Leaders discuss building credibility

Panelists argue Central American democracies risk losing structure in face of problems

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

Panelists participating in a Kellogg Institute-sponsored discussion of "The Future of Democracy in Central America" agreed Central American democracies risk losing their governmental structure if they do not do something to improve their credibility.

Building credibility in government is not something that can be achieved instantly, according to panelist Ricardo Maduro Joest, who was president of Honduras from 2002 to 2006. During his presidency, he fought frequently with the nation's teachers in his quest to improve the nation's education. In negotiations with the teachers, Maduro said that "more often than not, we had to go find Cardinal Rodriguez to verify the fairness of an agreement because they didn't believe in anyone else."

"Who can we believe in? What can we fall back on?" are some of the questions that people ask when they feel that their government is not trustworthy, according to Maduro.

Richardo Maduro Joest, left, Autoro Cruz, middle, and Otton Solis discussed Central American Democracy Thursday.

Groups hope Obama will close Gitmo

Students argue new administration should prioritize ending human rights violations

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Notre Dame is bringing a green theme to one of its most treasured traditions — a football Saturday. This weekend's football game will be the University's first ever carbon neutral game.

This weekend, the Office of Sustainability will make the game carbon neutral by using efficiency projects that reduce carbon emissions to offset the emissions normally produced at a game. Various projects throughout the year have increased efficiency and reduced carbon emissions, and those reductions will be allocated towards making the game carbon neutral.

Novick cited the student-initiated gameday recycling project as a major contributor to reducing carbon emissions. "Recycling really saves a lot of energy," she said. "Probably the most extreme case is that of an aluminum can. It takes 95 percent more energy to make a new aluminum can —"

Disability seminar hosts art show

Students team up with Logan Center as part of course project

By JOSEPH McMAMON
Assistant News Editor

Students in the College of Arts and Letters Disability seminar hosted "Art from the Heart," a showcase of paintings and photographs by the disabled clients of the Logan Center, Thursday evening in O'Shaugnessy Hall.

Professor Essaka Joshua said her 10 students had to design a project with the clients of the Logan Center as a course requirement.

"It's developed as a project which is part of the assessment for the college seminar on disability," she said.

Students from the Disability seminar pose for a picture in the O'Shaugnessy's Great Hall, where the art show was held.

Seniors prepare for final home game

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Tomorrow's matchup against Syracuse marks the last home-game of the 2008 football season, leading Notre Dame's senior to reflect on their time at the University.

Senior Laura Schwartz said most seniors would consider the 2005 game against USC the best they saw while sitting in the student section.

"You'd be hard pressed to find a senior who doesn't say the USC game," Schwartz said. "We defeated the Fighting Irish after running back Reggie Bush posted quarterback Matt Leinart into the end zone to score a last second touchdown.

Senior Jimmy Champlin agreed. "I felt like the USC game was really important," he said.

Champlin said. "I felt that part of what makes a game in the student section special is the knowledge that you only have a few." Senior Kadeja Gaines said she
Christmas
soon

I love Christmas. I mean, who doesn't? However, I love Thanksgiving more and it makes me sad that it has become Christmas season half time. Christmas songs have already taken over the radio, Christmas shows are beginning to play on the television, and we have all seen the holiday aisles in the stores. So, when did this happen? It confuses me how every year people complain about the early onslaught of Christmas, yet every year it comes sooner and sooner.

I think the first, and most annoying of the early holiday strikes, is the music. There are already whole stations devoted to the cheery tunes. Christmas music, no matter how happy it makes me, gets old. Too much of anything is not good, and the three and a half weeks after Thanksgiving can even be too much. I put on Perry Como as help my family decorate the tree, and of course "Red Skelton" will randomly play on my iPod. I can even take it all day Christmas Eve, but to hear Jingle Bells before the turkey hits the table is just too much for me.

My new grievance with the early attack of Christmas décor is the holiday items that go up in the stores as soon as Halloween costumes are taken down. As a matter of fact, I was shopping for a costume and I ran into three aisles of outdoor Christmas lights. I couldn't believe it. We all complain every year that Santa Claus starts popping up sooner and sooner, but every year I hold out hope that there has to be a limit. Clearly, stores want to make as much money as possible, but how much of these things are they really selling in October? I don't know what worries me more, the fact that they think we will buy decorations so early, or that we actually are buying them and that is why they are already out.

Lastly, are Christmas commercials. They infuriate the networks earlier and earlier each year, not to be outdone by their fellow mediums. Advertising companies solicit us to subsidize our selfish buying habits, and buy presents for others instead. Making needless items necessary for our family and friends. What other time of the year do we spend a vast portion of our money to buy things that we aren't really sure will be liked and that will often be returned? I love presents, but I prefer the ones that have thought put into them more than money. Then again, that probably stems from my poor college student budget. Most of my family and friends will be getting smiles and hugs from me come December.

Please don't misunderstand, however, as I said, I love Christmas. But I love it most because of its uniqueness. It only comes once a year and that makes it special. People are thinking of others, making time to spend with each other, and in general happy with Christmas cheer. I just don't want the novelty of Christmas to wear off before the day even gets here.

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

Contact: Ashley Charnley at acharn01@stmarys.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

THE QUESTION OF THE DAY:

JET-PUFFED OR GENERIC MARSHMALLOWS?

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<tr>
<td>All Buch</td>
<td>Senior off-campus</td>
<td>&quot;Jet-Puffed, because Notre Dame is all about tradition.&quot;</td>
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<td>Bethany O'Connor</td>
<td>Senior off-campus</td>
<td>&quot;Generic, because you're going to throw them away anyways.&quot;</td>
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<td>Jon Heinz</td>
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<td>&quot;Generic - more will fit in my flask.&quot;</td>
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<td>Kevin Sonn</td>
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<td>&quot;I'm not bringing any marshmallows.&quot;</td>
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<td>Ryan Oakley</td>
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IN BRIEF

Notre Dame Women's Basketball will compete against Minnesota in the NCAA Fourth Round Tournament today at 7:30 p.m. on Alumni Field.

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony for Harper Hall, the new home of expanded medical and cancer research initiatives at the Indiana University School of Medicine - South Bend and Notre Dame, today at 10 a.m. adjacent to Raclin-Carmichael Hall on the corner of Angela Boulevard and Notre Dame Avenue.

The Graduate Student Union will be holding a Graduate Research Symposium from 3-5 p.m. today on the second floor of McKenna Hall. It is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Student Life is having an event called FlipSide: Meijer Madness today at 9:45 p.m. Students who would like to participate need to meet at Library Circle. It is a free scavenger hunt, food, contests, and shopping at the supermarket.

Arts and Entertainment is going to have a concert with the Anonymous 4: "Long Time Traveling" on Sunday at 2 p.m. in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $38 for general admission and $15 for students.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu
We don’t work for the College, Barry Bowles, general manager of Sodexo at Saint Mary’s College, invited students to come to an open forum held Thursday night in the Student Center.

“First things first, we are a contract food service company. We don’t work for the College, per se,” Bowles said.

Sodexo is the second largest food service company in the United States and Saint Mary’s is a client of the company, he said.

One of the largest issues addressed was the lack of communication between students and the dining hall. The company is working on ways of improving this problem, Bowles said.

“One thing I want to point out, food services are probably one of the worst ones on campus on getting the word out,” Bowles said. “In order to improve the communication problem, Karen Johnson, Vice President of Student Affairs, suggested adding updates on the student homepage. This would allow students to know when popular menu items will be served in the dining hall daily.

Executive chef, Ken Aesta, said it was hard to determine what variety of food to offer. “We don’t really know what everybody wants, but we get the varieties out there so that everybody can put together what they want,” Aesta said.

Although the dining hall cannot accommodate everyone, Bowles said the opportunity for variety is there if students get creative with it. “If you ask, they should be able to get it for you,” Bowles said.

The issue of communication again was addressed because students do not know all the services available to them in the dining hall. For instance, at the grill, hamburgers are served, but students can ask for grilled fish or chicken as well, Bowles said.

Bowles also addressed the boycott that was held against the dining hall in mid-October of this year. Two students anonymously slid fliers under the doors of student rooms calling for students to not eat in the dining hall.

What hurt me more than anything is that I didn’t know,” Bowles said.

He stressed his open-door policy for student concerns and issues and that comment cards are available to students.

“Feedback is feedback. It can only make things better,” Barry Bowles, general manager, Sodexo.

In trying to improve communication, the forum addressed the lack of communication problem, Bowles said.

To improve the communication of the spring semester that would allow him to get more input on student needs in the dining hall. With only ten students in attendance at this forum, Bowles would like to see increased interest as the year progresses.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

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Rescue plan for auto industries collapses

WASHINGTON — The $25 billion rescue plan for the auto industry, desperately sought by Detroit’s beleaguered Big Three, collapsed Thursday as Congress drew the line at one more bailout and Democrats said they wouldn’t even consider it until the companies produced a convincing plan for rebuilding their once-mighty industry.

The demise of the rescue — at least for now — left uncharacteristic of General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC, and sent Wall Street spiraling to its lowest level in years. The Dow Jones industrials dropped 445 points, the second straight plunge of more than 400, and hit the lowest point in nearly six years.

The carmakers have been clobbered by lackluster sales and choked credit, and are battling to stay afloat through year’s end. Failure of one or more of the Big Three would be a severe further blow to the floundering economy — and to many Americans’ view of the nation’s industrial strength — and throw a million or more additional workers off the job.

Just Thursday, the government reported that laid-off workers’ new claims for jobless aid had reached a 16-year high and the number of Americans searching for work had soared past 10 million. Congress approved a measure to extend jobless benefits through the holidays.

But Democratic leaders scapped votes on the auto rescue, postponing until next month a politically tricky decision on whether to approve yet another unpopular bailout at a time of economic peril, or risk being blamed for the implosion of an industry that employs millions and has broad reach across all aspects of the U.S. economy.

“Until they show us a plan, we cannot show them the money,” Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said at a hastily called news conference in the Capitol.

GM and Ford quickly issued statements promising to submit the blueprint the Democrats demanded. Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D Nev., said Congress might return to work in early December for a vote on and in the carmakers — but only if they show Congress they could use the funds to transform their struggling industry into a viable one.

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Graduate students present research

By EMMA DRISCOLL

Students curious to learn about the different types of research Notre Dame's wide variety of graduate students perform have the opportunity to attend the First Graduate Research Symposium today on the second floor of O'Shaughnessy Hall from 3 to 5 p.m.

"The Graduate Research Symposium has two goals. One is to provide graduate students with a professional development opportunity the second is to highlight the kind of work that graduate students do in the university," Caitlyn Shea, Graduate Student Union co-vice president and Ph.D. candidate in Civil Engineering, said.

Shea said presenting and communicating research is a "primary role" of graduate students, but it is not uncommon for graduate students to not know what other graduate students are studying.

"Many different specific disciplines or departments will have their own research symposia," Shea said. "This is the first one that is open to all divisions of the graduate school."

The Graduate Research Symposium will seek to remedy that by creating a forum for graduate students to discuss their work with others who are interested.

"The goal is to provide an opportunity for graduate students, faculty, undergraduates or published University students to learn what graduate students do," Shea said.

Shea said since many graduate students are "largely unaware" of what their fellow graduate students are studying, it is likely that the rest of the Notre Dame community is also unaware.

"It's not unexpected that the rest of the University community wouldn't know about some of the exciting and innovative projects going on around campus," she said.

Undergraduate students can also attend the symposium to learn more about possible research areas that they could pursue in graduate school, according to Shea, particularly since she said University President Fr. John Jenkins encourages undergraduates to consider attending graduate school.

Presenters competed to be part of the symposium. A total of sever­e­ven graduate students submitted abstracts of their research in hope of being present­ers at the symposium. Twenty-seven students were selected, and each will display their paper to present their research at the symposium.

"It's kind of an informal environment," Shea said.

Guests will be able to walk around and see the posters describing the various research projects. This structure gives visitors the opportunity to be flexible with their schedules and choose to learn about the research that most interests them, Shea said.

Students will present research in the divisions of Sciences, Social Sciences, Engineering and Humanities. There will also be a division for the 2008 Notre Dame Forum topic of Sustainable Energy. One winner in each division will receive a prize of $500.

Each division has a panel of judges and we have judges from the administration, faculty and students, Shea said.

The Graduate Research Symposium is open to the public and will be held in conjunction with the meeting for the Graduate School Advisory Council, Shea said.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscoll@nd.edu

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Crafts sale helps developing nations

Local fair trade store selling goods from artisans all around the world

By SARAH MAYER

If you're looking to get ahead on your Christmas shopping and support a good cause in the process, stop by O'Shaughnessy Hall, where fairly traded crafts made by artisans in developing nations are being sold from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today.

Ten Thousand Villages, a local fair trade store, works with 60,000 artisans from 36 different countries, said assistant manager Cheryl Schairer, creating a "long-term relationship" with artisans so that they can have a sustainable income to provide for their families.

Schairer said Ten Thousand Villages is unique in that they pay artisans fair wages before their products are sold, and then "it's up to us to sell it." "Unlike most other companies that send money back if the product sells," she said.

Ten Thousand Villages is selling its products in honor of International Student Week, including a tea light made by the professor and her husband, Ann-Marie Conrado.

Conrado designed her product—a small copper tea light shaped like a lotus flower— in 2003 in Nepal. It is designed to float in water, such as in a pool. Because it is made of copper, "you'll have this wonderful glow which tint" that comes to resemble the flower the longer it stays in the water, Conrado said.

Conrado's product alone has helped to revive the dying copper industry in Nepal and since the creation of her product, the employment in the copper industry in Tansen-Palpa, Nepal has increased dramatically, she said.

"It has quadrupled in size just based on the orders of that single light," Conrado said. "Conrado receives no profit, and said she does this because she wants to "use design to help support other people."

In addition to Conrado's tea light, the Ten Thousand Village stand in O'Shaughnessy hall is selling an array of handmade crafts, including chocolate and coffee made from fairly traded beans, teapots, soap, scarves, wooden sculptures, plates made of recycled magazines, and jewelry.

Jewelry has been one of the best sellers at Notre Dame, assistant manager Cheryl Schairer said.

Conrado said that another opportunity to buy fair trade products is coming up on Dec. 5 in Radin Hall.

"We're going to be doing A Conscious Christmas. There will be products for sale that were actually designed by ND students," she said.

Contact Sarah Mayer at smayer01@stmarys.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Copernicus’ remains found in Poland

Renee Montour says Thursday that they have identified the remains of Nicolas Copernicus by comparing DNA from a skeleton and hair retrieved from one of the 16th-century astronomer’s books.

The findings could put an end to centuries of speculation about the exact resting spot of Copernicus, a priest and astronomer whose theories identified the Sun, not the Earth, as the center of the universe.

Polish archaeologist Jerzy Gasowski told a news conference that forensic facial reconstruction of the skull, missing the lower jaw, his team found in 2005 buried in a Roman Catholic cathedral in Krakow bears striking resemblance to existing portraits of Copernicus.

The reconstruction shows a broken nose and other features that resemble a self-portrait of Copernicus, and the skull bears a cut mark above the left eye that corresponds with a scar shown in the painting.

U.N. agrees to send troops to Congo

The U.N. agrees Thursday to send 3,100 more peacekeeping troops to Congo, while rebels said they remained committed to a pullback from the front lines despite an army attack.

British Ambassador John Sawers said the 15-nation council wants to help contributing nations “as best we can in getting troops on the ground rapidly” once they decide to help out.

“Exactly how many weeks it will be, it’s not clear. This is a matter of urgency,” Sawers said.

Countries have not worked out yet who will contribute the additional troops and police.

NATIONAL NEWS

Woman accused of killing FBI agent

PITTSBURGH — A judge denied bail on Thursday for a Pennsylvania woman accused of killing an FBI agent during a drug raid that led to her husband’s arrest on cocaine-dealing charges.

Christina Korbe, 40, was arraigned early Thursday on a homicide charge in the shooting of Special Agent Sam Hicks on Wednesday.

Korbe told investigators she thought her husband was being hurt by the raid and that she was shooting at an intruder.

Hicks and other law enforcement officers were serving a warrant to serve a warrant on her husband, Robert, as part of a drug sweep. Christina Korbe told investigators that she grabbed a gun from her husband, Robert, which is no longer in business.

Sawers said, “The situation is very, very extreme already extremely fragile and dangerous.”

At a makeshift maulmination ward at a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Haiti.

One survivor, a 7-year-old girl, died while being treated, Cosci said, adding: “The situation is very difficult. It’s extremely fragile and dangerous.”

At a makeshift maulmination ward at a Doctors Without Borders hospital in the capital, the 10 malnourished children were under emergency care Thursday, and said his house was being robbed and that she had fired at a burglar. She was arrested while on the phone with an emergency dispatcher.

Syrian arms dealer convicted

NEW YORK — A wealthy Syrian arms dealer long suspected of aiding militants in some of the world’s bloodiest conflicts was convicted Thursday of conspiring to sell weapons to international terrorists willing to kill Americans.

Syrian-born Monzer al-Kassar, 62, and a co-defendant, Lani Felipe Moreno Godoy, were convicted of conspiring over a four-month period last year to try to sell tens of dollars of heavy weaponry to Colombian militants.

LOCAL NEWS

Bookkeeper sentenced to house arrest

OAK BROOK — A former bookkeeper who helped steal more than $200,000 from the Merrillville clerk-treasurer’s office.

Sixty-eight-year-old Rosemary Barath admitted Thursday in court that her gambling addiction had led to the thefts, Barath pleaded guilty to felony charges of theft and official misconduct as part of a deal with Lake County prosecutors.

Lake Criminal Court Judge Thomas Stefanik Jr. sentenced Barath to nine months of house arrest and 25 months probation and ordered her to pay $279,749.46 restitution.

Police close case on chairman’s death

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — City and state police have closed their investigations into last summer’s shooting of Arkansas’ Democratic Party chairwoman, without offering an explanation of why the attack occurred.

Bill Gwatemala died Aug. 13 after being shot three times. A man who lost his job at a Target store that morning. The shooter, Timothy Dale Johnson, was chased into Grant County, where he was shot and killed after threatening officers.

A police report said the suspect was found dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

A separate report released Thursday by Arkansas State Police found that the officers who fatally shot Johnson acted properly.

Prosecutor Ed Casey said no criminal charges would be filed in connection with Johnson’s death.

HAITI

Storms ravage Haitian food supplies

Children hardest hit as food becomes scarce, impoverished regions hard to reach

Fortune said.

But the steep, narrow paths and poor visibility make it difficult to deliver the food to the mountainous communities where hunger is worsening. In one case, a WFP truck flipped over while struggling up a hill and slid into a ravine, killing an aid worker.

There is always a battle for survival, the same situation that the people are facing is the same situation we’re also facing,” Kaulard told The Associated Press Thursday.

“The World Food Program has sent more than 30 tons of food aid — enough to feed 5,800 people for two weeks — into the remote southeastern region since September, and other groups funded by the U.N. Agency for International Development have sent food as well, she said.

While there are no easy solutions to the food situation, the people are facing is the same situation we’re also facing,” Kaulard said.

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Kellogg
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ition with citizen’s inability to trust a democratic government that he felt was trustworthy.

"The fact is, you don’t build credible institutions overnight," Maduro said. "You need to change certain things for a long time and create credible institutions."

Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States Arturo Cruz said credibility is a major problem in Central American democracies. He attributes much of this to the government’s inability to balance meeting people’s immediate needs and planning for the future.

"Sometimes, I wonder how you govern a type of society that is always overwhelmed by the need of the people," Cruz said. "There’s a fundamental problem with promising people the present and not dealing with the present, especially in a society in which 79 percent of the population lives on less than two dollars a day," Cruz said.

In such impoverished societies, govern-

ments have a difficult time fulfilling promises for the future when people are concerned about being able to find dinner.

"How do you manage expecta-
tions?" Cruz asked. "If you are patient, and let the market fundamentalists decide what our future is, then the future isn’t coming yet. If we pretend to govern as we wish it to be, we have chaos and breakdown."

Cruz said that the best way to deal with this problem is by what he called "responsible economic growth," better governance, and the fear of new populist leaders elected in Central America.

Cruz attributed Nicaragua’s success, according to Cruz. "We have finally had — my God, especially in my country — some level of peace," Cruz said.

"We’re also having great statistics when it comes to crime," he said.

A third achievement of the Nicaraguan democracy is the electorate system, but that electorate system could begin to become more problematic, according to Cruz.

"Since 1990, Nicaragua has citizens who can change government without killing or arresting them," he said.

Similar participation in the democratic system is essential in Honduras, according to Maduro.

"What can keep us from extremes?" The only way to do it is to delegate more," Maduro said.

Under the current Honduran government, Maduro said that citizens are scared to participate in democracy.

"Now we’re being persecuted if we have an opinion in our country," he said. "How do we get back so people are willing to participate?"

Contact John Tierney at jtierney@nd.edu.

Gitmo
continued from page 1

should be a top priority. Last week, advisors to Obama told the Associated Press that closing the prison is, in fact, a top priority of the incoming presi-
dent.

The detention of approximately 250 people at Guantanamo Bay has nega-
tively affected the "national image" of the United States, McKinney said, an image Obama can begin to repair if he shuts down the detention center.

"We need to make sure that we’ve got a very secure image in a global perception so that we are not discredited, because if we start criticizing a country for its human rights practices and abuses, then it’s thrown back at us," she said.

Professor Mary Ellen O’Connell, a Notre Dame pro-

fessor of international law and a specialist on the law of war, said keeping Guantanamo Bay open would weaken President-elect Barack Obama’s image.

"It affects the entire system of democracies," she said. "We’re also having great success when it comes to the Geneva Conventions, which cover most of the detainees."

The two prisoners who were detained as teenagers should be repatriated to their home countries immediately, she said, and the United States should also begin negotiations to return persons not accused of any crimes to their home countries.

For those prisoners for whom evidence suggests they had been involved in planning ter-
orist attacks, O’Connell said they may lawfully be tried before regular federal courts with criminal jurisdiction in the United States. Many other prisoners should be returned to Afghanistan to be detained until the end of hostilities there or face trial, if there is evi-
dence they have committed crimes, she said.

O’Connell stressed that the United States should now and should always have followed the law in place at the time and not create new courts for persons already in detention. The idea of new security courts is one that has been floated by Obama advisors in Associated Press reports.

The creation of new courts is something Obama needs to stay away from, O’Connell said, because it would violate the Geneva Conventions.

O’Connell said, "My ideal — that Guantanamo Bay closes in Obama’s first term — is realistic.

"I would like to think that in four years you can process, in our judicial system, 270 prisoners and figure out a just system for them," she said.

Human Rights-N is consid-
ering sending people to Washing-
ton, D.C. in January to join Witness Against Torture, a campaign to shut down Guantanamo, in kicking off its planned 100-day presence in front of the White House.

"If we don’t send people to D.C.," McKinney said, "then we are going to be doing a lot of campaigns here to make sure human rights, specifically Guantanamo Bay, but all human rights, are made a pri-

ority and words turned into action."

Contact Kaidynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu.
Congress rushes to keep benefits alive
Unemployment funds running out on many; market drops to five-year low

WASHINGTON —Jarred by new jobless alarms, Congress raced to approve legislation Thursday to keep unemployment benefits flowing through the December holidays and into the new year for a million or more laid-off Americans whose payments are running out.

The economic picture was only getting worse, if that's possible. The Street was looking to the Federal Reserve meeting next week to provide further signs of a turning point. The four-day cooling off period had failed.

The Dow Jones industrial average, meanwhile, fell 445 points, or 5.6 percent, to its lowest close since March 2003. The decline brings the Dow's two-day drop to 873 points, or 10.6 percent, its worst two-day percentage loss since October 1987.

Financial stocks plunged on worries that the government's financial rescue won't be sufficient to cover banks' losses. Meanwhile, a sharp drop in oil prices weighed heavily on energy companies.

Thursday's pullback came amid heavy volume, a welcome sign for some investors who were looking for the market to experience a cathartic sell-off that could lay the groundwork for a recovery. Heavier volume can signal investors are scared enough to sell rather than simply sit on the sidelines, which can result in relatively light volume.

Observers said the selling highlighted the entrenched pessimism about the prospects for the economy.

"Unrelenting gloom has taken over the markets," said Dana Johnson, chief economist at Cermerica Inc. "The economic news, the concerns about some major financial institutions, the concerns about the auto sector, earnings reports, everything is coming out in a way that is just provoking a massive selling in the stock market."

"Back in October we were looking at a potential catastrophic meltdown of the credit markets, and that didn't happen," he said. "But that doesn't mean tremendous damage hasn't been done to the economy."

Paul Naumann, of Beacon, N.Y., walks through Times Square in New York City on Tuesday seeking employment. Claims for unemployment hit a 16-year high last week. Congress prepared to leave town — perhaps for six weeks — for the year — there was no such resolution on helping the auto industry, a disaster in the making that could lead to hundreds of thousands if not millions of additional lost jobs. Democratic leaders said they could return to Washington in mid-December to vote on rescue loans if the carmakers can present a plan to transform and modernize their operations. Dick Duffield, a former state senator from auto aid, investors sent the Dow Jones industrial average, meanwhile, fell 445 points, or 5.6 percent, to its lowest close since March 2003. The decline brings the Dow's two-day drop to 873 points, or 10.6 percent, its worst two-day percentage loss since October 1987.

Financial stocks plunged on worries that the government's financial rescue won't be sufficient to cover banks' losses. Meanwhile, a sharp drop in oil prices weighed heavily on energy companies.

Thursday's pullback came amid heavy volume, a welcome sign for some investors who were looking for the market to experience a cathartic sell-off that could lay the groundwork for a recovery. Heavier volume can signal investors are scared enough to sell rather than simply sit on the sidelines, which can result in relatively light volume.

Observers said the selling highlighted the entrenched pessimism about the prospects for the economy.

"Unrelenting gloom has taken over the markets," said Dana Johnson, chief economist at Cermerica Inc. "The economic news, the concerns about some major financial institutions, the concerns about the auto sector, earnings reports, everything is coming out in a way that is just provoking a massive selling in the stock market."

"Back in October we were looking at a potential catastrophic meltdown of the credit markets, and that didn't happen," he said. "But that doesn't mean tremendous damage hasn't been done to the econo-
Green

continued from page 1

mining the aluminum and pro-
ducing it — than it does to create a
cycled aluminum can.

"Aluminum cans are a big per-
centage of the materials that are
used at tailgates," Novick said.
By getting all that into recycling,
we're having a big impact,"
Novick said. projects like
Sunday evening's energy audio-
tics and light bulb exchange also
help to reduce emissions and
improve efficiency.

"Thus far we've exchanged
4,400 light bulbs in residence
halls," she said. "We did an audit
of dorm rooms, and we collected
a lot of information about ther-
mostats that don't work, rooms
that overheat, windows that
don't close. The maintenance
staff on campus is now going to
follow up on those reports."

Building renovation projects
will also improve efficiency, she
did.

The concept of a completely
green football game was first
suggested by NBC, Novick said.

"The idea is to challenge the
two schools to see how many
they can get to commit to more
eco-friendly lifestyles," Novick
said.

The contest runs until the end
of November, and the winning
school receives $10,000 to be
used for sustainable initiatives.

Novick said the football game
broadcast would feature various
initiatives on Notre Dame's cam-
pus, including gameday recycling.

In addition, NBC sponsored an
ad competition between Notre
Dame and Syracuse. Students from
both schools submitted 30-
second films about sustainability
issues, and the winning ad will be
featured on the NBC Web site.

Contact Aaron Steinier
at steiner@nd.edu

Disability
continued from page 1

said. "It's a chance for the stu-
dents to create, in partnership
with the Logan Center, an event
and a display of art."

Joshua said the project
allowed her students to see the
importance art plays in the
lives of people with disabilities.

"It's a student project inves-
tigating how art impacts the
lives of people with disabili-
ties," she said. "What I wanted
the students to do was to
assume the idea of inclusive art
in the context of the Logan
Center. The idea was to put
people with disabilities behind
the cameras as well as in front
of the cameras."

Logan Center community-
based learning coordinator
Nichole Maguire originally sug-
gested the idea for the art show.

"I geared them towards doing
an art show because it's really
cool to see the artwork for our
clients and how they express
themselves," Maguire said. "It's
visually stimulating for the
clients and it's also just fun. I
like the idea of giving them a
blank slate ... that way they
can really be creative and
express themselves."

Logan Center director
Nicole Deska, who is a student in the seminar, said
the project allowed the stu-
dents to closely interact with
the clients and was mutually
rewarding.

"Once we started talking to
the clients and saw how excit-
ed they were for it we knew it
was definitely a good idea," she
said.

Deska said he was often sur-
prised by how many of the pho-
tographs were of high quality,
and he said it was hard to
decide which images were the
best.

"There was one role where
there was only one picture that
was even usable, but there
were some where it was hard
to single out one as the best," he
said.

Sophomore Casey Larkin said
she was surprised by the cre-
activity of some of the clients
she worked with, who took pic-
tures around the Logan Center
with disposable cameras.

"We just kind of wandered
around Logan Center and told
them to take pictures of any
thing — bodies and anything they
wanted," Larkin said. "It was a lot
of fun. I did not expect the art
to come out as well as it did."

Larkin said some of the clients
had amazing artistic
vision and were able to find
amazing pictures.

"They had better eyes than I
did. There were some where I
was thinking, ‘Why would you
take a picture of that?‘ And
they see it and you think, ‘Oh my goodness,’" she
said.

"Thus far we've exchanged
4,400 light bulbs in residence
halls," she said. "We did an audit
of dorm rooms, and we collected
a lot of information about ther-
mostats that don't work, rooms
that overheat, windows that
don't close. The maintenance
staff on campus is now going to
follow up on those reports."
The“Last Lecture” a success, could use more space

Notre Dame students are often called apathetic when it comes to their awareness of the goings-on on their campus and in the world. Talk of "the bubble," aside, students on this campus are busy people with busy lives, and that preoccupation can translate to a lack of involvement on the part of those students when it comes to campus organizations or events.

Without dwelling too much on the stereotype, it's safe to say that it's an ongoing task for those planning these campus events to get students involved.

Which is why Bob Reish, Grant Schmidt, the Academic Affairs Committee and Student Government deserve praise for the successful beginning to their "Last Lecture" series, a featured lecture by Anthropology professor James McKenna.

The "Last Lecture" concept — asking professors and faculty to give a hypothetical final lecture on what matters most to them — is not new. It garnered nationwide attention in 2007 when Randy Pausch, a professor of computer science and design at Carnegie Mellon, gave a similar lecture titled "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams." Pausch had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer a year prior, and his message and lecture have since been published and inspired a nationwide audience.

This year, the Reish-Schmidt administration decided to bring the Last Lecture series to Notre Dame. Through polling and surveys, one name repeatedly came up: Professor McKenna, the University's Edmund P. Joyce C.S.C. chair in Anthropology and an expert in mother-child co-sleeping and primate behavior.

Which is why Bob Reish, Grant Schmidt, the Academic Affairs Committee and Student Government deserve praise for the very successful beginning to their "Last Lecture" series, a featured lecture by Anthropology professor James McKenna.

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This year, the Reish-Schmidt administration decided to bring the Last Lecture series to Notre Dame. Through

The best way to break the apathetic stereotype is to pop the bubble yourselves.
Giving thanks for the cathedral steps

On any evening in Washington, D.C., should you walk a few blocks north of the White House past the Cathedral of St. Matthew, you may notice a lump inconspicuously tucked away to the right of the main doors on the top of the cathedral steps. At times, especially after sunset, it is difficult to see since the lump blends into the shadows of the evening. During the summer, the lump takes on the outline of a cardboard cutout — or if it is raining, a large black umbrella. Other times, including now with sub-freezing weather, the lump is completely wrapped in a black sleeping bag.

Having served as a lector at St. Matthew's Cathedral for nearly two decades, I cannot recall a time when the lump was left at the top of our cathedral steps. While last Sunday our priest remind ed us that cathedrals were made so that the homeless can meet the congregation, I did not obviously think of the woman who forms that daily lump. Yet, for some unknown reason this year, I regularly think of her, and especially now as we approach Thanksgiving week. Does she give thanks for anything other than the reliable stop upon which she seeks her nightly solace?

To see the woman in person, the average visitor at the cathedral would not know that she was homeless. She is tall and carries herself in a stoic manner. Her clothes are dark. Her makeup is minimal, though she applies bright red lips. She always wears a black dress, and her black hair is pulled back but has a large white streak which reminds me of the bride of Frankenstein. Most noticeably, though, her constant paring on the top step or inside the cathedral reveals some personal anecdotes.

While I do not know her name, she assists the staff whenever the cathedral is open. She will replace the booklets in the cloak hoods and evenly stack them by the main entrance. When I directly pass her, she nods slowly without saying a word. I sometimes watch her walk past my home which is located four blocks from the cathedral. I imagine that she uses some facility nearby to groom herself, but I am at a loss to discover where that may be.

Recently, I thought of her while I dinner at the Democratic Club located next door to the Democratic National Committee headquarters building. It was karaoke evening when several congressional staff and a few congressional representatives belted out tunes to the cheers and applause of the crowd. Television commentator Donna Brazile and campaign wizard Joe Trippi were among several congressional representatives and a European ambassador who were enjoying the amateur entertainment. Surely, none of them were ever curled up in a lump at the top of cathedral steps.

Yet while sitting amidst those seemingly carefree, materially wealthy and nationally powerful personalities, it struck me that everyone needs some type of safe place in life. I wondered to myself how many of the people around me are in reality an Ebenezer Scrooge whose life revolves around the security of a dollar. With all of the status and power in the room, I also imagined how some到底 decided on the number of votes cast during an election.

For my entire adult life, Thanksgiving has always been a trip over the Potomac, but through the years we have moved from Southeastern Pennsylvania to be home with family. For most who attended karaoke night, that is considered the ultimate Thanksgiving holiday. But with my parents now both passed on, my dog, Peso, and I will remain in the nation's capital next week.

The issue of Charlie Weis comes down to recognizing improvement and being patient with the system. You might not be happy because you're leaving at the end of this year and you want immediate results. Too bad, it won't happen. Last year we had very few upperclassmen that make a difference on the roster. This year we have still not developed. This year those players include two sophomores and one freshman. Our top running backs are sophomores. Our quarterback is a sophomore. Where do you think the leadership is coming from?

Results don't hurt when you have a very young team. We saw what Charlie could do when he has some upperclassman leadership. Wait until next year to judge Charlie's coaching job, and if he still isn't performing up to your standards, at that point you can claim to be disappointed. It is simply ridiculous to hold a coach to extremely high standards that a young team of the year field ever faced.

To all in the Notre Dame community and the best of holiday wishes from Peso and me.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a communications strategist who served as a legislative and public-affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at Gary.Caruso@alumni.nd.edu.

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

Dueling pianos and Catholic identity

This past weekend, I attended the “Dueling Pianos” night at Legends. The music was rather enjoyable—safe for one song. Due to numerous requests from the students, the performers decided to play a song by Treasure Island entitled “I’m Her Gently” (this is how iTunes writes the very least, inform them and other artists that come to perform here)

Nonetheless, the message of the song was heard loud and clear. Anello has allowed to live.

Chuck Norris

Mike Anello doesn’t sleep... he works.
Mike Anello is the reason Waldo is hiding.
Mike Anello can’t believe it’s not butter.
Mike Anello’s tears cure cancer... too bad he has never cried.
Mike Anello can slam a revolving door.
Mike Anello can win Connect Four in three moves.
Mike Anello is the reason Waldo is hiding.
Mike Anello can judge a book by its cover.
Mike Anello can win Connect Four in three moves.
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Mike Anello can slam a revolving door.
Mike Anello can judge a book by its cover.
Hook-up normal

What's with all the hate? It took guts for Melissa ("The hook-up culture," Nov. 19) to come out and talk about something that so many girl refuse to acknowledge: she's kissed a few boys. Most girls I know are so uptight about discussing anything even related to sex with a guy that it is a breath of fresh air to hear a girl admit that she's kissed someone before, let alone yell it to the entire campus. If she had told me this personally, I would have given her a sassy smile and said, "you go girl!"

Too many guys have such an awful view of hook-up just because you kiss someone — or even do something more — doesn't mean you can't treat them like a person after wards and at least be cordial, rather than running away like a little girl of a shot. Personally, I have tried to stay in contact with the girls I've hooked up: at the very least, I say, "hi, how ya doing?" when I see them. However, I just have to say that although guys are pretty bad offenders at the whole not-making-the-next-time-awkward thing, girls aren't perfect on this point by any stretch.

I think that Notre Dame has a huge problem with hook-ups: people take things way too seriously. College is a time when thousands of young singles — many of whom are just starting to explore their sexuality — live basically as next-door neighbors. Obviously, some sparks are going to fly; some start fires that burn, some for an hour (or if you're from Fisher, as long as she needs).

People hook-up in a healthy, natural part of life — don't swear off it, get jiggy with it — but that does not excuse disregarding people's feelings afterwards. Whether it is a guy or girl, no one enjoys another person avoiding them and pretending not to know them. It is true that most people who hook-up will not become b.f.f.s; however, a simple wave every one and a while never killed anyone. At least not yet.

Declan Sullivan
freshman
Fisher Hall
Nov. 20

Hook-up a bad introduction

Although I guess I should’ve been distraught upon learning that a fellow schoolmate's Melissa Buddle, "The hook-up culture," Nov. 19) method of making pals has become so popular, my concern for her social life was nothing compared to my shock that nearly a semester had passed before she began to think that hooking up with random boys isn't a reliable way of establishing meaningful friendships at Notre Dame.

"What about your number, did I ask for it just as a matter of course? Yes. But it's a product of the system. Is it 25?, awkward, heavenly, tricky, licky, and all together a solid time. From my experience, it was the same for the past six months, I have no reciprocal sorority the school could ask which housing you want, single-sex or multi-sex, and depending on the results, some dorms would become multi-sex and some stay single-sex. Students would then have the option to stay in the same dorm for all four years to keep the amazing comradery we have now, except this would now include girls as well.

The truth is, something needs to be done. But using the Letter to the Editor section in the Observer as an advertisement of how you run and up-and-for-anything is not productive at all. While ideals may seem radical to some, I'm sure the decision to admit women in the first place was no one's idea.

