**Students still support Irish on road trip**

By MEGHAN WONG

The Notre Dame vs. University of Michigan "Game Day" T-shirts are on sale at the Bookstore at a greatly reduced price — perhaps an effort to get rid of the apparel as quickly as Irish fans want to get rid of the memory of last Saturday's devastating blowout.

Despite the loss to that Michigan school, many faithful Notre Dame students will flock to Spartan Stadium in East Lansing on Saturday to cheer Notre Dame to victory against Michigan State.

Senior Karl LeBlancq won the chance to buy tickets to the game through the ticket lottery sponsored by the Student Union Board.

Regardless of Notre Dame's loss last week, LeBlancq is hopeful the Irish will get back on their feet and bring home a win.

"I'm still fully in support of the team and excited to go to the game," LeBlancq said.

LeBlancq, who is road tripping to the game on Saturday, has plans to tailgate before kickoff. LeBlancq and other students who won tickets through the lottery paid $70 a ticket, she said.

Senior Preston Carter, who also won a ticket through the SUB lottery, said he is "extremely confident" about the outcome of Saturday's game and looks forward to watching the Irish in East Lansing on Saturday.

Carter said he is leaving for the game on Saturday and then spending the night at F Affiliate file photo

**Students grapple with visual impairments**

By EILEEN DUFFY

Junior Jim Lockwood is sitting on a bench in the lobby of the Hesburgh Library. Through the window Notre Dame Stadium looms above the pool reflecting Touchdown Jesus' out-stretched arms. Lockwood's dog Scout gazes up at him affectionately.

But Lockwood has no idea. In fact, he's never seen the Stadium, Touchdown Jesus — or Scout (his dog) for that matter.

Lockwood is one of the visually impaired (including two blind) students feeling their way through their college careers at Notre Dame. Through a combination of their own skills and the University's support, they seem to be succeeding.

Dr. Tim Cordes, who is blind, felt his way right to the top of his class — he was the valedictorian of the Class of 1998, earning a 3.99 in biochemistry. He then went on to earn a medical degree from the University of Wisconsin.

By AMANDA MICHAELS

Incoming University students who sign the Academic Code of Honor pledge — to be a member of the Notre Dame community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty — are assumed to be familiar with all the Code entails.

However, based on statistics collected by the University Honor Code Committee, that assumption may not be entirely correct — especially for first-year students.

Thomas Flint, faculty officer for the Honor Code Committee, said 58 honor code violations were reported during the 2005-06 academic year. Of those, 40 were from 100- and 200-level courses — classes predominately populated by freshmen and sophomores, Flint said.

Of the remaining 18, 10 came from 200-level courses, seven from 400-level and one from a 500-level (an undergraduate taking a graduate level course).

"The vast majority of students found responsible for Honor Code violations at Notre Dame are first-year students or sophomores," Vice President and Associate Provost Dennis Jacobs, also co-chair of the Honor Code Committee, told The Observer in September 2005. Jacobs could not be confirmed for the majority of the votes.

Brian Ryan and Natalie Bui came in third with 7.9 percent of the votes.

Camille Gebert and Rebecca Meade dominated the Saint Mary's student government elections for freshman president and vice president Wednesday, winning 50.8 percent of the vote and avoiding a runoff by collecting the 50 percent-plus-one vote necessary to win.

It is uncommon for one ticket to win the majority in the preliminary election, but this year Gebert and Meade were able to secure an overwhelming amount of votes early.

"I was very surprised with the results because everyone running was more than qualified for the position," Gebert said.

Christin Molnar, Board of Governance elections commissioner, was also surprised by the early majority win.

"It is quite unusual to not have a runoff election when you have more than a few tickets running... and with five tickets, I was surprised to have a winner in the first election," Molnar said.

Leslie Youngfahd and Katie O'Brien won 3.2 percent of the votes. Brianna Ryan and Natalie Bui came in third with 14.6 percent of the votes. Hillary Percoff and Kathleen Collins and "I'm so happy," Gebert said.

Lauren Kominkiewicz splits the remainder of the votes.

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**Actress promotes persistence**

"Selena" co-star, TV personality speaks at Hispanic Heritage event

By SONIA RAO

The keys to success are persistence, the ability to stand up for yourself and having the courage to make your own decisions, said actress, author, TV host and jewelry designer Jackie Guerra, who spoke at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies Wednesday as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Guerra, perhaps best known for her role alongside Jennifer Lopez in "Selena," described her transition from growing up as a "Mexican American" to an independent TV personality. Guerra said she learned the value of hard work and dedication when she started working in the business.

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**Honor Code violations high among first-years**

By AMANDA MICHAELS

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**INSIDE COLUMN**

**What are you running from?**

"I ran until my muscles burned and my veins pumped battery acid. Then, I ran some more." There's a nice Fight Club quote for you, I know what Chuck Palahniuk was talking about with the burning muscles, although Allison Ambrose would be lying if I said I had personal experience with battery acid going through my veins. There have been other harmful liquids in my bloodstream — and by that, of course, I mean that one time I drank pancake syrup as a child — but no battery acid thus far.

Honestly, I don't like running. I wish I did. I wish I could run five miles every day like it was nothing. The only redeeming part of running, I think, is finishing. That's really a good feeling. I have plenty of reasons why I don't run: I don't have time (I'm PLS; enough said), my friends are all going out to eat, I'd rather take a nap, my feet and not the heels. This is not the characteristic thing I have ever done in my life (if this statement is an example, it's a very small one). I did it for the cause (Hurricane Katrina relief) and the promise of erecting the G1 stand alone of the stadium, a promise which was unfortunately broken.

I called my father to tell him that I was doing it and the first thing he said was, "I'll pray for you next week or the week after." He hardly even believed me. Furthermore, since I've played basketball my entire life, I run like a sprinter, landing on the balls of my feet and not the heels. This is not the best skill to have when you have 13.1 miles to go. My feet bled, my legs ached, my even arms hurt from swinging back and forth so many times.

All I could think the whole 2 hours and 10 minutes was, "13.1 miles, 13.1 miles, 13.1 miles..." That was not an encouraging thought. But I finally finished, and then immediately collapsed and then immediately collapsed and then immediately collapsed. I would be lying if I didn't say that I was done, and then immediately collapsed.

**OFFBEAT**

**Auto theft tattoo tips off police**

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia** — A Canadian man's apparent fondness for the video game "Grand Theft Auto" has led to his arrest in connection with an auto theft, police said on Wednesday.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said Shylo Kujawska — who has "Grand Theft Auto" prominently tattooed on his back — was spotted acting suspiciously in a Vancouver suburb where several stolen cars had been reported.

Using the tattoo to identify Kujawska as a convicted auto thief, police said they then set up a stakeout that nabbed him attempting to drive away in a stolen car.

Police said during the stakeout they also watched Kujawska thwart his own attempt to drive away in another stolen vehicle by accidentally disabling the car with the owner's steering wheel lock.

**Winners teach team spirit**

**TOKYO** — A Japanese court ruled in favor of teachers who objected to being forced to sing the national anthem at school events, saying the Tokyo Metropolitan government's order to do so infringed upon freedom of thought.

The surprising ruling comes as conservative lawmakers, including Shinzo Abe, poised to become prime minister next week, seek to put more patriotism into classrooms in an effort to revive a Japanese sense of identity they see as lacking in modern-day society.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
Bick nature trails at SMC fenced off

Area was often used for educational purposes

By LAURA BAUMGARTNER
News Writer

The nature trails that once offered Saint Mary's College and the surrounding community unique access to local wooded areas — for educational and personal benefits — have been blocked off this fall following the construction of a new fence that prevents access to the paths.

The city of South Bend has undergone construction of a new sewer line in the woods behind the Saint Mary's campus, which has resulted in the closing of the Bick Nature Area, facilities director Bill Hambling said.

The Bick Nature Area was named after two former biology professors — George and Juanda Bick — who created the nature trails and used the area as an instructional aid for students in their classes, according to the Saint Mary's Web site.

The fence around the nature area was installed during late summer and the area was closed to users beginning in September, Hambling said. The city will "he using heavy equipment, and a concern for the safety of everyone necessitated the closing of the trails," while construction of the sewer system is in progress.

"However, special consideration was granted to certain faculty and students to continue their academic activities in the woods," Hambling said.

Biology professors Dr. Richard Jensen and Dr. Doris Watt are two of the professors who have been permitted continued access to the trails. Chair of the biology department Dr. Thomas Platt said the professors were granted access on a "limited basis for educational purposes."

Platt said Jensen has been using the nature area "to study the local flora for more than two decades" as part of the field botany class he teaches. Watt "is working with students to document seasonal changes along the nature trail with the goal of providing an on-line pictorial guide," he said.

Due to the construction taking place, Jensen said he is no longer sure if he will venture into the woods with his class. However, according to Jensen, Watt will continue to access the trails to conduct field work with students.

The decision to construct the fence and close the trails during construction was made by the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

"We are grateful to the [Sisters] for recognizing the educational value of the nature area and allowing our faculty to continue to use this resource while construction is underway," Platt said.

Saint Mary's security is in charge of regulating and enforcing the closure of the nature area. Jensen said, "access must be arranged through (security), who must be on hand to unlock the gates and then lock gates, both coming and going."

Hambling said the trails will be closed throughout the construction period, but the area is expected to be reopened to all users in January.

Contact Laura Baumgartner at lbaumg01@saintmarys.edu

A stop sign and fence keep people out of the Bick nature trails at Saint Mary's College. The trails are closed due to construction of a new sewer line in the area.
MSU, continued from page 1

Sophomore Lauren Bennett is also traveling to Michigan to show her support for the Irish. Bennett, however, didn't have to pay, as a friend got a few tickets the night before for her birthday. Bennett said she and her friends are going to both Michigan and Ohio State.

"I turned my phone off during the Michigan game," Bennett said when asked if she experienced any harassments from her University of Michigan friends last Saturday.

The Student government announced via e-mail early Thursday morning there would be a limited number of MSU tickets available for sale at the LaFortune Box Office beginning 9 a.m. Thursday. The tickets were sold at their face value of $70.

Brittany Williams, a student worker at the 1 Fortune Box Office, said there were about 30 tickets remaining as of 2 p.m. Thursday. Williams said she had been told by Notre Dame Alumni Association had made 100 tickets available for sale.

Notre Dame students looking for a ticket to the game can catch the MSU Activities Office and sponsored bus. Tickets are $20 and on sale at LaFortune Office, according to a notice posted on insideND.

