Four tickets run for student body leadership

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

With current student body president Lizzi Shappell and vice president Bill Andrichik due to graduate in May, eight new faces have climbed into the ring, their eyes on one prize: becoming the next student.

Junior Mary Catherine Sonntag browses through Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss' Web site Thursday evening.

High turnout likely for Late Night Olympics

By REBECCA HOGAN
News Writer

Tonight the Joyce Center will transform into an athletic center with a cause, housing one of the most attended charity events of the year — Late Night Olympics.

This will be the 21st year that Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students gather to raise funds for the St. Joseph County Special Olympics.

Students participate in athletic events and raise money as a dorm. Last year nearly 1,200 participants raised approximately $8,300.

"Typically, the grand prize winner takes half of the money for their dorm. Last year, the MBA students won, but gave all right back to charity. This is the only time I have ever seen that during my time here," Bill Began, assistant director for instructional programs and ReCSports, said.

Annual turnout is expected to be similar to previous years, but Began hopes the weather will not be a factor tonight.

"I hope the snow doesn't deter people from coming out and having a good time," he said.

Late Night Olympics consists of 17 events, ranging from 3-on-3 basketball to inner tube water polo. Each

candidates create personal blogs to communicate with voters

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

With student campaign races heating up, both Liz Brown and Danny Smith are doing something unprecedented in Notre Dame election history — they're both taking their campaign trail online with blogs.

While the Judicial Council, the governing body for University elections, encourages candidates to create Web sites, Brown and Smith independently came up with the idea of running a blog.

"When we were originally brainstorming our platform, we decided that we want to run a blog to keep people informed about what's going on in student government," Smith said. "We wanted people to be able to communicate with us. We realized that this is a goal for our campaign too, so the blog idea really branched off a platform idea."

While the blogs are the newest addition to the campaign trail, neither candidate wants new technologies to replace actually going out and meeting potential voters.

Spring break plans already in the making

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

There seems to be one adapatable Notre Dame students follow in planning their spring break vacations: haste makes waste. That is, those traveling worldwide for the nine days of respite this March haven't delayed making their final arrangements.

Avoiding procrastination has certainly been economical for sophomore Brandon Doyle and his fellow quad members from Siegfried Hall, who are traveling to Orlando. Three of them will fly down and one will drive so they have access to a car once they arrive.

"We booked our tickets in December and got great airfares," Doyle said. "And with a car, we can easily get around Orlando — see the Disney parks, Epcot Center and Universal Studios, and visit beaches within an hour's drive easily."

Whether spring break travel plans are voyaging to domestic beaches or hopping across borders to hit up international hot spots or heading home, the majority of the student body simply wants to escape the wintry climate of Northern Indiana.

"Such is the case for junior Angel Leal of Howard Hall and her friends from California and Texas. Naturally, their main priority in choosing a vacation was to land somewhere sunny."

"We felt that we had to get out of the Midwest for break this year," Leal said.

Whether spring break travel plans are approximately 35 or platform initiatives and we have either fully completed or, if you include the things that are going to happen, like the Eating Disorders Conference and the Community Summit, then we are in the upper 20s to approaching if those finalised," Andrichik said.

Andrichik said this year her administration was able to complete most of the objectives on their initial platform because they haven't had to deal with any of the sudden issues that arose last year, like the academic freedom debate and the disbursing of the ordinance.

"It's been a far more relaxed year in that sense with not dealing with as controversial

Shappell presents progress

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

The Student Affairs committee of the Board of Trustees gave the Shappell-Andrichik administration a positive appraisal Thursday when student body president Lizzi Shappell, vice president Bill Andrichik and chief executive assistant Liz Brown presented their State of the Student Union address to the committee members.

Andrichik said the past year has been a successful one.

"We started the year with about 35 or so platform initiatives and we have either fully completed or, if you include the things that are going to happen, like the Eating Disorders Conference and the Community Summit, then we are in the upper 20s to approaching if those finalised," Andrichik said.

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"It's been a far more relaxed year in that sense with not dealing with as controversial
INSIDE COLUMN

State of the headshots

Hello, dear reader. I am writing today about something that is important to me, and I have decided to write this in inside column format. I've decided to position my words in a column-like shape to talk to you about the sorry state of headshots in The Observer.

You may remember my other inside column the second of three, if you are into collecting my inside columns of Fall 2006, when I discussed the importance of having the proper headshot to go with your article in our student run paper. I think you'll agree, articles with out headshots suck.

Since my column's appearance, I have seen a larger number of headshots in The Observer (directly attributable to me), but I have also seen a steady decline in quality. This is disturbing.

CASE IN POINT: The issue of Tuesday, January 30th is strewed with awful, stupid headshots.

EXAMPLE A: Jonathan Klinger's article on fair trade in the Viewpoint section has with it possibly the worst headshot in Observer history. It appears to be cropped from a larger photo of Jonathan tor, if I may, Joni near a coral reef. However, this cannot be so because he is wearing a suit.

 Ridiculous.

Further more, his head isn't even filling the frame of the headshot. There is a limited space in which to make a headshot IMPACT. I suggest you fill it, Jon.

EXAMPLE B: Marty Schroeder's article on Super Bowl commercials. The way his head is slightly cocked, but not cocked all the way, makes me distrust him and his motives. His stare suggests something is up, or a secret, not unlike the Mona Lisa. I don't want to stare at the headshot and try to figure out what he is thinking. I want it all in the article.

Give me a headshot that says, "no need to look here, it's all in the article." Marty, take your half-cocked Mona Lisa smiles and leave them at home.

But do not lose hope, dear readers. Among strown piles of senseless crappy headshots, there are some shining good things. The edition of Wednesday, January 31st, in the Viewpoint section features a very well done headshot of Katie Palmietter. Neutral background, full frame, and the perfect facial expression. Wow.

While there are many terrible headshots in the Observer, not enough articles even give their writers a chance by including them. Missed opportunity. Recall Ken Fowler's passionate polemic against that Selena Roberts woman or whatever. Now imagine Ken's column with him staring right at you looking SUPER serious. HOLY CRAP! I've met Ken (girl guy) and he could do it, no problem.

So call on us, the readers, to demand more headshots. Write in, and—oh whatever, this'll probably get cut off at the end anyways.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Adam Fairholm at afairholm@nd.edu

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Question of the Day: What activity would you add to Late Night Olympics?

ANDREA MAYUS junior Welsh Family

"Wait, what? This paragraph has a knapsack?"

KATE KENAHAN junior Welsh Family

"Flamingo dancing."

MARIE SYDLIK freshman Welsh Family

"Relays—they were fun in high school gym class."

RYAN PANTAGES freshman Keough

"Bowling—the greatest sport in the world."

SEAN MALLIN sophomore Keough

"Bikini contest, so I participate."

TONY CRUSSE junior Keough

"A Wil tennis tournament with Father Pooman."

In Brief

The student group, Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCO), presents "Ragtime" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. "Ragtime" will also be playing Feb. 3, 5 and 9. Tickets available at LaFortune box office and are $6 for seniors and $8 for adults.

The Late Night Olympics will be held from today at 6 p.m. to Saturday at 4 a.m. in the Joyce Center. The event raises money for St. Joe County Special Olympics.

Country megastar Dierks Bentley, accompanied by Cross Canadian Ragweed, will perform at 9 p.m. in Legends. The event is free and open to all Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students with ID.

The New Orleans Jazz Orchestra will perform a show called "New Orleans: Then and Now" Saturday at 8 p.m. in Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Call the ticket office at 631-2400 to purchase tickets at $15 for students, $30 for faculty/staff/seniors and $36 for the general public.

The Notre Dame Scrabble Club will host a Scrabble Tournament Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. There is an entry fee of $50. There will be different divisions for players of all skill levels.

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

Offbeat

'Super Tonic' causes sensation in Cancun

CANCUN, Mexico — He is called "Super Tonic," and at a whopping birth weight of 14.5 pounds, the little fellow is causing a sensation in this Mexican resort city.

Cancun residents have crowded the nursery ward's window to see Antonio Vasconcelos, who was born early Monday by Caesarean section. The baby drinks 5 ounces of milk every three hours, and measures 22 inches in length.

"We haven't found any abnormality in the child, there are some signs of high blood sugar, and a slight blood infection, but that is being controlled so that the child can get on with his normal life in a few more days," Narciso Perez Bravo, the hospital's director, said on Wednesday.

Fake employer took women's urine samples

OMAH, Neb. — A 36-year-old Omaha man accused of luring women to his home and taking urine samples when they thought they were applying for a job was found guilty Thursday of two counts of criminal impersonation. Victims told police Kevin Oliver said he worked for cell phone company T-Mobile and was interview them for jobs. Prosecutors said there never were any jobs.

"To this day, we don't know what his ultimate goal was but whatever it was it was deceptive, it was damaging and it was protracted," said Omaha city prosecutor Marty Conboy. "This went on for 18 months that we knew of."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

WEEKEND GAMES

Fitness Club will host the weekly fitness games on Saturday from 6-8 p.m. to benefit UNICEF. The first event is a basketball game. The fitness games are sponsored by the Student Senate's Student Activities Committee.

