Students promote Sudan awareness

Group distributes green ribbons as part of a two-step plan to inform others of the genocide

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

A group of Notre Dame student has collaborated on campus to build awareness and take action against the atrocities in Sudan.

Senior Stephanie Berger, one of the founders of the group, said this group was a collaboration of many ideas.

"It was originally a subcommittee of Peace Collision but grew into a bigger group drawing from students from groups all over the campus," Berger said. "What happened was that individuals with different ideas about organizing Sudan events came together and determined that there was a need for an umbrella organization to oversee and coordinate events regarding the Sudan."

The group has formulated a two-step plan, awareness and action, to battle the situation in Sudan. Currently the group is in the awareness phase while finalizing plans for action.

"The campaign is now focused on raising awareness—making people aware that genocide is happening right now," Berger said.

Patrick Corrigan, an original member of the Notre Dame Sudan Steering Committee, said his involvement was "out of concern for the people of Sudan. Currently the group is one of the founders of the Alliance of International Alumni, described his involvement as a foreign service officer in the U.S. Information Agency and answered students' questions about his experiences and about general U.S. policy.

He emphasized the importance of international study not only for personal experience but also for widening students' understandings of international relations.

The report praised the programs' vast curriculum and students' enthusiasm about studying abroad.

McCarry cited statistics comparing the number of American students abroad to the number of foreign students in the United States. "(About) 475,000 foreign students study here each year, while only 157,000 Americans study abroad each year," McCarr said. "More American students should study abroad to expand their perspectives."

This is why the recognition of Notre Dame is so important," McCarr said. "To me, that's a home run.

"Our national leaders are beginning to understand that study abroad is really important. To me, that's a home run.

"Our national leaders are beginning to understand that study abroad is really important. To me, that's a home run.

Michael McCarr
Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange executive director

Students play water polo as a club sport. However, water polo is one club sport that is not covered by MegaLife's Insurance.

By TRICIA de GROOT
News Writer

For the past 20 years, MegaLife Insurance Company has served as the insurance provider for Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students, but it was not until shortly before this academic year that the University came to the understanding that MegaLife did not cover all club sports.

Although many of the 29 club sports affiliated with the University are covered by MegaLife, those in which students are traveling and competing—rather than participating on campus—are not. "Mega has always covered our 'club' sports that act like intramurals on campus and only Notre Dame student participants," said director of University Health Services Ann Kleva. "It was an unfortunate assumption by the athletic department that Mega covered any club sport."

The actual policy was identified this year when an undergraduate participant was considering purchasing MegaLife for her child who wanted to play organized collegiate sports. Kleva said. The parent contacted

By AMANDA MICHAELS
Associate News Editor

The office of Information Technologies is hailing the deal with SRC Communications to install a new Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network as Notre Dame's move to join the technological wave of the future, and is optimistically looking toward the five-year transition to the new system.

Negotiations for the VoIP network—which will be one of the largest in its kind in the country—began approximately a year ago, and the contract was signed in early fall, according to OIT's chief technology officer and assistant provost DeWitt Latimer.

The new system boasts a unified mailbox—allowing users to read their voicemail from their e-mail client and listen to their e-mail on their phone—"click-to-call" functionality from computers, "find me, follow me" calling options and a "plug-and-play" service for the addition of new phones and service and location changes.

"It's [the VoIP system] is going to be the technology of choice," DeWitt said. "VoIP makes possible are viewed as future needs that our users are going to want. Not only will be necessary at first, but over five to seven years, they will become more and more common for the entire user community."

Officials are currently debating whether to extend the service to students, or keep it isolated to faculty, staff and administrators. DeWitt said the
INSIDE COLUMN

A picture is worth...

It's tough to describe adequately a powerful picture with pedestrian words, but there are some times when it's worth trying. One I saw Saturday night deserves the effort, as it accomplishes what only the great pieces of art do—it tells the story of some thing seemingly unrelated to the subject matter that is terribly important.

On the left, this photo shows Chilean President Ricardo Lagos and first lady Laura Bush smiling at reporters as they enter the ballroom in which an APEC gala dinner is about to commence. To the right, President Bush has stopped his progress, and he appears to be decli ning the reason for the commotion coming from the background. He is stuck between going forward and turning back to resolve the problem.

In this case, his problem is that a Chilean police officer refused Bush's top on-site Secret Service agent entrance into the building. Clearly, a question of security arises when a foreign police force prevents the American president's personal securi ty detail from escorting him into a large building.

Stick with the options of either continuing on the path set before him—walking away from the confrontation and trusting a foreign force to maintain security and safety in what could be a dangerous situation—or going back and evoking the possible security threat immediately, Bush chose the latter. Not surprised at the decision? Then please dig into the scene.

The scene that ensued was not as breathtaking as some have made it out to be. Bush reached into the pile and snatched his fingers, and the dispute was settled—the Chilean police would allow his Secret Service agent into the dinner. It took a little while for the scene to calm down, but Bush's presence was the deciding fac tor in how the situation would turn out.

In analyzing the sequence of events, maybe you will affectionately joke about the brazen attitude of our cow boy president and that he solves problems the way real people do.

On the other hand, the Pacers-Pistons brawl may come to mind, and you might think that the most powerful man in the world should not be meddling in the middle of a melee.

Whatever you think of the situation, the picture itself includes the story of something completely unrelated but incredibly important—a foreign leader walking ahead of the left as an American president, to the right, says "Hold on, I have to take care of something."

It demonstrates how tough decisions can tumult a president and a country, and it embodies the active, pronounced policy of the Bush administration in foreign lands.

In a picture full of personifications, that's the overarching theme: in a world full of analogies, that's the main conflict of the day.

The views expressed in the Inside Columns are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at kfowler1@nd.edu so we can correct our error.
Alumna named Professor of Year

Campbell Free selected for her outstanding teaching, commitment

Special to The Observer

Rhona Campbell Free, a University of Notre Dame graduate and professor of economics at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, has been named 2004 U.S. Professor of the Year. Selected for her outstanding teaching, commitment to undergraduate students and influence on teaching, Free received top honors in the master's universities and colleges category, which includes more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide.

The award is presented annually by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Free is the second Notre Dame figure in three years to earn a U.S. Professor of the Year award. Chemist Dennis Jacobs, now a University vice president and associate provost, was honored in 2002 in the research and doctoral universities category.

What makes Rhona Campbell Free unique is the creative and open approach she brings to teaching," said John Lippincott, CASE president. "While she is deeply committed to her discipline of economics, she enthusiastically uses pedagogical and tools more common to other disciplines to reach and motivate students."

Free starts with the premise that all students can be successful in her economics courses, and her optimism enables her to devise different ways of reaching students whose levels of experience and interest vary.

A member of the economics faculty at Eastern Connecticut State University since 1983, Free earned her master's and doctoral degrees in economics from Notre Dame in 1980 and 1983, respectively. She is known for her innovative ideas and cross-disciplinary approaches to instruction. "Some professors take a difficult subject and complicate it," former student Mark Boeckmans said. "It takes a special teacher to be able to take the same subject and make it accessible for all students." Since 1981, the U.S. Professor of the Year program has recognized excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

"These U.S. Professors of the Year have distinguished themselves in their profession by their commitment to advancing knowledge and to motivating, inspiring, and empowering their students," said Lee S. Shulman, Carnegie Foundation president.

"Through their contribution to excellence in teaching and extraordinary dedication to their students, they have distinguished and elevated the profession of teaching and created a legacy of knowledge and practice that others can build upon."
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS

Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra
Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 8 p.m.
Friday, December 3, 2004 at 8 p.m.
Handel's Messiah
www.nd.edu/~music/ensembles/chorale.html
www.nd.edu/~music/ensembles/corch.html
Leighton Concert Hall
Tickets $6, $5 faculty/staff, $3 all students

The Notre Dame Glee Club
Christmas Concert
Saturday, December 4, 2004 at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
http://gleeclub.nd.edu
Leighton Concert Hall
Tickets $6, $5 faculty/staff, $3 all students
All proceeds benefit the Center for the Homeless.
www.cfh.net

ND University Band
Sunday, December 5 at 3 p.m.
www.nd.edu/~ndband/
Leighton Concert Hall
Free and open to the public.

ND Jazz Bands
Sunday, December 5 at 7 p.m.
www.nd.edu/~ndband/
Leighton Concert Hall
Free and open to the public.

ND Collegium Musicum
Wednesday, December 8 at 8 p.m.
www.nd.edu/~music/ensembles/collegium.html
Reyes Organ and Choral Hall
Free and open to the public.

