Construction progresses on Innovation Park, a technology park meant to advance research into the marketplace.

Professor explains return of indulgences

By ROBERT SINGER

Notre Dame is no stranger to Catholic tradition, but the renewed focus on the age-old practice of indulgences has eluded or confused many on campus.

A recent article in The New York Times said dioceses around the world are bringing back the tradition of offering indulgences, which lessen the time one spends in purgatory before death, "he said. "Then remit all of those penalties — a plenary indulgence would remit some of those penalties: a plenary indulgence would remit all of those penalties — at least until the person on earth committed another sin before death." he said. "Then

Juniors welcome parents for JPW

By EMMA DRISCOLL

The annual Junior Parents Weekend (JPW) kicks off today as parents flock to campus to experience a slice of Notre Dame life.

Andy Steves creates travel site

By KATLYNN RIELY

Rick Steves has earned the following of Europe-bound budget travelers with his series of guidebooks, audio guides and television shows. His son, Andy, hopes to capture another market — the college student studying abroad and traveling in Europe.

Observer chooses top editors

Observer Staff Report

Bill Brink, Aaron Steiner and Kara King have been chosen to help oversee The Observer's editorial operations in 2009-10, incoming Editor-in-Chief Jenn Mangeann announced Thursday.

Brink will assume the position of managing editor, the No. 2 spot at the paper, while Steiner and King will serve as assistant managing editors.

A junior majoring in history with a minor in journalism, ethics and democracy, Brink will assist Metz in managing all departments of The Observer.

Brink, a native of Edgewater, Md., lives in Fisher Hall and currently serves as co-sports editor. He covered football, women's basketball, track and field, women's soccer, Saint Mary's basketball, swimming and golf and previously served as Interhall football editor.

Brink held the position of News Editor for part of the Spring Semester in 2008 and said he is looking forward to assuming his new role.

"Working here has allowed me to see pretty cool things and meet some great people, which is hard to help lead the paper is something I'm proud of," he said.

Steiner, also a resident of Fisher Hall, is a junior majoring in management and German. A native of West Bend, Wis., Steiner currently serves as an assistant news editor.

He has covered a variety of topics since joining The
Support the Stache

You may have noticed recently an influx of facial hair among some of your more outstanding classmates. And by outstanding, I mean the wonderful men of Dillon Hall, because next weekend marks the one of a kind Stache Bash.

The first of which is to show off one of a kind Stache Bash. The diverse and plentiful types of facial hair. So for those ladies lucky to be invited to this dance to end all dances, I present the Moustaches of the World.

- The Walrus (gung-gung-ga-joub): Most well-known as the stache of Josef Stalin choice of former Notre Dame offensive line coach John Latina, the Walrus is most distinguishable by its sheer, unabashed facial hair. Providing a thick layer of fur to the upper lip, this stache demonstrates pure strength.
- The Fu Man Chu: This stache is most popular in the Far East, and is commonly seen on modern depictions of the Chinese philosopher Confucius. It takes great skill and concentration (not to mention amazing connectors) to pull off this look, as the purest state of this stache hangs a good inch off of your face.
- The Classic Handlebar: An American variation of the Fu Manchu, this stache is best worn on bikers and Hulk Hogan. Promising onlookers doom for messing with the wearer of this stache, the Handlebar announces its presence with authority at even the slightest glance.
- The Chester A. Arthur: Named after the 21st President, the AAA combines two great facial hair traditions, the Walrus and the Mutton Chop. With seamless chin-connection between the sideburns and the upper lip, this should only be attempted by the most brazen of men.
- The Common Crotchet: Likely the most common type of facial hair on campus, this is the stache of choice for those who forget to stop shaving weeks ago or freshmen who can’t grow moustaches yet (Maybe one day, Tony). Either way it’s the thought that counts, and there’s no such thing as a bad stache.

