Tragedy prompts campus action
Jenkins e-mail explains University security

By KEN FOWLER
News Writer

Though Notre Dame created a task force in 2006 to review crisis plans, the deaths of 33 people at Virginia Tech Monday "will spur even greater review and preparedness," University President Father John Jenkins said in an e-mail to students Thursday.

"Though limited in scope, Jenkins' message was the most in-depth explanation of Notre Dame's security measures since Monday's shootings.

In the 700-word letter, see JENKINS/page 5

LGBTQ activists take new approach

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

A Holocaust Memorial lined the east part of South Quad Tuesday as part of Stand Against Hate Week, organized by different campus groups and departments to send the message that "we here at Notre Dame do not discriminate or tolerate hate, specifically toward our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning students.

The display was just one indication of altering tactics used by those campaigning for rights and respect for LGBTQ students.

Despite high visibility enjoyed by the "Gay? Fine By Me" campaign, the week's student organizers decided to take a different approach.

"People are almost getting bored with this push for equality and acceptance for gay students," said senior co-organizer Casey Scott.

"There's a whole lot more to be asked for. There isn't any way, shape or form full acceptance. I don't think this issue is going to go away for a while nor should it."

In addition to the memorial and the distribution of T-shirts for the Stand Against Hate campaign, a Day of Silence was organized Wednesday. Participating students took a daylong vow of silence to represent the silence of LGBTQ students and their rights.

Scott said she considers the week a success especially for its first time on campus.

"I think it's a great event. [...]. It's widespread and I'm excited we're a more Brad Lenoir, president of The Shirt committee.

A Mass was held in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Tuesday in memory of the 33 people killed Monday at Virginia Tech.

Sorin sends students to Uganda
Men's dorm raises funds for St. Jude

By JOHN PAUL WITT
News Writer

Notre Dame students may have heard about the problems facing Uganda through classes, academic forums and campus events this year, but it's likely few realize that Sorin College has been sending students and money to the East African country for almost four years now.

Since the summer of 2003, Sorin has worked with the Center for Social Concerns and the Indiana Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross to send one student each summer for an eight-week placement at St. Jude Primary School, a Catholic grade school in Bwesigwa, Uganda.

Last summer, junior Patrick Robinson was chosen to work at St. Jude and had an experience he said has "stolen a piece of his heart."

"It's not every day that students are willing to work in a country famous for its long-standing civil conflict, though Reedy admits that his reasons for going were "selfish."

"I never needed anything growing up, and I wanted to see if I could be the good person I hope I am when things aren't as easy, when things are really difficult," he said. "It wasn't a very Africa-oriented reason."

By AFRICA/page 9

The Shirt 2007 to be revealed

By GENE NOONE
News Writer

With this weekend's Blue-Gold Game festivities in swing, football excitement is in the air along with anticipation for next fall's games — and for the unveiling of the unofficial attire worn to those games, in the form of The Shirt 2007.

The Shirt will be revealed to Notre Dame football fans this afternoon at the Hammes Bookstore. Celebrating 18 years of the project, this year's The Shirt will be "special," said sophomore Brad Lenoir, president of The Shirt committee.

"When designing The Shirt, we wanted to incorporate all that is the Notre Dame football experience," he said. "We wanted to bring everything together, show

see SHIRT/page 6

Notre Dame alumnus part of Pulitzer team

By JOHN PAUL WITT
News Writer

Rob Finch, who graduated from the University in 1998, is part of a team of journalists at The Oregonian newspaper in Portland, Ore., awarded the Pulitzer Prize Monday for their coverage of the disappearance of James Kim and his family in southern Oregon's Siskiyou mountains last December.

Finch, part of the New Media department at The Oregonian, used Google Earth technology to develop maps of the path Kim took through the mountains, using an innovative "three-dimensional" approach to enable readers to better understand what occurred.

He is the fourth Notre Dame graduate and former Observer employee to win the award — either individually or as part of a staff — in the past seven years.

"We were trying to give readers an idea of where the car was found with the rest of the family and the surrounding terrain," Finch said. "We got GPS coordinates for where the car was [and] used that along with narrative and still photographs to try to explain to people what happened and how
**Força Barça**

101

If you're still replaying in your head Messi's goal against Getafe Wednesday, maybe you love Barcelona soccer as much as me. No, wait. I doubt you come close, but it's a start.

If tears flooded your eyes when Eto'o was booted during the Zaragoza match for his skin, then you're off to a very good start.

If you see in Messi the rebirth of Maradona, we might be on the same page and you may appreciate my reflections on the greatest team in the history of soccer.

It is going to be a group of soccer players covered in sweat, jumping on each other and kissing as they celebrate a goal, absolutely adorable? Is this the equivalent of men's fascination with lesbians? I don't know. I do know that Ronaldinho alone is wonderful. Messi alone is wonderful too. Put Ronaldinho and Messi together, however, and the wonderfulness explodes.

Why won't coach Rijkaard let Saviola play more? I can understand Saviola's mammoth paycheck could create rivalries within the team — but thinking him can't be the solution. My heart weeps when I see his youth and skill squandered. Rijkaard, you're killing a mockingbird!

While we're on Rijkaard's questionable coaching decisions, let's talk about his defense. Coach, off the top of my head, I can name a dozen other goalkeepers to fill Valdes' clown shoes. Give me someone along the lines of Real Madrid's Casillas, and Valdes can be a fantastic understudy. If Rijkaard wants to keep Puyol on the field, he needs to offset the captain's retirement age with an impenetrable defense. What does he do instead? He calls Marquez, Mexico's Aztec Kaiser. Mexico, that's laughable.

Marquez is the foil to Ronaldinho's clean game. He's incompetent too, allowing the other teams to come near Valdes when "leave it to Valdes" is the shortest way to defeat, followed closely by "leave it to Marquez."

It is said that I only wake up every morning because I know it brings me one day closer to the next Real Madrid-Barcelona game! No, it's not said because Barcelona is "més que un club."

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Marcela Berrios at oberrios@nd.edu

**IN BRIEF**

"The Shirt" will be unveiled at 6 p.m. today at the Hames Armory. The public is invited to attend. Organized by Notre Dame Student Government, the service will include the lighting of 52 candles decorated with Virginia Tech ribbons.

Voices of Faith Gospel Choir will give their spring concert today at 7 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are available at the door. They are $5 for students and $7 for other guests.

The annual Blue/Gold game will start Saturday at 3:35 p.m. in Notre Dame Stadium.

The Notre Dame baseball team will play against West Virginia Saturday at 3:05 p.m. in Frank Eck Stadium.

Africa Night, an evening of musical performances, storytelling and dancing celebrating the people and cultures of Africa, will take place Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets can be purchased at the LaFortune Box Office.

To submit an information, please contact the associated press.
SMC hosts annual dance marathon for hospital

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

With their comfortable shoes in tow, students will crowd into Saint Mary's Athletic Facility tonight to Friday, April 20, 2007. Dance marathon, which begins at 6 p.m. and runs until 6 a.m. Saturday, Dance Marathon co-presidents Francesca Johnson and Pauline Kistka said.

"There are a lot of critically ill children in South Bend that go to Riley's," Johnson said. "We wanted to bring something here to benefit the Hospital, and make it a tri-campus event."

Last year, Saint Mary's raised $21,047.42 during its first ever marathon. "It was more than double any college in the nation," Johnson said. "The organizers aim to beat their goal and raise as much money as they can for the hospital, Johnson said.

Participants, who paid $12 to enter, are not allowed to sit down. Johnson said, and must remain on the premises the entire 12 hours. Entertainment will include performances by The Undertones, the Notre Dame Swing Club, Troop ND, Katus, Becca Schappka and Harper's Valley. There will also be a Morale Dance that will be taught to participants in stages throughout the night, and the event will culminate in completing the dance.

More than 50 families personally involved in Riley Hospital will be attending the event and telling their stories throughout the night. Registration starts at 5 p.m. and anyone can register at the door.

"We hope to have at least 300 people," Johnson said. "Our slogan is, 'We dance because we can. We stand for those who can't.'"

Contact Liz Harter at lzharter@smn.edu

Fans flock to Blue-Gold

By KATIE PERALTA
New Writer

Saturday afternoon will be the home of a typical fall football weekend at Notre Dame, complete with the fans, the concession stands, the cheers and the Fight Song. But as added bonuses, Saturday is expected to bring beautiful spring weather along with legendary Notre Dame coaches Lou Holtz and Ara Parseghian, in town for the annual Blue-Gold spring football game.

The game squares members of the team against each other in a bout that will give fans a taste of what to expect for next year and who to watch out for. The game has a running clock of four 15-minute quarters.

After a coin toss Wednesday, starting positions were conferred to early-injury freshman quarterback Jimmy Clausen and his sophomore Zach Frazer. Frazer's classmate Demetrius Jones and rising junior Evan Sharpely lost their tosses for the Blue and Gold teams, respectively. The four are competing to replace former Irish stand-out Brady Quinn, who is preparing for the NFL Draft, which starts April 28. Clausen, Frazer, Jones and Sharpely will alternate series.

"With Brady Quinn gone, it will be interesting to see where the spotlight will shine."

Andy Ostrowski, junior

"We will miss former safety Chinendum Ndukwe and Quinn. Junior Andy Ostrowski, who has attended Blue-Gold game each of the last two seasons, is looking forward to watching some of the new quarterbacks play."

"With Brady Quinn gone, it will be interesting to see where the spotlight will shine," Ostrowski said. "I think that Jimmy Clausen will do well. I don't expect him to let us down."

Freshman Jackie Miranda Muller, who built from the same town in Georgia as former running back Darius Walker, shares Ostrowski's enthusiasm. Since this is her first Blue-Gold game, she is excited to see all of the new players after the departure of Walker and last season's seniors.

"I think that [running back] James Aldridge will do well next year. I am also excited to see [cornerback] Munn Prince as well as the new quarterbacks," she said.

The Notre Dame ticket office expects a record high of ticket sales for this year's game. Ticket prices are $12 and $10 for adults and children, respectively, if bought in advance. On game day, the prices go up to $15 for adults and $10 for children. Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students are admitted for free with a valid ID and are to enter through Gate E. The game begins at 1:30 p.m. Holtz, head coach at Notre Dame from 1986 until 1996, will be the honorary head coach for the Gold team. Ara Parseghian, head coach from 1964 until 1974, will be the honorary head coach for the Blue team. He was recently inducted into the AT&T Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

The Observer is now accepting applications for Controller, Web Designer and Systems Manager for 2007-08.

The Controller position, which provides great accounting experience, is open to rising junior. It is a two-year position; the 2007-08 controller will become the 2008-09 Business Manager.

The Web Designer position is open to any student with advanced scripting skills. Systems Manager applicants should be highly adept at computer troubleshooting.

Please contact Maddie Hanna at 631-4542 or mhanna1@nd.edu if interested.
UCC continued from page 1

students who visited the UCC are in academic distress, 53 percent reported that they worked with students to deal with "interpersonal concerns," which could include relationships with family members, peers, classmates, roommates, or boyfriends and girlfriends.

"I think it's really just not feeling good — feeling down, feeling depressed, feeling anxious — that brings students in, and the reasons for that could be all over the board," she said.

Last year, 19 percent of students who visited the UCC reported academic adjustment as an issue. While Notre Dame strives to maintain a Catholic identity, something the UCC must take into account, Steibe-Pasalich said students are not counseled in a particularly religious direction.

"We certainly are sensitive to a Catholic student body in that they are unique and it behooves us to pay attention to how that uniqueness manifests itself," she said.

Alcohol, food and body image, per­

dulous disorder, depression, stress, with issues such as obsessive-com­

pulsive disorder, depression, stress, disordered eating, and personal growth and relaxation. There is also a group of graduate students for counseling.

In addition to helping students, the course also advises faculty and staff on dealing with students.

"We're also consultants to faculty and staff who need advice on han­

ing a distressed student," Steibe-

Pasalich said.

Contact Emma Driscoll at
edriscol@nd.edu

Students who are in distress themselves, have concerns about another distressed student, or are wondering what to do in the event that another student displays violent tendencies are encouraged to call 631-7336 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and request to speak with a "warm line" counselor.

Along with individual and emerg­

counseling services, the UCC offers group counseling and out­
preach programs, UCC groups deal with specific groups of students when certain programs. UCC groups deal with specific groups of students when counselors have received a Master's degree, and 21 percent graduate students, Steibe-Pasalich said. Three percent did not report their academic-year.

The UCC has 12 psychologists, eight employees under supervision who either are working toward or have received a Master's degree, one consulting psychiatrist and one consulting nutritionist.

"We do think we have very quali­
fied people here. We have licensed psychologists who are experts in college student development," Steibe-Pasalich said.

Although data on whether stu­
dents visited these staff members as a result of the Virginia Tech shootings is not available, the UCC has added a link to its Web site for students, faculty and staff to give tips for managing distress in the after­

morn, I think."

Ultimately, students who want to work with someone else, unless if medical assessment is the only issue."

Reasons a student may be referred all include the need for medic­

ation in the only issue."