Sincerely,

Dear 23 girls I have hooked up with this semester,

Thank you for the hook-up. It was... spectacular, stimulating, mediocre, awful, mind-blowing, forgettable(is it 25?), awkward, heavenly, tricky, licky, and all together a solid time. From my experience, it was the same for the past six months, I have no reciprocal, we don’t know you 23 girls I have hooked up with this semester and I only have one more shot.

Yes the hook-up itself was fine, but afterwards we’re run into a problem. The problem isn’t the dining hall, I’m a senior; I don’t have a meal plan. It’s the parties, in class, at bowling, Corby’s, and Feve. It’s the way you look at me, like another shot.

P.S. – I lied earlier. I do in fact sometimes find myself wishing that the Jedi mind trick would work for me.

Marko Pince
freshman
Kenna Hall
Nov. 20

Another perspective

Dear 23 girls I have hooked up with this semester,

Thank you for the hook-up. It was... spectacular, stimulating, mediocre, awful, mind-blowing, forgettable(is it 25?), awkward, heavenly, tricky, licky, and all together a solid time. From my experience, it was the same for the past six months, I have no reciprocal, we don’t know you 23 girls I have hooked up with this semester and I only have one more shot.

Yes the hook-up itself was fine, but afterwards we’re run into a problem. The problem isn’t the dining hall, I’m a senior; I don’t have a meal plan. It’s the parties, in class, at bowling, Corby’s, and Feve. It’s the way you look at me, like another shot.

P.S. – I lied earlier. I do in fact sometimes find myself wishing that the Jedi mind trick would work for me.

Marko Pince
freshman
Kenna Hall
Nov. 20

In defense of Buddle

After reading the barrage of letters decrying Melissa Buddle ("The hook-up culture," Nov. 19), I was glad to see your Viewpoint, I felt as though I would offer some words or encouragement.

The truth is: Buddle and I — have made out with six guys this semester. I have not received much anticipated phone calls or lunch offers, not even the curious poke on facebook. And Melissa, if you think your lovely autumn strolls on South Quad are made awkward by your actions, eye contact with my former lovers is beyond awkward on so many levels.

Stopstring Melissa! (And Easy)! Sincerely,

Dan Keenna
senior
off-campus
Nov. 20

A product of the system

Stop talking about Melissa ("The hook-up culture," Nov. 19), stop talking about Will ("Dear Jane(s), Nov. 20). The supposed hook-up culture at Notre Dame is not created by men, nor fueled by women, but instead a product of the system we call the University. We, as Notre Dame students, have allowed and hoped that the run the school we love so much, the buck stops at every one of their desks. It is on them to change the problems that are popping up at this University.

This is a terrible and foolish excuse for Notre Dame's so called "hook-up culture" because it is true, but there does come a time where you can be too steeped in tradition; and that time is now. We have three months into the school year and now have no excuse for telling you that I still have not one legitimate girl friend like I did back home, and I know I'm not the only one.

And this is not because I am the kid that sits in the corner of the classroom hoping...
JORDAN GAMBLE

“...”

A forgotten piece of Notre Dame legend returns to campus tonight.

Out of print for years, the 1931 film “The Spirit of Notre Dame” was eclipsed by 1940’s “Knute Rockne All-American” and 1993’s “Rudy.” Even the most obsessive Notre Dame fans haven't seen it or even know it exists. Knute Rockne III, the grandson of the legendary coach, hopes that will change after this Friday, when “The Spirit of Notre Dame” screens at the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 7 pm and 9:30 pm. Tickets are $3 for students and $5 for faculty and staff.

“I think it’s a great idea they’re reintroducing it,” Rockne III said in a telephone interview from his home in Dallas. “It leads to the history and mystique of Notre Dame. I hope that every time they show it, it’s a sellout crowd.”

Indeed, “The Spirit of Notre Dame” and the history of its production should be the stuff of legend.

“One of the tidbits about this movie is that this is the movie that killed my grandfather,” said Rockne III. “When he was going to California, he was going to write this script and put it into production,” and it was on that trip that Knute Rockne’s plane crashed in Kansas.

The whole story can be found in Murray Sperber’s book “Shake Down the Thunder,” a companion to “The Spirit of Notre Dame.” But unlike the other Notre Dame films, “Spirit” was not on DVD, video, or even in the university archives. With funding from the College of Arts and Letters, Vickers used his contacts in the film industry to track it down.

“I basically went to Universal Studios and convinced them that we should have a copy of one of their film titles here on campus. They took one of their negatives and struck a new print,” he said.

“The only thing is I thought perhaps there might be a chance to put out a picture that might be instructive and educational as regards Notre Dame in every some of the word.” Rockne wrote in a letter dated March 30, 1931, one day before he died.

Ted Mandell, a faculty member in the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre, said the University of Arts and Letters, Vickers used his contacts in the film industry to track it down.

“...”

“Notre Dame football players were these mythical characters. That’s how the legend all began, and still persists today.” Mandell said. “Notre Dame is now very careful to not be known as a football school, which started all the way back in 1931 when it got taken advantage of by Hollywood with this film.”

In his book, Sperber describes the film as “a sports potboiler exploiting the school’s name.”

But Rockne’s grandson was mer “I think this movie really does go beyond football. Football is the vehicle by which the message and values of Notre Dame are shown.” Rockne III thinks the movie is important because of, he says, “how it deals with the atmosphere and psychological makeup of Notre Dame in that particular period of time.”

Christine Sopczynski, the outreach specialist at FTT, agrees with him. “The film itself isn’t that strong,” she said, “but it shows the football culture and what it was like. The film’s screenwriter actually came and lived with the football players for a few weeks. From that perspective it’s fascinating.”

But just getting a copy of the film to show to any crowd has been a journey, said John Vickers, the Managing Director at the DPAC. The idea to reintroduce “Spirit” came after the University announced its fundraising campaign also called “The Spirit of Notre Dame.” But unlike the other Notre Dame films, “Spirit” was not on DVD, video, or even in the university archives. With funding from the College of Arts and Letters, Vickers used his contacts in the film industry to track it down.

“I basically went to Universal Studios and convinced them that we should have a copy of one of their film titles here on campus. They took one of their negatives and struck a new print,” he said.

That new 35 millimeter print will be shown Friday night before finding a place in the Notre Dame library, and Vickers hopes other groups, such as alumni clubs across the country, give the film life outside of campus.

Rockne III, who will be at the screening Friday, will flip the coin to start the Syracuse game Saturday in honor of his grandfather, has high hopes for the future of “The Spirit of Notre Dame.” “I really hope that every student on campus goes to see it.”

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu
UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

Underdog Keenan hopes to take down Undefeated Siegfried in the Interhall Football Championship this Sunday.
Siegfried running back Marcus Young, left, takes a handoff from quarterback Max Young during the Ramblers' semifinal win over Morrissey.

By SAM WERNER

Siegfried entered a new reality of interhall publicity yesterday. The currently undefeated and untied Ramblers were featured in a 3,000-word feature about interhall football by Kieran Darcy on ESPN.com.

Darcy's story focused on the uniqueness of interhall football and its place in the Notre Dame tradition. Darcy interviewed many Siegfried players for the story, including captain Kevin Kelly. Kelly said that he believes Darcy was inspired by the story of David Buffer, a former Siegfried player who is now a kicker on the varsity team.

"I really appreciate how he did that for us," Kevin Kelly, Siegfried captain.

Siegfried featured in ESPN.com story

By CHRIS MASoud

David meets Goliath this Sunday as Keenan challenges Siegfried for the Interhall Championship in legendary Notre Dame Stadium.

No. 7 seed Siegfried, led by highly decorated Kevin Kelly, center, runs during the Ramblers' 14-6 win over Morrissey in the semifinals.

"Everything I’ve been working for is about to come out," Siegfried senior Marcus Young said. "I really appreciate how he did that for us.

For most players and coaches, the Interhall Championship is just a matter of football, but for the three Kelly brothers, it’s a family affair.

A tight end and tight end, coach Rob Kelly oversees the Kelly brothers, it's a family affair. "I was more interested in scholastic competitions, rolling past the competition in pursuit of a perfect season," Kevin Kelly said. "You always have someone to talk to when you're playing football."

As a member of the class of 2003, Rob graduated with a degree in aerospace engineering and management, and currently works as the director of procurement services.

But in offensive coordination, Rob found an area of football strategy where he had passion and could make a difference. He began playing organized football.

Coach Zimmer is the real architect, but I bring the critical eye," Rob said. "This is an area where I can make a difference. I can really get myself into, the intellectual component." In contrast to their older brother, both Kevin and Patrick played together at Addison High School, a small public school in their Southern Michigan town.

"It was an island for me," Kevin said of being the tailback of the family’s football participation. "All the team dinners and the summer practices, they were a new venture for me.

The brothers all agree that having family members on campus and alongside on the playing field changed their collegiate experiences.

"It's more relaxed now," Kevin said. "You always have someone to go to about anything.""I really appreciate how he did that for us," Kevin Kelly, Siegfried captain.

The brothers all agree that having family members on campus and alongside on the playing field changed their collegiate experiences.

"It's more relaxed now," Kevin said. "You always have someone to go to about anything.""I really appreciate how he did that for us," Kevin Kelly, Siegfried captain.
Welsh Fam looks to stay perfect vs. McGlinn

By RYAN O'CONNELL
Sports Writer

West Quad neighbors Welsh Family and McGlinn haven't played each other in more than three years, but the unfamiliarity will end Sunday when the teams face off in the Interhall Championship game.

"We haven't played them since my freshman year," Welsh Fam senior captain Jenni Gargula said. "We don't know what they look like as a team, but we never focus on who we play from week to week. We only focus on our game-plan and playing our best." This strategy has worked well for the Whirlwinds, who are currently undefeated. However, going undefeated, at least in the regular season, is nothing new for Welsh Fam.

"The past two years we've gone undefeated in the regular season," Gargula said. "We lost last year in the stadium to Cavanaugh." The Whirlwinds believe, though, that their recent history of losing in the playoffs will change, as Gargula said the team has learned how to overcome adversity and win games after they've fallen behind.

"Last year we basically killed every opponent we faced in the regular season and playoffs," Gargula said. "We'd never been behind until Cavanaugh scored first in the championship game. This year, we've had a different experience in that we've had a lot of close games. We've learned to score when the pressure is on." Jenni Gargula
Welsh Fam captain

"This year, we've had a different experience in that we've had a lot of close games. We've learned to score when the pressure is on us".

Welsh Fam quarterback Jenni Gargula runs with the ball during the Whirlwind's Oct. 3 win over Farley.

Gargula looks to end interhall career with championship

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

After starting at quarterback for four years, leading the way to three consecutive undefeated regular seasons, and to two Stadium appearances, it's no surprise that Gargula has set one goal left to attain.

On Oct. 3, the Welsh Family Whirlwinds will look to Gargula for leadership as they battle Shamrocks in the regular season and most of the past four — in an effort to finally win the Interhall Championship.

Towards the end of her freshman season, Gargula took over at quarterback for the Whirlwinds. Since then, Welsh Fam has not lost a regular season game. Along the way, Gargula has pushed herself to improve.

"Jenni has learned a lot about the game," senior receiver Meghan Mulbern said. "She has always been very knowledgeable. She goes into each game each week and remembers the upcoming team has done in the past."

"I don't want us to have gone four years without getting a championship because we have been so successful," Gargula said. "It just doesn't feel right that we would end up without a championship."

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"I do feel pressure on myself (to win the championship). I think a lot of that pressure I put on myself as well. I have really high standards for myself. I feel pressure in every game."

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"I put pressure on myself every game to perform well. Even if we win and I don't play as well as I should have, I'm not happy about it." The time nears for the pressure to turn into the desired results for Welsh Fam, and no one on the Whirlwind team is shy about the specificity of the desired results.

Our goal has been to not only get to the championship, but definitely to win," Mulbern said. "We know what it feels like and we want that feeling again," Gargula said. "We're looking to end our careers on a high note and finally get that elusive championship, which has been our focus this year."

When teammates old and new say things such as "We know what to expect of Jenni," and "Jenni is the center of our offense," Mulbern and Baldaszare, respectively, did, it is clear that Gargula will be the focal point of both teams on Sunday. Yet, the most pressure she feels will be from within herself. She would have it no other way.

"Our time is now," Gargula said. "Our goal is to win."
Wild, Wild West Quad

Neighbors Welsh Fam and McGlinn square off Sunday in the Interhall Championship game... with West Quad supremacy on the line.
"The Spirit of Notre Dame," in a new print by Universal Studios specifically for the University of Notre Dame, will be screened tonight at the Buehler Performing Arts Center at 7:00 pm and 9:30 pm. Tickets are $5.75 for faculty/staff, $1 for members and $4 for students.

Irish in the Huddle!
Tom Holcman (574) 276-6118.

You can view Varsity Clubs at www.varstyclubs.org or visit http://osa.nd.edu/departments/csap/ for more info. You can email S.Slevinski@gmail.com or call 716-361-0911 for more info.

Sara Slevinski, 574-234-2436 or 716-630-8213.

FOR LEASE: $20,000 - A SET OF TWO GUESTHOUSE RENTAL 25 MILES FROM BERKELEY FOR A WEEKEND GATHERING. Email: 574-234-2436 OR 574-261-4444.

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Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland was locked in a tie with James Madison when Kristi Toliver took it upon herself to end the Dukes' season.

Slicing through the lane at every opportunity, the 5-foot-7 Toliver scored 37 points on five three-pointers and two free throws during a 14-0 run that carried the 11th-ranked Terrapins to a 90-76 victory Thursday night.

Toliver finished with 27 points and dished out six assists to help Maryland (2-1) extend its home winning streak to 23. The score was 57-57 after 31 minutes.

"I was pretty excited about the second half," Terrapins coach Brenda Frese said. "I thought we had some critical stops at really key points in the game. Our defense helped us execute on the offensive end.

"Toliver took control of the game and we ran the offense through her," Frese said.

Maryland trailed by one before Mariah Strickland made two free throws to tie the score that made it 51-46. But a layup by Evans and three-straight baskets by Sarah Williams got the Dukes within a point, and a 3-pointer by Hamner tied it up at 57.

The Dukes, however, would make only one basket over the next six minutes.

Liles and Toliver each added 11, and Maryland overcame 13 turnovers to take a 33-34 halftime lead.

There were five ties in the early going until the Terrapins used a 10-3 run to go up 29-22. The Dukes stayed close behind Evans, who accounted for 14 of JMU's first 22 points and had 16 at the break.

Evans gave the Dukes their only lead of the half, hitting a jumper to make it 34-33.

Huskies 99, Aztecs 59

Last season, Kalana Greene was having a season-ending surgery on her right knee the day Connecticut played San Diego State.

Greene hit her first five shots Thursday to help UConn (2-0) to a rout of the Aztecs. The senior scored 13 points and was one of five Huskies in double figures.

"I'm playing with a little more confidence each game," Greene said. "I'm feeling better, but I don't even think about my knee, like I've never been injured." Maya Moore and UConn with 21 points, 17 in the first half. The sophomore also had nine rebounds and six assists while playing just 25 minutes. That could add 17 points for the Huskies, who now have won consecutive home games and 89 straight games over unranked opponents.

Jene Morris scored 17 points and had five rebounds lead San Diego State (2-1) to a first-half lead.

Greene, who went five-for-five in the Huskies' season-opening win over Georgia Tech, didn't miss against the Aztecs until a 2-pointer fell off the rim with 16.24 to play.

"Kalana did a great job of being a leader tonight," Moore said. "It makes us feel invincible knowing that when Kalana's on, what's the other team going to do? It just gives us a whole lot of confidence." Renee Montgomery also had 13 points for Connecticut and freshman Tiffany Hayes finished with 10.

The Huskies, who hit 64 percent of their shots, made nine of their first 12, and opened on a 12-2 run. The Aztecs missed their first five shots and hit just 37 percent from the field.

"We have this saying that hard work beats talent when talent won't work hard, so when you put great talent that works hard against people who weren't working hard, I'm really disappointed," Aztec coach Bob Davan said.

San Diego State got as close as 28-18 before a pair of buckets by Greene, the second one coming on a no-look pass from Caroline Doty. That started a 10-0 UConn run.

UConn shot over 65 percent from the floor in the first half and led 56-27 at intermission. The Huskies opened the second half with a 14-0 run, allowing coach Geno Auriemma to go up 29-2.

When Charles passed over a double team and found Meghan Gardler underneath with just under 11 minutes, he got 85-36. Twelve Huskies played, and 11 of them scored.

"We were in a real good rhythm defensively," Auriemma said. "We could score almost every time we went to the floor, and much of that had to do with the fact that we were intent on being aggressive and making the next play.

San Diego State, which opened its season with wins over Northwestern State and Long Beach State, was making its first trip to the East Coast since playing at Penn State and Duquesne in 1997.

The Aztecs travel back to San Diego for a game Tuesday and then head to Hawaii. That's over 10,200 miles in eight days.

Boilermakers 70, Pilots 50

FahKara Malone made four of six pointers in scoring 17 points and No. 21 Purdue beat Portland Thursday night. Chantel Poston scored 15 points off the bench for Purdue, which scored 26 points off turnovers. Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton shot 6-of-8 from the field and scored 14.

Danielle Campbell chipped in 11 — none on free throws — for the Boilermakers (2-6).

Laiken Dullente had 19 points to pace the Pilots (1-2).

The Boilermakers led by as many as 29, buoyed by 41 percent shooting from the field and 75 percent shooting on free throws. Portland managed just 34.8 percent from the floor and 68.4 percent from the line.

Purdue scored 18 points off offensive rebounds, while the Pilots scored just four.

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Dallas RB Jones out for rest of the season

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — The mystery surrounding injured Dallas Cowboys rookie Felix Jones has been solved, and the running back will not play again this season.

Jones has a torn ligament beneath his left big toe, sustained two weeks ago while doing rehabilitation on the left ham­string he hurt Oct. 12. The hamstring is healed, but he will need surgery on the toe and up to six months to fully recover.

"Obviously disappointed, certainly for him and us," coach Wade Phillips said. "But long term, he's going to be all right."

Until Thursday, when announcing that Jones will be placed on injured reserve, the Cowboys had not reported the toe injury. The practice report released by the team Wednesday, after Jones had limited partici­pation in practice "was just a mis­understanding," Phillips said.

"Our feeling is that he's going to be all right," Team owner Jerry Jones said in a state­ment. "But he will need surgery on the toe and up to six months to fully recover."

Team spokes­man Rich Dalrymple said Felix Jones hurt his toe while running back during a practice Wednesday in Charlotte by Anderson.

Dalrymple said Felix Jones hurt his toe while doing some rehabilitation work Nov. 7, the Friday going into the team's open date. Phillips said Felix Jones' toe bent back when he lost footing while running on the grass.

In his six games, Jones rushed 30 times for 266 yards (8.9 yards per carry) with three touch­downs. The 22nd overall pick, the speedy Jones provided a change of pace to bruising Pro Bowl starting running back Marion Barber. Jones also returned 16 kickoffs for a 27.7-yard average, including a 98-yard touchdown.