ND Presents Live at the Morris

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND A CONCERT TO GIVE FOR CHRISTMAS

Empire Brass Christmas Concert
Friday, December 10 at 8 p.m.
http://performingarts.nd.edu/empire.shtml
Start your holiday season at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center with a Christmas Concert by The Empire Brass in the Leighton Concert Hall. These fabulous musicians will play some familiar holiday favorites as well as some music from Christmas past. There will even be a sing-along. The Empire Brass enjoys an international reputation as North America’s finest brass quintet, renowned for its brilliant virtuosity and the unparalleled diversity of its repertoire.
Tickets $44, $35 faculty/staff, $15 all students

The Chieftains
Sunday, January 30 at 8 p.m.
http://performingarts.nd.edu/chieftains.shtml
Leighton Concert Hall
The first word in Irish Music is the Chieftains. In 1989 the Republic of Ireland appointed them the official musical ambassadors for Ireland. They have exported Irish music to every corner of the world and finally they come to Notre Dame. Their appearance is far overdue. There are a lot of groups who play traditional Celtic music, but they all owe a great debt to the Chieftains who paved the way for them. There are few concert experiences as completely fulfilling as an evening spent in their company.
Tickets $48, $38 faculty/staff, $15 all students

St. Petersburg State Ballet Theatre performing Romeo and Juliet
at the Morris Performing Arts Center
Thursday, January 13 at 8 p.m.
A timeless love story danced by one of the leading ballet companies in Russia. This Romeo was choreographed by Sergei Vikulov to the beautiful score by Sergei Prokofiev.
St. Petersburg State Ballet Theatre draws upon the long and storied history of Russian Ballet. Under the direction of Askold Makarov, former leading soloist of the Kirov Ballet, the company enjoyed a growing reputation for its ability to innovate while interpreting the classics of the Romantic period. After Makarov’s death in 2000, Yuri Petukhov took the reins of the company and has considerably widened the scope of the company.
Tickets $15-$38
Call the Morris Performing Arts Center Ticket Office at 235-9190 or buy on line at www.MorrisCenter.org

Discounted tickets are underwritten by the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. There are a limited number of student discounts available.

sign up for updates at
http://performingarts.nd.edu

Call 574-631-2800
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Violence continues in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents battled American troops in the streets of Baghdad on Saturday, killing a U.S. soldier in an ambush and gunning down four government employees. Aides suggested that the guerrillas remain a potent force despite the fall of their stronghold of Fallujah. Nine Iraqis also died in fighting west of the capital.

In Fallujah, where U.S. Marines and soldiers are still battling pockets of resistance, insurgents waved a white flag of surrender before opening fire on U.S. troops and causing casualties. Marine spokesman Lt. Lyle Gilbert said Saturday without elaborating.

Al-Arabiya television quoted Iraqi guerril- 

lae fleeing Fallujah as saying they had run out of mortars and many fighters who stayed behind were badly wounded.

Scientists warn of fish toxins

SETE, France — Each day at 4 a.m., the trawlers come back, alive with giant bass, mackerel and squirming eels, at the end of a 

food chain that links family dinner tables to powerful predators.

Besides mercury which can damage the brains of fetuses and young children and can affect healthy adults, there are PCBs, dioxins and flame retardants with unknown long-

term effects. It is the same from ancient Mediterranean towns like Sete to big cities in Asia, America’s Gulf ports, or harbors in seeming-

ly pristine Nordic waters. Industrial waste products.

Although rich in omega-3 fatty acids vital to the heart and brain, many fish contain toxins that build up over time in the human body.

NATIONAL NEWS

House passes $388-billion bill

WASHINGTON — Republican whined a $388 billion spending bill through the House on Saturday, a mammoth measure that underscores the dominance of deficit policies by carving dollars for everything from AIDS education to environmental cleanups.

Lawmakers approved the measure by a biparti-

san 344-51 margin on what might be the last day of their postelection session. The last time such a crunch was taking longer in the Senate. Abortion-rights supporters there of their postelection session.

Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., sought unsuccessfully to persuade the GOP rank and file to swing behind the measure.

House decision to send lawmakers home with-

out a vote drew attacks from Democrats and providers of the measure seemed to grow, out a vote drew attacks from Democrats and providers of the measure seemed to grow.

9/11 commission reforms fail

WASHINGTON — In a defeat for President Bush, rebellious House Republicans on Saturday detailed legislation to overhaul the nation's intelligence agencies along lines recommended by the Sept. 11 commission.

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out a vote drew attacks from Democrats and providers of the measure seemed to grow, out a vote drew attacks from Democrats and providers of the measure seemed to grow.

LOCAL NEWS

Plans for shelter put on hold

VALPARASO — Plans to convert a Porter County motel to a homeless shelter have been shelved after the state turned down a social agency's request for funding.

Christian Outreach officials said the Indiana Housing Finance Authority turned down its grant and loan applications to fund the proposed $3 million project to turn the 54-room Best Western into a shel-

ter.

CHILE

Bush attempts to improve image

The president met with leaders of Mexico and Chile to build relationships, U.S. reputation

SANTIAGO — President Bush aimed to improve perception of U.S. neglect of Latin America and burnish an American reputation damaged by the Iraq war, undertaking an official diplomatic offensive in the region akin to his recent courting of Europe.

Bush was meeting Sunday with the leaders of Mexico and Chile on the last day of a 21-nation economic summit of Pacific Rim leaders in this scenic capital.

Mexican President Vicente Fox's top goal in relations with the United States is the reform of American immigration laws. Bush has proposed allowing undocumented workers to get legal status and provide no path to citizen-

ship, an approach that Mexican officials have signaled they would embrace, even if reluctantly.

Meanwhile, Bush's top goal with Mexico remains enhanced border security and he has done little to push his immigration reform plan since he proposed it in January. Aides suggested ahead of the meeting between the two leaders, since the toughest of foreign allies in a rela-

tionship marked by the Iraq war, that more sup-

port for the immigration legislation would be forth-

coming from Bush.

The Asia-Pacific gather-

ing was ending Sunday. But the president was remaining in Santiago after the forum's close for an official state visit with Chilean President Ricardo Lagos.

The two nations last year signed a free-trade pact and will likely look for ways to expand the trade between them.

The president also was expected to have a brief

"pull-aside" conversation with Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo during the summit. And on Monday, on the way back to the United States, Bush is stopping in Colombia for a few hours of meet-

ings with President Alvaro Uribe, a conservative whose war against nar-

co-terrorists and leftist rebels has received major funding from the United States.

Taken together, the emphasis on a few allies during Bush's Latin American stay has broad-

er goals for the White House.

The high-profile meet-

ings with the Chilean leader, for instance, are

Bush's Exhibit A for how

free trade can benefit two

countries, said a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity. That could be helpful as Bush pushes for forward movement on a hemisphere-wide accord, resisted by countries such as Brazil and Venezuela.

Meetings with the lead-

ers of Colombia and Peru also could help the presi-

dent focus on lowering trade barriers, as the United States is in the process of negotiating an Andean free-trade pact covering those two nations as well as Ecuador.

But mostly, visiting Colom-

bia allows Bush to

make a very visible state-

ment about the U.S. com-

mitment to fighting ter-

rorism and to highlight American contributions that have helped to bring some stability to a country ravaged by decades of guerrilla war, the official said.

"We put a lot of political support into Uribe," the official said. "We want to underscore that commit-

ment and show that this is something that, number one, is paying big divi-

dends for the American people, it's paying big divi-

dends for the Colombian people."

But turning around the U.S. reputation in South America will not be easy.

Lawmakers hope for intelligence bill

WASHINGTON — Unwilling to con-

cede defeat, congressional leaders expressed hope Sunday that lawmakers could reach a compromise next month to resolve a turf battle that has blocked passage of an overhaul of the nation's intelligence agencies. Much depends on whether President Bush is more active in bringing together the camps in line, they said.

"For us to do the bill in early December it will take significant involvement by the president and the vice president," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn. "It will take real focus on their part."

During a chaotic Saturday that

was intended as the final meeting of the 108th Congress, negotiators announced a compromise on the intelligence bill. Hours later, opposi-

tion from the Republican chairman of two committees stymied the legisla-

tion, which would create a national intelligence director.

Reflecting Pentagon concerns about the legislation, California Rep. Duncan Hunter of the House Armed Services warned that the bill could interfere with the military chain of command and endanger troops in the field. Wisconsin Rep. James Sensenbrenner of the House Judiciary Committee demanded that

the bill deal with illegal immigration.

Congress did manage to pass a $3.5 billion spending bill th

that covers most nondefense and non-security programs for the budget year that began Oct. 1.

But there will be a delay in getting President Bush's signature. The hang-up is because of a single line in the bill that would have given two committees chairmen and their assis-

tants access to people's income tax returns.

The Senate approved a resolution nullifying the idea; House leaders promised to pass it on Wednesday, but, the spending bill will head to the White House.
Ripples continued from page 1

Committee, believes there is a larger message that needs to be spread. "The important thing about this situation is that the genocide is preventable if the international community would act," Corrigan said. "The Sudanese government would likely disarm the Janjaweed militia and prevent them from killing Africans in Darfur if the international community put pressure on it to do so."

The Notre Dame Sudan Steering Committee consists of about 20 student campus-wide with a large number from American International and Africa Faith and Justice Network.

"Most people don't know about it," Corrigan said. "If people at Notre Dame learned of the atrocities, it would shock their conscience, and they would want to take action."

The team of students comprising the steering committee has finalized plans to build awareness. Members of the committee are passing out green ribbons, as part of a larger national campaign which began at Harvard University. One hundred humanitarian and faith-based organizations are now wearing green ribbons.

A ribbon distributed at Notre Dame contains information about Sudan. A petition is also being circulated to sign the ribbons out at Notre Dame. In the meantime, students can find the green ribbons at the Center for Social Concerns.

"Wearing a green ribbon is something for everyone," Corrigan said. "People from engineers to business people to peace studies majors and everyone in-between can wear these ribbons, because we are all responsible for our government's response to terrible situations in our world."

The committee has posted signs around campus with a photo of an innocent victimized young girl reading "Never Again" and is providing facts on the genocide. Currently, the group is also working to place a petition to be read at Sunday dorm masses.

After heightening awareness, the group plans to take action. A ribbon drive set for Jan. 26, the committee will formulate a symposium common activity. The site will help qualifed speakers on the Sudan genocide. A possible speaker is Nick Kristof, a New York Times journalist who has written on Sudan. We are currently inviting speakers and fundraising as we need to raise a great deal of money to bring in the caliber of speakers," Aberger said.

