Crawford appointed science dean

Current Brown dean of engineering brings impressive resume, enthusiasm to University

By KARA COYLE
News Writer

Greg Crawford, current dean of engineering at Brown University, will replace Joseph Marine as the dean of the College of Science. Crawford, with his role as dean and physics professor this summer, will replace Joseph Marino as Science dean.

"Greg loves to build bridges with other academic units, so he is already thinking about establishing mutually beneficial collaborations with the Colleges of Engineering, Arts and Letters, and Business as well as Innovation Park and the Indiana University School of Medicine South Bend," said Burish. Burish said Crawford will quickly become assimilated in the Notre Dame community, the college of Science will see an increase in its connections with the other colleges on campus, as well as with the South Bend community.

"Greg brings exceptional energy and an entrepreneurial vision to the College of Science," he said. "Greg is particularly attracted to the Catholic mission and academic ambition of Notre Dame." Before assuming the deans position at Brown in 2006, Crawford was a researcher for the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, as well as for the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. Crawford also co-founded two biotech companies and holds 15 U.S. patents.

"What situations here have impressed me the most so far is his teaching," said Thomas Burish, provost and executive administrator. "Greg is particularly interested in human resource management, the management of talent, and has leveraged his knowledge of basic science to develop several medical devices that impact the detection of infectious diseases, treatment of rare diseases and the interaction of medications with muscular tissue."

Burish said Crawford's enthusiasm, as well as his attraction to the University's Catholic mission, makes him a good fit for the Notre Dame community.

"Greg is an extraordinary scientist, an award-winning teacher, a prolific researcher, and a gifted administrator," University President Thomas I. LeVeaux said. "In addition to being internationally recognized for his innovative research on liquid-crystal displays, he has leveraged his knowledge of basic science to develop several medical devices that impact the detection of infectious diseases, treatment of rare diseases and the interaction of medications with muscular tissue."

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INSIDE COLUMN

B Mac for President

The Indiana primaries are fast upon us and, as you know, the country is facing very seriously grave problems. This is why America needs you to vote B Mac for president.

My rivals have suggested that I am not fit to be president. I will admit that I am not a typical candidate, with my virility, humility and stunning looks. Indeed, as Class President in the fifth grade, I have accumulated even more experience than my three rivals combined. But enough about my experience and on to the gravely serious problems we face.

Like Senator Obama, I will agree unconditionally to meet with the leaders of states like Iran and Syria. Furthermore, I pledge that I will end every sentence with "or else."

Like Senator McCain, I have a bold national security strategy that will fully integrate each branch of our armed services. What would the role of a fully integrated Air Force look like, you ask? Please see my attached map of Iran for more details.

Like Senator Clinton, I vow to offer mandated universal healthcare to every American. And my healthcare plan is this: Get a job. If any Americans are deficient in meeting their mandate, I promise to understand that this is not because they are acting unflagrantly, but because of the rudding mercies of a cold, heartless NAFTA treaty that I might theoretically have once supported.

Accordingly, I will offer these oppressed Americans an involuntary position on American Gladiators.

As Americans, we believe in free-dom. As Americans, we believe in the fundamental dignity of human beings (Except terrorists, obviously).

As Americans, we believe that my opponents are a disheveled bunch of KKK crack addicts that are wholly unqualified to run anything more complicated than a food processor.

My opponents are pawns of special interests. Big Oil, Big Labor, Big Media and Big Toilet Paper (not to be confused with Big Media) are so incestuously close to my opponents that even describing their relationship is illegal in twenty states.

I will stand up to these somehow legal groups and defend every American’s right to toilet paper that makes Notre Dame’s huddle in the corner and cry.

In conclusion, vote for me (or else!) If you require any other information, please see my campaign website at www.super-heronation.com

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Brian McKenzie at bmkendz@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and attempts to write the highest standards of punctuation at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please correct us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS THE BEST PLACE TO GET FOOD ON CAMPUS AND WHY?

Chris Boehnen
Anne Flinchbaugh
Karen Hollingsworth
Christopher Middendorff
Vanessa Generelli
Carolyn Plou

grad student
freshman
grad student
senior

off-campus
Farley
off-campus

"Legends - I like the pub atmosphere I guess."
"South Dining Hall, because North took away Golden Graham's"
"My office, because food from home is cheapest."
"Cafe de Grasta, because of their Chicken Caesar Wraps."
"Cafe Commons, because my boss Noel is the best."
"Abandoned tailgates during football season, because they’re free and delicious."

IN BRIEF

The film "The Kite Runner," which tells the story of two friends living in war-torn Afghanistan, will be shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on tonight at 7 p.m.


There will be Stations of the Cross on Friday at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

The Project Pink Fashion Show, a fundraiser for breast cancer survivors, will be held Friday at 8 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom.

Flipside will host an Easter egg hunt Saturday from 10 p.m. to midnight on Bond Quad. Participants will receive flashlights and will search for colored plastic Easter eggs containing candy.

The Notre Dame women’s lacrosse team will play Syracuse at 1 p.m. Sunday on Moose Krause Field.

Circle K will host an Ice Cream Social Sunday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room of the LaFortune Student Center.

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

OFFBEAT

Student sues school after being awakened in class

DANBURY, Conn. — Danbury High School officials have notified them that a student who was awakened in class by a teacher who made a loud noise.

The suit, filed by the Town Clerk, a woman who was awakened in class by his left ear rum "when she put her hand on his desk on Dec. 4. A city official says the matter has been referred to Danbury’s insurance carrier.

Mouse grounds plane for five hours

DES MOINES, Iowa — A mouse intent on flying to Canada before passengers boarded the 5:50 a.m. Atlantic Southeast Airlines flight. About 30 passengers were kept waiting at the gate until the plane finally left about 11:30 a.m.

"The safety of our passengers is our number one priority," said Kristen Loughman, an ASA spokesperson. "Our maintenance team was called. They inspected the aircraft, which is why it was delayed."

Information compiled by the Associated Press.
SMC holds 8th annual Midnight Madness

Undergrads compete for prizes, celebrate accomplishments through sporting events

By KATLYN SMITH

Saint Mary’s will celebrate its eighth annual Midnight Madness tonight, where students compete for prizes and scholarships at the Angela Athletic Facility.

The event brings together all four classes with an evening of friendly athletic competition. Students vie for prizes through tug-of-war, sports relays, foul shots and other contests.

Renowned hypnotist Tom Deluca, who performs for colleges and corporations across the nation, will also be performing before the athletic contests.

"Midnight Madness is the only real opportunity for the classes to come together and compete."

Lynn Kachmari
SMC Athletic Director

"I am looking forward to building school spirit," she said.

According to Kachmari, nearly 1,000 students attend Midnight Madness each year, making it one of the most popular events on campus.

This year's theme, "Madness through the Years," designates a decade for each class to represent through clothing and music. The senior class will portray the 50s, juniors the 60s, sophomores the 70s, and freshmen the 80s.

Midnight Madness committee chair senior Noreen Sherred said the evening is a celebration of student achievements.

"It is an event designed to award women for all their hard work and community efforts this year," Sherred said.

Freshman class president Emma Hoffman said the event provides an opportunity for the entire student body to come together.

"I am looking forward to building school spirit," she said.

According to Kachmari, a number of Saint Mary's academic departments have been involved in the event's planning.

In addition, the Saint Mary's Bookstore has donated prizes including iPads, gift cards, DVDs and athletic gear.

Kachmari said she hopes to turn the event into practice.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to put their training into practice," she said.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for the students to come together and compete."
Image continued from page 1

man Erin Rider said. Pointing to University encouragement of healthy eating, Rider said, "I especially like the Nutrition at ND posters."

Staples said that other food situations are more obvious on campus, such as eating concerns addressed by previously interviewed anonymous students, mentioning that some avoid eating in front of the dining halls and avoid tailgates and dorm events that are bound to provide food. "These kinds of events make students already concerned with body image even more nervous about food," Staples said.

Wallpy discussed body image, which she said is not how a person really looks but rather how he or she perceives his or her own body. According to Wallpy, eating disorders distort the self and, as she described the three most common disorders—anorexia, bulimia nervosa and binge eating—Wallpy emphasized the importance of focusing on positive body image when influences such as the media perpetuate negative body image stereotypes.

"When you're getting ready, instead of saying, 'Does this make me look fat?' Try 'How great do I look in this?'" the two presenters pointed to statistics that verify the sweeping eating disorder epidemic among college students.

"When I started working at the Kellogg Institute (2001) I saw how students with minor concerns about eating," Staples said. "Over the years we have been seeing more and more students come in with such concerns."

Staples pointed to the percentage of students coming to the UCC with eating concerns, however, has remained more or less constant—around 12 percent—throughout the past two years. The percentage of students who come in with the UCC for interpersonal concerns is about double this number, at around 24 percent.

Staples pointed to a number of reasons for students beginning college to come into the open about their eating concerns. "It is difficult for students to adapt to new challenges at college," Staples said.

She mentioned a number of new challenges that also are expected to generate food issues for students, such as balancing social life and academics as well as learning to live with new eating habits and the large variety of food choices available at dining halls. "The hard thing for students on campus is that there is not a big frame of reference," Staples said, referring to the Notre Dame campus "bubble."

"Pretty much everyone is around the same age and doing the same thing. People tend to look fairly similar," she said.

Wallpy and Staples also discussed the number of services that the UCC provides students—beginning with an initial intake with a UCC counselor, then followed by individual or group therapy, nutritional consultation and later possibly psychiatric services.

"We have some great resources, it's just up to the students to seek help," said Staples, emphasizing the importance of talking to a friend who might be suffering from an eating disorder. Staples said that students who come in after being approached by a friend about their eating concerns always are grateful.

"Even if speaking up about it (an eating concern) is awkward, it is always worth talking," Staples said.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

Attention: Alisa M. Fisher, Senior Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions

The Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and Dr. Vania Smih-oka of the Kellogg Institute aided him from developing a proposal all the way until the end of his project.

The relationships that Serazin built in the village of Pedro Vicente Maldonado during that first summer became invaluable upon his return.

"My research consisted mostly of interviews, so the people that I met during my first summer were incredible resources," he said. "They would take me to the local healers and introduce me as a friend, which made the healers much more willing to speak to me about their remedies."

Although his research is not connected with any particular class at Notre Dame, Serazin said his interest for medicine was kindled during his service trip. "It grew out of my ISL experience," he said. "I wanted to take an academic view of the service opportunity that I had been given," he said. "I wanted to make it a part of my everyday life back here at Notre Dame."

Serazin recently presented his findings at the Human Development Symposium Feb. 23, and plans to make a presentation as a part of the Anthropology Department's research expo in April.

"My primary focus right now is on finishing the handbook, but he said that would like to continue working in the field of international medicine after the project is complete."

"I would like to continue to give back to the community in some form, whether through working in public health or international medicine," he said. "I would like to continue studying how cultural issues can be considered in developing public health policy."

Serazin's summer research uncovered some important connections between culture and science. Ultimately he said he wants to help change the Western and American perception that traditional medicine has no value in an increasingly modern world.

"My research was an opportunity to understand what traditional medicine really entails, and how it goes beyond the 'placebo' effect that Americans often attribute to it and is very effective in many cases," he said. "We have to learn to discount our own biases, or else we might be overlooking a source of effective treatment."

Serazin himself knows through personal experience how effective traditional medicines can be. "It worked on me," he said. "I had a pretty persistent cough throughout the summer, and one of the healers finally asked me if I would like to try one of his rituals to get rid of it. And I did feel much better afterwards."

Contact Kate McClelland at mmcclell@nd.edu

Attention: Alisa M. Fisher, Senior Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Please forward your resume to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions

220 Main Building

Attention: Alisa M. Fisher, Senior Associate Director

CAMPUS NEWS

Serasin continued from page 1

Notre Dame's Office of Undergraduate Admissions anticipates hiring Admissions Counselors this spring!

