Rathert's issue not resolved

By SARAH NESTOR
Student Editor

Saint Mary's suspension of security officer Helinda Rathert on Nov. 7 remains unresolved, Rathert said Thursday.

The officer is on an unpaid suspension from the College pending the provision of information to be given to Human Resources Director Debra Kelly.

"As far as I know, at this point I am on unpaid suspension but I expect the College to terminate her within the next couple of weeks," Rathert said.

Rathert said that Kelly suspended her because Rathert's college transcripts were missing from her personnel file and until there was verification of Rathert's degree from Indiana University Southeast, Rathert claimed the College told her she would be suspended from her duties.

According to the disciplinary procedures in the College's employee handbook, "preternaturally standards of performance and conduct are established in all departments of the College and when an employee does not observe them, the standard, either through lack of knowledge or with intent, the supervisor will react to these situations by using a system of progressive discipline.

The handbook also further states that "the normal steps in this disciplinary system are: oral warning, written reprimand, disciplinary layoff and termination."

In Rathert's case, the College is investigating whether or not Rathert misrepresented herself to the

see SECURITY/Page 3

Students cheer for the Irish at a home game against Michigan earlier in the season. Saturday's football game against Rutgers will be the last home game for seniors.

Davie would run — straight down the middle." Many seniors said they are upset because they have only had one year with Notre Dame football while under the direction of Willingham and his staff.

"I'm glad that he was here for my last year," Mosesso said. "I wish I was going to be around to see more of the program."

Though they appreciate being a part of this era, students said, they still have unforgettable memories from their first three undergraduate seasons.

"The Boston College game my freshman year where the quarterback running into the end zone was the highlight," said senior Kyla Davis.

Senior Dan Hoople also chose a freshman year game — the Nebraska game — as his favorite.

"Their fans redid out the Stadium, but the game was definitely one to remember as well," Hoople said.

Other seniors, however, could not pinpoint a specific game as their favorite.

"All of them are Wallace's favorite, she said. "Because I always go out to the games at my friends.

Contact Jetaun Davis at davisj7@nd.edu

Lawsuit threatens ACE

By SHEILA FLYNN
News Writer

A current federal lawsuit challenges a program (ACE) that provides federal funding to Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program is unconstitutional, blurring the separation of church and state.

The suit was filed Oct. 7 on behalf of the American Jewish Congress (AJC) in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. against the Corporation for National and Community Service, which directs the AmeriCorps program that finances these programs.

The government is paying for religious education, and it is this controversial allocation of funds which is spurring the protest.

The ACE program is being handled by Irvin B. Nathan, Daniel Piiriser and Sarah Kofler of the Washington law firm Arnold & Porter.

"We have made it clear from the outset that we do not object to the program [ACE] as such, provided they're only teaching secular subjects," said Marc Stern, assistant executive director of the AJC in New York.

But the problem, Stern said, is that ACE volunteers teach religion. The lawsuit seeks an injunction against further use of federal funds to finance such religious instruction in sectarian schools.

ACE participants commit to a year of full-time service, teaching in underprivileged Catholic schools across the southern United States.
INSIDE COLUMN

Names in a mental Rolodex

"... hi. My name's Will, I'm from Siegfried, originally from Ohio. I like to read. I like to write too. In other words, I'm considering PLS."

I've lost track of how many times I've said that phrase, or some variant of it, over my usually short time here under the Dome. What I do know, though, is that each time I said that, I supposedly made a new acquaintance. The thing is, my brain has the memory retention capability of an amoeba or some other one-celled icky thing they yell at us about in biology.

So if your name's Katie, not to pick on Katie, but anyway, you're probably listed somewhere in my broken mental Rolodex as "that one girl whose name starts with K." Obviously, this leads to problems when dealing with more than one person whose name begins with K, like Katie, Katia and Katie. (Are there other names that start with a K?) Since I don't think the University will limit enrollment to 26 people anytime soon, I guess I'm a lost cause on that front.

Maybe the key is trying to memorise all screen names. That'll work just great. I can go around calling everyone starting "Dipling@372296/3434" and "spekygl@253929" all the time. What are those people who make themselves "firstnamelastname" just because they can try to do, confuse me?

Then there's the people who apparently know me from somewhere or other, maybe from "that one class/most-intriguing/curious activity," assuming of course that I remember that exact same instance in time when we both regurgitated our "vital information" as if it were toxic and would devour our insides if we didn't spill it. I'm beginning to think that's the real reason behind acid reflux. At any rate, it's really pretty rare to remember all that stuff, let alone call it up on demand.

So if you're going to class, at a party, wherever — and the best friend of the roommate of the person who dated the person you sat next to in freshman year comes along, don't be astonished when they don't jump up and down screaming your name at first sight. We'd actually run. But otherwise, give 'em a break and let them slide by with an "ah, uh, hey, howsaying?" at first before breaking a chair over their head and reintroducing yourself. Maybe I'm just vainly hoping that by the time I'm a junior or something, people won't expect me to know the names of all 10,000 or so people here, but hey, a naive freshman can dream, right?

I hope so, because I need to get to study group with Irish-leprechaun38598342.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Will Packett at wpuckett@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publicica

and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, occasionally make errors and we will make changes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.
Security
continued from page 1

College, which is subject to immediate dismissal, as it would be considered fraud in securing employment.

"It was unfortunate that this had to occur. It could have been handled in a more professional manner. It could have been as simple as a request for college transcripts but that is not how Debbie Kelly handled the situation," Rathert wrote in a statement.

Following Rathert's suspension, the security officer was also banned from campus. The security officer received a letter on Nov. 12 from Kelly confirming the College's "suspension and notice of absolute prohibition from campus.

"The decisions that interim security director Rosemarie Harris, human resources and administrators make are to benefit the students. They would not make a decision that would negatively impact students," College spokesman Melanie Engler said. "They keep the campus' best interest in mind.

Rathert was originally given until Nov. 13 to provide the College with the missing information, but was granted an extension by Kelly. According to Rathert, she sought an extension so she could seek legal counsel and hired Shawn Friedman of the Friedman and Associates law firm based in LaPorte, Ind.

Rathert claims Friedman contacted College Counsel Kathy Brickley on Nov. 18, to turn over Rathert's transcripts.

But Engler said Rathert's transcript still has to be turned over to the human resources department.

"(Friedman) told them we have a degree but they told them they don't want me back. They told him they would negotiate a severance package but (accepting) a severance package keeps you from suing," Rathert said.

Rathert has filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and plans to file a lawsuit against the College based on claims that sexual harassment and discrimination, unequal wages and a hostile work environment exist at the College.

Kelly refused to comment on the situation.

Contact Sarah Nestor at
sne99877@saintmarys.edu

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Debaters place high in St. Louis

By MEGHAN MARTIN
News Writer

The Notre Dame Debate Team achieved unprecedented success last weekend at the Gateway Invitational debate tournament at Washington University in St. Louis.

The 12 members who participated in the event, led by second-year law student Kate Huetteman, the team’s director, debated in two-person teams against pairings from other colleges and universities from the Midwest and the south in both varsity and novice divisions.

After nine rounds of 40-minute Parliamentary-style varsity debates, two of Notre Dame’s five teams emerged victorious in the final championship round.

“It was basically complete domination,” said Huetteman, who is in her second year of coaching Notre Dame’s team. “We came home with two huge sweepstakes trophies.”

In a typical final-round scenario, the two competing teams hail from opposing schools, and one of the competing teams is the defending champion. This time, there was no question which school would be awarded the points. “We didn’t have to debate the final round, because we really don’t debate against our own team,” Huetteman said.

The final round was called off, team points were tallied and the Irish debaters were declared victors.

“At this tournament, we got 26 points towards the National Parliamentary Debate Association’s (NPDA) National Sweepstakes,” Huetteman said, referring to the governing body of college-level debate. At each regional tournament, held variously throughout the academic year at schools across the country, teams compete in six preliminary rounds of debate before breaking into octafinal, quarterfinal, semifinal, and final rounds, each of which they are allotted a set number of points for strong performances.

Senior political science major Maureen Gottlieb and her partner, fellow senior Victoria Fetterman, made up one of the two Notre Dame pairings that made it to the final round, meeting fellow Notre Dame students Meghan Callahan-Peters, a sophomore, and Chris Gallo, a senior and the team’s president, in top standing. Both teams were declared unanimous victors by all three judges in their respective semifinal rounds.

Contact Meghan Martin at mmartin@nd.edu

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ARTHUR VELASQUEZ, MEMBER, NOTRE DAME BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As members of the Notre Dame community, we are concerned about the struggle between your company, Azteca Foods and its workers. Your union workers went on strike in Chicago on September 30. They wanted to replace the union that did not represent their interests with a democratic union that they controlled. Your company refused to allow a federal mediator to help resolve this dispute.

While we recognize the troubles one may have in running a highly profitable business, shouldn’t workers be treated with dignity and respect? Shouldn’t they be allowed to choose their own union which isn’t controlled by lenders that could care less what they think?

The Catholic Church has a strong moral teaching on the rights of labor and the benefits of unions. The Church recognizes that unions are vital to the dignity of work and necessary for the appreciation of the value of each person. Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical Centesimus Annus (1992), stated, that, “the freedom to join trade unions and the effective action of unions...are meant to deliver work from the mere condition of a commodity and to guarantee its dignity.”

Workers have the right to organize and to be at the bargaining table to negotiate their contracts without the threat of loss of wages, benefits, or their jobs. In Pacem in Terris (1963), Pope John XXIII wrote that, “It is clear that (the human person) has a right by the natural law not only to an opportunity to work, but also to go about that work without coercion. To these rights is certainly joined the right to demand working conditions in which physical health is not endangered, and young people’s normal development is not impaired...Furthermore, and this must be especially emphasized, the worker has a right to a wage determined according to conditions of justice and sufficient therefore to give (workers) and their families a standard of living in keeping with the dignity of the human person.”

The value of unions is recognized in Notre Dame’s code of conduct, which all licensees are required to follow, which has a clause stating that companies must allow its workers to organize. Unions play an essential role in benefiting workers, raising their standards of living, and improving their working conditions, while strengthening the community.

We are asking you to accept the requests made by your workers, recognize the union, UE Local 1159, and allow your workers to be at the bargaining table with Spanish language translation provided.

We are also asking that you allow the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to have access to your plant when a request is made.

We ask you to cease threatening your workers because of their legal picketing and strike. We ask you to stop photographing your workers while they pray at their picket line with a priest.

Please work promptly to develop a contract that benefits both Azteca and the workers who have made the company what it is today.

The Progressive Student Alliance
www.nd.edu/~psa
psa@nd.edu
US authorities capture al-Qaida’s Gulf chief

Associated Press
WASHINGTON
Al-Qaida leader Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, the network's chief of operations in the Persian Gulf, has been captured, senior U.S. officials said Thursday.

Al-Nashiri, a suspected mastermind of the USS Cole bombing in October 2000, was taken in an undisclosed foreign country earlier this month and is now in U.S. custody, officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

He is the highest-ranking al-Qaida operative captured since the CIA, FBI and Pakistani authorities captured Osama bin Laden's operations chief, Abu Zubaydah, in Peshawar, Pakistan, in March.

U.S. officials had recently said a senior member of al-Qaida had been caught, but they had declined to identify him. On Sunday, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said the government had been providing information to his interrogators.

Al-Nashiri is suspected in a number of other al-Qaida terror plots, including the 1998 East Africa embassy bombings. He is believed to have recruited his cousin, Azzam, to train in Afghanistan and serve as one of the suicide bombers in the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

Al-Nashiri, born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, is believed to be in his mid-30s and a longtime associate of bin Laden.

U.S. intelligence believes he was behind the Oct. 6 attack on the French tanker off the coast of Yemen that left one crewman dead, said an official with U.S. defense officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

Al-Nashiri oversaw the purchase and transport of explosives, the leasing of safe houses and the planning and financing of attacks, the official said.

He has also traveled under a number of other names, including Umar Mohammed al-Harazi and Abu Bilal al-Makki. U.S. officials believe he was in Gazni, Afghanistan, around the time the war began there in October 2001. He is thought to have moved to Pakistan where the Taliban fell, and he may have gone to Yemen in recent months. Some tribemen in Yemen, however, said he had gone to Malaysia.

In the Cole attack, U.S. officials say al-Nashiri was involved with a number of plots targeting the U.S. Navy in the past three years.

He is thought to be behind a nearly identical attempt to bomb another destroyer, the USS The Sullivans, nine months before the Cole attack, at Aden. That attack failed when the suicide boat, overloaded with explosives, sank.

Most recently, he has been tied to a failed al-Qaida plot to bomb U.S. and British warships crossing the Strait of Gibraltar. U.S. officials have said in June, three Saudis were arrested in Morocco in connection with that plot.

Loire Triplet, the wife of USS Cole sailor Andrew Triplet, and her 4-year-old daughter, Savannah, at the USS Cole Memorial at Norfolk Naval Base on Oct. 12, 2003, in Norfolk, Va. Seventeen USS Cole sailors were killed in a terrorist attack October 12, 2000 in Yemen. Two years later, U.S. authorities believe they might have captured the man who organized the operation.

He is also suspected of being behind plans to bomb the 5th Fleet Headquarters in Bahrain, a plot revealed in January by another top al-Qaida operative captured by Pakistan after fleeing Afghanistan.

NIGERIA

50 killed as angry mob protests Miss World article

Associated Press
Lagos
Angry mobs stabbbed and set fire to bystanders Thursday in riots that erupted after a newspaper suggested Islam's founding prophet would have approved of the Miss World beauty pageant. At least 50 people were killed.

The violence erupted after a newspaper published an article questioning whether the Miss World pageant, to be held Dec. 7 in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, would attract tourists.

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Lawsuit continued from page 1

During the summers of these two years, the ACE workers study at Notre Dame in its Master of Education program. During the school years, they live together with small communities of other ACE participants, and the program encourages the fostering of spirituality in this living environment, advocating attendance at daily Mass and prayer services. 

ACE volunteers teach secular subjects and religion, but the program maintains that teachers are not paid by AmeriCorps for time spent teaching theological subjects. 

"Some ACE teachers do not teach religion, but some do and we firmly believe that they do that apart from any teaching theological subjects," said Matt Storin, associate vice president of news and information at the University. 

In a statement, the University said, "This action has claimed, but it surfaced since the beginnings of ACE and because it is providing the impact in disadvantaged schools throughout the nation and because it is providing the nation with a stream of highly educated and committed young teachers at a time of great demand for them," the University's statement said. 

Storin said, "We feel we have a very strong argument to make in the court.

Recent legislation supports this confidence. Several cases barring federal funding for education in nonpublic schools were overturned within the past few years.

In 1997, the Supreme Court reversed two previous 1985 decisions in Aguistin v. Felton. The cases, filed in Michigan and New York, disputed the use of state money to pay teachers working in nonpublic schools, and the original decision deemed this financial situation unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court overturned the rulings in 1997, however, stating, "What has changed since we decided Ball and Aguilar is our understanding of the criteria used to assess whether aid to religion has an impermissible effect." In 2000 and 2002, the trend continued toward allowing slight financial transgressions of the separation between church and state. Several Supreme Court decisions ruled that state subsidizing of non-public education was constitutional, as long as aid was provided in an evenhanded manner.

Despite all this support for religious education funding, however, Storin said the AJP will still push to ensure that "teachers not be allowed to teach religion" in federally-funded programs.

"I think we have a good shot," Stern said, "But I've learned over the years not to get too confident."

Contact Sheila Flynn at sflynn2@nd.edu

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Friday (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) from the new James Bond 007 movie, opening in theaters, November 22nd.
In Brief

U.S. economic stabilization predicted

A yardstick of U.S. economic activity was unchanged in October, holding a decline that began in June and suggesting the nation's poor financial health may be stabilizing.

Separately, the Labor Department said Thursday that weekly jobless claims fell to their lowest level in four months.

The news helped the Dow rise more than 222 points to close at its highest level in three months.

The Dow closed at 8,845.15, up 2.6 percent, after its biggest one-day gain since Oct. 11. The Nasdaq had an even bigger percentage gain, rising 3.4 percent to 1,467.55.

The nation's gradually improving employment outlook helped offset weaker consumer spending and declines in manufacturing activity.

Leading service provider to hike rates

MCI, the nation's second-largest long-distance company, will raise rates sharply on some calling plans beginning Dec. 1, a move that analysts said was an attempt to stem customer defections.

The move defies predictions by MCI's competitors that WorldCom, which filed for bankruptcy protection in July amid an accounting scandal, would slash prices in an already depressed telecommunications market if it's allowed to emerge from bankruptcy.

Still, rival AT&T Corp. had harsh comments for MCI.

"Cash-strapped United Airlines, running out of time to avoid taking its restructuring into bankruptcy court, stepped up its campaign Thursday for government help."

A day after a critical meeting with the airline's top executives, the Air Transportation Stabilization Board's offices in Washington, urging that the cash guarantee be granted.

Representatives of the pilots, machinists, flight attendants, salaried employees and management groups all spoke briefly with staff members of the ATS to reprise the importance of the world's second-largest airline and the consequences a bankruptcy filing would have.

"We've had letter-writing campaigns before but we've never generated this kind of vibes, which shows the strong feelings the employees have," said spokesman Joe Hopkins of the Elk Grove Village, Ill.-based airline.

It's not known whether the three-man board can be swayed by lobbying, including pressure from congressional delegations in Illinois and several other large states where United's major employer.

But the stakes are enormous for United, which is losing more than $7 million a day and is thought to be on a pace to run out of cash early next year.

The immediate urgency is a Dec. 2 debt payment of $375 million, although that carries a grace period of 10 business days which expires Dec. 16.

In a separate effort to drum up financial aid, chief executive Glenn Tilton was in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday seeking help from United's partners in the Star Alliance, a cooperative worldwide network of 14 airlines that share passengers and revenue.

Investors remain hopeful, as evidenced by the latest spurt in United's stock. Shares in parent company UAL Corp. rose 22 cents, or 7 percent, to close at $3.32 on the New York Stock Exchange after opening more than 24 percent higher. They are still down three-fourths in value since the start of the year.

While awaiting the ATS decision and hoping machinists ratify their tentative agreement next Wednesday, United is trying to obtain more financial help from its vendors and identifying additional cuts to round out its plan for $5.8 billion in labor cuts over 5 1/2 years.

Even with the machinists' pact — entailing $1.5 billion in wage reductions for 13,000 United mechanics and 24,500 baggage handlers, customer-service agents and reservations workers — announced cuts are some $400 million short of the targeted total.

Standard & Poor's airline analyst Philip Baggaley said it still appears "more likely than not" that the federal board will reject United's application, forcing the airline to file for bankruptcy protection.

But he told investors in a research note that "there remains a significant minority chance that United will manage to avoid Chapter 11."