A writing campaign will accompany the panel speakers in the action plan. The steering committee's plan includes writing letters to the U.S. Catholic Bishops and asking them to condemn the genocide and provide a moral voice. "We have the responsibility to write letters to the United Nations called the Darfur situation the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The violence has claimed at least 70,000 lives and has forced 1.8 million people from their homes."

"Most people don't know about this if people at Notre Dame learned of the atrocities, it would shock their conscience, and they would want to take action."

Patrick Corrigan
Notre Dame Sudan Steering Committee

Father Robert Dowd, politci- nal science and Kellogg Institute Faculty member, said the genocide in Darfur is a complex situation. "This is genocide for political reasons. While it seems the genocide has been made, I fear this crisis is once again slipping outside our radar screen. More pressure must be asserted on Sudan," Dowd said. "I'm not a big fan of sanctions. I don't think they all work that well and often they hurt the very people they are intended to help. However, targeted sanctions on the bank account of elites and travel bans on leaders of the Khartoum (Sudanese) government may work."

Daniel Lindley, a political science and peace studies professor, said the United States has classified the situation in Sudan genocide. "We need to really think about the future of the government," Lindley said. "The Khartoum government is still a threat. They are not going to go away just because we put pressure on them."

With more people taking notice throughout the government, organizers on campus are hoping notice will take place.

"I think our effort to raise awareness about Sudan is going to grow exponentially. Every day the green ribbons are more and more of a presence on our campus," Aberger said. "Students recognize that this is a genocide and they understand that promises of "never again" after the holocaust, after Rwanda are empty if we remain bystanders to the current genocide."

Contact Jon Bowling at jonbowling@nd.edu

OIT continued from page 1

problems lies in the fact that surveys have shown students don't value the current system phone systems, and the University is reluctant to extend the service if it won't be used.

"We are cognizant that lifestyles are changing, so we're looking for ideas that if it's not a cell phone or instant messenger or e-mail, is it a mode of communication that students want to or will use," DeWitt said. "That's why there's a hesitancy. We're not sure where the students will be in two or three years out."

DeWitt said that the University was motivated to switch to the new system in part because its current Integrated Phone system contract is set to expire in January 2006.

"If you take the contract expiring a little more than a year from now, we needed to take some type of definitive action," he said. "Instead of reinvesting in a phone system, we saw this as the right time to take Notre Dame down the path they are eventually going to need to go down."

Despite being more technologically advanced, DeWitt said the new system will not add extra cost to what the University currently pays for phone service.

The transition between the current Centrex-based system and VoIP will take place over a period of three to five years, starting with a six-month trial with a limited set of users early next year, said DeWitt.

"If all goes well with the trial, we'll start rolling it out to the balance of the campus," DeWitt said. "The exact order of doing that hasn't been decided, but new construction like the Jordan Hall of Science will get it first."

Regardless of how many users the University connects to the system, DeWitt said he sees a potential problem in users' adaptation to the new technology.

"I don't foresee any problems with this new system," DeWitt said. "I think most of the energy and potential angst will come as people adapt to it," he said. "We know some people are apprehensive about the transition, which is why we're really going to put the emphasis on user training aspect of this."
Legal complaint filed against Russia

MOSCOW — The main shareholder of the embattled oil company Yukos has filed a legal complaint against Russia over the planned auction sale of Yukos’ biggest production unit, the Interfax news agency reported Saturday.

The Russian government announced a day earlier that it will sell a majority stake to production unit Yuganskneft to meet Yukos’ multimillion-dollar back-tax bill.

Group Menatep Ltd, the main Yukos shareholder, took legal action against the Energy Charter, an international treaty for protecting investments in the energy sector, Group Menatep’s managing director Tim Osborne said, according to Interfax.

Osborne said Group Menatep initiated legal action under the auspices of the Energy Charter, an international treaty that establishes a legal framework to protect investments in the energy sector.

Two more airlines plan bids for gate

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said, according to Interfax.
Giving God his kicks

I miss kickball. It can actually be quite calming to reminiscence back to those half­cyen days in elementary school when the most exciting issues on my mind were things like remembering to run to the first base — not third — after bowling the ball into the outfield, and when expressing my attraction to girls was simply as not putting them in the face as they trotted around the bases. Without a doubt, though, the most exhilarating aspect of playground kickball, at least for eight-year-old, pop­ularity-driven narcissists like me, was the guaranteed-to-elicit-tears process of picking teams.

Of course, there were the natural athletes who were always among the first picked. Most often, after that, came some of the more athletic girls — the tomboys, as they so flatteringly referred. Then, the resters were usually rounded out with the necessary picks of the less-coordinated boys, the girly­girls and the kids who would probably choose to be reading Goosebumps books instead of getting their sneakers dirty on a kick­ball field. Finally, there was always the inevitable battle over which team would get stuck with the fat kid, regardless of how good he may or may not have been.

As silly as it sounds, that superficial playground process for choosing sides, in a competition really has left lasting implications on the way in which adult society operates today, especially in the world of politics. America’s two major parties, after all, have been picking and trading players for their teams from a lineup of ideas for the past 150 years. Each desperately searching for those key platform policies that will consistently clear the bases with their powerful kicks. Needless to say, today’s Democratic Party is playing with a bench full of fat kids.

As the 22 percent of Americans who voted for their president based solely on his stance on issues of morality know, Democrats have been stuck with adding to their team two of the worst policies their team assembly, and they ingeniously chose the only inevitable player to ever take part in the game of politics — the holiest of holies, the Creator. Heaven and Earth, He who is what, is the one and only God Almighty. Clearly, by choosing God to bat cleanup for their already loaded lineup of tax cuts and homeland security, the Republicans managed to pull off the equivalent of adding David Beckham’s foot to a kindergarten kick­ball team. Naturally, they proved to be unstoppable against the Democrats' squad of fat camp dropouts.

Simply taking a look back at the election makes it quite clear how much the Republican team relied upon a few grand slams from its Heaven-sent all­star. Prior to the election, several Catholic priests and bishops openly admitted to wanting that divine providence would play a part in returning Bush to the White House, and exit polls from Nov. 2 essentially showed the born-again Evangelical managed to cross the transsubstantiation gap and take 52 percent of the Catholic vote away from a practicing Catholic.

On top of that, while addressing the 2004 National Urban League Conference this summer, the supposed champion candidate of Jehovah announced the federal government’s political and religious partnership with such groups as Boston’s Black Ministries Alliance, the Metro Denver Black Church Initiative and various other minority church groups, and in the end, this helped him piggyback on God’s shoulders once again while garnering the votes of 30 percent of all non-white males and 24 percent of all non-white females — both sharp increases from 2000.

The funny thing is, for decades, the Almighty consistently played the role of the fat kid waiting against the wall in the electoral game of kickball, with no candidate ever wanting to blatantly cross the sacred barrier between church and state. John F. Kennedy, after all, America’s only Catholic presidential candidate, barely won his election because of voter fears that his policies would directly reflect the will of the Vatican, Sen. John F. Kerry, on the contrary, essentially lost this election because he could not convince voters that he was the most Catholic enough.

Clearly, times are changing. God was forced to be this chubby­by­playground wallflower who patiently waits on the bench with the girly-girls and the nerds while the cool trading players for their team from a lineup of ideas for the past 150 years. Each desperately searching for those key platform policies that will consistently clear the bases with their powerful kicks. Needless to say, today’s Democratic Party is playing with a bench full of fat kids.

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I have never been one to trust the supposed rite of springtime that involves one's fiancé turning love— with its flowers and romance— into a constant reminder that things must change and act now. But above all, gentle reader, there is one ultimate reason why the fall is perfect for romance. This reason cannot be measured by the heart nor understood by the mind. No, it only can be explained by the good people who offer their services. I'm talking, of course, about Flex Points.

With the coming of the frost and the Great Pumpkin, and this time every year I begin to run out of Flex Points. This, I have come to find out, is a common complaint among the people of Notre Dame. What I lack in looks and letterman points, the meal plan-melter of hearts. Flex Points, the meal plan-melter of hearts. Of course, if you should fall, there's always virtues such as sensibility, character, tenderness, personality, politeness, kindness, charity, gentleness, empathy, decorum, spirit and graciousness ... but Notre Dame didn't give me 230 of those.

Bob Masters is a senior English major. You may contact him at amasters@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Top ten online time wasters

Taking a look into the top 10 ways that the Internet distracts college students from school

By MARIA SMITH, MOLLY GRIFFIN, CHRISTIE BOLSEN and RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA

Scene Weekly

People have praised the Internet as one of the greatest tools ever to be invented. Its uses never end — communication, learning, e-mailing professors, your papers instead of going to their offices, etc. But even ignoring the fact that the Internet may be dominated by induced Web sites, no one can deny that it has provided endless ways to avoid your work. In honor of the approach of finals, here are some of the biggest time wasters provided by the Internet.

1. AIM

AIM Instant Messenger ranks among the biggest computer time-wasters available today, and it has quickly become an integral part of the lives of many college students. You assign yourself a screenname, and you can “chat” with other people by typing using dialog boxes. You can get a buddy list with all of your friends’ screennames, and you can spend hours checking away messages that people put up when they aren’t around their computer. If you ask most college students, Instant Messenger is more than just a time waster — it’s an integral part of how they communicate with other people.