Reasons a student may be referred include the need for medication, if a student is in so much distress he needs more than one-week counseling or if a stu­
dent wishes to receive longer term counseling with the same counselor, which can conflict with the UCC's brief therapy model.

"We would like to see a student decrease their need for counseling," Steibe-Pasalich said, adding that the UCC has an ethical obligation to refer students who do not seem to be "getting better" elsewhere. The UCC may also suggest that students who do not comply with treatment recommendations seek help else­

where.

The beginning of help

The recently renovated UCC — located on the third floor of Saint Liam Hall — includes group and individual counseling rooms, a con­

ference room and a library. The Inner Resource Room, which was the gift of the Class of 2004, includes a massage chair, biofeedback tech­

nology and software games to help control breathing and increase relaxation. While biofeedback machines in the halls keep counseling private and confidential. There are also rooms in which students can fill out intake paperwork.

This intake paperwork — filled out on a student's first visit to the UCC — helps see what a student is working on and what they are interested in. It helps the UCC gather statistics and demographic to determine "who we are not meeting enough with" and to help the UCC tailor services to groups of students where necessary.

Once a student has completed intake paperwork, he or she is referred to UCC — helps the UCC gather statistics and demographic to determine "who we are not meeting enough with" and to help the UCC tailor services to groups of students where necessary.

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Suicide bomb rips Baghdad

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber slipped past security barriers in his car and killed 12 people Friday, the latest in a wave of attacks that have shown the resilience of insurgents in the face of a U.S.-led crackdown on major violence in Iraq's capital.

The attack in a mostly Shiite district showed yet another ability of insurgents to penetrate Baghdad's heavy security presence, a day after more than 230 people died in the worst spasm of violence since President Bush announced his plan in January to increase American troops to 300,000.

Iraq's prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, said an "open battle" was being waged for control of his nation.

Child soldiers rampant in Congo

DAMAK, Sudan — Congo's new government has failed to stop the use of child soldiers, a group said Thursday.

Tens of thousands of young Congolese are being recruited by the country's warring armies and génocides, including in the east where they have faced no consequences for committing serious human rights abuses.

The United Nations said it had received reports of widespread abuse of children in armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Iraq

Gates says Iraq's 'clock is ticking'

Defense secretary tells leaders that American commitment isn't open-ended

Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is making a foray into Iraq, meeting Iraqi leaders and America's military commanders.

The trip is expected to be a key test of whether American leaders can convince their military commanders to remain in Iraq.

The U.S. defense secretary, traveling to Iraq for the third time in four months, took a decidedly stronger tone in reflecting U.S. frustration and the political tumult in Washington where President Bush and Congress are deadlocked over whether to extend an end date for the war.

"The defense secretary stressed that there is no time to waste," a Pentagon spokesperson said.

The last time a U.S. defense secretary visited Fallujah — which until late 2004 was a key stronghold of the Sunni insurgency — it was Donald H. Rumsfeld, who stepped down in December 2005 to announce a plan to begin reducing U.S. troops. Small reductions were made, but shortly afterward troop levels began climbing again. In February 2006 the spectacular bombing of a mosque in Samarra, north of Baghdad, set off a wave of sectarian retaliation and a surge of civilian deaths that scuttled U.S. plans to pull out more troops.

"Yesterday was a bad day, but we have a record 132 million doses ready for the 2007-2008 flu season, and even more could be available if a fifth company joins their ranks," a flu vaccine manufacturer said Thursday.

"The head of the army has given the order that child soldiers need to be demobilized and taken out of the ranks, but despite the order, nothing is happening," said Anneke van Ouderen, a London-based Congo researcher with Human Rights Watch.

Preacher's wife convicted

SELDER, Tenn. — A preacher's wife who claimed her husband abused her was convicted Thursday of first-degree murder, but the jury settled on a lesser charge.

Prosecutors had asked that Winkler be convicted of second-degree murder but the jury decided she had killed her husband in a fit of passion.

Winkler entered a plea of not guilty and took the stand Thursday, claiming her husband abused her.

The hearing was drawing to a close as lawyers waited for the House and Senate versions of the proposal to pass, and the political turmoil in Washington where President Bush and Congress are deadlocked over whether to extend an end date for the war.

"I'm committed to working with you in trying to restore the faith and confidence you need to have in me," he said.

The exchange punctuated a long day in the witness chair for the attorney general, who doggedly advanced the administration's message to Iraqi political leaders.

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Shirt
continued from page 1
how unique it is, and the power it contains.
This year’s designer, sophomore Andrew Parnell, said he wanted to create a shirt that expressed exactly what Notre Dame football fans feel every fall.
Lenoir thinks Parnell succeeded.
“The Shirt is a unifying factor of Notre Dame fans,” Lenoir said. “It brings everyone together. The students, alumni, fans, and the football team. It is something special that has become a part of the Notre Dame football tradition.”
Although the design started as a very rough draft, after multiple revisions and some insight from the committee, a great finished product resulted, Lenoir said.
Parnell agreed.
“When you see The Shirt, you think, ‘Now that is what Notre Dame football is all about’,” Parrell said.
But Lenoir said the committee “didn’t feel any added pressure this year.”
“The beauty of The Shirt project is that it is a fresh start every year. We understood that last year was successful, but this is this year,” he said.
Although the committee did not look to old shirts for design inspiration, it did use shirts from the past in its promotional campaign. Posters across campus feature students wearing past designs of The Shirt.
“In our campaign, we wanted to show everyone how far The Shirt has come over 18 years,” Parrell said.
“If we were going to do a collection of past shirts, from the navy blue 2006 ‘Tradition’ shirt way back to the original Kelly green 1990 shirt.”
At the unveiling, the committee hopes to have all of the past shirts on display to show how far the project has come, Lenoir said.
Also at the unveiling will be a Johnsonville brat truck with the world’s largest grill, measuring 64 feet long. The grill will be supplying 2,000 free brats to those in attendance. There will also be inflatables and a bike give-away at the event.
Scheduled to appear at the unveiling are Alumni Association President Chuck Lemon, the Glee Club, the marching band, the pom squad, cheerleaders and Matt Flippo, Notre Dame’s new leprechaun.
Festivities kick off at 5 p.m. with the official unveiling starting an hour later. The committee moved this year’s release to the evening to accommodate the schedules of the students and community, Lenoir said.
The Shirt will again sell for $15, but today only, students presenting their ID can purchase The Shirt at a discounted price of $11. Proceeds from The Shirt go to student organizations and are donated to charity. During its 18 years, the project has raised over $4 million.
Contact Gene Noun at cnoonen@nd.edu
Pulitzer
continued from page 1
the kids survived.”
Finch credited the entire staff of The Oregonian with the award and said it was “cool to be part of such a team effort.”
“I’m proud of the work we did and it effort it took to do that,” Finch said. “This wasn’t an individual award — it was the entire newspaper’s award — because 100 people touched these stories in one way, shape or form.”
But the award is bittersweet, Finch said, the story was so tragic.
“You’re celebrating something that wouldn’t have been a story if this guy hadn’t died,” Finch said. “It’s a hard thing to accept.”
Finch worked as a photographer for The Observer when he was an undergraduate and covered Notre Dame’s football game against Navy in Ireland in 1996. He credited Notre Dame with providing him with “many opportunities” and inspiring him with a sense of “newness and creativity.”
The other three recent Notre Dame Pulitzer winners are also former Observer staffs. 1995 graduate and Saint Paul Pioneer Press reporter George Dorothy won the 2000 beat reporting award for a series on academic fraud within the University of Minnesota’s men’s basketball program, and 1994 graduate David Kinney was a member of the Newark Star-Ledger’s Pulitzer-winning staff in 2005. The staff won for its multi-faceted coverage of the hurricane and its aftermath.
Krupa served as editor in chief of The Observer during the 1999-2000 academic year. At least two other Notre Dame alumni have won individual Pulitzer awards, Assistant Vice President for News and Information Dennis Brown told The Observer last spring. 1939 graduate Edwin O’Connor won for fiction (“The Last Hurrah”) in 1962, and 1927 graduate and sports columnist Red Smith won in 1976.
LGBTQ
continued from page 1
part of it,” she said.
Scott was also pleased that the Day of Silence could be brought to campus. She said the day is observed around the country at other universities, high schools and even middle schools.
For freshman Patrick Bears, remembering “all day” was the “hardest thing in my life.”
“A huge what I did will help the awareness of LGBT issues that are faced by people at this and other universities,” he said.
Scott said she felt the Holocaust Memorial display on South Quad was particularly successful and had “the most reach in terms of all the events we did.”
Just even walking by the few times that I did, it seemed that people took notice of it. I think that had a big impact,” she said.
To make an even bigger splash next year, Scott said she hopes to see “more interactive events,” like the Day of Silence, so more students can participate.
“While I’m happy with the amount of people who did participate in the Day of Silence, I would love to see many more people participate,” said Scott, who hopes the day will become a “very big campus-wide event.”
The week was put on by the Core Council for Lesbian and Gay Students, the sociology and history departments, student government, Jewish Club of Notre Dame, Progressive Student Alliance, Feminist Voice, Graduate Student Union, the Gender Relations Center and the University Counseling Center.
Contact Sara Britton at sbbrtto@nd.edu
Contact Gene Noun at cnoonen@nd.edu
Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu
Contact John Paul Witt at pwitt1@nd.edu
Contact Gene Noun at cnoonen@nd.edu

GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING.
YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT IT ON YOUR RESUME.

The Army ROTC Leader’s Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience that marks the beginning of your career as an Officer, a leader of the U.S. Army.

Did you know that Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and entering Grad students can join Army ROTC and receive a full scholarship?
Did you know that Army ROTC only requires about 5 hours of your time per week?
Did you know that ROTC scholarships cover full tuition, fees, $900 per year for books and pays a monthly stipend?
Get the facts; contact Captain Kelley Osborne at (574) 631-4656 or eosborne@nd.edu.
**Business**

**MARKET RECAP**

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**Treasuries**

- 10-YEAR NOTE | $0.04/100 | 14.67 |
- 30-YEAR BOND | $0.05/100 | 13.87 |

**Commodities**

- LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.) | $-1.30 | 61.83 |
- GOLD ($/oz.) | $-0.05 | 688.30 |
- PORK BELLY ($/cwt.) | $+1.68 | 104.88 |

**Exchange Rates**

- TEN | 118.6300 |
- EURO | 0.7343 |
- POUND | 2.4992 |
- CANADIAN $ | 1.1286 |

**IN BRIEF**

Newspapers face rocky quarter

CHICAGO — Media companies announced lackluster earnings during their latest quarter, as advertising revenue, profit and circulation figures dealt the newspaper industry its latest financial blow.

Gannett Co., Tribune Co., New York Times Co. and Media General Inc. all reported lower earnings, as classified advertising dwindled and overall online revenue growth began to slow, analysts said.

At Chicago-based Tribune, interactive revenue grew 17 percent to $60 million. That segment, which grew 30 percent during the first quarter of 2006, "The big problem and the big red flag for newspaper companies is that the slowing in online revenue growth means that their ability to make up that print loss is eroding very quickly," said Ken Doctor, a media analyst for Outsell, Inc.

Newspaper publishers have been struggling for years as readers turn to the Internet for their news and advertisers — particularly classified advertisers — follow them. That trend has continued. During the latest quarter, classified revenue at Tribune and Media General fell 14 percent, while dipping nearly 12 percent at New York Times and 3 percent for Gannett.

Michael Simonson, newspaper analyst at the credit ratings service Fitch Ratings Inc. said an 8 percent drop in print ad revenue at Gannett’s flagship USA Today was a cause for concern.

Wall street finishes on flat note

NEW YORK — Wall Street closed essentially flat Thursday after struggling to resume a modest upward trend while battling mixed upbeat economic data, divergent earnings reports and a pullback in Chinese stocks. The Dow Jones industrials edged higher to a record close for the second straight day.

While a mix of profit reports pushed and tugged at stocks Thursday, investors also watched markets abroad, where stocks fell following word that economic growth in China’s first quarter jumped a higher-than-expected 11.1 percent and inflation increased at the fastest pace in more than two years.

**Google’s first-quarter profit rises**

Company’s three-month earnings increase 69 percent, exceeding analyst estimates

SAN FRANCISCO — Google Inc.’s first-quarter profit rose 69 percent, maintaining the online search leader’s penchant for outsizing analyst estimates.

The stellar results Thursday left little doubt that Google has widened its lead over its closest rival in Internet search and advertising, Yahoo Inc., whose first-quarter earnings eroded.

Google detailed its sparkling performance on the same day that several major U.S. newspaper companies announced another quarter of financial decay, underscored an advertising shift that is enriching Internet upstarts at the expense of traditional print outlets struggling to adapt to a new order.

"Born less than decade ago, Google now reigns as the most profitable — and probably most powerful — force on the Web."

In the latest demonstration of its clout, Google earned $1 billion, or $3.18 cents per share, for the first three months of the year. That compared with net income of $592.3 million, or $1.95 per share, in the same period a year ago. It was also the second consecutive quarter in which Google earned $1 billion — nearly as much money as the nation’s largest newspaper publishers, Gannett Co., made all of last year.

