Laetare Medal brings controversy

Some upset by recipient Sheen's previous statements which clash with Catholic teaching

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

On March 2, Laetare Saturday, the Laetare Medal committee announced that human rights activist and actor Martin Sheen will receive the prestigious award during this year's Commencement weekend for embracing the Catholic faith throughout his life.

This announcement has brought controversy over whether Sheen, best known for his work in film and the NGR drama “West Wing,” deserves the award for his positions on the war in Iraq, abortion and homosexual rights.

Father James McDonald the University of Notre Dame's Vice President, Counselor to the President and Chairman of the Laetare Medal committee, said the goal of awarding the medal is not to find someone who will not generate controversy even though this year's choice is unpopular with some.

"(Sheen) is an incredible man of deep faith," McDonald said. "Most what struck me was his genuine humility about himself as a believer in God. He's a man who's integrated faith in his public life in a very deep way."

Martin Sheen, best known for his work on the NBC drama "West Wing," will accept the Laetare Medal at Commencement.

BOG

Majors seek funds for trip

Members discuss awarding support for Undergraduate Honors Conf.

By ASHLEY CHARNEY
News Writer

Senior communications studies major Sam Peterson visited Tuesday evening's Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) meeting, seeking funds for a trip to the Undergraduate Honors Conference of the Southern States Communications Association in Savannah, Ga.

Peterson and three other communications majors submitted their senior compositions to the conference to be judged and have won national recognition. They will travel to Georgia to present their compositions and attend other presentations from seniors across the country.

Awards will also be handed out to exceptional projects, including one major award for the best project. "You can be recognized in the entire field, which is huge because it is such a broad field," Peterson said.

The group approached BOG to get funds for transportation, food, and room and board to represent Saint Mary's at the conference.

"This is a great opportunity for Saint Mary's to get recognized," Peterson said. The group will make presentations after returning for the junior communications studies majors, the Communications Studies Honor Club, and women's studies classes. They are also each writing articles about their projects for the Saint Mary's Alumni Newsletter.

The conference will be held from April 2-4. Brittany Taylor, Victoria..."
The power of video games

Remember what the word pong meant before college? I never actually played it on the Atari as a little kid, but it started a revolution. My first video game was Super Mario Bros 3; my parents wouldn’t let us have a Nintendo at our house, but they bought one and kept it at my grandparents’ house. Whether it was to keep us from playing all the time or to get us excited about visiting our grandparents all the time, I don’t know but it resulted in both.

Since the glory days of Super Mario, when the cartridge only worked half the time and only two people could play at a time, video games have come a long way. Now I can play Call of Duty 4 with my roommates in Oregon and Washington, enjoying a fun game while keeping in touch with family members I typically wouldn’t hear from except at holidays.

Some people look down on video games and say that they destroy childhoods and eyesight, creating introverted personalities and playing minds, and I agree that there are some who become addicted to this virtual reality. For the most part, however, if you keep things in perspective and remember that a great world exists outside of the TV screen, then these games can be a great way to relax and connect with friends.

With increasingly advanced technology being applied to more fields and in new ways, sometimes keeping up to date can be difficult — having skills in video games can help with this transition.

For example, surgeons who grew up playing video games make 37 percent fewer mistakes according to Marc Premsky, a CEO of GameTrain, a company which makes informational tutorials fun by encoding the information in the form of a video game. On their website are all types of games with top perspectives all the time, I don’t know but it resulted in both.

Some are other fun facts about Nintendo’s Mario, one of the most famous video game characters ever: he was originally called jump-star and symphony renditions, and been the source of a number of guisciences ranging from windows NT to website are all types of games with top-sites and even from windows NT to sexual harassment, and companies can even request a game to be made for their own training purposes.

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**Debate continued from page 1**

"The burden of proof should rest on those people [who believe that global warming is a real and dangerous threat]," Shapot said.

Shapot said additional levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere might not have a further negating effect, but might increase its concentration.

Shapot argued against cloud data from thousands of years ago which point to global warming, noting that the levels of error were far too high to be considered significant.

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**Sheen continued from page 1**

He said specific stances on controversial issues were not the focus of the Laetare selection committee, rather, the committee focused on Sheen's body of work as a whole.

"We review all that can be reasonably attained by searching public records," McDonald said. "But when you take his lifetime of service, what most stands out is his commitment to his faith as a Catholic. No one phrase on a given day disqualifies him." McDonald said Sheen did not earn the Laetare Medal for any particular action or position, but was instead awarded with it "in view of all of what he's done integrating his life of faith with his professional life."

The Laetare Medal is given each year to an American Catholic 'whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church, and enriched the heritage of human progress," according to the Laetare Medal citation presented to General William Starke Rosecrans in 1896. McDonald also said Sheen's views on abortion are not "pro-choice." He said while Sheen may have made a comment that could be interpreted as being pro-choice, that does not mean Sheen is pro-choice.

"If you look at the whole thing, I don't think you can conclude that," McDonald said. "When people do research, they have to be very careful about when a statement was made. The judgment of importance has to depend on the context." McDonald said his office received many letters expressing gratitude for selecting Sheen for the medal.

He said one such letter discussed Sheen's charitable work on behalf of fighting mental illnesses and addiction. He said he is not surprised people are disputing Sheen's selection for the Laetare Medal, but he stands by the University's decision.

"Men and women of good faith can differ in good faith on different choices," McDonald said. "Laetare is the 130th recipient of the Laetare Medal, which has been awarded for 125 years since 1883. The medal was designed to serve as a counterpart to the Golden Rose, which has been awarded by the pope for service to the Church since before the 11th Century.

The recipient of the Laetare Medal is announced each year on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. Past winners of the medal include President John F. Kennedy, diplomat Sargent Shriver, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement Dorothy Day and former University President Father Theodore Hesburgh. The 2007 Laetare Medal was awarded to Patrick J. McCartan, chairman emeritus of the University's Board of Trustees.

Sheen will be on campus all Commencement weekend, and is eager to spend time with the Notre Dame family, McDonald said.

"He's one of us. He will fit in very well here that weekend," McDonald said.

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Contact John Tierney at

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German leader earns Israeli ovation

WASHINGTON — Angela Merkel, Germany's new chancellor, earned a standing ovation from Israel's parliament Tuesday after pledging to stand by the citizens of New York state, Paterson said at a news conference with his wife, Michelle Paige, on Tuesday after pledging to stand by the citizens of New York state, "I say to the citizens of New York state," Paterson said at a news conference Wednesday, March 19, 2008.


Obama deplores pastor's remarks

Wright's sermons offered a "profoundly distorted view of this country," senator says

Associated Press

As shocking as they may be, the provocative sermons of Rev. Jeremiah Wright, an elderly pastor who was in the spotlight last year, continue to resonate in some black churches, evidence also suggests his style is reeding into the past as civil rights-era pastors rejoin. Sermons in other congregations now focus less on societal divisions and more on the connection between spirituality and a materially prosperous life.

Wright's words have come under intense scrutiny because of his long association with the Rev. Louis Farber, a member of his Chicago congregation. Video clips widely circulated in the last week show Wright, in a booming voice, suggesting that American military actions were partly to blame for the Sept. 11 attacks and accusing the country of continuing to mistreat blacks.