As part of the Undergraduate Admissions staff, the counselor is expected to make an important contribution to the recruitment and selection of the first-year class by managing relations with the prospective applicants, their parents, high school personnel and alumni in an assigned geographic area.

Responsibilities include extensive planning, travel and communication within the geographic area, assessment and evaluation of applications and conducting group/individual information sessions. Additional responsibilities will be assigned by the Assistant Provost for Enrollment.

Among our candidates, we will specifically seek an African American Recruitment Coordinator.

Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree and strong familiarity with all aspects of student life at Notre Dame.

Essential qualities include strong communication and organizational skills, enthusiasm, diplomacy and the willingness to work long hours, including many evenings and Saturday mornings.

Please Note: Interviews will be scheduled after April 1. Preferred start date is July 1, 2008.

Please forward your resume to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions

220 Main Building

Attention: Alisa M. Fisher, Senior Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Notre Dame."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iranian hardliners predict sweep over moderate candidates

WASHINGTON — All Farskhut smiles as he talks about Iran's parliament elections Friday. The young cleric is the spiritual center of the Islamic revolution says the vote will sweep the country closer to hardliners' ideal of the Islamic state.

In Tehran, state media reported Hadi Rezaei, a backer of democratic reforms, sees little hope — and no reason to vote.

Conservatives, particularly allies of hard-liner President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, are expected to dominate parliament when they have had since 2004. If they do so by a strong margin, it would demonstrate the Islamic leader's ability to ward off a comeback by reformists.

After the vote, the Guardian Council — an unelected body of clerics and jurists — disqualified around 1,700 candidates, mostly reformists. Those barred from running were judged insufficiently loyal to Islam or the revolution.

U.K. prepares to increase "sin taxes" over the next five years

LONDON — Many Britons were resigning themselves to more puritanical lifestyles Thursday as they faced the prospect of "sin taxes" that will increase the cost of alcohol, cigarettes, gas-guzzling cars and, potentially, plastic bags.

"Don't Drink or Drive" trumpeted the Sun newspaper after Treasury chief Alistair Darling announced the measures on Wednesday in the government's annual spending plan.

The Labour Party government is hoping that higher taxes will keep people from indulging in harmless habits that will help curb Britain's binge-drinking culture.

NATIONAL NEWS

House approves 683 billion tax hike

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday rejected the idea of renewing many of President Bush's tax cuts as all three major presidential candidates interrupted their campaigns to cast their votes. The House approved a budget blueprint that would raise taxes by $683 billion over the next five years.

The Senate did embrace Bush reductions aimed at low-income workers, married couples and people with children.

The House budget plan would provide generous increases to domestic federal programs but still is designed to bring the government's budget back into the black by letting all of Bush's tax cuts expire at the end of 2010. The Democrats' alternative would raise taxes by $683 billion over the next five years.

The Senate voted 99-1 to extend the cuts for some workers as well as couples and parents. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he also wants to extend tax cuts for middle- and higher-income taxpayers, investors and people inheriting businesses and big estates.

Disgraced governor faces legal battle

NEW YORK — As Gov. Eliot Spitzer prepares to leave office, the disgraced politician faces a tangled battle with prosecutors that will send lawyers into murky legal territories of law and politics.

A law enforcement official said Spitzer's high-powered defense team was believed to have been struggling to come up with an alternative to ensure their delegates at the Democratic National Convention won't support a proposal by Monday on whether to proceed with the re-vote. But she acknowledged that this is a realistic option at this time and remains opposed to a mail-in ballot election or any new primary election in Florida of any kind.

"I was seeing fire," said Jeff Neotl, 18. "Men were running.

They were at least three helicopters flying in the area Thursday morning.

LOCAL NEWS

Industry, activists fight over smog

INDIANAPOLIS — The federal government's new smog standards could push future industrial development in Indiana away from its urban areas where some areas have been out of the state altogether, an industry official said Thursday.

Environmental activists, however, said the stricter ozone standard announced Wednesday does not go nearly far enough to protect the public from high levels.

"You only go through if you are acceptance of the reality of the situation," he said. "It is a very difficult situation to deal with and it is not easy to make progress."
La Fuerza continued from page 1

"My grandfather worked until his death. I know everything my grandfather went through was for me and my family...I sometimes wish I knew him, " said Chrissy Romo, La Fuerza co-president.

Founding and LaChecaun Tryout Information Meeting

MARCH 18, 2008 AT 5:30 P.M.

Joyce Center Gym 2 above Gate 10

Write news. Call 632-3223
William Leroy, an antique store owner in New York City, waits for customers on Wednesday, Feb. 27. Leroy prefers payment in euros because he takes annual trips to Paris, he said. "If the dollar's going down ... save it in Euros!!!"

InBrief

Chinese gadgets may contain viruses
From iPods to navigation systems, some of today's hottest gadgets are landing on store shelves with some unwanted extras from the factory — pre-installed viruses that steal passwords, open doors for hackers and make computers spew spam.

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Bush backs tighter mortgage rules
WASHINGTON — Economic policymakers on Thursday recommended stricter regulation of mortgage lenders as part of a broad effort to prevent a repeat of a credit crisis threatening to drive the country into recession. With problems in the credit and housing markets worsening, the Bush administration now seems to favor a larger role for government — an approach for which Republicans generally have had little appetite.

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Based on one of the most critically acclaimed novels in recent memory, THE KITE RUNNER is a profoundly emotional tale of friendship, family, devastating mistakes, and redeeming love.

In a divided country on the verge of war, two childhood friends, Amir and Hassan, are about to be torn apart forever. It's a glorious afternoon in Kabul, and the skies are bursting with the exhilarating joy of a kite-fighting tournament. But in the aftermath of the day's victory, one boy's fearful act of betrayal will mark their lives forever and set in motion an epic quest for redemption. Now, after 20 years of living in America, Amir returns to a perilous Afghanistan under the Taliban's iron-fisted rule to face the secrets that still haunt him and take one last daring chance to set things right.

Friday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
Tickets: $3 for students, $5 for faculty and staff • TICKET OFFICE: 631.2800 • PERFORMINGARTS.ND.EDU
Katrina victims still awaiting checks

Homeowners unhappy about lack of government compensation

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Two and a half years after Hurricane Katrina, tens of thousands of Mississippi homeowners are still waiting for their government rebuilding checks, and many complain that they even got their calls returned. But the company that holds the big contract to distribute the aid is doing quite well for itself.

The chief executive of FairFair, Va., has posted strong profits, good customer testimonials, and multimillion-dollar government contracts, and it was learned this week that the company has raised $10 million — this, after the Legislature had been unable to distribute the aid is doing quite well for itself.

The money thrown out of New Orleans last year was $912 million, this, after the Legislature had been unable to distribute the aid is doing quite well for itself. But the company that holds the big contract to distribute the aid is doing quite well for itself.

The company that holds the big contract to distribute the aid is doing quite well for itself.

Bill Yarb poses in front of his door damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Over 10,000 homeowners look to government for money to rebuild.

The Observer • NEWS page 9

PASfIKAN

Civilians killed in U.S.-led attacks

Associated Press

TALIBAN, AFG.— U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan fired across the border into Pakistan on March 14, targeting Taliban militants, and the Pakistani army said Thursday that six civilians were killed.

The attack illustrates Washington's concern the Taliban and al-Qaida are using Pakistan's lawless frontier as a base for attacks on U.S. soil.

But anger at civilian deaths could lead to a review by the Pakistani government of the country's counterterrorism strategy and its U.S.-backed policy of using Pakistan as a base from which to root out militants.

A spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan said troops used "precision-guided munitions" to strike a compound about a mile inside Pakistan on Wednesday.

Maj. Chris Belcher said the troops were responding to a request from the Pakistan army and that the coalition defended Pakistani authorities after the strike.

"We received reliable information regarding senior Haqqani network members operating at the time of the strike," Belcher said Thursday in Kabul.

Siraj Haqqani is a prominent Afghan militant. On Wednesday, a coalition statement accused him of coordinating a suicide attack that killed two NATO soldiers at an Afghan government base last year.

Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas, Pakistan's army chief, said Haqqani "has become the focal point of the Taliban leader in Afghanistan.

In Tangra, a village of about 2,500 people surrounded by fields and mountains, residents led an Associated Press reporter to the rubble of the house hit in the attack. Only one of its four walls was standing amid a tangle of mud bricks, bedding and other debris.

"We are innocent, we have nothing to do with such things," said Noor Khan, a greengrocer who lives in the family home. He said his relatives were killed and that the bodies of two women — one male and two children — were found.

The Pakistan military said four civilians — two women and two children — were killed.

The Pakistani army said civilians were killed.

Abus Iqbal, a spokesman for the party of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, said the new parliament's vote on a resolution to impose a UN-mandated military operation in the tribal regions could be a "symbol of frustration and redress for those whose homes were destroyed.

Iqbal said Pakistanis would not allow the coalition forces to attack their country, which borders Afghanistan.

But there have been several incidents in the past few months of crossing-border attacks and the poor demarcation of the long, rugged border. In June last year, a rocket fired during a battle between U.S.-led NATO forces and insurgents in Afghanistan struck a home in a Pakistani tribal region, killing at least 10 civilians.

But there have been several cases where unmanned U.S. drones have been identified as crossing into military hideouts in Pakistan's border regions, but were not used.

U.S. military officials and soldiers have said on several occasions that they already have authority to use drones to target militants without a short distance inside Pakistan.

U.S. military officials usually deny such incidents or voice complaints with no obvious consequences, leading many to believe that drone strikes are carried out with Islamabad's tacit blessing.
When NDP ordered the students camping outside the Joyce Center before Notre Dame’s game against Syracuse on Feb. 22, they cited the “safety and security” of the students as the reason for asking students to leave. Even though this is a legitimate concern of any university, there was apparently no concern for the safety of these students until this one game. Students participating in what has become dubbed “Breytopia” had already camped out prior to several games in this and previous seasons without incident. Moreover, this abrupt change in policy has yet to be addressed directly by any University official. In fact, NDP director Phil Johnson and associate vice president for Residence Life Bill Kirk both said they did not know why the students were not asked to move earlier in the season. Students who have camped out prior to the Syracuse game also said that NDP stopped by Breytopia and did not shut them down then.

NDSP changed the enforcement of its policies for this one game, and doing so was unfair to the students. But the rule itself is flawed. Outdoor gatherings are allowed for other events, including sleeping in cardboard boxes for Habitat for Humanity. Kirk said that students can apply for permission to camp out, but that Breytopia will not likely be granted approval in the future. It is one thing to say that since the fans didn’t apply for and get a permit, they must be removed. It is another to let them camp out on multiple occasions only to shut them down later. The safety and security issues have been proven wrong on other large campuses, notably Duke and Penn State. The most well-known example is “Krzyzewskiville” for Duke University men’s basketball. There have been no major incidents reported, and Krzyzewskiville is much larger than Breytopia.

The reason is simple: Duke understands that students want to support their athletic teams and works with the students to make this enthusiasm possible. It is regulated by Duke and the student government there, not harassed by campus cops. Notre Dame should look to this as an example. This is not an issue to take a hard stand on; this is an issue that can be reconciled with a little work by both sides. Give Duke a call. See how they handle the thousands of fans that rump outside Cameron Indoor Stadium. If Duke can keep the many Blue Devil fans safe, Notre Dame can work with the students and NDSP to protect a few dozen Breytopians.

Since University officials do not know why the sudden enforcement began, they should find out. When they do, they should work with students to get them back by the Joyce Center, supporting the team, in a University–supported way. No reason to abridge fan support during such a successful year to suddenly enforce a rule.

**Editorial Cartoon**

Time to cash this baby in on a tank of gas, Marsha!

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**Observer Editorial**

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So are we.

Viewpoint accepts submissions of artwork, poetry, cartoons, letters and guest columns.

E-mail Kara at kking5@nd.edu for details.

