**Students optimistic about 2004 football season**

By KATE GALES  
New Writer

The echoes of football seasons past will be reawakened this weekend as students, professors and fans everywhere eagerly await the verdict on the football team’s visit to Brigham Young. After the frenzied adoration and harsh criticisms of two years of highs and lows, coach Tyrone Willingham faces a third season heavy with the expectations and harsh criticism of two professors and fans everywhere this weekend as students, professors and fans everywhere. The echoes of football seasons past will be reawakened this weekend as students, professors and fans everywhere eagerly await the verdict on the football team’s visit to Brigham Young. After the frenzied adoration and harsh criticisms of two years of highs and lows, coach Tyrone Willingham faces a third season heavy with the expectations and harsh criticism of two professors and fans everywhere this weekend as students, professors and fans everywhere. 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Inside Column

A major change

I am a film and television major. Again. I never wanted to be one of those people. Those flashy, fickle people who change majors like Jennifer Aniston changes her hair. But I was. Sort of.

I started out as an FIT major. I loved film and television, but not very much else. I was fascinated by the material and excited by the prospect of working in such a dynamic, high-profile, high-adrenaline industry. I was amused by the combination of art, psychology, technology and marketing. I could go on to create movies or TV shows that make complex strangers cry, or laugh out loud, when no one else is even in the room. I could make documentaries or work in single-stoplight communities.

But not a lot of other people saw the potential that I saw. My family works in the industry. Sort of. We had always told me that college was not job training. It was about becoming an educated person. It was about being smart. It was about being exciting.

They had always told me that college was not job training. It was about being smart. It was about being exciting. They saw an easy work load: "Labs" with cameras and computer programs. Sometimes I just carried around a tripod and filmed flowers. That was not work. Engineering is work. Finance is work. Even psychology, technology and marketing is work. Film and television is just a glorified study break.

My friends and my boyfriend made fun of me at all times about all the time. What does Joanna say when she needs help with her homework? "Pass the popcorn." My parents seemed unimpressed, too. They were surprised at first, but my dad wouldn't have shirts with the cosmetic alteration. They were surprised at first, but my dad wouldn't have put the cosmetic alteration. They were surprised at first, but my dad wouldn't have put the cosmetic alteration. They were surprised at first, but my dad wouldn't have put the cosmetic alteration.

I was not job training. It was about becoming an educated person. It was about being smart. It was about being exciting. They had always told me that college was not job training. It was about becoming an educated person. It was about being smart. It was about being exciting. They had always told me that college was not job training. It was about becoming an educated person. It was about being smart. It was about being exciting.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Joanna Paxton at ipaxton@nd.edu.

Question of the Day: What's your prediction for the football game this weekend?


dwight ellick returns an interception for a touchdown. nd-byu, 43-14.

I'm pretty confident that our team will go to the Michigan game 1-0.

I'm hoping we'll get the W.

Victory for ND.

It's gonna be another crusade. Catholics dominating the Mormons in this holy war.

OFFBEAT

State orders controversial alteration to prison statue

ALBANY, N.Y. — Government cutbacks, sure, but is this going a bit too far?

The statue of a continental soldier that sits atop the state's Auburn Correctional Facility was removed earlier this summer for renovation. Now, set to return to its perch this fall, the beloved figure known as Copper John will apparently be a little smaller than he was before.

Solders can't snag tiger

FORT POLK, La. — A Bengal tiger on the loose in the thick brush surrounding an Army base is winning a game of hide and seek.

A team of about 40 soldiers and sheriff's deputies searched the woods on Fort Polk Tuesday, but saw no sign of the tiger.

"So far we've seen neither hide nor hair of it," said Scott Heinrich, owner of a wild animal consultant brought in to track the tiger.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

The auctioneer and his assistant acknowledge the high bidders during Thursday's NDSF-sponsored Bike and Lost Property Auction held at the Stepan Center. More than 120 bikes abandoned on campus were up for auction, along with miscellaneous personal items. The event was free and open to the public.

Front Row: Pat Kilbane, Law Student; Freshman Hannah; Matt Schaef er, Sophomore; Sophomore Sarah; Sophomore Kevin Phlipps.

Back Row: Dwight Ellick, Sophomore; Sophomore; Sophomore Tom.

In Brief

The controversial Michael Moore e-mail documentary, "Fahrenheit 9/11" will be playing tonight at 7 and 10 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

The No. 2 ranked Irish women's soccer team takes on Stanford tonight at 7:30 p.m. and Santa Clara Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in the Adidas Classic at Alumni Field.

SUB presents "Shrek 2" as their first movie of the year tonight and Saturday at 8 and 10:30 p.m. The screening is in 101 DeBartolo, and tickets cost $3.

David Pearce Snyder of The Futurist Magazine will lecture on "Extra-Franchise: Managing to Prosper in Revolutionary Times" from 12 to 1:15 p.m. today in the Jordan Auditorium in the Mendoza College of Business.

Comedy hypnotist Dale K returns to campus tonight at 9:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. The show is free, presented by SUB.

The women's golf team will host the Notre Dame Invitational all day Saturday and Sunday on the Warren Golf Course.

Notre Dame will host an exhibit of large scale prints of a wild animal consultant brought in to track the tiger. The show is free, presented by SUB.

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Corrections

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We hope that, in the future, we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our errors.

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Documentary provokes controversy
"Fahrenheit 9/11" screenings encourage student debate

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

Sold-out crowds packed the new Performing Arts Center to see both showings of Michael Moore's controversial documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" Thursday night.

Running opposite to the Republican National Convention — in both timeslot and viewpoint — Moore's "provocative" made the same waves on campus as it has across the country.

In the film, Moore criticizes what he considers to be the failings of the Bush presidency, including the considerable number of vacation hours he clocked during his first term, his family's speculated friendship with the Bin Ladins and the administration's perceived negligence to stop the atrocities of Sept. 11.

Moore also accused Bush of stirring up fears of war for his own financial benefit.

The subject matter, defended by Moore's camp but just as staunchly attacked by Bush's, has sparked debate everywhere from kitchens and classrooms since its release on June 25. Notre Dame is no exception.

"It made me feel Bush was not in as much control as he portrayed himself to be. However, Michael Moore is also extremely biased," said sophomore Meghan Hurt, a self-described independent Republican. "I still do not believe Bush could have done anything to stop 9/11. In the upcoming elections I will not change my Republican vote."

For senior Andrea Wolfe, the shock factor left the biggest impression.

"It is good to be aware of some of the things that occurred throughout 9/11 and the war, but it wasn't very delicately presented. It was harsh," she said. "Some comedy added relief to tension and took away from the seriousness of the matter."

"Fahrenheit 9/11" will be shown again Friday at 7 and 10 p.m. in the Browning Cinema.

Contact Jen Rowling at jrowling@nd.edu

Editor to present lecture

David Pearce Snyder, lifestyle editor of The Futurist Magazine, will deliver a lecture titled "Extra-Preneurship: Managing to Prosper in Revolutionary Times," at noon Friday (Sept. 3) in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame. A part of the Donnelly Lecture Series on Employee Participation, the lecture is free and open to the public.

Snyder is a data-based forecaster whose thousands of seminars and workshops on strategic thinking have been attended by representatives of Fortune 500 companies, local and federal government agencies, educational institutions and trade associations.

Prior to entering private practice as a consulting futurist in 1981, Snyder served as chief of information systems and senior planning officer for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, where he designed and managed the service's strategic planning system. He also served as a consultant to the Rand Corporation and as an instructor for the Federal Executive Institute, as well as for congressional and White House staff development programs.

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SUB PRESENTS
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9:30 PM

brought to you by the student union board.
Patterson continued from page 1

Youth interest was Vietnam — though Iraq hasn't yet produced that kind of mobilization of the young. The two issues cited as top voter priorities are the economy and Iraq, and Iraq comes out as the higher priority for younger people.

Young adults concerned with the Iraq war are more likely to become involved in the election, especially those in college or college-educated. Concern with the economy mainly reflects the economic dislocation felt by those without college degrees.

There's just something about war — not a quick, precise war, but one with controversy — that gets young people motivated to involve themselves in politics.

Q: What has been the media's impact on this election, and have they been appropriate for campaigns any differently than in years past?

A: What we're basically seeing is a replay of past practices. The media is stuck in a mode in the reporting of campaigns, with more time spent on the horse race than the substance. Iraq is out there in the general news, but not in the campaign news, and the economy has been mostly absent from coverage. So far, the economy has received only one-fourth of the coverage devoted to Iraq.

The smaller issues that come out of nowhere are the ones that get the most play. We're already in the third flurry of stories about Kerry and Vietnam and the swiftboat controversy. It's as if the campaign-type issues that are being focused on have little relevance with how the candidates will do in office.

Get momentum. It's hard for them to seem to stop drinking.

2000? Election Night coverage in the conventions so far, what would you predict interest in the October debates will be?

A: They're going to have pretty good audiences for the debates. The numbers of debate audiences have been shrinking on a steady downward trend, with '92 as the exception. With higher election interest we're going to do better. A 35 rating would be quite good — which means that more than a third of households with a TV would have the debates switched on. And looking at numbers right now, that's a likely scenario.

Q: Assuming that increased participation will show in the voting booth November 2, can you predict '91 might not have immediately affected voter turnout, but it could have affected young people in more permanent ways.

Thomas Patterson
author
Vanishing Voter

whether or not it will be a continuing trend for future elections?

A: That's the unknown. The jump in '92 was followed in '96 by the lowest voter turnout in modern history. I think we'll have to see. There's been a lot of effort and activity mainly directed at getting young people to poll, and that demographic is where the drop has been. 9/11 might not have immediately affected voter turnout, but it could have affected young people in more permanent ways, made them more aware of the importance of public offices and elections.

There's the possibility that interest and participation levels could be sustained, but we've seen that kind of growth since the '30s. Ask me in 2012 — then I can tell you where we stand.

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichaels@nd.edu

Got news? Like news? Want to write news? Call Claire at 1-5523.

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Wherever Life Takes You.

Football continued from page 1

she said. "I would like it to be where in an ideal situation they'd be awesome, [and] we'd win every game."

She also had a uniquely senior concern.

"I'm hoping the marshmallow policy will change. I don't want to get kicked out of games."

Will McAuliffe remains optimistic.

"I'm not really disheartened," he said. "I think that, as a student, you have to look forward to every game and be optimistic — I think the football team is why a lot of people are here."

