Autopsy: No foul play in Sharon’s death

By TERESA FRALISH
Assistant News Editor

After reviewing the results of the autopsy conducted today on Chad Sharon’s body, police said Sharon died from drowning and that foul play was likely not involved.

The cause of death is consistent with drowning,” said Rex Bakow, director of Notre Dame Security Police. “There was no indication of foul play or other trauma to the body.”

Sharon’s body was discovered by construction workers yesterday about two feet of water underneath the Angela Bridge. Police made a tentative identification yesterday based on the Notre Dame medal Sharon was wearing and identification found in a wallet on his body. Sharon was first reported as missing by Fisher Hall staff on Dec. 12 when he did not return from an off-campus party on Corby Street. Sharon had told friends he would return to campus on his own. A Madison Center employee later reported speaking with Sharon early on the morning of Dec. 12.

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
Assistant News Editor

Students decided Thursday they wanted experience.

Pat Hallahan and Jeremy Lao won the student body presidential election Thursday, garnering 51 percent of the vote compared to the 49 percent Charlie Ebersol and Lauren Meagher earned. Nine percent abstained.

3,713 students voted in Thursday’s election—342 less than the number who voted Monday.

Hallahan was excited with the victory and the margin of victory. “We are relieved that it was easy, resigned as chief of staff government positions. Hallahan, who said the campaign was not easy, resigned as chief of staff for incumbent student body president Libby Bishop in the last week of the campaign.

Hallahan intends to “put students first,” as his campaign slogan stated, and start working for students immediately by following up with contacts to initiate some of their plans as they transition before they take office on April 1.

The Flex 10 meal plan and TCE publication project are ideas from this year’s administration that Hallahan intends to implement during his term.

Hallahan wants to be present in the Office of the Student Body President and lead by example. He envisions a smaller and more efficient staff for the Office of the Student Body President.

Hallahan commended the other candidates and said, “We hope that a lot of [the candidates] will stay involved and help in some capacity because there were some great things on almost all of the tickets that could be incorporated to make things better for students.”

Hallahan said he has already talked with presidential candidate Joe Matsu about working together and intends to talk with Ebersol about his platform. Ebersol wished Hallahan and Lao well.

By JULIA MILLER-LEMON
News Writer

Students organize Iraq protest in NYC

Beginning today, the Junior Parents Weekend Executive Committee welcomes the families of the class of 2004 as they arrive from around the country to share in their children’s academic and social lives at Notre Dame.

Carrying the theme “Wherever We Go ... God, Country, Notre Dame,” the weekend kicked first Year Student Orientation and Commencement as the three times when parents are honored guests on campus and are able to experience the Notre Dame community firsthand.

The weekend will include a number of different activities designed to expose parents to their student’s life both inside and outside of the classroom.

Pasties kick off tonight with the “Bright Lights of the Big City” Gala at the Joyce Center, a celebration for juniors and their families that will include music, dancing and hors’ d’oeuvres.

Saturday begins with academic workshops sponsored by the colleges of Arts and Letters, Science and Engineering and the Mendoza College of Business.

These workshops will offer an opportunity for parents to learn more about what goes on in the classrooms of Notre Dame.

Following the academic workshops, each hall will be hosting a luncheon for both in-hall residents and those former residents who have since moved off-campus. This is a chance for parents to meet

Students boycott Heartland due to alleged discrimination

By CAITLIN EARLY
News Writer

In response to alleged discriminatory marks directed at senior Kristine Rosario outside of Heartland on Jan. 30, a group of Hall residents and those for- mer residents who have since moved off-campus. This is a chance for parents to meet

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Welcome parents

Junior Students face promising long-term job market

Jobs still can be easily procured by graduating seniors in a slumped econo­my by relying more on networking and by having multiple career goals.

The nation's capital has seen a heightened military presence in response to reports of terrorist threats.

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What's Happening @ ND

Lecture: "Goldsmith, Ireland and Empire," 3 p.m. in room 424 of Flanner Hall.

Women's Tennis vs. Virginia Tech, 4 p.m. in the Fick Pavilion.

Mass for Peace and Justice, 5 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

What's Happening @ SMC

IA interview, 10 a.m. in the Stapleton Lounge.

Designs on Dance Performance, 7:30 p.m. in the O'Laughlin Lobby.

Little Sibs Weekend, 3 p.m. in the Beversly Game Room.

WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall
Today's Lunch: Buffalo chicken lasagna, meatball with sauce, Hawaiian pizza, pretzel sticks, roast top round, champagne rice pilaf, brown sauce, turkey gravy, whipped potatoes, corn, cherry crisp, baked cajun pollo­lock, cheese and vegetable pie and broccoli.

South Dining Hall
Today's Lunch: Pasta shells primavera, fetuccine, gorgonzola sauce, french bread pizza, collard greens, turkey turnovers, London brol with wine marinade, cheddar-baked pol­lock, shrimp creole, potatoes au gratin, grilled turkey sandwich and fries.

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Today's Dinner: Buffalo chicken lasagna, meatball with sauce, Hawaiian pizza, pretzel sticks, roast top round, champagne rice pilaf, brown sauce, turkey gravy, whipped potatoes, corn, cherry crisp, baked cajun pollo­lock, cheese and vegetable pie and broccoli.

South Dining Hall
Today's Dinner: Chicken caccia­tore, fetuccine, gorgonzola sauce, french bread pizza, roast top round, oven-fried chicken, grilled polish sausage, rotini with vegetables, poli­ish-style kielki noodles and cabbage.

No data provided

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

Wallet lost in De Bartolo
A student reported losing her wallet in DeBartolo Hall on Wednesday.

Thief strikes at Joyce Center
A University employee reported the theft of her purse on Tuesday. There are no suspects.

NDSP transports student
On Tuesday NDSP transported a student from the Joyce Center to the University Health Center for treat­ment of a sports injury.

Student attacked by Carroll
A student reported being assaulted while walking on the path on the east side of Carroll Hall on Tuesday at about 1:30 a.m. The case is being investigated further.

COMPiled from the NDSP crime blotter.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publica­tion and notes for the highest standards of journalism as a goal. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4511 or we can correct it over the phone.

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY: HIGH 33 LOW 15
TOMORROW: HIGH 38 LOW 15
SATURDAY: HIGH 38 LOW 15
SUNDAY: HIGH 29 LOW 15
MONDAY: HIGH 23 LOW 15
TUESDAY: HIGH 25 LOW 20

Atlantic 56 / 51 Boston 17 / 6 Chicago 32 / 22 Denver 47 / 26 Houston 72 / 59 Los Angeles 82 / 48 Minneapolis 24 / 10 New York 28 / 18 Philadelphia 30 / 20 Phoenix 65 / 49 Seattle 50 / 40 St. Louis 47 / 36 Tampa 78 / 63 Washington 34 / 24
Friends, dormmates mourn loss of Chad Sharon

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**Fisher Hall residents gather in memorial Mass**

By TERESA FRALISH Assistant News Editor

After learning that someone they knew so well would not be returning to Notre Dame, those who knew Chad Sharon best reflected on his life and time at Notre Dame.

"He was a high achiever but very down to earth. He was just a wonderful person. Nothing ever really got him down," said Dana Altfillisch, a Notre Dame sophomore who attended Merrill High School in Wisconsin with Sharon. "He was class president. He was voted most likely to succeed." Altfillisch, who worked on many student government projects with Sharon, noted that he always went the extra mile in everything he undertook. "It was very effortless. He was willing to help others even if it made his life more difficult." Altfillisch remembered one instance in particular where the state of Wisconsin was considering budget cuts that could affect their high school and she and Sharon worked to prevent those cuts from being approved. "He put together this really ornate Power Point presentation. He put so much time into it." After disappearing Dec. 12, Sharon's body was discovered Wednesday in the St. Joseph River.

Sharon, who attended Notre Dame for one semester before returning to Merrill High, earned the same Leonard N. Anson Memorial Scholarship that Altfillisch received. The scholarship recognizes an outstanding student from Merrill High School who chooses to attend Notre Dame. Altfillisch said. After she was named as the scholarship's recipient, Altfillisch remembers talking with Sharon about his hope to attend Notre Dame and encouraging him to apply for the Anson scholarship. "I remember when he got it," Altfillisch said. "He called me up crying." Altfillisch said she hadn't yet come to terms with the recent events. "(Chad) was just one of those people that you have to have these things happen to," she said.

Tom Gorman, a sophomore at the University, lived across the hall from him in Fisher. Gorman and his roommate Peter Nebel were close friends of Sharon’s. "He’s just going to be missed," Gorman said. "He was always smiling.”

Gorman said that Sharon placed a high priority on his studies and enjoyed working with other students. Like Altfillisch, Gorman noted that Sharon always thought of his action more before himself. "He was always looking out for other people," said Gorman. Though Gorman said Wednesday’s announcement provided some closure to the uncertainty of the past two months, he said he had completely accepted the recent news.

Father Robert Moss, rector of Fisher Hall, said Sharon brought a cheerful smile and caring attitude to the Fisher Hall community and loved being a student at the University. "He was just thrilled about being at Notre Dame," Moss said. "I offered options for extra credit and (Chad) didn’t need them but he did them so thoroughly," Cannon recalled. However, her words were not enough for the Anson scholarship. "I believe it was a very thoughtful and sensitive young man," Gorman said. "He was a very thoughtful and sensitive young man," said Cannon. "We knew he was one of those people who would always go the extra mile for others." Cannon noted that Sharon took a very serious attitude toward his studies yet truly enjoyed the opportunity to attend Notre Dame. "(On) the last day of classes he sent me an email to thank me," she said.

Sharon was receiving an A in the theology class. Cannon said, and put dedicated effort into every aspect of her class. "I offered options for extra credit and (Chad) didn’t need them but he did them so thoroughly," Cannon recalled. Cannon also remembered a Web site that Sharon created about the Gospel of Mark for a major assignment in the theology class. "I had talked with him on the last day of classes about how we could keep the theology project open on his website so I could use it for other classes," Cannon said.