This Saturday's game will mark the 15th face off between the Fighting Irish and the Spartans. The Irish lead all-time series, 43-25-1, and have a record of 17-13-1 in East Lansing.

Contact Meghan Wons at mwons@msu.edu

Elections, continued from page 1

185 students voted — equivalent to about one-fifth of the freshman class.

The Student government made changes to the voting process, which made Molnar wary of the overall turnout. Students were originally scheduled to vote online via PRISM, but the system was switched to paper ballots near election time.

"I was concerned that we would have less student participation due to the last-minute change to paper ballots," Molnar said. "It was wonderful that over 43 percent of the class voted."

The voter turnout gave Molnar confidence in the freshmen and their desire to participate at Saint Mary's.

"The women of the Class of 2010 certainly rate a lot more than their leaders, and that is a great sign for the future," she said. "I think that all of the candidates were enthusiastic and hard working, which definitely urged their classmates to vote."

"I was just extremely pleased with the election," she added. "We have so many ideas for the Class of 2010, such as themed events, apparel, spirit weeks and planning activities between Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and Holy Cross."

"This is important because we will be working more on building spirit and pride to our class," Meade said.

Both Gebert and Meade have prior experience in student government. They have experience in using PRISM and hope to use that knowledge to lead the freshman class.

"I decided to run (for president) because I love being involved," Gebert said. "I love the responsibility my position entails."

Gebert and Meade campaigned rigorously for the past two weeks with signs, posters and going out of their way to meet other first year students. "What I think set us apart was that we went door to door to first years in every dorm to remind them when voting was," Meade said.

While both participants in elections concede great runners up Leslie Younglad and Katie O'Brien are already showing their support for their victors.

"I think that Gebert and Meade are very personable, motivated girls who are ready for the tasks at hand as president and vice president," Younglad said.

Both Gebert and Meade have a lot of good ideas for the Class of 2010 and will do their best to represent the freshmen women.

Note that the presidential elections are over, there are still three positions to fill on the First Year Board. Platforms are due Monday at 5 p.m. Younglad and O'Brien are already planning to be a part of student government in other ways. Younglad plans to run for freshman board to stay involved at Saint Mary's.

"I'm enthusiastic and ready to help wherever I am needed," she said.

O'Brien also plans to run for the board, based on her past experience in high school. "I've been Mexican my whole life," she said, including "I know this year is going to have some great leaders."

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@slmymaries.edu

Guerra continued from page 1

valley girl from Los Angeles) to becoming a public figure advocating for eating disorders in a variety of ways, such as on Air America Radio and has on her resume self esteem image and self esteem art. Guerra is a remarkable learning experience and a remarkable story.

Before she was the WB's "First Time Girl" Guerra was a freshman at her first love Saddleback College in a network sitcom.

Guerra said that she "never planned on being in show business."

"It was never important to me," she said.

Guerra said she realized her calling when she entered a talent show in a bar, hoping to use her time on the stage to raise awareness of a boycott she was working against a major hotel chain. After following "a drag queen that sang Gloria Estefan," Guerra stood on the stage and it was the turning point in her seductive experience. "I had ever felt in my entire life," Guerra said. "I thought, 'This is what I want to do.'"

Following her epiphany, Guerra moved from the brokerage firm to a year before landing her deal with the WB, but found herself "too thin" when she tried for the part of Selena's sister Lucero in Jennifer Lopez's film and was initially turned down based on the fact that she was too light-hearted and not Mexican enough.

"I have been Mexican my whole life and you're telling me I can't play a Mexican?" she quipped.

Guerra remained persistent, sending faxes and leaving messages with the director every hour until she was finally granted an audition, but the part was given to another actress. It was not until the real Suzanne saw "No, you're not good enough..." and if you listen to those people and you let them define what you're going to do in your life then you're always going to lose," Guerra said. "Those fools do not pay rent to live in your head."

Guerra also spoke of other obstacles in her life besides those concerning acting, including her struggle with weight. After undergoing gastric bypass surgery, which she proclaimed to be "the best thing I ever did for myself," Guerra lost 170 pounds. "I did every diet known to mankind," she said, including the color diet, which involved eating only one color of food each day of the week. "Luckily M&Ms come in every single one of those colors," she said.

Guerra has recently been named spokeswoman for obesity health and has made a commitment to go away from acting and more towards activism. She is currently in pursuit of a Master's in Air America Radio and has recently published the most promising book "Under Construction." "You have to make the choice or people are going to make the one else like you," she said.

Contact Suzie Rao at srao@msu.edu

Holy Cross College is seeking comments from the public in preparation for its evaluation by the regional accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission.

The college will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit by a team from the commission on October 23 to 25. The team will review the College's ongoing ability to meet the commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the College. Comments should be addressed to the following:

Public Comment on Holy Cross College
The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be written in English and will not be treated as confidential.

All comments should be received by September 23.
Iranian president speaks at G.A.

Ahmadinejad tries to improve image amid controversy over nuclear program

United Nations

United Nations — Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke Thursday at the United Nations, enjoying the spotlight at this year's U.N. General Assembly, easing his way into the international arena and trying to improve his image amid the controversy over his nuclear program and remarks about Israel and the Holocaust.

When an Israeli reporter challenged him into answering a question at a news conference Thursday, Ahmadinejad at first stalled, waving an index finger at the reporter to skip his question, then reluctantly gave his response.

"We showed the world — Jews, Christians, Muslims, non-Muslims, non-Jews, non-Christians," he said. "We are against ugly acts, he said.

"Everyone is respected. But I repeat we are against aggression, occupation, killings. ... We declare this in a loud, clear voice," he said.

But Yehiyu Halili, a reporter with Israel's Yeduth Achronoth was not impressed.

"He's trying to portray an image of a nice guy after all the things he said about Israel. Now he knows everybody's in the same," he said.

"He may sound nicer on the surface, but on the inside he's the same," said Kamran Dakhkhah, an economics professor at Northeastern University in Boston.

Ahmadinejad was vague when asked if Iran would stop arming Hezbollah and comply with a U.N. Security Council resolution to disarm the Lebanese guerrilla group, which fought a 34-day war with Israel this summer. He said Iran gives only spiritual and cultural support to the Shiite Muslim group.

"We support ... peace and permanent stability in Lebanon, and we will fall short of no measure in promoting this goal. Whether it's in the cultural or spiritual support that we can render or whether it is the role that we can play in the international arena, we will do our best.

And this is the fundamental principle of our foreign policy, and it does not preclude Lebanon," he said.

At the news conference, Ahmadinejad also expressed love and affection for the American people, just as President Bush reached out to the Iranian people a couple of days earlier.

Ahmadinejad said he wished he had more time here to spend with them in person.

"The people of the United States are highly respected by us," he said. "Many people in the United States believe in God and believe in justice. He thanked the New York City police and security forces (for protecting him during his stay here and apologized to New Yorkers for traffic disruptions from the arrival of world leaders to attend the U.N. General Assembly session.

"It's not the nuclear bomb that the American government is worried about, for there are countries in our region that are armed with a nuclear bomb and are incidentally supported by the U.S. government.

"Now, how is this?" said Ahmadinejad.

Associated Press

Detainee trial rules established

Washington — The Gitmo tribunal should send its rules for the interrogation of terrorism suspects to Congress for approval before they can be used, the Senate Armed Services Committee said Thursday.

"This is not about the rules themselves, but about the process, and the Senate's role in that process," Sen. John McCain of Arizona, one of three GOP lawmakers who told Bush he couldn't support the legislation the way he initially asked for it, said. "The agreement that we've entered into gives the president the tools he needs to continue to fight the war on terror and bring those evil people to justice."

"There's no doubt that the integrity and letter and spirit of the Geneva Conventions have been preserved," McCain said, referring to the international treaties covering the treatment of prisoners in wartime.

The central sticking point had been a demand from McCain, Sen. John Warner of Virginia and Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina that there be no attempt to redefine U.S. obligations under the Geneva Conventions.

The agreement contains key concessions by the White House, including dropping a provision that would have interpreted Geneva Convention obligations and another allowing a defendant to be convicted on evidence he never sees if it is classified. The legislation, however, makes clear the president has the authority to enforce the treaty.

Sen. Michael Hayden has said the agency needed to be confident that its interrogation program for high-value terror suspects is legal.
Honor continued from page 1

reached for comment Thursday.

Flint said while it was diffi­
cult to know for sure why younger students would be more prone to honor code vi­
lations, he had some ideas.

"High-level courses tend to be required of students. Every student is required to take Intro to Philosophy, but a lot of them might not have any interest, so it may be that the temptation to cheat is going to be a little bit higher," Flint said.

"These intro courses also tend to be much larger than higher-level classes, so it could be that some students think their dishonesty will go unnoticed."

He also suggested freshmen might be coming to the University "having engaged in a lot of academic dishonesty in high school," according to sta­
tistics that suggest more cheating goes on in secondary schools than in college.

"Some students may be bring ing bad habits with them, which they're gradually losing through the course of their college career," Flint said.

Assistant Dean of First Year of Studies Kenneth John DeBoer agreed with Flint's assessment.

"Most likely there was not a similar code of honor at the [students'] secondary school, so it's a new world for them," DeBoer said. "And upper-level students have been here longer, maybe have had class­mates who ran into some [honor code] trouble earlier and know this is serious."

O'Neill freshman Alexander McShea had another idea.

"It's probably because we freshmen are more careless when we cheat as opposed to the more thorough upperclassmen," he said.

In the past, freshmen were sent the University Honor Code Handbook — "a long and boring reading document," McShea said — and a statement to sign confirming they'd read it.

"We had heard from stu­dents on committee over the years that they didn't think anything of the whole thing and our fear was that no one was even looking at it, signing the paper without reading it," Flint said. "This is a real prob­lem, because this is already the first dishonest act by stu­dents, and besides that, people weren't getting familiar with important information."

So, to make this information more accessible, the essential details were condensed into a short student guide in 2005, which is sent to freshmen before they come to Notre Dame. Additionally, past summer, students were asked for the first time to take an on-line test on the material presented in the guide.

The quiz, designed by the Honor Code committee, pres­ents students with eight out of 33 possible "real-life" situa­tions where the honor code would be involved. Six of the eight must be answered cor­rectly for the student to pass — and if they fail, they must wait 12 hours before they can access the quiz again.

"Well into the summer, about 85 percent of students were passing the tutorial on the first try, which suggests they were actually looking at passing it, before doing it, and that reading the student guide helped them to pass the quiz," Flint said.