If not for expenses incurred for employee stock compensation, Google would have earned $3.68 per share. That figure topped the average estimate of $3.30 per share among analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial.

Online revenue reached a new company high of $3.66 billion, a 63 percent increase from $2.25 billion a year earlier.

After subtracting advertising commissions and other payments to its partners, Google’s revenue totaled $2.53 billion. That amount was about $40 million above analyst estimates.

"We are ecstatic about our financial results this past quarter," Google Chief Executive Officer Eric Schmidt crowed in a Thursday conference call with analysts. Schmidt, Google’s CEO for nearly six years, also will become chairman of the board in a promotion announced Thursday.

"Pleasing earnings surprises have become routine for Google, which has succeeded in beating analyst estimates in all but one of 11 quarters since its ballyhooed initial public offering of stock in August 2004."

That track record had helped elevate Google’s market value to nearly $150 billion, even before the stock price surged $12.55, or 2.7 percent, in Thursday’s extended trading. Google shares fell $4.36 to close at $471.65 in regular trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market before the market network was released.

It has become more difficult for Google to impress Wall Street because its stock is scaling lofty heights and investors have become accustomed to the company’s eye-popping earnings growth, said Global Crown Capital analyst Martin Pykkkkonen. "The stock isn’t going to double or triple like it a few years ago, but it’s still a good growth stock to have in your portfolio," he said.

As usual, Google’s financial firepower flowed from its search engine. That ubiquitous tool has become the hub of the Internet’s largest market network and appears to be getting even better at identifying the right ads to display with its search results, which in turn helps elicit more revenue-generating clicks.

Wolfowitz fights to keep his position

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fighting to keep his job, World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz is offering to make management changes at the institution, officials close to the situation said Thursday.

The overture — which came during a meeting of bank vice presidents on Wednesday — was made as Wolfowitz is facing mounting calls for his resignation. The controversy is over Wolfowitz’s role in arranging a high-paying job for Shoshana Zuboff, a bank employee who has dated.

The World Bank’s 24-member board is expected to meet behind closed doors on Thursday to discuss the matter. It is not clear what action, if any, the board might take.

Wolfowitz has said he made a mistake and has apologized.

At Wednesday’s meeting, Wolfowitz stated anew that he did not intend to step down, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not permitted to speak on behalf of the bank. The board spoke in general terms for the need to improve the bank’s management, including its human capital, and to soften his management style. He also invited recommendations.

The United States — the bank’s largest shareholder — has been standing by Wolfowitz. "As we’ve said before, the president has confidence in Paul Wolfowitz," White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said Thursday in a fresh statement of support. She also said it is appropriate to let the board’s review process take place.

Although they have not said so publicly, some European governments would like to see Wolfowitz go but do not want to provoke a fight with the United States over the issue.

Under an informal agreement, the United States, which is a board of the World Bank and the Europeans chose the leader of its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund. The controversy over Wolfowitz could bring this informal arrangement into question if he resigns or is fired.

Documents released last week showed that Wolfowitz had a direct hand in securing a State Department job for Riza in September 2005 that pays her $135,000. Before the transfer, Riza was earning close to $132,000 as a communications adviser in the bank’s Middle East department.
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Africa continued from page 1

that lesson came not in the classroom, but through his daily interactions with Ugandans.

"The people [in Uganda] aren't looking for you to save them," he said. "They want you to share in their struggle, to know, and to care."

Reidy, a political science major, was at first slated to teach social studies, but wound up teaching religion, math, physical education and science.

For Reidy—who said he "didn't know anything about Ugandan history"—crossing ethnic, cultural and linguistic barriers in the classroom was not easy, despite a state-managed, standardized curricula.

"It was hard to communi-
cate," he said. "I can't speak their language and they can't speak English well—imagine teaching a religion class to kids in middle school and try-
ing to answer. How can I believe in God if I can't see him?"

Despite this, Reidy said the experience was personally rewarding.

"In an eight-week program you either find a way to swim or you drown," he said.

Reidy, like the Sorin students who visited Uganda before him, engaged in fundraising for St. Jude when he returned to the U.S.—something he was not obligated to do.

A problem he faced was the enormous cost of expanding the school to parents and administrators in Uganda.

"Ten thousand dollars is an impossible amount...when a sweet roll and a bottle of Coke costs a family its weekly income, maybe more," he said.

Back in the U.S., the Sorin students have been successful in their fundraising. The dorm recently surpassed $75,000 in funds raised for St. Jude and in support of future summer placements.

Sorin senior Michael Dewan have both won awards for their work in Uganda with Sorin College. Reidy was recently recognized with the prestigious Lou Holtz Leadership Scholarship for outstanding campus leader-

ship, and Dewan was awarded the senior award for Outstanding Service. Dewan hopes to start a panel in Notre Dame's academic forum on health, where he spoke about his experiences with AIDS in Uganda.

Sorin College's involvement with Uganda began after rec-
tor Father Jim King attended a presentation given by Brother John Bailanda, then Director of Development for the Congregation of Holy Cross in East Africa.

"There were lots of pictures of kids who obviously needed help and I realized that this is the sort of thing that college students would like to help with," King said.

King offered to raise money for Holy Cross' projects. Bailanda suggested the pro-
cesses he used for St. Jude School, since it was particular-
ly in need.

King began to take up a col-
lection at dorm Masses on foot-
ball weekends, but then began to see that the dorm could do something more to help.

I got students interested by posting pictures of the kids in Uganda and I realized that we could probably get a grant to start a summer program for a Sorin resident in Uganda," King said.

After students returned from Uganda, their experiences "motivated others to engage in service" both in the local com-

munity and abroad, King said.

"Our students, coming into contact with the Ugandan peo-
ple have enriched their lives—the best part for me is seeing how student's lives have been transformed by their desire to go back [to Uganda] and do good and make a difference," King said.

Contact John Paul Witt at jwitt1@nd.edu

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There are still plenty of questions surrounding what happened Monday at Virginia Tech.

But one thing that isn't up for discussion is that Notre Dame should have a plan in case the unthinkable happens here.

Which is why University President Father John Jenkins' email Thursday discussing emergency plans in a place was a welcome — and much needed — announcement for students, faculty and, maybe most of all, parents.

That message didn't come, however, until days after the shooting — days of wondering and worrying and wanting to know what Notre Dame would do.

Earlier this week, members of the administration and Notre Dame Security/Police were unwilling to comment on the University's preparedness for such an emergency, leaving students questioning if the plan was fully developed.

But now, Jenkins has reassured the community through an email that, while somewhat vague, promises the University will work to further prepare for anything that may come along.

It's understandable that Notre Dame would need time to work out all the details before breaking a plan public. Still, when information of this nature isn't being released, it's important to tell people why, instead of generating anxious speculation and unwanted attention.

Hopefully, Notre Dame's plan will eventually include the universe of messages and initiatives, one of the few specifics Jenkins included in his email. If implemented, the procedure would go a long way to helping Notre Dame not repeat the delay in warning students that happened in Blacksburg.

While other details of the plan will likely always keep secret, it's necessary to be open about all procedures and safety measures that do not compromise security — and therefore help students when information isn't released due to security concerns.

Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

Well wishes for the Class of 007

The world will know that this year's graduates will be less bigoted and more inclusive.

The dust, fiddle music, whiskey and red-eyed gravy.

Our leaders replaced wisdom with secret prisons, torture, indifference and duplicity. Our leaders replaced wisdom with secret prisons, torture, indifference and duplicity.

Which is why we lost our moral authority with secret prisons, torture, indifference and duplicity. Our leaders replaced wisdom with secret prisons, torture, indifference and duplicity.
This week has seen opinions from all over the spectrum expressed in the Notre Dame Law School. One of those opinions was found in this paper, and attributed to me. Many of the other opinions were in response to my quotes in The Observer. But, none of those view points were entirely mine. The quotes were out of context and didn’t do justice to what I really feel about the school. And as the responses referenced those same quotes, they didn’t get my position correct either. I’d like to take this time to say, what should have been said, and what was omitted, to provide a full understanding of my much discussed opinion of NDLS.

First, regarding what was actually said, Ken Fowler called my cell phone this past Monday and requested an interview about the Law School’s drop in rankings. Of course I obliged Ken. I knew who he was since I was his TA for Father Bob Dowd’s Religion and Politics course last spring. I figured we’d talk. Our conversation was only 25 seconds long, and I explained my views of the school. At one point, I said, “And you can quote me on this,” assuming that apart from that instance, I could drop my guard because I would be protected. But then I have now been told that this is common practice! I was taken out of context, and everything I said was “fair game” for the article.

To sum up my friends (and enemies) can agree, this law school has a tendency to embody his point. That’s just one of the many skills the NDLS Trial Advocacy program teaches you. Unfortunately, I have heard the “sound bites,” a speaker’s more colorful statements can be divorced from their intended meaning. Also, some of the things I said were taken out of their context, and should be seen for what they were — about 10 seconds from a conversation that lasted roughly 1,750.

I would have said (more clearly) in the article? Well, my first point to Ken was that, in my opinion, the Law School requires particular courses that aren’t the most practical, viz. Jurisprudence and Ethics II, and that those courses are inappropriately understood as an integral part of the Law School’s mission to educate a “different” kind of lawyer. And my second point was to suggest that while these courses are inappropriately understood, other elements of full legal education, which I explained to Ken included the study of the Federal Rules of Evidence and Trial Advocacy, are eclipsed.

I think those points was to make abundantly clear to Ken my opinion that jurisprudence isn’t very practical... or as I put it, “jurisprudence is a joke.” I have nothing against jurisprudence, per se; I have a BA with dual majors in politics and legal philosophy and a MA in legal philosophy. It’s the implementation that’s problematic. The implementation can require the course, but it cannot, I would argue, prevent someone from being able to teach or evaluate the courses. That results in a marked gap between the concept of the course and the reality of the course. Such a gap requires remediation.

As a corollary, I had hoped to make it clear that the school lacks a strong focus on practical, particularly the Trial Advocacy program. Consider the following: This Law School does not have one professor that has a specialty in full legal modating a jury trial. And the drawings of trial advocacy are designed for appellate arguments, and not trials.

Here’s a kicker; you generally don’t “real-life” textbooks for a course except on several professors who would be better employed to provide the “different” kind of lawyer which I, in my opinion, am unable to teach anything useful. I am still in the NDLS Law School course as well as other teachers. A contract is not a broad bowl. This is a narrow case. One of those courses is how you make the quality of a professor has nothing to do with religious affiliation. Neither does directing the Career Services Office, or being a librarian. But if the first hiring criterion is the ability to provide Catholic thought, the ability to teach substantive law (or do anything else) must come second.

So, here’s a suggestion. Hire the best professors and teach the best course. Get the best criminal law professor. Get the best international law professor. Get the best corporate law professor. Get the best international organization professor. Get the best environmental law professor. Get the best policy or political science professor. Get the best faculty and scholar specialist. Get the best faculty and scholar specialist.

I am confident that this school enjoys a position among the best Law Schools in the nation in large part because of the contributions of the faculty and the current administration and the students. I believe that most of the faculty are ranks above average, and have some academic peers in scholarship and teaching ability. As with all things, there is still room for growth. But... that’s just one man’s opinion.

Jim Paulino
third year law student
April 19

Value of a life

This past Monday, people across the country were glued to their television screens, witnessing the chaotic scene that unfolded in the result of the violence carried out on the Virginia Tech campus. Deservedly, this event received a great deal of public attention. As the contributions of the faculty and the current administration and the students. I believe that most of the faculty are ranks above average, and have some academic peers in scholarship and teaching ability. As with all things, there is still room for growth. But... that’s just one man’s opinion.

Ashley Mayworm
third year law student
April 19

Awareness man goal of T-shirts

I would like to thank Thomas Klepach for his letter to the Editor ("T-shirts raise awareness, limit funds," April 18) as activists, we must always ask ourselves how we can agree, this law school has a tendency to embody his point. That’s just one of the many skills the NDLS Trial Advocacy program teaches you. Unfortunately, I have heard the “sound bites,” a speaker’s more colorful statements can be divorced from their intended meaning. Also, some of the things I said were taken out of their context, and should be seen for what they were — about 10 seconds from a conversation that lasted roughly 1,750.

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April 19
Theatre Preview

Love takes center stage in ‘La Locandiera’

By MICHELE FORDICE
Associate Scene Editor

As one of the few foreign language productions on campus, “La Locandiera” (“The Innkeeper”) is an excellent addition to Notre Dame’s theatre season. A strong and excited cast and crew brought what could have been a very unapproachable play — both in setting and language — to a place where its meaning could be appreciated by a wider audience.

The Notre Dame Italian Theatre Company, which is presenting the production, is composed of students taking the one credit Italian Theatre Workshop course taught by professor Laura Colangelo. The students are immersed in Italian, as they speak the language at every stage of production. Participants serve as actors, set and costume designers, publicity, sound and light technicians, and multiple other roles. As it is an academic course, students were required to do some writing as well, including character analyses displayed at the play.

