Graduate keeps ties with SMC
Alumna returns to campus, shares book

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor


"As of eight o'clock tomorrow morning [your parents] would like you to leave them alone...Your mothers have asked me to tell you that their homes are not storage bins. Please, when you move on, take your junk with you," Trigiani joked.

This is what exemplified the warm relationship Trigiani has maintained with Saint Mary's since graduating in 1981 and moving on to a distinguished writing career.

"Adri has just been very, very generous with Saint Mary's students and I think she is with her readers too," English department chair Max Westler said.

After relocating from South Bend to New York City, Trigiani founded an all-female comedy troupe "The Outcasts" and later worked as a writer and producer for television shows such as "The Cosby Show," "A Different World" and "Fry Kids." Her 1996 doc-

Dorms interview RA candidates
Current resident assistants, rectors talk to applicants about issues, faith, ambitions

By KAITLYNN RIELEY
News Writer

When Paul Hagan was applying to be a resident assistant (RA) in Zahm Hall last year, he knew part of his job would be encouraging — or discouraging — the dorm's notorious traditions.

Now, Hagan is interviewing prospective Zahm RAs, and the issue of upholding Zahm's identity is a question he and the other RAs are posing to the applicants.

"We ask questions about how they feel about our dorm culture, because obviously Zahm has a very unique or outspoken culture," he says. "But talk about how they would want to change it or nurture it," Hagan said.

see SELECTION/page 6

Slow Webmail access investigated by OIT

By MAUREEN MULLEN
News Writer

While rushing is a way of life at Notre Dame, slower-than-usual Webmail service is frustrating students, faculty and administrators who rely daily on the Notre Dame e-mail system.

The slowed performance arose during the past two to three weeks, said Paul Russell, Senior Systems Administrator for the Office of Information Technologies Messaging Services team.

"Russell said OIT is working to address the situation.

"We are paying attention to the issue," Russell said. "We are painfully aware of the problem."

OIT has discussed and implemented both short- and long-term solutions, Russell said. There are a number of factors that affect server performance, and OIT is investigating the best way to proceed in addressing complaints, he said.

Russell said the Webmail problem is a complex issue that doesn't have a simple or straightforward solution. Though Webmail problems have been the most prevalent, Russell said that all e-mail users have been affected by slower speeds, including those using Outlook Express and Eudora Mail. The difficul-

Stretch of Douglas Road to close

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

With plans set and a vision established, the University is ready to continue its quest for development with the campus roads project — a procedure that will force the closure of some heavily trafficked routes on and around campus next week.

A portion of Douglas Road between Juniper and I-90 roads will be closed from Monday until early May. University spokesman Dennis Brown said in a statement Wednesday.

Part of Bolla Road, east of campus, and part of by-lain'd north of Vaness Street, will also be closed to motorists.
INSIDE COLUMN

Miracle workers

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger wasn't exaggerating when he called it the daily miracle.

The legendary New York Times publisher wasn't talking about college newspapers, of course. But his famous remark sums up perfectly how The Observer manages to appear on the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's campuses five days a week.

Beats me.

Even after leading the newspaper for a year, I still don't understand how we did this 140 times, or why nearly 200 students sacrifice chunks of their GPAs, sleep and social lives for the sake of creating a campus newspaper.

Me, I can't really pinpoint one moment when or one reason why I decided The Observer would dominate my Notre Dame life — that I'd blow off classes for reporting assignments, instinctively dissect dinner conversations for story ideas, spend more St. Patrick's Days typing in the Notre Dame Band Building than chugging on a College Park balcony.

Somewhere between Return to Glory — that I'd decided The Observer would dominate my Notre Dame life — that I'd drive to DeBartolo or the Student Union Hall just for the satisfaction of observing. It's really frustrating when I drive to.

This year, I fell in love with the Editorial Board, something I never really expected to stop showing up any day now. And then there are those — Pat, Heather, Mo, Sarah, Mike, Maddie and all the rest — who long ago admitted it — that isn't exactly common — even if we don't all have the same values.

It's really frustrating when I drive to.

At the end of my term, I'm realizing that our individual motivations matter less than the one reason we all have in common — even if we don't all have the same values.

It's really frustrating when I drive to.

Editor in Chief

Claire Heininger

---

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW HAS THE CONSTRUCTION ON DOUGLAS ROAD AFFECTED YOU?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joey Brown</th>
<th>Bronwyn Fullard</th>
<th>Patrick Esslen</th>
<th>Molly Phister</th>
<th>Maggie Jespersen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>freshman  Fisher</td>
<td>sophomore Posquierita East</td>
<td>senior St. Ed's</td>
<td>sophomore Le Mans</td>
<td>sophomore Le Mans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"It is imposing on my Catholic values." "It's really frustrating when I drive to work." "Not really, too much responsibility." "I don't have a car. So no." "It made it difficult to get to my student observing."

---

OFFBEAT

And a little-litty-thimble of popcorn, please

OTTAWA — Budding Canadian film makers looking for a big break may want to think small — about 2 inches by 2 inches to be exact — organizers of Canada's first mobile film festival said Wednesday.

Mobfilm producers are looking for bite-sized films that are up to 60 seconds long and produced for viewing on cellphones and other handheld devices.

"The big picture is that there's a billion (mobile) phones worldwide and an increasing percentage of them are playing back video," said Duncan Kennedy, president of NowNow Corp., which is producing the contest. "It's a new distribution channel for independent film making."

Boy sticks gum on valuable paintings

DETROIT Painter Helen Frankenthaler's landmark abstract work "The Bay" just got a little more abstract — to the dismay of Detroit museum officials.

A 12-year-old boy visiting the Detroit Institute of Arts with his school group on Friday stuck a wad of chewing gum on the painting, which is worth an estimated $1.5 million, the Detroit Free Press reported.

The boy was suspended from Holly Academy, a Detroit-area charter school he attends, the newspaper reported.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

LAW student Matt Perez-Staple registers for Howard Hall's sixth annual bone marrow drive Thursday. Perez-Staple's name will be entered in a computerized registry maintained by the National Marrow Donor Program.

IN BRIEF

Saint Mary's senior Ashley Pellicer will present her senior comprehensive play "Angel: A Nightmare in Two Acts" today at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theater in Moreau Hall. The play is free and open to the public.

The Irish men's basketball team will bid farewell to seniors Saturday, when the team squares off with DePaul in its final home game of the 2005-2006 season. Tip-off is at 4 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

The 2nd annual Holy Cross Mission Lecture, "The Word of God is not Chained: Images for Mission in Cultures," will be presented Sunday at 7:15 p.m. in the Moreau Seminary Auditorium.

John Carr, Director of the Department of Social Development and Peace, will speak on "Political Responsibility and Religion: Faithful Citizenship in the 2006 Elections" on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Eck Visitors Center Auditorium.

The Jazz Clinic with the Clayton Brothers will perform Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Notre Dame Band Building. The event is part of the Collegiate Jazz Festival and is free and open to the public.

A conference titled "Reading Between the Lines: Scripture and Community in the Dead Sea Scrolls" will take place at 10:30 a.m. Monday in McKenna Hall auditorium.

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

---

LOCAL WEATHER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TODAY</th>
<th>TONIGHT</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Business
continued from page 1

Assistant Provost for Admissions Dan Saracino.

"That goes against the culture at Notre Dame," Saracino said.

For now at least, it was decided that gates both can and should be avoided.

Woo echoed Saracino's analysis, adding that this stance made Notre Dame unique.

"Almost all schools I know have gates to the business program," she said, "If [Notre Dame accepts students, they should have access to any major they want."

Assistant Dean of the College of Business Samuel Gaglio agreed with Woo's sentiments, saying there are "no ongoing discussions as gates are not appropriate for Notre Dame."

"If you're here at Notre Dame, the option to study business is yours," Gaglio said, "even if the University were willing to install gates, there would be no practical way to screen applicants for their majors without changing the structure of the First Year of Studies program — a well-established system that allows freshmen to explore various academic options."

"There are many subjects at Notre Dame that (incoming) students aren't familiar with — like engineering and business," Saracino said.

Applicants do notify the Office of Undergraduate Admissions of what they plan to major in, Saracino said, but 15-20 percent of students change their major between when they apply and when they register for classes the summer before freshman year. More than two of every three undergraduates at Notre Dame change their major between application and graduation, with many changing two or three times, he said.

This is as true for business majors as for students in the other colleges, Gaglio said.

"There are other ways than actually majoring in business," he said.

While the College will always try to fill any openings in courses, Gaglio said students from other colleges may not always be able to take business electives, due to the already-maximized enrollment by business majors.

"We have to give priority to business students, as the courses are necessary to their degrees," he said.

"Any seats we have are available, but that is a limited number."

Class sizes cannot be increased, he said.

"There is a pedagogical limit to the size of any class on campus," he said. "It hurts the quality of the class if you go beyond that. We've put all our limits at that number."

Gaglio said high enrollment in any courses stems from student interest in the material.

"Students should study what they love," he said, quoting psychology specialist Anre Venter.

"The courses we offer appeal to students."

For those students to whom business appeals, there are many places to pursuing a business major at Notre Dame, Woo said.

"Business training is very broadly applicable," she said. "All organizations, in order to be effective, require a certain organizational intelligence."

And Notre Dame students will continue to have the option to choose Business, just as they may study Arts & Letters, Science, Engineering or Architecture, without admissions gates.

"We couldn't be more convinced that what we have is the best system," Saracino said.

Contact Karen Langley at klangley@nd.edu
Trigiani continued from page 1

umentary "Queens of the Big Time" won the Audience Award at the Tribeca Film Festival and toured internationally. It was a screenplay called "Big Stone Gap," however, that gave rise to Trigiani's career as a well known novelist and made her a dorm room name at Saint Mary's. In 2000 she published her first book, "Big Stone Gap," about a 38ething-year-old woman living in a Virginia mining town. Two more books based on the same character, "Cherry Holler," and "Milk Glass Moon," followed, rounding out what is now known as the Big Stone Gap Trilogy. Her three most recent titles, "Lucia, Lucia," "The Queen of the Big Time," and "Some people would say it was a very good job," Trigiani said. "I am at the beginning of what I hope will be a long career in books so when I hear that my books are being used in the classroom, I want to hoister, No, wait, I'm getting better at this — prom is!"

"When I think about Adri, I think as bad as some things are in the world, there are people like her trying to turn it around," said Max Westler, English department chair. Westler, who described her former student as "the funniest women on the planet," said any Saint Mary's woman who contacts Trigiani can expect a timely response. He has no shame in droppin her name in class and said the College has a dependable friend in New York.

"When I think about Adri, I think as bad as some things are in the world, there are people like her trying to turn it around," Westler said.

Contact Megan O'Neil at one9007@smmary.edu

Trigiani's novels are not confined to the private bookshelves of Saint Mary's students, however, they are being utilized in literature classes at the College.

English professor Laura Haigwood included a work by the writer on one of her course's syllabus for the third time this semester. Students are often able to relate to Trigiani's Catholic, European-descended characters, Haigwood said, and her books lend themselves to thoughtful discussion of women's issues. "I was surprised by how much they enjoyed reading her," Haigwood said. "Some people would say it was their favorite book of the class." In addition to using her work to teach literary analysis, Haigwood said she holds Trigiani up as an example for current students.

"I always mention that she is an alumna because I think it is important for our students to know what our graduates are doing," Haigwood said.

Senior Clare Hoyt knew the name Trigiani before she enrolled at Saint Mary's. Her mother was a classmate and friend of the author. She read several of Trigiani's novels, so she enjoyed her writing style.

"I was an unsophisticated, high-energy ball of undirected fire and luckily my professors took the talent underneath all that very seriously," said Adriana Trigiani, Saint Mary's graduate.

Trigiani's work in "Milk Glass Moon," the main character, Ave Maria, insists her daughter — set on attending architecture school at the University of Virginia — at least visit Saint Mary's before making her final decision.

"I was surprised by how much they enjoyed reading her," Laura Haigwood, English professor

ChiANT AND Polyphony FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Schola Musicorum

8:30 AND 9:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005
REYES ORGAN AND CHORAL HALL
MARCH 7 DEBARTOLO CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

TICKETS $5
PHONE 574-631-2800
**International News**

**Gunmen attack top Sunni politician**

BAGHDAD — Gunmen attacked the disarmed car of Iraq’s top Sunni politician Thursday, killing one bodyguard and wounding another. A bomb killed the U.S. diplomat Thursday, killing his vehicle’s guard and wounding another. The White House said Bush’s visit to Pakistan was threatened by the ambush Thursday, killing one bodyguard and wounding another.

**Suicide bombing kills U.S. diplomat**

KABUL — A suicide bomber targeted a U.S. diplomat on Thursday, killing one bodyguard and wounding three others. The diplomat was killed in a suicide bombing in Kabul, killing one bodyguard and wounding three others.

**Nuclear deal made with India**

NEW DELHI — White House officials celebrated a landmark nuclear deal with India, but it looked ahead with some uncertainty. To President Bush’s next step in Pakistan, a dangerous front line in the war on terrorism. The president flies to Islamabad late Friday, a day after an American diplomat was killed in a suicide bombing in Karachi, Pakistan’s largest city.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Independent Katrina probe wanted**

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers from both parties said Thursday a newly disclosed videotape of a pre-Katrina briefing for President Bush and top administration officials raises new questions about government response to the storm that flooded New Orleans and killed more than 1,300 people.

**Nurse sentenced to life in prison**

SOMERVILLE — A nurse who killed at least 29 people was sentenced to life in prison for the rest of his life Thursday after his victims’ loved ones angrily denounced him as a “murderer,” “murderer” and “a monster” who killed innocent children and teenagers.

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Smoking ban off to a clean start**

INDIANAPOLIS — Shiny red ashtrays dotted a handful of new wrought-iron tables on the third floor of the American Legion restaurant in Downtown Indianapolis, proof that smoking has finally been banned.

**Senates choose to renew Patriot Act**

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday gave its blessing to the renewal of the USA Patriot Act after adding new privacy protections designed to strike a better balance between national security and the gov-ernment’s power to root out terrorism.

The 89-10 vote marked a bright return for its acceptance because India still refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "I’m trying to think differently, not stay stuck in the past," said Bush, who has made improving relations with India a goal of his administration. Celebrating their agreement, Singh said, "We have made history today, and I thank you." The U.S.-India nuclear deal was seen as a landmark nuclear deal that might be difficult because India still refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "This bill will allow our law enforcement officials to continue to use the same tools against terrorists that are already used against drug dealers and other criminals, while safeguarding the civil liberties of the American people," Bush said in a statement from India.

**Senate chooses to renew Patriot Act**

Bush acknowledged that Washington and New Delhi were estranged during the Cold War, when India declared itself a nonaligned nation but tilt- ed toward Moscow. "Now the relationship is chang­ing dramatically," he said.

India has more than 1 billion people, and its booming economy has created millions of jobs and consumer demands that have attracted American businesses. Its middle class has swelled to 300 million — more than the population of the United States. Still, 80 percent of Indians live on less than $2 a day.

Bush thanked the Senate for approving the two-bill renewal of the USA Patriot Act after adding new privacy protections designed to strike a better balance between national security and the government’s power to root out terrorism.

"This bill will allow our law enforcement officials to continue to use the same tools against terrorists that are already used against drug dealers and other criminals, while safeguarding the civil liberties of the American people," Bush said in a statement from India.

**Critics held their ground. A** December filibuster led by Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., and joined by several libertarian-leaning Republicans, forced the Bush adminis-tration to agree to modest new curbs on the government’s power to probe library, bank and other records.

Feingold insisted those new protections are cosmetic. "Americans want to defeat terrorism and they want the basic character of this country to survive and prosper," he said. "They want both security and liberty, and unless we give them both — and we can if we try — we have failed."
Selection continued from page 1

The RA selection process is either underway or completed in all 27 residence halls. Students interested in applying for the position submitted an application and three letters of recommendation to the Office of Student Affairs in mid-January. Though dorms differ slightly in how they conduct their selection process, the rectors, assistant rectors and current resident assistants usually hold a series of interviews, and then the rector makes the final decisions.

Anne-Marie Rick of Welsh Family was awarded an RA spot last week. She found the application process — which included three separate interviews in one hour — to be fairly easy.

"The interviews go over everything from how you would handle a situation to how you speak to the girls in your section, your personality and how bullieic to what do you think is the biggest thing you're going to have to give up," Rick said.

In some dorms, competition for the RA position is free room and board, and can be tough. Students and rectors are usually意识ed of one for seven spots. Other dorms, like Morrisey Hall, have less intense competition. Matthew Schuhleit is one of nine Morrissey juniors applying for eight spots. If he's offered the RA position, Schuhleit wants to help Morrissey residents adjust to life in the dorm and at Notre Dame.

"I feel like I've had great role models in my life, particularly freshman year," Schuhleit said. "I hope that I could make fresh­ men more comfortable and not want a sprawling, non-walkable campus," Lyphout told The Observer in the Sept. 27, 2004 article.

Lyphout said all new con­ struction will rest within the blue line — a decision that neces­sitates the closure of Juniper Road once all alter­ native routes are in place. The section of Juniper Road that bisects campus will close in August, Brown said. The University, local gov­ ernment officials and the public general negotiated for three years about the campus roads project until it was eventually approved by the Saint Joseph County Council on June 8, 2004. Brown said one concession made by the University during this procedure was its agreement to build a new north-south roadway on the campus.

Brown said motorists who enter campus along its north­ ern edge — from the east on Douglas — should use Clev­ eland Road to Juniper on the north and Edison Road to Fiddly on the south for the duration of the road closing.

Additional closings will occur in May due to construc­tion on another portion of Douglas and on Saint Joseph's Drive. Brown said.

Contact Katie Perry at kperry@nd.edu

Douglas continues from page 1 during this period.

The purpose of the closings is to allow construction to begin on a roundabout at the Douglas-Hvy intersection and is "necessary to widen Douglas Road," vice president for Business Operations Jim Lyphout said.