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**Observer Poll**

How Fair will the Notre Dame Men’s basketball team go in the Big East tournament?

- [ ] 1st Round 62 17%
- [ ] Quarter Finals 10 28%
- [ ] Semi Finals 79 22%
- [ ] Finals 1 123

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**Quote of the Day**

"What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly." - Thomas Paine

U.S. patriot
Reflecting on the Easter season

Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a communications strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His columns usually appear every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotliner@aol.com

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gary Caruso

consider financial aid

In December, Harvard announced that students from families earning less than $60,000 would no longer be required to pay for any educational expenses. Some of the other educational elite— including Yale, Dartmouth, University of Pennsylvania and Stanford— have all followed suit with some form of financial aid policies. With some of the most prestigious universities already on board why hasn't Notre Dame done the same?

The procrastination is not due to a lack of funds. As of June 30, Notre Dame had an endowment of $1.4 billion. Not bad, but isn't Notre Dame supposed to be a not-for-profit educational institution?

With an endowed fund in the billions and educational costs prohibitive for middle and low income families, the University has yet to recognize that educational expenses have far outpaced family incomes. Notre Dame continues to require its students to fund their education with student loans while the educational elite have opened their coffers to fully aid needy families. The schools following Harvard's lead have proven that their students are their first priority.

Notre Dame is currently engaged in a fundraising campaign to increase the size of Notre Dame. One purpose of the fundraiser is to increase the funds available for financial aid. Any general financial aid packages should be built into the budget and should not be dependent on additional fundraising campaigns.

Due solely to their economic background, students are unfairly asked to make educational decisions based on cost. Rather than growing an already bloated endowment, I propose that Notre Dame use those funds to adopt a comprehensive financial aid policy on par with the example set by other educational elite. The University's endowment seems to be more of a priority than economic diversity and the needs of its students. Someone should remind the University's administration that endowment size really doesn’t matter, what matters is how you use it.

Brian DeVriglio

March 12

Obama's message: more than words

Throughout this year's presidential primary, Barack Obama has traveled around the country, consistently filling stadiums and auditoriums with people who want to hear his message. Yet Obama's message has drawn attacks from the other candidates, who characterize his words as more sound byte than substance. Characterizing him as a supporter of the Iraq War, Barack Obama because I believe he possesses the integrity, judgment and tact needed for our country this letter is honestly not a call for reader's votes. It is a call to generation the consecration of bread and wine during mass. As the priest holds the host, I say, "Jesus, my Lord, my God, forgive me of my sins." When the priest then hosts the chalice of wine, I utter, "Lord, come live in my heart and keep a place for me in your sacred heart." Those small, quiet gestures focus on my need to fill a void of etsarz faith where the church has failed us. For all of the surety of Christianity, no one fully prepares us for life's uncertainties.

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Skirt day can wait

During my four years at Notre Dame, I have always wanted to write a letter for the Viewpoint section of The Observer. I honestly don’t know whether or not to change the Fight Song, which for the record, I’m against. I’ve also thought about joining in the oh-so-heated debate on marriage laws and their impact on the future of the country. But until today, no issue has truly motivated me to offer my opinion. Finally, however, I’ve seen something on this campus that has inspired me to write: the premature and yet again, I saw my father lost his, nor have I ever faced a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton’s administration. His columns usually appear every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotliner@aol.com

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By KELLY O'SULLIVAN

The fourth season of Bravo's hit show, Project Runway, did more than crown a winner with its conclusion last week. The finale, with 5.2 million total viewers, set a viewership record for the channel in the 18 to 49-year-old demographic, with an average of 3.75 million viewers, up 9 percent from last season's finale. This number put Bravo ahead of two of the three broadcast networks (ABC and CBS) at the 10 p.m. time slot that night.

Many celebrities attended the finale, which showed three finalists' collections in a runway show in Bryant Park during New York Fashion Week. Supermodel and host of the show, Heidi Klum, designer Michael Kors and Elle fashion director Nina Garcia sat front row to observe and critique the new creations, and Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham joined them as a guest judge for the final episode.

Beckham has begun her own fashion line, DVB, and is rumored to have her own fashion-themed reality show coming to Fox. Also present under the tent were the families of the top designers, the contestants that had been eliminated by Klum this season, and contestants and winners from previous seasons. Industry insiders and celebrities alike filled the remainder of the tent's long runway.

The caliber of the contestants relative to established designers who presented at fashion week was also something that stood out. Garcia was especially impressed with the consistently stylish look of all his pieces, and how well his show was delivered as a whole. Klum congratulated the top designer by calling him "uber-fierce.

Siriano was declared the winner, due to the consistently stylish look of all his pieces, and how well his show was delivered as a whole. Klum congratulated the top designer by calling him "uber-fierce.

As the winner of Project Runway, Siriano will receive a fashion spread in Elle magazine, an all-new 2008 Saturn Astra, the opportunity to sell his collection, and a trip to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.設計者的決策。Kors 想到了色彩並稱讚了他的作品。然而，他的作品被很多思考了Kashou 的設計師們所批評。Kors 剛開始就批評了他的作品。Kors 強調了設計者的新創意，說他的設計”一致的，有力的“。Even Beckham was pleased, "You really made me smile, and I'm not easy to make smile."

Siriano was declared the winner, due to the consistently stylish look of all his pieces, and how well his show was delivered as a whole. Klum congratulated the top designer by calling him "uber-fierce."

Siriano was named the season's Fan Favorite, as voted on by viewers, with 43 percent of the vote. He told The Washington Post that the first thing he was going to do with the $10,000 prize was to purchase a bed to sleep on. "That's no joke, because I really need it. I still don't have one."

Contact Kelly O'Sullivan at kosulli2@nd.edu
The ever-prolific Ryan Adams' most recent offering, "Follow the Lights," is remarkably tight and well-crafted EP of new songs, covering fresh interpretations of older songs from the singer's extensive catalog. Brimming with an emotionally mature sense of expression, the EP offers a mellow perspective on recent events in Adams' life and his current mindset, which seems to be more subdued and reflective than ever before.

The opening track, "Follow the Lights," is rumored to have been written only twenty minutes while Ryan sat on the set of the ABC drama series "October Road." The track that emerged from the jam session was an upbeat tune, which is remarkable considering the morose and depressing nature inherent in the spirit of most Adams' tunes.

Written as a letter to a lost lover or dear friend, the Cardinals sing, "Follow the lights that line the streets connecting telephones / Follow the light from house to house and they will lead you home." Adams then amps up the romantic attachment of home, singing "Our love is strong enough to guide the way and we'll walk alongside hands inside of hearts inside of hearts / Like eyes closed."

The next few tracks are a collection of covers and re-dos of older Adams tracks. Most notable among these is the cover of Alice In Chains' "Down in a Hole" and a new interpretation of "If I Am A Stranger" off Adams' 2005 album "Gold Roses."

The Alice in Chains cover is particularly chilling, as Adams seems to channel the corrosive and destructive pain of the now deceased Layne Staley, the original lead singer of Alice in Chains. Getting his voice to the point of a near-howl, Adams sings, "Down in a hole and I don't know if I can be saved / See my heart decorate it like a grave."

Yo La Tengo album expands the scope of the band's force while maintaining their unique sound. Songs on this album range from a great cover of the Beach Boys song "Little Honda" to extended guitar breakthroughs from Ira ("Spec FigbΩy").

Finally, I suggest their latest release, 2006's "I Am Not Afraid of You and I Will Beat Your Ass," which expands their scope even more to include chamber-pop ("Black Flowers"), 60's rock ("Watch Out For Me-Bonnie"), and piano rock ("The Weakest Part!").

If you've tried these three albums and are still thirsty for more, they have more albums that are a bit more focused than the ones I suggested, and therefore a little more niche. 2003's "Summer Sun" focuses more on the pop aspect of their sound while 2000's "And Then Nothing Turned Red."
 PGA
Couples takes lead in 1st round at Bay Hill

By EUGENIA ALFONZO
Sports Writer

A long indoor track season concludes this weekend when the Irish face the nation's best at the NCAA Championships in Fayetteville, Ark.

Notre Dame will send a total of seven participants, a number that thrilled head coach Joe Plano.

"Goes beyond the biggest group of athletes we've had in years," Plano said in a und.com interview, "And frankly, everyone that's going not only has a chance to score but could earn All-American honors."

Senior Kurt Benninger hopes to cap off another stellar indoor season with the 3,000-meter run. Running in his fifth trip to the NCAA Championships, Benninger has consistently performed well in this event, earning five All-American honors in both track and cross country.

Junior Patrick Smyth will also be running the race as the No. 2 starter, the first time he has also experienced with NCAA Championship meet, running the 5,000-meter race last year and earning his first All-American honors.

Smyth did qualify for the 5K as well, but I decided to just concentrate on the 3K," Smyth said. "I'm running with Kurt, and we both really like our chances in the 3K, there's no one in the lead."

Seniors Austin Wechtini, Adam Currie, junior Daniel Clark and sophomore Blake Chaplin will also make the trip down to Fayetteville and are the No. 11 seed in the Distance Medley Relay (DMR). With Notre Dame's reputation for having consistent DMR performances at the NCAA finals, it will be necessary for the Irish to keep last week's intensity despite the absence of previous members.

Senior Jake Watson earned the No. 12 seed qualification for the mile run after running an NCAA provisional 4:00.39 time at the Alex Wilson Invitational March 7 and 8. For this meet, he will look to surpass the 3:44 mile for the first time this season. Watson will run the mile at 6:15 p.m. and the DMR will race at 9:15 p.m. Benninger and Watson will also compete tomorrow at 7:35 p.m.

Contact Eugenia Alfonzo at calfonzo@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Bargar Leads ND into S.C.

By CHI DOYEN
Sports Writer

Coming off a 3-2 weekend in Long Beach, Calif., which led to junior pitcher Brittany Bargar being named Big East Pitcher of the Week, the Irish (10-8) head into Southeast Louisiana, S.C., to take part in the Charleston Southern University Lowcountry Softball Invitational. The Irish have performed well in appearances for the Irish last week, pitching 25.1 innings and recording a miniscule ERA of 0.55. In that same period, Bargarr struck out 21 compared to only three walks and allowed only two earned runs.

On the season, Bargarr has an 8-5 record and a 1.00 ERA, second among Big East pitchers. Of the 23 runs scored against her on the season, only 11 of them have been earned.

"I feel like I've been close," he said. "And today, finally, everything clicked."

They were a stroke away of defending champion Vijay Singh. Lee Westwood, Jon Lehman and Lucas Glover, who got Jack Nicklaus to put down a letter to sign on his own bag and started walking in the 10-day tournament, are now in the thick of it. The offense did show signs of life in a victory over Cal State Northridge last weekend, where freshman Sadie Fitzgerald's two-run double was all the support that Bargar needed.

Freshman face Towson (11-7) and Charleston Southern (10-17) on Friday as the Cauldreds come out for the games (17-8) and a to-be-determined opponent on Saturday.

Towson is coming off of a split with Georgetown in a semifinal-round game. Towson's victory in the first game gave them a four-game winning streak that was built mainly on the strength of senior Nina Navarro's bat. The Towson offense stalled in the nightcap as the Tigers suffered a 2-0 loss.

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Eight Irish athletes have qualified to represent Notre Dame at the NCAA Championship meet in Fayetteville, Ark. This weekend. Only one Irish competitor, however, will come from the women's side.

Alyona Hasan will represent the Irish in the women's pentathlon as she attempts to qualify for the first time in the event. Hasan scored 3,015 points, breaking her old school record.

Assistant coach Scott Windsor was confident Hasan would be able to put together another strong performance this week.

"She definitely has the potential to put together a really good score this week," Windsor told und.com. "Alyona has turned herself into a good athlete for this team and has come a long way both physically and mentally as of late."

If she goes out there and performs the way she is capable of doing, it's hard to think that she won't finish among the top of her event.