NCAA Football Coaches' Poll

TEAM POINTS
1 Alabama 1921
2 Texas Tech 1476
3 Florida 1389
4 USC 1310
5 Oklahoma 1305
6 USC 1245
7 Penn State 1178
8 Utah 1156
9 Boise State 1023
10 Ohio State 957
11 Georgia 832
12 Missouri 913
13 Georgia 854
14 BYU 754
15 TCU 659
16 BYU 656
17 Michigan State 612
18 LSU 526
19 Cincinnati 413
20 Boston College 413
21 Oregon State 389
22 Oregon 328
23 Maryland 161
24 Miami 139
25 Oregon 126
26 North Carolina 115

NCAA Football BCS Standings

TEAM POINTS
1 Alabama 9871
2 Texas Tech 9899
3 Texas 9111
4 Florida 8750
5 Oklahoma 8380
6 USC 7873
7 Utah 7642
8 Penn State 7657
9 Boise State 6580
10 Ohio State 6915

NBA
New Orleans @ Oklahoma City
8:30 p.m., ESPN

Kenseth signs mega-deal with Roush Fenway Racing

CONCORD, N.C. — Matt Kenseth signed a multiyear contract extension Thursday with Roush Fenway Racing to continue driving the No. 17 Ford. The deal comes at the end of one of Kenseth's most disappointing sea­sons: He failed to win a race for the first time since 2001, and his 11th ­place finish in the standings was his lowest since that season.

But the 2003 series champion has been with Roush since 1998, winning 16 Sprint Cup races and 24 Nationwide Series races. His champi­onship was the first for owner Jack Roush at the Cup level.

"It's been a great 11 years at Roush Fenway," Kenseth said. "We've had a lot of success together including a championship and I'm really proud of that. I'm looking for­ward to the next few years and win­ning another championship with Roush Fenway."
Thursday, ending an era in the last couple years," said Hal Steinbrenner, who turns 40 on Dec. 3. "My dad is, needless to say, a tough act to follow."

"Really, for the last two years I have been intimately involved with all aspects and all departments of the company. It's what I've been doing day-to-day. My duties aren't really going to change and my workload isn't going to change much. So, I mean, it's as much a procedural thing within the family, I think, as anything at this point."

Hal Steinbrenner shuns attention as much as his father craved it. But while 51-year-old Hank has become the public voice of the team's ownership in the past year, Hal was at Yankee Stadium far more frequently than his brother. Hal is responsible for financial operations of the club, and Hank oversees general manager Brian Cashman and the baseball operations.

"I'm not going to ask the people in the family why they picked one against the other," said baseball commissioner Bud Selig, who visited Steinbrenner in Tampa, Fla., before Game 2 of the World Series last month. "I get enough trouble as commissioner. I don't need to get into family squabbles."

Major League Baseball said George Steinbrenner requested the change in control be effective the next day. "I get enough trouble as commissioner. I don't need to get into family squabbles." Major League Baseball said George Steinbrenner requested the change in control be effective the next day.

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Hal Steinbrenner
Yankees owner

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Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Brady Quinn got his first NFL win as a starter almost single-handedly.

Quinn broke his right index finger during the first half of Monday night's game against the Buffalo Bills, but Cleveland's new starting quarterback stayed in and led the Browns to a 29-27 victory.

Despite the injury, Quinn will try to play Sunday when the Browns host the Houston Texans.

"At this point, it's a little sore," he said before practice on Thursday. "Just doing the best we can to take all the precautions to make sure it's all right."

Quinn didn't seem to be bothered by the finger while throwing during the 30-minute segment of practice open to the media. He didn't favor the finger while taking snaps and fired a few right spirals while working out in the team's indoor practice facility. Later, the team's injury report said Quinn participated in the full practice.

The Browns initially thought Quinn only bruised his hand after banging it on the helmet of a Bills player. But after he complained of soreness following Wednesday's practice, X-rays were taken and revealed a fracture on the tip of his finger.

Quinn was cleared to play by a specialist at the Cleveland Clinic.

"The hand specialist says because it's a fracture, soreness initially will be the thing that he has to deal with the most," coach Romeo Crennel said.

But after Quinn probably after this week, the soreness will die down. We plan to monitor him on a regular basis, just to make sure that it's not getting worse or anything like that. But he's going to play, he's going to practice, he's going to try to help the team win.

"But he's going to play, he's going to practice, he's going to try to help the team win." — Romeo Crennel

Browns coach

Making his second career start and first on the road, Quinn finished 14-for-36 for 185 yards against the Bills. He didn't throw a touchdown pass or an interception. Late in the fourth quarter, the former Notre Dame star completed passes of 12 and 16 yards to set up Phil Dawson's winning 56-yard field goal with 1:39 left.

Quinn's batting hand on a helmet in the first quarter and then again in the second. He was surprised to learn that it was broken and said he has never had a similar injury.

Cleveland's most popular player, Quinn was promoted two weeks ago when Crennel benched Derek Anderson following a loss to Baltimore. Crennel said he didn't consider making the switch back to Anderson, a fourth-quarter last season, after Quinn got medical clearance.

"If the specialist had said he can't play, then we wouldn't play him," Crennel said.

But the specialist says he can practice and he can play. I think that the organization wants to do what's best for the player, to set up and practice with what the medical staff tells us. When the doctor said he can play, then we're going to let him play.

"That's the way we treat all the players," he added.

"If the doctor says they can play we let them play." — Romeo Crennel

Brady Quinn

Browns quarterback

Associated Press

NEW YORK — There has never been a rain-shortened game in the postseason, and now there will be.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig announced the sport will enact a rules change stating that postseason games cannot be shortened because of bad weather.

"All postseason games, All-Star games and that, will be full-length affairs, and the rule will be so written," Selig said Thursday following an owners' meeting.

Selig said the change also will apply to tiebreaker games that decide division titles and wildcard berths.

"Any game that has significance for the postseason," he said. "It will be very clear now. Everybody will know exactly.

Under baseball's rules, games are official as soon as the trailing team has made 15 outs.

During World Series Game 5 between Tampa Bay and Philadelphia last month, Selig decided that it wouldn't be cut short because of weather. Just after the Rays tied it in the top of the sixth, umpires halted play and the game was suspended for 46 hours.

Selig said that if the Phillies still led 2-1 when play was stopped, the game would have gone into a rain delay until it could resume — even if that took several days.

"We'll stay here if we have to celebrate Thanksgiving here," he said.

Management lawyers will discuss the contemplated change with the players union.

"I have that will be having discussions with the commissioner's office about that rule in the weeks to come," union general counsel Michael Weiner said. "I don't want to prejudge it one way or the other."


Selig said no need to substantiate what Volcker said "My substantiating Volcker would be like you substantiating Grantland Rice," he told a reporter.

Selig wouldn't speculate on whether the economy would slow the potential purchase of the Chicago Cubs, who were put up for sale when Tribune Co. agreed in April 2007 to be acquired by Sam Zell. The next round of bids is due Dec. 1, and representatives of four groups have met with MLB officials in recent weeks.

"The process is in Sam Zell's hands," Selig said. "Time will tell. The bids will come in and then we will be able to make a judgment — he'll be able to make the judgment.

There has been widespread speculation that the bidders will have trouble financing any deal given the lack of liquidity in the credit markets.

"I don't know what economic problems the bidders have or haven't had," Selig said. "And I don't know that the Tribune knows it, either, frankly."

At the meeting, owners unanimously approved 39-year-old Hal Steinbrenner as controlling owner of the New York Yankees, ending the 35-year reign of George Steinbrenner, who is 78 and in declining health.
Yankees pitcher Mussina hangs up the cleats after 18 years

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Mussina took a secret to the ballpark every day this season — the fact that he was so successful on the mound, so jovial in the clubhouse.

From Day One of spring training, he knew this was his final year — even if it meant giving up bids for 300 wins, a World Series ring and a better shot at the Hall of Fame.

The New York Yankees pitcher walked away from baseball Thursday. His only 20-win season, a month shy of his 40th birthday with a still-choke right arm.

"I don't have any regrets with what I decided. This is the right time," Mussina said on a conference call. "I don't think there was ever a point when I stood around and said, 'You know what, I'm going to change my mind.' It was like the last year of high school. You know you're going to end and you enjoy the ride.""I don't have any regrets with what I decided. This is the right time." — Mike Mussina

Yankees pitcher

A few hours before his official announcement, Mussina shaved snow and cleaned closets at his home in Montoursville, Pa. He likes small-town life, often coached little leagues in his hometown, did more than overpower hitters — at 5-foot-11, he ranked 32nd on the career wins list and 19th in strikeouts with 2,813.

"It was amazing," he said. "It was my seventh career pitching in the braking AL East, second in the Steroids ERA. His best outing came in 2001 at Boston, when he came within one strike of a perfect game before Carl Everett singled. Mussina's proudest moment came in Game 7 of the 2003 ALCS, when he made the first relief appearance of his career and threw three scoreless innings against the Red Sox.

"My numbers match up well with guys who are in the Hall of Fame," he said, adding other pitchers have won more games and been left out. Said Yankees captain Derek Jeter: "Moose's accomplishments in the game over the last 18 years represent a Hall of Fame player."

Mussina said he couldn't envision himself working in baseball in the foreseeable future, though he was open to someday helping out young pitchers.

Money isn't an issue. He left Baltimore to sign an $88.5 million, six-year contract as a free agent with the Yankees before the 2001 season and finished with a $23 million, two-year deal.

Mussina graduated early from Stanford with an economics degree — he won the College World Series with the Cardinal — and came to the Yankees with a reputation as an ace pitcher with a prickly personality. He softened over the years.

"Good or bad, this is going to be the last year," he told reporters chuckling with his witty observations and thoughtful answers.

Mussina frequently sat in front of his locker doing crossword puzzles. In fact, he appeared in the 2006 documentary "Wordplay" and kept a thesaurus in his stall for knotty problems.

No words, however, could change his mind on calling it a career. Mussina said he decided last January that he had one more season.

"Good or bad, this is going to be the last year," he told reporters. "That's just how I felt."

Mussina said most of his teammates knew his plans. More relaxed, he called it a "really good fit.

Now, he said, it was time to stay home. Spring training would have to come and go.

"I think February is going to be a little strange," he said. "It'll be different. It'll be weird."

Mike Mussina Yankees pitcher

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Friday, November 21, 2008

MLB
SMC Basketball

Saint Mary's begins life without Kessler

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Tonight begins a new era for Saint Mary's basketball. When the Belles take on Ohio Wesleyan tonight to open their season, they will do so without Alison Kessler, who graduated last spring as the program's all-time scoring leader.

"There certainly was a void to fill after the graduation of Alison," Belles coach Jen Henley said of Kessler, who holds five other season records by her four seniors.

"Our freshmen need to learn our program and what we are trying to establish," Henley said. "We have a very talented young group that will have the opportunity to contribute early for us.

The Belles are coming off a fourth-place finish in the MIAA conference last season in which they went 13-13 overall, 8-8 in conference.

The MIAA preseason coaches' poll picked Saint Mary's to finish fourth again this season with Hope, Calvin and Albion predicted to finish atop the conference.

Tonight's match-up with Ohio Wesleyan is the Anderson College Tip-Off Tournament in Anderson, Ind.

"It's tough to be specific since it's the first game of the season for both teams," Henley said. "The only stats we have are from last season. Those do not give an accurate view of a team's potential.

The Belles will play in either the tournament's consolation or championship game on Saturday before their home opener against Wheaton on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabarek@smcm.edu.

Recycle The Observer.

Men's Swimming

Buckeyes burst into Rolfs

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame faces its toughest season of the challenge when No. 11 Ohio State travels to the Rolfs Aquatic Center at Notre Dame tonight with an unblemished 3-0 record on the season.

The Irish enter the meet with a 3-2 record in which they swept a dual meet at Cleveland State and the Vikings and Miami (OH). The Irish improved their record against Cleveland State to 22-2 under Coach Tim Welsh.

But in the Rolfs meet against top-25 competition, the Irish fell to No. 14 Purdue, 187-108.

Unfortunately for the Irish, it doesn't get much easier against the Buckeyes.

"Ohio State may be the fastest team to visit Notre Dame this season," Irish coach Tim Welsh said.

"The swim we have been doing very well in dual meets, and we are expecting this to be one of our toughest of the season.

Hopefully this will bring out fast swims on our end as well.

"I expect us to have more depth in our program this season."

Jen Henley
Belles coach

"Ohio State may be the fastest team to visit Notre Dame this season."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

NCAA Football

Pitt offensr runs through McCoy

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH - If Pittsburg's Top 25 game at Cincinnati is tight in the fourth quarter, the Panthers' defense will be the one that determines the outcome.

"Theleaders on this team, they want it bad. ... So does everybody," coach (Dave Wannstedt). "Maybe we can be the team that stops McCoy, limiting him to 39 yards and a touchdown.

"I'm sure they're going to do their best to stop the run," quarterback Bill Stull said. "Louisville put a lot of extra time into doing that and was successful, but that allowed us to mix in a couple of other things with some success.

Louisville was so geared up to stop McCoy, limiting him to 39 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries on Nov. 8, that the Panthers didn't do much what it needed. Stull passed for 216 yards and a touchdown and the Pitt defense scored two touchdowns during a 41-7 victory.

Cincinnati's rushing defense is the third best in the Big East, allowing an average of 112 yards.

"They probably have the toughest defense we'll face all season," Stull said. "They have a 1,000-yard runner. We believe they're going to stop the run first. That's fine with us. We want to open the door for the Panthers to win the conference if they can beat West Virginia and Cincinnati in their final two games.

"Maybe we can be the team to do what we did to West Virginia last year, we can stop the run," Wannstedt said. "They'll have to do a lot of things against us.

"That's our mindset. We have three tough games left against tough teams, so the way we look at it is, 'How bad do we want it?'"

"The leaders on this team, they want it bad. ... So does (offensive coordinator Matt Cavanaugh)."

According to Stats, Inc., the only running backs on Top 25 teams who have gained more road yardage than McCoy the last two seasons are McQuaig of Ohio State (1,282 yards in nine games) and Chris Wells of Ohio State (1,291 yards in nine games).

A big game from McCoy is necessary if Pitt is to win at Cincinnati, which can also clinch the Big East title and a BCS bowl bid with a victory. The Panthers' only remaining conference game after Saturday is against Syracuse (2-8, 1-3).

"McCoy is only a sophomore, but he might be the Panthers' best game-rushing since Heisman Trophy winner Tony Dorsett in the 1970s. McCoy does not have a 1,000-yard rusher possesses. Especially in road games, where McCoy has gained more than 100 yards in nine career games away from Pittsburgh.

"McCoy is often at his best when the games are the biggest, not all 1,000-yard rushers possess. Especially in road games, where McCoy has gained more than 100 yards in nine career games away from Pittsburgh.

"McCoy has been held below 100 yards on the road only once, in his 60-yard game at Rutgers last season. He has gained 1,202 of his 1,333 rushing yards on the road, so we have to keep our streak going.

"Playing good on the road, that's worked out real well for us," said McCoy, who has 1,043 yards and 16 touchdowns.

"Cincinnati is one of the toughest defenses we'll face all season," Wannstedt said. "They have a 1,000-yard rusher. We believe they'll try to stop the run first. That's fine with us.

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Recruits continued from page 24

in the country.”

While Larson was selected by Calgary in the fourth round (108th overall) of last year’s NHL draft, two of his future classmates have been labeled as “Players to Watch” by the NHL.

Given an “A” rating, Palmieri was classified as a “Must See player” and a projected first or second round draft pick. Szajner has been given a “C” rating as a potential late-round choice.

Both Forfar and Shrohani are not eligible for the 2009 NHL Draft but are expected to be first-round choices in 2010, a team release said.

Calderbrough is a 5-foot-10, 170-pound, right-handed defenseman who has four assists in 19 games with the national team this year. He joined the Team USA program after recording 10 goals and 62 assists in 70 games with Team Illinois in 2006-07.

The Irish have added two mobile defensemen with excellent offensive instincts that have improved his defensive game over the last two seasons,” Jackson said.

Fowler brings sound offensive skills and a powerful left-handed shot to the defensive unit. He has three goals and 11 assists in 19 games under the US Under-18 team this season and tallied two goals and 12 assists in 59 games for the Under-17 squad last season.

“Cam is a dynamic player at the defense position,” Jackson said.

“T’ll be a great power-play quarterback and potentially is as talented a defenseman as we’ve ever had at Notre Dame,” Palmieri, the final member of the Team USA trio, is a 5-foot-10, 180-pound right wing who moved up to the Under-18 squad midway through last season after starting the campaign with the Under-17 team. He totaled 29 goals and 19 assists in 62 games between the two teams last year, and has five goals and four assists through 19 games this season.

Kyle is a dynamic player who plays with a lot of jam. He’s a defensively skilled with excellent hockey instincts and is a fierce competitor,” Jackson said. “Kyle is one of those players that makes things happen on the ice.”

At 6-foot-2 and 203 pounds, Larson is a prototypical, physical left wing who has a factor in front of the net. Last season, he played alongside current Irish freshman forward Billy Maday with the Waterloo Blackhawks, when he totaled 19 goals and 19 assists in the regular season and added three goals and two assists in the playoffs.

“Nick plays well without the puck and knows how to put himself in position to score,” Jackson said.

While the Irish are surely looking forward to the arrival of their five future teammates, this year’s installment of Notre Dame hockey will begin a home-and-home weekend series with Bowling Green tonight.

The Irish are coming off a dominant win last weekend against the Huskies (7-3-1, 2-1-1 CCHA) with the Falcons (5-2-4, 1-2-0 CCHA) coming to town before the same two teams meet tomorrow night in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Contact Matt Gambere at mgambere@nd.edu

T’eo continued from page 24

Calif. Part of the reason as to why Gaffney is interested in Notre Dame is thanks to special teams coach Brian Polian’s efforts in the Golden State.

“Brian Polian’s done a great job of recruiting him all throughout and Gaffney has always said he’d visit,” Frank said.

“I think we have a really good chance to get him out and take a look,” Frank said. “He’s just a matter of finding the right time since a lot of these guys are still in their playoffs. It’s really hard to know when they’re going to be able to get out and take a look.”

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Contact Matt Gambere at mgambere@nd.edu

ND VOLLEYBALL

ND ready for rematch with Huskies

By JARED JEDICK

Sports Writer

The Big East Championship starts up this weekend in Pittsburgh with a opening round rematch against Connecticut.

After suffering the number five seed last weekend with a win over that same Connecticut team, the Irish need to build on some late season momentum and make a run at the Big East Championship.

“I think we have a really good chance at winning the tournament,” Irish head coach Marty Hartman said. “We have been doing some things very well in the last few weeks.”

The Irish have always played inspired volleyball in the Big East Championship, especially in Pittsburgh. The Irish have won five of six league tournaments played in Pittsburgh with an impressive 12-1 record.

In terms of performance, we feel good. We know it will be a tremendously competitive tournament and we like that because that type of environment brings out the best in us,” Brown said.

The Irish are looking forward to the tournament where all the teams are very even and anything can happen.

“The Big East tournament is always fun and exciting,” Brown said. “As much as we’d like to go into the tournament as a higher seed, every game is huge at this point. We’re excited to face a first-round opponent that we just played. Whether we had won or lost the previous match, I’d say the same thing. You never know who the players are and you have a better feel for the team, opposed to you playing a team in the first week.”

The tournament will begin in unusual fashion, with the Irish playing the fourth-seeded Huskies for the second year in a row. The match last weekend ended in a 3-2 victory for the Irish. The win against Connecticut snapped the Huskies’ seven game winning streak.

