An unidentified man gets into a car after a jet carrying athletic director Kevin White and University President-elect Father John Jenkins landed in South Bend early Friday morning.

Merchants expect strong holiday sales

By KATIE PERRY
News Writer

While a new football coach had topped the Christmas wish-lists of many Donors this season, the announcement may have caused Notre Dame students to lean toward more materialistic gift-giving endeavors and — in concert with the rest of the nation — increase their holiday spending.

Consistently in October's consumer surveys, which indicated an overall decrease in consumer confidence, recent economic studies demonstrate a more optimistic prediction of the 2004 holiday shopping season.

A poll by the National Retail Federation found that the average American Christmas shopper will spend over $700 this season, a 4.5 percent increase from last year.

The effects of increased consumer confidence were felt in Mishawaka this past weekend as local retailers experienced a flurry of holiday shoppers.

"Last weekend was very busy locally and we have every reason to believe that a 4 to 5 percent increase over last year is achievable," president and CEO of the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce Mark Eagan said.

South Bend and its surrounding areas form a regional shopping destination that garners customers from a 50-mile radius. It is the second largest retail concentration in the state outside of Indianapolis, said Eagan.

One of the major shopping destinations in this region that experienced an increase in sales this weekend was the University Park Mall.

According to mall manager Sara Zappia, heightened consumer confidence forced customers to believe that a 4 to 5 percent increase will translate to the Internet.

"The Internet is very unique compared to other theatre," Peltier said. "We depend on the audience's reaction to us and it is very unique compared to other theatre."

Donors react to Ty firing

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

In the immediate wake of head football coach Tyrone Willingham's firing on Tuesday, reaction among alumni regarding donations to the University appeared to be mixed, according to students making solicitation phone calls Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

Some alumni said they would increase contributions as a result of the firing, while others criticized the action and said they intended to see DONORS/page 8

Madrigal Dinners ring in holidays at SMC

By DANIELLE LERNER
News Writer

The trumpets are sounding in Renaissance fashion as the Saint Mary's music department presents the annual Madrigal Dinners tonight at 7 p.m. through Sunday in Regina Hall.

Now in its 32nd year, the event has become one of the College's signature events, offering both food and live entertainment to ring in the holiday season.

Richard Baxter, director of special events at Saint Mary's, says turnout for the event is always high, especially among members of surrounding communities. He said ticket sales continue to increase as the event approaches.

"People really look to it as the beginning of the Advent season," Baxter said. "It is a beautiful way to begin Christmas."

The Madrigal Dinners offer guests a holiday feast, served by costumed waiters accompanied by colorfully attired singers from the Saint Mary's Women's Choir. Guests will also enjoy live music, jugglers and a jester, with interludes of comedic skits.

Saint Mary's junior Ashley Peltier is looking forward to her second year of performance at the Madrigal Dinners.

"Each show is different," Peltier said. "We depend on the audience's reaction to us and it is very unique compared to other theatre."

Cable cut causes Internet outage

OIT uses secondary connection for service

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

Problems with Notre Dame's Internet service provider caused a complete outage of the University's connection to the Internet from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Thursday morning.

Dewitt Latimer, chief technology officer, said the ISP, Global Access Points, accidentally cut cables in Chocolate City that included part of Notre Dame's Internet connection.

"They mistakenly disconnected our fiber," Latimer said.

Notre Dame alerted the company to the outage, which then began work repairing the cable connection.

Latimer said the Global Access Points service actually did not resume until about 12:30 p.m. but the University chose to implement its secondary Internet connection for the first time Monday.

"We had already been doing work to provide us with a backup ISP," he said.

"We decided that this morning was a good time to accelerate that. We can no longer suffer complete outages."

During the outage, on-campus users could access Webmail, Webfile and other pages hosted off main Notre Dame's homepage but could not view outside sites.

Latimer said Thursday's problem was unrelated to another Global Access Points Internet service outage that began around 2 a.m. Tuesday and lasted for about an hour.

"That was routine maintenance... They gave us about an hour notice," he said.

The University does not anticipate further problems with the Internet connection and intends to retain Global Access Points as its primary ISP, according to Latimer.

The company has provided Notre Dame's connection for about one year.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

Madrigal Dinners ring in holidays at SMC
INSIDE COLUMN

Tune in Thursday

I love watching TV on Thursdays; it has become quite a routine. It is possible I start at 7:20 p.m., watching "That 70s Show" on Fox, just waiting for "The O.C." to begin. At eight o'clock it feels as if the entire campus is simultaneously watching the "it" photographer show of the moment, and I am one more of those O.C. fans.

The warm California weather, the infinity pool at the Colton house, and the coffee bar at Harbor high are just some of the things that make Newport Beach so attractive. Of course there also are the day-to-day morals all the characters go through.

So many things have changed from last season, it's unbelievable. Just to comment on last night's show, why why why did Marissa get back with DJ the garden guy? All the former couples seem to be getting mixed up with new characters, and I can only approve of Summer and Zack. And don't even get me started on how much I can't stand Julie Cooper!

One can only take so much of high school drama though, so after "The O.C." I'm over, I quickly switch to NBC, and tune into "The Apprentice."

This show really has me sitting at the edge of my seat! I always think, 'What would I do if I were there, you know, competing with all these other very qualified people?' Of reality TV, "The Apprentice" is the only show I can stand. I acknowledge that the participants are selected according to their personality in order to cause some conflict between them — that will obviously provide for good ratings — but the fact they are competing in the business world gives it a sort of professional spin.

Plus, as a college student one can learn from "The Apprentice" how to take risks in future ventures and how to avoid being fired.

After "The Apprentice" it is a good time to get ready to go out, since weekends can always start early.

However, for those who'd rather lay low the rest of Thursday night the TV shows keep looking up. There's "FNL," and the encouragement of a Chicago hospital, plus the subplots of the relationships between the actors.

Lenis and Coman always seem to have great guests on Thursday nights. Yesterday there was Robert Downey, Jr., Jason Biggs and Alec Baldwin.

By now after all this TV, you should probably go to bed. It means if you decided to stay in it means you probably had something to do this Friday morning.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Sofia Ballon at sballon@nd.edu.

IN BRIEF

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform Handel's "Messiah" tonight at 8 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall in DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The 32nd annual Christmas Madrigal Dinner will take place tonight, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Regnina North Lounge at Saint Mary's College.

The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company presents "As You Like It" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Box Office.

"Napoleon Dynamic" will be shown tonight at 7 and 10 p.m. in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The Student Union Board presents "Collateral," starring Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx, tonight and Saturday at 8 and 10:30 p.m. in 101 DeBartolo. Tickets are $3.

Stand-up comedian Maria Borgia, Golden Globe winner of the 2004 Laugh Across America Contest, will perform tonight at 10 p.m. at Legends. The show is free for ND, SMG and HGC students.

Notre Dame's Benjamin D. Foulois Squadron of the Arnold Air Society sponsors Children's Field Day 2004 Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The day features games, food and a festive holiday atmosphere for underprivileged children of South Bowl.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observers@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

In the Dec. Edition of The Observer, the following statements should have been attributed as "Op-Eds."

"Adolescent girls director Kevin White and Farrey are longtime friends going back to when White hired Farrey for counseling services at Minus in 1996."

"Kevin White, director formin istering "Alone with People of Minus in 1996."

The Observer regrets the errors.

In the Dec. 2 Edition of The Observer due to a reporting error, it was published that a sophomore creating a new ball commission position was puesto the last error. This is in fact, the debut was postponed until the next meeting. The Observer regrets the error.

"Professor Cao's" translator, "A professional rover."

"I would like to be consulted for profit."

"President of The Observer!"

"Bolivar's head coach."

"I would like to be a nonprofit consultant."

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM JOB?

Bill Lopez
senior
Siegfried
Sofia Ballon

Jenalle Slosar
senior
Welsh Family

Katie Chenoweth
senior
off-campus

Katja McCrukeen
senior
Lewis

Pablo Ortega
freshman
Siegfried

Sergio Bohr
freshman
Kremer

Kevin McGrath of Benton Harbor, Mich., literally wears his opinion of the Notre Dame football coaching controversy on his sleeve in the crowd at Thursday's Irish women's basketball game. McGrath's grandfather, Mugsey McGrath, played football for head coach Knute Rockne.

OFFBEAT

Tight jeans get man arrested

BELLE VERNON, Pa. — A man accused of point­ ing a loaded handgun at a police officer says he's guilty only of wearing tight jeans.

Sean Eldon Duvall, 36, was arrested Tuesday on charges including aggra­ vated assault and reckless endangerment for the June 18 incident.

Southwest Regional Police Detective Sgt. James Boga said in court papers that Duvall left his car with the 38-caliber revolver hidden under papers and aimed it at him when he stopped to see if Duvall needed help.

Duvall told The Associated Press that he didn't need help, he said he was just stopping out of his car to go to a friend's house to play chess.

Sorry, Santa: North Carolina bans deer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Poor Rudolph won't join in any reindeer games in North Carolina this holi­ day season.

State wildlife officials worried about chronic­ waxing disease — the deer-family equivalent of mad cow disease — have banned the transportation of deer, elk, caribou and reindeer within the state. They have also blocked the import of the animals from other states in an effort prevent the spread of the disease to the wild deer population.

That keeps deer farm­ ers from moving the ani­ mals to Christmas parties, hayrides and other holi­ day events and is costing some of them thousands of dollars.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
Peace activists Thanos, Schneider share experiences

By APRIL THOMAS

In just one hour Thursday afternoon, activists Terri Thanos and Kathy Schneider attempted to explain their profound individual experiences working with peace and faith in South America.

Speaking first, Thanos expressed a specific interest in peaceful global relations.

