Tickets vie for student body votes

Presidential candidates campaign in debate

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

The four tickets for Monday's student body presidential election met at LaFortune Student Center for the traditional presidential debates Wednesday night.

Junior Liz Brown and sophomore Maris Braun, juniors Danny Smith and Ashley Weems, freshmen Cipriano Rivera and sophomore Catherine Kane, and freshmen Garrett Coggon and Mike Padberg were given a platform to present their respective proposals to improve student life at Notre Dame and sway a few votes before Monday's election.

Lack of realistic goals shocks, dissappoints

I've come to the conclusion that no one on this campus knows just how important student government is.

And yes, that's impotent, not important.

Amanda Michaels
Assistant News Editor

Campus culture can be culprit for disorders

Weight gain concerns may lead women to bulimia, binge eating, anorexia, excessive exercising

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder and muscular dysmorphia are as prevalent at Notre Dame as at other college campuses — if not more so — due to a variety of factors within the University's environment, say University staff members and the conference's student organizers.

Perfectionism and competition

Student body presidential ticket members Lizzi Antonelli and Joe Incandela stepped out to share personal stories about dealing with eating disorders and the Campus Culture conference, which begins today.

"Notre Dame is really a pressure cooker for these disorders," said Valerie Stascular, a counselor and eating disorders specialist at the University Counseling Center, said typical Notre Dame students "work hard and play hard."

"Both can coexist. Both can be negative," she said. "Finding a balance is a challenge for many students. Many have excelled in the past and find it difficult when they aren't number one, but one of many very successful students."

"It's a very competitive, perfectionist culture," Shappell said. "I think that combined with the pressures that most women and men, even, experience from the media — those two things together make the college campus a high pressure environment for keeping up that aura of perfection."

Notre Dame Food Services meteorologist Jovonn Bowes also stressed the dangers of perfectionism, which she said creates a pruneness to eating disorders.

"[Students] want perfection in every area — including how they look and how they eat," Antonelli said.

Such perfectionism can foster eating disorders and body image issues, ranging from compulsive exercising and anorexia to bingeing and purging meals, Shappell said.

Campus culture can be culprit for disorders

"We are a part of Theology series — an ingrained sense of guilt and awareness that we diminish who we are."

"And yes, that's impotent, not free will — choices that take us closer to damnation, or literally we are damned," he said. "Choices bring us closer or further away from God. When we go against our conscience, we diminish who we are."

Incandela said it is important to realize how our actions are definitive of our conscience and our actions are the starting point for right and wrong.

"To share personal stories is simple, the starting point for right and wrong."

Visiting professor of theology and College Professor Joe Incandela spoke to a full house in the Annenberg Public Policy Center and professor of communication at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania gave a lecture entitled "Deception in Politics," a field in which he is nationally accredited as an expert in political communications.

"In political communication, there is a belief that the public is duped by the amount of deception that seems to be inherent in the political arena."

Annette Kamaras-The Observer

A snow plow clears a sidewalk Monday near the Jordan Hall of Science.
**INSIDE COLUMN**

**A woman’s scorn**

Dateline Italy — The land of pizza, Popes and pasta. Enter the latest, hottest political scandal. No, it’s not about pregnant chads, a stained dress, or even a major political figure yelling “byaaa” during a speech.

It’s about honor, loyalty and respect. I’m talking about, of course, the scandal involving the former Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, 70. It seems that he made a few comments, such as, to Miss Amazonia Aida Yespica, “I’d go with you anywhere.” And about a Member of Parliament of his own party, Mara Carfagna, “Take a look at her! I’ll marry her if I weren’t married already.”

If I weren’t married already. He’s married, of course, to the (beautiful, if I say so myself) former model and actress Veronica Berlusconi, 50. His wife of 27 years.

To us Americans, this may not seem so bad. Admittedly, those old enough to remember the last 10 years have been desensitized to extramarital affairs in government. But it seems that, while that evokes a “boys will be boys” response from the electorate, the deliberative, public, verbal besmirching of a woman’s honor is intolerable. I mean, I didn’t see any letters to the New York Times after the events of 1998.

But Veronica returned fire: “These are affirmations that I see as damaging to my dignity, affirmations that can not be reduced to jokes,” she wrote in a New York Times after the events of 1998.

I am impressed. I applaud Veronica for having the courage to stand up for this affront to her self-respect.

On the other hand, in 2002, while he was prime minister, Berlusconi said of the Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen that Rasmussen was “the best-looking prime minister in Europe... He’s so good looking, I’m even thinking of introducing him to my wife.”

He also said that he charmed the Finnish prime minister, a woman, into allowing the EU to build a facility in Italy by using “all my playboy tactics, even if they have not been used for some time.”

Between you and me, I think Veronica should’ve seen this coming. If Berlusconi wasn’t using his A-game “playboy tactics” at home, he had no business using them abroad. You don’t slack off during the year and work hard during summer vacation.

Now Veronica has a tell-all book deal, “Surround yourself with big sweaty men.” She should’ve seen this coming. If she hadn’t been impressed by him before, he told her about his past. And the man who he had broken into her home and was pushing her toward the bedroom.

Stewart said the woman pretended she was having a heart attack and told the intruder her heart medication was in her car in the garage. After they retrieved the medication, the man fled.

**IN BRIEF**

Freelance writer, editor and publisher Anne Elizabeth Moore will teach her tricks of the trade at 2 p.m. today in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune Center.

David Lodge from the department of Biological Sciences will give the lecture “The Other Alien Debate: Biology and Policy of Invasive Species” at 4 p.m. today in room 120 of the Law School.

Efram Inbar, Professor of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University, will give the lecture “Israel’s Security Environment” tonight at 8 in Room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center.

As part of the Notre Dame Literary Festival, writer, novelist, essayist, editor, and founder of the independent book publishing house McSweeney’s, Dave Eggers will read from his latest work in Room 101, DeBartolo Hall tonight at 11.

Join the ND community for “Artists for Africa,” a special evening of celebration for Africa with music, dance, and education at 10 tonight at Legends.

The Kellogg Institute will be hosting the annual Celebration of Brazilian Carnaval featuring live music by the group “Chicazo Samba,” Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight in South Dining Hall. Admission is free.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to:

**CORRECTIONS**

In the Feb. 7 edition of The Observer, the article "New Engineering building approved," reported that the University did not declare the name of the architect charged with the construction project. In fact, the University did announce RSA Design, an Indianapolis-based firm, is already working on the project.

**LOCAL WEATHER**

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**TODAY’S QUOTE**

"Surround yourself with big sweaty men."

Joey Statz, freshman Alumni

"Hot chocolate and warm clothes."

Christine Kennedy, freshman Alumni

"A very furry suit."

Alex Gorrell, freshman Alumni

"Beast up."

Mike Schubert, junior Alumni

"It's impossible."

Elisha Acosta, senior Badin

"Under armor."

Britta Zoeller, seniors Badin

**QUESTION OF THE DAY:** What’s the best way to stay warm in the cold?

**IN TOWN**

**Students eat and discuss Interface issues with panelists at the "Dialogue on the Americas: A Multi Race Conversation" forum Wednesday in the Coleman Morse Center.**

**OFFBEAT**

**Woman fakes heart attack, scares off intruder**

HAMPDEN, Maine — An 80-year-old Hampden woman who was watching the Super Bowl alone faked a heart attack to scare off a man who had broken into her home and was pushing her toward the bedroom.

Stewart said the woman pretended she was having a heart attack and told the intruder her heart medication was in her car in the garage. After they retrieved the medication, the man fled.

**CLEAN TOILETS**

The Kellogg Institute will be hosting the annual Celebration of Brazilian Carnaval featuring live music by the group “Chicazo Samba,” Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight in South Dining Hall. Admission is free.

**TO SUBMIT INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION OF THE OBSERVATION, E-MAIL DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT AN EVENT TO:**

**Carnaval featuring live music**

KUALA LUMPUR — It’s never too late for toilet training. Some Malaysian colleges may soon offer courses on how to keep public restrooms clean, the national news agency reported Thursday.

The effort is meant to help Malaysia’s public lavatories become as hygienic as those in countries such as Britain and Singapore, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Robert Lau was quoted as saying by Bernama news agency.

“Clean toilets cannot merely be judged by the eyes,” Lau was quoted as saying. “This matter also involves the use of cleaning equipment, soap, fragrances and proper tis- sues.”

**Information compiled from the Associated Press.**

**TODAY’S QUESTION:** What’s the best way to stay warm in the cold?

**JOEY STATZ**

fresenian Alumni

"Surround yourself with big sweaty men."

**CHRISTINE KENNEDY**

fresenian Alumni

"Hot chocolate and warm clothes."

**ALEX GORRELL**

fresenian Alumni

"A very furry suit."

**MIKE SCHUBERT**

junior Alumni

"Beast up."

**ELISHA ACOSTA**

senior Badin

"It’s impossible."

**BRITTA ZOELE**

seniors Badin

"Under armor."
Amnesty International seeks new campus-wide coffee campaign

By KAITLYN RILEY
Associate News Editor

Notre Dame Amnesty International president Gary Nijak took the podium at the Senate meeting Wednesday to brief senators about progress made in the Fair Trade coffee campaign.

On Oct. 4 Senate passed a resolution calling for Fair Trade coffee to be exclusively offered in all non-Trained Food Services operations. This exclusivity has not been achieved.

The campaign needs a new marketing strategy, Nijak said Wednesday. They are aiming for a “new attempt at marketing a social justice program rather than a fee to be exclusively offered in all classrooms at Notre Dame.”

Nijak wants to branch the initiative beyond just coffee and try to introduce Fair Trade chocolate in campus dining halls.

“This isn’t something that is limited to coffee,” Nijak said. “This is a much larger idea.”

An Oct. 5 Observer article described Fair Trade pricing as a commitment to pay farmers $1.26 per pound of coffee beans, which should be enough to support a family. Fair Trade coffee allows farmers to sell beans directly to the roaster rather than go through millers, exporters and importers.

Amnesty International and other groups on campus have several events planned for later in the semester regarding the Fair Trade issue, including a showing of the movie “Black Gold” at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center and a lecture by theology professor Mary D’Angelo on Fair Trade and how it relates to teachings of the Catholic Social Tradition.

The majority of Wednesday’s meeting was spent discussing details regarding oversight in the student government — a topic that has been the subject of much debate in Senate and in the Council of Representatives over the past few weeks. The Senate first passed a resolution that allows the chairperson of the Senate to “waive committee assignment of any resolution, letter or order and hold immediate consideration of it before the Senate in extraordinary circumstances.”

This resolution allows all non-constitutional amendments to be passed through Senate meetings quickly should the need arise.

After this resolution was passed, Senate Oversight committee chair Chris Hollon brought up two more oversight issues for discussion. The senators debated transferring the account number for presidential programming from under the Student Union Board (SUB) to student government and also breaking the monetary limit on an organization like SUB may spend before it must notice the Financial Management Board. Questions, discussions and debate continued for approximately 30 minutes until senator Marians Monte’s said the senators should delay debating the issue until a resolution has been written.

In other Senate news:

• Faculty senate representative Linda Sharp said the Faculty Senate discussed clarifying the honor code and developing definite plans for crisis situations in classrooms at Notre Dame at their meeting this week.

Contact Kaitlynn Riley at kriley@nd.edu

Saint Mary’s Web site restructured, updated

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

Visitors to Saint Mary’s homepage might have been surprised at what they saw when they accessed the Web site after Jan. 15. After nearly six years, the College’s homepage unveiled its new look in early January with an initiative of freshmen Ashley Nealon deemed a “good public relations move.”

Keith Fowlkes, chief information officer at Saint Mary’s, explained from a technological standpoint that a Content Management System (CMS), which allows for easier updating, more interactive features and the ability to share information amongst multiple sites on campus, now drives the new site.

“Basically, it’s the newest, latest and greatest edition of software allowing us to keep up to date and manage all of the information on the Web site,” he said.

Fowlkes said the OIT system at Saint Mary’s would no longer use an HTML editor for creating web pages. In addition, the internal Web site has new forums and discussion centers which will allow visitors to partake in interactive surveys and posts.

“The main purpose of our new design was to add a little bit more flexibility for our visitors,” said Janet Flahaven, assistant director of web communications at Saint Mary’s. “Our old design, which hadn’t been updated since 2001, was a little more static, but these changes will give us more freedom to move things around and feature new things.”

Flahaven also mentioned that feedback from faculty and students has been, on the whole, very positive.

“People seem to appreciate the fact that the Web site is easier to navigate and operate,” she said.

The tinkering, however, isn’t quite yet finished. Employees at Saint Mary’s office of information technology are still working on other projects to increase ease and convenience for students and faculty.

“We still have some projects with CMS that we’ll be working on for the next few months, including chat services and blogs for admissions and financial aid relations,” Fowlkes said. “The software gives us so much levity in what we can do, and we’re still trying to figure out what the best thing for the college and its outside constituents.”

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu
Whitman suggests increased federal action to cut back on emissions, served one term as first female governor of N.J.

