone who would show up to watch. The end result was a 39-35 Notre Dame victory, one of the games the Irish team that many fans believe was the best. In a CNNSI article naming the top 16 reasons all to herself. Hairstyles were even discussed.

But for those who refuse to realize that Notre Dame was the best. In a March Madness reached frenzied levels and many fans sat back and watched in disbelief as the Irish sent them back to Connecticut with a dream.

As March Madness reached frenzied levels and many fans sat back and watched in disbelief as the Irish sent them back to Connecticut with a dream. Though few would have guessed it at the time, though Notre Dame was the only team to play in the Sweet Sixteen.

The Irish were the best when UConn arrived in South Bend. And finally, the fans were the best also, at the women's basketball season opener. For the first time, students were turned away from the Joyce Center. Those who made it inside saw Notre Dame reach a new level, one where they became a true rival of UConn. The UConn team that many fans believe was the best. Aesthetics class had been using the room to teach

Tuesday
- Performance: Pacifica Quartet, resident ensemble, University of Chicago, Music Institute of Chicago, Little Theatre, Moreau Center, Saint Mary's College, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday
- Auditorium, McKenna Hall, Program of Liberal Studies, 50th Anniversary, 5 p.m.

Thursday
- Seminar: Ethics, Psychoanalysis and Other Taking Cures," Jonathan Lear, University of Chicago, followed by commentary by Alasdair MacIntyre, Rome 124, Center for Social Concerns, 4:30 p.m.

OUTSIDE THE Dome

Virginia Tech drops charges against professor

BLACKSBURG, Va.

Virginia Tech President Charles Steiger has requested the university's legal counsel drop charges against Paul Polanah and ordered university officials to investigate the Tuesday arrest.

Polanah, black studies instructor, was arrested by Tech police and charged with disorderly conduct about 6 p.m. Tuesday in Pamplin Hall. Police were called to solve a dispute over a room with Larry Killough, a professor of accounting and information systems, according to police reports.

Killough had reserved the room to prepare a test, but Polanah's Black Aesthetics class had been using the class without formal reservation for the previous week. Today, on the same day as the arrest, said he was happy because the misdemeanor charge was dropped.

"I am asking that the disorderly conduct charge against the instructor be dropped," Steiger said in a statement read to students involved in the dispute Thursday. "I am also directing the department heads to review the facts, meet with their faculty members and begin a dialogue that will come to an understanding of the cause of the event and prevent such incidents in the future." Steiger, in his statement, also apologized to all students involved in the incident.

"On behalf of the university community, we apologize to the students in the two classes who were inconvenienced and disturbed — even in a small way — the educational opportunities they deserve as Virginia Tech students," he said.

Polanah, who was released the same night as the arrest, said he was happy because the misdemeanor charge was dropped but was angered at what the students from both classes were put through.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Search continues for missing student

PITTSBURGH

Close to 20 days after University of Pittsburgh freshman Justin Haydak was last seen in Morgantown, W.Va., his father has decided to expand the search for his son to a wider area. "The Morgantown police have exhausted all their leads," said Michael Haydak. "They have no place to go."

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LOCAL WEATHER

5 Day South Bend Forecast

The ArcusWetter forecast for downtown conditions and high temperatures.

<table>
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NATIONAL WEATHER

The ArcusWetter forecast for Monday, April 2.

Lines separate high temperature zones for the day.
Thousands welcome Irish back to campus

By ANDREW SOUKUP

Senior Niele Ivey (above) smiles with the national championship trophy — the first for Notre Dame in basketball and the first in any sport since 1995. All-American Ruth Riley addresses the crowd after the Irish returned to campus at 2:30 a.m. Riley was clearly the crowd favorite as several males professed their love for her and the crowd honored her with a "Ruth" chant when the band played the 1812 Overture.

Choirs and pipe bands greeted the Notre Dame band as it marched onto a platform and held the championship trophy aloft signs asking the star center to marry them.

"Riley's pretty hot, and she will make a lot of money next year," said Jeff Raedy, who was doing this a year from now?

"Riley just laughed.

At least three students held aloft signs asking the star center to marry them.

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Purdue students riot, police deploy tear gas on students

By LAURA ROMPF
Associate News Editor

Besides Billy Joel’s “We Didn’t Start the Fire” blasting out of a fourth-floor Keenan window, North Quad was silent Sunday night after the women’s basketball team won the National Championship. There were no riots, but approximately 20 students set one couch on fire and a six-man in Keenan thought they’d celebrate.

Capt. Rex Aimonovitch and Mike Christel played Joel’s hit song out their window to celebrate, but affirmed they didn’t light the fire. “Of course we’re playing the song in good humor,” Christel said. “It’s awesome we just won the National Championship. We watched this game and the last one the semifinal win against Connecticut. I’m excited.”

Notre Dame fire department captain Tim Hoepchner said once the department arrived on the scene the crowd of 20 students dispersed and the fire was quickly extinguished. “Although fans at Michigan State roared after the Spartans 2000 men’s championship, Notre Dame security expected no problems out of students Sunday night.”

“We certainly have more people out tonight, but we didn’t expect any riots,” said Rex Rakow, director of security and police. “We have better students than that.”

Rakow said two shifts of officers were stationed at Alumni Circle when the team returned from St. Louis. “It will be a long night,” Rakow said. “But it will be worth it in the end.”

Around 150 yards away from the burnt coach, nine screaming girls stood on Stonehenge donning homemade T-shirts supporting their teammate Erika Haney and fellow Lewis resident Alicia Ratay. They were making noise against the women’s team they feel takes the back seat to football and men’s basketball.

“The girls deserve so much more credit than they get,” said Meghan Thomas.

“The student body is always out there supporting the men’s teams, no matter how well they do,” added Sarah Raehl.

“Gal Thompson, Haney’s roommate, said she was proud of Haney and the entire team. “My roommate worked so hard,” she said. “It’s an injustice more students aren’t out here to celebrate.”

Correction

In the March 30 edition of The Observer, a photo of the Women’s Center at Saint Mary’s was credited to Mary Almouwchn. The credit should have been given to photographer Kristine Knall, in the same issue student government chief of staff Jonatha Johnson’s name was misspelled.