2. The facebook

Talk to anyone about the Facebook, and you’ll probably hear them complain about how much time they waste on it. Recognize them. Then compare the Facebook to an online yearbook, but get to choose your own photo and create your own profile. If you happen to be surfing the Facebook and suddenly see someone you know, you can invite them to be your friend, and they can confirm or reject you. The Facebook is a spreading presence at universities across the nation, so it’s quite possible for you to spend hours looking for people from your high school that find that boy or girl you like in calculus class or browse through the wide variety of clubs, such as the Awkward White Guy Club or the Committee to Relocate Notre Dame to the Bahamas.

3. ESPN.com

Between the Facebook and AIM, there’s plenty of time wasting to go around. But just in case, ESPN.com is really a top-notch and a home away from home for procrastinators — at least those that happen to be sports fans. Whether you want the latest Nebraska sports, or just want to see video and hear commentary on the fallout between the city of Detroit against the Pacers, ESPN.com is the place to go. On top of all that, it’s easily one of the best sites on the net for live scores, stats galore, columns from sports experts, game wraps and fantasy leagues that’ll keep you occupied until the wee hours of the morning — or at least until 15 minutes before that 8 a.m. biology exam.

4. Online shopping

The irresistibility of online shopping can be summed up in two words — convenience and selection. Even people who are too lazy to get up out of their chairs can max out their credit cards at the Gap, Best Buy and virtually any other store that more motivated shoppers actually walk around in to go shopping. Besides the allure of acquiring a new wardrobe or stereo system while sitting around in your underwear, there’s the fact that you can shop online at stores which might not exist in South Bend except on the World Wide Web.

5. Lyrics

When you need the perfect song for your profile or away message, your other time-wasting Internet pastime, you can now Google those mumbled songs that you hear on the radio. Plus, you can now use search engines to learn lyrics and impressions of your favorite songs. Just enter the words to “Callin’ Baton Rouge.” Whatever your reason for needing to know all the lyrics to any song, you can spend your time at lyricsdepot.com instead of writing your papers.

6. Online Games

Back in elementary and middle school, it was easy to waste hours playing Tetris, solitaire or Snood on the computer. Sadly, nowadays, nothing has changed. At least back then you could take it off your computer. Now, you can look up almost any game online instantaneously, and before you know it another hour of your life is gone.

Particularly addicting games can easily be found at www.ownm.com and even our own www.ndtoday.com. Use with caution, because the closer finals come, the more tempting they are.

7. The Onion

The Onion is to newspapers what “The Daily Show” is to TV news. The Onion mocks everything from politics to the banal details of everyday life, and does so by making everything, no matter how silly, read like a real news article. With new headlines like, “Teen Handled Awesome Responsibility of Defecating on the Kitchen Counter” or editorials titled, “What Happens at Yucca Mountain Stays at Yucca Mountain,” you can waste a lot of time reading entertaining, albeit fake, news. The Onion also offers collections of its news articles in book form for those who wish to spend even more time reading slightly made-up news.

8. homestarrunner.com

If you want to figure out how big a time waster www.homestarrunner.com has become, try making your buddy icon a picture of Trogdor and see how many people recognize a picture of Kofi Annan. The results may be frightening. Homestar Runner and his cartoon buddies can become a true addiction; at first, they may only be mildly funny, but before long, you may be spending the better part of an afternoon sifting through Strong Bad e-mails, cartoon shorts, character videos and the course Teen Girl Squad. You might even feel like the characters have become your friends. But remember, real friends will help you pass your classes.

9. Blogs

The blog scene has been growing continuously over the past several years, and has recently exploded. Admittedly, some of these blogs are useless. Publicizing your weirdness online is a great way to find well-constructed arguments on public policy or international relations, which will never make it to newspapers. Creating a livejournal or a deadjournal is not only an efficient way to waste not only your own time — you can waste the time of many of your friends simultaneously. Keeping in touch with your friends, you say? How many times have you read multiple entries out of a journal of someone you barely know or never met? This is clearly a huge time waster.

10. Maddox

A lot of people only know www.maddox.xmission.com from the famous page “I am better than your kids,” featuring critical commentary on children’s artwork. People who take the time to explore the rest of the site will discover that Maddox is the cruel to every other class of people. The kids’ pictures are funny, but an article about why Christopher Reeve is selfish and arrogant? Criticizing “The Lord of the Rings” for not having renegades? For not having landscapes? How inappropriate can you be?

Maddox is a fantastic tool to have people to hate. The best way to stop him from writing is not, of course, to write hate e-mails and give him fodder for more postings, but people continue to write and he continues to make admittedly humorous, but invariably rude, responses. A sick cycle, you say? Don’t assume you’re immune, and be careful about visiting Maddox.

Contact Maria Smith, Molly Griffin, Christie Bolsen and Rama Gottumukkala at mbolsen @nd.edu, cbbbb @nd.edu, mgriffin @ed .edu and rgotru @nd.edu
A "Fusion" of cultures

Saturday night's Asian Allure impresses a full house with fashion, dancing and more

By JANE MITSCH
Scene Writer

Roots and wings seemed to be persistent themes throughout Saturday night's Asian Allure. After last year's stint off campus, this year's performance came back to its original venue at Washington Hall, but took off with a new theme, "Fusion," featuring a whole new blend of traditional and contemporary fashion, dance and culture.

As in the past, the organizers and performers did not fail to pack the house. Crowd-pleasing featured guests at Asian Allure included TroopND, First Class Steppers and the brand new addition this year, Project Fresh. The emcee Liz Tran best described the "Fusion" performances as "a little bit of old school, a little bit of new school, a lot of crazy school."

Asian Allure model organizers combed campus for versatile clotheshorses to show off traditional, formal and casual fashion. "Old school" couture, belonging to the clubs and the models' own closets, included authentic traditional pieces ranging from India, Korea, Japan, Hawaii and the Philippines. Formal and street clothes were also picked out by the models.

The Vietnamese Student Association featured a new lineup this year with the flirtatious Non-La Bamboo Hat Dance and the humorous New Year Mua Las Dragon Dance. The Filipino American Student Organization performed its perennial crowd-pleaser, Tinikling, with the traditional costumes and steps, as well as a modern version with a hot hip-hop beat and street clothes. The brave men in loincloths also performed the solemn warrior dance, Uya-Uy. The Hawaiian Club performed a graceful hula dance. The Korean Student Association incorporated a rich Korean history with a beautiful fan-dance put on by the women, with a talented contemporary culture as shown by K-Pop's boy band-worthy moves.

THE JAPANESE CLUB presented a seamless blend of traditional and modern culture with its Fisherman's Dance Plus, with everything from kimonos to cheerleaders. The Indian Association once again put on a highly energized, colorful and well-received dance, culminating in an exciting gymnastic feat.

"Since most of us have never been to all these places in Asia, these clubs bring the exotic diversity right here to South Bend," sophomore Indian dancer Himanshu Khodari said. "If the students in the audience were unsure before about the value of diversity on campus, this entertaining show will convince them."

Some of the non-ethnic clubs featured at "Fusion" were also big hits. The Notre Dame Martial Arts Institute demonstrated the skillful grace and threatening strength of Tae Kwon Do and Jujitsu. TroopND brought the freshest moves to Washington Hall, putting the SYR and Boat Club dance floors to shame. The First Class Steppers outdid themselves again this year with more acrobatic moves and participation from the ladies. Last but not least, a brand new club on campus called Project Fresh made its debut, winning the crowd approval right away for an auspicious initiation into the hearts of students.

By now most of the individual ethnic clubs have their own performances, like the Indian Association's Bhangra Bash and FASO's Fiestang, but the coordinators and Asian Allure veterans believe this "Fusion" is still necessary.

"We thought that Asian Allure was a good chance for all the clubs to come together with a united front and feature a multifaceted Asian culture," senior model Joe Tan said. "And we all believe in the diversity dialogue. Not only ethnic diversity but other minority participation hopefully encourages some more students to break out of their comfort zone and see what we can do together."

PHOTOS BY CLAIRE KELLEY

Above, the show featured dancers dressed as a dragon. At right, the Indian Association performs a bhangra dance. Bottom right, the Vietnamese Student Association performs the Non-La Bamboo Hat Dance. Bottom left, the Korean Student Association performs a fan-dance.

Contact Jane Mitsch at jmitsch@nd.edu
Women's Boxing

Women hold first annual Baraka Bouts finals

By TOM DOWRAT, RYAN KIEFER and KATE SERYAK
Sports Writers

Women boxers held the first annual Baraka Bouts at St. Mary's on Saturday night.

"No other school has women's boxing," Emily Rickett said. "It's a good beginning." Whitedef. Paladin, flyweight

In the flyweight championship bout, junior Paige White defeated freshman Meghan Paladin in a split decision, after three one-and-a-half minute rounds.

"You put in a lot of work during the season — long hours," White said. "Getting in the ring and coming out on top in front of a large crowd of people definitely makes it all worthwhile. It was a great match. I'm just excited to have come out on top." Ruiz def. Fickey, featherweight

In the featherweight division, senior Griel Ruiz overpowered junior Jessica Fickey for the title. Heading into the third round, the bout was still close, but Ruizcornered Fickey nearly 30 seconds into the round and dealt several solid blows. Ruiz held on to lead the rest of the way for the title.

Rickett def. Burgin, junior featherweight

Emily Rickett edged senior Sarah Burgin in the final, in a two-point decision. "It's a great workout," first-time boxer Rickett said. "I thought it was a really aggressive bout. It was a good fight."}

Irvine def. McCormick, junior lightweight

Irvine approached Irvine used her experience to her advantage as she defeated freshman Colleen McCormick in a unanimous decision.