The road closures will also permit the completion of a new four-lane road — North Twyckenham Drive — east of Notre Dame campus.

Brown said once construc­tion is completed in May, the extension of Twyckenham from Edison to Douglas, and on to Juniper, will likely improve the time it takes motorists to travel "in every direction near Notre Dame."

"This four-lane north-south corridor will be much faster than [the] current route through campus with stop­ lights," Lyphout told The Observer in an article published Sept. 27, 2004. "It will be a better road and a faster road."

This spring's roadwork is part of a larger campus roads project, which Lyphout said is estimated to cost $238 mil­ lion. Primarily launched in response to safety concerns arising from a predicted increase in pedestrian traffic due to construction on the northern area of campus — the project is also part of a master plan to determine how far the campus will ulti­ mately expand.

"We have a blue line that tells us how far we can spread outwards, because we don't want a sprawling, non-walkable campus," Lyphout told The Observer in the Sept. 27, 2004 article.

"I feel like I've had great role models in my life, particularly freshman year," Schultheis said. "I always the chance for them to get to know some of the students studying under their benefica­tion," said Louis Nami, vice president for University rela­ tions. "I'm sure who enjoys these meetings more, our students or our donors."

The weekend also will include a panel discussion, titled "Chilling the Promotion: The Undergraduate Education Experience and Teaching," featuring Thomas G. Burish, Notre Dame's provost, and Dennis Jacobs, vice president and associate provost and professor of chemical and biochemical engineering, who was named the U.S. Professor of the Year in 2002.

"The big highlight of the recog­ nition weekend for our guests is always the chance to get to know some of the students studying under their benefica­tion," said Louis Nami, vice president for University rela­ tions. "I'm sure who enjoys these meetings more, our students or our donors."

More than 250 University of Notre Dame benefactors from 28 states will be honored on cam­ pus beginning Friday (March 3 and 4) during the biennial Scholarship Fellowship Recognition Weekend.

Rev. John J. Jenkins, C.S.C., Notre Dame's President, will wel­ come the guests at a reception Friday evening at which students will have an opportunity to meet the men and women who have underwritten their educations.

"The big highlight of the recog­ nition weekend for our guests is always the chance to get to know some of the students studying under their benefica­tion," said Louis Nami, vice president for University rela­ tions. "I'm sure who enjoys these meetings more, our students or our donors."

The weekend also will include a panel discussion, titled "Chilling the Promotion: The Undergraduate Education Experience and Teaching," featuring Thomas G. Burish, Notre Dame's provost, and Dennis Jacobs, vice president and associate provost and professor of chemical and biochemical engineering, who was named the U.S. Professor of the Year in 2002.

The weekend also will include a panel discussion, titled "Chilling the Promotion: The Undergraduate Education Experience and Teaching," featuring Thomas G. Burish, Notre Dame's provost, and Dennis Jacobs, vice president and associate provost and professor of chemical and biochemical engineering, who was named the U.S. Professor of the Year in 2002.

The weekend also will include a panel discussion, titled "Chilling the Promotion: The Undergraduate Education Experience and Teaching," featuring Thomas G. Burish, Notre Dame's provost, and Dennis Jacobs, vice president and associate provost and professor of chemical and biochemical engineering, who was named the U.S. Professor of the Year in 2002.

The weekend also will include a panel discussion, titled "Chilling the Promotion: The Undergraduate Education Experience and Teaching," featuring Thomas G. Burish, Notre Dame's provost, and Dennis Jacobs, vice president and associate provost and professor of chemical and biochemical engineering, who was named the U.S. Professor of the Year in 2002.

The weekend also will include a panel discussion, titled "Chilling the Promotion: The Undergraduate Education Experience and Teaching," featuring Thomas G. Burish, Notre Dame's provost, and Dennis Jacobs, vice president and associate provost and professor of chemical and biochemical engineering, who was named the U.S. Professor of the Year in 2002.
**Stocks lower on retail worries**

Disappointing sales prompt some new concerns about slowdown in economy

---

**Market Recap**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dow Jones</th>
<th>11,028.07</th>
<th>-25.46</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up/Down</td>
<td>Same</td>
<td>Down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,393</td>
<td>1,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,544,369</td>
<td>6,460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**New York —** Nervous investors bid stocks modestly lower Thursday as disappointing retail sales reports prompted fresh concerns about growth in the economy and a drop-off in corporate profits. A surge in oil prices also spurred selling.

While many big-name retailers reported solid, if uninspiring, sales for their fiscal stewardship. For investors who hope summer spending will remain robust in the face of expected interest rate increases from the Federal Reserve.

“Economic strength is showing, not to the point where anybody’s really worried, but if corporate profits are slow along with it, you’re going to want to see the Fed finish up with rate hikes,” said Russ Koenich, senior portfolio manager for Barclays Global Investors in San Francisco. “But the Fed is going to err on the side of inflation. So the one catalyst that could move the markets out of this trading range doesn’t seem to be there right now.”

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 28.02, or 0.25 percent, to 11,025.51.

Broader stock indices also fell. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index lost 2.10, or 0.16 percent, to 1,289.14, and the Nasdaq composite index dropped 2.53, or 0.16 percent, to 2,111.31.

Bonds fell for a second straight session, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rising 3.53 basis points from 4.59 percent late Wednesday. The dollar also rose against major currencies, while gold prices rose.

U.S. net oil-producing regions as well as higher natural gas prices helped boost crude futures. A barrel of light crude settled at $63.36, up $1.39, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The retail worries overshadowed another sign of strength in the labor market. First-time jobless claims rose by 15,000 last week to 294,000, according to the Labor Department. The small increase kept claims below 300,000 for the seventh straight week.

The claims data, however, did not provide any additional clarity on the overall economy. The week’s economic data, while plentiful, has been mixed, leaving investors with their uncertainties about economic growth and prompting what Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co., called a knee-jerk reaction to each new bit of data.

“you look at the past three days, we’re down, up and down again,” said Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co. "Without any real catalyst, and really, without knowing what the Fed will do, we’re going to bounce around here for a while."

The Fed meets March 28, and is likely to raise the nation’s benchmark interest rate to 4.75 percent.

Wall Street will be watching closely for signs whether the March rate hike will be the last in the recent string of increases, or whether the Fed sees more signs of inflation to combat. Against a backdrop of

---

**Retail Sales**

The retail worries overshadowed another sign of strength in the labor market. First-time jobless claims rose by 15,000 last week to 294,000, according to the Labor Department. The small increase kept claims below 300,000 for the seventh straight week.

The claims data, however, did not provide any additional clarity on the overall economy. The week’s economic data, while plentiful, has been mixed, leaving investors with their uncertainties about economic growth and prompting what Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co., called a knee-jerk reaction to each new bit of data.

“you look at the past three days, we’re down, up and down again,” said Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co. "Without any real catalyst, and really, without knowing what the Fed will do, we’re going to bounce around here for a while."

The Fed meets March 28, and is likely to raise the nation’s benchmark interest rate to 4.75 percent.

Wall Street will be watching closely for signs whether the March rate hike will be the last in the recent string of increases, or whether the Fed sees more signs of inflation to combat. Against a backdrop of

---

**IN BRIEF**

Bankruptcy may be in Dana’s future

TOLLEDO — Dana Corp.’s inability to make $21 million in interest payments this week prompted investors and analysts on Thursday to wonder whether the struggling auto parts maker is moving closer to seeking bankruptcy protection. The company’s stock took another tumble Wednesday. Failing to make that deadline would leave Dana’s ability to renegotiate its debt obligations in doubt.

The need to increase the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate has set off a debate in Congress. The Senate Finance Committee’s ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee. “That’s impossible for us,” said Sen. Max Baucus of Montana.

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the Senate are facing a difficult but necessary vote in coming weeks to approve raising the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate. The Senate is in a recess for its spring break and is expected to return April 15.

Dana said it has a 30-day grace period to make the interest payments, which were due Wednesday. Failing to make that deadline would leave Dana’s ability to renegotiate its debt obligations in doubt.

The negative outlook reflects the continuing uncertainty of Dana’s ability to renegotiate its debt obligations, said Standard & Poor’s Ratings Service and adds: “The negative outlook reflects the continuing uncertainty of Dana’s ability to renegotiate its debt obligations.”

**Exchange Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Exchange Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEN</td>
<td>115.8100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRL</td>
<td>0.8200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POUND</td>
<td>1.7350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANADIAN $</td>
<td>1.1110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National debt may increase with vote

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the Senate face a difficult but necessary vote in coming weeks to approve raising the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate. The Senate is in a recess for its spring break and is expected to return April 15.

The need to increase the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate has set off a debate in Congress. The Senate Finance Committee’s ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee. “That’s impossible for us,” said Sen. Max Baucus of Montana.

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the Senate face a difficult but necessary vote in coming weeks to approve raising the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate. The Senate is in a recess for its spring break and is expected to return April 15.

The need to increase the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate has set off a debate in Congress. The Senate Finance Committee’s ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee. “That’s impossible for us,” said Sen. Max Baucus of Montana.

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the Senate face a difficult but necessary vote in coming weeks to approve raising the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate. The Senate is in a recess for its spring break and is expected to return April 15.

The need to increase the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate has set off a debate in Congress. The Senate Finance Committee’s ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee. “That’s impossible for us,” said Sen. Max Baucus of Montana.

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the Senate face a difficult but necessary vote in coming weeks to approve raising the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate. The Senate is in a recess for its spring break and is expected to return April 15.

The need to increase the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate has set off a debate in Congress. The Senate Finance Committee’s ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee. “That’s impossible for us,” said Sen. Max Baucus of Montana.

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the Senate face a difficult but necessary vote in coming weeks to approve raising the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate. The Senate is in a recess for its spring break and is expected to return April 15.

The need to increase the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate has set off a debate in Congress. The Senate Finance Committee’s ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee. “That’s impossible for us,” said Sen. Max Baucus of Montana.

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the Senate face a difficult but necessary vote in coming weeks to approve raising the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate. The Senate is in a recess for its spring break and is expected to return April 15.

The need to increase the legal limit on the debt that the auto supplier can accumulate has set off a debate in Congress. The Senate Finance Committee’s ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee. “That’s impossible for us,” said Sen. Max Baucus of Montana.
NJ: J. killer of 22 people gets 11 life sentences

Former male nursing home worker murdered patients with hard-to-detect drug injections

Associated Press

SOMERVILLE, N.J. — A former employee of a New Jersey nursing home has been sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms for the murders of 22 people in New Jersey and Pennsylvania since his victims hurt once again.

In a heart-wrenching sentencing hearing Thursday, Charles Cullen — one of the worst serial killers ever discovered within the U.S. health care system — escaped the death penalty after making a deal with prosecutors that spared him from execution.

The jury deliberated over three days after a three-week trial. The defense rested after the jury was fooled by the defendant's false testimony. It was not until late in the trial that the defense called the witness.

The defendants, all in their late 20s or early 30s, were not accused of directly making threats or involving out vandal-ism. Instead, they were charged with inciting the harassment with their website postings.

"Here is a government, a
crack federal
government, who
spends millions of
taxpayer dollars to wage an assault on
all our constitutional
righ"s.

Pamela Ferdin
form er child star

Associated Press

ALBANY, Ga. — Georgia and South Carolina peach growers have cleared the first hurdle in winning a fight over the sweet, juicy fruit, they are still a long way from the finish line.

The trees have the necessary chilling hours, so growers can produce fruit. Many were challenged by pro-
testers parading with photos of dead children and screaming "Puppy killer!"

"We have reached adequate
through megaphones at all
hours outside their homes.

Some women said she received an e-mail threatening
to cut her 7-year-old son open and stuff him with pos-
som e one. A man said he was shou-
ered with glass as people smashed all the windows of his home and overturned his

The defendants, all in their late 20s or early 30s, were not accused of directly making threats or inciting out vandal-

PJ. Sprey, said: "Our

normal full bloom on the
ridge is March 15 and we
should be seeing it on course for this season.

Georgia's 2004 crop was
collected in one of the best
decond in a decade, but a combi-
nation of problems — includ-
ing a cool, wet spring, a dis-
ease outbreak and the rem-
aining spring frosts — swept through the state —
made for disastrous produc-
tion last year, said Kathryn
Taylor, the University of Georgia's peach specialist.

In middle Georgia, where
the bulk of the crop is grown, bums are beginning to form

"Another week of warm
weather and we're going to
see some color out there with
the early varieties," she said.

Despite an unusual winter,
peach trees have already

17000 acres of peaches in Ridge Springs, S.C.

Alejandro Barrera empties his bag of peaches during harvest June 9, 2005 at Titan Peach Farms Inc. in Ridge Springs, S.C.

Peach farmers braced for frost
McCartney, wife make statement with seals

Associated Press

ON THE ICE FLOES IN THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE — Paul McCartney and his wife took to the frigid ice floes off the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday in a bid to halt Canada's annual slaughter of weeks-old seal pups.

Animal rights activists consider the killing of the down-eyed baby seals, who are often clubbed to death, pierced with long hooks or skinned alive, as cruel and unnecessary, but fishermen say they badly need the income.

The McCartneys, dressed in orange thermal jumpsuits, travelled in helicopters with a dozen journalists, and members of the Humane Society of the United States and the British-based Respect for Animals.

Hundreds of seals and their fluffy white pups, only days old, were lying on the ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the mothers taking breaks from nursing to bob in the water to fish. The pups will shed their white fur for two weeks, when they become game for fishermen, who get each $14.5 each for their pelts and blubber.

The former Beatle acknowledged residents have hunted seals for hundreds of years.

"Well, in our view, that doesn't make it justifiable," he said.

"Plenty of things have been going on for a long time, like slavery. Just because it's been going on for a long time doesn't make it right.

The McCartneys rolled on the ice with one pup, which grunted mumbled at Heather Mills McCartney and mewed for its mother. She expressed sadness over what she described as a few weeks, their pelts going mostly to Norway, China and Russia.

"They sell the baby seal skins for fashions and fur — that's what's so horrific about it," said Mills McCartney.

The former Beatle implored the minister to turn instead to ecotourism like whale watching, which communities have done along the Atlantic Coast.

"This is one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on Earth," he said. "It's very rare that you can come to a beautiful, wild place like this. In our view, it would make more sense to look at ecotourism.

Sealers say the hunt has kept their communities afloat for centuries.

"He'll go out there and raddle up to a whitecoat and they look beautiful, you can't get away from that and it is cruel, you can't get away from that either, but it's something we've done for 500 years," said Jack Traouke, a 70-year-old sealer. "It's helped to sustain us. We go to bed with a full stomach, a tight roof over our head. It's part of our culture, our history."

The United States has banned Canadian seal products since 1972 and the European Union banned white baby seal pelts in 1983.

The British government is also considering banning seal goods. Respect for Animals and the Humane Society of the United States, which coordinated the McCartneys' visit, are encouraging a boycott of Canadian fur.

"I think the McCartneys are two of the most visible people in the world, and with them drawing attention to the fact that this hunt is still going on, this is going to get that message out," said Rebecca Aldworth, a Newfoundland who is observing her seventh seal hunt for the Humane Society of the United States.

Aldworth has documented on video the gruesome nature of the hunt, in which the waiting pups are bludgeoned or shot dead, their blood spilling over the ice.

She said the McCartneys quizzed her about the slaughter, including the economic benefits for fishermen, whose livelihoods were devastated when the Atlantic Ocean cod stocks dried up in the mid-1990s.

Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans insists the seals are not killed before they shed their white fur — typically two to three weeks after they are born.

"All these animal rights groups take people out there in pose with these cute little ones. To suggest that they're out there clubbing these little white furry ones is just wrong. That's completely banned," said Phil Jenkins, a department spokesman.

The government endorses the hunt as a cultural right and announced a management plan in 2003 with a quota of 975,000 seals over three years.

About 325,000 seal pups were killed last year, bringing local fishermen $14.5 million, which they say their families badly need. The start of this spring's hunt has yet to be announced as mild temperatures have made the ice thin.

Paul McCartney and his wife Heather, left, pose with a seal pup on the ice of the Madeleine in the Gulf of St. Lawrence Thursday.

Bill faces opposition in Senate
Proposal calls for new immigrant rights

WASHINGTON — Efforts to allow illegal immigrants to eventually become legal U.S. residents were given little chance of winning congressional approval as the Senate began work on an election-year immigration bill.

The legislation pits several Republican constituencies against each other. Social conservatives and governors say the fate of illegal immigrants is overwhelming their state budgets, but businesses say they want to keep them as a source of labor.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said he does not object to allowing illegal immigrants to earn legal permanent residency after several years of work, as proposed by Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

"The political reality is that is going to be very, very difficult to do and to get a bill, if there is any penalty to pay for coming into this country illegally," Specter said.

Specter's committee held its first meeting aimed at trying to complete a bill by the end of March that accommodates all sides in the most contentious domestic issue before Congress this year.

"I have seen virtually no agreement on anything. Emotions are at an all-time high," Specter said.

President Bush has been hoping to deliver a temporary worker program that would allow illegal aliens to keep their jobs in hotels, restaurants, nurseries, agriculture and other businesses that rely on low-wage labor.

---

ACE: Katrina Response - Solidarity in Service

Rebuild lives. You can help. Find out how.

Spring Break Service Trip to the Gulf Coast - March 13 - March 17
Sponsored by the Alliance for Catholic Education

Applications available in the ACE office, 112 Badin Hall

ST. Thomas School. Lung Beach, MS

ECDC 2006-07 Registration

The Early Childhood Development Center at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame (ECDC) is currently registering for the 2006 Summer program and the 2006-07 School Year.

Registration Due Dates:
2/15/06 2006-07 Kindergarten Registration
3/1/06 2006 Summer Program
4/3/06 2006-07 School Year

For more information please call ECDC-SMC: 284-4693 or ECDC-ND: 631-3344.
Changes a step forward for GLBTQ students

One eretts a “coming-out closet” on South Quad. The other hosts a coffee hour in CoMo. One pedagogically saturates campus with orange T-shirts to draw the public eye. The other consistently has Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Powell rear.