The Observer regrets the error.
**WORLD NEWS BRIEFS**

**Vatican Radio protested:** Several hundred people demonstrated Sunday outside Vatican Radio, accusing it of polluting the air with electromagnetic waves. At issue is the station's transmitter in the town of Santa Maria di Galeria near Rome. Residents fear leukemia cases in the area may be linked to radio station's electromagnetic emissions.

**Texas plane crash injures seven:** A plane loaded with skydivers was caught by a "dust devil" turbulence just after it took off and crashed from a low altitude, injuring seven people but killing no one. Most of the 21 skydivers on the plane with the pilot had already climbed out by the time Danny Timmons reached the scene by running three-quarters of a mile from the private airfield where the plane had taken off.

Survey shows easy access to guns: Nearly half of the nation's high school students have easy access to guns, and more than one in five high school boys have taken a weapon to school in the last year, according to a survey released Sunday. Forty-seven percent of high school students said they could obtain a gun if they wanted to, while 22 percent of middle school students said they could get a firearm.

**Student shot at school in Gary:** A 17-year-old Neal Boyd, who had walked to school, exchanged a few words with him, then shot him once.

**National News Briefs**

**Texas plane crash injures seven**

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**Student shot at school in Gary**

A 17-year-old Neal Boyd, who had walked to school, exchanged a few words with him, then shot him once.

**An EP-3 surveillance plane in flight, like the one like the one shown here in a U.S. Navy file photo, collided with a Chinese fighter jet Sunday near Chinese airspace. The plane made an emergency landing in China with no injuries.**

**U.S. plane hits Chinese fighter**

A U.S. Navy surveillance plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet that intercepted it over the South China Sea on Sunday and made an emergency landing in China, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The 24 American crew members were not injured, said Col. John Bratton, a spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii. The Chinese government said the fighter crashed and its pilot was missing.

The EP-3 was on a routine surveillance flight in international airspace when two Chinese fighters intercepted it, Bratton said. The EP-3 is an unarmed four-engine propeller plane equipped to listen in on radio signals and monitor radar sites.

The collision appeared to be an accident and the Chinese did not force the plane down, Bratton said. "The planes actually bumped into each other," said another Pacific Command spokesman, Lt. Col. Dewey Ford.

The incident comes at a touchy time in the United States' relations with China. The Bush administration has taken a more wary attitude toward Beijing, and China's recent detention of two scholars with links to the United States has further raised distrust.

A Chinese academic said encounters with Chinese fighters are frequent as U.S. planes fly along China's coast eavesdropping on military communications.

"It's very regular for the American Navy to have their planes intruding into Chinese airspace," said Yan Xuetong, an expert in international studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing. "The Chinese then send up fighters and chase them out." The U.S. military would not say how close Sunday's flight came to Chinese airspace.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said the collision occurred at 9:07 a.m. some 62 miles southeast of Hainan, a large island off the southern Chinese coast. Two Chinese fighters were sent up to track the plane as it approached Chinese airspace, said the ministry statement.

"The U.S. plane abruptly diverted toward the Chinese planes, and its head and left wing collided with one of the Chinese planes, causing the Chinese plane to crash," the statement said.

**France**

Milosevic arrested, awaits trial

In Banja Luka, administrative center of the Bosnian Serb republic that makes up half of the country, former Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, a Milosevic opponent, expressed satisfaction at Milosevic's arrest, saying his responsibility for a decade of suffering in the region "is unquestionable."

The sentiment was echoed across Europe. "We have waited for this day for a long time. Justice must now be done," French President Jacques Chirac said Sunday, according to his spokesman Catherine Colonna.

**Market Watch March 30**

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**TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS**

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<tr>
<td>S&amp;P 500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**INDIANA NEWS BRIEFS**

Student shot at school in Gary: A ten-age-accused of fatally shooting a student outside a high school was expelled from the school nearly two years ago for a history of fighting and truancy. Donald Burt, 17, of Gary is scheduled to be formally charged Monday for a history of fighting and truancy. Donald Burt, 17, of Gary walked across the Lew Wallace High School lawn to where students were getting off buses about 8:20 a.m. He allegedly approached Boyd, who had walked to school, exchanged a few words with him, then shot him once.

**FRANCE**

**Milosevic arrested, awaits trial**

World leaders welcomed the arrest of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on Sunday, but the general rejoicing was tempered by concerns about whether the architecture of a decade of Balkan wars would stand trial for crimes against humanity.

Milosevic, once described by the West as the "Butcher of the Balkans," was whisked away to prison early Sunday after a 26-hour armed standoff with police.

His arrest was welcomed in Bosnia, where Milosevic is largely blamed for starting the 1992 war that kept its capital besieged for three years.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Zlatko Lagumdžija said the former president's deeds had "shocked the region for a decade" and urged his extradition to the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

"Anything falling short of that would be a historical mistake," Lagumdžija said.

Associated Press

**U.S. plane hits Chinese fighter**

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Associated Press
Nader: Students must take active role in democracy

By PAT MCELWEE
News Writer

In a speech delivered to a packed house at Indiana University-South Bend (IUSB), consumer advocate and 2000 presidential candidate Ralph Nader called on students to take an active role in democracy.

He argued that the American people as a whole are losing power to corporate sponsors due to a lack of public organization and the power of concentrated wealth in today’s political process.

But there is hope, said Nader. Citizens can turn the tide of rising corporate power by individual initiative. Through organized, grassroots efforts, the American people can restore and maintain a healthy democracy. They can fix the problem of “too much power and wealth in too few hands, leading the law to dominate the many.”

Attention to one’s duties as a citizen only takes a few hours every week, said Nader. “It provides a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction.” Unfortunately, Americans often fall victim to what Nader calls “the rationalization of futility.” They give reasons for not devoting energy to their civic duties. These include lack of time, ignorance of how to be an active citizen and fear of retaliation.

“These are not proper reasons in the land of the free and home of the brave,” said Nader. America is a free country in which citizens have the right to organize and take political steps without fear of aggression. “Failing to exercise that right could lead to its permanent loss.”