His classmate Katie Johnson agreed.

"I think that school spirit is important, and supporting the football team no matter what happens is part of that," she said. Even faculty members are waiting to see how the Irish fare this weekend — including Professor Jennifer Woertz in the civil engineering department.

"I'm guarded after [the team's] performance last year," she said. "I think Ty has probably got the troops in order this year."

Woertz also articulated the importance of the football team to the University.

"I think that sports here have had such a big impact and make the University so well-known," she said. However, not everyone is eagerly anticipating Willingham's first test.

"I didn't see any of the games last year and I'm not planning on seeing any this year," MBA student Dan Arlandson said. "I did notice the [falling] morale last season... it's kind of humbling."

Regardless of the outcome, the third season under Willingham will surely impact student life at Notre Dame.

Contact Kate Gales at kkgales@nd.edu

The Observer ♦ CAMPUS NEWS
Militants release 26 hostages

Negotiations continue with gunmen holding hundreds inside Russian school

Associated Press

BESLAN, Russia — Camouflage-clad commandos carried crying babies away from the Beslan school where gunmen holding hundreds of hostages freed at least 26 women and children Thursday during a second day of high drama that kept crowds of distraught relatives on edge.

Men and women wept with disappointment or hugged each other with relief as a man read the names of the freed hostages over a loudspeaker.

Some of the kidnappers were naked, apparently because of the stinging heat in the school, where the hostage-takers refused to allow authorities to deliver water, food and medicine for the captives.

Tensions had risen earlier when the militants fired grenades at two cars near the compound, igniting the school's security forces, and hours later two blasts interrupted a nervous calm during the night. A policeman was reported injured by one of the explosions after midnight.

President Vladimir Putin said everything possible would be done in a deal between authorities and the "horrible" crisis and save the lives of the children and adults being held at School No. 1 in Beslan, a town in the southern region of North Ossetia.

But it was uncertain how much either side was willing to give to avoid further bloodshed in the siege — the latest incident in a series of violent attacks believed linked to Russia's war in Chechnya.

A dozen people were reportedly killed by the attackers when the school was captured Wednesday, an official said Thursday that he had no confirmations on that.

Reports after the stand-off began Wednesday said the attackers demanded the release of people jailed after attacks on police posts in June that killed more than 90 people in Ingushetia, a region between North Ossetia and Chechnya. But officials said Thursday that the hostage-takers had not clearly formulated their demands.

Late Thursday, Lev Dzugayev, a North Ossetia official, said his previous statement that 354 hostages were seized Wednesday night might have been too low, and many in the anxious crowds said they believed the number was much higher. "Putin, at least 800 people are being held hostage," read a sign held up for television cameras.

Relatives, friends and neighbors who crowded outside barricades blocking access to the school gasped when the hostage release was announced by Dzugayev, an aide to the president of North Ossetia.

Dzugayev and other officials said 26 women and children of various ages were released, but Russian media reported that one woman went back to be with her still captive children. An official at the crisis headquarters said another group of five hostages was let go separately.

An Associated Press Television News reporter saw two women and at least three infants being led away by soldiers. Some toddlers among those released were completely naked, apparently because of the stifling heat in the school, where the hostage-takers refused to allow authorities to deliver water, food and medicine for the captives.

Dzugayev called the releases "the first success" of negotiations and said they came after mediation — including inside the school — by Rustam Aushev, a former president of the Ingushetia republic who is a respected figure in the northern Caucasus.

The hostage release came after anxieties were sent soaring by two powerful explosions, followed by a plume of black smoke rising from the vicinity of the school. The crisis headquarters said the militants fired grenades at two cars that apparently drove too close to the building.

2.5 million warned to flee Florida

Already a Category 4 storm with 140 mph winds and the potential to push waves up to 15 feet high, Frances could make itself felt in the state by midmorning Friday.

At 5 p.m. EDT, the hurricane was centered 375 miles southeast of West Palm Beach and was moving northwest at close to 10 mph. Hurricane-force winds extended up to 80 miles from its center.

This could be the first time since 1950 that two major storms have hit Florida so close together. On Aug. 13, Hurricane Charley splintered billions of dollars worth of homes, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands and killed 27 people when it tore across the state.

Charley's example — and Frances' tremendous size, at 1,000 miles across, or about as big as the state of Texas — roiled people like Linda Silvestri, 58, to get out of the way.

Silvestri, who lives in Palm Bay on the central Florida coast, headed inland to Gainesville to be near a hospital where the hostage-

Associated Press

FORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Residents and tourists in cars, trucks and campers clogged highways Thursday in an exodus ordered over concerns in Florida, fleeing inland as mighty Hurricane Frances threatened the state with its second battering in three weeks.

About 2.5 million residents were told to clear out ahead of what could be the most powerful storm to hit Florida in a decade. Others in the 300-mile stretch covered by the hurricane warning rushed to fortify their homes with plywood and storm shutters, and buy water, gas and canned food.
Bush says ‘we will prevail’

NEW YORK — President Bush picked apart John Kerry’s record on the Iraq war and tax cuts Thursday night and summoned the nation toward victory over terrorism and economic security at home. “Nothing will hold us back,” he said in a Republican National Convention acceptance speech that launched his fall re-election campaign.

“We are staying on the offensive — striking terrorists abroad — so we do not have to face them here at home,” Bush said in a prime-time address not far from Ground Zero of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

“And we will prevail.”

“For four more years, four more years,” the delegates chanted as Bush strode — alone — onto a podium in the middle of a heavily fortified convention hall. His introduction was a video that stirred memories of Sept. 11 — and credited him with “the heart of a president.”

“I believe this nation wants steady, consistent, principled leadership, said that is why, with your help, we will win this election,” he said.

First lady Laura Bush joined her husband on stage as he finished speaking, followed by Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife and extended families. On cue, thousands of red, white and blue balloons floated down from the ceiling, mixing with confetti and colorful streamers in a made-for-television spectacle.

Bush’s speech marked the beginning of a two-month campaign sprint to Election Day, and Kerry clearly couldn’t wait. In a ferocious counterattack after a week of GOP convention-week criticism, he called the California governor commissioner in chief and Vice President Dick Cheney unfit to lead the nation.

“I’m not going to have my country under new leadership while we have the opportunity to defend this country questioned by those who have refused to serve when they could have and by those who have misled the nation into Iraq,” he said at a midnight rally in Ohio less than an hour after the president concluded his own remarks.

Kerry won five military medals in the Vietnam War; Bush was stateside in the National Guard and Cheney’s five draft-era deferments kept him out of the service.

The Bush-Cheney campaign readied a new general election advertising campaign to build on elements in his convention speech. In it, Bush vows to “spread ownership and opportunity,” “make our economy more job friendly,” and help lower health care costs.

Locked in a tight race, the president underscored his differences with Kerry on issues of war, tax cuts, values and more. At the same time, he used terms less incendiary than those leveled by Cheney or Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., from the convention podium Wednesday night.

Bush said Kerry and Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards both voted against $87 billion in aid for “troops doing battle in Afghanistan and Iraq.” “When asked to explain his vote, the senator (Kerry) said, ‘I actually did vote for the $87 billion before I voted against it.’ Then he said he was ‘proud of that vote.’”

The president said Kerry has proposed “more than $2 trillion in new federal spending so far, and that’s a lot, even for a senator from Massachusetts.”

Bush added: “To pay for that spending, he is running on a platform of increasing taxes — and that’s the kind of a promise a politician usually keeps.”

President Bush accepts the party nomination at the Republican National Convention Thursday night.

Jenkins

FYS

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will be held Saturday at 10 a.m.

John Jenkins is expected to preside over his father’s funeral mass. The service will be in St. Leo’s Church, located at 1920 North 102nd St., Omaha.

Memorials may be sent to St. Leo’s Church, located at 1920 North 102nd St., Omaha.

Jenkins Scholarship Fund.

Clare Heininger at cheining@nd.edu

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In Brief

MEXICO oil director extradited

MEXICO CITY — The former director of Mexico’s state oil company was extradited Thursday from the United States to Mexico, where he faces charges of diverting funds to a presidential campaign.

Rogelio Montemayor arrived at Mexico City’s international airport aboard a commercial flight from Houston. Federal agents escorted him to a hangar controlled by the attorney general’s office for processing.

Montemayor had gone to the United States in 2002 and had been fighting extradition. But he recently obtained an injunction to prevent him from being held in Mexican prison while awaiting trial.

Following a medical exam and official protocols that took about an hour, Montemayor was released. He left the hangar with his lawyer. He carried an envelope stuffed with files and refused to speak to reporters.

New deal reached for ATA Airlines

CHICAGO — ATA Airlines on Wednesday reached a tentative contract agreement with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers union.

Bob Haines, a spokesman for the union, said the members will vote on the contract on Sept. 8 and 9. The contract covers about 350 ground workers in Indianapolis and Chicago.

The negotiations were mediated by the National Mediation Board in Washington.

The cash-strapped airline is seeking financing to avoid bankruptcy. The company, ensnared in a debilitating industry that accounts for much of its losses, said its jailed billionaire owner, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, has contributed to high world oil prices.

Russian oil company fears closing

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia’s largest oil producer, known for its protracted battle over a huge back-taxes bill, said Thursday it is unable to pay wages and that production is in imminent danger of stopping.

The statement from OAO Sibur, one of the country’s major producers, added: “The account freeze paralyzes the production activities of Yukos.”

Analysts doubted, however, that President Vladimir Putin would allow a fall in crude output in an industry that accounts for much of Russia’s budget intake and has spurred the country’s recent economic growth.

A Yukos spokesman said prosecutors were seeking to seize $2.6 billion from the accounts of Yukos subsidiaries as part of resolving a 2000 back-taxes bill for $3.4 billion. A spokesman for the company said the account freeze paralyzes the production activities of Yukos.”

Market upbeat after slow week

Prices bounce back up after Republican National Convention hinders trading

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks strode higher in a late-session buying spree on Thursday, as oil prices stepped back from their highs and investors shrugged off mixed economic data, focusing renewed optimism on the government’s upcoming jobs report. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped more than 120 points.

Trading has been muted all week due to the Republican National Convention in New York and the upcoming Labor Day holiday. Investors were also looking ahead to an after-the-bell outcome from chipmaker Intel Corp., which came in gloomy, as expected, and U.S. employment data scheduled to be announced Friday.