“I was very pleased with how the defense played against Connecticut,” Brown said. “We held them to a very low hitting percentage.”

The familiarity will be an advantage for the Irish, as they know what it takes to beat the Huskies.

“It helps that we just played them,” Brown said. “We would be different if we played them earlier in the year but we know exactly what to expect.”

The Huskies come into the tournament on a seven-game winning streak, two of those losses to Notre Dame was only the second loss Connecticut has suffered since October 18.

The Irish played some great defense against Connecticut that they never saw again in the rematch along with a little more offense. Brown believes the key to the Irish’s success this weekend will be a stronger and more diverse attack.

After the first round games the winners will play again on Saturday, December 6 with the overall champion expected to be the winner of the No. 1 St. John’s and No. 3 South Florida game.

Assuming that St. John’s can avoid the big upset, the Irish will play the other team that they faced last weekend. Once again the Irish will benefit from the experience they have in the Big East against the league’s best team.

Brown believes that the Irish played one of their best games this year in the close 2-3 less last weekend against St. John’s, and the team is looking forward to the possible matchup with Connecticut. Sunday’s title match will be on Sunday. If the Irish run the table and become the winner of the Big East Championship, they will receive the league’s automatic bid to the 2009 NCAA Women’s Volleyball Championship.

Contact Jared Jedick at jedick@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Belles look to push record over .500

By ERIC PRINTER

Sports Writer

The Belles finished in last place, but they hope to improve on that performance in this year’s meet.

The Invitational is hosted by Washash College in Gunterville, AL. It will begin tonight at 6:00 P.M. in the Class of 1950 Natatorium in the Allen Athletics and Recreation Center.

Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu
Do you consider the word “motivated” an understatement?
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Diggins continued from page 24
me next year." And at first I thought she meant we had too many guards and I didn't think she was going to fit, and I had a moment of "I better explain this right away."

"And then I just realized she was saying "Yes." There was some pandemonium in the locker room.

Unlike with most players, who start getting heavily recruited later in their high school careers, Diggins' process began much earlier. McGraw said she first offered the 5-foot-9 guard a scholarship in eighth grade.

"We had seen her play and I knew she was going to be a great player," McGraw said. "... I was really special and I think we could tell that right away."

Previously, the earliest McGraw said she offered a scholarship was during the sophomore seasons of current seniors Ashley Barlow and Melissa Lechlitner.

"They both committed at the offer, so that's why we thought it was supposed to work," McGraw said jokingly.

One of the things that made signing Diggins more difficult than her experience with other players, McGraw said, was the fact that Diggins is a South Bend native helped ease the process. McGraw said, since she was from the area, the coach could put a lot of face time into Diggins' high school games. McGraw said she almost had to "guard her turf" because of the number of coaches flocking into South Bend to watch Diggins play.

"We keep talking to people at the airport to delay the flights coming in, put that fence up around town, charge a toll to get in. We could have made a lot of money this year," McGraw said.

Regardless of the extra attention Diggins received, McGraw said the process remained the same as it has with all of her other players.

"Most of the girls on the team committed so early in the process, none of them except for [sophomore forward] Devereaux Peters, took any other official visits," she said.

Diggins is currently 19th on the all-time scorers' list in Indiana high school girls basketball with 2,036 points. She has averaged 24.8 points, 6.6 rebounds, 2.4 assists, 4.1 steals and 1.3 blocks per game during her three years on the varsity team at Marian Catholic High School as which has a 76-6 record in the last three seasons — and won the state championship her sophomore season.

Diggins joins point guard Kails Turner from Joliet, Ill., and Marian Catholic High School as this year's recruiting class — ranked between No. 13 and No. 18 by national recruiting services. This markers the twelfth consecutive year the Irish have had the top 25 recruiting class for the Irish, a fact matched only by perennial powerhouse Tennessee and Connecticut.

McGraw said her recruiting is likely done, unless a big name post player comes up later in the process. If current senior guard Lindsay Schrader opts to take her redshirt fifth-year (earned after tearing her ACL two seasons ago), the Irish will have 13 players on the roster next season.

But looking into the more immediate future, the Irish will take on Boston College Sunday at Chestnut Hills, Mass.

The Eagles currently sit at 3-0, thanks in large part to their front court. Center Carolyn Swords stands at 6-foot-6 and forward Stefanie Murphy have helped lead the scoring so far this year for Boston College. Swords is first on the team, averaging a double-double through three games at 21.7 points and 10 boards, while Murphy is third with 11 points per game.

"We've got to make up for the size difference," McGraw said.

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Sweet 16 continued from page 24

"Usually we look at the cold weather as a homefield advantage for us. But that's not the case this time around," Randy Waldrum Irish coach

"We've got to make up for the size difference," McGraw said.

Sweet 16 continued from page 24

go after it," he said. "They're very similar to Marquette or [North] Carolina in that way ... At the end of the day, I think we're going to fit out there and find a very good team.

But that's not to say Minnesota has a weak back line. "They're a very good defense, much like we are," he said. "They haven't given up a ton of goals but we have the weapons, and if we stick to our game-plan I think we'll be alright."

The undefeated Irish, who are no strangers to hosting late-round Tournament games, welcome a Golden Gophers team that is used to the cold weather.

"Usually we look at the cold weather as a homefield advantage for us," Waldrum said. "But that's not the case this time around."

For that reason, Waldrum said the Irish hope to see tremendous fan support tonight.

"I think when you look at the 16 that are left, there are no real surprises out there," he said. "At the end of the day, any of them can win it all and it wouldn't be a terrible surprise. It's the first year in a long time where there haven't been any big surprises."

So Notre Dame heads into tonight's matchup with the Golden Gophers with the intention of focusing on one game at a time. And Waldrum said the team cannot wait to take the field.

"I think everyone's ready to go, and excited," he said. "Even with the cold weather; we're ready.

Contact Fran Tolan at flolan@nd.edu
The Observer  •  TODAY

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ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Round Three

Notre Dame ready for Gophers' attacking style, cold weather

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

In round one, Notre Dame delivered a series of punishing blows to its helpless opponent. In round two, the team traded punches with its foe before the Irish delivered a late uppercut to the latter. Now it's time for round three. After blowing out Toledo and squeaking past Michigan State last weekend, No. 1 Notre Dame (23-0-0) prepares for a slugfest against No. 22 Minnesota (22-3-0) tonight at Alumni Field.

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"He's a guy that can make big, big plays. He's a guy with incredible speed and the ability to run sideline to sideline. He's got the kind of speed and athleticism that they've been looking for at linebacker."

"If Te'o were to give his verbal commitment to Notre Dame, Frank believes that the linebacker would have an immediate impact, even as a freshman."
IRISH INSIDER
Friday, November 21, 2008

Odds GREAT
The class of 2009 has seen the good and the bad of college football.
and SMALL

Graphic illustration by MARY JESSE/The Observer
There's no shame in shedding tears

"A League of Their Own" star Jimmy Dugan is arguably the most memorable coach in American cinematic history. Dugan's legacy may not stack up against the likes of our own All-American coach Charlie Weis, but he will forever be remembered for one of his most famous rule:

"There is no crying in baseball."

The rule has been broken plenty of times, and if it is applied across all sports the number of infractions jumps exponentially. So, is it really wrong to shed a few tears in either the pain or joy after an emotionally draining game, season or career?

Cougars' star Terrell Owens certainly doesn't think so — he proved that during his blubbering defense of his "teammate" Tony Romo after a playoff loss last year.

Neither does the one and only Michael Jordan. MJ cried his eyes out after winning his fourth NBA title on Father's Day in 1996, only three years after his own father was murdered.

Any athlete worth his weight in Kleenex knows that sports are played with raw emotion. Sometimes those emotions spill over into the aftermath, and despite what Jimmy Dugan may have to say on the matter, it's part of the game.

So, don't be surprised to see some waterworks following Saturday's game against Syracuse as a group of 23 seniors leave the beloved tunnel for the very last time. Irish coach Charlie Weis sure won't be.

"I don't want to name any names, that would be pretty embarrassing for those guys," Weis said.

But really, there is nothing to be ashamed of.

For four years the senior class has put in endless hours in the weight room, in practice and in meetings to perform on Saturdays. Many have overcome injuries and adversity throughout their tenure, and for most this is the end of the line for a game that has consumed their lives.

Leaving behind football will be like losing a family member — definitely grounds for weeping.

For the half dozen walk-ons, some that we now know better than others, the journey has been every bit as hard. All of them started their careers in the dead of winter with 5:30 a.m. workouts every morning. While most of us were snug in our beds after a long night of complaining about bowl losses, they were hard at work trying to fix the problem.

Who is going to tell Nik Rodriguez or John Leonis they don't deserve a good cry? They have already given the Irish their blood and sweat, why not their tears?

Ironically enough, 65 fictional women years ago when Dugan first handed out his decree to Evelyn Gardner they were standing — where else? — in our very own South Bend, Ind.

Dugan's Rockford Peaches were taking on the South Bend Blue Sox when he put a ban on bawling in 1943. The same year that Frank Leahy won his first National Championship and Angelo Bertelli won Notre Dame's first ever Heisman Trophy.

The Stadium has seen seven more championships and six more Heisman winners since then, but none of them were legally allowed to celebrate with tears.

This year, it is finally time that we lift the ban.

So, seniors, this Saturday when all is said and done leave everything you have on the field, the sidelines or even in the stands. And remember, it's your party so cry if you want to.

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

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

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2008 Irish opponents

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Steady hand
While others transferred, Sharpley remained consummate teammate

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

Irish quarterback Evan Sharpley audibles at the line during Notre Dame's 46-44 loss to Navy on Nov. 3, 2007. Sharpley threw for 140 yards and two touchdowns in the game.

"Any time someone else is named ahead of you, no one wants to sit the bench, everyone wants to play. When something like that happens, it's tough," Sharpley said. "We all put in hard work. I thought I put in a lot of hard work, but that's up to the coaches and you have to be supportive and be there for the rest of the team."

Sharpley's glad he stayed because his time on the team at Notre Dame has taught him a lot and prepared him for life after college. "I have this conversation all the time with a lot of people's respect and you can never get too down," Sharpley said. "Even if something bad's happened, it's always in God's hands and you may not understand the reason why it's happening, and it maybe out of your control, but the only thing you can control is your attitude."

This year, Sharpley's attitude has been instrumental in helping develop Clausen and freshmen Dane Crist and Nate Montana. Quarterbacks coach Ron Powlus said Sharpley has a calming effect on the team. "Evan's been vitally important. He's a huge asset to the team. He's not a joker or someone who's just there to be on the bench. He's doing a lot of hard work, but that's not the case, he's actually doing a lot of hard work for us, and that's kind of my M.O."

Sharpley didn't transfer, as Zach Frazer and Demetrio Jones did, he didn't cause his departure amongst his teammates; rather, he stayed at Notre Dame and did all he could to help his team. "Any time someone else is named ahead of you, no one wants to sit the bench, everyone wants to play. When something like that happens, it's tough."
Mike Turkovich

Turkovich eases into left tackle position

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Editor's note: this story originally ran on Sept. 26, 2008.

So far this season, Notre Dame's offensive line has given up three sacks, which is as many as it surrendered in the first quarter of last season. On major part of that is the personnel changes made in the trenches, especially at left tackle.

Senior Mike Turkovich took over the duty of protecting quarterback Jimmy Clausen's blind side this season, replacing senior Paul Duncan.

Turkovich played all of last season, starting every game at left guard, before making the transition in the spring. He said the transition was a result of the rotation the offensive linemen did during training camp to find the best fit.

"In the spring, we were rotating guys around and offensive line coach [John Latina] said, 'Could you go in at left tackle today?' And I was working with [the backups] because I was getting back in the rotation [after an injury]," Turkovich said.

Turkovich said he felt comfortable with the switch to the left side of the line right away.

"I thought, 'Hey, this is your chance. Just play with reckless abandon.' You can't be thinking out there. Just do your job and do it fundamentally sound," he said.

Latina said that the transition from guard to tackle is a more difficult one than from tackle to guard because you are more isolated and facing a different kind of rusher.

"Playing in what the coach called 'a phone book amount of space,' a guard is generally matched up against a large defensive tackle. But an offensive tackle has to block speedier defensive ends and linebackers one-on-one.

One main reason Turkovich has been able to transition so easily is because he has played the position before. His first two years at Notre Dame were spent as a tackle before he moved inside last season. Turkovich said he made the switch in guard because Latina said it would be his best fit.

Turkovich also played tackle in high school, but started his football career as a tight end.

"In high school I was a tight end that ate himself into the tackle position," he said. "I weighed 215, 210 my junior year of high school, bulked up my senior year.

Turkovich also credited his teammates with easing his transition back to tackle, especially left guard Eric Olsen.

"When you play next to a guy like Eric [Olsen], he's a good player and he makes it easier on you. You know he's going to do his job," Turkovich said. "You can trust him. Same thing with tight ends, you can trust them. It's made transition easier."

This season, Turkovich has been a solid performer on the line, as evident by the fact that Clausen has yet to be hit from his blind side. And during last week's 23-7 loss to Michigan State when the line surrendered its only three sacks of the season, the Spartans blitzed when the Irish were in empty backfield formations, putting the offensive line at a disadvantage.

"The offensive line is better than it was last season, but still has room for improvement — especially after notching only 16 yards rushing against the Spartans," he said. "... Last game they were getting pressure and getting sacks and we can't win if that happens."

But even with the line's marked improvement this season, something Turkovich has been a major part of, he remains his own harshest critic.

"Even if I make a block on a play, I'll still [thinking] I could have done better," the senior said. "I think that I've done good things, but there's definitely room for improvement still."

Turkovich said the most important thing for him this year is to make sure he leaves Notre Dame on a high note. After last season's deba
cle for the linemen, he wants
Ups and downs

Through high school and college, David Grimes has seen the best and worst of football

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

For David Grimes, growing up in Michigan made him want to beat Michigan.

The senior wide receiver from Detroit said he came to Notre Dame for the same reason many other athletes say they come here — the combination of good academics and solid athletic programs. But before giving the party-line response, Grimes mentioned the Wolverines.

This year, the win tasted particularly sweet.

"Last year, having that disappointing loss, and then to come back and get the win is huge," he said. "Eventually I had to go back home and put up with all the Michigan fans, and now I can take a little trash myself."

Whatever his motivations for coming here, Grimes has made an impact. Heading into tomorrow's game, he is the active leader in career receptions with 79 and career receiving yards with 793. This year, Irish coach Charlie Weis rewarded him by naming him offensive captain.

"It was a disappointing and frustrating but I think the best part we got out of that season is that we made an effort not let that happen again," Grimes said. "I think that's kind of what we fed into that season."  

Sibling split

Grimes played with his older brother Carl for three years at St. Martin DePorres High School in Detroit. The pair won two state championships, in David's sophomore and junior year. His junior year, Grimes caught an 86-yard touchdown pass in the title game.

In Grimes' senior year, DePorres lost in the state title game despite his stat line. Grimes, who also played defensive back, returned a fumble 36 yards for a touchdown and made seven tackles in addition to his five catches for 59 yards. Grimes caught 41 passes for 800 yards and eight touchdowns that year and was a team captain.

The Detroit Free press selected him as a first-team all-state wide receiver.

"We had a lot of new faces coming in, and a lot of guys graduated and left. But that's the nature of college football. Guys leaving, and new guys coming," Grimes said. "It's great to be out there with your brother and take it to the next level in college."

David Grimes
Irish receiver

David Grimes
Irish receiver

Irish receiver David Grimes runs after a catch during Notre Dame's 29-24 loss to North Carolina on Oct. 11.

Irish receiver David Grimes catches a touchdown pass during Notre Dame's 21-23 win over San Diego State on Sept. 6. Grimes had 5 catches for 35 yards in the win.

"It was disappointing and frustrating but I think the best part we got out of that season is that we made an effort not let that happen again. I think that's kind of what we fed into this year," Grimes said.

David Grimes
Irish receiver

The chance to play with his brother Carl for three years at Notre Dame was nice, Grimes said, considering he used to watch him play on TV.

"Seeing how far I've come, sitting at high school at home watching Notre Dame and Brady Quinn, and actually having the opportunity to play for him, play with him," Grimes said. "All my friends and family ask me, you played with Brady Quinn, how does it feel?"

During Grimes' first two years, Notre Dame reached the Fiesta Bowl and the Sugar Bowl. Both those experiences will stick with Grimes after he graduates.

"I think of it as if there was a sports clicker, going week by week," he said. "Notre Dame beats Michigan, Notre Dame goes to the Fiesta Bowl, Notre Dame goes to the Sugar Bowl against LSU."

One experience in New Orleans had a special impact. The team helped clean up a building that Hurricane Katrina had damaged, Grimes said, and he liked helping the hurricane victims. He said the trip was also a nice opportunity for his family.

"In New Orleans, it was a good opportunity after Hurricane Katrina to get down there and help the community with the little service that we did," Grimes said. "But we also had a good time down there. It was an opportunity for my family to come down and experience some things that they never get to see."

9-3 to 3-9

In 2007, Grimes' junior year, the team fell from being a top-25 contender and ended up going 3-9. Grimes said that was disappointing and frustrating but he thinks the best part they got out of that season is that they made an effort not let that happen again. He said he's been homesick, even though it's close, and that he didn't have a car to go back, so he didn't have a way to get through it and make the most of it.

Off the field, Grimes said spending time with his friends helped him acclimate to campus life and take his mind off the stress. On the field, he began to see time as a kick returner. He averaged 22.5 yards and had a 46-yarder against Purdue. Even though he had success, he said he still wanted to catch the ball.

"I was fine with it, but I was also still competing to get in at wide receiver," he said.

He got there sophomore year, catching 26 passes for 336 yards and two touchdowns. He caught eight passes for 76 yards against UCLA. Meanwhile, he still returned kicks, and broke a 50-yard return against East Carolina.

"I think of it as if there was a sports clicker, going week by week," he said. "Notre Dame beats Michigan, Notre Dame goes to the Fiesta Bowl, Notre Dame goes to the Sugar Bowl against LSU."

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9-3 to 3-9

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**THOMAS BEMENDERFER**

**Offensive lineman to enter medical school after graduation**

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Managing Editor

While some of his classmates will be looking into the job market and others will be getting ready for the final exams in April, lineman Thomas Bemenderfer will be getting ready for his interview for IU. He has already taken his interviews for IU, but has not heard back yet.

Bemenderfer is a Science Pre-Professional major enrolled in the College of Science, and has also made the Dean's List. He said that combining a rigorous academic schedule with football has been one of the more rewarding parts of his college experience.

"It's probably one of the main cartilages in the body. I've learned by taking hard courses and doing football at the same time is time management," Bemenderfer said. "You always have this big juggling act to get to do, when you need to do it. To be successful, you have to be able to juggle it."

Bemenderfer added that the benefits that come from his hard work have paid off in the long run.

"One of the things you sacrifice is free time, but it's worth it. It's worth it to do well in school, it's really worth it to do well in football," he said.

Despite seeing limited playing time during his time with the Irish, Bemenderfer has taken hard work ethic from the classroom and applied it to the practice field. "You can never take a play off, you can never choose to be bad, you just have to do better. If you're not getting better, you said."