Hasan is entering the event as the No. 13 seed. She needs to finish in the top eight in the first American houses.

All seven of the only athlete to make the provisional mark set by the NCAA as a potential qualifier for the championship meet. Teammate Anna Weber met the provisional mark in the weight throw, but did not set a high enough mark to qualify for the meet.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

MEN'S TRACK

Irish send 7 to nationals

Benninger looks to wrap up ND career with win in 3K race

Hasan to compete in pentathlon at NCAAs

By EUGENIA ALFONZO
Sports Writer

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 504 South Dining Hall. Deadlines for daily classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid by charge or 5 copies per customer per day, including all space. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without incurring refunds.

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Lofting for female and male to help with a paper that is due on Monday. Part-time job. Call 574-295-0112.

Four individually locked bedrooms, central rental monitored security, six blocks from Notre Dame, but in a part of town. $300. UDF 418-0230.

For rent

Two story house near ready for immediate occupancy or next school year.

West parking lot. $250. blender. kitchen. EV car charger. 1.7 BR. EUC 1-800-488-7257.

For Rent

5 Bedroom house just of Angela St. 31. Available now for next year. 2 bths & 3k. 236-4504.

Funfished 414 Bk house with full basement and security. 2 bathrooms. 2 beds. $600. SECURITY 574-330-3105

House for Rent


Email jason@jakesfireworks.net

Couples takes lead in 1st round at Bay Hill

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Two story house ready for immediate occupancy or next school year.

Couples takes lead in 1st round at Bay Hill

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For rent

Please call Joanne at 1-800-418-0230.

For Rent

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UNPLANNED PREGNANCY?

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NBA Standings

Eastern Conference

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Western Conference

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NCAA Men's Basketball

NCAA Men's Baseball Standings

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In Brief

LeBron, Gisele to appear on Vogue cover

The Cleveland Cavaliers' superstar will appear on the April cover of Vogue, joining actors Richard Gere and George Clooney as the only men to do so in the influential fashion magazine's 116-year history. Wearing a top, shorts and sneakers from his own Nike clothing line, James appears on the cover dribbling a basketball and screaming as if in game mode while throwing one arm around supermodel Gisele Bundchen with Tom Brady nowhere to be found. The James-Bundchen duo is one of several athlete-model pairings featured in the issue. Others include swimmer Michael Phelps with Caroline Trentini, snowboarder Shaun White with Daria Werbowy; and speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno with Doutzen Kroes.

Miller, Vonn on track for U.S. World Cup sweep

BOHMIO, Italy — Bode Miller clinched his second overall World Cup title, then promptly retreated behind the tinted windows of his personal bus. Lindsey Vonn was all smiles after moving close to securing the women's crown that her only competitor still in the running conceded defeat.

Infreedom

Associated Press

NEW YORK — One year has made a remarkable difference for Joe Alexander and West Virginia.

Last March, Alexander didn't score a point as the Mountaineers beat Clemson in the NIT championship game.

On Thursday, the 6-foot-8 junior forward scored a career-high 34 points on the same Madison Square Garden court as West Virginia beat No. 15 Connecticut, 78-72, in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament.

The fifth-seeded Mountaineers (25-7) will play top-seeded ninth-ranked Georgetown in the semifinals Friday night. It will be West Virginia's second appearance in the tournament's final four as it lost in the 2005 championship game.

Alexander is averaging 29.8 points over his last five games, a streak that started with a then-career-high 32 points in a 79-71 loss to Connecticut on March 1. He had 22 points in the Mountaineers' opening-round win over Providence.

Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said it was hard to believe Alexander torched his team for the second time in less than two weeks.

"Alexander is a terrific player," the Connecticut coach said. "Our kids feel after he gets it they are going to stop him," Calhoun said. "When he got around 27 or 28 I thought it would be a good idea if they realized that, by the way, he had 32 the first time, before the realization he was a good basketball player.

A.J. Price had 22 points for the Huskies (24-8), who have lost their last four games in the Big East tournament.

The Mountaineers finished with a 42-26 advantage, including 14-5 on the offensive end.

"Some games are very complex and you pull out all of them, you won and why lost, it's difficult," said Calhoun, whose team had won 13 of its last 16 games.

"This one is very easy. They came out and kicked our butt."
**Men's Golf**

Irish head south for elite tourney

By PETE REISENAUER

Sports Writer

The Irish will face their toughest competition of the regular season this weekend, facing off against several top teams at the Schnellke E/Z-Go Invitational in St. Louis, Mo. Ranked as one of college golf's premier intercollegiate tournaments, the 54-hole event will run March 14-16, at the par-72, 6,862-yard Forest Heights Country Club.

The tournament features some of the best programs in the country with eight of Golfweek's top 50 teams competing. Irish head coach Jim Kubinski said that he was not necessarily impressed by any team in particular, but more in the field as a whole.

"I do not think that any one team has separated themselves from the rest. I think there are a lot of pretty good teams meaning you could have a great tournament and still finish middle of the pack," said Kubinski. This will be the first time that Notre Dame has competed in the E/Z-Go Invitational. The team had their first look at the course during a practice round on Thursday, and Kubinski was pleased with what he saw.

"I was impressed with four out of the five of our players in the practice round. The fifth one looks more comfortable now, though, as we worked on some stuff with him afterwards. I think this weekend we could have four or five of our guys in play, whereas in the first couple tournaments we have only had one or two," Kubinski said of the Irish, who finished 12th in the USC Collegiate Invitational on March 3 and 4, and know that they have to improve aspects of their game.

"This is our third tournament and we needed to see how we played coming off the winter break when we obviously couldn't practice because of the snow," said Kubinski. "We need to draw the ball better, and this course sets up very well for us to do that. We also need to work on our putting game, which despite the undulating hills also sets up nicely for us this week-end.

"We stubbed our toe a bit on the first two, so as a good number of our team has played in the Southeast before," Kubinski said. While Kubinski recognized the importance of his team as a whole performing better, he also highlighted some individuals. Josh Sandman, coming off a top-three finish in California over the break, will look to continue his success.

Kubinski said a few other players need to play at their highest level this weekend for his team to do well.

"Josh goes without saying, but we are expecting Iong (Fortney) to step up this weekend as well. He was our stroke leader before the break and he has not done as well in the last couple of tournaments. We also expect that Tyler Hiek will perform better because he is closer to home," said Kubinski.

The tournament consists of three rounds, beginning today and ending with the final round Sunday.

Contact Pete Reisenauber at preisena@nd.edu

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**Belles open dual match play with Wildcats**

By MEAGHAN VESELIK

Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will head to Marion, Ind., Saturday to take on Indiana Wesleyan in their first dual match of the season. The Belles (4-3) look to continue their winning streak with a match up against the Wildcats (1-1), who have played only two matches this spring but went 1-0 in their fall season.

"Indiana Wesleyan is very good," said Belles coach Chuck Rubino. "They have a very strong program, and won their conference title [Mid- Central Conference] in the fall."

For the Belles, the new season brings many changes and new faces. Saint Mary's features a new head coach, Chuck Rubino, as well as eight freshmen on the roster to join just two returning sophomores, Camille Gebert and Lisa Rubino.

Four of the eight freshmen are starting, having already proven able to handle college level competition over break. Freshman Jillian Hurley had a standout weekend for the Belles, going 6-1 in singles and 2-1 in doubles with Gebert. Hurley was also named Saint Mary's co-athlete of the week, sharing the honor with softball player Calli Davison.

The Belles came back from break pleased with their team's performance and achieved the two main goals Rubino had set forth: have a winning record and show improvement throughout the week.

"After getting some match play in over spring break, I think we are all very ready to play our first dual match of the season," said sophomore Camille Gebert. "We are lucky to be playing a competitive team like Indiana Wesleyan because it will provide us with good preparation heading into NCAA competition.

Heading into Saturday's match, Rubino has set new goals for his team, and feels there are areas where improvements can be made.

"The goal is obviously to try to beat them," Rubino said. "We just want to compete in every match. It's a good preparation going into the Albion match, and a good test for us this weekend."

Rubino will start the same six doubles teams over break, and want to try to build and improve from match to match.

"I have confidence that we will be a good challenge for us," said unbeaten doublets pair Lizzy Ramirez and Mallory Gruppen.

"The wins will come, along with the losses, but it's important, with such a young team, to make sure we win for each other. We have a lot of depth, and a lot of heart. We are eager to start competing." The Belles will begin the season against the Wildcats on Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mveselik@smc.edu

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**NOTRE DAME MEN'S BASKETBALL**

JOIN IRISH TEAM MEMBERS AND COACHING STAFF FOR THE SELECTION SHOW WATCH PARTY

Sunday, March 16 @ Legends 5:30 PM

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**MLB**

Ramirez discusses philosophy of life

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Manny Ramirez, philosopher:

"You've got to be a boat knowing where you're going," said the sage of the Green Monster.

"We've got money. We're famous. Manny Ramirez, new-age devotee:

"My uncle, he likes to meditate. He does a lot of yoga classes."

But you've got to know what you want.

"You've got to be a boat knowing where you're going," said the sage of the Green Monster.

"Manny seemed like a new man Thursday, sitting at his locker with a peaceful look and a soft voice in a 10-minute interview with The Associated Press, then taking the inspirational book, "The Secret," from his shelf and using a pink highlighter to mark passages.

"Hey, you're the architect of your life," he said. "Let me tell you something. We've got so much stuff inside, it's up to us to make the best of it."

Ramirez's reputation is well-known — one of baseball's best hitters with a quirky personality who marches to his own beat and has his own unique hairstyles. But the left fielder changed his officera

sions activities before the 15th sea

son of a career that he said Thursday will end in a Boston uniform with no retirement date in mind.

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**SMC Tennis**

Belles open dual match play with Wildcats

By MEAGHAN VESELIK

Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will head to Marion, Ind., Saturday to take on Indiana Wesleyan in their first dual match of the season.

"The Belles look to continue the momentum they started over break, but face a tough challenge in the Wildcats (1-1), who have played only two matches this spring but went 1-0 in their fall season.

"Indiana Wesleyan is very good," said Belles coach Chuck Rubino. "They have a very strong program, and won their conference title [Mid-Central Conference] in the fall."

For the Belles, the new season brings many changes and new faces. Saint Mary's features a new head coach, Chuck Rubino, as well as eight freshmen on the roster to join just two returning sophomores, Camille Gebert and Lisa Rubino.

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Contact Meaghan Veselik at mveselik@smc.edu
**Men’s Diving**

**Top six move on to OSU**

**By Chris Doyen**

Sports Writer

After claiming the Big East title in New York Feb. 20-23, the Irish will send their top six divers to Ohio State'sMcCorkle Diving Pavilion this weekend to compete in the NCAA Zone C Meet. Zones A, B and D will be competing over the same time period, while Zone E competition began yesterday and will continue through tomorrow. Top performers at each regional zone meet advance to the NCAA Championships in two weeks.

The Irish representatives are a mix of rookies and upperclassmen. The squad is comprised of seniors Steven Crowe and Sam Stoner, junior Michael Bulfin, and freshmen Nathan Geary, Eric Lex and Wesley Villafan.

As seniors, Crowe and Stoner will be attempting to extend their careers through one more meet. "This will be the final meet for Steve Crowe and myself unless we make it to nationals," Stoner said. "So we are looking to go out with a bang.

The six will travel to Columbus, Ohio, to compete against approximately 90 divers in a 24-school competition. The divers in each of the five zone meets will compete for the chance at participating in the NCAA Championships that will take place in Federal Way, Wash., March 27-29.

During the Big East Championships, the Irish divers claimed five of the top eight spots in the 1-meter board. Bulfin took second place, while Lex took third. Stoner finished second in the 3-meter board, and Bulfin took third place.

Stoner and the rest of the divers are exhibiting a significant amount of confidence heading into the weekend. "The top eighteen finishers in prelims advance to the finals, and everyone is capable and hoping to accomplish this," Stoner said. "We have worked hard all year for this. Everyone is confident about their dives. We are just going to go out there, relax and go big.