"There are more than 40 wars going on as I speak. It is a time of conflict and despair," Thanos said. Thanos' daughter's involvement inspired her to support the Witness for Peace organization, specifically in Colombia. The group works toward untangling the complicated, dangerous conflicts around Colombia's cultivation of the coca plant, used in cocaine production. Originally fearing for her daughter's safety, the terrified Thanos eventually joined the group as well.

"I knew the only way to get rid of that fear was to go down there myself," Thanos said.

Her firsthand experience shed light on Colombia's challenging situation. "In a population of 40 million people, 50 to 60 percent live in poverty," Thanos said. "Healthcare is sparse, and one minute you're poor, then the next you get sick, we die." The country also faces land displacement, bombings and petty crime, narcotic trafficking of coca for a predominantly United States-based client and governmental corruption, she said.

"Last year, $2 billion in public bonds were lost," Thanos said. This calamity has yielded three specific opposition factions, all violence-centered, including paramilitaries, who are gunned hired to guard land and invertor of small towns; guerrillas, formed of peasants to protect farmland and employing tactics like kidnapping and force to make money; and police/army forces trained — often in U.S. institutions — to pacify.

The United States introduced "Plan Colombia" in 2000 to address the coca problem, but unevenly distributed its resources, said Thanos.

"80 percent of funding supported the fumigation of the coca crops; only 20 percent was used to find alternate food crops for these farmers to raise, and develop plans for peace. Thanos said.

Without coca, most Colombian farmers are left with no means of survival. Since its introduction, "Plan Colombia" has not reduced violence, she said.

"The amount and purity of cocaine imported is the same," Thanos said. "As long as there is a demand, lots of money is made and impoverished families, it will continue to grow."

Her experiences taught Thanos that to truly be a catalyst for peaceful change, she must look inward.

"I have to find peace within before I bring peace to others," Thanos said. "I have to be peace myself."

Kathy Schneider, a Notre Dame graduate and former Holy Cross sister volunteer in Brazil, applies her past experiences to her director position at St. Margaret's House in South Bend.

Schneider focused on liberation theology in Brazil post-Vatican II. The Holy Cross sisters' goal was to educate and encourage leadership and community-building.

"We really believed that by forming a Christian community, we were empowering them, to be a church leader there was to be a community leader," Schneider said.

Through her work, Schneider stationed as a missionary, began losing faith in God as she watched many children dying of hunger and tragic accidents taking the lives of the Brazilians around her.

"I didn't want to believe in a God that would let this happen," Schneider said.

Redemption came during her Lenten journey, as she discussed the Stations of the Cross with Brazilian community members through a translator. Through dialogue, Schneider was touched by these women's life stories of hardship, heartbreak and death.

"I moved away from my own personal faith experience to embrace the faith of those people," Schneider said. "I've always thought that if you lost the faith experience you had, you would lose your faith."

Terri Thanos gestures during a joint lecture at Saint Mary's. She focused her talk on the importance of peaceful global relations.

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Contact April Thomas at thom3599@saintmarys.edu
The Observer  ◆ CAMPUS NEWS

Friday, December 3, 2004

College is awarded $1M grant

BY ANGELA SMOLD Press Intern

Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded Saint Mary's a $1 million grant for a new Faculty Scholars Program to bring top faculty scholars to campus beginning in 2005.

A press release outlined the new program as an effort to attract extraordinary candidates for tenure-track positions at the College by offering incentives such as course-load reductions and research and professional development grants.

The incentives will provide financial resources and additional time for these new faculty members to enhance their teaching ability while engaging with the students in the classroom. In addition, the grant will also supply financial support for these professors to enhance their research.

"The New Faculty Scholars Program will help us draw new talent to an already vibrant intellectual community where gifted and creative professors challenge bright students to reach new levels of achievement," vice president and dean of faculty Patrick White said. "This is just going to help with recruitment and retention.

While said he hopes the program will help bring top faculty to the College, just as the Lilly Endowment grants are supporting top students at Saint Mary's.

"We have the brain drain grant which is attempting to help students that the University can't help to attract the next generation of intellectual leaders in faculty members to our state," he said in reference to the College's $730,000 Lilly Endowment INC program grant, which aims to keep students in Indiana after graduation.

During an initial three-year start to the program, the grant will be used for operating costs, and the remainder will help establish an endowment sufficient to support the program in the future.

College president Carol Mooney, vice president for college relations Shari Rodriguez, White and others worked on the grant, which was submitted earlier this fall.

The program will begin in the 2005-06 academic year when Saint Mary's will offer incentive to three new faculty members slated to start teaching at the College. After the first year, these incentives will be offered to up to two new faculty members annually.

In the past, Saint Mary's has received other large grants from the Lilly Endowment including the INC program grant and $12 million for the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership.

And although White said he was excited about the results of this prospect this could bring to campus, he stressed the grant was just another step in helping new professors adjust to Saint Mary's.

"It's going to help us to help with the reduction load," he said. "Saint Mary's already has excellent faculty, but the market for faculty is going to become increasingly competitive as baby boomers retire. School is the importance of teaching undergraduates and working to have intelligent, well-rounded faculty to do that.

Contact Angela Smold at asmold@smuin.edu

Dinners

continued from page 1

New additions to the behind-the-scenes technical team are looking forward to updating the event.

"The new tech team will have the opportunity to bring in new perspectives this year," Baxter said. "They can bring in a new look and approach with a fresh face.

Different from previous shows, this year's performances feature only Saint Mary's students. Sophomore Lauren Kinsley said anticipation is high among students.

"This is my second year and everyone seems very excited about it," Kinsley said. "It is a really fun event overall and the festivities and costumes are really different than other events.

Overall, the Madrigal Dinners are sure to bring fun, food and festivities to guests of all ages and the College as a whole.

"It is a good family atmosphere," Pelleri said. "We offer live entertainment and good, clean comedy that brings families out together."

Baxter agreed and thinks Saint Mary's is the perfect place for such an event.

"It is everything Saint Mary's College is all about," he said. "It offers great art, great food, and a great setting with a prelude to a great weekend."

Contact Danielle Lemer at dlemer@smuin.edu

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Contact Angela Smold at asmold@smuin.edu

Shopping

continued from page 1

sumer confidence was evid­
ent.

Based on just the first several days of the season, traffic is definitely up," Zappia said.

Although Zappia and other local retailers are optimistic about the recent trends, experience has taught them not to jump to a hasty conclusion and label the entire season a success. (The 4.5-percent increase) is probably a good estimate for the season," Zappia said. "However, it is really difficult to gauge after just one weekend.

James Sullivan, an assist­ant professor of economics and a specialist in labor economics and public finance at Notre Dame, agrees it is hard to make broad estimates on the succ­cess of the holiday shopping season when these predic­tions are based solely on preliminary sales and con­sumer spending surveys. "Sales figures for Black Friday show a 10.8 percent increase over last year while the country's largest retailer, Wal-Mart, reported that November sales failed to meet the com­pany's expec­ta­tion," Sullivan said. "Given the mixed views, retailer­s are being very cautious in their optim­isim.

Recent polls indicating an increase in con­sumer spending are based on the current financial atmos­phere and the way in which Americans perceive the economic climate. According to the Shopping in America survey conducted for The Mearisch Company, 82 percent of the over 6,000 shoppers surveyed felt the economy this season is just as strong as if not stronger than last year.

Economists have attrib­uted the general public's faith in the economy to a strengthened job market, a heightened sense of national stability after November's uncontroversial presidential election results. "The fact that we have elected a president without a prolonged legal battle has bolstered consumer optim­ism," Sullivan said. "Consumer confidence seems to be very sensitive to uncer­tainties.

Grace Gallaway, the online blogger and holiday shopping expert known as the "Gift Guru," has dubbed this season as the "Techno Retro Year." According to Gallaway, classic items with high-tech elements, or under­wear across the nation this Christmas, toys such as a spaced-out Easy Bake Oven and electronic gifts like Jakks Pacific's popular popular "Dolphins," are destined to be very popular, said Gallaway.

Overall, however, the shopping in America Survey found clothing to be the most popular holiday gift category - a statistic that points to a successful holiday season for Hammes Notre Dame book­store. The book­store, which boasts one of the largest col­lections of col­lege apparel and mer­chandise in Indiana, is bracing for a lucrative holi­day season with an addi­tion to gift favorites — like Irish apparel for family and friends — the bookstore has also introduced many holiday-related items to their inventory.

On the bookstore's Web site, online shoppers can peruse through a section of merchandise devoted entirely to holiday-themed items such as Notre Dame Advent calendars, orna­ments, decorations and greeting cards.

The Web site itself is evid­ence of the bookstore's desire to keep up with another recent trend in con­sumer spending - the in­crease in the popularity of online shop­ping.

"A November Forrest Re­search Report found U.S. con­sumers will spend 20 per­cent more buy­ing gifts online this season than they did at the same time last year," Sullivan is not surprised by this trend, however.

"It is reasonable to expect a trend in holiday purchases as the Internet becomes more accessible and consumers become more comfortable shopping online," Sullivan said. "While the projected growth for 2004 is high, it falls well below 2003's 21-percent increase."
Bush rejects proposed delay

Despite turmoil, president insists that Iraqi elections occur in January as planned

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush rejected calls for a delay in next month's Iraqi elections, insisting Thursday that they were too important to put off even though violence and chaos still grip much of the country.

"It's time for the Iraqi citizens to go to the polls," Bush said.

Bush predicted Iraq's elections would leave the world "amazed that a society has been transformed so quickly," but he did not explain why he was so adamant that balloting go forward as scheduled Jan. 30.

A number of Iraqi political parties have urged delay.

The president also weighed in on Ukraine's election crisis, saying more forcefully than before that other countries must not meddle as Ukraine sorts through its disputed vote and contemplates a new one.

A runoff election last month sparked massive protests that have paralyzed the government.

"I think any election, if there is one, ought to be free from any foreign influence," Bush said, raising the stakes in what has become a proxy battle between Washington and Moscow.