Though he did not know Sharon personally, Bill Kirk, assistant vice president for student affairs, was closely involved with the effort to offer every support possible to Sharon’s family. Kirk maintained close contact with Steve and Jane Sharon throughout the past two months and talked with the Sharons every day. "They’ve become friends," Kirk said. "They’ve been in my thoughts and prayers an awful lot.”

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

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**How to Listen to Schumann's Fantasy for Piano, Op. 17**

A Lecture/Recital by Ethan Haimo Professor of Music University of Notre Dame

2:00 pm, Sunday, February 16, 2003 Carey Auditorium, Hesburgh Library

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OFFER EXPIRES 2/25/03

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**The Observer remembers Chad Sharon**
Students plan Iraq war protest in New York City

By KRISTEN KLEIN
News Writer

Students are taking to the streets of New York this Saturday to protest the building tensions between the United States and Iraq. The organization, United for Peace and Justice, organized the Anti-War protest in New York City, which will be held outside the United Nations building.

Once in New York City the students will attend the rally at noon on Saturday and that evening attend a student rally at Columbia University. They will then stay at Columbia with students from the Columbia University Anti-War Coalition.

Peter Quaranto, freshman, organized the group of approximately 35 Notre Dame students who will take part in the rally.

"I heard about this rally, and said that if there is going to be a group of people protesting injustice and killing, Notre Dame should be represented there," Quaranto said about his reason for organizing the group.

"I think the one thing that unites us is that we have decided that we need to do more than just sit back and preach about our beliefs; we have to act on our beliefs," said Quaranto.

Quaranto worked with the Center for Social Concerns to organize and fund the trip. The students had to pay a $30 fee for participation with the money going toward van rentals, gas and tolls.

Rachel Tomas Morgan, who will be present at the rally, said that if there is going to be a group of people protesting injustice and killing, Notre Dame students are the desire to act on their beliefs.

"One senior, Katie Stolz, noted that while some students are choosing to boycott Heartland because of the incident with Rosario, others are simply opting to hang out at other establishments.

"Lower attendance at Heartland is due to a number of factors, including the presence of places like Rum Runners and Fiddler's Hearth," said Stolz.

Other students stated that the boycott was not publicized well enough for it to be effective.

"While I will never go to Heartland again, my hope is that the boycott will make people more aware of what happened," Rosario said.

Contact Kristen Klein at kklein@nd.edu

Heartland continued from page 1

proposed ideas include having Heartland send the bouncer involved with the alleged incident to local diversity training and possibly asking Heartland to make a donation to La Casa de Rosario.

"Legal action and Holt said Heartland management is willing to meet with Rosario.

The first Viewpoint letter appeared Feb. 5. Holt said Feb. 6, which was college night, showed a decline in numbers, which Holt attributes to the renewed loyalty to The Boat Club after its bust.

The response from students concerning the boycott has been mixed.

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Heartland general manager Scott Rieder shows the number of false identifications that he said have been confiscated from college students. A Puerto Rican ID was at the crux of an alleged discrimination Incident that occurred at the bar.

Contact Caitlin Early at cearly@nd.edu

ND Crafting Corner

Valentine's Cookie Decorating

ome decorate and enjoy some cookies for this very special day!

9 PM - 11 PM in the Dooley Room of LaFortune

Brought to you by Student Activities Office
D.C. on high alert amid fears of terrorist strikes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Police carrying semiautomatic rifles patrolled the grounds of the Capitol on Thursday, and the FBI said Pyongyang’s threats added to a “systematic man­ner” of fear tactics, which have been used in the past.

The board of the International Atomic Energy Agency voted Wednesday to refer the North Korean nuclear issue to the Security Council, setting in motion a response to the North Korea nuclear issue that has never been known, but took place,” White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Members of Congress were told to gather a “go bag” of supplies, sensitive documents and a laminated list of key numbers in case of an attack, while staff members were given training this week on how to handle “escape hoods” that protect against biological or chemical substances. Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, said lawmakers were also instructed to keep a low profile, removing vanity license plates from vehicles and varying their routines.

Everyone in this structure has remained calm but cautious,” said Noy, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. “There is not a panic situation here.”

The FBI said the National Infrastructure Protection Center issued a bulletin Wednesday to remind companies involved in such industries as telecommunications, energy and banking, as well as operators of water systems and electric utilities, law enforcement agencies and emergency services.

Officials believe al-Qaeda could target these entities with chemical, biological or radioactive material as part of a “dirty bomb,” a crude, easy-to-make device that would spread radioactive material over a wide area.

SECURITY

The United States threatened Thursday that it would not call for punishing U.N. sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear program, a move Pyongyang had said would not be an act of war. U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary Cheryl Miller said North Korea’s U.N. Ambassador Ari Fleischer said.

“We will deal with it in a systematic manner,” said Noy, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. “There is not a panic situation here.”

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With the Washington Monument looming behind them, U.S. Army troops patrol Washington, D.C., Thursday, accompanied by a Humvee with mounted antiaircraft missiles. The nation’s cap­itol has seen a heightened military presence in response to reported al-Qaeda threats.

U.S. will not pursue sanctions against North Korea

Associated Press

NEW YORK

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National News Briefs

Columbia crew's remains identified: The remains of all seven Columbia crew members have been positively identified, NASA officials said Thursday. The identifications were made at the national mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, where the remains were taken after the space shuttle disintegrated during re-entry Feb. 1. "We are confident that the way members were identified... is the saddest case we could find so that we can see the start of the dialogue.

The standoff began in October when U.S. officials said North Korea admitted it had delivered a clandestine nuclear program. Washington suspended fuel shipments, and the North retaliated by expelling U.N. nuclear monitors, taking steps to restart frozen nuclear facilities and withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The U.N. nuclear agency's 35-nation board declared North Korea in violation of its obligations under the treaty and other accords. Because the North has expelled U.N. inspectors, the agency "remains unable to verify that there has been no diversion of nuclear material" for weapons purposes,

The board's decision came as U.S. intel­ligence officials warned Wednesday that Pyongyang has an untested ballistic mis­sile capable of reaching the western United States.

World News Briefs

NATO cancels emergency Iraq meeting: NATO canceled an emergency meeting to discuss its bitter split over Iraq on Thursday, after Germany insisted any breakthrough would have to wait until a key session of the United Nations on Friday. German Defense Minister Peter Struck said his country would be prepared Saturday to drop its opposition to NATO’s starting plans to help defend Turkey in case of war with Iraq.

Bolivian rioters kill 16, torch offices: Rioters burned shops and buildings and skirmished with soldiers in the Bolivian capital’s business and government district Thursday after protests against the government turned violent. At least 16 people and 400 heavily armed soldiers were deployed near the presidential palace, besieged by protesters the day before.

Other steps were being taken outside public notice. “They will be seen, they will not be known,” said Noy, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. "There is not a panic situation here.”

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Relatives of jailed teens mad at verdict: Relatives of two teenage boys who admitted killing their sleeping father with a baseball bat are angry the man they believe influenced the boys was acquitted of molestation. Ricky Chavis, 41, was found innocent Wednesday of charges he kidnapped and molested the younger brother, Alex King, in the months before the slaying of 40-year-old Terry Regan finished a second day of deliberations Thursday and recessed for the weekend without reaching a verdict. The jury is to return Tuesday, after the President's Day holiday. Rogers, 49, of Bowie, Md., is accused of attempt­ed espionage for Iraq, Libya and China. He has pleaded innocent.

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industry officials should check out their employees in an effort to root out any terrorists who may have been working there for years, waiting for the signal to strike.

national news

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Bishop nominates new chief of staff

By MEGHANNE DOWNES

Student Body President Libby Bishop nominated Henry Scott to replace Pat Hallahan as her new chief of staff at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting.

Scott previously served as her assistant chief of staff.

"I have been thoroughly impressed with his dedication, enthusiasm and management skills," Bishop said.

Senate will vote on whether to support Scott Wednesday.

Hallahan, who was elected student body president Thursday, resigned last weekend due to a conflict of interests with Bishop, specifically on the hall dance policy.

Sarah Bates, Pasquerilla West Hall senator, announced a resolution to bestow an emeritus title on Hallahan for his service and dedication while serving as chief of staff.

"We all worked with Pat and we all know his dedication and it's to show appreciation to him," Bates said.

Lewis Senator Gail Thompson's tongue-in-cheek proposal to amend the resolution to include a statue of Hallahan in his honor was defeated. Thompson later said in the meeting she did not think the other senators understood the spirit of her amendment.

"Given Pat did a really good job, I am not discounting what Pat did, but is the resolution necessary?" said Thompson.

Ricky Sadowski, Student Union parliamentarian, discouraged senators from adopting this amendment and said Hallahan took his job seriously and left the Senate on good terms.

The Senate decided to postpone the resolution until next week after Jesse Norman, O'Neill senator, said passing this resolution the day before the student body presidential election, in which Hallahan was a candidate, could be seen as a political ploy by the friends of Hallahan.

In other Senate news:

♦ Daniella Ledesma, Judicial Council president, said petitions for class councils were due Wednesday. She did not receive any petitions for junior class council and the deadline was extended.

♦ When asked about his contribution to the Board of Trustees report, Scott said he contributed to it and was among a panel of people who worked on it.

"The report reflected student opinion and tried to encompass many areas," he said. "The wording of the report could have been stronger and was weaker in previous drafts. But by and large, it was an accurate representation."

Sharon continued from page 1

Madison Center.

Though NSDP, in conjunction with state and local authorities, conducted a thorough search of the St. Joseph River in the days following Sharon's Dec. 12 disappearance, Rakow said it was possible that those searches may have missed sections of the river. "My feeling is that he probably was held underneath by debris," Rakow said. "We had those high winds [Tuesday] and I'm thinking the wind and the water might have freed him."

In their searches of the river and its vicinity, police used search boats, helicopters and dogs and drove by the river daily, Rakow said.