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Career fair enjoys high turnout

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Nearly a quarter of Notre Dame's student body and over 100 employers trekked through snow and ice to the Joyce Center Thursday night to take part in the Winter Career Fair.

"I think this may be our largest and most diverse career fair since 1999," said Lee Svete, director of the Career Center. "There's something for every major, which is usually hard to do with a career fair. It's a mixed buffet table of opportunities."

Anita Rees, associate director of the Career Center, noted that there was a "constant flow" of students with some showing up at 3:50 p.m., 10 minutes before the fair's 4:00 start time.

"There was an especially heavy flow at the beginning," Rees said. "Employers were amused with the turnout and they're saying how great Notre Dame students are."

Students came dressed in business suits and formal attire to network with potential employers and try to land internships or even get offers. Many of the corporate recruiters are looking to hire students with some showing up at 3:50 p.m., 10 minutes before the fair's 4:00 start time.

"I came at the last minute to find a job. (The Career Fair) is practice for interviewing in the future," said Luci Saro, a studio art major. "I also came as moral support for my friends."

One surprise of the night was the amount of freshmen that came to the fair to seek out employers, which "impressed" Rees.

"I've been in this business for 23 years and have recruited students all over the world, but Notre Dame has the highest caliber of students," said Sam Long, a recruiter for E&J Gallo Winery, based in Modesto, Calif. "They have strong integrity, great social skills and passion for what they do. They also have the strongest moral compasses of any students I've seen."

Long praised Svete for preparing Notre Dame students so well for the fair and also for the success of the fair itself.

"Lee [Svete] has such passion and integrity. He really wants the best for his kids," he said.

Many of the corporate recruiters are Notre Dame alumni. Anthony Salvador, a former linebacker on the varsity football team who graduated last spring and now works for E&J Gallo Winery, called coming back to Notre Dame for the Career Fair a "great experience."

"It's great to be able to help out the company since I'm familiar with Notre Dame students. I can point out familiar faces that are qualified for positions with the company," said Salvador.

Svete estimates there will be about 1,000 interviews taking place today as a result of the Career Fair, with about 81 employers scheduling upwards of 15 interviews each.

Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu
Renovated health center dedicated, ready for use

By MEGHAN WONS
News Writer

Elections continued from page 1

with years of experience in Notre Dame's student government. Brown is the chief executive assistant to Shappell and Braun, Breen-Phillips's senator, serves on the Senate Community Relations and Academic Affairs committees.

Brown also oversees the Campus Life Council (CLC) task force on Social Concerns and the Senate Multicultural Affairs committee. In her three years serving student government, she said she has served on five of the nine student senate committees. Braun has served on two of the four committees.

Their combined experience in student government makes for a strong ticket, Brown said. "Between the two of us I think we really have a complete view of what student government can do and what it is supposed to do and how it's done," she said. Brown said her close interaction with Shappell and Andruch has shown her the leadership the job requires. "I'm with them more than any other candidate and I see the demands," Brown said.

Their campaign slogan, "raising the bar, redefining the standards," sums up the Brown-Braun campaign's vision to change the way they look at the issues the student government has been addressing, Braun said. Their campaign will focus on five main areas: rethinking community relations, promoting social concerns, improving the academic environment, "revamping" student government by making it easier for students to get involved and changing student life through initiatives like a meal guest exchange program and a shuttle to South Bend Airport.

Brown and Braun want to increase student involvement in government committees through online applications and forums, but their most popular idea may be putting the football ticketing system in the new "health center" buildings.

Among the many proposals the candidates have made part of their platform, Smith said, are a partnership with the Rutkis Network, Inc, a legal video and music downloading site for college students and the use of Domino Dollars in the Joyce Center and the Stadium. Smith also hopes to make football ticket booklets obsolete by encoding ticket information on student IDs. This year the football ticket office was "put the pieces together." "The atmosphere was much more relaxed," Smith said, "we look much more like a doctor's office than the old health center did." Smith added, "accepting reservations for Valentine's Day.

A plaque in the lobby reminds all who enter Saint Liam Hall that it was made a reality through a very generous gift from the William K. Warren Foundation of Utah.

"Saint Liam Hall is named in honor of Saint William of York, the patron saint of William K. Warren, Senior," the plaque reads. "The plaque is a 12th century bishop who was known for his gentleness and his concern for the plight of interloctions which brought healing to those in need.

The final inscription reads, "May Saint William's prayers continue to bless all who enter this facility to revere to good health." Contact Meghan Wons at awons@nd.edu.

Accepting reservations for Valentine's Day.

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Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.N. sees China as key to end crisis

KHARTOUM, Sudan — The United Nations hopes the Chinese president will push for a solution to the Darfur crisis during his landmark visit to Sudan on Friday. But Khartoum expects his visit to amount to little more than a gesture to stick to hosting commercial ties, particularly those ensuring its access to Sudan's oil.

The road to Khartoum's airport was lined with the red banners of communist China and the flag of Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist regime on Thursday ahead of Hu Jintao's two-day visit, the first by a Chinese president to Sudan.

China, which is the biggest foreign investor in the region, buys two-thirds of the country's oil exports, has used its veto-wielding states at the U.N. Security Council to prevent harsh measures against Sudan over the Darfur conflict.

Suicide bombers kill 45 in Baghdad

Two suicide bombers detonated explosives Thursday among shoppers in a crowded outdoor market in a Shiite suburb south of Baghdad, killing at least 45 people and wounding 156, police said.

A mortar attack killed at least 17 others in both Shiite and Sunni areas of Baghdad.

Overall, more than 100 people were killed or found dead across the country, reflecting the ongoing wave of sectarian and insurgent violence a year after the United States declared major combat operations over.

Tehran pushes nuclear program

Ahmadinejad announces plans for uranium enrichment at anniversary celebrations

Associated Press

TEHRAN — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad launched anniversary celebrations today for Iran's Islamic Revolution with a defiant call to the West to make its peace with the Islamic Republic, a day ahead of the country's controversial nuclear program.

Ahmadinejad suggested Tehran would announce next week that it is beginning to install a new assembly line of centrifuges, despite U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed over its refusal to forego uranium enrichment, a process that can produce fuel to generate electricity or for a nuclear warhead.

Kicking off 10 days of celebrations to mark the 28th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution that brought hard-line clerics to power, Ahmadinejad said Iran will celebrate next week "the stabilization and the establishment of its full right to enrich uranium at the facility.

The chief of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, said last week that he expected Iran to announce "they are going to build up their 3,000 centrifuge facility" in February, when a new U.N. truce had been speculatively announced.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said Iran would face "universal international opposition" over the step. "If they think they can get away with 3,000 centrifuges without another Security Council resolution and additional international pressure, then they are very badly mistaken," Burns said last week.

Caucus conflict over mistreatment

WASHINGTON — Three female members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus accused the organization's male leaders Thursday of treating women unfairly. Rep. Loretta Sanchez said the caucus chairman called her a "whore.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren denied uttering the insult, which Sanchez cited among grievances that led her to announce this week she was quitting the group.

LOCAL NEWS

NFL cancels church's Bowl showing

INDIANAPOLIS — The NFL has nixed a church's Super Bowl program show the Colts-Bears Super Bowl game, saying it would violate copyright law.

NFL officials spotted a promotion of Fall Creek Baptist Church's "Super Bowl Bash" on the church's Web site this week and contacted a letter to the pastor demanding the party be canceled.

Initially, the league objected to the church's plan to charge a fee to attend and that the church used the license-protected words "Super Bowl" in its promotions.

Casey: troop increase unnecessary

WASHINGTON — The outgoing top U.S. general in Iraq diplomatically aired his differences with the commander in chief on Thursday, telling donors and lawmakers that President Bush has ordered thousands more troops into Iraq than needed to tamp down the violence in Baghdad.

Gen. George Casey quickly added he had been "very, very recently confirmed successor, Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, could want the full complement of 21,500 additional troops that Bush has ordered to Iraq.

Casey said they could "either reinforce success, maintain momentum or put more forces in a place where the plans are not working.

As the general spoke at a Senate confirmation hearing into his nomination to become Army chief of staff, the full Senate lurched toward a widely anticipated debate on the administration's policy, the first since midterm elections in which opposition to the war helped inspired a new Democratic majority.

One day after critics of Bush's revised war strategy merged two competing Senate measures, the White House worked to hold down the number of GOP defections while two liberal Democrats attacked the compromise as too weak.

"It is essentially an endorsement of the status quo, an endorsement I simply cannot make in light of the dire circumstances in Iraq and the need for meaningful action now,"曦d Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, who is seeking the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

Casey ended occasional sharp criticism as he appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee.
Olympics
continued from page 1

dorm is paired with a dorm of the opposite sex, which is imperative for the grand prize.

"It is an event for everyone," Regan said. "There are more competitive events as well as the more laid back such as kayak races and target golf.