The senior was sassy and aggressive, using combinations to gain the upper hand early. McCormick gave a valiant effort, but found herself on the receiving end of too many blows from her opponent. Irvine won the first two rounds to lead the title. Williams def. Jackson, lightweight

A快速发展 marked by early aggression from both fighters, freshman Emily Williams emerged victorious in a unanimous decision over junior Erica Jackson. Williams used her left hand to keep her opponent off-balanced, a strategy that gave her an early advantage in the fight. As the match progressed, she began using a right jab to set up her powerful left, using this technique to pin her opponent against the ropes in the second round.

The final round featured an early spurt, followed by defensive tactics from both fighters. Williams showed the depth she practiced in order to give her the title.

For 22 boxers, their hard work may have come out on top." White def. Paladino, flyweight

White defeated Paladino, 10-8. White dominated all three rounds, as she won the first 10-4, the second 10-6, and the third 10-6.

"It was an excellent event," aBoxes coach John Canavan said. "I think it's a great event for the community and to raise money for the women's basketball cause." eagle def. Miller, senior lightweight

Senior Melanie Irvine used her upper hand. Despite having her opponent off-balance, she was poised to attack from the opening bell. Miller was able to push her opponent off the ropes in the second round.

The final round of the match was the last of the evening. Miller def. Wu, junior lightweight

Junior Aileen Wu faced off against junior Melanie Irvine. Wu was able to push Miller off the ropes in the first round, but Irvine was able to force Miller to the ropes in the final round.

"It was a good fight," Wu said. "I think we just needed to keep pushing and force her to make mistakes".

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In a bout that proved to be one of the more closely contested fights of the night, Senior Melanie Irvine defeated her sophomore classmate Julie Libardi in a split decision. Both fighters threw aggressive combinations in the early rounds, with Irvine landing several punches that sent her opponent to the canvas within the first minute of the fight.

The trend continued in the second round, as Wu was unable to prevent Miller from backing her into the corner and gaining the upper hand. Despite having her strongest performance in the first round, Wu was still forced to go on the defensive as Miller tried unsuccessfully to deliver the knockout blow. Miller's consistency throughout was more sufficient to award her the decision.

Buys def. Wheelan, junior middleweight

Senior captain Amanda Borys was masterful in a textbook performance that resulted in a unanimous decision over fellow freshman Julie Libardi in a unanimous decision over fellow freshman Julie Libardi. Borys came out firing, landing several punches early on that forced the referee to step in and send the combatants to the corner.

Borys continued her dominance after the stoppage and into the second round, landing combinations to the head and body of Wheelan. The junior was on the defensive for the majority of the fight, suffering a big right from Borys in the third round that resulted in another stoppage.

Successive blows to the head of Wheelan led to the third round of the bout. Borys defeated the defending champion in the final round, leading to a unanimous decision.

Williams def. Jackson, lightweight

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Buys def. Wheelan, junior middleweight

Senior captain Amanda Borys was masterful in a textbook performance that resulted in a unanimous decision over fellow freshman Julie Libardi in a unanimous decision over fellow freshman Julie Libardi. Borys came out firing, landing several punches early on that forced the referee to step in and send the combatants to the corner.

Borys continued her dominance after the stoppage and into the second round, landing combinations to the head and body of Wheelan. The junior was on the defensive for the majority of the fight, suffering a big right from Borys in the third round that resulted in another stoppage.

Successive blows to the head of Wheelan led to the third round of the bout. Borys defeated the defending champion in the final round, leading to a unanimous decision.
### College Football Polls

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### Men's Swimming & Diving

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### Men's CCHA Hockey Conference

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### Around the Dial

**NFL**

New England at Kansas City, 9 p.m., ABC

**NCAA Basketball**

Davidson vs. Duke, 7 p.m., ESPN2

BYU vs. Northern Carolina, 9 p.m., ESPN2

### NBA

New York — Ron Artest was suspended for the rest of the season Sunday, and two of his Indiana Pacers teammates must miss a total of 55 games for fighting with fans during a melee that broke out at the end of a game against the Detroit Pistons.

Overall, the NBA issued some of the harshest penalties in its history by banning nine players for more than 140 games. Artest’s suspension is the strongest ever levied for a fight during a game.

The line is drawn, and my guess is that won’t happen again — certainly not by anybody who wants to be associated with our league,” commissioner David Stern said.

Indiana’s Stephen Jackson was suspended for 30 games and Jermaine O’Neal for 25. Detroit’s Ben Wallace — whose shove of Artest after a foul led to the five-minute fracas — drew a six-game ban, while Pacers guard Anthony Johnson got five.

“I think we should get them,” Pistons coach Larry Brown said. “And we lost our heart and soul.”

Four players — Indiana’s Reggie Miller, and Detroit’s Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell and Derrick Coleman — were suspensed one game apiece for leaving the bench during the initial fracas.

All of the suspensions are without pay. Artest will lose approximately $5 million in salary, while O’Neal’s suspension will cost him nearly 25 percent of his $14.8 million salary for the current season.

Players union director Billy Hunter, calling the penalties excessive, said an appeal would be filed Monday.

“We have to make the point that there are boundaries in our game,” Stern said. “There are always rules that have always been immutable, is the boundary that separate the fans from the court. Players cannot lose control and move into the stands.”

Artest, O’Neal and Jackson began serving their suspensions Saturday.

Artest’s penalty was the most severe because of his checkered history. Artest being provoked into running into the stands by a fan who threw a drink didn’t appear to be a mitigating factor in Stern’s decision.

“It was unanimous, one to nothing,” Stern said.

### IN BRIEF

Brehaut wins Pebble Beach Invitational by one stroke

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Jeff Brehaut made a 2-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole Sunday for a final-round 3-under 69 and a one-stroke victory over Kevin Sutherland at the Pebble Beach Invitational.

Brehaut, who is winless in five PGA Tour seasons, finished at 9-under 279 at Pebble Beach Golf Links and was one of just three golfers who broke par in windy conditions.

The event included players from the LPGA, Champions, Nationwide and PGA Tours, as well as mini-tour players, club pros and amateurs.

“All of us were in trouble there,” said Brehaut, who finished 19th on the money list with $448,914. “I hung in there and did what I had to do.”

Strong winds blew throughout the round, leading to firm greens and comparisons to the course’s conditions when it hosted the U.S. Open.

“‘The wind was tough, and it was a tough day to get a birdie and an easy day to get bogeys,’ said Brehaut, who earned $60,000 of the $300,000 purse. ‘The final putt was a perfect, easy putt and I knew I had to do something with it.’

Freshman point guard leads Virginia over Arizona

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Highly touted freshman Sean Singletary came to Virginia to play in the ACC. He arrived at a school picked to finish eighth in the conference and not expected to make much noise.

Two games into his college career, the former Philadelphia schoolboy star is already working to change that. He had 13 points and made several big plays Sunday night as the Cavaliers beat No. 10 Arizona 78-60.

“We just have something to prove,” the 6-foot point guard said. “I know a lot of people are overlooking us. They picked us to be in the bottom of the ACC. We’re just going to stay humble about this win.

“We’re in the beginning of the season, so it’s nothing to be all hyped up about. We’re going to stay humble and go to practice and work hard.”

The Cavaliers (2-0) looked like the more highly touted team against the Wildcats (2-1), who left after the game for New York and a Preseason NIT semifinals game against Michigan on Wednesday night.

Eagles move to 9-1 behind McNabb’s four touchdowns

PHILADELPHIA — Rattled, hurried and battersed for 2 1/2 quarters, Donovan McNabb kept his pulse stayed in the pocket and picked apart Washington’s secondary.

McNabb tied a career high with four touchdowns passes, leading the Philadelphia Eagles to a 28-6 victory over the Redskins on Sunday. Three of those scoring passes came in the second half.

The Eagles are 9-1 for the first time since the 1980 season, when they opened 11-1 and went to the Super Bowl.
IRISH DESERVED MORE IN WINS

PITTSBURGH — The Irish were gyped.
Junior Lauren Brewster earned a unanimous selection to the All-Big East First team and was named Sports Writer Tournament MVP while junior Lauren Kelly and senior Emily Louison garnered spots on the All-Big East Second team and honorable mention respectively. Still, somehow that doesn’t seem sufficient.

Notre Dame was the first Big East Champion ever to fall short of a major award, as Pittsburgh collected honors for the player of the year and rookie of the year. It is surprising that Big East coaches were not able to determine the awards’ recipients — didn’t recognize more Irish players.

Notre Dame has proven itself more than deserving of accolades and praise throughout the season. The Irish arounded their case this weekend, handing losses to the undefeated Boston College and Pittsburgh teams — both of which anticipated wins against Notre Dame for the Big East Championship. After defeating the Irish earlier this season, Boston College expected to repeat its success and cruise to a spot in the championship game. Pittsburgh had its sights set on a back-to-back championship after beating Notre Dame last year at the Joyce Center en route to a Big East title. But the Irish had other plans.

Boston College kept Notre Dame at arm’s length throughout the first game, capitalizing on the collective frustration of Notre Dame’s defense. The Eagles recorded a .083 hitting percentage, just seven team kills, and ten errors.

Kelley, freshmen Ashley Tarutis and Adrianna Nasutik, Brewster and senior captain Meg Henican each chipped in three digs and sophomore Danielle Herndon also added a dig to the Irish defense.