He said that if machinists approve the concessionary deal next Wednesday, political pressure on the ATS to approve the loan guarantee will increase.

United Airlines flights arrive at Denver International Airport on Aug. 9, 2000. UAL Corp., parent of money-losing United Airlines, is in talks with the government to arrange a $1.8 billion loan to avoid bankruptcy.

To run out of cash early next year.

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Vivendi rejects $15 billion bid

Penn

Associated Press

Los Angeles

Billionaire Marvin Davis, who at one time has tried to buy CBS, NBC and MCI, has made an unsolicited $15 billion bid for the entertainment assets of debt-burdened Vivendi Universal.

Vivendi, the French parent of Universal Studios and Universal Music Group, has been shedding assets but yesterday that its Thursday that its representatives met with Vivendi Universal executives in Paris on Nov. 5 and said they rejected the bid. Vivendi spokesman Alain Debrieu said.

In a statement issued in Los Angeles, Davis said he felt the offer was a "full and fair value for the assets and VU's response has been positive." He said additional meetings with Vivendi have been scheduled for early next year.

Sources familiar with the negotiations said Vivendi rejected the offer as too low and might be open to a higher bid or to selling some of the assets or spinning off the entertainment divisions and keeping a minority interest.

But any deal faces a huge obstacle in the form of Barry Diller, who owns 1.5 percent of Vivendi Universal Entertainment, the company that was formed last year to run Vivendi's U.S.- based entertainment operations, excluding the music group and video game divisions.

VU Entertainment was formed after Vivendi bought the entertainment assets of USA Networks, which was owned by Diller.

Any sale to Davis could also founder because of restrictions Diller negotiat ed as part of that sale. If Vivendi sells any of the entertainment assets, it may have to pay Diller as much as $2 billion to cover taxes that would become due on the original deal.
**Weekend Events**

**THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE HAPPENING AT THE HAMMES NOTRE DAME BOOKSTORE:**

**Author Events:**

Khalil F. Matta Ph.D., ND College of Business Administration, will be signing copies of *Thou Shalt Not Invest Foolishly* on Friday, November 22nd from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ted Mandell, ND professor of Film, Television, & Theatre, will be signing copies of *Heart Stoppers and Hail Marys* on Football Friday Home Games from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

John Heisler, ND Director of Sports Information, will be signing copies of *Quotable Rockne* on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Paul Hornung will be signing copies of the *Magnificent Seven: the Championship that Built the Lombardi Dynasty* on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Patrick Monaghan will be signing copies of *Because They Never Do* on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

August Jennewein, ND '80 will be signing copies of *Slow Down: A Journey in Words and Photography* on Saturday, November 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Mark Bradford will be signing copies of *Nice Girls Finish First: The Remarkable Story of Notre Dame’s Rise to the Top of Women’s College Basketball*, Saturday, November 23, 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

**Musical Events:**

The Undertones, Notre Dame a cappella group, will perform on Saturday in the Bookstore one hour following the game.

Following the school pep rally, the Liturgical Choir of the University of Notre Dame will perform in the store’s lobby on Friday, November 22nd at 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy the upbeat music of Joe Probst on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.
Oxford poet highlights influences of Blake

By JUSTIN KRIVICKAS
Assistant News Editor

Tom Paulin, a poet and guest lecturer at Oxford University's Hertford College, spoke as a guest lecturer about the importance of William Blake's poetry to three influential men on Thursday.

Paulin, describing the genius of William Blake, said, "He was an aristocrat in the slum ... [Blake was] a hefty ex trav a­

gance of invention."

 orphan of invention," Ignored in his own time, it was not till after Blake's death that his work was appreciated, Paulin said.

The lecture, entitled "William Blake, Irish Visionary. His Influence on Yeats, Joyce and Van Morrison," explained the impact Blake has had on James Joyce, W.B. Yeats and Van Morrison.

Blake's poems bring to mind God, demons and the fatherland, Paulin said. He discussed how Blake used poetry as a median to present the frustrations and tribulations he had with English rule.

"Blake was an inspiration to the Irish people," Paulin said. He said Blake attempted to present to the masses a complex collection of poetry with extensively detailed illustrations. Yeats greatly admired his work and was influenced by his style, Paulin said.

Paulin told the attentive crowd how musician Van Morrison was heavily influenced by both Yeats and Blake. He said Van Morrison was so greatly inspired by Yeats that he recorded an entire album using a selection of Yeats' poems. Because of copyright restrictions and the lack of support from Yeats' surviving heirs, however, the album still has not been released to the public.

Like Blake, Paulin said, Morrison tries to express the concept of Eden and how it would appear to us. His music is the result of fussing Scotch, Irish and England fussing with the American venunaral.

But in addition to Van Morrison's influences, Paulin explained his faults.

"On paper, the lyrics don't work well," Paulin said. But with the wide range he employs, the result of fussing Scotch, Irish and England fussing with the American venunaral, Paulin said, Van Morrison has the ability to create a great work of art. He said both faith and vision are shown as forms of healing, and voice is a form of freedom. Like many of Blake's poems, Van Morrison music is always searching for something that's been lost, Paulin said. He said Van Morrison creates a Blakeian vision with his music, and as such, one can argue that Blake is a folkloric artist.


His lecture was sponsored by the Krough Institute for Irish Studies.

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Judge shares anecdotes on capital punishment

By JIM GAFFEY
News Writer

Sheila Murphy, former presiding judge of Cook County, Ill., spoke Thursday in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium about her perspectives on capital punishment in America.

The lecture, "An American Paradox: A First Hand Account of Justice on Death Row," included Murphy's impressions of the death penalty and a retelling of her personal experiences related to capital punishment.

Murphy began her wide range of experience in the judicial system as a public defense lawyer when capital punishment was illegal in the United States. She represented several cases that called for capital punishment but never led to prosecution. She later became a Cook County judge and presided over many controversial cases involving capital punishment.

One of the most famous of these cases was that of Verneal Jimerson, a black man who faced the death penalty on charges of the rape and double murder of a young Chicago couple. Testimony against Jimerson was brought forth by a woman who, as it turns out, had been manipulated into presenting evidence to the court. Evidence against Jimerson mounted, and when the case was nearly closed, Murphy ordered a DNA test that eventually exonerated him.

Jimerson was a person of low income, low IQ and no prior criminal record — a racial and socio-economic profile suggestive, Murphy said, of the bias inherent to capital punishment cases. She said the majority of criminals on death row are either minorities or individuals from low-income backgrounds. Murphy said the unfairness of America's administration of the death penalty makes it "a fatal lottery," one that unjustly persecutes minorities and the poor.

"If you are poor, you will not be able, in most cases, to get a lawyer to represent your case well," she said.

Contact Jim Gaffey at jgaffey@nd.edu

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Illinois judge, panel examine death penalty

By NATALIE BAILEY
News Writer

A forum Thursday night in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium investigated the humanity of the United States' justice system, featuring a lecture by Illinois district judge Sheila Murphy followed by a panel discussion with other experts.

"As Americans, we have to hang our heads in shame," said Murphy, retired presiding judge of the 6th municipal district circuit court of Cook County. "The death penalty is such an embarrassment. "The United States is really quite an outlier in how it uses the death penalty," Paulo Carozza, law professor at Notre Dame, said.

Carozza said that twelve countries have outlawed the death penalty and few others actually execute their citizens, the panel said. In recent years, 90 percent of death penalty executions have occurred within China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United States. In addition, the United States stood alone in executing the mentally retarded until a Supreme Court ruling in June 2002.

"The basic question is whether the death penalty violates human dignity, not if it is used," Frese said.

Notre Dame, said. "Law and punishments are not meant to be passive emulations; it has to be based on justice."

Charlotte D. Pfeifer, director of Student and Community Relations at Indiana University, said South Bend was mainly concerned with people of color and mental retardation. She compared Hitler's final solution to exterminate unwanted people in the community with the implementation of the death penalty in the United States.

"Black people are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. Black people continue to suffer from the remnants of slavery and white people continue to benefit from them." Pfeifer said. "I am talking about institutional oppression. It is easier to try a person who is seen as irreducible to the community. The death penalty does not have any logical basis."

"I can't say the state doesn't have the right to take a life," Jerome Frese, St. Joseph County Superior Court Judge, said. Frese said the death penalty is anything but just. "It is an eye for an eye mentality," Frese said. "I am against the death penalty. I would like to see us get rid of the death penalty. It just doesn't make sense."

Frese said presiding in a district that supports the death penalty, particularly where a unanimous jury recommendation requires the judge to impose the punishment, creates a conflict of interest.

"I can't say the state doesn't have the right to take a life," Frese said. "I also took an oath to follow the law. If I cannot prevent state's right to a fair trial."

A practicing Catholic, Frese said the Catholic Church only recently took an active stance against the death penalty. In a conference in the 90's the Bishops of the United States split on the issue. The church found it justifiable to take a life for personal harm or national ones.

"The death penalty corrupts the United States because we have a culture of righteousness and justice out of it. Law and punishments are not meant to be passive emulations; it has to be based on justice," Frese said.

Other panelists will include the following fine poets, critics, and translators: Francisco Alarcon, Haul Bierintos, Lisa Chavez, Maurice Alkivon Guevara, and Alonzo Rodriguez. The event is sponsored by Institute for Latino Studies, the Creative Writing Program, the department of English, and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.

Latin Poets Conference
November 21-23, 2002
Hesburgh Center for International Studies
For further information, visit the website at
www.nd.edu/alcwp/latino or call 574-631-7526

More contemporary Latino poets will read from their work, debate literary issues, and celebrate Hispanic culture and poetry during the Latino Poets Conference. The Wednesday gathering will take place at the University of Notre Dame November 21-23, 2002. The event includes poetry readings, panels on contemporary poetry and translator, Q & A sessions, and an open mic poetry reading. Attendees will include renowned award winning writer Guy Soto as well as the following fine poets, critics, and translators: Francisco Alarcon, Raúl Bierintos, Lisa Chavez, Maurice Alkivon Guevara, and Alonzo Rodriguez. The event is sponsored by Institute for Latino Studies, the Creative Writing Program, the department of English, and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.

Saturday Nov. 23
10:30 am
Panel: Latino Poetry & spirituality, led by Orlando Menes, Hesburgh Center C 103
11:30 am
Students Readings: undergraduate and graduate student poets, Hesburgh Center C 103
Senator must treat its mission seriously to gain student respect

The Student Senate strives to be taken seriously in its quest to represent the Notre Dame student body. In its mission to represent students to administrators, Senate assumes both groups acknowledged its privileged role. It's evident that voters don't take Senate seriously when they elect representatives who cannot fully commit to their positions.

It's evident that some elected members don't view Senate as a serious organization when they are tardy or absent from meetings while participating in alternative commitments.

And, it's evident that Senate can't even take itself seriously when it falls to enforce its own policies.

Earlier this year, senators passed the Attendance Policy Amendment 25-0, requiring the Senate Ethics Committee to issue a warning to any senator who has missed four meetings. Five absences would result in a hearing that could possibly lead to expulsion.

Then, at least two senators have violated the attendance rule. The Student Senate has taken no disciplinary action.

A representative faculty endorsement is obviously a crucial responsibility of senators. The organization's own acknowledgment of the importance of regular attendance and timely arrival. Representatives from each dorm must be present so they may inform their hall communities of new student government developments. Senators should, therefore, ensure that the guidelines they themselves designed.

Student Senate cannot be an effective advocate for students to change University policies if it does not consistently follow its own.

Students have a right to know how they are being represented in student government. The fact that voters are largely unconcerned about the attendance of student senators not only places the senators in a negative light, but it is also a sign that student government is not viewed as a serious organization that necessitates the attendance of its members.

Fingers can be pointed in many directions in this case: the voters for not caring about the participation of their representatives, the representatives and teachers, for not complying with the rules of Student Senate, senators for not addressing the issue, and finally, leaders for failing to enforce the organization's policy.

It is now imperative that the Student Senate enhances its own image as a serious organization. Enforcing its own resolutions is one step toward earning respect from students. If Senate itself does not take its policies seriously, how can it begin to expect students and administrators to treat policies regarding parietals and alcohol policy?

And, it is the power to act as a voice for the students and has done so in the past. In order to be an effective voice for students, members must attend meetings where ideas emerge and work begins. Internal flaws belie external productivity.

It is time for the Senate to iron out its many kinks. The student body deserves a productive Senate that can be taken seriously.

If Senate doesn't take its own actions seriously, it certainly can't expect anyone else to.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Defending Irish dance

After reading Sheila Flynn's interpretation of Irish dancing as a "cutthroat subculture" in last Friday's Inside Column, we felt a response was needed. As she mentioned, she quit at age 13 and was only exposed to one teacher. Many other Irish dancers share this campus. As members of the Notre Dame/Saint Mary's Irish Dance Club, we have been blessed to work with quite a few of them. Contrary to Flynn's assertion that her Irish dance instructor fostered an "elitist, condescending attitude" in dancers and that they were bred to hate rival schools, there are dancers from various dance schools in our club. They have competed against each other and yet are dedicated to working and having fun together. For many who have given years in Irish dance, many strong friendships came from class and competition.

Flynn asserts that Irish dance "is a highly-structured reality." This is true, but why is that bad? The purpose of the accreditation system for Irish dance teachers is to ensure that teachers have proper knowledge of the music and steps to pass on to their students. This is one of the most admirable aspects of Irish dance, and the fact that this structured system exists is a testament to the commitment of many people who have made it to the world of Irish dance. Flynn also mentioned the two dancers from her former school (one of the most respected schools in the East) who were "pushed so hard that one now has severe tendonitis and the other has broken or sprained every toe and both ankles at least once." Despite these injuries, both of these dancers happen to be very successful still today; one of them toured with Riverdance and one placed at the World's twice.

The Senate has the power to act as a voice for the students and has done so in the past. In order to be an effective voice for students, members must attend meetings where ideas emerge and work begins. Internal flaws belie external productivity.

It is now imperative that the Student Senate enhances its own image as a serious organization. Enforcing its own resolutions is one step toward earning respect from students. If Senate itself does not take its policies seriously, how can it begin to expect students and administrators to treat policies regarding parietals and alcohol policy?

And, it is the power to act as a voice for the students and has done so in the past. In order to be an effective voice for students, members must attend meetings where ideas emerge and work begins. Internal flaws belie external productivity.

It is time for the Senate to iron out its many kinks. The student body deserves a productive Senate that can be taken seriously.

If Senate doesn't take its own actions seriously, it certainly can't expect anyone else to.
Oil spill is a threat to a sustainable future

Tuesday’s oil spill along the Spanish coastline, which was covered in the business section of The Observer, deserves much more attention than it was given.

I don’t know about you, but “business” is not what comes to my mind when I hear of an environmental catastrophe. Although the economic damage to the Spanish people will be immense, there is much more at stake than the fishing industry.

After a disaster such as this, the dynamics of the situation change drastically. Normally, the spill caused immediate ecological damage and the long-term effects, such as alteration of the ecosystem, competition and interaction, may exist for decades to come.

In 1989 an Exxon Valdez tanker dumped nearly 11 million gallons of oil off the coast of Alaska. As of this year, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Executive Council reports that while much progress has been made, the harbor seal, a species of waterfowl and the Pacific herring have made no recovery since the spill. Scientists claim intertidal communities and sediments have shown improvements but are still being affected by the remnants of the disaster.

Tuesday’s spill dumped 20 million gallons of heavy crude fuel into the ocean, almost twice as much as Exxon Valdez. It is still early to measure the ecological impact, but scientists suspect it to be much worse than the 1989 spill. The ability of this oil to withstand the impacts of the current oil stoke or the damage that we humans are inflicting on our planet can be ignored. It is time to start looking beyond our wallets and toward a sustainable future.
The art of late Renaissance Florence features Italy's art, gestating such masters as Agnolo Bronzino, Benvenuto Cellini, Giambologna and Michelangelo Bonarroti. The exhibition comes to the United States from a showing at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, and marks the first presentation of works by all of the pre-eminent Italian painters of the period. The extensiveness of this collection of painting, sculpture, drawing and decorative art from 1537 to 1631 stands as a reflection of the enormity in the public's mind as utterly distinctive.

Feinberg said, "I hope the public finds the art so beautiful and the Medici so intriguing that they will be interested in finding out more on these characters." The Art Institute's exhibition, with its 200 works, including eight by Michelangelo, is sure to establish the period and its dynasty once and for all in the public's mind as utterly distinctive.

With its preliminary piece, the exhibition successfully expresses the core of the age and its values. Giambologna's Venus statue symbolizes the city of Florence itself. Its fusion of classical ideals and seemingly modern sensuality encompasses the nature of the entire Medici house. The synthesis of the two figures, both Venus and Florence, parallels the merging dimensions of this developing city in the unmistakable language of the Renaissance.

Throughout the exhibition, portraiture provides the viewer with both historicity and psychological insight into the Medici family. The first Medici patriarch appears in Agnolo Bronzino's Duke Cosimo I as Orpheus, Having commissioned the portrait as a wedding gift for his wife, Cosimo is depicted here in nude starkness. His stately figure twists towards the viewer in figura serpentina posture, suggesting both political strength. Other such feminine works include Bronzino's 1561 Laura Battiferra degli Ammanati, in which the subject, holding a book of Petrarchan sonnets, sits as symbolic successor in the governing reality of sixteenth-century Florence.

Cosimo's wife also receives treatment in portraiture; she appears in Bronzino's 1546 Eleonora of Toledo and Her Son Giovanni. Bronzino showcases Eleonora's regal stature as an elegant suggestion of her role as the maternal source of future Florentine power. Her position as woman is lauded. Feinberg said, "although by and large women did not have status in society like men, there was a great respect on the part of the Medici for women of intellect and strength." Other such feminine works include Bronzino's 1564 Laura Rattifera degli Ammanati, in which the subject, holding a book of Petrarchan sonnets, sits as symbolic successor in the talent of the fourteenth-century poet.

There are several drawings featured by Michelangelo, graceful illuminations of the artist's meticulous method of compositional planning. Candlelabrum of 1537 exemplifies this exacting style; it is part of a recent discovery in a box of eighteenth and nineteenth century designs for lighting fixtures found in the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York. This marks the first exhibition of the newly treasured drawings, sources of great international intrigue. The candelabrum was probably a Medici commission for the altar of the New Sacristy in the church of San Lorenzo, planned to house the remains of two elder generations of Medici.
Alumni vs. Siegfried

Getting a Second Chance
 Ramsiers return to Stadium for second chance

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The Siegfried Ramsiers and the Alumni Dawgs play for the men's interhall football championship Sunday at 1 p.m. at Notre Dame Stadium. So who's the favorite? It's difficult to say for certain.