While Rakow believed foul play was not involved, he said several questions remained for police to investigate. "We don't know how he got there," said Rakow. "There could be several scenarios that place him in the river."

Rakow said NSDP, who has had primary jurisdiction in the missing person case so far, will work with the County Metro Homicide police to investigate the remaining details.

"County Metro Homicide will be looking at the results and the issue of how he got in the river," said Rakow. "We will assist them. It will be cooperative."

Sharon's parents, Steve and Jane Sharon, arrived on campus Thursday to meet with police and expressed their thanks to everyone who knew their son and worked on the missing person investigation.

"I'd like to thank everyone in the Notre Dame community," said Steve Sharon. "Most of all our gratitude goes to Chad's friends in Fisher. The entire Notre Dame family helped us through with their kind words and encouragement," he said.

Though the news of their son's death wasn't what the Sharnons had hoped to hear, Steve Sharon said the recent events did bring closure to the uncertainty he and his wife have lived with for the past two months.

Steve Sharon also reflected on his only child's feelings about being a student at Notre Dame.

A memorial to Chad Sharon was set up at Angela Bridge where his body was discovered Wednesday.

The funeral for Chad Sharon will be held next weekend in his hometown. A memorial mass at Notre Dame will take place shortly after the funeral.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

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Leroy Troyer '71, President and Founder of the Troyer Group, Architect

Contact Meaghan Downes at mdowen1@nd.edu
Associated Press

Japan slams WTO farm tariff plan:

Announced Thursday that it was dispatching a joint IMF-World Bank team to Argentina next week to discuss the politically sensitive utility pricing issue. It is not a negotiating mission about [rate] increases."

Petroleum inventories plummet:

While inventories are low, "it doesn't necessarily mean there will be shortages. Refiners are still running," said Ron Planting, an economist for the American Petroleum Institute, the trade group of the major oil companies.

IMF to send mission to Argentina:

The International Monetary Fund announced Thursday that it was dispatching a joint IMF-World Bank team to Argentina next week to discuss the politically sensitive issue of utility rates. IMF spokesman Thomas Dawson told reporters that the joint mission with officials from both agencies was tenta­tively scheduled to arrive in Buenos Aires next Monday, but he said that date might be delayed slightly. He said the mission "will be cut. The higher figure resulted of International Steel Group's Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection filed for in October 2001. ISG chairman Wilbur L. Ross — who specializes in buying distressed businesses — has said ISG would set aside $100 million for buyout offers to salaried and hourly employees. Miller did not indicate how many jobs might be cut at specific plants. Adding Bethlehem Steel's plants would make ISG the largest U.S. steel maker with an annual production capacity of 16 million tons. The deal would keep Bethlehem Steel's Burns Harbor Division in northwest Indiana, Sparrows Point Division near Baltimore and small­er plants in Lackawanna, N.Y., and Coatesville and Conshohocken, Pa., operating.
V-Day to increase awareness of violence against women

By MELANIE BECKER
News Writer

One out of three females will, or has experienced violence in her life, according to the V-Day Web site. Today, Feb. 14 is the official V-Day, “V” standing for victory, valentine and vagina. V-Day is a global movement founded to increase awareness of violence against women and girls and end it. V-Day was created in 1998 as a reaction from the performance of Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues,” which is composed of the stories of hundreds of women who have experienced violence as a result of their gender. The V-Day organization particularly addresses rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation and sexual slavery.

V-Day, a non-profit organization, promotes the performance of “The Vagina Monologues” on college and university campuses to raise and increase awareness of global violence towards women. Its mission is to end violence against women throughout the world and call Feb. 14 as Victory over Violence Day. The movement has grown rapidly over the last five years. This year there will be 2,000 celebrations, which are scheduled to take place at over 1,000 places in the world and around V-Day.

Controversy over performing “The Vagina Monologues” at Saint Mary’s began in late January 2001 when the college announced the cancellation of the performance, only a year after it had had two sell-out performances in Carroll Auditorium a year before. After receiving disapproval from the Parents Council, alums and the University, Marilou Eldred, president of the College, announced that it was not in the best interest of Saint Mary’s to have “The Monologues” performed on campus. The student body was informed over e-mail that the show did not fit within the “Catholic character” of the College. Not only was the enforcement of Eldred’s performer’s withdrawal but also the performance of it on campus was banned. Students demonstrated their anger by passing around a petition, having a sit-in outside of Eldred’s office and performing the show in the Regina North Lounge. In response to the performance, the College took disciplinary action on the students involved in the preparation of the performance. In contrast to the events of 2001, a performance of the Monologues was held last year and the college had no response.

The V-Day Web site lists Saint Mary’s as a performance site of the Vagina Monologues and senior Susan Almeda as the organizer and contact person. No specific performance date or time is listed and Almeda had no comment for The Observer. According to Susan Dampeer, assistant to the president, the official stance of the College is that it will not endorse a presentation of “The Vagina Monologues” this year through funding or facilities. The Saint Mary’s administration was not aware of any specific performances at Saint Mary’s and believed that the V-Day Web site had not been recently updated.

Students, faculty and staff are, however, free to gather together informally for a reading or performance on Saint Mary’s campus without repercussion from the College. Students organizing their own performance will have to go through Residence Life if they want to advertise. Information on student performances, in the past two years, has spread by word of mouth.

“Organizers and participants describe the mission of the performance as an effort to raise awareness about sexual offenses against women. Saint Mary’s feels that addressing this issue is an important duty of all colleges and universities. Saint Mary’s has developed new programs and activities that appear to have been effective,” Dampeer said.

Since the spring of 2001, Saint Mary’s has acted by bringing self-defense classes to campus, holding security forums, creating a crime map and sponsoring the play “Sex Signals.” The administration currently has no intention of bringing “The Vagina Monologues” back to campus as an officially sponsored activity. “The Monologues” was held at Notre Dame last year and is scheduled to take place on March 4-5 at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Lindsey Horvath is listed on the V-Day site as the organizer.

For further information on the V-Day organization or performances of “The Vagina Monologues,” see the organization’s Web site at www.vday.org.

Contact Melanie Becker at beck0931@stmarys.edu

Paleontologist Paul Sereno has encountered some of the weirdest creatures that ever walked the earth. Yet some of the scariest things he’s discovered aren’t likely to become extinct anytime soon. Sad to say, mutual fund management fees will probably outlast us all. That’s why Dr. Sereno was afraid of getting eaten alive, if he turned to a company famous for keeping the costs down. That meant more money for him and less for the monsters.

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Contact Melanie Becker at beck0931@stmarys.edu

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THE OBSERVER • CAMPUS NEWS
Friday, February 14, 2003
Seniors face promising long-term job market

By COLLEEN GANEY
News Writer

Graduating seniors tackle elusive employment prospects and competitive graduate school admissions due to an enduring economic slump and looming international conflict, but the worst conditions are probably over, according to Lee Svete, director of the Notre Dame Career Center.

"The job market is "sporadic, unpredictable, and late," Svete said. Companies aren't recruiting when immediate help is needed.

"There's a wait-and-see attitude (among employers) in a market that was going to be just in time anyway," Svete said. "People who have been waiting for the market that was going to be good as it has been in the past," said senior finance and political science major Mike Hewett. "The job market isn't as enduring economic slump and looming international conflict, but the worst conditions are probably over, according to Lee Svete, director of the Notre Dame Career Center.

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"There's a wait-and-see attitude (among employers) in a market that was going to be just in time anyway," Svete said. "People who have been waiting for the market that was going to be good as it has been in the past," said senior finance and political science major Mike Hewett. "The job market isn't as

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**Election**

continued from page 1

Lao luck, adding that he hopes they will remain true to their promises. "What it came down to is their government experience seemingly outweighed our desire to implement our campaign platform," said Ebersol.

Ebersol said he still believes in his campaign platform and intends to work to bring the two top-40 bands and Saturday Night Live comedians to campus. Ebersol, who highlighted programming ideas in his campaign, doubts that he will run for any positions on the Student Union Board, a programming organization, but does intend to work closely with SUB, Club Coordination's Council and Legends. Ebersol intends to meet with Brian Coughlin, director of Student Activities, and Mark Poorman, vice president of Student Affairs in the upcoming week to discuss the feasibility of implementing some of his ideas.

"What it came down to is their government experience seemingly outweighed our desire to implement our campaign platform."

Charlie Ebersol
student body presidential candidate

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu

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**JPW**

continued from page 1

or daughter's dorm friends and hall staff. A special mass follows at 5:30 p.m. with an address by University President Father Edward Malloy. Saturday ends with the "Star Spangled" Dinner in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse, an event that will include live entertainment and an address by Malloy, the guest of honor.

The weekend comes to a close on Sunday with the "Home Sweet Dome" Brunch, held in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

Highlights will include a special guest speaker and entertainment provided by members of the Class of 2004 and other University groups. Meghan O'Donnell, junior class president and a featured keynote speaker at Saturday's "Star Spangled" Dinner, said that she's "really looking forward to spending time with her friend's parents and learning more about the environments they came from.

"The weekend should prove to be a wonderful time for juniors to share a bit of their Notre Dame experience with their families," O'Donnell said.

"Our parents only come to campus a few times, so this is a great opportunity to show them the lives that we've built here for ourselves," she said.

Contact Julia Miller-Lemon at jmillerl@nd.edu

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The House bill includes up to $300 million per year for experiments promoting marriage. It also extends a $50 million program promoting abstinence from sex until marriage, which bans any discussion of contraception.

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NARAS: Shuttle's cover breached

WASHINGTON

The space shuttle Columbia almost certainly suffered a devastating breach of its skin, allowing superheated air inside the left wing and destroyed the wing compartment during its fiery descent, investigators said Thursday. In its first significant determination, the accident investigation board announced that heat damage from a missing tile would not be sufficient to cause the unusual temperature increases detected inside Columbia minutes before it disintegrated. Sensors noticed an unusual heat buildup of about 30 degrees inside the wheel well before the accident.