The Irish have proved successful in previous years at the NCAA Zone C meet. In 2007, Stoner claimed the seventh spot on the 1-meter board. Bulfin came in one spot behind him, and also took fifth place in the 3-meter board. As a freshman in 2006, Bulfin advanced to the NCAA Championship and claimed a remarkable top-20 finish in the 3-meter. Bulfin's 2008 regular season was full of highlights that showcased his talent and potential. On January 18th, he set a Notre Dame record on the 3-meter dive. That record lasted less than 24 hours, however, as Bulfin turned around and broke his own record the next day.

The Irish men will commence diving today at 1 p.m. with the 3-meter board. The 1-meter board competition will take place Saturday at 1 p.m., with the platform diving competition will be held Sunday at 11.

Contact Chris Doyen at cdoyen@nd.edu

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**MLB**

**Man set to auction off Bonds’ record HR ball**

Associated Press

DENVER — After snaring the baseball Barry Bonds hit for career homer No. 762, Jameson Sutton stored it in the safest place he could think of — deep inside his closet.

"I didn’t tell anyone," he said. The 24-year-old from Boulder quickly moved the baseball into a safety deposit box after the season was finished, realizing its potential worth. And with Bonds still looking for a place to play this season, Sutton decided to come forward with the ball.

Sutton has hired SCP Auctions to run an online auction that starts March 31 and could fetch as much as $1 million.

"I thought it would be cool to give it to my grandkids, but it’s too important of a ball for me to have it in my house laying around," Sutton said Thursday. Sutton grabbed Bonds’ final career homer of last season on Sept. 5 at Coors Field when he extended his arm over the fence. He thought he had it cleanly and was like, ‘Oh (expletive).’ I’ve seen enough baseballs to know what a game ball is and what a practice ball is. He’s got the ball. I’ve got a nice souvenir." Harmon isn’t bitter about losing the pricey baseball to Sutton. Being a partial season ticket holder, Harmon has gotten to know Sutton’s mom and dad, David and Debbie, who’ve been ticket holders since the team’s inception.

"For them, it’s a fairy tale come true," Harmon said.

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**ARMY ROTC. START STRONG.**
**NCAA Men's Basketball**

**Hoyas drain record 17 3s to beat ‘Nova**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Austin Freeman missed Georgetown's first shot, a 3-pointer the Hoyas rebounded and kicked out to DaJuan Summers for another 3 try that hit nothing but net.

That was only the start.

Jessie Sapp scored a career-high 23 points and No. 9 Georgetown tied a Big East tournament record with 17 3-pointers, fending off a second-half comeback to beat Villanova 82-63 on Thursday after Xavier got hot.

Xavier downs Dayton for the league's first seed and had 19 of his 20 points in the first half for the defending champions and (they) are not getting any awards. It was tough. If there were any regrets, Burrell was sorry that he singled out Bryant Dunston of Fordham.

**Xavier men’s basketball**

**Villanova’s Scottie Reynolds goes up for a layup against Georgetown center Roy Hibbert. The Wildcats would go on to lose 82-63.**

Associated Press

**THURSDAY NIGHT OPEN HOUSE**

**TOP TEN**

**REASONS TO LIVE IN STADIUM CLUB CONDOS**

10) What happens down in Mexico does NOT have to stay in Mexico.
9) Cathedral ceilings are straight pimp.
8) Washer and dryer for souvenir tees.
7) 2 Large bedrooms, but sorry, no maid service this time.
6) 2 Full bathrooms to remove sand from unwanted places.
5) Dishwasher big enough for CANCUN 2008 yard drink and shot glass memorabilia.
4) 1,200± square feet of space for SB '08 reunions!
3) Short walk to campus perfect for burning off those extra Spring Break calories.
2) Mardi Gras-like balconies.
1) A place to go and hide if your parents ever see you in one of those "spring break videos."

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**Recycle the Observer.**
Irish earn win over Illini

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Beginning a two-game home stand with a match against Illinois Thursday, No. 23 Notre Dame used clutch performances from its doubles teams to build an early lead and cruise to victory.

Today, the Irish face Western Michigan in an attempt to claim their 10th win of the season and sweep the pair of home matches before embarking on a two-match road trip. The first serve is set for 4 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Against the Illini, Notre Dame stuck to what has worked so far this season — dominating of the doubles point. Although Illinois didn’t go quietly, the Irish eventually took all three of the doubles matches, securing the point.

The No. 3 tandem of sophomores Cosmina Ciobanu and Colleen Rielley improved to 10-1 on the year with their 8-5 victory to begin the match. And after freshman Kristen Rafael and sophomore Kali Krisik captured the second match to secure the point, the No. 1 duo in the nation was on display.

Senior Brook Buck and junior Kerstin Pahl, who is coming off an emotional and challenging match against Illinois,Louderback didn’t feel as though fatigue will be a factor against Western Michigan.

“I don’t think it will be a factor at all,” he said. “We’ve been playing tough matches all year, and we prepared for stretches like this in the fall so our players will be ready.”

Looking ahead to the Broncos, the one player that sticks out is junior Kerstin Pahl, who is coming off of a solid week, in which she won Mid-American Conference Player of the Week.

The No. 1  on the year with their 8-5 victory, improving her mark to 6-4, 6-0, improving her mark to 14-8 overall on the season.

Notre Dame came out firing on all cylinders in the rest of the singles matches winning all six first sets.

After the Patts victory, Ciobanu, Krisik, Tefft and Buck all won their matches to secure the Irish victory.

With the win, Notre Dame improved to 5-1 at home this season, and Louderback can sense the excitement in his players over the home success.

“They love playing here,” he said. “Last season it seemed like we barely had any home games so these little home stands are nice. After the Broncos we go away for a couple of games but then we’re back for a big portion of the rest of March so we’re looking forward to competing at home.”

Although the Irish are coming off of an emotional and challenging match against Illinois, Louderback doesn’t feel as though fatigue will be a factor against Western Michigan.

“I don’t think it will be a factor at all,” he said. “We’ve been playing tough matches all year, and we prepared for stretches like this in the fall so our players will be ready.”

Looking ahead to the Broncos, the one player that sticks out is junior Kerstin Pahl, who is coming off of a solid week, in which she won Mid-American Conference Player of the Week.

She joined senior Noriko Saruta as the second Western Michigan player to win the award all season.

“They always play really good doubles,” Louderback said of the Broncos. “I’m expecting a match a lot like Illinois, in which they came out strong so we have to be ready for them. They’re really well coached so you know they’re going to be prepared for us.”

“They actually beat Illinois 4-3 earlier in the year so it’s going to be interesting to watch them come in here and play us. We’re just going to have to be ready for them when they come out firing.”

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Belles’ home opener postponed due to field

The Belles scheduled double-header against Manchester at home Thursday was postponed due to poor field conditions.

This was the second time the game has been postponed. It was originally to be played on March 11, but was moved to Thursday.

Junior Calli Davison pitches in last season's matchup against Albion. Davison will start the first game Saturday for the Belles.

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

The Belles scheduled double-header against Manchester at home Thursday was postponed due to poor field conditions.

This was the second time the game has been postponed. It was originally to be played on March 11, but was moved to Thursday. So far, no make-up date has been set.

The Belles scheduled double-header against Rockford on Saturday.

Junior Calli Davison will start the first game Saturday for the Belles. Davison (5-2) has given up three earned runs in five starts this season — all wins.

“(Calli’s) confidence shows on the mound,” head coach Erin Sullivan said. “Our team has stepped up their defense behind her.”

Senior McKenna Corrigan (3-0) will start the second game of the double-header.

Sophomores Ashley Peterson and Maureen Healy, junior Ashley Fusaro, Davison and Corrigan will lead the offense, which has over-powered nearly every team the Belles played in Florida during spring break.

Rockford also played at Ft. Myers, Fla., over spring break. However, Saint Mary’s and Rockford did not meet.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu
necessarily changing what we do too much, but just tweaking it a little bit so we can be a little bit more effective.”

The Irish offense has struggled to find consistent scorers in the second half of the season, falling to put home more than three goals in a game since 6-1 and 4-1 victories at Bowling Green on Jan. 25-26.

That fact, along with the Bulldogs’ propensity to keep several skaters deep in its own defensive zone, look to contribute to what might be a low-scoring weekend — a style that just might serve the Irish well, coach Jeff Jackson said.

“It’ll be a difficult series, and I’d be surprised if there’s big scorers, but anything’s possible,” said Jackson, who holds an incredible 28-4 career record in CCHA tournament games. “They’re one of the better defensive teams, and their goalie’s one of the top goalies — but you know what, so is ours.

A change, at least from the way he played the last time these two teams met, is just what Irish goalie Jordan Pearce is looking for. The junior holds a conference-best 1.80 goals-against average in CCHA games, but he’ll need to average Feb. to rare post performance in which he gave up a season-worst five goals.

“There were a couple times [in that game when Ferris snuck into some spots that guys fell asleep in, and they were able to generate some good shots,” Pearce said. “They love just throwing the puck at the net from any angle in any situation to crash the net and get rebounds.

Notre Dame hasn’t played in nearly two weeks, knocking off CCHA bottom-feeder Western Michigan 3-1 in its last action on March 1, so the Irish will look to shake the cobwebs quickly and get off to a fast start against the Bulldogs, who swept these same Broncos in two games last weekend.

“It’s not if you get off to a slow start, battle back; you’ve got to come out right away flying because basically we either put it together this weekend or we’re done,” Van Guider said. “It’s about setting the tone on the ice; we’ve been preaching all along in the locker room, especially in the second half of the season, but what guys really see is when guys do what we’ve been talking about.

Jackson agreed that scoring first will be a major objective. But that, he said, is no different from any other game.

“Regardless of if you get the first goal, you get the lead, or whatever, you’re going to have to play three good periods of hockey,” Jackson said. “That team is capable of coming from behind, but it’s good to get that lead, though. It always is.”

More crucial to the Irish attack will be the way it plays throughout the game, not just in the first few minutes.

“We have to be efficient on special teams, we have to make sure that we’re solid off of face-offs, and we have to make sure that we can get more pucks through to the net,” Jackson said. “Those are probably the biggest issues, and some of those things you can work on, but you’ve got to understand that that’s how Ferris plays.”

Though the immediate focus is solely on the Bulldogs, Notre Dame knows it must play itself back into NCAA Tournament consideration after its 6-8-4 performance since Christmas. Over the same stretch the Irish have fallen from No. 6 to No. 12 in the polls, leaving its place in the 16-team NCAA field very much in doubt.

In fact, USCHO.com’s March 11 edition of “Bracketology” left Notre Dame out of the Tournament — though the Irish are “on the cusp,” analyst Jason Roy wrote in the article.

That could change with a successful trip to Detroit, but Notre Dame must first take care of the Bulldogs as the seniors bid farewell to the Joyce Center — but hopefully not Irish hockey altogether.

“It’s going to be tough [leaving] just because of the progress we’ve made in this building, from where we came to what it is now,” Van Guider said. “We have a lot of pride in what we’ve helped build here, and its going to be tough skating off for the last time. But as long as we’re doing it with a win, I think I’ll be just fine.”

Notes

• Sophomore defenseman Kyle Lawson was the lone Irish player to receive all-CCHA recognition as he earned an Honorable Mention earlier this week. Lawson has three goals and 16 assists this season and is considered one of the conference’s top defenders.

• Van Guider is now Notre Dame’s all-time “Iron Man”, as he has now played in a school-record 154 consecutive games.

• Michigan State and Northern Michigan. The four other quarterfinal series feature No. 6 Michigan State and No. 1 Michigan and Nebraska-Omaha, No. 4 Miami (Ohio) and Bowling Green, and No. 6 Michigan State and Northern Michigan. The four quarterfinal winners will travel to Joe Louis Arena in Detroit next weekend. Both the semifinals (Friday) and finals (Saturday) are single-game match-ups.