The markets grew increasingly more upbeat Thursday as Hurricane Charley spiraled among traders that President Bush would allude to bullish job growth numbers in his speech on the final night of the convention. Still, analysts were puzzled by the strength of the rally.

“Could it just be that there’s no one in, volume is low, and there’s nothing new negative?" asked Janna Sampson, director of Portfolio Management at Oakbrook Investments. “People might be thinking, ‘You know, I want to be in for September, I want to do it today, and I’m taking a four-day weekend.’

According to final results, the Dow Jones industrial 12182.12, or 1.2 percent, to 10,290.28, its highest point in seven weeks.

The broader gauges also rose sharply. The Nasdaq composite index added 23.02, or 1.2 percent, to 1,873.43. The S&P 500 index gained 12.40, or 1.1 percent, to 1,118.31. The S&P 500 index gained 12.40, or 1.1 percent, to 1,118.31. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped more than 120 points.

In economic news, worker productivity rose a disappointing 2.5 percent in the spring, the smallest gain since late 2002. The reading by the Labor Department, which measures the amount an employee produces for every hour on the job, missed economists’ estimates for a rise of 2.8 percent, and was down sharply from the 3.7 percent pace posted in the first quarter.

In a second report, the department said the number of new people signing up for unemployment benefits rose for the second week in a row, reflecting lingering impact of Hurricane Charley. Economists were expecting claims to go down.

Separately, the Commerce Department said orders to U.S. factories grew by 1.3 percent in July, following a 1.2 percent advance in June. The increase was led by a big jump in demand for commercial aircraft and parts. Orders for non-durable goods, such as food products and chemicals, rose 1 percent for a second straight month.

Crude prices climbed after Russia’s largest oil producer, Yukos, warned of a possible production halt following a Moscow court’s decision to freeze its assets as part of an ongoing battle over back taxes.

Light crude for October delivery was up 6 cents to settle at $44.06. Investors were also holding their collective breath as Hurricane Frances took aim at Florida’s eastern coast, less than three weeks after Hurricane Charley struck the state, pushing the nation’s jobless claims higher and denting retail sales in the Southeast.

The fact that the market was up in spite of so many negative factors was cause for optimism, analysts said, and perhaps a sign that investors are setting aside some of the worries that kept them on the sidelines during the summer. It’s almost as if the sellers are "getting a bit tired," said Bill Groenveld, head trader for VFinance Investments.
Report points to nuclear plans

TEHRAN — Iran acknowledged Thursday that it plans to process tons of raw uranium, but said the U.N. nuclear watchdog was informed long ago and accused Washington of sensationalizing the matter.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said in a report obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press that Iran plans to process more than 40 tons of uranium into uranium hexafluoride gas. Experts said the amount was enough for four or five bombs.

The U.N. report did not specify what plans Iran had for the material, which is spent in centrifuges to produce enriched uranium. This can then be used to generate electricity or make nuclear warheads, depending on the degree of enrichment.

"The agency knew the capacity of the facility before it was built," said Ali Akbar Salehi, a senior Iranian official.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said in a report that Iran had been enriching uranium in another nuclear facility.

Iran says it wants to control the whole nuclear fuel cycle, from extracting uranium ore to enriching it to be used as fuel in nuclear reactors, to avoid dependence on international nonproliferation efforts.

The report points to nuclear plans to produce 7,000 megawatts of electricity by 2021 through nuclear energy.

Salehi said Nantaz will be able to meet the fuel needs of only one reactor, meaning Iran will have to buy fuel for the rest of its reactors from the international market.

President Vladimir Putin said everything possible would be done to end the "horrible" crisis and save the lives of children and adults being held at School No. 1 in Beslan.

But it was uncertain how much either side was willing to do to avoid further bloodshed in the siege — the latest incident in a series of violent acts believed linked to Russia's war in Chechnya, which borders North Ossetia and Chechnya.

A dozen people were reported smoke by the attackers when the school was captured Wednesday, but one official said Thursday that 16 died.

Reports after the standoff began Wednesday said the attackers demanded the release of people jailed after attacks on the school from the past few months. The school had more than 900 people in Ingushetia, a region between North Ossetia and Chechnya.

But officials said Thursday that the hostage-takers did not clearly formulate their demands.

Relatives, friends and neighbors who crowded outside barricades blocking access to the school gasped when the hostage release was announced by Dzugayev.

Dzugayev and other officials said 26 women and children of various ages were released, but Russian media reported the woman went back to be with her still-captive children.

An official at the crisis headquarters said another group of five hostages was let go separately.

Dzugayev called the releases the "first success" of negotiations and said they came after mediation — by the school's principal — by Russian officials and by an authorized figure in the northern Caucasian region.

The hostage release came after anxiety was so severe that two powerful explosions, followed by a plume of black smoke, came from the school the evening of the hostage release.

The crisis headquarters said the first grenades were two cars that apparently drove too close to the building. Officials said neither car was hit, but a gutted car was visible not far from the school.

On Thursday evening, a series of heavy sounds that looked like artillery could be heard for several minutes, apparently coming from a surrounding hillside. There was no information on what caused the sounds.

After midnight, two more grenade blasts roared. Dzugayev said that the hostage-takers told Russian authorities they fired because they saw suspicious movement and that officials told them there was no such movement.

Any hint of violence puts people on edge. After setting the school, the hostage-takers reportedly threatened to blow it up if troops tried to rescue the hostages and warned they would kill prisoners if any of their gang was hurt.

The release was estimated at 15 to 24 hostages held at the school.

**IRAN**

**Russia**

Officials estimate 1,000 held in hostage crisis

BESLAN — Heavily armed militants held the school and said they were holding about 350 people being held by raiders who seized the building.

In addition, local legislator Alexei Gudiev, acting chairman of a regional official said 35 people were being held and that about 350 people were being held by raiders who seized the school.

A teacher who spoke to relatives of children being held at the Beslan school said some 1,000 children were being held at the school.

The crisis headquarters said no hostages were killed. But a spokesperson for the school told the AP that 16 died.

The reports could not immediately be confirmed, but the woman who spoke with Evtizova said some 1,000 children were enrolled at the school, and the militants had captured teachers and many parents as well as teachers and friends Friday that the number of children held was "more or less 1,000."

The hostage-takers demanded the release of people jailed after attacks on the school from the past few months. The school was located in the town of Beslan, which is close to the Georgian border and the Chechen capital.

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Hurricane Frances looming, tourism grinds to a halt

Businesses could lose millions

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Casey Pavlacka planned to be in Walt Disney World on Thursday for a Labor Day weekend trip with her best friend. Instead, she stayed home in Michigan after her mother-in-law sent photographs of damage from Hurricane Charley three weeks ago, and warned that the approaching Hurricane Frances would be much worse.

"We wanted to be in Florida right now, but we would rather be safe than in a hurricane," said Pavlacka, 23, by telephone from Grand Rapids, Mich. Florida’s $50 billion tourism industry ground to a halt as Frances weakened to a Category 2 hurricane and neared the state. Florida officials issued the biggest evacuation request in state history, urging 2.5 million residents to clear out.

"This is the worst time of the year to have this hurricane," said Abe Pizam, a professor of hospitality management at the University of Central Florida.

"This is the worst time of the year to have this hurricane," said Abe Pizam, a professor of hospitality management at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. "Labor Day weekend is very busy."

He said the lost revenue likely will run into the hundreds of millions of dollars. The 300-room beachfront Holiday Inn Beach Resort in Melbourne, about 76 miles southeast of Orlando, was fully booked for the holiday weekend until guests — and employees — began evacuating Thursday.

General manager Tim Michaud said he expected at least $100,000 in lost revenue.

"That’s just rooms," Michaud said. "We’re also losing functions for the weekend."

Further north along the coast, almost every business in Cocoa Beach was closed, including Ron Jon’s Surf Shop, a tourist attraction that normally stays open 24 hours a day.

The weekend wasn’t a total loss for hotels. Most of the 120,000 hotel rooms in metro Orlando, which has the second-largest hotel market in the nation behind Las Vegas, were occupied — by evacuees. Just over 1,000 rooms were available for Friday.

"We’re going to look at it as one more adventure," said Delaney, a civilian Department of Defense worker whose 13-year-old daughter and 11-year-old son saved three years worth of pocket change totaling $600 for the trip. "We saved up three years to come here and a hurricane isn’t going to stop us."

"South Beach’s main artery, Ocean Drive, usually is bustling thoroughfare of outdoor cafes and posh pink hotels, was nearly empty Thursday afternoon, with the last few remaining tourists still trying to leave."

"This is the worst time of the year to have this hurricane."

Abe Pizam

professor

University of Central Florida

"If you decide to spend Labor Day somewhere else, we ask that you reschedule your vacations."

Jeb Bush

Florida governor

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After the debacle of democracy that was Election 2000, one message remained long past the butterfly ballots and bungling chaos: Every Vote Counts. Four years later, with the country once again split evenly down a bitter partisan divide, the same words, cliché or not, hold true: Just as cliché — and sadly, just as true — is the consensus that young Americans don’t vote. And in recent years, Notre Dame has been no exception.

Now is the time to make it one.

There is absolutely no excuse to not pay attention to this election. National news coverage blares constantly. The candidates adjust their platforms and amplify their attacks almost hourly. Across campus this fall, student political groups such as the College Democrats, College Republicans and Rock the Vote will do their best to eliminate the option of Notre Dame bubble-induced ignorance. Yet ignorance, however disappointing, pales next to cynicism. And, feeling alternately dismissed and patronized by political campaigns, cynical young voters and their arguments are in no short supply.

Both candidates are the same, the cynics say. But the next president could select up to three new Supreme Court justices, setting a decades-long tone for issues like abortion, the death penalty and the military draft. All are points on which neutrality is hard to find. All are points on which President Bush and John Kerry disagree.

I’m not from Florida or Ohio, the cynics say. But so-called swing states are powerless without 40-plus others falling — or not falling — into place. Even the reduced state could bleed blue if taken for granted.

Notre Dame isn’t exactly the most politically-charged campus, the cynics say. But who’s to say it can’t be? And what better chance than a presidential election to blast the apathetic stereotype?

Youth gives license to many things. Throwing away a precious American right — due to ignorance or cynicism or both — should not be one of them.