The company makes an effort to fully surround the audience with the experience of an Italian theatre setting in several ways.

DVD REVIEW

‘Half Nelson’ highlights power of relationships

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Senior Staff Writer

When Ryan Gosling climbs into character and takes his place by the chalkboard in “Half Nelson,” he commands complete attention.

Although he was nominated for an Academy Award, Gosling is not the first actor to play this role. But the familiarity he brings to Dan Dunne, a charismatic but flawed inner-city teacher, makes all the difference.

Not because you’ve seen this character in some other movie, but because Gosling makes you feel like you’ve met the man before. Exuding the warmth and comfort of a formative schoolteacher, he entices you to lean forward and listen more closely to his words.

This tactile connection between actor and audience drives “Half Nelson,” a wonderfully understated and frequently touching film. Dunne leads two very different lives.

By day, he’s a dedicated and caring middle-school teacher and a basketball coach.

But at night, he wanders through parties and streets, limp and lifeless, searching for his next crack cocaine fix. As the movie progresses, night and day begin to blur precariously. After one particularly long day, Dunne ducks into a locker room to get high, thinking he’s alone.

Fortunately, Trey (Shareeka Epps), a mature but reserved girl from Dunne’s class, walks in on him sitting dazed in one of the bathroom stalls, legs pulled up to avoid being detected.

This scene is chilling in its effectiveness. Played almost entirely without dialogue, the emotion tugs at us through looks stained with pain, shock and shame.

Like many of the best moments in the film, it boils the action down to one profound relationship. Soon, an unlikely friendship develops between teacher and student that extends beyond the classroom, and with far greater consequence.

At its heart, “Half Nelson” works as a simple, somewhat predictable story told well. Regardless, the film thrives on its approach to the material, where much is left unsaid and the easy answers for Dunne’s pitiable condition. All of this is elevated by the remarkable chemistry between Gosling and Epps.

With its recent release on a single-disc DVD, “Half Nelson” is finally available to the wide audience it deserved but never got during its limited art-house theatrical run. With crisp video and audio quality, the film’s striking cinematography and nuanced soundtrack are on fine display.

For special features, the disc includes deleted scenes, outtakes and a music video. The main attraction, however, is a meticulous commentary from Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, the talented writer-director team behind the picture.

Consistently entertaining, they discuss how a sub-million dollar independent film gets financed and made and the various technical and acting choices used to bring the material to life. Only a “Half Nelson” trailer is lacking here.

Gosling’s rare empathic ability to capture us within minutes of his arrival ensures that Dunne’s troubles become our own — the mark of any fine drama.

“Half Nelson” is one of those all-too-rare films that test your patience for much of the running time before finally rewarding you for your indulgence.

It subtly builds to a final, entirely silent confrontation between mentor and pupil. The sad little smile Gosling gives to Epps is heartbreaking in its sincerity, a quiet moment of truth that is as raw and moving a segment of cinema as the medium can muster.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumu@nd.edu
By ERIN McGINN
Assistant Scene Editor

There are a couple things in this world that are just not smart to do. It’s not smart to tell “lies” in a movie theatre, for example. It’s also not smart to remake classic films — especially Hitchcock movies.

Even though the new film “Disturbia” isn’t an official remake of the Jimmy Stewart/Grace Kelly classic, “Rear Window,” it’s hard not to make comparisons between the two. This strongly works to the disadvantage of “Disturbia.” While it’s not a bad film on its own, it pales in comparison to its cinematic predecessor.

The film stars Shia LaBeouf as Kale (or the Jimmy Stewart role), the troubled youth who is confined to his house. Where Stewart’s character was injured and wheelchair-bound, the modern technological counterpart is an ankle bracelet that Kale received after punching his teacher at school.

Bored at home, Kale starts surveying the neighborhood with his best friend Ronnie (Aaron Yoo) and a pair of binoculars. Added to their group is Ashley (Sarah Roemer), the hot blonde in the bikini who recently moved in next door and met the pair after she noticed Kale spying on her.

Ashley isn’t the only Kale watches, however. Another neighbor, for example, has an affair with his housekeeper. And the younger kids who’ve been teasing the confined Kale apparently watch a lot of porn. Most importantly, though, is the neighbor behind Kale’s house — Mr. Turner (David Morse), a strange guy who seems to have unhealthy relationships with women that might be prostitutes. To make matters worse, he drives a car that looks suspiciously like one that the cops suspect may belong to a high-profile serial killer.

But director D.J. Caruso stumbled where Hitchcock succeeded — the suspense of wondering if Kale is really onto something or if his cabin fever is getting the best of him. What Caruso does get right, however, is where the film manages to distance itself from the classic. “Rear Window” — is in the way the kids relate and interact in a modern world where iPods and laptop are ubiquitous, and where much of their daily lives is reducible to digital blips.

Cell phones, turnstiles and even good door openers all play pivotal roles in the detective story, often adding a nice layer of suspense to the film.

While LaBeouf and Roemer can’t compare to the classic elegance of Jimmy Stewart and Grace Kelly, they do have their own charm and their own set of circumstances.

LaBeouf in particular possesses the same kind of dorky charm that John Cusack did in his youth. All of the teenagers come across as real characters, which is better story than expected. Yes, it’s hard to ignore the film’s obvious cinematic roots, but in the end, the repackaging is good enough that it almost stands on its own.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu

Shia LaBeouf
feature facts:
Wears size 11 shoes
Named after his grandfather who is also a comedian.
Enjoys making independent short films with his friends.
Celebrates both Christmas and Hanukkah.

By ANALISE LIPARI
Assistant Scene Editor

You may know him as that kid from “Holes,” “Even Stevens,” “Your Saints,” “Shrek,” “Transformers,” “Constantine,” “Travelers,” “Waterworld,” and the list goes on. LaBeouf was ready for the big time.

LaBeouf’s first big film role, the protagonist in “Holes,” was an easy bridge between television and cinema for the young actor. Stanley Yelnats, the slightly goofy mop-top who finds himself at the center of a crime circle rooted in Wild West legends and a century-long treasure hunt, was a character not too different from the fun-loving Louis that fans had grown to love, but with a twinge of heart and a touch of the serious. The success of “Holes,” based on the best-selling novel by children’s author Louis Sachar, proved that LaBeouf was ready for the big time.


Currently, LaBeouf’s latest film, “Disturbia,” is turning heads and ticket turnstiles. “Disturbia,” a horror-thriller type flick that draws its roots from classics of the genre, most notably Hitchcock’s “Rear Window,” was recently the top draw at the box office, making over $20 million dollars. LaBeouf’s lead role, in a project that’s about as far from “Even Stevens” as you can get, shows how much this versatile young actor is capable of.

LaBeouf is also versatile off of the silver screen. For example, LaBeouf, with best friend and fellow actor Lorenzo Eduardo, has begun his own hip-hop group and record label, Element, as well as a production company.

With this diverse career path and a bright future ahead, former Disney tót Shia LaBeouf looks as though he’s on his way to becoming one of his generation’s most talented actors.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com
NEW YORK — Alex Rodriguez kind of chuckled, and declared the best thing about his game-winning homer Thursday was trying to hit Yankees coach Larry Brown in the head as he rounded third.

"It’s just fun," Rodriguez says. "It’s going out and not trying to do too much, and help the team win."

The six-time All-Star connected on a belt-high pitch from Joe Borowski (0-1) and sent the ball soaring to left field. Rodriguez knew immediately it was gone, flipping his bat toward the Yankees’ dugout and raising both hands in triumph.

He slapped the hands of Blood after rounding third, then slammed his helmet to the ground.

"It’s what Alex is capable of," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "He’s got such incredible ability and now he’s letting it speak for itself."

Sean Henn (1-0) pitched one inning, following Chase Wright and Kei Igawa to become the third Yankee rookie in three games to get his first major league win. That hadn’t happened since Norm Branch, Charlie Sante and Steve Hargis did it from May 20-22, 1941, according to Elias Sports Bureau.

The Yankees’ (8-6), two games over .500 for the first time this season, headed to Boston for their first trip to Fenway Park since they won five straight there in one series in August.

And the Yankees won with a two-run triple in the ninth inning as the Red Sox beat the Toronto Blue Jays Thursday and headed home to Boston with a victory going into their first series of the year against the New York Yankees.

Rodriguez, playing at shortstop, was topped by Lyle Overbay as he made the relay throw on a 1-6 double play that got Mike Timlin (1-0) out of an eighth-inning jam.

Vernon Wells led off with a double and advanced on a flyout by Thomas’ groundout. Overbay was walked intentionally to bring up Overbay, who grounded back to the mound. Timlin’s throw was high and wide, but Cora caught the ball and got the relay throw off before Overbay sent him flying.

"It was a tackle," Cora said. "I don’t mind people going hard, but when you see the replay, he’s going in with his hands up, he came, Rodriguez bag, I don’t mind when they go hard, but not with their hands up."

Cora didn’t accuse Overbay of dirty play but said he doesn’t expect anyone to try to hurt him.

"That’s something I really don’t like in the game," Cora said. "That part really bothers me sometimes."

Timlin said Cora did well to keep the thays from sailing into the outfield.

"He wasn’t as close to the bag as I thought he was," Timlin said. "When I let it go I kind of short-armed the ball a little bit. He picked me up."

Cora got on a bunt single against Roy Halladay leading off the ninth, and Manny Ramirez tied it 3-3 with his first homer of the season, a two-out drive off Shaun Marcum (1-3).

"We’ve all seen Manny take one swing and then get in a groove for a long time," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "That would be tremendous."

Padres 11, Diamondbacks 6
Brandon Morrow was better than his pitching.

The Padres drove in two runs with his first career triple and added a double for the Padres, who beat the host Diamondbacks on Thursday.

Khalil Greene and Rob Bowen hit solo homers for the Padres, who struggled offensively this year but managed to score a season-high in runs. Bowen had three RBIs and scored three runs, both career highs.

The Padres split the two-game homestand, with the coming loss coming as the Padres lost 5-3 in 12 innings. It was the most runs the Padres scored at Chavez Field since July 18, when they beat Philadelphia, 10-6.

Arizona’s Chris Young had a solo homer among his three hits, and scored three times.

Peavy, who finished with a headfirst slide, highlighted the five-run third and helped the Padres take a 7-1 lead.

The cushion in handy because Peavy (3-4) went from pitching lights-out to getting pummeled with the bases loaded. He won his fifth and one out in the sixth. He struck out eight but allowed five runs, four earned, on 10 hits and two walks, and his ERA rose from 1.90 to 2.13.

Peavy allowed only three baserunners — one of whom he picked off — through four scoreless innings, then got overworked by the bottom of the Diamondbacks’ order. The right-handed reliever managed of his last 13 batters to reach base.

Young hit a solo homer with the bases loaded in the fifth, his second. Diamondbacks starter Livian Huspaly held the Padres hitless with a two-out single, and Arizona added more singles, including Orlando Hudson’s two-run base hit.

Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez celebrates a walk-off home run during New York’s 8-6 win over Cleveland Thursday.
Around the Nation

Compiled from The Observer's Wire Services

Friday, April 20, 2007

NHL

Blue Jackets jettison GM Doug MacLean

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Columbus Blue Jackets fired president and general manager Doug MacLean, whose teams did not come within 19 points of the playoffs in the franchise's six seasons.

Team spokesman Todd Starck confirmed the firing on Thursday morning after several media reports said MacLean had been let go Wednesday night.

Principal owner John H. McConnell, minority owner and team officials met Wednesday and agreed to dismiss MacLean, the architect of a team that had gone 172-258-82 since joining the league in 2000 and 33-42-7 this past season.

Led by coach Ken Hitchcock, and with players such as Rick Nash and Sergei Fedorov, the Blue Jackets finished 23 points out of the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Their record this season is 24th among the league's 30 teams.

Starck said team officials would hold a news conference later Thursday.

Jody Shelley, with the team from its first year, said he was stunned by the dismissal despite the lack of success by the team.

"As a player, I'm really surprised," he said. "You hear the rumors but you just figure it comes with not meeting expectations. Then when the other shoe drops, you're still shocked."

MacLean did not return messages seeking comment left on his cell phone.

He had two years remaining on a contract that paid him around $1 million per season with incentives.

"I'm unbelievably disappointed about where we are but we think we've got an unbelievable foundation in place," MacLean said after the season. "I'm telling you, look around the league and how many teams would I trade ours for? Not many."

MacLean was McConnell's first hire when Columbus secured the franchise. He supervised all the drafts and trades, some that were overwhelmingly successes and others that were abysmal failures.

MacLean even dumped the team's first head coach, Dave King, and took over behind the bench. But the Blue Jackets did not respond under MacLean, going just 9-21-4-3 at the start of the 2003-2004 season before he stepped aside and elevated assistant coach Gerard Gallant.

In Brief

Pitching ace to miss starts due to strain in elbow

SEATTLE — Seattle Mariners ace Felix Hernandez, the pitching star of the young season, will likely miss two to three starts with a flexor-pronator strain inside his right pitching elbow and forearm.