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

"While the environment is in better shape than it was 50 years ago, there is still work to be done," former Environment Protection Agency Administrator and one-time New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman said Wednesday during her "Shaping the Future: America's Environment Today" lecture.

Whitman, a Republican who served for two years in the Bush White House, stressed the importance of market-based solutions to the environmental crises of greenhouse gas and fossil fuel emissions.

"What is good environmental stewardship is also good for business," she said. "We don't have to make a choice between having a healthy environment and a thriving economy."

Although the modern environmental movement began in the 1970s with the federal government mandating stricter emission standards against the wishes of business leaders, the roles have changed.

"Today, the responsible leaders of American businesses are asserting that the federal government is not taking mandatory actions," she said. "It's a natural progress in most responsible leaders that they are more concerned with the environment."

While the Bush administration has enacted voluntary environmental reform programs, Whitman said these initiatives do not go far enough to help reverse the challenges the world faces.

"Although she hailed voluntary governmental programs such as Energy Star and Climate Leaders, Whitman said more federal action is essential."

"A mandatory carbon cap is necessary and probable within the next five years," she said. Whitman advocated a solution to the environmental crisis that requires businesses to meet certain standards, but allows them to meet these standards in a way that is profitable to the company. As part of this so-called "cap-and-trade" system - similar to the system employed to reduce acid rain — the government would set targets to be reached, but companies have to decide how to reach them in accord with their own best interests.

When companies are unable to reach the mandatory targets, they are able to buy emission capabilities from companies that have surpassed the regulations. The cap-and-trade system is most effective because "the government is not innovative, but the private sector is," Whitman said.

Whitman said environmental responsibility will not limit economic and industrial growth.

"Businesses can protect the environment in a way that enhances their bottom line and doesn't limit their growth," she said.

"We need to make it profitable for businesses to do the right thing for the environment. I don't care about their motives if they're doing the right thing," Whitman said.

Whitman said the White House did not manipulate climate change scientific evidence during her term as EPA administrator. She believes that policy dictates the results of scientific investigation at the federal level.

"When the science goes against what certain people want, it just gets dropped from the report," she said.

"The policy doesn't always have to be based on just the science, but they need to let the science be the science."

"In her fight for environmental responsibility, Whitman said she does not hold others to a higher standard than she holds herself. The former governor drives a Toyota Prius, which — according to Car and Driver Magazine — averages 60 miles per gallon in the city.

"I love my Prius, but we're not going to change what cars people drive right away," she said.

Whitman also serves as the president of The Whitman Strategy Group, a consulting firm specializing in the environment and governmental bipartisanship. She is also the leader of the “It’s My Party Too” political action committee, which works to elect moderate Republican candidates.

Contact John Tierney at jtierney@nd.edu
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Lebanese, Israeli exchanges fire

JERUSALEM — Fighting broke out between Israeli and Lebanese soldiers Wednesday night as Israel searched for Hezbollah bombs along the border and officials from both sides said Lebanese soldiers opened fire and Israeli troops responded with tanks and light weapons, Israeli security officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Lebanese military officials said their troops opened fire with machine guns on a bulldozer after the vehicle crossed the Lebanese side of the security boundary and entered about 20 yards into Israeli territory.

Prehistoric remains found hugging

ROME — They died young and, by the looks of it, in love. Two 5,000-year-old skeletons found locked in an embrace near Mantua, 25 miles south of Verona, the city where Shakespeare set the star-crossed tale “Romeo and Juliet,” have sparked the remains of a far more ancient love story have been found.

Archaeologists unearthed the skeletons dating back to the late Neolithic period outside Mantua, 25 miles south of Verona, the city where Shakespeare set the story of doomed love. Buried between 5,000 and 6,000 years ago, the prehistoric couple are believed to have been a man and a woman and are thought to have died young, because their teeth are found intact, said Elena Menotti, the archaeologist who led the dig.

“An as far as we know, it’s unique,” Menotti told The Associated Press by telephone from Milan. “Double burials from the Neolithic are unheard of, and these are the archaeologist who led the dig.”

The tests do not affect cadets’ grade-point averages, but they must pass to advance to the next level.

Air Force cadets caught cheating

FORT LEWIS — A judge declared a mistrial Wednesday that the first steps on the road to peace were taken last month when North Korea kicked out nuclear inspectors and restarted its main reactor, moves that culminated in the first tangible progress on the six-nation talks on financial restrictions it was demanding.

Some part of any breakthrough may defy rational explanation, but those who know Nowak and NASA could sense the stress she was under.

Dr. Jon Clark, a former NASA flight surgeon who lost his wife, a stroke victim, in the Columbia disaster, said Nowak provided invaluable support to his family then, at the cost of losing time with her own family.

The woman viewed as a role model by the schoolchildren she addressed was met on the tarmac by police and escorted into a waiting squad car. Her head was covered by a jacket. She was later released on bail, with orders to stay away from the other woman and to wear a monitoring device for a medical assessment, a day after she was charged in court with attempted murder.

North Korea restarts peace talks

BEIJING — International talks on North Korea's nuclear program convened Tuesday with a new sense of optimism about the possibility of the first tangible progress on the communist nation's disarmament since negotiations began more than three years ago.

The main U.S. envoy said Wednesday that the first steps on dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear weapons could be agreed upon at this round of meetings in Beijing, though the next steps were uncertain.

Ahead of the six-nation negotiations, the North has also signaled it's satisfied with changes in the United States' attitude, following an apparent greater willingness by all sides to compromise.

The latest nuclear standoff with the North started in late 2002 after Washington accused Pyongyang of having a secret uranium enrichment program in violation of a 1994 deal between the two countries. North Korea kicked out nuclear inspectors and restarted its main reactor, moves that culminated in the first tangible progress on the six-nation talks on financial restrictions it was demanding.

Although the U.S. and key North Korean allies China and Russia backed U.N. sanctions after the nuclear test, Washington has since engaged in a series of diplomatic overtures that have drawn praise from Pyongyang.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill went to Germany last month to meet North Korean nuclear envoy Kim Kye Gwan, and the North later said the sides had reached an unspecified agreement. The specifics of what they discussed haven't been made public.

Washington has also held separate talks on financial restrictions it has placed on a Macau-based bank where the North held accounts, accusing it of complicity in the regime's alleged counterfeiting and money-laundering. Blacklisting that bank has scared off other financial institutions from dealings with the North for fear of losing access to the U.S. market.
Antonelli said. "This summer I had a woman has struggled with, at least conducted much more secretively, and purging — two behaviors to be healthy or reduce stress," reshaping their body rather than the sole purpose of burning calories or when the individual does so for the exercise could be questionable to exercise excessively long or to exercise too much or for the wrong reasons, Staples said. "We have had incidents with both males and females where concern has been expressed, either by a patron or staff," she said. Staples said the athletic culture at Notre Dame could also be a contributing factor behind these disorders. "Certainly athleticism is a piece of what drives this," she said. "Men tend to increase exercise and working out as a way to reshape their body rather than by dieting as women do." While the Counseling Center sees only "a few" men each year with eating disorder issues, that certainly does mean there aren't many of them affected, Staples said. "Men are not immune to the cultural focus on appearance, but often it find more difficulty to acknowledge a problem for fear of being seen as having a woman's problem," she said.

Counseling Center services in place While conference organizers hope the event creates awareness of and dialogue about eating disorders, the Counseling Center already has a variety of services to help students struggling with disorders, Staples said. Options include individual or group counseling sessions. "The approach to treatment is comprehensive and involves students working with a physician from Health Services," she said. The Counseling Center also consults family, friends and faculty members to detect potential victims of food or body image disorders, Staples said.

Students can call to schedule an appointment or contact health services. Wherever they feel most comfortable starting, they "will be put in touch with the other aspects of the treatment team," Staples said.

Staples said that an estimated 13 to 15 percent of the students who come to the Counseling Center each year seek counseling for eating, weight or body image concerns.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

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Conference

continued from page 1

crowd contributes to the development of eating disorders, she said.

Disordered eating and exercising

Assistant Ashley Weiss, chair of the Student Senate Gender Issues committee, and graduate student and co-conference coordinator Abigail Wishon said they believe eating disorders are more common across Notre Dame's campus than people realize -- or are willing to accept.

"It's something that you wake up and see everyday," Weiss said. "You see the girls that wake up and go running every morning or the guys that are constantly at the gym -- and then at the dining halls, you can see the health food craze," she said. "None of these things are bad, but just taken to the extreme."

Shappell agreed, saying she knows a substantial number of people in high school and at Notre Dame afflicted with eating disorders.

"I think that body image is something that nearly every young woman has struggled with, at least at some point in time," she said.

At Notre Dame, Antonelli said she thinks eating disorders often stem from dieting or restrictive eating habits. Whether a student stops snacking, skips meals or eliminates carbohydrates, these habits -- often paved with good intentions -- can lead to disorders, she said.

Overall, students seem to put great emphasis on eating and staying healthy, but in some cases students become so food-conscious they are anxious about eating, she added.

"Some people are so concerned about the 'freshman 15,' " Antonelli said. "This summer I had several students call before school started, stating they were anxious about (gaining weight). That's never happened before."

Antonelli said she regularly sees students for nutritional counseling. If she believes a student is suffering from an eating disorder, she will refer the student to the Counseling Center; she said.

In addition to problems with food, obsessive or compulsive exercising may also become an issue for those struggling with body image disorders.

With a high percentage of former varsity athletes comprising Notre Dame student body, "our campus is extremely athletic," Shappell said. Such athleticism can place too much attention on staying fit and looking good, she said.

Notre Dame RecSports co-director Sally Derengoski said while RecSports provides services to students that promote healthy exercising habits -- including the new personal training program -- staff members sometimes see students "take it to the extreme."

"The great majority of students who come to play or work out are doing so within a range that is helpful and healthy," Derengoski said. "Do we see cases that exceed that range? Certainly, and in those cases we work with the Counseling Center and the Office of Student Affairs to best provide for the student."

However, a person doesn't have to exercise excessively long or hard to be suffering from an eating disorder, Staples said.

"A questionable amount of exercise could be questionable when the individual does so for the sole purpose of burning calories or reshaping their body rather than to be healthy or reduce stress," Staples said.

Staples also mentioned binging and purging -- two behaviors conducted much more secretly, they can do anything else." Derengoski said male Notre Dame students who exercise to a certain extent have attracted attention.

"We have had incidents with both males and females where concern has been expressed, either by a patron or staff," she said.

Staples said the athletic culture at Notre Dame could also be a contributing factor behind these disorders. "Certainly athleticism is a piece of what drives this," she said. "Men tend to increase exercise and working out as a way to reshape their body rather than by dieting as women do."

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EU debates emission restrictions

European Commission sets goal for lowering carbon dioxide output by 2012

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Commission announced a binding rules Wednesday to force automakers to cut carbon dioxide emissions from new cars sold in the European Union by 2012, arguing the tough measure was crucial for fighting global warming.

The plan faces strong opposition from the auto industry, and EU officials acknowledged it would likely lead to a rise in the price of new cars.

It forces lower emissions limits of nearly 210 grams of carbon dioxide per mile for new cars sold or imported into the EU by 2012. Average emissions are now around 260 grams per mile.

EU Industry Commissioner Guenter Verheugen said governments should open up its anti-piracy technology to rivals instead.

"We have to be clear about this, it is something which would considerably increase manufacturing costs per car," he said, but added that extra costs "will be more than balanced by the fact that cars will have greater fuel efficiency.

The plan also calls for increased use of biofuels and cleaner fossil fuels, meant to reduce car emissions by 25 percent, even over the less ambitious 216-gram objective, EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said. He also called for added research to get a 153-gram-per-mile level by 2020.

"If action is delayed, it will cost far more," Dimas said.

He pointed to a U.N. scientist panel report Friday that warned that global warming was so severe that it would continue unfolding.

"Winning the battle to prevent dangerous climate change ... will require very substantial reductions of greenhouse gases from all parts of the economy should participate and transport is very important," he said.

The United States does not regulate carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles, although the government and several states are looking into proposals, said John Millet, a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency.

California has adopted a plan, which the auto industry has challenged in a lawsuit, for incremental decreases in carbon dioxide emissions, beginning with cars made in 2009. Cars and light trucks made that year would be limited to 323 grams of carbon dioxide per mile. By 2016, that figure would drop to 205 grams per mile, a 30 percent reduction over cars made in 2002.

EU officials argued that new rules, if backed by EU governments, would keep Europe's alluring car industry viable in the long-term, amid growing cheap imports from Asia.

"The EU car industries are at the core of our economies," said EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. "By positively taking up the climate change challenge, they will preserve and enhance their competitiveness in the long-term.

Barroso is pushing EU governments to shift the 27-nation bloc to a low carbon economy as a way of tackling global warming and carving out a new industrial niche for European industries.

EU officials have said automakers have failed to meet voluntary caps on car emissions set with the commission nine years ago, when they pledged to reduce average emissions from new and imported cars to 225 grams of carbon dioxide per mile by 2008.

Lawmakers grab third rail in capital

WASHINGTON — Back-channel efforts by the White House and Capitol Hill Democrats to begin trying to negotiate a solution to the fiscal problems of Social Security and other federal benefit programs appeared to collapse Wednesday.