But the second — and most important — purpose of the Stache Bash is to support the Center for the Homeless here in South Bend. The incredibly well-organized and hardcore operating budget of the Center, and in fact it is over $45,000 over budget for this year.

Each man of Dillon has a pledge sheet for their moustache, and we are asking for donations to support the Center. Dillon has already collected $900 on our own and we are asking for your help.

Donations can be either in a lump sum or a certain amount per day (like a fun run, but more fun). They should be brought to the office at Jordan Auditorium or the O'Shaughnessy Hall. The event takes place in the LaFortune Ballroom.

An exhibition held by the Institute for Latino Studies,”Artelogy: Archeology of Memory,” will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. today in McKenna Hall and is open to the public. The exhibit features work by Diogenes Ballester, a visual artist using various types of media.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.
Tickets vie for student class council positions

By MADELINE BUCKLEY and LIZ O' DONNELL

Three tickets look to lead sophomore class

By SARAH MERVOSH and LIZ O'DONNELL

Senior class choice of three campaigns

By SARAH MERVOSH and LIZ O'DONNELL

Tickets vie for student class council positions

Several tickets of candidates for sophomore, junior and senior class councils campaign as elections approach Monday

The Judicial Council approved eight tickets to run for sophomore, junior and senior class council.

Three tickets are competing for both sophomore class council and senior class council while two tickets are campaigning to lead the junior class.

The Observer interviewed all eight tickets to hear about their campaign and platform ideas. Students will vote Monday online.

Pulte, Kimberly compete for top spots in Class of 2011

By MADELINE BUCKLEY and LIZ O' DONNELL

Pulte-Shine-Stavole-Castellini

Junior class council presidential candidate Caitlin Pulte said her ticket presents feasible and well-researched platform ideas that will benefit the junior class.

Pulte is running with Henry Shine, candidate for vice president, Luke Stavole, for secretary and Tim Castellini, for treasurer.

The ticket promises a CEO lecture series, a class trip to see a movie, Legends, a class rosary and a poker tournament.

"We're genuine and we really have a passion for what we do. We enjoy being in class council and we understand the commitment. For us, this is not an exclusive club, and we integrate all levels of involvement from SGC. We want to be a better group of people than this year," Soler said.

"We're genuine and we really have a passion for what we do. We enjoy being in class council and we understand the commitment. For us, this is not an exclusive club, and we integrate all levels of involvement from SGC," Soler said.

"We're genuine and we really have a passion for what we do. We enjoy being in class council and we understand the commitment. For us, this is not an exclusive club, and we integrate all levels of involvement from SGC."
Event celebrates French cinema

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Saint Mary's returns to its French roots with the annual French Film Festival taking place this week in the Vennet Theatre in the Student Center.

A grant through the Tournées Program of the French American Cultural Exchange, part of the French Cultural Services, enabled the College to show five films during the week, one each evening, Monday through Friday at 7 p.m.

Senior French major Katie Lesanick and Associate Professor of Modern Languages Mona Derakhshani chose the five films that will be shown from a catalog sent by a granting agency. Derakhshani said there was no particular theme that they tried to follow when selecting the films.

"These movies had received the most acclaim and were the ones we wanted to see," Derakhshani said. "All are very recent, from the last three years."

The films cover a variety of topics. "La Faute à Fidel (Blame it on Fidel)" is the story of a nine-year old girl trying to make sense of key political events happening around her. "Moliere" is a historical fiction film about a young actor who is released from prison for acting lessons.

"Ne le dis à personne (Tell No One)," a man tries to prove his innocence in his wife's murder. "L' origine de la prove his in no cen ce in his story of a nine-year old girl whose parents send her to school in Vienna to ensure her safety.

Even though Saint Mary's is hosting the event, the festival is free and open to the public.

"The Film Festival is something special that Saint Mary's has been able to offer to its own community and the Michiana community," Derakhshani said. "It offers an additional resource to students of French in the area. From Saint Mary's and other colleges, universities and secondary schools in the area -- to hear authentic language and be exposed to the cinematic art as well as the cultural contexts of the language they are studying."