Obama delivered a speech on race Tuesday that critiqued Wright for expressing a "profoundly distorted view of this country." Wright's words, Obama said, have come under "intense scrutiny" because of his long association with the Rev. Louis Farber, a member of his Chicago congregation.

The settlement in the case — the first of its kind — has also meant fighting divestment during South Africa's apartheid era. It has also meant fighting poverty, homelessness and AIDS at home. The religious message has been anything but watered down, with Wright dissecting Bible passages line-by-line.

The pastor's experience is grounded not only in the civil rights movement, but also in 1960s black liberation theology, which applies the Christian Gospel to contemporary struggles against race-based oppression.

"The whole generation that Rev. Wright represents is expressing what they call a righteous anger, the anger from the failed promises of America," said Dwight Hopkins, a professor at the University of Chicago Divinity School. "The prophetic anger is toward race-based oppression. But Obama also pointed out Wright, he said, failed to recognize the nation's great progress and accomplishments embodied by Obama's own candidacy for president.

2005. Israel's leaders said they are counting on Germany to take a lead in diplomatic efforts to serve their hidden agenda by inciting violent clashes in Tibet. The Chinese government is expressing what they call a righteous anger, the anger from the failed promises of America," said Dwight Hopkins, a professor at the University of Chicago Divinity School. "The prophetic anger is toward race-based oppression. But Obama also pointed out Wright, he said, failed to recognize the nation's great progress and accomplishments embodied by Obama's own candidacy for president.

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Putin rejects U.S. military proposal

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia had a short answer Tuesday for President Bush's top national security advisers who came to ask for detente in the simmering argument over the U.S. missile shield at Russia's doorstep. "Nyet." Or maybe, "Not yet."

The United States and Russia got no closer to settling their public differences over U.S. plans that Russia sees as a potential threat and a turf battle over influence in nations once under the Soviet thumb.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said he will take a closer look at U.S. proposals if Moscow gets no clearer of some details of the U.S. plan.

"Since the U.S. is going to carry this out, those proposals that we are expecting to receive on paper today seemed to us, as I said, important and useful for the minimization of our concerns," Lavrov said.

During a brief greeting witnessed by reporters Monday, Putin did not mention U.S. plans for the missile shield, a marked contrast from his vehement opposition when he met in October with Gates and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who returned to explore whether U.S. concessions have softened Putin's stance.

"I would say they listened very carefully," Gates told reporters Tuesday. "President Putin took extensive notes last night and the day's talks being put down this morning."

There is no deadline, but Gates said Tuesday that it had been "reasonably quickly." Gates said the U.S. side came out with more clearly some details of the proposals it made in the fall, which the Russians initially agreed to study and later rejected as not addressing their main concerns.

Associated Press

PIEDMONT, Mo. — Torrential rain chased hundreds of people from their flooded homes and delayed roads in the nation's midsection Tuesday, killing at least two people.

The storm system also grounded hundreds of flights in Texas. One control tower at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport was briefly evacuated when a funnel cloud was spotted.


Severe floods hit Midwest

At least 2 killed, homes evacuated after heavy rains cause damage

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That information could give rivals an edge and the contents of their multibillion dollar portfolios. Tightlipped about trading positions, tactics, and bank earnings but by the Federal Reserve's actions became a clear signal that the Fed is ready to supply all the emergency credit banks need to get us out of this crisis. Many analysts said they believed the Fed may cut rates only once more, perhaps by a more ordinary quarter-point at the next meeting, and then sit back and see if economic stimulus checks that will begin arriving at 130 million households in May will do the trick along with the rate cuts to jump-start the economy.

Bush hints at more aid for consumers

Investment banks are notorious for being tightfisted about trading positions, tactics, and the contents of their multibillion dollar portfolios. Tightlipped about trading positions, tactics, and bank earnings but by the Federal Reserve's actions became a clear signal that the Fed is ready to supply all the emergency credit banks need to get us out of this crisis. Many analysts said they believed the Fed may cut rates only once more, perhaps by a more ordinary quarter-point at the next meeting, and then sit back and see if economic stimulus checks that will begin arriving at 130 million households in May will do the trick along with the rate cuts to jump-start the economy.

Bush hinted at more aid for consumers
The biggest "corporate power"

Elections inevitably bring out the worst in those running for office. Rather than engage in reasoned debate, they make baseless claims cloaked in lofty rhetoric in an effort to appeal to their potential voters. This such rhetoric is often delusional and frequently cited by politicians in that businesses are somehow inherently evil. This view sees the interests of the worker and of the business as diametrically opposed and irreconcilable.

Businesses wield an unattainable amount of power: they can refuse to provide health care, they can lay off employees at their discretion, and they can exploit their employees by underpaying them. They can do virtually anything. In short, "corporate power" is eating America's sustenance.

Such an argument misses the voluntary nature of the free market. Businesses have no "power" to force anyone to do anything. I may not like Big Mac, but Ronald McDonald cannot speed up my bowel movements unless I choose to buy his product. Businesses have no "power" to force anyone to do anything. The laptop means that he personally valued the laptop more than he valued his cash or the trade would not have occurred. On the other side, the firm must have valued his cash more than the laptop or the trade for the same reason.

The same is true for employees and employers. The employer would not agree to employ the worker unless he gains more compensation than the employee. The employee can choose to persuade them to part with their hard-earned cash unless it steals from the tax-payers through subsidies and other government handouts.

Similarly, a business deals with its employees in the same voluntary manner. When a company extends an offer to a potential employee, the firm agrees to some sort of fixed compensation to the potential employee in return for his or her services. The employee can choose to either accept or reject the offer. The company cannot force the potential employee to work against his will under terms he did not accept. It can only hope the potential employee will choose to accept the offer. Either party can choose to end the business relationship because the relationship ceases to be mutually beneficial.

The relationship between consumer and firm or employee and firm is not inherently conflicted, but mutually beneficial. No consumer is forced to buy a Dell laptop; rather, the consumer chooses to buy his product. The same is true for employees and employers. The employee would not agree to work at a firm in exchange for compensation unless he valued the compensation more than the potential benefits. The employer would not agree to employ the worker unless he gaves more from employing him than he loses through the wages he pays.

Obviously, both parties to the transaction benefit, not just one at the expense of the other. Business is not a zero sum game. It is amusing that those who rally against the evils of "corporate power" somehow see the federal government as the cure rather than a disease. Whereas businesses get their "power" through voluntary interaction with consumers and employees, the federal government behaves in the opposite fashion. The government is making it illegal to spay or spay on its citizens without their knowledge. It can prohibit its citizens from eating certain types of food. It can prevent its citizens from engaging in mutually beneficial exchanges.

Many adult Americans are forced to work far nearly free 5 months of the year so that the government can take their money and give it to someone else to whom it does not belong (old people, poor people, medical care for others, etc.). Citizens become de facto slave labor in the federal government.

Which is more dangerous: an entity that can arbitrarily seize 40 percent of a person's income, restrict a person's freedom, and spay without any restrictions or an entity cannot force you to work for it, buy its products or have any relationship with it? Any person that believes in the benevolence and the skill of the latter should probably seek counseling. Unfortunately, the entire political establishment needs counseling.