Dialogue, not accusations, will help Ramadan

Dialogue, not accusations, will help Ramadan

Every vote counts

Does the Sept. 1 letter by Peter Walsh contribute to the advancement of interfaith dialogue in the public discourse of our University? His call for the University to press for a reversal of the decision by the U.S. State Department is grounded in the claim that “Notre Dame has no more important reason for Ramadan’s problems come from a group of influential supporters of Israel’s right-wing government now ensconced in the Pentagon.” His letter focuses the proximate cause for Tariq Ramadan’s problems exclusively on neo-cons and “Likudniks” like Daniel Pipes. Is our Notre Dame community to infer that the only reason for Ramadan’s problems come from a group of Jews? The letter by Kathleen Sappey (also published Sept. 1) would seem to indicate that concerns have been raised about Ramadan’s activities by European security experts. Even if their concerns are real, one could hardly call them “neo-Cons” or “Likudniks.”

Ramadan did far more than “scold” Bernard Henri Levy and Alain Finkelkraut. He accused them of abandoning “France’s noble traditions of universalism and personal freedom because of their anxiety over Muslim immigration and support for Israel.” The accusation of Jews for their “ethnicity” over “humanity” is a long-standing canard. With the growing number of desecrations of cemeteries and violence against Jews in France, Ramadan’s choice of words — even while denying anti-Semitism — was hardly judicious.

Our concern at Notre Dame should be to create a community where inter-faith and ecumenical dialogues constitute daily discourse. Ramadan entered his own public plea in the New York Times. Members of this University are actively pursuing avenues to re-insert his visa. The ultimate decision lies in the hands of the Departments of State and U.S. Homeland Security. I do not believe that his case will be advanced by creating a discourse of accusation rather than dialogue.

Rabbi Michael Singer

Observer

Dialogue, not accusations, will help Ramadan

Observer Poll

Should Tariq Ramadan be allowed to teach at Notre Dame?

No 46%

Yes 54%

* Poll appears courtesy of www.ndobserver.com and is based on 367 responses.

Quote of the Day

“A camel is a horse designed by committee.”

Sir Alec Issigonis

author

OBSERVER Poll

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A number of Democrats allege that during the past four years, President Bush has polarized the country by modernizing his rhetoric, his policies and even his personally. In The Observer, Washington Post political reporter Bill Rinner notes that America faces fees and return for the 9 a.m. hearing. It was frustrating, requested documents for a hearing, seven boxes of

Brian Stein, senior advocate for the diplomatic corps, who attended the ceremony, noted that Rienenstahl-esque propaganda from the substantive arguments. The complaints of American liberals are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. The paper is best described by conservative Republican columnist Gary Caruso as "beneath contempt." If Bush's rhetoric intoned that "just hearing

This liberal Democratic writer stood with thousands of Americans for nearly seven hours to view former President Reagan's casket lying in state at the Capitol rotunda. Anyone in Washington during the 1980s knows that Reagan never had a mean bone in his body, nor stooped to personal attacks on his political opponents. In June, for both professional as well as personal reasons, I participated in a unique historical event by standing in line on the Mall and the Capitol lawn from midnight until 6:30 a.m.

It may be out of character for such a Democrat to mingle with the loyal legions of Reagan followers. Certainly, I will no time soon attend another Republican's funeral. The contrast of Reagan with today's politicians is striking, especially after watching the 30 minute speeches. The speechwriter's task is to find the words of historical influence and begin to cut through the ranks like it has across countless American cities in the past three years. During the Clinton administration, those with the biggest axe to grind against the hapless president often ordered or even crossed into the territory of hate, yet their partisan anger never spread the ranks like it has the whole of the electorate has descended into social acceptable hatred. If Bush's rhetoric intoned that "just hearing

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Imagine this: you are standing on an 80-acre farm on a starry, midsummer night. Around you are 20,000 bodies rocking to a steady beat. The cause? It's Umphrey's Mccgee, and the stellar band from Chicago is coming tonight to a town near you.

Your watch hits three in the morning, and the music isn't showing a sign of slowing down. Lights still spin on the roof and, when the lights go out, a shower of glow sticks flies through the tent in time to the seemingly endless jam.

That such superhuman harmony actually happened should speak for the band's popularity. It should tell you that the men composing this band have the kind of natural talent that moves people together, and that they are very impressive.

In fact, adequate praise of their talents not resting on the authority of the very experience of their artistic genius would lack what makes them truly great artists.

But not many Notre Dame students participated in the Bonnaroo experience of Umphrey's Mccgee, or worse, have never even seen Umphrey's Mccgee perform live at all.

So here's some advice — see them live. But keep in mind that seeing the band live once still doesn't do the music justice.

In the tradition of bands like the Grateful Dead, Umphrey's Mccgee has developed a following of fans that travel miles to hear as many shows as they can. Following on the heels of Phish from Vermont, Widespread Panic from the South, moe. From New York and the String Cheese Incident from Boulder, Co., Umphrey's Mccgee has emerged as the Midwest's own neo-hippie jam band.

In the 1960s there were Deadheads. Nowadays Phishheads, Spreadheads or in this case Umphreaks and MCgeeks will go to incredible lengths to see the bands they love perform. Fans paid upwards of $350 and walked through miles of mud when traffic was stopped for the Coventry Phish festival in mid-August. Umphrey's Mccgee's following may not be this devoted yet, but it's on its way.

The bands thrive on their live performances to disseminate their sound as much or more than on their studio albums. True to form, Umphrey's Mccgee encourages fans to record their shows, albeit only for personal use and not for sale. Internet, club and concert swapping of live tapes feeds the fan base and spreads the group's fame every day.

Seeing Umphrey's Mccgee live is an experience for anyone, but for Notre Dame students, the show might evoke particular loyalty. The jam band lifestyle may be a far cry from anything around campus, but Umphrey's Mccgee did indeed first meet and form their band at the University of Notre Dame. At a school with little in the way of campus bands, Umphrey's Mccgee is without a doubt the biggest claim to musical fame.

Recent Albums by Umphrey's Mccgee

- Local Band Does O.K. — 2002
- Anchor Drops 2004

Notre Dame alumni return to the area, making their mark on the jam-ban.
"Anchor Drops," released on June 29, marks the highest point of musical sophistication the band has reached. The only way to really understand a band like Umphrey's McGee is to go to the show. But until then, a few more words should give an idea of what they are like.

Where some bands compose a hit and end there, Umphrey's McGee is always improving. Guitarist Brendan Bayliss, keyboard player Joel Cummins, bassist Ryan Stasik, percussionist Farag, guitarist Cinninger and drummer Kris Myers work off of eight bar building blocks to create songs that evolve on their own with the help of all the musicians. The music evolves constantly, becoming more sophisticated with every performance. The group's musical rapport and understanding of each other's musical styles allows them to transition seamlessly from one song to the next. Songs blend into a single unsolved jam that constantly keeps listeners on edge.

They exhibit their skill through all the elements of style, and especially in their thick textures and heavily syncopated rhythms. Their mathematical rigor is characteristic of the art that is at the same time completely unpredictable. To use the popular lingo, "it's heady stuff, man."

Umphrey's McGee taps into every kind of music. They have played melodies from Beethoven, Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" and the Allman Brothers' "Jessica" in their own funk-rock style. Their music seems at times to be as comprehensive as verbal language. Further, that is, if this last quality of their work is not enough to blow your mind away, the lyrics are also exceptional. They contain everything from inside jokes to profound philosophy that makes the musical experience all the more intriguing, suggestive and enjoyable.

In order to do them justice, take it upon yourself to slap some interpretation or label on their musical style by witnessing them perform tonight at The Mishawaka Brewing Company. Enjoy the show.

Contact Jacqueline Pallardy at jpallard@nd.edu and Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu
Winning the 4-2 final score over the Athletics also helped the Rangers get players into the off-season... 

"Guys were shaking my hand. I didn't want to shake anyone's hand," Redman said after giving the Tigers their 13th win in 19 games.

United States, where he was born.

"We're now 16 games behind Oakland in the West." 

...the Blue Jays got off to a third-inning double-cut by chasing George Bell and picking up their fourth victory in eight games against the Rangers.

Suzuki, chasing George Miller's major league record for hits in a season, went 3-for-5 and had 317 hits. He has 29 games left to break Miller's mark of 257 hits set in 1920 with the St. Louis Browns.

Suzuki, the AL player of the month for August, leads the majors with a .374 average. Hudson and Gabe Gross drove in three runs, and Wells ended an 0-for-24 slump with a two-run home run for the Blue Jays, who won for just the third time in their last nine games.

Suzuki, who has had 100- hit seasons the past three years, went 3-for-5 and has 217 hits. He has raised his RBIs total to 101.

Suzuki, chasing George Bell and picking up their fourth victory in eight games against the Rangers. 

Each team has four games remaining in the series beginning Friday night.

In the first, and Toronto scored six runs for the first time in 22 innings of one-run ball Wednesday with a stellar effort of his own. He didn't allow any runs to score in the final two times in 22-inning games this season, including Friday night.

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Marlins defeat Mets for seventh-straight win

Florida's Pavano ties NL lead with his 16th victory

Associated Press

The way the Florida Marlins are playing, only a force of nature could stop them, so obviously we're worried about it," Pavano said.

The Marlins said no decision had been made on whether to call off games Saturday or Sunday, or when Friday's postponement will be made up.

Pavano, who tied for the NL lead with his 16th win, allowed four runs and eight hits in six productive innings. Damon Easley and Juan Encarnacion each drove in three runs for the Marlins, who swept the four-game series.

"That's Ben. Get him a lead with his first career multihomer game," manager Jack McKeon said. "He had his fastball early. His curveball came on later."

"That was pretty dominant. I thought he had his fastball early. His curveball came on later," manager Lloyd McClendon said. "He was pretty dominant. I thought he had his fastball early. His curveball came on later."

"We knew coming in here to play our best ball, and we didn't do it," manager Bruce Bochy said. "We need to regroup and head home."

As we'll start up again Saturday and keep going the way we've been going.

Players showered and dressed quickly so they could return to a state bracing for its worst storm in at least a decade. Frances, packing 145 mph winds and the potential to cause ashore waves up to 15 feet high, could be felt in Florida by midafternoon Friday.

"A lot of us have houses and families and know there's something going on," manager Jack McKeon said, "so obviously we're worried about it." Pavano said.