Mariners medical director Dr. Ed Khalfayan said Thursday that the 21-year-old will not throw at all for five days, and then will play only catch initially.

"I think to do 20 days is a reasonable estimate," Khalfayan said when asked when Hernandez might again pitch in a game.

"That's as good a news as you can get from an elbow injury," the doctor said.

He added that had Hernandez continued to pitch with the strain he could have strained elbow so severely he would have required ligament replacement surgery and been lost for the season.

Joe Frazier drops lawsuit against daughter

PHILADELPHIA — Former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier told his lawyer on Thursday to drop a lawsuit against his daughter after she pledged to help him locate his missing business records.

The files at the center of the legal dispute never left "Smokin' Joe's" North Philadelphia gym, a lawyer for Jacqueline Frazier-Lyde said.

"I talked to my father today and he asked me how I was doing and I told him that I loved him," Frazier-Lyde said at a press conference that focused on her campaign for city council.

Frazier's lawyer said he reluctantly agreed to drop the suit at his client's request, although he vowed to refile it if Frazier-Lyde does not comply.

"This is about a father's love for his daughter," lawyer Michael P. Kelly said.

Oden to declare for NBA draft, skip sophomore year

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State freshman Greg Oden will make himself available for the NBA draft Friday, a family friend said Thursday night.

There will be a release in the morning from Ohio State. Greg Oden will be hiring an agent," said Al Powell, who has been a party to meetings between Oden and two other Buckeyes freshmen stars considering the draft.

As for the other two, Powell was less specific.

"Mike Conley Jr. and Daequan Cook will not be hiring an agent at this time," said Powell, a paid assistant coach at Dayton's Dunbar High School who helped coach all three players when they played AAU ball.

If Conley and Cook don't hire agents, they'll retain the option of returning to school next fall.

Mens' Tennis

Filta/ITA Rankings

Associated Press

1. Georgia 97
2. Virginia 89
3. Ohio State 87
4. Baylor 85
5. North Carolina 82
6. N.C. State 81
7. Mississippi 77
8. USC 76
9. Illinois 68
10. UCLA 67
11. Wake Forest 66
12. LSU 63
13. Texas 62
14. Oklahoma State 61
15. Alabama 57
16. Duke 56
17. Florida 54
18. Michigan 54
19. Pepperdine 53
20. Columbia 50

around the dial

NHL

Islanders at Sabres
7 p.m., Versus

Sharks at Predators
9 p.m., Versus
A-Rod hits walkoff HR in ninth-inning rally

Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez celebrates a walk-off home run during New York's 8-6 win over Cleveland Thursday.

"It's going out and not trying to do too much, and help the team win."

A-Rod connected on a belt-high pitch from Joe Borowski (0-1) and sent the ball soaring to center. Rodriguez knew immediately it was gone, flipping his bat toward the Yankees dugout and raising both hands in triumph. He slapped the hands of his teammates after rounding third, then slamed his helmet to the ground.

"It's what Alex is capable of," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "He's got such incredible power and now he's letting it speak for itself." Sean Henn (1-0) pitched one inning, following Chase Wright and Kei Iwagawa to become the third Yankees rookie in three majors league-leading totals to 10 homers and increased his major league win. That hadn't happened since Norm Branch, Charlie Santeiro and Steve Bork did it from May 20-22, 1941, according to Elias Sports Bureau.

The Yankees (8-6), two games over .500 for the first time this season, headed to Boston for their first trip to Fenway Park since they won five straight there in 2004. Andy Pettitte opposes Boston right-hander Curt Schilling in the opener of a three-game series Friday night.


Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 3
Alex Cora saved the Boston Red Sox in the ninth, then won the game with his bat.

Cora was on a double and advancing Frank Thomas' groundout. Overbay sent him flying.

"It was a tackle," Cora said. "I don't like in the game," Cora said. "That part really bothers me sometimes.

Timlin said Cora did well to keep the throw from sailing into the outfield. He wanted close to the bag as I thought he was," Timlin said. "Then I let go of a short one and the ball turned foul. He picked me up.

Cora was upended on a double play, but said he didn't enjoy being tagged.

"That's something I really don't like in the game," Cora said.

Wells led off with a home run for the third time this season, headed to Boston for their first trip to Fenway Park of the season, a two-out drive off Shaun Marcum (1-1).

"We've all seen Manny take one swing and then get in a groove for a long time," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "That would be tremendous." Padres 11, Diamondbacks 6
San Diego's offense was better than his pitching.

The Padres are two down with his first career triple, and added a double for the Padres, who beat the Arizona Diamondbacks on Thursday.

Khalil Greene and Rob Bowen hit solo homers for the Padres, who've struggled offensively this year but managed to score a season-high in runs. Bowen had three RBIs and scored three runs, both career-highs.

The Padres split the two-game homestand, with the win short of outfielder, then 8-6 hours after they lost 5-3 in 12 innings. It was the most runs the Padres scored at spacious Petco Park since July 18, when they beat Philadelphia 10-6.

Arizona's Chris Young had a solo homer among his three hits, and scored three times.

Peavy's triple, which he hit with a headfirst slide, highlighted the five-run third and helped the first left-take a 7-0 lead.

The cushion came in handy because Peavy (3-0) went from pitching lights-out to getting pulled with the bases loaded and one out in the sixth. He struck out eight but allowed five runs, four earned, on 10 hits and two walks, and his ERA rose from 0.90 to 2.13.

Peavy allowed only three baserunners—one of whom he picked off—through four scoreless innings, then got worked over by the bottom of the Diamondbacks' order. The right-hander allowed only one of his last 13 batters to reach base.

Young hit a solo homer with one out in the fifth, his second. Diamondbacks starter Livan Hernandez kept the inning alive with a two-out single, and Arizona added three more singles including Orlando Hudson's two-hit run.


Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez celebrates a walk-off home run during New York's 8-6 win over Cleveland Thursday.
By KATE ARNOLD

By MICHAEL BRYAN

SMC GOLF

O'Brien leads Belles to conference tournament

The first round will travel this weekend to Friday, April 20, 2007

The fall MIAA NCAA team to a fourth-place finish in the two-day, 36-hole first round led to cooperate with the Belles.

O'Brien leads Belles to conference tournament

The third and final qualifying round will be held April 24 at Tri-State University's Zollman golf course. The winning team after the three rounds will advance to the NCAA Championships, taking place May 8-11 at El Campeon Golf Course at the Mission Inn Resort & Club in Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla.

Contact Kate Arnold at karnold2@nd.edu

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ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

ND finish season with RU

By MICHAEL BRYAN

Open Writer

The Notre Dame women's lacrosse team will attempt to give its seniors a final home victory as they finish the regular season Saturday against No. 18 Rutgers.

For the Irish, currently in a three-way tie for first in the Big East with Georgetown and Syracuse, the game will determine the team's final standing in the conference, as well as seeding for the inaugural Big East tournament.

With a Notre Dame win and Syracuse loss against Loyola, the Irish would win the regular season Big East title and capture the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament. If all three teams win Saturday, the tiebreaker will be determined by each team's goal differential in Big East play. A loss against the Scarlet Knights would likely drop Notre Dame to the No. 4 seed.

Despite the importance of the Syracuse and Georgetown games this weekend, Irish coach Tracy Coyne said her team will be focused only on a victory over Rutgers.

"It's a must-win game for us, and before we start thinking about anyone else or tiebreakers, we need to just win our game," Coyne said.

Rutgers enters the match with an 11-3 record, having lost only to ranked teams Georgetown, Syracuse and Princeton. Despite their impressive record, the Scarlet Knights will be looking for their first big win of the season against the Irish.

Defensively, Notre Dame will focus on Rutgers All-American Katie Batuk. The senior leads the Big East in points with 39 goals and 23 assists. Kate Shomo, Nita Frankowski and Michelle Poole also lead the Scarlet Knights offense, each tallying more than 24 goals on the year.

The Irish will look to send their seniors out with a victory in the final home game of their senior class. Although Saint Mary's has not beat Olivot yet this year, the team is anxious to prove themselves today.

Saint Mary's has not played competitively since March 25, when it placed 19th in the Northern Kentucky Open. Belles coach Mark Hamilton said the three-week layoff will not have a positive effect on the team, but he is confident that the Belles will place well.

"This will be the easiest course we have played all spring," Hamilton said. "The tournament will be won on the greens."

The team has been working especially hard to eliminate wasted strokes on and near the putting surface.

The third and final qualifying round is April 24 at the NCAA Tournament at El Campeon. The winning team will advance to the NCAA Championships, taking place May 8-11 at El Campeon Golf Course at the Mission Inn Resort & Club in Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla.

Contact Kate Arnold at karnold2@nd.edu

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*CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY. MUST PRESENT THIS AD
MEN'S GOLF
Irish compete in Big East tourney

By CHRIS DOYEN Sports Writer

The Irish have faced a Big East opponent only once in tournament play this spring, last weekend when Louisville was in the field for the Kepler Intercollegiate in Columbus, Ohio. Louisville won the tournament, finishing 37 strokes ahead of the 11th-place Irish.

But Irish coach Jim Kubinski said last weekend was not entirely indicative of where the two teams stand.

"They've had a great season, but the conditions [last weekend] were the worst I've ever played in, coached in, or watched on TV," he said. "Last week's scores aren't indicative of anything. We had a tough start, and the more we tried to catch up, the more ground we lost. I never even looked at the leaderboard."

The Irish have won the conference title each of the past three years. In 2006, they did so in dramatic fashion. The second-seeded Irish erased a 12-stroke deficit in the final round to force a playoff with top-seeded Louisville. Current sophomore Josh Sandman's birdie on the first hole of the sudden death playoff secured a victory for the Irish.

Three of the four golfers who posted sub-par scores on that final day have graduated, so the Irish need contributions from some newer faces, Kubinski said two of last year's stars, Sandman and senior co-captain and All-America candidate Cole Isban, will lead the team in Louisville.

"If Cole and Josh play up to their capability, we should have a great chance to win come Tuesday," he said. With Greg Rodgers, Doug Fortner, and Adam Gifford rounding out the lineup for the Irish, Kubinski said Notre Dame will have a solid five-man team for the first time this season.

And, even though the Irish enter the tournament as three-time defending champions, they won't be feeling any pressure.

"This year, the pressure is squarely on Louisville," Kubinski said. "They've been in the top 20 all year, and they're playing at home. We're ready to play, and we feel loose and free, and we're ready to just have fun."

The tournament runs from Sunday through Tuesday, and the Irish hope to again upset top-seeded Louisville as the tournament's second seed.

Contact Chris Doyen at cdoyen@nd.edu
Saint Mary's (14-4) was in total command of Thursday's doubleheader against Goshen College, hammering the Leafs 8-0 and 9-0. Both games ended in five innings due to the slaughter rule.

Belles sophomore catcher Cali Davison (3.27 ERA) pitched a two-hit shutout in the first game against the Leafs. Sophomore catcher Ashley Fusaro led the Belles' offense, going four-for-six in the two games, hitting a double and three singles. Fusaro also stole a base in the first game, marking the first time in her career that she has swiped a bag. Senior third baseman Laura Helling hit two singles and a home run in the routs.

In the second game of the sweep, sophomore pitcher Kristin Amram (1.32 ERA) pitched a one-hitter in the Belles' 9-0 blanking of the Leafs. Davison, playing center field, hit her first home run of the season.

Junior captain McKenna Corrigan believes the sweep of Goshen will help the team in its next conference game Saturday. "The games gave us some confidence behind our backs again," she said. "We were able to hit our base runners in."

With several rescheduled games adding to an already-heavy slate of games, the Belles may feel pressure and fatigue. But their victory over Goshen shows the team is still fired up and focused for the rest of the season.

"It's nice to be able to go game-to-game and learn from each game," Fusaro said. "We can keep moving forward."

The Belles will face NCAA opponent Olivet Saturday at 1 p.m. at Gainey Field.

Contact Becky Slinger at rsling01@saintmarys.edu

RICK SULLIVAN/The Observer

Irish shortstop Brett Lilley tags out Boilermaker catcher Jeff Mojzik in a steal attempt during Saint Mary's 1-0, 10-inning win over Purdue Wednesday at Frank Eck Stadium.

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SMC TENNIS

Doubles crucial in close victory

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

The Belles used strong doubles play to narrowly defeat Bethel College 5-4 in a non-conference match Thursday, bettering their overall record to 10-11.

"We had a good match — we basically came together and played to the best of our ability," senior captain Kelly McDavitt said. "This match will help us to prepare for our final conference match.

The Belles dominated doubles play against the Pilots, winning two of three matches. The duo of Camille Gebert and McDavitt upended Pilots sophomore Revie Oles and junior Missy Vermillion in the No. 1 spot 8-4.

In the second doubles match of the day, the freshman Belles duo of Liana Rohr and Erin Dies and junior Cari Spencer defeated Pilots players Abbie Hostetler and Erin Ketterleborich.

The Belles fell in their final doubles match of the day. The sister duo of senior Tara O'Brien and freshman Gailin O'Brien fell to sophomores Jade Walus and Sherra Milender 8-5.