Use it or lose it,” Nader said. Nader emphasized the need to have both young and old involved in civic duties while still young because time slips by much faster than one expects. “Waste time,” said Nader. “You’ll lose your 20s, lots of young people do.”

Nader suggested three ways students can become active citizens for democracy.

First, he called for the creation of a class on civic skills and civic duty for university students. This class would teach students how to use the Freedom of Information Act, initiate referendums and lobby Elected officials.

Second, he suggested students here form a chapter of the Indiana Public Interest Research Group, a group based in Indiana University-Bloomington.

“There are 20 states that have student public interest research groups. Some of them are the most powerful citizen groups in the state, like in New York and Massachusetts,” said Nader.

A third suggestion made by the former presidential candidate was the formation of “Campus Greens,” student organizations supporting the Green party in local, state and federal elections. These suggestions have already led to some local action. After the speech, Nader was handed out enjoining students to meet together today from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Northside Hall at IUSB to organize ways to make a difference in the community.

Also, directly following the speech, student groups at IUSB met with students from Notre Dame, including members of the Progressive Student Alliance (PSA), to discuss activism on both campuses.

Tony Kingsolver, a student at IUSB, looked forward to participating in the meetings following Nader’s speech. “I think it’s going to be very positive,” Kingsolver said. Nader’s talk provided the right context for such a meeting, Kingsolver said. “I don’t think many people know what Nader’s all about until they come hear him.”

Aaron Kriendler, president of the PSA at Notre Dame, said, “Most people in our group would agree with Ralph Nader. They love the guy.”

Other students in attendance found Nader to be a motivating speaker. “He gets people off the couch,” said John Jalkanen, a student at Indiana University-Bloomington. “He helps me realize I do need to stop talking so much and actually start doing something.”

On an issue of some interest to Catholic social justice, Nader voiced support for a living wage, during a press conference just before his speech. He expressed concern that the current minimum wage is $2.05 less in real purchasing power than the minimum wage in 1968, while per capita productive output has doubled since 1968.

“That’s a pretty sad commentary on the nature of progress in a country with overall economic growth,” he said.

Of all the solutions he’s seen, Nader has found successful attempts by some cities to require that “any company that does business within the city has to pay (workers) a living wage.”

He touched on many other issues during his 2-hour speech, including alternative energy sources, excessive defense spending, child poverty, universal health care and trade unions.

In many cases, Nader portrayed these issues as a battle between corporate interests and the interests of the people. For example, he suggested that solar energy possibilities have not been explored because no powerful group can profit from controlling the sun the way some corporations control fossil fuels. “Not even Exxon can eclipse the sun,” he said.

Elected officials should be fighting for the people against concentrated corporate wealth and power on these issues, Nader said.

He criticized both the Democrats and the Republicans for failing to truly represent the people. In his characteristically irreverent and humorous style, he went so far as to call President Bush “a gigantic corporation running for president disguised as a human being” and Gore a “sooth-saying serpent.”

The Democrats and the Republicans are both controlled by corporate interests, according to Nader. As a result they are “morphing into one another.”

The parties combined forces with each other and their corporate sponsors, through the Commission on Presidential Debates, to keep third-party candidates Nader and Buchanan out of the debates and the corresponding publicity, he said.

As far as prospects for the 2004 presidential election, Nader said it is too early to know if he will run. But he has been involved in building up the Green party in anticipation of the 2002 local, state and Congressional elections.

“We’re having fundraisers at which all PAC’s (political action committees), corporations and soft money are excluded,” said Nader. “So we’ve just individu­als contributing a few bucks to make this a grass roots party.”

Topic of Discussion:

Consumer advocate and 2000 presidential candidate Ralph Nader urged students to take an active role in democracy.
By ANNE MARIE
MATTINGLY
Senior Staff Writer

ST. LUIS

Some considered themselves to be longstanding Notre Dame women's basketball fans, while others admitted getting caught up in the excitement of a potential national title. Some camped out in the Joyce Center to purchase the coveted Final Four tickets, while others made the journey to St. Louis not knowing whether they'd be able to get into the Savvis Center. They represented different classes, different residence halls and different degrees of sports knowledge. But all came to be a part of the magic.

Standing Room Only

When an arena usher tried to calm the small Notre Dame student section and persuade the ticket-hungry fans to have a seat during Friday's Final Four game against Connecticut, one student asked her, "Where on my ticket does it say I have to sit?"

Though they represented only a fraction of the Notre Dame student body and an even smaller proportion of the 22,500 in attendance at the NCAA women's basketball Final Four, the Notre Dame students who made the 360-mile trek to St. Louis were impossible to ignore. Eighty minutes on the floor of St. Louis' Savvis Center stood between them and the 2001 National Championship, and for 80 minutes that Section 106 stood with them.

"I think we really tried to get us to sit down, but there is no way that Notre Dame students would ever sit down during an athletic event, so I was just expecting that we were going to stand, and that wasn't even something that crossed our mind," said sophomore Kristen Nebel of Friday's game against Connecticut.

Even if they had crossed their minds, it's unlikely that these students would have been able to get tickets this late and learn how to stay in their seats. After all, students who have attended "every game (he) possibly could have this year," bundled up and slept after the team's Elite Eight victory over Vanderbilt in Denver. Instead, Wright found himself standing the only way that Notre Dame students could see the game and the student section was empty.

"I came to the game not as the mascot but as a superfan of the Fighting Irish women's basketball team," said Michael Brown, the 2000-01 Varsity Letterman. "People doubted them, but guess what. They did. Let's go Irish!" he said.

Smith believes that it is in part the confidence of the fans that helped the team to pull off its record-breaking comeback.

"I think that our attitude carries onto the team, and therefore, that's why they won," he said.

Packing the House

But despite the turnout for this year's tournament, women's basketball fans on campus enjoyed this kind of support from students or from the South Bend community.

"We used to be able to have socials with 100 people, and now we don't even have room," said Kaye Kale, a South Bend resident who has been following the team since 1991. "Now we can't even do the table. We have to just get out of there. We've had, for the first time, two full houses. People, really people, know that women's basketball is fun."

Phyllis Smallwood, who became a Notre Dame women's basketball fan six years ago, noted that support has continued to increase over the past several years.