Derakhshani said she is expecting a good turnout, with about 50 people present each night, she said.

"In the past years, attendance depended somewhat on the weather," Derakhshani said. "We often had very cold temperatures or ice and snow, which made it harder for people to come out."

Derakhshani said the Festival is important because she believes being exposed to other cultures through events such as this foreign film festival is vital.

"Foreign films are just one more way in which we can get to learn something about other cultures," Derakhshani said. "They provide an opportunity to become more aware of the world outside the borders of our nation."

Contact Megan Loney at mlooney@stmarys.edu

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Seniors

continued from page 3

Networking Conference and Senior Showcase Benefit.

"When all this comes together, our overall goal is to be able to help send the senior class off into the world, but we want to put finishing touches on the knot that binds us all to Notre Dame as well," Tillet said.

Kyrouc-Lakusta-Schank-Donahue

Senior class council presidential candidate Kim Kyrouac said she and her running mates will try to help the Class of 2010 take full advantage of all Notre Dame has to offer as well as make their final year on campus memorable.

"We feel that our ticket has pulled together a number of fun and realistic ideas that include both new and signature senior events," Kyrouac said.

This team's platform includes continuing the senior traditions of Margaritaville and Senior Week. For new ideas, the campaign includes wine tasting and a beer garden, as well as a Christmas press box dinner and commencement ball.

Kyrouac also highlighted the senior transition seminars that would take place to help students with economic issues.

The ticket also plans to hold a senior superlatives lecture, which would involve a gathering of seniors to listen to memorable stories, advice and lessons given by classmates.

"Senior superlatives lectures would take place in Washington Hall during the spring semester," Kyrouac said. "Five seniors would speak at each event.

Overall, the team is excited to have the possibility to continue serving their class. "The four of us feel that as Notre Dame students we are blessed with a number of opportunities and resources that are unique and exciting," Kyrouac said.

Contact Sarah Merrow at smerrow@nd.edu and Liz O'Donnell at eodonne01@nd.edu
NATIONAL NEWS

Terrorist released, will be deported

NEW YORK — A Black September terrorist who served only about half his 30-year sentence for planting three car bombs in New York City in 1973 was released Thursday into the custody of immigration officials to be deported.

Khalid Al-Jawary, 63, was released from the Supermax maximum-security prison in Florence, Colo., said Carl Rusnok, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman. Rusnok said a federal immigration official to be deported.

There are just two of the nearly 2,500 languages that UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, says are in danger of becoming extinct before the end of the 21st century. That’s about a total of 6,000 world languages.

In a presentation Thursday of a new world atlas of endangered languages, linguists stressed the list is not restricted to small or far-flung countries. They also sought to encourage immigrants to treasure their native languages.

LOCAL NEWS

Man pays property tax in change

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at George W. Bush in April 2008 has paid a $4,079 property tax bill in coins to prevent his family’s eviction. The 56-year-old house is a change for a rental property he owns across the street. Richard Ross and his son-in-law lugged two cases full of coins and passed away.

Richard Ross and his son-in-law lugged two cases full of coins and two women carrying three duffel bags full of coins Wednesday night when Pope Benedict XVI lifted his excommunication and that of three other bishops consecrated by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre as part of a papal procession to beat a rift with ultraconservatives.

Livonian almost an extinct language

PARIS — Only one native speaker of Livonian remains on Earth, in Latvia. The Alaskan language Yakut went extinct last year when its last surviving speaker passed away.

Those are just two of the nearly 2,500 languages that UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, says are in danger of becoming extinct before the end of the 21st century. That’s about a total of 6,000 world languages.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Nine-year-old accepts plea bargain

ST. JOHNS, Ariz. — A 9-year-old boy accused of methodically shooting his father and the female roommate to death last fall pleaded guilty Thursday to one count of negligent homicide, setting the case free from the case that shocked and mystified the nation.