Siegfried is undefeated. Alumni is 5-1. Alumni lost to Morrison in the regular season, 7-6. In the end, the biggest advantage might be Siegfried's experience. The Ramsiers lost to Dillon in the championship last season. While the Alumni defense has given up just 13 points all year, the Dawgs have not been to the Stadium since they won it all in 1989.

"Last year was an awesome experience, to be playing in the stadium," said Siegfried captain Kyle Reis. "It was the first time any of us had been there. We came out excited, but we weren't ready. The core nucleus of our team has been here before, so we are a lot better prepared. The big game experience should help us out." Big game experience and a rejuvenated offense. Siegfried averaged 23 points per game in the regular season, but scored just ten points in their two playoff wins.

The Ramsiers need quarterback Bill Bingle wide receiver John Kaup and running back Tim Breitbach to have productive days if they want to win.

"Morrissy shut us down," said Siegfried coach John Torgenson. "I expect the offense to come out firing. To beat Alumni, we'll have to put up more points [than we have in previous games]." Easier said than done. The Dawgs defense is tough. "Our strength is our defensive line and our linebackers," said Alumni lineman Larry Rooney.

"We're aggressive and we focus on stopping the run. We'll go into Sunday's game with the same strategy. We'll attack them." Center Chris Seponski, defensive tackles Ben O'Connor, Justin Stetz and John Wahnsch and linebacker Tommy Demko put offenses on notice. Alumni coach Steve Keppel says the offense can complement the strength of the defense.

Second-year Alumni quarterback Chris Cuttingham brings blinding and passing to a Alumni offense that averages close to 14 points per game.

"Scoring will not be easy for Alumni. Siegfried's defense rivals that of the Dawgs.

"The core nucleus of our team has been here before, so we are a lot better prepared." Kyle Reis

Siegfried captain

"The whole year we've focused on getting all eleven guys to the ball and not stopping till the whistle is blown," said Reis. "We came up with big fourth down stands and goal line stands.

Reis and cornerbacks Nate Bingle and John Lira are the standouts on the Siegfried defense. "It's been nice to rely on our defense," said Torgenson. "This week, we'll have to show it on both sides of the ball because Alumni is an excellent team.

Siegfried may look like the only secret weapon, and after last week, he's not that secret. Kicker John Nowak (18-10 on extra points) kicked the Ramsiers into the Stadium two weeks ago with a game-winning 23-yard overtime field goal.

Two teams who have dreamed of playing in the Stadium for months stop dreaming Sunday afternoon.

Contact Pat Leonard at plenard@nd.edu

An Alumni running back tries to break a tackle in a playoff game earlier this season. Alumni makes its first appearance in the Stadium since 1989 Sunday, when they face Siegfried.

Bingle tries new position, becomes team's leader

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

Nearly every sport has one player on the team that receives the praise when a team does well and most of the blame when the team does poorly. In hockey and soccer, it's almost always the goalie. For baseball, it's usually the pitcher.

In football, it's the quarterback. One minute you're the hero, and the next minute you're let down.

For Siegfried quarterback Bill Bingle, it's important to have a short-term memory when it comes to mistakes.

"It's kind of hard to shake mistakes off," he said. "Your teammates try to help encourage you, but you really only forget about the mistake the next time you throw a touchdown."

In interhall football, Bingle has already had the opportunity to experience the thrill of playing in the stadium. The junior was the wide receiver on last year's runner-up Siegfried squad.

"It's a really neat experience," he said. Last year it seemed like everyone from the dorm came out. It was weird because that stadium seems empty and smaller without the big crowd."

Following the graduation of last year's Ramblers quarterback, Bingle was thrust into the starting role. In addition to being a wide receiver last year, Bingle also served as the emergency backup, so he had at least some experience with the intricacies of the offense.

"I've actually always liked playing wide receiver like I did last year," Bingle said. "But our senior graduated and we didn't really have much of our offense in place. I still knew the stuff from last year, so it was easier for me to step up."

In his junior year of high school, Bingle played wide receiver and helped his team earn a place in the state rankings. He was slated to start at quarterback his senior year, but a wrist injury prevented him from playing that year.

"This year, we have more fun and have a good time more often. I think that helps us a lot, because we never get down and feel like we're out of a game."

Bill Bingle
Siegfried quarterback

Bingle has finally gained the chance to be under center, and the pressure couldn't be greater.

Bingle and the rest of the Siegfried Ramsiers have again attained the second-highest goal an interhall team can achieve, a trip to play in Notre Dame Stadium.

Sunday, they'll try to better that achievement with a victory against the Dawgs of Alumni. Bingle explained that he thought the difference in this year's Ramsiers is a simple difference in attitude.

"Last year, the seniors kind of ran the team," Bingle said. "This year, we have more fun and have a good time more often. I think that helps us a lot, because we never get down and feel like we're out of a game."

"It's different from high school because it's a lot more fun," Bingle said. "It's less pressure when you coach yourself. In high school I always had coaches yelling at you but here it's more relaxed."

Sunday, Ramblers will be back. Bingle is ready. Since his senior year in high school, he's waited for this moment.

Contact Justin Schuver at jeschuver@nd.edu

Siegfried quarterback Bill Bingle throws a pass in a game this season. Bingle has been the leader of the Rambler offense.
Welsh Family. In addition to late in the game to seal Cavanaugh's 13-12 upset of standout Meg Myers, the only Chaos into final championship game.

Two-way doubters is what Cavanaugh has on the roster this year? Two-way standout leads the Chaos this year. She won the best quarterbacks development of being where we are. She is a senior leader for Young Life, a Christian ministry group for high-schoolers in urban South Bend as well.

Without Meg, we wouldn't have a chance of being where we are.

Bart Bruckert Cavanaugh coach

Myers leads the Chaos with a combination of discipline and humor. After a team meeting early in the season, she made a hat out of a deflated football. It is given to the most valuable player after each game as a silly reward. "I feel I know how to motivate people and keep them focused on our team's capabilities."

Myers said, "We're really mentally tough."

"I'm so excited to play Cavanaugh," Terifay said. "I just can't wait to avenge our loss early this season. We are a whole new team now: new quarterback, new defense, everything.

Among many changes, Terifay thinks a steady factor for the Pyros. She is joined on the line by all-stater Allison Federer. They provide protection for elusive quarterback Abbey Coons. Wide receivers Tricia Davis, Laura Tushaus and Kristin O'Brien remain Coons' favorite targets.

Regardless, according to Terifay, the Pyros are a well-balanced team. She credited their semifinal victory to their team concept.

"We have a chance of being where we are," Bruckert said. "I haven't given up on us, because we're a close-knit team."

"We were very happy with our last performance," Terifay said. "We marched up the field on offense and held them on defense. We can take this momentum into the championship game."

The defense is led by defensive end Brinna McCaldonough, defensive back Erin Higgin and safety Elizabeth Yahn. This defense will be tested on Sunday because they face a Cavanaugh offense that features quarterback and captain Meg Meyers, running back Lisa Buffa and wide receivers Jenny Nokes and Nancy Powsag. All are unstoppable in their semifinal victory.

"We just have to continue to play as a team, making as few mistakes as possible, while capitalizing on their mistakes," Myers said. Meyers was confident about her team's capabilities.

"Offensively, we will read the defense and adjust accordingly," Myers said. "However, either way, we have a great shot. Regardless, the win against Welsh Family in the semifinal was one of the sweetest victories in the history of interhall football."

Cavanaugh looks to get what would be an even sweeter win on Sunday at the Stadium.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Several captains and seniors from Cavanaugh and Pasquerilla East pose for a picture earlier this week. The two teams reached the championship game even though neither was supposed to this year. They met in the regular season with the Chaos winning 28-6.

Myers gets job done on both sides of ball for Chaos

Without Meg, we wouldn’t have a chance of being where we are.

Bart Bruckert Cavanaugh coach

"I feel I know how to motivate people and keep them focused on our team's capabilities."

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Cavanaugh looks to get what would be an even sweeter win on Sunday at the Stadium.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Cavanaugh's interhall football team finds itself in uncharted territory this season, having knocked off powerhouse Welsh Family and making it to the championship game.

The reason for the success of the Chaos this year? Two-way standout Meg Myers, the only fourth-year senior on the roster and the unapologetic team leader. Myers was a major factor in Cavanaugh's 13-12 upset of Welsh Family. In addition to throwing two touchdown passes, Myers had an interception at corner-back late in the game to seal the win.

Myers plays quarterback with great confidence, despite it being her first season at the position. In previous years, she played wide receiver, running back, and outside linebacker.

At the beginning of the season try-outs were held to fill the vacancy at quarterback for the Chaos, and Myers decided to give it a shot. She won the job and has developed into one of the best quarterbacks in the women's league.

"I spend about 15-20 hours a week at Young Life," Myers said.

"I's been cool to see the kids progress.

"With all her leadership experience, Myers has been the glue of the Cavanaugh team this season. The Chaos are undefeated and Myers attributes their success to team chemistry.

"In the past, we struggled with diversity and small groups not coming together," Myers said. "The tone was set in the beginning to be encouraging to everyone. There are no fights or jealousy over playing time."

Myers also feels the team benefits from strong leadership from other seniors and the coaches, in particular third-year coach Bart Bruckert.

"Without Meg, we wouldn't have a chance of being where we are," Bruckert said. "I haven't met many people as impressive as her."

The Chaos are hoping to impress Pasquerilla East in the championship. After their upset of Welsh, Myers knows it's important for her team to regain focus.

"We know we can't underestimate them even though we've beaten them," she said. "If we stick to the fundamentals we should win. I'm confident in our abilities."

Contact Lisa Reijula at lreijula@nd.edu
Coming Full Circle

Cavanaugh vs. Pasquerilla East
Michelangelo’s unfinished wooden Crucifix provides a view into the aging artist’s psyche. Carved in Michelangelo’s late eighties, the piece instills a personal religious reflection, an aura of intimacy not found in the artist’s other monumental works.

However, the centerpiece of the collection is undoubtedly Michelangelo’s David-Apollo, marking the second time a major sculpture by the artist has traveled to the United States. Its dual title referred from the outer form towards a monumental works.
Wild held off the Washington Capitals seconds into the game. They took a 1-0 lead at 2:22 when Stephane Veilleux put slick shot past Olaf Kolzig to score at 6:30 of the first period.

Sergei Gonchar and Ken Klee tied it for the Capitals with second-period goals. Those were the only two goals from Washington defensemen this year.

However, the Wild took a 3-2 lead when former Capital Andre Brunette’s shot from a severe angle along the goal line hit Kolzig’s right skate and trickled in at 3:31 left in the period.

Dupuis scored the insurance goal when his shot bounced off the stick of Washington’s Chris Berry and in. Mike Grier scored for the Capitals with 5.33 left.

Islanders 7, Lightning 2
Jason Blake had two goals and two assists, and Jason Wiemer added a goal and three extra-man chances. The Islanders rebounded later in the period. Joe Thornton won the puck at the point and fed Evgeny Konstantinov in the slot for a one-on-one break. Konstantinov cooly deked Lightning goalie Dan Fritsche and slid the puck past star goalie Nikolai Khabibulin from in close.

David Scatchard (18:28) and Wiemer (18:47) scored 19 seconds apart late in the second to give New York a five-goal cushion.

Khabibulin, the NHL player of the week for the period ending Nov. 17, was pulled after two periods. He faced 32 shots. Blake scored 25 seconds into the third off Lightning backup Evgeny Konstantinov. Andre Roy scored for the Lightning with 3.1 seconds left.

Bruins 3, Hurricanes 1
Cam Neely scored on 200th and 201st career goals, and Brian Rolston added a short-handed tally as the Boston Bruins beat the Carolina Hurricanes in front of the second-smallest FleetCenter crowd ever.

Boston, which had its five-game unbeaten streak snapped in Toronto on Tuesday, has won six of nine (6-1-2) since.

Murray scored off a faceoff, and Neely got the second period, Joe Thornton won the draw over to Murray, who fired slap shot past Hurricanes goalie Garth Snow. Rolston put Boston ahead for good late in the second period when he raced to his own rebound at the bottom of the right circle and flicked a shot inside the far post.

The Bruins haven’t regained fan interest just yet, though, after losing high-scoring forward Bill Guerin via free agency and electing not to sign goalie Byron Dafoe during a negative-publicity-filled off-season.

In the last three weeks, the Bruins have had their lowest and second-lowest crowds since their arena opened in 1995. They drew just 9,951 on Oct. 31 against Anaheim when the Bruins sustained their only home loss this season.

Boston is 6-1-1 at home.

Drewm Thompson scored Boston’s second of the night to break a 3-3 tie into the opening period when Kevyn Adams spun and fired shot from the bottom of the left circle.

The Hurricanes had a 5-on-3 power play for 1:24 late in the second period, but John Grahame made a couple of nice saves and the Bruins defense kept the chances to a minimum.

Senators 3, Canadiens 2
Chris Phillips scored his first goal of the season late in the second period to lift the Ottawa Senators to a victory over the Montreal Canadiens.

Phillips, a defensman billed to two assists through 16 games, scored 10-3-2 into the second to break a 2-2 tie. He had gone 21 regular-season games without a goal, dating to last season.

Montreal’s Jeff Hackett made 34 saves, including a remarkable pad stop on Marian Hossa with just over nine minutes left to keep the Canadians within one.

Hackett lost for just the second time in 10 games (2-2-0) as he made his second start in as many nights in place of injured goalie Jose Theodore.

Theodore, last season’s MVP, missed the two-game road trip because of a hip flexor injury sustained Monday in a win over Washington.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 214 South Duining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 3 cents per word, including all space. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without incurring obligations.
ARRIVING AT THE NATION
Friday, November 22, 2002

COMPiled FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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Around the Dial

College Basketball

Preseason NIT second round 7 p.m., ESPN

NBA Basketball

Raptors at Sixers 8 p.m., ESPN
Clippers at Nuggets 10:30 p.m., ESPN
Bulls at Lakers 10:30 p.m., FOX

Boxing

Cotto vs. Hernandez 9 p.m., ESPN

Golf

Franklin Templeton Shootout 8 p.m., GOLF

College Football


Top-ranked Hurricanes escape Panthers

Associated Press

MIAMI—Pittsburgh threatened, and Miami held on. Willis McGahee ran 19 times for 159 yards and scored two touchdowns as the top-ranked Hurricanes overcame another slow start and a frantic finish to earn a 28-21 win over the Panthers (No. 9 ESPN/USA Today, No. 17 Associated Press) in the annual Orange Bowl.

In a nationally televised game that gave Miami (10-0, 5-0 Big East) a chance to showcase Heisman Trophy teammates Ken Dorsey and McGahee, the sophomore running back had the majority of the highlights. But Rod Rutherford had almost as many for Pitt.

McGahee had a 69-yard touchdown run that tied the game just before halftime and added a leaping 4-yard score in the fourth quarter. After his second TD run, McGahee placed his fingers in the shape of a diamond — a pop-culture symbol that represents a dynasty.

The gesture might have been appropriate for the Hurricanes, but a bit premature.

The defending national champions extended their nation-best winning streak to 32 games, their Big East-record streak to 22 games and moved two victories away from a berth in the Jan. 3 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. They finish the season at Syracuse and at home against struggling Virginia Tech. Miami also took sole possession of first place in the Big East.

Pitt (8-3, 5-1) lost for just the third time in 17 games and had its conference winning streak snapped at nine games. But after falling behind 26-14, the Panthers had a chance to tie in the final minutes. Rutherford scored on a 3-yard run with 4:37 to play, cutting it to 26-21. The Hurricanes had to punt, giving the Panthers the ball with 2:12 left.

They drove to the Miami 25, and Rutherford misfired on two consecutive passes. Then he connected with Yogi Roth for a 5-yard gain to set up a fourth-and-5 from the 20. Roth was wide open again, this time on a slant pass at the goal line, but Rutherford's pass sailed past his outstrung arms and through the end zone.

Miami’s defense gave up 341 yards but left Pitt bated — literally. Receiver Larry Fitzgerald left the game due to an injury sustained in the second half.

Eye on Irish Opponents

Thursday’s Results

Miami 28, Pittsburgh 21

Saturday

MARYLAND at Virginia

Illinois at PURDUE

MICHIGAN at Ohio State

MICHIGAN STATE at Penn State

STANDFORD at California

San Diego State at Air Force

FLORIDA STATE at NC State

BOSTON COLLEGE at Temple

NAVY at Wake Forest

USC at UCLA

IN BRIEF

Carter dances with Nelly while team loses in Atlanta

Toronto Raptors general manager Glen Grunwald said Wednesday that Vince Carter could be back practicing with the team as early as Thursday and might play next week.

Carter, who left the Raptors' Nov. 2 game at Houston with a quadriceps tendon strain in his left knee, was ruled out after appearing in an alleged jig with rap star Nelly in a concert at the Air Canada Centre on Monday — the same night his teammates were outmanned and defeated in Atlanta.

There have been suggestions that the All-Star forward should not be caving in on stage when he is injured and his teammates are playing elsewhere. Grunwald's response to the incident was typically low key. The GM said that if he had a choice he would have attended the concert, given how uninspired his troops looked against the Hawks.

Lindsey Hunter, who has a sore right knee, and center Nate Huffman, who has not played this season after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his right knee, also could be back practicing as early as Thursday.

Issue of sportsmanship in high school playoff game

Walkerville 115, Lakeshore 2

And it could have been worse. A lot worse.

"What do you tell our girls? Not to run up the score like that, you have to answer for your actions," Walkerville coach Steve Hamilton said. "I have my self," Hamilton said. "I have my doubts about a school that would go and put a school on a year by 100 points."

Walkerville coach Steve Kirwin said he doesn't schedule teams like Lakeshore, which has a student body of 50 in grades nine through 12, during the regular season. But during the playoffs, "You play who they tell you to play," Kirwin said.

Kirwin said he promoted girls from the junior varsity and freshmen teams, and did not use his normal pressure defense against overmatched Lakeshore.

By halftime, Kirwin said, three girls hadn't scored. So he said only they could shoot. But after they scored, then what?

"I'm not going to tell my kids to not continue to play," Kirwin said. "It's not that we wanted to score a ton of points."

The Michigan High School Athletic Association did away with a different rule during the offseason. Under the old rule, the clock ran continuously if a team built a 40-point lead in the second half.

around the dial
NFL

Faulk status for Sunday is game-time decision

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS

It's still a waiting game with the St. Louis Rams and Marshall Faulk.

Faulk missed Monday night's victory over the Bears with a high sprain in his left foot. His status for Sunday's game at Washington won't be determined until game time, coach Mike Martz said. Faulk didn't practice, instead visiting with team doctors about the ankle, by far the more serious of the injuries. Martz said Faulk won't practice the rest of the week; he didn't practice all last week, either.

"Another good day of practice tomorrow and I think he'll be ready," Martz added. "I think there's a chance we'll have him." Martz said Faulk, who has missed only eight games in eight-plus seasons, has been frustrated by the injury, Faulk, who rarely speaks to the media, declined comment before practice.