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Maurice Acker provided the cushion with a 14-6 Golden Eagles run.

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

Divers aim to qualify for NCAA Championships

By JARED JEDICK

The Irish will attempt to earn a spot in the NCAA Diving Championship this weekend as they participate in the NCAA Zone C Diving meet. The Irish will send five across the country where they will compete for 24 schools across the Midwest at Ohio State's McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion in Columbus, Ohio. The Zone C meet is one of five that the country where divers will be able to compete to earn a spot at the 2008 NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championships held on March 20-23 in the McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion.

"I believe our women will have a good chance of making the NCAA Championships," head diving coach Cuning Maie said. "They are good divers and should do well." The diving team is coming off

twelfth consecutive women's Swimming and Diving Big East title in New York Feb. 20-23. Still took first place in the 3-meter event and third in the 1-meter event at the Big East Diving Championship. This will be Still's second consecutive trip to the NCAA Zone C meet, as she took 17th place in the 1-meter board last year's meet.

Natalie Stitt is strong," Xie said. "She should have won the 1-meter and the 3-meter at the Big East Championship. She probably has the best chance of qualifying for the NCAA Championships."

Heary claimed third place in the 3-meter event and fifth in the 1-meter event at the Big East Championship. Grosman finished fifth in the 3-meter board and eighth in the 1-meter board in the Big East Championship.

The rest of the team that qualified for the NCAA Championships culminated in back-to-back 20th when the final weekend of the season began.

Contact Jared Jedick at jedick@nd.edu

By ELLYN MICHALAK

The Irish are ready for Big Green No. 7 squad looks to avenge last year's loss against Dartmouth

Byers, who has scored at least three goals in each game this season, now leads the nation in both goals (31) and assists, with 23, and - she's not done yet, Coyne said. "She's worked really hard on stick skills, placement, shot selection, release point, variety — every single aspect that makes her the finisher she is," Coyne said of Byers, a preseason All-American. "It hasn't been by accident because she's put her mind to something and she's still getting better. What you've seen her from is phenomenal and she's having a great outcome. That's the hard part of what we can do with her, and - she's still better." Most encouraging for the Irish the past two victories, though, has been the emergence of new contributors like sophomore Gina Scioscia, junior Michelle Nyren and freshman Kattie Parker. These three players got on the scoreboard early in the game as four Irish players got on the scoreboard in the first five minutes for a 12-6 lead.

Harangody was forced to sit though forward Luke Zeller hit a 3-pointer with 11:21 left in the first half. Zeller hit a jumper to give Notre Dame a 44-36 lead. After the Irish came back in the second half but Marquette came back with a vengeance as guard Jerel McNeal scored 10 points during a 14-6 Golden Eagles run.

The day after he dropped 21 points in a win over Seton Hall, McNeal poured in a career-high 28 points Thursday.

"McNeal was fabulous," Brey said. "And he's been fabulous these two nights in New York." After McNeal's hot streak erased the Irish lead, Marquette manufactured a sizable edge of its own, pulling ahead 57-44 at the end of the floor," Brey said.

"I thought offensively we played well enough to win the game but we never got them under control at the defensive end of the floor," Brey said.

Notre Dame took control early in the game as four Irish players got on the scoreboard in the first five minutes for a 12-6 lead.

McAleerney then made jump shots like that — a buzzer-beater in the period. McAlarney then hit a jumper to give the Irish a six-point cushion.

Haringdody finished with 13 points and five minutes in just 25 minutes of playing time.

Brey said the pain from the loss is eased by the fact that the Irish will likely receive an NCAA Tournament bid this Sunday.

"I told [the players] we're excited we get to play next Wednesday," Brey said. "There are some things that we can work on before we go into the NCAA Tournament.

Contact Fran Tolan at folan@nd.edu

By ELLYN MICHALAK

Coming off a narrow first loss to No. 4 North Carolina last Saturday, the No. 7 Irish will head to Atlanta, Ga. to face Dartmouth.

With a 4-1 start on the season Notre Dame will face Dartmouth for the first time this year. There are some things that we can work on before we go into the NCAA Tournament.

With a 2-1 record, Dartmouth is probably the

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

Divers aim to qualify for NCAA Championships

By JARED JEDICK

The Irish will attempt to earn a spot in the NCAA Diving Championship this weekend as they participate in the NCAA Zone C Diving meet. The Irish will send three divers to the meet, including senior Tara Hyer, sophomore Natalie Stitt, and freshman Heidi Grossman.

The girls will be going against an impressive field of 90 divers from 24 schools across the Midwest at Ohio State's McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion in Columbus, Ohio. The Zone C meet is one of five that the country where divers will be able to compete to earn a spot at the 2008 NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championships held on March 20-23 in the McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion.

"I believe our women will have a good chance of making the NCAA Championships," head diving coach Cuning Maie said. "They are good divers and should do well." The diving team is coming off

nd unth forward Luke Harangody was forced to sit for the remainder of the half after picking up his second foul with 10:35 left.

Luke Zeller hit a 3-pointer from the wing to give the Irish a 23-22 lead with 8:11 to play in the period. McAlarney then converted a jumper in the lane and senior forward Rob Kurz knocked down a baseline jumper to give Notre Dame a 27-22 lead.

McAleerney cut the lead out to 31-30 but ND had a 7-3 spurt to end the half with a 38-32 lead. After Marquette guard Wesley Matthews converted a breakaway dunk, Rob Kurz nailed a 3-pointer with three seconds left in the half to give the Irish a six-point cushion.

Notre Dame regained the lead on a pull-up jumper by junior forward Zach Billeshalld with 12:11 left in the first half. The Irish were able to put more distance between themselves and Marquette even though forward Luke Harangody was forced to sit for the remainder of the half after picking up his second foul with 10:35 left.

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Contact Fran Tolan at folan@nd.edu

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish ready for Big Green No. 7 squad looks to avenge last year's loss against Dartmouth

By ELLYN MICHALAK

Coming off a narrow first loss to No. 4 North Carolina last Saturday, the No. 7 Irish will head to Atlanta, Ga. to face Dartmouth.

With a 4-1 start on the season Notre Dame will face Dartmouth for the first time this year. There are some things that we can work on before we go into the NCAA Tournament.

Despite Notre Dame's two-game series lead, each meeting has been closely contested. In fact, four of the seven games have been decided by one goal. Last season, the Big Green edged out the Irish 16-13 victory.

The Irish have had early success this season, marking just the second time in program history with a 4-0 start. Their March 8 loss to the Tar Heels did not come easily, causing the Irish to drop the game from the No. 5 to the No. 7 team.

"We were disappointed because there were things we could have done to change the outcome of the game," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "We didn't get those things done and North Carolina's won an outstanding day.

The Irish are led by a number of upper classmen: senior attack Duncan Swezey, junior attack Ryan Hoff is first on the team with thirteen goals, while junior attack Duncan Swezey has already tallied a career high of 10 goals this season. Senior attack Alex Warrant holds the team lead in assists (8) in addition to his five goals. The Irish currently average 2.1 goals per game, and the team holds its opponents to an average of 6.63 goals per game.

The tough defense is largely attributed to goalie Joey Kemp. The 3-foot-11 senior, who is a two-time all American, has made 26 saves on the season, and has guarded the goal for 289.33 of 300 possible minutes of play. He was also recently named to the 51-man watch list for the Tewaaraton award, which is presented annually to the nation's top regular season men's lacrosse player.

The Big Green are coming off a 7-4 victory against Vermont With a 2-1 record, Dartmouth is lead by sophomore attack Ari Sussman, who has eight goals and two assists on the season. (Dartmouth) is probably the most deliberate and disciplined team we'll play this season," Corrigan said. "They're very structured in the way they play offense and that's not how we play."

Kevin Corrigan
irish coach

The Irish are ready for Big Green No. 7 squad looks to avenge last year's loss against Dartmouth

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

No. 7 squad looks to avenge last year's loss against Dartmouth

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drew, senior Shawn Joy, who has a 1-1 record and a 3.13 ERA on the year.

Looking to lead the Notre Dame defense in the tournament is junior Evan Sharples. In his last five games, Sharples has batted .500 with two home runs and five RBIs, including a walk-off home run to give the Irish a win over Maine.

Sophomore Eric Maust will make his first start of the season Sunday, taking the mound for the Irish against Texas Pan-American in the tournament finale. Maust has a 2.89 ERA from the bullpen this season, and will attempt to shut out Notre Dame's struggling starting pitching.

Shortstop Brett Illye is also entering the weekend with hitting momentum for the Irish. The senior, who has started 187 consecutive games, enters the weekend with a .354 average.

Acker continued from page 24

always outweighed what he lacks in size." Crean said. Acker's outside shooting, along with that of his teammates, added a new dimension to the Marquette offense. The Golden Eagles shot 35.4 percent from the behind the arc, but Thursday they hit 50 percent of their long range shots after half-time to pull away. Irish coach Mike Brey knew Marquette wasn't a great shooting team coming in. That's why he had his team in a 2-3 zone down the stretch. If the Golden Eagles couldn't get in the lane, he thought, they couldn't score.

It was a sound defensive strategy, but it failed miserably.

It might not have mattered, however. Notre Dame witnessed a 48 percent 3-point shooting night from Marquette Feb. 9 and still won 86-83. But on Thursday, while Marquette found something extra from Acker and its other shooters, something was missing for the Irish — and it wasn't just Luke Harangody's hair.

The reigning Big East Player of the Year, fresh off a haircut, looked like Samson after he lost his shoulder, scoring four of his 13 points on fast break dunks, pulling down just five rebounds and getting pushed around by Marquette center Olivia Harris. Harangody was also literally missing from the game for the last ten minutes of the first half after picking up two early fouls.

But there was something else missing from Notre Dame Thursday. The Irish just didn't have the bounce in their step that they've had at bud times this season. They didn't have their confidence. It was like they lost their magic.

It was evident early, when Zach Hillesland drove the baseline, went up for a dunk and caught the front rim. It was evident late, when Luke Zeller passed up an open look during Notre Dame's last-ditch comeback attempt.

With Harangody not at his best, no one else stepped up. Players didn't take open shots, apparently lacking the confidence that they shouldn't have.

All too often, the Irish spent possessions passing the ball around the perimeter with no cutting or driving to the basket.

That's not Notre Dame basketball, this team is at its best when it moves without the ball, finds cutters and opens shots with reckless abandon, and most of them go down. Just not Thursday.

Maybe it was because the game wasn't at the Joyce Center, where Notre Dame has played so well this season. Maybe Hillesland's dunk came up short because the Madison Square Garden crowd wasn't about to explode.

But the NCAA tournament won't be played at home. This team needs to find a way to play as well away from home as they do in South Bend. Notre Dame has a lot of potential for the NCAA's. At a four or five seed, their first round opponent won't be near as athletic as Marquette.

Coming in with a chip on their shoulder, the Irish should win. The problem comes in the second round. Matched up against a team of similar strength, the Irish will have to find the something that was missing Thursday — possibly even the something extra that Marquette had.

The season isn't over, obviously. But if Notre Dame wants to last more than one week, they need to be the team they are at the Joyce Center, not the team at Madison Square Garden last night.

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

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu.
Men's Basketball

Down and out in New York City

Eagles big win one of three tourney upsets

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

NEW YORK — After two of the three earlier Big East tournament quarterfinals had resulted in upsets Thursday, the Irish could not stave off lower-seeded Marquette as the Golden Eagles won 89-79 at Madison Square Garden.

Marquette joined West Virginia and Pittsburgh in knocking off teams that had received first-round byes. "You gotta give them a lotta credit," Irish coach Mike Brey said of Marquette. "This is a team that certainly was picked, I think, to finish in the top 10 of the preseason. They're very talented."

When Marquette began to pull away midway through the second half, Notre Dame clawed back to make it 70-66 with 4:40 remaining. But that was as close as the Irish would get.