Under a plea agreement, he pleaded guilty in the death of the roommate and charges of premeditated murder for both deaths were dropped. Police said the boy used a .22-caliber rifle to shoot the men as they revolved home from work Nov. 5.

The boy’s plea spares the rural community of about 4,000 from what would have been an emotional trial and prevents the boy from serving time in the state juvenile corrections system or being tried as an adult.

He was polite in court and never asked about to explain any motive for the killings.

The boy has not yet been sentenced. He could be sent to the county juvenile system, which would keep him close to his relatives.

Arizona Attorney General Michael Whiting wants the boy to undergo extensive mental evaluations and treatment, an option allowed by the plea agreement.

It’s a compromise — no one is really pleased. defense attorney Benjamin Brewer said after the hearing.

The boy’s mother cried throughout the hearing and, through her lawyer, objected to the plea. Under a plea agreement, he pleaded guilty to one count of negligent homicide.

But Superior Court Judge Michael Roca accepted it.

The boy was 8 when he was accused of shooting his 29-year-old father, Vincent Romero, and 39-year-old Timothy Romans, a co-worker who also rented a room from Romero.

Police in St. Johns found Romero and Romans shot to death after the boy ran to a neighbor’s house. He was questioned after Romans’ wife raised suspicions about him, and in a videotape released by prosecutors, he admitted pulling the trigger.

Police reports say the boy told a state Child Protective Services worker that his 1,000th spanking would be his last.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys struggled with what to do with a child who was charged with murder while he was so young. No child 8 years old or younger committed homicide in the United States during 2005-2007, according to FBI statistics.

Friends in the close-knit community said Romans, who had full custody of his son, was a caring father who seemed to be doing all he could to raise a polite and respectful child.

Authorities said he had no record of any complaints filed about the boy with Arizona Child Protective Services and that the youngster had no school disciplinary record at all.

Talk of a plea deal emerged less than a month after the shootings, but Brewer said at the time that he was unsure of his client’s ability to understand the proceedings.

In court Thursday, the boy was more talkative and relaxed than in previous hearings, laughing and chatting with his lawyer and mother.

But his demeanor in court for a pre-sentencing hearing on March 5.
Burris loses support of black ministers

Ill. junior senator faces requests for resignation after accusations of questionable finances

O'Connor would not say whether the senator would meet with ministers and referred to a statement from Burris asking that leaders "stop the rush to judgment."

Burris testified before the Illinois House committee that recommended Blagojevich's impeachment in January that he hadn't had contact with key Blagojevich staffers or offered anything in return for the Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama.

Last weekend, however, Burris released an affidavit saying he had spoken to several Blagojevich advisers, including Robert Blagojevich, the former governor's brother and finance chairman, who Burris said called three times last fall asking for fundraising help. Burris, a former state attorney general, changed his story again this week when he admitted trying, unsuccessfully, to raise money for Blagojevich.

Illinois lawmakers have asked local prosecutors to look into perjury charges, and a preliminary U.S. Senate Ethics Committee inquiry is under way. Burris denies lying under oath and has resisted a growing chorus of calls for his resignation, including from within his own party.

Burris is, like Obama was, the only black U.S. senator. Current sentiment in the black community is not unanimous, but the clergy's silence as the maelstrom of criticism swells around Burris "speaks volumes," said another minister, Ira Acree, of the Greater St. John Bible Church.

"I'm a little disturbed, but because of his track record, don't want to rush to judgment," Acree said Thursday. "But neither will I attempt to defend his actions."

Blagojevich publicly turned to black ministers in times of trouble, welcoming a group that included Acree to his home for private prayer shortly after his Dec. 9 arrest on federal corruption charges.