Clearly, unrecognized gay and lesbian student group AllianceND and the University Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs — this week renamed the Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students — have very different approaches to the issue of homosexuality at Notre Dame. But they share the same worthy goal of making gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer and questioning (GLBTQ) students feel accepted and comfortable at a Catholic university.

That’s why — though it steps well short of granting a gay and lesbian student group official club status — the restructuring of the Standing Committee is an encouraging one.

Notre Dame has had its chances to grant official recognition to several groups’ appeals through the fire last decade. Two years ago — in what was arguably gay and lesbian organizations’ best shot at that status to date — the officious group OutrearchND brought to campus the head of the poor Catholic institution Boston College’s official gaystraight alliance, The Daily Princetonian. The quality is similar, too. Both groups’ appeals coincided with an impressioned speech to coincide with Notre Dame’s first “Gay? Fine by Me” T-shirt demonstration.

Yet OutrearchND was still denied official status in 2004, and rectors have lost theirarnance. Orange shirts that once seemed so revolutionary have declined in shock value — which may be both a positive and negative development. And while it’s not certain that Notre Dame will continue the pedagogically saturating campaign, the University has thus far held firm, with Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Sister Mary Louise Gate telling The Observer this week that there is “absolutely no talk” from the administration about officially recognizing AllianceND.

Amidst this challenging atmosphere, AllianceND should be commended for its persistence in the club application process, as well as its accomplishment in distinguishing AllianceND’s functions that an administration standing committee cannot fulfill. However, AllianceND members — and all Notre Dame students concerned about the University’s stance on homophobia — have reason to cheer the restructuring and increased student membership and leadership of the Core Council. Notre Dame has characteristically been hesitant to raise the tenuous issue of homosexuality on campus. But the changes to the Core Council show the administration recognizes — with Notre Dame peremptorily ranked at or near the top of the Princeton Review’s “Alternative lifestyles Not Allowed” category — that the University does have a problem that must be addressed.

By acknowledging that gay and lesbian students should be better served at Notre Dame, and by making a genuine effort to seek more student input about how to best accomplish this goal, I feel I can begin pondering what might motivate the admirable step forward fulfilling the “Spirit of Inclusion” it promises.
The Vagina Monologues is an all-female show, fixated on the female perspective. It is the only team from one of the six major conferences (ACC, BIG EAST, BIG Ten, BIG 12, PAC-10 and SEC) to have a winning record. It has won the VUAA award in each of the last two seasons. The Vagina Monologues is performed by the administration without regard to content or propriety. It mandates that no academic freedom should be allowed for the theatrical works of Jesus accepting others as much as based on a strictly controlled dogma that pre­­vents a University image for public consumption. Academic priorities that once stood above athletic competition fell when replaced by reinstated tradition. Brey, with a freshman year 9-3 record, failed to equal Willingham's first-year 10-3 record, although the University did build large LCS checks both years. Interestingly, Brey has yet to prove he can win the "big one" in the college ranks.

Brey has little chance of weathering crises for his release if the administration holds true to its precedent. With 17 wins 17-7 in conference play, in context and the likelihood of 17 wins again this year that a poor 6-10 conference record, Brey's game clock is about to wind down. The uncertainty of his fate lies in how a steady riding team on defense and a "win, win" mentality among various theatrical approaches approach Brey's departure. The athletic department receive blessings from administrators to unencumber a new "36-9"-buck Brey like Willingham, or they might demonstrate discretion, professionalism and class by reaching an agreement that helps out both the University and the Final year to coach — with or without the "36-9"-buck Brey — would have been the principle pathed way to treat Willingham. It is the only right-minded way to approach firing.

Make no mistake: This writer could care less if Brey coaches longer than Digger Phelps. Of course we alumni want Notre Dame to win, and frankly we worry that Notre Dame department in its search for the right coach (be it Brey or Bill) can't seem to make the right decision. Notre Dame is a Catholic institution. Good money is spent by some. In other words, how much bang for your buck do you get?

"The Vagina Monologues" is not badly served when done by nonprofessionals, whereas if a group of young people with a couple weeks of rehearsal, proven presence and perception, says "The Vagina Monologues" is the real thing. The last time Notre Dame has escaped examination. The first has to do with an aspect of staging the play. "The Vagina Monologues" is the Catholic character which is never wholly based on the ethical works of Jesus. The second has to do with the Catholic character of the University. Concerning the Catholic character of the University.

The problem of "The Vagina Monologues" echoes one of the difficulties of the firing of Tyrone Willingham, the first of President Jenkins' line of nonfootball athletic directorship. "The Vagina Monologues" is an all-female show, fixated on the female perspective. The play's performance at Catholic University is a "win, win" mentality among various theatrical approaches approach Brey's departure. The athletic department receive blessings from administrators to unencumber a new "36-9"-buck Brey like Willingham, or they might demonstrate discretion, professionalism and class by reaching an agreement that helps out both the University and the Final year to coach — with or without the "36-9"-buck Brey — would have been the principle pathed way to treat Willingham. It is the only right-minded way to approach firing.

"The Vagina Monologues" is one of the smallest, most inviolable line of darkness that divides the room; one half of excitement and despair that sweep through the blackness. One of the most striking things about boxing is that the crowd is shared in its emotions: we are a part of the contest and yet clearly disconnected from both. The wins and losses are not just the two boxers in the ring, but the crowd outside as well. We are all part of the crowd, and it is the crowd that makes it so exciting. The connection between the boxers and the audience is powerful, and we feel the pain and joy of the fighters as if they were our own.

The observation of watching boxing is more than just watching a fight. It is an experience that connects us to something greater than ourselves. It is a shared moment that brings us together, and it is a reminder of the power of human connection. Watching boxing is not just about the individuals in the ring; it is about the larger story of human struggle and triumph.

The Vagina Monologues is a powerful experience that resonates with the human experience in many ways. It is a story of struggle and triumph, of beauty and pain, of human connection and disconnection. It is a reminder of the complexity of the human condition and the beauty that can be found in the struggle. It is a story that speaks to us all, and it is a reminder of the power of art to connect us to something greater than ourselves.
The DPAC’s latest film festival highlights the famed genre “film noir.” One of the festival’s most famous films is “The Big Sleep” starring Humphrey Bogart.

**DPAC SPOTLIGHT**

**Bogart, Cagney, headline film noir festival**

By ANALISE LIPARI  Scene Writer

Names like James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart, images of detective offices and back-end New York alleys and gunfights, are important to both the genre of film noir and its fans. Bogart’s husky voice and Cagney’s gravelly lilt, the perfect pair of pugnacious detectives, have made the pair synonymous with the film noir genre. Each has put a distinct stamp on a particular set of film conventions.

The Performing Arts (DPAC) plays host to a large estate outside Nashville, Tenn., with a successful marriage, three beautiful children. Hill’s voice is noted that now that their girls are a little older, they can be the center focus of Hill’s more personal and professional ventures. She will be touring with them as they roam the country, and many large venues around the country will feature hill’s hobbies include ballads like “She’s My Kind of Girl,” a symbolically modern day Pandora, it’s less disturbing for the film’s characters. The DPAC’s latest film festival highlights the famed genre “film noir.” One of the festival’s most famous films is “The Big Sleep” starring Humphrey Bogart.

**Chanting country music pair spurs sales**

By LIZ BYRUM  Scene Editor

With a collection of multi-platinum albums, a successful marriage, three beautiful children and a new joint tour about to kick off, there might not be a luckier duo than Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. The country music couple, who live on a large estate outside Nashville, Tenn., with their daughters Maggie, Gracie and Audrey, just keep climbing the country ladder.

Over the past year, Hill released her first new album since 2002’s “Cry.” This new release, titled “Fireflies,” takes a wide turn away from the commercial glitz that had become the center of focus of Hill’s more recent work. The result of songs like “Mississippi Girl,” which in Hill sings, “You might know me all around the world, but I’ll call you a real bad boy/baby I’m a real good man,” the album includes ballads like “She’s My Kind of Flin,” “Legs Like You Were Dying” and the emotional “Red Rag Top.” On a lighter note, songs like “Real Good Man” show McGraw’s ability to sing a line and make it true. Hill’s voice is noted that now that their girls are a little older, they can spend time together. They will be touring with them as they roam the country, and many large venues around the country will feature Hill and McGraw’s crossover duet with rap star Nelly, “Like I Never Love At All” is about the heartbreak and misunderstanding that comes with the end of a relationship. Hill’s voice is as powerful and beautiful as it has always been, and the compliment of McGraw’s country lilt creates the perfect tone for the subject of the song. The music video for “Like I Never Love At All” portrays Tim and Faith as 1960s performers — complete with amazing sets, lighting and costumes.

On his own time, Tim McGraw has been preparing for the release of his second greatest hits album, “Tim McGraw Greatest Hits, Vol 2: Reflecting.” Although this CD will not be released in stores until March 28, the album is sure to please McGraw’s loyal fans, as it includes all of his latest and greatest hits. Favorites on the album include ballads like Hill’s voice is noted that now that their girls are a little older, they can spend time together. They will be touring with them as they roam the country, and many large venues around the country will feature Hill and McGraw’s crossover duet with rap star Nelly, “Like I Never Love At All” is about the heartbreak and misunderstanding that comes with the end of a relationship. Hill’s voice is as powerful and beautiful as it has always been, and the compliment of McGraw’s country lilt creates the perfect tone for the subject of the song. The music video for “Like I Never Love At All” portrays Tim and Faith as 1960s performers — complete with amazing sets, lighting and costumes.

On his own time, Tim McGraw has been preparing for the release of his second greatest hits album, “Tim McGraw Greatest Hits, Vol 2: Reflecting.” Although this CD will not be released in stores until March 28, the album is sure to please McGraw’s loyal fans, as it includes all of his latest and greatest hits. Favorites on the album include ballads like "She’s My Kind of Flin," "Legs Like You Were Dying" and the emotional "Red Rag Top." On a lighter note, songs like "Real Good Man" show McGraw’s ability to sing a line and make it true. Hill’s voice is noted that now that their girls are a little older, they can spend time together. They will be touring with them as they roam the country, and many large venues around the country will feature Hill and McGraw’s crossover duet with rap star Nelly, “Like I Never Love At All” is about the heartbreak and misunderstanding that comes with the end of a relationship. Hill’s voice is as powerful and beautiful as it has always been, and the compliment of McGraw’s country lilt creates the perfect tone for the subject of the song. The music video for “Like I Never Love At All” portrays Tim and Faith as 1960s performers — complete with amazing sets, lighting and costumes.

On his own time, Tim McGraw has been preparing for the release of his second greatest hits album, “Tim McGraw Greatest Hits, Vol 2: Reflecting.” Although this CD will not be released in stores until March 28, the album is sure to please McGraw’s loyal fans, as it includes all of his latest and greatest hits. Favorites on the album include ballads like "She’s My Kind of Flin," "Legs Like You Were Dying" and the emotional "Red Rag Top." On a lighter note, songs like "Real Good Man" show McGraw’s ability to sing a line and make it true. Hill’s voice is noted that now that their girls are a little older, they can spend time together. They will be touring with them as they roam the country, and many large venues around the country will feature Hill and McGraw’s crossover duet with rap star Nelly, “Like I Never Love At All” is about the heartbreak and misunderstanding that comes with the end of a relationship. Hill’s voice is as powerful and beautiful as it has always been, and the compliment of McGraw’s country lilt creates the perfect tone for the subject of the song. The music video for “Like I Never Love At All” portrays Tim and Faith as 1960s performers — complete with amazing sets, lighting and costumes.

On his own time, Tim McGraw has been preparing for the release of his second greatest hits album, “Tim McGraw Greatest Hits, Vol 2: Reflecting.” Although this CD will not be released in stores until March 28, the album is sure to please McGraw’s loyal fans, as it includes all of his latest and greatest hits. Favorites on the album include ballads like "She’s My Kind of Flin," "Legs Like You Were Dying" and the emotional "Red Rag Top." On a lighter note, songs like "Real Good Man" show McGraw’s ability to sing a line and make it true. Hill’s voice is noted that now that their girls are a little older, they can spend time together. They will be touring with them as they roam the country, and many large venues around the country will feature Hill and McGraw’s crossover duet with rap star Nelly, “Like I Never Love At All” is about the heartbreak and misunderstanding that comes with the end of a relationship. Hill’s voice is as powerful and beautiful as it has always been, and the compliment of McGraw’s country lilt creates the perfect tone for the subject of the song. The music video for “Like I Never Love At All” portrays Tim and Faith as 1960s performers — complete with amazing sets, lighting and costumes.
CLEANING HOUSE

Bengal Bouts co-President Nate Schroeder dedicated himself this spring to winning the heavyweight title.
By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

When senior Bengal Bouts co-captain Greg Schaefer wakes up on fight-day mornings, the radio is on and he's moving back and forth in his Notre Dame Ave. apartment, trying to keep his jitters from bursting him around.

He arrives at the Joyce Center hours before his scheduled match that day. He checks his look in the mirror — analyzing his phantom punches at a fantasy opponent hours away from their dance in the dark. Then he does his best to avoid his mind of all things boxing.

He even strums a little guitar — anything petty to keep from obsessing over the dream he has been running down for years.

"I get real nervous," Schaefer said. "I think a lot of the guys do."

For Schaefer, though, the pre-fight has been more rewarding than "a lot of the guys." A nagging shoulder injury has kept him from finishing a tournament bout since his freshman debut that ended in a split-decision semifinal loss in the 155-pound weight class.

His problems started one day during the six weeks of training in the fall of his sophomore year, when Schaefer dealt a punch but his shoulder would not let him take it back. Instead of throwing a fist, he threw his shoulder right out of the socket.

A surprise setback for the accountability major, his shoulder problem bothered him throughout training. The shoulder popped out again during the first round of his sophomore fight, which he could not continue.

"You don't want to get surgery, unless you absolutely have to," he said. "So I tried to let it heal on its own."

But it happened again during training his junior year, and his time "stayed out," requiring a successful surgery last March.

"The surgery went fine," Schaefer said. "It hasn't slipped out so far. This season's going well. I feel pretty confident."

Now as the No. 2-seeded senior in the 160-pound bracket, this tournament is Schaefer's final opportunity to take home the title — though he would not have far to take it.

A native of Granger, Ind. and alumnus of Penn High School, Schaefer's Bengal Bouts wait began before he entered Notre Dame as a student.

He remembers his father, a Notre Dame professor, asking him to start boxing when he was just a junior in high school.

"He said it is a great feeling helping the novices, who he estimates make up almost half the program, "to teach them a move and see them do it in the ring."

After four years of participating in Bengal Bouts, his position means much more to him than a chance to pound fists.

"We have to carry on the tradition," he said. "We have to help pound into the guys' heads that we're raising money for the missions in Bangladesh."

Greg Schaefer
boxer

"Every guy you ever fought, you have a mutual respect for that person."

One of the great things about the program is the camaraderie you get with fellow boxers. It's a different type of friendship.

"Every guy you ever fought," Schaefer said. "I told myself if I got into Notre Dame that was definitely something I wanted to do. So I signed up freshman year at activities night. Now he is a captain, devoting to the boxing program three to four hours a day, six days a week — an experience more rewarding than he could have imagined as a high schooler.

"He said it is a great feeling helping the novices, who he estimates make up almost half the program, "to teach them a move and see them do it in the ring."

After four years of participating in Bengal Bouts, his position means much more to him than a chance to pound fists.

"We have to carry on the tradition," he said. "We have to help pound into the guys' heads that we're raising money for the missions in Bangladesh."

Our president sends out a solidarity report on how our efforts have helped someone from Bangladesh survive. I can't say I've ever done anything quite like it before."

"One of those on-presidents is Schaefer's friend senior Mark Basola, who happens to be the defending champion at 160 — and Schaefer's only higher-seeded foe.

Their friendship, like their boxing history, traces years ago to their time in Krough Hall, where Basola is still a resident assistant.

Schaefer remembers one of his first freshman matches against Basola, an even-handed spar that saw turning heads and wild swings, describing it as "one of the ugliest matches you've ever seen."

These early fights remain printed into his memory because they began friendships.

"Every guy you ever fought," he said. "You have a mutual respect for that person. One of the great things about the program is the camaraderie you get with fellow boxers. It's a different type of friendship."

Amid all the lessons learned and causes h e l p s Schaefer does not forget what first drew him to the program.

"Every guy you ever fought," he said. "You have a mutual respect for that person."

After all, his nickname is Greg "Still Shaffdogg from the Block" Schaefer — that block not far from campus in Granger, from where his father first whetted his appetite with that unexpected visit to the Bouts.

Since then he has trained, rehabilitated and — hardest of all — waited. He said, "you have a mutual respect for that person."

"For Schaefer, the wait to compete is over, but he hopes he still has the pleasure of at least one more fight-day wait to come."

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougherty@nd.edu

Senior entered tournament as No. 2 seed after shoulder surgery a year ago

Schaefer overcomes jitters and tough foes

Senior Bengal Bouts captain Greg Schaefer, right, deflected Phil Albonetti's punch during Schaefer's quarterfinal victory in the 160-pound division at the Joyce Center Tuesday. A year after shoulder surgery, Schaefer is the No. 2 seed in the 160-pound division.

Senior Bengal Bouts captain Greg Schaefer, right, winds up to punch Phil Albonetti during Schaefer's quarterfinal Bengal Bouts victory at the Joyce Center Tuesday.
Traditions of toughness

First-year boxer Brian DeSplinter is brother of three-time champ but blazes his own path in this year's Bengal Bouts tournament

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

A lot of kids follow the athletic trails their older brothers blazed for them. But not so many walk in the exact footsteps.

Like his older brother Mark before him, freshman Brian DeSplinter has started his boxing career and carried on the torch of a family tradition.

But DeSplinter was unaware of his young Bengal Bouts career came to a close — DeSplinter lost his first career fight to Michael Schmitt Feb. 28. DeSplinter reflected on his progress through the men's boxing program.

