Irish set milestones with weekend performances

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS
Mike Brey won't forget his 44th birthday anytime soon. As the final seconds of the Irish's 68-60 ticked off the clock Saturday, Brey pranced around on the sideline of the RCA Dome, swinging his fist through the air before gladly walking over to shake hands with Illinois coach Bill Self. The grin on his face was almost as big as Notre Dame's win over Illinois.

"Tonight, I was probably going to have a beer anyway," the birthday boy said Saturday night. "But I might have two."

Chances are pretty good Brey won't have to buy a drink in South Bend for a while. After he took a team that spent most of the 1990s in the NIT to the Sweet Sixteen in just three years, Brey is just back in June, back when the memory of a narrow second-round loss in the tournament to Duke was still fresh in the players' minds, the Irish made it their collective mission to advance to the second weekend of the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1987. And when the season began, all the players could talk about was how they weren't satisfied with merely making the NCAA Tournament — they wanted to make some noise in it, too.

"I've been in this game, I lost this game two years in a row and it wasn't something I didn't want to have happen again," senior Matt Carroll said.

See Also
"Shaved Irish scalp line" page 24

To do so Saturday, the Irish turned to Dan Miller, who played on a Final Four team at Maryland before transferring. With sharpshooter Matt Carroll plagued by a sore ankle, Miller scored a career-high 23 points, starting the Irish on a collision course with Arizona, the top seed in the West Regional.

When the regular season ended, however, the Irish looked like they were headed for an early exit in the Tournament. They had lost three of their last four games and left the Big East Tournament after a first-round loss against St. John's. But as the Big East Tournament continued in New York, the Irish searched for the formula that allowed them to knock off three top-10 teams in one week in the same way," the birthday boy said Saturday night. "Now I might have a beer any day, but as the Big East Tournament continued in New York, the Irish searched for the formula that allowed them to knock off three top-10 teams in one week in the)

Above: The fencing team gathers to celebrate their national championship win over Penn State.

PHOTO BY TIM KACMAR

Students pray for peaceful solution

By ANDREW THAGARD
News Writer

Notre Dame students, faculty and staff gathered in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Friday evening to pray for peace.

University President Edward Malloy presided over the 45-minute service, which featured prayers, hymns and readings from scripture and came amid increased military action in Iraq. During the day on Friday, U.S. forces continued the bombing campaign over Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, and British and American forces moved into the country from Kuwait.

"May the God of peace be with all of us," Malloy said at the start of the service. "We join in prayer with our Holy Father, John Paul II who recently pleaded, 'Violence never again, terrorism never again, war never again, terrorism never again.'"

"We pray for peace, for an end to the violence that we see around us, for a calming of fears," Malloy said. "We pray for the well being of those who represent our country. Most of all we pray for peace that, in the end, will be a gift from our loving God."

In a somber tone to the service, Malloy used his homily to reflect on the progress of Jesus' commitment to peace and love of all people. He also urged students to pray for an end to the conflict and the safety of those involved.

"We pray for peace, for an end to the violence that we see around us, for a calming of fears," Malloy said. "We pray for the well being of those who represent our country. Most of all we pray for peace that, in the end, will be a gift from our loving God.

Closer to home, Malloy encouraged students to consider their own actions and question whether they were in line with Jesus' teachings.

"We pray... that we may recognize our call, our need to change our hearts," he said. "Jesus taught us over and over again that the call for peace begins with each one of us."

After the homily, the lights in the Basilica were turned off and those present knelt with lit candles. Two students read prayer intercessions modeled after the Beatitudes and members of the congregation exchanged signs of peace.

Friday's prayer service for peace marked the beginning of a series of religious services scheduled around campus for the duration of military action in Iraq. Earlier Friday, people gathered in the Basilica for a special Mass for prayer and throughout the coming week-days, a travelling rosary for peace will be held in a residence hall chapel. The series of rosary and prayer services will begin.

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu

COURTESY OF
PHOTO BY

The Notre Dame Community paused Friday afternoon to pray for peace in Iraq.

Fencing wins first national title since 1994

By MATTHEW LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

Colorado Springs, Colo.
Maybe Notre Dame coach James BednarSKI should think about taking up a job as a statistics professor.

Before the competition we thought we needed 180 points and it turned out that way," BednarSKI said. Notre Dame won the 2003 NCAA Championships with 182 points. Penn State was second with 179.

That's scary BednarSKI did something in one year that former Irish coach Yves Auriel couldn't do in seven years at the helm — win the national title. "It feels great and I'm a little bit tired," BednarSKI said. "I lost my voice from giving so many comments. It was not easy and we had a lot of great opponents. To win in such great competition, it's a pleasure."

As the competition progressed, everybody knew it would come down to the last round of bouts. BednarSKI pre-

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"Fencers win national championship" page 24

See Also
"Fencers win national championship" page 24

FENCING/page 4
Floating to freedom

Imagine being 60 miles or more away from land, drifting in a small rubber raft with just a straw hat to guard you from the harsh Caribbean sun. Thousands of Cubans floated in this distance in some way to the United States. Few make it, many die and some are rescued.

This spring break, I witnessed such a scene as my cruise ship stopped to rescue five Cubans floating in the distance in something that appeared to be a black dot. The stories of people risking their lives for the slight possibility of something better became a reality.

For a moment, nearly all the people on the ship ceased sunning themselves, put down their Caribbean concoctions and gathered on one side of the ship to witness the rescue. Some made brash comments while others took time to realize how lucky they were to be born in a country that they didn’t have to escape.

I have always been hopelessly proud of the United States and its values. Maybe it’s because of the numerous family trips to American landmarks like Plymouth Rock, endless battlefields and trips to our nation’s capital. I have never been able to articulate these feelings until a friend asked, after I returned from a year abroad, if I would permanently move to another country or give up my citizenship. Without skipping a beat, I replied, “No.” I might one day own a summer home in Europe or travel extensively, but I would never relinquish my citizenship. I consider it a true blessing given to me by relatives who made their way through Ellis Island and Canada to make a new home and establish a better life for their posterity.

Off course, we have problems in the United States and there always will be. We are human beings trying to do the best we can. Fortunately, we have the option to raise our voice to change the wrongs and we should take this responsibility seriously.

If I ever forget how privileged I am to live in this country, I hope to remember the five Cubans who risked their lives for a chance at freedom.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Shannon Nelligan at nelli2040@mailmarys.edu.
Study Abroad programs comment on the conflict in Iraq

By KEVIN ALLEN
News Writer

The commencement of large-scale military action in Iraq by the United States and Britain stirred a great deal of emotion on Notre Dame’s campus in the past week. In addition to anxiety about the well-being of the nation and the soldiers on the battlefields, considerable concern arose about the safety of Notre Dame students spending the semester abroad.

Tom Bogenschild, director of International and Off-Campus Study Programs, said the office of International Study Programs is very concerned about possible hostility toward Notre Dame’s sites, "We have been receiving messages from the American embassy to avoid crowds and to vary their patterns. We were advised not to go downtown near the protests," Fitzgibbons said. "Staying out of the way of the protests, I haven't felt threatened."

In spite of heightened tensions abroad, Fitzgibbons added that he is still happy to be returning to the United States and Britain, "I'm witnessing history," he said. "And this is history, for better or for worse." Tom Marotta, a junior spending the semester in Shanghai, China, said he feels very welcome in his host country, despite military conflict with Iraq. "I haven't felt any animosity from either the Chinese authorities or the average Chinese person on the street," said Marotta. "I have been asked my opinion about the war by Chinese students and heard some anedotes from other Americans being asked their opinions. Most Chinese are against the war and anti-Bush, but still pro-American."

"I've had more hostile conversations with my fellow American students here about how the United States ought to proceed," Marotta said. Unlike Fitzgibbons and Marotta, students in the London Program find themselves among America's most loyal allies, a fact that exposes them to a greater terrorism threat. "With the talk of imminent terrorist attacks, it is hard to view London as a safe place to be," Dominic Paschel, a junior who is spending the semester in London, said. McDermott said he will be changing his daily routine due to the threat of terrorism. "I think I'm not the only one who will be trying to avoid public transportation a little more actively," McDermott said.

Meghanne Downes contributed to this article.

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Security a top priority with Notre Dame administration

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Editor

With the country's terrorist level at orange alert and allied forces having entered Iraq, University President Father Edward Malloy released an e-mail to the University community last week outlining Notre Dame's security measures. "Working with local, state and federal law enforcement and emergency management personnel, we remain confident that Notre Dame can appropriately and effectively respond to situations that may threaten the community," Malloy said in his e-mail. "Rakow, director of Notre Dame Security and Police, said a University did not increase security in response to the heightened national security level. Rakow said NDSP assessed safety and security on campus and increased security at major events, especially football games, following the Sept. 11 attacks. Rakow said the e-mail was released to the University community because several students, faculty and staff have made security and emergency plans. Though no additions were made to community or campus resources, NDSP remains ready for their numerous emergency plans. "We have been in contact with all the necessary people and the homeland security alerts are geographically specific," Rakow said. "There is nothing of great threat in Notre-Dinded," Rakow added that his office has been in contact with the FBI and other police agencies in the area. "We are doing as much as anyone else," Rakow said.