The victory against Bethel College was important for the Belles as they head into their final home conference match, which will take place this Saturday.

"Playing away from home was rough, but I think we worked through all of our problems," McDavitt said. "We overcame our obstacles and pulled out the win. It was nice because some of the girls that normally don't get to play got a chance to show their skills. Overall it was a great experience (and good way to end three matches in a row)."

In the No. 5 singles match, Belles junior Cassie Quaglia fell to Milender 6-2, 6-1. In the No. 6 singles spot, Belles senior Grace Gordon defeated Pilots freshman Julia Horn 6-1, 7-5.

The Belles next and final home conference match is Saturday against Albion, which boasts a 4-1 MIAA record and a 10-5 overall record. The match will begin at 1 p.m. at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Ellyn Michalak at emichalak@nd.edu

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Bargar shuts out Valpo as Irish roll

Comming off her no-hit performance Wednesday, sophomore Brittany Bargar pitched another gem against Valparaiso Thursday at Ivy Field. In her 17th complete game of the season, the sophomore allowed seven hits and two walks on seven strikeouts in the 5-0 win.

In her home starts, Bargar has been unstoppable, racking up a 9-0 record with a 0.22 ERA. The Irish improved to 24-14 on the season with the win.

Notre Dame’s bats heated up early and often, taking all five of their runs in the first inning. Senior Stephanie Brown continued her impressive play with a leadoff single, later advancing to second on a sacrifice by senior Linda Kohan.

Junior Katie Laing then smacked a double down the left field line, scoring Brown from second. This two-bagger gave Laing a season-best four-game hitting streak. Freshman Christine Lux responded with another double, scoring Laing. Lux would later advance to third on a balk.

Sophomore Linda Kohan then singled to bring Lux in for an RBI. Kohan then scored on one of their high ranking opponents. They are also 95-3 all-time against teams in the Big Ten. The team’s philosophy all year, however, has been to take it one match at a time, and they are not ready to overlook Villanova.

The Wildcats are coming off two successive wins — by 5-2 and 7-0 margins — against Quinipiac and Sacred Heart, respectively. Louisville is now 9-9. “They have six pretty good players who are all pretty well balanced but I feel good about our chances,” said head coach Bobby Bayliss.

The winner of this weekend’s competition gets an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. More important for the Irish, winning the tournament is paramount in getting the team tested and ready for the NCAs.

“Our goals are bigger than [the Big East Tournament],” Bayliss said. “The idea is to really condition ourselves to do well in the NCAA Tournament and this is the first step in our postseason goals.”

The first serve will be at 9 a.m. today. The winner of the first game will face either fourth-seeded DePaul or fifth-seeded St. John’s in the second round.

Contact Jay Wade at jwade@nd.edu

Irish senior Ryan Keckley hits a backhand in Notre Dame’s 5-2 victory over Illinois Apr. 1 at the Courtney Tennis Center.

by Jay Wade

Sports Writer

All the hard work this season has paid off.

No. 6 Notre Dame was rewarded for its 21-3 record this season when it was named the No. 1 seed in the Big East tournament, which begins today in South Florida in Tampa, Fla.

Since the Big East has only eight men’s tennis teams and does not have a format where all league teams play each other, seeding for the tournament is based on overall record and ranking.

The Irish, who joined the Big East 11 years ago, have a successful past in the Big East tournament. This year marks the third year in a row — and ninth time overall — that the Irish have been the top seed. On top of that, the Irish have reached the finals of the tournament every year since joining the league, winning five of them, most recently in 2005.

In 2006, second-seeded Louisville upset Notre Dame in the finals. The Irish do not expect a similar fate this year, however, with one of their highest rankings and best records in school history.

The Irish will face eighth-seeded and unranked Villanova in the first round. Going into the match, the Irish are not only riding a four-match winning streak and also have a 31 game win streak against unranked opponents. They are also 95-3 all-time against teams in the Big East. The team’s philosophy all year, however, has been to take it one match at a time, and they are not ready to overlook Villanova.

The Wildcats are coming off two successive wins — by 5-2 and 7-0 margins — against Quinipiac and Sacred Heart, respectively. Louisville is now 9-9. “They have six pretty good players who are all pretty well balanced but I feel good about our chances,” said head coach Bobby Bayliss.

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Contact Jay Wade at jwade@nd.edu
Irish look to record runners will head to Eugene, earned 16 bids to the NCAA end's meets, Notre Dame has Wechter Austin tightly come off," he said. "Over the last John Millar. 0.01 seconds last weekend at in the 100-meter hurdles by Champion and others Oregon, for the Oregon Friday, April 20, 2007 The Observer think that so I would grab your copy now. We're fully committed to quality and accuracy. Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

**Lax**

continued from page 24 Lucius Polk said. "I think we're focused on winning. If your goal is winning all your home games and winning a national championship, winning all your home games comes along that." Winning is something the Irish have been doing a lot of lately. After stumbling to an 0-3 start, Notre Dame has responded with five consecutive victories, including convincing defeats of Air Force and Denver last weekend, which ran the team's consecutive home winning streak to 13 games. Over their last five contests, the Irish have outscored their opponents by a staggering 67-21 margin. "We're really changed our attitude since the beginning of the season," Polk said. "After starting the season 3-3, we knew we needed to change things around if we wanted to make anything out of the season. A couple of position changes and a little bit of an attitude change, and we were able to get the ball rolling." The recent surge has Notre Dame sitting atop the Greater Western Lacrosse League standings at 3-0. The Irish are a half-game better than Ohio State, currently both in 2-0 GLWL play. The two teams will face off April 28 in Columbus in a game that will likely determine who gets the league's automatic post-season birth.

For now, however, Notre Dame is concerned solely with Lehigh. Although the Mountain Hawks carry a pedestrian 4-8 overall record and 2-4 mark in Patriot League play, they have shown the ability to compete with elite teams this season. The result of this weekend's game against ranked opponents this season include one-goal losses to No. 8 Army and No. 20 Stony Brook in addition to an 8-6 win over No. 17 Drexel. "They have a lot of seniors on their team, and since this is their last game — they didn't qualify for their conference tournament — they're going to be pretty hungry," senior Brian Hubachmann said. "They have a lot of motivation despite their losing record.

On defense, the Irish will have to account for senior attack Stephen Marino, who leads the Mountain Hawks in both points (33) and assists (18). On the offensive end, Notre Dame will look to exploit a Lehigh defense that has allowed 57 first-half goals this season.

The Irish have the balanced offensive attack to do so. Notre Dame has four players that have netted 18 or more goals on the season. Sophomore attack Ryan Hoff leads the way with 26 goals on the year, and his 2.55 goals per game average is 13th in the nation.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

**WWU**

continued from page 24 over Purdue 1-0 Wednesday, with pitching runs coming in the last Irish at bat. The Irish rotation for the weekend is set, with sophomore ace David Phelps getting the start Friday. Last week, in a 10-0 victory over Georgetown, Phelps threw seven scoreless innings, lowering his ERA to 1.34 on the season. He also struck out eight while passing out just two walks.

Leftyetnder Wade Korpi will take the hill for the Irish Saturday. In the win against Purdue, Korpi warmed in the bullpen as sophomore Sam Elam ran up his pitch count in the late innings. But Korpi never entered the game as Elam held the Boilermakers scoreless over nine innings. Korpi takes a 3.99 ERA into the matchup with West Virginia. I would have never guessed that Sam Elam would give usining likes he did," Irish head coach Frank said. "We've had some school in this league and have been successful against Purdue because the Irish scored the deciding run in their half of the inning." On Sunday, freshman righty Eric Maust gets the ball for the Irish, Schrage said Maust, also a punter on the football team, was originally scheduled to start Saturday. But Schrage altered the rotation so that Maust could play in the Blue-Gold Game. The Irish, who are 10-4 at home, are hitting .320 with men on base this season but have struggled badly in losses with runners on.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

**Crist**

continued from page 24 field. Whatever happens, Frank said Crist's commitment is further evidence of Weis' ability to bring top prospects to Notre Dame. For example, Crist's teammate, linebacker Anthony McDonald, also committed to the Irish this spring. "Notre Dame is hitting with the big boys right now and they're winning some," Frank said. "Before Weis got here, a lot of times they weren't even in the race to get those big target. Four and five star players. Now, Notre Dame's in the race and they're starting to roll in a big way." You want to get to a point where you win about half of them," he continued. "You're never going to win them all but if you can win about half you're going to be a darn good football. Right now we're probably winning 30 to 40 percent. They've been doing an excellent, excellent job."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 @ 3PM
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Free T-shirt for the first 200 fans

***FREE ADMISSION***

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**MEN'S LACROSSE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 @ NOON
VS. LEHIGH
Free T-shirt for the first 200 fans

THIS WEEK'S GAMES BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

**THE OBSERVER • SPORTS**

page 21
**SOFTBALL**

**BASEBALL**

**Softball**

**Baseball**

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**KBouche came up with a pair of steals leading to fast break points and finding his teammates and classmates Alex Pelkey and Taylor Kane.**

The final game of the season against the offensive glass, winning second chance opportunities. The team was able to penetrate and dish the ball to his big men in the post for points. Frank Kendrick sometimes got sloppy with the ball possession, but displayed good court vision finding his teammates and classmates Alex Pelkey and Taylor Kane. The final game of the season against the offensive glass, winning second chance opportunities. The team was able to penetrate and dish the ball to his big men in the post for points. Frank Kendrick sometimes got sloppy with the ball possession, but displayed good court vision finding his teammates and classmates Alex Pelkey and Taylor Kane. The final game of the season against the offensive glass, winning second chance opportunities. The team was able to penetrate and dish the ball to his big men in the post for points. 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CROSSWORD

ACROSS
30 First lady before 1975
31 2000 best seller on corporate memories
32 Bit of a ship
34 Kind of section
35 1994 Sandra Bullock film
36 Baseball, in slang
38 Baseball, in slang
39 Historic cookbook author
40 Cookbook amounts
41 Historic baseball player
42 Budget item
43 Doesn't follow the party line
44 1987-88 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
45 Make good
46 Things
47 Downpour
48 Beginning
49 Where you might have a yen for shopping
50 Fictional character
51 Matchmaker
52 Start of a Christmas chorus
53 Possibilities
54 Picked peev
55 Mina of La Mancha
56 Traffic at Union Station
57 REAL academic standards.

DOWN
1 Precipitate
2 1987 BP acquisition
3 Jack's place
4 Program interrupted by R.W.J.
5 Person of intelligence
6 Begin, say
7 Body shops?
8 Row
9 Singer/composer Jon
10 In harmony
11 "Hanny & June" role
12 Big ind. in camping
13 Broadcast from Rockefeller Ctr.
14 "Go easy"
15 Office communications
16 How some stock is bought
17 Go straight
18 Kind of section
19 In a class of one
20 Part of a ship
21 Cookbook author
22 Comparisons
23 Hall-of-Fame Ving Carter
24 Tales of daring do
25 1994 Sandra Bullock film
26 In a manner
27 To work
28 1994 Sandra Bullock film
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CROSSWORD SAYS HERE THAT MAMMALS EXIST BEFORE ANIMALS.
WHAT'S THAT?

WELL, I'LL BE A MONKEY'S UNCLE.

ACTUALLY, ACCORDING TO THE TEXT THERE'S NO PAPER.

TOUGH BREAK, CAN MAKE OUT THIS PATTERNS TO CHECK TO COMELINE.

KALEIDOSCOPE McDANIELS

September 1, 2007

I can't believe we got rocked by Georgia.
Tech. It's going to be a long-dynasty year.

WILL SHORTZ

BLACk DOG

Michael Mikuska

NO! SAYS HERE THAT MAMMALS EXIST BEFORE ANIMALS.
WHAT'S THAT?

WE'RE ALL NEW TO THE UNIVERSE. UNBELIEVABLE, THE SHITTER.

SO WHERE IS IT, THE SHITTER?

WHAT? HOW IS IT YOU'RE THE SHITTER?

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NEUROSCIENCE

Celebrities born on this day:
Hayden Christensen, 26; Kate Hudson, 28; Adrienne Bailon, 28; Eliza Dushku, 26

PARTY HINT

You are a star, and not just on the big screen. You can be the center of attention if you want to be. Your charismatic personality and upbeat attitude make you popular, and you can use this to your advantage. Remember, it's all about having fun and enjoying the moment, so don't be afraid to loosen up and let your guard down. Your friends will appreciate your sense of humor and your ability to keep things light. Keep up the good work, and you'll continue to make people smile. Happy birthday! May your special day be filled with love, laughter, and good company.

WEE ARE TELLING SOMEONE

In a story of one's life, you are the protagonist. You have the power to make decisions and shape your own destiny. Your unique perspective and creativity allow you to approach challenges with confidence and style. You excel in creative fields, whether it's writing, art, or music. You have a strong drive to achieve your goals and a natural talent for problem-solving. You are resourceful and adaptable, and you can find solutions to unexpected problems. Your resourcefulness is a strength, and you can use it to your advantage in various situations.