Offensive line coach John Latina said this hardworking personality is one of the things that has made Bemenderfer such an asset to the line during his time at Notre Dame. One major result of his hard work is that Bemenderfer can play at all three interior line positions.

"He's a guy who's been around a long time. Understands concepts, understands our blocking schemes and our plays. It's a great advantage when you can do that," Latina said.

Latina added that Bemenderfer has been a great role model for other players in terms of his work ethic and study habits.

"I think a lot of the younger players look up to him because they respect his hard work ethic. He's a tough kid, he's a smart kid," Latina said. "They see that he's played multiple positions, and the only way you do that is become a student of the game. They also know his off-the-field habits in the classroom. I think he's a great guy to emulate if you're a young player."

Even though Bemenderfer grew up in South Bend and had two older brothers attend Notre Dame, his first choice was Northwestern, where he received a full athletic scholarship. However, after the death of former Wildcats coach Randy Walker, Bemenderfer decided to transfer to Notre Dame.

Bemenderfer said the decision was a tough one to make since he was walking away from a guaranteed free ride without any guarantee of making the football team.

"I took a leap of faith without any promises and without talking to the coaching staff and everything turned out really well and I got really lucky," he said.

But when it came down to it, Bemenderfer decided he had to follow his dreams.

"When it comes down to it, you can't do that for the rest of your life. You might as well do it the way you want to and live your dreams," he said of his decision to transfer.

Going to Notre Dame was always a dream for Bemenderfer, one that started when his father took him to games as a child.

"It was just an incredible experience, walking around, seeing all the people, the emotion, walking around campus and seeing the tradition. Everything about Notre Dame is magical," Bemenderfer said. "I take Bemenderfer's hard work and gutsy decisions have paid off so far, as he has earned a scholarship each of the last two seasons.

"It puts you on top of the world when you get that scholarship and you know that all your hard work had some kind of result.

But even that didn't go to Bemenderfer's head. "The scholarship just motivated me to work harder," he said.

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**PAUL DUNCAN**

**Injured offensive tackle laments the loss of season**

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

The fact that he'll likely have the opportunity to round out his senior season is what he's holding on to. "It's not cool at all," said Duncan, who started all 12 games for the team last season. "I've been pretty upset to miss the opportunity to be out there with a lot of the guys I came in with and aren't going to be here next year. But you know what, there's still a lot to look forward to.

The Dallas, Ga. native was expected to compete with fellow senior Michael Turkovich to start at left tackle. But torn cartilage in a sideline during preseason drills, and Irish coach Charlie Weis announced on Oct. 21 that he was out for the season.

"I really do love the opportunity to see Turko play," said Duncan, a management-entrepreneurship major. "It was really disappointing for me in camp when the real battle went down and I got hurt and couldn't fight for it. It was a real tough pill to swallow for Turk, and he's played really well.

"Though unable to suit up on Saturdays, Duncan has taken pride in the marked improvement of an offensive line that was much-maligned a year ago.

"We could have obviously made it much easier for Paul Duncan to sit out his senior season with a hip injury. But I'm really happy for Turk, and I see's played a lot of his senior season have carried over into this year, Duncan said. "It's been really exciting just to see them do well. I like to think I have a little part of it, especially from the spring. I brought with a lot of the development, and just to see it come to fruition during the season has been great.

"The opportunity to sit back and watch [the offense], go more into the details, kind of coaching being able to back and help guys with different pointers and techniques has helped me.

"Offensive line coach John Latina said Duncan's contributions to the line's continued development have gone unnoticed."

"I obviously hate the fact that he'll be out there for us now, but he's a very intelli- player and a smart player— who understands the offense," Latina said. "I think the light-switch has really gone on for him."

Duncan's teammates have helped him keep that light-switch on— literally, Duncan lives off-campus with Turkovich, defensive lineman Pat Kent, safety Kyle McCarthy and linebacker Steve Quinn in a house in O'Neill.

"We try to keep it low-key, don't get too crazy, which is nice. We keep it nice and clean," Duncan said. "In the house, you work on your commitments so much more than in dorms— for the gas bill, the electricity— all that stuff. It's just another aspect of life."

But living on campus for three years— two in O'Neill, then one as a junior in Knot— is not something he would trade, Duncan said.

"I've got great bonds with the guys in O'Neill. I have those guys and I spent a lot of time with them," Duncan said. "And to be honest, if I had always lived with just athletes, I probably wouldn't have met my girlfriend who graduated last spring. Just being a regular student, hanging out— you've got to be with other people in different roles of just being in college.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu
Maurice Crum Jr. has given all he can over the past five years, on and off the field

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Irish fifth-year senior middle linebacker Maurice Crum Jr. has a safe hold on the No. 1 spot with 221 career tackles. Crum already holds an impressive spot in the books with the longest games played and games started streaks in the program's rich history. Crum was red-shirted his freshman season, since then he has played in every single game for the past four years. "I feel like my greatest attribute is my toughness," Crum said. "If I can help the team and be effective, I'm going to play."

Crum has also started 44 of those 45 including 43 in a row to start his career. Crum's one miss was two weeks ago against the Huskies in Washington. Crum sat out the first play because of the formation Washington opened the game with.

And he has never missed a game due to injury. "It has a lot to do with will power. You're going to get beat up, but for me the greatest cure for pain is for the next play to occur," he said. "As long as you are out on that field and the adrenaline is pumping, nothing else really matters." Crum needed all the adrenaline he could muster during his sophomore season when he played the majority of the season with a back injury. Crum said that he frequently had back spasms throughout the season, but didn't want to get the necessary surgery until the season had ended.

"Needless to say, it hurt, but my will power and my desire to help the team kept me on the field," he said. The back hasn't been a problem since his surgery, but there are plenty of other bumps and bruises that a middle linebacker picks up during games.

"Bruised legs, turf toe, you know, just the regular kind of football stuff,"

Crum said that a big part of his will to play through injuries comes because he wants to set a good example for whomever may be watching. "I don't know who's watching me or who wants to like me and I don't want them to get the wrong idea. There's a difference between being hurt and being injured."

Leading the way

Crum is very conscious of his role as a leader of the Irish team. He is one of only 17 players to be named captain twice. He was the only captain who was not a fifth-year senior and this year he was a shoe-in for the spot along with offensive captain David Grimes and special teams captain David Bruton. "Being a leader of a team means that you have to be whatever your teams needs you to be," Crum said.

Crum said that in a season full of many highs and lows, his job has changed on a weekly, or even daily basis. As middle linebacker and the oldest player in a young defense, Crum has had to be a rock for his team and off the field this season.

Crum attributes most of his leadership skills to his father, Maurice Crum, Sr. who was a linebacker at the University of Miami. "My dad has always been a very important factor in my life. Him being around and knowing the game, it helps," Crum said.

Crum said that he was forced into being a veteran player pretty quickly with such a young team. He did get the chance to watch players like Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mayes, which helped him learn how to work well together. "I felt that teaching me was a major role for himself because he has had to wear about every hat there is in the past four years for his team.

All of his hard work has certainly paid off. The entire nation is starting to recognize Crum's work on and off the field. He is currently a finalist for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, which is given to a senior from each sport every year for their leadership on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

Crum graduated from Notre Dame last May with a degree in Sociology and enrolled in graduate school after the University approved him for a fifth year on the field.

Crum attributes the praise of that award to his family. "The way that raised me and teaching me values, teaching me to be that well-rounded guy. [The award] is just a result of my upbringing," Crum said.

The winner of the award is based on nation wide fan voting and will be decided on Dec. 10.

Between a degree from Notre Dame, a place in the Irish record books and annual trips to African orphanages Crum certainly has the résumé to win.
Ray Herring
After injury, Herring still has unfinished business

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Ray Herring is no stranger to grabbing the attention of tens of thousands of people. Before his senior year at Holy Trinity High School, Herring was asked by the Florida Today newspaper to keep a diary of his final season. Plenty of people were interested in what Herring, a starter both ways during the first four years of varsity football at Holy Trinity, had to say.

"Anytime I had thoughts, I wrote them down on the website for Florida Today," Herring said. "The day I committed to Notre Dame, I think I had 100,000 people visit my site. [Florida Today] said that was the most they'd ever had, even more than when the Challenger blew up, so I broke that record on that."

While Herring is a bit of a celebrity in his tiny hometown of Melbourne, Florida, he's still trying to achieve the same status in South Bend.

Pegged by the Notre Dame coaches as a strong safety, Herring came to South Bend behind Tom Zbikowski on the depth chart. The former Irish All-American didn't leave much opportunity for Herring to play over the next three years. Herring did make one start, in 2006 against Stanford when Zbikowski was out because of an injury. Herring made the most of his opportunity, recording nine tackles during a 31-10 Irish victory, and he recalls that game as one of his favorite memories of his Notre Dame career to-date.

"It was good because it was my first start," Herring said. "I was pretty nervous."

Other than the Stanford game, Herring was primarily consigned to special teams duty his first three years. His freshman year, Herring made his first appearance on special teams against Washington, and he recorded five tackles in 115 special teams appearances on the year. Herring's role expanded slightly his sophomore year as he became a mainstay on special teams and received playing time at safety late during several games. On the year, he finished 13th on the team with 18 total tackles, and he also added two pass break-ups. After playing both ways for four straight seasons in high school, Herring had to adjust to more limited playing time at Notre Dame.

"It was kind of hard. But at a good program like this, where you have good players, sometimes you get to wait your turn."

Ray Herring
Irish Strong Safety

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Herring may still be searching for the reason why his junior season went down the drain. Four games into the year, Herring injured his groin and wouldn't play for the rest of the season. Although Zbikowski's decision to return for his senior year in 2007 meant that Herring was still blocked on the depth-chart, Herring's injury opened the door for teammate Kyle McCarthy. McCarthy hasn't looked back as he assumed the starting strong safety spot and currently leads the Irish in tackles in 2008 with 89.

"I kind of had to start over on the depth chart," Herring said on the effect of his injury. "I had Kyle [McCarthy] behind me, and he's a good player. He got in front of me, and it was kind of hard to pass him because he's a good player too, so I kind of have to wait right now."

Herring has received academic eligibility for a fifth season, and he
Tough it out

Whether it’s opponents’ offensive lines or teammates’ sanity, Pat Kuntz is a disruptive force

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Editor’s note: this story originally ran on Oct. 3, 2008.

No matter what Pat Kuntz faces — opposing offensive linemen, public speaking engagements or Halo challenges — he toughs it out. That’s why, in his senior year of high school, he played his last four games with a broken right arm.

Not a hairline fracture that didn’t show up on an X-Ray. A teammate’s helmet squashed his arm as Kuntz made a tackle, and Kuntz hurt a cast from his wrist to above his elbow. He played anyway.

After one game, without elbow flexion, he decided he needed more mobility and cut the cast down so his arm could flex.

“It hurt a lot, but it was my senior year,” he said. “I didn’t care who offered it, people might not. We’ll just have to get after you.”

Kuntz has to cause problems up front. Kuntz has to have a disruptive style of defense, coach Jappy Oliver calls his guy.

“Getting your hands up, altering throws, things like that,” said Notre Dame’s senior defensive lineman.

Disruptiveness isn’t a physical trait, Oliver said. It’s a mentality.

“The way we call our defense helps that because we call an aggressive style of defense,” Oliver said. “It’s their attitude, just wanting to get there.”

That aggressive play-calling hasn’t produced much in the way of tangible results this season — only one sack — but that didn’t concern Kuntz or Brown.

Kuntz said there were other stats, like completion percentage or turnovers forced, that showed the success of a defensive scheme. Brown’s philosophy, he said, is to keep the offense short of the sticks at all cost. The other team could complete 70 percent of their passes, he said, but as long as they were short and the defense forced three-and-outs, he’d be okay with it.

“You can be very effective with the pass rush by not getting sacks,” Kuntz said. “Getting your hands up, altering throws, things like that.”

“If disruptive describes Kuntz on the field, messy describes his act will soon go public; he’s scheduled to speak at a thoroughly dreads-convention in Indianapolis, with 25,000 in attendance, something he is quite proud of. He bet an older teammate who previously held the record that he would break it, then did just that.

“When I bet him, he was new to the high school level. Kuntz holds the career sack record at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis with 25.5 sacks, something he is quite proud of. He bet an older teammate who previously held the record that he would break it, then did just that.

Senior defensive lineman Pat Kuntz attempts to break up a pass in Notre Dame’s 23-7 loss to Michigan State on Sept. 20.

“Tough it out, then did just that.

“Seeing him play me off was probably one of the best feelings I’ve had,” he said.

Playing high school football meant a great deal to Kuntz.

“That was probably one of my best experiences of my life,” he said. “People take it for granted playing with guys you’ve known your whole life that would basically die for you. With the success my football team had — we won three consecutive state championships — it was just one of the best times of my life.

Notre Dame was a logical choice coming from a Catholic high school in Indianapolis, Kuntz said. He grew up a Notre Dame fan. But for Kuntz, coming to South Bend was about more than fan-base.

“What made me want to come here was tradition and being the guy from my town who went here.”

Pat Kuntz
Irish senior

“It’s a lot more attacking defense,” he said. “I played a lot of 3-technique my first two years. It’s definitely different, but it reminds me a little bit of it now.”

Standing with his running back, Toby Gerhart and Anthony Kimbrow, present a two-sided challenge to Notre Dame’s defense Saturday. To quelch the running game, Brown said, the defense has to control the line of scrimmage.

“If running backs run the same when there’s no hole, Brown said. “When there’s no hole or the holes are small, it’s harder for them to be effective.”

For that to happen, he said, Kuntz has to cause problems up front.

“We need him to play hard, be disruptive in there,” Brown said. “It’s the oldest guy out there for the most part. He’s gotta show them. When he’s out there he needs to be a problem.”

Kuntz agreed.

“Everybody’s open game. It doesn’t matter if you’re a freshman or a senior. If you do something stupid, everybody’s going to get after you.”

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Walk-on balances football with aerospace engineering

By LAURA MYERS
The Observer

Most students would disagree with John Leonis when he says he is nothing special. The walk-on halfback refused to let injuries stand in his way.

"I kind of don't want to, but really life knocks on the door and you have to answer it," he said. "I just came to the school, and football presented itself as an opportunity, so I took it."

Contact Laura Myers at lmeyers2@nd.edu

Nikolas Rodriguez
Walk-on halfback refuses to let injuries stand in his way

By ALEX BARKER
The Observer

It isn't easy walking on to one of the most storied programs in all of college football. Throw an injury into the mix and things take a MASSIVE downturn.

Nikolas Rodriguez found that out the hard way his freshman year after a severe hamstring injury left him unable to finish walk-on tryouts during spring practice.

"It hasn't fully hit me yet. It's hard to believe my athletic career is about to come to an end," Rodriguez said.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu
From hardwood to gridiron

Justin Brown didn’t play football until his senior year of high school, but he is making up for lost time

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Managing Editor

Editor’s note: this story originally ran on Nov. 14, 2008.

During his career at Notre Dame, Justin Brown has been a solid, steady presence on the defensive line. The fifth-year senior who was telling me. Coach [Tyrone] Willingham recruited me, and I felt like I wanted to come here and play,” he said.

Once he got to Notre Dame, the biggest adjustment Brown had to make was learning how to play technical football.

I didn’t know so much technical and knowledge of the game [was involved]. And when I came up here, it sort of proved itself true,” he said.

But after getting the Irish another look, he said the school was a perfect fit for him.

“One of the things that stood out to me was that people talk about — you get a degree from Notre Dame. The fact that the school was a very religious institution, very religion-conscious, very faith-based — that was important. And then, I believed in the football coaches and what they were telling me. Coach [Tyrone] Willingham recruited me, and I felt like I wanted to come here and play,” he said.

Brown said he didn’t know how he could wind up playing football at Notre Dame after only one year, but said that he was meant to be here.

“That was God’s work, I say. It’s interesting, I play for Notre Dame and through God in there, and it’s such a religious institution. There’s a reason for everything happening, I’m supposed to be here, I guess,” he said.

Brown said that when Notre Dame first started recruiting him, he had no idea about the school’s history or tradition, but he knew it must have been a special place because of how other players spoke about it.

“The thing that struck me was this place had to be special because of the reaction I would get from everyone. It was the reaction that people gave me that kind of made me realize that this was some place special. And when I came up here, it sort of proved itself true,” he said.

Irish defensive lineman Justin Brown tries to deflect a pass during Notre Dame’s 38-21 win over Purdue on Sept. 27.

“If that doesn’t work, I always have my Notre Dame degree to fall back on,” he said. Brown graduated in May with a double major in Film, Television and Theater and Sociology. He started with the FTT manager in television, something he has always been interested in, he said.

“My really interested in media. Coming into college, I wanted to work with advertising, so that’s where I went. I really like the creative aspect of things. I was happy when I saw that they have a film program here,” he said.

Brown said he added the second major because he thought he would be a good fit with the FTT. He is currently enrolled in a non-degree graduate studies program, taking some psychology courses and a special studies class. For the special studies, he is working on a multimedia CD for his brother’s wedding, which was in October.

But in the much more immediate future, Brown said he is excited to play Navy and excited to see his family.

“I guess, it’s kind of like my Thanksgiving. I don’t get to go home before Thanksgiving, so that’s always good to see my family around this time of year. People don’t always get to see their families, so I’m fortunate to see mine,” he said.

Brown said he didn’t know how or when he would get to spend with them, but it won’t be enough if this year is anything like his last trip to Maryland two years ago.

“Last time, they were calling me to get on the bus because I wasn’t ready to leave yet,” Brown said.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu


“My dad just sending tapes everywhere, probably like 50 coach, they made some tapes. My dad just sending tapes to get his scholarship after bas­

“Probably for the first two or three years here I felt like I was playing catch-up to everybody else physically and mentally,” he said.

Justin Brown
Irish defensive end

Irish defensive end Justin Brown didn’t play football until his senior year of high school, but he is making up for lost time.

“If and that didn’t matter to his game plan. Joseph and the other coaches gave Brown simple instructions for playing.

“Just go and get the ball carrier. Just go and run and make plays,” Brown said of his high school coaching.

This plan was immediately successful, and Brown finished his first year of organized football with 56 tackles, nine sacks and three fumble recoveries. As his senior season wore on, he started getting more looks for that big-time college scholar­

ship he did not get in basket­

school’s history or tradition, but it’s kind of like my Thanksgiving. I don’t get to go home before Thanksgiving, so that’s always good to see my family around this time of year. People don’t always get to see their families, so I’m fortunate to see mine,” he said.

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“My dad just sending tapes out of com peting in other camps and tournaments later in the summer, Brown said his interest to play basketball dur­

ning the offseason — and in turn impress college scouts and coaches from big time pro­

grams — led to Brown not get­

ting the offers he wanted.

But Brown had another plan to get his scholarship after basket­

ball fell through — play football.

... to the gridiron ...

Justin Brown didn’t play football until his senior year of high school.

... and beyond

After this season, Brown said his dream would be to play in the NFL. But, just like in high school, he has a contingency.

The fact that the school was a high school in Forestville, Md., during his junior and senior seasons.

Brown was originally going to go to college in play basketball, he said. After going through the senior season, he began to shop himself around to some Div. I programs for a scholarship.

“Going into the summer time, I focused more in on trying to get scholarships for basketball. What was happening was I started getting injuries — ankle injuries. Just going to camps and going to AAC tournaments where a lot of scouts are, I just had ankle injuries,” Brown said.