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Fencing  
continued from page 1

round of bouts. Bednarski prepared his team for that situation the entire year and they came through when it counted the most.

"I think it was very decisive in the end because we had done a lot of hard work throughout the whole year," Bednarski said. "Our fencers were stronger. If you want to win the gold medal, you have to be strong at the end of the game, not only at the beginning, when everyone is fresh." That decisiveness and fighting ability exemplified by the Irish can be attributed to simulation.

"The team dynamic has just been outstanding this year," Destanie Milo said.

Carol Mooney  University vice president

Basketball  
continued from page 1

Although it might not have had anything to do with the new hairstyles the players sported -- the Irish shaved their heads two nights before a narrow first-round victory over Wisconsin-Milwaukee Thursday -- Notre Dame was ready with an intensity that had been missing since March.

And when the final horn sounded and the Irish bounced around the court in celebration, a mission the Irish began back in June had finally been accomplished.

"I'm really happy that this group set a goal and achieved it," Brey said. "I think it's just another feather in our cap as a basketball program, and it says that we are back as a legitimate big-time basketball program."

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U.S. military finds suspected Iraqi chemical plant

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

U.S. troops have found a suspected chemical factory in Iraq and officials are trying to determine late Sunday whether it was involved in making chemical weapons, U.S. officials said. The site was mentioned in a television report from Najaf, which U.S. troops reached Sunday on a push to Baghdad, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

U.S. Central Command said in a statement that troops were examining "sites of interest," but did not elaborate. The statement said reports describing the discovery as a chemical weapons factory were "premature.

President Bush and other U.S. officials say riding Saddam Hussein's regime of chemical and biological weapons is the main objective of the war.

Saddam's government denies it has any chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. The Iraqis have repeatedly told the world that they have no "future," said Peter Wall, chief of staff to the British military contingent in the U.S.-led coalition.

President Bush kept his eye on the big prize — the removal of Saddam's government and Iraq's nuclear, biological and chemical weapons program. "I know that Saddam Hussein is losing control of his country," Bush said upon his return from the Camp David retreat in Maryland. "We are slowly but surely achieving our objective.

He demanded that U.S. prisoners of war be treated humanely.

With allies closing in, Iraqi leaders appealed for a united Arab front to condemn the invasion but knew they wouldn't get it. "There is no hope in these rulers," Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said.

But Russia and Chinese foreign ministers reassured their view that the invasion has no legal basis and asked for an immediate halt.

Iraq

Allied troops hit setbacks on road to Baghdad

Associated Press

IRAQ

AN NASIRIYAH

Iraqi used ambulances and even fake surrenders to kill and capture U.S. troops Sunday, inflicting the first significant casualties on the allied forces driving toward the pivotal Iraqi capital, officials said.

Iraqi leaders declared the invasion on target despite the bloody setbacks.

Up to nine Marines died and a dozen U.S. soldiers were taken prisoner in surprise engagements with Iraqis at An Nasiriyah, a southern city far from the forward positions of the allied forces.

On the third day of the ground war, any expectation that Iraqi defenders would simply fold was gone. "They are not a beaten force," said Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "This is going to get a lot harder.

But senior U.S.-British officials said they were surprised.

Allied soldiers came under attack in a series of ruses, U.S. officials said, with one group of Iraqis waving the white flag of surrender, then opening up with artillery fire; another group appearing to welcome surrender, then opening up with fire from the air.

"The mood, of course, is very tragic," she said.

U.S. and British officials said some of the stiffest resistance was coming from paramilitary guerrillas known as the Fedayeen Saddam and from Saddam Hussein's personal security forces.

"These are men who know that they will have no role in the building of a new Iraq and they have no future," said Peter Wall, chief of staff to the British military contingent in the U.S.-led coalition.

Iraqi general officers that we have taken prisoner, and they are providing us with information," Abizaid said.

If the plant is confirmed as a chemical weapons factory, it would be the first find by the U.S.-led invasion force validating U.S. allegations that Iraq still has weapons of mass destruction.

Iraqi officials have insisted that they destroyed all of the chemical and biological weapons they made after the 1991 Persian Gulf War — a claim U.N. weapons inspectors have questioned.

U.N. weapons inspectors are not aware of any large-scale chemical sites which could be used to make chemical weapons in Najaf, said Ewen Buchanan, spokesman for the inspectors. However, there are many such dual-use sites in other parts of the country because of Iraq's petrochemical industry.

U.N. inspectors visited a cement plant in Najaf earlier this year but did not report finding anything.

The U.S. military's discovery was first reported in the Jerusalem Post, which has a reporter traveling with the unit from the Army's 3rd Infantry Division which reached the chemical plant. The newspaper reported that about 30 Iraqi troops, including a general, surrendered at the plant.

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U.S. soldier held in attack on own troops

A U.S. soldier most likely acted out of resentment Sunday when he threw grenades into tents at a 101st Airborne Division command center, killing a fellow serviceman, an Army spokesman said.

Fifteen other soldiers, including the division commander, were wounded — at least three of them seriously — in the early Sunday attack at Camp Pennsylvania, the rear base for the 101st near the Iraqi border. The 101st is based at Fort Campbell, Ky.

U.S. protests Russia-Iraq weapons deal

The State Department protested Sunday that Russian companies sold sensitive military equipment to Iraq destined for Saddam Hussein's regime. Three Russian firms are helping the Iraqi military develop electronic jamming equipment for U.S. planes and bombs in violation of United Nations sanctions.

WORLD & NATION

Monday, March 24, 2003

Compiled from The Observer wire services

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Former NFL player shares faith, virtues

By HIMANSHU KOTHARI

Former New York Giants player Chris Godfrey, founder of Life Athletics, spoke about his experience with scripture as part of the Blessing Unto Others lecture series Sunday.

Godfrey talked of his journey from football to faith.

"I decided to quit the NFL after nine years and did not know what to do from then on," Godfrey said.

At that point, a friend of his who knew a law professor at Notre Dame suggested law school, which brought him to Notre Dame in 1990, where he searched for his vocation.

"None of us are happy unless we are doing what we are meant for, our vocation," Godfrey said.

Between volunteering for various projects and being an athlete thing led to another and Godfrey formed "Life Athletics." The program is endorsed by more than 300 Olympic-level leaders and reaches out to people from middle school to college. Godfrey said it is based on "living a life by the principals of virtue, abstinence and respect for life."

He said people nowadays feel that the sexual relationship is "not a big deal."

"Our faith teaches us that we can only find ourselves in the giving of ourselves," Godfrey said. "The only context that justifies a sexual relationship is the commitment of marriage, for otherwise there is the possibility of a break-up, which leaves one emotionally and spiritually heartbroken and at times unable to bond with other individuals."

Citing a study, Godfrey said people who engage in premarital sex are more likely to be divorced later in life. Godfrey added that abortion was not the answer to an unwanted pregnancy.

"Abortion is never the answer, it cannot change the fact that the child wanted to exist. It harms a child's life and the parents. If a mother is willing to kill her own child what guarantee does she have to securing her own life or those of others?" Godfrey said.

Godfrey emphasized the reason humans are unique is their ability to love.

"He said he believes that people listen to their organiza tions because they are symbols of the sporting world. Godfrey publicizes the program by introducing it into the curriculum of certain schools and organizing sports camps where he teaches students about virtue.

"Parents need to talk to their kids about these issues and married people need to live by the same virtues as single people. All virtues are expressions of love," Godfrey said.

Hallahan appoints chief of staff

By MATT BRAMANTI

Student body president-elect Pat Hallahan appointed freshman Emily Chin as his chief of staff for the 2003-2004 academic year.

"With Emily and the group we've put together, we can be effective in addressing students concerns," Hallahan said.

Hallahan echoed the sentiment. "She's only a freshman and she's been very involved and active already," he said.

"She comes in with a level of experience that not many freshmen have," Chin said.

Chin said her focus would be on fulfilling the campaign promises she helped Hallahan and Lao engineer, including improved communication with University officers, academic programming and working to bring dances back into the residence halls.

"Opening the lines of communication is vital to creating more of a respect for the student body from the administration," Chin said. The new officers hope to unify student opinion on the dance issue in order to present a cohesive case to university leaders.

"Once that opinion is demonstrated through [Student Senate and Hall Presidents Council] resolutions, it shows a unified support that we can take to the officers and board of trustees," Lao said.

"We're hoping to get some type of compromise with the administration — or at least get some type of response about why they took [in-hall dances] away," Chin said.

During the election campaign, the Hallahan-Lao ticket called on university administrators to make the results of teacher and course evaluations available to students. Chin said the measure would accomplish her goal of improving teaching quality.

She also plans to spearhead more academically oriented events, including a lecture series featuring distinguished Notre Dame faculty and alumni.

Chin characterized the transition from Libby Bishop's presidency as "smooth."

In February, Hallahan resigned as Bishop's chief of staff in protest of her report to the Board of Trustees, which he called "watered down."

Hallahan attributed the disagreement to a difference in leadership styles.