Both sides have repeatedly acknowledged it would likely lead to a rise in the price of new cars.

The idea of establishing the negotiating group had come close to the brink, Conrad said in an interview Saturday, but Vice President Dick Cheney set talks back last month after saying in a Fox News Sunday interview that the administration continues to oppose payroll tax hikes as part of a broader Social Security solution.

The panel was likely to have first focused on Social Security.

The Senate Budget Committee's top Republican, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, said House Democrats opposed the idea.

"People on the other side are more interested in the next election than the next generation," Gregg said.
Snow
continued from page 1
30 people who work three shifts for campus snow removal, he said. It's Thistlewaite's, superinten dent of landscaping services.
Three employees work from 3:30 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. and if snowfall isn't too heavy, Thistlewaite said they would work a third shift from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. During that period, the most workers are employed. There are always exceptions, though. Precautions are taken as snow starts to fall, as soon as flurries begin.
When there's more than flurries, the students work: Thistlewaite said, additional people join the second shift and the snow plows run an extra four hours to end work.
The current bitterly cold temperatures only complicate the matter. As the thermometer drops below 0°F, and snow falls during the day, the removal process slows down.
In three different temperatures, chemicals used to remove the snow from sidewalks, driveways, and ice are less efficient than in warmer weather.
Thistlewaite said: "When the temperatures are in the twenties, we can have the walkways down to bare pavement and dry by the time we get home from school. But when snow falls at a rate of one inch per hour, the sidewalk won't be cleared until the next day," he said.
When snow falls at a rate of half inch per hour during the daytime, the removal process becomes even more challenging. Some areas of campus that require extra priority are prioritized to make the process more efficient. Other areas, such as roads, are the top priority.
Thistlewaite said: "But sometimes we can't get around the parking places for faculty, students, and commuting students."
Although Thistlewaite recognized that plows are students, student parking places are often the last to be cleared after snow removal, he said.
Thistlewaite said work exists for the crews. "As soon as the cars are already there and most students are already on campus. While the cars are there, the crews can't get into the areas they need to clear because the cars that insist on parking illegally can block the people from their cars," he said.
"Contrary to popular belief, we don't really try to plow people out of that area," said Thistlewaite. "Sometimes is just that there is too much snow on the streets when cars are left in lots that need to be plowed."
The Snow Service is also trying to use the salt and o other compounds, he said.
"We like to think we're one of the leaders in the environmentally-friendly salt and other compounds," Thistlewaite said. "These chemicals are byproducts of oil wells, and they are not hazardous and do not harm plant life."
Debate
continued from page 1
The candidates brought different ideas to the table, beginning with Brown and Weiss' extensive involvement in student government. Collectively they have served on the nine student senate committees.
Fellow contenders Rivera and Kane have extensive involvement in their military leadership experiences. They also highlighted their across-the board participation in student government.
Coggon and Padberg used common concern for the lack of involvement in student councils.
"We are the only men on the ticket and therefore morally superior to others," Coggon quipped in his opening statement.
Smith and Weiss emphasized their "technology initiatives" as the heart of their campaign, presenting proposals to make the purchase of football tickets available via the use of Domino Dollars in the Notre Dame Stadium possible. The pair also discussed their involvement with Ruckus Network Inc. to "be sure that students are kept informed and up to date from a progressive music downloading," Smith said.
Brown however, had doubts concerning Ruckus' ability to provide a complete music experience. "We have concerns about their ability to deal with some of the wealthiest and most educated women in the country as they're being asked to let the University take a major earnings and national competition away from us. It's not just a matter of up to make its name — it's a "research university" problem," Brown said.
It was at that point that I chocked on my Coke. Smith, was obvious from Kane's comment to The Observer on Feb. 11 that Brown-Braun was not a solution.
"I'm sure there are some of the wealthiest and most educated women in any sense to me, and Ruckus' sensibility [the Web site doesn't help clarify]," Brown said. "Sometimes this is just something I can imagine.
Brown-Braun: It's my turn to say anything on it. I'd be shocked if we ever said anything on it.
"But Brown-Braun would be well-advised to get the people that they need to talk about it."
"I absolutely agree with the budget — which is where I think any dealings with Food Services should start."}

Column
continued from page 1
I've been here.
Brown said she was already in talks with the head of Food Services, Dave Prcntkowski.
"Talk is good, but it is also cheap for the University. I'd be absolutely shocked if anyone had any idea how the organization would work to bring it down."
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Jamieson continued from page 1

Jamieson then took the stage and immediately grabbed the audience’s attention by tackling her grave subject material with an interactive approach.

“Why don’t we co-create this lecture?” she asked.

Jamieson referenced Aristotle’s theories on enthymemes and public speech, which favor deductive arguments and interaction with the audience, respectively.

“Using enthymeme, we can make active communication, which will make this talk more powerful,” she said.

Jamieson then traced the duplicity of politics to the 1964 presidential election, inviting the audience to analyze President Lyndon Johnson’s controversial anti-nuclear warfare ad campaign.

She said the 1964 election was “the dirtiest election in politics,” and all started there, she said. “This ad served as an ironic reference point for dirty politics.”

Jamieson asked the audience to interpret the ads and explain how they swayed their thoughts on each candidate. She proceeded to show another Johnson ad, which never aired due to its sensationalist content, and featured video clips of the Ku Klux Klan and said members supported Republican candidate Senator Barry Goldwater.

“People are often bothered by the juxtaposition of ads and the placement of people and things,” she said.

Jamieson then fast-forwarded to the 2004 presidential election and the role of the Internet in political campaigns. She said a viral slip-up from Vice President Dick Cheney led audiences to visit an online blog that endorsed Republican ticket instead of Republican Edwards ticket instead of Republican platforms — mistakenly benefiting his opponent.

These blogs and other Web-based news feeds may determine future political outcomes as their popularity among the voters increases, she said. “Although [bloggers] are one-sided, they are complete and show the future of campaigning and reaching the audience,” she said.

She said political contenders down the road would need to integrate the growing trend to their campaigns’ strategies.

“In politics today, young people need to find a way to make [the Internet] work for them,” she said. “You can fix the system using technology and find new ways to change the system.”

Jamieson ended the lecture with questions.

After Jamieson’s farewell, Pauley took the stage and invited Jamieson to say a few words. Pauley presented her with a collection of letters from the alumni who endorsed her lecture series. Veltie recognized Jamieson’s accomplishments and her lasting impact on her students in her opening statement.

“We want to note her (Johnson’s) many contributions to Saint Mary’s and her impact on countless young women,” she said. “Over 1,000, to be exact.”

Students from the graduating classes of 1981-2004 were responsible for the series and provided funding for the endowment.

Dr. John Pauley, communications professor and chair of the Communication Studies department, was the driving force behind the series to honor his longtime colleague. “[Plamondon] stood beside, behind me and with me since I came here in 1991 and this has not changed,” he said.

Plamondon said the expansion of the department during her time in the College would have not been possible without the contributions of the entire Saint Mary’s community.

“The department has grown and changed over the years,” Jamieson said. And I want to clear up the deception... everything I have accomplished has been due to the wonderful support of my students, colleagues and administrators.”

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohleO 1@ saintmarys.edu

Law & ....

Please join the Law School for its 2006-2007 series of interdisciplinary discussions. All programs begin at 4:00 p.m. and will be held in Law School room 120.

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Human Rights and Human Atrocities in Uganda

Presenter: Todd David Whitmore

Department of Theology

Respondent: Doug Cassel

Center for Civil and Human Rights,
The Law School

Thursday, November 9, 2006

The Biophysics of Life and Public Policy Disputes: Interfacing with the Scientific Community on Bioethical Issues

Presenter: Phillip Sloan

Program of Liberal Studies

Respondent: Carter Sneed

The Law School

Thursday, February 8, 2007

The Other Alien Debate: Biology and Policy of Invasive Species

Presenter: David Lodge

Department of Biological Sciences

Respondent: Alejandro Camacho

The Law School

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Identifying Tax Effects on Charitable Giving

Presenter: Daniel Hungerman

Department of Economics and Econometrics

Respondent: Iloyd Mayer

The Law School
It's that time of year again — when the arctic South Bend air will induce frostbite in mere minutes and when you wonder why on earth you endure such excruciating conditions just to get an education.

And as you witness countless students wiping out on the icy sidewalks, your thoughts might skate backwards in time to a young woman who was once the epitome of "trouble on ice" — former figure skater Tonya Harding.

True, Harding was the first woman to nail the triple axle, double toe loop combination, but we all know that her name would've melted into obscurity — that is, if she hadn't been a co-conspirator in the 1994 clubbing of her nemesis, Nancy Kerrigan.

And yet this skating saga was a measly single axle compared to that spectacle that would spin in the coming summer, boosting former football star O.J. Simpson into Gold Medal spectacle that would spin in the coming summer, boosting former football star O.J. Simpson into Gold Medal position on the award stand of infamy.

True — Simpson was the first NFL running back to rush for over 2,000 yards in a single season, but we all know that his name would bear nowhere near the notoriety that it does today, had he not allegedly slain (oh, wait, he was acquitted in the criminal trial) his ex-wife, Nicole Brown, and her friend, Ron Goldman.

And yet both the football-player-turned-murderer and the figure-skater-turned-clubbing-conspirator realized eternal renown without dropping thousands of dollars (and adding dozens of layers of clothing) en route to a top-tier education.

What about the talent-less former up-and-down dancer Kevin Federline? As subzero temperatures descended upon South Bend last Sunday, Federline starred in a Super Bowl commercial, our society's sure sign of infinite reprieve. And how did he attain that sought-after status symbol? He merely married (and then divorced) a trampy pop music icon.

What about former White House intern Monica Lewinsky? She simply "pleased" then-President Bill Clinton, thus securing her own medal of notoriety.

What about former Enron CEO (and now deceased) Kenneth Lay? Well, he surely would've netted straight 6.0's in the category of egregious corporate fraud. And after that infamous seat belt, his name was undoubtedly propelled into another esteemed category — that of the forevermore recognizable.

Likewise, what about Loren Bobbit? I needn't tell you what she did to earn her place among the notorious; more likely than not, you're already familiar with her butchery tale.

And what about Notre Dame alumne Steve Bartman? In 2003, he caught the sniper of a city — and thus, eternal infamy. And he did this using only his hand; not his coveted Notre Dame degree.

So why then do we trek through polar snows and tolerate the "wind tunnel" of South Quad? After all, we can clearly attain everlasting renown without either an education or that highly sought-after piece of paper.

What's the moral of this story? Perhaps you should ditch your goose-down coat and your biology textbook. Maybe what you really need is a trampy wife or a black leather glove that you can claim doesn't fit.

Otherwise you, as just one of the many well-meaning students who slip on the ice in front of DeBartolo, will slip into obscurity like Tonya Harding should have.

You surely don't want a frostbitten nose. But don't you want to be frozen in time?

Liz Coffey is a senior American Studies major and Journalism, Ethics and Democracy minor. Her column appears every other Thursday. She can be reached at ecoffey@nd.edu.
Last Sunday's Super Bowl garnered the second-largest TV audience in the history of our country for a sporting event. My own conviction is that I sometimes prefer the conference playoff games because I find them more exciting than the Super Bowl itself. But a lot of people enjoy watching the advertisements that sell for millions of dollars. One would assume that paying that much money for a 30-second or 60-second ad would encourage the advertisers themselves to put their best foot forward. That certainly was the case on Sunday.

We all know how significant the media is in forming values. We are hoping to use advertising to shape what values should be the most important ones for us as a people and a culture. If that is the case, the spate of rather violent episodes in the Super Bowl advertisements seems to be a cautionary light for us. A number of the advertisements contained violence at some level of one kind or another. In thinking about that, I could not help but reflect on two different matters which I have been thinking about lately.

We know that in our country a lack of respect for people is something that is all too easily taken for granted. This is not true only with regard to the way we talk about and refer to people who are different than we are, but it also spills over into the relationships between men and women, our national conversation with regard to immigrants, the lack of progress in terms of racial equality which we are reminded every year in this week that celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. or just give even a passing thought to the situation in our country and a growing intolerance for some of the institutions which have made our country what it is over the course of the years.

For over a decade now, young people have been spending hours entertaining themselves with violent video games, the object of which is to kill as many people as possible in the course of the game itself. This is not only a rather disturbing seed of this kind of exposure is not slowly eroding away the idea of respect among us and even our respect for life itself.

Within fewer than two weeks, we will once again begin our Lenten observance which will prepare us for the great feast of Easter. It is probably not too soon to begin thinking about what we would like to see be for us and what changes we would like to see take place within our own lives. If we begin giving some thought now to how we will live this holy season of grace, we will not have to scramble at the last minute and perhaps fall back into previous Lenten practices which, although they are very good in and of themselves, may not be what we need at this moment in our lives.

Increased devotion to the Eucharist should certainly be a part of our Lenten observance. There is no higher degree of human solidarity than when believers gather around the Eucharistic table to listen to the Word of God, to encourage one another in their quest to make Jesus the center of their lives and who share together in receiving the body and blood of Our Lord.