Golden Eagles reserve guard Irish senior Rob Kurz is fouled by Marquette guard Dominic James, left, and is blocked by Golden Eagle Ousmane Barro, right, in Notre Dame's 89-79 loss in the Big East quarterfinals on Thursday.

Notre Dame coach Dave Wolff Stadium against Buffalo (4-17), however, may be misleading; the Bulldogs own a 2-1-1 record against the Irish this season.

The seeding and the records, however, may be misleading; the Bulldogs own a 2-1-1 record against the Irish this season and handed the home team a disappointing loss and tie when the two last met, February 8-9 at the Joyce Center.

"It's not just that we've had problems with them, but a lot of teams have problems with them because they're a good team," senior captain Mark Van Guilder said. "We're trying some things offensively to spread them out a little bit and get some room because they like to pack it in as everybody knows. We've worked on a lot of things within our system, not seen BIG EAST/page 21

Baseball

Squad travels to Texas in search of consistency

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

After dropping two of three games last weekend in Corpus Christi, Notre Dame returns to the Lone Star state this weekend in search of better results in San Antonio at the Irish Baseball Classic.

The Irish open CCHA quarterfinals Friday night fighting not only for a chance to defend their conference title in Detroit next weekend, but also for their NCAA tournament lives.

No. 12 Notre Dame (22-12-4, 17-14-5, 12-12-4 CCHA) in a three-game series that features the teams that finished the regular season at fourth and fifth, respectively, in the conference standings. Tonight's game begins at 7:35, and Saturday's three, if necessary, are both set to start at 7:05 p.m.

The seeding and the records, however, may be misleading; the Bulldogs own a 2-1-1 record against the Irish this season and handed the home team a disappointing loss and tie when the two last met, February 8-9 at the Joyce Center.

"It's not just that we've had problems with them, but a lot of teams have problems with them because they're a good team," senior captain Mark Van Guilder said. "We're trying some things offensively to spread them out a little bit and get some room because they like to pack it in as everybody knows. We've worked on a lot of things within our system, not

Women's Lacrosse

Laxers dominate Delaware

Team never trails in easy victory; Byers and Ferguson each score 3

By MATT GAMBRE
Assistant Sports Editor

After a grueling week in California, the Irish looked impressive in their return home, never trailing during a 16-8 victory over Delaware yesterday.

No. 12 Notre Dame (15-2) scored the game's first six goals and led the visiting Blue Hens scoreless through the first 17 minutes. After the Irish opened up a 6-0 lead at the midway point of the first half, Delaware never got closer than four goals.

"We did dominate pretty much from the opening possession," coach Tracy Coyne said. "That's exactly what we wanted to do in terms of moving forward after what we learned about ourselves in California."

Senior captain Caitlin Byers each netted three goals, while senior Heather Ferguson and junior Jillian Byers each netted three goals.

ND confidence goes missing in Big East

NEW YORK — Who on earth is Maurice Acker?
The 5-foot-8 Marquette guard, who averages just 13.3 minutes and 4.7 points per game, buried No. 14 Notre Dame with eight straight points — including two 3s — late in Thursday's Big East quarterfinal.

Acker's run put the No. 24 Golden Eagles up 76-66 with 3:32 left, sealing Marquette's 89-79 win.

After the game, Marquette coach Tom Crean said his diminutive reserve reached inside himself to find something extra in crunch time.

"The size of his heart has

see BIG EAST/page 21
Ringleaders

Senior captains teach the sweet science for a worthwhile cause.
All Bengal Bout fighters are used to endless calisthenics. Each day brings hundreds of push-ups, sit-ups and arm circles for the boxers to endure. Fighters slowly begin to adapt and the workouts become less and less tedious.

When Lawrence Sullivan was in charge of calisthenics, however, each fighter knew he was going to come home sore, no matter what.

“Sully was one of the strictest captains when it came to practice, no doubt,” said freshman Michael Wu, who started boxing this year. “He always had some new and crazy ab exercise for us to do, or something like that.”

Sullivan, who captured the 145-pound title last year, is notorious for his tough workouts and occasional oddball event to the everyday routine of legged squats, seemed like oddball exercises. Some, like one-outers and occasional oddball something like that.”

“He always had his eye on the prize, on the next fight, on what’s going to be coming up. He never let you get too comfortable,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan has been an integral member of the Bengal Bouts program, and he plans on remaining involved with the program as long as he can.

By ANDY ZICCARLELLI

Future teacher, law student O’Brien guides novice boxers

Sullivan saw his last Bengal Bout fight on Friday as a good time to look back on not only his boxing experience, but also the Notre Dame experience as a whole as he heads into his senior year.

“My freshman year R.A., Colin Vrabel, used to be a boxer. He gave me pointers and tips, and it helped me a lot,” Sullivan said.

Although he admits that his strength may not be his most remarkable attribute, O’Brien says that for the student body, his most valuable asset is the ability to push others to their limits.

“I’m a teacher, and I’m a fighter. I’m one of the few people who can do both,” O’Brien said.

O’Brien cherishes the friendships he has developed throughout the Bengal Bouts program and looks back on his time with the Bengal Bouts program with fondness.

“So many people have come through this program, and I’ve always been teaching me new counters and developing my punching technique,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan can send the wrong message. It’s important to lead by example. If a novice sees a captain drop his hands or have a poor stance, it can send the wrong message.

“Don’t blink — there’s going to be fireworks.”

Lawrence Sullivan senior captain

Senior captain Lawrence Sullivan, left, plans his next move at senior Paul Mawer during Tuesday’s semifinal bout in the 149-pound weight class. Sullivan fights junior Kris Perez tonight.

Sullivan can put the future on hold for now, however, as he prepares for his fight against former 140-pound champion Kris Perez — a fight that was made possible by a little advance planning.

“We tried to set it up, to get to the same weight,” Sullivan explained. “We are both really matched in weight and style.”

Contact Andy Ziccarelli at aziccare@nd.edu

‘Sully’ brings pain in the ring and during practice

‘Don’t blink — there’s going to be fireworks.”

Lawrence Sullivan senior captain
President Land graduates early, leads Bengal Bouts through period of change

By MATTHEW GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

With split-decision losses in the only two boxing matches of his life, Hunter Land, then a sophomore, didn’t think his resume to become a junior captain was impressive — but his father called it anyway.

A year later, after falling in the semifinals (again by split-decision), becoming the president of the boxing club wasn’t even something Land was considering — but still, he was the man for the job. And he couldn’t be happier to fill the role.

“I was shocked at both decisions, to be honest,” Land said. “Whatever it is they saw in me, I’m glad they did. I was just eager to prove myself, and that was a big question in my head — whether I could get 300 guys to do this. I was knowing that I hadn’t really been successful in the ring.”

To be honest with Land why he was appointed to lead the program after his performance in last year’s Bengal Bouts, others, like senior captain Lawrence Sullivan, don’t have much trouble pinpointing Land’s out-of-ring abilities.

“The amount of time he spends, whether it be on improving his own boxing or the way the program is run, is just overwhelming,” Sullivan said. “To be able to juggle all of that with academics is just a testament to his skills as a manager.”

Land said his main role as president is to “serve as an open line of communication between a group of people and to rely on a large group of people — from the boxers themselves to the support staff composed of student managers, alumni volunteers and Brock employees.”

“When they tell you about the boxers, (the outgoing senior captains) say it’s your turn to run the show,” Land said. “But really, I don’t run the show at all. We have so many managers that work behind the scenes and do everything so that when fight night comes, we don’t have to worry about anything. It’s almost a clockwork machine.”

A change for the better

As smoothly as the program runs, Land’s term included a new wrinkle. For the first time in the program’s 35-year history, senior captains were chosen by a decision and transition in which Land played a crucial part.

The brainstorming process began at the end of last year “because the strength of the program has been growing tremendously in numbers,” Land said.

With those growing numbers, though, came a struggle to accommodate not just the fighters, but those who care for them.

“It was a thing where doctors are here for five, six, even seven hours a night where they’re doing just one single ring — then after they do check-ups here, they’d go back to the office and have boxers come in if they have concussions,” Land said. “It’s really was really to kind of help out everybody in the boxing program, to help us as much, being able to do them a favor.”

The boxing program needed a favor of its own, though, to turn in the end of the group. Pair of Bengal Bouts alumni, Terry Johnson and Tom Suddes, answered the call by donating an additional boxing ring.

“They are the big forces behind the program organizing,” Land said. “They were the brains of the opera­tion, as far as getting a differ­ent-sounding bell for the second round. It was just a lot of it, a lot of ideas and suggestions, and it worked smoother than I ever could have imagined.”

Though Land is always quick to accept praise for the program’s success, others believe it’s no coincidence that it has flourished under Land’s watchful eye.

“Running two rings goes to his ability to work with people and really be on top of things, to care for the details and make sure things get locked down,” Sullivan said. “It’s just an awesome vision... really easy to work with.”

While Land has been able to avoid “any big bumps” in his year-long stint as president, he is constantly receiving feedback, combining what he has learned with what he feels is best for the program.

“There’s always problems and there’s always complaints, especially when you’ve got 200 guys boxing, so you have to take those complaints as constructive criticism, change what you people who are eventually should, and then move on,” Land said. “It’s hard to pinpoint one complaint, but probably running, or push-ups, or arm circles — those are complaints we got on conditioning. But then at the end of fights, (fighters) are thanking us for it, so it’s a little cycle like that.”

An educational experience

As president, much of the responsibility of teaching novice boxers the ropes falls on Land. It’s not all about jabs, hooks and haymakers.

“The training goes incred­ibly beyond boxing,” he said. “It includes a network and online. It’s such a competitive environment, such a unique environment to be a part of team in an individual sport. Being first in that competitive environment, being a leader in that competitive environment, and being a coach when you’re coaching people who are eventually going to beat you in the tournament — it’s challenging.”

Land isn’t just a teacher; he’s a student of the program as well.

“I hate to knock Notre Dame’s academics at all, but this has been the biggest learning experience I’ve ever had, period...” Hunter Land boxing club president

“Bengal Bouts has taught me that the real world is a competitive environment itself, so I’ll get used to that and hopefully carry on what I’ve learned here as far as building relationships to maintain them and to grow them in the real world.”

Though the relations he has forged through the pro­gram, especially with his fellow senior captains, have been price­less, the attitude of Bengal Bouts helped to instill in Land as an individ­ual is now a defining trait of his character.

“The No. 1 thing boxing has taught me is about challeng­ing myself,” Land said. “There’s a lot of things that we do in Bengal Bouts that if you say it or write it on paper, you think, ‘Oh, absolutely not, there’s no way I’m going to be able to do that.’ It’s all about challenging yourself, setting that goal, and just going for it.”

“I’ve always wanted to be an entrepreneur and start my own company along down the road after getting some sav­ings together,” Land said. “And this has been a great experience in being in charge and to prove to me that it’s possible, you can definitely do it. It’s given me the relation­ship skills and the people skills to know that I can.”

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu
Fight of the night: 149 pounds
Lawrence Sullivan vs. Kris Perez

Sullivan had a weight advantage, dispatching his first round opponent Chris Cugliari in the semifinals by jumping twice in his semifinal bout on his way to a unanimous decision. The junior has been able to quickly put his opponents on the defensive and rarely lets up. He dropped freshman Andrew Mok to the mat inside his taller opponent's height disadvantage by taking down Gonzalez, look for him to come out with extra determination in his bout.

Bobby Powers vs. Chris Hartstein

Sullivan has been able to overcome a challenge like this year, and it got cut short," Sullivan has said. "We both kind of knew we were going to fight each other so we didn't try to fight or come at each other. But once that opening bell finally rings, rest assured — things will get heated.

Bobby Powers has survived with consecutive split-decision victories, but made no mistakes, his splits in the finals. The defending champ, 2007 Bengal Bouts champ, freshman Chris Cugliari in the semifinals by jumping out to an early lead and being aggressive right from the start, then folding off the veteran's late comeback. Look for them to be a good one.