"I've been a friend of Libby's for a long time and I still will be," Hallahan said.

Chin agreed, saying the incoming and outgoing presidents are on great terms.
Iraqi oil not ready for market

**American market must be patient for oil**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Once the war in Iraq ends, it’s likely to take months before the country’s oil again flows into world markets, analysts say.

Getting wells, pipelines and pumping stations back into operation is a far slower process for U.S. planners who see oil, and the income it produces, as essential to rebuilding postwar Iraq. By all accounts it will be several years before the country’s dilapidated oil industry can boost production significantly.

U.S. and British troops moved swiftly once the war began to control key parts of Iraq’s southern oil fields. Just as importantly, they secured crucial oil-gathering points and the major export terminals on the Persian Gulf and counted only nine wells on fire.

Iraq’s northern fields also appeared to have avoided damage thus far. Destruction of the fields and shipping terminals had been a potential nightmare for U.S. war planners. They worried that President Saddam Hussein might order Iraq’s well set ablaze to deprive the world of its oil.

Adm. Michael Boyce, chief of the British defense staff, said “practically all” Iraqi oil and gas installations had been missed or blown up by the end of the Gulf War a dozen years ago.

Still, getting Iraq’s oil to world markets have hardly noticed. Oil prices have dropped from nearly $40 a barrel in mid-February for future delivery to $27 on Friday for oil to be delivered in May.

The reason: There is plenty of oil.

For weeks, Saudi Arabia has pumped as much as 9.5 million barrels a day, about 1.5 million barrels of crude a day, exporting 2 million barrels. The exports stopped when it became clear war was imminent.

Buyers were unwilling to enter into contracts for oil that they might never see. Exports dwindled to almost nothing a week ago. The last shipment of crude left the Ceyhan terminal in Turkey on Thursday, according to U.S. officials. Iraq’s 1.685 million barrels of crude in the Basra area in the south and around Kirkuk in the north have stopped pumping.

The world’s oil markets have been weak through most of the winter amid worries over what was to come.

And then this past week, a rally set in as Wall Street’s longest winning streak in nearly three years. "From our point of view, while the markets have priced in the probability of war, they still expect the fighting to be short and successful,” said Burt Hilton, head of U.S. equity derivatives at Citigroup Private Bank.

"Investors haven’t yet discounted the negative scenario for the conduct of the war itself.”

While most economists say the war itself won’t damage the economy, it could exacerbate many of the problems already weighing on the sluggish economy.

In the buildup to war, consumer confidence plunged and retail sales began to slow. Corporate executives further reduced their spending, which has been weak through most of the economic downturn over the last three years.

Now with war here, questions loom over how war — especially a prolonged battle — will affect the psyche of businesses and consumers.

**Uncertainty continues in wartime**

An Iraqi worker climbs up a set of stairs at the al-Doura oil refinery outside Baghdad in this Sept. 5, 2002 file photo.

Associated Press

British 7th Armored Brigade at an oil field near Buza.

Still, getting Iraq’s oil to world markets again will take time, said Robert Ebel, director of the energy programs at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Until recently, Iraq had produced about 2.5 million barrels of crude a day, exporting 2 million barrels. The exports stopped when it became clear war was imminent.

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Look beyond the numbers.
The razzle-dazzle musical satire "Chicago" won the Academy Awards for best picture Sunday, while top acting honors struck a more somber note: Adrien Brody as a Holocaust survivor in "The Pianist" and Nicole Kidman as a suicidal nymphomaniac in "Eyes Wide Shut." The Bob Fosse stage hit about careers.

using their jailhouse celebrity as a sentimental favorite.

career: winner Michael Douglas in a child with husband and Oscar actress Susan Sarandon. Some past Oscar shows, including last year's, have topped the nominees, other celebrities and Hollywood at large. And in a monologue stuck to mocking the Oscars, Martin's opening to the war and its effects on the world is in such turmoil. Kidman said, "Because art is important. And because you believe in what you do and you want to honor that, and it is a responsibility that needs to be upheld."

Cook, a veteran character actor whose credits include "American Beauty" and "Lone Star," played a man on a mission to preserve rare orchids in the film, loosely based on author Susan Orlean's "The Orchid Thief." "In light of all the troubles in this world, I wish us all peace," Cooper said as he received his award.

"Lose Yourself," from the film "8 Mile," starring Eminem, won the best-song Oscar for the rapper and his co-writers, Jeff Bass and Luis Resto. "I think he's going to feel really great," the rapper said backstage, after accepting the award for theabsent Eminem, "He's so proud about the song." Documentary winner "No End in Sight" is Moore's alternately hilarious and horrifying examination of gun violence in America. Moore, a harsh critic of the Bush administration, invited his fellow documentary nominees on stage, saying they were there in "solidarity with me, because we like non-fiction, and we are living in fictitious times....We live in a time where we have a man who's sending us to war for fictitious reasons.

"We are against this war. Mr. Bush, shame on you," Moore said, amid a mix of boos and applause from the crowd. Kidman's Oscar win was a Hollywood ending for her after a turbulent couple of years. She had a miscarriage in 2001 and broke up with husband Tom Cruise, in whose shadow she had lingered throughout their 11-year relationship. Kidman emerged as a big star in her own right later that year with "Moulin Rouge," which earned her a best-actress Oscar nomination, and the horror hit "The Others." In "The Hours," Kidman played suicidal author Virginia Woolf, wearing a false nose to capture an American accent. "Why do you come to the Academy Awards when the world is in such turmoil?" Kidman said, "Because art is important. And because you believe in what you do and you want to honor that, and it is a responsibility that needs to be upheld."

Cook, a veteran character actor whose credits include "American Beauty" and "Lone Star," played a man on a mission to preserve rare orchids in the film, loosely based on author Susan Orlean's "The Orchid Thief." "In light of all the troubles in this world, I wish us all peace," Cooper said as he received his award.

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"We are against this war. Mr. Bush, shame on you," Moore said, amid a mix of boos and applause from the crowd. Kidman's Oscar win was a Hollywood ending for her after a turbulent couple of years. She had a miscarriage in 2001 and broke up with husband Tom Cruise, in whose shadow she had lingered throughout their 11-year relationship. Kidman emerged as a big star in her own right later that year with "Moulin Rouge," which earned her a best-actress Oscar nomination, and the horror hit "The Others." In "The Hours," Kidman played suicidal author Virginia Woolf, wearing a false nose to capture an American accent. "Why do you come to the Academy Awards when the world is in such turmoil?" Kidman said, "Because art is important. And because you believe in what you do and you want to honor that, and it is a responsibility that needs to be upheld."

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According to a news story by Amy Webb in yesterday’s Indianapolis Star, "about 140 war protestors" gathered in Monument Circle on Saturday afternoon, compared to "nine Bush administration supporters in Army fatigues." That’s funny. I was in Indianapolis on Saturday afternoon (though not for the protests, or the basketball game), I had to be content to listen on the radio as the Irish whipped the Illini in the Battle of the Schools with "Fighting" Mascots. I drove by Monument Circle, and I didn’t see 140 protestors. I know — I counted. There were exactly seven. Those who stood on the other side, literally and metaphorically speaking, numbered about 20.

Now, I didn’t get to Monument Circle until about 4:30 p.m., so perhaps I arrived too late to pass by the most populated part of the anti-war demonstration. Maybe the other 133 protestors had to go over to work, or maybe they hopped over to Starbucks to grab a latte or something. The more likely explanation is that they got bored, since there was no action. Many of the people who publicly oppose the war call themselves “activists” to deceive themselves and others by pretending that when they do something offensive or outrageous, they’re helping to affect action. The problem is, as more and more people support military action tooust Saddam Hussein and disarm Iraq, the “activists” stoop to more and more extreme tactics. Although they congratulate each other on their creativity on Internet sites, and share tales of their arrests like how they earned merit badges, they may unintentionally drive more normal people away from their cause.

I want to make an important distinction here, and an apology. In my last column, I lumped peaceful protestors in with the nutballs for the sake of effect, and I apologize for that, since they’re nothing alike. I regret minimizing that similarity, and painting people who are anti-war with so broad a brush. I really do respect people who demonstrate peacefully, for this or any other reason. They’re exercising the same First Amendment rights that I have, not offending anyone and just believing in their ideals. I may disagree with the members of the Notre Dame community who held candlelight vigils at the Grotto or the peaceful demonstrators in Indianapolis, but I have absolutely no qualms about their actions.

However, the anti-war movement does have some real whack-jobs. To find them, we have to escape “middle America” and go to places where you have to smack strangers upside the head to get their attention. Many of the demonstrations in major cities are sponsored by organizations with names like Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER), whose Web site advocates halting “business as usual” during the war. A group called Freeway Peace Virus Human Billboard Campaign is trying to block highway exits for two hours every week. Protesters like this are labeled “civil disobedience” as if they’re walking in Mahatma Gandhi’s sandaled footsteps, arm in arm with Martin Luther King and Henry David Thoreau. They’re not. The protests are marked by a complete lack of civility. Witness these events:

In San Francisco, those damb crazy “activists” demonstrated how the war made them sick by intentionally vomiting on the plaza of the Federal Building. More than 2,000 people have been arrested for shutting down traffic in the city.