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World Cup of Hockey

United States suffers second loss, 3-1 to Russia

Iliya Bryzgalov had 20 saves for Russia

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Alex Kovalev scored the game-winning goal and minor-league goaltender Iliya Bryzgalov held his own against the American stars as Russia beat the United States 3-1 Thursday night in the World Cup of Hockey.

Bryzgalov, property of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, had 20 saves, and Danius Zubrus and Viktor Kozlov also scored for Russia, which dealt Team USA its second consecutive loss.

The Americans, 0-2 in the tournament, lost to Canada 2-1 on Tuesday night in Montreal.

A handful of Russian fans, some wearing old Soviet Union jerseys, consistently made more noise than the American crowd.

Their team gave them plenty to cheer for, outshooting an American squad with high-profile NHL players.

After a sluggish first period in which they were outshot 16-4, the Americans came out aggressively in the second, getting six shots in the first five minutes. But Russia tightened up defensively and played a physical style.

Kovalhev’s winner, at 5:05 of the third period, was a thing of beauty. He slipped the puck through a defender’s legs, charged to the left, waited for Esche to go down and launched the puck into the right corner.

Kolzig sealed it with 1:58 remaining when he wrested the puck from the high slot between two defenders and between Esche’s pads.

In the second period, Zubrus got help from American captain Chris Chelios on his team’s first goal.

With a defender on his back, Zubrus skated around the back of the goal and fired a shot that hit off Chelios’ skate and into the net to put Russia up 1-0.

But the Americans answered 1:24 later when Modano sent a perfect pass from the blue line to a cutting Tkachuk, who slid the puck under Bryzgalov’s pads with 6:16 to play in the second period.

For two minutes later in the period, But Kiprusoff, who backedstopped Calgary to the Stanley Cup finals last season, was never seriously challenged.

Instead, Mikko Eloranta — one of only two players from the Finnish League — wasted a golden chance to make it 3-0 after the Finns killed the penalties.

Leaving the penalty box, he took a mid-ice pass and skated in on a breakaway. But Kolzig made a brilliant pad save.
Quarterback Alex Smith finished with 435 yards of offense.

SALT LAKE CITY — Alex Smith made sure Utah justified its first preseason ranking.

Smith overcame some early accuracy problems and threw for three touchdowns, ran for two more and finished with 435 yards of offense to lead the No. 20 Utes past Texas A&M 41-21 Thursday night.

Smith and the Utes backed up their ranking with 582 yards of offense and avenged their only non-conference loss of last season. Local officials dubbed Thursday "Utah Day" and there were hours of pregame festivities before the Utes took the field. Then, the fun really started.

"If we spread you out like that, it's going to be tough to stop us," said Smith, who passed for a personal-best 359 yards. "It was nice, very nice."

Utah led 7-0 barely a minute into the game and scored the first four touchdowns, despite some early incompleted passes from Smith.

"That first half could've been scary if we take advantage of all those," Smith said of a handful of overthrow passes and several miscues here and there. "They just never let us get going," A&M coach Dennis Franchione said. "The Utes played like they deserved to be in the Top 20."

A&M used 14 freshmen in its first season-opening loss in four years. The last time the Aggies opened with a loss was also the last time they started the season on the road, a 24-10 loss at Notre Dame in 2000.

Utah was not an ideal opponent for a team that went 0-5 last season away from Kyle Field. The Utes lost to the Aggies 28-26 a year ago when a two-point conversion attempt failed in the final seconds. There wasn't talk of revenge as the game approached, but the Utes certainly felt vindicated after winning in front of a sellout crowd of 45,419 at Rice-Eccles Stadium.

"I love to see that on national television, with Rice-Eccles packed to the walls and our student section going crazy," Utah coach Urban Meyer said. "It was a great night for Utah football."

Smith appeared a little anxious at the start. He threw three receivers who had a stride or two on their defenders on plays that could have resulted in touchdowns in the first half. Utah receivers dropped at least three passes that were in their hands.

Smith also made an errant option pitch behind Marty Johnson, who recovered the ball for a 20-yard loss. But with the way A&M's defense was struggling, the Utes could afford some mistakes.

Steve Savoy caught a short pass over the middle and turned it into a 78-yard touchdown just 1:13 into the first quarter, then scored easily on an end-around from 9 yards out to start the second quarter.

"That was our game plan To come up and go no-huddle and get them while they were getting used to the elevation," Savoy said.

Smith ran through a wide hole for a 7-yard TD and had a 38-yard scoring pass to John Maxen, who didn't have an A&M player within 10 yards when he pulled down the pass and trotted down the sideline. Smith also scored on a 37-yard run.

Johnson, playing for the first time in two years because of injuries and a one-year suspension for drunken driving, gained 77 yards on 20 carries for the Utes.

Associated Press

NCAA Football

Utah defeats Texas A&M 41-21

Check out the...

Sacrament of Confirmation

Are you a baptized Catholic who has received their first Communion but has never been Confirmed?

Are you wondering whether you need to be Confirmed to get married in the Catholic Church?

Would you like to prepare for Confirmation with other Notre Dame students who are dedicated to growing in their faith?

It's not too late to join the Confirmation Preparation Program!

Siegfried Hall Chapel on Tuesday, Sept. 7th at 7:00 pm

For more info:
Fr. John Conley, CSC at 631-7888
Megan Thomas at 631-3389
or stop by the Office of Campus Ministry in the Coleman-Morse Center with any questions.

NCAA

Greenspan named IU athletic director

"I need to get a determination of the size and scope of the modernization that needs to take place. That's job 1," he said. "Job 2 becomes an assessment of the form and shape of the department, and from there, we'll need to have a well-conceived, well-ennunciated vision."

In Herbert's mind, Greenspan was the perfect fit.

Greenspan faced similar challenges at Army and Illinois State, where he developed a reputation as a strong fundraiser and innovative marketer. Herbert expects those experiences to help him rebuild the Hoosiers' image and financial stability.

"He has had tremendous success in generating outside revenue, especially for a military institution to raise $100 million," Herbert said. "I think his personality and vision are contagious."
Florida’s teams cope with hurricane

MIAMI — Florida State and Miami will still play in prime time, just four days later than planned.

The nationally televised game, originally scheduled for Monday night, was postponed Thursday as Hurricane Frances moved closer to Florida’s east coast. No. 11 Florida’s opener against Middle Tennessee State on Saturday also was rescheduled.

The game between the No. 5 Seminoles and the No. 6 Hurricanes will be played next Friday night at the Orange Bowl.

“Our biggest concern is for the safety of anyone who is in the path of Hurricane Frances, and we felt the appropriate thing to do is to reschedule the game,” Miami athletic director Paul Dee said.

Florida’s home game will be played Oct. 16, athletic director Jeremy Foley said.

In baseball, the Florida Marlins postponed Friday’s series opener against the Chicago Cubs. The team said no decision has been made on whether to call Saturday or Sunday games off, or when Friday’s postponement will be made up.

“The Florida Marlins organization has been closely monitoring the progression of Hurricane Frances in relation to our weekend of baseball against the Chicago Cubs,” Marlins president David Samson said in a statement. “We are first and foremost concerned about the safety of all residents in the state of Florida and will return to baseball-related activities at Pro Player Stadium when the storm has passed and it is safe for our fans to attend.

Marlins players were anxious to get back home before the hurricane hits.

"A lot of us have houses and family down there, so obviously we’re worried about it,” pitcher Carl Pavano said. “It’s tough with what’s going on in Florida right now.”

Added outfelder Juan Pierre: “I know I’m getting home and I’m getting out of Dodge. It looks like it’s going to hit us, let’s hope it’s not too bad.”

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays have been in contact with league officials about their possibilities. Tampa Bay is scheduled to play Detroit, Friday through Sunday at Tropicana Field.

In Brief

Woods tries to put worries about his father’s health aside going into tournament

NORTON, Mass. — Tiger Woods has more than the No. 1 ranking on his mind as he prepares for the Deutsche Bank Championship. His father had a relapse of prostate cancer.

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Belles lose opening match

By JUSTIN STETZ
Spokes Writer

The Saint Mary’s volleyball team faced a difficult challenge Thursday when they opened up their season against Alma. The Scots have won the conference title the last three years in a row. A year ago, the Belles lost in four to Alma. Unfortunately, the Belles came out on the wrong end once again as they lost in straight sets.

Prior to the home opener, captain Elise Rupright talked about the importance of the contest.

"I believe the team is looking forward to beginning competition and ready to begin the season with a win," said Rupright.

However, the Belles were unable to find their rhythm against the defending conference champions. In the first two games they lost 15-30, and fell in the third and final match 21-30.

The Belles allowed too many kills in their losses. The Scots compiled 25 kills in the first game, 13 in the second and 18 in the next two sets. The Belles were unable to overcome this deficit and finished the match with just 30 kills.

Michelle Turley and Shelly Bender provided Saint Mary’s with a few bright spots. Turley collected 12 digs, attacks of her own. Bender provided Saint Mary’s many kills in their losses.

"I really proven herself over the summer, as well as 2003," Debby King, Irish coach.

"Brophy has really proven herself over the summer.

"Not only do I expect a lot out of Brophy this season, but also out of the freshmen. We have a lot of talented freshm an Jane Hayes, Brophy will work to improve from an already very successful effort last season, and King has high expectations for her this season.

"Katie has really proven herself over the summer, as well as 2003," King said. "Her qualifying rounds have been overwhelming, but look for her to get better each time."

Despite the competition, Irish coach Debby King feels optimistic about the team’s chances to win again this weekend.

"Washington State is ranked ahead of us, but we should still be favored with home course advantage," King said.

"I am especially pleased considering the progress the team made over the summer. Juniors Katie Brophy and Lauren Gebauer both qualified for the U.S. Women’s Amateur. Sophomore Noriko Nakazaki played well in qualifying, but missed the cut by three strokes. Brophy, a team co-captain, has shown great improvement from an already very successful effort last season, and King has high expectations for her this season."

"I expect a lot out of Brophy this season. "Not only do I expect a lot out of her, but she expects a lot out of herself," King said about her co-captain.

"I am very happy about the progress the team has made, and I expect them to have a great season."

As the 2004-05 campaign begins, the Notre Dame women’s golf team is poised to make last season — the best in Irish history — a distant memory.

On the heels of 2003’s record success, which saw the team compete in their first-ever NCAA regionals, the Irish have lofty goals.