"Only 10 first-year students who showed up without hav­ing passed it — but I don't know what­ever happened to those.

DeBoer said FYS was pleased with the effectiveness of the quiz — but supplemented it with their own advice.

"We think the quiz gives heightened awareness of the Honor Code to students, but of course, [FYS advisors] cover the code as a logic in individ­ual meetings with students," he said.

Flint added, I always keep the student guide on my desk as sort of a reminder of the consequences of cheating.

"Though this more student-friendly approach to teaching the Honor Code is aimed at decreasing the number of vio­lations per year, Flint said he expects to see numbers go up in the near future.

In 2005, the Honor Code Committee instituted a new violation reporting policy, which allowed professors and students to settle the problem without needing a hearing in front of a departmental hon­esty committee, instead sub­mitting a simple report to Jacobs. In the past, a hearing was the only official way to address violations — so, Flint said, professors were far more likely to deal with the problem themselves and not make it known to the University.

In 2002-03 school year, 41 honor code violations were reported, compared to 29 the year before. A visible increase, but not as dramatic as expected, Flint said.

"Some other schools that have changed their [honor code violation] reporting policy have seen numbers go through the roof," Flint said.

"So, there is an increase in the numbers, but they're still very low, given that we know that there had to be far more violations last year than 58, based only on the fairly of the faculty who did several years ago.

Flint said he thinks the numbers will take a spike a bit as students get used to the new system, as the vast majority of reports to initiate from them.

"When I first got to Notre Dame, I had all this equipment," she said. "Figuring out what to do, and whether or not to use was a real challenge.

"Lockwood's vis­ual impairment — a combina­tion of glaucoma and another disabil­i ty that is a "mystery" to doctors — allows him to see things in a very high con­trast (like black on white), so he can often read books once they've scanned into his com­puter (with a software-­designed screen).

"Using these tools and more, visually impaired students admit that at times, they feel less isolated.

"One of the first days after I'd trained Scout (Lockwood's seeing-eye dog), I was trying to get to know Siegfried and I got completely lost," Lockwood said. "I got to third floor, saw the "Street and heard the sounds of golf carts, and knew I was in the wrong place."

She said she lost so many days and hours she made a reso­lution during her junior year.

"It decided I was only going to take right-angle turns on the lower floor, if there was a diagonal going across the quad," she said. But that was just part of the game.

"Among the consuming aca­demics and the long com­mutes across campus, is there ever time for something else?

Siegfried, who has a master's degree from a school in China, Beijing, China, swimming six days a week for five, if the pool's cleared for a home football game."

"I was never involved in high school, I really selected here that becoming part of groups is a really good way of meeting people."
British mogul invests $3 million

'Rebel billionaire' Branson pledges funds to help Clinton Global Initiative

Associated Press

NEW YORK — British business mogul Richard Branson on Thursday pledged to invest about $3 billion over the next decade to create a warming and promoting alternative energy, saying that it was critical to protect the environment for future generations.

Branson, the millionaire behind the multi-platform Virgin brand, said the money would come from 100 percent of the profits generated by his transportation sectors, trains and airline companies. It will be invested in efforts to find renewable, sustainable energy sources in an effort to wean the world off oil and coal.

The so-called "rebel billionaire" — wearing a dress coat with no tie and denim pants — made the announcement on the second day of the Clinton Global Initiative, an annual conference of business, political and nonprofit leaders hosted by former President Clinton.

"Our generation has inherited an incredibly beautiful world from our parents and this is what we are leaving to their parents," Branson said at a news conference, with Clinton at his side. "We must not be the generation responsible for irreversibly damaging the environment. We must hand it over to our children in as near pristine a condition as we were handed it from our parents."

Clinton praised Branson, calling him one of the "most interesting," "creative" and "genuinely committed" people he had ever known.

Branson said he was inspired to contribute after a meeting with Al Gore, who served as Clinton's vice president and has been highly visible in raising awareness about global warming and environmental issues.

Gore was scheduled to speak Thursday afternoon.

Richard Branson, right, passes the pen to Bill Clinton after signing a commitment to the Clinton Global Initiative Thursday to help promote alternative energy.

Wal-Mart lowers prescription costs

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, plans to lower the prices of almost 300 generic prescription drugs, offering a big lure for bargain-seeking customers and presenting a challenge to competing pharmacy chains and mail-order companies.

The drugs will be sold for as little as $4 for a month's supply and include some of the most commonly prescribed medicines such as Metformin, a popular drug for diabetics, Olanzapine and the blood pressure medication Lisinopril.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. will launch the program Friday at 65 Wal-Mart, Neighborhood Market and Sam's Club pharmacies in Florida's Tampa Bay area. It will be expanded statewide in January and rolled out to the rest of the nation next year, company officials said on Thursday.

The news sent the shares of big pharmacy chains like Walgreen and CVS slumping because of fears that Wal-Mart's price cuts could cost them market share.

Analysts said consumers will save an average of 20 percent and up to 90 percent in some cases. Shares of prescription drug management companies and some generic drugmakers fell as well.

Analysts said the risks to Wal-Marts are slim because profit margins on most of the drugs already are low — and the program could help the Arkansas-based retailer address an image problem stemming from its policies on health insurance coverage for employees.

They are doing something that may be good for consumers, but they don't have altruistic motives," said Patricia Edwards, a portfolio manager and retail analyst at Weeden, Hauser & Violich in Seattle. "They are capitalists. They still need to make a profit."
Surviving a most difficult week

Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

It wasn’t long ago that I finally learned how to spell, “Roethlisberger.” I had scheduled another spelling study for this week to learn “Sammisjia.” Now what’s the use? It occurs to me as my brain slowly sizzles from the steam of foreign policies with Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran. This election means something — probably more than most.

Weis knows that his job is to win games and championships, the game still needs to be kept in its proper perspective. Last week’s game reminds me of the scene in Tom Cruise’s highest-grossing football movie, “All the Right Moves.” The coach teaches Charlie Weis how to spell, "Bootsiebther." I had scheduled another spelling study for this week to learn "Sammisjia." Now what’s the use?

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Defining Notre Dame football

The unique loyalty of the Notre Dame fanbase is widely known, but the pride that the football team elicits is just as strong. It is a special tradition of football at Notre Dame.

A fierce, but friendly rivalry exists between Notre Dame and a few select teams, the rest are just a wish on the part of us fans. Notre Dame is a national powerhouse, and even when we lose, we still hold our heads high. We are a devoted and loyal fanbase, and we adhere to the traditions of Notre Dame football.

The game that I paid a decent amount of money for was one of the most exciting games I have ever watched. The game was filled with excitement and tension, and the fans were all cheering and supporting their team. It was truly a memorable experience.

However, it is important to remember that football is just a game. We should not take advantage of every second of opportunities to leave early in my opinion. "Winning is fun," they declared. Apart from that original insight, they would appear to have benefited in a limited way from their Notre Dame educations, and we all have to share that blame.

They obviously learned nothing of respect for their fellow man, that respective community is of value, and that there is more to life than their own vanities. Fortunately, Charlie Weis has included these values in his curriculum.

The players, who may also have preferred to leave prematurely, shamelessly draped themselves, body by standing and singing the Alma Mater. The vast majority of students didn't. I don't know about you, but I did. They and all of us were left hanging from an unequal brass ring - but years from now they and we will remember that Notre Dame is a special place where some things are, in fact, more enduring than wins and losses.

Matthew C. Storin
"Sports:" Sept. 21

Leaving unjustified

I find it fitting that the authors of the Letter to the Editor ("Football is about victories," Sept. 21) compared supporting the football team in defeat to receiving an "F" in school. That argument is just ridiculous.

Sure, football is more fun when you're winning. And of course every Notre Dame fan for one reflective of his true feelings are the number one Miami in 1988, number two Ohio State in 1995, Penn State in the 1992 "Snow Bowl" and the 1989 Notre Dame team that beat West Virginia, one might think the ESPN pig had tainted the old ball coach. But Holtz explained, "That team didn't hang their heads and never quit on each other... You always gotta believe." Great Notre Dame coaches have been each rewarded by support shown after crushing defeats. Knute Rockne's teams were gripped by threat of cheer- makings of students and fans at the train station because they were poor or depressing losses. Coach Puskaritch returned from difficult beat- ing teams and fan reactions that ranged from shouting to slapping, from silence, to expectation of losing. The "F" argument is just ridiculous.

Mike Coffey
assistant professor in the history department
"Sports:" Sept. 21

Fight song tribute honors visitor

I'm not sure whether to take the letter written by Pat O'Brien as one of wit and sarcasm or one of reflection of his true feelings for the number one Miami in 1988, number two Ohio State in 1995, Penn State in the 1992 "Snow Bowl" and the 1989 Notre Dame team that beat West Virginia and the ESPN pig had tainted the old ball coach. But Holtz explained, "That team didn't hang their heads and never quit on each other... You always gotta believe." Great Notre Dame coaches have been each rewarded by support shown after crushing defeats. Knute Rockne's teams were gripped by threat of cheer-makings of students and fans at the train station because they were poor or depressing losses. Coach Puskaritch returned from difficult beating teams and fan reactions that ranged from shouting to slapping, from silence, to expectation of losing. The "F" argument is just ridiculous.

Eduardo Magallanes
assistant professor in the history department
"Sports:" Sept. 21

Notre Dame respects opponents

This is a brief response to Pat O'Brien's Letter to the Editor ("Football is about victories," Sept. 21). As a member of the Band of the Fighting Irish, I stand by our tradition of playing the opponent's fight song at the end of a game. At Notre Dame, we do not leave all records at the door. We do not walk out of the stadium and rub a loss in anyone's face or throw insults at them if we win. We, the band student body, and everyone associated with Notre Dame welcome all visitors to our home and give them the full respect due to them.

"You're welcome to come here as long as we still win." It's "Welcome to Notre Dame — we hope you enjoy your stay with us here... to try to again push this sort of thing." Notre Dame isn't about hating your opponents or trying to humiliate them or their fans in any way. It is about respecting our opponents as people and as a team. We are not, nor have we ever been, "Winning is fun." It is about being gracious in victory or defeat. Playing their song is not disrespecting their fan base but a sign of respect and welcoming in victory. In victory, playing the other school's song is a sign of respect and showing our team that we respect our opponents as people and as a team.

John Cogill
junior
"Sports:" Sept. 21

Rough times demand greater support

In response to Tom, Ricky, Tom, Rick and Kenny's letter ("Football is about victories," Sept. 21)...