Regan is raised in five different ways for the event, starting with each participant's required entrance fee. Each dorm is required to give at least $50 donation in order to be eligible for the grand prize. Other scheduled activities are Penny Wars throughout the night, which begins Monday, a raffle and open skating.

Late Night Olympics is one of three major fundraisers sponsored by RecSports this year. Other events RecSports sponsors include the Doner Run in the fall for ovarian cancer, as well as a run in the spring to benefit the local Leprechaun legacy. Late Night Olympics, however, is the biggest event.

"We really try to make sure that it is something fun and different to do," Regan said.

With every dorm planning to participate, Late Night Olympics officially starts today at 7 p.m., but begins gradually, Regan said.

"We start slow, but everything is running by 9:30," he said.

Events are generally designed to be self-initiated and those that are not will be at the discretion of a RecSports student worker.

Safety also of one of Regan's top priorities this weekend.

"We want to make this a fun event," he said. "We want kids to be smart, because we don't like to see people out.

Students who agree to be intoxicated will be asked to leave.

"In the past, there hasn't been anything drastic, but we just want to make it a fun night for everyone," Regan said.

The signature event of the night will take place at 9:30 p.m. in the field house where beneficiaries from the Special Olympics play a game of basketball against rectors and staff members.

"People really seem to like this event. Students get a chance to see where their money is being spent," Regan said.

Regan has high hopes for another successful weekend from an event that has become a growing tradition on campus. The Late Night Olympics will feature participants in running shows, the eating disorders discussion is one example.

Shappell said she hopes by having an academic discussion, the University community can start to develop a better understanding of the existence of eating disorders.

Shappell updated the Board on their community relations progress — an issue that has been a central concern for student government this year. Shappell described her administration's approach to community relations — a year after the passing of the disorderly house ordinance — as "more proactive and substantive." Shappell cited evidence of the proactive nature of her administration by describing the success of the South Bend bus tour for freshmen that took place in August and her hopes for building relationships with community leaders in the upcoming community summit.

One Board member said, in light of Notre Dame's recent involvement with the Millennium Village Project in Uganda, that it's important for Notre Dame to stay involved in its own community as well.

"Whenever things are too highly criticized for the fact that they are across the ocean but not even in their local area," the Board member said.

And the South Bend bus tour and the community summit are good ways to get involved, the Board member said.

One trustee asked Shappell if she had an agenda for the community summit. Shappell said they will come to the meeting with certain discussion topics — like better integrating students into off-campus neighborhoods and aiding students in finding housing. Shappell said they don't have an agenda.

"We are more so looking to network and establish relations with community leaders and get conversations started that we hope can continue outside this summit through the appropriate parties," Shappell said.

Brown updated the Board on the status of the College Student Leadership Program, an initiative that provides three papers — The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune and USA Today — to four different locations across the United States each week.

Brown said the program has been a success, with approximately 90 percent of the papers read each day. The program is funded by Brown, said, so they are considering adding another disposal location in the Hesburgh Library and installing taller racks in the North Dining Hall location.

Andrichik briefed the Board on the work he has done to improve student-alumni relations. His goal has been to increase communication between the two groups, he said.

One major push he has made has been to grant students access to the Golfrin network so they can utilize alumni contacts in their job search. Discussions with the Career Center, the Alumni Association, the Development Office and other parties involved have resulted in a compromise, Andrichik said.

"Now, students during senior year only and graduate students have access to the full contact network of over 100,000 active e-mail addresses and lists," he said. "Those students take a 20-30 minute long class before being granted access, which allows them to have their resume checked and allowed to contact someone professionally." Andrichik said he has also been working on ways for students and alumni to interact in a social atmosphere and is working with the Alumni Association to transition the Golfrin Network to a new software program that will allow for a better networking Web site.

This is the second of three meetings the Board of Trustees will hold with members of the student government this year. The topic of the first meeting in October was to brief Board members on the Facebook Web site.

Contact Kailynn Riey at krie@nd.edu
**Market Recap**

**Stocks**

| Dow Jones | 12,673.68 | +51.99 |

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**In Brief**

Visteon Corp. plans plant closing

INDIANAPOLIS — Visteon Corp. plans to close an eastern Indiana auto-parts plant later this year, a move that will idle nearly 1,000 workers in a county in which it has for decades been the largest employer.

Visteon announced the closing of the Connersville plant in Indiana, as part of the company’s three-year plan to fix, close or sell about 30 facilities to make the company more globally competitive, said John Fisher, a spokesman for the Michigan-based company.

“We’ve done a very thorough review of this facility,” Fisher said. “We do not believe there is enough of a business case to remain and operate it.”

The plant in Connersville, some 60 miles east of Indianapolis, has about 750 hourly and 140 salaried employees. Visteon and union representatives will begin negotiations over severance packages, Fisher said.

**Stocks rise following spending data**

NEW YORK — Stocks climbed for the third straight day Thursday as an already buoyant Wall Street emboldened robust consumer spending figures and largely overcame disappointment in Google Inc.’s profit report. Both the Dow Jones industrials and the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies closed at new highs. The gains followed Wall Street’s best day of the year on Wednesday, when it advanced sharply after the Federal Reserve signaled that the economy remained solid and that inflation was mostly in check. The central bank’s comments, which followed its decision to leave short-term interest rates unchanged, injected a bit of confidence into an uncertain market. The first month of the year had revealed some unevenness about whether stocks were poised to climb higher from sharp gains seen in 2005. Concerns whether the Fed and a drop corporate profits would bring an unconsummated end to the party.

Economic data continued to play a big role in trading, as it has all week. As expected, consumers spending in December rose 0.7 percent, its biggest increase in five months, rising 0.7 percent.

“It seems to me the Fed is on hold for the foreseeable future and stocks are taking solace in that,” said Brian Levitt, corporate economist for OppenheimerFunds Inc.

**Exxon Mobil posts record profits**

Oil conglomerate announces highest numbers despite fourth-quarter record.

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Oil taker Exxon Mobil Corp. on Thursday posted the largest annual profit by a U.S. company — $39.5 billion — even as earnings for the last quarter of 2006 declined 4 percent.

The record net income amounted to roughly $4.5 million an hour for the world’s largest publicly traded company, which produces about 3 percent of the world’s oil. That compares to about $12 an hour for the average U.S. worker, according to the Labor Department.

But out of this world profits may not last. The lower commodity prices that sank their teeth into Exxon’s fourth quarter may linger for at least the first part of 2007, even as the cost of doing business rises because of factors such as a shortage of drilling equipment and labor.

To while big players like Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp. and ConocoPhillips, the first and second, and respectively, among integrated U.S. majors — all expect to continue to rake in profits of $4.5 billion. Totals aren’t likely to be the eye-popping amounts of recorded earnings for recent quarters.

“I’d say overall, if you look for earnings to decline 5 to 15 percent from the huge highs this past year, you’re probably going to see most of these companies fall within that range,” said John Parry, a senior analyst at energy consulting firm John S. Herold Inc.

Exxon Mobil’s profits didn’t go unnoticed on Capitol Hill, where one lawmaker called them “exorbitant” and said oil companies have benefited too long from a Republican-backed energy policy that cheats American taxpayers.

Exxon Mobil wasn’t alone among oil and gas entities posting a huge profit in 2006. On Thursday alone, three other companies — Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Marathon Oil Corp. and Valero Energy Corp. — also reported best-ever full-year profits. The four companies combined had earnings of $75.6 billion last year.

Last week, Houston-based ConocoPhillips said its $15.5 billion profit last year topped its previous record from 2005 by about $2 billion dollars. Chevron is scheduled to report 2006 results Friday.

Exxon Mobil’s 2006 profit beat its own previous record for a U.S. company of $36.13 billion set in 2005. Its net income for 2006 equals the approximate gross domestic product — a measure of all goods and services produced within a country in a given year — of countries like Ecuador, Luxembourg and Croatia.

Also notable was Exxon Mobil’s revenue, which rose to $377.46 billion for the year, surpassing the record $370.68 billion it posted in 2005.

“Exxon Mobil continued to leverage its globally diverse resource base to bring additional crude oil and natural gas to market,” said Rex W. Tillerson, chairman of the Irving, Texas-based company.

Exxon Mobil’s record earnings followed a year of extraordinarily high energy prices as crude oil topped $78 a barrel in the summer — driving up average gasoline prices in the United States to more than $3 a gallon. Prices retreated later in the year as crude oil supplies grew and concerns over Middle East tensions eased, among other factors.

**Senate votes to raise minimum wage**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted overwhelmingly Thursday to boost the federal minimum wage by $2.10 to $7.25 per hour over two years, but it also packaged the increase with controversial tax cuts and increased federal taxes for many $1 million-plus executives.

The increase in the minimum, the first in a decade, was approved by a 94-3 margin, following a debate over how to balance the wage hike with the needs of businesses that employ low-wage workers. A top priority of Democrats, the wage hike has both real and symbolic consequences. It would be one of the first major legislative successes of the new Democrat-controlled Congress.