"In the last six years, it's gone from probably 900 to 1,000 to 5,000, and it keeps going up every time," she said. "It's wonderful."

"I think that our attitude carries onto the team, and therefore, that's why they won," he said.

Kaleb attributes the growing number of fans in part to recruiting of new fans by current ones.

"That's how we've built a base. We've all gone out and talked to people. You know, you've got to go to games," he said.

But attendance and student enthusiasm still isn't at the level that many of these die-hard fans would like to see.

"The students are not coming out, and that discourages me because you get all these people from South Bend, LaPorte, Rochester, all around coming to see the game and the student section is empty. That's not right," said Christine Frazier, who has attended women's basketball games since 1984 and who traveled to Cincinnati for the 1997 Final Four.

Kale said that student support this year was not as strong as in previous years, and that better coaching at the men's basketball games, as well as better attendance at men's basketball games, would help.

"It was really good for Connecticut, and it was really good for the first two NCAA games," she said. "I think it could be a lot better. I think they're missing a bit."

Wright agreed that his fellow students need to be at the Joyce Center for all the games, not just those that have been nationally advertised.

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Kale said that student support seems to be very good for the most important games, but that attendance at lesser-publicized games is sparse.

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Wright agreed that his fellow students need to be at the Joyce Center for all the games, not just those that have been nationally advertised.

"We do have Title IX equality issues and women are just as important as men," she said. Kale.

Frazier noted that she preferred women's basketball to men's and that better coaching at the high school level has increased women's skills to be similar to those of men.

Looking Ahead

But the fans are hopeful that this year's NCAA tournament success will win respect for women's basketball and draw more fans to the Joyce Center for women's games.

"I don't think there's enough students who come out and participate. They really don't," said Smallwood. "And I hope this will change their minds and more of them will come out."
Global poverty indicates class war involving us

The largest form of collective violence in our world is not war or crime. Imagine a violence that takes 20 to 40 years out of the lives of over a billion people. Imagine the violence of being forced to work 10 hours a day, every day, for wages that are inadequate to feed your family or provide decent housing. Imagine the violence of not being able to attend grade school or high school. Imagine your brothers and sisters dying from easily curable diseases. Try changing things and you might never see them again. Imagine being poor. Out of our world’s population of over six billion, there are several hundred million people who will never see this face. If they work long hours, it is for wages one hundred times larger than those of the world’s poor are. They can expect to live 80 years and enjoy a luxurious retirement. If they are worried about education, it is whether they will get into a prestigious private university. If sick, they are assured of being treated at public or private expense. Their place in the world is secure from the threats of the poor due to their hegemonic military and economic power. While in the United States they may only feel like middle or upper-middle class, they belong to the global rich.

There are several billion people in our world who are very poor and several hundred million who are very rich. The rich own or benefit from multinational corporations that are extracting primary resources (fruit, coffee, metals or oil) from the Third World. When the prices of primary resources (coffee, metals or oil) fall, the rich are assured of being treated at public or private expense. Their place in the world is secure from the threats of the poor due to their hegemonic military and economic power. While in the United States they may only feel like middle or upper-middle class, they belong to the global rich.

The Third World is stuck in a position of under-development, told to focus its energies on industries that are profitable and technologically advanced sectors of production. Third World manufacturing goods at sweat, sickness and ultimately the blood of the poor. My parents put me through middle school, high school, college and law school. While the profits of primary goods (coffee, metals or oil) fall, the rich are assured of being treated at public or private expense. Their place in the world is secure from the threats of the poor due to their hegemonic military and economic power. While in the United States they may only feel like middle or upper-middle class, they belong to the global rich.

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Benefits of cloning people

The recent debate on campus over cloning individuals reveals the narrow focus that bioethics is using to view human genome issues. The more critical question is how we serve the germplasm of whole races. Will it ever be possible to save the unique phenotypes of Kalahari Bushmen is gone. That is uncertain. How long will they be able to last? Who is doing the contributing?

Oxford, Miss.

Brandon Niemeyer

Daily Mississippian

I hope that each and every one of you are sitting down before you read what I have to say. Arnold Schwarzenegger (read: the muscular guy from Austria who blows up random buildings and manages to save the day) could be in charge of an entire state. Hang on, it’s Minnesota that is known only as the home of 10,000 lakes and the Mall of America, a laughing stock of the country when he won governor in 1998. Wee Herman and Chewbacca and the campaign trail, Schwarzenegger could be equally hysterical. At least he could stand up in front of women’s and children’s groups and profess his love for kids. “I was in kindergarten once,” Kids love that movie. Vote for me.

All of this really exposes a pathetic nature we Americans have: if you can be funny, you are anything, including governor of California. Why can’t Hollywood simply stay out of politics?

Oxf or d, Miss.

Yes, Hollywood actors are concerned with issues. But we all are.

To be honest, does anyone really care what Alec Baldwin or Charlton Heston think about gun control? I know Heston is the president of the NRA and all, but the only reason he was ever considered was because everyone knew he would bring in a lot of publicity.

We soon may be seeing Pee Wee Herman running for state Senate seats in California if Schwarzenegger is elected.

Though, when you look at it in a way, it’s not so surprising for a major political office is just like starring in a movie. Either way you’re regurgitating something someone else has told you to say.

This article first appeared in the University of Mississippi newspaper, the Daily Mississippian, and is reprinted here courtesy of that paper.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Moments make history. Sunday night against Purdue, the Notre Dame women's basketball team had a lot of moments — and made a lot of history. "It's the greatest moment in our basketball history at Notre Dame," head coach Muffet McGraw gushed to reporters following the women's first-ever NCAA basketball title.

But while Sunday night's moments were undeniably history in the making, the win was just one in a series of moments that have constructed a dream March Madness run for the Fighting Irish.

At left, head coach Muffet McGraw and team throw their hands up to celebrate Notre Dame's 68-66 championship win over Purdue Sunday.

Clockwise from top, page 11:
- Kelly Siemon scores over Alcorn State in Notre Dame's first round victory. From left to right, Siemon, Karen Swanson, Niele Ivey, and Imani Dunbar celebrate Notre Dame's Regional Final victory against Vanderbilt. Siemon battles for a rebound in the Sweet 16 against Utah.