Bush also said Americans saw the outcome as vital to their influence in the region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a similar warning earlier this week. He said Ukraine's crucial run-off election should be mediated by the international community, rather than foreign pressure, though Putin continued Thursday to play a high-profile role. In Moscow, Putin hosted Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, an ally of the declared winner, Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko.

Putin sharply criticized the Ukrainian opposition's proposal to hold a repeat election, telling Kuchma that a new vote "would yield nothing."

"We're watching very carefully what is taking place," Bush said. "But any election in any country must reflect the will of the people and not that of any foreign government."

Bush spoke in the Oval Office at the start of a meeting with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo.

For the Iraqi election, Bush last week said he hoped the Jan. 30 balloting would not be postponed, even though 17 political parties in Iraq have urged the interim government to put it off for at least six months.

Those groups want security at polling places to be ensured. On Thursday, a Sunni political party official said his organization would push forward with that demand.

But Bush was firmer than ever.

"The elections should not be postponed," he said. "It's time for the Iraqi citizens to go to the polls and that's why we are very firm on the Jan. 30 date."

Bush's spokesman, Scott McClellan, said elections are essential "to bringing about a stable and peaceful and democratic Iraq."

"This will be an important milestone as they move away from their past of tyranny and oppression and brutality," McClellan said.

On another subject, Bush steered gingerly around allegations of corruption in the United Nations' oil-for-food program in Iraq, allegations that first surfaced in January. Those charges have escalated. Two weeks ago, a congressional investigation uncovered evidence that Saddam Hussein's government raised more than $21.3 billion in illegal revenue by subverting U.N. sanctions against Iraq, including the oil-for-food program.

Bush did not answer two questions about whether U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan should resign, as Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., has urged. But he said a thorough investigation was necessary to ensure taxpayers can "feel comfortable" as the U.S. government pays U.N. dues. American dues to the United Nations this year are $362 million, not including payments to separate agencies such as the IAEA, the U.N. nuclear agency based in Austria.

Jury convicts, defrocks minister

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A lesbian minister in the United Methodist Church who lives with her partner was found guilty Thursday of violating a church ban on actively gay clergy and defrocked at a meeting that was marred by violence and heated exchanges.

A 13-member jury made up of Methodist clergy convicted the Rev. Irene C. Kanter-Stroud of breaking church law that prohibits "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" from ministry. Nine votes were necessary for a conviction and the jury voted 12-1 to find Stroud guilty.

It then voted 7-6 to defrock Stroud, the bare majority necessary in the penalty phase of the trial, though her supportive congregation in Philadelphia has said Stroud can continue performing most of her duties.

"I did not go into this trial expecting to win," Stroud said. "I went into it knowing it would be a painful moment in the life of the United Methodist Church."

Stroud has 30 days to decide whether to appeal the verdict.

The last time the 8,3 million-member denomination convicted an openly gay cleric was in 1987, when a New Hampshire church council defrocked the Rev. Rose Mary Donnan.

Last March, a Methodist court in Washington state acquitted the Rev. Karen Dumann, who lives with a same-sex partner, citing an ambiguity in church law that the Methodist supreme court has since eliminated.

The Methodists are just one of several mainline Protestant denominations in the United States — including the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches — which are undergoing turmoil over the role of gays, and lesbians in the church, particularly gay clergy. The Stroud case could easily make the debate over the issue among Methodists that much more intense.
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NEW YORK — The nation's retailers had a disappointing start to the holiday season, reporting sluggish November sales as a one-time, sharp pickup in Thanksgiving weekend business failed to materialize.

As merchants released their first solid results for the season on Thursday, retailers issuing downtown reports included Wal-Mart, Limited Brands and Federated. Even high-end stores like Nordstrom, which have enjoyed a sales surge over the past year, had modest gains.

Among the exceptions were J.C. Penney and Sears, Roebuck, which surpassed Wall Street forecasts. Business was boosted by strong sales over the Thanksgiving weekend, as these stores successfully wooed shoppers with big discounts and earlier store openings.

But overall, the industry struggled through the month.

"This can't bode well for the holiday season," said Ken Perkins, an analyst for RetailMetrics Inc., a research firm based in Swampscott, Mass.

Consumers, particularly low- and middle-income Americans, have been forced to cut spending on clothing and other non-essentials as gasoline prices and grocery bills rise. They've also needed more time to shop around for holiday gifts, which pushed a host of retailers into offering extended hours and special deals.

Dollar rallies after hitting record low

NEW YORK — The dollar rallied after hitting record lows against the Japanese yen, falling briefly in Tokyo to 101.83 yen — the U.S. currency's lowest level since Jan. 8, 2000, when it was at 101.46 yen in Tokyo. It rebounded in late New York trading to 103.19 yen.

The currency's slide was attributed to profit-taking. Traders attributed the dollar's rally to profit-taking, after having bought the currency in anticipation of the U.S. government $350 million to settle similar fraud allegations.

As much money overall Gambro allegedly bilked from Medicare. He declined to say whether individual doctors could face prosecution.

Four years ago, the company and two subsidiaries paid more than $53 million to settle similar fraud allegations.

In a statement, Gambro said that despite the allegations, the quality of care the company provided its patients "was never in question."

"We cooperated fully with the government to settle this matter and put behind us issues that arose during a period of rapid and complex industry consolidation in the 1990s," Gambro president and chief executive Larry Martin said.

Much as he does not know how much money overall Gambro allegedly billed from Medicare. He declined to say whether individual doctors could face prosecution.

Four years ago, the company and two subsidiaries paid more than $53 million to settle similar fraud allegations.

In a statement, Gambro said that despite the allegations, the quality of care the company provided its patients "was never in question."

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Meyer

continued from page 1

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The University of Florida could have an interest in

Meyer as well.

The Palm Beach Post, Desert Morning News and The Salt Lake Tribune report

e that Florida's report reached to meet with Meyer. The Fiers are looking to

e a replacement head coach Ron Zook, fired in October.

They were later registered to Gainesville Aircraft Services, Inc. left at 9 p.m. EST from Gainesville, Fla. to Colorado Springs, Co. That phone, tail number 95751

EI, then left Colorado Springs and landed in Salt Lake City at 3:27 a.m. EST

Friday. Meyer is 21-2 in his two seasons at Utah. This year, the Utes are 11-0 and may

land a BCS bowl berth. Meyer is a former assistant coach at Notre Dame, where he

coached wide receivers from 1996 to 1999.

Matt Brannan contributed to this report.

SENEGAL

Bloody past haunts Rwanda

Country seeks revenge on nearby Congo

Associated Press

DAKAR — Smaller but mightier than its neighbors, Rwanda's greatest claim may come from its nightmare past, a widespread sense

around the world that the country was largely aban

doned in 1994 to face Hutu extremists who slaughtered

more than a half-million people.

Concluding that only action can safeguard its people, Rwanda is now threatening to invade neighboring Congo for a third time — if it hasn't already — in pursuit of the last remaining culprits from that genocide.

As of Thursday, the world response has been muted. Some believe guilt over the

inaction in 1994 likewise stimulated international objections when Rwanda invaded Congo in 1996 and 1998 — the last sparking a devastating civil war.

In 1998, Rwandan and Ugandan forces seized

and held much of north and east Congo on the grounds that rebel groups there threatened regional security. Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia sent forces on behalf of Congo's government.

The war stagnated, with all sides plundering Congo's mineral wealth, until interna

tional pressure forced out the foreign armies in 2002.

On Thursday, U.N. officials cited growing suspicions that Rwandan forces may have re

entered Congo. U.N. ground and air patrols photographed recently occupied encamp

ments and unidentified, well-equipped troops. U.N. observers said they observed what they believed to be 100 Rwandan troops at a town inside Congo — before the suspected troops retreated to Rwanda.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the Security Council urged Rwanda Thursday to refrain from any military action in Congo. The comments came after the council held a closed-door briefing on the situation.

Rwanda on Thursday denied any incursions, but

reserved the right to pursue the estimated 8,000-10,000 Rwandan Hutu rebels still sheltering in east Congo. And Rwandan President Paul Kagame, in a letter made public this week, wrote U.N. and African leaders on Nov. 25 that he hoped to have any new operation in Congo end within 14 days.

A key issue: Congo's lawless east contains not only numerous armed groups — but also fortunes in diamonds, gold, cobalt, copper and timber.

If Rwanda doesn't act, its leaders say, it risks nothing less than renewed genocidal attacks.

Congo fears a renewed Rwandan occupation of its east, where most of the coun

try's estimated 3.2 million war victims died, most civilians claimed by disease and famine.

The key question is how much of a genuine threat the Rwandan Hutu rebels hiding in east Congo's forested, volcanic hills still pose to Rwanda and its military — widely respected as tough and, by African standards, well-disciplined and well-equipped.

M. Meyer contributed to this report.

Donors

continued from page 1

limit donations or write letters to the University, student workers said.

"There have been some people who were so, so excited," Phone Center student

employee Danielle Pallert said. "There were also people who weren't happy that it had been done because of how well Ty conducts himself... I would say of the people I talked to it was probably 50-50." Pallert said about at least one alum

nus she talked with intended to write a letter of complaint to the University.

"I was definitely surprised that it was so mixed," she said.

Student caller Diana Duran said while generally seemed positive about the

firing, others criti

cized the University's judg

gem.

"For the most part people were excited. Other callers had complaints,"

Diana Duran

student caller

"I don't know — it may or it may not," she said about whether the firing would cause her to curtail donations. "I'm very anxious to see how the University handles this." Mike Brack, a senior director for development at the University, said news of the firing did not appear to generate significant alterations by alumni to phone solicitations. He said student callers keep logs of their contacts with alumni and they did not show a strong shift.

We also had people say 'we're not donating anymore,'" he said.

The average two-hour shift includes about 20 to 25 phone conversations with alumni, according to Duran.