“Passing this wage hike represents a small but necessary step to help lift America’s working poor out of the ditches of poverty and onto the road toward economic prosperity,” said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

President Bush urged the House to support the measure, including the tax help for small business. He said, “The Senate has taken a step toward helping maintain a strong and dynamic labor market and promoting continued economic growth.”

The bill must now be reconciled with the House version passed Jan. 10 that contained no tax provisions. House Democrats have insisted they want a minimum wage bill with nostrings attached, though some have conceded the difficulty of passing the legislation in the Senate without tax breaks. Republicans stressed the importance of the business tax breaks in the bill, though it was a significantly smaller tax package than Republicans had sought during previous attempts to raise the minimum wage.

“The Senate’s reasonable approach recognizes that small businesses have been the steady engine of our growing economy and that they have been a source of new job creation, a source of job training,” said Sen. Michael Enzi, R-Wyo., who helped manage the debate for the GOP.
**Election result symbolic, foretelling**

Kimberly Hodges’ recent student body election victory represents more than a successful campaign driven by a goal-laden platform — it marks a milestone in College history. As the first black president of the 1,500-member Saint Mary’s student body, Hodges is a testament to the College’s initiative to increase minority representation on campus — and an encouraging sign for that initiative’s future. This year Saint Mary’s boasts its highest percentage of students representing diverse multicultural backgrounds — 10.1 percent. It’s fitting that more of those voices are finding their way into student government. Hodges helped increase the number of black students from one in the Class of 2009 to 13 in the Class of 2010 — a cause she supported through visits to Chicago high schools.

Those visits shattered the vision of a completely homogeneous Saint Mary’s student body, and she returned to Saint Mary’s with at least 50 applications from students with diverse backgrounds. These recruitment efforts change the College’s image at the most necessary level — the one that will draw prospective students who have the ability to alter the diversity breakdown. There’s nothing more powerful in drawing students to a college than testaments from people who go there and love it. Hodges didn’t love it immediately, however — and that makes a testament from her more powerful. Although she initially felt out of place as one of three black women in her freshman class, Hodges decided to stay at the College and find her sense of purpose, a much-needed attitude that shows ability to succeed at Saint Mary’s; her actions are not dependent on race and religion.

It is imperative that her push for increased diversity continues during her time on the faculty hiring committee because College professors should reflect the multicultural needs and backgrounds of their students. Being a minority in a nearly homogeneous campus environment can be intimidating, but Hodges’ ambition and student government success offers a updated image of the traditional Saint Mary’s woman and will hopefully contribute to future diversity initiatives at the College.
Global warming grounds Punxsutawney Phil

On Gobbler’s Knob this morning, Punxsutawney Phil endorsed his 12? last rude awakening while being groped, as usual, in inappropriate places — all in the name of Groundhog’s prognostication and the local economy. Although Phil has seen his shadow more than 90 percent of the time during the last 127 years, he has yet to come out of his den. The weather forecasters at his home, the Groundhog Club’s “Inner Circle,” those gentlemen who wear top hats and bowler vests that combine reason upon each other, will advise Phil on how to adapt his predictions.

Phil might slice the 6-week extended cold weather timetable back to a month, and continue to increase his options each subsequent year until February in Pennsylvania averages 60-degree daily temperatures. At that point, it would not matter whether or not the sun cast Phil’s shadow. On the upside, though, Phil would improve his accuracy record, thus riling his distant cousin and fellow furry forcaster, Georgia’s General Beaure Lee, Ph.D. Cousin Lee claims a 94 percent accuracy record, but with a difficult task even for a rodent in a state that averages 44 degrees in February and 33 degrees in March.

On the down side, the demise of the world-famous Yankee groundhog would be the tipping point for both the local and national economic catastrophe. Every element of our GNP would suffer. One simply can review today’s Groundhog Day schedule to realize how global warming would end most activities, thereby casting the nation into a rodent-like state — going down the hole.

Imagine the confusion in the local Punxsutawney employment office while bureaucrats attempt to match the expertise of the Inner Circle’s members in new jobs. The conversation would sound something like this:

"Hello, we are recently unemployed because we did not need Al Gore’s warning about global warming. Can you assist us?" asks Tom Frazier, human resources manager at the Hailmaker Keith Shields.

"What have you gentlemen done prior to this?" asks the bureaucrat. Vice President and Chief Healthman Paul Johnston answers, "These two are Go-Handlers, but that one is a Cloud Builder while the other is a Fog Spinner."

"I thought you were all either butlers, waiters or funeral directors," replies the bureaucrat.

"Actually, interrupts the Big Luke Maker, "These two also work well together. He is the Stamp Warden, and that’s the Burrow Master. And this duo is the team of the Iceman and Storm Chaser."

Peering over his bifocals, the bureaucrat asks, "Why are these gentlemen sitting over there so far away from everyone?"

Sky Painter answers, "Everyone keeps them at some distance. He’s the Pow Man, and he’s the Big Windmaker."

For Phil’s part, to survive the rodent would need another skill like playing chess. He would be reduced to a more demeaning setting, like appearing in sleeping pill commercials with Abe Lincoln. He would become saucer knowing that his inability to weather global warming single-handedly caused a great depression that rivaled the 1929 stock market."

For example, Vegus oddsmakers would no longer handle two-way action on bets covering Phil — other than to speculate if he might bite Lincoln. Toyota, the official car of Phil, sales would fall behind GM, Ford and Chrysler. While Phil’s Food Court would close and the groundhog cookie decorat-

would end, only the pancake breakfast, complete breakfast buffet and Groundhog Luncheon would barely survive. Pro Wrestling would cancel the Groundhog Rumble at the Community Center Gym, thereby threatening the future of the sport.

The mayor would no longer perform Groundhog Day wedding ceremonies in Phil’s Wedding Chapel at the Civic Center. Phil’s furmage and maze would close as would Phil’s Shadow Chase and event at the Punxsutawney Christian School. Upset Christians would demand the cancellation of pagan rituals like the "Phil Phind Scavenger Hunt," the Woodchuck Whistle Carving Show and the crowning of Little Mr. and Miss Groundhog. Anarchy would rein as the beverage lawyers would spread their games.

The man who was forced to drink grits.

On Jan. 31 a front page article detailed this year’s crime spree in the dining hall. Over 40,000 items were stolen, totaling a cost of $25,000. As a student at the university and an avid thief, I question the validity of the university’s claims. To begin, the numbers of items stolen are rounded off, and my guess is they are rounded up, perhaps to the nearest half-thousand. If the University wants to call attention to a theft problem, specific numbers will make the problem more realistic in the eyes of the students. Also, it is very likely that every missing utensil is considered "stolen," including lost or broken items.

Secondly, Director of ND Food Services Dave Frenkowski threatens pensing the cost on to the students. We already had $200 added to our tuition to pay for stolen items. This did not help cover the costs, rather it encouraged the stealer to steal to begin so they could get their $200 worth. Passing on the costs to the students is not going to fix the problem. This also fails to take into account the return of silverware at the end of the year. Many dorms have containers at the end of the year for students to return stolen dining hall goods that they stole for school-year-only use. We have senior citizen volunteers guarding the dining halls. Shouldn’t they be able to catch the thieves?

If you ask me, the students are stealing for two reasons, neither being to "stock their dorm rooms." The students want to make back the extra $200 on their tuition bill, and they want the challenge of successfully stealing something needed by the guards at the exits and stop adding charges to tuition.

The result will be an immediate increase in stolen goods, for probably a week, and then students will get bored and the numbers will drastically decrease. Now that I know I will be charged next year to replace equipment more than once, I may begin "stocking my dorm room" in order to cover the extra costs.

Gary Caruso
Class of '73, is a political strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotlink.com. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Added cost from dining hall theft only encourages

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Humorous 'Office' deserves place among the elite

By ANALISE LIPARI

Not too long ago, I was watching an episode of "Seinfeld" and remarked to a friend that they didn't make shows like that anymore. It's not just that "Seinfeld" was funny or that it was sharp and relevant - it was one of those rare shows that reached a critical mass and became a cultural indicator. The proof of this is the way in which "Seinfeld" became quotable and everyone knew the reference. Things like "not that there's anything wrong with that," or "no soup for you" were immediately recognizable and people even referred to certain situations as a "Seinfeld moment." It's hard for sitcoms to reach that same kind of level nowadays. The cancellation of "Seinfeld" and "Friends" left an empty void of sharp, well-written comedy. The ones that come closest, like " Arrested Development," were too clever for their own good and were canceled in the face of low ratings.

Which brings me to "The Office," NBC's adaptation of the British hit of the same name. "The Office" has everything going for it — it has a genuine talent in star Steve Carell, is well written, funny and has serious and effective emotional undertones. The show has improved steadily with age, and by now (the third season) the characters and their relationships have been firmly developed and the plotting has found its own identity, differentiating it from the British version.