Those ankle injuries kept him out of competition in other camps and tournaments later in the summer. Brown said his interest to play basketball dur­

ning the offseason — and in turn impress college scouts and coaches from big time pro­

grams — led to Brown not get­

ting the offers he wanted.

But Brown had another plan to get his scholarship after basket­

ball fell through — start playing football.

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Managing Editor

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Managing Editor

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Charlie Weis
Fourth season at Notre Dame
career record: 28-19 against Syracuse: 1-0

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Roster

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Notre Dame 2008 Schedule

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COACHING

Offensive coordinator Mike Haywood will miss practice again this week, putting Charlie Weis in charge of play-calling once again in view of the ball. After last season, Weis had a grand total of nine wins.

James Clavien has taken over in the secondary as they continue to thrive.

Syracuse announced following last week's loss to the Huskies that head coach Greg Robinson will be gone after this season. After four years as the leader of the Orange he has racked up a grand total of 18 pass attempts. Senior Evan Sharpley might also see the field in his final home game.

Irish Rushing

Last week Notre Dame dedicated itself to the run against the Orange he has taken over in the secondary as they continue to thrive.

The Orange have given up over 200 yards on the ground in four of their past five games. The line-up the Irish lose a defensive line. It paid off.

The Irish offensive line has taken care of the ball for the most part, but the defense playing as consistently as they have in the last few games. The line-up the Irish lose a defensive line. It paid off.

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Syracuse doesn't crack the top 100 in FBX pass defenses, but they are experienced at corner-back and have come up with seven interceptions so far this season.

The Orange have given up over 200 yards on the ground in four of their past five games. The line-up the Irish lose a defensive line. It paid off.

With Charlie Weis manning the helm once again this week, the Irish offense will continue to thrive. The Golden Gophers play better than his team's past two years, but he's just been in a funk. The running game continues to struggle, especially if Weis can adjust at halftime like he did against Navy. The defense hasn't had a problem so far, and against the 2-8 Orange, problems won't begin now.

Analysis

Bill Brink
Sports Editor

With Charlie Weis manning the helm once again this week, the Irish offense will continue to thrive. The Golden Gophers play better than his team's past two years, but he's just been in a funk. The running game continues to struggle, especially if Weis can adjust at halftime like he did against Navy. The defense hasn't had a problem so far, and against the 2-8 Orange, problems won't begin now.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 34
Syracuse 14

Jay Fitzpatrick
Managing Editor

After an up-and-down season so far this year, Weis has finally taken back the offensive reins and is ready to show how a Jimmy Clausen-led offense can be. The seniors step up and make their last game at the Stadium one of their best. Throw in a redshirt freshman quarterback and you have the makings of a blowout win.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 45
Syracuse 10

Irish experts

The Observer • IRISH INSIDER
Friday, November 21, 2008
The Irish have struggled throughout the year to shut down feature backs allowing several hundred-yard rushers. However, last week they held the No. 1 rushing offense in the country to 180 yards on the ground.

Strength meets strength in this category as Brinkley presents an Irish defense with its biggest challenge this year. He has plenty of tricks up his sleeve but if the Irish defense from last week shows up, that might not be enough.

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Man of the house

Irish safety Kyle McCarthy anchors both a tough Irish defense and his off-campus home

By BILL BRINK

Editor’s note: this story originally ran on Oct. 19, 2008

"Take off your shirt!" Kyle McCarthy shakes his head, unable to hide a sheepish grin.

"Take off your shirt!" the yell comes again. It’s not from a female student dying to see a football player totes up, but rather from his housemate Paul Kuntz, one of McCarthy’s housemates. Once he heard McCarthy, a senior safety, would have his picture taken, Kuntz had to be a part of it, and he kept asking — no, pleading — for McCarthy to undress.

McCarthy refused. So his housemates — Kuntz, offensive tackle Paul Duncan and linebacker Steve Quinn — along with linebacker John Ryan and receiver Bobby Parrish, conspired to create the most ridiculous setting imaginable for a picture:

**McCarthy, who acts respectful and intelligent, put up with the nonsense. He reserves himself for the most part but exudes a quiet sense of humor. He looks surprised, however, when told he led the nation in solo tackles with 17.**

"You’re honestly the first person that I said, he said after a pause. Before long, it will be hard to ignore.

**Full house**

McCarthy painted quite a picture of his off-campus home. There’s Kuntz, the resident child, making a mess and playing Halo 3. There’s Paul Duncan, the nicest person McCarthy’s ever met. There’s Quinn, who loves gummy bears for some reason McCarthy can’t fathom. There’s also tackle Mike Turkovich, who McCarthy couldn’t think of anything but asked Kuntz.

"He always wears boxers," Kuntz offered.

"Yeah, he never wears clothes in the house," McCarthy said. "He’s got boxers on, but that’s about it.

Quinn called McCarthy the dad of the house, but Kuntz called him the mom. McCarthy agreed with Quinn.

"I’m the dad of the house," he said. "Put’s a child. I have to whip him into shape every once in a while.

The five of them carpooled to campus, but no one pushed their weight. McCarthy and Kuntz are the main drivers — McCarthy, for instance, said he’d been drags in the transportation department.

"Duncan, I don’t think he’s ever started his car," McCarthy said. "He’s trying to save gas money.

Lost one get the wrong idea, McCarthy was quick to mention, that the five of them clean the house once a week.

"I don’t want you guys to get the wrong impression, it’s not a shack. It’s a clean house," he said.

And McCarthy, would, reluctantly, call himself a nice guy. "I don’t want to be boastful, but I’d say I’m a nice, hard working Midwestern kid," he said.

**It was a tough decision, but the lure of playing big-time college football really won me over.**

Kyle McCarthy
Irish safety

**Path to success**

But years before he was man of the house, McCarthy played quarterback at Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio. He rushed for 1,273 yards and 18 touchdowns and passed for 557 yards and five touchdowns as a senior.

He also started safety, recording 70 tackles and five interceptions his senior season.

When colleges came calling, McCarthy heard from MAC schools as well as Division II and III academies who were interested in him as a quarterback.

"It was a tough decision, but the lure of playing big-time college football really won me over," he said. "When you’re playing for Notre Dame, it’s a whole different story.

"When we arrived at Notre Dame, however, he battled both injury and the depth chart. He had safely Tom Zbikowski, who now plays for the Baltimore Ravens, in front of him, but he hung in there to become close.

"I’m the new guy, right? I hope they underestimate me... And it kind of motivates me, to be honest, to get my respect."

Kyle McCarthy
Irish safety

**If one were to look at his team­mates’ stage theatrics for his photo shoot, however, one might think McCarthy capable of stopping anyone. In various poses, with Kuntz as the art director, he has a font on Parrish’s gut while Kuntz holds on for dear life. Duncan, who wanted no part of any of this, stood in hysterics in the background.**

Will McCarthy to live up to his teammates’ view of him, as well as his lead in solo tackles? He doesn’t know, but he’s not worried about it. His thoughts are elsewhere. After learning he’d be the lead, he said, "I guess I’ll lead at the end."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Irish seniors safety David Bruton (27) and Kyle McCarthy wrap up Wolverines running back Sam McGuffie during Notre Dame’s 35-17 victory Saturday.

Irish senior safeties David Bruton (27) and Kyle McCarthy wrap up Wolverine running back Sam McGuffie during Notre Dame’s 35-17 victory Saturday.
Brute determination

Senior safety David Bruton works toward career in NFL

By CHRIS MINE
Editor in Chief

Editor's note: this story originally ran on Sept. 26, 2008.

This time last year, the NFL was still a distant dream to senior safety David Bruton. He was having a solid season in an otherwise miserable year for Notre Dame, but to Bruton, the idea of playing on Sundays was still unfathomable.

But to some people, it wasn't incomprehensible. Bruton started to notice these people showing up to watch him play. Bruton may not have known them, but they certainly knew who he was. They were NFL scouts.

This season, Bruton has given those scouts a lot to praise — he recovered a fumble inside the Notre Dame 5-yard line against San Diego State. And against Michigan, Bruton forced another fumble and had an interception inside the Notre Dame 2-yard line. Bruton, now playing in his final season for Notre Dame, has developed a knack for getting turnovers at key times — something he watched on TV every Sunday.

"I put my life in perspective," Bruton said. "I'm zeroed in a lot more than I was. Of course it wasn't easy first becoming a father; you don't know left or right anymore and you're just spinning, but I found a way to turn it into a positive and use it as a motivational force.

David Bruton Irish safety

Bruton said Jaden's birth caused him to make the decision that it was time to grow up.

"Am I going to college to get the kid over with? Or am I going to college to become a Knucklehead?" Bruton said last week. "I narrowed it down to 'I'm going to school and playing football to support Knucklehead.'

Without Jaden, Bruton said he wouldn't be the man — or the football player — that he is today. And the NFL would just be something else he could've watched on TV the previous Saturday.

This season, Bruton has offered a free ride to one of the most storied programs in college football history. But Notre Dame fans can be thankful Bruton had a conversation with his father and team members.

"My heart wasn't really set on football," Bruton said. "I didn't play much freshman year and I wasn't a big fan of being a receiver and not getting many looks at defensive back. I felt like I'd never play anyway or see the field.

But Notre Dame fans can be thankful Bruton had a conversation with his father and team members. Bruton, who has affectionately been called "Knucklehead" — was born.

Finding football

In high school, Bruton dreamed of becoming an Olympic sprinter, much like his cousin, Tyson Gay. Gay was voted onto the 200- and 400-meter races," Bruton said. "I'm here to provide a good future for my son.

I'm not really worried about that. My vertical jump, I'm really not worried at all because that's me. I just jump. The bench might be the only thing that's suspect but when you train you can always put on weight and up your reps.

I feel like that's only fair," Bruton said. "Jaden's mom is taking a whole lot of responsibility on herself and that kind of hinders her from going out. It's feels like the right thing to do. I'm not here to just shoot the crap. I'm here to provide a good future for my son.

Getting ready for the future

But before Jaden can see his father play on Sundays, Bruton has to go through the laborious and highly-scrutinized pre-draft process where every bench press and 40-yard dash time could raise or lower your value in the draft. Still, Bruton said that doesn't worry him too much.

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"I plan to be a lot more ready than I am now when I go to train," Bruton said. "My 40-time will drop. I'm not really worried about that. My vertical jump, I'm really not worried at all because that's me. I just jump. The bench might be the only thing that's suspect but when you train you can always put on weight and up your reps.

And if he ever needs advice he has former teammates now in the NFL — John Carlson, John Lynch. Bruton also has Zirkowski — to ask for advice. He also can call up a new friend of his that he made at last year's Blue-Gold game — former Tampa Bay and Denver safety John Lynch.

"He told me to just be aggressive," Bruton said. "You have to showcase your abilities, show you can hit and get your respect that way.

Bruton has taken the Pro-Bowler's advice to heart. His teammates respected him enough to make him captain this season, a distinction he carries with pride.

"You're not just a guy who made plays and got voted because of popularity, you were voted because you were a hard worker and you've made plays and you have guys' respect," Bruton said.

On the field, his teammates in the second-day pick are lighting a fire under Bruton to get to the NFL — John Carlson, Robert Blanton, Gary Gray, whoever's in there, to play with a little more confidence and be a little more aggressive...because you know anytime on a deep ball, Bruton's going to be in the vicinity. But Bruton in the NFL is something Irish defensive coordinator Corwin Brown doesn't want to imagine right now.

"Oh, I'm not going to go down that road," Brown said Wednesday. "But I will say that I've been around guys and I've seen guys that have done it at a pretty good level and if he does things the right way he can do it. I'll just leave it at that. I want to focus on him being a good college player right now. I don't want to put him in Canton."

Canton may seem far away for Bruton at this point, but a few years ago, so did the NFL.

Contact Chris Mine at
chm@nd.edu

Irish safety David Bruton runs the ball back after recovering a turnover during Notre Dame's 35-17 win over Michigan on Sept. 13 at Notre Dame Stadium.

AM 4754-L- The Observer


PHIL HUBER/DONALD S. OBSERVER

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Contact Chris Mine at
chm@nd.edu

"I will say that I've been around guys and I've seen guys that have done it at a pretty good level and if he does things the right way he can do it. I'll just leave it at that. I want to focus on him being a good college player right now. I don't want to put him in Canton."

Canton may seem far away for Bruton at this point, but a few years ago, so did the NFL.

Contact Chris Mine at
chm@nd.edu
Paul Kuppich

Tight end joins squad after transferring from Columbia

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Even though senior tight end and long-snapper Paul Kuppich is a walk-on in his first, and last, year with the Irish, he is trying to make the most of his Notre Dame experience.

Kuppich transferred to Notre Dame from Columbia after his freshman year, and he said the biggest difference he has experienced between the two schools is Notre Dame's sense of community.

"That's more of an undergraduate feel," Kuppich said. "People are really supportive of each other. Not only supportive of the team, but just everyone in general.

"It's kind of cliché to say 'We are Notre Dame', but it's real once you get here."

Kuppich did not apply to Notre Dame out of high school, as he wanted to play football in college and Notre Dame did not offer him a scholarship.

At Columbia, Kuppich was the Lions' second-string tight end and played regularly on special teams. However, during his freshman year, the Columbus, Ohio native decided that the New York City school just wasn't for him.

"Because there's so much going on outside of school in New York City, it kind of takes away from campus life and support," he said.

Kuppich said he contacted Tom Powlus, who was at that time Notre Dame's director of player personnel, to gauge whether or not he'd be able to walk-on with the Irish, though Kuppich said that football was not the primary factor in his decision to transfer.

"It played a small part," he said. "But it wasn't the end-all, be-all."

After sitting out his sophomore year due to NCAA transfer regulations, Kuppich walked on in the winter of his junior year, and suddenly realized that he had stepped up a level from Columbia. But he didn't back down from the challenge.

"In a sense it's humbling, because you realize you've stepped up a level and so the competition's going to rise, but I think that's something that everyone wants," he said.

"As an athlete, you thrive on competition, being able to compete and make the team better."

That competition was high-lighted in Kuppich's first training camp with the Irish this fall. He was listed as a co-starter at long-snapper with four other players.

"Every time you go into a training camp, you're seeing everything you always dreamed of."

That feeling wore off quickly, however, when Kuppich realized that he had work to do.

"You have to actually become what you've always looked up to," he said. "You expect to kind of take it all in, but in reality you're so focused on the game, you weren't in awe any more. You had to take it seriously."

While he wasn't with the team last year, Kuppich said he suffered through the team's 3-9 season as a student, and was working hard to fix it.

"While I didn't experience it first-hand, I'm still working as hard as I can for those guys who did because everyone deserves to be respected as a Notre Dame athlete, especially a football player," he said.

Kuppich, who plans to attend law school after graduation, will have one more chance to take the field as an Irish player this weekend against Syracuse.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu
Walking tall

Former walk-on Anello earns scholarship, playing time and respect

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Editor's note: this story originally ran on Sept. 11, 2008.

Less than a month ago, Mike Anello walked into Notre Dame Stadium and was told by an employee he had to leave. The area was for play­ers only.

"I walked down and they told me to stop," Anello said. "I think they confused me for a student manager.

As Anello conferences earlier this week Anello found himself surrounded by reporters jam­mered in his face. They all knew exactly who he was.

Last week the former walk-on was just another name on the depth chart. But after four big special teams tackles against San Diego State, the secret is out.

The 5-foot-10, 170-pound former walk-on plays gunner on the Irish punt team and is also on the kickoff team. Anello made his debut on the field last year in Notre Dame's 24-0 loss to Michigan in the Big House.

"I remember I had a good week on the scout team the week before," he said. "During practice, Coach [Charlie] Weis started yelling. "Where's Anello?"

I thought I had done something wrong," Weis told him. "I had craked the depth chart and would be going to Ann Arbor that week.

Anello played all week for the coaches to pull him out of the spot, but it never hap­pened. On his second trip down the field he got his ball and recorded his first col­lege tackle.

"It was kind of a surreal experience," if you had told me a few years ago that I would even be on the Notre Dame team I would've probably laughed at you," Anello said. "The road to where he is now was not an easy one.

As a 120-pound sophomore at Carl Sandburg High School outside of Chicago, he didn't see the field. His coaches couldn't see that he was a little bit taller or weighed a few more pounds he could get some playing time.

After a frustrating year, Anello had an opportunity to join the team to focus on wrestling. By his senior year, the coaches realized their mistake and convinced Anello to join the team again.

"I needed it a lot," Anello said. "My jun­ior year I just felt like something was missing. I don't like to have too much free time.

Anello was named a week­ly captain eight times and helped lead the team to the state quarterfinals that year. Anello was cut from the University of Illinois the fol­lowing fall, where he had been accepted into an exclu­sive business program. But Anello got a trip to South Bend and some sound advice from an old coach, he knew Notre Dame was the place for him.

Anello decided almost immedi­ately to give football a try. "I figured if I was on the very least I would stay in shape for another nine months," he said.

Wrestling

Background

Anello's top sport throughout all of high school and his childhood was wrestling. He had the opportu­nity to wrestle in college but was cut against it because of the wear and tear on his body. "I've seen the guys who wrestle in college who do it, it doesn't seem like fun. I didn't want to spend four years doing that and worrying about eating weight all of the time," he said.

But all of that work in the ring wasn't lost. Anello said that a lot of his work ethic and ability to train as hard as he does comes from wrestling.

Weis and the coaching staff also found that wrestler often make good football players.

"The few [wrestlers] that I've had, their track record is good," Weis said. "You have to be a sicko to wrestle anyway and I think that kind of helps in your devel­opment as a football play­er.

Anello actually knew Rudy Ruettiger before the Michigan game, when he went to pick up his jersey. No. 45 was sitting there waiting for him for the first time.

"I saw it and turned to our equipment manager and said 'You've got to be kidding me,'" he said. "The equipment man­ager asked what he was talking about, and Anello said, 'Come on, 45, that's Rudy's number.'

Anello said he didn't mind the comparisons and just kind of laughed about them now. Being compared to anyone who got the chance to run out after the tunnel and take a snap on the field is fine with him.

This year, Anello wears No. 37 on game days but said the change in number had nothing to do with creating his own image or getting rid of the Rudy stigma.

"Coach Weis just came up to me when we were getting our jerseys and told me not to wear Rudy's number again this year, he pointed to 37 and said, 'That was fine with me,'" Anello said.

Anello actually knew Rudy before he stormed down the sidelines with No. 45 on his back. His older brother, Danny Jr., wrestled against Rudy in high school.

Anello said he didn't mind the number change in number had nothing to do with creating his own image or getting rid of the Rudy stigma.

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"That was really tough, doing all that [hard work] and not even knowing that you would make the team," he said. "They were only about 30 minutes long, but man, sometimes you would leave the workouts crawling out the door.

Mike Anello Irish defensive back

Move over Rudy

He's an un­ized, Midwestern special teams walk-on, and he even wore No. 45 last s e a s o n.

Anyone who has ever heard of Irish football before could make the connection with Notre Dame's most famous player, Rudy. The road to where he is now is a tough one.

Before the Michigan game last year, Anello found himself surrounded by reporters.

"I walked down and they told me to stop, I think they confused me for a student manager," he said.