The Irish played textbook offense as well, finishing with a .200 on hitting and 17 kills in the second game, led by Louison, Tarutis, and Brewster. Tarutis contributed 12 sets, creating opportunities for each of her teammates to take their share of the action. Brewster tallied nine kills and registered .900 on hitting and Louison followed up with three kills and .286 on hitting.

Bouncing back from such a heartbreaking loss in the first game is a noteworthy accomplishment for any team. But what makes this recovery especially praiseworthy is the circumstances the Irish had to face.

Heading into the Big East Championships, the Irish set lofty expectations for themselves. As the first-seeded team, Notre Dame was expected to repeat as Big East Champions. The Irish won the 200 medley relay and also took part in the first-place 200-medley relay. The Irish rotated their swimmers out of their normal events during the meet but won on Friday despite missing some of their top competitors, who were unable to miss class on Friday but joined their teammates in Saturday’s events. Swimmers such as Krakowski, who were used to swimming key strokes in relays, were rotated to individual stroke events and they performed very well.

“Balance and depth are our two best features,” Welsh said.

“We were not limited by the number of swimmers we put in each event, we did a bunch of things we hadn’t done before. But it was all within the structure of skating how we supplement what we’ve done so that we get better.”

Karakowski, the current Notre Dame record holder in the 200-yard freestyle, helped his teammates Doug Haslan, Tim Randolph and Louis Cavadoz post a first-place time of 1:36.96 in the 200 medley relay. He would go on to win the 100-yard butterfly race, with a time of 51.51, and set the pace again in the 100-yard freestyle (47.88) event.

The 100-yard freestyle race proved to be one of the two points towards the Irish as the Irish claimed seven of the top eight spots in the event. Junior Tyler Greda led the way in the other race, winning the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 59.06, as Notre Dame took the top nine spots in the event.

“I think one of the key features of this team is that they are a very focused group of guys,” Welsh said.

“We have been focused on our ambitions and our desires for achievement ever since the first time we met in August and we’ve been able to sustain that in each one of our races.

“The Irish will take to the water again on Dec. 4 as they return to the site of the Irish’s first Big East Championship to participate in the Notre Dame Invitational. The annual championship-style meet will close out the team’s fall semester campaign and it will be the tenth yard as the Irish have hosted the event on the first weekend after Thanksgiving.

“We think of it as our final exam for the first semester,” Welsh said. “We look at it as a visit to participate in that meet. I think what we all are learning is that we have a chance to be a pretty good team.”

Contact Rama Gottumukkal at rgottumu@nd.edu

MEN’S SWIMMING

IRISH DEFEND RANK VERSUS LOUISVILLE

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Sports Writer

With a national ranking to defend, the Irish wanted in time to present the new direction for their program over the weekend.

Swimming at Louisville in a three-session, championship-style meet, No. 21 Notre Dame (6-1) finished strong in its first-ever meet as a nationally-ranked team, posting a 242-117 victory against the Cardinals.

“That was very exciting news for us but we’re trying to pay absolute no attention to the ranking,” Irish head coach Tim Welsh said.

“We’re glad that the ranking happened and we think that it gives some validity to what our ambitions are for the year. But we know that ranking doesn’t make us one hundredth of a second faster and we know that if we’re not faster in February, we’re not going to be happy.”

After being tied with Louisville 45-45 after Friday’s events, Notre Dame came out strongly and pulled away on Saturday. The Irish won 11 of the 12 events on the final day of the meet, garnering strong performances from senior Frank Krakowski. Krakowski led the way for the Irish, winning both the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard freestyle and also taking part in the first-place 200-medley relay.

The Irish rotated their swimmers out of their normal events during the meet but won on Friday despite missing some of their top competitors, who were unable to miss class on Friday but joined their teammates in Saturday’s events.

The Irish played textbook offense as well, finishing with a .200 on hitting and 17 kills in the second game, led by Louison, Tarutis, and Brewster. Tarutis contributed 12 sets, creating opportunities for each of her teammates to take their share of the action. Brewster tallied nine kills and registered .900 on hitting and Louison followed up with three kills and .286 on hitting.

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Monday, November 22, 2004

The Observer • SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

Irish middle hitter Lauren Brewster blocks a ball in the Irish game against Pittsburgh over the weekend.

Irish middle hitter Lauren Brewster blocks a ball in the Irish game against Pittsburgh over the weekend.

Irish head coach Tim Welsh said.
ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Not this time

Notre Dame beats Connecticut, averting its only loss of the season

By DAN TAPETILLO

The No. 2 Irish turned in another impressive performance during the third round of the NCAA tournament with a 2-0 shutout over conference rival Connecticut, who dealt the Irish their only loss of the year in the Big East Tournament.

From the beginning of the match, Notre Dame controlled the game offensively. At the end of the first half, the Irish held a 12-3 lead in shots made.

However, this dominance offensively did not help the team to convert these early opportunities into points. The team struggled to score until the 66th minute of the game, when senior Candace Chapman headed a ball in off a cross from freshman midfielder Ashley Jones for her 11th goal of the season.

"She comes on immediately and handles it like a veteran," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said of Jones. "The hard part is now (because of the Irish talent) getting her the minutes she really needs and deserves. She just gets better each week. I thought she was fantastic tonight."

Despite the difficulties in scoring up until the goal made by Chapman, Waldrum was not troubled with the team's inability to put the ball into the net.

"The whole night I felt like we created enough chances that we would get one," Waldrum said. "I felt like we had a good handle on the game from the opening whistle."

The Irish extended its control on the field, into second half by scoring another goal.

ND CROSS COUNTRY

Irish travel to Terre Haute for NCAA Championships

By STEVE COVER

Notre Dame has consistently proven itself to be among the best in the nation this year. Today at the NCAA championships, the team looks to continue that pattern.

With second-place finishes at the Great Lakes Regional, the No. 3 ranked men's team and the No. 6 women's team qualified for the NCAA championships along with 31 other teams.

Despite beginning the season unranked, the men's team has delivered in big meets — most notably a one-point victory over Georgetown to claim the Big East title.

"It's been an amazing year to go from unranked to fifth," Irish coach Joe Piane said. "They've been on a high for the past six weeks, and we hope to continue that for the next five or six days."

The women's team began the season with high expectations but has had to overcome injuries and other setbacks along the way.

After missing the regional race with a sore foot, star runner Molly Huddle may still run today. Huddle had been on a high for the past six weeks, and we hope to continue

ND VOLLEYBALL

Wins over Pitt, BC give ND title

By MIKE GILLOON

PITTSBURGH — Their coach likes to call them the "two Laurers." Others just call them Big East champions.

Notre Dame swept Pittsburg 30-23, 30-26, 30-26 to win the Big East Tournament title behind the consistent, strong play of Lauren Brewer and Lauren Kelbley. Brewer, named the tournament's most outstanding player, recorded five blocks in the championship game.

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Batteast named MVP of WNIT in Irish win

By JOE HETTLER

On the last offensive night of her career, it was Jacqueline Batteast's defensive that sealed Notre Dame's victory.

"We needed some great defensive play tonight," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "Jacqueline really stepped up tonight."

"Jacqueline Batteast tallied a career-high 32 points and made a critical block of a potential winning basket late in the game, " McGraw said.

Irish forward Jacqueline Batteast goes up for a shot.
Champs
continued from page 20
pionship match and disrupted the Panther offensive attack all afternoon.
"Lauren [Brewster] does so much for us," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "She's setting outside the back row, playing defense and good serving ... I'm just happy for her and happy for the team. It'll be a fun bus ride back home." 
Kelbely should enjoy a rest on that bus as she played this weekend for the first time since Nov. 5 due to a nagging foot injury. However, her play was anything but painful. She led the Irish in kills for the match with 14 and had only two errors on 35 swings for a .425 hitting percentage. "It's really exciting (to win the tournament) because it's my first year here," Stasiuk said. Neither team performed particularly wellensively as the Irish and the Panthers hit only .191 and .225 respectively. However, Notre Dame's defense forced Pittsburgh into making 24 errors. "When your side is consistent it's easy to force errors on the other team," Stasiuk said. "We just controlled our side of the net and let their errors come." 
Notre Dame will head to California for the Baden Thanksgiving Tournament Friday and Saturday against UC-Irvine and Long Beach State. The NCAA tournament then starts Dec. 2 and Brown feels the Irish have a shot against whoever they draw. "We know that we're playing breyer's stellar second game in which the junior hit .900 with nine kills on 10 attempts and no errors. She could not have come through at a better time. The Irish looked sluggish in the game one loss, hitting only .222 with five errors and barely threatening the Eagles.
[Brewster] just decided that [losing the match] was not going to happen," Brown said. "She said 'I'm going to take over' and she obviously has the ability to do that." 
Kelbely was thrilled to be a part of a win on Saturday. "It felt wonderful to get back on the court," Kelbely said after posting a match-high 29 kills with only three errors for a hitting percentage of .425. "I've been waiting for this moment all week. It's really hard to be on the sidelines and watch your teammates play." 
"(Kelbely) came up with a lot of really key settings," Brown said. "I just think that the team is more comfortable and plays with a little more confidence when she's in there."

The Eagles scored the Irish defense with a .316 hitting percentage in game one. But Brewer's five blocks and Meg Henican's three digs held Boston College to a percentage of .083 in the pivotal game two. The outstretched arms of Kelbely and Emily Lorenzen at the net forced the Eagles into making 10 hitting errors compared with only two for the Irish.