Mark Poyar is a senior finance major and vice president of the College Libertarians. Their Web site is http://ndlibertarians.blogspot.com. He can be contacted at mpoyar@nd.edu

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The world is more malleable than you think. It’s up to you to hammer it into shape.

Bono
rock star
Two years ago, I was stunned and dis­turbed by Fr. Jenkins’ decision to continue to allow the "Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus, especially since it seemed to be a complete turnaround from his earlier statements of concern. I believed then (as now) that its continued performance on campus was scandalous to the University, and by extension the Catholic Church.

I see no point in listing the reasons for my concerns, as the points for both sides of the debate have been discussed at length. Suffice it to say, I find the arguments for supporting this play’s presence on campus grossly unconvincing. This year, we have another statement by Fr. Jenkins, and another set of performances. Although still disputed, I think I have determined what my expectations of the University are much lower. (The University appears much more secular, I mean now than ever previously envisoned it).

I imagine this is when (once again) it was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins. As a priest, I would expect that he sees the play as potentially harmful to the spiritual well-being of students as well as to those who attend the performance. Of course, he also undoubtedly knows that people are watching what Notre Dame decides more than other Catholic institutions, and so knows the decision can be scandalous.

I am a priest, at the same time, as president it seems he is charged to do what he believes is best for the University, which is a conflict of the same sort. Personally, I think that this decision is not in the long-term interest of the University, by understanding the reasons why others may feel different. Perhaps he thought that after having made their point and won the day two years ago, the "academic freedom" propos­als would graciously avoid being again antigonizing a significant segment of the Notre Dame community by sponsoring per­formances in the future. This was not to be the case — perhaps because the idea of "academic freedom" was such a red herring by folks who really just want­ed to generate controversy and conflict. At least, that is the case, then the efforts of the organizers (as well as the faculty and departmental support them) that such a cancer would be particularly con­ temptible. Regardless, it seems to me that his decision has been less complicated if he had not been a priest.

Surely, chief executives of other organiza­tions, including other universities, do not spend much time thinking about the spirit­ual well-being of individuals in their inde­pendent organizations. Perhaps then, it is time to consider that the office of the presi­dent of the University no longer be occu­pied by a Holy Cross priest, and that Notre Dame move to be independent altogether. Unhindered by concerns about the spiritual well-being of students as a priest, a lay president could simply focus on what’s "best" for the University. No more concern about Catholic faculty rule, no more con­cern about bothersome bishops and their conferences. No more conflict between Catholic character and academic freedom. He or she could simply concentrate on establishing a more professional atmosphere on campus.

Personally, I think it would be a great loss to me to see Notre Dame follow this inde­pendent institution. However, it wouldn’t be the first Catholic institution to do it. It would not be the first to fragment the campus in the same way Notre Dame did last week. Academically, Notre Dame would be embarking on a new era of academic freedom for itself and its students. No more restrictions, no more limits on the freedom of expression, no more restrictions on the freedom to believe in what the University values.

If a distorted view of academic freedom Trumps Catholic Oath, Notre Dame as an academic freedom institution would be a lot more fun for the University (which presumably means higher US News and World Report Rankings, and the esteem of so­called "rivals").

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Michael R. Waters
Alumnus
MAR. 2000

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University scandalized by download

By "Monologues"

Chris Spellman acknowledged in his letter to the editor ("Save sex for marriage," Mar. 17) that many readers would disagree with his assertion, reflecting on its controversial nature. I am not here to attack Mr. Spellman’s assertion (I am a member of such Facebook groups as "I Would Like To Have Crazy Sex Once I Am Married" and "I Am Saving Myself For Wild, Passionate, Awkward Honeymoon Sex"). Rather I would like to play Devil’s Advocate with some analo­gies and arguments that are prevalent on the abstinence side of the debate.

Without any concrete privately collected empirical evidence, I concede that sex is likely far more meaningful and enjoyable between husband and wife. While sex is likely improved by marriage (and marriage by sex, otherwise count me out), I doubt that abstaining from sex before marriage improves it the same way that dessert is "improved" by having dinner first, as Mr. Spellman believes. Often the dinner itself is too much, and I find that starting with dessert gets me the most from my dinner ball bronze sundae. The dessert analogy fails not out of a misunderstanding of sex, but a misunderstanding of the importance of dessert.

Making sex and food analogous sometimes works to inspire oth­ers to chastity, and sometimes it doesn’t. One other such failed example is the "butter hum­mers" when you have butter on a steak. While this worked great for me in my pubescent years, as time passed and I entered my thirties, I agree that getting antsy for anything that smells like a dead cow. People who are getting married later and later into their 30s or even 40s must be thankful for the absence of "butter hummers." I’m afraid they’ll too anxiously attend to the first burgers that come their way. Comparing food and sex gets you in trouble pretty fast. If I’m flirting with a girl, does that hint that at some unspecified time in a hypothetical future, I would enjoy playing cannibal with her? Of course not. But thinking of it as a way that is a good guard against coming off as too forward.

I could go on all day, but let’s look at one last point brought up in Spellman’s article: "Do we fight the heroic struggle of saving our future spouse, or do we cheat to make ourselves a more popular candidate, but never get­ting antsy for anything that smells like a dead cow. People who are getting married later and later into their 30s or even 40s must be thankful for the absence of "butter hummers." I’m afraid they’ll too anxiously attend to the first burgers that come their way. Comparing food and sex gets you in trouble pretty fast. If I’m flirting with a girl, does that hint that at some unspecified time in a hypothetical future, I would enjoy playing cannibal with her? Of course not. But thinking of it as a way that is a good guard against coming off as too forward.

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“WHO”-ray for Horton!

By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

After disappointing adaptations of "The Cat in the Hat" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," Dr. Seuss properly comes to life in "Horton Hears a Who!" from Blue Sky Studios ("Ice Age"). With breathtaking animation and a heartwarming, well-crafted story, "Horton" suggests that Dr. Seuss has found his home away from live-action and in the world of feature animation.

The story of "Horton" begins with a simple action — a speck of dust is dislodged from a daisy. But what makes this event extraordinary is that the speck of dust houses the tiny world of the Whos, and now that they are precariously floating through the air, their world is in danger. Horton the elephant (voiced by Jim Carrey) hears the Whos' screams and makes it his mission to find a safe place for the tiny world as he carries it on a clover. Meanwhile, in Who-ville, Mayor Ned O'Malley (Steve Carell) is struggling to keep the peace while figuring out what is causing the strange weather conditions and earthquakes in his fair city. After making contact with Horton, Ned discovers that Who-ville is a speck of dust in danger of extinction. Ned must rely on Horton to carry the Whos to safety as the trusty elephant goes up against Kangaroo (Carol Burnett), who believes that Horton is dangerously encouraging children to use their imaginations, and a vulture named Vlad (Will Arnett), who Kangaroo hires to dispose of the speck of dust. Few animals in the Jungle of Nool believe Horton's tale, but he never gives up protecting the Whos because he firmly believes that "a person's a person, no matter how small."

Although "Horton" is clearly a children's movie, its humor and animation can appeal to adults as well. The comedy is smart and goes beyond visual gags and potty humor. "Horton" takes after the Disney-Pixar films in its ability to captivate audiences of all ages. It doesn't hurt that comedians like Carrey, Carell, Burnett, Arnett, Amy Poehler, Seth Rogen and Jonah Hill lend their voices to the animated characters. Fans of these actors' live action work will appreciate their animated work as well. Rogen may have to check the foul language at the door, but his sarcasm is just as present in Horton's buddy Morton as it is in any one of his comedies.

The movie becomes difficult to watch as the animals of the Jungle of Nool try to imprison Horton and destroy the speck of dust, but it is only difficult because we fear for the futures of Horton and the Whos and because the political undertones of Dr. Seuss' work become eerily apparent when his short book is drawn out to 88 minutes. After all, "Horton Hears a Who!" was written during the peak of the McCarthy hearings in the 1950s and many critics have drawn parallels between Dr. Seuss' work and the McCarthy saga. But even children's movies can be a little bit scary.

Not everything is perfect in the world of Dr. Seuss all the time, but that's what happy endings are for. We're even treated to a musical number that seems to come straight out of "The 40-Year-Old Virgin."

"Horton" really has it all — comedy, adventure, suspense, good guys and bad guys that turn good so that everyone can be happy. While watching Horton float down a river or Ned run around Who-ville, you have to wonder if the fantastical images on screen are what Dr. Seuss imagined as he dreamed up the Jungle of Nool and the world inside the tiny speck of dust. They must be pretty darn close.

Contact Cassie Belek at cbbek@nd.edu

Design by Mary Cecilia Mitsch
You probably won’t enjoy Doomsday. The movie lacks any real rhythm or flow; in fact it’s really just a 104 minute long action sequence, filled with non-stop, blood-splattering action. But if you’re familiar with Snake Pliskin, Mad Max or any of the old George Romero zombie flicks, you might appreciate this film.

“A virus doesn’t hate or care, it just happens,” Or so the opening narration claims at the beginning of director Neil Marshall’s latest film. The full-blown apocalyptic thriller begins with the killer “Reaper” virus breaking out in the city of Glasgow. It spreads so rapidly the government decides to just wall off the northern half of the island of Great Britain, leaving everyone living within the region — sick or not — to die.

Three decades later, skyrocketing levels of overpopulation, unemployment and sheer filth lead to another outbreak of the virus in London. Rather than evacuate or quarantine all of England, two corrupt, high ranking government officials John Hatcher (Alexander Siddig) and Michael Canaris (David O’Hara) send an elite team, led by the one-eyed Major Eden Sinclair (Rhona Mitra), over the wall into what’s left of Scotland.

Hatcher instructs Sinclair to find the cure and return within 48 hours — before the virus overruns London. Sinclair coolly asks what she should do if she doesn’t find the cure. Hatcher responds: “Then you shouldn’t bother coming back.” His comment is sort of ironic, if you stay until the end.

Leading a team of soldiers and a pair of scientists, Sinclair sets out for Glasgow in search of Dr. Kane (Malcolm McDowell), the leading researcher on the Reaper Virus 30 years ago, who was trapped inside the city. They don’t find Kane, but what they do looks straight out of John Carpenter’s “Escape from New York.” The streets are empty, the buildings overrun by vegetation and everything appears void of human life. But an empty city is no fun.

Before they know it the place is crawling with club-swinging, Mohawk wearing, tattooed, punk rocking cannibals. Sinclair and her men mow down about a hundred of the freaks before the savage punk rockers manage to overrun her crew. They take her prisoner and she meets their leader, Sol (Craig Conway). The man is about as psycho as you would expect any human being surviving under such circumstances to be. A testament to his insanity, Sol puts on a dance show to the music of Fine Young Cannibals before the cannibals feast on one of Sinclair’s crew members.

From three things only get more ridiculous. Sinclair manages to escape and finds Kane, who happens to be at war with Sol, who, it turns out, is Kane’s son. Unlike Sol’s sweatband and Mohawk toting followers, Kane’s men ride horses wearing suits of armor. The whole scenario is absurd, but it’s redeemed by the interchange Sinclair shares with Kane right before he throws her into a gladiator arena to do battle with his executioner. Kane asks Sinclair what London has become in the decades since the wall went up. Sinclair casually responds, “Same [expletive], different era.”

Marshall, who won a string of awards for his low-budget independent films “Dog Soldiers” and “The Descent,” jumped on to a much larger stage with “Doomsday.” The film is his homage to the gritty, apocalyptic thrillers of the 80’s.

The film is homage to the gritty, apocalyptic thrillers of the 80’s.

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu
The Observer • CLASSIFIEDS

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament

Mount St. Mary's opens Tournament with 69-60 victory

Goode’s game-high 21 points help Mountaineers beat Coppin State, earn first Tourney win in school history

Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — The Mountaineers finally got the win.

Mount St. Mary’s, a Maryland school known for getting drubbed in its previous two appearances in the NCAA tournament, got this one started with a non-loss in Tuesday night’s opening game.

A 69-60 victory over Coppin State set up a dominating second game for the Mountaineers (19-14), who immediately started preparing for their next opponent.

Anybody up for playing North Carolina? In its own backyard, no less.

“I envisioned playing against them when I was little,” said guard Jeremy Goode, a Carolina native who lived the way with 21 points. “To play against them means a lot.

It means a season that seemed to be a lost cause only a few weeks ago can go on for at least a few more days.

The Mountaineers won their last five games to shed their losing record and make the tournament, then got the one victory that’s always been well out of reach. In its two other NCAA games, Mount St. Mary’s lost to Kentucky by 46 points in 1995 and to Michigan State by 25 in 1999.

“It’s a relief,” said Kelly Brindier, who had 15 rebounds. “It just felt good to say we’ve actually won an NCAA game.”

No time to savor it. Tournament reality hits on Friday, when the Mount plays the Tar Heels in Raleigh. Fans in the crowd of 8,400 at The Arena held up signs calling on the play-in winner to “Burny N. Carolina.”

Tough chance for that. A 16th, and has never taken down a 15th.

But, that’s something for later. For a few sweet minutes on Tuesday night, Mount St. Mary’s got to savour its breakthrough against another Maryland school, located about 60 miles away.

Coppin State (16-21) became the first team to reach the tournament with 20 losses, and the Eagles played an energized Mount St. Mary’s guard Chris Vann, center, celebrates after Mount St. Mary’s beat Coppin State, 69-60, in the NCAA Tournament’s opening-round game Tuesday in Dayton, Ohio.

Mountaineers guard Chris Vann, center, celebrates after Mount St. Mary’s beat Coppin State, 69-60, in the NCAA Tournament’s opening-round game Tuesday in Dayton, Ohio.

They went five minutes without scoring, allowing Mount St. Mary’s to break it open.

Sensing the enormity of the moment, they missed eight straight shots and a pair of free throws. Several times, the ball started to roll in, then agonizingly spun out.

“We had a lot of opportunities,” said Tywan McKee, who had a team-high 15 points. “We just couldn’t put them in.”

Goode, a 5-foot-9 sophomore who knows a little about Carolina blue because he grew up in Charlotte, was the spark for Mount St. Mary’s up-tempo offense. He did it all, driving to the basket and hitting fadeaway jumpers over much taller players.

He also supplied the final touches, hitting four free throws in the last 27 seconds.

Perhaps no other opening-game winner enjoyed it so much and complained so little. Unlike previous years, there was no grumbling about having to start the tournament in Dayton.

Not from Mount St. Mary’s, the Northeast Conference champ that had a losing record before it got on that late run. The only complaint was from some folks who didn’t even think the Mountaineers deserved to be in the tournament at all, given their RPI of 159.

“We had Chris (Vann) in the hotel watching ESPN and a guy says this game shouldn’t even be played,” Goode said. “He said neither team deserved to be in the tournament. That kind of got us ready to play.”

Coppin State complain? No way.

Marooned at 4-19 earlier in February, the Eagles sneaked into the tournament for the first time since 1997 by winning the Mid-Eastern Athletic title.

“This was a great opportunity,” said Antwan Harrison, who scored 14 points. “What we came through to get to the NCAA tournament, you can’t take that away. So we appreciate the opportunity to be here.”

No one could grouse about the game, either. For the most part, they didn’t play like teams with a combined 35 losses. Coppin State used its quickness, going inside for dunks and layups. Mount St. Mary’s trio of dangerous guards did most of the damage.

Coppin State was ahead the entire first half, leading by as many as nine. The Mountaineers’ guards changed the tone after halftime, when Vann’s three-point play put Mount St. Mary’s up 39-34.

It went back-and-forth until Coppin State went cold at the end of the game.

Mountaineers guard Chris Vann, center, celebrates after Mount St. Mary’s beat Coppin State, 69-60, in the NCAA Tournament’s opening-round game Tuesday in Dayton, Ohio.

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NCAA Baseball
USA Today/ESPN Top 25 Coaches Poll

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MIAA Women's Tennis Conference Standings

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Olympics

A woman holds a poster against the Olympic Games in Beijing outside the Chinese Embassy in Paris during a protest against the Chinese authority's crackdown on demonstrations in Tibet.

Leaders may boycott ceremonies

In Brief

Central Florida walk-ons die after conditioning.

Tuesday after voluntary strength and conditioning drills, the day before spring practice was set to begin.

Police said there was no foul play or obvious cause for red-shirt freshman Ereck Plancher's late morning collapse. UCF athletic director Keith Tribble said the players had been lifting weights, then ran for about 10 minutes.

After the workout, the team huddled for a quick chat. As everyone was leaving, Plancher of Naples, took a knee in obvious distress, Tribble said. UCF trainers on site immediately provided CPR and the red-shirt freshman was taken by ambulance to the hospital. He was pronounced dead just before noon.

76ers talking about AI coming back to town.

PHILADELPHIA — The 76ers are talking about Allen Iverson once more.

Here he comes, 15 months after he was kicked out of Philadelphia over irreconcilable differences, A.I., The Answer, the MVP, the hip-hop hero — call him what you want — is back in the city he once owned like no other.

Iverson will get an ovation when the 6-foot 3-inch icon — call him what you want — is coming back to town.

The ones who know the fans best believe Iverson will get an ovation that will rattle the roof of the Wachovia Center when the 6-foot 5-inch guard out of Georgetown is introduced Wednesday. Iverson's first game in Philly since he was traded in December 2006 might be one of the most intense, and passionate, moments in his old home, even though he'll be wearing a Denver Nuggets uniform and trying like mad to stick it to the Sixers instead of wowing to win them a title.

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said last month that he expects many heads of state — including President Bush, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy — to attend the opening ceremony.

Such an opening ceremony might be without some of the athletes, who under Olympic rules are forbidden from making any kind of protest at events or venues — including the opening ceremony.

U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman Darryl Seibel said there are no rules forcing athletes to attend opening ceremonies.

"We strongly encourage our athletes to participate in opening ceremonies," Seibel said. "It's a tremendous honor to walk into the Olympic Stadium behind the flag of your nation, and to do so in a ceremony honoring and celebrating athletes from around the world."

The violent protests in Tibet, the most serious challenge in almost two decades to China's rule in the region, are forcing governments and human rights campaigners to re-examine their approach to the Aug. 8-24 games.

Obama t-shirt Web site shut down by MLB lawyers

NEW YORK — A Web site selling "Obama" T-shirts using the typefaces of Major League Baseball teams closed after drawing attention from the sport's lawyers.

"We sent a cease-and-desist letter for violating our trademark," baseball spokesman Rich Levin said Tuesday.

Morris Levin, a supporter of Barack Obama's presidential campaign, operated www.obamafans.com and said he shut down the site March 4. He said he stopped sales on that date.

"I started the site as a fun way to show support for Sen. Obama, and I'm a big Phillies fan," he said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "I did not make any profit on this, and I think that Major League Baseball has a fantastic product of which I am a big consumer."
MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Garnett has heard plenty of criticism in his 13 years in the NBA. He doesn’t like the big shot in the fourth quarter. He only got the Minnesota Timberwolves out of the first round of the playoffs one time. His contract limited the team’s ability to surround him with talent. Through it all, no one ever questioned his intensity, effort or determination. Until now, and from an unlikely source:

Glen Miller, director of the Timberwolves front office, who suggested in a recent interview with a local sports radio show that the team “tanked” its season to ensure it would land a lottery pick in the top 10 to keep the future of their franchise intact.

Miller was responding to a question about the controversy surrounding basketball operations president Glen Taylor’s comment that the Timberwolves had “tanked” their season. Taylor made the comment in response to a local newspaper columnist who suggested that the Timberwolves were tanking in order to ensure they would have a lottery pick in the top 10 to keep Garnett.

Miller said in a phone interview.

“Taylor’s comments came after practice Tuesday afternoon, as the Wolves’ strong play down the stretch was being discussed. They have won four of their last six games and say they want to win as many as possible to create some momentum going into the offseason.

Taylor took exception to a local newspaper columnist who suggested it was time for the Wolves, who are 16-50, to start losing to improve their chances in the draft lottery.

Two years ago, the team shut down Garnett for the final six games, which ended with center Mark Madsen missing seven 3-pointers in a double-overtime loss to Memphis. They traded a first-rounder to the Clippers in a deal for Marko Jaric that year, and needed to finish with a lottery pick in the top 10 to keep it. Minnesota lost four of its last five to ensure that happened.

So far this season, the Wolves aren’t the only team to come under scrutiny for tanking games in recent years. Memphis, which comes to the Target Center on Wednesday night, has heard it this year after trading star Pau Gasol to the Lakers for a package of nonscript players, and Miami recently made the decision to bench Dwyane Wade for the rest of the season.

“K.G. has never been questioned, nor would he ever be questioned by anyone, about his effort or desire to win and accomplish team success,” Miller said in a phone interview. “During his tenure in Minnesota, nothing was more important to him than bringing a championship to Minnesota.

Last year wasn’t the first time the Wolves have been accused of tanking.

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So far this season, the Timberwolves cannot be considered in that company.

“We have shown marked improvement in the last week,” said Garnett in a postgame interview on Tuesday. “We’re winning for the right reasons. We’re winning for the fans, for the city of Boston.”

“When we’re going to be a better team?” Garnett asked. “When we’re going to be a better team?”

“Right now, huge win for us. That’s the most important thing to surround him with talent.”

Dwyane Wade for the rest of the season.

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NHL

Nyttymaki, Flyers clinging to last playoff spot

Goalie nearly flawless in Philadelphia victory; Blues win in shootout; Blue Jackets' Norrena shuts out Flames

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Antero Niitty­maki made a perfect save in the final seconds to remain unbeaten against Atlanta.

Nyttymaki smothered Ilya Kovalev in thrashing, a last-gasp attempt at a game-tying goal, dropping the Thrashers forward to his knees in disbelief and preserving Philadelphia's sorely-needed victory.

Mike Richards, Jeff Carter and Vaclav Prospal scored goals and the Flyers kept their hold on the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference in a 3-2 win over the Thrashers on Tuesday night.

"Anything at this point of the year, a big goal, a big save, we definitely can feed off it," Carter said.

No stop came bigger than the one Niitty­maki made in the final ticks of the clock. Kovalchuk scored his 50th goal of the season with 30 seconds left, leaving the Flyers with a sense of dread about blowing yet another game in the waning moments.

Kovalchuk nearly made it happen with a wrist shot from the high slot, but Niitty­maki made the tough save. Kovalchuk fell to his knees, then sprawled his body on the ice as the Flyers mobbed each other around him in celebration.

"Most of the time I score these kinds of goals," Kovalchuk said.

Carter and Richards were among the Flyers who called it the save of the year. Niitty­maki, who made 17 saves, said it was simply another stop and that he "just reacted."

"As soon as he wound up and the puck made it through to him I had already jumped and celebrated," forward Chris Thorburn said. "Maybe I jinxed him, but he's done it so many times for us."

Nyttymaki, allowed Thrushur's goal 58 seconds into the game, but was near flawless in helping the Flyers to their 10th straight series win against the Thrashers. The Flyers haven't lost to Atlanta since November 2005 and Niitty­maki improved to 9-0 against the Thrashers.

"We had a simple game plan, get puck deep, allow the pucks to the net and I really thought it paid off," coach John Stevens said.

The slumping Flyers desper­ately needed this win to stay in the playoff chase with only eight games left in the season. They took a season-high 47 shots and had lost four straight, including a 7-1 defeat at Pittsburgh on Sunday, that caused general manager Paul Holmgren to blast his effort and team chairman Ed Snider expressed concern over their collapse.

Kovalchuk even ordered the equipment manager to change all the player's stalls in Thrushur's locker room of practice facility to shake everything up.

"For one game at least, the criticisms must have inspired the Flyers. They got off to yet another slow start, though, when Thrushur slid the puck past for Niitty­maki for an easy goal and a 1-0 lead. One of the knocks Holmgren leveled against Stevens was the Flyers sometimes are not pre­pared at the start of games and this was the latest example."

Unlike their thrashing at Pittsburgh, the Flyers rallied in this one.

The Flyers attacked Kari Lehtonen with a flurry of shots and Richards finally got the puck through for his 25th goal and tied the game 7 min­utes into the first period.

The Flyers caught a break with 3 seconds left in the period when Kimmo Timonen's slapper just inside the blue line freed off Carter's skate and shot through Lehtonen's legs to make it 2-2. Carter's power-play goal was his 28th of the season.

Kovalchuk nearly made it 3-2 after the Blues scored a goal 7:20 into the first period.

"I was in instant hush, but I was happy," Carter said. "As soon as he wound up and the puck made it through to him I had already jumped and celebrated," forward Chris Thorburn said. "Maybe I jinxed him, but he's done it so many times for us."

Nyttymaki, Flyers clinging to last playoff spot

Brendan Schaub scored his 38th goal of the season and was the only player to score in the shootout and the St. Louis Blues ended a 10-game road losing streak with a win over the Montreal Canadiens on Tuesday night.

Manny Legace stopped Saku Koivu, Andrei Kostitsyn and Alex Kovalev in the shootout as St. Louis got its first road win in more than a month.

Boyes, who scored his team-high 33rd goal in the second period, put a back­hand past Jaroslav Halak on St. Louis' second attempt.

Keith Tkachuk scored on a two-man advantage in the first period for St. Louis, which got its first win seven games into a season-high nine-game road trip (1-5-1).

Andy McDonald also scored for the Blues, who had gone 0-7-3 on the road since a 4-1 win in Colorado on Feb. 14 to match the longest road losing streak in franchise history.

Blue Jackets 3, Flames 0

Backup goalie Fredrick Norrena helped preserve Columbus' slim playoff hopes.

Norrena made 18 saves for his first shutout of the season and two assists for the Blue Jackets, beating the Calgary Flames 3-0 Tuesday night for their second straight win.

"He was really sound," Columbus coach Ken Hitchcock said. "The thing that was impressive for me was the no rebounds."}

Nerrena -- who had a career-high 43 saves in a 4-3 win against Detroit on Sunday -- started his second straight game for Pascal Leclaire, out with a concussion suffered in warmups before the Red Wings game.

"Today, the posts helped me and the team helped me," Nerrena said. "This was a different game then the last game against Detroit. Tonight we controlled the game and deserved to win."

Manny Malhotra scored two goals for the second straight game and Rick Nash had a goal and two assists for Columbus, seven points out of the eighth playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Dan Fritsche added two assists for the Blue Jackets, who have won three of four.

"We got back to the team game we need to play to win," Hitchcock said. "We did a lot of things we were doing earlier this season when we were dominant in this build­ling."

The Flames could have won with a win even with Minnesota for first place in the Northwest Division. Calgary, Colorado and Vancouver are tied in the Pacific Division with Calgary leading the Northwest by four points ahead of eighth­place Nashville.

The Flames finished 1-3 on their four-game road trip and have three wins in seven games.
Celtics end Rockets’ unlikely 22-game win streak

Odom grabs 17 boards as Lakers hang on to beat Mavs; Deng scores 20 in Bulls’ much-needed victory over Nets

Associated Press

HOUSTON — It took the NBA’s best teams in the Houston Rockets’ 22-game winning streak. The Celtics had worked themselves into a hole once a 97-89 defeat to Utah on Jan. 27. The Rockets then put together the NBA’s second-longest winning streak, which ended 11 victories shy of the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers, who won 33 in a row.

“Our names will be mentioned throughout the annals of Fane people,” said Houston point guard Rafer Alston. “We have something to tell our kids.”

It was only Houston’s second loss in 28 games and its fourth since a 97-93 loss in Houston on Jan. 2, a game Tracy McGrady sat out with a knee injury. The Rockets also lost for the first time in 11 games since Yao Ming went out with a season-ending foot injury on Feb. 26.

The Rockets were finally doomed by poor shooting and mistakes that they overcame during their streak with hustle and solid defense.

“I’m too close to the situation right now to really appreciate,” Rockets forward Shane Battier said. “When I’m old and gray and can’t dribble this basketball anymore, I think I’ll appreciate it. Right now, we’re still in a playoff run and have got some dogs barking at our heels.”

Rockets forward McGrady all night, holding Houston’s remaining All-Star to eight points on 4-for-11 shooting. Other Rockets had routinely picked up the slack during the seven-week run when even the second-striker, but the Celtics never let that happen.

The Rockets scored a season-low 34 points in the second half on 11-for-33 shooting.

“We’re not disappointed,” McGrady said. “It’s a hell of a team over there. They outplayed us. I’ve never seen a defense like that. I mean, if they play defense like that, night in and night out, the NBA is in trouble because that was defense at its finest.”

Larry Nance scored 15 for Houston, which had a 15-game home streak snapped. Only the 1985-86 Rockets, who won 20 straight at The Summit, had a longer home-court streak in franchise history.

Reserve Leon Powe added 21 points for the Celtics, who’ve won 12 of their last 14 games, the last three without All-Star guard Ray Allen, who’s out with a sore left ankle.

Boston beat San Antonio 93-91 on Monday night and Garnett said the Celtics were all business in their approach to Tuesday’s game.

“There wasn’t really a lot of talking on the bus the night after the win,” Garnett said. “We got on the plane, it was real subtle. There wasn’t really a lot of talking and I know when we’re like that, we’re focused.”

The Rockets still have one more streak to protect — they’ll go for their 13th straight road win in New Orleans on Wednesday night. The end of the big streak has quite a few fans. Garnett said, “We’ll be all right. We’ve got a game in 20 hours. We’ll be out there trying to win another game. For the fans, they really were captivated by the streak and we hope they still get behind us and cheer us on.”

Houston beat the Lakers on Sunday to take over sole possession of first place in the Western Conference and set up Tuesday’s showdown between conference leaders.

Lakers 102, Mavericks 100

Kobe Bryant took a pass in the lane and spun toward a defender. Flicking the ball over his head once his back was toward the basket. The ball hit the glass, caromed off the rim and fell into the net.

Just like that, the Los Angeles Lakers were up by 25 points midway through the third quarter. And the momentum the Dallas Mavericks thought they’d built with five straight wins over lousy teams seemed silly.

Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavs ended up making things interesting, all the way to the final buzzer, but it wasn’t enough to change the outcome. The Lakers won Tuesday night, ending a skid of three losses in four games and putting them back into a tie with Houston for the best record in the Western Conference.

“It’s a big win for us,” Bryant said. “We had to stop the bleeding. We got a big lead, but it wasn’t the way we wanted to close out the game. But we got the win.”

Bryant scored only nine of his 29 points in the second half. He also jammed his hip. An injury to an MVP front-runner could be devastating considering this was Los Angeles’ second straight game without Pau Gasol and before the game coach Phil Jackson said emerging center Andrew Bynum probably won’t return until the playoffs.

Bulls 112, Nets 96

This time there was no fourth-quarter fade for the Chicago Bulls. Their 24-point cushion sliced to nine by the New Jersey Nets early in the final period Tuesday night. The Bulls responded, even if they were a little worried it was about to happen again.

“Somewhat,” Chicago guard Larry Hughes said after a 112-96 victory.

“But instead of letting that stretch go on for three or four minutes, we cut it down. Instead of letting it go on like in previous games, we were able to refocus and get things going back in the right direction.”

In their two previous losses, the Bulls blew a 18-point fourth-quarter lead against the 76ers and then let a nine-point lead get away in the final period Monday night in New Orleans. With the lead slipping this time, Ben Gordon hit a jumper and Kirk Hinrich sank a 3-pointer from the corner to start an 15-2 run that gave Chicago a 94-72 lead.

Gordon scored 10 of his 17 points in the final quarter and Hughes added 16 in Chicago’s balanced attack. Luol Deng scored 20 points, and Drew Gooden had 19 points and 11 rebounds for Chicago.

“We didn’t want that to become a habit,” Deng said of losing late leads. “We were talking to each other that we got to put a stop to it and we can’t become known for that.”

New Jersey played the second half without starting point guard Devin Harris, who sprained his right ankle and limped off the court with 1:56 to go in the second quarter.

Harris’ ankle was swollen after the game, but X-rays were negative and he will be evaluated daily.

Vince Carter led the Nets with 25 points.

Is it secure?

Shred to be sure!

Look for the shredding bin in your ND Residence Hall.

Documents you should shred include:

✓ Documents with Social Security numbers
✓ Credit card statements and offers
✓ Bank statements and offers
✓ Checks or copies of checks
✓ Credit and debit card numbers
✓ Driver’s license numbers
✓ NetID and other passwords
✓ Passport and/or visa information
✓ Medical information
✓ Grades, old tests, class notes and papers
✓ Other personal and confidential information

When in doubt, shred it!
ND BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Schedules interrupted by inclement weather

by inclement weather

Wednesday, March 19, 2008
The Observer

The combined 25-3 doubles record of the No. 1 and 3 teams took the No. 2 doubles record and a place in the top-ranked doubles team.

"Our No. 2 pair of Kali Krisik and Kristen Rafael is more explosive... (When they're on, they're really close wins.)," said Jay Louderback, Irish coach.

The Irish are trying to maintain the momentum they built early in the season, hoping to start quickly and earn the doubles point more often which depends bravely, again, on the Parbhu-Helgeson combo.

"Montoya has been more consistent on his return," Bayliss said. "He has always been very good at net, but he has improved his serve, and that is still a work in progress. He is teamed with freshman Tyler Davis who competes like a lion on court.

Notre Dame has shown its potential in sports this year, especially with a big win at then-No. 15 Duke on Feb. 3. "It is tremendously empowering to know you can beat a team like Duke," Philippine said. "Tobacco Road has not been kind to us, but we have half the time there, and we haven't fared nearly as well at home.

But the way in which the Irish have been playing might be more indicative of good things to come -- both this year and beyond.

"We have come up with the really close wins," said Raylins, pointing out his team's 5-0 record in matches decided by a 2-3 margin. "Our season is decided by the close real matches. They make a difference, especially with a young team."

Contact Kate Grabareck at kgrabareck@saintmarys.edu

Albion
continued from page 20

At No. 1 singles, Albion freshman Srinivasa Parbhu had against Muler and Zamber, 8-4.

"If the Karthik and freshman Kristen Rafael have only played each other, they have won their last two. There is one thing one thing that helps me out of this duo --

"Our No. 2 pair is more explosive," he said. "Kristen hits the ball really well, but sometimes makes a few errors. Kali is kind of the same. The one thing they kind of need to find is consistency, because when they are good, they're really strong, but when they're not, they struggle. But when they're on, they're really dangerous." The Belles finally came through on their goal to improve on the doubles side. Saint Mary's No. 1 doubles pair of Gebert and Hurley took Albion's top doubles pair of Muler and Zamber, 8-4.

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Contact Kate Grabareck at kgrabareck@saintmarys.edu

Write Sports.

Chris Hine
at
chine@nd.edu
Former BC quarterback Ryan throws for scouts

Associated Press

BOSTON — The NFL got its chance to see Matt Ryan throw on Tuesday, and the Boston College quarterback didn't do anything that would keep him from being picked early in the draft.

Perhaps even first overall. Ryan worked out at BC's biggest Pro Day ever, throwing to former teammates for a mini-combine of 45 scouts and other personnel evaluators from 22 NFL teams. He completed 48 of 52 passes — three drops, one overthrow — from three-, five- and seven-step drops, from the pocket and on the run, throwing to both sides of the field.

"I made every throw you need to make in the NFL," said Ryan, who skipped the Senior Bowl and ran but didn't throw at last month's NFL combine in Indianapolis. "I thought it went well. It was the first opportunity I've had to throw in front of scouts live."

Pro Day is a traditional part of the calendar at football factories like Michigan and Southern California, but BC's had never attracted much media coverage before it joined the Atlantic Coast Conference in 2005. After welcoming the press for the first time last year — about 20 reporters showed up in all — the school issued 72 credentials for Tuesday's workout, along with an unprecedented number of NFL scouts.

Kansas City coach Herm Edwards and general manager Carl Peterson were among those who watched more than three dozen players work out, including another potential first-rounder, Eagles offensive lineman Gosder Cherilus.

"They've got a few here, obviously, that are good football players," Edwards told reporters. "They're more comfortable in this environment than they are in the combine. You're gathering information, and this is another check of the information. But, at the end, you've got to go to the tape."

Former BC running back William Green, a former first-round pick who played four years with the Cleveland Browns but was out of the league last year, hoped the tryout would jumpstart his comeback. BC linebacker Jo-Lonn Dunbar and safety Jamie Silva also joined players from area schools including UMass, Harvard, Bentley, Northeastern, Holy Cross and St. Francis.

But the primary attraction was Ryan.

The BC quarterback was the ACC player of the year and the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award winner in 2007, finishing seventh in the Heisman Trophy voting after throwing for 4,507 yards and 56 touchdowns. He also led the Eagles to comeback victories against Clemson and Virginia Tech — 11 victories in all, including the school's eighth consecutive bowl win.

"It's going to play in our league, there's no doubt about that. He has all the tools you need to play in our league," Edwards said. "The thing this guy has is his ability to win. And that's what you like in quarterback. Some guys can do a lot of things. But, in the end, can he win?" Ryan is "very levelheaded. The players believe that if he has the ball in his hands at the end of the game, that you have a chance to win the game. He has that demeanor about himself. He's fiery, but he keeps himself under control."
BLACK DOG

Michael Mikuska

All right. Everyone clear out. We’re wrapping up here tonight.

What? Why?

NO SLEEP: SATURDAY WITHOUT A PERMIT. IT’S A MATTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

Really?

Nah, we just don’t have anything better to do.

LOLLIESKATES

Didier Lewis

Ah ah! Yes, yes ah! Hand in hand — gargantuan! Beep! Beep! Moooooowwww!!!

Eeee!!!

THE SINGLE LIFE

Lina PaeK

Wah, why is it dark in the afternoon?

Well, a recent study had shown that people in Western Societies tend to perceive a person’s mood separately from their mood at dinner.

Take a look at this statement: "the Big Bang theory is true in our universe." Happened?

Leek, what the heck is your best friend doing?

Ooh, she’s just being silly, lo-

CROSSWORD

Across
1 Tubby
2 Olympic
3 Toasty waffle
4 Face facemask
5 Detective Vance
6 Show approval
7 Salon sound
8 Exec with no white hats
9 Quark-binding particle
10 Quark-binding particle
11 Quark-binding particle
12 Market upsicks
13 Withdraw, with "out"
14 Dandelion, e.g.
15 Withdraws, with "out"
16 Executive, with "out"
17 Withdraws, with "out"
18 Exec with no white hats
19 Quark-binding particle
20 Executive, with "out"
21 Executive, with "out"
22 Executive, with "out"
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24 Executive, with "out"
25 Executive, with "out"
26 Executive, with "out"
27 .45 or .22
28 Headhunter
29 Camaro -Z
30 Brie coat
31 Adventurous expedition

Down
1 Part of a jazz combo
2 Shout of dismay
3 "You wish!"
4 Holdupper’s dare
5 Speedometer mess.
6 Groups on rails
7 Camelot’s need
8 Citadel’s need
9 One’s need
10 " ...-ohh...
11 Cloud-nine state
12 Plunging neckline
13 Quark-binding particle
14 Market upsicks
15 Quark-binding particle
16 Executive, with "out"
17 Executive, with "out"
18 Executive, with "out"
19 Executive, with "out"
20 Executive, with "out"
21 Executive, with "out"
22 Executive, with "out"
23 Executive, with "out"
24 Executive, with "out"
25 Executive, with "out"
26 Executive, with "out"
27 .45 or .22
28 Very "funny"
29 Camaro -Z
30 Adventurous expedition
31 Adventurous expedition

JUMBLE

Henri Arnold Mike Arigron

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

JAHAR

EBBIR

CAFFEE

GOIND

The Observer • TODAY

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THE OBSERVER

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Sports

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Men's Basketball

Dealing with the limelight

Big East player of the year learning to play with added attention

By Chris Khorey
Athena Sports Writer

Part of the reason Notre Dame struggled at the Blue-Gray Tennis Classic in Montgomery, Ala., but with six freshmen interwoven throughout the starting lineup, the No. 30 Irish (10-5) still feel confident through 15 dual matches, especially considering their youth.

"They are a little ahead of our expectations," coach Bobby Baylis said of his young squad.

They have shown great poise under pressure, but they are still very inexperienced at this level. Each has taken turns and enjoyed the spotlight.

Highlighting the rookie crop has been David Anderson, Daniel Stahl, Stephen Havens and Tyler Davis. Takashi Yoshii and Sean Tan have both made significant contributions, as well.

Notre Dame is still led, however, by two veteran forces at the top of the singles and doubles lineups. Senior Sheeva Parbhoo and junior Brett Holgerson have been staples at the top of both lineups.

At the National Team Indoors in Seattle, Wash., from Feb. 15-17.

ND Women's Tennis

Duo of Buck, Tefft lead recent improvement in doubles performances

By Lorenzo Reyes
Sports Writer

Through Notre Dame's most recent three game winning streak, there has been one constant — solid doubles play.

Ask Irish coach Jay Louderback, and it's easy to tell it's no mistake his squad has won the ever-so-important doubles point in each of those three contests.

"It's been something we've always focused on in practice," Louderback said of doubles preparation. "It's always nice to start the match out with a one-point lead because then you only need three singles wins to take the match. It's really important because it helps set the tone for the rest of the match and can create some momentum that the players feed off of."

Earlier in the dual match season, Notre Dame struggled, losing the doubles point in three straight matches in Feb. against Georgia, William & Mary and Baylor. Although all three opponents were ranked in the top-15 at the time, Louderback realized the importance of establishing a winning standard in the doubles matches.

A great deal of the difficulties,Louderback said, were due to the process of finding the right combinations to put together the squad's three best doubles tandems.

"Early in the year we kind of struggled," he said. "We were just switching players around, trying to find the best combinations that were the most comfortable with." Fortunately for the Irish, it worked.

Since the Baylor match on Feb. 11, Louderback's changes have resulted in Notre Dame securing the doubles point in nine of the past 10 dual matches.

Men's Tennis

Right mix of freshmen, veterans lead solid start

By Kate Grabarek
Sports Writer

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SMC Tennis

Belles lose conference opener 6-3 at Albion

By Meaghan Veselik
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's opened conference play Tuesday afternoon with a 6-3 loss at Albion (7-0, 3-0 MIAA), dropping its record to 4-5 overall and 0-1 in the MIAA but showing off its strength in doubles, taking two of three doubles matches from their surfing hosts.

The Britons are three-time defending league champions and are coming off of four wins last week, and they took care of the Belles as well on Tuesday.

"I thought that overall, we played well as a team," Belles No. 1 singles player sophomore Camille Gehrtz. "Personally, I didn't have my best day out there, and my loss really hurt our ability to come out with a victory."

It takes two, baby

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Sports Writer

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