"We’re definitely looking to avenge the loss we had in the final round,

The team will get its first opportunity to reach that milestone this weekend, playing host to the fifth annual Notre Dame Invitational.

Based on history, the Irish are in a great position to take long strides this weekend, having won the last two seasons and going unbeaten at all other events at the Warren Golf Course over that time.

The event will consist of 54 rounds over Saturday and Sunday. Each team will be represented by five golfers, with the lowest four scores counting towards the overall score.

Leading the charge to dethrone the Irish will be Washington State, the highest ranked team in the 17-team field.

The 50th-ranked Cougars are rated one spot ahead of the Irish, who start the season at 57th, and are captained by Kim Welsh, the 23rd-best golfer in the country.

The Irish have opened up their season straight sets.

The Observer
Friday, September 3, 2004
Sports Writer
By JUSTIN STETZ

Junior Shelly Bender prepares to serve the ball last season. The Belles have begun the season with a 0-1 record.

The Belles have begun the season with a 0-1 record. Junior Shelly Bender prepares to serve the ball last season.

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The Observer
SPORTS
Friday, September 3, 2004

Irish face toughest challenge of season, No. 2 Santa Clara

Team also competes against Stanford at home this weekend

It would be unfair to say, in a season just two games old, that this is a defining weekend for No. 2 Notre Dame. So I won't. But I will say that the upcoming contests against No. 13 Stanford and No. 4 Santa Clara represent a golden opportunity for the Irish to take a step closer towards the one ingredient the team is missing — greatness.

Greatness is achieved by winning the big games, the games that count. The last time Notre Dame saw greatness in its women's soccer was in 2000 when the Irish gave the legendary (synonymous with 'historically great') North Carolina Tar Heels all they could handle in the NCAA semifinals.

This year, the Irish are a talented team, but to transform into a great team, they will have to learn from 2003.

Last year, the Irish were a good team, a very good team. They were talented and ranked second in the country for most of the year. But they were not great.

The first sign of trouble happened when geographical (and unranked) rival Michigan beat them at Alumni Field to put the sole blemish on what would have been an undefeated regular season. That game could have been a fluke, and the Irish could have moved on and cruised through the postseason. But disappointing losses in the Big East Tournament semifinals and then in the second round of the NCAA Tournament (as the No. 2 seed and, once again, to Michigan) left the Irish with a nice record but without greatness.

Granted, very few teams are perfect. Perfection is the goal, but almost inevitably there will be some losses along the way. However, what separates the good from the great teams is that, despite a loss here or there, great teams don't beat themselves when the stakes are high.

If you're having trouble following my painfully abstract logic, allow me to clarify.

For you visual/athletically-inclined learners, last year's college football season provides a perfect example. Southern Cal — great team. Oklahoma — very good (but not great) team. Notre Dame — don't get me started, I'm still in therapy.

Great teams have talent, but, unlike the above Oklahoma Sooners, they are not afraid to perform in crucial games.

The North Carolina women's soccer program solidified its dynasty, not when gifted players signed on to play at Chapel Hill, but when they all embraced their talent, their destiny as champions and refused to let anything stand in their way.

Programs like North Carolina's women's soccer and USC football have an intimidating presence whenever they compete, one that does not waver under duress or shrink in fear from an opponent's rally.

The 2004 Irish have the talent. They just need to win the big ones.

This weekend's games will not provide a definitive answer as to the greatness of this year's Irish squad. That will have to wait until the postseason.

But high profile match-ups like Stanford and Santa Clara are the next best thing to play-off soccer.

Two wins would certainly be a step in the right direction. The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Mooney at mmooney@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Sophomore midfield Kim Lorenzen dribbles the ball up the field during a match against Eastern Illinois Aug. 29. The Irish compete against No. 2 Santa Clara and No. 13 Stanford this weekend.

The 2004 Irish have the talent. They just need to win the big ones.
Huskies continued from page 24

more than intimidating. However, the Irish take comfort in the challenge ahead of them. "We see it as an opportunity to put up a good match," Loomis said. "We have a great chance. If we come out on the top of our game with enthusiasm and toughness, I think we'll give them a good match." It seems as if the Irish even thrive on the idea of being underdogs.

"We're really fired up for the match, and I think we'll put up a big fight," Loomis said. "We know we can stand up to them."

Wednesday night, the Irish showcased their potential as a team, defeating Loyola Chicago three games to one. Notre Dame cruised to victories in the first two games, registering 30-24 and 30-19 wins respectively. Although Loyola defeated the Irish in the third game 30-17, Notre Dame bounced back, edging out the Ramblers 30-28 in game four.

Loomis described the Loyola match as an opportunity to gauge their progress as a team. "I think we learned a lot not only about where we are now, but where we can go. [Thursday] in practice, we really focused on learning from our mistakes and doing as much as we can on our side of the net," Loomis said. "I think if we can apply what we learned in practice, we'll have a good showing."

Contact Ann Loughery at alougher@nd.edu

Lauren Brewster sets the ball in a game against Virginia Tech last year. Brewster and the rest of the Irish take on No. 2 Nebraska this weekend in a two-game series.

Irish midfielder Jen Buszkowski chases after the ball during Notre Dame's 3-0 victory over Eastern Illinois Sunday.

Visitors continued from page 24

are going to be complete teams and it's going to be a challenge for us," he said. "They expose our weaknesses. These are the kind of teams that can test your players and test your system."

Despite the steep caliber of competition, Waldrum likes the idea of testing his team so early in the season.

"Whether you win the early games or lose the early games, they're played more for finding out the areas we need to improve before the end of the season gets here," he said. "It's a great way for us to measure, it's going to be a challenge."

Notre Dame met a similarly difficult challenge last year traveling to California to face off against the same two teams in SCU's Adidas Classic. Stanford, behind star goalkeeper Nicole Barnhart, kept the Irish out of the net, resulting in a 0-0 stalemate. Both goalkeepers return this year for a rematch.

Meanwhile, Santa Clara gave the Irish all they could handle before eventually falling to Notre Dame by a narrow 2-1 margin. "Santa Clara has got one of the top programs of the country in year and year out,"Waldrum said. "It's turned into a good rivalry with us over the last few years."

This year, the Irish hope to add more offensive firepower to the mix, and their leading candidate is Big East Player of the Week Katie Thorlakson. The Irish forward surged out of the gate this season, having a hand (or a foot) in eight of the 10 Irish goals scored in the first two games. She totaled seven points (two goals, three assists) in the first half of a 7-2 blowout of Baylor to tie a school record and then assisted on all three goals scored against Eastern Illinois.

"I'm just looking to create chances and hopefully our team will finish a lot better (with our goal scoring)," Thorlakson said. "Mentally I'm pretty strong so I just try and go out and perform."

As pleased as Waldrum is with Thorlakson's statistical success, he is even happier that one of his stars is finally gaining some national recognition.

"I'm so happy that the Big East finally recognized her. Last year she had a great year for us and she was so underappreciated by people outside of our program," he said. "It was a travesty for her not to be on the all-Big East Team last year. I really look for her to break through and finally get the recognition she deserves."

Contact Matt Moneary at mmoneary@nd.edu

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Irish midfielder John Stephens readies to head the ball in Notre Dame's 2-0 exhibition win over Northwestern Monday.
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Charles Schulz

Peanuts

When your clients come in for an interview, do you do anything special to put them at ease?

Scott Adams

Dilbert

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You are faxing to my voice line again, you #12?

Henri Arnold Mike Argirion

Jumble

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Whoys

Krope

Primoo

Kitscy

Yesterday's Jumbles

Gulch

Agony Polish Fetish

Answer: What the instructor insisted on when the singer suggested by the above cartoon.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: What the instructor insisted on when the singer suggested by the above cartoon.

Celebrities Born on This Day:

Eriq Ebouaney, Salman Haque, Lennox Lewis, Karen Allen

Happy Birthday! Your strength of character will shine this year, giving you an edge you haven't had in the past. This year is about you, being the best you can and taking care of yourself. As long as you don't overload yourself with unnecessary worry, you will do OK. Your numbers are 3, 15, 26, 37, 47.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Don't leave yourself too much idle time to think about the things that are bothering you. The more you keep busy, the healthier you'll feel.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Not everything will be laid out in front of you today. You are careful and question what everyone is doing, but you will get to the bottom of things and be successful.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Prepare to meet some interesting new people. Getting out and doing things you enjoy will lead you to friendship and a new and interesting pastime.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

If you let everyone do his or her own thing, you will discover it's easier to get your own way. It's all in the strategy you use today.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Someone you meet along the way will be of interest, and this could lead to an interesting partnership or friendship. You are likely to change your direction in a positive way today.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Think first or you may find yourself in the middle of a scam. Not everyone will be trustworthy, so don't get involved in joint ventures.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You may not see eye-to-eye with a partner. Listen to what the other person is doing before you make a decision that could affect the outcome.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You will be in the mood to entertain and do your thing. Don't be tempted to overindulge — that will put a damper on your mood.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You have everything going for you now. All the doors are open, and this could lead to an interesting partnership or friendship. You are likely to take on a new project.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The more you do with others, the better you will feel.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Romantic life is the focus today. Put love on the back burner today.

Today's Horoscope

HOROSCOPE

Eugenia Last

The Observer

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Jumping into the fire

ND VOLLEYBALL
Irish take on No. 2 Nebraska in a key two-game series at home this weekend

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

The No. 25 Irish know exactly what they’re in for when they meet No. 2 Nebraska this weekend — its ranking says it all.

"They’re definitely ranked No. 2 for a reason," senior Emily Loomis said. "They have a lot of offensive threats. We’ll have to play a good all-around game and be ready to fight."

Notre Dame is set to meet Nebraska both tonight and Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

Nebraska is used to starting off its season with a win, posting a 26-3 all-time season opener record — including a victory the last four years.

Last season, the two teams vied for the No. 1 slot in the national blocking rankings. The Irish were ranked first nationally with 3.72 blocks per game, interrupting Nebraska’s three-year hold on the record. Nebraska finished the season sixth as a team with 3.17 blocks per game.

For most teams, the Huskers’ record and rankings can be
see HUSKERS/page 21

ND WOMEN’S SOCCER
Notre Dame faces No. 4 Santa Clara and No. 13 Stanford in adidas Classic

By MATT MOONEY
Sports Writer

So much for getting their feet wet.