First off, let me say how cute it is that you all took all five of you just to write one letter to the newspaper. As far as the content of your group work, you shouldn't walk out on something that you love just because they fall once. Tom, Ricky, Tom and Rick, if you found out that Kerry had a drug problem, would you kick him out of your little love penta-gon, leave him all alone, and just hope he gets back on his feet by himself? No — you would stick with him and help him through his rough times.

The student section that stayed Saturday was not there cheering blindly for our team just to "have fun and hear the band play" even though we were losing. We were there for our friends and classmates who are on the team. We stayed to show that we believe they will win the next game, even though we didn't go as planned. 80,000 people don't pack the stadium every week just to watch their team win; they come to help their team win by showing their support for something they believe in. It was one of the most frustrating, yet most memorable, games. The Fighting Irish are on the cusp of greatness.

Tom Martin
junior
"Sports:" Sept. 21
Old drive-ins offer nostalgia, entertainment

By ERIN McGinn
Assistant Scene Editor

One of the latest fads appearing in new movie theaters is making going to the movies an experience once again.

In the National Amusements' Cinema De Lux theaters, there are full service restaurants and bars where patrons can order full meals and have them waiting before they even arrive at the theater. While this is becoming trendy as a high-end movie-going experience, going to the movies used to always be about the experience — as opposed to the carbon-copy theaters that dominate the American movie scene today.

There are still theaters, however, that since the 1930s have made going to the movies an experience that everyone can enjoy — the drive-in.

History of the drive-in

The drive-in movie theater was the product of a young sales manager, Richard Hollingshead, who, while working at his father's auto products store, had the idea to invent something that combined his two interests: cars and movies.

Hollingshead's vision was that of an open-air movie theater where patrons could watch the movies without leaving their own cars. He experimented with this idea out on his driveway by mounting a Kodak projector on the hood of his car, projecting the image onto a screen he suspended from trees in his yard and using a radio behind the screen to produce the sound.

Then he tested this prototype under various conditions. Sound quality issues stemming from changing weather were tested using a lawn sprinkler as trial rain. He also tested different ways to configure parking schemes as to allow each car a clear view of the screen.

Hollingshead first began by lining the cars in his driveway, which caused sight problems for cars lined up each directly behind the one in front of it. He then determined the spacing needed at various distances and where to place blocks and ramps under the front wheels of cars that were parked further away from the screen.

The first patent for the drive-in theater was issued in 1933, and with $30,000 Hollingshead opened the first drive-in in New Jersey. This initial theater used speakers mounted next to the screen, as opposed to individual car speakers that would develop in later designs for these theaters.

Arguably, the most innovative theater to develop during this time was the one created by Edward Brown, Jr. who opened the first "drive-in and fly-in" theater for both cars and small planes. It had the capacity for 500 cars as well as 25 airplanes. An airfield was placed next to the drive-in parking grounds and the planes would taxi into the last row of the theater. When the movies ended, Brown would provide a tow for the planes to be brought back to the airfield.

In the 1970s, many drive-ins were still making money when they closed. The closings were primarily due to rising property costs in spaces occupied by the theaters.

Location, as well as seasonal operation, is often cited as the biggest problem to face drive-ins. By the 1990s, there were less than 600 drive-ins left operating in the nation. As of 2003, there are currently 432 drive-in theaters still operating throughout the country.

At the Tri-Way Drive-In

Indiana is known as the "Crossroads of America" due to the fact that more major highways intersect in the state of Indiana than in any other state in America. Indiana also contains more miles of interstate highway per square mile than does any other state — even though Indiana is only the 35th largest state in the country. This may help to explain the traditional popularity of drive-in theaters in the Hoosier state.

During the late 1950s, the heyday for the drive-in cinemas, there were more than 120 theaters located in Indiana alone. Over the years, more than 82 percent of those theaters have gone dark or have been demolished. Currently, Indiana is one of America's top ten drive-in states with 23 theaters still in operation. Located less than half an hour away from Notre Dame, in Plymouth, Ind., is one of these valuable movie theater treasures, operating every weekend and showing six new releases.

The Tri-Way Drive-In opened in 1953 with only a single screen. Tri-Way was the theater's original name — its name did not come from its now three screens, but rather from its location near three major highways (30, 31 and 6). The Tri-Way can accommodate over 500 cars, has a full-service concession stand and features the famous vintage intermission trailers such as the "dancing hotdogs."

Alongside the movie theater is the popular Tri-Way Theater miniature golf course, which is the only championship realistic miniature golf course in the area. The golf course also includes an arcade room and a separate concession area.

The 2006 theater season is the 54th consecutive season for the theater. Their season runs April through the end of September and each of their screens is lit-up with double features of current releases. The Tri-Way Theater recently just installed new "technalite" technolgy on its screens — one of the first drive-ins in the country to undergo this installation — showing a picture two to three times brighter than regular drive-in screens.

With no home game this weekend, consider spending some time at the local drive-in and experience a pastime which is swiftly fading into obscurity.

The double features running this weekend are Gridiron Gang with Talladega Nights, Barnyard with Eat Fried Worms and The Covenant with Wicker Man.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu
Money, audiences drive major TV mergers

By BRIAN DOXTADER and MARTY SCHROEDER
Scene Writers

Anyone flipping through channels on
the way to football may have noticed somethingsomething major
networks. The WB and UPN are no more. In their place is a single network, The CW.

A joint venture between CBS (who owns UPN) and Time Warner, The CW launched this fall with programming designed to draw from each respective channel. With its formal opening on Sept. 7, The CW aired the season premiere of “America’s Next Top Model.”

This opener showcases The CW’s target audience — the younger generation of America that are less interested in newscasts and more prone to sitcoms and reality television. However, The WB’s top sitcom, “Reba,” was picked up at the last minute even though it’s outside of The CW’s target audience. With shows like “Charmed” linked with the new series “Veronica Mars” and the nucleus and reality television.

The WB and UPN have had very different audiences, and it’s difficult to believe that the programming The CW chooses will appeal to both. Indeed, it’s more likely that the network will have difficulty balancing its demographics — network mergers typically don’t have the audience’s desires as the foremost concern. No, the ultimate motivation in these types of deals is money.

Due to the fact that neither the WB nor UPN could compete with the big three (CBS, ABC, NBC) nor attain the miracle that Fox was able to muster, the parent companies for the two channels decided to merge and hopefully bring both audiences from their respective channels to the new network.

On a more positive note for the new network, the affiliates on board include 16 stations from the Tribune Company previously associated with The WB, which brings Chicago’s WGN, Los Angeles and New York among others on board. Also, CBS Television Stations group has committed 11 stations previously associated with UPN. Of the 11, Detroit, Philadelphia and Atlanta are the biggest. These stations. The CW will reach about 48 percent of the American market — and this is only from 27 affiliates. This does not include many other affiliates, which hosted either UPN or The WB and will now be hosting The CW.

This new network will reach many people, but the only question is whether people will watch. Les Moonves, the chairman of CBS, may claim, “This new network will serve the public with high-quality programming and maintain our ongoing commitment to our diverse audience,” but that same diversity means an uneven split between programming. After all, do CBS and Warner really believe that the people who watch “Gilmore Girls” are also interested in “WWE: Smackdown”?

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FILM REVIEW

‘Crank’ gives an adrenaline thrill-ride at a non-stop pace

By TAE ANDREWS
Assistant Scene Editor

You might say Chev Chelios is having a bad day. He wakes up feeling like death, then finds out he might literally be a dead man walking after watching a DVD left by an enemy, which reveals that he’s been poisoned in his sleep.

The antidote? There is none. After consulting his doctor, Chelios finds out that the only way to stay alive is to keep his adrenaline flowing in order to stave off death. The compound which is not so slowly killing him.

Enter the world of “Crank.” If you’re asking yourself questions like, “Why wouldn’t the bad guys just kill him in his sleep?” then you’re asking the wrong questions and missing the point. This movie is a bullet-ridden joy ride that apologizes for absolutely nothing and never slows down.

Chelios is a survivor, hell bent on doing whatever it takes to stay on his feet long enough to dole out some punishment on those who poisoned him in his deep sleep. The main idea for Chechlos is to load up on stimulants (and “stimulating activities”) to stay alive long enough to kill off the mourning. As such, he becomes addicted to painkillers, ecstasy, speed and anything else that keeps his adrenaline flowing. The result of this is a non-stop adrenaline rush that is sure to leave you breathless.

Chechlos snorts cocaine, pops pills like Skittles, and drinks more Red Bull than sleep-deprived students pulling all-nighters.

Chelios also spends a lot of time running. In fact, the working title of “Crank” probably could’ve been something akin to “See Chev Run.” And “See Chev Drive Around about 100 mph.” And “See Chev Shoot Anything That Moves With A Massive Handgun.”

In a movie like this, where the basic premise is absurd and the actor is basically placed on a revved-up treadmill with bullets flying everywhere and explosions going off every minute, the character is everything. And what makes Chelios work as a character is actor Jason Statham — he’s perfect.

Clearly, Chechlos is is the school of hard knocks and won’t hesitate to use meat cleavers, guns, other assorted weapons and a pair of mean eyes squinting out from underneath his Neanderthal brow, plus a pair of ample body hair just about everywhere and lead sprays from ubiquitous firearms like celebratory champagne.

In addition to this “praise the Lord and pass the ammunition” theme, the directors also manage to mix in a lot of ridiculously funny moments amongst all the car chases, explosions and general chaos, including a sex scene hilarious enough to rival that of the puppet love-making in “Team America.”

Something new about Chechlos and Taylor bring to the table is that they crank up the speed, taking Tarantino’s cinematic hyperbole and ratcheting it up to a blistering pace.

Unlike such previous winners of the elusive five-clover review such as “Brokeback Mountain,” the word “good” doesn’t come into consideration. “Crank” has the perfect combination of adrenaline, testosterone, blood and sweat (no tears here) to propel itself along at its frenetic pace all the way to its heart-stopping conclusion.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrewl@nd.edu

Lauren Graham, left, stars as Lorelai Gilmore and Alexis Bledel stars as Rory Gilmore in the former WB sitcom “Gilmore Girls.” The show is now part of The CW.

Jason Statham brings his tough and gritty acting to “Crank.” Although it does not have much in the way of narrative, the movie has plenty of fast-paced action.

“Was that awesome?” or “Dude, this movie is sweet.” (two comments made several times during and after the viewing of “Crank”).