"I can't believe I made it through the training and all that sort of thing. I didn't think I'd be able to," he said. "It started off with me wondering whether or not I could get through the workouts — and then whether or not I could in the ring. It's pretty amazing how far I've come."

Throughout his first year in the ring, Brian did his best to pick up where his brother, a 2005 graduate and three-time Bengal Bouts champion, left off.

"I talked to him [before my first round fight]," Brian DeSplinter said. "He told me what I should do before the bout. "DeSplinter mentally and stuff like that. He's been a lot of help."

Some of that help came this past fall, during the novice season, when the older DeSplinter returned to South Bend and helped his younger brother work on some of the finer points of the sport.

"I went back to campus this past year while he was in training, and it was amazing," Mark DeSplinter said. "I would get in the ring with him, [and it was fun, with the pointers I gave him, coming to practice and seeing how good he was — seeing how it all came together]."

Perhaps because of his success in the ring, the elder DeSplinter didn't initially talk to his brother about boxing.

"He didn't want to give me a lot of help at first, because he didn't want me to make him think that I had to [Dook]," Brian DeSplinter said.

But as Brian began showing increasing interest, his older brother stepped in and began to pass his wisdom on to his younger brother.

"He came down to the boxing room once or twice, moved around with me and showed me some stuff," Brian DeSplinter said.

While the story of an older brother helping his younger sibling along an athletic path is an old one, the relationship between the DeSplinters has a unique link. In each of their most recent seasons, each brother has worn a blood-stained sweatshirt to each and every practice throughout the season, never washing it between the beginning of the semester and the end of the bouts.

The tradition started during the 2004 novice season last year, when Mark DeSplinter returned to South Bend and helped his younger brother work on some of the finer points of the sport.

"A friend and I were downstairs [in the boxing room] when we really shouldn't have been. I was fighting pretty well, and I kind of got a little cocky, throwing kind of wild punches and not really protecting myself," Mark DeSplinter recalled. "All of a sudden, my friend comes underneath and just nails me with a right hand and almost shatters my nose. It exploded and my sweatshirt just got covered in my blood. I was close to not being able to fight that year because my nose was so bashed up, bleeding every time it was touched."

Instead of calling it a bad practice and writing the injury off as a mistake, Mark DeSplinter instead chose to make an example of the incident.

"What I did was, I never watched the sweatshirt, because it reminded me that you can't lose so easily if you ever got cocky, so it reminds me never to get cocky."

In part because of the supernatural luck the bloody sweatshirt brought his brother last season — DeSplinter dominated the 163 class to win his third title — Mark opted to follow down the same path when a similar incident occurred.

"When I got a bloody nose on my sweatshirt last year, I said 'nope, not gonna wash it until I win," Brian DeSplinter said.

Though he didn't advance as far as he wanted, DeSplinter won his first fight, and, if he keeps true to his word, his sweatshirt will be clean before he reports to practice next January.

As his brother Brian's career progresses, Mark DeSplinter hopes that his sibling will get the same meaning out of the program that he got.

"Bengal Bouts was the best thing I did at ND," Mark said. "There's nothing like it."
125-pounds

WILL MARRA V. MATT GELCHION

The championship in the 125-pound weight class features sophomore Will Marra against freshman Matt Gelchion.

Marra has fought twice to make it to the finals, defeating Nicholas McLees on Tuesday when the referee stopped the fight in the third round before winning a split decision over top-seed Peter Sarpong.

Gelchion has fought for only 30 seconds in the entire tournament, knocking out Nate Serazin in the semifinals on Thursday night.

While Marra has proven to be an aggressive fighter, Gelchion, with less than a minute under his belt, will be more of a question mark.

132-pounds

CHRIS IZAGUIRRE V. KRIS PEREZ

The 132-pound final will showcase sophomore Chris Izaguirre versus freshman Kris "El Azteca" Perez.

Izaguirre won three fights to make it this far, including a quarterfinal upset over No. 1-seed Sagar Navare.

After a first round-bye, Perez has won two fights, with the referee stopping the contest each time.

Izaguirre should use his height and size in the fight, while Perez will likely continue to be the aggressor to offset the size mismatch.

140-pounds

LAWRENCE SULLIVAN V. MIKE HENNIG

The 140-pound championship fight features Lawrence "The Boston Massacre" Sullivan against Mike "Just Call Me Moror" Hennig.

Hennig, the No. 2 seed in the tournament, has TKO'd two of his three opponents using his aggressive but controlled style.

Sullivan has moved through the tournament in a defensive, counter-punching fashion, taking advantage of his opponent's mistakes.

Both should look to come out using styles similar to those that got them to the finals as they look to capture the title.

145-pounds

ANDREW MCGILL V. TOMMY FORR

The 145-pound weight class championship pits junior Andrew McGill against junior Tommy "Rightin' for Milk" Forr.

McGill, a captain and one of the more technically skilled fighters in the program, has yet to be tested, as he has cruised through his first three matches.

Forr has utilized an all-out attack to bully opponents.

While it has worked thus far, he has sometimes tired towards the end of fights.

Against McGill, a very-well conditioned fighter, Forr's conditioning may be an issue.

150-pounds

JOHN O'CONNELL V. BRET SHAPOT

In the 150-pound weight division, freshman John "The Highlight" O'Connell will square off against Bret "The Mail Never Stops" Shapot.

O'Connell has won unanimously in all of his fights, demonstrating a deadly combination of speed and power.

Shapot, who has been outsized at times during the tournament, but is a smart and fundamentally strong fighter.

The battle between these two fighters should be intense and back-and-forth.

155-pounds

CHRIS CALDERONE V. ZACHARY JARA

The 155-pound weight class final will see junior Chris Calderone against junior Zachary Jara.

Other than Calderone's split-decision quarter-final win against Anthony Schweins, both fighters have outmatched their opponents in impressive victories.

This matchup has been in the works since the beginning of the tournament, as the duo entered as the top two seeds.

Both are smart and technically skilled, and this should be one of the closest and most exciting finals of the tournament.
160-pounds

JEFFREY HAUSFELD V. GREG SCHAEFER

PICKS
ERIC RETTER
Schaefer
KEN FOWLER
Schaefer

Sophomore Jeffrey Hausfeld will face senior captain Greg Schaefer in the finals of the 160-pound weight division. Hausfeld, a hard-puncher with a tendency for wildness, will be looking to defeat the second captain of his Bengal Bouts campaign. Schaefer should look to keep the fight from turning into a brawl, which would benefit Hausfeld.

165-pounds

CHARLIE GOUGH V. BILLY HEDERMAN

PICKS
ERIC RETTER
Hederman
KEN FOWLER
Gough

The championship in the 165-pound weight class will feature senior Charlie Gough against law student Billy Hederman. The two fighters have a similar style, as both have effectively used their jab to create opportunities during fights. Hederman showed he has the power to stop fights early, TKO'ing Matt Hazlebeck in his quarterfinal match.

170-pound

BRIAN NICHOLSON V. ANDREW BRESLIN

PICKS
ERIC RETTER
Nicholson
KEN FOWLER
Nicholson

The 170-pound championship will pit two smart and experienced fighters in seniors Brian Nicholson and Andrew Breslin, a captain. Nicholson, a much taller fighter, should use his jab and extensive reach advantage to keep the smaller Breslin away. Breslin should try to get underneath Nicholson's long arms and use his hooks — one of his butter punches — to work Nicholson's body.

180-pound

DAN WARD V. JEFF GOLEN

PICKS
ERIC RETTER
Ward
KEN FOWLER
Golen

In the 180-pound division, senior Jeff Golen will take on junior Dan Ward. The two fighters employ contrasting styles, as Ward is one of the toughest fighters to hit and focuses on quick, precise punches, while Golen is an aggressive and technically sound fighter with lots of power. Golen must increase the tempo of the fight to win.

CRUISERWEIGHT

JOHNNY GRIFFIN V. PATRICK K. RYAN

PICKS
ERIC RETTER
Griffin
KEN FOWLER
Griffin

The Cruiserweight title fight will feature senior Johnny Griffin against sophomore Patrick K. Ryan. Griffin, arguably the best fighter in the bouts, is an aggressive fighter with great power. A quick puncher, Griffin should look to capitalize with big combinations. Ryan should look to keep his distance and pick his spots, bringing a full attack when he decides to engage Griffin.

HEAVYWEIGHT

NATHAN SCHROEDER V. JOHN BUSH

PICKS
ERIC RETTER
Schroeder
KEN FOWLER
Schroeder

The Heavyweight bracket championship will feature senior co-president Nathan Schroeder against junior John Bush. Bush, a southpaw, will try to fight like the bigger fighter and keep Schroeder away with his long reach. Schroeder, a crafty boxer with knockdown power, will look to get inside and throw, especially if Bush trade punches.

SUPER HEAVYWEIGHT

TONY CUNNINGHAM V. BRIAN KOENEN

PICKS
ERIC RETTER
Koenen
KEN FOWLER
Koenen

The Super-Heavyweight division final will pit junior Tony Cunningham against junior Brian Koenen. In his earlier fights, Cunningham has often charged directly at his opponents. While often effective, these bombardments have at times been reckless and generally leave him exhausted. Koenen should look to move and avoid the charges and land more controlled combinations if Cunningham gets tired.
Breslin philosophical about Bengal competition
Senior captain looking for victory in his first trip to the tournament championship

By KATE GALEs
Associate Sports Editor

Breslin philosophical about Bengal competition
Senior captain looking for victory in his first trip to the tournament championship

Andrew Breslin punches Brian Kantor in their quarterfinal match Feb. 28. Breslin, left, won the bout by technical knockout.

Cruiserweight Griffin looks for second title in three years

By CHRIS KHOREY

Cruiserweight Griffin looks for second title in three years

Andrew Breslin punches Brian Kantor in their quarterfinal match Feb. 28. Breslin, left, won the bout by technical knockout.
By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Before his sophomore year of college, Stu Stypula had never set foot inside of a boxing ring. But his relentless work ethic—and a little help from a throwback haircut—earned the junior one of six spots as a Bengal Bouts fighter this year and the No. 2 seed in the 180-pound weight class.

"The 2005 captains said I had been selected because at the time I had long hair and they wanted to reintroduce 'the shag look' into the program captainship," Stypula said.

Stypula has no problems getting through the first year in last year's 180-pound class. He faced off against senior Michael Stifring and came away with the unanimous decision.

In the next round, "Beans" sparred with Doug "Sudden Death" Barreto. Despite putting up a good fight, Stypula fell to the eventual division champion in the quarterfinal round. But winning was not his main goal when he joined Bengal Bouts. As a two-sport athlete in high school, Stypula was simply looking for a way to stay in shape while learning a new sport.

"I also wanted to find out if I was as tough of a guy as I thought I was," he said. "I found out that boxing isn't always about being the tougher guy and playing salaries for many of the workers over there," he said. The junior biology major also takes away a great deal of knowledge from the program that he has given so much time and effort.

"Bengal Bouts has definitely prepared me to be a great person in any situation in life through perseverance and hard work," Stypula said. "It has also taught me to work for a purpose higher than myself."

Stypula said he wants to continue his work as a captain next season, but he is intent on making his mark as a champion on this year so he can dedicate even more time to training younger boxers as a senior captain. "It's a nice feeling to look up to you, asking you questions, watching you box and trying to learn from you," McGill said. "It's a great honor to be involved with an event of such great success."

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy@nd.edu.

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

McGill, a native of Erie, Pennsylvania, initially intended to heed his father's advice, which came from a desire not to see his son tossed around in the ring. But the now-junior and Bengal Bouts captain has no regrets in disobeying his father.

"I tried to ease into it," McGill said of telling his father he joined the boxing program. "After coming up the first year and seeing me fight, my parents said I could keep up with these guys and not get my nose bashed in. They called him "Bean's". I always thought I could handle the physical aspect of boxing, but at the same time, I knew that you're disciplining yourself. You're making sacrifices for a purpose higher than yourself."

Another key component for McGill is intense training. The past two years he has spent more than three hours a day in the ring and in life with the toughest he has faced.

"I have been inspired by a sense of leadership to work harder and be a better boxer than I would be if I wasn't a part of this program. If Stu "Beans" has really impressed his technique, he's bound to make some noise in the 180-pound division this year. This was the second-straight year Stypula earned the No. 2 seed in the tournament. But he has no intentions of resting on his laurels. "I hope to be a contender for the division champion," he said.

Stifring had no problems getting through the first year in the 180-pound class. He faced off against senior Michael Stifring and came away with the unanimous decision.

In the next round, "Beans" sparred with Doug "Sudden Death" Barreto. Despite putting up a good fight, Stypula fell to the eventual division champion in the quarterfinal round. But winning was not his main goal when he joined Bengal Bouts. As a two-sport athlete in high school, Stypula was simply looking for a way to stay in shape while learning a new sport.

"I also wanted to find out if I was as tough of a guy as I thought I was," he said. "I found out that boxing isn't always about being the tougher guy and playing salaries for many of the workers over there," he said. The junior biology major also takes away a great deal of knowledge from the program that he has given so much time and effort.

"Bengal Bouts has definitely prepared me to be a great person in any situation in life through perseverance and hard work," Stypula said. "It has also taught me to work for a purpose higher than myself."

Stypula said he wants to continue his work as a captain next season, but he is intent on making his mark as a champion on this year so he can dedicate even more time to training younger boxers as a senior captain. "It's a nice feeling to look up to you, asking you questions, watching you box and trying to learn from you," McGill said. "It's a great honor to be involved with an event of such great success."

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy@nd.edu.

Disobedient son becomes Bengal Bouts captain

Andrew McGill's work ethic in the gym earned him title after his sophomore year

KYLIE CASSILY
Sports Writer

The last words Andrew McGill's father said to his son as he dropped him off for his freshman swimming class were simply yet clear: "Don't join Bengal Bouts."

McGill, a native of Erie, Pennsylvania, initially intended to heed his father's advice, which came from a desire not to see his son tossed around in the ring. But the now-junior and Bengal Bouts captain has no regrets in disobeying his father.

"I tried to ease into it," McGill said of telling his father he joined the boxing program. "After coming up the first year and seeing me fight, my parents said I could keep up with these guys and not get my nose bashed in. They called him "Bean's". I always thought I could handle the physical aspect of boxing, but at the same time, I knew that you're disciplining yourself. You're making sacrifices for a purpose higher than yourself."

Another key component for McGill is intense training. The past two years he has spent more than three hours a day in the ring and in life with the toughest he has faced.

"I have been inspired by a sense of leadership to work harder and be a better boxer than I would be if I wasn't a part of this program. If Stu "Beans" has really impressed his technique, he's bound to make some noise in the 180-pound division this year. This was the second-straight year Stypula earned the No. 2 seed in the tournament. But he has no intentions of resting on his laurels. "I hope to be a contender for the division champion," he said.

Stifring had no problems getting through the first year in the 180-pound class. He faced off against senior Michael Stifring and came away with the unanimous decision.

In the next round, "Beans" sparred with Doug "Sudden Death" Barreto. Despite putting up a good fight, Stypula fell to the eventual division champion in the quarterfinal round. But winning was not his main goal when he joined Bengal Bouts. As a two-sport athlete in high school, Stypula was simply looking for a way to stay in shape while learning a new sport.

"I also wanted to find out if I was as tough of a guy as I thought I was," he said. "I found out that boxing isn't always about being the tougher guy and playing salaries for many of the workers over there," he said. The junior biology major also takes away a great deal of knowledge from the program that he has given so much time and effort.

"Bengal Bouts has definitely prepared me to be a great person in any situation in life through perseverance and hard work," Stypula said. "It has also taught me to work for a purpose higher than myself."

Stypula said he wants to continue his work as a captain next season, but he is intent on making his mark as a champion on this year so he can dedicate even more time to training younger boxers as a senior captain. "It's a nice feeling to look up to you, asking you questions, watching you box and trying to learn from you," McGill said. "It's a great honor to be involved with an event of such great success."

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu.
Chris Calderone seeks a Bengal Bouts title to average 2005 semifinal loss

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Chris Calderone knows from experience that he is not the best, you have to beat the best.

The junior Bengal Bouts captain and Chris Loughman in the 150-pound weight class has for four years in high school and joined the Bengal Bouts program in 2004. Loughman knocked off Calderone and went on to win the weight class. For the next year — his first at 155 — Calderone has been handed down by the head of the champions.

"It made it harder because it felt like. Wow, I would have won the whole thing," Calderone said. "I'm not pushing anything but I'm hoping to win the whole thing," he said of his hopes for this year's Bouts.

Calderone's interest in boxing grew out of the lack of another sport at Notre Dame — varsity wrestling. Calderone found an introduction to boxing, "first we do a conditioning," Basola said. "We get a select few who do start doing the program in the spring," Basola said. "They're real novices so we have to work hard to make sure they can participate in the fights and do well.

Training sessions, which can last up to 12 hours a week as the tournament nears, are as rigorous, if not more so, than any varsity sport.

"The workouts are very structured," Basola said. "First we do our calisthenics — we call them 'cal.' We do 333 push-ups a day because we want to do a total of 10,000 by the end of the season. Also we do 500 sit ups per day.

"On top of that we do our training and form work, which is where we teach the novices how to fight.

Although the training is intense, Basola said he doesn't condone excessive weight loss to compete in a certain weight class.

"We try to discourage that as much as we can," he said of fighters "cutting" weight. "We tell them not to do anything crazy.

Besides physical workouts and technical training, the novices receive valuable experience sparring, which is important to overcome the psychological hurdle of climbing into the ring to fight another person.

"You're very alone in boxing," Basola said. "It's you and another guy in the ring and you have to fight with your feet.

As co-president, Basola has many other responsibilities aside from training younger fighters.

"You have to be on top of everything," he said. "You have to work with...RecSports to do the paperwork for the Bouts, you have to make sure that donations are coming in. You also have to get the ads for the programs, which is how we make most of our money. You have to make sure the training is up to speed. You have to make sure that there are EMTs in the pit so we can spar. And you have to make sure that the coaches are up to speed so they know what's going on.