With only two games under its collective belt, Notre Dame will face perhaps its biggest challenge of the regular season when the Irish take on No. 2 Nebraska this weekend — its ranking says it all.

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SMC CROSS COUNTRY
Runners hope to continue progress

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The Belles are hoping to establish themselves as one of the conference’s top programs. Coming off their best finish at last year’s MIAA Championships, the team is only expecting top performances this season to reach that level.

Already off to a promising start, Saint Mary’s is returning four of its top five runners. In addition to the team’s veterans, a transfer student and a freshman will also be joining the Belles. Coach Dave Bartis said the team’s newcomers add a sense of enthusiasm to the talent-laden roster.

“We feel confident as a team because we’ve got great first-year runners that will make our team deeper,” Bartis said.

Returning veterans include
see BELLES/page 22

MEN’S SOCCER
Team opens regular season today

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

There’s a first time for everything, but Bobby Clark does not expect the Irish to lose their season-opening match for the first time since he’s been here.

At the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic, the No. 9 Irish take on Oregon State Sunday at noon. The event is hosted by Indiana University, the nation’s top-ranked team heading into the season.

Although the early start to
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The Belles suffered a season-opening loss in straight sets to Alma.

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The Irish open their season this weekend with the Notre Dame Invitational.

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Uah quarterback Alex Smith finished with 435 yards of offense as the Utes defeated Texas A&M 41-21.

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Bob Morton and the Notre Dame offensive line look to protect the Irish backfield after a shaky 2003 campaign. Morton's switch to left guard is one of several position changes in the line this season.
The 2002 team had it. The 2003 team lost it. It's called confidence. Tyrene Willingham more appropriately called it swagger. They rode to an 8-0 week.

Willingham had the national stage in the season-opening kickoff Classic in 2002. Questions floated about how quickly Willingham could turn the program around and if this game against the defending ACC champions was too big of a test too early.

An answer of a dominating 22-0 victory over Maryland the next day, 24-7 win over Purdue and 25-game against the defending champion Nebraska in 2000 that all but sealed Dume history of early-season confidence leading to a successful season.

Remember the three-game losing streak in the beginning of 1999 that led to a 5-7 campaign. Remember the near-upset of No. 1 Nebraska in 2001 that came a week after an unranked Irish team handily beat No. 23 Texas A & M, leading to eventual BCS appearance. Remember the 6-3 start in 2001 that all but sealed Dave's fate in South Bend.

College athletics, more so than pro athletics, ride on a cumulative effect of confidence and emotion throughout the season. Why? They are younger and not playing for a paycheck like the pros.

In college support in college is more apparent from day-to-day as athletes can feel the spirit on campus from the dinning hall to the classroom.

The significance of every college regular-season game carries much more importance with national championship or major bowl aspirations faltering because of one bad day in between the lines. That's why Saturday night is so critical for the Irish.

On paper, it looks like a game the Irish should win easily. Dominating an inferior opponent (which the Irish didn't do until the BYU game in week 10 last year) will have this team riding high into next week's rivalry game against Michigan.

But factor in a nationally-televised season opener — at night, on the road, in the first game of the year, with the Irish possibly focusing on next week's long-awaited revenge for the Wolverines — and it's easy to see why the Cougars have the all-important confidence to make this one closer than it should be, or even pull an upset.

So the next question natural-ly to ask is where does a team coming off a 5-7 season, having lost nine of its last 14 games — four by at least 31 points — and not ranked in the top 25 have any business in believing it can return to its early-season form of 2002?

Willingham says it's happened during the past nine months. "We get it with experience. We get it with improved physical skills that come through the winter conditioning and training," he said. "All of those things add to make you a better football player the next season."

That's the only place this team can get confidence from since 2002 was so disappointing. But it works both ways. Maybe this team struggles in Provo and escapes with a win, leading to questions heading into the Michigan game. Willingham feels the team is headed back to its 2002 form. "They all believe and stand for the right things in this program," he said.

It's a long way to deter-mine their success, or lack, in 2004. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Observer.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.
Big men on campus

The more experienced offensive line shuffles positions to improve overall play

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

If you look up statistics for a football team, you'll find the usual suspects—"touchdowns," "receiving yards," "tackles." What you usually won't find are the statistics for the offensive line, unless you dig rather deep. Stats like "grading percentage" and "pancake blocks" just don't quite give that same exciting buzz that comes from reading about a flashy wide receiver with 10 touchdowns on the day, or a barreling running back who amassed 200 yards.

At the same time, linemen are among the first to be blamed when things go wrong and the ones who almost never receive the credit when things go right.

When a running back has a career day, it's because he has "superior talent." When that same running back has a letdown the next weekend, it's because of "shoddy blocking."

Playing the line is a thankless job at times, but someone has to do it.

Scrutinized and criticized

After a 5-7 season in 2003, many of the Irish faithful placed the blame on the offensive line. At the start of the year, only senior Sean Milligan came into the season as a returning starter. That experience went out the window pretty quickly, as Milligan was injured against Michigan and did not play the rest of the season.

The injury to the line's only senior and leader took its toll on the Irish, who were forced to field players who had very little previous playing experience. That situation, combined with a freshman quarterback in Brady Quinn who was still learning the offense, resulted in a season ripe for disaster.

Senior Dan Stevenson — also injured for two games during the 2003 season — took the criticism unfairly placed on the offensive front.

"As far as the criticism last year is concerned, that just comes with the territory," Stevenson said. "I've played offensive line at a high school and even in high school, I've experienced that when anything goes wrong it's the offensive line's fault. I'm not sure where everything goes good it's somebody else who gets the credit."

Those same growing pains and disappointment from last year might just be a real positive for the team this season. The Irish return four of their five starters from last season's final game against Syracuse — Stevenson, Bob Morton, Mark LeVoir and Ryan Harris.

"I think last year was great fear because there was absolutely zero experience," offensive coordinator Bill Diedrick said. "I think with this group, you have a veteran group up there, they've been through the wars together. You've been with them, you know how they respond to different situations, to stress levels. I think they are much more poised, they're probably a lot more physical and they're much more confident."

Experience meets potential

The one number of the 2004 offensive line who is not a returning starter might have the most important job of all. As the center, sophomore John Sullivan is the key to snap the ball to the Irish quarterback.

Then, he has just a split-second to get back in blocking position. The idea of a rookie coming into such an important role might seem like a recipe for trouble, but the Irish coaches don't think so. Sullivan as just any rookie.

"I'm hopeful that at some point there will be many very favorable comparisons to John Sullivan and his fellow Irish center and current Cleveland Browns center Jeff Faine," Irish head coach Tyrone Willingham said. "Hopefully we can research that point by the time the season starts."

With Sullivan and up-and-coming players like Harris — who saw playing time as a true freshman last year — the Irish have several young linemen with the potential to become eventual stars.

Mixing and matching

While the offensive line comes into 2004 with much more experience than last year, most of the starters will find themselves in different positions than they played last year.

Mark LeVoir moves from left guard in 2003 to starting right tackle in 2004, and Bob Morton makes room for Sullivan at center by moving over to play left guard. Ryan Harris, who started right tackle last season, will move over to left tackle this year.

The shuffling of the line is just a normal part of an evolving football team, according to the Irish coaching staff.

"First of all, having Mark [LeVoir] be able to make that move has allowed us to get better players on the field and position him so that he is now a very worldly football player in terms of the entire offensive line," Willingham said.

"Now he understands the experience at guard, he understands how that relates to Dan Stevenson, who will be playing next to him."

"So, you have a better player based on having two positions under his belt, as compared to having just one."

The linemen don't seem to mind the changes too much, either.

"Changing positions is really just a comfort thing," Stevenson said of Harris' move. "We're all used to it. It's not such a big problem. I'm confident that we'll all be able to do good things this year because we're all on the same page now."

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by the
numbers

15 number of interceptions Brady Quinn threw as a freshman last season

number of returning Irish linebackers with game experience 4

3 number of starting linebackers BYU loses from 2003

national ranking of Irish defense last season 33

national ranking of BYU defense last season 14

number of "payback" games BYU has won out of seven since 1993 6

4 number of BYU wins last season

number of Notre Dame wins last season 5

Bob Morton, right, and Maurice Stovall celebrate a 2003 win over Pittsburgh. The junior will shift from center to left guard to start the season.
Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Notre Dame 2004 Schedule

NOTRE DAME 2004 OFFENSE

BYU 13
BYU 17

BYU OFFENSE

BYU DEFENSE

Coaching

Quinn looks impressive during week's scrimmage. The sophomore has a year of experience in the offense, and coaches say he has been studying tape and even adding his own ideas to the gameplan. In addition, Quinn will be working with a deeper receiving corps.

Ryan Grant gets the call at tailback with Rashon Powers-Neal at fullback. The backfield loses almost instant production in the graduation of Julius Jones, but a backfield could become a committee including Travis Thomas and Joe Schmidt has potential.

BYU will throw the ball early and often, but Crowton has not called a definitive starter to guide the passing attack. Quinn is the man for the Irish, and even though Notre Dame will struggle at times this season, his experience and maturity will be the difference.

The Cougars defense ranked 4th nationally in pass defense last season, giving up only 176.17 yards per game. Nine players had at least one interception, but the team loses half of those picks to player missions or graduations. Safety Aaron Francisco will be a threat.

North Dame struggled in the air last season, averaging almost 35 yards less per passing game than its opponents. If the offensive line can help running backs establish a strong running game, expect a spread out field and great things from Quinn and the receivers.

Mobile sophomore John Beck will get the start, though BYU has junior Matt Berry back from injury to possibly rotate with the starter. Both quarterbacks played in eight games last season with ratings of 104.88 and 112.12, respectively, and 12 total touchdowns.

The Cougars defense ranked 4th nationally in pass defense last season, giving up only 176.17 yards per game. Nine players had at least one interception, but the team loses half of those picks to player missions or graduations. Safety Aaron Francisco will be a threat.

The Cougars defense ranked 8th nationally in pass defense last season, giving up only 176.17 yards per game. Nine players had at least one interception, but the team loses half of those picks to player missions or graduations. Safety Aaron Francisco will be a threat.
The Cougars Rushing

The defensive line and linebackers bring experience. Justin Tuck is a force containing running backs on the outside, and the Irish have a good chance to improve a 2003 defense that allowed just 127.2 yards per game on the ground last season.