In contrast, one alumna told student caller Janet Classman she intended to begin donating again after a two-year hiatus.

"I was kind of a mixed feeling," she said. "But a lot of people were happy"

Junior Gretchen Byars said the alumni she spoke with didn't tend to express strong sentiments either way about the Williamson firing.

"Most of the mentions weren't of concern," she said. "They were sort of juggling — there weren't really calls expressing concern.

However, at least one alumna said Williamson's firing would cause her to seriously reevaluate her contributions to the University.

"It seems it would generally be a loss of integrity," said 1979 alumna Jean Match.

If she hadn't already mailed a check to the University this year, Match said she wouldn't send one, and her and husband, also a Notre Dame graduate, might con

sider withholding future donations.

"I don't know — it may or it may not," she said about whether the firing would cause her to curtail donations. "I'm really anxious to see how the University handles this.

Contact Teresa Falahat at

tfalafhd@nd.edu

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Basilica of Sacred Heart at Notre Dame

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Friday, December 3, 2004

THE OBSERVER

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reserved. A subscription to The Observer is $100 for one academic year: $55 for one semester.

Class is a dwindling commodity in the college football universe. At many schools, coaches and administrators turn a blind eye to players and recruiters who scoff at NCAA regulations, bending the rules in pursuit of dollars and fame.

Not so at Notre Dame. The University spent decades cultivating the reputation of a football program that exemplified integrity at every level — from the helmet-sprayers to the walk-ons to the starters to the head coach.

This reputation took a hit with the George O’Leary firing, then firing fines in December 2001, and sank further in March 2002 when Notre Irish freshman player Tyrone Willingham got into a brawl off the field, ranging from rape to conspiracy to commit rape. The class that had been Notre Dame’s trademark was beginning to fade.

Enter Tyrone Willingham.

As the program’s new figurehead, the coach knew it fell to him to return the Irish to respectability off the field as well as on it. Image problems like this image problem are not acceptable at Notre Dame. So he eliminated them — by example.

His players quickly learned that he expected their conduct to be as impeccable as his own, their dedication to be as steadfast. Their respect for their coach was evident, and many tried to imitate his professionalism.

This mission took him from the locker room.

Willingham’s goal was not just to produce classy football players, but to produce classy young men. He also accumulated momentum on that front, as the team’s overall GPA rose admirably during his three years at the University, and his recruits seem to fit the Notre Dame mold of true student-athletes.

It also didn’t help that the program’s visible strides took place under a visible coach. Willingham was Notre Dame’s first black head coach in any sport, a heartening move by a University with a vastly white student population. And while white students certainly embraced him — from the “1812 Overture” salute to “I heart TY” T-shirts — they also expected him to insist on a special bond with the coach. Willingham’s hiring also inspired black faculty and administrators at the University, as well as Irish fans across the country who turned on NBC that Saturday and saw a face like their own.

But unfortunately, Saturdays were also the problem because at Notre Dame, you need to do both. As athletic director Kevin White put it in his Tuesday press conference, “We just were not meeting those programmatic or competitive expectations on Saturday.” But I think I need to say, “We just were not meeting that this morning, this Sunday through Friday, our football program has exceeded all expectations.”

At a University known for its integrity and class, the coach brought back up to speed a football program that was lagging in both. At a University with demanding academic standards, he motivated his team to embrace and meet them. At a University with a distinctive character, his character.

The Notre Dame family knows that it was better off with him than one of the time.

That’s why — even though Willingham the coach stumbled on Saturdays — Willingham the man will be sorely missed at Notre Dame.

Nycke de Boer made Notre Dame a better place.

Reserve judgement for Notre Dame.

Notre Dame Bourschies because it is a family that is supported by and demands integrity, loyalty, love, honor, character, and leadership.

Notre Dame football Bourschies when its family is equally obligated to develop quality, value-driven young men.

Notre Dame football program is an integral component of this University, and as such, it should be committed to the University’s core values.

However, regardless of how strong the bonds are within the football family and how committed players are to meeting the expectations of their coaches and both on and off the field, Notre Dame needs a union of winning and strong characters.

When one of these two components suffers, a change needs to occur.

The Notre Dame leadership was at a crossroads Monday evening and Tuesday morning — likely weighing what Notre Dame is about and what its football program stands for — and it appeared that the several decision makers did not ponder this situation lightly.

Notre Dame football is a program that coaches who do not meet expectations within three years do not reach those expectations later in their Notre Dame careers. It has been 16 years since Notre Dame legitimately was a member of the college football elite on the field. And it has been eight years since this program had a coach who proved he could bring the team to the glory its storied tradition demands.

The factors that drive the college football machine do not necessarily match the pillars that uphold this institution. Notre Dame values both academics and sports, and thus has been unique in the way its program has functioned within the machine. However, Notre Dame football cannot sacrifice one of its two supports for the other. It demands excellence in both.

Tyrone Willingham learned the hard way.

Did the former Irish football coach develop the moral character of his players, command the respect of his players, guide this team towards two winning regular seasons, earn the right to play in two bowl games and coach his players to defeat two top-10 teams this year? Yes.

Did Willingham coach a team that lost to rivals Southern California three times by 31 points, suffered five losses by at least a 30-point margin, saw the all-time college football winning percentage slip away? Yes.

But did he meet the expectations or standards that I set for myself in this program? Notre Dame football is not a program that rests easily with failed expectations.

It is touched by a web that pulls it in all directions — with pressure coming from the fervent Irish football nation, the “victory is necessary, if not imperative, to fans, school students and the Holy Cross brass.”

What’s more, putting faith in a coach who has a history of inconsistency — for example, at Stanford — on Saturdays or pursuing an appealing coach from a field of prospects, Notre Dame had to make a quick decision.

The opportunities were ripe for Notre Dame to pick at this time and the University took the gamble that Tyrone Willingham could put this program back on the map of the football elite.

Whether Notre Dame, the football program is diverging from Notre Dame the institution remains to be seen. The unpopularity of this decision should not have been unexpected, but judgment should be reserved to see how the situation develops and what happens next to Notre Dame football.

Can Notre Dame football remain Notre Dame football when its strings are manipulated by “just win” pressure instead of its established tradition and loyalty? That question may be premature. The Willingham decision could be a unique situation, and it is unfair to predict now if Notre Dame will become a coaching carousel or a football factory.

One thing is clear now — the coach hired next must embrace and further the values of both Notre Dame, the institution and Notre Dame, the football program.

Quote of the Day

“The man who regards life ... as meaningless is not merely unfortunate but almost disqualified for life.”

Albert Einstein

physicist
Caring for our common home

The Columbia River winds for 1,200 miles from British Columbia, through Washington and Idaho, and down into the Pacific Ocean. It irrigates desert regions of Eastern Washington, producing many of the state’s crops, and provides jobs and markets nationwide. Its water moves through a maze of turbines that generate enough electricity to power factories throughout the region. The river is vital to providing food for countless families in the area and is the source of drinking water for millions of people.

However, the past two decades have seen the Columbia increasingly become a symbol of the conflict between human needs and the environment. "The Columbia River is a living symbol of the fact that we must no longer accept the idea that economic development and environmental protection cannot coexist," said a spokesperson for the Columbia River Conservation League.

The league has been fighting for years to protect the river and its tributaries, which are home to hundreds of species of fish and wildlife. "We are not asking for a return to the past," said the spokesperson. "We are simply asking for a balance between economic development and ecological sustainability."

Recent studies have shown that the river is in danger of becoming a "dead zone," with toxic levels of mercury and other pollutants threatening the health of local ecosystems. "The Columbia River is a microcosm of the challenges we face in our efforts to protect the environment," said the spokesperson. "We must act now to ensure that this vital river is protected for future generations."
I am appalled and ashamed that Notre Dame released Tyrone Willingham Tuesday, with two years remaining on his contract. In a Washington Post article Thursday morning, athletic director Kevin White is quoted as lauding the integrity and academics of the program under Willingham. Yet it seems only winning on Saturdays count. Patience is not a virtue Notre Dame practices. We will not even meet our own contractual commitments to a 5-year period in allow Willingham to build a program.

I was once proud of my alma mater's football program and, win or lose, its emphasis on clean play and academic standards. When talking of sports and Notre Dame, I would often speak to friends and colleagues about that emphasis and how Notre Dame balanced athletics, academics and spirituality — each equally entrenched in the University culture. Willingham personified that balance and left behind great dedication in the young men who will go on in life without football, but with college degrees.

I am now appalled and ashamed that we have placed winning as our number-one priority and treated Willingham so badly. We have lost our identity and our hallowed place in athletics to join the ranks of other football factories.

Nicholas Match
alumnus
dec. 2

I am writing to express dismay at the summary dismissal of Tyrone Willingham. Actions do speak louder than words, and in one ill-considered action we have erased much of the moral standing the University has worked so diligently to proclaim and embody. By firing Willingham the customary five or six years to prove his effectiveness, we have sacrificed the principles of fairness and respect for persons to the most promiscuous philosophy of 'winning' in our society at this moment — "just win at all costs." Is this really what we want to communicate to students and to the world at large?

Firing a faculty member who has been celebrated as a superb teacher and a sterling representative of the University undermines the core values for which we stand. What is additionally dismaying about this particular unjust action is that in dismissing Willingham we also have removed from the faculty our most prominent black spokesperson. His presence on the faculty has been of immeasurable assistance in our ability to recruit diverse students, faculty and administrators to our campus. His removal will surely damage our efforts to realize one of our most oft-stated but elusive goals.

Stephen Freedman
English department chair
dec. 2

Termination will hurt diversity.

student and faculty retention and Alumni participation and contributions in the future.

In just a few years, Willingham has captured our utmost respect as a coach to the football team and as a man to the entire Notre Dame community.