"We've got some dinosaurs in the program that come back year in and year out," Basola said. "As for the senior, his four year Bengal Bouts career has seen many ups and downs, culminating in his 160-pound champion underclassmen and he a leader in such a respected program.

"We had some upperclassmen that taught me as a freshman," he said. "It's probably been the best thing I've done at Notre Dame so far.

Contact Kyle Cassilly at kcasilly@nd.edu

Basola goes from novice to captain in a few short years

By CHRIS KOHERE
Sports Writer

When Mark Basola first heard of Notre Dame's charity boxing tournament, he had never fought in his life.

"I heard about (Bengal Bouts) this summer before coming here — from some family friends," the senior said. "Heinling was really easy for him to take on after the match. For Basola, who played basketball and swam in high school, the Bengal Bouts novice program served as a way to transition into a totally new sport — one that was much more demanding than anything he had done before. Older boxers and alumni coaches taught him the nuances of the "sweet science" of boxing and helped him through the rigorous training.

Basola said those mentors were crucial in his development as a boxer.

"The novice program was my introduction to boxing," Basola said. "I got to see what the workouts are like. It also got me into some semblance of shape. It's much more physically demanding than anything I've played, but was unable to win more than one match. He said he's learned a lot technically from those early bouts.

"My freshman year I was really nervous and really excited," Basola. "I kind of lost control and started throwing punches without thinking.

This year, Basola was upset in the quarterfinals by sophomore Jeff Hausfeld, one of his proteges. Hausfeld defeated Mark Hinkle Thursday in their semifinal bout and will take on Greg Schaefer in the 160-pound final Sunday.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu
Wobbly 'Domino' lands face first

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Critic

With a slick preview trailer, "Domino" looked to feature the coolest on-screen bounty hunter appearance since Boba Fett in "The Empire Strikes Back." Well, maybe the bounty hunter not to wear Mandalorian armor.

Although Fett's taciturn performance is a tough act to follow, the presence of Keira Knightley's sheer attractiveness at least promised to make up for any mercenary shortcomings. Trading in lipstick for bullet-shell casings, Knightley appeared poised to capture both her wanted quarry and the hearts of teenage males across the country — dead or alive.

While she more or less succeeds as a femme fatale, the film more than draws a bead on any would-be criminals.

Herein lies the main problem of Domino — the film tries too hard to be cool. Instead of letting it come naturally, it tries to force it. Dressed like wannabe rock stars, Knightley and Co. look like members of the now-defunct band Creed, with performances nearly as strained as Scott Stapp's vocals. Wielding shotguns in lieu of guitars, they are clearly trying to change the rock industry motto to "Sex, drugs, lock in load," but fail miserably.

Of course, all of the blame for this can be placed squarely on the shoulders of director Tony Scott. Once known as the genius behind "Top Gun," Scott is in a tailspin free-fall nearly as bad as the one that killed Goose.

Using cinematography similar to his last film, "Man on Fire," Scott again elects to use a perpetual motion approach in shooting Domino. This gets old quickly — he can't keep the camera still, always zooming in and out, or flitting around. With this recently developed case of cinemographic ADD and a few artistic montages, Scott clearly has delusions of art-house grandeur.

In reality, shaking the camera only makes the audience want a dose of Dramamine. What all of this proves that "Domino" is a cliched action film posing as an indie flick.

It's as far from civilization as you can get at Notre Dame — but one look across the water will show you the gleaming face of your golden home.

Peace. Performing Arts. International Studies. Sunset over the Hesburgh Center offers a chance for reflection on these and many other topics.

Pinpoints of light remain as the evening draws to a close; campus hums with activity long after darkness reigns outside.

For next week: What are the best fountains on campus? Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.
Perez continues to dominate 132-pound division

By JACK THORNTON and TIM KAISER

12:5: Peter Sarpong vs. Will Marra

The first bout of the evening played out like a dogfight, as Z Ahmed "Abdul" Sarpong outlasted off-campus junior Peter Marra for a split decision win.

Sarpong long, quick jabs throughout the match, and effectively dodging and evading with his entire match, and effectively dodging and evading with

While Hanlon struggled to land punches, McGill set up shop, looking for an uppercut to knock Biddle out. After failing to land much of anything, Hanlon was able to keep McGill away in the third round, but the Zahn junior was able to land a few jabs, and Dyer, missing most of his shots at the aggressive Calderone, was forced to clinch multiple times.

14:5: Dan Rodgers vs. Tommy "Fightin'" Ford

The second fight of the evening played out like a cruiserweight style - "Fightin'" Ford for a split decision win.

The next fight played out like a cruiserweight style - "Fightin'" Ford for a split decision win.

15: John "The Highlighter" O'Connell vs. Brian Tyrrell

Sophomore Jeffrey Hausfeld came out firing in the first round, as Rogers began to get his feet

160: Jeffrey "Werewolf of London" Hausfeld vs. Mark Jara

The next fight played out like a cruiserweight style - "Fightin'" Ford for a split decision win.

16: Alex Duffy vs. Greg Schaefer

Freshman Alex Duffy dropped a match to Greg Schaefer in the semifinals, with both fighters aggressiv

165: Billy Hederman vs. Adam Burns

Senior Andrew Breslin beat junior Adam Burns by split decision, on the strength of his powerful def

Contact Jack Thornton at tkaiser@nd.edu and Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu
MLB

WBC loses four big names

Ramirez reports to camp instead of tourney

Associated Press

On the same day Manny Ramirez finally joined his Red Sox teammates, Vladimir Guerrero, Billy Wagner and C.C. Sabathia pulled out of the World Baseball Classic, Ramirez arrived at spring training Wednesday, six days after Boston's first full-squad workout and one day after Major League Baseball's mandatory reporting date. He was given permission by the team to show up late so he could continue working out near his Miami home.

The enigmatic slugger arrived with his agents and others in a pair of spiffy vehicles: one copper, one silver. He sported dark orange dreadlocks and was on the field for only an hour. And he passed up several chances to say he's pleased to still be with the Red Sox after he asked to be traded only an hour. And he passed up several chances to say he's happy to be with Boston.

 Guerrero pulled out of the WBC, saying he will not play for the Dominican team because of the deaths of his three cousins last weekend in a car accident.

"I feel mentally that I cannot go out there and play to the level and compete for my country," Guerrero said through a translator at Los Angeles Angels camp in Tempe, Ariz.

Wagner and Sabathia dropped off the United States team and were replaced by Washington right-hander Gary Majewski and Yankees left-hander A.J. Burnett.

Wagner, the All-Star closer who signed a $43 million, four-year contract with the New York Mets over the offseason, said he needed more time to get his arm in shape.

"I just didn't feel like I was ready yet," the hard-throwing lefty said in Port St. Lucie, Fla. "I want to do what's right for me and my country, and I'm not a very good pitcher in March. I didn't want to hurt the (WBC) team." Sabathia also said he wouldn't be ready to pitch in the WBC and he doesn't want to risk an injury that could cost his Cleveland Indians. His season is set to begin with the U.S. team only three starters on its 14-man pitching staff: Jake Peavy, Danville Willis and Roger Clemens.

Also in Port St. Lucie, first baseman Bret Boone retired at Mets camp, the culmination of a swift decline for a player who was one of baseball's best second basemen only a few years ago.

"This really gives me some closure," Boone said, his eyes moist at a morning news conference. "I went out this winter and worked as hard as I could, and it would have been easy to walk away last year." Boone's production plummeted dramatically since the 2003 season. The three-time All-Star was cut by Seattle and Minnesota last year, when he batted .221 with seven home runs and 37 RBIs in 326 plate appearances.

The 36-year-old Boone agreed to a minor league contract with the Mets in January and came to spring training with an opportunity to win the starting second base job. But the four-time Gold Glove winner called it quits before New York even played its first exhibition game.

"I'm here. I'm here," Ramirez said when asked if he's happy to be with Boston.

He wouldn't entertain questions about past trade rumors. "My main focus," he said, "is getting ready for the season to help Boston win."

He also confirmed he won't play for the Dominican Republic in the World Baseball Classic, which begins Thursday night U.S. time in Tokyo when South Korea plays Taiwan. The Dominican Republic's first game is next Tuesday against Venezuela.

"I'm not ready, so I'm not going to go out there and make a fool of myself," he said.

WBC has leads over

Mickelson after eight under performance

Associated Press

MIAMI - Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson renewed their duel at opposite ends of Doral on Thursday, and the outcome didn't matter.

Wood was still one shot better.

In a balmy start to the Florida swing, Woods again reached the 603-yard hole in two shots and ran off a string of birdies along the back nine of the Blue Monster for an 8-under 64 and a one-shot lead over Mickelson and four others in the Ford Championship at Doral.

"This guy Tiger seems to play well every day, every week," Mickelson said. "I'm just trying to keep pace. I'm trying to maybe have another shot at doing well with him on Sunday, and I'm glad that he's playing well. I've got to do my part and stay with him."

Woods won last year in a scintillating showdown between two of golf's biggest personalities, with Woods pulling ahead on a 30-foot birhde putt at No. 17 and Mickelson lipping out a hirhde chip on the last hole.

They teed off at the same time Thursday, but on opposite nines.

They were together only on the leaderboard, although both had some catching up to do on a day when 60 players broke 70 and 116 players were at par or better.

"The times I looked at the board, neither one of us were up there," Woods said. "We weren't leading. I know 7 (under) was leading, so try to get up there somehow.

Wood went off to a hot start on a tropical afternoon with birdies on three of his four holes, including a tee shot within a foot on the 222-yard fourth hole. Mickelson made three straight birdies around the turn, and while his gallery was about one-fourth the size of those watching Woods, they were as passionate as ever.

There were throaty cheers when Lefty made a 12-foot birhde putt on No. 5, and one man yelled, "Yeah! It's letting Tiger know that he's coming!"

At that point, Woods was only about 200 yards away as he walked down the 14th fairway. He hit 9-iron into the 10 feet, the start of three straight birdies that shot him to the top of the leaderboard. He's 64 was his best score in the first round on the PGA Tour since a 62 in the 2000 Western Open, which he won on to win by five.

It was sizzling stuff, even though it was only Thursday.

There are still three days left, and loads of other players capable of denying fans an encore.
Cleveland comes back on Murray's late three

Cavaliers sneak by Bulls with buzzer beater in Chicago

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Ronald Murray made a 3-pointer from the right side with 3.9 seconds remaining, and the Cleveland Cavaliers escaped with a 92-91 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Thursday night after blowing a 25-point lead.

Murray, acquired from Seattle at the trade deadline, scored 11 of his 13 points in the fourth quarter as the Cavaliers snapped a five-game losing streak.

Varejao got the first start of the game and tied it at 81 on Hinrich's 3-pointer at the buzzer. The Bulls started the fourth quarter with an 11-2 run to take a 77-71 lead. With the score 81-71, Noèl's basket started the 11-point run that gave the Cavs their first lead of the game. Murray stopped it with two foul shots, and the lead went back and forth.

Gordon's free throw gave the Cavs an 88-87 lead with 39 seconds left and Deng hit two free throws to make it a three-point game with 16 remaining. After Murray scored on a drive, the Cavaliers fouled Hinrich with 11.6 seconds left.

Bulls forward Malik Allen was in the starting lineup, up at 81 on Hinrich's 3-pointer and taking a one-point lead. Deng fouled Gordon's free throw with 3:01 left.

LeBron James, who averaged 34.5 points in the first two games against the Bulls, scored 33 — none in the final 7:49. He had 19 at halftime, matching his total the previous night in a loss to Sacramento.

With Forward Drew Gooden out with flu-like symptoms for the second-year pro Anderson Varejao got the first start of his career and responded with 13 points and six rebounds. But he missed two free throws with 18 seconds left and the Cavaliers down 88-87.

Eric Snow added 14 points and eight assists. Hinrich had 25 points and nine rebounds, two nights after he had 30 points, 13 rebounds and six assists in an 111-100 victory over Minnesota.

Varejao finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Gordon scored 16.

Down 75-60, the Bulls started the fourth quarter with an 11-2 run to take a 77-71 lead. With the score 81-71, Noèl's basket started the 11-point run that gave the Cavs their first lead of the game. Murray stopped it with two foul shots, and the lead went back and forth.

Cavaliers point guard Kirk Hinrich said this was the first time he had scored such a late basket.

"You just try to get it as a deficit, a lead, you try to get it down to two," Hinrich said. "And if you can just claw your way, get it out of there, it gives you a chance to win."
NCAA Men's Basketball
AP Top 25

| Team         | Record | Pts.
|--------------|--------|------
| Duke         | 27-1   | 1791 |
| Connecticut  | 25-2   | 1725 |
| Marquette    | 25-2   | 1628 |
| Villanova    | 22-3   | 1585 |
| Syracuse     | 22-3   | 1585 |
| Texas        | 24-3   | 1499 |
| George Mason | 24-4   | 1464 |
| George Wash | 24-1   | 1378 |
| Pittsburgh   | 21-4   | 1236 |
| Ohio State   | 21-4   | 1239 |
| Illinois     | 23-4   | 1199 |
| Tennessee    | 20-5   | 979  |
| Boston College| 22-6   | 971  |
| North Carolina| 19-8  | 814  |
| Washington   | 22-5   | 886  |
| Wisconsin    | 21-4   | 877  |
| Notre Dame   | 23-6   | 877  |
| Marquette    | 9-6    | 792  |
| Rutgers      | 6-9    | 745  |
| Utah State   | 6-9    | 745  |
| Villanova    | 13-2   | 1150 |
| West Virginia| 11-4   | 1004 |
| Connecticut  | 26-3   | 913  |
| Ohio State   | 25-2   | 949  |
| LSU          | 22-3   | 861  |
| Florida      | 20-7   | 852  |
| Temple       | 21-7   | 837  |
| New Mexico   | 21-7   | 827  |
| 20 Michigan  | 19-9   | 770  |
| 21 Arizona   | 23-5   | 741  |
| 22 Stanford  | 21-6   | 689  |
| 23 Kansas    | 22-5   | 609  |
| 24 Oregon    | 21-5   | 597  |
| 25 Michigan  | 21-3   | 541  |

NCAA Women's Basketball
AP Top 25

| Team          | Record | Pts.
|---------------|--------|------
| North Carolina| 28-1   | 1404 |
| Duke          | 25-2   | 1372 |
| LSU           | 26-3   | 1264 |
| Georgia       | 26-3   | 1264 |
| Ohio State    | 25-2   | 1194 |
| Rutgers       | 23-5   | 1191 |
| Connecticut   | 23-6   | 1087 |
| Florida       | 22-7   | 987  |
| 24 Arizona    | 23-5   | 887  |
| 25 Oklahoma   | 23-4   | 827  |
| 26 Baylor     | 21-7   | 770  |
| 27 Texas      | 21-7   | 770  |
| 28 Oklahoma   | 21-6   | 741  |
| 29 Georgia    | 22-5   | 689  |
| 30 Marquette  | 23-5   | 609  |
| 31 Oregon     | 21-3   | 541  |
| 32 Texas      | 21-3   | 541  |

Big East Men's Basketball

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>17-1</td>
<td>26-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villanova</td>
<td>12-2</td>
<td>25-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>11-4</td>
<td>20-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>10-5</td>
<td>19-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>9-6</td>
<td>16-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquette</td>
<td>8-6</td>
<td>16-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seton Hall</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>17-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syracuse</td>
<td>7-7</td>
<td>17-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>7-7</td>
<td>16-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>16-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>16-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>16-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John's</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DePaul</td>
<td>4-10</td>
<td>11-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URI</td>
<td>3-11</td>
<td>8-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NBA

| Team          | Record | Pts.
|---------------|--------|------
| Washingtonians at Philadelphia | 7-9 | 1791 |
| LA Clippers at Utah | 9-9 | 1236 |

Golf

| Team         | Record | Pts.
|--------------|--------|------
| Ford Championship at Doral | 3-0 | 1725 |

NFL

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue speaks during a news conference following a meeting with NFL owners at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Thursday in New York. NFL owners voted unanimously to extend the free agency deadline.

Owners extend free agency deadline

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL delayed the start of the free-agent signing period by three days Thursday, seven hours after the owners had seemed to end all hope for a labor contract extension.

The move came just as a number of teams far over the salary cap were about to dump high-paid veterans. It provides a cooling off period for the league and the NFL Players Association to reach a deal and keep those cuts under control.

A bizarre day of twists and turns began when the owners took just 57 minutes to rubber stamp a recommendation by their labor committee to turn down the union's final offer — a meeting so short that many people who expected a long session showed up after owners had already left.

"The situation is as dire as dire can be," commissioner Paul Tagliabue said in a statement. "The union is asking for 60 percent of the league's total revenues to go to the players, the NFL is offering 56.2 percent."

The extension puts off free agency for a class led by two raving backs. NFL MVP Shaun Alexander of Seattle and Edgerrin James of Indianapolis.

In Brief

Reds pitching coach has cancer, stays with team

SARASOTA, Fla. — Cincinnati Reds pitching coach Vern Ruble has cancer, but plans to stay with the team while getting treatment.

The 55-year-old Ruble informed the Reds players on Thursday morning, then accompanied the team to Lakeland for its spring training opener, an 8-5 loss to the Detroit Tigers. He didn't disclose the type of cancer, but plans to stay with the team.

"My doctors feel that they've caught it at an early stage and it's very treatable," Ruble said in a statement. "I plan to maintain a presence in spring training, but there will be times when I am away from the team for a few days as I receive treatment."

Ruble declined to comment beyond his statement.

The cancer was detected by a blood test given to players and coaches as part of spring training physicals. Ruble lives in Sarasota and will be treated by doctors in the area.

Francoeur hopes to remain in Braves lineup

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — In less than a year, Jeff Francoeur has gone from league debut with the Atlanta Braves to facing pressure to get under the salary cap.