It may also be a time for us to really examine how we live in solidarity with other people and what role the poor should play as we determine the almsgiving that has to be part of our Lenten resolutions as well. If we take time now to think about where we would like to be on Easter as a result of our Lenten season of grace, this may be a super Lent for each one of us.

This week's FaithPoint is written by Father Richard Warner, director of Campus Ministry. He can be reached at rwarn@nd.edu

Let's face it. No matter how much of this white stuff piles up, "Kent State University — Classes Cancelled" is not going to find its way onto a school closing ticker any time soon.

So if you're lucky enough to complete the commute here successfully, avoid pile-ups, defy zero-visibility and avoid the urge to turn that on. Your way to Kent State University today will be gloomy on speed.

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There's no 'Wincing' at The Shins' success

By CHRIS MCGRADY
Assistant Scene Editor

The Shins have done it again, but not at all in the same way as before. The group's newest effort, "Wincing the Night Away," is the type of speaker candy that makes the listener once again have faith in the modern music industry.

In the world of electronic Paris Hilton songs, covers of covers and "American Idol," "Wincing the Night Away" is more than just a breath of fresh air. It is an oxygen tank for the drowning musical aficionado.

The band originally formed in 1997 in Albuquerque, New Mexico and has been making music ever since. Originally started as a passion project of singer/songwriter/guitarist James Mercer, the band dominated the underground indie scene for several years before reaching a national audience when two of their songs were featured in the 2004 movie "Garden State," starring Zach Braff and Natalie Portman.

The soundtrack for the movie "The Shins" has been well-received by critics and fans alike since its popular debut on the highly-regarded soundtrack for the movie "Garden State."

The Shins have done it again, but not at all in the same way as before. Their group garnered praise on indie music blogs, its fan base increased. By the time the album starts and never wavers and becomes one of those rare CDs that can be played from start to finish without the listener ever wishing to skip to the next song.

The first track, "Sleeping Lessons," opens quietly like a dream. Just when it almost induces you into a trance, the drum is in and brings the song to life. From the start the CD appears to be great.

The next song, "Australia," is equally appealing. The best part about The Shins' sound is how much fun their music is to listen to. Listeners can't help but smile when the airy, bright songs bounce along the airways just begging for you to sing along.

The band may have its best sound in the song, "Turn On Me." The track is so enjoyable that audio players' repeat buttons may quickly become worn out. This track has the type of feel-good sound that compels the listener to sing along. Overall the sound is bright and brilliant, the lyrics witty and addictive and the instrumentation clever and clear. The song is nothing short of wonderful.

The song "Split Needles" follows the precedent of the rest of the album, and is in itself another great track. The Shins are lyrically on top of their game and possess some of the most unique and enjoyable sounds to come along in years. This truly is a band that is streaking its way to the top, beyond any indie success they previously had.

The CD opens with the title track, "Some Loud Thunder" and starts off on a sub-par note. The song sounds like it is too much for speakers to handle and has a grimey, distorted effect. After trying built-in computer speakers, satellite speakers and headphones, the conclusion is that this is the way the song is meant to sound. However, the overall effect of this is one of annoyance. The vocalists' whiny voices are amplified, and while this style of singing works for most of the band's songs, this particular track is negatively affected.

The CD takes a sharp upward turn on the next track, however, with "Emma Jean Stock," a feel-good catchy sound that features sharp guitar-picking and interesting electronic effects. Another highlight of the album is the song "Satan Said Dance," a track which opens with some particularly odd electronic sounds and then morphs into a trip through a tunnel of high-paced musical action. Next is "Goodbye to Mother and the Cove," a particularly addictive song. The opening guitar pattern will have the listener bobbing his or her head to the tune within the first 15 seconds of the track. There are no vocals for the first minute of the track and this period serves to display the musical talent that Clap Your Hands Say Yeah really has.

"The Sword Song" is the bonus track on the disc and is also one of the best songs. The song features a strong drum base, overlaid with melodic guitar riffs. The overall effect is an addictive mix and this very well might be the best track on the entire CD. For once, the bonus track on an album is actually a bonus.

Overall, this album could quickly find itself on the way into the "album of the year" discussion. Several of the songs could be picks for single of the year, and The Shins sound is pleasant, fulfilling and overall impressive. When Natalie Portman references The Shins in "Garden State," she says, "You gotta hear this one song, it'll change your life I promise you." Well, you have to hear this album, it'll change your life— I promise you.

Contact Chris McGrady at cmgrady@nd.edu
Notre Dame signs top-10 recruiting class for what we were trying to do at freshmen for the class of 2011, sive players, a kicker and two men we're bringing in here. Weis said. "I'm very all positions," Weis said. "I have to tell you, I'm very

Notre Dame signed eight offensive players, seven defensive players, a kicker and two players — Andrew Nuss out of Ashburn, Va., and Emeka Nwankwo out of Hollywood, Fla. — who could play on either the offensive or defensive lines, Weis said.

Overall, Notre Dame's class was rated eighth in the nation by Rivals.com and eleventh by Scout.com. The Irish expected to sign by spring workouts.

To fill the void left by departures, Notre Dame signed two tailbacks with very different styles. Armando Allen, of Hialeah, Fla., is a speed back who runs a 4.35-second 40-yard dash. He also enrolled at the beginning of the semester and will participate in spring practice. "This kid can flat out fly," Weis said. Allen broke his leg during his senior season, but is expected to be at full strength by spring workouts.

Robert Hughes, out of Hubbard High School in Chicago, is a bruising, 228-pound back who rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a senior. He is committed to the Irish in January after choosing Notre Dame over Illinois.

Both Allen and Hughes could push for playing time next season in Notre Dame's backfield, left wide open by the early departure of Darius Walker for the NFL.

Receivers

To fill the void left by departing wide receivers Rhema McKnight and Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame signed two wideouts and a tight end to the class of 2011. "The two guys we have coming in are very contrasting in their styles," Weis said.

Duval Kamara, of Hoboken, N.J., verbally committed to Weis on May 10, 2006. At 6-foot-4, he is similar in style to former Irish receiver Maurice Stovall and is ranked the eighth best receiver nationally by Scout.com. Golden Tate, out of John Paul II high school in Hendersonville, Tenn., is a smaller, quicker receiver in the mold of Notre Dame rising junior David Grimes. Tate is listed at 6-foot but runs a 4.4-second 40.

Mike Ragone, out of Cherry Hill, N.J., was Notre Dame's only tight end signee for 2007. He was ranked second nationally at his position by Scout.com. Ragone stands 6-foot-5 and weighs 230 pounds. Six of his nine touchdowns went for 60 yards or longer. "You won't find many tight ends that run as fast as him," Weis said.

Linebackers

Notre Dame signed four linebackers to strengthen a unit that struggled at times in 2006. He gave his verbal to Weis Feb. 24, 2006, Neal, from Bunn, N.C., weighs 230 pounds and will play outside linebacker in new Notre Dame defensive coordinator Corwin Brown's 3-4 personnel pack age.

The Irish also picked up commitments before the sea son. In January, Notre Dame offered a scholarship to outside linebacker prospect Brian Smith out of Overland Park, Kan. Smith had committed to Iowa, but changed his mind after the Irish offered. Smith's father Chris played at Notre Dame from 1981-85.

"When our system changed (to a 3-4), he became a perfect fit," Weis said. "This guy is a very disruptive interior defensive linen man, the type of guy that can make you play in a hurry," Weis said.

The Irish also signed Nuss and Nwankwo, who could play either side of the ball. "As you go through the offensive line/defensive line process, it was important for us to find a couple players that could play either offense or defense because we couldn't really take the risk of doubling the numbers up," Weis said. "But we had to find a couple guys that were capable of playing our offensive or defensive line."}

Linemen

Notre Dame signed two true offensive linemen for the class of 2011 — Taylor Dever of Grass Valley, Calif., and Matt Romeine of Tulsa, Okla. — and one true defensive lineman — Ian Williams of Longwood, Fla. Dever was credited with 80 pancake blocks during his senior season.

Romeine had to be pried away from his home-state Sooners. "He's an Oklahoma kid, but he's a Notre Dame fit," Weis said. "He's a guy we wanted. He fits great with our players." Romeine stands 6-foot-3 and weighs 295 pounds. His style is similar to that of Notre Dame fifth-year senior Trevor Laws.

Kickers

Late in the recruiting process, Notre Dame got a commitment from Brandon Walker of Findlay, Ohio. Walker had previously committed to Louisville, but he decided to come to Notre Dame after Weis offered. He will push sophomore Ryan Burkhart for the starting kicking job next year.

"I was only interested in bringing in a guy at this position with another scholarship if he was a guy who had a chance of impressing somebody and being able to get on the field for us as a freshman," Weis said. "We think, looking at this kid, he has the poten tial to do that walking in the door."
Gray originally committed to South Carolina before choosing ND. Irish signee Gary Gray jukes a defender during his senior year.

With the loss of Trattou, a scholar-d­

member of the school' s state title. He Weis led a recruiting class.

nabbed Trattou from Notre

enda early, even though his father is a good

ond-best linebacker recruit when

level linebacker from Overland Park, Kan. He was a sec­

ond-linebacker recruit when he verbally committed to the Hawkeyes. A kid from a good

ond school, he looked destined to be a Hawkeye. A kid from a good

ond Catholic high

ine Ramsey, N.J. He verbally com­

mitted to Notre Dame way back

in the Mid-America Conference, the Cardinals were

defensive recruits.

In a year when they went to the South to sign a quarterback prospect out of Georgia, the Cardinals were

out of luck for a key defender. In today's college football, that's what happens when you're in the top

conference in the country, and recruits start to treat verbal commitments like statements of emotion.

*On a national basis ... more

guys switched last year and this

year than ever before.*

Tom LeMming recruiting analyst

"On a national basis ... more

guys switched last year and this

year than ever before." Tom LeMming recruiting analyst

LeMming said that most coaches don't like the number of late

switches and the custom of recruiting powerhouses poaching from other schools, but they're not sure what to do about it. He said athletic directors worry about kids signing binding letters of intent for the usual time for a coach to resign or be fired, and an early signing period would cause that situation at 15 or more schools every year.

This year, the Irish indeed benefited by allowing players to reconsider their commitments once a coach leaves.

In an interview last week with The Observer, kicker/punter Brandon Walker’s former coach, Cliff Hite, said Walker knew he wanted to go to Notre Dame when he was a sophomore. But the Irish didn't come calling during the early signing day and refusal to accept verbal commitments will protect major-conference pow­

ers, but the belief that any player "looking" is fair game leaves the smaller schools vulnerable to poaching by bigger schools.

So why should the NCAA make it easier for big-time programs to recruit while not doing anything to help the schools with less prestige or tradition? An early signing period would help only some, and likely not the major programs with national reputations that aren't able to convince players to commit to them come February.

Weis is trying to do what's best for his team and the entire Irish

program. But Ball State can't afford that.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Fun Facts about the Class of 2011

Astron Nagel, Kerry Neal and Steve Paskorz orally committed to Notre Dame within 24 hours of receiving their offers.

Steve Paskorz is a former champion of the national Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

Harrison Smith and Brian Smith join current linebackers Scott Smith, and Torfan Smith as the four Irish players that share the most common given names in the U.S. (Greg, Justin and Janis) as the second-most common surname among Irish players.

Arman Allen posted the eighth best 110-meter high school hurdles in the U.S. (13.82) in 2006 and the best in the state of Florida.

Golden Tate’s full name is Golden H. Tate III. His father Golden Tate, Sr. played wide receiver at Tennessee State and was drafted in the 1st round of the 1974 NFL draft by the Indianapolis Colts.
Opportunities available for talented newcomers

Quarterback competition headlines Irish spring agenda; freshmen look to replace holes at receiver and running back

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Hello, position battles. Spring ball and summer camp will feature a slew of freshmen battling for starting jobs, Irish coach Charlie Weis said Wednesday. And the most high-profile position battle of all will be the competition at quarterback. Weis said early-recruiting recruit Jimmy Clausen of Westlake Village, Calif., will compete in spring and summer for the starting job with rising junior Evan Sharpley and rising sophomores George West and Dre'neetra Jones and Zach Frazer. And none hold a clear edge going into practices, Weis said. Clausen, who will not throw passes until the end of February in an effort to rest his arm, enters as the consensus No. 1 quarterback in the country. Jones and Frazer were both freshmen battling for starting spots in 2006, while Clausen will compete for the starting job this spring. Clausen will warm up before an Oaks Christian High School practice in Westlake Village, Calif. Clausen will compete for the starting job this spring.

What's more, Weis said early enrollee Gary Gray, a cornerbacl from Columbia, S.C., would be in the heart of the defensive back picture as a "cover corner." The Irish signee running back Robert Hughes stiff arms a defender during his senior season at Chicago's Hubbard High School.