In New York, a group called Lesbians Against Boys Invading Anything (L’ABIA) let two of the abbreviation themselves joined the march down Broadway. While the march started peacefully, thousands of protestors refused to disperse after their permits expired and began throwing rocks and spraying mace at police. According to the NYPD, 17 cops were injured and 91 people were arrested.

Even in Chicago, 10,000 demonstrators shut down Lake Shore Drive and shouted, “Killers! Killers! Killers!” at a group of supporters they walked by. Five hundred arrests were made.

This is peaceful.

Peace advocates have historically been represented by a dove, but there’s really nothing dovish about most of these events, unless there’s some odd species of dove that shoo in megaphones and stage puke-ims on public property. Meanwhile, the so-called “hawks” despised as war-mongers by peace “activists,” hold demonstrations of their own that, though they don’t have the sheer numbers of the anti-war movement, are far more orderly.

Fifteen thousand people attended the “Rally For America” in Auburn, Ind., 120 miles northeast of Indianapolis. They gathered, prayed, sang songs and chanted and although they didn’t realize it, they served as a stark contrast to the outrageous behavior at many “peace” demonstrations.

Meanwhile, at least things were calm in Indianapolis. Except for the ICA Dome — I heard that place was raucous.

Mike Marchand, ’01, had Notre Dame in the Sweet 16 in his NCAA Tournament bracket. If he didn’t look absolutely ridiculous with no hair, he would have shared his head to support the Irish bailers. His e-mail address is Marchand3@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Effects of war felt in an islamic republic

Monday, March 24, 2003

We would like to establish the premise that the position in the Gulf War II, "hereafter called Operation Iraqi Freedom. One of the most common protests to the war is "No Blood for Oil," and it seems to me that a letter by Jessica Needles on March 21 echoes this sentiment. While it is easy to fall into this trap, this war is actually being waged by a people from a self-serving dictator who has continually ignored U.N. resolutions and other forms of diplomacy for over two years. By sending world opinion and by keeping and pursuing weapons of mass destruction, Saddam Hussein has become a legitimate threat to the United States and to the world.

Ms. Needles claims that "the Bush administration has destroyed U.S. foreign relations by ignoring our allies in the United Nations." We find this claim to be unfounded since the U.S. is acting with a coalition of more than 40 members strong. It was President Bush whowfried to secure a U.N. resolution giving Iraq a last chance to comply with weapons inspectors. As it became clear that Iraq was deceiving the U.N. and all means of diplomacy had failed, force was the only viable option.

The U.S. is completely within its rights as a sovereign nation to defend itself against all manner of threats. Although Ms. Needles seems to think that there is no "meaningful reason" to go to war, we believe that the protection of a regime change is the only viable option.

According to the United Nations, Iraq owes Russia more than $8 billion. In addition, Russia is the world's no. 1 supplier of oil to the U.S., only 8 percent of all crude oil imports actually come from Iraq, as reported by the Department of Energy. France is the no. 1 European trading partner with Iraq under the U.N. oil for food program. In addition, TotalFinaElf owns the rights to $400 billion worth in excess of $400 billion. TotalFinaElf owns the rights to the U.N. oil for food program. In addition, France is the no. 1 European trading partner with Iraq under the U.N. oil for food program. In addition, France is the no. 1 European trading partner with Iraq under the U.N. oil for food program. In addition, France is the no. 1 European trading partner with Iraq under the U.N. oil for food program.

Saddam Hussein has become a legitimate threat to the United States and to the world.

We don't believe that war is the preferable option.

It is not necessary to destroy U.S. foreign relations, it is not necessary to destroy world opinion, it is not necessary to keep and pursue weapons of mass destruction.

In regards to Ms. Needles' position that the U.S. is attack Iraq for its oil, it is helpful to understand the foreign ties of the second most important country in the world. While most assume that Iraq is one of the largest suppliers of oil to the U.S., only 8 percent of oil imports actually come from Iraq, as reported by the Department of Energy. In regards to Ms. Needles' position that the U.S. is attack Iraq for its oil, it is helpful to understand the foreign ties of the second most important country in the world. While most assume that Iraq is one of the largest suppliers of oil to the U.S., only 8 percent of oil imports actually come from Iraq, as reported by the Department of Energy.

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It is not necessary to destroy U.S. foreign relations, it is not necessary to destroy world opinion, it is not necessary to keep and pursue weapons of mass destruction.
Locura Latina: More This year’s Latin Expressions brings together a wide

By CHRISTIE BOLSEN Assistant Scene Editor

Latin Expressions 2003 is appropriately entitled “Locura Latina.” Meaning “madness” or “insanity,” Latin Expressions has become an event on campus that can be relied on each year to showcase cultural entertainment at its best. It promises to be no different this year, with an impressive array of talented artists performing dance, singing and poetry acts lined up.

The performance premiered in 1990, with the purpose of raising funds for a scholarship to be presented to a local Latino high school senior who wanted to attend Notre Dame. Now an annual event over a decade old, the participation and attendance level has increased dramatically, making it necessary to move it out of its former small-scale venue of the Hesburgh Library Auditorium. The spirit of the production has changed as well, from a politically charged and angst-dominated performance to a celebration of being Latino at Notre Dame. Locura Latina begins with six couples that dance in both the opening and closing act.

“It’s about understanding the culture a little more, the different types of music and the way things go socially. People can also see that there is diversity at Notre Dame and that anyone can be in it because we’re open to everybody.”

Miguel Luna, sophomore

Locura Latina should be memorable and exciting. Miguel Luna, a sophomore from Siegfried, and Cecilia Lesmes, a senior from Lewis, are the commissioners in charge choreographing the opening acts and dance in them as well. Luna feels that there are multiple objectives and themes in the production as a whole.

“It’s about understanding the culture a little more, the different types of music and the way things go socially. People can also see that there is diversity at Notre Dame and that anyone can be in (Latin Expressions) because we’re open to everybody. There’s no discrimination,” Luna said.

“In high school I danced and was in Latino club. We had International Night where the different clubs put on performances, and last year I danced in the opening and closing act. I was approached this year to be a commissioner and I wanted something different and to make it enjoyable for everybody,” Luna said.

The next act to take the stage is the Irish Dance Group. Co-executive director April Garcia, a sophomore from Lyons, feels that the decision to include the Irish dancers was important not only because of their ability but also because it highlights the diversity of the student body and students who have more than one ethnic background. The Irish dancers were adamant about being as Latino as possible, dancing to Latin music, since the organizers feel that as long as the acts express Latino culture they complement the production as a whole. An interesting aspect of Celtic dancing is that it does have roots with flamenco dancing, making it even more suited for the production.

Mariachi ND, a student-run organization on campus, will be performing twice in Locura Latina. Also performing will be individual dance and singing acts that composed their own acts, and a poetry performance. The poetry reading is focused on the theme of being the Latino woman. Rounding out the first half is Ballet Folklorico. Although the group’s instructor is from outside the University, the organization is basically run by students. One of their dances will be from the state of Jalisco in Mexico, “La Negra.” Other dances are to a style of music called norteño, and is usually done in couples.
madness for March

One of the individual dance acts is an extremely creative dance by three girls, entitled "Malaghena." This is a Brazilian influenced dance, with much "Shakira-style" hip movement. Garcia feels this performance exhibits a central objective of Latin Expressions, which is to present the many faces of Latino culture. A student who knows about being Mexican-American might not know about other parts of Latin background, and can come to the performance to experience new kinds of Latino heritage, as well as students who know nothing about Latino culture.

Troop ND, a hip-hop influenced dance group that makes up their own routines and learns their dances from each other, is another exciting addition. "They're able to be in so many productions because they're able to mold themselves to whatever the production needs," Garcia said. "If we say we have a Latin show, they'll dance to Latin music and incorporate Latin dance moves."

Another act that brings variety to the show is Core Primavera, which is the Spanish choir that generally sings at Spanish Mass. Their participation in the show will include songs that are more contemporary than the ones they would sing in church, since this is an opportunity to expand their repertoire.

There will also be the presentation of the Julian Samora award, which is given to a faculty member that has influenced and helped Latino students at Notre Dame. The recipient of the award is someone who has also contributed to the Latino community in South Bend and at Notre Dame.

A tradition for Latin Expressions is for it to coincide with Spring Visitation Weekend, which is the weekend when the University hosts minority high school students to let them experience a slice of Notre Dame life. There have been objections to lining up cultural events while prospective Notre Dame students, who are deciding whether to attend the University or not, are visiting because it creates a false impression of campus life.

"There are a lot of complaints that Spring Vis is one big, fat lie, and that Notre Dame is exceptionally diverse, especially for students that come from a much more diverse background. But that's not the point of Spring Vis. It's not to make Notre Dame look like a very diverse place, it's not meant to lie to the student and say that this happens all the time. It's meant to get students who are unable to visit the University to come and figure out whether it is the right place for them. These productions are meant to say, 'Look what we can do.' The show is very broad. You can come here and get more cultured than you were before. As the years go by and as the administration strives for more diversity, it helps the show broaden its appeal," Garcia said.