Unfortunately, we have already witnessed some negative effects of the University's decision and expect these negative ramifications of the University's decision to the future. The BA of ND Board will be available to assist the University in repairing the damage resulting from this decision because of our commitment to Notre Dame.

Danielle D. Boase
Chairperson, Black Alumni of Notre Dame
dec. 2

Do not justify mediocrity

I really hate how Tyrone Willingham's firing is being spun as a blight on the University's character. Somehow, by firing a coach, Notre Dame has abandoned class, abandoned honor, abandoned integrity and in fact abandoned any cares about our football program and players other than that they win? Winning and class are not mutually inconsistent. I'm sure we'll expect our next coach to have class, too.

But winning is a big part of the job, and that's exactly the way it should be. We shouldn't sacrifice character, dignity and honor. But why should we use those as a crutch, forcing us to accept mediocrity? If you lose a competition, it's good to be able to reflect on that loss and say "at least I lost with dignity." It may even be good to think "better to lose with dignity than to win poorly." But have we now reached the point where we would rather lose with dignity than win at all?

That is a deflatable attitude that accepts mediocrity and attempts to justify mediocrity as good. That attitude prevents a realistic assessment of problems and solutions. And I guarantee you, that attitude is not held by the people we revere, the people who accomplish their goals, the people who wear that shirt around campus, proudly bearing its message — we stand. What is additionally dismaying about this particular unjust action is that in dismissing Willingham we also have removed from the faculty our most prominent black spokesperson. His presence on the faculty has been of immeasurable assistance in our ability to recruit diverse students, faculty and administrators to our campus. His removal will surely damage our efforts to realize one of our most oft-stated but elusive goals.

Mike Romano
alumnus
dec. 2

Majority misrepresented

When Tyrone Willingham was dismissed from his coaching responsibilities at Notre Dame, many people were shocked and upset, according to the press. While I have the utmost respect for him, I was not one of these people.

I, however, am shocked and upset by the way the media is handling this situation. For the most part, the media, including ESPN and even The Observer, has been misrepresenting the opinion of the majority.

I am now appalled and ashamed that we have placed winning as our number-one priority and treated Willingham so badly. We have lost our identity and our hallowed place in athletics to join the ranks of other football factories.

Alumni did not cause firing

Michael Wilbon's column "Notre Dame's True Colors" [in the Dec. 1 The Washington Post] spoke many truths flavored with some significant inaccuracies. No doubt the "powers that be" must have had Tyrone Willingham in their sights, or he would still be employed. But to claim the alumni and students just tolerated Willingham is an outright falsehood. A quick glance at Wednesday's edition of The Observer indicates the outrage of the students. As an alumna who keeps in touch with many classmates, I can assure you the outrage is widespread among us. As a black woman who has been involved in the University soliciting donations the day after Willingham was fired. I was told that I was so ashamed of their actions that if I hadn't already sent my check I wouldn't be sending one, the student making the call said he had been hearing the same thing all night. Sometimes when great institutions make mistakes, I am sorry to say that I agree Notre Dame just made a colossal one, but it was not at the behest of the alumni.

Jean M. Benedict Match
class of 1979
dec. 2
One of Shakespeare's lesser-known comedies is performed by a student group

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

It would be unfair to say a Shakespearean play, which is performed less frequently than its companions, does not deserve more attention. The collection of Shakespearean works contains many fascinating stories and characters that are largely overlooked in performances and literature classes.

The plot of the play is not as well known or as distinctive as some. When the usurping Duke Ferdinand banishes his niece Rosalind from his court, she flees to woods where her banished father, Duke Senior, also lives in hiding, disguised as a boy. She takes the name of Ganymede. Her cousin Celia, the Duke's daughter and Rosalind's close friend, flees with her and adopts the role of Ganymede's sister under the name of Aliena. The court jester, Touchstone, accompanies them in the woods. However, before fleeing to the woods, Rosalind had fallen in love with Orlando, the younger son of the recently deceased Sir Rowland de Bois, a close friend of Duke Senior. Orlando, whose older brother Oliver refuses to grant him his inheritance or birthright, has also retreated to the woods. He begins tacking poorly composed but utterly since re love poetry to Rosalind on the forest trees, where his lover and her friend eventually encounter and read his verses. Rosalind, still in disguise, begins to act in the role of matchmaker for her love and the other people she encounters in the woods.

The scene in which Jaques utters the line, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players" may be the one every audience member will recognize. The lord who is inclined to melancholy and unable to participate in the frolicking of the other men and women in the forest may not have achieved fame as a character, but is distinguished by the line which has perhaps come to characterize Shakespeare better than any other.

Rosalind is also remembered as one of Shakespeare's Wittier and more graceful heroine. In the guise of Ganymede she instructs her lover and the other men and women around her in the ways of love. Unlike Jaques who can observe love but not participate, she falls for its folly in her own right and proves herself neither a hopeless fool nor a staunch critic.

"As You Like It" is not the best performance the company has ever put on, but does not lack its merits. The cast sometimes gets tripped up with the meaning of the language, and since the play is not one with which most students are familiar, it is more difficult to follow the development of the plot and figure out exactly who all the characters are. Several scenes seemed as though the cast had rushed the frolicking of the other men and women in the forest may not have achieved fame as a character, but is distinguished by the line which has perhaps come to characterize Shakespeare better than any other.

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With a large cast of characters, "As You Like It" stays interesting and involved throughout the play, keeping the stage engaged in action.

Much of "As You Like It" focuses on the trials of love that is not immediately returned, but eventually gained.

seems to carry hints of a lovers' sentiment. Critics have raised the question of homosexuality in a play where love and gender bending are so loosely mixed, and Graham's performance brings the theme out subtly but not imperceptibly.

If you are particularly fond of Shakespeare you might want to take advantage of this chance to add to the list of plays with which you are familiar. If you want to see "Not So Royal" in its true luster, it would be better to wait for another performance. Or you can disregard the opinions of a critic and watch the adventure of another set of Shakespearean characters yourself — just as you like it.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith@nd.edu

Recipe courtesy of Claire Kalpakanj. Copyright © 2004; www.allrecipes.com. All Rights Reserved

Devil's Food Cookies
1 box (18.1/4 ounces) devil's food cake mix
2 eggs
1/4 cup hot coffee or hot water
1/2 cup vegetable oil
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 cup semisweet chocolate pieces
1 cup chopped pecans
3/4 cup bits of chocolate-toffee candy
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Combine cake mix, eggs, coffee, oil and flour in large bowl. Beat on low speed until all ingredients are moistened; then beat on high speed for 2 minutes.

Dough will be sticky. Fold in chocolate pieces, pecans and candy until evenly distributed. Using about half of the batter, drop by heaping tablespoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheet, spacing 2 inches apart. Bake for 12 to 14 minutes. Let the cookies cool on the baking sheet on a wire rack for 4 to 5 minutes or until firm. With a metal spatula, transfer the cookies to the wire rack to cool. Repeat with the remaining batter. Serve slightly warm or store in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

Recipe courtesy of Family Circle. Copyright © 2004 Television Food Network, G.P. All Rights Reserved

Peppermint Hot Chocolate
1 1/2 cups heavy cream
1 1/2 cups milk
1/4 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
6 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped
3 drops peppermint oil
Sweetened whipped cream, for garnish
Chocolate shavings, for garnish

In a saucepan, combine the cream, milk, sugar and salt. Heat over medium-low heat. When the cream mixture just begins to simmer, add the chopped chocolate and stir until melted. Stir in the peppermint oil. Divide the hot chocolate among mugs and top with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Recipe courtesy of Jackie Riley. Copyright © 2004 Television Food Network, G.P. All Rights Reserved

Contact Maureen Malloy at mmalloy1@nd.edu
Ishio look for fourth win against Michigan

By Pat LEONARD

Notre Dame's Mike Brey and Michigan head coach Tommy Amaker are good friends, but they won't be on Saturday.

Brey was coached as a Juni­
or under Duke coach Mike

 Krzyzewski. During the national

signing day last year, at the Michi­

gan recruiting session, Brey men­tioned Amaker more than any other

colleague when he talked about his

coaching. But Michigan (3-3) is caught in the middle of the 'gimme' games

of the season.

The Wolverines won their last three games as the primary point

scorer, scoring 31.3 points per game, with 26 assists and only

fourteen turnovers.

"Chris and Chris really have to

set the tempo," Brey said.

Michigan leads the series 12-7, 22-6

in the last 31 years.

The Irish won the last game of

the season, with a 75-65 victory in

the first round of the 2000 NIT tournament.

Contact Pat Leonardi at

pleonardi@nd.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

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Observer. Contact Joe Hettler at

havanheog@nd.edu

For the Irish (7-1), the loss was

disappointing after they had

played so well in the first seven

games.

"We fought back in the second half," Brey said.

"But our defense simply didn't stop

the hot shooting that Michigan

had on us."

"It was a really bad game for us," Brey said.

Michigan scored 29 assists in the

game. For Michigan State, Bowen fin­
ished with 23 points and five

rebounds. Kris Krstic (12.3) completed

the doubles with 10 points and 10

rebounds.

"Mike is a key week for us," Brey said.

"We played a pretty darn confi­

dent game," Brey said.

"It's a key week for us," Brey said.

"Well, we're certainly Errors in the Irish defense.

Many factors that force Brey is bigger than Brey-Amaker," Brey

said. "So you've got to play the

game in the middle of a three-game los­

ening evening hours and overnight.

Granger from Dec. 5 through Dec.

must. Call Aaron at 631-2973.

Contact Pat Leonardi at

pleonardi@nd.edu

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Granger from Dec. 5 through Dec.

must. Call Aaron at 631-2973.
Irish to take on Valpo in NCAA's

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has won 15 of its last 18 matches. But this weekend they have a chance to win respect. The Irish will compete in the first round of the NCAA volleyball tournament tonight at 5 p.m. in a match against Valparaiso in Madison, Wis. Despite capturing both the Big East regular season and tournament titles, the Irish are not ranked in the USA Today/CSTV Top 25. A win over the Crusaders combined with a victory Saturday against the winner of the Loyola Chicago-Wisconsin match should propel the Irish into the national spotlight.