"He's such a quick healer, he's used to just fighting through it," Martz said. "Now they know exactly what it is; it's just a strain in the membrane, and I think that's a relief to him."

Kurt Warner, the other half of the Rams' MVP backfield, was a bit shaky while for Warner, who hasn't played since Sept. 29, to get his timing back.

"Shoot, he's fine," Martz said. "I'm more optimistic; certainly, than last week." Faulk added, "I think there's a chance we'll have him."

If Faulk can't play, rookie Lamar Gordon again would start. Gordon had 97 yards rushing and receiving, including a 22-yard touchdown reception, against the Bears.

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Associated Press

WIN AN $80 GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR A LOCAL SPORTING GOODS STORE OR A DAY AT A SPA!
Email us with the correct answer at UBWELL2@ND.edu to be entered into a drawing

How many traffic accidents occur annually due to lack of sleep?
Answers to and Winners of Wed, Thurs, and Fri contests will be listed in Monday's Observer.
Irish look to rebound in Big East Tournament

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

The Irish don't look so invincible anymore. After losing its first conference matches since a loss at West Virginia on Nov. 15, 1998, the Notre Dame volleyball team goes into this weekend's Big East Championship at the University of Pittsburgh looking a little more human.

On Saturday, the Irish (21-5, 11-0 in the Big East) face Connecticut (14-14, 9-4) in a semifinal matchup. With a win, the Irish will have a rematch with either Virginia Tech (20-10, 10-3) or Miami (24-4, 10-3). The winner of that match receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Looking to qualify for their 11 consecutive NCAA Tournament, the Irish haven't changed their attitude, but are focused on fine-tuning their game. "I think we had a good attitude going into the matches last week. We had good preparation but just didn't play well over the weekend," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "I don't know if [our attitude] has drastically changed. It was good and healthy and still is healthy. I can see that we have a stronger commitment to make our game a little sharper."

Entering last weekend's final regular season conference matches, the Irish were 11-0 in the Big East and had already wrapped up their regular season title. With the goal of a fourth straight undefeated conference regular season in their sights, the Irish just fell apart.

"It wasn't just one area like it usually is, but several things went wrong for us. It was rare that we have had combinations of things go wrong," Brown said. "It wasn't just passing, serving or hitting. We had a variety of problems. Too many people didn't play well and the mistakes accumulated.

Obviously Miami and Virginia Tech were inspired and took advantage." Against the Hurricanes, the Irish committed 12 service errors, had 10 service receiving errors and recorded a 500 hitting percentage in the match's fifth and deciding game.

Two days later at Virginia Tech, the Irish continued to struggle with nine service errors and five service receiving errors. As a team, the Irish received errors and recorded a .000 hitting percentage.

One bright spot for the Irish in their losses was Lauren Kelbley. The freshman middle blocker continued her strong second half of the season hitting .481 against the Huskies and .609 against the Hurricanes. Kelbley leads the Irish on the season with a .349 hitting percentage.

In Notre Dame's 3-1 defeat of Connecticut on Sept. 27, Brown went to her bench in the come-from-behind victory. The Huskies won Game 1 and held leads of 20-10 and 29-24 in Game 2 before the Irish rallied to win that game 33-31.

Freshman setter Kelly Burrell saw her first significant action of the season and recorded 35 assists. Middle blocker Kim Fletcher had 11 kills, and freshman outside hitter Meg Henican led the Irish with 14 digs.

"I think we have looked at that tape a lot and we had several extenuating situations in that match," Brown said. "(Setter) Kristen Kinder was out from practice all week with a knee injury and was off her game. (Outside hitter) Jessica Kinder didn't play well against them, but has played well in the matches after that one.

"Lauren Kelbley, another of our starters, didn't play a lot and has been so steady, especially in the second half of the year when she has been unstoppable."" Obviously the Irish have played Connecticut, seen them, been able to study the film and see our mistakes," Brown said. "We are in a great position to correct the errors that we have had. I don't see either team having more of an advantage.

"With Virginia Tech and Miami, they just beat us and have confidence right now. We know we didn't play our best match and we know what we have to do to be better."

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

The Morris Inn will be holding a lottery to reserve a spot for the weekend. Lottery numbers can be picked up at The Morris Inn front desk.

Deadline: Monday, December 2nd

For more information visit: www.nd.edu/~jpw
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Hockey

Irish look to declaw 5th-ranked Wolverines

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

After having last weekend off, it's back to the grindstone for the Irish this week, as they head to Michigan for a pair of CCHA contests with the Wolverines.

The games will be the first of four away from the Joyce Center for the Irish, as 11 of their next 13 contests will come on the road. Notre Dame played its last five games at home, going 1-3-1 against three ranked opponents — No. 12 Ferris State, No. 11 Miami of Ohio and No. 10 Michigan State.

It doesn't get any easier for Notre Dame tonight, as Michigan enters the contest 5-1-1, undefeated in conference play and currently ranked fifth and sixth by the USA Today/American Hockey Coaches Association and the USCHO.com Poll and the USA Today/American Hockey Magazine Poll, respectively.

The Wolverines average 4.2 goals and just over 33 shots a contest, going 1-3-1 game this season, while holding Dame's 2-1 victory over Miami in goals scored, with 6.

Though it didn't show in their record, the Irish played extremely well during their most recent homestand, topped off by Notre Dame's 2-1 victory over Miami.

If history is any indicator, the pair of games against the Wolverines this weekend will be a tough test for the Irish. Notre Dame has not won a regular season game in Michigan's Yost Arena since Oct. 22 1982 — a 9-5 victory. In their last 19 games at Yost, the Irish are just 1-17-1.

The last meeting between the two teams, however, turned out more productive for the Irish — a 3-3 tie in the Joyce Center Jan. 4 of this year.

The teams face off tonight and Saturday, with starting time scheduled for 7:35 both nights.

Note:
The Irish announced the signing of five players to letters of intent Wednesday for the 2003-2004 season. The group includes goaltender Jeff Tambellini, forward David Brown of Stoney Creek, Ont., defensemen Wes O'Neill of Essex, Ont., forward Jason Paige of Saginaw, Mich., and forward Josh Scriba of Westland, Mich.

"I'm very excited about this incoming group of players," Poulin said. "All five are highly skilled players who should be able to contribute as freshmen next season. They give us a good mix of size and speed and will add to our talent level and depth next season. With the loss of six skilled players who should be more productive for the Irish — goalies Tony Zasowski, defensemen Evan Nielsen and forwards Michael Chin, Connor Dunlop, Luke Wiegand and John Wroblewski.

The six players who graduate at the end of this season are goalies Morgan Cey, Tony Zasowski, defensemen Wes O'Neill and forwards Michael Chin, Connor Dunlop, Luke Wiegand and John Wroblewski.

The Irish look to declaw 5th-ranked Wolverines

Contact the University of Notre Dame Upward Bound program at (574) 631-5669 or email upbound@nd.edu

We look forward to hearing from you.
Swimmers look to build on pair of victories

By LISA REIJULA
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's mens swimming team has regained momentum after winning two of three meets at Texas Christian University last week. Now the Irish look to continue their winning streak against Purdue Friday night.

The Irish showed perseverance against TCU, rebounding after a narrow defeat last Friday that was decided by the last relay to win twice on the meet's second day. A strong performance by the 400-meter medley relay team of Doug Bauman, Jason Fitzpatrick, Frank Krakowski and Tim Randolph got the Irish off to a good start. The 400-meter freestyle relay team of Randolph, Fitzpatrick, J.R. Teddy and Matt Obringer sealed the victory with a first place finish in the meet's last event.

Other individual winners included freshman Jamie Lutkus in the 400 individual medley race, Fitzpatrick in the 100 breaststroke, Patrick Davis in the 1,650 freestyle and Obringer in the 100 and 200 freestyle.

After the win in Texas, Obringer is pleased with the team's improvement. "It gave us confidence and we'll use this win as a springboard for the meet with Purdue," the junior said. "We're looking forward to it."

The Irish showed their depth at TCU. In addition to the many event winners, Notre Dame had swimmers placing in the top four in most events. In the 200 breaststroke, Tyler Grenda, Lutkus and David Moisan finished one-two-three.

Friday's meet against Purdue will be the second time the Irish face a Big Ten opponent at home this season. Notre Dame defeated Michigan State Nov. 8.

The Irish face the Boilermakers at Rolfs Aquatic Center at 6 p.m.
Soccer
continued from page 28
days prior to eke out a 1-0 victo-
ry at Akron. Jack Stewart' s goal
midway through the second half
proved to be the deciding goal.
Before the Irish victory this
season, the Zips had dominated
the series between the two
teams, having won six of the first
eight games of the nine game
series. Before 2002, the Irish and
Zips had not played each other
since 1989.
The Zips enter the tournament
having won the Mid-American
Conference with a 4-1 confer-
ence record.
Meanwhile, the Irish have had
nearly two weeks of rest since
their last game, a gut-wrenching
2-1 overtime loss to Georgetown
on Nov 9.
"We're taking it back to funda-
mentals," Martin said. "We've
treated this two-week period as
a kind of preseason for the
NCAA Tournament."
The Irish are returning to the
NCAA Tournament for the sec-
ond consecutive year, after being
eliminated in the first round of
last year's tournament at
Maryland.
This marks the second time in
the history of the mens soccer
program the team has received
NCAA Tournament bids in two
consecutive years. The Irish also
achieved that feat in 1993 and
1994.
However, the Irish feel that
this year, unlike any other before
in the history of the mens soccer
program, the team can build on
its experiences from last year's
postseason and string together
some wins to make its second
season last longer than just one
game.
"We feel that we can string
four wins together against any-
body we play," Martin said. "And
to do so would put us in the Final
Four."
This year marks the eighth
time in Clark's 16-year collegiate
coaching career that he has led
his team to the NCAA
Tournament.
In addition, the Irish, under
the guidance of Clark, have a 14-
3-1 record (.806) at Alumni
Field.
Contact Bryan Kronk at
Kronk.3@nd.edu

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Surly Miller all business on court for Irish

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

They want to make the NCAA Tournament, win the Big East Championship, finish with over 20 wins and make a statement on the national college basketball scene.

But senior Matt Carroll has another, more personal goal he wants to achieve come season’s end.

Make Dan Miller smile on the court.

"He's so tough and so serious when he's on the court," Carroll smiled. "When he's out there, he goes to battle."

All one needs to do to understand Miller’s toughness is look at his body after a game, which is typically covered with bruises, cuts and other abrasions showing Miller’s physical style of defense.

And Miller’s defensive presence has been instrumental in Notre Dame’s first two games, where the Irish held both opponents under 50 points and kept them shooting less than 30 percent from the field, a trend the Irish hope to continue tonight against Bucknell at 9 p.m.

Irish coach Mike Brey has already noticed how Miller’s presence affects the Irish and how he helps to fill the absence of Ryan Humphrey’s athletic defense with a grinding, physical style of play.

"He’s got a little bit of a surliness about him," Miller said. "I don’t even know what surly means." Miller said. "I just go out there and play, and I try to be tough."

Miller saying he just goes out and plays isn’t an empty cliche, it’s a comment coming from a player frustrated from sitting out last season after transferring from Maryland.

This is Miller’s defensive prowess with the Irish springs from his role at Maryland, where he was inserted primarily as a defensive stopper and often guarded players such as former Duke All-American Shane Battier in key ACC games.

When Miller came to the Irish, Brey had one request for the 6-foot-8 veteran.

"He’s one of the better defensive wings we’ve had," he said. "We didn’t want him to lose that.”

So far, his defense has been infections, spreading to the rest of the Irish and giving them a defensive identity Brey said his team danced close to but never found in his first two years.

Forward Jordan Corrette’s presence down low also is a huge reason for the Irish defensive dominance. The sophomore has 19 blocks in his first two games.

The newfound defensive identity Brey talks about has the Irish smiling, for they know if they have trouble scoring — a problem that has plagued them early in their first two games — their defense will give them the edge.

"Our defense is going to just make our offense that much better." Carroll said. "If our defense is on, our shots are going to fall.”

Note: Irish center Tom Timmermans, who sat out Notre Dame’s first two games with back spasms, will be able to play for the Irish tonight, Brey said.

Contact Andrew Soukup at
asoukup@nd.edu
Notre Dame
Fighting Irish

Record: 9-1
AP: No. 8

Tyrone Willingham
head coach
Willingham first season at Notre Dame

Willingham against Rutgers: 9-1

Rutgers
2002 Schedule

Aug. 31
Maryland - W
Sept. 7
PURDUE - W
Sept. 14
MICHIGAN - W
Sept. 21
at MSU - W
Oct. 5
STANFORD - W
Oct. 12
PITTSBURGH - W
Oct. 19
at Air Force - W
Oct. 26
at Florida State - W
Nov. 2
BOSTON COLLEGE - L
Nov. 9
at Navy - W
Nov. 23
RUTGERS
Nov. 30
at USC

Coaches: No. 8

Notre Dame

Coaching

Quarterbacks

Irish Rushing

Irish Passing

This weekend will prove whether or not Willingham and his staff can get their team back to solid football. After a loss, a near loss and a bye week, Willingham will have to get his team focused on playing an unranked foe, playing Irish football and bringing home a big victory.

Irish rushing defense is also giving up nearly 200 yards a game. However, Rutgers has managed to play close to very good passing teams and could surprise the Irish. They record less than two sacks a game, but have eight interceptions.

Willingham and his coaching staff are far more experienced than Schiano and his staff. The Irish coaching staff has coached a team in several close victories and if they can get the Irish focused, should be able to outclass Schiano and his team.

Holiday has shown that he can pass and he can rush, although he has spent a lot of time in the pocket making his reads and finding his receivers. He is still struggling to consistently lead his offense on a long drive down the field that results in a touchdown.

The Scarlet Knights have allowed their opponents in gain an average of nearly 200 yards a game, although they do force fumbles and have recovered half of those they force.

Notre Dame has the edge here. Although Holiday has been inconsistent, Schiano is hoping that the signal caller, who has played in three games this season, will be able to improve on Trump and Cubit's performance.

The Irish rushing game should have no problem against a weak Rutgers rushing defense. The Irish rushing game has been inconsistent lately. Grant has been unable to hold the ball, but Powers-Neal has stepped up to make carries for the Irish, often taking defenders with him across the first-down marker.

Holiday has shown that he can pass and he can rush, although he has spent a lot of time in the pocket making his reads and finding his receivers. He is still struggling to consistently lead his offense on a long drive down the field that results in a touchdown.

The pass game has stepped up, averaging 170 yards a game. The Irish receivers do a good job running their routes and getting open. However, Holiday still has trouble finding them, and they have been unable to make a reception and then take off.

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Despite stepping up, averaging 170 yards a game, the Irish receivers do a good job running their routes and getting open. However, Holiday still has trouble finding them, and they have been unable to make a reception and then take off.

The Knight pass defense is also giving up nearly 200 yards a game. However, Rutgers has managed to play close to very good passing teams and could surprise the Irish. They record less than two sacks a game, but have eight interceptions.

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Rutgers again finds itself in the basement of the Big East at 1-9. The Scarlet Knights have been outscored this year by an average of nearly 15 points a game. Their lone highlight was carrying a 17-14 lead into the fourth quarter against No. 1 Miami before yielding 28 unanswered points. This should provide a good warm up for Notre Dame before the USC game next week.

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Aside from a major lapse against Navy in their last outing, the Irish defense has controlled opponents' rushing game. Although they allowed more than 200 yards against the option, they are keeping opponents to an average of less than 100 yards per game.

The Rutgers running game is mediocre, at best. The Scarlet Knights rely mostly on their passing, only gaining somewhere near 50 rushing yards per game. In addition, the Knights have fumbled 24 times this season and lost 11 of those.

Rutgers does not present any serious threat in the form of its rushing game. Notre Dame is bigger and stronger, and the Irish defense should have no problem shutting down the Knights and taking their run game completely out of the picture.

The Knights' defensive strength has been their pass game, but it hasn't been overly productive. Smith and Martin will provide the biggest threat to the Irish defense — both have three touchdown receptions on the season.

Sandis is 5-9 for the Scarlet Knights in field goals. However, the Knights do have a weapons in special teams in kick returner Jones, who has twotouchdowns, one of which came on a 100-yard runback.

Rutgers will be up for playing Notre Dame. The Scarlet Knights have had a less-than-spectacular season and will be looking to prove themselves and hopefully ruin Notre Dame's chances of going to a BCS bowl. They will look to capitalize on Notre Dame mistakes.

The Irish have the edge here. The home-field advantage and emotion of the seniors' last game at Notre Dame Stadium should give the Irish the needed motivation to take down a big victory against the Scarlet Knights.

After a week off, Notre Dame will bounce back in impressive fashion against a stingy Rutgers team. Look for the Irish to be focused in the seniors' last home game at Notre Dame Stadium. Notre Dame clicks on both sides of the ball and wins easily.
Sweet
continued from page 28
their way to a 20-1 record. The Pac-10 champion's sole loss came Oct. 4 against perennial national power North Carolina.
 In last weekend's opening rounds of the tournament, the Cardinal crushed Cal Poly 5-0 and then squeaked by California in a 1-0 overtime victory.
 Notre Dame forward Amanda Guertin made a statement in last weekend's victories. The junior scored four goals and registered an assist on her way to an impressive nine-point weekend.
 Guertin and fellow forwards Amy Warner and Katie Thorlakson will have their work cut out for them against The Cardinal's top-ranked defense in the country.
 Stanford's back line, led by senior Katherine Harrington, gives up an average of just five shots a game. The Cardinal also possesses one of the premier goalkeepers in the country, Nicole Barnhart leads the nation with 0.19 goals against average. Despite all of these imposing statistics, Waldrum is more worried about Stanford's high-powered offense and its big midfield.
 The Cardinal's starting midfielders are all taller than any of Notre Dame's starters Randi Scheller, Ashley Dryer and Mary Boland.
 Pac-10 player of the year Marcia Walters leads the Cardinal with 12 goals on the season, while midfielder Marcie Ward leads the team with 33 points overall. While these players may end up in the box score, Waldrum is most concerned with the playmaking ability of midfielder Callie Withers.
 "Callie Withers is their best player. She just makes huge plays for them offensive and defense," Waldrum said.
 After struggling during the early part of the season with an assortment of injuries, the Notre Dame defense has finally solidified itself with the addition of converted forward Melissa Tancredi. Last week, the junior shut down Purdue's top scorer Annette Kent, while also contributing the decisive goal with eight minutes left in the contest.
 Tancredi along with Chapman, Catherine Sigler and Kim Carpenter must continue their strong play this weekend.
 "Our backs really need to be consistent," Waldrum said. "I think we'll be alright back there."
 As Waldrum can attest when his undefeated Notre Dame team from two years ago lost in the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament, being the heavy favorite can be a real burden.
 "Two years ago, we were undefeated and ranked number one going into the tournament. If you don't win, then you feel like you've really blown the season," Waldrum said. "The pressure is on them. If they lose to us, then they've blown their ranking and their entire season."
 Contact Joe Licandro at Licandro.1@nd.edu

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by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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FREDOK

NEEWA

Jumble answers may be used for another puzzle.