Instead, the board determined those increases were caused by the presence inside Columbia of plastic, or superheated air with temperatures of roughly 2,000 degrees. It said investigations were studying where a breach might have occurred in the shuttle's left wing. The board did not specify whether such a breach could be the result of a structural tear in Columbia's aluminum frame or a hole from debris striking the spacecraft. The board also did not indicate when the breach occurred during the shuttle's 16-day mission.

Officials have previously focused on an unusually large chunk of foam that broke off Columbia's external fuel tank on liftoff. Video footage showed it struck part of the shuttle's left wing, including its toughened leading edge and the thermal tiles covering the landing gear. The announcement focused renewed attention on possible catastrophic failures inside the wing compartment that may have contributed to the Feb. 1 breakup that killed seven astronauts.

Officials are not sure where a breach might have opened in the shuttle's skin, NASA spokesman James Hartsfield said. But he said the leading edge of the wing, the fuselage or the left landing gear door were potential candidates.

"Any of those could be potential causes for the temperature change we saw," Hartsfield said. "They do not and have not pinpointed any general location as to where that plasma flow would have to originate."

In an unusual plea for assistance, NASA urged Americans on Thursday to share with the agency any photographs or videotapes of Columbia's descent from California to eastern Texas. Some members of the public have already handed over images, "but more material will help the investigation of the Columbia accident," the agency said.

The board's announcement did not surprise those experts who have long believed that a breach occurred on the shuttle's left wing.

"I think there was a substantial hole in the wing," said Steven Schneider, an associate professor at Purdue University's Aerospace Sciences Laboratory. "That would not be at all surprising. All the sensors in the wing failed or gave bad readings," by the time ground controllers lost contact with Columbia.

The board dismissed suggestions of a "structural tear" in Columbia's wing, saying the landing gear was improperly lowered as it raced through Earth's atmosphere at more than 12,000 miles per hour. NASA's director of flight operations Thursday that a sensor indicated the gear was down when the 26 candidates flew Columbia's destruction.

The board dismissed suggestions of a "structural tear" in Columbia's wing, saying the landing gear was improperly lowered as it raced through Earth's atmosphere at more than 12,000 miles per hour. NASA's director of flight operations Thursday that a sensor indicated the gear was down when the 26 candidates flew Columbia's destruction.
In the worst-case scenario, Notre Dame is the best place to be. Just ask Chad Sharon's family. Sharon's body was found Wednesday in the St. Joseph river, two months to the day after friends last saw him at an off-campus home party. The discovery put to rest the Notre Dame and South Bend communities' longstanding question of whether Sharon would return to the family, friends and school that he loved.

Word of the freshman's passing was upsetting news—for Notre Dame students, for Sharon's former Fisher Hall dorm mates but most of all for his parents, Jane and Steve Sharon.

Still, in the midst of heartbreaking news of their son's death, the Sharons spoke to the University's unique ability to comfort its own when tragedy strikes. The dis­trust­ed parents praised students, faculty and administra­tors for their support over the 63 days that 18-year-old Sharon was missing.

"They'll never know how much we appreciate it," Steve Sharon said in an emotional interview with The Observer Wednesday night, only hours after officials identified the

VOICE OPPOSITION TO 'MONOLOGUES'

"The Vagina Monologues" are coming back March 3-4. All members of the Notre Dame family do not agree that the University should sponsor "The Vagina Monologues," even Bishop John D'Arcy of the the Fort-Wayne-South Bend diocese is "strategically against the performance of this play."

Our Lady's image stands atop the Dome, and she needs us to be her advocates. Please join us by writing to Father Edward Malloy voicing your concerns and by writ­ing to the Bishop asking him to publicly proclaim this play unsuitable for any Catholic institution. For instructions, visit www.MarysAdvocates.com.

Terry McMannus

March 3-4

THE OBSERVER

We'll never forget Chad

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Terry McMannus

March 3-4
After Saddam is gone, what's next for Iraq?

Editor's note: The following is the first of a two-part piece considering the role the U.S. military will play in a post-war Iraq. The conclusion will appear on Monday.

As President Bush and his national security team assemble their final plans for a potentially prolonged occupation against Iraq, all estimates point to a call for a post-conflict administration of Iraq that would include a heavy American military presence in that country for an indefinite period. The post-conflict stakes within Iraq are very high. If the U.S. forces do not take the lead role in a post-Hussein Iraq, the country could potentially fall apart or descend into chaos and violence. If American forces are perceived by the Iraqi people and/or the international community of being in there for any longer than an inept decision to run the risk of being accused of becoming a new imperial and occupying power.

While many of the specific elements of the post-conflict military plans are still classified, the final decision on what role the U.S. military will play in the region after Saddam Hussein is out of power will be initially predicated on how the transition to the post-Saddam Hussein period occurs. Under most of the possible scenarios, the majority of the military personnel currently engaged in the post-Saddam Hussein period will be in place by late spring or early summer.

Major Gary Masapoplo

One of the biggest problems is that military planners in the postwar period will be dealing with the over 150 Iraqi tribal groups. While factions of tribes played a major part in the U.S. military success in Afghanistan, most of the tribes in Iraq have been directly supported by Hussein in the past and could remain loyal to him and form into insurgent forces. Another problem facing U.S. military planners in the future is that the various tribal groups will form into factional armies and begin fighting each other, similar to what occurred between rival factions in postwar Afghanistan. In addition, the unstable and fragmented environment will create a particular security concern that the post-conflict Iraq is unable to weather any reconstruction and international relief presence as it has in Afghanistan.

The U.S. policy currently appears to be that the ground must be vibrant of rival ethnic parties wishing to partition or fragment Iraq in the post-hostilities period. Potential threats range from the Kurdish-dominated north to the Shiite Muslim-dominated south, as well as from a variety of Iraqi exiles groups located outside of Iraq. Ironically, when Congress passed the Iraqi Liberation Act in 1998, it officially recognized six different Iraqi exile groups as possible alternatives to Saddam Hussein's rule Baath Party. Now, any one of them could be chosen to assist in the control of a post-conflict Iraq.

Possible military actions by our NATO ally, Turkey, is of equal concern to U.S. military planners. Turkey may view the instability along its border by the Kurdish-controlled north as a way of guaranteeing a secure border and a buffer for itself in preventing any emergence of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq. Turkish officials have long been concerned of any efforts that incite the Kurdish community to seek independence. Without any substantial U.S. military monitoring along the Turkish-Iraq borders, this condition could be left unchecked and erupt into a severe international crisis quickly. The United States has expressed its concern. Turkish officials have officially warned of possible actions by their forces, and have recently met and discussed these issues with the leading Kurdish officials.

Author's Note: On behalf of the Army, Air Force and Navy ROTC staffs, we would like to personally acknowledge the personal sacrifice and selfless dedication of those who have chosen to serve in the military, or are the loved ones of those who have chosen to serve in the military.
The Barnyard comes to life

Barnyard clad dancers open this year's dance workshop at Saint Mary's

By CHRISTINE ROCHEL
Scene Writer

This weekend Saint Mary's presents "Designs of Dance 2003." The first act intermingles a recitation of Elizabeth Winthrop's children's book "Dumpy La Rue" with ballet dancing sheep, a break dancing pig and a salsa-dancing mule. The first act entitled "The Barnyard Ballet of Dumpy La Rue" takes a trip into the playful imagination of a child's mind. The second act is an interesting compilation of classical ballet and various styles of modern dance.

The workshop opens with a surprising tribute to childhood. As a country mother recites a children's book to her daughter, dancers act out the scenes. The dancers vividly depict barn animals through their movements and attire. Keep an eye out for the talented ballet dancing sister pig. This first act mixes various forms of dance with dancers of varied levels of technique. The childlike appeal of the first act has left some dancers with mixed sentiments such as Therese Cullen who comments "sometimes I feel like we should be performing to three year olds." The originality of this ballet is noteworthy; for the music, lighting, and costumes have all been specifically designed for the piece.

After two auditions and a semester of practice, the backstage atmosphere is filled with various emotions. The choreographer of one of the two student pieces, junior Caitlin Gillen, commented on her extreme nervousness and then stated that this is "a great opportunity, and I wish we could do it more often." Gillen's piece, honoring the choreographer Bob Fosse, adds an interesting splash of jazz to the dominantly modern dance of the second act. This jazz piece also contains the only two Notre Dame student dancers who are also the only two male dancers in the workshop. In addition the second act features a classical ballet, a Japanese dance interpretation, and numerous slower modern dances. Contrasting with the lighthearted tone of the first act is the mellow, artistic tone of the second act.

The dance workshop held in the 014 Laughlin Auditorium runs about an hour and a half and has a total of eight dances. The performances are scheduled for tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and for Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door. The cost for students is $4.50 and proceeds will go to Saint Mary's general budget. The workshop has been under the direction of Indi Dieckgrafe since she came to the college in 1985. Saint Mary's does not offer a dance major for any of the Saint Mary's students performing in this show. Another dance teacher at Saint Mary's, Laurie Lowry, has enthusiastic reviews about the progress of their dance program. The school has currently added the major Student Design in Movement Studies for students interested in pursuing dance mixed with mathematics. The team backstage is working diligently to fix any glitches before the workshop opens in two days. With dancers of diverse backgrounds, choreographer Lowry comments "the struggle is to make them all cohesive." Since the 20 dancers in the show come from individual dancing backgrounds, many of them could benefit from some more dance technique training. While dance preparations are being finalized, the lighting and sound crew headed by Thomas H. Boelman has been fixing some minor microphone problems and adjusting the lighting sequence. Remarking on the show senior Nicole Pliske, with eagerness for the upcoming performance, said, "I think there is a great variety. It will give the audience an array of dance style." Visit the Moreau Center for the Arts this weekend to be entertained by tap dancing rats and to view an engaging dance workshop.

Emily Ford as Dumpy and Lisa Walton as the goose pose during the show to reveal the artistic side of the show.