Notre Dame 3, Boston College 1
Author: HILLARY THORNTON/The Observer

NOTRE DAME — Kills 74 (Kelbley 20), Assists 36 (Tarutis 25), Digs 64 (Henican 22), Blocks 13.5 (Brewster 6), Hitting percentage 329 (Cooper 324), Aces 3 (Tarutis 11)
BOSTON COLLEGE — K ills 74 (Anderson 22), Digs 75 (McGuire 31), Blocks 19 (McGruer 9), Hitting percentage 168 (Niemczewski 57), Aces 7 (Davies 2)

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

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Questions? Contact Marianne at ujournal@nd.edu

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Monday, November 22, 2004

Notre Dame's Candace Chapman celebrates her goal against Connecticut Saturday night in the 2-0 Irish win.

Notre Dame 3, Boston College 1 at the FITZGERALD FIELD HOUSE
NOTRE DAME — K ills 25 (Tarutis 20), Assists 30 (Tarutis 25), Digs 64 (Henican 22), Blocks 13 (Handy 4), Hitting percentage .329 (Cooper 324), Aces 3 (Tarutis 11)
BOSTON COLLEGE — Kills 25 (Anderson 10), Assists 25 (Tarutis 20), Digs 75 (McGuire 31), Blocks 19 (McGruer 9), Hitting percentage .168 (Niemczewski 57), Aces 7 (Davies 2)

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

Notre Dame's Candace Chapman celebrates her goal against Connecticut Saturday night in the 2-0 Irish win.
Team responds to challenge
Irish use late 12-0 run to put away Buckeyes

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associated Press

Monday, November 22, 2004
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Hockey

OSU continued from page 20

game-tying 3-point attempt from Ohio State's Cailly Matter with two seconds left to secure Notre Dame's third win in a row, 1-0, against the Buckeyes.

"I think the biggest play of the game for us was 62-54 with 5:18 remaining when Matter made a layup," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "She had to run 20 to 25 feet to get that. She had a spec- 

tacular night, a career night. I thought she really huddled we said "Go to Jackie," no matter what play we're running." McGraw continued. "We were 62-54 with 5:18 remaining when Matter made a layup. The Buckeyes did not score on their next possession and the game as Notre Dame went on a 12-0 run from the come-from-behind win.

Ba teast started the run by staking two free throws and then converting a 3-point play that put the Irish ahead 62-54. All American had her back to the basket and defender Stephanie Burrow on the left side of the court before spinning toward the baseline and banking in the free throw to make it 62-59.

After Michaela Claren Allen grabbed the rebound on Ohio State's 9th possession, Notre Dame guard Megan Duffy drilled a tough 3-point shot with a defender's hand in her

face to tie the game at 62-62 and send the 5000 fans at the Joyce Center into a frenzy.

"I was most proud of when we got down eight in the second half. We made our run," McGraw said. "We didn't give up. We didn't panic. Tighten up on defense and we were able to get the ball to the other team. We did a lot of smart things. We didn't turn the ball over at all. Said Ba teast, who was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament and the all-tournament team moments after the game as Notre Dame faced the Buckeyes.

Duffy, who was also named to the all-tournament team, finished the game with 15 points and added six assists. Cooke also had an uncharacteristic nine turnovers. None other than Foucault Irish scored more than six points.

Ohio State was led by center Jessica Davenport, who was named unapplicable for the game, en route to 23 points on 7-10 shooting. Notre Dame didn't allow her to take a shot during the final four minutes of the game.

NOTRE DAME 64, Ohio State 55
NOTRE DAME (4-0, 0-0) Ohio State (3-3, 0-0)

Notre Dame 3-17 2-17 5-17 11-59 Ohio State 1-11 9-29 0-0 0-0 0-0


Contact Joe Heitler at jheitler@nd.edu


Irish use late 12-0 run to put away Buckeyes
As Notre Dame found out Friday night, that win is not an easy one.

But the Irish are safe after their first regular season game for a half against Harvard. Overall, the Irish were not bad. Notre Dame's first test — a home game against a ranked team that finished 4-23 last season — exposed areas of concern, even for a team whose senior point guard called for 20 regular season wins.

The Crimson out-rebounded the Irish and outscored them in the first half, those easy baskets out of nowhere. The Irish can rarely afford here and there.

We had a blowout, just because I thought we had more talent than they would have liked (No. 25 Stanford 93-71)," Brey said. "But Quinn went a combined 4-for-9 in the second half to get eight to a 25-11 advantage. We never led by more than two seconds. The Irish were only good enough because of Quinn's efforts on offense. Quinn's performance (19 turnovers)."

In the end, that's all that matters. "It's the first game of the season, it's one of those games where ... we feel like we put a lot of pressure on ourselves," Jordan Cornette said. "We were looking up at the scoreboard and saw we had a comfortable lead. I don't think in college basketball no matter who you are playing, you can get comfortable. It's going to be a battle for 40 minutes. I think we got up double digits and thought we started playing comfortable and you can't do that.

When you smell blood you have to go for the kill."
FEARED OR LOVED? CITY OR COUNTRY? DOG OR CAT?*

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SOMETHING TO PROVE

After an early exit last year, the toughest defense in the country is focused on leading the Irish to a national championship.
Irish hope to avoid the pain of penalty kicks

Heartbreak bears a variety of masks. When Michigan midfielder Mike White beat Irish goalkeeper Chris Sawyer in the deciding fifth-round of penalty kicks in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament last season, the Irish and their faithful were reunited with the crushing blow of the tie-breaking shutdown loss.

Almost a year later, in the quarterfinals of the Big East Championships Nov. 6, the Irish found themselves swallowing the same bitter pill. After a pair of early-season, hostile contested losses to the No. 2 seed Indiana (14-4-1) and Big East rival West Virginia (12-7-1) — both on the road — nearly dropped the Irish out of the NSCAA/Adidas rankings. No. 5 Notre Dame (13-2-3) hit its stride, rattling off 11 consecutive victories without a loss (9-0-2).

However, the double-edged sword of tournament soccer allows for advancement without victory and elimination without defeat.

Heading into the Big East Championships as the No. 1 seed courtesy of a regular season conference title — the program’s first since joining the Big East in 1995 — Notre Dame’s bid to win the conference championship for a second consecutive season earlier this month was short-lived. Hosting No. 8 seed Seton Hall at Alumni Field Nov. 6, the Irish battled the Pirates for 110 minutes — the longest overtime minutes plus a pair of 10-minute golden-goal overtime periods — yet neither squad was able to find the back of the net.

The necessary evil of penalty kicks was the consequence. Removing defense — the goalkeeper — from the equation, penalty kicks function not as an appropriate measure of a team’s talent, but instead, of nerve, and often, sheer luck.

Matching Seton Hall shot-for-shot through the first seven rounds, the heavily-favored Irish continued to stage off elimination. But when Pirate Matt Salotti slotted the ball past Sawyer in the eighth round and the Notre Dame mid defender Nate Norman’s attempt sailed over the crossbar, the Irish found themselves with a tally in the tie column — and a “thanks for playing” ticket home.

In the end, then, if the Irish are to continue to build on the impressive foundation coach Bobby Clark has built over the past four years and move into the Elite Eight for the first time in program history, not only will the vaunted Notre Dame defense — the undisputable backbone of this Irish team — need to continue to play the asphyxiating shutdown defense that has resulted in the nation’s lowest goals-against average, but it’s equally essential the young, growing Irish offensive unit take advantage of prime scoring opportunities and finish those chances — a problem that has plagued the team for much of the season.

Without a doubt, the seeds of a potent Irish attack to buttress a nationally-acclaimed lock-down defense are present. Sophomore forward Justin McGeeeny has paced the offense thus far this season, posting 12 points (five goals, two assists), while classmate midfielder Ian Elphrington has flashed the unique ability to both set up goals (with a team-high five assists) and find the back of the net, himself (three goals).

Factor in a pair of talented freshman forwards in Joe Lapira (three goals, two assists) and Alex Yoshinaga (three goals, two assists), Irish co-leader in goals scored junior forward Tony Megna (five goals, two assists), senior co- leader in goals scored senior forward Tony Megna (five goals, two assists), senior and the veteran leadership of senior midfielder Luke Bouche (two goals, four assists), and it’s apparent the Irish have the ability to score — they simply must capitalize on opportunities, albeit a task easier said than done.

While an Irish defense that yielded a meager seven goals in 18 contests affords Notre Dame slightly larger room for error on the offensive side of the ball than the typical soccer squad, following last year’s heart-breaking Sweet 16 exit and Nov. 6’s stunning upset loss to a clearly inferior Seton Hall squad no one needs to remind the Irish of the potentially crushing consequences that an offensive drought would have on a post-season NCAA Championship run — or, should Notre Dame fail to put away the opposition during both regulation and overtime, the fickle nature of tournament soccer’s shootout.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Puglisi at mpuglisi@nd.edu.

Forward Justin McGeeeny battles for possession of the ball in Notre Dame’s 30-0 victory over Michigan at Alumni Field in October.

The Mustangs won the 2004 Missouri Valley Conference regular-season and tournament titles.

The Irish failed in the Big East final Red Storm by a 1-0 score at LaGuardia, N.Y. over fall break.

The top seeds in the NCAA tournament get a bumper sticker to go with their automatic bids and a No. 1 seed for the second consecutive year.