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NOREEN GILLESPIE
2001 NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

SEASON RECORD: 34-2
BASEBALL

By JEFF BALTRUZAK
Assistant Sports Editor

It's easy to tell when Aaron Heilman is pitching just by glanc­
ing at the stands. Right behind home plate sits a contingent of major league scouts, each armed with a radar gun and a note­book, recording Heilman's every pitch and picking up his potential.

And they would not be disap­pointed. For the first game of a $5 million twin bill against Seton Hall Saturday at Jost Eck Stadium, Heilman turned in what has become a routine performance for him - a complete game shutout, allowing just four hits and striking out six in the seven­inning game. The Irish beat the Pirates 6-0 in the early game, and overturned a 6-1 victory in the nightcap.

Notre Dame backfielded the Pirates on Sunday afternoon by 5-3 margins in their respective 20-4-1, 5-2 in conference action.

After a pre-game ceremony honoring head coach Paul Martin's 600th win on Mar. 17, and his 1,000th game coached Thursday against Hillsdale College, the Irish started out early, erup­tiong for all six runs in the first three innings.

Ted Fox

Fox Sports — Almost

Almost spanked to break the Notre Dame career doubles mark of 61 previously held by Eric Danapilis (1993).

Stavisky showed that he has fully recovered from a hamstring injury earlier in the year, smacking the Pirates pitching staff for three hits and four RBIs. This went 3-fer-3 batting out of the two hole.

The Irish return to action Tuesday against Ball State at 3 p.m. at Chestnut Tree Farm with first pitch sched­uled for 5:05 p.m.

Irish earn respect, Blue Devils add to tradition

It's 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. The Notre Dame women's basketball team walked through the rafters that hung over the rim and headed up the stairs at the Old National Center where the Irish were to play their third game of the season against the Blue Devils. Conventional wis­dom would have us believe that Notre Dame simply lacked the talent to compete against one of the country's top teams.

However, no one ever said we wanted conventional wisdom.

So thank you, ladies, for that moment of truth.

The Irish bats would not be
dominated throughout the game, as Forzella continued his double stampede to break the Blue Devil career doubles mark of 61. The Irish returned to action Tuesday against Ball State at 3 p.m. at Chestnut Tree Farm with first pitch sched­uled for 5:05 p.m.
Associated Press

very interesting 40 minutes for the country in the preseason, teams considered the best in this season. A loss of starting center Carlos Battier made it through with only four well-documented problems, everyone," Olson said. "From the start of the year, they were Duke. "It's just a matter of relaxing, looking each other in the eye and saying, 'Hey, let's do the things we've done all year long and do it because we're Duke,'" Battier said. "We expect to do it at a high level." When it comes to stopping Duke, Olson's many concerns are justified.

The Blue Devils made the most 3-pointers (398) in NCAA history and lead the nation by making 10.6 a game. They're more relentless rebounders than most teams give them credit for, and they might have the best point guard in the country in Jason Williams. Arizona presents its own problems. All five starters average double-digits in points, and the Wildcats are versatile, able to run with teams that play that style and pound with big men. Laws said, "We were all aware after the first game that we had not played to our potential. So it was a matter of coming out and playing how we knew in the second game." Saint Mary's did just that. Senior Anne Senger started the second game, giving up only one earned run for the evening. The Belles took control offensively, scoring 10 runs to claim the 10-2 victory. With a 2-1 lead going into the fifth inning, the Belles took their lead with six runs in the fifth. They tacked on two more runs during the last two innings of the game.

Rachel Deer, Susan Kutz and Melissa Hayes each reached base three times during the weekend for the Belles. Deer claimed one double, while Kutz traveled to second twice. Martin claimed a homerun and a double on the weekend.

Saint Mary's will next face off against league competition Albion this Wednesday at 4 p.m. at home.
Champs

continued from page 20

her to make, and she shot it with a lot of confidence," McGraw said of Ratay's basket, her only points of the night. "I was just so pleased that she had the courage to take that shot."

Purdue forward Shereeka Wright was then fouled, hitting one of two free throws to put Purdue up 63-62. A Niele Ivey field goal with 2:06 left put Notre Dame up 64-63. After Notre Dame got the ball back, Katie Douglas answered with a steal. Douglas was fouled driving the lane, but still managed to convert the lay-up. She hit her free throw to give Purdue a 64-66 lead with 1:22 left. At the one minute mark, Ratay found Riley under the glass to tie the game at 66.

Following a Wright miss, Notre Dame got the ball back and called a timeout with 25.9 seconds remaining. "I knew it was going to come down to the final seconds," Wright said. "Notre Dame is a great team. We weren't going to back down and we thought we had it." The Irish let the clock wind down before Kelley Siemon threw a pass high into the air to Riley under the basket. Riley caught the ball and posted up. The Naismith player of the year drew a foul from Wright with 5.8 seconds remaining, setting up the game-winning shots. Douglas missed a jumper from the top the key with the clock winding down and Ratay grabbed the rebound to give Notre Dame its first championship in any sport since the 1995 women's soccer team took home a title. "We just wanted to keep them in front of us," Ivey said, "Katie Douglas took a critical shot and I was willing to do whatever I could for this team."

For Douglas, the game just wasn't meant to go into overtime. "I had a good look at the basket, the ball just didn't go down for me," Douglas said. "You have to give Notre Dame credit, they made it difficult for us." Riley was still stuck in her moment as the clock ticked off. "I really wasn't playing defense on that last play," she said. "I was watching the free throw go in. I looked down the court and Camille Cooper was standing there wide open, and that was my man. I just got lucky that Katie missed a shot."

Riley's teammate on the AP All-American first team, Douglas, led the Boilermakers with 18 points. Freshman forwards Shalahia Hurms and Wright each added 17 points for Purdue. Ivey scored 12 points, grabbed five rebounds and nabbed six steals for the Irish despite playing on a sore ankle that kept her out of practice Saturday.

"This is my team, I'm the captain," Ivey said. "This is my hometown and I was willing to do whatever I could for this team."

Hurms, Wright and Douglas joined Ivey and Riley on the All-Tournament team.

Forward Ericka Haney scored 13 crucial points for the Irish, putting the ball in from the top of the key as often as below the hoop. Siemon added 10 points for Notre Dame.