"The Office" is part of the new age of sitcoms, a mockumentary style that uses hand-held cinematography and direct addresses to the camera. Like " Arrested Development," it seems too clever for its own good, and while it has been a critical success (much like Ron Howard's show), it is consistently outperformed in the ratings department. "The Office" is part of Thursday's line-up, which includes perennial favorites "Scrubs" and new hits like "30 Rock," and has just been picked up for a fourth season.

More than any other sitcom on television right now, "The Office" is close to reaching a critical mass akin to "Seinfeld." Though viewership is not as high as, say, "American Idol," its fan base is devoted. Even Sports Illustrated's Jon Wertheim used to regularly mention the show in his weekly column. Yet "The Office" is so close to escaping "cult show" status in reaching mainstream audiences. "Arrested Development," like the once-cancelled "Family Guy," posthumously found new fans on DVD, but "The Office" still has a chance to become the biggest show on television. If that happens, it would be a true rarity, something only achieved by shows like "Seinfeld" and "The Cosby Show," the best show on TV could also be the most popular.

The best parts of the show are the dialogue and the acting. "Dwight Show" alums like Steve Carell (who won a Golden Globe for this role) and Ed Helms whip off quotable lines effortlessly, such as "I'm always thinking one step ahead. I'm like a carpenter ... who builds stairs." Or "Toby is in HR, which technically means he works for corporate, so he's really not part of our family ... also, he's divorced so he's really not part of his family." These are among the countless gems in each week's script.

I'm really pushing for "The Office" to succeed because I need sitcoms like it — shows that are insightful and intelligent. "Seinfeld" worked because it said a lot about our society and we were able to see some of our most ridiculous fears and hopes reflected in it. "The Office" works for much the same reason, but it's a better show, with a strong cast and lots of personality. It's really a once-in-a-lifetime kind of show, the kind of program that makes "Must See TV" a truism, the kind program that people will talk about years from now and say, "They just don't make shows like that anymore."

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader@nd.edu

The classic show "Seinfeld" is often compared to "The Office" for its brilliant casting, clever humor and the cult-culture that forms around the show.

THE OBSERVER

Scene

Friday, February 2, 2007

PEMCo's latest production is truly impressive

By ANALISE LIPARI

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Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader@nd.edu
By RAGA GOTTUMUKKALA

Some Critic

The act of writing letters, that once great vessel of human emotion, is slipping steadily into distant memory. Keystrokes have supplanted penmanship for documenting our most heartfelt hopes, dreams and wishes. Of this increasingly quaint practice, Elizabeth Hardwick, an American literary critic, once wrote, "Letters are above all useful as a means of expressing the ideal self, and no other method of communication is quite so good for this purpose."

In his most accomplished artistic statement to date, "Letters from Iwo Jima," director Clint Eastwood addresses Hardwick's romantic notion headlong, for the soul of Eastwood's film is revealed not through words but in the arching sentiments and desperate scrawls of soldiers, written shortly before sacrificing their lives.

"Letters from Iwo Jima" is a tale of honor about Japan, a nation that cherishes that virtue above all others. Sixty years ago, it revealed the Battle of Iwo Jima from the perspective of the Japanese soldiers who fought and died there, and whose several hundred letters, unearthed many decades later, inspired the film.

Shortly after wrapping production on "Million Dollar Baby" in 2004, a film that earned him dual Oscar statues for Best Director and Best Picture, Eastwood undertook his most ambitious project yet—a World War II opus seen through the eyes of the American and Japanese forces that invaded and defended that island's harsh black soil. The clash at Iwo Jima had tremendous implications for both nations. Over 20,000 Japanese troops, forced to guard the tiny island with only ground forces, and 7,000 Americans perished in a battle that lasted a month longer than the United States expected.

Wilyly, Eastwood decided to split the expansive story into two segments. While "Flags of Our Fathers," the American take on the conflict, was a fine picture, it's in "Letters from Iwo Jima" that the veteran director most fully realizes his goal. With poignancy and reverence, he shows the harsh truths of war and its ability to reveal the very best and worst qualities of the human race. With over 20,000 voices to consider, Eastwood and screenwriter Iris Yamashita settled upon a handful of generals and soldiers, navigating them through the bloody conflict. The story begins with the arrival of Lt. General Tadamichi Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe) in the shores of Iwo Jima. Having studied in America, Kuribayashi is sent to fortify the island defenses against the impending arrival of the American armada. A brilliant tactician, he foregoes more traditional trench warfare techniques, devising a scheme to dig expansive underground tunnels through the black volcanic rock of the island.

In an early scene, Kuribayashi steps out from the plane and into the light. As he surveys the vast, desolate reaches of Iwo Jima's shoreline, we are privy to his innermost thoughts, revealed through his first letter.

"I am determined to serve and give my life for my country," he writes, the key word being determined. Kuribayashi articulates well the extent of America's military might, Kuribayashi has come to this island to die, like an ancient samurai whetting his blade before his final battle. Eastwood spends the first half hour setting the stage to understand why.

Embracing his inescapable fate, Kuribayashi, a kind but firm leader, implores his troops to make these tunnels the last stand against the waves of American troops who make landfall halfway through the film. The Japanese soldiers digging those tunnels include Saipo (Kazunari Ninomiya), an idealistic baker unsold to the horrors of warfare, and Shimizu (Ryo Kase), a quiet, reserved former member of Tokyo's military force. Both men are young and idealistic, forced to deal with violence and death despite the contradictions to their gentle natures.

Perhaps Kuribayashi's staunchest supporter is Lt. Colonel Takeichi Nishi (Tsuyoshi Ihara), a Japanese nobleman and Equestrian Gold Medal winner at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles. Nishi, like Kuribayashi, faces a stern moral challenge because of his fondness for his land and America. Together, they form the emotional core of the film and a moral compass for American audiences trained to abhor Japan as the faceless enemy in most World War II films. Emanating strength and nobility, their performances are stiffest in a film that features a superb cast and unrelentingly powerful performances. Watanabe is no stranger to themes of honor and sacrifice for his country, having previously debuted in the American consciousness with "The Last Samurai." Just as Watanabe was a boon in that film, Ihara is a gem in this one.

Horrifying, powerful, visceral, uplifting, bleak and deeply affecting, "Two Jima" covers the gamut of emotions. It's a deeply human film, one of those rare pictures that reverses life even as it takes so much of it. The movie says more about war in its quietest full than the loudest cacophonies of lesser films like "Pearl Harbor" and "Windtalkers." A little past the midway point of the movie, the Japanese troops win a minor victory. Briefly halting the tide of the American forces, they wound and capture. Despite their dwindling medical supplies, Nishi orders his team's medic to tend to the American soldier and introduces himself. "I lived in California for a while," Nishi says in excellent English, adding that he considers himself a Fairbanks and Mary Pickford, two of Hollywood's most beloved film stars from that time period, to be good friends.

Eyes wide with wonder at their mention, the soldier, who looks barely old enough to shave, responds in kind. "OKlahoma is where I'm from," he admits through the pain. In that one moment, the connection between these two men, meeting in the heat of scenarios, is revealed. Their respect is mutual. Had they met in another life, they might even be friends. The scene ends shortly thereafter, and the bloodshed continues.

On a technical level, every aspect of "Letters from Iwo Jima" is transcendent, with four Academy Award nominations to its name—Best Picture, Best Director, Best Sound Editing and Best Original Screenplay. But "Two Jima" is a film of such harsh beauty, it deserves a dozen more. Chief amongst these is the stark and evocative cinematography employed by Tom Stern, a longtime Eastwood collaborator. Utilizing a desaturated color palette, Stern has seemingly reached away all the vitality in the film, leaving a pallor that suits the film's mood.

Eastwood has claimed Best Director honors twice at the Oscars, for 2004's "Million Dollar Baby" and 1992's "Unforgiven." While both of those triumphs were deserved, his latest directorial effort—completed at the tender age of 76—surpasses them. Every great picture has a signature moment that stands the test of time, causing viewers to ruminate on its impact decades after its completion. "Letters from Iwo Jima" has at least half a dozen, more than enough to make it the best war film since 1998's "Saving Private Ryan." While crafted with the cinema, the most visual mediums of mind, here is a film that has all the affection, melancholy, warmth and genuine human feeling of the most sincere, handwritten letters.

It took an American director born and bred in westerns to show us the high costs of war for the ravaged nation of Japan. Eastwood and his collaborators make us care so deeply for these characters, these human beings, that when they fall, we can barely stand to watch. Readying his troops for the final banzai charge, Kuribayashi address them in the pale moonlight.

"A day will come when they will weep and pray for your souls," he says with a tender but steely resolve. He draws his samurai sword, the most revered symbol in the movie, and will die to protect it. "I will always be in front of you," he concludes.

Sixty-one years later, that day has come.

Contact Raga Gottumukkala at rgottumukkala@ed.gov

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Photo courtesy of movieweb.com
NHL

Kolnik breaks slump, leads Panthers in victory

Dunham's playing experience behind the net with Hossa, Kovalchuk gives Islanders needed boost to defeat Thrashers

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Florida Panthers center of Stempel stayed sharp and helped a struggling teammate get out of a slump.