“Sorta, ‘Brokeback Mountain’ fans. – ‘Crank’ doesn’t threaten to join ‘Brokeback Mountain’ in the annals of five-clover mention. However, like the drug laden cocktails Statham throws down his throat to propel himself along at its frenetic pace all the way to its heart-stopping conclusion

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader@nd.edu and Marty Schroeder at mschroe1@nd.edu
Oakland's win strengthens team's lead to seven in AL West

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Rich Harden wanted to keep going back to the mound with a good feel for his pitches. Yet Oakland's star right-hand-er was sent to the disabled list in order to be on the mound in meaningful games come October.

The Athletics are in position to clinch the AL West this week — against their biggest division rival and Harden is thrilled he helped them take a step closer to that goal.

Harden struck out seven in an impressive return from the disabled list and Jason Kendall hit a pair of two-run singles in Oakland's 7-4 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Thursday.

"It felt great to be out there," Harden said. "I was a little nervous being out there, but I know if my body would hold up."

It did sure.

Harden moved 26 games over .500 (89-63) for the first time since Sept. 2000. The loss dropped Detroit into second place in the AL Central.

"I'm very, very happy," Harden said. "I've been feeling a little anxious. This is a tremendous plus for the club."

Harden, 26, had five straight strikeouts in the second before Patterson hit a run-scoring single.

Rookies of the Year finished for the first time since 2000, with Billy Martin (9-7) winning the AL MVP. Tejada moved within two hits of his 36th save in 44 chances.

Oakland's pitcher Rich Harden struck out seven from the mound to help the Athletics secure their 7-4 win over the Indians Thursday. Oakland is seven games ahead in the American League West.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 204 South Dining Hall. Deadlines for next day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $5 per character, per day, including spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content while avoiding unsuitable formats.
**NCAA Football**

IN BRIEF

Braves ink Smoltz to $8 million contract extension

**INDIANAPOLIS** — The Atlanta Braves have exercised the team's 2007 option with John Smoltz, ensuring the right-hander will return for his 19th season with the team.

The announcement was made before Smoltz started for the Braves at Colorado on Thursday night and is worth $8 million. It came one day after the Braves agreed on a 2007 contract with closer Bob Wickman.

"I'm happy I know I'm going to be playing here next year," Smoltz said before the game. General manager John Schuerholz said he told Smoltz on Wednesday of the team's plans to exercise the option.

"John has been a constant for this organization, both with his pitching and his leadership, and our plan to exercise this contract option for next season was never in question," Schuerholz said.

Dislocated shoulder leaves Malkin's availability in doubt

**PITTSBURGH** — Evgeni Malkin dislocated his left shoulder during his first preseason game with the Pittsburgh Penguins, knocking him out of practice Thursday and raising questions about his availability for the Oct. 5 opener.

Malkin attended practice but did not take part, and teammates said he looked much better than he did after getting hurt Wednesday night against the Philadelphia Flyers in an exhibition game in New Brunswick.

The Penguins did not say how long they expect the 20-year-old Russian star to be out or if he will be ready for their Oct. 5 opener.

Malkin, who had made several excellent passes earlier in the game, skated off the ice during the second period of a 3-4 victory over Philadelphia in Moncton after colliding with teammate John LeClair.

Hamstring may keep lineman Diem out of Sunday's game

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Colts tackle Ryan Diem injured a hamstring during practice Thursday and was listed as questionable for Sunday's showdown with AFC South rival Jacksonville.

The extent of Diem's injury wasn't immediately known.

The Colts, meanwhile, still awaited word on the availability of defensive end Dwight Freeney, kicker Adam Vinatieri and receiver Brandon Stokley, all of whom were hurt in last week's 43-24 victory over Houston and have not practiced this week.

"The guys that have played, it's not so necessary (to practice during the week)," coach Tony Dungy said. "For guys that haven't played, you want to see them go and you want to see them have some confidence."

Dungy said he hoped to know more about the status of Freeney (leg), Stokley (ankle) and Vinatieri (groin) by Friday or Saturday.

The BCA wants the best candidate to be chosen irrespective of race,” Richard Lapchick, director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida, said in the report's forward. "With only five African-American head coaches in the 2005 season, college football is emphatically the most segregated position in all of college sport."

Three of the 12 schools that received overall A grades this year — Buffalo, Columbia and Southeast Missouri State — hired black coaches. Kansas State, which also hired a black coach, received a B.
Sorin vs. St. Edward's
Sorin and St. Ed's flip off in a God Quad showdown Sunday at 2 p.m. as both look to rebound from tough opening losses last week.

Although the two dorms are the only male dorms on God Quad, Stedsmen captain Ge Wang said he feels there is no rivalry between the two.

"I don't think it really counts as a rivalry when they're a bunch of girls," he said.

Zahn vs. Fisher
Defending champion Zahn looks to rebound from a tough loss last week at the hands of Knott in a game against Fisher Sunday at 1 p.m.

Fisher has yet to play this season after an opening week bye, but captain Tom Bulifant is confident the extra week of practice will give it an advantage against the Riggs. The one main area the Green Wave hopes to improve from last season is its offense, which was largely ineffective when compared to what Bulifant considers a top-notch defense.

"We really want to establish ourselves offensively," Bulifant said.

"We didn't have the best production last season, but with a new quarterback we hope to really set the tone offensively." 

While the offense needed a lot of improvement from last year, the defense has made few changes this season.

"Last year we were effective at shutting down the run, and we've improved our passing coverage this year," Bulifant said.

"We aren't doing anything special — just coming up to the defense." 

But while Fisher was at home last week, the Riggs were losing to Knott — a winless team a year ago.

The game marked the Riggs' first loss in more than a year.

Zahn captains Sean Wieland said although his team lost last week, it would still have the advantage Sunday.

Zahn's defense was also sold in the win, forcing three interceptions from the Riggs quarterback Sean Wieland and recovering a fumble. Against the run, the Juggerknotts' offense was led by talented junior running back Tyrik Patrick, who put up 70 yards against a strong Zahn defense.

Knot's defense was also solid in the win, forcing three interceptions from Zahn quarterback Sean Wieland and recovering a fumble. Against the run, the Juggerknotts' offense was led by talented junior running back Tyrik Patrick, who put up 70 yards against a strong Zahn defense.

Knots hopes to continue forcing mistakes on defense to give the ball to its talented offense this Sunday.

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S M C S O C C E R

Runners prepare for first MIAA Jamboree

By BECKI DORNER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's has spent this week physically recuperating from a difficult weekend of running and training for the MIAA Jamboree, which will be hosted by Hope College Saturday.

At the National Catholic Cross Country Invitational last weekend, Saint Mary's came in last among 34 teams. The top finisher for the Belles at the meet — which was hosted by Notre Dame — was sophomore Caitlin White, who couldn't finish Saturday due to shin splints.

"Closing the gap for the top runners will not be easy, but it certainly can be done," senior Sara Otto said.

Last year, Saint Mary's came in fifth out nine teams in the Jamboree, with Calvin taking the overall title. The overall individual winner, Camille Medema, led Calvin with a time of 18:43.

"Our goal is to push the ball forward as much as possible in order to put pressure on the Titan defense early and often. Sophomore Lauren Hinton leads Saint Mary's in scoring with five goals while senior Ashley Hinton has also added three goals and two assists. The duo leads the team on offense for the second straight year, but can expect help from other underclassmen as they mature." - Constance Becki Dorner

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Belles will look to rebound

Team turns to Heline in pursuit of key win over Illinois Wesleyan

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

A fired up Saint Mary's squad will travel to Illinois Wesleyan this weekend for one final tune-up before beginning conference play. The Belles (1-4) are coming off the most one-sided loss of their season so far to the Calvin Knights — a 6-1 blowout last Tuesday.

Earlier in the season, Calvin also came from behind to beat Illinois Wesleyan with two second-half goals Sept. 2. The loss dropped the Titans to 1-1, but they have since recovered, winning three of their next five games.

"The score against Calvin does not accurately reflect how I believe we played together as a team, and I expect the entire team to come out hard against Illinois Wesleyan this Sunday," senior Caroline Staniszkas said.

The young defense will need to compete at full speed in order to shut down the Titan offense and give senior captain and goalkeeper Laura Heline assistance in the backfield. Heline made nine tough saves against Calvin as she was constantly pressured with quality shots from the Knights' top scorers.

"Wesleyan will again test the Belles' defense. The Titans have outshot opponents 102-68 through their first seven games this season. Senior Lyndsay O'Brien leads a spread offense with three goals and two assists. "Our goalkeeper, Laura Heline, is consistently one of our strongest players and I know she will come out Sunday with the intention of winning," Stanyszkas said. "However, soccer is not a one-woman show."

"If one player has a big game, it is merely a reflection of the team and how well the team connects with one another." - Senior Lyndsay O'Brien

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Belles' goalkeeper Laura Heline clears the ball against Albion on Sept. 6. Albion defeated Saint Mary's 2-1.

Belles' goalkeeper Laura Heline clears the ball against Albion on Sept. 6. Albion defeated Saint Mary's 2-1.

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Belles' goalkeeper Laura Heline clears the ball against Albion on Sept. 6. Albion defeated Saint Mary's 2-1.
Phoxes continued from page 20

than enough points on the board to win this weekend. "(This week) we worked on bet­
ter passing routes and just used it to show our receivers to establish a bet­
ter relationship with the quarter­
back," Breen-Phillips said. "We just want a more polished offense." Badin vs. Welsh Family

Badin has a lot on its plate this week as it faces off against Welsh Family Sunday at 2 p.m. on West Quad, attempting to make up for the 13-0 loss to Cavanaugh Tuesday.

"Tuesday night was tough, espe­
cially since the weather and slip­
spery field gave us a few injuries, but we are excited to move ahead to the next game," Bullfrogs captain Meghan Charlebois said. [Welsh Family] sounds like a sol­diers team so I am sure it will be good competition and we are excited for the chance to have to step up our game." The Bullfrogs (1-1) have confi­dence in their team — especially with their offense — which pulled in a win of the season Sunday when it faced off against Welsh Family.

"We all love coming out and work with what we re given. We try to be as diverse as possible to show more patience against a Chaos squad who is capable of running the option. Last game there some tough weather conditions which worked in our favor. We were able to exploit the run and run the option," Cavanaugh's on both sides of the ball. To do so, the Linus will try to show more patience against an offense that pulled in a win against the pink-clad Babes Chaos last week.

Pasquerilla West vs. Farley

Pasquerilla West will look to add another win to its total this season in a Gold League contest with Farley at 4 p.m. at McGlinn Fields. The finest already dropped a heartbreaking 6-0 game to last year's runner-up Pangborn on Sunday. This Sunday, they are seeking the upset of the other half of last sea­son's title game.