Just as Connecticut came out strong in the opening half of their semifinal game against Notre Dame, the Boilermakers opened up in force Sunday. Purdue grabbed 29 first-half rebounds to Notre Dame's 17, including a 13-5 advantage on the offensive glass. Six minutes into the first half, Douglas hit a 3-pointer to give Purdue their largest lead of the game — 16-5.

Then Riley took over. Notre Dame's All-American center scored 13 of her team's next 17 points, pulling the Irish within 25-22 with 6:15 left in the half. Then, with 4:14 remaining before the half, Riley committed her second foul of the game when she tagged Hums on a drive to the basket. McGraw kept her star senior on the bench for the remainder of the half.

Without Riley on the floor, Notre Dame managed to keep the gap at six points. Two Ivey lay-ins provided Notre Dame's four points, while Douglas and Wright each hit one field goal for Purdue to close the half with a 32-26 lead.

Junior Ericka Haney drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 68-66 win over Purdue. Haney scored 13 points to help the Irish to victory.

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Senior forward Kelley Siem on looks to dish the ball off to a teammate. Siemon scored 10 points and had a team-high six assists.

Irish
continued from page 20

We know the rest. Our parents know the rest. Heck, Sporting America knows the rest.

Who would have thought it? At a school where the two biggest sports are unquestionably football and spring football, the 2001 women’s basketball team made LeVecchin, Arraz and Gil seem insignificant.

At a school where females weren’t admitted until 1972, the 2001 women’s basketball team even garnered support from “old-school” Notre Dame men.

At a school where myth and folklore reign supreme, the 2001 women’s basketball team actually achieved a significant on-field moment.

Where have you gone Tony Rice? Where have you gone Lou Holtz? Where have you gone Frank Stam? I know. The women’s soccer squad won the national title in 1995. But this is by far the biggest win since Holtz’s 1988 team won the 11th football national championship.

Prior to the season, only the most diehard of Irish lovers would have predicted a national title.

At least one prominent coach thought your humble servant believed this was the year.

“I know you’re writing for Notre Dame and you want to write, you know, that I spent all summer worrying about Notre Dame,” Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said on Friday night. “The only thing I spent all summer worrying about was where my next beer and my next tan was coming from.”

Thanks for the quote, Geno. I knew you thought you would win the title. And why not? Connecticut returned its top eight scorers from the Huskies’ 2000 national championship team and added the nation’s top high school senior.

Last season, Connecticut had a 36-1 record, with the only blemish being a 72-71 loss on Feb. 2. Only three of the 36 victories were decided by less than 10 points.

So it was a safe bet that the Storrs would celebrate once again on April Fool’s Day 2001.

As the season went on, Geno’s preseason arrogance shrunk.

And Notre Dame’s new darling beliefs they could actually compete with the mighty Huskies.

“I know we talked about it (winning a national title) last year,” McGrath said. “But it was sort of a hollow goal. I don’t think the team was ready to achieve that. I don’t think they were mature enough, I don’t think they worked hard enough.”

After the Jan. 15 victory over Connecticut, Muffet and her Miracles spoke a lot about how this was “a year of destiny.”

After every ensuing game, someone would refer to 2001 as the “perfect season.”

Then came this weekend. Down 12 at the half against Connecticut. If it was last year, forget about it. It was safer to bet that Jim Sanson would actually connect on an over-40-yard field goal than to put your money on a Notre Dame comeback.

A light game against Purdue? If it was last year, Riley would have found out and the Irish would have been wound tighter than a Britney Spears top.

But instead, there was Riley at the free throw line with 5.8 seconds remaining, with the game tied.

The first shot grazed the front rim and fell through the hoop, giving the Irish only their third lead of the night.

Moments later, a Purdue-based reporter sitting beside me almost fell out of his chair.

“It pays to have the Big Guy on your side sometimes,” he said.

It also pays to have the Big Girl. And when Purdue’s Katie Douglas decided she would not perform a Sue Bird impersonation, it was time for the cameras to capture the scene.

The hug. The kisses. The tears.

Niele Ivey also wanted to relive the moments. So the senior point guard, who ended her five-year career just minutes away from her home, grabbed a Sony camcorder from her boyfriend, Irish receiver Javin Hunter.

Around 9:55 p.m., after the awards ceremony, after the final strand of net had been cut, Ivey finally headed towards the locker room.

She was the last player to leave the court.

“I can’t wait to watch it again,” Ivey said “It seems like it all happened so fast.”

Now it’s over, this wacky season is over.

And Notre Dame, Our Dame comeback.

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Irish draw comparisons to Husky championship team

By TIM CASEY
Assistant Sports Editor

The Observer • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EDITION

Monday, April 2, 2001

ST. LOUIS

Is this the beginning of a new dynasty in women's basketball?

It's still too early to tell. Notre Dame loses five seniors, including three starters, but has one of the nation's top five recruiting classes heading to South Bend in the fall.

But look at the following comparisons between the 1995-96 championship team and this year's Notre Dame squad.

The Huskies won their first national title in 1980-81 when both were at St. Joseph's.

In the 1995 Final Four, Connecticut defeated Stanford 87-60 as the Huskies limited Stanford's star guard Kate Starbird to two points in 26 minutes. Starbird shot 1-for-5 from the field, including 0-for-3 on three-pointers.

In the 2001 Final Four, Notre Dame defeated Connecticut 90-85 as Irish Connecticut star guard Diana Taurasi to four points in 31 minutes. Taurasi shot 1-for-5 from the field, including 0-for-3 on three-pointers.

"I've been there a few times. Anytime I go up there I get the whole Irish fever going up there," Kelly Komara Purdue guard

Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma had no excuses after Notre Dame's 90-75 win on Friday night.

"The Huskies entered the game without two All-American players. On Feb. 1, forward Svetlana Abrosimova tore ligaments in her left knee. On March 6, in the Big East tournament final against the Irish, Shea Ralph tore the ACL in her left knee.

Both players missed the rest of the season after their injuries."

"If Shea and Vontez were as big a reason as you'd want to make it, we wouldn't have got here and we would have got blown out of the beginning," Auriemma said.