The Cougars lost their No. 1 rusher of a year ago and will start junior Fahu Tahi. But BYU does not look to run unless it is given to them, running only 397 times last season and will start junior No. 1 rusher of a year ago and will start junior for a 98.1 yards per game average. Derek Curry finished second in the conference last season. All 340 total yards were given to them, running 472 times last season and will start junior for a 98.1 yards per game average.

Tuck, Brandon Hoys and Derek Casey finished second, third and fourth in tackles last season. All three return. Add the main returner of the entire defensive line, and teams like BYU will have a difficult time running sweeps outside of the middle.

New defensive backs coach Steven Wilks has his work cut out for him, with an abundance of talent but also an abundance of youth in the defensive backfield. Purrell and Parthet get the nod at safety. Burrell finished last season with four interceptions.

Junior college transfer Todd Watkins excited Cougar fans with a 50-yard touchdown catch in the BYU spring game last year. The Cougars lose Toby Christensen, the top receiver last year, but they return all other major receiving threats, including tight end Daniel Coats.

The Irish run defense will force the Cougars to pass. BYU will collapse back and Berry will split most of their time in the shotgun or double tight end/drop, and a patchy secondary will take advantage for a time. Weddles runs a 4.9-yard dash and could cause problems.

D.J. Fitzpatrick hit a game-winning field goal last season and two 50-yard field goals in last week's scrimmage. Punting could be the defensive highlight. Kick return men should be Rhena McKnight, Chase Anastasio and Carlos Campbell.

Kicker Malt Pratt is one of the best in the nation, punting for an average of 44.0 yards and converting 14-of-18 field goals and 20-of-20 extra points last season. Kick return last season were above average, and Crowton sees field position as the key to this game.

BYU is 3-0 in its three openers under Crowton, with all three games at home. The Cougars perform better in front of their home crowd at Edwards Stadium, and the team is 6-1 in its payback games since 1999, getting revenge more often than not.

The Irish need to win this game, and they will play like it. But the Cougars have been on the line and will play bodies in front of a loud and large home crowd. BYU will turn the ball over a couple of times, but the crowd and atmosphere will keep them in the game longer.

Fitzpatrick is not Nicholas Setta, but he got the job done last season. Still, BYU has won countless awards and recognition for its work on the field, and a patchy secondary will take advantage. Fitzpatrick must call the special teams battle to find a consistent returner.

As Tuck has said, there is a lot of anxiety surrounding the team as the season opener approaches. Each player on this team knows the Irish need a win, because it would be a lot more fun to come back to Notre Dame Stadium 1-0 to face Michigan.

The Irish will throw the ball well against a questionable Irish secondary. The Irish offense will rise to the challenge behind an improved offensive line and experienced quarterback.

BYU will run four and five wide receiver sets and throw over 40 passes Saturday. The Irish secondary will struggle, but Quinn and a deep receiving corps will ball Notre Dame out of this Provo shootout.

The secondary is probably BYU's biggest weak link of defense. The Irish secondary is also the biggest question mark on their defense. Look for a high-scoring game, with the Irish coming away with a win.
Sizing up the Irish and the Cougars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2003 AVERAGE PER GAME</th>
<th>NOTRE DAME'S OFFENSE VS BYU'S DEFENSE</th>
<th>BYU'S OFFENSE VS NOTRE DAME'S DEFENSE</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>total yards gained</td>
<td>336.3</td>
<td>313.1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

By U Passing Offense

By U Passing Offense

Dwight Ellick [above] and Preston Jackson will start at the corner back spots, with Quentin Burrell and Freddie Parish named the tentative starters at safety. The uncertainty of this defensive backfield is frightening, especially against a team that loves to throw the ball. This group's performance will tell two things — they will determine how close the game gets this Saturday, and they will also show Michigan receivers like Braylon Edwards how vulnerable they are.

John Beck and Matt Berry lost top receiver Toby Christensen, but Chris Hale, Daniel Coats and Rod Wilkerson all return as the second through fourth receivers from last season. Junior college transfer Todd Watkins [above] runs a 4.28 second 40 and led the Foothill Valley Conference last year with 134 points as a kicker and receiver. He also averaged 22.9 yards per catch.

Ellick, a former track star at Notre Dame, should draw covering Watkins in man-to-man to match speed with speed.

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BY HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN

Sports Editor

They are deep, talented and athletic, but it has yet to be determined which ones will play.

The Irish have a group of six tight ends, Billy Palmer, Jared Clark, Anthony Fasano, Jerome Collins, John Carlson and Marcus Freeman, and it is still unclear as to who will get the majority of the minutes. As of now, the fifth-year senior Palmer is listed as the starter, but offensive line/tight ends coach Mike Denbrock said nothing is set in stone.

"All those guys are going to play a lot of football for us, so I wouldn't necessarily put a lot of stock in who's listed first or second on there," he said of the depth chart. "The important thing for us is to make sure that we're incorporating the best players that we have available to us in our offense, and those guys all fit into that." 

Joining the experienced Palmer is fellow fifth-year senior and converted quarterback Clark. The 6-foot-4 Clark had 15 catches for 142 yards last season, an average of 9.5 yards per catch, while Palmer caught one ball for 13 yards. This duo provides the experience of the group, along with Collins, who is also a fifth-year senior, but is in his first year at tight end, after playing linebacker in 2003.

"Experience is a pretty powerful thing as far as knowing what to do, how to do it, what's gonna be like when the lights come on and it's time to play for real," Denbrock said. 

"So those guys are invaluable to the younger guys. But I think everybody's kinds picked up their game. It's funny how competition will help you do that."

The younger guys Denbrock referred to are Carlson, Fasano and Freeman. Carlson is a 6-foot-5 redshirt freshman who also played on the Irish basketball team last season. Carlson also played in the U.S. Army All-American game in high school.

Fasano is the most experienced of the younger guys. Last year, he had 18 catches for 169 yards, good for fourth on the team. The redshirt sophomore sat out of spring drills with an injury after playing in 11 games with three starts in 2003. He also scored two touchdowns last year.

Freeman, a 6-foot-2 redshirt junior, saw action in 11 games last season.

Quarterback Brady Quinn said he feels fine throwing to any of the tight ends.

"I'm pretty comfortable with all the guys," Quinn said. "They're a good group of guys, and they're going to definitely help us have a huge impact on our offensive scheme this year. Some guys have stepped up. Marcus Freeman has done a great job, really worked hard in the offseason and done a lot for us. I think Anthony Fasano has come back, been working hard this summer, and put in some good work."

Denbrock said his group hopes to be an important part of the pre-style offense.

"If practice bears out the same way in a game as it has while we've been working on the things, they're gonna be a major part of our offense, both catching the ball and blocking for us," he said. "I hope that's the case, and I hope they feel the same way.

The Irish coach said the competition for playing time will depend on a number of things.

"The experience of the younger group, along with Collins, who provides the experience of the group in that top level that you get guys that can be a total tight end and be consistent, I think that's really what we're really striving for. So I think whichever group in that top level that does that is probably going to be the three that play,"

Offensive coordinator Bill Diedrick said there is not enough playing time for all six tight ends.

"It's definitely a deep group — it's about six deep, and there's not a lot of playing time for six," he said. "You've gotta weed it out a little bit, and probably not just on the depth chart but by weeding it out, is the guys that are consistent and making plays are probably going to play.

When asked if he had sorted through the group this week, Diedrick said to wait and see.

"We'll see Saturday night, you will find out," he said.

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Irish tight end Jared Clark pumps his fist after a first-down catch against BYU last season.

Cougars receiver Brett Cooper and the BYU kick returning squads averaged 20.2 yards per return in 2003.

BY HEATHER HETTLER

Sports Writer

Brigham Young's major weakness in 2003 appears to be another problem in 2004. The Cougars averaged just 16 points and barely over 300 yards per game a season ago, enter 2004 with hopes that their offense emerges as a help, not a hindrance. Last season, BYU went a dismal 4-8 and were shutout for the first time since 1975.

"We're trying to get everybody really offensively," BYU coach Gary Crowton said. "We were not happy with the production of what we did last year. We really looked at it, we have worked hard on it and we have a little more experience at the quarterback spot this year. We want to be able to stay on certain positions to help us in our skill spots and we are just sitting to be ready to go.

Earlier this week, Crowton — who's in his season openers at BYU — named John Beck the starting quarterback but said back-up Hirte would see playing time. As a true freshman, Hirte suffered a broken hand injury but still managed to rack up 864 yards, five touchdowns and five interceptions. Berry missed no time with a hand injury but still managed to rack up 606 passing yards, 14 interceptions and seven touchdowns.

The Cougars tend to throw the ball more, but Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham said stopping BYU's running attack will be one of the keys for the Irish defense.

"We cannot allow them to have what I call a two-way go, when they have got their run game and their passing game going full speed," Willingham said. "We know and recognize that over the years that their preference has been to throw the football. But at the same time, if we let them have a run game, then they become that kind of double-edged sword; that you can't stop it no matter what you're doing."

The Cougars, who lost 16 players from last year's team, have zero of their top three rushers from the 2003 team returning. Naufahu Tahi had 77 yards on 34 carries as a junior last season and will be one of several backs competing for the starting tailback job.

Despite the lack of an establishedusher, Crowton feels comfortable with the offensive BYU will pit against Notre Dame this weekend.

"Now we have some playmakers, and I am curious how they are going to do on game day," he said. "Some of them are freshmen and some are junior-college transfers to go along with the guys we had last year. My feeling is we have a little bit more depth on offense.

On defense, BYU has several outstanding senior playmakers, including safety Aaron Francisco and defensive end/linebacker Brady Poppinga. Francisco has been named to the Thorpe Award "watch list" which goes to the country's best defensive back and Poppinga is on the Bronko Nagurski "watch list" for the nation's top defensive players.

Willingham said having sophomore quarterback Brady Quinn play as a freshman should benefit him against BYU defense.

"The biggest difference is the world experience," Willingham said. "Once you've done it, you seem to have a little base of knowledge, a larger base of confidence, and that's where Brady is."

Quinn and his teammates will be facing a BYU team that feels confident about themselves, according to Crowton. With over 60,000 fans mostly cheering for the Cougars, BYU's fourth-year head coach is cautiously optimistic about his team's chances.

"I think they're prepared like they can, but you just have to wait and see," he said. "I see potential like I've mentioned before. I'm optimistic because I see that potential but at the same time it hasn't happened yet in a game so you just have to wait and see."

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