"I was the last one called so I was getting a little bit nerv­ous," Anello said. "But when coach started saying 'This next guy is 5-foot-2, about 12 pounds,' I knew who he was talking about.

Weis continues to remind Anello how undersized he is on almost a daily basis.

"At first I was 5-4, then 5-2, now I think I'm under five feet according to him. For some reason, I keep on shrinking,'" he said.

Anello might be shrinking in your eyes, but to the rest of the Notre Dame football world, he can't get much big­ger.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

IRISH INSIDER

Former Irish senior defensive back Mike Anello chases after a punt during Notre Dame's loss to Boston College at Alumni Field.

By MIKE ANELLO
The Observer

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Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Irish senior defensive back Mike Anello chases after a punt during Notre Dame's loss to Boston College at Alumni Field.
Scott Smith

Linebacker matures "physically and mentally" at ND

Irish linebacker Scott Smith lines up during Notre Dame's 27-21 win over Navy on Nov. 15.

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Senior Editor

Kevin Smith

Smith takes time off from football to head to Beijing

Irish linebacker Kevin Smith returns to his position during Notre Dame's 27-21 win over Navy on Nov. 15.

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

Kevin Smith

Smith takes time off from football to head to Beijing

Kevin Smith Irish linebacker

"The Olympics were extraordinary, and the Chinese put on a good show."

Kevin Smith Irish linebacker

Kevin Smith Irish linebacker

The game to see the youngest Smith boys on the field with each other. The trip would wound up being Kevin's fondest memory of his time as an Irish football team.

Navy was amazing," Kevin said. "Traveling with the team makes you feel so involved, and even got to play on a few plays."

Heading into his final game at Notre Dame Stadium on Saturday, Kevin is thankful for the opportunity to play for the Irish.

Kevin and his parents are very excited about the trip, and Kevin is very happy that he's been able to be a part of it," he said. "I'm grateful that I've had the chance to do it.

After graduating from Notre Dame, where he has had a unique and extraordinary college experience, Kevin hopes to join Teach for America and eventually attend law school.

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Muscle Man

Asaph Schwapp has had to work hard his whole life to get where he is, and he wouldn't have it any other way.

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

At six feet tall, 260 pounds, Asaph Schwapp is an imposing figure, and that's after losing weight during the offseason. Despite dropping nearly 20 pounds last winter, Notre Dame's fullback remains a bruising force on the field—a force that is perhaps topped only by his hardwork in the weight room. Schwapp is widely regarded at the team's strongest player. This summer, he bench pressed 530 pounds, that is more than double his body weight.

"Yeah, I still hold that title," Schwapp said. "I love bench pressing and that type of stuff." Schwapp said he's been a gym rat since his days in high school and still likes to get in a few extra sets in the off-season after he is done with the team's regularly-scheduled lifts.

"I do the program with the team and then I have some stuff my high school coaches showed me that I'll do over in the weight room. Schwapp is widely regarded at the team's strongest player. This summer, he bench pressed 530 pounds, that is more than double his body weight.

"I'm always fired up to play, every time I hit the field I'm just trying to bash somebody." - Asaph Schwapp

Notre Dame ran a toss play and Schwapp was hit awkwardly, aggravating an old knee injury. This time, it required surgery that would leave him on the sidelines for the remainder of the season.

"It definitely set me back a little bit, but I worked it out and rehabbed pretty hard and I was able to get back into the swing of things," Schwapp said.

Schwapp's uncle will be in town this weekend for his nephew's last pep rally and home game.

After surgery in October, it was back to the familiar confines of the weight room. He put in two or three sessions every day in order to rebuild some of the strength he had lost in his legs. Schwapp did countless hamstring and quadriceps workouts to regain the muscle mass he lost as a result of the surgery.

"It wasn't fun," he said. "I was tough. I had never had anything like that in my life, never had surgery in my life. It took some getting used to." Schwapp's hard work put him back on the field at full strength for the season opener in 2007 against Georgia Tech.

"It was great not having to wear that knee brace anymore and being able to run with no worries," Schwapp said.

With the brace gone, Schwapp was able to get back to doing what he loves the most— making holes.

In 36 career games, No. 44 has racked up exactly 44 carries for 99 yards, but that's just fine with him. Schwapp said he gets the most joy out of leading the way for his fellow running backs.

"I'm always fired up to play, every time I hit the field I'm just trying to bash somebody," he said.

Schwapp's hard-nosed style of play is slowly disappearing from the game, especially at the next level. Spread offenses and limit ed player rosters have caused most NFL teams to cut down to one or no true fullbacks on their rosters. Schwapp isn't discouraged.

"I'm still trying to turn this into a career," he said. "I think I'm good at what I do and if I can get to a team that will use a fullback, I think they'll like me." Schwapp is scheduled to graduate this May, but because of his injury he is eligible for one more year with the team. He has decided not to make the decision about whether or not he will apply for a fifth year after this season comes to a close.

Whether he decides to enter the draft or not, Schwapp still has at least one more game at Notre Dame Stadium and right now that's all that's on his mind.

"It's gonna be pressin' and that's all that's on his mind." - Asaph Schwapp

When he moved up to high school football at Weaver High School in Hartford, Conn.

"I was always a blocking fullback just because I was pretty good at it," he said.

When he moved up to high school football at Weaver High School in Hartford, Conn., Schwapp continued to focus on blocking. But his strength and speed allowed him to stack up some impressive numbers despite the minimal amount of touches. As a junior he rushed for over 1,300 yards, averaging 12 yards per carry.

"I really didn't carry the ball more than six or seven times in a game until my senior year, so that really didn't take anything used to be," Schwapp said.

His senior year he racked up another 1,100 yards on his way to being named Connecticut's Gatorade Player of the Year.

"Yeah, I still hold that title. I love bench pressing and that type of stuff." - Asaph Schwapp

The senior said it's just starting to hit home that this could be the end of the road.

"First thing that goes through my mind is, man I'm getting old. Time flies," he said.

Schwapp said that he feels that he has grown up a lot in the past four years. His time at Notre Dame has prepared him for whatever is next whether it is a trip to the NFL, another year in South Bend trying to push that bench press up to 540.
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By FRAN TOLAN
Assistant Sports Editor

Many Notre Dame fans will always remember cornerback Terrail Lambert for his two interceptions against Michigan State in 2006, which helped the Irish erase a 17-point deficit before winning 40-37.

But Lambert, now a fifth-year senior, hopes the comeback against the Spartans is just a small part of his legacy.

"Honestly, I just want to be remembered as someone that just became part of the Notre Dame family and be remembered as a guy that did everything in his power to leave it better than it was when I first got here," he said.

Lambert first got here by the grace of a position change and back against the Spartans is always a reminder.

"I played defensive back, especially corner, is a lot like sky-diving," he said. "You're living life on the edge and it's just a rush. All these things can happen in the blink of an eye so it's just a challenge itself just being able to think on your feet and having that chess match, one-on-one with the receiver you're lined up across from. It's just a euphoric experience to say the least."

Excelling at the position

Because Lambert had the mindset of a cornerback before adopting the position, he said the switch from offense to defense was not very difficult for him.

"I think from the defensive standpoint, I decided on that side of the ball and I was particularly focused on D-back, so I think at this level is just because it just seemed like the right position for me, it suited me," he said.

"I've always been the type that, high pressure situations, I thrive off of. It would make somebody else nervous or a little uneasy, I just love being in that position, and Lambert anchored the St. Bonaventure secondary and was named to the California all-state second team. He chose to attend Notre Dame because of its tradition, and this works on defense because obviously I've got a lot of aggression."

Even though Lambert became a defensive back by an accidental event, he has assimilated well to the position. He said he loves the pressure cornerbacks face on every play.

"Playing defensive back, especially corner, is a lot like sky-diving. You're living life on the edge and it's a rush," he said.

"Playing defensive back, especially corner, is a lot like sky-diving. You're living life on the edge and it's a rush," he said.

Lambert said his best memories at Notre Dame are the 2006 game against Michigan State and the team's win over UCLA the following year.

"I played pretty decent, had a pretty good [high school] career, part of what's now a formula program on the West Coast," he said. "I sort of got my name out there and so everybody was reaching out here and I see me make a play in college, live in person," he said. "That was the first time I really made a great play that she was there to see." And against Michigan State, every Irish fan should know the story of that game.

"It really didn't hit me until I woke up in the morning the next day and I see my highlights on ESPN," Lambert said.

Maurice Crum blitzed Michigan State before adopting the position, Lambert said. "I just kind of falls into my hand cornerback position and anticipated the receiver he was covering would run an outside route. Lambert was wrong, but fortunately for the Irish, it didn't cost him. As Irish linebacker Maurice Crum blitzed Michigan State quarterback Drew Stanton, Stanton hurried his pass.

"The receiver takes off inside so I just chased him on his hip and Mo's blitzing and Stanton gets rushed and he sort of overthrows him," Lambert said. "And the ball just kind of falls into my hand and I catch it with one hand because I had one hand on the receiver."

Lambert said he noticed a change in the crowd as soon as he made the pick.

"I just looked down and as soon as I had seen the ball in my hand it was like dead silence, I could have heard a pin drop," he said. "As loud as it was, I couldn't hear anything all the way to the end zone."

And against Michigan State, every Irish fan should know the story of that game. Lambert said he hopes the two interceptions against the Spartans don't define his career. But certainly no recap of his career would be complete without the story of that game.

"It really didn't hit me until I woke up in the morning the next day and I see my highlights on ESPN," Lambert said.

Many Notre Dame fans would undoubtedly echo Lambert's sentiment.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

The Observer • IRISH INSIDER

Friday, November 21, 2008

More than MSU

A mainstay in the secondary for the past three seasons, cornerback Terrail Lambert leaves an extensive legacy.
Walk-on tackle living the life he never thought he could

By JARED JEDICK Sports Writer

Offensive tackle Jeff Tisak took the long and hard road of a walk-on to the Notre Dame football team, but he doesn't regret a second of it. Being a part of the Notre Dame football tradition has been an experience beyond what he ever imagined.

"Notre Dame is something that you do not even think is real," Tisak said. "It is something that you see on television and could never imagine being a part of. It goes way beyond just being a fan. It is like being a part of a fair or a legend."

Tisak said he is honored that he was given the chance to just keep playing.

"I love being part of the tradition, being around a great group of guys and a great bunch of coaches, and play for the University," Tisak said.

Growing up in the small steel town of Ambridge in western Pa., with his two younger siblings Becky and Jon, Tisak never knew that he could be a part of something as special as playing football at Notre Dame. But Tisak drew inspiration from his father who was both a lieutenant colonel in the marines and is currently at the end of his high school career and is looking at some LSAT preparation.

"I came from a blue-collar town," Tisak said. "With my father being an FBI agent and a member of the military, he has really been an inspiration to me."

The beginning of Tisak's love for Notre Dame really came seven years before his acceptance into the University when his family would make trips between the Pittsburgh area and Duluth.

They would make stops along the way that would inevitably include the Notre Dame campus.

"By the time I went into Notre Dame, it was already like a second home to me," Tisak said. "I had been here all the time, I knew the ins and outs of the campus and knew a lot of people already on campus."

But getting on campus and joining the football team was not as easy as just being familiar with them — it would take a lot of hard work. Tisak had to first get into Notre Dame academically and then go through the arduous process of walking on under head coach Charlie Weis.

"In high school, I had to work really hard to get all the grades to even get in," Tisak said. "Then I had to work very hard every day on the practice field and in the weight room."

That hard work has to extend even further. Tisak is a double major in the fields of political science and sociology. Balancing that heavy workload with playing football has not been easy.

"You don't sleep very much. You come out of practice late, get something to eat, and start studying," Tisak said. "You have to make do with what you've got. You have to just make do."

Tisak finds relief from the work and inspiration from his two siblings, Becky and Jon.

Becky is a trainer on campus and Tisak gets a chance to see her from time to time around the facilities.

"It is great to just see her around every once in a while," Tisak said.

Tisak is also proud of his younger brother Jon, who is currently at the end of his high school career and is looking at some kind of school.

"My brother Jon plays football and baseball and he has excellent grades," Tisak said. "He is hoping to get in, but it is up to the coaches. He is a good student and a good player."

Tisak's first experience on the field at Notre Dame Stadium in his junior year was an odd but exciting one, as he did not get to block for quarterbacks Brady Quinn or Jimmy Clausen, but instead he was blocking for former safety Tom Zilikowski, who lined up in the quarterback position.

"It was great just trying to open up a hole for Zibby," Tisak said.

But the experience was more than a novel one for Tisak. It was the experience of a lifetime.

"It was amazing," Tisak said. "You are wearing maybe 20 or 30 pounds of pads, but you don't even feel it. I felt the fastest I have ever been, I felt the lightest I have ever been, and I felt the strongest I have ever been. I went out there and played hard.

Tisak said he is honored that he and his teammates have that choice to make at all.

"If anything, it's just being able to play football and being able to do what you want to do," Tisak said. "You're going to be excited about it, regardless of what capacity it's in ... Your parents are still going to call you anytime they see you on the sidelines, alone in the game. Anytime you get on the field it's gratifying."

Kevin Washington

Despite a diversion from planned outcome, Washington thrives

By MATT GAMBER Assistant Sports Editor

asked at his Tuesday press conference, Washington had positive attitude of upperclassmen who have been surpassed on the depth chart by younger players. Irish coach Charlie Weis has remained optimistic.

"Kevin Washington has been here for four years, hardly has played at all — a little bit on special teams," Weis said of the senior linebacker.

"I can tell you, this year if we wanted to, we could make him the defensive show team player of the week every single week. And what I always think is that good things do come in groups like as examples ... this is the way it's supposed to be done, this is the way you practice ... I have a lot of respect for players like Kevin Washington," Weis said.

Washington said the motivation behind his practice habits comes from the sense of family that he and his teammates have developed over the last four years at Notre Dame.

"My role on the team didn't play out as most recruits like myself would have wanted it to," Washington said. "But you didn't want to go out and say 'OK, since I'm not playing, I'm not going try my hardest or give the best looks I can.' That would just be letting the team down ... Anytime you have the chance to make your team better and prepare them for what they're going to have to go through that's not making sure to do that is what you want to do."

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Washington and Tisak have no complaints about the situation they find themselves in.

"We've been an experience beyond what we ever imagined that we would keep with him for a long time to come," Weis said.

Following his graduation, Tisak would like to stick around Notre Dame and get a try to get into the law school. After that, he may look to the Association of the United States Army as a lawyer.

"I want to go to law school," Tisak said. "I would like to see if I can end up being an AUSA, or something like that. But I want to take my football career in that direction."

When asked what he would like to be before people who knew him here to remember his as, Tisak remained humble.

"I want people to remember me as being a good guy," Tisak said.

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Irish linebacker Kevin Washington, 42, along with lineman Morrice Richardson, make a tackle during Notre Dame's 28-7 win over Duke on Nov. 17, 2007.

Kevin Washington

Despite a diversion from planned outcome, Washington thrives

By MATT GAMBER Assistant Sports Editor

"I was a good guy," Tisak said. "I would like to see if I can do anything beyond that."

"Going back down to Texas, to me that would be like turning my back on something that has too much more for me," said Washington, a native of Sugar Land. "Football, a sheer lack of playing time any less significant than that."

"You would be excited about it, regardless of what capacity it's in ... Your parents are still going to call you anytime they see you on the sidelines, alone in the game. Anytime you get on the field it's gratifying."

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"Going back down to Texas, to me that would be like turning my back on something that has too much more for me," said Washington, a native of Sugar Land. "Football, a sheer lack of playing time any less significant than that."

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Steve Quinn

Linebacker earns larger role in final season of play

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Come Saturday, Steve Quinn will walk out of the tunnel at Notre Dame Stadium for the last time as a football player. For the senior linebacker, the experience is one that surely be a bittersweet moment that will return him to friendly memories. "I'll have mixed emotions," he said. "It will obviously be my final game so to go out of the tunnel and see all the fans going crazy. I get excited for every game so in that sense it will be the same, but at the end of the game, when we walk out, it will be a much different feeling." Knowing well that his time is almost done as a player, Quinn has learned to appreciate what every game left, Quinn said of the senior's role. "I've really got to give everything I've got at Notre Dame. "I've only got a couple dates back to 2006, when he blocked the punt at USC,' so I guess that's what I'll remember for each other," Patterson said at first he was not sure if the person that mattered most coach Charlie Weis recognized him. It didn't take long for that to be the case. "I remember the first time coach Weis knew who I was. Fall of my sophomore year we had a scrimmage in the Stadium and I caught a touchdown," Patterson said. "Just being able to play everyday with my friends and my teammates, being able to strap on that gold helmet and run out of the tunnel... it's indescribable." Kris Patterson Irish receiver "I can't say enough about Notre Dame. I'm a better man because of it." Kris Patterson Irish receiver "The next day, he called me aside and I thought I was in trouble. He just said, 'Nice catch.' It was kind of funny." Patterson has already accepted a job as a business analyst for Target in the Minneapolis area next year. He said he knows his experience at Notre Dame will pay dividends when he heads out into the real world. "The Notre Dame network, they just watch out for each other," Patterson said. "I can't say enough about Notre Dame. I'm a better man because of it." And Patterson said the best decision he made at Notre Dame was to try out for the football team after winning the Interhall championship with Zahm as a freshman. "Just being able to play everyday with my friends and my teammates, being able to strap on that gold helmet and run out of the tunnel... it's indescribable," he said. "I mean, you really can't explain it until you run out of the tunnel. It never gets old." Contact Fran Tolan at fotolan@nd.edu

Irish linebacker Steve Quinn, 48, shouts to teammate John Ryan prior to a play during Notre Dame's 35-17 win over Michigan on Sept. 17.

Kris Patterson

Patterson achieves career goal, gets to travel with team

By FRAN TOLAN
Assistant Sports Editor

Just several weeks into his junior season, wide receiver Kris Patterson finally reached the biggest goal he set as a walk-on — he was named scout team player of the week. For every away game, the outstanding scout team performer earns an automatic spot on the Irish roster that weekend. For Patterson, it was a dream come true. But the dream did not play out as he had planned. He sustained a severe knee injury before he had a chance to see the field against Michigan that Saturday. "It was actually pretty bittersweet because I got hurt the second-to-last play of Thursday practice and I got scout team player of the week," Patterson said. "... I mean, they let me travel to Ann Arbor but I was kind of hopping on the sidelines."

But Patterson didn't give up on his goal of logging a moment for the Irish. He rehabbed for the remainder of the school year and suited up again for summer training camp. "This season, before the Irish were set to travel to Washington, Patterson was again named the top player on the scout team. But this time was different — and probably worth the wait. Patterson, a Seattle native, finally got into a game and his family and friends were there to see it. "Obviously that's my hometown so it was special, but it was also about the one-year anniversary of when I got hurt. So it was a special meaning," Patterson said. "Patterson, who did not even join the Irish until he was a sophomore, said he located his family in the stands during the game. "I could hear them. They had pretty good seats so they were really excited," he said. "After the game, they just said they were proud of me."

Patterson said before he made Notre Dame's team, he could never have imagined suiting up for the Irish. Growing up and being a Notre Dame football fan, I always wanted to play for the Irish," he said. "But as I got older, I only got interest from smaller schools and I didn't think it was a possibility." And even after making the squad, Patterson said at first he was not sure if the person that mattered most...