"I had it in us to win this game," he added.

Since Abrosimova went down, Connecticut had a 15-0 record and entered the NCAA with the nation's top ranked team. Even without Ralph, the Huskies beat their first four NCAA opponents by an average of 40 points per game.

On Friday night, Connecticut led Notre Dame 49-37 at halftime and was up by 15 points early in the second half.

"All year long we struggled with putting people away, just burying them like we used to in the old days," Auriemma said.

"This team has such a laid-back personality trait. Every one of them. There's not one person out there who just take away those two (Ralph and Abrosimova). There's not one person out there who just wants to rip your throat out. They're all like 'Hey, isn't life great. We're up, shots go in, they don't go in. Life's a beach.'"

Shereka Wright and Vontez Duff

The two best athletes in the Copperas Cove (Texas) High School Class of 2000 may turn out to be two of the best college athletes in India in the next couple years.

Purdue freshman forward Shereka Wright has known current Notre Dame defensive back Vontez Duff since the seventh grade. When the duo left Copperas Cove, they were local legends.

"As a senior, Wright led Copperas Cove to a No. 7 national ranking and was named the USA Today Player of the Year. Duff played running back in high school. He rushed for 3,401 yards and 38 touchdowns during his last two seasons.

Both players made immediate impacts in college. Wright, who started in last night's national championship game, averaged 9.7 points and 4.5 rebounds this season. She was named to the Big Ten All-Freshman Team.

Duff made 77 special teams appearances in 2000 and was one of three freshman to earn a monogram. He is expected to compete for a starting corner back slot this spring.

"Duff was the stud in high school," Wright recalled.

"Everybody was like 'Vontez is over Vontez.' But he was a great person."

Journalist and senior editor for Essence Magazine, Joan Morgan is a feminist writer who writes about race and gender. She is the author of "When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost—My Life as a Hip-Hop Feminist." She will plunge into heated issues such as sexism in hip-hop and the crippling myth of the "endangered black man" and its equally destructive counterpart, the myth of the "strong black woman."

Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, Sisters of Nefertiti, and the Feminist Collective.

Joan Morgan TONIGHT! 7:00 PM Carroll Auditorium, SMC
Irish defeat Huskies to advance to championship game

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Sports Editor

ST. LOUIS

Niele Ivey gave new meaning to the phrase “Home is where the heart is” Friday.

With the Irish trailing the Huskies by 12 heading into the locker room, St. Louis native Niele Ivey refused to let the Irish go quietly into the night.

The 5-foot-7 guard led the Irish with 21 points as Notre Dame doubled up Connecticut 53-26 in the second half to top the Huskies 90-75. The Irish, who were down by 16 points at various points in the opening half, set a record for the best comeback ever in a Final Four game.

“I think there was a lot of praying going on in the stands at halftime,” said Irish coach Muffet McGraw, who may have noticed Notre Dame President Father Edward Malloy in the bleachers. “We showed tremendous character that second half.”

Ivey would not allow her hometown fans see her team fall. She finished with three assists and five steals to go along with her team-high 21, marking her third game with 20 points as Notre Dame doubled up Connecticut.

“Ivey surpassed the 20-point mark,” Riley said of the locker room trailing the defending national champion Huskies 49-26 in the second half. Ivey took the ball across the 20-point mark.

Ivey suffered a sprained ankle with 5:47 remaining, but returned triumphantly with just over three minutes remaining.

“My heart was in my throat, I had knots in my stomach,” McGraw said. “I didn’t want to move. I was sort of paralyzed on the sideline wanting to run out and comfort her but not wanting to plug her in and get her out there.”

And when I saw it wasn’t her knee it was definitely a sigh of relief.”

Alicia Ratay added 20 for the Irish, while Ericka Haney finished with 15 and a team-high 10 rebounds.

The Irish hit a NCAA semifinal record eight of 11 attempts from the 3-point line. Ratay hit four treys, while Ivey converted on three.

“Dous character that second half,” Riley said. “I put up a couple of bad shots. I needed to post up bigger.”

Riley came back with a vengeance in the second. She scored 15 points in 20 minutes to lead the Irish romp. Riley finished with 21 points, 10 rebounds and five blocked shots.

The Irish hung in with the Huskies until late in the opening half. Ivey took the ball cross-court to close the Connecticut lead at 28-22.

After a media timeout, the Irish started a 15-5 run, leading by as many as 16 points with a minute remaining in the half.

An Alicia Ratay 3-pointer with seven seconds remaining closed the gap to 35-28.

The Huskies went on a 15-5 run, leading by as many as 28 points with a minute remaining in the half.

The victory gave the Irish a 2-1 edge in the season series with the Huskies. Notre Dame topped Connecticut 92-76 on Jan. 15 in South Bend before Connecticut took the Big East Championship on March 6.

Sixteen years later & you still think you’re king!-Jill and Colleen

Happy 22nd, Brian-Jill and Colleen

The Samples are Coming!
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$10 tickets available at LaFortune Box office now!
April 5th
Stepan Center
9:00pm

www.nd.edu/sub
By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Editor

It was a half hour before game time, and something unusual was happening.

In dorms across the campus, students were already securing their seats on the couches, a spectacle usually reserved for afternoon games.

One by one, televisions were switched over to ESPN for the women's basketball national championship game.

In small groups of three to five, people slowly trickled into the LaFortune Ballroom and gathered around one of four televisions. By the time the game started, about 800 students were packed into the student center to watch Notre Dame take on Purdue. Student Activities set up a 12-by-14 foot screen in the LaFortune Ballroom, where most of the students watched the game. But directly underneath the Ballroom, Students pulled couches and chairs around the two big screen televisions and piled as close to the television as possible. Further down the hallway, some students had homework spread out over their feet as they watched the game.

"It's fun to watch it in an environment like this," said freshman Dan Dennis. "It's almost like being in the game."

Many students wore shirts with "Beat Purdue" written across the front. The shirts were for Irish head coach Muffet McGraw. "As ESPN showed replays of Purdue's final possession, a few students began to sing the Fight Song. Soon, everyone in the LaFortune Ballroom was singing as loud as they could. Fitfully, the final words to the song were "Onward to victory."