"This kid is as good an athlete as I saw this year," Weis said. On special teams, Weis said he would only sign a kicker who could compete immediately for the starting job. In Brandon Walker, Weis thinks he found his guy. Walker made a 50-yard field goal and averaged 7 yards deep on kickoffs from the 40-yard line as a junior. At tackle in the team's new 3-4 personnel defensive scheme, Ian Williams, a 6-foot-4, 295-pounder from Florida, is expected to fight for the starting job immediately. Weis said 340-pound current offensive lineman Chris Stewart would get a look there, but Weis wants Williams to play immediately. "Ian knows we're counting on him getting involved in the mix walking in the door," Weis said. At outside linebacker in the team's new defensive scheme, Weis said freshman Kerry Neal of Bunn, N.C. and Brian Smith of Overland Park, Kan., fit well and could see playing time.

What's more, Weis said early enrollee Gary Gray, a cornerbacl from Columbia, S.C., would be in the heart of the defensive back picture as a "cover corner." The numbers game While the Irish may have struggled in defensive recruiting and lost commitments in the final 24 hours before the letters of intent started pouring in across the fax wires, they at least got one important tangible benefit out of this year's recruiting class: stabilizing numbers.

In 2006, Weis signed 28 players to letters of intent because of a relatively small base of scholarship players on the team at the time, due to the attrition of the already low number of signees during the three-year reign of former coach Tyrone Willingham. The annual limit is 25, but three enrolled early so the Irish could count them against the previous year's total of 15. With a maximum of 85 players on scholarship at one time, Weis said his goal is to sign around 20 players yearly, which would allow five or more seniors with extra eligibility to apply for a fifth year. "I'm trying to compensate a little bit for the fact that next year's senior class only has seven or eight guys on scholarship," Weis said. "Between the fourth year guys next year that ask and are granted a fifth year and our class next year, I think that will finally put us on track to have the numbers as I perceive they should actually be." Contact Ken Fowler at kfowlerl@nd.edu

by the numbers

Notre Dame's class of 2011 team ranking according to Rivals.com and ESPN.com

8 Players that originally verbalized elsewhere but signed with ND: Gray, Walker, and Brian Smith. The Irish also had three public verbal commitments (Trattou, Chris Liglet, Greg Little) sign with other schools.

1 True defensive tackle — Ian Williams — to sign with the Irish in the past two classes and the first since Derret Hand in 2005.

12 Different states represented by the 10 players in this class: Fla. (3), Calif. (2), Ill. (2), N.J. (2), Tenn. (2), Kan., N.C., Ohio, Okla., Pa., S.C. and Va.

10 Offensive lineman signed in the past two classes. The Irish signed nine in the four years previous.

7 Players in the Top 100 list of either Scout, Rivals or ESPN: Clausen, Ragone, Allen, Gary, Kamara, Hughes, Tate, Rome, Neal.
Armando Allen
running back
5-10, 185
Hialeah, Fla.
State champion 110-meter hurdler missed his senior season with a leg injury...
Rivals.com No. 2 all-purp. back

Jimmy Clausen
quarterback
6-3, 195
Westlake Village, Calif.
Rivals.com No. 1 player overall...3,428 yards, 49 TDs, 6 INTs in 2006...43-0 as a starter

Taylor Dever
offensive lineman
6-6, 300
Grass Valley, Calif.
Scout.com No. 29 offensive tackle...No. 4 tackle in state...benches 325 lbs...
5.2 40-yard dash

g o u r t e s y  s o o u t.c o m  Rjvals.com No. 2 all-purp. back

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5.2 40-yard dash

courtesy Scout.com

Duval Kamara
wide receiver
6-1, 215
Hoboken, N.J.
Rivals.com No. 6 receiver...24.2 YPC, 9 TDs as a senior...started U.S. Army game for East

courtesy Rivals.com

Robert Hughes
running back
5-11, 228
Chicago, Ill.
Scout.com No. 7 RB...1,900 yards, 24 TDs as a senior...benches 420 lbs, squats 520 lbs

courtesy Rivals.com

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offensive lineman
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Grass Valley, Calif.
Scout.com No. 29 offensive tackle...No. 4 tackle in state...benches 325 lbs...
5.2 40-yard dash

courtesy Scout.com

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cornerback
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courtesy Scout.com
By MARTY SCHROEDER  Assistant Scene Editor

Although it may be a mainstream film that holds both dramatic tension and accessible humor, in my mind, "Transamerica" is an effective picture that brings pain and joy to viewers through the eyes of a transsexual woman named Bree. Bree (a marvelous Felicity Huffman, who was nominated for an Oscar for this role) is about to have sexual reassignment surgery when she discovers she has a son living on the streets of New York — the result of a one-night stand when she was still a man. In order to get approval for her surgery from her therapist, Bree travels to New York to meet her son Toby (Kevin Zegers). They then begin a cross-country road trip from New York back to Los Angeles where they discover that not all of the preconceptions they had about each other were true.

The script by Duncan Tucker is clever and funny while still able to capture the spirit of Bree. Her character travels through emotions as she travels across the country, and this film is as much about family as it is about trust not only in others but also in oneself. Felicity Huffman shines as Bree, Kevin Zegers is outstandingly edgy as Toby and Graham Greene is gentle and kind as the rancher Calvin Many Goats, who falls for Bree and is basically the only character in the film who treats Bree as the woman she wants to be.

Many other minor characters make colorful appearances, such as Bree's parents whom Bree meets in a last ditch effort for help. Neither her mother nor father can forgive Bree, whom they call their son, and Fionnula Flanagan is wonderfully comic, camp and tragic as the parent who can't let go of the past.

Aside from the acting, the costumes and cinematography are excellent and the film won the award for Excellence in Costume Design — Contemporary from the Costume Designers Guild. Huffman's costumes are those of a woman worried about appearing feminine and Flanagan's are horribly campy while suituring perfectly. The travel across America is also beautifully well shot and the vastness of the United States is spectacularly viewed in this film. New York, Kentucky and the Southwest are all present in this film as well as the denizens — some kind, others not — who inhabit them.

Overall, this film is moving not because it tells the pain of someone so the audience can walk out of the theater and feel they have done something humanistic. Of course, some people Gong Li thinks. However, if a different frame of mind is brought into this film, it can be very rewarding not only as a piece of excellent cinema but as a film that allows us to examine who we are and change — change not only to be more tolerant or accepting but to change ourselves into what we really are.

This film will be showing as part of the film series entitled "Classics Reimagining Sexuality and the Self in Recent American Cinema." It will be screened at 10 p.m. this Saturday in the Browning Cinema at some DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. This is a free event, but tickets must be picked up at the DPAC Box Office.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroe1@nd.edu

DPV REVIEW
Disney's smash-hit 'Cars' races to winning DVD

By SEAN SWANEY  Assistant Scene Editor

Pixar has done it again. The digital animation studio that has turned out such hits as "Toy Story" and "Finding Nemo" has once again made a movie that is fun, entertaining, engaging and thought-provoking at the same time with its 2006 hit "Cars.

The John Lasseter ("Toy Story") directed film was the seventh produced in the part-Disney's smash-hit 'Cars' races to winning DVD

Disney's smash-hit 'Cars' races to winning DVD

Disney's smash-hit 'Cars' races to winning DVD

As the inimitable Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.), the dashing Elastigirl (Helen Mirren) and the lovable Hit-Boy (Mickey Rourke) have proven, the future of animation lies in the realm of computer-based digital animation. Since the first Pixar film, "Toy Story," the company has pioneered the use of computer graphics in film, and "Cars" is no exception.

The story centers around a hot-shot, rookie race car named Lightning McQueen (voiced by Owen Wilson) who wants to make it big in the racing world. In his quest to win a racing title, he comes into conflict with the old guard race car, The King (Richard Petty), and his rival, Chick Hicks (Michael Keaton).

A die-hard car enthusiast, he teaches his way there, McQueen gets lost in Radiator Springs, a town set on the historic Route 66 that has been passed by in the era of the interstate highway. McQueen's stay in Radiator Springs lasts longer than expected and through his interactions with the town's few residents, who include the Porsche Carrera Sallie (Bonnie Hunt) and a 1951 Hudson Hornet "Doc" (Paul Newman), he learns that there is more to life than winning races and sponsorship money.

There is no doubt that "Cars" is different than any of the Pixar films that preceded it. There are no talking animals here, nor immediately endearing and recognizable characters and many critics cited these among the reasons why the film was not the smash success that the other Pixar films were. Film success must be viewed in relative terms, and while "Cars" was not a grand slam by Pixar's standards, it still hit a home run by containing a stronger message than any other Pixar film. Film success must be viewed in relative terms, and while "Cars" was not a grand slam by Pixar's standards, it still hit a home run by containing a stronger message than any other Pixar film.

Indeed, computer animation has become Pixar's forte, and the work done here does not disappoint. Turning cars into animals, living with the difficulties of a difficult task, yet every character in this film has as many distinct manners and personality traits that one could expect from live actors. Everything is in the cars' hands, from their expressions of the characters' eyes — placed on cars' windshields — to how they use their tires as hands to subtle connotations of car structures to indicate both movement and emotion.

These animations are aided by excellent voice performances, especially by Wilson and Newman, with entertaining supporting roles voiced by celebrities including George Carlin, Larry the Cable Guy and even Bob Costas.

Aside from the characters, the Southwestern desert setting of the film is the most realistic yet for Pixar and the extended driving scenes capture perfectly images familiar to anyone who has taken a road trip.

Hanging over all of this is the film's message — that in the frenetic whirlwind that is life, taking time to enjoy the simple things can bring great joy. Lasseter constantly weaves this theme in and out of the narrative without it becoming overly apparent. He also manages to tell a compelling story at the same time — a true sign of excellent filmmaking.

The DVD is light on special features, especially when compared to other Pixar releases. Several deleted scenes and one short featurette are all that give viewers insight into the making of the film, and one must wonder if the DVD was rushed to production without a full slate of extras.

In spite of this, "Cars" is still a delightfully entertaining and meaningful film worthy of purchase on DVD. It is clear that Pixar still has the magic when it comes to computer animation.

Contact Sean Sweaney at sweaney@nd.edu
INDIANAPOLIS — Ray Allen is making up for his All-Star snub by scoring points. Lots of them.

The six-time All-Star had 33 points and nine assists Wednesday night, and rookie Andre Brown made the go-ahead basket with 23 seconds remaining to give the Seattle SuperSonics a 103-102 victory over the Indiana Pacers. The win snapped a 15-game road losing streak for the Sonics.

"I hate losing. I hate losing," said Allen, who has had 29, 29 and 33 points in the three games since the Western Conference All-Star reserves were announced last week.

"Let me just say, I have a lot of people that are very supportive, especially of all my accomplishments in my career," he said. "I'll just have another shot next year."

Allen had 10 points in the fourth quarter, including two straight baskets after the Pacers went ahead 99-92 in the final minutes.

Brown scored on a layup, was fouled and hit the free throw to put the Sonics up 101-100 with 54 seconds left.

Jamal Tinsley, who led Indiana with 25 points, then scored on a drive to the basket for the Pacers' final lead seconds later. Brown scored again but missed a free throw, giving the Pacers one more chance to take the lead.

Tinsley missed another drive to the hoop, and desperation shots off rebounds by Danny Granger and Tinsley were no good as time ran out.

"Coming off the bench, you have to be ready when your team calls your number," Brown said. "I'm an aggressive guy. I take pride in that," he said. "I made some key baskets. Once you get the aggression, things fall for you."

The Pacers were without All-Star Jermaine O'Neal, who did not play because of swelling from a bruise on his left knee.

"Tough loss," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "We worked so hard to get the lead, then there was a string of missed shots. The second-chance opportunities killed us. This is one we shouldn't have let get away."

Tinsley, allegedly involved in a bar scuffle after Monday night's game against Golden State, would not talk about the fight and received a smattering of boos from the home crowd during introductions. He said he got the shot he wanted at the end.

"They challenged the shot, and I just missed it," he said.

Chris Wilcox added 17 points for Seattle. Brown finished with nine points, one off his career high.

Spurs 110, Wizards 83

The San Antonio Spurs had five days to prepare, allowing them to spend some time at home during their make-or-break road trip.

The Washington Wizards were missing Antawn Jamison, and they've mostly looked like a team playing 4-on-5 since he got hurt.

But those reasons alone can't account for San Antonio's manhandling of Washington on Wednesday night. The bigger picture has emerged over the last few weeks: The Wizards, even though they're a contender in the East, can hang with the top teams in the West.

"That was just a flat-out, 48-minute, thorough beating from the beginning to the end," Washington coach Eddie Jordan said.

San Antonio's Tim Duncan scored 20 points apiece for the Spurs, who shot 62 percent in the first half and led by double digits for all but the first 4:05 of the game. Duncan, who frequently had his way against the undersized Wizards frontcourt, shot 9-for-16 and had seven rebounds and five assists. Manu Ginobili added 18 points on 8-of-9 shooting.

Before the game, coach Gregg Popovich said the Spurs' eight-game road stretch was a "season-making trip for us" or "season-breaking." San Antonio had dropped two straight, but the win over the Wizards put the Spurs at 2-2 during their annual get-out-of-town that coincides with the February rodeo show back home.

"It was one of our better games of the year, very honest, at both ends of the court," Popovich said.