Contact Christine Rochel at crochel@nd.edu

ALLISON NICHOLS/The Observer

E

mily Ford as Dumpy and Emily Fagan as Sister Pig vividly depict barn animals through their movements and attire.

ALLISON NICHOLS/The Observer

This ballet honors Bob Fosse by adding an interesting splash of jazz.
The event is called Blak Koffeehouse, but that's just a catchy name to describe the ambiance.

There's rarely ever coffee, although "there will be hot chocolate and snacks," according to Veronica Berger, president of the Black Cultural Arts Council, which is sponsoring the event tonight at 7 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom.

This year, the BCAC is offering something arguably even better than a beverage. It wishes to share a "Taste of the Soul." The event chairman, Jourdan Sorrell, said the theme pays homage to the African-American artists of the Harlem Renaissance. During the 1920s and 1930s, writers such as James Baldwin, Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston, as well as musical artists such as Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday were part of the burgeoning African-American artistic and intellectual movement that dominated the social scene of the predominantly black Harlem borough of New York City. These artists inspired many to discover their own talents. "We [African-Americans] have been characterized as a very soulful people," Sorrell said. "As the signature event of Black History Month, Sorrell said Blak Koffeehouse allows members of the Notre Dame community to see an updated version of the Harlem Renaissance's soul legacy. "African-American fine arts have influenced American culture in very profound ways and at the University of Notre Dame we continue to highlight its importance in American society by producing an artistic event that incorporates music, poetry and style," said Chandra Johnson, assistant to the president of the University.

Blak Koffeehouse began in 1993 when a graduate student in peace studies, Karsonia Wise, saw a need for an upscale artistic event that displayed the talents of students with an emphasis on the African-American culture. Since then, Blak Koffeehouse has been every Friday on Junior Parents Weekend. It's often standing-room only. As part of the many events of JPW, Blak Koffeehouse turns the LaFortune Ballroom into an intimate café. Students of BCAC — in conjunction with other campus groups — speak to the audience through verse and rhythm.

In past years, the event has had two co-hosts, but this year, sophomore Jelani McEwen-Torrence will be the sole host. "He has the ability to carry a whole audience for a night," Sorrell said. McEwen-Torrence has been active in the Notre Dame literary community as a member of the Sophomore Literary Festival committee. During the festival, he hosted the talk of poet activist Nikki Giovanni and co-hosted an open mic poetry night, where he read some of his own works. "Poetry, for me, has always been what I've been into. It just comes naturally and I want to share that with people," McEwen-Torrence said.

"Acts in the show include performances by Voices of Faith gospel choir, singing quartet Mahogany Soul and Shades of Ebony, a women's group that promotes the empowerment of African-American. Shades of Ebony, which is performing the Maya Angelou poem "Phenomenal Woman," plans to illustrate the diversity of the African-American women. "You're going to see a mother, a businesswoman, a neo-soul woman, ... The black woman is so complex," said sophomore Shawtina Ferguson, president of Shades of Ebony. In addition to womanhood, poems will focus on racial identity, love and other topics.

Member of Mahogany Soul and a finalist for talent search show American Idol, said she is looking forward to her last Blak Koffeehouse. "This is one of the events on campus that means a lot to me," Tem said, adding that the event allows her to "showcase the talent that God has given to her." Tem will perform a gospel medley along with other Mahogany Soul members, senior Yorgeld Andre and juniors Terrica Bentley and Jenna McCullin.

"African-American fine arts have paid the toll and I want to share that with people," Sorrell said. As for now, BCAC promises that their taste of soul will be worth much more than the value of $3 that they have to pay to attend. "It's important to showcase multicultural talent across campus," Berger said. Later this semester, BCAC plans to co-sponsor events with other organizations on campus. They have also been planning their popularly attended Fashion Show, which is in late March.

"Nothing can touch people like words," said freshman Chris Adams, member of Mahogany Soul and a finalist for talent search show American Idol, said she is looking forward to her last Blak Koffeehouse.

President of Shades of Ebony, who is performing a poem titled "Perfection," "You feel better if you can express yourself.

Contact Helena Payne at payne.30@nd.edu
When We Speak
Students' Poems from the Blak Koffee House

Shanida Sharp
I am womyn
Hear me roar.
I will stand aside no more.
Men watch out
You will see
A girl who has
The power to live her dream.

Jemar Tisby
I am
I am black
I am not a problem
I am not a project
I am not an issue
I am not a number
I am so much more
I am a Christian
I am a Son
I am a brother
I am a leader
I am a roommate
I am a friend
I am a fighter
I am a scholar
I am a poet
I am a person
I am always be
ME.

Excerpts taken from When We Speak: Voices from an Afrocentric Perspective

Textbook Love

How Notre Dame professors met their spouses and fell in love

We met in the fall of 1984 at the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies (Stanford Center) in Taipei, Taiwan. Lionel was a PhD candidate from the University of California, Berkeley, and Susan was finishing an M.A. at the University of Michigan.

A romance of heart and mind and of rare intensity was made, over long walks, bus rides, lavish hotel brunches, elegant Japanese meals, and, they said, Chinese food. We talked for hours on end about life in general, China, academics, love and many other things, blissfully blind to the imperatives of time. We knew we were meant for each other, still it took us several years to work out the details of how to be in the same place, but we were married in Detroit in June of 1988 and moved to Stillwater, Okla., where we taught at Oklahoma State University.

Since then we have had two children, Hannah and Elena, finished two PhDs, written or edited six books (one of them together, China Off Center: Mapping the Margins of the Middle Kingdom, published in October 2005), taught at the University of Oklahoma, University of Colorado at Denver, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Denver, the University of Pennsylvania. We moved to Notre Dame in 2000, and are pleased to stop moving!

Our children are now in elementary school and junior high. We continue to share our passions for China and the life of the mind, along with love of family, friends, and good food. It’s been a long and sometimes bumpy road but our love and respect have allowed us to face the challenges and keep laughing together.

Lionel M. Jensen and Susan Blum

Here’s how “it all really happened…”

My wife and I always joke that we had an arranged marriage. That’s because our mothers met before we did, during a shopping trip at Best and Company (back in our hometown of Cleveland, Ohio), at the scouting department, and each had a great first impression of the other.

However, their meeting occurred when we were 12 and 10 respectively, and we didn’t actually meet each other until several years later, in the front hall of Eileen’s junior high school. I was attending the Spring glee club concert with friends, and she was singing in the “Beauty Shop Quartet.” The rest, as they say, is history.

Harvey and Eileen Bender

Shortly after arriving at Notre Dame, I was invited to a luncheon for new faculty hosted by the Provost’s office. While there, I caught sight, at a distance, of another new professor, and something about him drew my attention. However, the luncheon ended before I had a chance to meet him.

Immediately after the luncheon, I walked over to the O’Shaughnessy Center and, as luck (or providence) would have it, there he was standing in line. I took my turn. As a last-minute gesture, I introduced myself by saying, “Weren’t you just at the lunch for new faculty? So was I!”

“We soon learned that we shared a common passion: we were both Philadelphia Phillies fans. I had just moved from Philadelphia, but he had just moved from Philadelphia, and his family had been trivia. Such familiarity was important, but the critical moment was when he became interested in baseball and had since moved away.

JoAnn DellaNeva and Thomas Flint
OTTAWA

Patrick Lalime stopped 24 shots for his second consecutive shutout and league-leading seventh of the season as the Ottawa Senators beat the Edmonton Oilers.

Lalime shut out Pittsburgh 3-0 the previous night.

Martin Biron scored his third goal in as many games and his 36th this season, and Magnus Arvedsson added his ninth.

The Senators extended their unbeaten streak to seven (4-0-1) and hold a three-point lead over the Canadiens.

Edmonton Oilers goalie Tommy Salo makes a save off Ottawa senator Martin Havlat. In the second period, despite Salo’s efforts, the Oilers lost 2-0.

Lalime said his goal was to get across.

Edmonton Oilers goalie Tommy Salo makes a save off Ottawa senator Martin Havlat. In the second period, despite Salo’s efforts, the Oilers lost 2-0.

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Major League Baseball

Cone returns with minor league contract

Associated Press

NEW YORK — David Cone decided to give it one more try.

Out of baseball last year, the 40-year-old pitcher will attempt a comeback this season, signing a minor league contract with the New York Mets.

The right-hander last pitched in 2001, going 9-7 with a 4.31 ERA in 25 starts for Boston. Cone worked as an analyst for the New York Yankees’ YES network last season and had been expected to do so again.

"My gut feeling is that I’ll probably retire at this point," Cone said in late January while visiting the Yankees’ minor league complex in Tampa, Fla.

But after a lot of lobbying from Mets lefty Al Leiter — and the possibility of winning a spot as the No. 5 starter — Cone chose to give it a shot.

Cone, who rose to prominence with the Mets in the late 1980s, was expected to join pitchers and catchers Friday at spring training in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

"When you talk to a guy who’s pitched as long as David and talk about getting hitters out, competing and working on a major league mound, you certainly see his enthusiasm for wanting to give it another shot," Leiter said.

I just told him the same thing I told him last year, I told him it would be a good thing and that a lot of his success was here," he said. "He’s good, he’s a good clubhouse guy, he’s smart, a veteran player who knows how to win. Absolutely he can help.

Leiter, Tom Glavine, Pedro Astacio and Steve Trachsel hold down the first four spots in the rotation. Cone will compete with Mike Bacsik, Jason Middelbrook and Aaron Heilman for the fifth slot.

"It’s hard to know what David has left," Mets general manager Steve Phillips said. "There’s no risk. It gives us a free look."

"We’re not looking at David exclusively as a starting pitcher," he added.

Cone pitched for the Mets from 1987-92, going 193-123 lifetime with a 3.44 ERA. A five-time All-Star, Cone ranks 17th in major league history with 2,655 strikeouts.

Cone had enjoyed his relationship with the Yankees, and wanted to make sure his deal with the Mets wouldn’t cause any hard feelings.

Cone told Yankees manager Joe Torre on Wednesday he intended to sign with the Mets. Torre wished him luck.