Francoeur made his major league debut with the Atlanta Braves on July 7 last season, he played as if he was tied for the National League lead in home runs. By early September he was hitting .413 at the end of the season, he was third in rookie of the year voting.

McNair to remain a Titan for one more season

McNair to remain a Titan for one more season

McNair, who has prevailed in other negotiations."
Irish confidence high entering Sunday’s match
After gaining a No. 5 national ranking, team is ready to take on Illinois

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

Equipped with the newfound sense of confidence that comes with being a top 5 team, the No. 5 Irish are anticipating Sunday’s 11 a.m. home contest with being a top 5 team, the sense of confidence that comes with the world No. 5 ranking. In fact, the sense of confidence that comes with the world No. 5 ranking.

"Being in the top five has really given us a new sense of confidence," Notre Dame sophomore Bailey Louderback said. "I think it is what has really helped us get momentum going into the singles matches. There is a lot less pressure when you only need to get three of the six singles matches to win." Louderback said she is looking forward to similar impressive performances all the way down the lineup this week, as Illinois will not be a pushover.

Illinois’ season has been punctuated with both success and failure. After beginning the season with a winning record, the Illini have dropped their last four matches. Last weekend, the Illini dropped a 6-1 decision to No. 32 Purdue.

Despite an impressive 6-7, 6-3, 1-0 (12) win from sophomore Macall Harkins over the Boilermakers’ nationally ranked Bala Safi at No. 1, Purdue proved to be too strong for Illinois.

"Illinois has struggled a little point this season," Thompson said. "But they have a competitive team so we won’t be underestimating them."

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

ND WOMEN’S TENNIS
Irish confidence high entering Sunday’s match
After gaining a No. 5 national ranking, team is ready to take on Illinois

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

Equipped with the newfound sense of confidence that comes with being a top 5 team, the No. 5 Irish are anticipating Sunday’s 11 a.m. home contest against No. 49 Illinois.

"We are hoping for a great match and to continue playing great in doubles and singles," Irish junior Catrina Thompson said. "Everyone has been really focused in practice and being in the top five has really given the team a new sense of confidence."

Last weekend, the Irish (10-0) defeated No. 51 Wisconsin 6-1 on Saturday and shutout No. 27 Indiana Sunday, extending their 11-match home winning streak to 9-for-12 from last season. Especially heartening, both victories claimed the doubles point, which is considered to be the most confidence as it headed into singles.

The Irish are now 10-0 in earning the coveted doubles point this season. The Irish are the only program in the nation to post three ranked teams. The No. 2 pairing of Catrina and Christian Thompson have led the Irish at No. 1 for most of the season and are 8-1 this season. Following at No. 2 is the No. 29 twosome of sophomore Brook Buck and freshman Kelsey Treff.

The No. 49 duo of seniors Kiki Statny and captain Lauren Connelly are the No.3 doubles pairing for the Irish.

"Getting the doubles point is really important for a team mentally," Notre Dame sophomore Bailey Louderback said. "I think it is what has really helped us give our momentum going into the singles matches. There is a lot less pressure when you only need to get three of the six singles matches to win." Louderback said she is looking forward to similar impressive performances all the way down the lineup this week, as Illinois will not be a pushover.

Illinois’ season has been punctuated with both success and failure. After beginning the season with a winning record, the Illini have dropped their last four matches. Last weekend, the Illini dropped a 6-1 decision to No. 32 Purdue.

Despite an impressive 6-7, 6-3, 1-0 (12) win from sophomore Macall Harkins over the Boilermakers’ nationally ranked Bala Safi at No. 1, Purdue proved to be too strong for Illinois.

"Illinois has struggled a little this year," Thompson said. "But they have a competitive team so we won’t be underestimating them."

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

NCAA MEN’S BASKETBALL
Spartans return to winning ways against No. 25 Badgers
Davis scores 27 and grabs nine rebounds to lead Michigan State

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State coach Tom Izzo was on Paul Davis all week to be aggressive going to the basket and looking to the middle.

It looks like the senior center was listening.

Davis controlled the paint, scoring 27 points and grabbing nine rebounds to lead Michigan State (No. 23 ESPN/USA Today, No. 25 AP) to a 74-65 victory over Wisconsin (No. 25 ESPN/USA Today) on Thursday night.

You hate saying coach is always right, but there’s no question that changes my game and my mentality," Davis said. "The biggest thing was to post strong and get to the foul line more often."

In his next-to-last home game of the season, Davis finished with 9-for-12 from the field and 9-for-10 at the line for Michigan State, which had lost two in a row and four of five to full out of the race for the Big Ten title.

Maurice Ager had 19 points despite being in foul trouble for much of the game and Shannon Brown scored 18 for the Spartans (20-9, 8-7), who reached the first time for the seventh time in nine years.

"If you’re always going 11-0 or 12-0 in the preseason, you can get 20 wins easier," Izzo said. "You’re playing other people. It’s a lot more difficult to do that. I’m proud that we did it the hard way. When you do that, your kids get mentally tougher."

Michigan State improved to 37-11 in games played in March over the last eight years. With a home win over Illinois Saturday and a win over Wisconsin on Monday, the Spartans would lock up a first-round bye in next week’s Big Ten tournament.

"It’s just like being in the NCAA Tournament now," said Brown, who took three midterms exams Thursday, then drew praise from Izzo for his defensive effort. "If you’re always going 11-0 or 12-0 in the preseason, you can get 20 wins easier," Izzo said. "You’re playing other people. It’s a lot more difficult to do that. I’m proud that we did it the hard way. When you do that, your kids get mentally tougher."

Michigan State coach Bo Ryan said.

"There, that stretch from the 5-0 point this season.

Alander Tucker scored 23 points but was the only player in double figures for the Badgers (19-9, 9-6), who had won four of the previous five and had faint hopes at a share of the league title. But those hopes were dashed on Thursday.

Badgers guard Kamron Taylor came into the game averaging 15 points, but scored just nine on 4-for-18 shooting.

Wisconsin led 23-13 midway through the first half before Michigan State got going. A 7-0 spurt late in the first half helped the Spartans go up 35-31 at the break.

Davis had 12 points and Brown had 10 in the first 20 minutes, when the Badgers were just 2-for-6 at the line.

Brown’s alley-oop slam and fadeaway 3-pointer jump-started a run early in the second half. The Spartans led 48-36 before Tucker, the Big Ten’s leading scorer, took charge with 19 second-half points. But Tucker missed two free throws that would have cut the deficit to 59-57, and Ager answered with 12 points in a span of 2:22 before fouling out with 1:01 left.

"I felt I had to do something like that," Ager said. "I sat out for a long time and had to make up for it somehow. I had to take over the game and help Paul out."

Michigan State shot 54 percent in the second half and 31 percent for the game, improving to 13-5 when they shoot at least 50 percent.

That’s the ball game right there, that stretch from the 5-0 point this season.

What Next in Iraq?
www.francisforuscongress.com

Great Job Opportunities!!

Wing崫ineusa.com and Full Time During Saturday & Sundays

Flexible Hours & GREAT PAY!!

We offer 10-40 hours/week
Route Delivery
$9.00 - $12.00/ Hour
574-234-5309

Located, Just Minutes from Campus
We Also Have Facilities in Other Cities, Call Us!

Train in one fastfitv
www.homecitvice.com

Check Us Out!!

We Also Have Facilities in Other Cities, Call Us!

We Also Have Facilities in Other Cities, Call Us!

574-234-5309
Green Tint: 1-866-427-4233

Hemingway: 1-866-427-4233

W e o f f e r  S c h e d u l e  H e x M B v . Start training N O W .

Michigan State’s Paul Davis grabs one of his nine rebounds in Thursday’s 74-65 victory at home over Wisconsin.
The Irish are set to compete this weekend at the Alex Wilson Invitational at the Lotus Sports Center today at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m.

The Invitational is the last opportunity for athletes to qualify for nationals and — with this in mind — those close to making the cut are looking to take their performance up a notch.

The Notre Dame men and women are coming off an outstanding performance at the Big East Championships, where the men earned an unprecedented 11th straight finish among the top three and the women earned the first place trophy.

Now, the athletes from both squads are looking forward to taking their performance up a notch.

"We're hoping to go out and accomplish something," Kurt Benninger, Irish runner.

However, Benninger insists he is feeling fine and ready to compete this weekend. "I'm really excited to go out there and race again," Benninger said. "I want to see where I'm at ... take some of the rust off and get ready for [the] NCAA's, which is the big goal." Benninger has only been able to compete at two meets this indoor season. However, he made the most of his chances. At the Notre Dame Invitational, he ran his second sub-four minute mile and placed first at the meet. The junior will not be competing in the mile this weekend. He will instead run as part of Notre Dame's distance medley relay team.

"We're pretty confident we can qualify in this event and we're hoping to go out and accomplish something," Benninger said.

Junior Thomas Channey, who will compete in the meet's signature Alex Wilson 800-meter run, is coming off an impressive performance at the Big East meet. Thomas took home first place in the event with a time of 1:48.62 — provisionally qualifying him for the NCAA meet. Contact Jason Galvan at jgalvan@nd.edu.

"The meet is all about the individual," Freeman said. "In my case I'm trying to experiment with more sprinting and get away from my mid-distance races.

Freeman, a candidate to qualify for the NCAA meet as a member of Notre Dame's 800 freestyle relay team, will compete in the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke instead of the 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke at the last chance meet.

"My best time in the 100 freestyle is about 48.5," Freeman said. "This can be faster considering I am usually going this fast in the first 100 meters of the 200. It will be nice just being able to go all out and not have to worry about finishing another 100.

Fanslau plans to compete in the 200 freestyle and 100 fly. "You never know if you'll end up competing in a different [race] next year," he said. "The 200 freestyle may be a possibility for me.

MacKay will compete in the 100 backstroke as opposed to his usual 200.

"Preparation hasn't really been that different," Fanslau said. "We rested a lot for the Big East meet. We've just been having a lot of fun this week," Freeman said the competition at the meet will be fierce. "I'm sure there will be some fast swims because it is a last chance meet and people want to get their nationals qualifying times," Freeman said.

The final chance meet is taking place two weeks after the Irish defeated second place Pittsburgh by 224.5 points to capture their second consecutive Big East Championship Feb. 18.

Besides Freeman, other Irish swimmers with a chance at competing at the NCAA Championships March 23 in Atlanta include Tim Randolph in the 100 breaststroke and Jay Vandenberg in the 1,650 freestyle.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu.
NO. 17 Notre Dame DEFEATS OHIO U. 18-6

The Irish defense Katie Kileen moves upfield during an 18-6 win over Ohio Thursday at the Loftus Center.

ND EXPLODES FOR 10 SECOND HALF GOALS TO PUT AWAY BOBCATS

By CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS
Sports Writer

Coming into the game ranked 17th in the country, the Irish proved to the women's lacrosse world that their stellar start to the season is no fluke in beating Ohio 18-6.

In a physical and emotionally charged game, the Irish and Bobcats committed a combined 74 fouls. Notre Dame netted 10 goals in the second half.

Under the leadership of senior captains Crystal Foote and Carol Dixon, the Irish implemented a strong offensive scheme, setting up crushing fast breaks and using speed to their advantage.

While Bobcat goalkeeper Jen Heup had a career game with 15 saves, Notre Dame's relentless pressure on the offensive side of the ball proved too much for the all-Bobcats.

Irish goalkeeper Carol Dixon made seven saves in goal.

The Bobcats emphasized ball control — committing a season-low 16 turnovers — but faced a 21-4 deficit in draw controls against the Irish.

Foote continued her scoring streak, notching the 100th goal of her career. She tallied four goals and four assists. Foote was also named this week's Big East Player of the Week.

Jillian Byers showed her offensive prowess Thursday, contributing three goals and two assists. The one-two punch of Foote and Byers, combined with the rest of a strong Irish offense, created an almost unstoppable attack.

As promised, the Irish opened the game with a powerful and frezzed attack. Five of the team's goals were scored in the first 17 minutes. Notre Dame continued to drive the ball down the field, leading 8-4 at the half.

It was more of the same in the second half as the Irish tallied five unanswered goals in 13 minutes.

Bobcat freshman Kiersten McLeuth's inspiring goal late in the second half proved to be for naught, as the Irish continued to work the ball offensively, scoring the last four goals of the game.

Senior attack Brittany Fox scored three of the last four goals.

The Irish hope to extend their perfect season as they face Cornell at noon Sunday in the second game of a four-game homestand.

Contact Chris Williams at cwill11@nd.edu

Write Sports! 1-4543

SOFTBALL

Irish travel to Oklahoma

Team will play five games in three days in Tulsa tournament

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will answer a list of questions this weekend as it makes its first appearance at the Best Western Airport — Tulsa Festival today through Sunday in Tulsa, Okla.

No. 17 Nebraska headlines a list of tough opponents for the Irish. The schedule also includes Big XII power Kansas and host Tulsa (8-3).

"This is definitely going to be a more challenging weekend," Irish assistant coach Kris Ganef said. "We are going to see where we stand and what we need to improve on, so we are really looking forward to the opportunity."

The first opportunity to prove themselves comes this afternoon at three o'clock against the national powerhouse Cornhuskers. Senior Heather Booth is projected to start for the Irish. Booth won the last weekend and only gave up one run in 15 innings against Memphis.

"The [pitchers] really did their job last weekend," Ganef said. "Right now our main concern is scoring. We are hitting well, but we just aren't scoring runs."

"The pitchers really did their job last weekend. Right now our main concern is scoring. We are hitting well, but we just aren't scoring runs."

Kris Ganef
Irish assistant coach

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

Denny Moore Award
For Excellence in Journalism

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at:

http://osa.nd.edu

Nominations are due by Thursday, March 9, 2006.

The Irish hope to extend their perfect season as they face Cornell at noon Sunday in the second game of a four-game homestand.

Contact Chris Williams at cwill11@nd.edu

Write Sports! 1-4543
continued from page 24

a scintillating fivegame stretch that Corrigan said made a great case for the Big Red to be considered for MLL consideration.

As the season comes to a close, Corrigan said he is hoping to be able to recruit more local talent to join the team. The Big Red has only had one local kid in its history, and Corrigan wants to change that.

"The goal is to have a couple of local kids who can go to the next level," Corrigan said. "That's our goal."

Not only would the local kids bring a touch of familiarity to the team, but it also would give the team an edge in recruiting local talent.

"We want to be known for being a boatload of local kids," Corrigan said. "We want to be known for being a boatload of local kids."
Baseball

continued from page 24

professional dome where weather is not a factor is a good experience for his team. "It's a much different atmosphere than we're used to," he said. "But it's an exciting thing because you're playing in a Major League stadium, you don't have to worry about getting games cancelled due to weather, and you don't have to worry about factors like wind and wetness affecting anything — so that's all fun."

After this weekend, Notre Dame has one more tournament on the road before coming home March 21 to face Wright State.

The Big East season starts March 25 on the road when the Irish face George-town. For this reason, Mainieri said it is imperative for his team to get better so that when you get to conference play your team has really gelled.

"There's no question that we're playing the toughest teams that we can find," Mainieri said. "You're not going to beat them all. You try to beat them all, and you hope that your team just keeps getting better so that when you get to conference play your team has really gelled."

But, he said, the Irish are always better later in the season than now, when they have to play on the road for a month before having any home games because of the South Bend weather.

"We have to play quite a few games on the road to start the season, and our team's always a better team in April and May than we are in February and March because we're playing so many road games and we're just getting the season started," Mainieri said. "When we finally get to play some home games, it really helps our team quite a bit. We're going to go out there this weekend and just try to improve in every facet of our game, particularly in taking advantage of our scoring opportunities."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvhoeg@nd.edu

Irish shortstop Greg Lopez hits a fly ball against Villanova April 25 last season. Notre Dame will travel to Milwaukee to play in the Dairy Queen Classic this weekend.

Irish forward Zach Hillesland runs upcourt during Notre Dame's 80-72 loss to Marquette Saturday at the Joyce Center.

Demons

continued from page 24

A win Saturday would give the Irish the No. 12, 11 or 10-seed, depending on results from other conference games. It would be the sixth post-season berth in Irish coach Mike Brey's six years at Notre Dame. But if Notre Dame loses, its five wins will not be enough to clinch one of the 12 spots in the league tournament. Even if Notre Dame wins, there are several possible scenarios in which it could end up with the No. 12 seed in the Big East tournament. If St. John's beats Rutgers Sunday, Louisville beats Connecticut Saturday and Providence loses to Marquette Saturday, the Irish will be the No. 12 seed.

That also goes for the scenario in which Rutgers wins and Louisville and Providence lose. Or it would apply if Rutgers, Louisville and Providence all win.

The Irish also could end up with the No. 11 seed if St. John's beats Rutgers, Providence beats Marquette and Louisville beats Connecticut. Or, by the 11 seed if St. John's beats Rutgers and Louisville beats Providence.

Or, they could be the No. 11 seed if St. John's beats Rutgers and Louisville beats Providence. That would mean the Demon Deacons have a chance for the 12 seed if St. John's, Providence and Connecticut win. The Demon Deacons are 4-3 in their last seven games but 4-9 in last 13. The Blue Demons have defeated Seton Hall, St. John's, South Florida and Syracuse during that stretch.

DePaul also beats the Blue Demons averaging 14.4 points per game during the entire season, but forward Wilson Chandler is the top DePaul scorer in Big East play, averaging 14.6 points in 15 conference games.