The Spurs, who last played Feb. 1 in Phoenix, had no trouble holding onto big leads, and it nearly happened again against the Wizards. A 24-point, second-half lead was down to 11 in the final minute of the third quarter, but Fabricio Oberto kept a possession alive by punching a missed free throw to a teammate. The sequence helped put San Antonio ahead 64-70 entering the fourth, and Ginobili opened the final period with three 3-pointers and a pair of free throws in a 12-2 run to increase the lead back to 24.

"We're getting a little bit old," Parker said, "and all those close games you used to win, this year we've got a tendency to lose them. But I think we're in the right direction. I think we're improving. We definitely still have a chance to win (the West). It's going to be down to Game 7 and one possession, like always. It's going to be a big battle."

Cavaliers 94, Clippers 77

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 16 points in a season-high 13 rebounds, Larry Hughes scored 15 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers hardly needed LeBron James in an easy victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night.

James scored 11 points — three above his season low and 15 below his average — and spent the first half of the fourth quarter watching as the scuffling Cavaliers, who came in just 4-8 since Jan. 16, won their fifth straight at home against the Clippers.

Sasha Pavlovic added 16 points and Drew Gooden 13 for Cleveland, which held the Clippers to 35 percent shooting.

Alan Brown led Los Angeles with 21 points and Shaun Livingston added 19 for the Clippers, who have dropped three in a row.

In the aftermath of a stringing loss to Detroit on Sunday, both James and Hughes said the Cavaliers should be running more, their argument being the team is better suited for an uptempo offensive game than the slowdown style preferred by coach Mike Brown, who preach defense first.

The Cavs pushed the action when they could, but there was no dramatic change in their offense. What was new was that they made a few more free throws, going 21-of-28 (75 percent) from the line.

Cleveland has been the NBA's worst free-throw shooting team all season and came in making just 68 percent of its attempts.

James didn't get to the line until the final minute but sank both his tries.

Leading by 11 at halftime and 13 after three quarters, the Cavaliers pushed their lead to 21 in 5:15 remaining when James drilled a 3-pointer.

With upcoming games later this week against Miami and the Los Angeles Lakers, the Cavs, now 7-1 at home against Western Conference teams, needed a relaxed night and the Clippers seemed only too willing to give them one.

Los Angeles forward Corey Maggette was inactive, one day after he criticized coach Mike Dunleavy following the club's loss in New York. Maggette, second on the team in scoring and rebounding, was unhappy about playing just 17 minutes against Denver and said he became a 10-point deficit to win.

"It's just more of Dunleavy's (stuff) again," said Maggette, who recently had a meeting with owner Donald Sterling. Dunleavy and general manager Elgin Baylor to end trade speculation about the seven-year veteran. "I don't get it, I really don't. I'm crazy. I put in work. I deserve to play. It's totally mind-boggling to me."

The Cavaliers were just 1-2 in the opening seconds in front of igluskas hit a jumper to snap a 35-all tie. Hughes scored nine straight points and Cleveland closed the period with a 10-2 spurt to open a 54-43 halftime lead.
NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>26-17-9</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>N.Y. Islanders</td>
<td>23-21-7</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>N.Y. Rangers</td>
<td>25-24-4</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
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<td>Philadelphia</td>
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Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

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<td>30-21-3</td>
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Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

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<td>Montreal</td>
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<td>Toronto</td>
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Western Conference, Northwest Division

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Western Conference, Central Division

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<tr>
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Western Conference, Pacific Division

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NCAA Basketball

Men's Big East Standings

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Western Conference, Pacific Division

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NCAA Football

Florida signs top 2007 recruiting class

Florida coach Urban Meyer answers questions Wednesday about the Gators' 2007 recruiting class. Florida signed 10 five-star recruits this year, including the top players from three states.

Florida wins the recruiting crown in nearly as dominating fashion as the national championship. The Gators capitalized on last month's national title win over Ohio State and down years from Sunshine State rivals Florida State and Miami to bring in the top recruiting class in the country Wednesday.

"No one is even that close to them," said recruiting analyst Tom Lemming of CSTV. "They got everyone over. In the past 10 years, this has to rank right at the top in recruiting classes."

Every position is absolutely loaded. The Gators also were picked as the top class by SuperPrep, Rivals.com and National Blue Chips, beating out Southern California, SEC rivals Tennessee and LSU, and Texas.

The Trojans closed strong, adding top running backs Joe McKnight from Louisiana and Broderrick Green from Arkansas on Wednesday to a class that already included another top back in Marc Tyler, defensive end Everson Griffen, SuperPrep's No. 1 overall player, the nation's No. 1 receiver, Ronald Johnson from Michigan; and blue chip linebacker Chris Galippo from Anaheim, Calif.

"USC continues to be the place that a lot of skill-position players look to first," said analyst Bobby Burton of Rivals.com. "That doesn't mean the guys they get on defense aren't special. It just means they have the pick of the litter when it comes to offensive skill players."

But the Gators' class was best of all, signing eight of the top 16 players in talent-rich Florida and the No. 1 players from South Carolina, Indiana, Maryland and New England, according to Rivals.com.

"A coaching change at Miami and another down year for Florida State played a key part in the Gators' success. They play an exciting brand of ball on offense and defense and a lot of kids want to be in that situation," said Allen Wallace, the national recruiting editor for Scout.com and publisher of SuperPrep magazine.

"There's no question they've moved into the catbird seat in Florida. They have taken advantage of tough times for both the Hurricanes and Seminoles."

Mike Tyson enters rehab after most recent drug arrest

PHOENIX — Mike Tyson has checked himself into an inpatient treatment program for "various addictions" while awaiting trial on drug charges, his lawyer said Wednesday.

"He needed to get involved in something that would help him with his addiction," attorney David Chesnoff said. Chesnoff wouldn't describe Tyson's addictions, but police said the former heavyweight champion told officers that he used cocaine frequently.

Chesnoff said Tyson checked himself into an undisclosed facility shortly after appearing in a Phoenix courtroom.

The 40-year-old Tyson pleaded not guilty on Jan. 22 in Maricopa County Superior Court to felony drug possession and paraphernalia possession counts and two misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence of drugs.

Associated Press

Africa

Dale Earnhardt Jr. signs extension with DEI

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — As Dale Earnhardt Jr. continued contract extension negotiations with DEI, the company came to terms with another driver named Earnhardt.

Jeffrey Earnhardt, the 17-year-old grandson of the late Dale Earnhardt, has signed a "long-term driving services contract" with Dale Earnhardt Inc. The signing came as Earnhardt Jr. prepared to meet Wednesday with team officials to discuss his future with his father's company.

Earnhardt Jr.'s contract with DEI is up at the end of the season, and negotiations have been tense since stepmother Teresa Earnhardt seemed to question his commitment in a December interview with The Wall Street Journal.

"With the season set to begin with the Daytona 500 on Feb. 18, team officials would like to resolve their differences contract," said Jeffrey Earnhardt Jr.'s agent, Jeffrey Earnhardt.

"It's not because someone is positing that he must be automatically in the catbird seat in Florida. They have taken advantage of tough times for both the Hurricanes and Seminoles."

Landis could receive 2-year ban from racing in France

PARIS — Floyd Landis could be banned from racing in France for the next two years if the country's anti-doping agency issues a maximum penalty Thursday for his positive doping test at last year's Tour de France.

The American cyclist will not attend the hearing, but will be represented by his lawyers, Landis' spokesman Michael Henson said Wednesday in a conference call.

The lawyers can present arguments to the nine-member panel, which includes French magistrates. The agency's president, Philippe Bordry, said Landis would receive a fair hearing.

"It's not because someone is positive that he must be automatically suspended," Bordry said. "The rights of the defense are very important."
PGA
The International nixed from PGA schedule

Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — The International, known for its unique scoring system on a Castle Pines golf course held in the mile-high air outside Denver, will no longer be on the PGA Tour schedule effective immediately, a tour official said Wednesday.

The absence of a corporate sponsor was mostly responsible for canceling the 21-year-old tournament, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision had not formally been announced.

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem and tournament founder Jack Vickers were expected to make it official Thursday morning. They spent the last two weeks in a final effort to sponsor, then announced the cancellation.

International spokeswoman Joanna Buasack said Vickers would not comment until Thursday.

The cancellation leaves a hole in the PGA Tour schedule on July 5-8, but tour officials have been working on a contingency plan over the last month and are expected to announce a replacement by April.

The leading candidate is Washington, the largest U.S. market without a PGA Tour event. Washington's capitol hosted a tour event since 1968, but that presumably ended when title sponsor Boeing halted last year because it was not part of the FedEx Cup portion of the PGA Tour schedule.

Other markets under consideration are Minneapolis, Philadelphia and Kansas City.

The tour official said there was sponsorship interest in several major markets, although none of those sponsors was interested in the International.

The International began in 1986 and used a modified Stableford scoring system, rewarding points for eagles and birdies and deducting points for bogeys or worse. It

OLFICS
Hamm twins prep for '08

Gymnastic medalists will rejoin US team after college graduation

Associated Press

A few months ago, Paul Hamm and Morgan Hamm were having too much fun being regular college students. They actually had free time, and no coach or training schedule to dictate what they should do with it. They could focus on school and were close to finishing their degrees.

The more they talked, though, the Hammers realized they weren't quite ready to walk away. The Beijing Olympics are a year away and a half away, and the brothers want one more chance to shine on the world stage.

And, they hope, snag the United States a few more medals in the process.

"The time off gave us what we needed to really develop the motivation that we have right now," Paul Hamm said Wednesday. "We see a goal in front of us, and we're going for it. Sometimes when you're in the daily grind of gymnastics, you forget it. "We know for a fact if we're in good shape, we can help the team to medal."

Paul and Morgan Hamm's announcement Tuesday that they are returning to competitive gymnastics after an 18-month layoff was an immediate boost for the U.S. men, who plummeted from the silver medal in Athens to an 11th-place finish at last year's world championships.

The Hammers, now 24, were two of the world's best gymnasts when they went on hiatus. They were responsible for half of the U.S. men's scores in the team final at the Athens Olympics, helping the U.S. team win its silver medal in 2005. Paul Hamm also was the first U.S. man to win the Olympic all-around title.

So after the event, however, the International Gymnastics Federation acknowledged a scoring error had been made on South Korean Yang Tae-young's second-to-last event. Yang wound up with the bronze, and the Koreans protested. When FIG president Bruno Grandi suggested Hamm share the medal as acknowledgment of a mistake, Hamm was forced to defend his gold well after the games were over, all the way to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

CAS eventually declared Hamm the rightful gold medalist, and Grandi told the AP in October that he considered the American the true Olympic champion. Paul Hamm watched the episode sour his hopes on the Hammers on gymnastics for a while, and they decided in July 2005 that they wanted to focus on their educations at Ohio State.

"Our No. 1 goal is to help the team get back into medal contention," Morgan Hamm, American gymnast

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NCAA Basketball
Streaking Georgetown takes down Louisville

Hoyas guard Jeremiah Rivers, right, defends Cardinals guard Edgar Sosa during Georgetown's 73-65 win at Louisville Wednesday.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — On a night when Louisville honored one ofits greats, it was Georgetown that ended up turning back the clock.
The 22nd-ranked Hoyas continued their rise Wednesday night, easing by Louisville 73-65 for their sixth straight win.

"We are definitely settling into a groove and a lot of the experiences that we went through earlier in the year are paying off now," said Georgetown coach John Thompson III.

If the Hoyas (17-5, 7-2 Big East) keep dominant performances from center Roy Hibbert, their early season struggles may finally be behind them.

Hibbert controlled things at both ends of the floor, scoring 20 points and grabbing 11 rebounds while making 9-of-10 from the field and limiting Louisville center David Padgett to just one field goal.

"I just wanted to be dominant as much as I could," Hibbert said. "I was just open on the baseline ... and my teammates got me the ball down there."

Hibbert scored in a variety of ways, getting dunks, lay-ups and even mixing in a jump shot. He never tired despite playing a season-high 35 minutes and helped the Hoyas keep their composure whenever the Cardinals made a run.

"I just felt we needed to keep him in there," Thompson said. "His presence at both ends was felt. What I didn't want was David to get into a comfort zone. I felt Roy's size would kind of contain him a little bit."

Earl Clark tied a career-high 14 points for Louisville (16-8, 6-4), who had been searching for a signature win to bolster its resume. The Cardinals were never really threatened - Louisville never got closer than five in the second half - Georgetown responded each time the Cardinals made a run.

"We've been in this environment, in very difficult environments like this all year," Thompson said. "The crowd gets into it, they go on a run and our guys are used to that. We did a good job of just settling down."

Louisville pulled within 58-53 on a free throw by Edgar Sosa with under four minutes to play, but Hibbert dunked on Georgetown's next possession, and DeJuan Summers followed with a 3-pointer to push the lead up to 10. Louisville would get no closer than seven the rest of the way.

"We stunk together when they made runs," Hibbert said. "We didn't want to go back-and-forth. We wanted to keep it to our tempo."

As dominant as the Hoyas were, Thompson is wary of getting ahead of himself. Georgetown started the season ranked in the Top 10, only to fall all the way out of the rankings in December. They're back in the Top 25 and confident they're not the same unforced lunch that stumbled out of the blocks three months ago.