Even before the U.S. Senate appointment became embroiled in controversy, Burris trumpeted clergy support, telling the AP on Nov. 5 that a half-dozen black ministers from Chicago had approached him to see if he was interested in the job.

After Blagojevich named him to the seat, Burris appeared at a New Covenant Church service, where supporters including U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush and about 60 key Blagojevich staffers including U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush told the crowd that the city was interested in the job.

But Bogan, who is black "... If you're only going to remember the part that benefits you, what good are you?"

But Chicago resident and real estate counselor Edward Bogan, 58-year-old printer from Chicago, said he doesn't buy Burris' explanation for not telling the House impeachment committee about all his contacts with the Blagojevich administration."

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WASHINGTON — Texas financier R. Allen Stanford was arrested Thursday in Virginia, where FBI agents served him with legal papers in Stanford, two other executives and three of his

Lawsuit seeks identities of tax cheats

The banks charge extra in times of trouble

In Brief

Banks charge extra in times of trouble

Withdrawals, overdrafts, phone call fees add up for those hit by recession

Arthur Santa-Maria stands in front of a Bank of America ATM in Los Lunas N.M., after learning that using his debit card to withdraw unemployment money would cost him.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — February is shaping up to be another brutal month of job losses. The number of laid-off workers receiving unemployment benefits hit an all-time high of nearly 5 million, and new jobless claims are at levels not seen since the early 1980s.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that the number of people receiving regular unemployment benefits rose by 170,000 to 2.77 million, or 7.4% of the labor force.

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August 2008, compared the—both legal and illegal—between August 2007 and August 2008. That was down from 455,000 in the year ending in August. It suggests that the number of countries returning to their home country is also dropping. The number of returning Mexicans to stay at home, rather than Mexicans in other countries, has also fallen to 1.16 million in 2008 from 204,000 people between August 2007 and August 2008. The number declined slightly to 450,000 by late 2008, from 478,000 in 2007.

The government has said in past years that a majority who leave are undocumented migrants. Its figures are estimates based on quarterly surveys of 6,000 households carried out by the institute. A government survey also shows the number of households in Mexico that receive remittances coming from abroad, the vast majority in the United States—has also fallen to 1.16 million in 2008 from 1.25 million in 2005, Sojo said. Remittances, Mexico's second-largest source of foreign income after oil, plunged 3.6 percent to $26 billion in 2008 compared to $26 billion for the previous year, according to the country's central bank. But the number leaving Mexico fell sharply to 654,000 from 932,000.

MEXICO CITY — Migration from Mexico, mainly to the United States, has fallen dramatically as fewer Mexicans leave their country to look for work abroad amid a global economic slowdown, the government said Thursday. The number of returning Mexicans—both legal and illegal—declined by over 50 percent in the year ending in August 2008, compared to the same period a year earlier, said the Eduardo Sojo, president of the board of Mexico's National Institute of Statistics, and Information Institute. The number of returnees in the United States has also fallen to 1.16 million in 2008 from 1.25 million in 2005, Sojo said.

Hormone, Mexico's second-largest source of foreign income after oil, plummeted 3.6 percent to $26 billion in 2008, compared to $26 billion for the previous year, according to the country's central bank. But the number leaving Mexico fell sharply to 654,000 from 932,000.
**Lawmakers pass large tax increase**

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers passed a massive tax increase Thursday along with making billions in spending cuts, ending a grueling week of negotiations over closing the state's $42 billion budget deficit.

The package of bills was sent to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger after the early-morning votes in the Assembly and Senate, and the Republican governor was scheduled to sign it Friday.

Schwarzenegger called the Legislature's work courageous, noting that Democrats compromised on their opposition to deep spending cuts and some Republican lawmakers set aside their opposition to tax increases.

"Now, instead of worrying every day only about DIs and about red ink, we can start moving California forward once again," he said. "This action to solve our $42 billion deficit was difficult but courageous and just what California needs."