However, with a school record mark of 29-4, Valparaiso is a difficult first-round opponent for the Irish. The Crusaders, champions of the Mid-Continent conference, snapped an 18-match losing streak against Notre Dame on Sept. 7 with a five-game triumph in the Joyce Center. The Irish won the first and fourth games but fell 12-12 in the decisive fifth game. Valparaiso is making its second straight NCAA tournament appearance and is led by MCC player of the year Lauren Moultoun, who averaged 3.6 kills per game with a hitting percentage of .293. Setter Katie Bova averages nearly 13 assists per game and was named first-team all-conference along with Moultoun. Notre Dame is on a roll after winning the Big East tournament title two weeks ago with victories over Boston College and Pittsburgh in the semifinals and finals, respectively. Just last week, the Irish won the Rdden Thanksgiving tournament in Long Beach, Calif. over NCAA qualifiers Long Beach St. and UC Irvine. Notre Dame swept UC Irvine and then needed five games to beat Long Beach State. Outside hitter Emily Loomis came up big for the Irish as she turned in a career-high 29 kills and hit .414. Long Beach State was up 14-12 in the fifth game and needed only one more point to win the match before Notre Dame rallied for four straight points and the first victory over the 49ers in program history.

One positive for the Irish this weekend will be the presence of Lauren Kelbley. The junior has been bothered lately with a foot injury but is expected to play against Valparaiso tonight. This will be the 13th consecutive NCAA tournament appearance for Notre Dame, one of only eight programs in the country to have appeared so often. It is the second longest streak of any kind among all Irish varsity sports as only fencing has more.

The Belles have been hot, winning its three previous games. The Belles defeated Knox College and won twice last weekend at the Knox College Classic. Saint Mary's had been hot, winning its three previous games. The Belles defeated Knox College and won twice last weekend at the Knox College Classic. Saint Mary's had been hot, winning its three previous games.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

ND VOLLEYBALL

FENCING

Backups get chance in Culver

By MATT PUGLISI
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's second stringers will have a chance to prove their value this weekend when the Irish travel to Culver, Ind. to compete in the Culver Cup Individual Saturday at 8 a.m.

"This coming weekend is for junior-varsity fencers — it's for our walk-ons, for others," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "We wanted to give them the opportunity to compete in a sectional competition and give them an opportunity to progress. Our first squad will not go there, but all others who have the goal or ambition to be on the team should show the class, the progress."

With the six-day North American Cup Event slated to begin December 10, the Irish will hold back the cream of the crop and continue training for the prestigious event instead of sending it to Culver this weekend.

"Generally, we are not sending our first team, because they have a match later at the North American Cup, which is kind of the trials for the national Olympic team," Bednarski said. "The best will go then. We have two weeks in which we will walk all of our fencers."

Nevertheless, while the first squad might be staying at home this weekend, Bednarski does not believe the talent level at the Culver Cup Individuals will be diluted.

"It's not a national competition or collegiate, it's open to everybody," Bednarski said. "Sometimes such a competition is strong — non-collegiate fencers are strong, too, sometimes better than collegiate fencers. In some weapons it's a very tough tournament."

In addition to the World Cup Event and the Penn State Max Garret Open in early November, the upcoming Culver Individuals and North American Cup Event provide Irish fencers with a chance to demonstrate their skills and boost their individual rankings — a key to success come the NCAA championship.

"We give them individual opportunities to rise in the rankings," Bednarski said. "That's why we compete in the individual competitions—to give our fencers a higher rank. Later, we bring the ranks to the collegiate NCAA tournaments, and they are scored according to how they are ranked. First job is to have a good ranking, and they will fight for a ranking according to their levels."

Contact Matt Puglisi at mpuglisi@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles to face Olivet Saturday

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will look to return to its recent winning ways Saturday.

The Belles travel to Olivet, Michigan to take on the Olivet Comets at 3 p.m. at the Upton Center.

Saint Mary's will attempt to rebound from Wednesday's disappointing loss to Albion. In that game, the Belles led at half, but watched the game slip away as Albion mounted a 23-4 second half run to secure the victory.

Before the loss, Saint Mary's had been hot, winning its three previous games. The Belles defeated Westminster College and won twice last weekend at the Knox College Classic. Saint Mary's was never really challenged in any of the three games.

Olivet, a rival member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, should pose a stiff challenge for the Belles. The Comets, under coach Deanna Richard, have started the year with a 4-1 record. Most recently, the team won the Comet Classic by defeating Division II opponent Northwood 64-49 on Sunday.

Contact Kevin Brennan at kbrenna4@nd.edu
Around the Nation

Compiled from The Observer's Wire Services

Friday, December 3, 2004

Men's Basketball
ESPN/USA Today Top 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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Women's Basketball
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NBA

Pistons at Spurs 8 p.m., ESPN

Pacers at Kings 10:30 p.m., ESPN

NCAW Women's Soccer
Santa Clara vs. NOTRE DAME 4:30 p.m., ESPN2

Around the Dial

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NFL

Former Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams, right, slips away from New York Jets linebacker Sam Cowart as he picks up 23 yards on a pass play. Williams has rejected a bargain from the NFL and will not return.

Williams ends NFL career, opts for holistics

Associated Press

MIAMI — This could be it for Ricky Williams. He just doesn't want to play football anymore.

The 2002 NFL rushing champion rejected a deal to serve a four-game drug suspension this season and return to the field next year. He'll stay retired instead, and his lawyer, David Cornwell, doesn't believe Williams will play again.

"Ricky indicated to me that he is no longer interested in resuming his career at this time," Cornwell said in a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press on Thursday. "The 1998 Heisman Trophy winner needed to let the league know his decision by Thursday so he could be moved from the retired list to the suspended list by the deadline. He would have served the suspension for the Miami Dolphins' final four games, starting Dec. 12 at Denver.

"Ricky Williams has declined to accept the terms of his reinstatement," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Those terms included a promise Williams would play next season and re-enter the NFL drug program immediately.

"The NFL sought assurances that Ricky is indeed committed to playing," said Cornwell, who would not disclose exactly why Williams decided against the deal.

Dolphins spokesman Harvey Greene wouldn't comment, saying the matter is between Williams and the NFL.

Williams, 27, stunned his team by retiring shortly before Miami opened training camp in July. The Dolphins filed a lawsuit in federal court against the running back, seeking the $8.6 million an arbitrator ruled he owes the team for breaching his contract. Williams is fighting the decision.

He gave up the $5 million he would have earned this season, which would have been his sixth in the NFL, amid reports he faced suspension for substance abuse. He is now enrolled in a 17-month course at the California College of Ayurveda in Grass Valley, Calif., studying holistic medicine.

Williams has social-anxiety disorder and was a spokesman for an anti-depressant. He said marijuana helped him after he stopped using the anti-depressant.

In Brief

Friday vote to approve Expos move to Washington

WASHINGTON — With or without an agreement with Peter Angelos, baseball appears ready to officially award the Montreal Expos to Washington.

Commissioner Bud Selig scheduled a conference call for Friday for a vote by the owners to approve major league baseball's first relocation in 33 years. The vote, originally set for Nov. 18, was delayed in part because Selig had hoped to work out a deal with the Baltimore Orioles owner to ensure a unanimous decision.

"I like 30-0 votes," Selig said Thursday after a speech to the Greater Washington Board of Trade. "But every so often I don't get 30-0 votes."

Bob Day, baseball's chief operating officer, met with Angelos this week in an attempt to reach an agreement that would protect the value of the Orioles franchise, which Angelos says will be hurt by having a team just 40 miles away. Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich said this week the matter could wind up in court.

Selig declined to discuss the negotiations with Angelos, other than to say there was no deal yet.

"We have had a close relationship and we still have a very close relationship," Selig said.

NHL union to resume negotiations after 3 months

NEW YORK — The NHL accepted an invitation from the players' association on Thursday to return to the negotiating table in an effort to end the lockout that began nearly three months ago.

In a letter sent to NHL commissioner Gary Bettman on Thursday, players' association executive director Bob Goodenow proposed that the sides meet next week in Toronto and said the union is working on a new proposal.

No official talks have occurred since Sept. 9, when the union made its last offer. The lockout reached its 78th day Thursday.

"We look forward to meeting with the NHL Players' Association next week," said Bill Daley, the league's chief legal officer. "We are hopeful that the NHLPA's offer will be a meaningful effort to address the league's economic problems. When we receive the proposal, we will evaluate it closely and respond appropriately."

The last offer by the NHLPA was a luxury tax-based deal that was rejected by the league, and the lockout began one week later. As of Thursday, 334 regular-season games, plus the 2005 All-Star game, have been wiped out.

The offer to resume talks came just two days after the NHL Players' Association last week, said Bill Daley, the league's chief legal officer. "We are hopeful that the NHLPA's offer will be a meaningful effort to address the league's economic problems. When we receive the proposal, we will evaluate it closely and respond appropriately."

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HOCKEY

No. 5 Michigan awaits the Irish arrival

Team will play at Ann Arbor tonight and home Saturday

By JUSTIN SCHUVER  Associate Sport Editor

While Irish students prepare to get ready for final exams, the Notre Dame hockey team is getting ready for a major test of its own.

Notre Dame (3-6-4, 2-5-3) in the CCHA) faces conference powerhouse No. 5 Michigan (19-4-1, 7-1-0) in a two-game home-and-home series this weekend. The Irish will travel to Ann Arbor for a game tonight before returning to the Joyce Center for the second game of the series on Saturday.