While an Irish defense that yielded a meager seven goals in 18 contests affords Notre Dame slightly larger room for error on the offensive side of the ball than the typical soccer squad, following last year’s heart-breaking Sweet 16 exit and Nov. 6’s stunning upset loss to a clearly inferior Seton Hall squad no one needs to remind the Irish of the potentially crushing consequences that an offensive drought would have on a post-season NCAA Championship run — or, should Notre Dame fail to put away the opposition during both regulation and overtime, the fickle nature of tournament soccer’s shootout.

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The top seeds in the NCAA tournament get a bumper sticker to go with their automatic bids and a No. 1 seed for the second consecutive year.
They want a national title—and the nation's toughest defenders are ready to prove they can bring it home.

By KATE GALES

Seven.

If a defense is measured by the number of goals it allows, then the Notre Dame defense is second to none. In 163 shots over 18 games, goalkeeper Chris Sawyer has reached the back of net just seven times with the tangible proof that the rock-solid Irish back line has broken down.

For anyone without a calculator handy, that works out to a 9.37 goals-against average—the lowest in the country and a crucial factor in the Irish record of 12-3-3. So what's the secret to this remarkable success?

"It's really just the defense plays as a whole," said Sawyer. "It's really the concept of team defense that we work on every single day at practice—it starts right up with the forwards and gets all the way to the back."

The three senior co-captains—Sawyer, Jack Stewart and Kevin Goldthwaite—have led the team on and off the field, but particularly in their stingy defensive play. Stewart, a central defender, has controlled the danger zone as well as notch two goals in crucial early-season matches. Goldthwaite, the left back, missed the first seven games of the season with a knee injury. Since his return, the Irish have given up just one goal.

Add in Christopher High work­ing the middle with Stewart and Ryan Miller patrolling the right side, and you see a team that allowed an average of just 9.1 shots per game this year.

The numbers they've put up aren't too shabby for a program that is making history every year under coach Bobby Clark. In his fourth season with the Irish, Clark emphasizes the importance of defensive mindsets.

"It's been coach Clark instilling that defense wins championships," Stewart said, "and all the guys on the team's dedication to our defensive shape and not getting beat off the transition."

A loss to defending national champion Indiana, who is seeded second in this year's NCAA tournament, marked the only game in which the Irish have given up multiple goals.

The Irish rebounded quickly from the early-season setback, going 8-1-1 in conference play and winning the Big East regular-season title. A strong defense is undoubtedly part of that.

"Our back four is absolutely amazing" Sawyer said. "They're absolutely amazing—the best back four in the country."

Aside from their primary responsibility of protecting Sawyer in the net, the four backs have contributed to a rebuilding offense throughout the season. Stewart and High both put up two goals and Goldthwaite registered two assists.

Everyone on our team is at license to go forward but everyone must also take the responsibilities of defending," Clark said.

The team attitude is also reflected in the player's individual achievements.

The Irish brought a gold mine's worth of hardware back to South Bend after the Big East Conference named its top awards for the 2004 season—with particularly glowing recognition of the defense.

Sawyer repeated as Goalkeeper of the Year and Jack Stewart was named Defensive Player of the Year.

Goldthwaite joined his co-captains on the first-team all-conference. On the second team, central midfielder Greg Dalby, outside midfielder Ian Eshertington and forward Justin McGeeney were honored.

According to Clark, the awards reflect on the depth of the program.

"We're very conscious that individual honors reflect the general success of the program," he said. "We take it really as a team honor—we put it down to plus for the team."

Clark's players reflect similar team-oriented attitudes.

"It's more of a tribute to the team than it is to me," Stewart said. "The guys like Dalby and the mids and the forwards make our job as a defense a lot easier."

Named an All-American last year, Sawyer credited the strong defense as crucial to bringing home the Goalkeeper of the Year title.

"My award, and Jack's award as well, is really a compliment to the entire defense," Sawyer said. "I'm sure I wouldn't be in a position to get an award if we didn't have such a low goals-against average."

In a group that emphasizes teamwork to such an extent, individual awards seem peripheral to the overall goal of winning an NCAA championship.

"Whether it's the top player on the team or the practice player on our squad, everyone has contributed to getting the team to where it is," Clark said. "It's a team game."

It's the all-pervasive sense of the teamwork concept that makes the Irish believe this could be their year to bring home the most coveted trophy in collegiate soccer.

"Our main goal from the beginning of the season was to win a national championship and be the best team in the country," Stewart said. "For me and the other seniors on this team, that's what our job is."

After a heartbreaking penalty-kick elimination by Seton Hall in the first round of the Big East tournament, they have something extra to prove, with a No. 5 seeding in the Big Dance.

"We're positive about making it this far, and this is our time," Sawyer said. "We'll be perfectly fine."

In fact, an early exit from the conference title might be just what the doctor ordered for the Irish if they are to achieve this goal. The last time of regular-season play, a nasty stomach virus ran through much of the team, leaving them in Health Services instead of the practice field. Fully recovered, the Irish were able to spend the extra time out getting into top physical shape.

"Our team is, I think, right here it should be," Sawyer said. "It was really completely focused on taking this one game at a time. I think we have almost two and a half weeks off before this game could really be a blessing in disguise."

The Irish are ready to move ahead, however—and they don't plan to stop anytime soon.

"[After the hard work and dedication we put into it ... the guys are] ready to come out and show the country what Notre Dame soccer is all about," Jack Stewart Irish captain

The Irish tied that game 0-0 and were eliminated on penalty kicks from the Big East Tournament.

"It's been coach Clark instilling the defense is something extra to prove, even with a program."

The Irish are ready to move ahead, however—and they don't plan to stop anytime soon.

"If the guys are not to be ready to come out and show the country what Notre Dame soccer is all about," Jack Stewart Irish captain

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

Outside defender Ryan Miller carries the ball up field against Connecticut on Oct. 30. The Irish defeated the Huskies 2-0, scoring twice late in the second half.
Offense has stepped up to season’s challenges
Young players and team attitude prove crucial to team’s successes in 2004

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

Filling the cleats of last year’s quick-striking offense wouldn’t be easy for any collegiate soccer team.

For a young and opportunistic Irish offense, however, the challenge was a welcome one.

“I think our team, our young players have stepped up a lot this year,” said midfielder Ian Etherington, who has registered three goals and five assists so far in 2004. “The leadership on our team helped our young players to step up so quickly, they were able to guide us.”

“A lot of people have played well all season. It obviously has been nice,” coach Bobby Clark said. “Someone had to step up due to injuries and one thing or another.”

The score sheet points have been spread generously among the front line and midfielder players, with forward Justin McGeeen leading the team with five goals and two assists.

In the 13 games he played this season, forward Tony Megna put up five goals, and Alex Yoshinaga and Joe Lapira added three goals and two assists apiece.

In addition to Etherington, midfield players Nate Norman, Luke Boughen, John Menzino and John Stephens added crucial points to the Irish score board.

“All our midfield players look to get on the score sheet,” Clark said.

With Greg Dalby, the team’s central midfielder playing in a more defensive mindset, the outside mids are able to penetrate deep into the opponent’s territory — and that has been key to Irish success so far.

“I think the reason we’re so successful is that everyone’s out for the team, for all 26 or 27 of us — I don’t think anyone on this team is playing for himself,” Ian Etherington Irish midfielder

The defense has been crucial to offensive efforts, and not always in immediately visible ways. Although Christopher Highb and Jack Stewart combined for four goals this year, the defensive strength of the team allows midfielders to become more involved in scoring plays.

“I think [they] get some goals in this run in.”

Bobby Clark
Irish coach

“The leadership on our time helped our young players to step up so quickly.”

Ian Etherington
Irish midfielder

“I think the reason we’re so successful is that everyone’s out for the team, for all 26 or 27 of us — I don’t think anyone on this team is playing for himself.”

Central defender Jack Stewart challenges the Georgetown goalfkeeper in a Sept. 18 game. Defenders like Stewart played important roles in scoring plays for the Irish this season.

“Everyone has to be challenged to get forward and attack, but everyone has to take up the cause of being good defenders,” Clark said.

As the season progressed, however, different players were able to step into the role of go-to man when it came to finding the net.

“Our team is just team-oriented — we try to stick and play all together,” Etherington said. “I think the reason we’re so successful is that everyone’s out for the team, for all 26 or 27 of us — I don’t think anyone on this team is playing for himself. Everyone’s coming out and playing his hardest for every other player on the team.”

Despite its impressive accomplishments so far, the team is ready for more.

“Our plan is to win the national championship and if we’re going to win that — the loss to Seton Hall — it just helps us realize that every game’s important,” Etherington said. “We played really good that game, we were just kind of unlucky and it doesn’t really hurt our mindset.”

He also noted the positive aspect of a lot of the additional time to prepare for the most important target — the NCAA tournament.

“We just had a lot of time to prepare, just preparing for the tournament,” Etherington said.

“Finishing 6-1-1 in the Big East conference means that the Irish know tough competition. Six teams from the conference received berths in the NCAA tournament. The Irish aren’t looking to change their agenda — just step up the firepower.”

For a team that has scored 28 goals in the past 18 games, it should come naturally by now.

“I think [if] we start scoring a lot more goals and just creating more opportunities, we’ll have a lot easier opportunity to win the national championship,” Etherington said.

Behind a hungry young offense, this may be the just team to do it.

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Left, midfielder Ian Etherington lines up for the second goal in a 4-0 Irish victory over Loyola-Chicago on Oct. 3 while teammate Tony Megna crashes the net. Right, freshman Alex Yoshinaga battles a Cal State-Fullerton defender at Alumni Field on Sept. 12 in a 0-0 early season matchup.