THE OBSERVER

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FOOTBALL

Weis secures verbal commitment from Crist

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis has been busy the past couple of weeks choosing among four candidates for starting quarterback. But in 2008, he may have to throw another name into the mix — Dayne Crist.

The Sherman Oaks, Calif., native — one of the top 100 prospects in the country, according to scout.com — turned down reported offers from Michigan and USC to become Notre Dame's eighth verbal commitment for the Class of 2012, the Los Angeles Times reported Thursday. Crist officially announced his decision to play for the Irish at a press conference late Thursday night, Los Angeles time.

Playing seven games in his junior season at Notre Dame High School, Crist threw for 1,200 yards and 17 touchdowns while throwing three interceptions. His 6-foot-5, 221-pound frame is comparable to that of former Irish quarterback Brady Quinn. But Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame recruiting for irisheyes.com, says Crist has a leg up on Quinn in terms of his size.

"(Crist) is a lot bigger than (Quinn) coming in. He's a very big kid, strong. But the nice thing about this kid is that he moves really well," Frank said. "His ability to evade the rush and throw on the run is very comparable to (Quinn's), though he's probably a little bit bigger.

In addition to his throwing ability, Crist can move out of the pocket with ease. He has a 4.6-second 40-yard dash time and rushed for 560 yards during his junior season.

"He's a really good athlete for a guy his size, and a heck of an arm," Frank said. "I think there's probably some mechanical things that they'll probably need to tweak a little bit — footwork and maybe some throwing motion things — but you don't get kids this big that move that well very often."

The quarterback race could be wide open next year as well, especially if one of the four candidates this year does not set himself apart from the rest of the field.

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL XXXVI

Narrowing the field

Frank Kendrick, Air Force, Dropping Trout cruise to wins

By CHRIS DOYEN and LORENZO REYES
Sports Writers

Frank Kendrick

Camp 21, Team 173 9

It was a tale of two halves at Bookstore Court No. 4 as Frank Kendrick Basketball Camp pulled out a win Thursday by using its transition game wisely. Kendrick entered the game prepared to score as many points as it pleased in the short first half. In those 15 minutes, Team 179 was only able to master three points to Frank Kendrick's 11. However, once the second half rolled along, Team 179 was able to slow the tempo down. Freshman Brendan O'...
BIG SHOES TO FILL

FOUR YOUNG GUNSLINGERS VIE TO REPLACE ONE OF NOTRE DAME'S BEST ALL-TIME PASSERS.
Who's ready to party like it's 2005?

Young, disrespected Irish squad ready to prove critics wrong, just like two years ago

Don't expect a lot from Notre Dame.

Four inexperienced signal-callers battling for the starting quarterback job, three tailbacks of varying age fighting for the top running back spot, a new defensive scheme and a revamping of the wide receiver corps means only one thing is sure for the Irish: They're going to be having a heck of a lot of fun.

The look was in Travis Thomas' eyes Monday after practice.

"We've been through coaching changes; we've been through the ups, the downs. "Now it's just putting everything together and making it a smooth transition with the new guys coming in.

Welcome to 2005, Part II: Low expectations, a loose team and a whole lot of fun.

While the team as a whole has dropped into the esteemed class of most outside observers after losing so many seniors, Grimes feels like a rising star. This spring he has ascended to the No. 1 wide receiver position. Even now he longs for his pressure-free existence as the No. 3, "Last year... it was the best time of my life," Grimes said. It was the best time of his life because he wasn't the target of all the focus and could concentrate on simply performing well without grandiose expectations. Grimes: 2006, just might be Notre Dame's 2007.

"We obviously feel like the new guys co -m -e out grandiose expectations. If you do, you'll ruin the ride."

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

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu

Ken Fowler
Sports Writer

It reminded [Thomas] of a little of the transition time between Ty Willingham and Charlie Weis. Expectations were low, changes were vast and the team had fire in its eyes.

Hungry to prove that the coaching staff made the right decision on the depth chart by taking full advantage of every opportunity.

Hungry to attack when it seems like they should be the prey. That hunger can go a long way.

"I can see it in spring ball already. The competition's healthy. Everyone's having fun regardless of where they're at on the depth chart, high or low," Thomas said. "Every day we hit it hard. (Offensive coordinator Michael) Haywood's pushing us real hard, and it's a good thing. We look forward to going out there every day and getting better."

Just don't expect the same results from the sequel. If you do, you'll ruin the ride.

Other Weekend Events at Notre Dame

FRIDAY, APRIL 20th

- Baseball vs. West Virginia
  Frank Eck Stadium, 6:05 p.m. (Tickets Required)

SATURDAY, APRIL 21st

- Fan Fest opens in Joyce South Parking Lot - 10 a.m.
- Stadium Gates open at 11 a.m.
- Football Alumni Flag Football Game - 11:30 a.m.
  (Blue-Gold Game ticket is required to attend)
- Men's Lacrosse vs. Lehigh - Moose Krause Stadium, 12 p.m.
- Softball vs. Louisville - Ivy Field, 12 p.m./2 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd

- Softball vs. South Florida - Ivy Field, 12:00 p.m./2:00 p.m.
- Baseball vs. West Virginia -
  Frank Eck Stadium, 3:05 p.m. (Ticket required - Show your Blue-Gold ticket and get in free)

Blue and Gold Rosters

- Players' names in alphabetical order at each position
- Players who will be on both teams are in green

OFFENSE

COACH: Amy Panchol

OFFENSE

COACH: Lou Holtz

SUNDBY, APRIL 22nd

- Softball vs. South Florida - Ivy Field, 12:00 p.m./2:00 p.m.
- Baseball vs. West Virginia - Frank Eck Stadium, 3:05 p.m. (Ticket required - Show your Blue-Gold ticket and get in free)
Crum Jr. leads revamped linebacking corps

Last year’s team leader in tackles helps ease adjustment to 3-4

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

Whether the Irish play a 3-4 or the 4-3, it doesn’t matter to rising senior Maurice Crum Jr. — as long as he gets to play football.

"I could care less what system we’re running," Crum said. "I really don’t care. I just like lining up and going."

Crum played both middle and outside linebacker during his time under former defensive coordinator Rick Minter’s 4-3 scheme. Last year, playing middle linebacker, Crum led the team with 106 tackles.

Now, under the 3-4 personnel system of new defensive coordinator Corwin Brown, Crum will occupy one of the inside linebacker spots. He said his experience playing the different linebacker positions will ease the transition to the new defensive system next season.

"For the most part I think it’s just a comfort level with myself knowing that I can do this, and I can do that," Crum said. "So, I think being able to switch and do multiple things has helped build my confidence."

But Crum will be asked to do more than just put up solid numbers again this season. He will now lead the linebackers as they try to adjust to the new defensive scheme and develop a new identity.

"I think this year I’m definitely not afraid to say ‘Let’s go,’ or when we’re lagging to pull everybody in the group and say, ‘We gotta pick it up as a unit.’" Crum said. "I think I’ve started to step into my role."

This new rule means leading a linebacking corps that has to adjust to playing new positions. It means making sure everybody is on the same page in the huddle, and it means motivating his teammates to go that extra mile in workouts and practice — especially when things are not going so well.

"He’s a student of the game. He knows everything you’re doing. He helps with the calls," rising sophomore linebacker John Ryan said. "Obviously he’s making all the calls, but you know he’ll yell out reminders to me. You know little pick-me-ups when you don’t make a great play. ‘Don’t worry, you’ll get the next one. I mean he’s just a real good leader.’"

Ryan could see time this season flanking Crum as an outside linebacker. Ryan, rising senior Dwight Stephens and rising sophomore Morrice Richardson are examples of those types of players, which means the coaching staff thinks they are too slow to play linebacker in a 4-3 set, but not big enough to occupy a spot on the front line.

As a result, Weis and Brown are moving to a 3-4 personnel system that places these “tweener” in a linebacking position, but starts them closer to the opponents’ offensive line than they would otherwise be in a 4-3. This way, they can maximize their combination of strength and speed outside the offensive line.

"You know, this gives you a lot more flexibility because now, both those guys, both the guys on the outside are capable of being either a defensive end or a linebacker on every play," Weis said March 21. "And this way the defense and the offense really never knows which one is which: Is this guy a linebacker in this play? Or is he a defensive end on this play? By natural view of that, it causes confusion."

Throughout the spring, Crum likes what he sees at that position.

"Everyone adds their own special thing to that particular position," he said. "So, I mean, it’s tough to point out one particular guy because everyone’s been doing a great job since day one."

Brown said his defense has shown improvement since the beginning of spring. But overall, there is still work that needs to be done. Crum feels that with time, the defense will adjust to the new defense.

"I think for us it’s just a matter of us playing and spending more time together," Crum said. "It’s just little things. We still gotta gel and get the personalities together. I mean it’s a new system for us, so I think once everyone’s comfortable in the system, the sky’s the limit."

The team’s acclimation with the 3-4 personnel set will extend from the summer until the first snap September 1 against Georgia Tech. But one constant this spring has been the implementation of a new defensive line in the way the defense plays each day — and Crum has played a big part developing this attitude.

"It’s going to be hit or be hit," Crum said. "We want to set the tone day in and day out. That’s going to be our mentality."

Saturday’s Blue and Gold game marks the end of Notre Dame’s spring practice — a spring practice filled with competition for starting spots on both sides of the ball. But for Crum, it just means more waiting until he can lace up and get back on the field.

"It’s kind of bittersweet. I’m a football guy. I’m going to miss waking up every morning coming to do this," Crum said. "A couple days off, the first few days it’ll be like, ‘Yes I don’t got anything to do,’ but after a while you get that edge, and you want to come out again."

"Basically, that’s what I was put on this earth to do. I’m a football player, and that’s what I plan to do."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Maurice Crum Jr.
Tackles
2005.....57
2006.....100

Tackles For Loss
2005.....3.5
2006.....10.0

Sacks
2005.....0
2006.....4

Interceptions
2005.....0
2006.....1

Fumbles Forced
2005.....1
2006.....1
3 Demetrius Jones
rising sophomore
- Hometown: Chicago, Ill.
- Height/Weight: 6-4 / 210 lbs
- High School Stats: 4300 yards passing, 46 touchdowns in two years as starter

By CHRIS KIBOEY
Sports Editor

Brady has left the building.
A year ago at this time, Brady Quinn was the center of attention. After each spring practice, the face of Notre Dame football who carried the team on his right arm, would enter the press room at the Guglielmino Athletic Center and immediately be surrounded by a gaggle of reporters, sometimes three and four deep on every side. People wanted every last sound-bite from the Heisman candidate. Notre Dame's most recent Golden Boy.

But today things are different. Quinn, holder of dozens of school records, is going through a different media circus, this time his pre-draft, talk-show circuit rounds. He even sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" at Wrigley Field Monday.

Back in South Bend, things have changed even more. Four quarterbacks — rising junior Evan Sharpley, rising sophomores Demetrius Jones and Zach Frazer, and early-entry freshman Jimmy Clausen — have splintered the media horde that used to follow Quinn wherever he went. In fact, when they walk into the press room after practice, some reporters hang back awkwardly, unsure of which quarterback is which.

There are no school records among the four. As a group, they amassed only seven collegiate passing yards, all of them by Sharpley. Most Irish fans — and even many of their fellow students — know them only by their jersey numbers and perhaps the number of stars next to their names on various recruiting websites.

Irish coach Charlie Weis has said that he will narrow the race from four to two based on spring practice — a decision he will announce at the end of May. Until then, however, each of the four divergent personalities is convinced that he will be Notre Dame's next "cult hero," as Weis used to call Quinn.

Who are these masked men?

The Hollywood Superstar
Clausen is the most recognizable face among the four competitors.

The 6-foot-5, 207-pounder out of Westlake Village, Calif., was the top-rated quarterback nationally in last year's recruiting class. He committed to the Irish the morning of last year's Blue-Gold Game at the College Football Hall of Fame in downtown South Bend.

The announcement ceremony, which included Clausen pulling up in a Hummer limousine, was witnessed by most of the media assembled for the scrimmage later that day.

But the excitement around Clausen wasn't just because of his elaborate ceremony. The younger brother of former Tennessee quarterbacks Casey and Rick Clausen, Jimmy started all four years at Oaks Christian High School, going 42-0. He threw for more than 10,000 yards and 146 touchdowns in that span.

All the success strained his arm once he arrived at Notre Dame in January as an early enrollee. Weis told Clausen to rest his arm in preparation for spring practice and the freshman was ready to go when camp opened March 21.

The coach also tried to make the Clausen's life easier by restricting media access to him as much as possible.

"As a quarterback it's important to find out what's going on with everybody," he said.

"Everybody has social problems and family problems. I try to be a people person."

Whether it's a sunny day with his bright red "summer shoes" or hinting about the "G-Code" that he and his friends in his native Chicago use, Clausen loves to goof around. He says his sense of humor and outgoing personality helps him be leader on the team.

"The same guys you slap on the back of the head before class are the guys blocking for you," he said.

"Everybody has social problems and family problems. I try to be a people person."

But Klausen's health problems won't affect him on the field — Pierre wouldn't allow it.