The Irish shocked Michigan near the end of last season, sweeping the Wolverines in a two-game series at the Joyce Center by scores of 4-1 and 5-2 in February. Notre Dame also won in its last trip to Michigan's Yost Arena — a 4-3 victory on Nov. 23, 2002.

Notre Dame comes into the game after a split on the road last weekend against Alaska Fairbanks. The Irish won the first game in that series by a score of 3-2 before falling in the second game by the same score.

The Wolverines, meanwhile, are in a bit of a slump, having lost their last two games. Both losses came to non-conference teams, however, so the Wolverines have maintained their second-place position in the CCHA standings with 14 points, one point behind leader Ohio State. Notre Dame's nine points is currently tied for eighth in the conference with Miami of Ohio and Bowling Green.

Last season, the Irish were aided in their sweep of the Wolverines when star goalie Al Montoya was injured early in the first game of the weekend and did not play at all in the second game. Montoya, a junior who was picked sixth in this year's NHL entry draft by the New York Rangers, is healthy and is expected to be in net in this weekend's matchup. He has had a bit of a slow start to this season, only collecting a .903 save percentage and a 2.69 goals against average, ranking him 10th in the league in both categories. Irish senior goalie Morgan Cey, by comparison, has a 2.44 GAA and a .929 save percentage.

"In the tapes that we saw there were a lot of rush goals against Michigan so that might have affected his numbers a bit," Poulin said. "It's still the real deal. Michigan has a unique way of only bringing in one goalie every four years and having him start his whole career with guys like Steve Shields and Marty Turco and now Montoya.

"They've maybe been a bit lucky that there haven't been any major injuries, but what they've been doing with their goalies has worked for many years."

Even without the expected performance from its star goalie, Michigan is still able to win games by virtue of its explosive offense. The Wolverines average 3.64 goals per game, third in the CCHA, compared to Notre Dame's last place 1.92 goals per game.

The Michigan offense is led by talented sophomore T.J. Hensick, the 2003-04 CCHA rookie of the year, and junior forward Jeff Tambellini, who have each scored 16 points so far this season (both have scored six goals and collected 10 assists).

The Wolverines also sport one of the league's most talented offensive defenses in senior Eric Werner. Werner's 11 points (three goals, eight assists) rank second in the league in scoring among defensemen. "They're a very skilled team. I think they've got something like 14 draft picks and 10 are forwards," Poulin said. "But we've been working on our defense as well, daily. We simply have to work harder at getting the puck to the net and scoring some sloppy goals.

"Sometimes when you don't score you try to make things perfect, and we just need to get some ugly goals. They count just as much as pretty ones."

The Irish face Michigan at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor tonight with puck drop scheduled for 7:05 p.m. face-off.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

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VOLUNTEERS

Indiana Legal Services (ILS) seeks volunteers and unpaid interns to conduct initial interviews with low-income persons seeking legal assistance in select civil cases in Northern Indiana.

ILS offers one of the most challenging and rewarding service opportunities in the community. Volunteers and interns usually serve as intake interviewers. Intake interviews take the initial information from applicants who call or come into our office seeking legal advice and/or representation on a variety of civil issues. Initial information includes details about a person's income, demographics, and the specifics of the legal problem. Interviewers then summarize the details of the case into written narratives for staff attorneys to review. No legal experience is required! Each volunteer and intern receives thorough, ongoing training. Excellent interpersonal and writing skills are a must, as are attention to detail and empathy for the poor.

Volunteers and interns must also be able to deal with listening to distressing stories of child abuse, spousal abuse, families being evicted in the middle of winter, etc...

Upon successful completion of service, ILS may provide letters of recommendation for volunteers to law or other graduate schools and/or serve as a reference for those seeking employment. If you're interested, please contact Heather Mezosi at Heather.Mezosi@ilsi.net or at (574) 234.8121 or toll free in Indiana, at 1.800.288.8121.
Baer continued from page 20

Baer was selected by the players to serve as interim coach at the Insight Bowl, which will be either against Arizona State, Oregon State or UCLA. He acknowledged that it might be difficult to get the team prepared in light of the recent events. He has loyalty to Tyrone Willingham. He’s been with Tyrone for 10 years. He still certainly has loyalties to this team and this staff and Notre Dame, so that’s the reason we’re doing it. Baer said. “We want to do it as an entire group, united as an entire group. We’ll move forward and I think it’s going to work out for the best.”

As defensive coordinator under Willingham, Baer consistently put together a team that was capable of stopping the run and consistently took advantage of opportunities to create turnovers and score. As of today, the Irish are ranked eighth in the season in rushing defense, having only allowed 94.4 yards per game. Baer fueled reports that he is a top candidate for the Utah State head coaching position with his comments Thursday. “It’s difficult,” Baer said of trying to coach a team that’s capable of stopping the run and figuring out what will come next in his career. “There are a lot of things that are going on with the entire staff. Everybody’s out of a job after, basically, the 28th. You certainly have to take care of yourself and your families and move forward. So, you have to kind of balance all this.”

“I’ve never gone through it quite like this before, so I’m not quite sure how that balancing act will work, but we’ve just got to work through it and, hopefully, this will all work out.”

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

Recruits continued from page 20

shocked,” Wilson said. The ten remaining recruits are still committed to Notre Dame but expressed disappointment along with surprise at the decision.

“Three years is not enough,” Marshall, Mich. quarterback Evan Sharpley said. “The guys that were playing for (Willingham) were not his recruits. So we didn’t get to see what he would have done with the type of players that he wanted.”

“I was really surprised.” Highland Park, Ill. wide receiver Matt Sharpley said.

“I was pretty surprised, too,” the defensive back from Miamisburg, Ohio said who asked how he felt about Willingham’s firing. “I was comfortable with coach Willingham.”

The 6’3”, 180 lb. Bruton chose Notre Dame over Louisville, Ohio State and Wisconsin. His commitment still stands but he will have to wait and see who the new coach is going to be.

“Notre Dame is a really good place, and I’ve been going there since 6’5” and weighs 225 lbs, so it was nice if he would still want me to come.”

A handful of recruits were supposed to visit campus this weekend in conjunction with the football banquet. But with its cancellation, they will have to reschedule their visits, probably after the new coach is hired.

“I know he runs a spread offense,” he said. “I’d have to find out from him what my place would be and see if he would still want me to come.”

“Bulls--t,” the 6’3”, 225 lb. Baer said.

As the wide receiver, Matt Bruton said. Bruton was excited about possibly playing in Meyer’s pass-oriented attack. “I want somebody who’s going to throw the ball.”

“Meyer! used to be the receivers coach at Notre Dame so I could relate to him as a receiver,” Bruton said.

“I was comfortable with coach Willingham.”

David Bruton
Irish recruit

“The anti-Willingham, have either been at New Mexico or Arizona,” Wilson said. “I was really surprised,” Wilson said.

“I don’t really know too much,” Sharpley said. I know he’s done pretty well at Utah but that’s about all I know about him.”

Asaph Schwapp, a fullback from Hartford, Conn., was unsure if he would have a spot in the offense if Meyer came.

“As a defensive coordinator, he has done a great job here at Notre Dame and Colorado State.”

The Chicago Sun-Times reported Wednesday that Utah is doing everything it can to keep Meyer from returning to South Bend.

“We’ve had … conversations, and we’ll continue to do so,” Utah athletics director Chris Hill told the Sun-Times. “All I can tell you is that Utah has done a great job at Utah.”

“I realize people are going to be interested, and we’ll do everything we can to keep him,” Hill continued. “Right now, things are just out there as rumors and speculation. I don’t want to comment on other jobs and speculate on that. We’ve got a great job here at the university.”

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Meyer continued from page 20

Meyer has Utah at 11-0 and poised to play in a BCS bowl. The second-year Utes’ coach formerly was the head coach at Bowling Green and a wide receivers coach at Notre Dame and Colorado State.

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Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

University of Notre Dame Department of Music Presents
University of Notre Dame Chorale & Chamber Orchestra
Alexander Blachly, Director
George Frideric Handel’s

Messiah

8:00

Thursday, December 2, 2004
Friday, December 3, 2004

Leighton Concert Hall
Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts

General admission $6; faculty/staff $5; seniors $4; students $3
phone 574-631-2800 for tickets
THE OBSERVER

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For answers, call 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years. 1-888-7-ACROSS. (Answers tomorrow)

Happy Birthday: Your ideas are amazing, so don't hesitate - hijack the store's, for as long as you believe that you have a good plan, push until you book up with the right people to make it happen. Your determination and drive will be impressive. Use numbers 1, 19, 19, 29, 55.

ABE'S (March-April 20): Communication will help you get ahead and reach your goals. You will impress everyone and attract interest as well as in your future career.

HOROSCOPE

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: LaTavia Roberson, Aishwarya Rai, Jenny McCarthy, Lyke Lewis.

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**Football**

**Going after their guy**

Notre Dame officials fly west Thursday afternoon to begin search

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

Irish interim coach Kent Baer conducted an informal press conference Thursday from Tyronne Willingham's normal seat, a brown metal folding chair in the Football Auditorium of the Joyce Center. But Baer only sat there because he had to.

"It's real strange (to have a coach meeting without Willingham)," Baer said. "When we walked into that staff room today and somebody said, 'Sit up at the head of the table.' I'm not even going to approach that seat. I have talked to coach Willingham a handful of times and I'm going to continue to do that, but it's very, very strange. I mean, coach has been so good, he's been tremendous to work for."

Baer answered questions about the team's preparation for bowl Willingham. The former defensive coordinator also confirmed reports that he was out looking for a job.

"I met with some people from Utah State but that's as far as it's gone," Baer said. "It was within this past week."

Robert "Babe" Meyer, who served as Willingham's defensive coordinator, will coach the team at its upcoming bowl game in Tempe, Ariz.

After serving 10 seasons as a member of Willingham's staffs at Stanford and Notre Dame, Baer was noticeably shaken when fielding questions from the media about Willingham.