"We're much more of a team," Hibbert said. "We're gotten older and we're smarter."
Ohio school offers motorsports class

Students learn race car engine mechanics

Associated Press

LIMA, Ohio — Michael Klenke learned car mechanics as a youth, and he could build a race-car engine and tear apart its transmission. He also learned the best way to handle a problem that crops up when a stock car is flying around a dirt race track at 60 mph. "It's more than just stop on the gas and turn left." Klenke said of driving for the University of Northwestern Ohio's stock-car team. "It makes them realize you really are going to see what you learn here."

Klenke's school is one of a handful of places where students can study how to build a race car from the bottom up. The high-performance motorsports program prepares them for a career in auto racing — whether it be working in a pit crew or in the shop.

"A lot of people just see NASCAR on Sundays," said Steve Klausing, an instructor who works with the school's race club. "There's a lot that goes into the six days before the race."

Auto racing's growing presence on television and its widening appeal to mainstream fans has led to more leagues, teams and job opportunities in a sport that increasingly needs highly skilled crew members.

"It used to be that you worked with your dad in the garage was good enough to get you through," said Dan Baddegaugh, spokesman for the ARCA series. "But it requires more than turning wrenches in the garage. We're seeing more and more drivers and crew members who are college graduates."

ARCA has become a stepping stone race car league for not only the drivers, but also crew members. About 20 students from the Ohio school spend their weekends last year working with ARCA teams. A group from the school traveled to Florida this week to work at the ARCA 200 on Saturday at Daytona International Speedway.

They'll work on the engines, clean the cars for race day and watch how the pros adjust the aerodynamics of the cars to make them run faster. "It gives any racing program a chance to learn the job," said Bill Kimmel, crew chief for eight-time ARCA champion Frank Kimmel. "If you take Kimmel and kid off the street, we have to show them every step of the way."

He usually pairs a student with an experienced crew member. Kimmel's team, based in New Albany, Ind., hired one of the stock-car drivers to be a mentor for him a year ago to be a mechanic.

Motorsports students at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis compete for internships in the Champ Car World Series and with the Panther Racing team in the Indy Racing League. "We work with teams to figure out what the classes around what the teams need," said Peter Klenke, director of the motorsports program.

One of the ARCA team's owners is Wayne Hixson, of Soddy Daisy, Tenn., said there's still a learning process for students working with a pro team.

"We're looking for somebody who can carry tires over the wall and put them on," he said. "I teach them how to carry tires, put them on and put air in them."

About 1,000 students are enrolled in the motorsports program at Northwestern Ohio, which offers two- and four-year degrees in business and technology.

"The new $7 million motorsports complex is where they learn about building transmissions, welding frames and shaping fenders."

Classrooms are attached to the garages where stock cars and dragsters are taken apart and put back together. "There's a lot of big-boy toys here," said Tom Grohovsky, a dean in the college of technology.

In one of the garages, the metal frame of a stock car sits on a lift, but soon it will be fitted with an engine and ready for the racing season in April. Outside, there's a 500-foot track for drag racing and a small oval for stock cars.

Mounds of rocks and dirt are for the off-road racers.

The school also boasts what it calls the world's largest motorsports classroom — a 1/4-mile banked dirt track that the university bought nine years ago. As many as 100 students line up Friday nights in the spring and summer to work on the pit crews with weekend drivers who come to the LimaLand Motorsports Park.

Anywhere from 2,000 to 5,000 fans show up on race nights to watch the sprint cars, stock cars and trucks.

The university's first stock-car team started competing there last year. This season, it will have two teams racing in cars with "student drivers" on the rear bumper.

"It lets everyone know that they're out there to learn and not to push the other guys into the wall," said university president Jeffrey Jarvis, who can be heard on the race nights talking with fans and drivers.

The motorsports program at the Ohio school started in 1993. Other colleges have since added the training, including Lincoln Tech in Indianapolis and Wyotech at its campus in Colorado Springs.

The University of Northwestern Ohio doesn't teach how many graduates end up in racing. But former students now work for teams in NASCAR, the Indy Racing League and minor league circuits.

Ohio State schools offer motorsports class

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo had no problems expressing themselves on the ice in taking the lead of the pairs competition after four Continental Cup events. But they were unable to maintain their lead in the final event of the series.

"We're very tired," Shen said. "Considering their recent medical maladies, Tong and Pang are just happy to be skating."

Tong wears a headband to hide the scar from a Jan. 1 car accident in Beijing — his head crashed through the window — and Pang can't skate longer than an hour at a time in practice due to a kidney ailment. However, they turned in a fairly polished short program.

"Going to this competition is a high point for us," said Tong, who had 16 stitches to close the wound to his head.

Defending Four Continents champions Rena Inoue and John Ballard landed their signature throw triple axel, but they still were in third place, 7.56 out of the lead. Brooke Castile and Benjamin Obokita, who won the U.S. Championships in January, are in seventh place after each made a mistake on a side-by-side double axel.

"It's about the skate and not about the title," Castile said. "We look at this as another experience."

Balwdin was upset with some of the marks after their performance. He thought the pair deserved higher, especially for their spiral sequence.

"That's one of our best things," Baldwin said. "We kind of got held down on that. I'm not sure why."

"I'd like to see the judges reward us a little bit more on the second mark instead of holding us back and putting other teams. We're trying hard things, we're doing things no one else in the world is doing. Give us some credit for that."

"Fair to us." Language was no problem in the ice dancing, where Benjamin Agosto blurted out a response before a question was asked.
FOOTBALL
Sanchez had assembled a veteran team in a clear attempt to win rather than eke it out. "We have players for the upcoming World Cup cycle," they made it pretty obvious," Gentle said. "I think they were bringing everyone back because we [the USA] have even more of an advantage," Donovan said.

Both teams are preparing for the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the championship of North and Central America and the Caribbean, and the start of 2010 World Cup qualifying next year. It was the first game for the Americans against the Tricolores since Sept. 3, 2005, when the United States clinched its fifth straight World Cup berth with a 2-0 victory at Columbus, Ohio.

Emotions flared late, with Marquez and American forward Eddie Johnson exchanging words on the field. The Mexicans scored off the field without shaking the Americans' hand after being granted a free kick on a mix-up, and it was customary.

``The sportsmanship — it would be nice if you guys [reporters] and the Mexican guys talked to two teams and it's really poor," Donovan said. ``I think we're in this together. We shake their hands and say, 'Good job.' There's none of that reciprocally, and it's kind of disappointing."

Soccer
Associated Press
GLENDALE, Ariz. — The sellout crowd belonged to Mexico. The game went to the United States on a 2-0 margin, and Jimmy Conrad scored his first international goal.
Landon Donovan converted a late breakaway and the Americans improved to 8-2-1 against Mexico since 2000. The United States is 7-0-1 against Mexico on home soil in that stretch, ousting its southern neighbor 13-0.

`Right now, we're on top, and that's going to try to stay here,' U.S. defender Chris Albricht said.

The victory provided a boost for interim coach Bob Bradley, who is hoping to persuade the U.S. Soccer Federation to lift his interim tag. Before the game, team president Sunil Gulati told reporters the result is "not going to lead to a direct decision as to who the national team coach will be."

Bradley is 2-0 since he was hired Dec. 8 to replace Bruce Arena.

`The work that we put in this month has been very good,' Bradley said. `Not only to prepare us for these two games but to establish a foundation for every game.'

The United States started slow but finished in a rush. Conrad, playing his 19th international game, headed home a corner kick by Donovan in the 52nd minute, beating goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez inside the left post. It was the 24th career assist for Donovan, the U.S. career leader.

Donovan added the clincher in the 90th minute off a pass by Ricardo Clark. It was the 27th goal in 86 international appearances for Donovan, who scored in his second straight game after going scoreless in 14 consecutive national team appearances over 1 1/2 years.

`I think we showed what we're made of,' said Conrad, who played an outstanding two-way game.

But Mexico didn't go quietly in the first game under coach Hugo Sanchez. The Mexicans had nine shots, seven in the second half, and pressured the Americans relentlessly after Conrad's goal.

`I think the way the team functioned, the way it looked on the field, left us satisfied,' Mexican captain Rafael Marquez said through a translator.

`All the same, it hurts because of the rivalry between the teams,' Donovan said. `We created a lot of opportunities but we just couldn't convert. It's just the beginning.'

Hockey
Cheechoo doubles up in Sharks' win
Associated Press
ANAHEIM, Calif. — Jonathan Cheechoo was worried because his scoring was down this year after he led the league with 50 goals in 2004-05.
He made up some ground on Wednesday night, scoring twice in San Jose's 3-2 victory over Anaheim. Milan Michalek scored on a power play with 1:46 remaining to give the Sharks the win and a split of two two-night, home-and-home series against the Ducks.

`I was a little worried because I wasn't getting the chances earlier, so it meant that I was obviously doing something wrong and maybe got into some bad habits,' said Cheechoo, who has 20 goals this season.

`But I've been working hard in practice and trying to do a little extra to get my game back.'

Cheechoo also had two goals in a 7-4 loss to Anaheim the previous night, and usually seems to play well against the Ducks. He had his first career hat trick against them in Dec. 20, 2005.

`He's been a thorn in our side,' Anaheim coach Randy Carlyle said. `He can find some open spaces in between lines and he's patient with the puck. He scored two again tonight and we've got to find a way to limit his offensive production.'

Byran Chee assisted Cheechoo, who was a second-round pick of the Sharks, on his first goal. Cheechoo said the win over the Ducks was capped by his second goal.

``If you do those first two goals, I made bad decisions that allowed them to get those opportunities," the Norris Trophy-winning defenseman said. "If I have a chance to put one away, we go through the stretch run of the season and 63rd point."

Sanchez had assembled a veteran team in a clear attempt to win rather than eke it out. "We have players for the upcoming World Cup cycle," they made it pretty obvious," Gentle said. "I think they were bringing everyone back because we [the USA] have even more of an advantage," Donovan said.

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Cheechoo pulled the Sharks even at 2 with his second goal of the game, a tap-in through the third period. Thornton, skating down the crease, slid the puck to Cheechoo on the right side. Cheechoo waited for Bryzgalov to commit, then flipped the puck over the goalie's shoulder.

Shawn Thornton scored 44 seconds into the third period, just his second goal of the season, to give the Ducks a 2-1 lead.

Selanne had tied it 1-1 at 14:52 of the second period. The goal was the 36-year-old Selanne's 32nd of the season and 63rd point. From a scoreless first period, Cheechoo put the Sharks up 3-2 midway through the third period. Thornton, skating down the crease, slid the puck to Cheechoo on the right side. Cheechoo waited for Bryzgalov to commit, then flipped the puck over the goalie's shoulder.

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Pacers involved in bar fight

No arrests made after post-game altercation

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley and teammates Marquis Daniels and Keith McLeod were involved in a fight with a bar manager after a home loss to Golden State, police said.

No one was immediately arrested or charged after the Tuesday fight. Indianapolis police Lt. Doug Scheffel said Wednesday the investigation may take several days to complete the investigation to determine whether charges would be filed.

The players all denied any involvement.

The Indianapolis police reported to the bar manager of the 8 Seconds Saloon might have been in an angry and somewhat eroded ear. He told officers that Tinsley had threatened to kill him the report said. Witnesses told officers that McLeod had shoved people during the scuffle that happened about 2:15 a.m. at the club in the city's west side.

The confrontation followed another incident involving a person who employees thought was trying to steal coats from the back area, police said.

The manager and witnesses told officers that Tinsley, Daniels and a man with them punched the man in the face and head.

The manager "stated that he was threatened individually at all time, at which time both witnesses stated that "a person's life was in danger."

g, according to the report.

Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh said in a statement Wednesday that the team was aware of the allegations but would have no further comment until police complete the investigation.

A phone number provided by the NBA Players Association for Tinsley's agent, Raymond J. Daniels' agent, Glenn Schwartzman was unable to defend himself, was answered by a message saying it was no longer in service.

The three players all said they had not taken part in the fight.

"I had nothing to do with this," Tinsley said in a statement released by the team. "I'm extremely upset that my name has been associated with this."

Daniels' agent, Glenn Schwartzman, said the players were at the nightclub for an event celebrating the Indianapolis Colts' Super Bowl victory and that Daniels was not involved in the fight.

"It is 100 percent, no doubt about it," Schwartzman told The Associated Press. "He is a good guy who did nothing wrong other than be an NBA player."

Sloan had no comment about the fight.

The decree approved by the Cabinet also bars clubs from selling blocks of tickets to visiting fans and allows authorities to bar suspected bootleggers from entering stadiums, even if they haven't been convicted of crimes.

The measures are severe and without precedent," Deputy Interior Minister Marco Minniti said. "Our objective is to play the games behind closed doors. Our objective is to play the games in safe stadiums with open doors."

The Italian news agency ANSA said that six soccer stadiums in Italy met the required security standards, including Rome's Stadio Olimpico. The San Siro stadium - home to AC Milan and Inter Milan - is among the stadiums completing work to meet the requirements, ANSA reported.