The organizers emphasize the point of expressing a wide spectrum of forms of Latino culture, so that the Notre Dame community can learn more no matter what, even if they have extensive knowledge about one kind of culture. "For instance, I didn't learn salsa and merengue until I came here, and they're staples of someone else's culture. Or different kinds of food. This is where you can express yourself. While bringing in all the Spring Vis kids, you're doing the same thing for the students who are Notre Dame, who know a little bit more about you," Garcia said.

While this is a celebration of Latin culture, all students and members of the community are welcomed and encouraged to attend to learn about the culture. Oftentimes, people have a very narrow view of the Latino culture, which is why the production is set up to expose audience members to a much broader view. The production is an easy outlet not only for participants to show off their skills and knowledge, but also for others to learn and experience new backgrounds.

This year's sponsors are La Alianza, Institute for Latino Studies, Multicultural Student Programs & Services and Saint Mary's Student Diversity Board. There are also other contributors, which is why the organizers feel this is such an important opportunity for more of the Notre Dame and South Bend community to see the culture and talent of students and find more ideas of ways to contribute to diversity and the University. Audience members can expect to be educated and also highly entertained as they watch fellow students showing off their talents. A word of advice from both co-executive directors, Garcia and Michelle Higgin, is to "watch out for the emcees."

"It's going to be madness. Locura Latina, Latin Expressions 2003, is Friday, March 28th at 7:30 p.m. in the LaFortune Center. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Box Office, $5. For complimentary shuttles, inquire within.

Contact Christie Bolen at cbolen@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of Christie Bolen

These dancers performed last year in their festive costumes and their dance portrayed the Latin culture. Dancers will perform again this year at Latin Expressions.

The Latina Expressions is meant to portray a wide spectrum of forms of the Latin culture.

Photo courtesy of Christie Bolen

These male participants of the Latin Expressions rehearsed late Sunday night.
Associated Press

Anthony and Syracuse's other tournament when Syracuse beat Oklahoma State 68-56 Sunday in the East Regional. The second-round victory sends the Orangemen to Albany, N.Y., and a Friday against the winner of Sunday's game between Wake Forest and Auburn.

Syracuse (26-5) will be joined by three other teams from the Big East, 8-0 in the tournament. The conference received only four bids to the NCAAs, which excluded one of its division winners, Boston College.

Pittsburgh advanced with a 74-52 victory over Indiana in Sunday's first game in Boston, while Connecticut and Notre Dame were still to play Saturday.

Second-seeded Syracuse's chances of moving on seemed bleak late in the first half. Oklahoma State (22-10) pushed to a 14-2 lead, running off nearly every point scored by the Orangemen. But they trailed only 31-25 after scoring the final four points of the half.

Syracuse came back even though Anthony and Gerry McNamara, the nation's highest-scoring freshman duo, each missed all of their six shots in the half.

But McNamara finished with 14 points, and despite missing nearly six points to have a wound bandaged above his nose. And Anthony, perhaps the nation's top freshman, had 13 points.

Florida State (24-9), which is sometimes overlooked, had two outstanding halves - scoring 12 points in the first and eight in the second for a game-high 20.

The Cowboys were led by Ivan Venters, whose 13 points and seven rebounds included five offensive. He did most of his damage on defense.

Drawing on the Steel Curtain defense that brought the city four Super Bowl titles in the 1970s, Howard used a bulky front line of Ivan Kasso, Donyale Jackson and Pat Williams.

Listed at an average of 6-foot-7 and 246 pounds, but probably heavier, they pushed around Indiana's taller but spindly George Leach (6-foot-11, 240) and Jeff Newton (6-9, 225).

Indiana (21-13) trailed by one before going scoreless for the last 6:33 of the first half, committing five turnovers during that span while missing five shots - mostly long, contested 3-point attempts. At the same time, Florida State shot well, hit a 31-31 halftime lead.

Indiana, a seventh seed, had a similar stumble at a similar time of its opening-round game against Alabama over coming an 11-point halftime deficit to beat the Crimson Tide 67-62.

This time, the deficit was more than a temporary setback for the Hoosiers (21-13), who lost in the championship game to Maryland last year.

Bruce Wright scored all of his 17 points in the second half, including nine of 11 in the second against Pitt - not enough, however. Coach Bob Knight, who led Indiana with 23 in the first round, had just six points in the second half against Julius Page's defense.

Leach scored 13, and Wright converted a three-point play for the Hoosiers, but they also turned the ball over 14 times and missed 18 Pitt and points and got outrebounded 28-17.

It was the 11th consecutive victory for Pitt and the sixth in seven games that the Big East East champions held an opponent under 60 points. The only exception was an 85-1 first-round victory over Wagner. Indiana trailed just 22-21 when Brown and Knight each hit a 3-pointer to make it a seven-point game.

Brown blocked Wright's shot with 3.08 left in the half, then Knight stole the ball from Wright and hit another 3 to make it 31-21.

Indiana was within seven before Brown dunked to make it 31-24 with 6:49 left, then Page stole the ball at the other end. Pitt's 3-pointer gave the Panthers a 12-point lead, and it was never within single digits of the game.

Connecticut, coach Jim Calhoun has his second best team, a very aggressive. Ben Gordon and Emeka Okafor answered the call and sent the Huskies to the round of 16.

Gordon scored 19 of his 29 points in the second half, and Okafor dominated the offensive glass. that helped Connecticut to an 85-74 victory over No. 4 Stanford in the South Regional on Saturday.

Gordon, held in four in the first half, was a force at the end. The Huskies got 12 points and 14 rebounds, and he put the ball from Wright and hit another, and Knight stole the ball from Wright and hit another, and Knight stole the ball from Wright and hit another.

Calhoun yells at Gordon for his defensive presence on the floor in the second half, sending him to the bench with a light shove.

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The Cardinal relied on their outside shooting, and the strategy worked in the first half as they made seven 3-pointers. But they shot only 1-for-7 from long range in the second half.

"If we had been able to shoot the ball well, we could have stayed in there," Stanford coach Mike Montgomery said.

Rashad Anderson hit a 3- pointer to give the Huskies a 72- 64 lead, and after Barnes missed a three, Gordon came up with his most spectacular move of the game.

He took the ball inside and was blocked by Childress. He recovered the ball outside, took it back into the lane and scored on a double-pump splash to put the Huskies up 10.

"I didn't expect my shot to get blocked. I just erased the memory right away," Gordon said. "I tried to go back down the lane and make something happen."

Barnes hit four threes in the first half as the Cardinal took a 44-40 lead. Barnes was held to five points in the second half as the Huskies denied him the ball.
James finishes high school career

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio

Before his final high school game tapped off, LeBron James walked slowly toward the Akron St. Vincent-Saint Mary student section, holding his finger in the air to signal "No. 1." Whether he was referring to himself or his team didn't matter. Both are correct.

It was likely to be the top pick in this year's NBA Draft, scored 25 points and had 11 rebounds at the Fighting Irish (25-1) won their third state championship in four years, beating Kentville 64-36 Saturday in Ohio's Division II.

"It's just all joy," James said when asked whether he was relieved that the Irish had capped their stellar four-year run with another title. The 6-foot-8 senior was ruled ineligible by the Ohio High School Athletic Association for accepting two Cleveland clothing store. A judge later restored him, reducing his punishment to a two-game suspension.

"I think my career like a roller coaster," James said. "Today I think, it's been down, down, there's been double loops.

James seemed loose and carefree in the jammed postgame news conference. When asked about his plans, such as whether he'll declare for the NBA draft, James smiled, ducked down to the microphone and said, "What's next is ... party tonight." After he’d declare for the NBA draft, scored 25 points and had 11 rebounds.

Associated Press

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"Thank you!" and "Congratulations!" to the over 200 students and staff of the Appalachian, Children and Poverty, Holy Cross Missions: Hispanic Ministry, Washington, Migrant, L’Arche, and Living the Gospel of Life Seminars who represented The University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s College, and Holy Cross College during Spring Break in service and experiential learning at 20 sites across the nation and in Canada.

Wild clinch their first play-off berth

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn.

The Minnesota Wild accomplished two significant things Sunday. One took 21 seconds, and the other was three years in the making.

Minnesota clinched the first playoff appearance in their 3-year history as Matt Johnson scored 21 seconds into the game to spark a 4-0 victory over the Detroit Red Wings.

Minnesota becomes the third expansion team in the past 30 years to advance to the NHL playoffs in its third season of existence. The San Jose Sharks lost in the 1994 conference semifinals, and the Florida Panthers advanced to the 1996 Stanley Cup finals.

Dwayne Roloson had 33 saves for his fourth shutout of the season as Minnesota extended its winning streak to three games. Detroit had its six-game winning streak snapped.

"We played so well as a team tonight," said Roloson. "There weren't any second or third shots, and I saw most of them." On the opening shift of the game, Johnson, the Wild's penalty minutes leader, was alone in front of the Red Wings' net when a puck skated the skate of Detroit's Darren McCarty and bounced to Johnson's stick. He fired a rising shot that eluded the blocker of Detroit goalie Manny Legace for the fastest goal at the start of a game in team history.