Answer: HE

Yesterday Answers: CRAZE HARRY RANCID

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JULY 30

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To form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Why the fisherman bought the new lure.
Dueling the Knights

No. 8 Notre Dame returns to the gridiron against 1-9 Rutgers

By JOE HETTLER
Associated Sports Editor

For the second straight game, Notre Dame faces an opponent that has only one win this season.

And the Irish hope this game goes better than their last one.

Two weeks ago Notre Dame played a 1-7 Navy team at Ravens Stadium in Baltimore and needed a late 67-yard touchdown pass from Carlyle Holiday to Omar Jenkins in the final minutes to secure a 30-23 victory over the Midshipmen.

On Saturday, the Irish will need to play better than their last two outings if they hope to secure a win against Rutgers. While only 1-9 and 0-6 in the Big East conference, the Scarlet Knights have played several top teams tough this season. They led Tennessee at halftime and were beating No. 1 Miami late in the third quarter before losing 42-17.

"They have played their best football against the best teams, and, of course, they have played some of the really better teams in this country," Irish coach Tyrone Willingham said. "So it is a frightening thought that a team that has the skill that they have will play their best game against us this Saturday."

Notre Dame must also caution against looking past a lowly Rutgers team and seeing USC on the horizon. The Trojans are in contention for a BCS bowl bid and host the Irish next weekend.

That has always been the difficult side of coaching, is how can you get your young men to focus and concentrate on what’s important now,” Willingham said. “To do that, you really have to count on not only the leadership of your coaches, but the leadership of your players. They have to understand what’s important.

"The Scarlet Knights use a two-pronged backfield of Markis Facyson and Clarence Pittman. Facyson leads the team in rushing with 408 yards on 108 attempts and a touchdown. Rutgers has also used different combinations of quarterbacks extensively this season. Ted Trump leads the team in passing yards, while Ryan Cubi has started more games. Yet the Irish will likely see true freshman Ryan Hart, who has started the last two games for Rutgers. The freshman has two touchdowns and three interceptions on the season.

Meanwhile Notre Dame hopes to hold on to the football and move the ball effectively on offense. In their last two games, the Irish have fumbled a combined 11 times, including seven fumbles in their 14-7 loss to Boston College.

"That has always been the difficult part of the game," Willingham said. "It’s his decision," Black said. "I don’t think he wants people to do that and he wants to set a precedent and obviously he’s using me as the example."

The game kicks off at 1 p.m.

Contact Joe Hetler at jhetler@nd.edu

ND SOCCER

NCAA Tournament time continues for Irish

♦ Mens team looks to avoid letdown in rematch with Akron

By BRYAN KRONK
Sports Writer

Few were surprised Monday when Notre Dame’s name was announced as a part of the 48-team NCAA Tournament field for men’s soccer.

What may have surprised some, however, was the opponent, an Akron team the Irish have already faced — and beaten — this year.

Friday night at 7:30 at Alumni Field, the Irish (11-5-3) and Zips (9-7-3) face off in the first round of the “second season” for both teams.

The winner of the rematch will play Indiana in Bloomington on Wednesday. After an early exit from the Big East Tournament, the Irish are more than ready to start over again.

“(Coach Bobby Clark) has really got us believing that being eliminated from the Big East Tournament (in the first round) was a blessing in disguise,” junior captain and midfielder Mike McCarty said.

Friday’s match will mark the first-ever NCAA Tournament home game for the mens soccer team.

The first time these two teams met this season, on Oct. 6, the Irish rebounded from an overtime loss to Pittsburg two combined 11 times, including seven fumbles on their 14-7 loss to Boston College.

"They're the No. 1 team, but right now we have the advantage. We just can't break down,” defender Melissa Tancrredi said. "It's hard to face the No. 1 team, but right now we have the advantage. We just can't break down."

After last weekend's pair of 3-1 home victories over Ohio State and Purdue in the opening rounds of the tournament, the Irish will now be facing their toughest test of the season. The Cardinal has allowed only four goals in the season's first six games.

"I know we're physically tough. We just need to go in there mentally tough. Even if there are tough times against Stanford, we can't break down," Tancrredi said.

Contact Joe Hetler at jhetler@nd.edu
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COURTNEY WATSON
CHRIS YURA
Seniors relish return to glory

The Irish charge out of the tunnel wearing green jerseys before Notre Dame's game against Boston College three weeks ago. This season has been a redemption for a senior class that endured two losing seasons in three years.

Jordn Black said: "I expected to win a national championship. I thought that was very possible with the recruiting class that I was in." They had dreams of winning a national title, of proving that Notre Dame could still compete with the nation's elite programs. They wanted to walk out with their heads held high knowing they left behind a program in stable hands. And they will. Ask a Notre Dame fan how great was it to be around a national championship race. Now, the 2002 version of the Irish football team is writing chapters in history.

"If we win out and win a bowl game, this is going to be one of the great teams in Notre Dame history." - Jordan Black, offensive tackle

"Every year ... I'm 100 percent proud of, and I just want to finish it up with a great season like we have been doing." - Chris Yura, punt protector

"It was a hard year last year. This year we returned to Notre Dame football." - Sean Mahan, offensive guard

The Irish said they were headed for a huge turnaround. Few heard them. Few believed them. In fact, even as the Irish claimed they could contend for a national championship, they weren't too sure themselves whether this year would be different from the rest. But they blew out Maryland. Ended Michigan. Beat Michigan State. Crushed Florida State. Secured their place in history.

"We've had so many losing seasons, thinking about losing wouldn't have done us any good," Gerome Sapp said. "Now, instead of being remembered as the forgotten seniors, this year's class will be seen as the catalyst for an Irish return to glory. "Now, instead of being compared to the 1993 team, considered by many to be the last time Notre Dame challenged for a national title, the 2002 Irish will be looked at as the first group of many to challenge for a title.

Now, instead of wondering whether they'd ever make an impact, the Irish will graduate feeling their stint under the Dome had tremendous significance. Now, the seniors know what pride feels like.

The views in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.
Taking control

Sapp may play defensive back, but the defense he calls his own calls him the quarterback

By KATIE MCVOY
Associate Sports Editor

Friday, November 22, 2002

Sitting at home in front of the television was excruciating. He even thought about turning the game off, but he knew he couldn’t do that. Instead, he listened to the down the sound to avoid having to listen to the announcers and put on soothing music. There was pain, but it wasn’t the pain that came from his injured knee.

The defense, his defense, was struggling against a weaker team and there was nothing he could do about it. Gerome Sapp could only describe watching the close Irish victory against the Midshipmen on his television instead of on the field with one word.

“It was torture,” he said.

Playing strong

Ankle sprain and one game as a freshman year. He missed it all. “I’ve never missed a trip. He had no preconceived ideas about the future. Sapp saw himself as part of the leadership of the Irish secondary under his belt.

Gerome Sapp
Irish safety

“Every game time something, they have no problem putting away their jump ropes, hopping of the track around the pigskin with his brothers. ‘It’s kind of like we’re out there playing on the playground,’ Sapp said. ‘When you think back to high school and play with that mentality when it’s fun, it’s so much more effective because you’re not really afraid of making mistakes and things like that. We all know each other so well ...’ Sapp had taken ownership of this defense instead of on the field with one word.

I was just waiting patiently for that to happen,” Sapp said. “I feel kind of like it’s my defense, or at least my secondary. And not to be able to be out there and help our team, it was horrible.”

Sapp Irish safety

“When I look at the defense, I feel kind of like it’s my defense, or at least my secondary. And not to be able to be out there and help our team, it was horrible.”

Taking control

“He’s the quarterback back there in the secondary,” Baer said. “That’s good because of all the adjustments we have to make on almost every snap.”

Coaches and players don’t seem so serious that it’s career-ending or even season-ending. Sapp may even be back in time to play against Rutgers Sapp may even be back in time to play against Rutgers.

“Yeah, I mean, we have a good time and we play well in a game. ... Once it’s game time, it’s all ball and it’s all business. When the game’s over, it’s all laughs.

“Sitting at home in front of the television was excruciating. He even thought about turning the game off, but he knew he couldn’t do that. Instead, he listened to the down the sound to avoid having to listen to the announcers and put on soothing music. There was pain, but it wasn’t the pain that came from his injured knee.

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Coaches and players don’t seem so shocked by comparing Sapp to an offensive player. After all, he’s the signal caller for the secondary. He watches out for the line-up, he checks the players who are in and out. “I feel like a quarterback,” Baer said. “When I look at the defense, I feel kind of like it’s my defense, or at least my secondary,” he said. “And not to be able to be out there and help our team, it was horrible.”

Although the injury has set Sapp back in terms of what he wants to accomplish this season, he refuses to let it shut him down. Injury or no, it’s still his defense and there’s more yet to be done.

“The injury sets me back back-ups and bounds,” Sapp said. “I just want to help in every game an produce in every game. But I plan on catching up however I can.”

Besides, he and cornerback Shane Walton are in a picking contest. Walton has now had an extra game to get interceptions.

“He’s the quarterback back there in the secondary,” Baer said. “That’s good because of all the adjustments we have to make on almost every snap.”

Kent Baer
defensive coordinator

“Even when I leave, I’m leaving things in good hands,” he said. The next time he has to watch a Notre Dame football game on television, maybe it won’t be so hard.

Contact Katie McVoy at mcvo5@stmarys edu

from the coaching staff that I would take a leadership role.”

With a new coaching staff, taking that definitive leadership role was a little easier for the Texas native. They had no preconceived ideas about the past, they were only looking to the future. Sapp saw himself as part of that future.

“They know nothing of me. They knew some, but really nothing,” he said. “All they wanted to know was what can you do for the future. They didn’t care about the past. So I felt my leadership qualities would come out even more.”

“Even when I leave, I’m leaving things in good hands,” he said. The next time he has to watch a Notre Dame football game on television, maybe it won’t be so hard.

Contact Katie McVoy at mcvo5@stmarys.edu

Irish safety Gerome Sapp, the so-called quarterback of the Irish defense, has taken the leadership of the Irish secondary under his belt.
Moving from an earthquake to a rumble

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Carlos Pierre-Antoine's arrival at Notre Dame caused an earthquake. His departure will barely make a tremor.

When high school athletes to essentially become a four-year special teams player, Pierre-Antoine doesn't know. He only understands that he tried his hardest, yet never emerged as a regular in the Irish lineup.

"It was frustrating," he said. "I want to get out there and I want to play, but you have to do whatever the coaches think is best and what the coaches thought was best was for me to get behind my teammates.

Coming out of high school in Seattle, virtually every major recruiting service listed Pierre-Antoine as one of the top linebackers in the nation. He earned MVP honors in the Seattle Metro League twice, captained his team twice, and finished with 105 tackles his senior year.

When the Irish landed Pierre-Antoine, he was seen as one of the crown jewels in a recruiting class that eventually produced seven NFL draft picks. But even as NFL teams placed calls this past spring, Pierre-Antoine ferociously battled to earn a starting spot.

At times, Pierre-Antoine admitted the hype got to him and affected his adjustment to college. He sat out his entire freshman year to preserve a year of eligibility and to adjust to college life, a decision he hoped would prepare him for future greatness.

The decision appeared to pay off his sophomore year when he appeared on defense in all 12 of Notre dame's games, recording a career-high 19 tackles that season. But Pierre-Antoine started to feel the pressure the spring after his sophomore season, when he battled his good friend Tyreo Harrison for a starting linebacker job — a decision Pierre-Antoine thinks was already made before the spring.

"I think he was going to start anyway, they were just doing that to get him fired up," he said. "So I'd try to help him last as best I could, that was my role."

That spring seemed to be the defining point in Pierre-Antoine's career, a point that epitomized the struggle he went through trying to carve out a spot on the team. Harrison moved into the starting lineup, while Pierre-Antoine moved to the special teams unit.

He had another chance this fall to earn a starting position again, but Derek Curry beat out Pierre-Antoine, sending the fifth-year senior back to the special teams unit.

Pierre-Antoine isn't bitter toward Bob Davie's coaching staff for keeping him on the sidelines, nor is he bitter toward Tyreo Willingham's staff for deciding to keep him there again. Although he briefly thought of transferring, he wanted to stay in South Bend to get a Notre Dame degree. In the meantime, he was left wondering why he stayed on the sideline.

"I don't know what it was," he said. "I guess its that the coaches felt the other person can get the job done better than I can."

Notre Dame's success this season has made Pierre-Antoine's season go a little easier. He gets his satisfaction in small bursts, mostly from making huge hits on special teams.

He had his moment in the spotlight against Florida State when he drilled a kickoff return, but Derek Carr fumbled, helping Notre Dame to a 34-24 victory.

What lies ahead for Pierre-Antoine is a season in South Bend to get a Masters in social work. He got his degree in Sociology and computer applications last year, and is working on an education minor. After college, with the NFL out of the picture, Pierre-Antoine wants to explore the possibility of playing football at some level.

But this is the plan God has for me, and I'm going to do the best I can and go in the direction I'm going to go.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu
McNair learning to stop running, start blocking

By CHRIS FEDERICO

USA Today first team prep All-American. Rated in the Top 20 players in the nation by the Chicago Sun-Times. Rated in the Top 50 players in the nation by The Sporting News. School record 2,671 yards rushing and 33 touchdowns for California football powerhouse Mater Dei as a senior. A 10.55 time in the 100 meters and 4.36 in the 40-yard dash — top 10 national times for both distances. Those were the stats, records and honors earned by Irish fullback Mike McNair during his senior year of high school — as a tailback.

But when McNair arrived as a freshman at Notre Dame, former Irish coach Bob Davie decided to try to take advantage of his size and growth potential and moved the talented runner to fullback. It was a difficult change, and one that took longer than either player or coach had hoped.

"It was pretty tough, because I had never blocked in high school," McNair said. "I was mostly used to just carrying the ball. I had to really develop my blocking over the years."

The southern California speedster worked on gaining weight to bulk up to the size of a fullback and tried to learn the blocking skills and techniques of the position.

"When I first gained a lot of weight, I didn't really lose a lot of speed, but I felt kind of tight and restricted," McNair said. But McNair managed the switch and played most of his freshman season as a blocking back in short-yardage situations.

Then injuries took their toll — McNair played only one game of his sophomore season before suffering an arch injury that kept him out the rest of the year.

Then as a junior, McNair saw action as a backup in six games, but missed two trips and some playing time, this time with a hip flexor injury. In fact, it wasn't until the Navy game last season that McNair — the record setting high school tailback — got his first carries for the Irish, three for 15 yards against Navy.

So when new coach Tyrone Willingham and his almost completely revamped staff came in last season, McNair, who had a fifth year of eligibility remaining, saw it as an opportunity for new life in his last year.

"With the new coaching staff, I saw it as an opportunity to end my time here on a good note, and just give it one last shot to see if I could have fun," McNair said. For McNair who along with the other members of his class had witnessed some tough times with the Irish, including two losing seasons, a 41-9 Fiesta Bowl loss to Oregon State and Notre Dame's first 0-3 start last year, this season has been one of redemption.

In addition to Notre Dame's 9-1 start, McNair has seen increased playing time, including appearances in all 10 Lopienski's first career reception against Stanford.

"I think this year is great," McNair said. "It's a great team to be a part of with some real-ly great guys. We've done some good things, and I'm definitely happy about how things have gone so far. It's been a lot more fun for me this year."

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu

Tom Lopienski

Lopienski happy to do the team's dirty work

By MATT LOZAR

Most football fans notice Notre Dame fullback Tom Lopienski when he doesn't do his job instead of when he does. But two weeks ago, the senior's name was announced for doing something good, and it wasn't just throwing a block.

Unfortunately, Lopienski wasn't able to enjoy his first career-rushing touchdown as much as he should have. Lopienski's touchdown put the Irish ahead 9-7 in the second quarter against lowly Navy.

"During that game, things weren't going too well so I was more mad throughout the whole game," Lopienski said. "Things weren't going so well for the team so I was more focused on that than the touchdown being a big thing for me.

Even though the Irish were able to pull out the 30-23 victory, Lopienski hasn't focused on his moment in the sun.

"I just keep an working hard," he said. "I block, and to score a touchdown is a perk, but I am just as happy to throw a good block and let [Irish running back] Ryan Grant or somebody else score."

The fullback's role on offense is to open holes for the running backs, block blitzing defenders and, basically, help the offensive line do its dirty work. Even watching the fullback and concentrating on him every play doesn't necessarily reveal if he is playing well.

"Basically, it is like an offensive lineman, if you just focus on that player during the game, it's pretty hard to tell if they are doing their job," Lopienski said. "Any time you get in the open field and you can see the fullback making a block for the tailback then you can tell he is doing a good job."

The change to the pro-style offense brought by Irish coach Tyrone Willingham and his coaching staff hasn't resulted in a big change in Lopienski's role.

"I am getting the ball maybe a couple times more. But basically it is just blocking and I have no problem with that," Lopienski said.

Coming from Walsh Jesuit High School in Ohio, Lopienski had scholarship offers from Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State. The Parade prep All-American was rated as one of the top 100 high school players nationally by the Sporting News, Chicago Sun-Times and Dallas Morning News.

However, seeing his older sister Sarah run track for the Irish and knowing his dad Tom was a cornerback for the Irish in the '70s made Lopienski's decision easier.

"My dad came here and my sister came here who ran track here although she got scholarship opportunities to run elsewhere," Lopienski said. "I followed her pretty much, you know the big sister— go with her. "Notre Dame has a good football tradition and I thought it was the best choice."

Although he has played in every game in which he has been eligible, what Lopienski will remember most won't be the plays on the field.

"I would say the friendships on the team stick out the most and is what I will remember the most with the guys on the team, the guys in my class the year before," Lopienski said.

Lopienski said that being a walk-on and a low man on the totem pole weren't things he will remember the most.

"You just remember the good times you had with your teammates," Contact Matt Lozar at mlazar@nd.edu
Chris Yura

Fullback makes best of what's given to him

by BRYAN KRONK
Sports Writer

Chris Yura has made the most of the opportunities that have been given to him. Even before he began breaking state record after state record as a running back in his hometown of Morgantown, W. Va., Yura knew where he would spend his college years.

"When I first came here, I came to football camp," Yura said. "After I saw the traditions, like Touchdown Jesus, it was just like, 'Wow. And I couldn't think of anyplace else to come.'"