NCAA

Neuheisel confirms rumors

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Washington Huskies head coach Rick Neuheisel has acknowledged that he was interviewed for the San Francisco 49ers coaching job, saying his initial denial was based on a premise of confidentiality.

Neuheisel told The Seattle Post-Intelligencer and The Seattle Times on Wednesday night he decided to give the real life of the story that has followed has raised the question about who I am. It has questioned something more important, my credibility, and that isn’t worth it.

"I want to correct the situation and apologize for not being more candid. I will work hard at repairing those relationships I have damaged."

Neuheisel, 33-16 in four years at Washington and 66-30 in seven years as a college head coach, would not say whether he was interested in or had been offered the 49ers job, which went to Oregon State coach Dennis Erickson.

P-I columnist John Levesque overheard Neuheisel on Sunday at the San Francisco airport while the coach was talking by telephone with his parents about the 49ers job.

Everyone is welcome!

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If not, come on over to the 24 hour space at the LaFortune Basement for some live music! Free of charge!

Seated

He is a live guitar player and singer who plays a wide variety of music at request.

Date: Saturday, February 15

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Place: LaFortune 24 Hour Lounge in the Basement

Juniors, feel free to bring your parents along!

Questions? Call Geremy at 4-1582
Irish travel to No. 17 Syracuse for a matchup of Big East West Division leaders

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

After beating No. 4 Pittsburgh 66-64 last Sunday, the road should only get easier for the Irish.

"But only a week after one of the biggest victories in the history of its program, No. 10 Notre Dame (19-4, 7-2 in the Big East) must travel to No. 17 Syracuse Saturday for a matchup with the only other Big East team to beat the Panthers this year."

"It's tough, but this is the Big East, and that's how the schedule is," said Notre Dame guard Matt Carroll, who leads the Irish in scoring this season with 20.6 points a game. "But we're looking forward to it. It's crunch time of the year, and we're excited to go take on a big challenge up in the Carrier Dome."

With the trip to Syracuse, the Irish will have to prove they can handle hostile environments, something they have struggled with this season. While undefeated at home, Notre Dame is 2-3 in opponents' arenas, with losses coming at Pittsburgh, Kentucky and Seton Hall.

Following the physically and mentally testing win over Pittsburgh last week, the Irish have had the benefit this week of not having to play a mid-week game. The break came at a good time for players to get a rest from game action before the tough trip to Syracuse.

"(The break) really helps the legs get back into it," Carroll said. "A couple of days off let us refresh a little bit, especially this time of year, and we should be fresh for the game on Saturday."

The long week also gives the Irish extra time to prepare for a talented foe in the Orangemen.

"I think it's always good to have a week off in terms of getting in the practice facilities and working on some things to kind of tune up for your next game," Irish forward Jordan Cornette said. "With such a talented team with so many weapons like Syracuse, it's good to have a full week of practice to kind of focus in on specific things that makes them tick and make them go, and kind of shut that down when we get there on Saturday."

Even with the tough back-to-back matchups, several Irish players see the game as a chance to prove themselves as leaders in the conference.

"I think it's a good run for this team. I think it's going to test us mentally testing win over a new No. 1 team at Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. "It is good to have it, and that's how the schedule is," said Notre Dame guard Janusz Bednarski. "It doesn't warrant anything more than fame at the moment. It is good to have it, but we will continue to work hard."

During the past two seasons, the mens team has ascended to the top spot in the country, and now national rankings compiled by the United States Coaches Fencing Association were published Thursday, that claim came true.

"We are very happy. We worked hard during the whole season so we are satisfied," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said. "It's a great win for us.

But for Notre Dame to truly enjoy their game-free week, the Irish need to gain an important road win against the Friars. Providence is 9-13 on the season and 3-8 in Big East play.

Sophomore guard Michal Epstein, who averages 15.3 points and 3.4 rebounds per game, leads the Friars. She hasn't gotten much help though, as no one else on Providence's team averages double figures in scoring. The Friars also use a four-guard offensive set, which could potentially cause problems for a bigger, but slower Notre Dame team.

McGraw wants her team more focused on playing well, then trying to stop Providence.

"We really need to [play our game]," McGraw said. "We're going to have a break and I think a couple days off is really what we need right now," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "We'll take some time off at the beginning of the week and maybe then put some new wrinkles in. We don't have any time between our last game and the Big East tournament so this will be a great time for us to make some changes."

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

Notre Dame has a reward awaiting them after their road game against Providence Sunday — a week off from any games.

"We really could use a break and I think a couple days off is really what we need right now," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "We'll take some time off at the beginning of the week and maybe then put some new wrinkles in. We don't have any time between our last game and the Big East tournament so this will be a great time for us to make some changes."

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to play through injuries

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Although it is impossible for Saint Mary's (5-1) to win the MIAA conference title, pride is still at stake for the Belles coming into Saturday's home contest.

Saint Mary's begins the weekend with a home game against Calvin with some uncertainty, as leading scorer Emily Pernotto (5.6 points per game) is stuck in last place after the 50-0 loss to Hope, extending their losing streak to two games. Meanwhile, Calvin will counter with a well-balanced attack in which no players average double figures. Junior forward Kim Wollhuis leads the way for the Knights, averaging 9.5 points per game on 47 percent shooting.

Senior guard Tricia Dyk (9.2 points per game) and sophomore guard Kristen McDonald (9 points, 2.1 assists per game) all contribute as well for Calvin (3-9, 4-7).

The last time these two teams met, the Knights outscore the Belles, winning 64-50 despite 21 turnovers. Beard and McDonald led the Knights, scoring 12 and 10 points, respectively. As a team, Calvin shot 53.3 percent from the field, dominating Saint Mary's, as the Belles have learned that it is tough to win in the MIAA shooting under 40 percent from the field.

Regardless, in the midst of a ten game losing streak that dates back to Jan. 8, the Belles are ready for a win on Saturday. "Since Calvin doesn't just have one good player, we have to focus on defense," Boyce said. "If we concentrate on defense, then our offense will come naturally, and we will be fine."

Saint Mary's has something to build on after Wednesday's loss. Despite the loss, the Belles played well, as they were led by Pernotto nine points. Even though the Belles shot only 32 percent from the field, they rebounded well, pulling down 61 boards as a team.

SMC SWIMMING

Belles in last after 1st day

By ERIK POWERS
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's began the first of three grueling days and nights of heats, trials and finals at the MIAA Championships from which a champion will eventually be crowned.

But this year's incarnation of the Belles is off to a more challenging start. The squad is stuck in last place after the first day of competition. The Belles have 47 points and are in a deep hole behind first place Calvin (181) and Hope (174). While moving all the way up will be difficult, Saint Mary's has a chance to overtake Kalamaezo (90), Alma (75) and Albion (70).

Junior Megan Ramsey and freshman Kelly Nells finished third and sixth respectively in the 500-meter freestyle yesterday.

Entering the tournament, host Hope (6-0) and Calvin (5-1) were the favorites to win the conference championship. The Belles were looking to pull the upset after losing to Hope by only 16 points earlier this season.

In their favor, the Belles had some momentum building into the championships coming off a split finish versus Alma and Albion Jan. 18. a meet where Saint Mary's fought back from a deficit in order to pull out a late victory.

The Belles also have had tournament success this year, taking second at the Palm Beach Winter College Classic. Saint Mary entered the meet behind the majority of the conference, hoping to duplicate the success of last year's squad. Those Belles began the championships 3-4 in conference, yet were in contention for third place for most of the meet before a late slide to fifth place.

Saint Mary's is led by experience, most notably by juniors Ramsey and Maureen Palchak and senior captains Lauren Smith and Lane Herrington.

The Belles must ensure that they have added endurance for longer distances and will be able to parcel their success in their butterfly and short-distance freestyle events to victory.

The Belles also should benefit from the upcoming tournament schedule, which emphasizes their strengths: the butterfly and individual medley.

Competition continues today and Saturday with the preliminaries starting at 10 a.m. and the finals at 6 p.m.

Contact Erik Powers at epowers@nd.edu

The Notre Dame Law School
Natural Law Institute presents

The Olin Distinguished Lecture Series

"Justified Belief"

Christopher Tollefsen

Philosophy Department
University of South Carolina
Monday, February 17, 2003
4 p.m.

Notre Dame Law School Courtyard
Hockey

Irish look to break slide 1 game at a time

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

For the Irish to get back on the winning track, two things will have to happen this weekend in Bowling Green. They have to win Friday. They have to win Saturday. "It's a very similar scenario to last year," Notre Dame coach Dave Poulin said. "We have to look after business Friday and then use that to get going on a confident roll."

Last season, the Irish went on a tear in the months of February and March, going 5-3-0 and using that momentum to engineer a first-round upset of Nebraska-Omaha in the CCHA playoffs. A key to last season's finish was the stellar play of then-freshman goaltender Morgan Cey in net. The Irish netminder has been in a bit of a sophomore slump lately, going 1-5-4 in his last 10 starts.

"The break couldn't have come at a better time," Poulin said about his team's recent off weekend. "It helped us to work on some things."

The Falcons (7-17-2, 4-14-2 in the CCHA) should be the kind of opponent the Irish (9-13-6, 7-10-3) can use to start a winning streak, but the team isn't taking anything for granted right now.

Despite dominating Bowling Green twice at home in early December by scores of 6-3 and 5-2, the Irish can't afford to look past the Falcons, who are a .500 team in their home arena.

Bowling Green is led offensively by forward Mark Wires, with 11 goals and 10 assists. Forward Steve Brutuzewski and defensemen Kevin Beetke keep pace with 19 points each.

In goal, the Falcons are led by sophomore Jordan Sigalet, who holds an impressive .910 save percentage despite anchoring one of the worst defenses in the CCHA and facing whopping 39.3 shots a game.

The Irish have eight conference games remaining, all against teams who are on the lower end of the CCHA standings. They have a chance to improve upon their current standing of 10th place and perhaps make a late-season run at achieving home ice for the first round of the playoffs.