"It was certainly a bad way to start," said Red Wings coach Louis Dawes, whose team won 4-2 in St. Louis on Saturday. "I thought in the second we played better, but we weren't as crisp as yesterday. I don't have an answer why."

Sergei Zholtok gave Minnesota a two-goal lead in the second period after taking a pass from Marian Gaborik and finding himself alone in front of the Detroit net. Zholtok fired a backhand shot, which caused Legace to dive, then lifted a forehand shot over the goalie.

The Red Wings' attempts to come back were hampered when they were whistled for a pair of penalties in the final five minutes. Minnesota's Antti Laaksonen scored an empty-net goal with 1:41 to play, and Jeremy Stevenson scored with 12.8 seconds left to clinch the victory. Afterward, the Red Wings were complimentary of the Wild, whom they face again on Tuesday in Detroit.

"They play a good system like the top teams in the league," said Luc Robitaille. "They stick to their system no matter what and it's paid off. They seem to find a way to win a lot of games."

Legace had 17 saves for Detroit.

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Woods wins Bay Hill for the fourth time in a row

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla.

Not even a nasty bout of food poisoning could stop Tiger Woods from winning the Bay Hill Invitational for the fourth straight year.

So sick that he frequently ducked into the bushes and dropped to his knees, Woods still looked as dominant as ever Sunday with a 4-under 68 to win by 11 strokes, the fourth time in his career he has won by double digits.

Woods became the first player in 73 years to win the same tournament four straight times, and the final margin indicates this one was the easiest of all.

That was hardly the case.

Woods, whose girlfriend collapsed Friday outside the clubhouse with food poisoning, came down with it himself after eating spaghetti on the eve of the final round.

He threw up three times during the first five holes and often stopped in his tracks and doubled over, winning in pain. When he tapped in for par on the final hole lead, and he has won the last five-stroke lead to start the final round. He frequently dropped to his knees, Woods still looked as dominant as ever.

At times, it looks like he can’t turn out. Woods won for the 37th time in his career, 11th most in history. He earned $810,000 and again leads the PGA Tour money list with over $2.8 million in just four tournaments, after missing the first five weeks while recovering from knee surgery.

This is only the second time in his career that Woods has won three times before the Masters, and he still has The Players Championship next week.

The other time was 2000, when Woods turned in one of the greatest seasons in golf with nine victories and three straight majors. This is shaping up to be another bonanza.

His job was to make pars, and that’s what Woods did. A poor swing on the par-3 second hole left him 90 feet from the hole, and his first putt came up 15 feet below the cup. Woods made that one for par, then holed a 12-footer for par on the next hole after a weak chip.

Woods ended everyone else’s hopes on the par-5 fourth hole with a 3-wood from 265 yards in the rain to within 12 feet for eagle.

That increased his lead to eight strokes, and the only thing left to determine was the margin of victory and whether Woods could finish the round. He frequently stopped in his tracks, doubled over in pain and gritted his teeth.

Everyone else was spinning their wheels.

It was the 12th time Woods has won a PGA Tour event by at least four shots.

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AROUND THE NATION

22 Texas A&M Oklahoma State
23 South Florida Texas A&M
25 Massachusetts Minnesota
20 Oregon Oregon State
10 LSU Ole Paul
9 Stanford Cal State Fullerton
8 Cal State Fullerton LSU
4 Oklahoma Oklahoma
3 Washington Washington
16 Florida State Ohio State
14 Arizona State South Carolina
7 Texas Texas
19
12 Georgia Stanford
1 Arizona (13) UCLA (18)
(no conference games played yet)

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT 7
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22 LSU 13-7-1
25 NOTRE DAME 9-5
5 Cal Tech Fullerton 18-4
24 Kansas 18-6
20 Arkansas 16-2
17 Wake Forest 13-5
16 Nebraska 11-4
19 Texas A&M 19-5
20 Arkansas 19-6
21 Florida 19-5-1
22 LSU 19-7-1
23 Texas Tech 17-8
24 Kansas 18-6
25 NOTRE DAME 9-5

AROUND THE NATION

AZTEC BASKETBALL

1 Arizona State (5)
2 Florida State (10)
3 Georgia Tech (3)
4 Rice (3)
5 Cal Tech Fullerton 18-4
6 Stanford 14-7
7 Long Beach State 16-5
8 Texas A&M 13-7-1
9 LSU 13-5-1
10 North Carolina 13-7-1
11 Kentucky 13-7-1
12 Kentucky 13-7-1
13 Richmond 11-7-1
14 Alabama 11-7-1
15 Miami 11-7-1
16 Ole Miss 11-7-1
17 Wake Forest 11-7-1
18 Long Beach State 11-7-1
19 Texas A&M 11-7-1
20 Arkansas 11-7-1
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22 LSU 11-7-1
23 Texas Tech 11-7-1
24 Kansas 11-7-1
25 NOTRE DAME 9-5

Womens Softball Polls

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Mens College Baseball

Big East

(unconference games played yet)

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College Basketball

Around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT 7 p.m., ESPN
NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT 9 p.m., ESPNU

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT 7

IN BRIEF

Armando goes out, wins go on behind him

Gilbert Arenas scored a career-high 41 points and Antawn Jamison added 37 points and 11 rebounds as Golden State spoiled Michael Jordan's last game in Oakland, defeating the Washington Wizards 113-107 Sunday.

Jordan missed two shots down the stretch, committed a turnover with 22 seconds left and was held scoreless on those five minutes and both overtimes with four fouls.

Arizona's bench rushes the court in celebration of their 96-95 double overtime win over Gonzaga after their second round NCAA win. Arizona will meet Notre Dame in the West Regional semifinals.

Wildcats narrowly escape Bulldogs

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY Those ever-lovin' Zags almost did it again, this time in a double-overtime thriller against top-seeded Arizona.

If the Wildcats win the national championship, they will always know that this was the one that came a few missed shots by Gonzaga from ruining it all.

Salim Stoudamire, quiet most of the intense evening, scored five points in the second overtime as the Wildcats held off the ninth-seeded Bulldogs 96-95 Saturday in a game that ranks with the best in NCAA tournament history.

Gonzaga nearly pulled off an upset that would have dawnted anything the Bulldogs did during their exhilarating tournament runs in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

"Of all the teams I've had to pit. It was the break they needed, and Busch capitalized by blowing his Ford Taurus led the final 96 laps and easily held off Roush Racing teammate Matt Kenseth by .390 seconds.

When Dale Jarrett finally hit the wall 109 laps from the finish, there were only five cars on the lead lap and all needed to pit. It was the break they needed, and Busch capitalized by bringing his car in for service then passing Bobby Labonte for the lead on the restart.

The ending lacked the drama of last year, when Busch scored his first career victory by knocking Jimmy Spencer out of his way.

This year, he stayed patient as he coasted around the 333-mile bullocking — he spun out once midway through — and let the bumping and banging go on behind him.

Busch defends Food City 500 title

His tires were worn out, his gas tank was nearly empty and his crew chief wanted him to pit. Kurt Busch overruled him and the gamble paid off for his long-awaited first victory of the year.

Busch, a runner-up three times this season, earned his first win of the year Sunday and defended his Food City 500 title by gambling on pit strategy and avoiding all but one of the 17 caution at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Coming off last week's thrilling door-to-door battle with Ricky Craven that he lost, Busch had little competition as his Ford Taurus led the final 96 laps and easily held off Roush Racing teammate Matt Kenseth by .390 seconds.

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**MENS TENNIS**

Irish split tough weekend series

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sport Writer

After suffering several close 4-3 defeats to strong teams this spring, the Irish finally registered their first big win of the season — without the services of one of their top players.

Junior tri-captain Matt Scott, its Saturday.

The Irish extended their home winning streak Saturday to three matches as they defeated Iowa 4-3, but No. 3 Williams and Mary put that streak to an end Sunday with their 4-3 win over the 27th-ranked Irish.

The Irish have only two more home contests on their schedule, and both of those arrive this week.

Against the Tribe Sunday, Notre Dame started off promising as the Irish pulled out to a 2-0 lead.

The Tribe then took the next two singles matches to even the score and ultimately prevented the upset, as the Irish dropped to 8-7 on the season.

Junior Alicia Salas and freshman Lauren Connelly helped the Irish begin the morning match ahead as they trounced Megan Muth and Lena Sherbakov, 8-2. Then junior Caylan Leslie and freshman Jennifer Smith registered a point-clinching doubles win over Kari Olsen and Lina Yang.

With Leslie's upset of No. 26 Candice Fuchs, it looked like the day was going to end in favor of the Irish.

Brent D'Amico returns the ball in a singles match against Virginia Tech Sunday.

**WOMENS TENNIS**

Win streak ends in loss to Tribe

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sport Writer

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**SMC SOFTBALL**

Offense lacking as Belles win 1, lose 2 over weekend

By PAT LEONARD
Sport Writer

The Saint Mary's softball team dropped many first hit hitting power to the plate this weekend and went 1-2 in an Indianapolis tournament, but they still sit comfortably on a 10-5-1 overall record.