The Italian soccer league said its officials will meet Thursday in Rome with the presidents of all 42 teams in Serie A and Serie B - Italy's top two

NBA

Center John Amaechi comes out as first openly gay player

Associated Press

The small, exclusive club of openly gay professional athletes has a new member.

Former NBA center John Amaechi, who spent five seasons with four teams, on Wednesday became the first NBA player to publicly come out.

Amaechi will appear on ESPN's Outside the Lines on Sunday, and his autobiography "Man in the Middle," will be released Feb. 1.

"He is coming out of the closet as a gay man," Amaechi's publicist Howard Bragman said.

Martinavrivoli, perhaps the first openly gay sport athlete in the world, praised Amaechi's decision and said it's imperative for athletes to come out because of what she called an epidemic of suicides among young athletes and their friends.

"It's hugely important for the kids to know that you can come out and play in the world," she said. "We're all adults, and we know what it's like to help a lot of kids growing up to feel better about themselves."

Three years after his playing career ended, Amaechi became the sixth professional male athlete from one of the four major American sports (NBA, MLB, NFL, NHL) to publicly discuss his homosexuality.

Former NFL running back David Kopay came out in 1977, offensive lineman Roy Simmons and defensive lineman Esera Tuaolo came out more recently.

Glen Burke, an outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Oakland A's in the 1970s, and Billy Bean, a utility player in the 1980s and 1990s, also have come out.

Each did so after retiring.

Burke died of complications due to AIDS in 1995.

"What John did is amazing," said Tuaolo, who came out in 2000. "He doesn't know how many lives he's saved by speaking the truth.

Tuaolo said coming out would be a relief to Amaechi.

"I'm extremely upset that my message saying it was no longer in service.

"We're not alone but kids don't know what depression, all you can do is have a good example," Tuaolo said coming out would be a relief to Amaechi.

"What John did is amazing," said Tuaolo, who came out in 2000. "He doesn't know how many lives he's saved by speaking the truth.

"I always have peoples' feelings at heart. People do what they can do is have a good example," Tuaolo said coming out would be a relief to Amaechi.

"I always have peoples' feelings at heart. People do what they think it's right, but this is a big day."

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NCAA Men's Basketball

UNC hands rival Duke third straight loss

Hansbrough, Wright score in double figures

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — The crowd was pouched, and despite Duke's determination to end a nagging losing streak, had built a big lead behind a surge of emotion.

Yet North Carolina's young team was not discouraged. And by the end, those Tar Heels had escaped one of college basketball's most intimidating arenas with a confidence-building win Wednesday night.

Freshman Brandon Wright scored 19 points while Tyler Hansbrough added 16 to lead North Carolina in a 90-76 win. And once again, the Tar Heels hung around while convincing their opponents to wince.

"They're very, very talented, and the depth that they have means they never take a break," said Coach Mike Krzyzewski, whose Blue Devils had to settle for second straight win in Cameron Indoor Stadium and handing the Blue Devils their first three-game losing streak in nearly eight years.

Rookie Ty Lawson added 15 points for the Tar Heels (23-7, 7-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who trailed by 10 points early in the second half before finally going ahead to stay in the final minutes.

Last year, Hansbrough led a youth-laden group into Cameron to close the regular season and spoil All-American J.J. Redick's senior day. It was a strong way to bounce back after an surprising week.

"I was extremely impressed with how competitive our team was, especially when you compare it to what we did last Saturday," Williams said. "They were down 10 a couple of times in the second half, but shot 59 percent after halftime and hit 7 of 8 free throws in the final 31 seconds to seal it.

We started to get tougher as the game went on, as it starting winding down," said Hansbrough, who scored 12 points in the second half. "That's maybe what we need to do at the beginning of the game, too."

It was a strong way to bounce back after an surprising weekend loss to North Carolina State — an 83-76 home win to Florida State — that opened the 1999-2000 season with two straight losses.

The Blue Devils had their chances despite blowing the lead, but just went 3-10 at the foul line in the second half as the game slipped away.

"I thought we played a terrible game tonight, but it wasn't enough to beat a terrific team," said Duke guard Vincent Goins. "They're very, very talented, and the depth that they have means they never take a break. So when they're playing like that, you have to be incredibly resilient.

North Carolina took its first lead at 62-60 when Gerald Henderson was whistled for a flagrant foul on Krzyzewski's fast-break layup with 5:15 left, then pushed the lead to 64-60 when Wright knocked in a tough shot over Josh McRoberts on the next possession.

Duke managed to close the gap to 64-63 shot in the lane from Henderson, then looked poised to pull ahead when DeMarcus Nelson got to the foul line after a turnover. But Nelson missed both shots and Hansbrough knocked down a straightaway jumper on the next play to make it 66-63 with 3:15 left.

That started a six-point run from the Tar Heels, who took their largest lead at 70-63 before Lawson's driving basket while drawing the foul for a three-point play with 1:46 left. Scheyer managed a three-point play to make it 70-66 with 1:17 left, but Lawson followed with a driving basket against three defenders that allowed the Tar Heels to seal it at the line.

It was another late-game fade for the Blue Devils, who failed to score on the final play of a 68-66 overtime loss at Virginia and a 68-67 home loss to Florida State. Krzyzewski responded by shaking up his starting lineup against the Tar Heels, pulling three-captains McRoberts and Nelson — who had started every game this season — in favor of freshmen Henderson and Brian Zoubek.

Scheyer got the Blue Devils off and running, scoring 14 first-half points — including a stick-back of a Henderson miss that gave Duke its largest lead at 35-25 in the 4-minute mark.
out with a lot of energy and focus," Hilesland said.

The Irish are ranked No. 21 in the Coaches poll, but they dropped out of the AP poll after Saturday’s loss. Brey said his team isn’t paying attention to the ranking.

“It’s a non-factor,” he said. “We’re thinking bigger things now and we’re trying to get some consistency.”

After DePaul, Notre Dame returns home for a game against Providence and then travels to Cincinnati. After that, the Blue Demons come to the Joyce Center for a rematch before the Irish host Marquette in their final home game. Notre Dame finishes its season against Rutgers on the road.

The Irish are currently sixth in the Big East, half a game behind Louisville for third and one game behind West Virginia for the fourth and final bye in the conference tournament.

“We’ve got six games left,” Brey said. “One thing I talked to the guys about was that, in the criteria for the NCAA Tournament, they look at your last ten games.”

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Kurz

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Irish guard Tory Jackson squares up against Tide guard Ronald Steele during Notre Dame’s 99-85 win over Alabama Dec. 5.

Irish guard Breona Gray takes the ball up the court during Notre Dame’s 84-55 win over Louisville Wednesday.

Raining Threes

Irish guard Colin Falls attempts a jump shot during Notre Dame’s 82-68 win over South Florida Jan. 23 at the Joyce Center.

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Defense

continued from page 24

by beyond the arc, McCoughtry took over in the first half, scoring 19 points, including 11 straight for the Cardinals.

Notre Dame switched to a box-and-one defense at the break and Reid’s team couldn’t cope.

“I was absolutely thrilled with the defense in the second half," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “I thought Breona (Gray) really shut (McCoughtry) down in the second half when we went to box-and-one. I thought that was a big key in the game. Louisville coach Tom Collen felt poor play, rather than the defensive adjustment, caused his team’s second-half meltdown.

“Obviously it was a tale of two halves,” he said. “In the second half, everyone went full-court press and we punished them.”

The Irish trailed by as many as 15 points with 2:25 to go in the first half, but battled back before halftime. Freshman Ashley Barlow hit a 3-pointer with two seconds remaining in the half to pull the Irish within seven.

“Barlow really made a difference in the game and that’s why we started her in the second half,” McGraw said.

Barlow scored with 15 points — her second consecutive double-digit performance — and six rebounds.

Notre Dame used second-half scoring runs of 11 and 16 points to seal the game. The first began with 14:13 left and put the Irish ahead by one. The second run clinched the win for the Irish, who scored every point over an eight-minute span.

“We had that run up against us against West Virginia, and we didn’t like it much so we thought we’d try it ourselves,” McGraw said jokingly.

Guard Charde Allen scored five of her 21 points during the second run. McCoughtry credited part of Allen’s shooting to her teammates’ screens, particularly those by forward Crystal Erwin and center Erica Williamson.

“My teammates were setting screens for me, and I’m going to take the shot when I’m open,” she said. “It just felt good, and most of the time it left my hand, so I continued to shoot.”

The second scoring run energized the Joyce Center crowd.

Gray continued from page 24

which the Irish overcame a 12-point hole, Gray hit a long-range shot that helped carden a Cardinal run and allowed the Irish to cut the growing deficit back into single figures.

With 2:05 left in the first half, Gray’s shooting ended a 10-0 run and helped Notre Dame reduce a 29-17 Louisville lead to nine points.

In the second half, Gray faced McCoughtry, who had 19 of her 29 points in the final half of a perfect 5-of-5 shooting from 3-point range, to just two field goals.

“Obviously it was a tale of two halves,” Brey said. “We had our best defensive performance in the second half.”

The Irish, who have struggled with their season average.

McCoughtry, who had 19 of her 29 points in the final half of a perfect 5-of-5 shooting from 3-point range, to just two field goals.

I was feeling it today, so I took what I had," Gray said.

Still, she should have gotten more looks.

Beyond bringing the Irish closer to the lead, Gray’s timely burkets also helped awaken a Joyce Center crowd that the Cardinals had kept quiet. Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the game reminded her of the 67-58 Dec. 6 win over Purdue in the Joyce Center — where Gray had a season-best 22 points.

“I think it had that atmospher," McGraw said. “I think the crowd felt it and that really spurred us on.”

Even when not scoring, Gray was more often than not the most important Irish player on the court. After the Irish moved out of the zone near the end of the first half, Gray fulfilled her more traditional role of No. 1 defensive stopper, as she was assigned to stopping Louisville forward Angel McCoughtry.

In the second half, Gray held McCoughtry, who had 19 of her 29 points in the final half of a perfect 5-of-5 shooting from 3-point range, to just two field goals.

And one of those was a pull-up with 23 seconds left in the game. McCoughtry, who McGraw called “the best player in the conference” was 0-2 long-range after halftime.

“We really wanted to limit her touches, and that’s where I think (Breona) Gray is just outstanding," McGraw said. “I think she’s the best defender in the conference and she went out and didn’t let (McCoughtry) get the ball.”

Still, it was Gray’s opportunity shooting that stood out most Wednesday night.

By the time the Irish embarked on a 16-0 run that gave them the lead for good, Gray had finished scoring from the field, but her importance to the effort never wavered.

“Bre did it with her defense, and she added some nice offense,” McGraw said.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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Raining Threes

Irish guard Colin Falls attempts a jump shot during Notre Dame’s 82-68 win over South Florida Jan. 23 at the Joyce Center.

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**ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Clipping the Cardinals’ wings**

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

A defensive shift at halftime allowed Notre Dame to shut down No. 17 Louisville’s offense and erase a seven-point half-time deficit on its way to a 64-55 win at the Joyce Center Wednesday.

The win was the second this season the Irish defeated a ranked opponent, the first coming against then-No. 10 Purdue Dec. 6 at the Joyce Center.

Louisville shot over the Irish zone early in the game, helping them grab the early lead. Forward Angel McCoughtry led the Cardinals’ 3-point offense, sinking all five of her shots from beyond the arc.

Saint Mary’s closes out season with MIAAs

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

With only one meet remaining, the Belles feel they can finish the season on a high note beginning today at the MIAA championships in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Saint Mary’s finished the regular season 2-7, but the team remains optimistic about its ability to succeed in several events this weekend. The Belles are focused on performing well not only in individual events, but in the relays as well.

"Personally, I will concentrate on having a strong 200 (yard back and 500 [yard]) free so hopefully I can advance to the finals," freshman Sara Niemann said. "However, I think relays are going to be the key part to our team’s success." Sophomore Melissa Gerbeth is also confident in her team’s ability to perform well at the conference championships.

"We have a chance to score more points at the meet than we have in a few years, so every placeing in the top-12 will be important as far as scoring points is concerned," she said. "It is going to be important for every swimmer to give their maximum effort in order to place well."

Because the MIAA championship is a three-day meet, the Belles will need to conserve their energy and remain focused for the duration. One way Saint Mary’s has tried to stay focused for this weekend has been a lighter practice schedule this week.

"This last week we started tapering, which gave us rest and allowed our muscles to relax," freshman Limhney Nells said. "Tapering is very important in order to allow your body to heal as well as give us a chance to visualize and think about our races."

Even though the Belles have rested for a week, they are confident that once the racing begins they will be able to perform well.

"Once we get in the atmosphere of the championship meet everyone’s mental state and attitudes really change," Niemann said. "I think relays are going to be the key part to our team’s success." Sophomore Melissa Lechlitner’s two relays are also important as far as scoring points is concerned.

But it is the seniors who hold the key.

"It’s just a matter of coming back and 500 [yard] free so hopefully I can advance to the finals," freshman Sara Niemann said. "However, I think relays are going to be the key part to our team’s success." Sophomore Melissa Gerbeth is also confident in her team’s ability to perform well at the conference championships.

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