Fullback makes best of what's given to him

But here, and that was my sophomore year of high school. So I basically made my mind up when I was 15."

Unfortunately for Yura, his primary position in high school — running back — would be backlogged with competition at Notre Dame. In 1999, star running back and fellow freshman Julius Jones would take many of the handoffs at tailback for the Irish and Jones' depth would be the handoffs at tailback for the Irish. In 1999, star running back and fellow freshman Julius Jones would take many of the handoffs at tailback for the Irish and Jones' depth would be the handoffs at tailback for the Irish.

"I’ve done here, I’m 100 percent proud of, and I just want to finish it up with a great season like we have been doing," Yura said. "Having been part of the Notre Dame tradition for his four years in college, Yura will look back on his time at Notre Dame as a special time in his life. After this season is over, he will move on from the Irish sidelines and take with him the lessons that those four years as a part of the Irish football team — as well as part of a greater Notre Dame team — taught him.

"The work ethic — hard work, commitment — just the Notre Dame experience — is the one thing I'll be taking with me," Yura said. "I've been with a great group of guys, and with excellent students ... just the whole combination is a great thing to take away.

While his future remains uncertain, Yura will still keep a place in his heart for the Irish. "I think the thing I'll miss most about Notre Dame is my teammates," Yura said. "A lot of these guys ... you're with them all the time, you kind of grow to be like family. It's such a close-knit group. I think it's going to be hard stepping out of it and not being a part of the team anymore. You grow so close, and it creates a bond just with the hard work you go through. It's hard to walk away from it."

Yura spent much of his Notre Dame career playing special teams, making a few rushing attempts, most notably on a fake field goal in 2000 against Boston College. Yura's 4-yard run on fourth-and-2 gave the Irish a key first down in the game, which the Irish went on to win.

Despite not seeing much action at running back, Yura has still relished his time here at Notre Dame and his ability to make contributions to the Irish effort.

"Just being here, just being able to experience the football part of Notre Dame has been awesome," Yura said. "The whole Notre Dame experience has been such a gift. I feel like I'm the luckiest guy in the world to have the opportunity to come to a place like this and play football. It's just amazing."

In his final year of eligibility, Yura made contributions to both special teams and the Irish offense, earning a rushing attempt during this year's game with Air Force. In addition to the rush at Air Force, Yura also made a special teams tackle that game.

Although he has seen only limited action this season, Yura said he has no regrets about not being able to contribute more.

"Every year and every thing I've done here, I'm 100 percent proud of, and I just want to finish it up with a great season like we have been doing," Yura said.

Contact Bryan Kronk at bkronk@nd.edu

NEIL WILLIAMS/The Observer

Chris Yura came to Notre Dame as a running back but made the best of playing on special teams as a punt protector.

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IRISH INSIDER

Page 6

The Observer • IRISH INSIDER
Friday, November 22, 2002
David Miller grew up minutes away from Irish territory, was recruited in 1998 to kick and never permanently obtained the coveted starter’s position. But things happen for a reason. “I would obviously love to kick, but I would never change the fact that now I’m playing,” said Miller who is finishing his fourth year of eligibility as a holder and backup kicker with the Irish. “All I want to do in my last year is win.”

When Miller entered Notre Dame as a freshman, he had grown accustomed to winning. As the kicker and punter for Penn High School in Mishawaka, he contributed to three consecutive state championship teams from 1995 to 1997. “The thing that sticks out most about David is that the more crucial the situation the better he performed,” said Penn football coach Chris Geesman.

But more than Miller’s competitiveness caught the Geesman’s eye. “He was a free spirit,” Geesman said, adding that Miller would dye his hair different colors and often painted his nails gold.

Even now, Miller describes himself as an independent thinker who is very opinionated. “It’s tough for people to get in an argument with me,” he said. Geesman said it was Miller’s self-confidence that made him an outstanding football player. “He’s what I consider the typical kicker,” he said. “He was a little eccentric but very, very good.”

Early in Miller’s Notre Dame career, he sprang into the spotlight at a time when kicker Jim Sanson missed several attempts and the crowd was responding by crossing their fingers in the air.

Against Arizona State in 1999, Miller made 6 of 7 extra-points, with the lone miss coming on a blocked kick. That same year, Miller made field goals of 33 and 33 yards against USC and totaled 19 points for the season.

Although Miller had his moment to shine, Sanson returned to the starter position, and, in the following season, Miller faced the competition of another teammate, senior Nicholas Setta. That year, Miller kicked off during the Navy and Rutgers games but did not play during 2001.

Now, Miller works as the holder for the Irish. And despite the kicking game’s inconsistencies this season, Miller is proud of his teammates’ perseverance. “We’ve had some tough times,” Miller said. “It’d be easy for a lot of guys to leave, but with senior class, we’ve stuck around and finally fought through it.”

He added that playing under coach Tyrone Willingham has revitalized the team’s sense of pride. “Now, you expect the best out of everybody,” he said. The 5-11, 210 pound kicker graduated with the class of 2002 as a psychology major with a 3.33. In his fifth year, he is taking graduate classes in psychology in preparation for a job or internship, and later, a graduate studies program.

“Miller calls music one of his biggest loves,” owns hundreds of CDs and enjoys listening to the lyrics of rock groups like Metallica, Rage Against the Machine and Korn among others.

He gets pumped up before games to the sounds of Korn’s “Here to Stay,” said he anticipates an emotional last home game against Rutgers. “It feels like I’ve been here forever,” he said.

Contact Helena Payne at payne.30@nd.edu
JORDAN BLACK

Hookin’ ‘em Longhorn style

Black turned down Texas to come north and win with the Irish

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sporn Editor

When Texas native Jordan Black turned down offers to play college football for in-state giants Texas and Texas A&M, and instead selected the nation in starts by a line­season. Black ranked 13th in seeing five seniors start on the offensive line. But if the Irish didn’t win a national championship, I thought that was very possible with the recruiting class that I was in.

But four years after stepping onto campus, the senior offensive tackle knew he couldn’t leave South Bend — knew he couldn’t leave one of the greatest college football programs of all time — without leaving a mark.

“Everybody has a goal of winning a national championship, or as in my case, to just be a part of a winning team,” Black said. “Last year, we didn’t do so hot, but I didn’t want it to end on that note. So I came back.”

Now, 10 games into a dream season, the fifth-year senior and the rest of his classmates finally have their chance to contribute to Irish lore. They have a chance to go down in history as another great Notre Dame, Dame history, he quickly responds.

In that respect, Black has been the pace-setter for the Irish, starting in almost every game during his career, a near unimaginable feat for a position that receives so much wear-and-tear. After sitting out his entire freshman year, Black started every game but two. He missed two games at the end of his sophomore season when he suffered a torn medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

Now, in his fourth year as a starter, Black tries to share everything that he’s learned from 42 games on the gridiron.

“Leadership-wise, I think he’s somebody that the guys on our team really look to and try to be like, not only in the way that he approaches the game, but in the way he studies it and prepares himself to be ready every week,” Denbrock said.

Black even though many of those players he has been expected to lead are peers and class­mates. Black has had no problem accepting that role.

“Regardless of whether they look to me for leadership or not, it’s my responsibility to demonstrate leadership hopefully, I do that,” Black said. “But the same time...you can tell that I’m a kid.”

Black said, “It’s funny to go back and look at. But I think now, it’s pretty obvious that I’ve got some games under my belt, and I’ve just got a better feel for the game. I think you can just see more maturity in the way that I play.”

Now Black is one of the dom­inant tackles in the game, using a combination of talent and experience to lead the Irish line.

“I think Jordan — physical­ skill wise — is as gifted as anybody I’ve ever worked with,” Irish offensive line coach Mike Denbrock said. “But he’s also a smart football player.”

Black uses what he’s learned from his four years as a starter, and brings it with him to every game. Some of the coaches relate it to having another coach out on the field during a game.

“He understands the game, does a good job of communi­cating with me on the things about the kind of things that are happening while they’re out there on the field,” Denbrock said. “A lot of that is having the opportunity to play so much and having the game experience that he does have. But a lot of it, too, is instinctive, and it’s just someth­ing that he brings to the table.”

The leader

Even a squad that starts five seniors along the offensive line needs someone to look to for leadership. While his nice to have the wisdom of being with a team for four years, age can mean very little without playing experience.

“Game experience is invaluable. There’s no substitute for it,” Black said.

In that respect, Black has been the pace-setter for the Irish, starting in almost every game during his career, a near unimaginable feat for a position that receives so much wear-and-tear. After sitting out his entire freshman year, Black started every game but two. He missed two games at the end of his sophomore season when he suffered a torn medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

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Black turned down offers from in-state schools to come to Notre Dame.

Irish tackle Jordan Black hits an opponent during Notre Dame’s victory against Navy. The Texas native turned down offers from in-state schools to come to Notre Dame.

“Black Brown, though, when he got hired, he almost talked me into going into Texas,” Black said. “But Notre Dame was too big of a deal to pass up, so that’s why I came here.”

For four years, all those nay­sayers and second-guessers had been able to criticize Black for leaving his home state behind. But now, as the Irish sit at No. 8 in the nation, just two wins away from a BCS bowl berth and a few strategic losses by the right teams away from the national champi­onship game, Black knows it was the right decision.

“I’m happy about what we’ve accomplished this year,” he said. “I couldn’t ask for anything more.”

And it’s no surprise Black already has one team he’d love to play in a bowl game.

“Oh man, that’s got to be Texas,” he quickly responds with a devilish grin. “I would love to play them.”

The end

After four seasons of disap­pointment in which Black wit­nessed the Irish go a combined 28-19, including two losing seasons, the 41-9 debacle in the 2001 Fiesta Bowl and the program’s first 0-3 start last season, he is finally enjoying the type of season for which he told all those Texas coaches to keep their scholarships.

“We had a couple of bad years,” Black said. “We didn’t make it to the Fiesta Bowl, but in retrospect that was kind of an embarrassment what happened to us there. But consid­ering how this year has been, it’s been totally worth it.”

And now, Black and his Irish teammates — especially those senior classmates that have seen the worst days — are basking in the good times.

After four years that seemed to last an eternity, he can’t make this final one last long enough.

“It’s unbelievable, coming back from the Florida State game at the airport, there’s people waiting there to cheer us on,” Black said. “There’s 500 people waiting at the sta­dium for us when we get back. That’s just something I haven’t experienced. I’m trying to just soak up as much as I can before I leave here.”

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu

Sports Editor

“It’s unbelievable, coming back from the Florida State game at the airport, there’s people waiting there to cheer us on,” Black said. “There’s 500 people waiting at the sta­dium for us when we get back. That’s just something I haven’t experienced. I’m trying to just soak up as much as I can before I leave here.”

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu

Friday, November 22, 2002

The Observer ♦ IRISH INSIDER
After losing both parents, Mahan found support in friends and family

By KATIE McVOY

Irish offensive tackle Sean Mahan

Sean Mahan lived the life of an All-American boy. He grew up in a comfortable neighborhood in Tulsa, Okla. with his parents and his sister. He played high school football and wrestled. Mahan's first love was football and he was good at it.

He was just the boy next door. Then his whole life changed.

During the summer of 1996, right before Mahan entered his junior year in high school, a year during which his football team would win a state championship, Mahan's father passed away. Just two years later, in October of his freshman year at Notre Dame, his mother lost her long battle with cancer and left Mahan an orphan.

"It has been very difficult," Mahan said. "It's something you never expect as a teenager or a child—to lose your parents."

By his sophomore year in high school Mahan seemed to have it pretty much figured out. He had earned a starring spot on the Jenks High School football team, a team that did not allow a sack in all three years.

"But she had diabetes and her body just started to fall apart," Mahan said. "And that was a hard thing to sit there and hear him listen to his sister telling him what happened. That was just real hard.

After he got the news, Mahan wasn't sure he was even going to stay at Notre Dame. The shock of losing both parents was something that could have sent any man back home. But, in choosing Notre Dame, Mahan had unexpectedly fallen upon a support system that would help carry him through the darkest times in his life.

"I was living in Siegfried Hall at the time and I had a bunch of friends living in the dorm that were very supportive," Mahan said. "And my friends on the team—Jordan Black, Mike McNair—they were very supportive, always helped me. When it first happened, I didn't know if I

wanted to come back, but they were so supportive that I wanted to come back and finish what I started."

Mahan stayed four more years.

But the five years Mahan spent at Notre Dame felt like a lot longer for a young man who had to learn to cope with more than just bad football games.

"I came in 1998. It feels like it was 20 years ago," Mahan said. "I've been here for half a decade."

Five football seasons later, Mahan has grown as a player and as a man. But there are some things that always stay the same.

"There are always two people I dedicate games to. Every game is dedicated to them."

By his senior year Mahan knew he was choosing Notre Dame for the football, for the tradition and for the academics. He didn't know he was choosing a support system.

Halfway through his freshman season, which he sat out to preserve a year of eligibility, Mahan received a disturbing phone call from home. His mother, who had battled cancer when Mahan was younger, had undergone surgery to correct a brain clot.

The surgery was successful, but Mahan's mother had passed away unexpectedly following the surgery.

"She had cancer when she was younger," Mahan said. "But she had diabetes and her body just started to fall apart."

Mahan was not alone when he received that phone call. The first line of his support system was there when Mahan's sister, Lisa, told him that they had lost another parent. His teammate room­mate on the road, Jordan Black, sat and listened as Mahan talked.

"I was actually there when he got the phone call," Black said. "And that was a hard thing to sit there and hear him listen to his sister telling him what happened. That was just real hard.

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Halvorson hits the books and then the field

By MARK ZAVODNYIK
Sports Writer

Jason Halvorson didn't come to Notre Dame to play football. The walk-on senior defensive lineman from Burnsville, Minn., arrived at Notre Dame to focus on academics.

"I came to Notre Dame because it's a great academic institution, and I figured my football days were over," Halvorson said.

Halvorson spent his inaugural football season at Notre Dame in the student section like most undergrads. However after experiencing the aura and tradition of Notre Dame football from the stands, Halvorson knew that he needed to be a part of it on the field.

So at the end of his freshman year, Halvorson tried out at spring practice and made the squad. He has been living the dream of Notre Dame fans ever since.

From being in the locker room to playing in the games, Halvorson has been able to live out his dreams as a Notre Dame football player.

"You get goose bumps on the back of your neck running out of the tunnel, looking out into the 80,000-people sea of green," he said. "It's exhilarating."

This season Halvorson has had an opportunity to be part of the renaissance of Notre Dame football. New coach Tyrone Willingham has instilled in his players the importance of team unity.

"The team has really come together and set goals for itself," Halvorson said.

Willingham and his staff have also instilled a belief that the team can accomplish its goals. Halvorson talks about how this foundation of being goal-oriented is evident in all aspects of this team.

"From day one, Coach Willingham set a standard for us to achieve," Halvorson said. "We are trying everyday to achieve those standards that he set for us."

This season has been highlighted for Irish by a win over Florida State at Tallahassee. For Halvorson, that game was the most exciting of his career.

"It was a riot to go down there and beat them at home," Halvorson said.

But the world doesn't end with football for Halvorson, who has bigger plans in state after graduation.

The science pre-professional major plans to attend medical school next year. Despite his difficult class schedule and lofty expectations, Halvorson said the opportunity to be a part of the Notre Dame football team has been worth juggling his responsibilities.

"It's hard, it hasn't been easy, but at the same time it has been really rewarding," he said.

As he approaches his final two games as a Notre Dame football player, Halvorson will be forced to look back at his career and think about how far he has come. In the end, he'll be able to say that he was a member of one of the most tradition-rich teams in all of collegiate athletics.

"It's fun just to be a part of it," Halvorson said. "To say that you are a part of something truly bigger than yourself."

Contact Mark Zavodnyik at mzavodny@nd.edu

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Shane Walton

Playing for pride

Walton started football to
make his coach proud —
his soccer coach, that is

By JOE HETTLER
Associate Sports Editor

Throughout his football career, Irish cornerback Shane Walton was a trailblazer.
I'm not too big on the individual, but for the team I definitely expected this (successes this season)," Walton said. "You look at some of the games we lost last year ... I knew we had talent, it was just a matter of bringing it all together."

New coach Tyrone Willingham brought all that talent together this season as the Irish sit on a 9-1 record heading into the seniors' last home game of their careers. Much of Notre Dame's success this season has been attributed to the defense, particularly a devastating secondary that has made big plays all year, and Walton has had a hand in his fair share of those game-turning plays.

So Walton returned to a team that had been through losing seasons in two of the last three years, a coaching controversy and rape accusations aimed at four players. Though those obstacles, Walton kept working, kept improving and kept his focus. "I think I had a lot of room to improve," Walton said.

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Walton waited his turn and used one of his biggest assets — his work ethic — to put himself in a position to start in 2000. He also added weight to his then 175-pound frame. "I basically had to change my body, the structure of my body from a soccer player to a football player," Walton said. "Football is a lot of burst, so I had to put about 10 pounds of muscle on, I think [training and being successful] is a tribute to my work ethic. I believe anyone can do anything they want to do. It's just a matter of how hard you're going to work to attain that goal."

In 2000, Walton recorded 31 solo tackles and assisted on nine others. One of the highlights of the season for Walton occurred when he intercepted Purdue's Drew Brees and returned the ball 60 yards for a touchdown in Notre Dame's 22-0 victory over the Boilermakers. Walton also led the team in minutes played that season until breaking his right forearm against Rutgers.

Just a year later, 2001 was a very bittersweet season for Walton. He had a breakout year, quickly becoming the leader of the Irish secondary by blocking a punt against Nebraska that set up the only Irish score of the game. He went on to record 43 tackles; a sack and seven tackles for a loss that season.

However, Notre Dame struggled to win and finished just 5-7 under former coach Bob Davie. The season challenged the Irish, as well as Walton, to rise above the criticism and the bad aura surrounding the team.

"It was hard for me," Walton said. "I hate losing. I think anyone that is OK with losing is a loser. So I was definitely not all right with it. It's not the way I wanted to be at Notre Dame, but right now I'm taking it one game at a time. That's what I think you have to do to get there."

As a leader on and off the field, it's easy to see Walton's impact on Notre Dame's 9-1 record at this point in the season. It's a testament to how he has grown as a player and as a person.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhetter@nd.edu

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Walton started football to make his coach proud — his soccer coach, that is.
Linebacker plays football while keeping promise

By JASON MCFARLEY  
Sports Writer

It took Charles Hedman seven years and 100 pounds to make good on his final pledge to his father. An opportunity to coach football didn’t hurt either.

Then Hedman’s yearning to keep his promise kicked in at the right time, too.

“I was afraid to wait until all the circumstances were perfect to try out for the football team,” said Hedman, now a senior walk-on.

Making the team this fall fulfilled the promise to play college ball that he made to his dad before his death in 1995. Keeping his word has today literally made Hedman twice the man he was then as a high school freshman.

His transformation began when Hedman entered Notre Dame in 1999. With the promise to his father in mind, Hedman knew a 120-pound frame wouldn’t fly in the college ranks. He started building a football body.

“I ate right and lifted every day,” he said. “I gained most of the weight in a year’s time.”

By his sophomore year, Hedman had the body but didn’t feel ready to try out. He spent three years at Notre Dame before finally giving tryouts even a second thought last winter. Hedman was in fact waiting for the perfect time to live up to his word.

With the reputation Coach Willingham had built on his way here, Hedman knew he’d be expected to make a mark.

“As soon as I was hired, I made up my mind to go out for the team,” said Hedman, who lives off-campus this year. “With the reputation Coach Willingham had came in with, I knew I wanted to play for him. If it wasn’t for him, I wouldn’t be here.”

Hedman enters Notre Dame in 1999. He believed not only to watch the games but also to go behind the scenes afterward.

“The neatest thing was going into the locker room after the game,” said Novakov. “I’m a grandfather and Coach Lou Holtz were good friends. When Notre Dame was in the Cotton Bowl, I went to practice ... I have autographs from those teams.

Novakov’s grandfather also graduated from Notre Dame, as did two uncles, who also played football, a great uncle and a sister.

Novak’s family history is such a part of the Novak’s family life that’s it’s tough to put their experience with the school’s tradition into words.

“I’ve never really known anything else because it’s always been normal to me. Growing up, I didn’t really know there was any other college,” Novakov said.

When he was younger, Novakov wanted to be a basketball player, but he soon realized that Notre Dame football was in the cards for him.

He started playing football in junior high school and grew to like it more — enough to walk on to the Notre Dame football team and back into the locker room that captivated him as a child.

While it hasn’t been easy, Novakov said he never thought twice about giving up.

“I’ve never quit anything in my life,” he said.

While there’s no room for4 to play college football, he also helped him through his four seasons playing on the scout team.

“Overall it’s so much more time and so much more intense than playing in high school. It’s nice having someone who has gone through it, who understands and can offer advice,” he said.

Novakov, Sr. said he values his experience with Notre Dame football and thinks his son is learning some of the same timeless lessons.

“You learn a lot more than football. You learn teamwork, how to deal with success, how to deal with failure, and how to deal with those weekly. ... But really the important thing is to do your best and let the chips fall where they may,” he said. “The greatest asset about Notre Dame is the people and being associated with them. The football players are really great people, good kids.”

His son agreed, saying the friendships he has made with his teammates have been the biggest rewards of playing football.

As the younger Novakov carries on the family football tradition, he said this season has been a perfect way to end his experience.

“I don’t think last year was much fun for anyone,” he said. “So it’s good to end on a good note and have a great year.”

Contact Lauren Beck at lbeck@nd.edu.

For Novakov, Notre Dame still the only school

By LAUREN BECK  
Sports Writer

When he was growing up, walk-on quarterback Dan Novakov lived every young Irish fan’s dream.

Novakov, a senior from Dallas, Tex., was one of the kids scurrying around on game day wearing a Notre Dame jersey and gold pants — only he actually knew the guy whose number he sported.

The number on his replica jersey was 81, and it belonged to Tim Brown, 1987 recipient of the Heisman Trophy and fellow Irish native who Novakov’s father helped recruit.

Novakov met Brown and fell in love with the Irish at an early age, when his father, former Irish center Dan Novakov, Sr., brought the family to South Bend each year. Novakov was able not only to watch the games but also to go behind the scenes afterward.

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Novakov’s grandfather also graduated from Notre Dame, as did two uncles, who also played football, a great uncle and a sister.

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Contact Lauren Beck at lbeck@nd.edu.
Different is good

Teammates poke fun at him about being unique, but Roberts prides himself on it.

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

The atmosphere inside the tunnel before the Irish take onto the field can best be described as a boil of electricity waiting to explode. Players bounce around, jumping into each other, and shouting motivational phrases to their teammates.

Ryan Roberts is different. The fifth-year defensive end plants his feet and stands like a wall amidst an ocean of teammates. Sure, running out of the tunnel is a tradition, but Roberts would rather focus on something else.

“I love the energy, but I’m the only guy not jumping,” Roberts said. All people think about all week is coming out of the tunnel. “All I’m thinking about is that first drive.”

The fact that Roberts contains his excitement in the tunnel while his teammates enthusiastically psyche themselves up shows that Roberts isn’t your typical football player.

Trendbreaker

Roberts is a kind weird,” Gerome Sapp said with a laugh. “But the thing that’s funny about him is — he knows he’s weird and he’s okay with being weird.”

For the first person to admit he’s not exactly like the rest of his teammates, Roberts doesn’t follow trends. He doesn’t follow the crowd. He has his own set of priorities.

And his teammates love to poke fun at him.

In fact, the Irish love to pick on Roberts for just about anything. When he dyes his hair red, they make fun of him. When he turns on his eccentric music, they make fun of him. When he talks about hanging out at a sub shop, his teammates make fun of him. When he shows up class wearing a long-sleeve thermal shirt under a polo shirt, his teammates make fun of him. When he talks about soccer — a sport he played until he was a high school freshman — his teammates make fun of him. When he talks about running the other guy is going so fast, his teammates make fun of him. When he talks about being weird, Roberts makes fun of himself.

“His own is weird, and his teammates love to poke fun at him,” said Glenn Earl, a senior defensive end. “I don’t do what a lot of people would expect me to do,” Roberts said. “If you sit around doing what people expect you to do, then they never really know who you are as a person.”

Roberts doesn’t try to pretend he’s something he’s not, and his teammates enjoy the flavor the fifth-year senior brings to the Irish roster. Roberts has earned a certain amount of respect for establishing himself as a different person.

“When he does something crazy, nothing surprises me anymore,” Earl said. “Everyone accepts him for who he is and it kind of makes our team a fun group.”

Gamebreaker

It seems appropriate that a guy with a different personality would get his chance on the field as a result of unusual circumstances.

Roberts had never played football until his freshman year of high school. One of his friends encouraged the 6-foot, 220-pound soccer player to give football a try. Roberts went to football practice, skipped soccer that afternoon, and never kicked a soccer ball around in a game again.

He came to Notre Dame as a linebacker who had returned kicks and punts in high school as well as starring as a tailback. But Roberts forced in and waited his turn behind established veterans Arno Weaver and Grant Irons.

His career seemed to hit a low point the winter after his sophomore season when Roberts needed back surgery. Doctors fused bone from his hip to bone on his spine and used four screws and two metal rods to stabilize his back.

Roberts could have taken the year off to rehabilitate. But he decided to add the metal implants because they would accelerate the healing process, and, less than six months after surgery, Roberts was doing full-contact drills.

It was a good thing he was ready. When Irons suffered a season-ending shoulder injury, Roberts was the only guy who could take his place.

“I had been practicing my hardest, and that’s what I was preparing for,” he said. “I worked hard to get into that position.”

A torn MCL ended Roberts’ season three games early, but the defensive end had made a statement — he was ready to step into his own spotlight.

Walking his own path

Roberts doesn’t talk much about the field — he leaves that to his more verbose teammates. Instead, he impresses coaches and players with his quiet intensity and leadership style.

“He’s playing with a metal rod in his back. If you see that and see the way he plays, that’s inspirational right there,” said Trendbreaker.

Gerome Sapp
Irish safety

“Jeez, he’s playing with a metal rod in his back! If you see that and see the way he plays, that’s inspirational right there.”

Senior defensive end Ryan Roberts marches to the beat of his own drum. Although teammates joke about it, Roberts prides himself on his individuality.

He is a guy we can count on to make plays in the ballgame,” Irish coach Tyrone Willingham said, “a guy in the locker room that has provided some excellent leadership.”

Yet football isn’t everything to Roberts. He focuses intently on his academics, trying to make sure he gets good grades. While he would love to play in the NFL some day, Roberts is already preparing for a career as a sales representative.

And yes, that does mean he has to actually dress nicely and wear a suit.

“I’m a kid,” he said. “This is what you get to do when you’re 22 years old. When it’s over, you move into true adulthood. It’s just the experiences of life.”

Roberts has a great time experiencing life. His teammates have a great time experiencing Roberts’ eccentricities.

And that’s just fine with Roberts. As long as he doesn’t bother anybody, he doesn’t mind doing his own thing.

“I’m a different person. I don’t follow trends. I don’t have to rant and yell,” he said. “I just come, get my job done, and I’m happy with success anyway I can get it.”

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu
Ed O'Connell balances football for the Irish with ROTC. He never planned to do either when he decided on Notre Dame.
Arnaz Battle

Learning what it means to be tough

Battle has had struggles in football, but none as difficult as losing his brother.

Editor’s Note: This article originally appeared on Nov. 1, 2002

By ANDREW SOUKUP

Tough for Arnaz Battle has nothing to do with a football field.

Tough isn’t starting your college career working as a back-up and when you finally start that first game, play arguably the worst game of your life.

That isn’t entering your junior season as the starting quarterback, only to break your arm and miss the rest of the season and lose your job.

Tough isn’t trying to switch to wide receiver, and then breaking your leg, leaving you wondering whether you made the right choice and if you’re ever going to reach the NFL.

It’s not learning about toughness on a football field.

It learned over a decade ago when he was nine years old and found his three-year-old brother floating face-first, dead, in his grandmother’s pool.

“Things could be worse, that’s the way I look at it,” said Battle.

“The death of somebody so close to you reminds you that football isn’t everything.”

Football struggles


But Battle went through all of them all, and dozens more.

But he knows the catchy phrases aptly describe a football career teeming with adversity.

When he arrived at Notre Dame in 1998, coaches saw him as a top recruit with idea of the recruiting class and a player that would emerge as the next great Irish quarterback.

Yet he was stuck playing behind Chad Jackson and barely made it onto the field his freshman year. The one game he started, the season finale at USC, he estimated he he only knew 70 percent of the offense, and his arm, andizely finished 7-for-19 for only 64 yards passing with two interceptions.

That game haunted him his entire junior season, as he stood on the sidelines and watched Jackson inch closer and closer to breaking all kinds of Notre Dame passing records.

But Jackson tumbled to a 5-6 record.

Jack ruled senior year as the undisputed starting quarterback. Finally, Battle remembered thinking, he had a chance to show people what he could do.

On the first play from scrimmage during Notre Dame’s second game of the season, against top-ranked Nebraska, Battle started scrambling and got drilled by a Cornhusker defender, landing on his left wrist.

The next day, fans started scrambling for anatomy books to see what a appendage was, because that’s the bone Battle broke.

But attitudes started to change in a hurry. Battle sat the season out to preserve a year of eligibility and watched freshman Matt LoVecchio lead the Irish to seven straight wins and a BCS berth.

At some point in the season, coaches decided to给他 the prospect of a position change.

The reason? According to Battle, the coaches told him that LoVecchio would enter the spring as the starter, and if Battle wanted to find playing time, it would probably come at wide receiver.

So Battle transferred from quarterback to receiver, a position he played for the first time during his freshman year of high school, and had to earn playing time behind future NFL draft pick David Givens and Justin Hunter.

The playmaking potential coaches raved about never materialized. Battle broke his left wrist during the season and missed four games. He only caught five passes all season and didn’t score a touchdown.

Throw in a coaching change in the off-season, a new offense and a whole lot of uncertainty, Battle started to think about life after football.

“Tough isn’t trying to switch to wide receiver,” Battle said. “I can appreciate that. I finally found a home.”

Family first

If Battle needed inspiration, he looked to three places: God, his family and his left bicep.

After his brother drowned — an event too painful for Battle to describe in detail — Battle carried around a picture of his brother in his wallet. But after keeping it for so long, he said he didn’t know if he’d get an opportunity to show what he had.

What that reason was, Battle still doesn’t know. He’s grateful to his family for their support, and part of his motivation for reaching the NFL is getting money to give to his family. And he knows he’s a stronger person because of everything he’s endured.

“The Lord, He tests you to see how strong you’ll be, and I believe I’ve been through a strong test,” Battle said.

“Things are going to work out for me.”

Breaking out

Battle admits he felt some trepidation before the first official team meeting with Tyrone Willingham. He was worried the coach would try to move him around to a different position or worse, not even play him.

But Willingham and offensive coordinator Bill Diedrick never considered a change. Diedrick didn’t want to take the most experienced receiver out of an already-depleted wideout corps and Willingham wanted to give Battle the chance to flourish as a receiver.

“Tough isn’t trying to switch to wide receiver,” Battle said. “I can appreciate that. I finally found a home.”

That catch was just the beginning. Two weeks later against Pittsburgh, Battle seemingly took over Notre Dame’s only extended drive of the day, making a pair of tough catches before hauling in a tough catch in the end zone. He finished with 10 catches for over 100 yards.

Then came a 112-yard receiving performance against Air Force and a stunning 65-yard touchdown on Notre Dame’s first play from scrimmage against Florida State.

“I would have thought I would have been in this situation early in my career, but obviously things didn’t work out,” Battle said. “I say things happen for a reason, and the things that happened to me just made me a stronger person. It helped me realize not to take my blessings for granted. The good things that happen to me, I’ve learned to appreciate them, because I know things can be a lot worse and go the opposite way.”

Then Battle stopped for a second and paused.

Even though he had on a long sleeve shirt, he momentarily glanced toward his left arm, at his brother. The message was clear.

His football career has been tough.

But not that tough.

Contact Andrew Soukup at soukup@nd.edu
Ryan Scarola

Faine’s backup accepts playing out of the spotlight

By JOE LICANDRO
Sports Writer

Ryan Scarola isn’t used to playing in the spotlight.
The fifth-year back-up center has played in every game the past two seasons, but usually only in his special teams capacity. But at Michigan State this year, the time arrived for Scarola to step up as Jeff Faine’s backup. When the starting Irish center left the game briefly after spraining his ankle, Scarola took to the field.

“I’d never really played center in a game before,” Scarola said. “I was really excited to get a chance to play.”

Being Faine’s backup is not a position that would afford one much playing time, but Scarola believes he has learned much from the experience.

“You have to be ready,” he said.

“Your nerves kind of go away and instinct takes over. You never know. It teaches you a good lesson.”

Scarola has not regretted one moment of his time on the football squad.

“It’s a dream to play here,” the psychology major said. “I think that motivates everybody. Playing football, which you love [is part of the motivation], but I think it’s a dream to play here especially.” Additionally, his positive attitude and duty to the team have made his experience rewarding.


Scarola has always enjoyed football, and Notre Dame has been part of his life ever since he was a baby.

Scarola’s father, a Notre Dame graduate, proposed to his mother during a game at Notre Dame Stadium. So despite being an export from Export, Penn., he has always had Irish blood.

Although Scarola did not see any playing time in his capacity as backup center during his freshman year, his sophomore year brought some playing time as well as his first career start against Kansas.

Scarola is still amazed from his first-ever experience running out of the tunnel into the Notre Dame Stadium.

“The most unforgettable [moment] was probably the Michigan game my freshman year, coming out of the tunnel,” Scarola said. Despite knowing that he would not be playing in that game, Scarola said the day still stands out as one of his best Notre Dame memories.

“You don’t really realize what it’s like to walk out into the Stadium until you actually do it,” Scarola said.

“That’s probably the most memorable thing for me.”

Scarola is relishing every moment of this, his last season donning the blue and gold.

“You can’t put a price on playing here,” Scarola said. “It’s unforgettable.”

Contact Joe Lindsley at jlindsle@nd.edu

Senior Ryan Scarola makes a block against Boston College. Scarola has seen limited game time playing behind Jeff Faine at center.

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Fr. Ted Hesburgh, C.S.C.
Notre Dame President Emeritus

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Going long

Irish rely on punter to pin opposition deep and send Notre Dame far

By JOE HETTLER
Associated Press Editor

The Hildbold family can never enjoy a Notre Dame football game when fans visit the campus to see their son Joey play, even if the Irish are winning.

"If I play it's probably good if I don't," Hildbold said. "My family comes to the games, and they have the big dilemma because they want to see me play but they want us to win in." This is the life of a punter.

But Hildbold doesn't mind. In fact he loves his job. Hildbold has worked hard in practice and in the off-season throughout his four years at Notre Dame and it has paid off. He was a finalist in 2000 and this year for the Ray Guy Award, given to the nation's best punter. He will also graduate as one of the best punters in Irish history.

"Being recognized as a top punter feels pretty good," Hildbold said. "That's a real nice honor to have. I really couldn't do it without my protection team. They've been real good, a good snapper, good personal protector. They all help me out. It's a great honor. It'd be nice to win it but it's a lot better if we were winning." All of Hildbold's accolades aren't bad, considering he frequently gets booed when taking the field at Notre Dame Stadium.

"Sometimes it's funny because when I run out on the field, the fans boo because we're not going for it or we just had a bad play," Hildbold said. "A couple times that I regret in the past. It's kind of funny because you run out there and you wonder if that's that for me? or 'Is that because we didn't do well?' I really don't take it too personally." He doesn't take it personally because he has been an unlikely contributor to Notre Dame's success this season.

He's averaged 40.3 yards per punt this season and has pinned opponents inside their 20-yard line a career-high 25 times. In Notre Dame's 24-17 victory against Purdue, Hildbold drilled eight punts, averaging 44.6 yards per kick. He also pinned the eight punts for a 50.1 average. Hildbold followed that career-best performance by posting the best in the next week when the Irish faced Texas A&M. In that game, Hildbold drilled six punts for a career-best 50.5-yard average.

Hildbold credits his work ethic for the success he's had so far in his Irish career.

"I know if I worked hard enough and really concentrated on what I was doing, I would do pretty well," Hildbold said. "I'm just concentrating on the kick itself. You visualize a little bit before and know what your going to do, know what your assignment is and then just go through the fundamentals and just go out and kick." That formula has continued to work for Hildbold this season. He has been named an All-American candidate as well as a Ray Guy semifinalist.

All this success may have given Hildbold a chance to play on Sunday's next fall. However, he's not thinking about the NFL too much right now.

"That's a goal," Hildbold said. "I'd like to do that. So this off-season I may train and see what happens. But right now I'm just trying to focus on punting well for the team, try to win some games and then go to a good bowl game and perform well there and help the team to win. Then when that time comes, decide then." Football wasn't always Hildbold's first interest. He played soccer from the fifth grade until the 12th grade and also wrestled and played wide receiver and kicker on the football team.

Hildbold's father attended Notre Dame, so when it came to choose a college, Notre Dame was what Hildbold judged other schools against. It was the right choice.

"[Notre Dame's] been a great place," Hildbold said. "Everybody talks about it, but you don't really understand how great it is until you get here and you go through the whole four years. Playing football adds a whole other level to it. Notre Dame is Hildbold's first love, but punting the football on Saturdays is a close second and he takes great pride in doing his job as best he can.