The Purple Weasels come in having dominated Breen-Phillips last weekend; 20-0 and will be fresh off a championship rematch with Pangborn. As the defending champs, Pasquerilla West expects to see the best possible effort from its opponents week in and week out. Team captain Maureen Spring acknowledged the differ­ence when playing with a target on her back.

"We definitely know that people are out to get us," she said. "We actually talked about the similarities between our team and Notre Dame, how we have to keep our egos in check, and not let what people say get to our heads." The star receiver, who scored in two receiving touchdowns in last Sunday's action, deferred praise for the team's offense, focusing rather on the defense as the team's mainstay.

"Our defense is our rock," Spring said, referring to a unit that did not yield a point in its opener. "They come to play every week, and we know that we can count on them." McGlinn vs. Breen-Phillips

The Shamrocks will look to earn a win against the pink-clad Babes of Breen-Phillips Sunday in a Gold League match up at 3 p.m. on McGlinn Field.

The Babes will be playing their third game of the season, while McGlinn will enter the game hav­
ing played only a Thursday con­
test against Lewis. McGlinn cap­
tain Madeline Boyer said the extra time before the team's first two contests could work in its favor. "It's good that we have extra time to prepare," she said. "We have a lot of freshmen, so we can use this time to teach them the rules and get them used to the game style."

Meanwhile, Breen-Phillips will try to rebound from a 20-0 shutout loss to the hands of defending champion Pasquerilla West.

"We were definitely disappoint­
ment in the result," Breen-Phillips captain Melissa Meagher said. "We saw a lot of improvement from last year." Meagher noted that the team focused on running tight routes during practice this week in an effort to improve an offense that failed to find the end zone.

"I tried to improve my move­
ment in the pocket, and try and roll out a bit so that I could find my open receivers," Meagher said.

Breen-Phillips also focused on improving its pass defense, more specifically defending long passes. "We also have experienced couch­
es, and a lot of enthusiastic girls who are good at it," Boyer said.

The pass-catching combo of Tara Johnson and Tara McCarron will test the freshman-laden Shamrocks.

Boyer hoped Breen-Phillips' struggles would continue — at least for another game.

"They're probably down after that loss," she said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to keep them down." Contact Andrew Kovach at akovach@nd.edu, Michael Bordwell at mbordwell@nd.edu and Colin Reimer at crreimer@nd.edu

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to turn around. We've been testing, but all of our issues should now be dealt with," sophomore co-captain Alex Sei said. "We've been practic­
ing hard, and it should show at the Jamboree." With several disappointing results in the past, and few confer­ence tournaments this year, the Belles hope to record a low score to start strong at the conference tournaments. Olivot will host the two­
day event this weekend at the Medalist Golf Club in Marshall, Mich. The tour­nament is the only event originally intended to host, was rained out last week. Three of the four girls on the team have played the course before, and all will be a tough test for the relatively young team.

"We have a lot of good skills on the team," Hamilton said. "It just seemed the wheels were falling off some of the girls [at the holes the past few week­
ends]. We fixed those problems pretty easily and now we're ready to go." The top of the lineup will include Sei, who will focus on personal goals as she sees her final season for the team. "I'll just take one shot at a time," Sei said.

O'Brien has high hopes for the Jamboree and knows the team has the ability and desire to finish strong.

"If we keep our heads in this it weekend, we are going to do very well," she said.

Contact Becki Slinger at rslingo@stmarys.edu

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SMC GOLF

MIAA year gets started

By BECKI SLINGER
Spens West

The Belles have a chance to show their new improved attitude coming into the 2006-2007 MIAA Jamboree conference tour­nament this weekend, the Comet Classic.

"These past few tournaments have been exciting, but all of our issues should now be dealt with," sophomore co-captain Alex Sei said. "We've been practic­ing hard, and it should show at the Jamboree." With several disappoint­ing results in the past, and few confer­ence tournaments this year, the Belles hope to record a low score to start strong at the conference tournaments. Olivot will host the two­
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Comeback continued from page 20

good place to start. The Panthers are undefeated in their last four games and hold the fifth-place spot in the Big East — one spot ahead of Notre Dame.

Pittsburgh's conference record of 2-1-1 is good for seven points, one point better than Notre Dame's six conference points.

"This is a gigantic game for us," Notre Dame coach Bobby Clark said. "We're capable of winning every one of our nine remaining games, but we have to take them one at a time. That starts with Pitt."

The Panthers in the Big East resume includes wins over opponents that have given Notre Dame trouble this year — a 2-1 victory over Cincinnati, who defeated the Irish 2-1 last Saturday, and a 0-0 tie against South Florida, who beat Notre Dame 2-0 earlier this season.

Although Pittsburgh's overall record of 3-4-2 is not as impressive as its recent performances, the Panthers are m ore suggestive of their true quality.

"They started off very slowly, but they're on an upswing now," Clark said. "I don't know where they were at the beginning of the season, but they obviously have tons of momentum right now."

Momentum is something Notre Dame can use.

The Irish are 0-1-1 in their last two games, with their last win coming one Friday ago against Louisville. Notre Dame has only managed to win two consecutive games one time this season, and the team's start is taking its toll.

"We're doing what I call stuttering along," Clark said. "As a top class athlete, though, you can't let that affect your focus. I feel like there's some frustration, but I feel like we're going to stay focused on what we're trying to get done."

Notre Dame began this season with dreams of a conference title and a deep run into the NCAA Tournament. For Clark and the team, though, the focus is in the here and now.

"We're not giving the Big East tournament or NCAA tournament any consideration right now," Clark said. "You don't overly concern yourself with things that are months away. You concern yourself with what's right in front of you, and, for us, that's Pitt."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

Unbeaten continued from page 20

can creep up if the Irish settle down too much in the Big East season especially when facing unranked teams like Louisville and Cincinnati.

"There's still some disparity between the top and bottom teams in the Big East conference," Waldrum said. "It's difficult to get teams mentally prepared to play everyone. Sometimes you tend to play down to the team you're playing."

"But in non-conference season playing teams like USC and Santa Clara, you know the girls are going to be up for top ranked teams."

The Bearcats and Cardinal programs enter their respective games from different directions. Head coach Randy Waldrum has helped Cincinnati to its weekly poll — the first time in school history and the nation's top team.

"These are two very important games because of seeding at the end of the year, and they are conference games."

Randy Waldrum Irish coach

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Randy Waldrum Irish coach

Waldrum said the Irish will look to stop Cardinals senior forward Jamie Craft, the reigning Big East Defensive Player of the Week after scoring two goals and an assist to defeat Cincinnati 4-1 in each team's conference opener. The Cardinals will also be backed by keepers Joanna Baig, a teammate of sophomore defender Carrie Dew and sophomore midfielder Meg Rock during the U-20 World Championships earlier this season.

Since returning from the tournament in Russia, Dew has helped shore up Irish back four that Waldrum and Lorenzo agree have made too many mistakes for the Irish to afford.

"She brings a calming effect to the back line," Waldrum said. "When she's there, I think Kim Lorenzo plays better, Christie Shaner plays better and Ashley Jones plays better."

Jones earned Big East Defensive Player of the Week honors for her performance in Notre Dame's shutout wins over DePaul and Michigan. Jones is the second player to receive conference honors after freshman Michele Weissenhofer won Rookie of the Week status earlier in season by assisting five of seven Irish scores last weekend. Her 10 assists lead the nation, and her 20 points rank second.

Rock's two goals and assist helped the Irish to victory against the Blue Devils.

Contact Tim Dougerty at tdougerty@nd.edu

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Coach
continued from page 20

We want to break 300 all chance to see the Irish up
three rounds. We feel confident knowing the course," chance close for the first time.
Mau

playing on our own course definitely gives us an advantage of a couple of strokes. We need to know what to hit off the trees. It is a big difference from other tournaments when you only play one practice round. We've played this course for the past two years and I think we played well, but I think we can also do better.

"I was able to get a head start by seeing the team play. I feel we played well, but I think we can also do better."

Susan Holt
Irish coach

Schedule
continued from page 20

than the young Irish — that earned a 6-8 Big East record and an 11-16 overall mark. The team's three victories over conference opponents were against UNC-Ashville, James Madison and Maine.

Rutgers, however, has a potent offensive threat in senior outside hitter Lora Yankauskas. She was selected to the 2006 Preseason All-Big East Team and has averaged 4.03 kills per game, along with 3.39 digs. Freshman Christine Kaelin leads the Irish with 4.05 kills per game.

"We definitely remember Yankauskas from last year — she's a very good player," Brown said. "She's definitely their go-to player, but we feel pretty confident that we can slow her down."

Yankauskas is aided on her attack by senior setter Jocelyn Greenwald and sophomore Boxy Calder, who both average 5.28 assists per game. On the defensive side, freshman Brittanii Rendina leads the Scarlet Knights in digs per game with 5.01; Irish senior libero Danielle Herndon leads the team with 5.34 digs per game.

Villanova (5-8) hosts Notre Dame a day after the Wildcats lost to DePaul, while Rutgers will play DePaul at home a day after the Irish leave New Brunswich.

The Wildcats close out a six-game home stand against the Irish, and they have won the first four games against Holy Cross, Sacred Heart, Maryland-Baltimore County and La Salle, after starting the season 1-8.

"When we play back-to-back matches like this, we really play it one game at a time," Brown said of her team's preparation for Villanova. "We watched video to see if there's one thing we needed to emphasize in practice."

"Even though their record is bad right now, they've played a very strong schedule."

Villanova senior Adrian Semrau was named this week's Big East Player of the Week for her efforts in the four-game win streak. Semrau was also named MVP of the Villanova Classic for her 52-kill performance — a .590 hitting percentage — in the three matches.

On the season, Semrau leads the Wildcats in kills (154) and blocks (43), while averaging 1.05 blocks per game. Villanova compiled an 8-6 conference record last season and was 21-11 overall.

Contact Kyle Cassidy at
k cassily@nd.edu

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Horoscope
CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joseph Magzuzeli, 22; Nicole Richie, 24; Faith Hill, 38; Ricki Lake, 37
Happy Birthday! Stay on top of things this year. If you let down your guard, chaos will erupt. Love and romance is looking hot, but don't hesitate to reign in your ways if you are married, commit to someone you love or look for a new love. You will have a chance to do something of a serious nature that will amuse others. Your numbers are 1, 2, 7, 24, 29, 33, 34.