Stempel had two goals and an assist as Washington, and in his first game back after a 10-day absence, Kolnik snapped a five-game point drought with a goal and an assist in the Panthers' 6-3 victory over the Capitals on Thursday night.

"We got a big performance out of people like Stempel. Florida coach Jacques Martin, said, "I thought his line was very strong and that the Capitals gave us a big game on that line, and it seems like the change of lines helps us," he added.

Stempel had three points for the Panthers, including the game-winner, and has posted 15 points in 11 games.

"I feel comfortable out there," Stempel said. "It's one thing I was told by the Panthers when they made the lineup from the start of the season, and obviously we need to get the next one."

"We've just got to play a simple game, especially on special teams," he said. "The Panthers have finished 3rd-6th in the league with the Capitals, so we've got to win one of these tonight."

Martin Gelinas, the player replaced by Kolnik on the line that includes Stempel and Rodolfo Ovechkin, also had a goal and two assists with two power-play goals.

The Panthers finished 6-3-1 with a season-high five-goal third period.

"They have the power to do it," Washington goalie Dwayne Roloson said. "We knew they would get their chances. We just wanted to keep them at a minimum.

"Jason Blake scored the go-ahead goal midway through the third period and Miroslav Satan had a goal and two assists to help the Islanders beat the Thrashers on Thursday night.

After blowing a 3-0 lead in the third period on Wednesday and losing 5-3, it was over to the Islanders couldn't hold a 2-1 advantage as Jim Slater's wrist shot got by Washington goalie, Jose Theodore, for his 10th of the season.

"It's always nice to play with Jeff." Stempel said. "He's a smart center. He knows where his wings are.

Islanders 5, Thrashers 2

Spending last season with Atlantic City Mike Dunham expressed appreciation for Marlan Hossa and A product.

So it was no surprise the New York Islanders goalie felt satisfied after stopping the prolific Thrashers scorers.

"They have the power to do it," Dunham said. "We knew they would get their chances. We just wanted to keep them at a minimum.

Trent Hunter's 12th goal, which came on the power play with 3:59 left, made it 4-2. Victor Kozler scored twice, including an empty-netter.

New York earned three of a possible four points in Atlanta during a seven-day span. The Islanders fell behind 3-0 to the Thrashers in the opening six minutes last Friday but rallied to force overtime.

"I got a lot of chances," Kozier said. "I need to shoot more.

"We've got the two points," Stempel said. "It's all I'm looking for.

The Islanders had lost five of seven and 11 of 15 to fall into 11th place in the East. New York has earned points in five straight games — four since the All-Star break.

"It was a good game for us and obviously we need to get the next one.""
## Around the Nation

**Eastern Conference, Atlantic**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<td>Boston</td>
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### Men's Basketball

**Associated Press Top 25**

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<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
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### NBA

New Jersey at Orlando

**Around the Dial**

**Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony was not one of seven reserves named to the Western Conference All-Star team. Anthony was suspended for 1.5 games earlier this season due to a fight against the Knicks.**

**Anthony left off All-Star roster**

**New York — One bad night may have overshadowed all the good Carmelo Anthony has done this season.**

The NBA's leading scorer was not among the seven reserves announced Thursday night for the Western Conference team that will play in the NBA All-Star game.

Denver teammate Allen Iverson was chosen, extending his streak of consecutive All-Star appearances to eight. He started the last seven games while playing for Philadelphia. Anthony, who is averaging 31.3 points but missed 15 games while suspended for his role in the brawl at Madison Square Garden, was the most obvious omission.

Earlier Thursday, Anthony said he hoped his suspension wouldn't prevent him from earning his first All-Star spot.

"I hope no one holds that over my head over anything," he said. "Things happen. One incident like that is held over one person's head, life ain't fair. I did my punishment. I could've easily kept my name out there by appealing it and doing other stuff about it, but I just did my 15 games suspension and hopefully put that behind us." Steve Nash, Amare Stoudemire and Shawn Marion were all chosen from the Phoenix Suns, but Dirk Nowitzki was the only player picked from the Dallas Mavericks, who have the league's best record. The Mavericks had been hoping Josh Howard would be selected as well. Detroit and New Jersey had multiple reserves picked for the Feb. 18 game. Chauncey Billups and Richard Hamilton, who both made their first appearances last season, are going back, and Jason Kidd and Vince Carter will represent the Nets in the game at UNLV's Thomas & Mack Center.

Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal and first-timers Dwight Howard of Orlando and Caron Butler of Washington round out the East reserves. The seven reserves were voted on by the head coaches in their respective conferences. Coaches couldn't vote for their own players, and had to select two forwards, two guards, a center and two players regardless of their position.

The remainder of the West reserves were San Antonio guard Tony Parker and Utah forward Carlos Boozer.

### In Brief

**Retired NFL players lobby for better pensions**

MIAMI — They limp through life, often too proud to ask for handouts but desperately in need of help. They are the aging NFL retirees and, as a rule, the older they are, the less they receive from the league's pension and disability funds.

"An embarrassment," is what famed former player and coach Mike Ditka called it.

"Twenty percent of nothing is nothing," former Bills offensive lineman Joe DeLamielleure said.

Ditka, DeLamielleure and another Hall of Famer, Len Barrow, joined one-time Packers star Jerry Kramer on Thursday to promote Kramer's endeavor to promote championship rings and other valuable memorabilia to raise money for their fellow retirees.

Ditka described the situation as "shameful," saying he received a $100,000 donation from an owner of a sport other than football.

**Concussion forces Matheny to retire after 13 seasons**

SAN FRANCISCO — Mike Matheny's decision to retire was made for him.

His doctor refused to clear the long-time catcher to play in 2007 after a concussion sidelined him for the final four months of last season.

Matheny's announcement Thursday that he is hanging up his catching gear after 13 major league seasons came as no surprise. He didn't play again for the San Francisco Giants after May 31 following a series of foul tips he took in the mask — and doctors warned him that he was more susceptible to even further damage if he received another blow.

"This is not a shoulder, a knee or an elbow," Matheny said on a conference call. "We're talking about the brain. ... This is not a shoulder, a knee or an elbow, it's over my head over anything." An embarrassment," is what famed former player and coach Mike Ditka called it.

"Twenty percent of nothing is nothing," former Bills offensive lineman Joe DeLamielleure said.

Ditka, DeLamielleure and another Hall of Famer, Len Barrow, joined one-time Packers star Jerry Kramer on Thursday to promote Kramer's endeavor to promote championship rings and other valuable memorabilia to raise money for their fellow retirees.

Ditka described the situation as "shameful," saying he received a $100,000 donation from an owner of a sport other than football.

**Judge allows negligence lawsuit against NFL**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A federal judge ruled Thursday that Korey Stringer's widow can proceed with her negligence lawsuit against the NFL and equipment maker Riddell Inc. over his heatstroke death.

Korey Stringer, a 335-pound lineman for the Minnesota Vikings, died from heatstroke after he practiced in the sweltering heat and humidity that pushed his body temperature to 108.8 degrees. He was 27.

Judge John Helschel dismissed one of the lawsuit's claims, in which Korey Stringer argued that the NFL didn't set proper guidelines for practicing in the heat.
Men's Tennis

Seminoles visit ND for weekend matches

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

All signs point forward for the Notre Dame men's tennis team as the Irish will look for their second and third wins against No. 13 Florida State today at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Notre Dame blanked Indiana 7-0 on Monday to better their record to 2-1 overall (1-0 at home). Notre Dame's win over Indiana and William and Mary gave the team a two-point jump in the Fila single rankings to move to No. 11.

The Irish last faced the Seminoles in 2006 where they rallied for a 4-1 win in Tallahassee. Notre Dame has won four of its last five against Florida State. The Seminoles have posted a 5-0 mark for the season after garnering victories over Florida Atlantic, Georgia State and Furman.

The Seminoles first singles player, Jonathan Sucupira helped secure a victory over Georgia State with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Andres Arango.

The Irish will look to get ahead early by taking at least two of the doubles matches. Coach Bobby Bayliss feels grabbing the doubles point will be a helpful boost for the team.

"We'd really like to start off playing consistent yet aggressive doubles," said Bobby Bayliss.

The Irish will look to come away from Florida State's match with a win to prepare them for Saturday's match against No. 8 Duke.

Notre Dame fell to the Blue Devils 4-3 in Feb. 2006. The Blue Devils lost senior power-houses Ludovic Walter and Jonathan Stokke, but have promising talent in freshmen Dylan Arnold and Aaron Carpenter.

Carpenter clinched the 7-5, 6-3 victory in sixth singles to give Duke the 5-2 win over No. 52 Old Dominion.

Despite losing in 2006, the Irish will hope that the combination of home court advantage and talent will lead to a strong showing against the Blue Devils.