Both houses of the Legislature got the bare minimum of votes to reach the two-thirds requirement needed to pass the package, which includes $12.8 billion in tax hikes, $15.1 billion in cuts, billions in borrowing and measures intended to stimulate the state's economy.

If the economy doesn't worsen considerably, the plan is intended to balance the state's budget through June 2010. The Senate began debating before dawn Thursday after a moderate Republican, Sen. Abel Maldonado of Santa Maria, agreed to provide the final vote.

In exchange, he won major concessions from Democrats and the governor. Maldonado was able to strip out a 12-cent-a-gallon gas tax from an earlier version of the package and have two measures placed on a future ballot: One seeks fully to open primary elections and a-gallon gas tax from an earlier version of the package and another would freeze lawmakers' pay when the state runs a deficit. He also got $1 million for office furniture in the controller's office deleted.

**Russia**

**Jury acquits for journalist's murder**

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A jury in Moscow unanimously Thursday to acquit three men in the killing of journalist Anna Politkovskaya, dimming hopes for justice in a case that has mocked Russia's claims to be a modern democratic nation.

The brazen 2006 slaying of the crusading investigative reporter sent a grim signal to other dissenters in Russia, proving that even the most prominent of Kremlin critics could be murdered with impunity.

And it provoked international outrage, raising suspicions that her death was ordered by prominent political officials.

A jury acquitted two Chechen brothers and a museum employee following a trial that defense attorneys and Politkovskaya's supporters said was marred by prosecution errors and oversights.

All three were suspected of playing minor roles in the killings and another would freeze lawmakers' pay when the state runs a deficit. He also got $1 million for office furniture in the controller's office deleted.

Add one to the list of Russia's most prominent political figures. She was never questioned by investigators.

Politkovskaya was shot five times in the elevator of her central Moscow apartment building on Oct. 7, 2006, after a trip to the supermarket.

In her articles, Politkovskaya has attacked some of Russia's most powerful political leaders. She was a forceful critic of former president and current Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, on whose birthday the suspected contract slayer, Dzhabrail Musayev, was released from prison.

"I know I'm disappointed — I can't really say that, because I wasn't there," said Ilya Politkovsky, the journalist's son.

Kazbek Rakhimov, the former militia leader and now president of the Russian region of Chechnya, of torture and prominent public officials.

"To say I'm disappointed — I can't really say that, because I wasn't there," said Ilya Politkovsky, the journalist's son.

Politkovskaya's two adult children absorbed the verdict with sadness and resignation.

"To say I'm disappointed — I can't really say that, because I wasn't there," said Ilya Politkovsky, the journalist's son.

Politkovskaya's editors at the opposition newspaper Novaya Gazeta said the verdicts could make it harder to pressure low-level plotters to testify against organizers.

Now, he said, he feared authorities would "catch the first few homeless people they see, label them guilty and close the case."

"No, instead of worrying every day only about DIs and about red ink, we can start moving California forward once again," he said. "This action to solve our $42 billion deficit was difficult but courageous and just what California needs."

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**Professor**

continued from page 1

_the process starts all over again._

Indulgences have long been available and their return doesn't represent a change in their purpose, one theorist noted. The windows of compassion are being promoted by various groups because of a growing hunger among the faithful for the meaning of sin and repentance in modern society.

On the surface, this trend also appears to confirm what many view as Pope Benedict XVI's efforts to restore traditional elements to the church. "In my opinion — and it is only that — those bishops who wish to emphasize indulgences once more are concerned with the diminishing of clerical authority in recent years," he said. "This may be an attempt on their part to reassert clerical, and especially episcopal, authority." M c B r i e n added: "By making themselves once again the beneficiaries of great spiritual benefits which, in many cases, they have the power to confer. The problem is that most Catholics have no interest in indulgences."