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EUGENIA LAST

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Brewer's need 31 Bring (out)
2 Borderline 32 Mythical rever
5 Salvaging aid 33 Mee catchers
6 Her name can 34 One whose flag features a
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15 Art 42 Conductor's 43 Prefix with
16 Spiegelman's 44 One for
18 Like kilts 45 A cone-headed
character
22 Back up 46 Biblical path to
heaven 47 Like baseball
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flocks
29 Justice Fortes
30 Lighter, briefly?
31 Big Wheel rider

WILL SHORTZ

1 Pedestrian 61 Is visibly
2 One whose flag features a
miserable
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5 Freshness 51 Actress
6 Events with
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7 Offensive 53 A cone-headed
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9 Film attacker 55 A cone-headed
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10 Postal unit 56 It's stranded
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12 Homologous 58 A cone-headed
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13 English horn, e.g.
59 A cone-headed
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BASILINDA
CHEESECAKE
DORSAL FINS
EXOTIC BIRDS
FALLOUT
GALLIPOLI
HEFTY
ENCYCLOPEDIA
HEAVY METAL
HORSE SHOE
LAVENDER
MANILA TIE
NEW SONG
OCTAVO
OIL RIG
PASSOVER
QUEEN CITY
REVENGE
SOCIETY
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open sea

EXPERIENCE? WHEN
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Alec White and Mike Argirion

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Alec White and Mike Argirion

THANKS, DOC
BACK TO THE OPEN SEA

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Birthday Baby: You are full of hope, desire and all it takes to be successful. You are a participant who is thoughtful, aggressive and to the point. You thrive on accomplishments.


The Observer

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WOMEN’S INTERNAHL

Pangborn to battle Howard

By ANDREW KOVACH, MICHAEL BURDIEL and COLIN REIMER

Sports Writers

Two teams coming off very similar triumphs will match up this weekend as Pangborn and Howard will battle to avoid their first loss this Sunday at 5 p.m. in the Coliseum.

Pangborn (1-0) beat Farley 6-0 in a defensive struggle last Sunday. The lone score of the game was provided by a Meghan Bolker reception in the back of the end zone. But despite the victory, captain Katie Riemersma knows the team still has much work to do.

"The defense played very well, but the offense struggled," she said. "We put enough points on the board to win but we need to play better.”

Howard (1-0) also has had its struggles, but the offense has had a chance to come out and play better.

Howard (1-0) beat Megan Savage was the difference in a 6-0 win over Lewis last weekend.

"We played well but could have done more offensively," team captain Catherine Krug said. "We would have liked to score more points."

This week in practice, both teams worked on their offenses, making sure they could put more points on the board.

By TIM DOUGHERTY

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The Enigma

Michigan State’s dramatic overtime victory over then-unbeaten Notre Dame in 2005 was just the latest in a long line of Spartan spoils since the 1966 Game of the Century.
Two weeks ago, Joe Paterno called Charlie Weis "one of the best" coaches in football at exploiting opponents' weaknesses. A week later, Weis was helpless in the face of the Michigan onslaught. But Weis can't dwell on what people say or what happened a game ago. Weis must put the past behind him and do what he does best — find a soft spot in Michigan State and attack it.

Weis did just that against Pittsburgh, Purdue, BYU, Tennessee, Navy and Syracuse in 2005. Calling swing pass after swing pass in the neighborhood of $30-40 million. If there were ever a time to see the potential problem, that was it. But Weis may have a solution. The Irish used "stunt" rushes more in their first two contests than they did in most of 2005. By creating a little confusion on the offensive lines of Georgia Tech and Penn State, the Notre Dame defense kept quarterbacks Reggie Ball and Anthony Morelli off balance enough to control the game.

Weis and his defensive staff — coordinator and linebackers coach Rick Minter, line coach Jappy Oliver and secondary coach Bill Lewis — must figure out how to stop Stanford's Spartans, who have gained a Herculean 506.33 yards per game, third best in the NCAA. They can.

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Seeing green

Michigan State is now Notre Dame's nemesis

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Forty years ago, the Michigan State athletic department handed out 745 press credentials for a football game played on a dreary November day in East Lansing.

Forty years ago, seven conventual All-Americans played in that contest.

Forty years ago, Notre Dame ran out the clock on Michigan State as the game ended in a 10-10 tie.

This Saturday night, Notre Dame and Michigan State mark the anniversary of one of the greatest college football games ever played when the Irish and Spartans square off for the 38th time since their infamous deadlock.

And while Michigan State looks back on the 1966 matchup and cringes at a national title that slipped away, Notre Dame looks at more recent history with the thought that the team they so famously edged for the championship 40 seasons ago has finally gained the upper hand.

Immovable objects

Notre Dame was rolling in 1966. Three years into the Era of Ara, the Irish were No. 1 in the country, had outscored their opponents 301-28 through eight games and needed just two more victories to win Ara Parseghian's first national championship.

Michigan State wasn't doing so bad itself. The Spartans were undefeated, No. 2 in the country and fresh off a 12-3 victory at Notre Dame one year earlier.

Notre Dame came one win from a national title in 1964. Michigan State almost won the championship in 1965, falling 14-12 to UCLA in the Rose Bowl. Now ranked first and second in all the major polls, the Irish and Spartans met to decide the national champion.

The Irish had four All-Americans on their side — defensive end Alan Page, offensive guard Tom Rogier, halfback Nick Eddy and linebacker Jim Lynch (who would go on to win the Maxwell as the nation's best player).

The Spartans had three of their own in halfback Clinton Jones, defensive end Bubba Smith and defensive back George Webster. Smith, especially, was a force. Standing 6-foot-7 and weighing 283 pounds, he was a monster by 1966 standards. Comparatively, Page — who would become an NFL Hall of Famer — stood 6-foot-5 and weighed in at 238 pounds.

Simply put, the only squad in the country that could stop Notre Dame was Michigan State and the only squad in the country that could stop Michigan State was Notre Dame.

Unfortunately, neither went anywhere.

"Tie one for the Gipper"

It's hard to find anything bad about Ara Parseghian. A legendary coach, charismatic speaker and head of a foundation searching for a cure to a disease that has taken the lives of three of his grandchildren, Parseghian is known, respected and loved by millions.

If there is a chink in his armor, it could only come from one event.


When Parseghian ran out the clock with the ball at Notre Dame's own 30-yard line and 1:10 remaining, he took plenty of heat.

Sports illustrated writer Dan Jenkins wrote that Notre Dame had "tied one for the Gipper."

Michigan State fans howled, upset the Spartans were still stuck at No. 2 with no more games to play. (Though Big Ten champions, Michigan State could not play in the Rose Bowl that season because of conference rules against back-to-back appearances.)

Notre Dame exhaled — happy to win after losing Eddy and quarterback Terry Hanratty to injuries during the game — and went on to upset USC 23-20 and win Parseghian's first national title.

Of course, the tie would never happen today, as overtime was introduced to college football in 1996.

Spartans backers like to say Parseghian was afraid to lose. Irish fans point out he had a dramatic backup quarterback in Coley O'Brien and choosing to escape East Lansing without a loss and with the No. 1 ranking was a smart decision.

Neither side will ever agree.

No easy win

1966 was Michigan State's last serious run at a national title. While the Spartans struggled for the next 30 years, the Irish flourished, winning three more championships.

Notre Dame rarely lost to Michigan State after the famous tie, winning all but four from 1967 until the series took a two-year break, beginning in 1992.

That's where things get interesting.

Maybe Notre Dame just declined. Maybe the Spartans finally figured out a formula for beating the Irish. Whatever the reason, the Irish-Spartans series — which some fans consider the greatest college football game ever played — is one only Notre Dame remembers fondly — has turned into one dominated by Michigan State.

It might be the years of beatings by Irish hands. It might be the national title they felt they should have won. It might be just that one program has gotten better and the other has declined.

The fact is that Michigan State isn't just a pesky opponent Notre Dame must deal with before bigger games against Michigan and USC every season. Michigan State is now Notre Dame's biggest problem.

Upset no more

The Irish have entered their game with the Spartans as the higher-ranked team six times since the annual series returned from its hiatus in 1997. Notre Dame's record in those games? 1-5.

Overall, the Irish are 2-7 against the Spartans in that span. The only time Michigan State entered as the higher-ranked team was 1997, when Notre Dame lost 23-27 at home in former coach Bob Davie's first season.

After the 1966 matchup, Notre Dame could practically write in the Michigan State game as a win. In more recent years, the same could be said for the Spartans.

Michigan State has found the formula to beat Notre Dame. It doesn't matter if Notre Dame is the favorite — which it almost always is — the Spartans consistently beat the Irish.

Unlike 40 years ago, Notre Dame enters this game far from the No. 1 spot after its 47-21 loss to Michigan last Saturday. Still, No. 12 Notre Dame heads to East Lansing in a more prominent position than the Spartans, who haven't cracked the AP poll, but do have 33 votes.

What's Vegas got to say about Saturday's game? The Irish by three.

The only sure thing is there won't be a tie.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

Irish quarterback Terry Hanratty cuts to the corner during Notre Dame and Michigan State's famous 10-10 tie on Nov. 19, 1966.

At left, Spartans linebacker Kaleb Thornhill tackles Irish quarterback Brady Quinn in Michigan State's 44-41 overtime victory at Notre Dame Stadium in 2005. At right, Spartans quarterback Drew Stanton eludes former Irish linebacker Corey Mays.

The front page of the Nov. 17, 1966 Observer guides students from South Bend to East Lansing before the "Game of the Century."

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page 3
Irish experts

Mike Gillon
Editor in Chief

The Observer ♦ IRISH INSIDER

Friday, September 22, 2006

HEAD TO HEAD

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Record: 2-1
AP: 12
Coaches: 13

Notre Dame 2006 Schedule

Sept. 2 at GT — W
Sept. 9 PSU — W
Sept. 16 MICHIGAN — L
Sept. 23 at MSU
Sept. 30 PURDUE
Oct. 7 STANFORD
Oct. 21 UCLA
Oct. 28 at Navy
Nov. 4 UNC
Nov. 11 at Air Force
Nov. 18 ARMY
Nov. 25 at USC

COACHING

Confidence in Charlie Weis is bratent but not permanently damaged. He understands how much is riding on this game and on this season. Weis needs to bring his team out ready for this game — the way they weren't ready against Michigan.

Brady Quinn had an off-game last week but it was a total failure by the offense as well, with poor protection and some dropped balls by receivers. If anyone can take a confidence hit and then successfully rebound, however, it's Quinn.