"All signs point to our team playing a very good match both days," said Bobby Bayliss.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu
ND TRACK

Team faces home challenge

By JAY FITZPATRICK

Notre Dame has had a lot of success this season, but will face its biggest test of the season when it competes in the Meyo Invitational this weekend at the Loftus Center.

The Meyo Classic is the highlight of Notre Dame’s indoor season with top teams from across the country participating. The Irish have started the season strong, with multiple qualifiers for both the men and women’s teams. The last time the squad competed was at the Notre Dame Invitational Jan. 26, 21 Irish athletes qualified for the Big East championships later this month including six Notre Dame male mile runners.

Notre Dame’s female team was just as impressive in the distance events, with two Irish athletes qualifying for the mile and 3,000 meter races. Both teams have also performed well in the sprint events, with each gender sending at least one runner to the conference championship in the 400, 100, 200 and 400-meter dashes.

Despite having such success in almost every event, Irish coach Joe Plane said that every event is critical to the process. “We need to have good performances to get us prepared for the Big East meet,” he said. “So many it be the 60 meter dash or the 3k run, we need to perform well in order to be prepared properly for the Big East championship.”

The main event of the Meyo Invitational every year is the “Meyo Mile,” in which the top distance runners from across the country compete. This year, Notre Dame will provide some of that talent, including junior Jake Watson and senior Todd Patacek, who run the mile in 4:03 and 4:04, respectively.

“It should be a very, very good run,” Plane said of the meet’s signature event. “Hopefully we’ll have somebody approaching four or at least approaching five.”

With only one meet remaining before the Big East championship, the Irish will have to try to accumulate as many conference bids as possible this weekend. The only remaining meet this season is the Windsor Team Challenge, and Plane said he is not sure of how many competitors he is going to send.

“So we really gotta jump on the horse real quick and get some kids qualified,” Plane said. “And we’ve done it on the women’s side and the men’s side.”

Overall, Plane has been pleased with his team’s performance in the indoor season. Plane said that so far the team is accomplishing its goals for the indoor track season.

“Our goal is always to do well at the Big East and hopefully at the NCAAs. So the first step is to get as many kids qualified for the Big East as possible,” he said. “Generally we have 28 to 30 or 32 per gender qualified and I think we’re pretty close to that now. "We’ll get a few this weekend."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzp4@nd.edu

ND SWIMMING

Irish focus on Big East despite Louisville meet

By GREG ARBOGAST

The Notre Dame men and women will both travel to Louisville this weekend, but they will be in a New York state of mind.

This weekend is another big test against the Cardinals will be the final meet for both the men and the women before they head to East Meadow, N.Y., and Long Island, N.Y., for the Big East championships that begin Feb. 14.

“We’re looking very much at the Big East [championships],” Irish men’s coach Tim Welsh said. “We’re in a sharpening process right now, and this weekend is our last chance to get things right before we get to New York.

For No. 17 men’s squad, Louisville will be a prepweek from the stiff competition the team has faced in recent weeks. Notre Dame suffered their first dual meet loss of the season at the hands of then-No. 8 Northwestern by the score of 167-121 Jan. 20. The Wildcats – now No. 6 – are undefeated in dual meets on the season.

Last weekend, the Irish hosted the Shamrock Invitational in which they participated in a quad dual meet against No. 19 West Virginia, Penn State, Connecticut and Oakland. Notre Dame went 2-2 on the weekend, defeating Connecticut and Oakland but falling short against Penn State and still undefeated West Virginia.

The Irish will look to pick up some momentum this weekend against a Louisville squad that has bloomed their way to a 3-9 dual meet record. The Cardinals lost in their last meet 189-110 against Jan. 27.

“Louisville is a fast up front or as complete as Northwestern or West Virginia, but they’re very good in the stroke events and on the relays,” Welsh said. “I would put them as one of the top four teams in the Big East.”

The Notre Dame women can expect a stronger challenge from Louisville this weekend. The Cardinals hold a 10-2 record in dual meets this season, and they are coming off a 189-111 win at Western Kentucky Jan. 27.

“I don’t know how much of a threat they’ll be to us,” senior Katie Carroll said. “I don’t think they have the depth we do, and I think it will be our depth that pulls us through.”

That kind of confidence is not surprising after Notre Dame’s showing in last weekend’s Shamrock Invitational. With wins over Oakland, Connecticut and West Virginia, the 2-2 on the weekend with the only stumble coming against No. 15 Penn State.

With their defeat of West Virginia last weekend, the Irish gained the upper hand on one of the primary challengers to Notre Dame’s bid for their 11th consecutive Big East title. The Irish face a similar opportunity this weekend against the Cardinals.

“This is another good opportunity to send a message,” Carroll said. “It will show them that we’re not messing around.”

Contact Greg Arboagast at garbogas@nd.edu

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Jackson continued from page 20

Miami and a four-point lead over third-place Michigan.

The "nation's best" label is not the only milestone possible for the Irish this weekend. With one more conference win, Notre Dame will set a program record with 16 league wins in one season — currently the Irish are tied with the 1981-82 and 1998-99 teams at 15 wins.

"We've proved we can play with pretty much everybody we've played," Jackson said. "We haven't played New Hampshire or Minnesota or those teams. But within our conference we've shown we can play pretty much against anybody."

Bowling Green has had very few bright spots in a sub-par season, but one came last weekend when the Falcons picked up a 2-2 tie against Alaska. The Falcons have only two scorers with more than 20 points — Jonathan Matsumoto (24) and Derek Whitmore (20) — and are in last place not only in the standings, but also in team offense (1.66 goals per game), team defense (4.03 goals per game) and on the power play (.088 success percentage). Falcons goal-tenders Jimmy Spratt and Eddie Neville have split time and the balance of the opposition's offense this season, and it shows in their numbers.

Spratt has a 3.82 goals against average with a 4-15-1 record, while Neville owns a 4.18 GAA.

The Irish met the Falcons in a two-game home series earlier in the season with Notre Dame sweeping 5-2 and 4-0, but that hasn't kept Jackson from fretting more over this weekend than over Miami.

"I get more nervous about these games, than I do about Miami of Ohio because I know our guys will be as ready to play as they need to be against Miami," he said. "This is part of us becoming a good team, bring a good team is going to be able to respond coming off a tough weekend against Miami and then going into Bowling Green playing a team that's last in the standings."

Irish goalie Dave Brown — who came up big against the RedHawks with 40 saves on 43 shots faced in two games — will most likely start Friday night against the Falcons, but Saturday's starting goalie depends on several factors, Jackson said.

It depends on the number of shots Brown faces in the first game and if he appears fresh when the time comes Saturday, Jackson said.

Jackson said that in order to help keep Brown physically and mentally ready, he gives the goal tender days off where he doesn't have to put on his equipment, but only does cardio vascular training. "Keeping him from putting his equipment on everyday is the key," Jackson said. The park will drop in both games at 7:05 p.m. but it will not be televised locally.

Contact Kyle Cassity at kcassily@nd.edu

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Belles center Maria Canfield sets a screen for guard Allison Kessler during Saint Mary’s 81-72 win over Olivet Jan. 31.

Relax
continued from page 20
(Kessler).”

Kessler — the Belles’ leading scorer — has not been the focal point of Saint Mary’s offense during the streak. Aside from Newsum, guard Bridget Lipke has averaged 13.3 points per game in the four-game stretch. Henley said center Anna Kammrath has also improved over the season.

“Anna really stepped up and worked her butt off,” Henley said. “She’s incredibly coachable, she’s in great shape and she has a good understanding of the game. We want to work on shot selection and get her stronger in the paint, but she’s played very well.”

“Neither Kammrath or Newsum were starting at the beginning of the season. That shows you how hard they worked.”

Regardless of her lessened impact on the team’s offense, Kessler hasn’t slowed down. She dropped a career-high 33 points Wednesday against Olivet, and is now 28 points shy of 1,000 for her career.

“As only a junior, that’s amazing,” Henley said. “She’ll get it. The only question is whether she’ll get it at home or on the road.”

Kammrath and Newsum will have their hands full against Calvin’s inside game. Forwards Lisa Winkle — who averages 9.4 boards per game — and Marcia Harris seal up the inside.

Calvin has made 47.4 percent of its field goals and 37 percent from three-point range, a facet of their game that will take away the option of playing a zone defense. Combined with the post play, Calvin poses a potent threat. The way the Belles are playing, however, creates palpable excitement.

“We’re the ones that played them closest, with a one-point loss,” Henley said, referring to the 53-52 Belles loss on Jan. 6. “The Belles came a missed free-throw away from forcing overtime.”

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Hook, Line and Sinker

Irish forward Luke Harangody attempts a hook shot during Notre Dame’s 90-45 win over Winston-Salem No. 29.
Bulls
continued from page 20

said before practice Thursday. "Even though we’re not 9-3-2, we’re not 0-10, either. Also, they’ve been marketing this game in their athletic department since August. This will be their best home crowd and they’ll be looking to get their hands on us."