"Just going out there every day is a joy for me," Hildbold said. "I treat it like punting. I like punting. That's something I enjoy doing so every day is good for me."

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

Fifth-year senior Joey Hildbold punts during an Irish victory against Stanford. The punter is averaging 40.3 yards a punt and helping the Irish win the field-position battle.

"I knew if I worked hard enough and really concentrated on what I was doing, I would do pretty well."

Joey Hildbold
Irish punter

"Going long
Irish rely on punter to pin opposition deep and send Notre Dame far

By JOE HETTLER
Associated Press Editor

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But Hildbold doesn't mind. In fact he loves his job. Hildbold has worked hard in practice and in the off-season throughout his four years at Notre Dame and it has paid off. He was a finalist in 2000 and this year for the Ray Guy Award, given to the nation's best punter. He will also graduate as one of the best punters in Irish history.

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Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

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"I knew if I worked hard enough and really concentrated on what I was doing, I would do pretty well."

Joey Hildbold
Irish punter
Snapper climbs from walk-on to veteran

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

John Crowther has lived the Notre Dame student’s dream. The Irish long snapper, who was virtually un-recruited out of high school in his hometown of Edina, Minn., entered his freshman year at Notre Dame with intentions no greater than simply playing dorm football for Morrissey Manor.

Little more than a week into his first year of college, Crowther got a surprise call from one of the Notre Dame football coaches to tryout for the team.

“It started when I first got here, staying in Morrissey Hall,” Crowther said. “I went out for the interhall team there. Father Bill Steech was the assistant coach, and he called up the head football coach for me and got me a tryout with the team without my knowledge or anything.

“I got a tryout on the team, actually passed it and then a week later the backup got hurt, so I got to travel about a week and a half after I made the team with the team without my knowledge or anything.”

The Irish ended up losing that game 45-23, but things were only just beginning for Crowther. By his junior year, he had worked his way up the chart to the starting snapper for field goals and extra points, and he would soon become the snapper on punts as well.

At the end of last season, after two years atop the depth chart at snapper for Crowther, the senior walk on was offered an opportunity to return for a fifth year. It was an opportunity he could not turn down.

“I was very excited when I met Coach Willingham for the opportunity to come back for a fifth year,” Crowther said. “I’ve been with the same guys on this team for a long time, so we’ve been through a lot of ups-and-downs. I felt that as a group, we could still really accomplish some good things.”

Over the summer, Crowther was offered a scholarship to return for his fifth year. That only made the dream complete.

The former Morrissey center has climbed from walk-on backup, to starter, to scholarship veteran.

“I felt that as a group, we could still really accomplish some good things.”

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu
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Fifth year doesn’t wake O’Neill from dream

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Tim O’Neill couldn’t give up the dream.

When the chance to play a fifth-year for the Irish came, the 5-foot-6 walk-on couldn’t say no.

“He always wanted to play football at Notre Dame. If you have the chance to do it for one more year, I mean, that was an easy decision for me to make,” O’Neill said. “If you still enjoy playing and you are playing at Notre Dame, then you are going to come back.”

The announcement of Irish coach Tyrone Willingham replacing former coach Bob Davie was just icing on the cake.

“The decision was made before (the coaching change) but obviously there is a lot of excitement with a new coach coming in,” O’Neill said. “It has just been a tremendous experience. One of the best decisions I have ever made.”

O’Neill rushed for 1,634 yards and scored 12 touchdowns at Athens high school in Troy, Mich., and passed up the opportunity at other schools where he would be featured to attend Notre Dame.

“I often thought about that, because in high school you get the ball a lot, but if I got in to Notre Dame, this is where I was coming,” O’Neill said. “It was Notre Dame and then I had some fallback plans. But if I got in to Notre Dame then I didn’t think about any-

where else.”

That intention to attend Notre Dame began early in O’Neill’s life. Going to his first Notre Dame football game when he was seven years old, O’Neill watched wide receiver Tim Brown run back two kickoffs for touchdowm.

O’Neill’s older brother Mike also walked on at Notre Dame and played in 1991.

Three years ago in his sophomore season, O’Neill saw his first game action in Notre Dame’s 48-17 win against Arizona State. O’Neill gained four yards in Notre Dame’s 22-0 defeat of Maryland in the Kickoff Classic and rushed for 18 yards against Stanford, including a career-long rush of 11 yards.

Despite seeing little playing time in his career, O’Neill relishes the opportunities he has been prepared for his entire life.

“It might surprise some people when you say you aren’t nervous but when you have been playing football since fourth grade, that is what you prepare in the off-season,” O’Neill said. “That is what you think about at night before you go to bed is getting in there and playing and contributing.

“I think if you have confidence in your abilities then you are not in awe or it’s not like you can’t believe you are in that situation because that’s a situation you have pictured yourself in.”

Running out of the tunnel, putting the uniform on for that first time or even his first carry aren’t the moments that stick out in O’Neill’s mind. It’s the larger picture of being part of the team he will carry with him for the rest of his life.

“It’s kind of hard to pinpoint just one experience,” he said. “But just being with your teammates, just being in that family and supporting each other and making adjustments from high school to college and then accepting you into a family is the biggest thing.”

That, and keeping the dream alive.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

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**CHAD DEBOLT**

**Special teams player balanced football and lacrosse**

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sport Writer

Football practice five days a week is tough enough. Especially when one couple that with starting for the lacrosse team. If you're thinking about coming back to Notre Dame until he met Tyone Willingham. Bernard Akatu thought twice about coming back. Friday, November 22, 2002

**BERNARD AKATU**

**Decision to stay was right for wide receiver**

By JOE LICANDRO
Sport Writer

After four years of working against the first team defensive end on every day in practice, walk-on wide receiver Akatu was seriously considering whether to call his football career quits or return to exercise his final year of eligibility. Even though he would be returning to Notre Dame for a fifth academic year, the 21-year old native of Lagos, Nigeria, was starting to question whether all the practices and team meetings were worth it any more.

"When they made the announcement there would be a new coaching staff, I felt a little excited, but I didn't have much confidence until I met with Coach Willingham. After I talked to him, I was impressed with the man I met that I thought this was definitely the right direction for Notre Dame football," Akatu said. Following his decision, Akatu's instincts were correct. With a 9-1 record and No. 8 national ranking, Notre Dame has proved the doubters wrong all season. Akatu is extremely thankful for the way Willingham has quickly built his team on the program. "I'm not going to sit here and say that I predicted we would be 9-1, but I thought we could compete with every team on our schedule. At no point, did I ever doubt that we were good enough to win a national championship," said Akatu. "Willingham has made us believe we can win a national championship." He's not on and off the field, Akatu has a great sense of humor. Although he is the constant recipient of ribbing from his teammates, the fifth-year senior does not feel it at all. As a walk-on, Akatu believes his job is to always carry a positive attitude into the locker room to keep his teammates loose for the games. "Walk-on or not, football is tough for everybody. It is hard for all of us to do what we do both physically and mentally. So for you not to have some excitement about what you do is just putting an added stress on yourself," said Akatu. Five years ago, Akatu entered Notre Dame planning to major in engineering, but after his junior year he began to have second thoughts. As he points out, sometimes life has a funny way of turning out. "I was an engineer for three years. I kept hoping I'd like it, but it never happened. I don't remember a single professor or single class I liked so I guess that's not good," said Akatu with a laugh. "I thought I'd go into business because I like people." Even if this season had turned out differently for Notre Dame, Akatu is glad he made the decision to come back. Throughout the past five years, he always had faith that Notre Dame football would return to glory. Now, he's thrilled that he's had the chance to be a part of it. "I wouldn't say the last four years wouldn't have been worth it, but this year made it feel like hard work really pays off," said Akatu. "I cannot imagine what it would have been like if last season hadn't been my last year because I really would have felt that I hadn't accomplished much. I always believed this team could be good, but for some reason things just didn't work out. This year has been a huge sigh of relief." Contact Joe Licandro at licandro.1@nd.edu
**Fourth-year seniors**

**COURTNEY WATSON**

Notre Dame’s senior inside linebacker has been a big hit for Irish fans the past two seasons. Courtney Watson, recently named a finalist for the Dick Butkus award given to the country’s best linebacker, has hit often and hit hard. After missing the first two games of the season due to an illness, Watson came back strong. After eight games, he leads the Irish with 81 total tackles. He’s recorded three interceptions, including a 34-yard return for a touchdown.

The 2002 season marks the second year in a row that Watson has started at linebacker for Notre Dame and the second year in a row he has been in the top two in tackles. Last season he recorded 76 after filling the spot left by the graduation of former All-American Anthony Denman.

However, Watson’s hard-hitting abilities aren’t the only things that have impressed the new Irish coaching staff. The senior, who still has one year of eligibility left, has taken an obvious leadership role on and off the field. During the first two games of the season, when Watson was out sick, Irish coach Tyrone Willingham mentioned several times that the linebacker would lead the team. Since then, he has been named a game day captain several times and has led a defense that has held their opponents to an average of 97.7 rushing yards and 182 passing yards.

That is quite an accomplishment for a player who came to Notre Dame without the expectations of playing on the defense. Watson, who hails from Sarasota, Fla., came to Notre Dame as a running back. At Riverview High School he earned all-Sarasota honors while rushing for more than 2,500 yards and 25 touchdowns.

However, when Watson hit Notre Dame, the coaching staff thought they could use Watson somewhere else. So they began to develop themselves a linebacker. Now, 188 tackles, 22 tackles for a loss and four interceptions later, the Irish have developed more than a linebacker. They have a hitting machine.

**JASON BECKSTROM**

After playing in every game in 2001, 2002 has been quite a change for the Irish reserve center. Beckstrom has not seen any action this season. After suffering a bicep injury and then undergoing surgery at the beginning of the season, Jason Beckstrom has not seen any action this season. The senior Tulsa, Okla., native has spent all season recovering.

In the 2001 season, he recorded three tackles and recovered a fumble against Tennessee and grabbed his first career interception against Purdue, which he ran back for a touchdown.

**RYAN GILLIS**

Despite being a top 30 national prospect by Football News and a Parade prep All-American, Ryan Gillis has had a tough time getting into the game.

Gillis plays behind an offensive line that doesn’t get hurt and doesn’t give up. As a back-up offensive guard, he plays behind senior Sean Milligan and fifth-year senior Sean Mahan.

The senior Fawn Lake, Va., native saw some playing time during the 2001 season, mostly on special teams. However, he saw playing time at the right guard position against Boston College and Navy after Sean Milligan suffered an injury.

**BRENNAN CURTIN**

The first thing you notice about Brennan Curtin is his size. The 6-foot-8, 325-pound offensive tackle is the largest member of the Notre Dame team. But if he makes a statement with his size, then he really makes a statement with his play.

The senior offensive tackle is a key member of an offensive line that has shown continual improvement over the course of the season, opening up the Irish running game.

Curtin recorded his first start last season against Michigan State and played several offensive line positions before settling into tackle this season.

**DARRELL CAMEL**

Irish senior Darrell Campbell has taken a leadership role on the Irish defensive line.

Barely missing being one of Notre Dame’s top-10 tacklers, Darrell Campbell has made himself known on the football field. And his size isn’t the only thing that makes him obvious.

The 6-foot-4, 288-pound defensive tackle is one of the vocal Irish leaders on a defensive line that is determined to be the best in the country.

Last season, Campbell seemed to settle into his role on the defensive line. This year, he’s more than comfortable. He’s in charge.

Campbell, who hails from South Holland, Ill., is a starter for the second year on the Irish squad. He has already bested his 26 tackles that he recorded last season, tallying 27 tackles in 10 games thus far this season. He has been key to the Irish pass-rush game. Campbell has recorded five tackles for a loss, pushing opponents back a total of 28 yards.

Campbell started nine of 11 games during the 2001 season, sitting out the Michigan State game after suffering a neck injury and missed the Stanford game due to a right knee sprain.

This season, the starting defensive line has not been with Campbell coming out of Thornwood High School, Campbell was a USA Today honorable mention prep All-American and was ranked 82nd nationally by the Chicago Tribune.

**SEAN MILLIGAN**

Starting is nothing new to Sean Milligan. The 6-foot-4 offensive guard saw nine starts in 2001 and has seen 10 starts this season. An ankle injury benched him against Boston College and caused him to miss the Tennessee and Navy game.

Milligan joins fellow seniors and fifth-year seniors Brennan Curtin, Sean Mahan, Jordan Black and Jeff Faine on a veteran offensive line.

The Norcross, Ga., native was a USA Today second-team All-American coming out of high school and was rated 86th on the list of top 100 prospects by ESPN.com.

**NICHOLAS SETTA**

Nicholas Setta attempts a kick against Purdue. The kicker began the season with five field goals against Maryland.

This season has been a roller coaster for Nicholas Setta.

The senior place kicker started the season on what can only be labeled a high. During the Kickoff Classic, Setta connected on five field goals, his only miss coming from more than 36 yards out. He was named the Kickoff Classic MVP for his efforts and found his to be the new household name around campus.

After that game, he hit what Irish coach Willingham refused to call a slump. In the next four games he only connected on 3-of-10 field goals and broke his 16-game streak for consecutive field goals.

However, he managed to find his foot again against Florida State, hitting two field goals from 35 and 39 yards, respectively. He retains a streak for consecutive extra points, hitting every single attempt this season.

The Lockport, Ill., native, whose first love was soccer, has served as Notre Dame’s place kicker for the last three seasons, beating out fellow teammate David Miller for the job.

In addition to managing his kicking duties for the Irish, Setta manages to run track. He works in the high jump and the long jump for the Irish and short to medium distance running.

Setta, who was a Parade prep All-American and rated the number-one kicker in the country out of high school, hit the cross bar on a 73-yard attempt at Lockport Township High School.
have one year left

JEFF FAINE

Irish center Jeff Faine has started every game this season, exemplifying the steadiness that has characterized his career.

Faine is only second to fifth-year senior Jordan Black in terms of minutes played and has started every game of his college career despite sitting out his freshman year to save a year of eligibility. Generally regarded as one of the top offensive linemen in the nation, Faine was a consensus selection by the Irish coaches, walking out of the locker room at halftime, he knew he'd return to the field. "It would probably take a broken neck to keep me out of the game," the Irish center remarked at one point in the season.

Sean Milligan

It's amazing what a year of experience can do for an offensive lineman. Last year, Milligan was often pushed around on the Irish front line and struggled to provide adequate protection. An ankle injury kept him out of the Tennessee and Navy games and Milligan only returned in a reserve role in the final two Irish games of the year.

But this season, Milligan has established himself as a dominant presence on the Irish line. He's started all five games for the Irish and is a member of one of the most experienced Irish offensive lines in Notre Dame history. With one year of eligibility remaining, Milligan is poised to improve even more next year.

Jim Molinaro

Three seasons of turmoil have finally culminated this season for Molinaro with a series of appearances on the Irish offensive line.

Molinaro came to Notre Dame as a highly recruited defensive line­man. But he sat out his freshman year and only squawked into one game his sophomore season. Coaches approached Molinaro with the idea of a position change, and the senior readily accepted the move.

The Irish lineman spent much of last season learning the Irish offense. But now that he's learned the nuances of being a lineman, Molinaro is ready to break into the Irish rotation next season.

Pat Ryan

Ryan entered Notre Dame with a USA Today All-American selection under his belt. But the senior from Montana has yet to make a significant breakthrough on the Irish squad.

Ryan made his first appearance in 2000 as a member of the Notre Dame's special teams and winning his monogram. He made the lone tackle of his career in Notre Dame's second game of the season.

Last year, Ryan only made a handful of special teams appearances, playing in just three games. He has appeared in nine of Notre Dame's 10 games this season and has recorded six tackles.

Justin Thomas

Thomas' career can best be described as a work in progress. The three-year Defensive Player of the Year by an Oklahoma newspaper, he has only scraped the surface of his potential to translate into on-field prowess.

Thomas played five games his freshman year as a backup linebacker, although he saw most of his work on the special teams unit. He sat out his entire sophomore season and made only a handful of special teams appearances in 2001.

But this season, Thomas has played in every game, making six tackles on special teams. His role next season is still undefined.

GLENN EARL

Safety Glenn Earl hits a Navy player during an Irish victory. Earl ranks second on the defense with 65 tackles.

The Irish safety entered this season known pretty much for one thing — blocking a field goal against Air Force in the 2001 finale. Earl the headhunter of the Irish secondary for his hard-hitting abilities. He was named Defensive Player of the Week by the To­le­do Blade and was a semifinalist for the Outland Trophy, an award presented annually to the nation's top lineman.

One of Faine's greatest assets is his leadership. Although Tyrone Willingham used game day captains this season, Faine has been a con­stant selection by the Irish coaches, walking out of the locker room at halftime for well over half of the Irish games this season.

What lies ahead for Faine? The Irish center isn't sure. He has said he's going to carefully consider his options when it comes to deciding whether to leave Notre Dame a year early for the NFL draft. Regardless of Faine's intentions, the center chose to put his team first — waiting until the end of the season to make a decision about his future to put the team's success first.

GARY GODSEY

Gary Godsey runs after making a reception. After playing quarterback for two games, Godsey moved to the receiving end of the ball.

He still sees students walking around campus wearing T-shirts that say, "In God's (sey) We Trust." But Gary Godsey just smiles and laughs when he looks back on his short-lived Irish quarterback career.

Two seasons ago, when Arnaiz Battle broke his wrist in the second game of the season, Godsey started the next two games as Irish quarter­back. He won his debut against Pittsburgh, leading the Irish on a 59-yard drive that culminated in a game-winning field goal kick.

But Godsey struggled a week later against Michigan State and was eventually replaced by Matt LoVecchio, who went on to start the final eight games of the Irish season. With Carlyle Holiday and Jared Clark waiting in the wings, Godsey moved to tight end the winter before his junior year.

During his rookie year on the offen­sive line, Godsey didn't make much of an impact. Although he started four games in 2000, he only made five passes against Navy for a combined 50 yards. His role in the Irish offense seemed to be reduced to that of a one­guy blocker until Tyrone Willingham instituted his pro-style offense.

This year, although Godsey has yet to score a touchdown, he has caught six passes, the third most of the Irish roster, for 150 yards. He also heads a very deep corps of tight ends, yet has emerged as a clutch receiving option when the Irish need a big play.
IRISH
Friday, November 22, 2002
BERNARD AKATU
ARNAZ BATTLE
DARRELL CAMPBELL
CHAD DEBOLT
GLENN EARL
JEFF FAINE
CHARLES HEDMAN
CEDRIC HILLIARD
JOEY HILDBOLD
MIKE MCNAIR
DAVID MILLER
DAN NOVAKOV
ED O'CONNELL
RYAN ROBERTS
NICHOLAS SETTA
PAT RYAN
RETURN