Contact Bobby Griffin at ngsbilly@nd.edu and Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Irish hockey

CCHA PLAYOFFS

VS. ALASKA-FAIRBANKS

FRIDAY @ 7:30PM
SATURDAY @ 7:00PM
SUNDAY @ 7:00PM (IF NECESSARY)

FRIDAY NIGHT
• Free CCHA Playoff T-shirt to first 300 fans
  (gates open at 6:30)

SATURDAY NIGHT
• Win a semester of books from the Hammes
  ND Bookstore
• Free Papa John's Pizza to early ND/SMC/HCC students

FREE ADMISSION FOR ND/SMC/HCC STUDENTS
(While supplies last)

Contact Torin Francis
Irish center

Tori Francis
Irish center

...it's going to be Senior Night for us, so it's going to be a pretty good atmosphere.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden
at hvhoeg@nd.edu

Irish shortstop Greg Lopez hits a fly ball against Villanova April 25 last season. Notre Dame will travel to Milwaukee to play in the Dairy Queen Classic this weekend.
Regional power

Notre Dame hopes to take all available Midwest berths in the NCAA Championships

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

The Irish are poised to qualify several fencers for the NCAA Championships at the Midwest Fencing Regional this Saturday in Cleveland, Ohio.

The top five finishers in all of the women's events as well as men's sabre and epee will qualify for the NCAAs. For the Men's foil, only the top three finishers in the Regional earn a berth.

Unlike last weekend's Midwest Fencing Conference Championship, the Regionals is based solely on individual competition. The meet will feature pool play followed by direct elimination.

Individuals from each team will compete in all three weapons to earn a berth to the NCAA Championships in Houston, Texas March 15-19.

"It's team-oriented in the sense that whatever team qualifies more people for the NCAA Championships at the Midwest Fencing Regional this afternoon when they face Van Hoegarden, left, competes in the foil against Northwestern's Jessica Florenda at the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships Feb. 26.


Irish take on Big Red in Illinois

Contest between two ranked teams will be first for Chicagoland

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

The Chicago area has never hosted a Division I men's lacrosse game.

That will change Saturday at noon when the No. 12 Irish face off against No. 8 Cornell in a marquee non-conference game at Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill.

Lacrosse America is sponsoring the game — technically an Irish home contest. Notre Dame host to the Big Red 11-10 in Ithaca, N.Y. last season.

Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said his team has been interested in setting up a game in the Chicago area for several years, and — in

see CORNELL/page21
Irish Insider
Friday, March 3, 2006

Desperate to Dance

Irish senior point guard Megan Duffy hopes to lead Notre Dame through the Big East Tournament this weekend and into the NCAA Bracket.

Photo Illustration by Graham Beth and Kirsten Hollander/The Observer
Irish start with Bulls and hope for Huskies

Notre Dame faces South Florida in first round of tournament

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame looks to improve its NCAA Tournament prospects this weekend in Hartford, Conn., as the Irish square off against South Florida in the first round of the Big East Tournament at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Both No. 10-seed Notre Dame (17-10, 8-8 Big East) and No. 7-seed South Florida (19-10, 9-7) seek to wrap up a weekend in Hartford, Conn., Tournament prospects this weekend.

The Irish entered their contest with the Panthers at No. 34 in the most recent Ratings Percentage Index (RPI), and South Florida checked in at No. 32.

The NCAA Tournament selection committee uses the RPI as one of the major tools in seeding the 64-team bracket.

By KEN FOWLER

"Now we're back on track," said coach Muffet McGraw after Notre Dame's 72-65 win Tuesday over Pittsburgh at the Joyce Center.

"It would be nice to win a couple games, and know we're in," McGraw said that Notre Dame and the Bulls played once this season, a dramatic 68-64 South Florida victory at the Joyce Center Jan. 28.

Bulls forward Earia Parsons hit a 3-pointer with two seconds left in regulation to force overtime, and Irish guard Megan Duffy missed a three of her own that would have tied the game with three seconds left in the extra session.

"Our biggest focus is ... to get some wins and get to the NCAA Tournament," Duffy said.

"We're in good position now, where we need to win a couple games in the Big East Tournament to be sure we get in the field of 64," McGraw said.

The 6-foot Parsons had nine points and 14 rebounds in the game.

"Now we're back on track," said coach Muffet McGraw after Notre Dame's 72-65 victory over Pittsburgh Tuesday. LaVere had 14 points before fouling out in the second half.

The NCAA Tournament will play in the conference championship. Against the Panthers, Notre Dame will look for 6-foot-3 senior forward Lindsay Schrader to rotate over to help against 6-foot-11 forward Danelle Wilson. Dickson finished with 18 points and six rebounds in the teams' earlier meeting.

The Panthers coach Agnus Degiulio said that Connecticut was ready for the conference semifinals Monday at 6 p.m. in the second round. If the Irish win both games, they will play in the conference semifinals Monday at 6 p.m. against No. 3 DePaul, No. 9 Pittsburgh or No. 11 Cincinnati.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Irish forward Courtney LaVere goes up for a basket during Notre Dame's 72-65 victory over Pittsburgh Tuesday. LaVere had 14 points before fouling out in the second half.

"I'd like to keep winning just because we don't want to be waiting for a week to see where we go," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said Tuesday after Notre Dame's 72-65 win over Pittsburgh. "It would be nice to win a couple games and know that we were in."

The Irish entered their contest with the Panthers at No. 34 in the most recent Ratings Percentage Index (RPI), and South Florida checked in at No. 32.

The NCAA Tournament selection committee uses the RPI as one of the major tools in seeding the 64-team bracket.

"We're in good position now, where we need to win a couple games in the Big East Tournament to be sure we get in the field of 64," McGraw said.

The 6-foot Parsons had nine points and 14 rebounds in the game.

"Now we're back on track," said coach Muffet McGraw after Notre Dame's 72-65 win Tuesday over Pittsburgh at the Joyce Center.

"It would be nice to win a couple of games and know we're in (the NCAA Tournament)," McGraw said.

Muffet McGraw Irish coach

"We're in good position now, where we need to win a couple games in the Big East Tournament to be sure we get in the field of 64," McGraw said.

The 6-foot Parsons had nine points and 14 rebounds in the game.

"Now we're back on track," said coach Muffet McGraw after Notre Dame's 72-65 victory over Pittsburgh Tuesday. LaVere had 14 points before fouling out in the second half.

"I'd like to keep winning just because we don't want to be waiting for a week to see where we go," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said Tuesday after Notre Dame's 72-65 win over Pittsburgh. "It would be nice to win a couple games and know that we were in."

The Irish entered their contest with the Panthers at No. 34 in the most recent Ratings Percentage Index (RPI), and South Florida checked in at No. 32.

The NCAA Tournament selection committee uses the RPI as one of the major tools in seeding the 64-team bracket.

"We're in good position now, where we need to win a couple games in the Big East Tournament to be sure we get in the field of 64," McGraw said.

The 6-foot Parsons had nine points and 14 rebounds in the game.

"Now we're back on track," said coach Muffet McGraw after Notre Dame's 72-65 victory over Pittsburgh Tuesday. LaVere had 14 points before fouling out in the second half.
Allen thrives off the bench one year after injury

Sophomore guard tore her ACL in last season's NCAA Tournament but now is excelling on the court

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Who's going to show up? That's the biggest question for the Irish this weekend as they head to Hartford for the Big East tournament.

Over the course of the season, No. 10-seeded Notre Dame has proven it can hang with anyone, that it can play good teams and beat them.

But, there are some inconsistencies and concerns that have plagued the Irish in recent weeks.

"We've had a number of those games this year," head coach Muffet McGraw said. "It's frustrating to watch.""To be a competitive team in the Big East, Allen's 24.4 minutes per game have come in the second half of games. During the last three games before Connecticut, she's looked like a different player," McGraw said on Feb. 18. "I really think that she's getting better recovering and getting into playing shape.

"At the beginning of this season, I was really focused on recovering and just getting into playing shape."

Charel Allen
Irish guard

Allen, however, has shown promise all season, and her 16 points Tuesday against Pittsburgh matched her total from the second half. Often, the team has been down when Allen begins to score big. Against Villanova Feb. 7, Allen led the team's effort to tie the game after a 21-point deficit to force overtime — scoring all of her 14 points in the second half behind 7-for-10 shooting.

"Maybe I should turn it on a little bit earlier, because I always turn it on at the end and we're losing," Allen said. "My coach is telling me, encouraging me, to shoot more."

Allen has also been a consistent force under the boards all season, ranking third on the team with 4.4 rebounds a game. Allen says she doesn't really expect her to be shooting these percentages.

"I fell like in the second half one that desperately fights out of them."

Throughout the past seven games, a majority of Allen's points have come in the second half. Often, the team has been down when Allen begins to score big. Against Villanova Feb. 7, Allen led the team's effort to tie the game after a 21-point deficit to force overtime — scoring all of her 14 points in the second half behind 7-for-10 shooting.

"Maybe I should turn it on a little bit earlier, because I always turn it on at the end and we're losing," Allen said. "My coach is telling me, encouraging me, to shoot more.

Allen has also been a consistent force under the boards all season, ranking third on the team with 4.4 rebounds a game. Allen says she doesn't really expect her to be shooting these percentages."

"I fell like in the second half one that desperately fights out of them."

"I just go in there and try to be a do-or-die player. People underestimate me because of my size," Allen said. "They don't really look to box me out so I try to grab every loose ball that our forwards don't pick up."

In part because of that mentality, Allen's 24.4 minutes per game ranks third in the Irish in the category. However, she still has logged meaningful minutes in 25 of the team's 27 games.

"I think we need a spark off the bench," McGraw said. "I think that she gives that great lift coming in off the bench.

Allen had a career-high 16 points Tuesday against Pittsburgh, and 24 against Villanova. She also had 10 assists against Villanova and six against Pittsburgh.

Though the team has become more consistent in recent weeks, many of their games have been marred by long scoring droughts and offensive struggles.

While improving the offensive consistency has been one of McGraw's focuses in practice this season, Allen needs to break out of her shooting slumps.

"If I knew how to explain it, I would have a better record than what we have now," sophomore guard Charel Allen said. "Over the course of the season, the Irish are only coming back from big deficits because they continue to dig themselves in. But if they have trailed by at least 10 in 12 games this season.

Much of this relates back to the shot-blocking inaccuracy. Notre Dame has showed throughout the season.

Though the team has become more consistent in recent weeks, many of their games have been marred by long scoring droughts and offensive struggles.

While improving the offensive consistency has been one of McGraw's focuses in practice this season, Allen needs to break out of her shooting slumps.

"If I knew how to explain it, I would have a better record than what we have now," sophomore guard Charel Allen said. "Over the course of the season, the Irish are only coming back from big deficits because they continue to dig themselves in. But if they have trailed by at least 10 in 12 games this season.

Much of this relates back to the shot-blocking inaccuracy. Notre Dame has showed throughout the season.

Though the team has become more consistent in recent weeks, many of their games have been marred by long scoring droughts and offensive struggles.

While improving the offensive consistency has been one of McGraw's focuses in practice this season, Allen needs to break out of her shooting slumps.

"If I knew how to explain it, I would have a better record than what we have now," sophomore guard Charel Allen said. "Over the course of the season, the Irish are only coming back from big deficits because they continue to dig themselves in. But if they have trailed by at least 10 in 12 games this season.

Much of this relates back to the shot-blocking inaccuracy. Notre Dame has showed throughout the season.

Though the team has become more consistent in recent weeks, many of their games have been marred by long scoring droughts and offensive struggles.

While improving the offensive consistency has been one of McGraw's focuses in practice this season, Allen needs to break out of her shooting slumps.

"If I knew how to explain it, I would have a better record than what we have now," sophomore guard Charel Allen said. "Over the course of the season, the Irish are only coming back from big deficits because they continue to dig themselves in. But if they have trailed by at least 10 in 12 games this season.

Much of this relates back to the shot-blocking inaccuracy. Notre Dame has showed throughout the season.
Deal and deliver

Point guard Megan Duffy has taken on the role of passer, scorer and leader in four seasons at Notre Dame

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Megan Duffy has had people in her face all year.

"I've been faced, I feel like, with every kind of defense," Duffy said. "They've put players that are taller than me, like 6-foot-athletic players and scrappy players. There's been box-and-ones, and most games my defender never leaves me."

The senior presseasen All-American entered the 2005-06 campaign with a reputation as the nation's top pure point guard, but her team this season was different than the Irish squads she had led from the point in the past. So her role changed. And opposing teams had to adjust.

"I've always been a point guard," Duffy said. "I get my kicks out of setting people up and seeing them score."

Playing with standout forward Jacqueline Batteast last season, Duffy's 17 assists were the third most by a junior in team history. But a year later, Batteast is gone and the product of Chamadejulienne H.S. in Dayton, Ohio, has evolved into Notre Dame's top scoring weapon on offense.

"I think the entire season coming in, I realized I had to be a scorer from the point guard position, which is a little different for me," Duffy said. "That's really your first role as a point guard is to set everybody up, and I still have to keep that in my mind."

Duffy enters this weekend's Big East Tournament as the conference's eighth leading scorer, averaging 15.3 points per game. Her assist totals have fallen from 5.39 per game as a junior to 4.25 this season, but her scoring is up-from 12.3 points per game. Her assist totals have "It was definitely a little different being in that position, but I think I've had to have that (scoring) mentality all year," she said. "Sometimes it has to be a little stronger when we're struggling to score."

Notre Dame has struggled mightily at times in a wildly inconsistent season, but head coach Muffet McGraw said there is always one constant on the team.

"We definitely have gotten to that point where you just want to give up, and we've battled through that," McGraw said. "I think that's a real testament to Megan Duffy and the character that she brings to the team. She never quits, and the team just really feeds off her."

The team fed off Duffy Tuesday when the 5-foot-7 point guard led Notre Dame to a 72-65 Senior Night victory over Pittsburgh. Duffy delivered a double-digit scoring streak to 12 games, the longest such mark of her career. Notre Dame was just 1-3 in the Big East and of three of four when the streak began. Now, the Irish have won three consecutive crucial games — scoring 70 or more points in each game — to greatly improve their NCAA Tournament chances.

"It's just that simple when Duffy's at the line late in the game — opposing coaches don't even hope the 89-percent free-throw shooter will miss," McGraw said. Duffy makes her free throws. Why, when we played so hard for 40 minutes, let her get two more points?"

It's just that simple when Duffy's at the line late in the game — opposing coaches don't even hope the 89-percent free-throw shooter will miss. McGraw said Duffy knows she can make the big shots and her example is the best thing for a young, struggling team like this year's Irish squad.

"Duffy said the toughest part of her career was up with 10 points in the five extra minutes. The ice in her veins is so evident that Pittsburgh head coach Agnus Berenato refused to foul Duffy with 22 seconds remaining in a 22-point performance. And the team fed off her Feb. 25 when Duffy led a win in the Irish desperately needed in Cincinnati.

"I feel like the first half of games, sometimes I find myself being a little too passive out there," Duffy said. "Once the second half comes — and overtime — I've got to be able to step up my game. Whether it's knocking down free throws or getting some good shots for the team."

That's where she has stepped up that she has taught her team.

"That's one thing I know about this team: we're going to keep fighting," Duffy said. "I think that's where we really feed off Megan because she never loses her confidence."

And that's no matter how hard other teams try to break her poise.

Duffy said the toughest part about scoring is the bulls-eye that rests on her jersey. After the Pittsburgh game, Berenato said the Panthers' main goal in the contest was to keep Duffy below her scoring average.

But now it's just not opposing teams keeping a close eye on Duffy — WNBA teams are scouting her as a first-round pick for the 2006 draft. During the Big East Tournament broadcast of Notre Dame's win over Cincinnati, former Connecticut and New York Liberty star Rebecca Lobo said she expected Duffy to be a top-10 pick.

"She's got all the skills ... to lead a team," Lobo said. Duffy said she has tried to suppress all thoughts about a future in the WNBA for now.

"The past two years, I've really realized that it's a dream of mine and a goal of mine to play professional basketball," she said. "It's one of those things that you keep in the back of your mind. My senior year has kind of been a job interview for these four, five, six months. I can't be absorbed in it too much because that's when you start playing poor and mentally get out of it."

Duffy said while she is looking forward to a possible career in the WNBA, she is also trying to enjoy her experience at Notre Dame and as a co-captain of the team with seniors senior, forward Courtney LaVere.

"It's been a tremendous four years for me," she said in the press conference after Notre Dame's win on Senior Night. "I wouldn't trade it for anything. Playing for Coach McGraw, and with my teammates and with my sidekick here, Courtney, it's been a lot of fun.

Duffy ended Senior Night with the ball in her hands as Berenato's Panthers moved back and allowed her to cross halfcourt.

"I was lucky to have my hands on the ball the last few seconds," Duffy said. "It's been a good way to go out.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Irish senior point guard Megan Duffy drives to the hoop against Huskies guard Katie Swander during Notre Dame's 79-64 loss to Connecticut Feb. 19.
COLD WAR
Irish take on Alaska-Fairbanks to begin CCHA Playoffs

Left to right:
T.J. Jindra, Jason Paige and Chris Trick
ND meets familiar foe to open playoffs

By CHRIS KHOREY

Irish, Nanooks faced off to finish regular season last weekend.

It's possible that Notre Dame and Alaska-Fairbanks have forgotten that other college hockey teams even exist. The Irish and Nanooks, who squared off for two games last weekend at the Joyce Center in each team's regular season finale, will play again at the same arena in a three-game series this weekend, Saturday and, if necessary, Sunday in the first round of the CCHA playoffs.

With Junior Parents Weekend, Bengal Bouts and the Midwest Conference Fencing Championships requiring the temperature to be turned up in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse in the last two weeks, Jackson said he has been disappointed with the quality of his team's home playing surface -- calling it "the worst of the season" after Friday's game.

"It has nothing to do with our personnel, it just has to do with our environment," he said. "It's not fair for (Bengal) Bouts to freeze or for us to have bad ice. It's not our rink staff's fault, they're doing the best with what they have to work with."

Warmer temperatures in an ice rink soften the ice and make it uneven, a fact that impacts the game dramatically, Jindra said. "If it's soft, you have to protect the puck more," he said. "The chances of turning the puck over when it's in the corner are much greater. Still, both teams have to adjust to the ice. It's the same ice for both teams."

Rather than make the almost 8,000 mile round trip back and forth to central Alaska, the Nanooks chose to spend the week in South Bend, practicing at the Joyce Center and communicating with their professors via email.