"This schedule is very favorable right now," Poulin said. "We just have to win our games. Our standing is a little misleading, but you have to look at it one way and that's to go up."

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu
Anthony and Hakim Warrick, tested against some talented the big guys who are going to be this is just another one of those scoring and rebounds by a pair Timmermans. Syracuse is led in inside guys, and I think it's going of 6-foot-8 forwards in Carmelo Cornette, Torin Francis and Tom interior players such as another test for the Notre Dame and that we're here for real. "It gives us the chance to prove a lot so we can see what we're that me, Tom and Torin are really looking forward to.″ The Orangemen have compiled a 16-3 record this season and are 7-3 in the Big East, just a half game behind Notre Dame for first place in the West Division standings. If you look at it, whoever wins this game is going to be in first place,″ Carroll said. "It's between us, Syracuse and Pitt. We got Pitt and now we've got to get Syracuse, or they're going to move ahead of us, so this is a big game for both of us. Syracuse handed Pittsburgh its only other conference loss on Jan. 1 in the Carrier Dome, but the Orangemen are coming off a lopsided 75-61 loss on the road against Connecticut. "To be a special team, you've got to win special games," Carroll said. "You go to win the big ones. To put together a week and try." The season story for the Irish has not lost to either in either a match on the road or a ranked team. Friday will be a day of firsts for Virginia Tech in at least those two categories, and the Irish are hoping for a another season first for the Hokies — a loss. The Irish have easily defeated the Hokies — 7-0 each of the last two years, but Friday may not be so easy against a confident and successful Virginia Tech squad. The season story for the Eagles is similar to that of the Hokies. In their three matches this spring they have gone undefeated, but the contest with Notre Dame will be Boston College's first road test. Although Notre Dame has not lost to either in 10 combined meetings, this weekend may be a little more of a challenge than in years past for the Irish. Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu

Notre Dame captain Alicia Ratay looks to pass the ball around a Rutgers defender.

ND WOMENS TENNIS
Irish battle Big East teams

By JOE LINDSLEY Sport Writer

After a 12-day layoff, the Irish will face two opponents at home this weekend, Notre Dame (2-2) will face Virginia Tech today and Boston College Sunday. Both the Hokies and the Eagles are undefeated.

The No. 21 Irish have had over a week to assess their previous two matches, each of which resulted in a loss to a top-20 team. The losses to rivals North Carolina and Northwestern were naturally disappointing for Notre Dame, but the team is young and seems to have much potential. Thanks to a strong lineup that secured the doubles point, the Irish nearly upset the Tar Heels Feb. 1. In the end, the Irish, having lost 7-6 two days earlier to the Wildcats, were defeated 5-2. While the Hokies have not yet lost this spring in nine matches, they have yet to play either a match on the road or a ranked team. Friday will be a day of firsts for Virginia Tech in at least those two categories, and the Irish are hoping for a another season first for the Hokies — a loss.

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Applications available at the Retreat Office 114 CoMo - across main hall from the popcorn room. Cost: $20

Signup Deadline Wed. February 19
ND SOFTBALL

No. 17 Irish open season in temperate Tampa

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Editor

Coach Deanna Gumpf just wants to see her team play on dirt. In this weekend's USF/Wilson season opening tournament, the 17th-ranked Irish will get a chance to play games on dirt — outside.

"I just want experience on dirt. We want groundballs, air and to be outside," Gumpf said. "Just to get the experience of being outside and playing in a real game. We are going to find out our weaknesses real quick. Once we find out our weaknesses, we can work on fixing them."

One place Gumpf doesn't expect to see weaknesses is on the infield. With third baseman Andrea Loman, shortstop Andria Bledsoe and second baseman Alexis Madrid returning for their fourth year as starters for the Irish, consistency should not be a problem.

"It has made a huge difference this year with the five seniors. Those three are our captains," Gumpf said. "The leadership they have added this year is a huge bonus. They are strong leaders and are very passionate." Loman, who earned third-team All-American status last season, led the Irish with a .377 batting average. As one of the top third baseman in the country, Loman plays solid defense and ranks in the top five in Notre Dame history for fielding percentage. Bledsoe hit .315 last year and tagged a career-best seven home runs. Madrid didn't have her best season at the plate hitting .225, but she was 10-of-12 in steal attempts.

First baseman Lisa Mattison rounds out the infield for the Irish. The senior from Granger, Ind., hit .325 last year and drove in 27. On the mound, Gumpf can breathe a little easier this season with sophomores Steffany Stenglein and Carrie Wisen having a year of experience under their belts.

"I think it is crucial to have that. They were thrown into the fire this year," Gumpf said. "They responded very well and did a great job last year. They know what to expect."

Stenglein finished the 2002 season with a 27-12 record and a 1.93 ERA. Wisen was used primarily in relief and had 116 strikeouts to go along with a 2.00 ERA. Senior Jessica Sharron and freshman Heather Booth will also pitch for the Irish this year.

Despite losing only two starters to graduation last year, Gumpf lost two big-time players on the field in catcher Jarrah Myers and centerfielder Jenny Kriech. Myers was an All-American and Big East Player of the Year while Kriech led off for the Irish and batted .335.

"Every year I can't replace anybody we use," Gumpf said. "I'm hoping their leadership carries on and we get better leaders. Both were All-Americans and aren't replaceable."

In the outfield, Gumpf will work on finding the right combination of her four outfielders. Sophomore Megan Ciolli moves up to bat leadoff for the Irish after hitting .345 in the second spot in the lineup last year.

Gumpf will be one of the starting outfielders playing with a combination of junior Nicole deFau, sophomore Liz Hartmann and freshman Kellie Middleton. Hartmann hit seven home runs for the Irish in 2002, a rookie record, and batted injuries throughout most of the season. deFau was used mainly as a pinch-hitter last season.

Junior Chantal DeAlcuaz and freshman Mallorie Lenn will both catch for the Irish this year. DeAlcuaz has seen limited playing time in her two previous seasons while Lenn was a member of the U.S. Junior National team in the fall.

This weekend, the Irish will play South Florida, Kent State, Jacksonville, Hofstra and Rhode Island. Last year, Notre Dame defeated South Florida 5-3 in the season's first weekend.

After compiling a 44-17 record last year, which included an upset of No. 4 Nebraska, the Irish are 2-0 this season after defeating No. 17 Pitt 12-4 and Kent State 13-4.

Big East regular season and postseason titles and being one step away from the College World Series, Gumpf is taking a fresh outlook into her second year at the helm of the Irish.

"Every year is a brand new year, you never know what to expect," Gumpf said. "You have to prepare the team the best you can and roll with the punches."
**Mens Basketball Polls**

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**Mens College Basketball Big East Conference**

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**Bryant yet to commit to Olympic team**

COLORADO SPRINGS

By Allen. Tim Duncan, Jason Kidd and Tracy McGrady were the first four players chosen Thursday for the 2004 U.S. Olympic men's basketball team, with Kobe Bryant conspicuously absent — for now.

The long-awaited announcement was made in Colorado Springs, Colo., by USA Basketball, which said Bryant could be added to the team at a later date once a contractual issue is cleared up.

Bryant is “very interested” in playing on the team, the national team organizing committee said. The committee added that he has been asked to play on the team but has yet to sign the organization’s standard player contract.

&#34;USA Basketball remains hopeful that he will be added to the roster at a future date,” the statement said.

Bryant said last month he plans to play on the team, which will compete in the Americas zone qualifying tournament in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in late August.

If the Americans finish among the top three at the qualifier, they will earn a trip to Athens for the 2004 Olympics. The NBA players are looking to atone for their sixth-place showing at last summer’s world championships in Indianapolis.

“I thought the team put together to represent us was good enough to win the gold medal, but obviously it wasn’t,” McGrady said. “It’s motivation for us to show everybody that we still have the best players in the world.”

Allen, of the Milwaukee Bucks, and Kidd, of the New Jersey Nets, were members of the Olympic gold medal team in 2000.

Duncan was last season’s MVP with the San Antonio Spurs, and McGrady of the Orlando Magic is this season’s leading scorer.

They will be joined by four or five other NBA players when the remainder of the qualifying team is announced in the spring. The remainder of American team is expected to include two or three players currently playing overseas or collegiately.

Larry Brown of the Philadelphia 76ers will be the coach.

“It is great for our country, USA Basketball and our league that these four players have made the commitment to play,” Brown said. “We’re fortunate to have them on this team, as representatives of our country and the NBA. It will be an honor to coach them.”

**FRIDAY NBA**

Magic at Sixers 8 p.m., ESPN

Spurs at Lakers 10:30 p.m., ESPN

**SATURDAY COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

NOTRE DAME at SYRACUSE 1 p.m., ESPN

Connecticut at Villanova 12 p.m., NBC

Indiana at Wisconsin 1 p.m., CBS

Ohio State at Michigan 3 p.m., ESPN

St. Joseph’s at Dayton 3 p.m., ESPN2

Louisville at Marquette 3:30 p.m., ABC

Cincinnati at Charlotte 7 p.m., ESPN

Duke at Virginia 9 p.m., ESPN

**SUNDAY NBA**

Sixers at Nets 1 p.m., ABC

Spurs at Kings 3:30 p.m., ABC

NHL

Sharks at Stars 8:30 p.m., ESPN

**IN BRIEF**

**Woods struggles early at Buick Open**

The gallery crammed around the first tee and stood elbow-to-elbow on a clubhouse balcony to get a glimpse of Tiger Woods. Playing in his first tournament Thursday since knee surgery two months ago, Woods hit only two fairways on the front nine and was 1 under par through nine holes at the Buick Invitational when the first round, already delayed by fog, was suspended by rain.

Aaron Oberholser was at 6 under par through 16 holes, although none of the players completed the round.

Woods had to wait two months to return to competition, then another four hours as a soupy fog covered Torrey Pines and made it impossible to see the green on a couple of par 5s along the Pacific Ocean.

**Oklahoma safety arrested for drug possession**

Oklahoma safety Brandon Everage was arrested on a misdemeanor complaint of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a park.

Dwight Boby said a Norman police special operations unit made the arrest Tuesday morning during an undercover operation.

Everage and passenger drove up to the house where the officers were working, Boby said. He said Everage was asked for identification and was arrested for his vehicle.

When Everage opened the door, officers smelled burnt marijuana and found a small amount of the drug, Boby said.

He was booked into the Cleveland County jail and released a short time later.

Coach Bob Stoops said his philosophy is to handle matters like these internally.

“The bottom line is that I take this issue very seriously,” Stoops said in a statement released Wednesday evening. “We have systems in place that have significant costs to those who violate our standards.”

**Sanders leads College Football Hall of Fame voting**

Heisman Trophy winners Barry Sanders and Andre Ware lead a list of 83 candidates for the College Football Hall of Fame.

There are 77 players and six coaches on the ballot, which will be distributed this week to more than 11,000 members of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. The 2003 Hall of Fame class will be announced in March and inducted at the Foundation’s awards dinner Dec. 9.

To be eligible for the ballot, players must have been chosen a first team All-American and played their last college game at least 10 years ago. Coaches must be out of the profession for at least three years, coached a minimum of 10 years and won at least 66 percent of their games.
Wake beats Duke in 2 overtimes

Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Vytaus Daniellus scored 20 points and matched a career high with 14 rebounds as Wake Forest (No. 17 ESPN/USA Today, No. 15 AP) snapped a 14-game losing streak to Duke with a 94-80 win in double overtime.

The victory kept the Demon Deacons (17-3, 7-2) in first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference, a half-game ahead of Maryland.

The eighth-ranked Blue Devils (16-4, 6-4) lost their fourth straight ACC road game for the first time since 1996, shooting 31.5 percent.

Daniellus scored all five of Wake Forest’s points in the first overtime and four in the second with 10 points in 45 minutes. The Blue Devils only had four assists.

Neither team led by more than three over the final 8:38 of regulation — and each club had a shot to win it in the final seconds.

Duhart missed a 3-pointer with 12.6 seconds left and Justin Gray, who scored 16 points in his first game back from a broken jaw, also missed a shot behind the arc seven seconds later as the game went into overtime tied at 69. Wake Forest failed to close out Duke in the first extra period despite three chances in the final 4:8 seconds. Strickland missed his shot in the lane and a follow, and Levy’s final follow with 0.8 seconds left fell off the rim.

But after Jones’ free throw gave Duke its only lead in the second overtime, Strickland put Wake Forest up for good with a shot in the lane. Levy then added a follow, Daniellus two free throws and Taron Downey a fast-break layup for an 82-75 lead.

The ACC’s best free-throw shooting team closed it out at the line, making eight straight down the stretch.

Duke, which had five players foul out, made just five baskets over the final 23 minutes and was outrebounded 50-37.

Duhart missed 18 of its first 20 shots to fall into a 10-point hole in 11 minutes.

Gray, out since breaking his jaw at Cameron Indoor Stadium a month ago, saw his first action 5:17 in, receiving a standing ovation from the sell-out crowd at Joel Coliseum.

The guard wore a face mask to help protect his face, but it didn’t seem to bother him as Gray sank his first two shots and finished the half with eight points.

Jones and Dubon — Duke’s two leaders — were a combined 1-of-10 in the opening 20 minutes as the Blue Devils shot just 34 percent.

However, the Demon Deacons committed 13 fouls, sending Duke to the foul line 14 times to keep the game close.

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The Observer • SPORTS
page 21
WASHINGTON

The once mighty Georgetown Hoyas are a last-place team, in danger of not even making their own conference tournament. They’ve lost six straight and have developed an uncanny knack of falling apart at the end of close games. Some fans are chanting for the coach to be fired, and they are easily heard at an arena that is usually less than half full.

The athletic director is under fire for saying it’s “unreasonable” to expect to be in the NCAA Tournament every year. The starting center has taken a mysterious leave of absence. In other words, the season has turned into a bad soap opera at a school once synonymous with basketball excellence.

“But for the fact this is how I feed my family, it would be funny,” coach Craig Esherick said. “But it’s not. It’s not funny.”

Monday night’s 66-59 loss to Rutgers, a game that was tied with less than three minutes to play, left the Hoyas at 10-10 overall and 2-7 in the Big East’s West Division. The last-place team in each division doesn’t go to the Big East tournament, an embarrassment hardly befitting a team that started 7-0 and flirted with the Top 25 in late December.

“We have a pretty good team,” said forward and All-American candidate Mike Sweetney, whose own outstanding season — 22 points and 10 rebounds per game — is rapidly going to waste. “We don’t know what we have to do, but we have to stop this.”

How did it come to this? Although Esherick catches most of the flak, the decline actually began in the final seasons of Hall of Fame coach John Thompson’s 27-year career.

Thompson made 17 NCAA Tournaments in 18 seasons and won the 1984 title, but a series of early departures, transfers and underperforming recruits left the Hoyas on an NIT level when he suddenly resigned for personal reasons on Jan. 8, 1999. Thompson’s record in his last 135 games (87-48) isn’t much better than Esherick’s current mark (81-54).

Esherick appeared to have the program going in the right direction with a 25-8 record and Sweet 16 appearance two years ago, but that has been his only trip to the NCAA tournament because the Hoyas were going to have to play their games on the road, ending a streak of 27 consecutive postseason appearances.

This season, Georgetown seemed a surefire NCAA team, with a solid frontcourt of Sweetney, Gerald Riley and Wesley Wilson. They’ve instead generated attention for all the wrong reasons.

Esherick unleashed a trembling tirade against officials for their season-long treatment of Sweetney following an overtime victory over West Virginia. The coach escaped suspension from the Big East because it was his first offense, but his team is 1-8 since.

Also last month, athletic director Joe Lang shocked many at the school by telling The Washington Post that a yearly NCAA trip was an “unreasonable expectation.” He cleared up the matter only slightly in a meeting with campus newspapers, explaining that there was a difference between “expectations” and “goals.”

Meanwhile, the school hasn’t explained what happened to Wilson, who suddenly disappeared two games ago. The official line is that he has taken “a leave of absence from the university,” with no word on when or if he’ll return.

Then there are all the close losses, with endings that leave Esherick’s strategies under question. The Hoyas failed to get off a shot after a timeout with 15 seconds remaining against Notre Dame.

They blew a 16-point lead in the final seven minutes against St. John’s. They didn’t notice when Seton Hall had six men on the court when the Pirates scored in their final possession in regulation; Seton Hall won in overtime.

Esherick leaving blame for Hoyas’ woes
Jeter responds to Steinbrenner’s comments

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — No matter where he traveled, Derek Jeter couldn’t avoid the question.

“I went out to the Super Bowl — I got people on the street asking me the same thing: ‘What’s the deal with the Boss and the Boss’ comments?’” Steinbrenner questioned his focus and intends to address the issue further on Monday, the day before full-squad workouts begin.

Jeter, who has helped New York to four World Series titles in seven full seasons, already spoke with Steinbrenner.

“To my mind, it’s over,” Jeter said.

But the Yankees attract international attention these days, and with no games to play, any hint of controversy sparks blaring headlines, such as the “PARTY ON” blared on the back page of the Daily News in New York when Jeter said he didn’t intend to change.

“We’ll talk,” Yankees manager Joe Torre said. “Obviously, there have been things going on, and you want to make sure his head is in the right place.”

Jeter, of course, wasn’t offended if I felt he needed special attention to have somebody talk to him,” Torre said.

As if on cue, Reggie Jackson arrived at camp on Thursday. What better person than Mr. October to opine on Steinbrenner, the Boss, celebrity and controversy?

“It’s tough to handle,” Jackson said. “It’s not easy when you’re a target. This guy is a big guy, Jeter, a big target. He’s in a class of the great athletes of our day — Ronaldo, A- Rod, Michael Jordan, Tiger….

“This guy is pretty conscientious. He’s basically the unnamed captain, the voice of the club. If you want to target someone for not having a good season last year, and this is what you want to do, then he’s the guy.”

Michigan to undergo hearing before NCA

Maurice Taylor's car crashed during Maseen Cleaves' official recruiting visit while they were returning from a party in Detroit. When Michigan learned the recruiting visit included a visit to Ed Martin's house, the school began to investigate his ties to the basketball program.

After the firing of two basketball coaches (Steve Fisher and Brian Ellerbe), two internal investigations revealed much and the hiring of a new athletic director, Martin finally shed light on the scandal in May when he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to launder money.

Martin told the federal government he took gambling money, combined it with other funds, and lent $616,000 to Chris Webber, Robert Traylor, Louis Bullock and Taylor.

The Wolverines became one of college basketball's most successful programs during the "Fab Five" days of the 1990s. But in November, it emerged what school president Mary Sue Coleman called a "day of great shame" when she announced self-imposed sanctions were enough.

Michigan banned itself from postseason play this season — a true sanction because the Wolverines are 14-9 — forfeited 112 regular-season and tournament victories from five seasons, plus its victory in the 1992 NCAA semifinal.

"I think it was the programs and programs no longer will mention the names of the four former players. Banners were taken down from the rafters at Crisler Arena from the 1992 and 1993 Final Fours, the 1997 NIT title and the 1998 Big Ten tournament title.

Michigan also returned to the NCAA $450,000 — money it earned for appearing in the postseason — and put itself on probation for two years.

NCAA

Michigan to undergo hearing before NCA

ASSOCIATE PRESS

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — What started with a rollover accident on Feb. 17, 1996, has led the University of Michigan to a hearing with the NCAA committee on infractions.

"We’re looking forward to putting this behind us," Marvin Krislov, the university’s general counsel, said Thursday while aboard a plane headed for the hearing in Florida.

The school will appear before the eight-member NCAA committee on Friday in Coral Gables. It will take six-to-eight weeks for the NCAA to announce whether Michigan’s self-imposed sanctions were enough.

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