Lack of interest could prevent the revival of indulgences from having much impact on the daily lives of infrequent Catholics, he thought the renewed tradition would distract people from the focus of the church. McBrien said, "no, because most Catholics will pay no attention to them, and those Catholics who are involved in social justice ministries will continue to be involved, without reference to the renewed attention to indulgences."

Contact Robert Singer at rsinger@nd.edu

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Project continued from page 1

trification, or the displacement of low-income residents as a consequence of development. "We worked with the University to make the ground rules and look over their shoulder all the time to make sure they were doing what they were supposed to, and they did," Taylor said. "There has never been one person that has moved from the area that's not better off than before the move."

In the early days of the project, Affleck-Graves said there was some concern about gentrification, but the University worked with the neighborhood residents so all parties could benefit from the project: "A lot of that concern has dissipated," he said. "We don't want to go take over the whole neighborhood and rebuild everything.

Luecke said while the University is developing houses to sell to faculty, the city is concerned with subsidizing houses for renters. They never had owned a home, she said. "Through this program, they were able to purchase a home on Ironwood."

Taylor said the NNRO also has a say in the design of the Eddy Street Commons. She said when the project began, there was talk of calling the center University Village but the NNRO voiced that suggestion because the name doesn't imply a connection to Notre Dame. "With concerns of gentrification mostly put to rest, Luecke said the Eddy Street Commons is a bright spot in the current landscape of an economic downturn.

"The construction itself is creating jobs in the short term, and as the stores open up and the office spaces are filled, we will see additional jobs added in the community," he said. Luecke said the city is paying for the parking garage in the commons and some other infrastructural needs such as drainage and streetlights with a Tax Increment Financing plan. Instead of taking city money from other projects, this project will be funded by the increased property taxes that will arise from the commercial entities in Eddy Street Commons, such as the retail stores and a hotel.

Kite Realty, the private developer then pays for all the construction and the University owns the land. "There has been a huge private investment in the area, which is why the city is willing to make a public investment," Luecke said.

Along with creating jobs in the area, Taylor said Eddy Street Commons will bring foot traffic back to the neighborhood. "I was born in this neighborhood, and you couldn't buy a loaf of bread without getting in your car," she said.

The Eddy Street Commons is the first attempt to bring commerce into the neighborhood surrounding campus, Luecke said. "I think for many years the University and the city coexisted, but students weren't always encouraged to go off campus and there wasn't a lot of interaction with the community," he said. "So we didn't see some of the development that happens in other university communities.

Luecke said this recent collaboration between the University and the city represents an important, emerging partnership. "I am delighted with the way people have worked together," he said. "There has been a deep recognition that our futures are linked. For each of us to succeed, we both have to thrive."

Steve Luecke
Mayor
South Bend

"The energy and the creativity that will focus on Innovation Park will enhance research on campus and make our community more attractive."

Steve Luecke
Mayor
South Bend


Please recycle The Observer.
Note Dame's dining options, while a step ahead of other schools, leave something to be desired. The fixes require only effort, not a massive overhaul of the system. The dining halls present plenty of options for students to choose from, but they often lump them on the same plate and mislead students such as the NCAA tournament. We would only like to thank Linskey for putting forward this issue for the consideration of the student body and the administration. We think the administration needs to reevaluate this "arbitrary standard set forward by the federal government.

One Love,
Dan Parker
Anthony Bonadio
Submit a Letter to the Editor.

[QUOTE OF THE DAY]
"If we were not all so interested in ourselves, life would be so uninteresting that none of us would be able to endure it."
— Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Punishment must fit crime

Thank God someone finally started this discussion.

We would just like to voice our complete support for Ben Limsky's discussion of the Michael Phelps case in the Feb. 19 Observer ("Phelps scandal is reefer madness"). We have been considering writing to The Observer for some time regarding marijuana, and the University's overall policy toward it.

We feel that the University is unfair in its differing policies between underage drinking and the possession of ganja. While most people know that if a student is caught drinking and is under the age of 21, it means a large dose of the bud. Alcohol is highly addictive and probably community service. It is in a step on the wrist.