South Florida’s defense was also to frustrate Irish guard Russell Carter in the teams’ first meeting. The Bulls held the Big East’s second-leading scorer to just nine points — well below his 18.4 points per game conference average.

"It’s a very tough place to play in South Florida," Carter said. "A lot of teams have trouble down there."

Last time the teams squared off, Irish forward Rob Kurz picked up the slack while the Bulls concentrated on Carter. Kurz finished with a team-high 21 points and 10 rebounds.

"I think the one thing about our team is that we haven’t done all the things we want to do together. In the past, there are things to get one guy going if he isn’t going," Kurz said. "We’ve usually taken advantage of that. It’s one thing, a guy or two and other guys have scored."

Notre Dame, however, may have to play without Kurz for the second straight game. Against Villanova last Saturday, he exited in the second half with a sprained ankle and sat out Notre Dame’s 103-92 win at Syracuse Tuesday. Kurz would only shoot around in practice Thursday, and

maybe practice Friday, Brey said. As of now, Brey said it would be a game-time decision as to whether or not the junior big man will play.

"I don’t want to play any more without him," Brey said. "We need him no matter who we play in this league, but I also don’t want to do anything stupid and have this thing sore for three weeks. We will have to see how he is in Saturday afternoon.

Kurz is second on the team with 14.0 points per game and first with 8.8 rebounds per contest. If Kurz sits out, and South Florida is able to contain Carter again, point guard Tory Jackson and forwards Zach Hillesland and Luke Harangody will have increased importance in the offense. The trio has had no trouble contributing against Syracuse. Harangody (21 points, 13 rebounds) and Hillesland (14 points, 10 rebounds) each set season-highs in points and rebounds while Jackson scored a career-high 19 points at the Carrier Dome. Jackson was also able to break Syracuse’s full-court pressure and get to the free throw line late in the game, going 11-14-of-14 from the charity stripe.

"You’re seeing a young man (Jackson) who gets more confident every week. He’s had second thoughts about that in the week when he knew Kyle (McAlarney) was not coming back and that he is the guy." Brey said. "One of the things we’ve worked on is to put a set in to get him into the lane. I think we’re starting to learn how to use this type of point guard as a weapon."

South Florida center Kentrell Granberry hurt the Irish inside last time, scoring 23 points and grabbing 11 boards. If Kurz is not able to play, Notre Dame will have to adjust defensively.

The Irish could take an extra step inside in their man-to-man defense, or switch to a zone to prevent Granberry from hurting them inside again — something that has brought the Irish success earlier this season.

Notre Dame was able to effectively shut down St. John’s forward Lamont Hamilton in the second half, the Red Storm’s 71-68 win over the Irish last Tuesday. After Hamilton scored 23 points in the first half, Notre Dame switched to a 2-3 zone defense and kept Hamilton scoreless in the second half.

Contact Mike Hine at chrisne@nd.edu

Allen
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CROSSED WORLD
ADAM FAIRHOLM

ONE GOOD THING ABOUT WINTER. IT
THAT MAINTENANCE
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SUCH AS?

SUCH AS TURNING
OVER THE
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ON YEAR I
FORGET ABOUT
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AHAHAHAHAH! LET’S SEE
YOUR FAMILY, LIBERAL
ARTS EDUCATION GET
YOU OUT OF YOUR
PARKING SPACE NOW.

DAMMIT
SCRATCH

BLACK DOG
MICHAEL MIKUSKA

OMITTED
BIBLE PASSAGES

THE KINGDOM OF
GOD
(Luke 10:25)

AMEN, I SAY TO YOU: UP-UP-DOWN
DOWN-LEFT-RIGHT A. B. A. SELECT-START.

CROSSWORD
LIAM MORAN

A B O U T W I L L I T F X S
B. L 6 - P A S S A G E S

D 20 KICK IN
26}
23 FARM STAND
30 WONDERLAND
14 SHOP STEWARD,
32 RELAXED
17 "SOLD!"
14 "THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
15 B 9 N R E M O V E R
17 DEMON REVIS
12 ELL'S CHEST
9 U T H E D A
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KALEIDOSCOPE McDanielS

Do You Make Men M-E-L-T?
FILL IN THE BLANK: "Seizing a gay in

FRENCH READING: You get an adable

French reading and three things:

1. Fishing You might bite your feet, but lack

2. Playing a video game: You check it out to

3. Riding a bike: You go this and that to

4. Reading a book: You settle on a place to

5. A video game: You just check it out the

6. A romance novel: You get all turned on and

7. A practical joke: You try to come up with

8. An adable gay: You go to the gay in

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P R O S P E C T 4 1

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HOCKEY

No. 2 Notre Dame vies for top ranking at BGSU

Jackson not distracted by team's success

By KYLE CASSILY
News Writer

A No. 2 unanimous national ranking with several first-place votes in the last month of a long regular season means nothing. At least that's what the Irish say.

"The ranking is insignificant until if and when we get to Joe Louis Arena — and having to win there," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said in reference to the CCHA semifinals and championship in Detroit in March.

Coaches usually walk a mod­est line, but their players can sometimes be a little more forthcoming. Right? "Rankings are nice — they're nice to see sometimes — but we try to focus on every weekend coming up," sophomore left wing Garrett Regan said. "Right now where we're ranked isn't as important. Obviously we just want to keep playing as well as we can, and the rankings will take care of themselves."

Guess not.

But, whether they like it or not, the Irish name will come up across the country this weekend wherever national rankings are discussed, as the CCHA-leading Irishers travel to Bowling Green for a two-game series against the last-place Falcons. The first-ever No. 1 ranking in program history could hang on the Irish mantle, if only temporarily, with a sweep — and a little bit of Black Bear help.

If No. 9 Maine can take one — or both ends — of a little two-game series in the tiny village of Durham, N.H., against its archival No. 1 New Hampshire this weekend, the polissers could vault the Irish ahead of the Wildcats.

"To be [the] No. 1 ranked team, it doesn't bother me," Jackson said. "But fame is fleeting."

The Irish (21-5-2, 15-3-2 CCHA) come into the series against Bowling Green (2-2-1, 3-17-1 CCHA) after an emotional two-game series in the Big 10 Miami last weekend that strengthened Notre Dame's iron grip on first place in the CCHA.

With eight games remaining in the regular season, the Irish have a three-point lead over Michigan State and a four-point lead over Michigan Tech, as the Irish enter the weekend with CCHA-leading 19 wins.

If the Irish can win one of the games against the Falcons, they will be on the road for their first game in the national tournament. As of late Monday, the Falcons were one of the last eight teams to make it into the tournament.

"It's kind of a tough game to be coming off a three-game losing streak to face," Irish forward Rob Kurz (center) jumps to control the tip during Notre Dame's 66-63 win over Villanova Jan. 27. The Irish travel Saturday to face South Florida in Tampa.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish look to beat WVU, end losing streak

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is hoping to end its current three-game skid, but may have to wait as they face off against a surging West Virginia squad Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at the MAC.

The Irish (13-8, 4-6 Big East) are returning home after a three­game road trip in which the team failed to win a game. Meanwhile, the Mountaineers (15-7, 6-3 Big East) have taken a different route, winning seven straight and eight of their last ten games.

"They're playing really well right now, they're in fourth or fifth place in the Big East," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "So it's kind of a tough game to be coming off a three-game losing streak to face."

In the Irish's last game out against Pittsburgh, they failed to put two strong halves together and were outscored 45-34 in the second half en route to a 71-62 loss. One of the main factors in the team's losses over the road trip according to McGraw was the team's dependence on guard Charllie Allen.

"We need to get a little more from everyone, I think that we're relying on Charllie Allen a little bit more, unless you're looking for it, you won't notice it."

"We've scored 83 and 81 points our last two games, and it's not all [guard] Allison".

SMC BASKETBALL

SMC rests, prepares for Calvin

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

It would be tough to imagine — given the nature of the team's practice Thursday — the Belles are in the midst of a four-game winning streak as they travel to Calvin for a road game at Calvin Saturday.

After playing a version of the childhood game around the world, Saint Mary's (9-10, 8-4 MIAA) engaged in a free-throw competition. Each successive shot made allowed the player to advance one basket.

Reach the end and relax until time expires.

Fall short and run sprints. Shortly thereafter, cupcakes were distributed and as "Happy Birthday" was sung to forward Jane Fleming, who turned 19. After that, the team was dismissed.

"They've been playing hard," head coach Jennifer Henley said. "We don't want them to get burnt out."

The Belles are averaging 78.5 points over their last four games, 12 points above their season average. Leading the offense has been forward/center Erin Newsom. The sophomore — last week's MIAA Player of the Week — has averaged 19.3 points and 8.8 rebounds per game in the four-game stretch.

"Newsom has come full circle on defense," Henley said. "But unless you're looking for it, you won't notice it."

"We've scored 83 and 81 points our last two games, and it's not all [guard] Allison."

SILVER WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Juraj Kolnik breaks out of slump

The NHL releases its All-Star rosters, with the most notable exception being Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony.