Freshman fencer competes in Olympics

By DAN MURPHY
News Writer

In the past week students have poured into South Bend from all around the world, but it is safe to say that none of them had a longer — or more interesting — journey than freshman Gerek Meinhardt.

Meinhardt was in Beijing last week competing for the United States fencing team in the Olympics. The San Francisco native left China on Aug. 17 and spent a few hectic days packing, doing interviews, and saying goodbye to friends before arriving on campus Thursday.

"The worst part was the jet lag. It would get to be about three o'clock and I just couldn't take it anymore. I would end up talking about a four hour nap," Meinhardt said.

He then boarded a plane to Chicago and endured the treacherous four-hour bus ride to campus before finally moving into his new room in Knott Hall.

"The dorms aren't quite as nice as the Olympic Village, but I have a TV in my room now and I didn't even have that, so that is nice," he said.

Meinhardt finished tenth overall in the men's foil event, but even making the team was a serious accomplishment. Meinhardt, who turned 18 less than a month ago, was the youngest fencer in Beijing by nearly five years. He has only been competing on the senior level for a year and a half and was not expected to debut on the Olympic level until the 2012 games in London.

"Olympic fencers can be as old as 35, 36, 37 years old. Experience is a huge factor in a sport like fencing, so for Gerek to be there was very special," Irish fencing coach Janusz Bednarski said.

"He is a great young man who not only is a terrific athlete, but also is very intelligent," Bednarski said.

Meinhardt first got into fencing when he was nine years old. His piano teacher at the time happened to be married to an Olympic fencer who was opening a gym nearby. The young Meinhardt gave it a try and quickly began racking up championships.

"He is a great young man who not only is a terrific athlete, but also is very intelligent," Bednarski said.

The rooms in Duncan Hall are larger than most rooms in Notre Dame's other residence halls, and the students who moved in early have been surprised by the size of their new rooms, Shoup said.

"A lot will come unprepared," Shoup said. "They will bring a lounge chair and realize they need more

Duncan Hall welcomes its first students
Residents will select mascot, colors, signature event for new male dorm on West Quad

By KAITYLNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame, meet Duncan Hall.

The new men's residence hall, which cost approximately $70 million and took 17 months to construct, opened this week, taking its spot on West Quad next to McGlinn Hall.

The first of the 232 men who will live in the building began moving in this week, beginning the on-campus introduction of the United States' 1,995 first-year students.

"It's definitely a step up from my other dorm," he said. Silva, who was wearing his new "Duncan Hall" T-shirt, had previously lived at St. Edward's Hall.

Jeff Shoup, the director of the Office of Residence Life and Housing, added: "The size of the rooms are very nice — just the newness and freshness of it."

The rooms in Duncan Hall are larger than most rooms in Notre Dame's other residence halls, and the students who moved in early have been surprised by the size of their new rooms, Shoup said.

"A lot will come unprepared," Shoup said. "They will bring a lounge chair and realize they need more

ND admits diverse class of 2012

By JENN METZ
News Editor

The Notre Dame class of 2012 has something to be proud of. Out of a total of 13,947, the second-largest applicant pool in the United States, 20% Ethnic Minorities.

The acceptance rate ranks up with schools like Stanford, or a sport like fencing, so for Gerek to be there was very special," Irish fencing coach Janusz Bednarski said.

"He is a great young man who not only is a terrific athlete, but also is very intelligent," Bednarski said.

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"A lot will come unprepared," Shoup said. "They will bring a lounge chair and realize they need more

Duncan Hall, located on West Quad, opened its doors this week to its first residents.

After an extensive search, University president John Jenkins named Indiana lawyer Jack Swarbrick Notre Dame's 12th athletic director on July 16. A member of the Notre Dame class of 1976 and an expert in sports law, Swarbrick replaced former athletic director Kevin White, who left to take the same position at Duke University.

"I am confident that in Jack Swarbrick we have found a superb athletic director for the University of Notre Dame," Jenkins said in his introduction of Swarbrick. "In his career, Jack Swarbrick has gained and exhibited skills that include communications, marketing, negotiations, and working at the highest level, all within the athletics arena."

A native of Ingerslev, N.Y., who moved with his family to Bloomington, Ind., when he was a teenager, Swarbrick attended Stanford Law School after graduating from Notre Dame. He then returned to Indiana, where he joined the law firm of Baker & Daniels, where he specialized in sports law and forged strong relationships with many executives in college athletics.

"He has developed numerous relationships with key leaders in college sports: the BCS commissioners, athletic

By JOSEPH McMahan
Assistant News Editor

2 attacked near St. Joseph Ridge

ND student, fiance hospitalized for injuries

By DEIRDRE KRASULA and JENN METZ
News Writers

A Notre Dame student and her fiance were attacked and robbed, and conspired from a local restaurant to her Clover Ridge apartment Thursday night, police said.

The attack, described by Captain Phil Trent of the South Bend Police Department (SBPD) as a "strong armed robbery," took place at 10:50 p.m. in front of 7110 North Irish Way. Both victims were taken to a local hospital and were released Friday.

Jenni Gurgala, 21, was returning to her apartment from Between the Buns on South Bend Ave. with her fiance, Tom Chesnick, Notre Dame '07, and Liz Crosby, 21, when a black Jaguar pulled up alongside them.

Crosby, a friend who was walking with the victims, told The Observer that a white male in his early twenties jumped out of the passenger seat of the car and claimed that Chesnick owed him money. Chesnick had never seen the attacker before.

The attacker proceeded to punch Chesnick in the face and repeatedly beat him, Crosby said. The driver then
INSIDE COLUMN

Grandpa and George

I can still remember those simple Saturday afternoons, going over Grandma and Grandpa's house to watch the Notre Dame game with Grandpa.

He'd sit in his usual chair and I'd sit on the couch. Grandma or my Aunt Paula would make me something to eat. I'd have a lemonade or a soda in my hand, he'd have the remote — not for change channel in case things went bad for the Irish, but so he could tape the game while cutting out the commercials. Grandpa liked to re-watch the games during the week and save the special ones, like the "Snow Bowl" game against Penn State from 1992.

We'd watch Lou nervously picking the grass from the sidelines, Mark Edwards gain about four or five yards every time he ran the ball up the middle, and watch a local hero of ours, Ron Powlus, come on from our home in Northeastern Pa., to quarterback our favorite team.

When people say, "Life was so much simpler before," they meant days like those Saturday afternoons with Grandpa. Grandma loved Notre Dame, even though he never went there, and watching those games was his favorite thing to do in life. A part of me will always miss those Saturdays.

Flash forward a few years, and I'm a high school senior, and Grandpa, my mother's father, is in the hospital. He fought through a stroke a few years back, but now this time it doesn't look good. I went over to visit Grandpa, in the ICU wing of the hospital one day after school. I helped him drink his tea and we talked about Notre Dame. He didn't have to say it, but I knew he wanted me to get into school there badly. It was one of his final wishes.

We said goodbye, but little did I know that it would be the last time I'd see him alive — he died a few days later.

About three weeks after his funeral — on a Saturday afternoon — mom came running in the house, tears streaming down her face, with an envelope from Notre Dame in her hand. It was the big envelope. I hurriedly opened it and read the first sentence of the letter before being mobbed by mom and dad. I had been accepted. Grandma's last wish had come true.

Flash forward three more years, I'm a junior now at Notre Dame, and sitting in the Observer office, checking phone messages. I get one from a man named George-Porter Young, a former employee at LaFortune. George tells me he's originally from England and has never been in America for the past 30-some years. Now, he's hoping the Observer could do a story to help raise funds for his long, expensive trip home. Because of his cancer, he needs help getting home and be with his family before he dies. He can't fly in his 70s and dying of cancer, and he wants to go home to be with his family before he dies. He can't fly because of his cancer, needs help getting home and was hoping the Observer could do a story to help raise funds for his long, expensive trip home.

Before I called George back to tell him the story, I thought of my grandfather, and how this was a chance to help someone out the way God had helped Grandpa and me. I talked to George many times over the next few weeks, and we did the story about his time here at Notre Dame, but George's final wish couldn't have come true without the help from the Notre Dame family.

You hear stories all the time about what a giving and generous community Notre Dame is, but George's wish was a witness to that generosity. After our story on George ran, donations came pouring in from alumni, professors, campus administrators, and students. Some people even give thousands of dollars to help George get home. The generosity was overwhelming.

George will be leaving for England soon, and I suggest everyone go over to LaFortune and see if George is there. He can share with you a wealth of wisdom and knowledge.

I bring up these stories to remind you, freshmen, what a unique place Notre Dame is. It helped create a strong bond between my grandfather and me that will last forever. And it has helped George find his way home one last time.

You learn pretty quickly that being a part of the Notre Dame community is more than being here on those Saturday afternoons. Yes, you're here to have fun and get a good education, but you have to do more with your time here than simply enter the business school to leapfrog your way to a high-paying job after school. As an institution, Notre Dame definitely has its flaws, but the Notre Dame community can be a powerful force that makes a direct, positive impact on the lives of many people.

So welcome to Notre Dame, now go out and be a part of it.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOU MOST ExcITED ABOUT IN YOUR FIRST YEAR?

Ellen Jantusch
freshman Farley

Chris Hine
Editor-in-Chief

I'm excited for the women's soccer team to win a national championship.

I'm excited for all the fun athletic games and meeting new people.

"Getting to meet a bunch of new people and making a name for Duncan Hall."

Just being part of the Notre Dame tradition.""Finally, going to the college that I've been working for four years to get into."

ORIENTATION WEEKEND

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUG 23
10:15-11:45 am Introduction to Residence Hall Staff followed by lunch in the Dining Hall for students and family
1:00-2:15 pm Official Orientation Program for First-Year Students and Parents
Joyce Center
2:30-3:15 pm Official Welcome to Notre Dame
General session for all first-year students with advisors, Parent Orientation
8:00 pm Orientation with Rectors and Hall Staff for Students and Families

SUNDAY, AUG 24
6:30-9:00 am Continental Breakfast for Families
Concourse of Joyce Center
10:00 am Eucharistic Liturgy
Joyce Center
12:00-1:00 pm Spirit of Notre Dame
Including a performance by the Notre Dame Marching Band, Joyce Center
2:30-5:00 pm Residence Hall Programming
7:00-10:00 pm Residence Hall Programming

MONDAY, AUG 25
ongoing Mandatory computer security sessions. 101 & 102 DeBartolo Hall.
Every 15 minutes from 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00-4:30 pm
11am, 1 and 3pm
College HAS Safe Hook-Ups, Alcohol & Sexual Assault
Leighton Concert Hall – DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

TODAY
LOCAL WEATHER

HIGH 86
LOW 65

TODAY

TONIGHT

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

HIGH 81
LOW 54

HIGH 79
LOW 56

HIGH 81
LOW 59

Atlantic 82 / 68 Boston 81 / 61 Chicago 84 / 65 Denver 82 / 63 Houston 89 / 73 Los Angeles 83 / 65
New York 79 / 49 Philadelphia 75 / 48 Phoenix 58 / 40 Seattle 61 / 48 St. Louis 71 / 58 Tampa 89 / 68
Saint Mary's welcomes accomplished freshman class

Smaller class of 2012 boasts high GPAs and SAT scores and an increased number of minority, international students

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

The incoming freshman class at Saint Mary's has something to brag about this year. While the 460 students who will enroll at the College this week don’t measure up numerically to the 481 students in the class of 2011 — the largest incoming class in 17 years — they are one of the most academically talented classes in the history of the College.

“This is always a sensitive issue, but this year's class is one of the best from an academic perspective,” said vice president for enrollment management Dan Meyer. “Other classes don’t like to hear this because of how it reflects on their accomplishments.”

The applicant pool increased this year to 1,422 — a 10.9-percentage increase from the previous year's pool. More than 60 percent of the incoming students had an average high school GPA of 3.61 or higher with 64 students maintaining a perfect 4.0 throughout their entire high school career.

The larger class sizes of the past two years are a part of College president Carol Ann Mooney’s initiative to increase enrollment and boost Saint Mary’s national recognition. The College was recently named one of the best colleges in the Midwest by the Princeton Review for the sixth year in a row and ranked 104 out of the 248 Best Liberal Arts Colleges by the U.S. News and World Report.

Mooney first addressed this long-term plan in her inaugural address in January 2005. In that speech, she said stabilizing enrollment was her “top priority.” She took steps toward realizing that goal by creating the position of Vice President for Enrollment Management.

The College’s efforts to stabilize enrollment has financial relevance, as well. In 2005, Saint Mary’s faced a $1.5 million budget deficit due to small classes and fewer tuition dollars.

“By hitting the [enrollment] mark at 1,600 or 1,700,” Meyer said in an interview last year, “we are better equipped to deal with that problem.”

Meanwhile, Mooney has started an initiative to double the College endowment fund, which would reduce dependence on enrollment for financial stability.

Enrolling freshman come from 36 states and include five international students from China, Honduras, Myanmar, Japan and Vietnam, as well as five U.S. students who were living abroad in Switzerland, Kuwait, Korea, Bolivia and Italy.

The class of 2012 also saw an increase in the number of diverse students to 55 from last year’s 47 with the largest increase seen among Pacific Asian Islanders with 13 students up from last year’s six.

The number of black students increased to six from last year’s five and the number of Hispanic students stayed consistent at 33. Meyer said.

Contact Liz Harter at eharte01@saintmarys.edu

Interested in working for THE OBSERVER?
Notre Dame and Saint Mary's daily campus newspaper?

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Come to our Open House!
Sunday Aug. 31
Basement of South Dining Hall
3-5 pm

Write News. Contact Jenn at obsnews@nd.edu
Many returning students are anxious to switch over to the Google mail system since it includes several improvements on the current Webmail system. The Google Apps for campus system has a 6.5 GB e-mail quota that is markedly larger than 100 MB, which is for the Webmail system.

The new service also features a calendar as well as Google task lists, a Google document called Google Apps for education that allows students to share documents online, and a Google presentation that allows students to share presentations and work with them on campus. They can collaborate and edit these documents online at the same time.

Also included in the new system is a chat utility called Jabber, meant to aid Instant Messenger or MSN Messenger, and a Google image that students can customize to their own taste.

Katie Rose project director Office of Information Technologies

"Google Apps has a lot of great features. For students who use Blackberry devices, Windows Mobile devices, or iPhones, it has excellent support for mobile devices."

Katie Rose

OIT integrates Google Apps to Web system

Students now able to access e-mail faster

By BECKY HOGAN

News Writer

Notre Dame’s Office of Information Technologies (OIT) has been working for the last several months to provide students with a new e-mail system through Google Apps. All incoming students now have e-mail accounts through Google Apps, however migrating return students’ existing accounts to the new system has required more time than anticipated.

OIT’s project director Katie Rose said the migration process has been running smoothly — just slower than her team anticipated.

"Most of the incoming students’ accounts were automatically created on Google Apps. We are a little farther behind on the accounting, accounting documents, and we will be making an announcement next week when the migration will take place," Rose said.

Originally, OIT planned to finish migrating students’ existing accounts during the summer and have the system ready to use by the start of the fall semester.

"We have one or two small things to finish up on the accounts for existing students," Rose said.

"It’s a shame that [the University] has chosen this as an inappropriate time to change over an antiquated system for so long," Rose said.

OIT has also been working with the University’s Alumni Association to provide alumni with an e-mail account on Google Apps, however the association did not yet announce its plans to offer this service.

"We have been working with the Alumni Office for the last two years to come up with a plan to announce the service for alumni accounts on Google Apps," Rose said.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan28@nd.edu

Three new hall directors join St. Mary’s College community

By MANDI STRIONE

Assistant News Editor

Most Saint Mary’s students who live on campus will have new hall directors this year, as four of the five residence halls welcome new leaders.

Leslie Robinson, Kady Shea and Terrie Paul have all recently joined the Saint Mary’s community. Shea is the director for both McCandless hall and Opus Hall, Robinson is the new hall director for LeMans Hall, and Paul is the hall director for Rocheleau Hall.

According to Rose, the migration process has been running smoothly and returning students will have their accounts within ten days. Rose added that she is anxious to switch over to the new system at the same time.

"I’ve always known I wanted to go into the military and since sixth grade, I’ve wanted to go here [Notre Dame], so it’s the best of both worlds," Dan Mulligan freshman

Photo courtesy of Mike Howard

Freshman Dan Mulligan, right, directs his platoon mate, freshman Mihai lancu, through a mock minefield Thursday afternoon outside Pasquerilla Center. The event was part of Notre Dame’s Army ROTC orientation.

By KATTEYN RILEY

Assistant News Editor

Thursday afternoon, freshman Dan Mulligan, platoon leader, stepped up to guide his ‘men’ — plastic plates representing ‘mines’ — up next to the Pasquerilla Center. He navigated his team through the mine course and made a rope bridge over St. Mary’s Lake at Notre Dame.

This week, members of the new Army ROTC battalion on campus participated in the ‘mines’ — plastic plates representing ‘mines’ — up next to the Pasquerilla Center. The event was part of Notre Dame’s Army ROTC orientation.

"I’ve always known I wanted to go into the military and since sixth grade, I’ve wanted to go here [Notre Dame], so it’s the best of both worlds," Dan Mulligan freshman

"McCandless has the best RA staff on campus."

Kady Shea hall director McCandless and Opus Halls

"I literally went online to go to the women’s college Web site and looked up jobs in higher education," she said.

"I chose Saint Mary’s because I wanted to be at a school like her alma mater, and a lot of the characteristics of Saint Mary’s were similar," she said.

When she first arrived on campus, there were no students moved in and she could not wait to start growing the hall.

She added that she is especially proud of the staff of ‘McOps,’ her eight McCandless Resident Advisors, and the 2 Opus RAs.

"McCandless has the best RA staff on campus," she said.

According to Rose, the migration process has been running smoothly and returning students will have their accounts within ten days. Rose added that she is anxious to switch over to the new system at the same time.

"I’ve wanted to go into the military and since sixth grade, I’ve wanted to go here [Notre Dame], so it’s the best of both worlds," Dan Mulligan freshman

"McCandless has the best RA staff on campus."
McGreevy begins new role as dean

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

John McGreevy, a history professor who took over as I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean of the College of Arts and Letters July 1, views his new job as one of servant-leadership.

"I'm not the boss of the faculty. I'm the leader," he said. He said his primary responsibility is to "put [the faculty] in the position to do great teaching and great scholarship."

McGreevy decided to accept the position as dean because of his loyalty to Notre Dame, the "great situation" left by his predecessor, Mark Roche, and the importance he places on the University's status as a "great Catholic research university," he said.

"I want to see Notre Dame succeed," said McGreevy, a Notre Dame alum whose father and two siblings also attended the University.

"We need a place in this country—and in this world—where thinking at the highest level goes on that includes theology and religion," he said. "Religion is a topic of universal concern, and it is important to bring it together with academics."

While McGreevy says being a Notre Dame alum gives him "no special qualities" for the dean position, his loyalty to the University was a significant factor in his decision to accept the job.

"I am happy to try to make a difference here. I really want Notre Dame to be a great place," he said.

McGreevy plans to continue his teaching and research during his tenure as dean. He will teach one course at the graduate level this semester.

"I really like the idea of everyone in administration doing some teaching," he said.

Although McGreevy does not want to make dramatic changes in his first year on the job—planning instead to focus on learning about the many programs in the college—he does have long-term goals in mind. Some of these goals for the college include increasing ties with the College of Science, increasing student language acquisition, promoting the fine and performing arts on campus and encouraging more students to do senior theses.

McGreevy said senior theses can be an invaluable part of the undergraduate experience. He would like to see more students pursue them, but does not plan on making the thesis a graduation requirement.

"Being able to work one-on-one with a faculty member on a year-long project is a really good experience," he said. "We need a stronger thesis culture at Notre Dame."

"It's not fair to students to have grades so compressed, especially to the very best students," he said.

The new dean says the college has a lot of challenges, because "it is hard to be one of the very best." These challenges include faculty hiring and recruitment, which he described as one of the most important parts of his job, and the need to better financially support graduate students—"including the need for a graduate student health insurance program."

"The good news is that I'm not a Notre Dame nostalgist," McGreevy said. He said he got a better education from Notre Dame than his father, who attended the University in the 1950s, did, but that students today are receiving a better education than he did twenty years ago.

"I'm encouraged by the progress," he said.

McGreevy would like to increase the promotion of academic life on campus. He wants to "get students to view their intellectual life with the same passion with which they view so many other things," he said. Increasing the number of Notre Dame graduates who go on to pursue a Ph.D. or other graduate study can follow as a result of a stronger intellectual campus, he said.

Contact John Tierney at jtierney@nd.edu

University Choral Auditions

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME CHORALE
NOTRE DAME GLEE CLUB
NOTRE DAME LITURGICAL CHOIR
NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S LITURGICAL CHOIR
BASILICA SCHOLA

University Choral Auditions will be held in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

SUNDAY, AUG. 24, 3-6 PM
MONDAY, AUG. 25, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM:
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

To reserve an audition time please e-mail dbayless@nd.edu until 2:00 pm Sunday, August 24
After 2:00 pm Sunday, August 24, please sign up at the coat check in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

For more information please call 631-7800

Get Involved With Notre Dame Athletics

The Sports Information Office is looking for student assistants for the 2008-09 school year. Any students interested in becoming active in Irish athletics should come to an informational meeting on Mon., Aug. 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sports Information Office (Joyce Center second floor inside Gate 2) or call the Sports Information Office at 1-7516 for more information.

Saturday Scholar Series to kick off fall season

Special to The Observer

The eighth annual Saturday Scholar Series at the University of Notre Dame will feature lectures by leading faculty members on each home football game weekend this fall.

Sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters, the lectures add a scholarly dimension to a weekend roster of athletics, pageantry and fine arts performances.

The lectures will begin three and one-half hours before kickoff and take place in the Annenberg Auditorium of the Snite Museum of Art.

Write News. Call 631-5323.
South Bend Common Council passes party ordinance, creates CCAC. Three students shot at Club 23. 

Two students who were shot outside Club 23 on August 29 were Seniors Matt Collins and Mitchell Depree. The South Bend Common Council, who had been meeting at the South Bend Regional Medical Center, voted to create the Community Campus Advisory Coalition (CCAC) as a forum for city residents and the university to discuss important issues. The council agreed to implement regulations requiring student parties to register with the city for large gatherings.

The ordinance was initially created in response to a disorderly student partying off campus and eventually passed with rules that would require party permits that could be enacted in the future— an option the Council was offered to pursue.

However, the main objective of the Council and the ordinance was to increase dialogue about problems between South Bend residents and off-campus students.
SEPTEMBER 29

2008

September on a platform that included more interaction with the student body. As a way to better hear student requests, Reich and Schmidt created a "blog site," allowing students to contact Reich and Schmidt with suggestions.

"Part of the campaign was connecting to the students and trying to make sure that we're not any better than anyone else," Schmidt said after the election.

"This is not about the blog, it's a lot of people laughed at it, but it was something different — an informal way of presenting our ideas that was appealing."

The election broke a trend through the last four administrations in which either the previous year's vice president or executive maintaining the position became the president for the following year.

Law School Dean announces she will step down

Law School Dean Patty O'Hara announced she would leave the school next June after 10 years of service. O'Hara joined the law school in 1981 and became dean in 1999.

She said 10 years was "the optimal length of time to serve as dean," in a statement released on March 26.

"Like her predecessor, Dean O'Hara has been fully committed to this Law School, being recognized as both a top scholar and administrator and as one that, in the Catholic tradition, implies serious and sustained consideration of the normative dimensions of the law," associate dean John Robinson said in April.

"She has an amount of time and an equal amount of dedication and imagination in achieving that objective."

Some students questioned O'Hara's qualifications after the law school dropped from No. 22 to No. 28 last year in the U.S. News and World Report Law School rankings. The year, however, the school was back up to No. 22.

"I was thinking the Law School would rebound, and we did, back up to No. 22," she said in April. "I think there was a problem with the blog, that allowed no one person or dean was responsible for a temporary slump."

Clinton and Obama visit South Bend

Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton both visited South Bend as part of their campaign to win the Indiana primary. Clinton spoke at Washington High School on April 9. He outlined his campaign plan for supporters and cited Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech as the reason he decided to run for President.

Clinton spoke at Coveleski Stadium, home of the South Bend Silver Hawks, on April 26. She said she was disappointed that she had only met Obama four times in one-on-one debates and called for a revision of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

South Bend Mayor Stephen Luke announced his support of Obama before Obama spoke to supporters. He outlined his new higher-education financial aid plan and tax cuts to help keep jobs in America.

Clinton said she would win the war in Iraq and allow uninsured Americans to break into the Congressional health care plan.

"It's good enough for members of Congress, it's good enough for every Hoosier and every American, and that you keep insurance if you have it, but if you don't you will be able to buy it into," Clinton said.

"Monologues" return to campus

Students performed Eve Ensler's controversial play "The Vagina Monologues" on campus after moving off-campus last year. Ensler allowed the play to be performed two years ago provided the play received sponsorship from two academic departments. The performances must also include discussions after the play, analyzing the play from a Catholic perspective.

Ensler reaffirmed his decision this year.

Students report laptop thefts

Students performed Eve Ensler's controversial play "The Vagina Monologues" on campus after moving off-campus last year. Ensler allowed the play to be performed two years ago provided the play received sponsorship from two academic departments. The performances must also include discussions after the play, analyzing the play from a Catholic perspective.

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Meet student members of the Core Council for Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual & Questioning Students and find out more about resources available on the Notre Dame campus.

The Core Council Welcomes the Class of 2012

We members of the Core Council are administrators and gay, lesbian, bi-sexual & questioning students who are a resource in identifying the ongoing needs of our students. By implementing campus-wide educational programming on these issues, the Core Council strives to eliminate homophobia and make Notre Dame a place that accepts and prizes the uniqueness of all its students.

The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students will host a RECEPTION for interested first-year students:

Monday, August 25th
1:30-3:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse Building
(3rd Floor Lounge)

Visit our web site at corecouncil.nd.edu

The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students also sponsors:

Coffee & Conversation at the Co-Mo
Green Room
Solidarity Sunday
CommUnity
NETWORK Ally Training Program
StaND Against Hate Week
Day of Silence
continued from page 1
Harvard. We respect those schools, but we're trying to make Notre Dame a better Notre Dame," Saracino, a Notre Dame alum, said. "I look at the classes that are coming in, and they make the value of my diploma appreciate."

This year's freshmen are from the top five percent of their high school classes. Their average SAT score is a combined 1405 in school classes. Their average marks roughly a 20-point increase from last year's class — the biggest jump in recent history.

"It really happens every year," he said.

Twelve years ago, the average SAT score was 1305, over 100 points lower. However, Saracino said one couldn't compare the applicants from one year to another. "It's like apples and oranges," he said.

"It varies every year ... each class has compelling reasons to be admitted," Saracino said.

The Admissions office aims to shape a class — and does not admit students based on numbers alone.

"Education goes on both inside and outside of the classroom," Saracino said. "We admit bright students who are passionate."

They also aim for diversity "in the broadest sense," he said. "We're not just looking for the all-American kid."

Twenty percent of the class of 2012 is comprised of ethnic minorities, which marks a decrease from the last two years; the class of 2011 included 22 percent ethnic minorities and the class of 2010 included 24 percent. Saracino said these figures are not indicative of a trend.

"Three years would be a trend," he said. "Anything less than 24 percent is unacceptable."

Of the ethnic minorities, nine percent are Hispanic, six percent are Asian, three percent are African-American and one percent is Native American.

"Our goal for next year is to improve our ethnic diversity," Saracino said.

Students in the freshman class hail from diverse geographic locations nationally and internationally. The Midwest and Northeast are the most represented U.S. geographic areas. The top ten states represented are Illinois, Indiana, Texas, California, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Florida.

Three percent of the freshmen are international, from 27 different countries. The top three foreign countries represented are Korea, Canada and China.

The confirmation rate of this year's accepted freshman was 34 percent, one of the nation's highest.

"Applicants have done their homework," Saracino said. "If they're admitted, chances are they're going to come."

Fifty-two percent of the Class of 2012 are men and 48 percent are women. Eighty-three percent are Catholic. Twenty-four percent are children of alumni and seven percent are first generation college students.

Notre Dame, which boasts a strong commitment to financial aid, awarded 44 percent need-based grants. Seventy-five percent are Catholic. Twenty-four percent are children of alumni and seven percent are first generation college students.

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"That's what we want for our children. This is a class where the students aren't going to want to sleep," he said.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

continued from page 1
The Class of 2012 was especially active in extra-curricular activities in high school that involved leadership positions:

— 10 percent were student government president
— 13 percent were editor of a school publication
— 90 percent participated in community service
— 64 percent lettered in a varsity sport
— 47 percent participated in music, art, drama or dance
— 7 percent participated in the Eagle or Gold Scouts.

The incoming class also contains one Olympian, a certified firefighter, one student from the island of Molokai and two students from an Alaskan fishing village of 7,000 people.

Saracino's daughter, an alumna of Notre Dame, once told him that the opportunities to learn here are only limited by one's need for sleep.

"That's what we want for our children. This is a class where the students aren't going to want to sleep," he said.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

continued from page 1
got out of the car and also began assaulting Chesnick. Gargula approached Chesnick to see how badly he was hurt when one of the assailants pushed her to the ground and began beating her, Crosby said. A female then got out of the car and began kicking and beating Gargula as well.

Crosby approached the victim and the assailants verbally threatened to injure her, she said. Crosby then proceeded to call the South Bend Police. She was not injured.

The fire department and medics were called to the scene and responded immediately, Trent said.

A brown purse was reported stolen after the attack.

A resident of Irish Crossings heard the disturbance and came outside. As he got out of his car, the assailants got back into the car and left the scene. As the car sped off, Crosby was able to get the license plate number.

The police were able to trace the license plate to a 21-year old St. Joseph County resident whose name was not released by the police. He was arrested for robbery and taken into custody.

Trent said the SBPD are still working on the case and looking for other suspects.

Chesnick and Gargula were taken to a local hospital, where Chesnick received stitches on his lip and was treated for minor scrapes and bruises. His left eye was swollen shut. Gargula was treated for minor scrapes and bruises. Neither suffered serious injuries.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dfkrasula@nd.edu and Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

Please recycle

The Observer
Fencer
continued from page 1

On the junior level, "I had to stop with the piano lessons, but my teacher agreed that piano was not my move," he said.

Meinhart was already considered to be one of the best younger fencers in the nation and had a great experience at the Olympics will only make him better, said his coach, John Bednarski said."

After coming on the biggest stage in the world, the joy Center Vice President said will seem much less daunting.

Meinhart said that along with the valuable fencing experience, Beijing also gave some memories he will never forget.

"We are in control of the Georgian capital.

Igoeti had been the Russians'.

Located on Georgia's main highway between Gori and the city of Gori, the modern highway has survived since the Soviet collapse.

But the United States and France insisted the Russian withdrawal was not complete.

Georgians exulted in a new sense of security after the withdrawal of Russian troops departed.

In Igoeti, the closest Georgians got to the capital of Tbilisi, Georgians pumped their fists in the air, and a white and red national flags as two Georgian tanks began to leave. The Russians had not been in control of the strategic town in more than 100 civil years and several police trucks.

"How can we not be happy? We've gotten what we want," said Levian, 77, a mat teacher who would give only his first name. "We're overjoyed to see our own police on our streets."

An Associated Press reporter saw what may have been the last remaining Russian armored vehicles leave Gori shortly after 5 p.m. Friday. The six vehicles drove off after soldiers fired on a doorman hoping to hinder a humanitarian effort to deport all Georgians from Ossetia. Many of the elderly were among those troops remaining in three areas.

Notre Dame President Swarbrick,

"The challenges here are significant. But they're challenges of the best kind."

Jack Swarbrick Notre Dame Athletic Director

Georgians rejoice as Russian forces withdraw from Gori

Bush, Sarkozy agree that Russia did not comply with withdrawal agreement, as troops remain in three areas

Fencer

Swarbrick continued from page 1

media executives, and the leadership of the NCAA, as well as many others in professional sports," Jenkins said in a July 16 press conference. "He has a breadth of vision of the landscape of college athletics as big as the sky, and he's unsurpassed. Jack is widely recognized for his insight and integrity."

According to a press release, the program is responsible for bringing "high profile sporting events" to Indianapolis, including the Super Bowl in 2012 and the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament in 2013.

"When more people said that in my experience is that in my experience is that the NFL will ever take the Super Bowl to Indianapolis, Indiana, I had all of the challenges I needed," he said in the interview. "I was committed to make that happen."

Swarbrick said he was excited to assume control of the reins of one of the country's most storied collegiate athletics programs. Despite Notre Dame's 3-9 record last year, Swarbrick described his time at Notre Dame as "defined by defining moments."

"The challenges here are significant," he said in the press conference. "But they're challenges of the best kind."

Chairman of the board of directors of the Atlanta-based Georgia Athletic Conference.

"I am confident that in Jack Swarbrick we have found the right athletic director for the University of Notre Dame."

Father John Jenkins Notre Dame President

Georgians rejoice as Russian forces withdraw from Gori

Bush, Sarkozy agree that Russia did not comply with withdrawal agreement, as troops remain in three areas

A few hours later, Gori was the Russians' undisputed territory, and they formed Russian forces had redeployed their main checkpoints and roadsides from the strategic city.

Located on Georgia's main highway between Gori and the city of Igoeti, the modern highway has survived since the Soviet collapse.

But some thought it was an effort to deport all Georgians from Ossetia. Many of the elderly were among those troops remaining in three areas.

In the village of Achabeti, an AP reporter saw Ossetian soldiers remove chairs, stacked furniture, and whatever else could be hauled away from abandoned Georgian houses.

Russian emergency officials said some 450 buildings in the separatist regions Monday.

In an interview with the AP, Russian official Eduard Kokoashvili, which had survived since the 1990s with the patronage of Moscow and the protection of the West.

Peacekeeping forces based in the opposite direction, into Georgia.

French Foreign Minister spokesman said there was no way that a peace deal could mean that "we are pushing to join NATO, angering a regent Russia."

The major fighting began earlier this week when separatists fired an artillery and rocket barrage targeting Tskhinvali, the capital of a breakaway region, which has survived since the 1990s with the patronage of Moscow and the protection of the West.

Less than 24 hours, quickly pressed deep into Georgia and for an EU brokered cease-fire deal, both sides are to pull back to positions held before the fighting erupted.

Western leaders have called on Russia to resume the positions they had in South Ossetia before the fighting erupted.

An AP reporter in Igoeti confirmed Russian forces had redeployed their main checkpoints and roadsides from the strategic city.

An AP reporter in Igoeti confirmed Russian forces had redeployed their main checkpoints and roadsides from the strategic city.

The Russians said they had pulled out to reopen Akhkhazia's de facto-border, which will have been under Russian control for over a week.

The convoy doubled in size as it rumbled slowly north, and it took hours to cross into Abkhazia.

Notre Dame Board Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Atlanta-based Georgia Athletic Conference.

"I am confident that in Jack Swarbrick we have found the right athletic director for the University of Notre Dame."
Duncan continued from page 1

things [to fill up the room]."

Duncan has three floors, plus a basement. Every wing contains a social space and a study space. The chapel is on the second floor, a feature shared only by St. Edward’s Hall.

Some other highlights include “super quads” – two doubles connected by a common area, complete with bay windows, a bathroom and a shower; whiteboards built into the wall outside every room, a workout facility in the basement, an area in the kitchen where residents can do food sales and benches in the stairwell so people can socialize or read.

What the dorm is currently lacking, however, is its own identity. Duncan Hall does not yet have its own mascot, signature event or colors.

Shoup, who is in his 20th year at Notre Dame, has seen previous new dorms go through the process of forming their own identity.

“It kind of just takes shape on its own,” he said.

The residents will decide what their dorm will be called, what mascot, colors and signature event will be, Shoup said.

“That’s going to be up to the men of the community, and they are going to bring a lot of different viewpoints,” he said.

“The new people from every hall on campus that will go into the building, plus there are freshmen and there are transfer students that were placed there. That will be totally up to them; we won’t be a part of that. And I think that just develops as people live together.”

Father Tom Eckert is Duncan’s first rector. Eckert obtained a master’s degree in Iberian and Latin American Literature last May, and prior to that was the rector of St. Edward’s Hall for three years.

“I’m confident that the excitement of opening a new residence hall for the first time in 10 years will really bring the residents together,” he said. “There cannot help but be a great and unifying bond.”

Senior Rafael Diaz, who spoke to The Observer as he was driving from Las Vegas to South Bend, said he’d like to see Duncan take the dragon as its mascot. But, he said, he’s heard people joking that Duncan should be the Donuts, a reference to the nationwide coffee chain Dunkin’ Donuts.

“I’m confident that the excitement of opening a new residence hall for the first time in 10 years will really bring the residents together.”

Father Tom Eckert
Duncan Hall rector

Diaz, who studied abroad last semester, hasn’t seen his new dorm since it was “basically cinderblocks.”

“People have been telling me that it’s real nice now,” he said.

Diaz left his former home in Morrissey in search of a bigger room, and will be living in one of Duncan’s “super quads” with three of his friends.

Most of the residents who are living in Duncan won their rooms through a lottery system held last year. Shoup said 330 people applied for spots in the 232-bed hall. Seniors make up 15 percent of the hall, juniors and sophomores 25 percent each, and freshmen 35 percent.

Duncan’s six resident assistants will be running Freshman Orientation, Eckert said, along with a team of students recruited by the Office of Residence Life and Housing.

Duncan’s hall staff lived in O’Neill for a few days before the University opened. The hall over to the University.

The hall will be dedicated in early October, and the residents will get to meet the Duncan family. Shoup said. The building was funded by 1952 Notre Dame graduate Raymond T. Duncan, president of Duncan Oil Inc. and owner of Silver Oak Cellars in Oakville, Calif.

It will be the University’s 28th dormitory and 15th for men. One of the reasons for building the new hall was to reduce crowding in other residence halls, as Notre Dame was at a 104 percent capacity in its residence halls last year.

With the addition of more than 200 beds, the University was able to take beds out of other halls, in dorms like Morrissey, Alumni, Zahm and Dillon, as the on-campus population increased by only 20 over last year.

But overcrowding is still a problem in women’s dorms, and the on-campus percent capacity is still at 103, Shoup said. Construction on a new, currently unnamed women’s dorm began last March next to the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore, and it is slated to open next August in time for the 2009-2010 school year, Shoup said.

Notre Dame also has long-term plans to build one more men’s and one more women’s hall.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The suspense holding, Barack Obama reached an announcement by text message Friday of his vice presidential running mate from a list suddenly snipped by a dark horse from Texas.

Obama campaign’s prospects remained a mystery on Thursday, as senior aides said the Obama campaign never requested that the list be publicized. The Associated Press, which first obtained a draft list of 12, said Clinton remained a leading contender.

Three days before the party gathers in Denver to nominate Obama for the fall campaign, senior Obama aides had managed to keep secret despite intense scrutiny.

“Is this the exciting news,” Schelbus told reporters. “Obama, his secret is his own, went to the gun for a morning walk at his office in Chicago to polish the convention acceptance speech he will deliver Thursday night.

Obama told reporters on Thursday he’s already made his choice, and aides have used the promise of a text-message announcement to try and attract additional supporters by solicit- ing these cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

The Illinois senator has arranged a joint appearance for Saturday with his running mate at the capital in Springfield, Ill. Hundreds of miles to the west, campaign workers streamed stage gates and others trans- ported an image of the Convention Center in Denver into a made-for-television convention venue.

Putting the pressure on one corner were thousands of lightweight railroad cardboard hallards, meant to allow delegates to wave signs bearing the names of the tickets. Obama’s running mate was known.

And he wasn’t saying.

“Obviously, the most important question is: Is this person ready to be president?” Obama told The Early Show on CBS. "Will this person help me govern? Are they going to be an effective partner in creating the kind of economic opportunity here at home and through some dangerous waters internation­ ally?"

And he added: "I want some­ body who is going to be able to stand up to the, you know, and simply be a ‘yes person’ when it comes to the right decisions."

Among those believed in the running, Edwards, Biden and McCain are the leading contenders with experience in defense or foreign policy — areas in which Obama has been accused of being poorly in the polls compared with Republican Sen. John McCain.

Clinton’s credentials were fortified in the primaries and cau- cuses where she ran a close sec- ond to Obama in the battle for the nomination.

There was no shortage of other speculation, ranging from: Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, a liberal who courted people. Mr. 10 Percent since allegations

As Defense and Evan Rehman said Zardari promised, to see them share power after whether he himself becomes 1994 Democratic president hopefuls, had come back two months deal with Musharraf expected to the February elections and thrust since the February elections and thrust

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Conclusions:

• The Associated Press has been the premier news source for the Obama campaign's running mate announcement.

• The list of 12 candidates was obtained by the Associated Press, indicating that Clinton remained a leading contender.

• The announcement was made via text message to supporters who provided their cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

• The running mate is expected to be announced on Saturday in Denver.

• Obama's running mate will play a crucial role in the campaign, potentially attracting support from voters with similar policy preferences.

• The news of the running mate announcement generated excitement among supporters, with the promise of a text-message announcement to try and attract additional supporters.

Pakistan:

Bhutto widower proposed for new president

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan’s largest political party on Friday proposed Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, as its candidate for the presidency.

Asif Ali Zardari, who is emerg­ ing as a leading contender, had been supported by legislators Sept. 6, criticized President Musharraf during his wife’s turns as prime minister.

E pluribus unum, the motto of Kansas — and unknown oth­ ers — O bam a had managed to gather in Denver to nominate him as a symbol of the sleaze that may many Pakistanis, who view the U.S. war against extremist groups in peace negotiations, the need was rammed home that included three separate landfills dumped more than two feet of rain in some places. But to the relief of Floridians, it was finally expected to veer over the Panhandle before leaving for good later this weekend.

Officials in Melbourne, one of the hardest-hit areas on the central Atlantic coast, carried boats down streets where just a day earlier 4 feet of water made roads look like rivers. Water several feet high flooded homes, schools and neighborhoods, but most of the area was isolated, leaving behind a half-inch layer of mud and muck.

"This is a welcome sight," said Ron Salvatore, 69, who stood in his drive­ way Friday morning boiling a cup of coffee on a propane grill and surveyed a dry street.

The storm’s death toll rose to six in Florida and nearly 30 overall since it first struck in the Caribbean. Florida officials said four people died in traffic accidents in the heavy rain and two others drowned in surf kicked up by the storm. Before the storm ever blew through the state, a man testing a boat it was also killed.

Teas of thousands of people from Melbourne to Jacksonville to Gainesville were still without electric­ ty, and residents of Florida’s storm-stirred Atlantic coast faced a weekend of cleanup after chest-high flooding.

"The damage from Fay is a reminder that a tropical storm does not have to reach a hurricane level to do a great deal of damage as a precondition of its path," said Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, who toured flooded com­ munities this week.

On the 5th day of Fay, cleanup begins in Fla.

Associated Press

STEVENVILLE, Fla.

As Tropical Storm Fay finally got on track Friday for a swift exit out of Florida, flood-stricken communities were appealing for encouraging sign: Muddy brown water lines began appearing on the sides of homes, a clue that flood­ waters were receding.

Theickle storm that stuck around for five days now seemed a dizziness that encircled three separate landfills dumped more than two feet of rain in some places. But to the relief of Floridians, it was finally expected to veer over the Panhandle before leaving for good later this weekend.

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"The damage from Fay is a reminder that a tropical storm does not have to reach a hurricane level to do a great deal of damage as a precondition of its path," said Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, who toured flooded com­ munities this week.
I'll admit I don't know why each of you came to Notre Dame. And I can't tell you whether that's enough, or if you don't give up and out of the classroom of life, I'll have you vastly different college experiences, make different memories, live different lives. But there is one constant thing that will train you to sound your time here. You go to Notre Dame.

Some of you might think that was a plug for Notre Dame. You might have heard of it, the one that can light up the universe. Notre Dame has different nuances and idiosyncrasies that you won't find at other universities.

So even if I can't give you any grandiose advice, here are some helpful hints for living at Notre Dame:

- Play like a champion today.

Four years ago this week, it was raining. I was moving onto the third floor into one of Saint Mary's smallest quads with limited elevator access and basement entry. Did I mention it was raining? If you don't turn over to the basement you will find the most delectable of treats — just not when you think.

In the basement hark's Sharro pizza, open until 2 a.m. on weekdays and 4 a.m. on weekends. The numbers on many classroom buildings make zero sense. Fortunately there aren't doors to the buildings that lie off Main.

Subway might be the healthiest option, but will have the longest lines at mealtime — I guarantee it.

Burger King is quicker, but closes disturbingly early at 8 p.m. If you don't venture to the basement you will find the most delectable of treats — just not when you think.

Some of you might have heard of CoMo. Learn that name, because you will likely go there often.

The numbers on many classroom buildings make zero sense. Fortunately there aren't doors to the buildings that lie off Main. You will look like a tool if you use them. There are maps of most classroom buildings online. Find them and use them to try to save some face.

I got to know the people in your section, because they are the people you will see the most often. Most people continue to associate with people they lived with or near freshman year.

But don't just know the freshmen. The upperclassmen can and will guide you to professors and classes. More importantly, at this time, because they are the people you will meet and engage and would like to assure you that there is no better place to do it than here.

For this very reason, my friends and I uprooted to Indiana, to Philadelphia (a.k.a. LaFortune (a.k.a. LaFun or The Bubble)) and to Portland (a.k.a. O'Shag (as in "The Spy Who Shagged Me"). There are two buildings named for DeBartolo, but neither is called such as if it's a class, you are likely in D-Bart; a playcentre/arty-farty movie, you will be at DPAC (the DPAC)

There is a mythical place called the Coleman Center or Morse Center. For all intents and purposes, they are the Saint Mary's Twins known in CoMo. Learn that name, because you will likely go there often.

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For this very reason, my friends and I uprooted to Indiana, to Philadelphia (a.k.a. LaFortune (a.k.a. LaFun or The Bubble)) and to Portland (a.k.a. O'Shag (as in "The Spy Who Shagged Me"). There are two buildings named for DeBartolo, but neither is called such as if it's a class, you are likely in D-Bart; a playcentre/arty-farty movie, you will be at DPAC (the DPAC)

There is a mythical place called the Coleman Center or Morse Center. For all intents and purposes, they are the Saint Mary's Twins known in CoMo. Learn that name, because you will likely go there often.

The numbers on many classroom buildings make zero sense. Fortunately there aren't doors to the buildings that lie off Main. You will look like a tool if you use them. There are maps of most classroom buildings online. Find them and use them to try to save some face.

I got to know the people in your section, because they are the people you will see the most often. Most people continue to associate with people they lived with or near freshman year.

But don't just know the freshmen. The upperclassmen can and will guide you to professors and classes. More importantly, at this time, because they are the people you will meet and engage and would like to assure you that there is no better place to do it than here.
Dear Students:

With the beginning of a new academic year, I extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students of the University of Notre Dame, a transfer student or a new graduate/professional student, it is an honor to be among the first to welcome you to the University of Notre Dame.

On behalf of all of us who serve in Student Affairs, we are glad you are here and hope that you will soon feel comfortable calling this place home.

This University offers a host of excellent resources that exist to help you to get established on campus. All undergraduate residence halls, and two graduate residence facilities are at the heart of this sense of community that is one of the most distinctive features of a Notre Dame education. Other student service units that are part of the Division of Student Affairs are unparalleled; these offices include Alcohol and Drug Education, Campus Ministry, the Career Center, the Counseling Center, the Gender Relations Centers, Health Services, International Student Services and Activities, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, the Office of Information Technology, Life and Housing, Notre Dame Security/Police and Student Activities. The staffs in your residence halls and graduate residence are present to assist you in your transition to life at Notre Dame.

Although you may find the variety of services we offer a common desire to do everything we can to help facilitate your intellectual, spiritual and personal growth.

This University, like all others, offers every student the freedom to experience the unique and diverse gifts offered by each of you. We hope that all of you will be able to achieve the goals you set for yourselves this year.

I hope that I will have the opportunity to come to know as many of you as possible in the months ahead.

Until I am able to greet you in person, please know that you have my very best wishes for a year filled with God's blessings.

Farher Mark L. Poorman, C.S.C.
Vice president for student affairs

Welcome Class of 2012!

On behalf of the Saint Mary's student body, we are excited for you to join our family. We hope that you will find your special place in this community and allow Saint Mary's to help you discover more about yourself.

This is a remarkable year for Saint Mary's. Along with becoming a part of our community and joining the tradition of excellence of Saint Mary's women, we are the first students to experience Spees Unica Hall, our new academic building. We know that you will treasure your time here, as alumni have before you.

Life at Saint Mary's is about discovering your passions. We encourage you to take advantage of your time both in and out of class to experience new things and to challenge yourself to be better than you are prepared to know — it will help you stay focused and interested. Form new, lasting friendships. Join one of our many clubs and organizations. The beauty of this University, is to develop people who will be prepared to make positive contributions to the Church and the world and to confront the challenges of the future. We are confident that you possess the talent and desire to make meaningful and lasting contributions.

We hope one result of your Saint Mary's education is that you will develop a sense of obligation to the common good and that your life and work will reflect that understanding.

We have a proud 164 year tradition of educating women to make a difference in the world. Now it is your turn to make history at Saint Mary's College. I look forward to accompanying you on this journey.

Carol Ann Mooney
College president

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Saint Mary's College, I extend a warm welcome to the Class of 2012 and to our transfer students. As a graduate of Saint Mary's and now its 11th president, I care deeply about this special place, and about you, our students. As Saint Mary's students, you are following in the footsteps of generations of remarkable, accomplished women, and, like them, your talents will leave your distinct mark on the College.

At Saint Mary's we will challenge you. We will help you learn the extent of your capabilities and how to use them well. You will receive an excellent Holy Cross education — an education that is committed to the development of the whole person.

As a Catholic college, we cherish intellectual pursuits because they engender our understanding of God and God's creation, which in turn helps us build and sustain more just and equitable communities. We hope one result of your Saint Mary's education is that you will develop a sense of obligation to the common good and that your life and work will reflect that understanding.

We have a proud 164 year tradition of educating women to make a difference in the world. Now it is your turn to make history at Saint Mary's College. I look forward to accompanying you on this journey.

Reverend John J. Jenkins, C.S.C.
University president


Our job, as members of Student Government, is to serve you and to keep you constantly informed of the developments and improvements going on around campus. Keep an eye out for some pretty amazing additions and opportunities that we will be offering throughout the year. Coming up in the next few weeks, you will have an opportunity to join Freshman Class Council or the Flex Program. If you ever have any questions, please let us know. Seriously, if there is something that frustrates you or you have an amazing idea that could make Notre Dame even better, just email us at studentgov@nd.edu and let us know.

Good luck and go Irish!

Bob Reich
Notre Dame student body president

Grant Schmidt
Notre Dame student body vice president

Welcome to Notre Dame! Hopefully by now you've been able to unpack, somewhat organize your room and get to know your classmates. Most likely, you've gotten lost at least once, seen a ton of new faces and are probably pretty overwhelmed with this new situation. All of these things will only last a few days, and in a week, you will know this place like the back of your hand. In a week, your room will look perfect (this may only last a few days). In a week, you will walk from LaFortune to DeBartolo and see 10 familiar faces. In a week, this place will become... home. The beauty of this campus, the friendliness and availability of professors, the time spent with your classmates and, of course, Fajita Fridays and Wing Night (trust us, make sure you experience these) all contribute to the incredible environment that you now have the opportunity to live in for the next four years. The SAT and ACT are never to be seen again, the idea of applications can be placed aside, and the decision between colleges is over. Our advice to you? Enjoy yourself. Get involved.

Saint Mary's student body president

Sarah Falvey
Saint Mary's student body vice president

To all our new students, welcome! We hope you will enjoy your college life and ultimately flourish throughout your time here. If you need anything or have any questions, you can contact us at bog@smumary.edu, or you can stop by our office located on the second floor of the Student Center, room 225. We cannot wait to meet all of you!
A series of missteps — that’s probably the best way to describe my life at Notre Dame so far.

For a lot of you, life under the golden dome in a dream come true, a chance to spend four years at a school that you’ve worked as long as you can remember to get into, well, that wasn’t the case for me three years ago.

Figuring out my path at Notre Dame was never a structured route; really, it was more a series of events that just sort of happened to fall into place. So for those of you who have stepped on this campus, a little wisely you’ve made the right choice. My advice to you is this: don’t worry, Notre Dame is one of those places that even when things are going wrong in the end, everything falls into place.

I stepped onto campus with no clue of what I wanted to major in or what I wanted to find out. I just sort of happened into things, and looking back, I wouldn’t have it any other way. There have been some tough moments when I felt lost. I made a lot of mistakes, but a lot of those mistakes turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

There are a lot of things that I definitely didn’t plan for. Here are just a few under my belt, if you will, that have gotten me to where I am today:

First — I lived in a quad in Badin Hall my freshman year (that’s the building with the porch across from CoMo, and yes people live there) with three girls from the Midwest, and being from Long Island, I was a little taken aback. I was paranoid beyond belief that I would have nothing in common with people who live over 800 miles from me. I just moved into an apartment with one of these girls this week — note to myself, three years ago, the Midwest is not a foreign country — though it may have seemed like it at the time.

Second — I started out as an undeclared Arts and Letters major, then switched to the business school the beginning of my sophomore. Right now, I’m not sure which one and English major (yes, I know it doesn’t make sense, but in the long run I’m hoping that it will work out). Regardless, I plan to go into journalism (fingers crossed) at the end of this year, and while it may seem that my majors have nothing to do with journalism, I’ve learned a lot from both.

My finance background came in handy this past summer when I went to London for six weeks. I got involved in short meetings for the Metropolitan Transit Authority attempting to figure out their budget and just a few of the many many things that were wrong with it. And while analyzing poetry in depth may not interest a lot of people, it doesn’t hurt to be able to point out a five page paper in an hour.

And probably my biggest concern — I always knew that I wanted to go abroad, and I thought that meant going in the spring and not missing football season. It just so happens that I ended up going to London in fall, and while I missed Notre Dame football, I had a totally different football experience that was life changing (and no I’m not talking about futbol). I ended up interning at the NFL in London, yes American football, for the Giants-Dolphins game. I got to interview players in the locker room and watch a 16-ft robot of Jason Taylor walk around Trafalgar Square. I read the chance to see the Irish go 3-9 for a chance to see the future Super Bowl Champions play in the pouring rain at one of the best stadiums in the world.

Those are just a few steps along the way that at the time seemed like I was veering off course in the completely wrong direction, but looking back I’m happy with where I’ve landed. And while those three things were momentous and somewhat life changing I learned a lot of small, insignificant meetings the way. Like it may seem that the corner of Angela and 31 is a lot closer if you just take a short cut across the golf course, but trust me, there’s a wired café fence on the other side. And the time you could have taken to walk around the golf course is about the same amount of time it will take you to get a tangled shirt out of the fence.

I guess what I’m really getting at is that in your four years here a lot of stuff is going to happen, and there will be moments to freak out, but just keep in the corner of your mind that you’re at a school where you will meet people to help you out along the way and somehow things seem to work out.

That’s just Notre Dame, maybe it has something to do with the luck of the Irish.

Deirdre Krasula is a senior Finance and English major at Notre Dame. She hopes to get a job in journalism in Nauvoo, Illinois. Deirdre turned down a full ride scholarship to Notre Dame because she thought that meant that she’d have to spend all her time doing school work and/up just studying and would have no time for fun. She now regrets not taking the full ride and wishes she had been more adventurous in her college experience. She has zero fear of the unknown and will make 4-8 this year. She can be contacted at dkolasla@nd.edu for tips on how to have fun at University of Notre Dame. She can be contacted at dkolasla@nd.edu for tips on how to have fun at University of Notre Dame.

Welcome to the bubble.

It’s a term that tends to circulate around this campus — the “Notre Dame bubble,” that funny, invisible membrane that keeps us in and keeps the world out. We enjoy the safety of our dorm rooms and eating halls. It’s a magical world, Hobbes — when you leave?

The term “Notre Dame bubble” is chronically over-used, but it holds some truth. There’s a tendency here (and as a big, bad senior, I can testify to its pervasiveness) to avoid venturing too far outside of our fair brick and cinderblock walls. The bubble is just as much a mental roadblock as it is a physical one. It’s easy to make excuses — no car, no money, or no need to get off the futon and enter the outside world.

Besides, we’re intelligent human beings with imagination and smarts. We take our fashion tips from “In Style” and “Teen Vogue.” We laugh at Wes Anderson movies that our parents don’t understand. So long, Rihanna, hello, MMG. I’ve got enough culture.

Welcome to the bubble.

Just let me worry about homework and football tickets.

Like you, I’d like to consider myself well schooled in the cultural side of life, both high and low. Even if I only know the Lou Reed song “Satellite of Love”, actually. Okay, it was in an episode of “Gilmore Girls.” Don’t judge me.

I was psyched when Sony BMG sent a copy of his biggest hits to The Observer office. I’m currently trying to read F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Portrait of a Lady, without missing an episode of “Project Runway.” I’d even go so far as to make the difference between “coloratura” and “recitative,” as well as the difference between being an Art major and Selena Gomez. My own blend of nerdiness, sure, but I doubt I’m alone in being a nerd around here.

When I was in high school, my mom used to tell me that I’d love college. At the time, I was reading the Canterbury Tales in AP English, and my art classes taught me about Auguste Renoir and Jackson Pollack. I’d always ask her what I’d love college for. I thought that meant I’d have those of yet-unknown promise for our future.

And the only way you’ll make 4-8 this year. She can be contacted at dkolasla@nd.edu for tips on how to have fun at University of Notre Dame. She can be contacted at dkolasla@nd.edu for tips on how to have fun at University of Notre Dame.

The Observer

VOLUME 74

Welcome to the bubble.

What’s YOUR viewpoint?

Submit a letter to the Editor.

www.ndsmcobserver.com
Directions to University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN 46556

1. Start by unpacking your gear
2. Say goodbye to Mom and Dad
3. Get ready for the best four years of your life
4. But before the football games, SYRs and other campus antics begin, it helps to know your way around as you navigate the twists and turns of life in our corner of the Bend
5. Whether you're looking for an escape from dining hall fare, some peace and quiet to crack open those shiny new textbooks, or just want to check out something new, here are some of the better and lesser known nooks and crannies of campus
6. So here's the key: green flags stand for grub, blue flags stand for books, and gold flags stand for the unexpected side of campus life
7. Lastly—welcome home.

University of Notre Dame
North Notre Dame Avenue, South Bend, IN 46556

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

Map data ©2008 NAVTEQ™
Washington Hall
Additional venue to the DPAC featuring plays, musicals, shows and the Collegiate Jazz Festival.

WF1
Student-run radio station featuring student DJs. Check out current schedules at http://www.nd.edu/~wvfi/

Café de Grasta
Located in Grace Hall (not pictured), this café's homemade sandwiches are well worth the trip. Open Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hesburgh Library
Check out the group study rooms that can be reserved, or find a cubicle on any floor. Open daily until 2 a.m.

Lafortune Student Center
A one-stop shop for virtually any student need. Offers the Huddle (convenience mart), Subway, Burger King, Starbuck, a barber shop, a salon, a ballroom and more. The basement is a great place to stay up all night studying. Hours of operation vary depending on the establishment.

The Irish Café
Want to know what's behind those ivy-colored walls? Try this café, which offers baked goods, salads, sandwiches and soups. Open Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Snite Museum
This on-campus museum features permanent and traveling exhibits, as well as special workshops and speakers. Open Tuesday & Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Hammes Bookstore
Beyond the book and gear sales, there are readings, signings, and an expanded Café. Open Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays 10 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Greenfields
Run, don't walk, to this hidden gem for an eclectic variety of global cuisine. Open Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Legends
A full-scale restaurant and bar that serves Notre Dame-themed dinner fare. The attached club and performance space also hosts concerts, ranging from campus bands to big name acts. Past performers have included Ben Lee and the Plain White T's. Restaurant open Monday - Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
The DPAC offers a wide range of concerts, plays, films and other performances. Visit their Web site for a full schedule: http://performingarts.nd.edu
Investigation continues on Chinese gymnasts

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 612 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without refunding. 

Olympics

Investigation continues on Chinese gymnasts

IOC says no proof so far, asks International Gymnastics Federation to review documents of five athletes

Associated Press

BEIJING — China was asked to provide additional documents on the eligibility age of one of the six members of its gold medal women's gymnastics team, who were old enough to compete in the Beijing Olympics, in hopes of ending persistent doubts about the ages of its gymnasts.

TheInternational Olympic Committee (IOC) said Friday there is still no proof anyone cheated, but it asked gymnastics officials to investigate what "have been a number of questions and apparent discrepancies," spokeswoman Giselle Davies said.

TheInternational Gymnastics Federation asked China to submit documents that will further substantiate the ages of He Kexin, Yang Yilin, Jiang Yuyuan, Deng Linlin and Li Shanshan.

The federation said it would forward its conclusions to the IOC. If it finds evidence that the gymnasts were underage, it could affect four of China's six medals. In addition to the team medal and He's gold on uneven bars, Yang and Jiang own bronze medals in the all-around and bars.

"We believe the matter will be put to rest...on the eligibility. We have seen documentation in terms of the correct documents," Davies said.

So far, however, all the information the Chinese gymnastics federation has presented supports its position that its athletes were old enough to compete.

"We believe the matter will be put to rest and there's no question...on the eligibility," Davies said.

The information we have received seems satisfactory in terms of the correct documentation — including birth certificates.

With the games wrapping up Sunday, the IOC wants to quickly end any lingering doubts about underage competitors.

No one would be happier to finally have closure on the controversy than the gymnasts.

The coach China Lu Shanzan said the parents are "indignant" over persistent questions about their daughters' ages.

"It's not just me. The parents of our athletes are all very indignant," Lu said. "They have faced groundless suspicion. Why aren't they believed? Why are their children suspected? Their parents are very angry."

"In an interview with The Associated Press, Lu said Asian gymnasts are naturally smaller than their American and European rivals.

"At this competition, the Japanese gymnasts were just as small as the Chinese," he said. "Chinese competitors have for years all been small, but the age. It is a question of race. European and American athletes are all powerful and robust. But Chinese gymnasts cannot be like that. They are by nature that small."

He said the governing body of gymnastics was given additional documents Thursday night to try to dispel lingering questions. Those documents included He's current and former passport, ID card and family residence permit.

Lu said the documents all said she was born in 1992, which would have made her eligible to compete. Gymnastics must turn 16 during the Olympic year to be eligible.

"Surely it's not possible that these documents are still not sufficient proof of her birthdate?" Lu asked. "The passports were issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The identity card was issued by China's Ministry of Public Security. If these valid documents are not enough to solve the problem, then what will you want?"

"The Chinese government and the Chinese athletes must be respected," he added.

The coach dismissed Chinese media reports and online records that suggested that He, Yang and a third team member, Jiang Yuyuan, might be as young as 14.

"If you trust every Web site but not a government," he said. "There are so many Web sites, so much hearsay. These are not official. It is possible that all news on the Internet is inaccurate."

The federation has said repeatedly that a passport is the "accepted proof of a gymnast's eligibility," and that China's gymnasts have presented ones that show they are age eligible. The IOC also asked gymnasts to provide their birth permits and deemed them valid before the games began.

Neither the IOC nor the FIG gave details on what new information prompted it to act now, three days after the gymnastics competition ended.

"With some questions still remaining, we asked the federation to take a closer look," Davies said.

The U.S. Olympic Committee said it sent a letter to the IOC and the FIG on Friday, asking that the matter be resolved.

"We certainly believe that it's important for the IOC and the international federation to review the issue and hopefully lay it to rest because the questions surrounding the age of some of the athletes have been out there for quite a while and it's unfair to them and unfair to the other athletes to continue to linger," USCOC executive director Jim Scherr said.

"We have sent a letter to the IOC and to the international federation asking them to review the matter and see if they can resolve it for the good of the competition, the integrity of the competition and the good of all the athletes."

The Chinese women won six medals, including the team gold and He's gold on uneven bars. Media reports include a Nov. 2 story by the Chinese government's news agency, chinanews.com, that suggests He is only 14. Asked again early this week about her age after winning the uneven bars title, beating American Nastia Liukin in a tiebreak, she said:

"I was born in 1992, and I'm 16 years old now."

"The FIG has proved that. If I'm under 16, I couldn't have been competing here."

Earlier this month, the AP found registration lists previously posted on the Web site of the General Administration of Sport of China that showed young girls listed as young to compete. He was born Jan. 1, 1992, according to the 2005 and 2006 registration lists. Yang was born Aug. 26, 1993, according to the 2004, 2005 and 2006 registration lists. In the 2007 registration list, however, her birthday has changed to Aug. 26, 1992.

"We played fair at this Olympic Games," Liukin's father and coach, Valerie, said after they arrived back in the United States... "If someone thought they were younger, shame on them."

Added Steve Penny, president of USA Gymnastics:

"USA Gymnastics has always been confident the issue should be addressed by the FIG and the IOC. An investigation would help bring closure to the issue and remove any cloud of speculation from this competition."

Age falsification has been a problem in gymnastics since the 1980s after the minimum age was raised from 14 to 15 to protect young athletes from serious injuries. The minimum age was raised to its current 16 in 1997.

Younger gymnasts are considered to have an advantage because they are more flexible and are likely to have an easier time doing the tough skills the sport requires. They also aren't as likely to have a history of injuries or fear of failure.

North Korea was barred from the 1993 world championships after FIG officials discovered Kim Kwang Suk, the gold medalist on uneven bars in 1991, was listed as 15 for three years in a row. Romania admitted in 2002 that several gymnasts' ages had been falsified, forcing Olympic medalists Gina Gogean and Alexandra Marinescu.

Even China's own Yang Yun, a double bronze medalist in Sydney, said during an interview aired on state broadcast China Central Television that she was 14 during the 2000 Games.

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Best Wishes

for the 2008-2009 Academic Year

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UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
SMC Cross Country

Belles hope youth can replace Gray

By KATE GRABAREK  Sport Writer

Saint Mary's will look to continue its upswing as a program without the most decorated runner in school history.

Megan Gray became the first Belles runner to qualify for the NCAA championships and was named a first-team all-MIAA selection — accomplishing each feat in both her junior and senior seasons.

"The team is definitely missing Megan," Belles coach Jackie Bauters said. "It's always hard when someone as talented and influential as Megan graduates, but this should be a great year for us to develop our younger talent and maximize the potential in our upperclassmen."

Last year's standout freshman, Samantha Wieczorek, is currently out with a knee injury so Bauters will look for some new faces to lead a team that includes four freshmen.

"Unfortunately our No. 2, Sam Wieczorek, from last year is still recovering from an after-season injury, so we'll be looking for people to step up in many areas," Bauters said. "I'm looking forward to seeing how our freshman can contribute to the team. Next, I think there are some sophomores and juniors that are still discovering their potential — Callie Salvy, Clare McVey...the list goes on of sophomores that have so much more in them."

The Belles will have six seniors this season, including returning captains Caitlin Brodumker and Alison Miller. Saint Mary's will also host two events this season— the season-opening Alumni event on Aug. 30 and the MIAA Jamboree on Sept. 26.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabarek@saintmarys.edu

OLYMPICS

Cuba knocks out USA in baseball semifinals

Cuba's Alexei Bell is hit by a ball as he slides into second base during an attempted steal in Friday's 10-2 victory over the U.S. in baseball semifinals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Cuba knocked out the defending World Cup and Olympic champions, the United States. The Americans are not the only team to fall, however, as Cuba has knocked out the Netherlands, South Korea, Cuba and Japan and China. The final quarterfinal match is Saturday against Japan.

Cuba finished runner-up to the United States in the World Cup.

Korea (8-0), and the U.S. (5-3) will face Japan in the first game of the day. South Korea past Japan 6-2 in Friday's first semifinal.

After the final out, the Cubans celebrated mildly on the mound. The Cuban team includes Antonio Castro, the team doctor and son of the country's former president.

Cuba finished runner-up to the U.S. in 2000 at the Sydney Olympics before winning again four years later in Athens. Winning gold in China might mean even more to the island, considering baseball will come off the Olympic program for the 2012 London Games and might not be back.

Wukesong Stadium was nearly full save for a few open seats in the outfield bleachers. Cuba's fans chanted of "Let's go Cuba!" in Chinese, standing to clap and wave their country's flag. They even had their share of supporters from China.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabarek@saintmarys.edu

Affordable luxury starting in the low $200s

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Conveniently located off South Bend Rd. and Edison Rd., the Belles will have six seniors this season, including returning captains Caitlin Brodumker and Alison Miller. Saint Mary's will also host two events this season— the season-opening Alumni event on Aug. 30 and the MIAA Jamboree on Sept. 26.

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Cuba's Alexei Bell is hit by a ball as he slides into second base during an attempted steal in Friday's 10-2 victory over the U.S. in baseball semifinals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Cuba knocked out the defending World Cup and Olympic champions, the United States. The Americans are not the only team to fall, however, as Cuba has knocked out the Netherlands, South Korea, Cuba and Japan and China. The final quarterfinal match is Saturday against Japan.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabarek@saintmarys.edu

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Korea (8-0), and the U.S. (5-3) will face Japan in the first game of the day. South Korea past Japan 6-2 in Friday's first semifinal.

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Olympics

Bolt, Jamaica take gold in men's relay

"World's fastest man" earns third gold medal; relay sets new world record with win

Associated Press

BEIJING — Yelling at his teammate after handing off the baton, Usain Bolt saw another world record in reach. It was just a matter of time.

Asafa Powell took the baton from Bolt and did the honors in the anchor leg of the men's 400-meter relay Friday, finishing the race in 37.10 seconds to shatter a 16-year-old mark and bring yet another gold medal home to Jamaica.

"It's wonderful," Bolt said. "You can't explain the feeling you feel after the greatest Olympics ever.

There's no other way to define it for the 6-foot-5, 22-year-old sprinter, the likes of which the world has never seen.

Three races. Three gold medals. Three world records.

That's never happened before.

Bolt also became only the fourth man, and the first since Carl Lewis in 1984, to win all three Olympic sprint events.

His three gold medals are exceeded in these games only by the record eight for American swimmer Michael Phelps. British cyclist Chris Hoy and Chinese gymnast Zou Kai of China also won three.

Bolt got to share his final chapter with Powell, who held the world record in the 100 for about three years before Bolt took it over in May — then broke it again last Saturday in a hot-dogging 9.69 seconds at the Bird's Nest.

After finishing fifth in the last two Olympic 100s, Powell had the reputation as a great runner who couldn't handle pressure.

By the time he took the handoff from Bolt, his first Olympic medal was secure. It was a only a matter of chasing history. Just as Bolt had done when he ran 19.30 in the 200 to break Michael Johnson's mark, Powell drove hard to the finish, leaning at the line, and then looked at the clock.

37.10.

That was 0.3 second better than the mark first set by an American team featuring Lewis and Leroy Burrell at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 and tied at the world championships a year later.

"I pushed myself to help Usain and his quest for three gold medals," Powell said.

Powell crossed 0.96 second ahead of Trinidad and Tobago's Richard Thompson — the biggest margin in the Olympics since 1966. Japan took the bronze.

"We simply couldn't compete," said Thompson's teammate, Marc Burns. "The United States didn't qualify for the final after dropping the baton in qualifying.

America's absence from this race because of the baton mishap eliminated any real competition for the Jamaicans. But even bad Tyson Gay and Co. been on the track, it's hard to imagine anyone beating a team with Bolt and Powell.

It was still a race after Nesta Carter and Michael Brater completed the first two legs. But moments after Frater handed off to Bolt, the race became a rout. And when Bolt handed off to Powell, Powell's quest became very much like Bolt's was two nights previous in the 200 — not simply to win, but to own a slice of history.

When the race ended, Bolt greeted Powell. They hugged and found some Jamaican flags to wear around their shoulders as the familiar reggae music filled the stadium.

While Bolt finished a perfect Olympics with the relay, the Jamaican women fell one race short of only the second 6-for-6 sweep by any country in Olympic sprint history and only because they beat themselves.

Sherone Simpson and Kerron Stewart botched the handoff between the second and third legs and Jamaica didn't finish the race won by Russia. Still, nobody beat the Jamaicans in any sprint they finished at these games.

Counting a gold in the women's 400 hurdles, Jamaica has six gold medals with one day left. That's one more than the United States, which won its fifth when Bryan Clay wrapped up the decathlon title moments before the men's relay.

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SMC SOCCER

Belles welcome new head coach, players

Crabbe, former assistant coach at Saint Mary's State University, has high hopes for SMC

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

When Saint Mary's returns to the field this season, their sideline will feature some new faces. Ryan Crabbe will take over the reins of the program this season, replacing Caryn MacKenzie as the Belles' new head coach. Crabbe will become the 15th full-time soccer coach at Saint Mary's.

"I think this is a great time for Saint Mary's soccer," Crabbe said. "Having a full-time coach means having a full-time resource. It shows a greater commitment to the student-athletes on and off the college.

Crabbe will have a strong nucleus of 12 veterans and 12 newcomers to work with this season as he attempts to improve on last year's 7-5-2 record and fifth-place finish in the NIAA.

"My immediate goal will be bringing together our team of returning players and new players. Finding out their strengths and weaknesses and evaluating them as players will be the number one priority heading into the season," he said. "Long term, my goal for this team is to compete for and win the conference championship and ultimately play for a berth in the NCAA Tournament."

Before being hired at Saint Mary's, Crabbe served as the assistant coach at Columbus State University for three seasons. During his tenure with the Cougars, he helped guide them to consecutive Peach Belt tournament championships in 2006 and 2007. In addition to their post-season success, Columbus State had prepared their conference's regular season title throughout all three seasons he was there.

"I think this is a great time for Saint Mary's soccer," Crabbe said. "My immediate goal will be improving on last year's 8-6-3 record, and making the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1996.

"In terms of transitioning from assistant to head coach, there is certainly a large increase in responsibility both on and off the field. I am excited about the opportunity because I feel like the experience gained from my last program has prepared me for this chance," he said.

Saint Mary's is coming off their fourth winning season in the past five years and will be returning their two top scorers from 2007, Senior forward Lauren Hinton and Junior midfielder Katy Durkin.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker@nd.edu

OLYMPICS

Clay wins decathlon gold

Athlete becomes first American to win the event since Atlanta games

 Associated Press

BEIJING — Bryan Clay sat on the track, then plopped on his back, chest heaving. The American's head was resting on the track, and his left hand was stretched off beyond the finish line he had just crossed as the Olympic decathlon gold medalist.

Four years after setting a new world record in the 100-meter hurdles, Clay finished with 8,791 points to win the 10-discipline event.

Andrei Krauchanka of Belarus took the silver with 8,551, and Leonel Suarez of Cuba was third with 8,527.

Roman Sebule of the Czech Republic, the 2004 Olympic and 2005 world champion, finished sixth.

The 6-foot-11, 185-pound Clay is the first American to win the decathlon since Dan O'Brien at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

The event began Thursday morning in the rain and finished on a muddy hill at the Bird's Nest with the javelin and 1,500 meters.

Already holding a comfortable lead, Clay was able to take it relatively easy in the event-ending 1,500, finishing in 5 minutes, 6.9 seconds.

In his three events during Friday's daytime session, Clay was second-fastest in the 110-meter hurdles at 13.93 seconds, set an Olympic best in the discus at 176 feet, 5 inches (53.79 meters), then cleared 16-4 3/4 (5.00 meters) in the pole vault, tied for second-best in the competition.

Trey Hardee, NCAA champion for Texas in 2005 and runner-up to Clay at this year's U.S. trials, was a close fourth through seven events but failed to clear his opening height in the pole vault and did not finish.

He missed three times at 15-4 7/40 meters, spilling in each attempt for the United States to win two medals in the decathlon for the first time since Milt Campbell and Rafer Johnson won 1-2 at the 1956 Melbourne Games.

Clay led the decathlon overall standings since winning the first event, the 100 meters, in a driving rain.

Ukrainian's medal stripped

Associated Press

BEIJING — Lyudmila Dobrynska of Ukraine was stripped of her Olympic heptathlon silver medal and her highest-profile athlete kicked out of the Beijing Games so far for doping.

The International Olympic Committee said Dobrynska tested positive for the steroid metandienone after finishing second in the heptathlon last Saturday behind teammate Natalia Dobrynska.

Blonska was temporarily suspended by the IOC on Thursday, and her medal was officially removed Friday by the IOC executive board.

Blonska, who blamed her coach and husband for the positive test, also was dropped from Friday's long jump final after finishing third in qualifying earlier in the week. Nigeria's Blessing Okagbare advanced to the final in her place and won the bronze medal Friday.

The IOC also has asked the International Association of Athletics Federations to adjust the heptathlon results and consider further sanctions against Blonska.

The Ukrainian Olympic committee was ordered to return Blonska's medal "as soon as possible."

American Hyleas Fountain is in line to take the silver with Russia's Tatiana Chernova moving from fourth to bronze.

The IOC also reserved the right to take sanctions against Blonska's coach and husband, Sergei Blonsky.

The 30-year-old Blonska faces a lifetime ban for a second doping offense. She was suspended from 2002-05 for using the steroid stanozolol.

Blonska's backup "B" sample came back positive Thursday.

Write sports.
Contact Bill at wbrink@nd.edu

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National City
REDEEM TEAM DEFEATS ARGENTINA IN SEMIFINALS

Carmelo Anthony scores 21; United States wins 101-81, moves on to face Spain in the gold-medal game

Associated Press

BEIJING — The climb back to the top is nearly complete. One more win and U.S. basketball is golden again.

The Americans ended their streak of final four flops and Argentina’s hopes of an Olympic gold-medal repeat, starting fast and finishing strong in a 101-81 semifinal victory Friday. All that is left is what the U.S. players consider: a gold medal.

The United States scored 21 of the first 25 points, got a big break when Argentina star Manu Ginobili reinjured his left ankle, and surged into its first gold-medal game in eight years.

There is still 40 minutes to go, but this U.S. team looks good as gold. All the Americans have to do now is beat Spain, who they clobbered by 37 points in pool play, on Sunday to win their first gold in a major international event since the 2000 Olympics.

What followed was a frustrating and even depressing stretch in which they could not even make the podium in the 2002 world championships, then managed only bronze medals after losing in the semis of the 2004 Athens Games and 2006 worlds.

Carmelo Anthony and LeBron James were part of those bronze busts, and vowed they would leave China with gold. Anthony scored 21 points and James added 15, 13 in the second half.

Luis Scola scored 26 points for Argentina, which did not relinquish its title without a fight. Even without Ginobili for the final three and a half quarters, the Argentines cut a 21-point lead into single digits and frustrated the Americans with their physical play, but they did not have enough depth or firepower without their best player.

Lithuania and Argentina will meet Sunday for the bronze. Spain beat Lithuania 91-86 in the first semifinal.

When the Americans fell from the top of world basketball, it was Argentina as much as anyone who took their place — and hastened their fall. The Argentines, with Ginobili and Scola’s force, won gold in 2004 and silver in the 2002 world championships, beating the United States in both tournaments. The victory in Indianapolis was the first time a U.S. team lost with NBA players.

They knocked off the Americans again four years ago in the semis, and Bryant said two nights ago he wanted to face Argentina in this round.

Now Argentina’s time has passed. The Americans want their spot back.

The U.S. lead was already 10 points when Ginobili, who came in leading the tournament with 20.3 points per game, went down in a play away from the ball, limped to the sideline and took off his left sneaker after reinjuring the same ankle that slowed him so badly in the Western Conference finals.

The Americans extended the lead to 21-4 and were up by 21 early in the second quarter. But they went ice cold against Argentina’s zone, committed some silly fouls that gave away five points at the line, and saw the lead trimmed all the way down to 46-40 on a basket by Scola in the final minute of the half.

James was not with his teammates when the starting lineups were announced, having to sprint out from the back after his name was called. Then he was curiously absent in the first half, managing only two points.

He scored five quick ones in the third quarter, teaming with Dwight Howard to help the Americans break it open again. Anthony got mixed up in some chippy play with Scola and Andres Nocioni, but kept his poise and scored eight points in the final minutes.

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The Observer • SPORTS Saturday, August 23, 2008

United States forward Chris Bosh, 12, puts up a shot against Argentina’s Carlos Del Nero during the semifinal game Friday.

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Preseason hopes high despite last season’s results

Big East coaches ‘have not been in the gym’ with Irish; team won’t have superstars but will be balanced

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Coming off one of the most disappointing years in head coach Debbie Brown’s tenure, the Irish volleyball team is looking for vast improvement and a quick turnaround in the upcoming season.

“We are expecting a lot more from ourselves this year,” Brown said. “Last year was by far our worst finish since I have been here. We need to improve tremendously.”

The team has no shortage of expectations and goals this year. Brown said.

“We want to win the Big East and advance significantly in the NCAA tournament,” Brown said.

Standing in their way is an impressive Big East field, with the Irish ranked fourth behind Louisville, St. John’s and Cincinnati in the Big East preseason coaches poll. Brown said this ranking is more indicative of last year’s results, a 15-13 record and a second-round exit from the Big East tournament.

“Tremendous depth across the floor. The loss of two players like Adrianna and Ashley is hard to make up, but we will count on them with a very balanced and deep team,” Brown said.

Senior middle blocker Justine Stremick and junior outside hitter Serinity Phillips were both voted to the preseason all-Big East squad this year, improving on their second-team all Big East honors last year. Even with these accolades going to individual players, Brown said she doesn’t think they will have any players that stand out from the rest of the team. Instead she wants a more collective feel to the team, stressing balance and depth across the floor.

“I do not think we are going to have any superstars,” Brown said. “We are going to be balanced and deep.”

The new mantra for the team this year that Brown wants to get contributions from everyone. Joining the team will be a couple promising freshmen looking to make some of those contributions. Setter Beth Wildermuth, defensive specialist Frenchy Silva, middle blocker Megan Barnicle, and outside hitter Kristen Dealy are mixing well into the team in their first season.

“The freshmen are all doing outstanding,” Brown said. “So far they are fitting in well with the team and responding to coaching. I expect them to do a lot of contributing in the upcoming season.”

This combination of experienced upperclassmen and new freshman who can make an impact early will contribute to Brown’s mantra of balance and depth.

The Irish also excel off the court in the classroom, as they received The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award. To earn this award, the Irish had to score over a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point-average on a 4.0 scale. The Irish blew this away with a 3.44 cumulative team GPA over the last year.

“The team is really disciplined and put all they have into their academics. They are more serious about their academics than their volleyball,” Brown said.

Debbie Brown
Irish coach

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CONTACT JARED JEDICK AT jjedick@nd.edu
ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
With Allen gone, Irish need others to step up

Talented freshmen class, returning weapons will help fill the gap left by the starting guard and leading scorer

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

When guard Charel Allen graduated from Notre Dame in the spring, she left a seemingly gaping hole in the Irish program. Allen’s name is littered throughout the Irish record book, and she will go down as one of the best all-around players in Irish history, with 1,366 points, 656 rebounds, 239 assists and 206 steals in her career.

But Allen isn’t the only major personnel loss for the Irish for the 2008-09 campaign. Point guard Tuliayh Gaines also graduated, meaning both positions in the starting Irish backcourt will be up for grabs.

Despite these two key losses, Irish coach Muffet McGraw is confident that her team can reload quickly for another strong performance in the upcoming season. “When you lose your starting point guard and your leading scorer, it leaves a lot of holes,” she said. “That leaves a lot of opportunities for the freshmen.”

McGraw’s rookies this season mark another strong recruiting class for the Irish coach. In the last 12 years, only Notre Dame, Connecticut and Tennessee have had a Top 25 recruiting class every season.

Notre Dame added four players this year; guards Natalie Novosel and Frederica Miller and forwards Kellie Watson and Erica Solomon.

The freshmen, with an average height of just over 6 feet, add a significant amount of height to the roster. Fortunately, McGraw said she will not drastically change her gameplan for the season.

Another advantage the freshman class brings to the squad is its versatility, McGraw said. Watson, who is listed as a forward, played guard and forward in high school, including some time at the point. Solomon will add depth to the post, along with junior center Erica Williamson and sophomore forward Becca Bruszewski.

“Melissa Lechlitner will be the starting point guard. I am confident in her; she is a great leader from the point guard position,” McGraw said.

McGraw said the team’s goals this year remain the same, even with losing Allen and Gaines.

“We went to the Sweet 16 last year and we want to get back,” she said. “We would also like to do well in the Big East, which is something we did not do last year.”

In the 2008 Big East tournament, the Irish came in as the No. 3 seed, but fell in the second round to Pittsburgh 64-53.

Notes:
♦ McGraw received an contract extension at the end of last season, guaranteeing her a place at Notre Dame through the 2014-15 season.

Saturday (August 23) from 9:00 a.m. to Noon and Sunday (August 24) from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Golfers return from Ireland ready for fall

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

A leg up on the competition awaits the nine Notre Dame men's golf team that returned from its recent trip to Ireland.

Three returning members of the Notre Dame men's golf team came back to South Bend last Saturday after a week-long trip to Ireland. The Irish spent the week in Killarney, Co. Kerry, a picturesque town in southern Ireland.

In the words of this sports writer accompanying his Verdant Lakes-style golf courses in the links-style golf courses in the world, he was truly blessed to have the greatest courses in the world.

Golfers often battled heavy winds, which occasionally interrupted play, and played some of the most grueling matches of their career.

Randy Waldrum, Irish coach, said of Dew and Bock, "They are both key players for us who are also hardworking and dedicated players who just want to make you take it up a notch.

Jim Kubinski, Irish coach, said that coaching at Notre Dame was a dream come true. This is where I want to be, and it couldn't be at a better time...the future looks very bright.

Waldrum said his team's upperclassmen provide the leadership needed for a grueling sea-son.

in addition to the pair of captains, Waldrum said seniors like Hermans and Duncan provide the Irish with the leadership needed for a grueling sea-son.

Write Sports. E-mail Dan at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Freshmen

continued from page 32

to face national powers Santa Clara, North Carolina and Duke in early-season contests. "We're very excited. We've beaten a big, big schedule," Waldrum said. Despite the tough schedule, the Irish have won four of five matches.

Waldrum said his team needs more depth and men provide the Irish with the leadership needed for a grueling sea-son.

Carrie Dow and Britany Buck have been voted "Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year". "They are two good selections," Waldrum said. "Carrie Dow and Britany Buck are both key players for us who are also hardworking and dedicated players who just want to make you take it up a notch.

Contact Evan Tobin at etobin@nd.edu

NFL

Union head Upshaw dies

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gene Upshaw was a punishing blocker who intimidated opponents on the field. Off it, his power was great.

A Hall of Fame guard for the Oakland Raiders, Upshaw died Wednesday at age 63 from pancreatic cancer, an illness he only learned about Sunday. His death cut short a 25-year, post-playing career as union boss in which he led NFL players to riches that would have been almost unimaginable when he was a rookie in 1966.

"The Raider organization, the National Football League, and the world have lost a great man," Raiders founder Al Davis said. "He is as prominent a sportsman as the world has known.

The unexpected nature of Upshaw's death shocked people throughout the NFL. That was a towering man who played 15 years — all for an Oakland team that reached the Super Bowl three times and won twice.

Upshaw died Wednesday night at his home near California's Lake Tahoe, the NFL Players Association said Thursday. His wife Terri and sons Eugene Jr., Justin and Daniel were by his side. NFLPA president and Tennessee Titans center Kevin Mawae said Upshaw was diagnosed Sunday after he fell ill and his wife took him to the hospital.

In the wake of his death, many of those who had made him the focal point for their complaints about pension and health benefits for retired players softened the rhetoric and offered their respect for Upshaw.

As a player, the seven-time Pro Bowler was one of the best ever, elected to the Hall of Fame in 1987, the first time he was eligible. That also was the year Upshaw led the second players' strike in five years, a short walkout that led to the embarrassing spectacle of games with replacement players, or "scab football" as it was jokingly called at the time.

By 1989, while the union was pressing in court for the league to implement a limited form of free-agency, called Plan B. A new, seven-year contract was finally worked out in 1993, bringing in a new age of free agency and salary caps.

That will go down as Upshaw's legacy because it brought prosperity to both union members and owners, leaving many of today's players appreciating Upshaw as a labor leader without knowing much about his playing career. Brandon Moore, the New York Jets player representative was 2 years old when Upshaw retired and said simply: "From what I hear, he was a pretty good player."

What Upshaw did for Moore, and his counterparts is make them money — the salary cap for this season is $116 million and the players are making close to 60 percent of the 32 teams' total revenues, as specified in the 2006 labor agreement. The players will be paid $4.5 billion this year, according to owners.

That sum led the owners to opt out in May from the collective bargaining agreement, meaning that if no new deal is reached, there will be an unlock year in 2010, the season before the contract is expected to expire.
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3 – 5 p.m.
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There will be food (you’ll learn to take advantage of this).
**Frozen**

continued from page 32

finished. They think that they got a taste of what it's like to play in the Frozen Four and get to see the Irish coach, Jack Jackson. "Now they've got to go through the work of trying to get back there again."

The road to Washington, D.C., is where this year's Frozen Four will be held, beginning with the Irish travel to face Denver in the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Game. After a pair of home nonconference showdowns with Sacred Heart on Oct. 17 and Saturday, August 23, 2008 The Observer.

Jackson said. "Now they've get so close," Irish coach Jeff with Sacred Heart on Oct. 17-

College on Nov. 7 — the circled on the calendars of CCIIA slate with two home begins Oct. 11, w h en  the D.C., w h ere th is y e a r 's play in the Frozen Four and going to be an exciting game, T h o s e

Jackson said, Erik Condra, who missed w ith the intensity playing with

Jackson said. "I think football is really important to him and obvi­ously he's talented. Even though he's going to make some mistakes along the way as a young guy, he does a good job of not making the same mistake over and I think that shows a lot of maturity of player's part and it also shows how important it is to him.

Soccer

continued from page 32

luck."

Not downplaying this year's team, Clark also said that he believes the 2008 Irish, like the teams of the past two seasons, are talented enough to compete for the national title. For the Irish to break through and reach the program's first Final Four, the one major hurdle that will have to be crossed will be the back line. Clark said. "I honestly feel that, "If needed, every one of the freshmen could step in and play."

Jeff Jackson

continued from page 32

Fresh Start

continued from page 32

Since he was thinner than the coaching staff wanted him as a senior in high school, he underwent surgery and worked out to get healthier for the upcoming season. This season, Jackson is led by mid­fielder Michael Rose and midfielder Adam Longfellow. Jackson while 6-foot-11 senior Luke Zeller will be called upon to do a lot of the defense's work due to his height on Notre Dame's defense that left with Kurz. Once the 2009 season begins, no conference play this season, "I honestly feel that, if needed, every one of the freshmen could step in and play," Jackson said.

Contact Morgan Abbagno at gabaghan@nd.edu

Note: Irish sophomore tight end Mike Ragone had surgery to repair a torn ACL and is expected to miss the entire season.

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

**Ireland**

continued from page 32

regardless of who started, both saw upwards of 20 minutes per game in the 7-1 victory over the Volunteers. Johnson, who started every game as a midfielder, was named the game's MVP.

The rest of the incoming class includes talent across all positions. Midfielder/forward Michael Rose and midfielder Adam Longfellow. Jackson while 6-foot-11 senior Luke Zeller will be called upon to do a lot of the defense's work due to his height on Notre Dame's defense that left with Kurz. Once the 2009 season begins, no conference play this season, "I honestly feel that, if needed, every one of the freshmen could step in and play," Jackson said.

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**Fresh Start**

continued from page 32

**Soccer**

continued from page 32

"When you're playing with the intensity that you're playing in the NCAA Tournament, you get banged up, and that's kind of price that you've got to pay to get back there."

Jeff Jackson

irish coach

"I honestly feel that, if needed, every one of the freshmen could step in and play."

Bobby Clark

Irish coach

"No question for leaves big shoes to fill. With that being said, you can define a variety of ways," Clark said. "It can be one person scoring a lot of goals or a lot of people scoring a few goals. I think we have the potential."

In addition to the uppersclassmen, Clark will be looking to integrate another talented freshman class — one ranked No. 12 by College Soccer News. Comprised of seven freshmen, the class is led by mid­fielder Brendan King.

A member of the 2007 U-17 World Cup team as well as a two-time NSCAA All­American. After enrolling at Notre Dame last spring, King was ready to contribute right away.

"We were lucky enough to get him in here in January, so he's got that advantage over the other players," Clark said. "He's someone who should be looking for some serious time."

Clark added that competition for playing time would be tough, he gave his incoming freshmen a vote of confidence.

"I honestly feel that, if needed, every one of the freshmen could step in and play," Clark said.

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**Ireland**

continued from page 32

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Best Wishes
for the 2008-2009 Academic Year
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Vice President for Student Affairs
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631-7284

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Associate VP for Student Affairs
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Assistant VP for Student Activities
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The Observer is looking for artists interested in designing a daily comic. If you are interested, e-mail Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu or call 574-631-4541.

Crossword

Across
1 Restraint
6 Project Blue Book subject
9 Ex
17 Hospital count
18 Turns around, as a mast
19 Abbe de I'...
20 “Who...”
23 “Who...” (common riddle ending)
26 Largest geological division
27 “Don't worry...
28 See 20-Across
30 Monteverdi
32 Like frittatas
33 Sun, descoun
34 Year in the reign of Judah in the Old Testament
35 Answers the call, maybe
37 Affluent duo?
39 Fortuneteller
43 Satisfied reactions
46 Suits with profit
47 Movie featuring Peter O'Toole as Pharsa
51 Kentucky's Athlete of the Year (2007)
53 Goose egg
55 “Bells...”
56 See 20-Across
58 With 56-Across, ending
67 Concerning
68 Out to
69 Spin
70 Frequent gift for a PBS donation

Down
1 Trucker's place
2 Resort to
3 N.H.L. team at Joe Louis Arena
4 Big party
5 Pulls the plug on
6 Fine metal openwork
7 Reproductive seed
8 Tricked
9 “Odyssey,” for one
10 Attrach (to)
11 Tuscan city
12 Canines that bite
13 Comparatively noisy
14 Watch the connection
15 Winestem
16 Disease
17 Gold coin
18 Musical instrument
19 Suffix with profit
21 Bass
22 Bottom-of-letter abbr.
23 One with a stabling service
24 Ascend gift given
25 Answers the call
26 Like worms
28 See 20-Across
29 Answers the call
31 Takes off
35 Answers the call
36 Shootout
38 Plan for nuptials
39 Musician who created the Windows 95
tuneup sound
40 Power tool in woodworking
41 Watch the connection
42 Disease
43 Satisfied
45 Power tool in woodworking
46 Avant-garde
47 Changeable on woodwork
48 Changeable on woodwork
49 “What...” (snippy reply)
50 Uk., once
51 California's Santa...Park
52 Kosher
53 Goose egg
54 “Middleme...”
55 “What...?”
56 See 20-Across
57 MacLachlan of “Desperate Housewives”
58 With 66-Across, Egyptian agricultural area
59 “What...?”
60 Like worms
61 Computer unveiled in 1946
62 Cold feet
63 Goose egg
64 “Middleme...”
65 “What...?"
66 See 58-Down
68 Out to
69 Spin
70 Frequent gift for a PBS donation

Horoscope

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Try not to look like a skank.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Use the word dingle in a sentence. Try not to say it to someone with a dingleberry; he or she will blush.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Wear those leaves, former gophers.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Anyone who relies on TMZ for news is an idiot. Sorry, their stories have been classified as news too often lately. Stupid, man.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
If you wanna make that dollah or dem dollahs, call (713) 569-2690.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Calm down, you locust.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
Are you part of the J. Crew?

Aries (March 21-Apr. 19)
Don't misbehave. It was okay before but Heath Ledger is watching you now (from below).

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)
Search “Bling Bing” on YouTube if you can handle having your life changed.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
Have an individual patty.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
Out of 300 million swimmers, how were you the fastest?

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Hey Leo... LEO the Lion goes GER! If you know what that means, stand up and remove the pole.

The Observer

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Name
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FOOTBALL

Let's try this again

Young talent, more experience provide a positive outlook after 3-9 season

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Despite Notre Dame's disappoint­ ing 2007 season, it can expect a bovy of freshmen to enter the full ready to compete. With one of the top-ranked recruiting classes in the nation, this could be exactly the case. On the offensive side of the ball, Michael Foyd, Kyle Rudolph and Trevor Robinson have the best chance to see playing time early in the season.

Foyd, from Minnesota's Grot­ i Durham-Hall, is a 6-foot-3 wider receiver with reliable hands and considered speed. He was ranked the No. 1 high school recruit in the nation by Scout.com and largely consid­ ered the best football player in the state of Minnesota.

Earlier this summer, Floyd had the opportunity to work with his new teammates and participate in 7-on-7's. The results have the Irish coaching staff excited.

"The feedback on Michael Floyd from Jimmy [Clapson] has been through the roof," Irish head coach Charlie Weis said. "[Floyd] doesn't look like a freshman. He looks like an upperclassman that's been around a long time. You look at him and say that's what I'm talking about." Floyd said the team had an excit­ ing and positive outlook towards the season.

"I just feel like the team is fired up," he said on freshmen media day on Aug. 22. "They're just show­ ing a lot of emotion." Rudolph was ranked the No. 1 tight end in the nation by Scout.com and hails from Elder High School from Cincinnati, Ohio. The first feature that strikes an observer is his height — he's 6-foot­ 6.

see FRESH START/page 29

HOCKEY

ND looking for Frozen Four repeat

By MATT GAMBER
Assistant Sports Editor

After their remarkable NCAA Tournament run ended in a 4-1 national championship game loss to Boston College, the Irish have officially reload­ ed. Notre Dame returns 18 letter winners, including eight of its nine top scorers and all-CCHA goal­ tender Jordan Pearce. Add to that mix a heralded group of seven freshmen, led by U.S. Under-18 teammates Patrick Gauland and Sean Lorenz and the Irish are among the nation's favorites to return to the Frozen Four.

"I think that seeing the response from how last season went, the Irish are looking forward to starting the season right away as the Irish are slated to play six weeks before the season opener," said MATT GAMBER. "But this season, the Irish return four starters from a team that finished 25-8-2, including Big East player of the year Luke Harangody and first-team Big East selection Kyle McAlarney. Many analysts have consistently ranked the Irish among the top-10 teams in the country in the 2008-09 preseason polls.

To get his team ready to face such high expectations, coach Mike Brey has changed the way his team approaches its offsea­ son and non-conference schedule.

Currently, the team is taking an international trip to Ireland as part of the Emerald Hoops Tour. The trip has given them a chance to get their team together in the gym earlier than normal and try some different lineup combinations.

So far on the trip, the Irish have picked up where they left off in terms of offensive produc­ tion — scoring 90-plus points in their four victories. It's also the first time sopho­ mores Tyrone Nash and Carleton Scott have seen significant min­ utes as they compete to fill the void in the rotation left by the graduation of Bob Kurz.

Through Notre Dame's first three games on the tour, Scott has averaged 11.3 points, while Nash has averaged five points per game. The box score was not available for Notre Dame's fourth game, a 90-88 win over Ireland.

Aside from Harangody and McAlarney, the Irish return jun­ior guard Tory Jackson, an excellent rebounder given his 5­ foot-11 height, who averaged eight points, 5.1 rebounds and 5.8 assists. Sharpshooter Ryan Ayers and versatile forward Zach Hillesland also return. The two were key contributors last sea­son — Ayers started most of the first half of the year before Hillesland took over — but the team is looking for more experience provide a positive outlook after 3-9 season

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish have high aspirations after returning all but one player

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

This year, there's no sneaking up on anyone.

Two years ago, Notre Dame was picked to finish 11th in the Big East; the Irish finished fourth. Last year, they were picked ninth and finished tied for seventh.

But this season, the Irish have high aspirations after returning all but one player... Some of the other freshmen will also have the opportunity to earn playing time.

The freshmen will be intro­duced to top-tier competition right away as the Irish are slated to play six weeks before the season opener.

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Early non-conference slate will test squad

By FRAN TOLAN
Assistant Sports Editor

After reaching the national semifinals last year, Notre Dame will have to overcome a difficult schedule to duplicate that suc­cess. But the Irish have the per­sonnel to do it.

Nine freshmen join a stacked team that made it to the College Cup before falling to Florida State a year ago.

"We've got a very good group of [freshmen] coming in," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "Four or five of them might step in and play a lot right away." Among the newcomers, for­ward Melissa Henderson adds to the plethora of talent on Notre Dame's roster.

"In most recruiting circles, she's the player of the year," Waldrum said of Henderson, a fellow Texan.

Waldrum said Kansas City natives Molly Campbell and Ellen Jantusch should also put in mean­ ingful minutes for the Irish. Campbell and Jantusch both hail from St. Teresa's, the same high school that sophomore Lauren Fowlkes attended. Last season, Fowlkes stepped in as a fresh­man to help anchor Notre Dame's defense. Waldrum said he hopes that Campbell and Jantusch can have the same type of impact.

The coach said that several other freshmen will also have the opportunity to earn playing time.

"We have a very, very deep group. Some of the other freshmen could slide right in for us in the future as they get a little more experience.

The freshmen will be intro­duced to top-tier competition right away as the Irish are slated to play six weeks before the season opener.