By now, the few students who had brought homework had put it away in their backpacks. "I can't get anything done, it's just too loud," one student told her friend.

Half time

"We're not playing too well, but I'm not discouraged yet," O'Conner said. After all, the Irish were only down six points — they had trailed by 16 against Connecticut and still rallied to win by 15.

Some students stood up to head to Burger King or Tomasso's to grab some food before the second half started. But most stayed where they were, apparently afraid of losing their seat to someone standing in the back.

17:01 left in the second half

Kelley Siemon hit a short five-foot jumper to give the Irish their first lead of the evening, and Notre Dame fans stood up and celebrated. But the lead was short lived as Purdue rattled off eight unanswered points to retake the lead. Purdue's surge didn't shake the faith of the Irish faithful.

"I know we're going to win, I just know it," one particular student said.

8:49 left in the second half

Riley hit a jumper, was fouled, and sunk the ensuing free throw — to the delight of those watching in South Bend. "You can't handle the Ruth!" one student sitting near the television shouted.

4:00 left in the second half

Alicia Ratay drilled Notre Dame's first — and only — 3-pointer of the night to tie the game at 62. As she shot the ball, students stood up, raised their hands, and exploded when the ball sailed through the net. It prompted foot-stomping in the Ballroom that could be heard down below on the first floor.

"This is the most nerve-racking experience of my life," said Brianna McNicholas. "It's so exciting," added Tara Dane. "Words can't describe it."

5.8 seconds left in the second half

The Player of the Year stood on the free-throw line with the scored tied at 66. She calmly shot the ball into the air, and as it swished through the net, the LaFortune Ballroom broke out into cheers.

"I've never cared about women's basketball before in my life, and I have goose bumps," said freshman Adam Miglore.

"This is as close to being religious as I get," freshman Dan Brunner said.

When the Purdue timeout was over, Riley stepped back up to the free throw line and scored her 28th point of the night. Across LaFortune, those gathered in attendance stood on their feet or climbed on top of chairs to get a clear glimpse of the television as Purdue drove down the court with one final chance to tie the game.

The Boilermakers passed the ball around to their All-American, Kelly Douglas, who took an off-balance jumper from 15 feet away. The shot came up short.

LaFortune ballroom was singing as loud as they could. Fitfully, the final words to the song were "Onward to victory."
EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON
THIS DAY! Lina Minnelli, James Taylor, Darryl Strawberry, Andrew Young, Courtney B. Vance...

Happy Birthday! If you play your cards wisely this year, the net will be handy. Personal relationships may suffer if you spend too much time chasing after the attractive dollar. You should try to find a balance and protect what you already have. Push the envelope, and you may lose out where your heart盼望.

Your numbers: 5, 19, 25, 34, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 20)
Romantic encounters will be stressful, especially if you have more than one on the go. Many business/pleasure matters will go well, but highly dangerous as well. You must make some serious choices before you run your reputation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Don't let negative friends or relatives cause you to question yourself or your goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Don't be satisfied. Confident about your professional direction. Don't let negative friends or relatives cause you to question yourself or your goals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You've got a smart way of doing things and will amaze everyone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You need a challenge. Involved in competitive sports. You need a challenge.

LIBRA

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

SOPHIE'S CHOICE: Lina Minnelli, James Taylor, Darryl Strawberry, Andrew Young, Courtney B. Vance...

CANCER (June 21-July 22):
A little better. Stress is probably at the root of your problem. Rest will be necessary.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):
Don't put off a doctor's appointment if you wish to spare yourself further embarrassment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):
You must make some serious choices before you ruin your reputation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23):
Love can be hot as long as you avoid getting trapped in a one-sided relationship. You will be happy and fulfilled when you come to your fitness program Push yourself a little harder if you don't want to gain back those extra pounds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):
Don't exaggerate about your talents. You may find yourself embarrassed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):
Don't let negative friends or relatives cause you to question yourself or your goals.

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The Notre Dame baseball team completed a three-game sweep of the Seton Hall Pirates this weekend at Frank Eck Stadium.

Get the broom out

Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw hoists the National Championship trophy at the Savvis Center in St. Louis following Notre Dame's 68-66 victory over Purdue. McGraw, the AP coach of year, led the Irish to their first-ever national title.

Riley's two free throws with 5.8 seconds seals win

ST. LOUIS
Ruth Riley hit the two most important free throws of her life to give Notre Dame a 68-66 victory over state rival Purdue and its first ever women's basketball national championship.

"I can't describe it," said Irish coach Muffet McGraw. "I don't think I've ever been this excited in my life."

Riley reflected on her magical moment like the quintessential Indiana girl. She led the Irish with 28 points and 14 rebounds in the game to go along with a 10-of-14 performance from the free throw line and seven blocked shots.

"I talked all the time about the movie Hoosiers and that was my inspiration," Riley said. "All those free throws you practice for this moment."

Her coach was equally impressed.

"We have been a second half team all tournament long," McGraw said. "For Ruth to make those two free throws for us to come back from halftime deficits two times in the Final Four — I can't say enough about this team."

The Irish overcame a 12-point deficit in their semifinal win against Connecticut. With four minutes remaining, Irish 3-point specialist Alicia Ratay nailed Notre Dame's first trey of the night to tie the game at 62.

"It was such a big shot for us and it was a great moment," McGraw said.

Muffet and Her Miracles earn first-ever national title

ST. LOUIS
She should retire. Right here, atop the podium near the middle of the Savvis Center court, Muffet McGraw should grab the ESPN microphone from Michele Tafoya, wave at the Notre Dame cheering section and proclaim, "I quit. It can't get any better than this."

The basketball portion of my life has reached its peak," McGraw said. It's not a bad thing to have in your memories, either.

Whoever scheduled "Hoosiers" on ESPN Classic right before Notre Dame-Purdue on the mother station should be given a raise this morning.

"An Indiana farm girl knocking down two game-winning free throws for a title?" Riley said. "Somebody asked me what my favorite part of that movie was and I said, 'when Ollie hit those two free throws,'" Riley said. "I didn't have to understand them but..."

Career-wise, I think it [a national title] is a nice thing to have on your resume," McGraw said.

It's not a bad thing to have in your memories, either.

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