Irish Rushing

After gaining just four yards on the ground against Michigan, the Irish have spent the week trying to get the running game back on track. Darius Walker has proven to be a dual threat both rushing and receiving, as well as blocking and picking up blitzes.

Irish Passing

In three games, the Spartans have picked up five sacks and held their opponents to 236 rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns. They return six starters on defense, but just one in the defensive line, tackle Cliffy Ryan. A major strength is the linebackers.

Michigan State's three opponents have passed for over 600 yards this season and averaged over six yards per pass. The team has three picks, two by linebackers. Both the strong and free safety are new starters, but the team has the lead in tackles.

Weis has a lot to prove after last season's beginnings and an experienced team like the Spartans to make a statement before the schedule cools off. Smith has talented players but lacks Weis' preparation and play-calling abilities, as well as the motivation he has for this game.

Two of the country's most accomplished and veteran quarterbacks face each other in this game. Stanton battled injuries last year and has been unable to exploit his second step as before. Quinn is poised to again demonstrate the talent he's shown.

Two days later, the Irish head to the Big House seeking their seventh win in their last eight games. It's funny how quickly things can change.

Heading into Michigan, Notre Dame was the No. 2 team in the nation — poised for a BCS title run. But with one bad game, the Irish have become one-dimensional passing machines that lack the big-game presence they were a year ago.

If Quinn and his receivers, including Walker, can click, they will be unstoppable. But if the Spartans are able to keep pressure on Quinn and limit the rushing game, they will see the same results as the Irish put up against Michigan last weekend.

Drew Stanton is a dark-horse Heisman candidate with the possibility for a breakout year. With some of his favorite targets returning and superior mobility, he might have a chance to light up the Irish again. In three games, he's 36-of-82 for 667 yards and six touchdowns.

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Michigan State State 42
Notre Dame 30

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Michigan State

MICHIGAN STATE

2006 Schedule

Sept. 2 IDAHO — W
Sept. 9 E. MICH. — W
Sept. 16 at Pitt W
Sept. 21 NOTRE DAME
Sept. 30 ILLINOIS
Oct. 7 at Michigan
Oct. 14 OHIO STATE
Oct. 21 at Northwestern
Oct. 28 at Indiana
Nov. 4 PURDUE
Nov. 11 MINNESOTA
Nov. 18 at Penn State

Michigan State

Spartans

Record: 3-0
AP: NR
Coaches: NR

John L. Smith
4th season at Michigan State
career record: 128-78
at MSU: 21-18
against Notre Dame: 2-1

MICHIGAN STATE

ANALYSIS

The wheels fall off the bus Saturday for Notre
Dame. The Spartans will tear through the Irish
defense and shut down the inconsistent Notre
Dame offense in a blowout. Expect Drew Stanton to
exit the game early in the fourth quarter and
the Irish to score late to narrow an otherwise
huge deficit.

Michigan State has an
explosive offense and
will be able to threaten
Notre Dame in the air
doing so as well. Only
bruisers at the line of
defense will help
quench the aerial fire
power and force the
Spartans to be conserva-
tive.

Averaging 48 yards a
kick, Notre Dame punter
Geoff Price is able to
turn field position into
Notre Dame's favor with
long, hanging kicks.

Punt returner Tom
Zbikowski is always a
danger to score, unlike
the Spartan return men.

Michigan State has
owned Notre Dame since
Lou Holtz retired, winning
seven of the last nine
matchups. Notre Dame
will look to another Spartan
victory. The Spartans' big
advantage is in defense,
and Smith is dedicated to
avenging the 2005 season
with a win over the Irish.

Another week, another must-win for the
Irish. But Saturday, the Irish come out disclis-
plined and focused. They eliminate drive-
stretching penalties and are able to put
Doak together a balanced rushing and passing
attack. The defense is able to adjust to Drew
Stanton's unique game, as Victor Abiamli
and Ronald Talley exploit Michigan State's
young offensive line.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 38
Michigan State 24

Irish

experts
Sizing up the Irish and the Spartans

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Michigan State Defense Line

Michigan State combines speed and massive size on a defensive line that has held its first three opponents to 78.7 yard rushing. The interior of the Irish offensive line has struggled, which is where Spartans tackles Clifton Ryan (pictured) and Lydell Nwagbuo feast. Ryan and Nwagbuo have combined for 13 tackles this season, including 2.5 for losses.

If Michigan State can control the line of scrimmage when Notre Dame is on offense, it will be an easy day for the Spartans.

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By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

There's more to a game than statistics.
Even so, the Notre Dame will have to generate a more potent rushing threat than the four yards they gained against Michigan last Saturday.
"Of course it was a hard time for us and a tough game that we went through," Irish running back Darius Walker said. "I definitely think we can rally back and be good.
After running for 138 yards against Georgia Tech and 110 against Penn State, the Irish could not establish any sort of a ground game against Michigan. Part of that may have been the Wolverines' early lead, and part of it may have been the strong Michigan defense. Either way, Notre Dame doesn't think it can afford a similar performance against Michigan State Saturday.
Tossing the company line, the Irish say they are worried about fundamentals — not what outsid- ers are saying about rushing yards last week.
"The opinions and the statistics I care about are the ones that are presented to me via Coach Weis," Notre Dame center Bob Zbikowski said. "I definitely think we can rally back and be good.
Walker says his 25 yards made him the only player with positive net rushing yardage against Michigan, isn't discouraged either. The junior has rushed for over 2,000 yards in his career with the Irish.
"I can speak for myself and say that my confidence definitely isn't damaged," he said. "I definitely want to go into this next game and play."
His ability to block and catch passes out of the backfield has been a huge asset in Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis' offensive scheme. He has 18 receptions for 125 yards this season to go with the yards he generates on the ground.
But the running game is where Walker is a leader, and he is prepared to return to a level he knows Notre Dame is capable of playing.
"We've got to stay focused," he said. "We've got to work hard and understand blocking schemes and make sure we know who we're blocking. That's always something in the running game that can be difficult, because defenses like to jump around and juggle players in and out of bounds and whatever.
Basics have also been a focus of the offensive line, Morton said.
"It's just a matter of practicing low pad level and working cohe- sively as a unit and that's what you really strive to do every single day, make sure that the hips stay loose," Morton said. "We prac- ticed helmet to helmet, what we call face-mask to face-mask, I go full proper leverage."
Protecting the quarterback and open holes for the running backs are important jobs of the offensive line, Morton said. The two work together to create a bal- anced offense — usually a hallmark of Weis' schemes.
"It's important to have a balance," Walker said. A balanced offense always keeps a defense off-balance and you never really know what to expect whether you're going to run the ball or pass the ball so it's definitely something that we can do.
As a veteran running back on a veteran offensive line, Walker under- stands that even if the Irish are trailing, every play doesn't have to be an 80-yard dash. Although Notre Dame's deficit in the Michigan game changed the scheme slightly, panic can set in, and Walker knows the danger of that.
"You can fall into trouble think- ing that you have to have it all in one play, and I think that's where experience and stuff comes in," Walker said. "You understand that football is still played by play and you still have to do the necessary things to try to get another yard on the ball."
Walker, the line and the rest of the running backs want to work together to make the rushing game more successful against a Michigan State defense that may be more susceptible to the run.
But after the game, Walker won't be checking the box scores. He'll just be looking at the score- board.
"I don't really get into the whole statistical thing too much," Walker said. "We're definitely just trying to focus on this next one that we've got to do."
Contact Kate Gales at kglaes@nd.edu

By BOB GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

It's taken four full seasons, and a unique progression from special team standout to NFL quarterback prospect, but Michigan State senior Drew Stanton has finally made a name for himself on the national stage. It was only a matter of time.
Irish petty Tom: Zbikowski recalled Wednesday his first memories of encountering the Michigan State quarterback, tracing back to Stanton's late-game insurance in 2004 against Notre Dame.
"I know two years ago get- ting ready for the game, they weren't sure who was their quarterback," Zbikowski said. "He came in late in the game and kind of started moving the ball, just taking over. Ever since then, they've had just a profile offense that puts up a lot of points — a lot of yards."
No kidding. In 2005, Stanton became the second Spartans quarterback in the school's history to throw for over 3,000 yards (13 TDs to four interceptions) in a season with 3,415 total yards and 26 touchdowns (22 passing).
He is a dual-threat weapon who is equally dangerous scrambling as he is stepping up in the pocket — pretty good for a kid who as a red-shirt freshman in 2003 was mostly relegated to punt coverage.
"Stanton's definitely going to be one of the best we go against this year," Zbikowski said. "Any time you have that dual threat, that's why they're so successful on third down. You have that run or throw option that he has, a lot of weapons around him, it's going to be a challenge for us."
Stanton has lived up to his billing this year. The quarter- back has completed 68.3 percent of his passes, 167-for-249, and thrown four touchdowns in three games. He also has 30 carries for 195 yards and three rushing scores.
To put that in perspective, Irish running back Darius Walker has carried the ball 52 times for 180 yards.
"Obviously the key person, the one who makes this all go, is Drew Stanton," Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis said Tuesday in his press confer- ence. "He's a heck of a player. He's a dual threat who can run, he can throw, he can throw in the pocket, he can roll from the pocket, he can throw across his body."
"Stanton can throw, he can throw in the pocket, he can roll from the pocket, he can throw across his body."
Charlie Weis
Irish coach

By BOB GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

It's easy for Bob Zbikowski to expect a lot from Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn, who heads Kiper's big board as the No. 2 senior quarterback prospect in the nation (second only to Irish signal caller Brady Quinn). He is No. 4 overall on Kiper's big board, behind Quinn, Wisconsin offensive tackle Joe Thomas and Georgia defen- sive end Quentin Moses.
Zbikowski e x p e c t s S t a n t o n and the Michigan State offense to spread the Irish defense across the field by running various screens.
"I think Double I) better get loosened up here today," Zbikowski said referring to freshman quarterback Demetrius Jones, another dual threat who is being used to mimic Stanton this week in practice. "He might get himself a workout here this week.
Zbikowski e x p e c t s S t a n t o n and the Michigan State offense to spread the Irish defense across the field by running various screens.
"I don't really think it's in the Irish defense's best interest to limit Stanton's major point of emphasis in limiting Stanton's effectiveness."
"You talk about them spreading it out, throwing the ball, then you look at how much they're rushing for," Zbikowski said. "We got to get ready for that, get in the film room and keep studying."

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Gastronomist
Tango dancer
Wine connoisseur

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