"She says not to worry about her, because this is one of my dreams," he said. "She would be mad if worrying about her made me do worse on the field."

Jones is perhaps the most versatile of the four quarterbacks, leading to some speculation on the side of the team that he might switch positions if he doesn't earn the starting job.

Jones rejects these ideas — but he's also confident that that question will never need to be asked.

"I didn't come here to be a back up and I didn't come here to be anyone's sidekick," he said.

The Cannon-Armed Prototype
If the quarterback race was based solely on who looks like most like Quinn when in uniform, Frazer would win hands down.

At 6-foot-4, 226 pounds, he's the largest of the four competing quarterbacks, and comes closest to Quinn, who was 6-foot-4, 240.

The Life of the Party
Jones is perhaps the most fun-loving of the four, as much as he loves to go around. He's the "G-Man," the "Leader of the Pack," as Weis liked to call him.

"He's not like a leader on the team," Weis said. "He's a people person."

"Jones loves to go around. He's a fun guy."

"There are four guys that we are developing chemistry with. They all got a lot better this spring."

John Carlson
Irish tight end

Zach Frazer, left, throws during an April 16 practice at the Loftus Sports Center. Demetrius Jones, right, runs drills during a March 26 practice on Cartier Field.

12 Zach Frazer
rising sophomore
- Hometown: Mechanicsburg, Penn.
- Height/Weight: 6-4 / 226 lbs
- High School Stats: 5513 yards passing, 36 touchdowns in two years as starter

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Tic Four

se one of the school's all-time greats and take over college football’s most scrutinized position.

pounds. “Being able to see the field is my strength, along with my arm,” he said.

Zach has a strong arm,” rising junior wide receiver David Grimes said. “I think he can probably throw the ball 70 or 80 yards.”

After red-shirtng last fall, Frazer said he couldn’t wait for spring practice and the competition with the other quarterbacks to begin.

“I was counting down the numbers from 100 days before spring,” he said.

Frazier said the experience he gained this past season on the sidelines watching Quinn prepare him well for the competition this spring.

“I was little nervous on the first day of practice, but after that I felt very confident moving in there and moving the ball,” he said.

That confidence extends to more than just the playbook.

Frazier said playing in front of tens of thousands of people for the first time Saturday won’t rattle him at all.

“You have to go out and have a good time,” he said. “You can’t hype it too much or you’ll get nervous.”

And Frazier has no reason to be nervous, because, according to him, he’s already the best option at quarterback.

“In my eyes, I’m number one,” he said.

The Elder Statesman

Sharpley is the only one of the four quarterbacks who was enrolled at Notre Dame during the 2005 football season.

He is also the only one that has appeared in a regulation college game — and the only one that has completed a pass.

And the 6-foot, 212 pound rising junior out of Marshall, Mich., says that gives him an advantage.

“I was able to sit back and kind of be a sponge and learn from Coach Weis and Brady — whomever was there. It was good for me,” he said.


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By JAY FITZPATRICK
Associate Sports Editor

This offseason, Irish coach Charlie Weis received the task of finding a new defensive coordinator. The job is one that he never thought he would find himself needing to do.

Last season, Notre Dame’s defensive coordinator was Al Groh, a member of the 1990s staff, led by Bill Parcells. Parcells had a successful career at Julian, earning all-state honors with 88 tackles and also recorded 17 tackles in 120 games played, including 20 starts. With his playing days behind him in 2001, Brown knew he wanted to stay in football and found a way to keep involved coaching.

The coach

“I knew Groh wanted to be a coach as well as a player,” said Brown, “but he was my special teams coach throughout his career in Michigan.”

In his senior year with the Wolverines, Brown helped improve the Jets secondary — a 40 percent increase for his staff. Groh handled the kickoff coverage, including the return game. In 2002, the punters and kickers allowed less than 10 yards per return for the first time in five years, while the kickoff coverage team ranked second in the ACC. This success spilled over into the 2003 campaign when the Cavaliers averaged 9.3 yards per return on punts and 24.8 yards per return on kickoffs.

The next big jump in Brown’s career came in 2003 when the New York Jets head coach Herm Edwards offered him a job as the assistant special teams and assistant defensive backs coach. Edwards later promoted him to defensive backs coach before the 2004 training camp — a position he held for the next three years.

Brown helped improve the Jets secondary drastically in his first season. The defensive backs nabbed 14 of the Jets’ 19 interception attempts, a 40 percent increase from 2003. Brown also molded rookie Erik Coleman — a fifth-round pick in 2004 — into a two-time Pro Bowl selection.

Brown’s special teams saw a lot of success during his last two years at Virginia. In 2002, the punt and kickoff teams allowed less than 10 yards per return for the first time in five years, while the kickoff coverage team ranked second in the ACC. This success spilled over into the 2003 campaign when the Cavaliers averaged 9.3 yards per return on punts and 24.8 yards per return on kickoffs.

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Early-entry freshmen adjust to new lifestyles, pressures

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

They're the newest of the new, Notre Dame's most valuable unknown commodity, starting college halfway through their senior year of high school and sprinting into the heat of competition.

Notre Dame's second trio of early-entree freshmen — quarter­back Jimmy Clausen, running back Armando Allen and corner­back Gary Gray — all came to the Irish in January with high expectations.

Clausen was the consensus high school player of the year, finishing his career at Oaks Christian in California 42-0. Allen, a product of Hialeah-Miami Lakes in Florida, is supposed to be the speed threat out of the backfield that Notre Dame has long sought. And Irish coach Charlie Weis said Gray, from Richland Northeast in Columbia, S.C., could become a shut-down cover corner in his college career.

For the first two, Saturday's scrimmage should be a benchmark of their progress as the continue to compete for major playing time — and starting roles each — while Gray remains sidelined with a broken arm.

The success of the first few batches of "gray-shirts" — the colloquial term for early-entrants — may affect Weis' ability to continue the practice and attract top prospec­ts for open slots.

A year ago, running back James Aldridge was coming off a seri­ous knee injury that slowed his progress and kept him out of six of the first seven games of 2006. He amassed 142 rushing yards on the season, but never came close to being the featured back behind former Irish tailback Darius Walker.

West played in every game, but saw most of his action on special teams. He touched the ball only three times on offense — though his lone rush on an end-around saw the fleet-footed freshman break the plane on an 11-yard scamper.

And Stewart, who entered as a tremendous offensive guard prospect, did not play a single down last season. The 6-foot-5, 340-pound lineman from Spring, Texas, will have completed the equivalent of nearly two academic years of classes by the time he first lines up for his first snap — and he'll likely be on the defensive side of the neutral zone as a nose tackle when he does.

But this year's group is different.

Every college football fan knows Clausen was going to compete immediately for Notre Dame's starting quarterback job — the most closely watched and highly scrutinized position in the sport. And yet, despite a sore arm — And yet, despite a sore arm — and Allen has been anything but easy.

"I can say he's not running like a freshman, he's running like he belongs here and like he's been here before," Thomas said of Allen, who is listed as 5-foot-10 and 190 pounds. "He's tough for his size. I don't know what size he is — maybe 5-9, 5-10, the most — and he runs real hard. Good vision, great speed, good hands... He's progressing real well."

While Allen progresses on the field, Clausen's mental repetitions — thinking through what the person in his position must do on each play, studying both the defensive calls and the offensive formations. Clausen's test of how he has progressed will come in August when the Irish start fall camp. But for Clausen and Allen, Saturday marks their time to show what they can do.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

The Observer is now accepting applications for Controller, Web Designer and Systems Manager for 2007-08.

The Controller position, which provides great accounting experience, is open to rising juniors. It is a two-year position; the 2007-08 Controller will become the 2008-09 Business Manager.

The Web Designer position is open to any student with advanced scripting skills. Systems Manager applicants should be highly adept in computer troubleshooting.

Please contact Maddie Hanna at 631-4542 or mhanna1@nd.edu if interested.

Offensive Stats

| Rushing Offense | #1 Navy | 327.00 |
| #2 ND | 125.69 |
| Passing Offense | #1 Hawaii | 441.3 |
| #13 ND | 264.1 |
| Total Offense | #1 Hawaii | 559.21 |
| #23 ND | 389.77 |
| Scoring Offense | #1 Hawaii | 46.86 |
| #16 ND | 31.00 |
The Observer ● IRISH INSIDER
Friday, April 20, 2007

LIKELY 2007 STARTERS

RUNNING BACK
TRAVIS THOMAS 5TH-YEAR SENIOR
Thomas will most likely have most of the carries last season. The fifth-year switch to slot sides to play running back last season, but returns to the backfield for 2007. Sophomore James Aldridge likely will share carries.

WIDE RECEIVER No. 1
DAVID GRIMES JUNIOR
Grimes is the only Irish receiver with any significant experience, as the third receiver behind Jeff Samardzija and Rhema McKnight. The junior caught 26 passes for 336 yards and two TDs in 2006.

CENTER
JOHN SULLIVAN 5TH-YEAR SENIOR
Sullivan anchored the Irish line last season, starting all 13 games. The fifth-year senior returns as most experienced lineman.

LEFT TACKLE
PAUL DUNCAN JUNIOR
Duncan has no starting experience, offensive line coach John Latina is confident he can effectively replace Ryan Harris.

QUARTERBACK
In one of the most hyped spring position battles of the spring, four players competed this spring for the quarterback position: freshman Jimmy Clausen, rising sophomore Demetrius Jones and Zach Frazer and rising junior Evan Sharp. Sharp has the only game experience, taking late game snaps as Brady Quinn’s backup last season. Weiss said that does not give him a large advantage and that each quarterback has an equal chance of winning the starting job.

TIGHT END
JON CARLSON 5TH-YEAR SENIOR
Carbon put up historic numbers last season. Weiss used Carbon on the line and in the slot effectively. The fifth-year gives the Irish consistency on an offense that loses its top two wide outs.

GUARDS
Notre Dame replaces both guards this season after the graduation of Bob Marmon and Dan Santucci. The spring leaders to take over as the guards are rising sophomores, Dan Wenger and Dan Carufel and rising junior Mike Turkovich. None of the potential starters have significant game experience to give them any advantage. These four have not been trying out for one specific starting spot, but rather. Weiss said, the best two guards will be the starters. Although Wenger and Turkovich worked out with the first team offense early in the spring, there was no indication that they would be the starters next fall.

DEFENSIVE ENDS
Fifth-year senior Trevor Laws, right, is the only defensive end slot opposite. Weiss said, the best option is to keep true freshman, and Weis feels that the best option is to keep him there in 2007.

NOSE TACKLE
One of the most important positions to fill in the new 3-4 defense is the nose tackle. Rising sophomore Chris Stewart is the favorite to anchor the defensive line if he can make the transition smoothly from the offensive line. Line coach Jappy Oliver also said rising junior Pat Kuntz has played well at the nose tackle this spring.

INSIDE LB
MAURICE CRUM, JR. SENIOR
Crum led the Irish with 100 tackles last season in addition to on pick. He looks to be even more effective in Corwin Brown’s 3-4 defense.

INSIDE LB
JOE BROCKINGTON 5TH-YEAR SENIOR
Brockington took a fifth-year to join Crum in the middle of Notre Dame’s new 3-4 look. He had 59 tackles in a breakout year last season.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER
The biggest question mark on defense remains which two players will be the outside linebackers. Four players are in the running for the two spots — John Ryan, Anthony Vernaglia, Dwight Stephenson, Jr. and Morriss Richardson. Ryan, left, and Vernaglia, right, are the favorites going into the spring game because they have practiced with the first team defense for most of the spring.

CORNERBACK
TERRAIL LAMBERT SENIOR
Lambert was inconsistent for the Irish last season. He topped off the Michigan State win with two late picks but had only one more last year.

STRONG SAFETY
TOM ZBIKOWSKI 5TH-YEAR SENIOR
The explosive Zbikowski returns to the Irish for a final year of eligibility after a shoulder injury slowed the speedster in 2006.

FULLBACK
ASAPH SCHWAPP JUNIOR
Schwapp missed most of last season after suffering a knee injury against Penn State, but was effective his freshman year opening holes in the middle. He looks to continue to do that in 2007.

WIDE RECEIVER No. 2
Hord returns this season after an injury sidelined him for all of 2006. Incoming freshmen Duval Kumara and Golden Tate could also complicate the depth chart at wide receiver once they arrive in August for fall practices.

RIGHT TACKLE
SAM YOUNG SOPHOMORE
Young started all 13 games as right tackle last season as a true freshman, and Weis feels that the best option is to keep him there in 2007.

DEFFENSIVE TACKLE
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CORNERBACK
AMBROSE WOODEN 5TH-YEAR SENIOR
Wooden lost his starting job last year after an injury, but has since regained it. Darrin Walls, Rashon McNeil and Gary Gray could unseat him.

FREE SAFETY
With the departure of senior Chinedum Ndukwe, the free safety position is free for less-experienced players to step up. The two leaders during the spring arejunior David Bruton and junior Hosier Bruton played mainly on special teams last year, while Herring filled in for Zbikowski when he was injured part of last season. Freshman Harrison Smith could complicate things in August.

The Irish Insider: Irish Insider