"Our team is more comfortable on the road than we are at home, to some extent," MacMillan said of his travel-hardened squad.

The closest CCHA competition for the Nanooks in Northern Michigan is located 3,200 miles away in Marquette, Mich. Fairbanks joined the CCHA before the 1995-96 season, competing as an independent before that. The only other Alaska school that plays Division I hockey, Alaska-Anchorage competes in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA).

The Irish and Nanooks will face off at 7:35 tonight. Saturday's game and Sunday's game, if necessary, will start at 7:05.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Goals per game

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ND</th>
<th>UAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goals</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Goals allowed per game

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ND</th>
<th>UAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goals</td>
<td>2.76</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Penalty kill percentage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ND</th>
<th>UAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>.805</td>
<td>.884</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Power play percentage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ND</th>
<th>UAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>.178</td>
<td>.162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jackson, team primed to make deep playoff push

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

This road trip has had a little more to offer Alaska-Fairbanks than its typical 3,500-mile trek. In all the Nanooks will have dealt with two consecutive weekend series, three college hockey games nearly two weeks in a South Bend hotel, a majority of the team falling ill and even the supernatural.

Hunkering down

After splitting last weekend’s series with the Irish, the Nanooks decided to stay in town while waiting for this weekend’s first round of the playoffs rather than return to Fairbanks. As a result the Nanooks have been forced to reimburse themselves out of the local Jameson Inn since Feb. 27.

“Global things being like among each other,” sophomore left wing Kyle Greenettle said of the team’s mind stuck in a hotel for long periods of time. “We’d rather stay in town while waiting for this weekend’s first round of the playoffs rather than return to Fairbanks.

The team even took a road trip within a road trip on Wednesday night when they watched the Chicago Blackhawks battle the Nashville Predators at Chicago’s United Center.

As the team gets closer to game day however, video sessions and pre-game rituals will start to come into play more and more.

“I’m pretty comfortable on the road,” said of his players. “They’re working hard — they’re staying in communication with professors. The Internet is a powerful tool and they’re using it to their advantage to keep themselves in the loop while away from campus.”

The Nanooks have not kept themselves confined to the Joyce Center ice facilities while away from campus.

In order to stay up on their classes, the team has instituted study sessions where the players must catch up on schoolwork prior to leaving for South Bend. A year ago the Nanooks conducted a grade check on his players. The results were not impressive.

“Some teams have not been going on,” Greenettle said. “The TV would just pop on by itself and doors would fly open. I’m just glad I’m not staying in that room. Geez, I’d be scared to — less you know.”

The Nanooks have not kept themselves confined to the Joyce Center ice facilities while away from campus.

“The Nanooks have not kept themselves confined to the Joyce Center ice facilities while away from campus. The Internet is a powerful tool so it’s not much of a problem. We just kind of looked in, we cruised around a bit, we saw the library. We’ve got an overall glimpse of everything and it’s pretty cool,”

Hitting the books

When the Nanooks arrive in South Bend between the conclusion of regular season games and the start of the first round of playoffs, the players will be fully confident it will have no effect on their performance.

Two of the players who have been illness. A day or two after last weekend’s series wrapped up, the Alaskans started to fall one by one to an upper respiratory ailment. The Nanook estimate that three-quarters of their team has been struck by the bug.

“We’re in a hotel and it’s all confined, so it’s tough to get away from one another,” Greenettle said. “You get sick — everybody gets sick. So the more we’re out there now is trying to get healthy by game time.”


Jackson brings a pedigree of regular and postseason success to an Irish team that has made only one NCAA tournament appearance.

Jackson brings a pedigree of regular and postseason success to an Irish team that has made only one NCAA tournament appearance.

The greatest challenge for the Joyce Center surface, MacMillan said. “They’re really rounded. The puck is in the corner, are you’re already on top of the net when you get to the corner the way they work in [MSU] and RIG. But here the corners are a lot more like a soccer, which is more similar to what we have.”

But when it all comes down to it — it’s all about the hockey. And that is what MacMillan, Greenettle and the rest of the Nanooks take as the greatest benefit of this 3,500 mile trip.

“Still, I think that this is back in Fairbanks, not only the players but also our coaches get pulled into so many different directions with people’s wants and needs and that’s been so busy at this place and being at that place for meetings. So from a perspective standpoint — this is as good as it gets for us.”

Contact Kyle Cassilly at kcassilly@nd.edu
Physical play a hallmark of previous matchups

4-1 ND win Feb. 25 featured 17 penalties

By CHRIS KOREY
Sports Writer

With 3.7 seconds left in Notre Dame's 4-1 victory over Alaska-Fairbanks Friday, as fans stood up to leave, an altercation broke out near the Nanooks goal. Almost every player on the ice was seemingly nearby and, while players and coaches from both teams said they couldn't see what happened, the referees called five penalties on the play — including a game misconduct on Irish defenseman Chris Trick.

The near-brawl at the end of the game was the result of 60 minutes of hard hitting and emotional play that typified the two-game, season-ending Notre Dame-Alaska-Fairbanks series and should return when the Irish and Nanooks square off again to open the CCHA playoffs.

"Familiarity does breed contempt," Irish head coach Jeff Jackson said. "There's a reason that's a quote. But if we let that contemnute come before our ultimate goal, it's going to hurt us. We can't take cheap shots or we'll be killing penalties and giving up goals. The same is true for them."

Friday's game featured 17 penalties and 45 penalty minutes, including 21 minutes handed out for the skirmish at the end of the game. No one was immune from the rough play, as Notre Dame goalie Dave Brown was knocked into his own net several times. There's a kev kill due to the Fairbanks players, told me all game they would be running for me," Brown said. "They're not afraid of everybody."

Saturday's 2-1 Nanooks win was significantly cleaner, with the two teams combining for just four penalties.

"I think the importance of the contest could be seen on the ice nonetheless. "Last weekend was like a playoff weekend for us and it was like a playoff weekend for them," Notre Dame co-captain T.J. Jindra said. "If anything, what's it is like that we have two playoff weekends in a row."

Both coaches took their teams at task to Friday's contest. I'm warning them to focus their emotion and energy on scoring and not on hitting opposing players. "We've got a young team and they're going to want to make some noise. They have some energy... They have to learn to channel it," Irish head coach Tavis MacMillan said.

Jackson said the importance of the contest made it especially key to keep penalties to a minimum.

"There's too much on the line," he said. "There's too much at stake to take stupid penalties."

Jackson also said it is crucial for the Irish to avoid bumps in the back because the Nanooks are bigger at most positions. "They average 10 to 15 pounds per man more than our team," he said.

MacMillan said he knows the Nanooks have a size advantage over most of the Irish opponents and that he does his game plan accordingly, but that he would never condone intimidation or dirty play.

"We're a big team," he said. "But don't be stiff after the whistle. I like spirit, I like energy. You've got to get into the game, be [passionate] and just play hockey."

Despite amassing 37 penalty minutes as a team in Friday's victory, the Irish are still the second-most penalized team in the CCHA, averaging just 16.18 minutes of penalty time per game. Fairbanks is ninth in the twelve-team league, averaging 27.00 per game.

Brian Aaron was the referee for both Friday and Saturday's games, assisted by John Philo and Mark DesRosiers. Referees for this weekend's playoff series have yet to be announced.

Contact Chris Korey at ckorey@nd.edu

Like a playoff weekend for us and it was like a playoff weekend for them," Notre Dame co-captain T.J. Jindra said. "If anything, what's it is like that we have two playoff weekends in a row."

Both coaches took their teams at task to Friday's contest. I'm warning them to focus their emotion and energy on scoring and not on hitting opposing players. "We've got a young team and they're going to want to make some noise. They have some energy... They have to learn to channel it," Irish head coach Tavis MacMillan said.

Jackson said the importance of the contest made it especially key to keep penalties to a minimum.

"There's too much on the line," he said. "There's too much at stake to take stupid penalties."

Jackson also said it is crucial for the Irish to avoid bumps in the back because the Nanooks are bigger at most positions. "They average 10 to 15 pounds per man more than our team," he said.

MacMillan said he knows the Nanooks have a size advantage over most of the Irish opponents and that he does his game plan accordingly, but that he would never condone intimidation or dirty play.

"We're a big team," he said. "But don't be stiff after the whistle. I like spirit, I like energy. You've got to get into the game, be [passionate] and just play hockey."

Despite amassing 37 penalty minutes as a team in Friday's victory, the Irish are still the second-most penalized team in the CCHA, averaging just 16.18 minutes of penalty time per game. Fairbanks is ninth in the twelve-team league, averaging 27.00 per game.

Brian Aaron was the referee for both Friday and Saturday's games, assisted by John Philo and Mark DesRosiers. Referees for this weekend's playoff series have yet to be announced.

Contact Chris Korey at ckorey@nd.edu
IRISH INSIDER
Friday, March 3, 2006
THE Observer

NEVER BLACK DOWN

IRISH GUARD CHRIS QUINN, CENTER, AND FORWARDS RICK CORNETT, LEFT, AND TORIN FRANCIS HAVE LED THE IRISH THROUGH THEIR TOUGH SEASON. BUT A WIN SATURDAY AGAINST DEPAUL WILL PUT THEM IN THE BIG EAST TOURNAMENT.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRAHAM EBETSCH AND PHIL HUDELSON/THE OBSERVER
Irish guard Chris Quinn, center, lays on the ground after a hard foul in an 80-72 loss to Marquette Feb. 25.

But Notre Dame hasn't stuck to that formula. It has played "not to lose" in many games, forced them into close games as the clock winds down. And the Irish then put the ball in the hands of Quinn who — while fully capable of breaking down most defenders one-on-one — simply has not had the practice prior to this season of being the man at Notre Dame.

He has become just that, illustrated most recently by his willingness to involve others in the victory over Providence Wednesday that put the Irish in this position. And Francis and Cornett have joined Quinn in the team's final push.

That is how this team should finish. But none of this really mattered last season because Notre Dame hasn't shown it experience last season because of its biggest impact players. And Cornett could be seen throwing down a furious two-hand dunk through a hard foul in the second half, descending to the floor and shouting down his defender, screaming in frustration and exuberance over the dominating performance his team had just set forth.

This begs a question: where has that been all year? That passion and efficiency. Why hasn't Notre Dame shown it until so late, and when it shows that fire, only in spurts?

To reasons. Because Notre Dame is not as athletic as most of its Big East opponents, and because the Irish fail to adjust to game situations. The Big East is a big ball game, the reason Notre Dame won so convincingly was that Brey and the Irish knew who they were as a team: plays, sending back-to-back opportunities for Seton Hall, and that was the game. The only difference was that Brey and the Irish knew that they could adjust to game situations.

Murphy also understands where he goes when he returns, he returns to his life as a student. Where some of his teammates might live together, Murphy signed the lease for his current house years ago.

"There were times this summer where some of my roommates were here and we would get up at 5 in the morning and we would still be up from the night before," Murphy said with a smile. "That happened a couple times."

So for Murphy, Notre Dame fights for its postseason life Saturday at DePaul, Murphy will assume his customary role on the bench.

And as he wonders how college would be different if he had played at a school where he received more playing time, but Murphy has enjoyed his time at Notre Dame regardless of minutes.

"I don't regret coming to Notre Dame at all," Murphy said. "I'm going to graduate with a degree at Notre Dame, and I think I'll do all right with a career, so I'm not complaining too much."

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu
Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.
Becoming dual weapons on the times, but as a pair, they have their worth as individual players big men Feb. 23. "Either get us imitate Big East contender. 

"Cornett}

larly light class

They even made to earn a Big East tournament

Don't misunderstand one or the other.

The one who is — a role player who averages a low points, 10 rebounds) and has a career averaging 11.1 points and

Irish forward who he is — a role player who averages a low points, 10 rebounds) and has a career averaging 11.1 points and

Irish senior forward and tri-

selves and on the team. Sut now

Francis said Monday before prac-

tatives of a relentless Notre Dame team.

From background to forefront

Cornett has played an average of 10.2 minutes per game in his Notre Dame's backup, his assumed role before this sea-

Beginning at the end of last season and continuing into 2002-

Cornett played not only in the Big East alongside of Francis. And Notre Dame has reaped obvious benefits when Cornett plays more minutes.

He's averaging nearly 13 minutes, the Irish have averaged 5.8 more points per game (82.5) they have for the season's duration (76.7). They also have given up 2.8 more points per game than they do without his increased presence, but on a team that values outscoring opponents with a high efficient offense. Cornett has stood out this season as a valuable asset.

That's the good news. But Cornett, who balls from Country Club Hills, Ill., has not played as much throughout his career — or this season — as he would have liked.

"Any competitive wants to be on the court and [to play]," Cornett said. "I just really have had to work my way into the role and realize that some games I may play a lot, some games I may not play, and not be upset about it but just keep working hard. Because when you come calling to go out there, I have to be ready to contribute and do well.

Questions remain as to why Notre Dame never applied the red-shirt to Cornett in order to retain a year of eligibility during seasons in which he saw minimal action. Brey promises the staff deliberated long and hard on the issue and concluded each season that the Irish needed Cornett in a jersey.

The Brey said Cornett's red-shirt dis-

"Rick Cornett red-shirt dis-

The one thing about this group has been an unwillingness through a difficult conference slate.

"That's the type of guys we are," Francis said. "Coach Brey and the coaching staff can only do so much. For us, it's how we go out and practice, how we prepare for the games and whether we're mentally ready for the game.

"We could have thrown in the towel a long time ago, but why would we if we still have the opportunity to do big things?"

"He has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-

"Mike Brey said of his two seniors, "I think we'd give the three of them the nod." "Dundie give us there or don't it."

Francis and Cornett have been frustrated for different reasons and have succeeded at different times, but as a pair, they have become dual weapons on the court (who knew?) and represen-tatives of a relentless Notre Dame team.


By PAT LEONARD

Sport Writer

Irish forwards Torin Francis and Rick Cornett haveblurry destinies but a common current goal

"Our schedules kind of match up as far as having one or two classes now," Cornett said today. "We worked hard from the beginning just to get all our work out of the way.

"So this year is, now, the two great contest to battle each other in practice while fending off our other schedules, and to prove this is no fluke, and that we're here to stay and that we're worth a legiti-mate Big East contender.

"The one thing he and I have always talked about, is, in the off-season, being really committed," Brey said. "And each summer he's learned the commitment level to play at this level really is the most productive for him.

"He does have other interests (and) that's healthy. That's well-rounded, but there are times you need kind of a manic focus.

"Cornett played sparingly, but even when he doesn't see as many minutes, both seniors remain major reasons why this group has been so resilient through a difficult conference slate.

"That's the type of guys we are," Francis said. "Coach Brey and the coaching staff can only do so much. For us, it's how we go out and practice, how we prepare for the games and whether we're mentally ready for the game.

"We could have thrown in the towel a long time ago, but why would we if we still have the opportunity to do big things?"

"He has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-

"Brey said he feels Cornett also has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-

"good enough to go," Brey said. "It wasn't an arrogant move on his part ... The crazy thing about the draft [is if] you have a good two days in Chicago, you can be the 25th pick and then work out for some guys.

"Whenever he was eligible for the NBA Draft, whether it was his freshman year, his junior year or this spring, he was able to be a dogfight to scratch his way into the league. He's realistic about that. The one thing he can do is he can make a living play-

"The one thing about this group has been an unwillingness through a difficult conference slate.

"That's the type of guys we are," Francis said. "Coach Brey and the coaching staff can only do so much. For us, it's how we go out and practice, how we prepare for the games and whether we're mentally ready for the game.

"We could have thrown in the towel a long time ago, but why would we if we still have the opportunity to do big things?"

"He has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-

"Brey said he feels Cornett also has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-

"good enough to go," Brey said. "It wasn't an arrogant move on his part ... The crazy thing about the draft [is if] you have a good two days in Chicago, you can be the 25th pick and then work out for some guys.

"Whenever he was eligible for the NBA Draft, whether it was his freshman year, his junior year or this spring, he was able to be a dogfight to scratch his way into the league. He's realistic about that. The one thing he can do is he can make a living play-

"The one thing about this group has been an unwillingness through a difficult conference slate.

"That's the type of guys we are," Francis said. "Coach Brey and the coaching staff can only do so much. For us, it's how we go out and practice, how we prepare for the games and whether we're mentally ready for the game.

"We could have thrown in the towel a long time ago, but why would we if we still have the opportunity to do big things?"

"He has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-

"Brey said he feels Cornett also has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-

"good enough to go," Brey said. "It wasn't an arrogant move on his part ... The crazy thing about the draft [is if] you have a good two days in Chicago, you can be the 25th pick and then work out for some guys.

"Whenever he was eligible for the NBA Draft, whether it was his freshman year, his junior year or this spring, he was able to be a dogfight to scratch his way into the league. He's realistic about that. The one thing he can do is he can make a living play-

"The one thing about this group has been an unwillingness through a difficult conference slate.

"That's the type of guys we are," Francis said. "Coach Brey and the coaching staff can only do so much. For us, it's how we go out and practice, how we prepare for the games and whether we're mentally ready for the game.

"We could have thrown in the towel a long time ago, but why would we if we still have the opportunity to do big things?"

"He has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-

"Brey said he feels Cornett also has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-

"good enough to go," Brey said. "It wasn't an arrogant move on his part ... The crazy thing about the draft [is if] you have a good two days in Chicago, you can be the 25th pick and then work out for some guys.

"Whenever he was eligible for the NBA Draft, whether it was his freshman year, his junior year or this spring, he was able to be a dogfight to scratch his way into the league. He's realistic about that. The one thing he can do is he can make a living play-

"The one thing about this group has been an unwillingness through a difficult conference slate.

"That's the type of guys we are," Francis said. "Coach Brey and the coaching staff can only do so much. For us, it's how we go out and practice, how we prepare for the games and whether we're mentally ready for the game.

"We could have thrown in the towel a long time ago, but why would we if we still have the opportunity to do big things?"

"He has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-

"Brey said he feels Cornett also has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior for-