"I don't know how to describe it," Baer said. "This is sometimes a tough business and I don't know of people who really understand how many people's lives it affects and that's the thing you deal with the most."

"As a coach you've been through it before," he said. "But you still deal with people, you still deal with their families."

The Irish travel to Michigan State (5-1) in an 82-73 loss to No. 15 Michigan State beaten despite the Irish playing their worst first half in which they doesn't serve the media. Notre Dame lost its momentum and lost its home winning streak at the end of an 82-73 loss to No. 15 Michigan State (5-1) in overtime. The loss was the first for the Irish at home in 25 games and their first of this season.

Claire Erwin, who finished with a career-high 20 points and five rebounds, led the Irish.

"Notre Dame made a comeback but after falling behind 41-30 at the half. The Irish played poor defense in the first half and struggled on offense."

"I thought that we got down at halftime -- we played really, really poorly in the first half," Irish coach Michael Meachem said. "I thought we were able to come back, and I think mostly thanks to Crystal Jones."

"We made so many mistakes," Megan Duffy said.

"The Irish can learn from this latter experience. It can teach them that no lead is safe, and mistakes down the stretch will, in fact, cost you to lose games."

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish fall to Michigan State

Squad suffers first home loss in last 25 games

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

Home was no longer sweet Thursday night for the Irish.

After opening the second half with a 17-2 run, No. 3 Notre Dame lost its momentum and lost its home winning streak at the end of an 82-73 loss to No. 15 Michigan State (5-1) in overtime. The loss was the first for the Irish at home in 25 games and their first of this season.

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**Recruits respond to change**

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Like the propellers on the plane flying University officials in their search for a new coach, the leaders of Notre Dame's eleven verbal recruits were spanning after Tyronne Willingham was fired Tuesday.

"I was shocked," Akron, Ohio defensive lineman Lawrence Wilson said. "I couldn't believe it happened when I first heard about it."

Wilson, who was in class Tuesday afternoon when his father called with the news, has taken back his verbal commitment to play for the Irish next season. He is now considering Ohio State, Michigan and Pittsburgh along with the Irish.
FRESHMAN SENSATION

Newcomer Amanda Cinalli has burst onto the scene this season helping the Irish reach the Final Four.
What could have been doesn’t matter now

By any stretch of the imagination, it’s difficult to find anything lacking from Notre Dame’s seventh trip to the Final Four in program history. However, for those who follow the sport (especially those of us who cover it), this is not the way the Final Four was supposed to shape up. Yes, the Irish were supposed to rebound from their loss in the Big East Championship and they were supposed to cruise into the national semifinals. But it wasn’t supposed to be against Santa Clara.

This was supposed to be the marquee matchup, North Carolina against Notre Dame, the two programs in NCAA history. This was supposed to be a rematch of the 2000 season in which the Irish would try and avenge their previous loss to the Tar Heels in the national semifinals. This was supposed to be the game that would decide whether the polls couldn’t, as the two teams exchanged the top-ranked position over the course of the regular season.

It just didn’t work out the way we expected. Santa Clara beat the Irish to the punch and got to North Carolina first. The Irish have shut down every opponent they have faced to get to the Final Four but the Tar Heels couldn’t hold up its end of the bargain.

But none of this takes anything away from what this team is accomplishing. Clearly, North Carolina didn’t deserve to play the Irish; a place in the Final Four is a reward for consistently excellent play, for always finding a way to win.

"You want to play the best going through the tournament, but the way I look at it is Santa Clara beat (North Carolina),” Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "I think we’re playing the better team.”

This team has bigger fish to fry than worrying about a rematch that makes for a better story. All season, the Irish have played like they have something to prove. They believed they were No. 1 all along and wanted a chance to prove that they deserved the ranking. Now that chance is well within their grasp, only two wins away.

Should they win the national championship, they don’t want anyone to be able to question whether they were the best or didn’t play their best competition. They don’t want any excuses. Should they lose, then so be it. Just don’t question them if they win.

And they shouldn’t be questioned. In some respects, playing as the highest remaining seed makes the going more difficult than as the underdog. Suddenly all eyes are on the Irish. Other teams will now be looking past past players, anticipating a matchup against Notre Dame.

The fire and motivation of being the underdog and not getting any respect must be replaced only by self-motivation. And don’t forget the fear of failure that can stall a favored team into a state of paralysis.

However, don’t suppose this will happen to the Irish. They have come too far for too long for Waldrum to let something like not getting to play North Carolina get in the way of his team’s ultimate goal. Notre Dame knows that at the end of the day, it is not the losers but the winners of the national championships who are remembered. And they suppose it should be them.

The views of this column are those of this columnist and do not necessarily those of The Observer.

Matt Mooney eludes an aggressive Santa Clara defender on Sept. 5. The Irish face Santa Clara in the Final Four today.

Midfielder Jill Krivacek heads the ball over a Providence defender in a conference game on Oct. 3.
After scoring two key goals to send the Irish to the Final Four, Amanda Cinalli is ready for the nation's best

By DAN TAPETILLO

Scoring two key goals in the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament is not an easy task for any player — especially if you're a freshman.

Last weekend, Irish forward Amanda Cinalli scored two goals in the 3-1 win over fifth-seeded Portland to send the Irish into the semifinals. Not only did this win keep the team's hopes alive for claiming the national title, but it solidified Cinalli's freshman year of being nothing less than impressive.

"The expectation was always there for her to come in and contribute right away," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "But we don't look to our freshman to be scoring goals. We look for them to be solid and consistent from a week-to-week basis. But she has really exceeded that.

Cinalli began her remarkable season in the first regular season match against Baylor. She contributed two goals and one assist in the 7-2 win. This match was also a clear indication that the quicker and more aggressive style of college soccer would take little time for her to adjust to.

"She has carried our team in some respects. To come in and do that says a lot about her," Waldrum said. "I think she is a little hesitant to go for the goal. But she has also had a little bit of Katie Thorlakson in her game. She just needs to keep the ball and turn quickly. She has a little bit of both and it gives her a whole new dimension up front. That's what makes it hard for the opposition. She just gives you a third option that is completely different.

"Playing like a veteran

But what's really set Cinalli apart this season have been her achievements in the post-season. Not only did she score against Eastern Illinois in the opening round of the NCAA tournament, but her maturity on the field has also grown since her first game against Baylor.

"From Day 1, she has come in like a veteran and hasn't played like a freshman. Where you can see her growth is how she has really started to develop a better mindset of going at people," Waldrum said. "Earlier she was trying to hold the ball before she could make a decision. And lately, the first thing she is looking to do is get to the goal."

Cinalli's aggressive play was last shown against Portland. Her two goals put her season total at 10, the third highest on the team behind Thorlakson and Chapman. Cinalli credits this feat to her growth since the beginning of the season.

"Towards the beginning of the season, I was a little hesitant to go for the goal," Cinalli said. "I learned that you can't have that fear and you just have to challenge yourself and take a chance. Our team is so talented. They are great role models and you learn a lot from them."

Cinalli also credits the team for her success.

"Throughout the season, the team has helped me with the confidence and we are like a family," Cinalli said. "When scoring against Portland there was so much joy and pride in our team. Everyday they are pushing me to be better and I credit the team a lot. They are an amazing group of girls and help me grow as a player."

One in particular player who has influenced Cinalli this season has been Thorlakson, who is not only one of Notre Dame's best, but the country's best as well.

"Her skill on the ball and ability to hold it is amazing and I'm striving to be more like her in that way," Cinalli said. "I am really starting to develop a better mindset of going at people.

"From Day 1, she has come in like a veteran and hasn't played like a freshman. Where you can see her growth is how she has really started to develop a better mindset of going at people."
For fourth-seeded Notre Dame (23-1-1), the theme of this year's NCAA tournament run has been deja vu all over again.

The Irish have already played against two teams (Eastern Illinois and Connecticut) that they met previously during the season.

Now, as the team advances to the Final Four of the Women's College Cup for the seventh time in program history, they will also face No. 16 seed Santa Clara for the second time this season.

Friday's game in Cary, N.C. will be a rematch of the Adidas Classic Championship game at Alumni Field in which then-No. 2 Notre Dame outscored then-No. 4 Santa Clara by a 5-3 score.

The Broncos stayed close for much of the game until late in the second half when the Irish exploited for three goals in less than four minutes. Katie Thorlakson played a big part in the offensive outburst with a hat trick and two assists.

However, Irish coach Randy Waldrum feels that a lot has happened in the 12 weeks since that game. "You could throw that game out the window," he said. "Santa Clara coach Jerry Smith has got some players playing different positions than he did when he played him. The same goes for us. After (Mary Boland) broke her leg we were going with Annie Schelfer up front and we've now got (Candace Chapman) back to where she's playing. Ashley Jones, Jill Krivac, and some of those kids who are playing great now were just getting their feet wet at the beginning of the year."

This time, however, the Irish are catching a surging Broncos team riding the wave of an 11-game winning streak. Santa Clara's success has been due in large part to a stifling defense. During their streak, the Broncos have only allowed their opponents a mildly total of two goals.

This meeting may turn into a much more defensive battle than the first game as the Notre Dame defense has been almost equally suffocating. In their four NCAA tournament games, the Irish have allowed only six shots-on-goal and given up one goal.

For defender Gunnarsdottir, successful defense requires a complete team effort. "The whole team has been playing defense very well, even the forwards," she said. "It all starts up there."

Solid defensive efforts have left fourth-seeded Notre Dame as the highest seed remaining in the tournament. North Carolina, the No. 1 seed, was the only other top-four seed to make it into the third round and they lost 1-0 in overtime to the Broncos.

"At the end of the day (the seed) doesn't mean anything. Santa Clara, they are the 16th seed and here they are in the Final Four."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

Contact Matt Mooney at mmooney@nd.edu

Road to the Final Four