Bennett did a good job of putting senior captain Pat O'Brien on the defensive early in the semifinals with a flurry of punches. Bennett's jab was the key to victory so far, and if he is to take down Gonzalez, look for him to go for it early and often. Movement and avoiding big punches have been also crucial to Bennett's success in his wins over Bryan Marek and Hamilton Marx.

130 pounds
Chris Izaguirre vs. Matthew Conti

STAFF PICKS
Matt Gamber: IZAGUIRRE
The senior has spent the full year working to average his split-decision title loss, and land some of his better shots on his way to the victory.

Powers should have the bright advantage and be able to take his time in the ring against Hartstein. He has also beaten Michael Johnson and James Woodin.

146 pounds
Tim Thayer vs. Mark Costanzo

STAFF PICKS
Matt Gamber: COSTANZO
Costanzo's previous outing against the right opener overpowered his experience, particularly from his on his opportunity has closed. The untiring efforts of Indiana State's defensive tactics is often his best asset in contests. And victory has been on the other hand, was unimpressive in his victory over John Biddle.

Junior Alex Gonzalez has only fought in one fight thus far after receiving a fresh start in his campaign in the first round. A smart fighter, he took his time in the ring and stuck to his game plan. His semifinal win over Mark Weber displayed his ability to avoid big punches and land some of his best shots on his way to a unanimous decision. He also defeated Sean McNichols and Joseph Camarda.

155 pounds
Alex Gonzalez vs. Mark Bennett

STAFF PICKS
Matt Gamber: BENNETT
You can well expect, I say still shaking off the cobwebs. Gonzalez was impressive in his first fight, but he hasn't faced (and overcome) a challenge like this year's Bengal Bouts champ, Pat O'Brien.

Sullivan may have had the most impressive semifinal victory of any fighter. His first round knockout victory over senior Phil Hicks was a dominating performance, as he landed punch after punch with no answer. Eventually the referee called the fight, but not before. Thayer established himself as a force. He easily defeated Matt Irwin and Ryan McGregor.

It was bigger and stronger, I'm slicker and quicker," Perez said. "Sullivan makes fields and it's going to be a good one.

Heavily out-muscled and out-matched, Sullivan was a force after winning a title as the top seed in the 130-pound division. Conti has been one of the surprises of this year's Bengal Bouts with his run to the finals. With surprising power for his size, Conti has been able to quickly put his opponents on the defensive and rarely lets up. He dropped freshman Andrew Mok to the mat twice in his semifinal bout on his way to an unanimous decision. He also defeated Sean McNichols and Joseph Camarda.

STAFF PICKS
Matt Gambar, SULLIVAN
The swimmer who has dominated early in the semifinals with a flurry of punches. Bennett's jab has been the key to victory so far, and if he is to take down Gonzalez, look for him to go for it early and often. Movement and avoiding big punches have been also crucial to Bennett's success in his wins over Bryan Marek and Hamilton Marx.

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Friday, March 14, 2008

**157 pounds**

**Jim Devereaux vs. Jordan Bucci**

Devereaux has needed resilience to get to this point. He responded to a standing 8-count in the second round with a flurry of punches that stunned Jesse Brawer and sealed the win.

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Bucci does a good job of using his strength and his smarts. He has experience, has been in close ones before and will not be fazed by tough competition in the championship.

**166 pounds**

**Joseph Meares vs. Charlie Gough**

Meares connected on enough of his big right hooks to overcome his small stature and beat Scott Whalen in the semis. He topped Brian Price and Nazar Ahmed earlier in the tournament.

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Meares connected on enough of his big right hooks to overcome his small stature and beat Scott Whalen in the semis. He topped Brian Price and Nazar Ahmed earlier in the tournament.

**176 pounds**

**Mike Lee vs. Andres Villalba**

Lee has cruised through his bracket so far. Expect Gough to fight in close, but look for the relentless Bucci to regroup and win in a very close decision.

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Villalba's greatest asset is his quickness, which he used to beat Dominic Golub in the semis. Endurance proved to be a strength for the junior captain in early wins over Barry Clark and Mike Moran.

**206 pounds**

**Andrew Lorenz vs. Pat Burns**

Lorenz shook off much of the audience by beating the Saint's captain Pat Ryan in his last fight by split decision. He's shown great resilience in the tournament in the second half of each round.

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Burns agility needed him a split decision win against Burns in the semis, and his quickness is impressive for a fighter of this weight division. He's a physical fighter who will go to the body.

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Lorenz needed his split decision win against Burns in the semifinals. His quickness and handspeed for some hooks in an early beat, but finding a fighter like Burns will not be easy.

**Heavyweight**

**Will Bourroulls vs. Kevin Crepeau**

Bourroulls, a law student, didn't look like a serious boxer while scoring the only knockout of the semifinals against Geoff Spears. He may be the strongest fighter left, but he's quick, too.

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Crepeau beat Pat McElranny by split decision thanks to agility and finesse unbecoming of a big man. He's not quite as powerful as Bourroulls, but there's plenty of pop in all his punches.
Older brother inspires Ryan's love for boxing

By JARED Jedick
Sports Writer

It's all about work ethic with senior captain Pat Ryan, who finds almost nothing more rewarding than the time he put into Bengal Bouts over the past four years building relationships, imparting his knowledge on others and helping those in need.

"I have so much fun doing this," Ryan said. "I love going to work every day, working hard and there is nothing I would rather be doing."

Especially important to Ryan are the relationships he has formed with those who have accompanied him along the way.

"An amazing thing is just the team camaraderie aspect of it all," Ryan said. "You get used to being around these guys everyday, and you form some pretty strong friendships." Ever humble, Ryan never thought that he would be able to rise up through the ranks and become a Bengal Bouts captain. Fate seemed to be on Ryan's side, however, as his older brother, Peter Ryan, was a Bengal Bouts captain.

"Watching my brother do all the work for the Bengal Bouts helped inspire me a little bit," Ryan said. "I got to see the work he was putting in, and it was really cool." Ryan's trust in Ryan's favor was his extensive background in sports. Ryan was a three-sport high school athlete, playing basketball, football and tennis.

"My athletic nature really inclined me towards Bengal Bouts from the start," Ryan said. "I was used to being around athletic people, and liked the friendships that I formed there."

Not until after the call came from last year's captains that they wanted him to help lead the program, Ryan was in shock.

"I never really considered being a captain, so I was surprised when they selected me," Ben said. "But if I had to give one reason why they selected me, I would have to say that it is my work ethic."

"It is a strong work ethic that has been with Ryan since the very beginning."

"I had zero idea what to expect," Ryan said. "But when I got there on day one, I said to myself, 'I can do this.'" Since that day freshman year, Ryan has never skipped out on a practice.

Ryan said the presence of his teammates inspires him day in and day out.

"The great thing about Bengal Bouts from the start," Ryan activity, Ryan said. "These kids come here both to see the work to hard work every day and develop a skill and form friendships. Plus, they get to really help the needy in the local community."

This year's captains have meshed well together, Ryan said.

"I'm really proud of what we have been able to do this year as a group of captains," he said. "This is really a great group of guys."

Transcending from being just another one of the guys in the Bouts into being a captain and having the responsibility of teaching others wasn't easy for Ryan.

"You just really need to break it down for them, and then drill it into them," Ryan said.

Seeing those who has taught put their talents to good use in the ring is inspiring for Ryan.

"The thing with Bengal Bouts is the ring and wanting them both to win because you have seen how hard both of them have worked," Ryan said. "Whoever wins, we just really love to see them do it."

Another important aspect for Ryan is the difference he believes the Bouts are making in the lives of those who participate in it. It's that mission that Ryan wants others to remember.

"I don't want to be the focus," Ryan said. "What I really want people to know is that we are helping younger fighters the way they did for us."

In addition to teaching younger fighters how to box, the captains must also get involved in the fundraising of the club, which last year sent over $60,000 to Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh.

"It's great to see that all the sacrifice, the effort, the hard work - it's all for a good cause."

"It's that mission that Ryan wants people to know and understand that there's a dual responsibility that goes along with being part of the team," Ryan said.

"I don't want to be the focus," Ryan said. "What I really want people to know is that we are helping younger fighters the way they did for us."

Contact Jared Jedick at jedick@nd.edu

Bouts 'the most influential' part of Brawer's ND career

By Sam Werner
Sports Writer

In an era when Mike Tyson got more headlines than any active fighter, most kids gravitated towards sports like football or baseball - but not Jesse Brawer.

"I can remember sitting on the floor watching HBO Boxing After Dark with my dad," Brawer said. "So that's the sport I grew up with."

Upon arriving at Notre Dame, Brawer - who had no idea of the University's boxing club - discovered Bengal Bouts and knew it was a match for him.

"As soon as I found out about it, I jumped at the shot," Brawer said.

Despite his natural affinity for the sport, Brawer was in for a rude awakening in his first fight freshman year. Just 40 seconds into the first round, Brawer's nose was broken to the point where he had to leave the fight. Brawer went on to lose the fight, but he learned a valuable lesson about boxing in the process.

"The most important thing I learned about boxing is experience," Brawer said. "You can take someone that barely has an ounce of athleticism, and you give them a couple of years of experience, and they will be able to handle themselves in a boxing ring better than an incredible natural athlete."

After that first fight, Brawer resolved to come back stronger the next year.

"My freshman year opponent had one more year experience than me so I had to make it look easy," Brawer said.

Experience turned out to be a key for Brawer, as he advanced to the semi-finals his sophomore and junior years, losing both fights by a split decision. This year, Brawer was also ousted in the semi's, losing by an unanimous decision.

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Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

The Observer • BENGAL BOUTS Friday, March 14, 2008
Drastic weight-cutting rare among fighters

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

In sports where matches are decided based on weight, horror stories abound. Athletes use starvation, running in place, water deprivation, and eating disorders to secure every competitive edge possible.

With Bengal Bouts athletes, however, this doesn’t seem to be the case.

While boxers lay off the pasta and take an extra lap around the JACC before weigh-ins, drastic cutting of weight is not common practice among boxers.

Junior Kris Perez, who fought in the 130-pound weight class, said: “I don’t see any advantages in cutting weight for boxers, swearing off soda and desserts, but he also added harsher dietary restrictions. He ate no carbohydrates for four days prior to weigh-ins, he said, and lost 15 pounds of water. On the day of the weigh-in, he ate nothing.”

Despite the preponderance of moderation in regards to cutting weight, some people took more drastic measures. Senior Pat O’Brien said a fighter during his freshman year ate such small amounts at meals that he caused problems with his digestive tract.

Sophomore Kevin Martin followed a similar pattern to other fighters, swearing off soda and desserts, but he also added harsher dietary restrictions. He ate no carbohydrates for four days prior to weigh-ins, he said, and lost 15 pounds of water. On the day of the weigh-in, he ate nothing. “I didn’t go to Burger King every day and order a bacon cheeseburger,” Perez said. “I did a high protein and high carb diet which consisted of pasta, chicken, egg whites and peanut butter. I ate lots of vegetables and fruits as well.”

Confidence in one’s ability, senior Pat O’Brien said, will help people keep from cutting weight. Insecurity, on the other hand, can cause a boxer to cut.

“Junior Kris Perez, left, and Matthew Poslusny get tangled up during a semifinal match in the 149-pound weight class Tuesday. Perez won the fight to advance to tonight’s title bout.”

“Basically, I just felt like moving up in weight class would be a good challenge and, because I’m a competitive guy, I wanted to see if I could still compete,” Perez said.

When gaining weight, health must still be observed, he said. “I didn’t go to Burger King every day and order a bacon cheeseburger.”

Juniors Kris Perez, left, and Matthew Poslusny get tangled up during a semifinal match in the 149-pound weight class Tuesday. Perez won the fight to advance to tonight’s title bout.

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