The Belles defeated Olivet Nazarene University 2-1 in their third game, but lost to the University of St. Francis and Purdue.

In a 1-0 loss to St. Francis, the two teams combined for only five hits. Freshman Jackie Zurcher and juniors Katrina Tebbe and Erin Sullivan had the only hits for Saint Mary's.

It was the same story against Judson College for coach Anna Welsh's squad, as the Belles dropped the contest 2-1. Sullivan and Tebbe each had one hit, and freshman Kate Szajewich reached base for the only three hits of the game.

In its third game, the team rose to the occasion against Welsh's alma mater, No. 10 Olivet Nazarene University, where Welsh was an assistant coach in 2003.

Saint Mary's recorded seven hits in a 2-1 victory that saw Szajewich shine on offense and defense for the Belles, giving up only five hits and striking out six.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, following two one-out singles by Susan Kurtz and Tebbe, Szajewich drove in both runs with a game-winning, two-run RBI to right center field.

Sajewich and Tebbe both had two hits in the game.

"We did not play to our potential in the first two games, but we did in game three," Welsh said. "Olivet Nazarene University has a good team and we were able to play a solid seven were able to play a solid two-set, both defensively and offensively, and behind great pitching by Sagewich. That game will prepare us for conference starting Saturday."

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Sweet continued from page 24

Illinois cut the Notre Dame lead to six on a Brown free throw, but Miller responded with a Timmerman layup and a Chris Quinn 3-pointer to give the Irish a 12-21 lead with 7:42 remaining in the half. Notre Dame went up by 12 on a Carroll 3-pointer, before Illinois went on a 6-0 run to trim the Irish lead to 42-34 with 1:29 left before halftime.

But Miller answered the Irish run with a long 3-pointer to put the Irish ahead 45-34. Brown missed a layup on Illinois’ next possession. Thomas then took the ball, raced through the lane and finger rolled a layup over three defenders remaining to put the Irish up 47-34 at the half.

“The way they came out and played in the first half, no one would have been able to beat them,” Illinois coach Bill Self said. “We got a lot of looks. They just didn’t fall today.”

After the game, as the Irish celebrated, Miller simply stood by himself, staring at the ceiling, thinking about the game. Brey excitedly pumped his fist to the crowd in the Student Section, while Miller looked forlorn.

A few weeks ago, Brey told Miller not to “hang his hat” on how he played in the first half, giving the Irish a 45-34 lead. But as he ran back toward midcourt, he shimmied his arms a little bit and a smile briefly crossed his face — a huge display of emotion for a player who some­times looks like he’d rather be having a root canal instead of playing basketball.

They say experience is one of the most valuable things in the NCAA Tournament, with the last few national champi­ons having teams loaded with senior leaders. But could even Brey have imagined how much Miller would have provided the late­ season leadership the Irish would need to enter the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 1987.

He simply responded, “I’m going to get you there, man.”

But after the game, as the Irish suddenly had momentum, Brey turned to Miller and had the only player on his team who had played more than one weekend in the NCAA Tournament explain what it took to make it to the next level.

Miller might have talked about what it took, but his teammates probably remem­bered his actions on the floor Saturday a little better.

With Carroll hobbed by a sore ankle and the Irish get­ting relatively little offensive production from their post players, Miller decided to take over.

Games like Saturday’s are why Mike Brey originally accepted a senior transfer two years ago, a player who could help fill the leadership void the Irish would suddenly have.

It was fitting that the oldest and most experienced Irish player on Notre Dame’s team who had played more than one NCAA Tournament game and a player who some­times looks like he’d rather be having a root canal instead of playing basketball, would be there for the Irish in a mass bear hug, with Carroll 3-pointer, before Illinois ripped off a 6-0 run to trim the Irish lead to 42-34. Brown missed a layup on Illinois’ first possession. Thomas then took the ball, raced through the lane and finger rolled a layup over three defenders remaining to put the Irish up 47-34 at the half.

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

The Observer • SPORTS

Contact Joe Hetler at hetler@nd.edu

TAXI DRIVER/The Observer

Notre Dame forward Dan Miller drives to the basket against Illinois’ Brian Cook and James Augustine during the second round of the NCAA Tournament Saturday in Indianapolis.

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Eck Stadium

Wednesday, 3/26
3pm and 5pm
Ivy Field

BASEBALL / SOFTBALL
COLUMBUS SPRINGS, Colo. -- Maggie Jordan didn't win a bout this year. In fact, prior to her last three bouts, Jordan had won only four bouts in 20 previous attempts. But she showed her first win of the day for the perfect finish.

With the national championship still undecided, the Irish were ahead by less than five points when Jordan lost to Notre Dame's Destanie Milo. Then, Nittany Lion Ana O'Neill in the off the tournament.

The Observer • SPORTS
Monday, March 24, 2003

**FENCING**

Team attitude leads to victory

By MATT LOZAR
Assocate Sports Editor

COLUMBUS SPRINGS, Colo. -- With all the pressure at the NCAA Championships to perform, the Irish team, one thing totally invaluable is a little something called experience.

For three Notre Dame fencers at this weekend's national championships, that experience factor meant all the difference in the world.

Senior Matt Fabricant qualified for his first NCAA Championships last year as a junior and finished 15th with a 9-10 record. Fabricant had that many wins after his first 10 bouts this year.

"The experience helped a lot," lot, tremendously," Fabricant said. "Last year, I didn't know what to expect coming in. It helps a lot knowing exactly how many opponents you have to fence and the format."

As former All-Americans Andrej Bednarski, Andre Crompton and Luke La Valle and current All-American teammates, the Irish followed his path to being one of the top two or three fencers. Fabricant waited patiently and worked to become the All-American he is today.

"Matt Fabricant was waiting because we had so many good fencers," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said. "When he came, he worked hard. But they were a little bit of him. He made a great jump here to help us." "After a disappointing third-place finish at the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships by the mens epee squad, Bednarski challenged the men's epee squad," Bednarski said. "Last year, I didn't know what to expect coming in. It helps a lot knowing exactly how many opponents you have to fence and the format."

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By JUSTIN SCHUVER  
Sports Writer

DETROIT

For Notre Dame to stand a chance against No. 13 Ohio State in the CCHA Super Six, they knew they had to stop talented Buckeye center and first-team all-CCHA member R.J. Umberger. They did just that, keeping Umberger off the scoreboard all game and forcing him into taking penalties.

Unfortunately, they didn’t count on senior forward T.J. Latorre and freshman defenseman Nate Guerin stepping up for the Buckeyes.

Latorre scored his first goal of the season and Guerin scored just his second of the year, which would end up being the eventual game-winner, to lead the No. 3 seed Buckeyes to a 3-2 victory over the No. 6 seed Irish at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit on Thursday afternoon.

A little more than six minutes into the third period and with the score tied 2-2, forward Paul Caponigri skated the puck down the right side of the ice before centering to Guerin, who had jumped into the play from the right point. Irish goaltender Michael Cey tried to get back into position, but Guerin was able to twist the shot above his glove.

“Obviously, we’re very disappointed in the locker room right now,” Irish coach Dave Steel said following the game. “I thought we played well tonight. I liked where we were at the end of the second period. I thought we were forechecking the puck, and I thought our guys, particularly Aaron Gill and John Wroblewski, did a great job doing that.”

It was the Irish who had the most offensive pressure early in the first period, before the Buckeyes came back with an offensive flurry of their own, but neither team was able to score. The Irish outshot the Buckeyes 9-8 in the period.

The Buckeyes came out strong at the start of the second period and finally cracked the scoreboard a little more than two and a half minutes in.

Forward Dave Steckel sent a beautiful pass to junior Chris Olagard, who remained unfazed. Olagard took the puck down the right side of the ice before centering back to Latorre, who beat Cey low for a 1-0 lead.

The goal ended Cey’s shutout streak at 147:19, an impressive feat that spanned four hockey games and included two shutouts. He had blanked the opposition since the 15:25 mark of the third period in the opening game of the Miami series on March 14.

The Irish kept up its offensive pressure and managed to tie the game six and a half minutes later when sophomore forward Brad Wanchulak scored his second goal of the season after sloppy puck handling by Ohio State netminder Mike Betz.

Freshman forward Mike Walsh beat a Buckeye defensemen to the puck and tried to center to junior forward Rob Globke. Betz came out of goal to poke the pass away, but Wanchulak was trailing the play and shot the loose puck and the result was pure gold.

The Irish gained the lead five minutes later, after a terrific individual effort by senior forward Connor Dunlop. Dunlop blocked a pass by a Buckeye defensemen and then carried the puck down in the left side. He saw Globke coming down the right side and made a nice point-blank stop before beating the goalie high with a wrist shot.

The Irish were unable to end the second period with the lead, however. With a little more than two minutes left in the period, Kesler poked a loose puck in the crease between Cey’s pads to tie the game at 2-2. Notre Dame out-shot the Buckeyes 9-8 in the final period.

The third period was all Buckeyes as Cey made several nice point-blank stops before Guerin’s game-winning goal. The Irish were outshot 9-3 in the final period and 25-22 for the game.

Notre Dame tried to pull Cey for an extra attacker, but were unable to get the equalizer past Betz. At one point, Betz knocked down an Irish shot and a Buckeye appeared to knock the puck all the way down the ice for an empty net goal, but replays showed the puck was illegally played with a glove.

The disallowed goal ultimately did not matter. The Irish end their season with a 17-17-6 record.

“I think the key for us was when the score was 2-1,” Poulin said. “We had several chances to put it away, but could not.”

Michael Chin, Connor Dunlop, Evan Nielsen, Jake Wiegand, John Wroblewski and Tony Zasowski played their last game in an Irish uniform.

“This is a tough way to end my career,” Nielsen, who is also a captain, said. “I’ve had a good four years here. I’ve made a lot of friends and had some great experiences. That’s what I want to take away from Notre Dame.”

Cey, who was a crucial factor in Notre Dame’s first round upset of Miami of Ohio, commented on his team’s season following the disappointing loss, the third straight year that the Irish have been ousted in the first round of the Super Six.

“Getting to the Joe (Louis Arena) was really expected of us this year. As the year progressed, I think a lot of people thought we had a disappointing season, but we stuck together through the ups and downs,” Cey said.

The Irish return 20 players next season, including team-leading scorer Globke and number-one goaltender Cey.

“There’s a lot of really talented guys coming back next year,” Nielsen said.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschueve@nd.edu

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Irish survive, thanks to leadership and persistence

MANHATTAN, Kan. — If Notre Dame proved anything in its win against Arizona Sunday night, it was simply that the NCAA tournament is all about survival. Sure, the Irish could have used a seeing-eye dog in the first half en route to shooting an atrocious 19.4 percent. Then, there was Jacqueline Batteast’s 1-for-16 performance from the field. (For those scoring at home, that equates to an impressively 3.9 percent shooting percentage.) And yes, Notre Dame was outrebounded 52-43, including 14 of 25 3-point field goals in the game. Notre Dame’s victory can also be attributed to experience. The Irish didn’t get flustered when shots didn’t fall or they had a turnover. They simply moved onto the next play and didn’t dwell on the negative. Batteast was a great example of this experience. After missing 9-of-10 shots in the first half, the forward didn’t hang her head. She didn’t quit, although that would have been the easy option.

Instead after missing two easy layups in a row in the second half, Batteast just looked at the Irish bench, then laughed, as if to say, “It’s been that kind of night.” But she still played good defense and pulled down nine rebounds and even was complimented by Bonvicini for her defensive effort in the game. “She sucked it up when things went bad. However, on the other hand, Arizona’s star freshman Shawntinice Polk showed how important experience and maturity can be to a player. After missing all five of her shots in the first half and picking up four fouls with eight minutes still left in the game, you could see the mounting frustration on Polk’s face. She missed a free throw with 4:25 left in the game and threw her arm across her body in disgust.

Her immaturity was what showed, while Notre Dame’s poise came through when things got tough. That difference made all the difference in the outcome of the game. So for all the things they didn’t do well defensively, Irish definitely did enough things right to pull out the victory. And that’s all that matters. Just ask Arizona. They’ll be watching the second round of the tournament from their comfortable dorm rooms, while the Irish try to reach the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 2001.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Joe Hettler at jhetlter@nd.edu.

Upset continued from page 22

Ratay was the difference on a night when her team shot the ball in a disgusting manner. The Irish shot only 29.1 percent for the game and looking sloppy at times with 14 turnovers. Arizona only hit 19.4 percent (6-for-31) from the field in the first half, just below Arizona’s 22.6 percent (7-for-31) shooting. "That wasn’t the prettiest game to watch," Arizona coach Joan Bonvicini said. "Both teams didn’t shoot a great percentage and it was pretty much a defensive game of the night when both teams shot the ball in a disgusting manner. But the only stat that matters is points — 59-47. Notre Dame upset the Wildcats to advance to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. "It’s hard to believe you can win a game when you give up things right to pull out the victory. And that’s all that matters. Just ask Arizona. They’ll be watching the second round of the tournament from their comfortable dorm rooms, while the Irish try to reach the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 2001.

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Personalized Notre Dame Graduation Announcements

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Happy Birthday: It's time to stop hiding from issues that are uncomfortable and deal with them head-on. Shed yourself of everything and everyone who has held you back and take charge of your life, your direction and your future. You can do it if you really want to, and now is the time. Your numbers are 8, 17, 22, 31, 37.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be magnetic and ready to try anything that sounds the least bit exciting. Socializing will lead to a romantic time. ★★★★★

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Spend time with family and friends who mean something to you. ★★★

Cancer (June 21-July 22): It's time to stop hiding from issues that are uncomfortable and deal with them head-on. Shed yourself of everything and everyone who has held you back and take charge of your life, your direction and your future. You can do it if you really want to, and now is the time. Your numbers are 8, 17, 22, 31, 37.

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SPORTS
Monday, March 24, 2003

FENCING
Irish win national championship

◆ Thrilling finale helps lead Notre Dame to first NCAA title since 1994

By MATT LOZAR
Associated Press
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.

Finally.
After eight years of disappointing second and third-place finishes, the Irish used a total team effort to win the 2003 NCAA Championship with 182 points this weekend at the Air Force Academy. Penn State, who qualified only 11
fencers, finished second with 179 and St. John's finished third with 171 despite having only 10

fencers. "It feels great. It's amazing," Notre Dame sabre Matt Fabricant said. "This is huge for our program," Brey said. "In the sum-
mer, we talked about playing on the second weekend. I'm happy this group set a goal and achieved it. They should be proud of themselves."

Brey also credited the superb play of Miller, who has played in 12 NCAA tournament games in his college career, as the difference in the basketball game.

"Dan Miller was fabulous and that's one of the reasons we invested in him," Brey said. "He's made us an overall tougher team.
There's no question he has talked in our locker room on this group set a goal and then turned around," Fabricant
said. "I was really nervous."

Sophomore Alicja Kryczalo dropped her first bout to Eva Petschnigg of Stanford and Andrea Ament made the Irish hearts beat faster by losing to Notre Dame's Irina Zimmerman.

Ament recovered to defeat Cal-State Fullerton's Sena Breden to give the Irish 179 points. A Penn State loss brought the Irish within one.

To win the title, Kryczalo needed to defeat Zimmerman. Kryczalo dropped the first point, but came back to win the next two. Tied as three, Kryczalo won the next two points to give the Irish the title.

While Fabricant's stomach was full of see CHAMPS/page 16

MENS BASKETBALL
Shaved Irish scalp Illini

◆ Strong defensive performance gives Notre Dame first Sweet 16 berth since 1987

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor
INDIANAPOLIS

When asked what he thought about his team shaving their heads before the NCAA tournament, Notre Dame coach Mike Brey could only shake his head and laugh.

"If they play defense, I don't care what they do," Brey said.

The Irish did just that Saturday afternoon against Illinois, and now they're advancing to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 1987.

Dan Miller had 23 points, including three 3-pointers, and Matt Carroll limped his way to 11 points for the Irish, who will face top-seeded Arizona Thursday in Anaheim, Calif.

"This is huge for our program," Brey said. "In the summer, we talked about playing on the second weekend. I'm happy this group set a goal and achieved it. They should be proud of themselves."

Brey also credited the superb play of Miller, who has played in 12 NCAA tournament games in his college career, as the difference in the basketball game.

"Dan Miller was fabulous and that's one of the reasons we invested in him," Brey said. "He's made us an overall tougher team. There's no question he has talked in our locker room on this group set a goal and then turned around," Fabricant said. "I was really nervous."

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While Fabricant's stomach was full of see CHAMPS/page 16

WOMENS BASKETBALL
Irish knock off Wildcats

By JOE HETTLER
Sport Editor
MANHATTAN, Kan.

Just when it seemed no one on the court could hit a shot, Alicia Ratay found hers and sent Notre Dame into the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the eighth straight year.

The Irish guard overcame a poor first half of shooting to score 20 points, including three second half 3-pointers, and grabbed nine rebounds to lead 11th-seeded Notre Dame to an upset victory over sixth-seed-
ed Arizona 59-47 Sunday night at Kansas State University. Notre Dame will face Ohio State on Saturday for a spot in the Sweet Sixteen Tuesday.

"She played, probably, her complete game of this season," said Irish coach Muffet McGraw, who picked up her 450th victory as Notre Dame's head coach. "Offensively, we called her number every single time down the floor for awhile there. Rebounding, steals — she did it all tonight. Obviously, it was great to see her step up like that as a senior."

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MEN'S TENNIS
Saturday Notre Dame 4
Notre Dame 5
Virginia Tech 2

WOMENS TENNIS
Saturday Notre Dame 4
Notre Dame 5
Virginia Tech 2

SNC SOFTBALL
Saint Francis 1
Saint Mary's 0
Judson 1
Saint Mary's 2
Olivet Nazarene 1

HOCKEY
Ohio State 2 Notre Dame 0

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Sunday Notre Dame 5
Virginia Tech 2

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