In contrast, possessing the sweet Reefer is a drug that mellows out the mind of our administration? Why is the penalty for smoking the herb so excessive, become obnoxious, start fights, scream in the quads at 4 a.m., and dinner, and nobody wants that. Essentially, you're eating breakfast for lunch and dinner, and nobody wants that. We do not know.

We would only like to thank Linskey for putting forward this issue for the consideration of the student body and the administration. We think the administration needs to reevaluate this "arbitrary standard set forward by the federal government.

One Love,
Dan Parker
Anthony Bonadio
Submit a Letter to the Editor.
For many who regularly fall short of intended Lenten sacrifices, today begins a "Fat Weekend," or a binge run-up to Ash Wednesday. Just as Christmas decorations appear earlier each year — sometimes uncharacteristically well before Halloween — similarly, Lenten light­weights try to com­pensate by begin­ning, with the calm of Easter Saturday.

Imagine that Easter was behind us, Lent has just begun, but Fat Tuesday is still more than a month away. Would our medical preparation and attempts to purge our weaknesses be less intense? It seems unlikely that a reverse timeline could spawn such a Marti Gras atmosphere when Wednesday eventually arrived. In fact, the process could become less introspective and less limiting. If Fat Tuesday could be an actual holiday, at its conclusion, I would think of the Bengal Boiler. My reflections would naturally remind me of Father James L. Riehle, C.S.C., '49, who passed away in October. Riehle's iconic campus personality evolved while fighting a battle with cancer during his youth. Maybe his magic came from his seminar teaching, or maybe it was the fact that he entered the priesthood at the age of 43 after living a life in the real world. But Riehle's uniquely manicured yet tender personas dominated his tenure as dean of students, as Pangborn Hall rector for a dozen years, as the Monitor's executive director for two decades and as athletic chaplain presiding over Notre Dame football team's game-day mass for more than a quarter of a century.

Riehle successfully managed an impossi­ble task while dean during the height of the Vietnam war from 1967 to 1973. He was the sheriff of Campus Mayberry — an insulated Catholic educu­cational enclave whose residents knew too well roommates lost overseas. The harsh realities of war were likely visual every day when someone planted more than 200 white crosses on the South Quad, each representing a lost Notre Dame graduate. In the end, a pair of stoles moved Riehle from a cane to a golf cart. Yet, the sharpshooter of this man never lost his un­dermed temperament, sense of justice or his legendary人性.

Lent focuses us on death, hope and life. It teaches us that the good in our loved ones is never gone. So each winter bits of Fr. Riehle come back to those who shared a moment with him during the Bengal Boiler or at a Monogram Club function. When trekking back to campus for a foot­ball game, his old office in the Main Building conjures ghosts of times many of us were summoned for disciplinary reason­s. On any evening at home, we whose lives were touched by Riehle can still thumb through a year book for a tangible snapshot of his image.

As dean of students, Riehle ruled autonomously in a time that University president emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh calls the student "revolution." As presi­dent, Hesburgh established his famous 15­minute rule whereby disruptive students biding another's rights were given 15 minutes to meditate, then desist or face expulsion. Page 336 of the 1970 year book, "The Dome," includes a photograph of Riehle in the Main Building looking at his watch to time a warning to more than 100 stu­dents protesting against the CIA and Dow Chemical, manufacturer of napalm, on campus to recruit students. Riehle expelled five students and suspended five others. Yet, all but one returned to earn a degree.

My favorite photograph of Riehle lives on page 336 of the 1976 Dome. It shows the human side of Riehle who, as Dean of Students, mingled with students and shared mutual respect. The photograph shows Riehle at the Senior Bar with his signature cigar in hand while grasping a plastic cup of beer and speaking with a student who held a beer as well. It reveals how Riehle lived a measured Sheriff Andy Taylor existence during the height of the Vietnam war's upheaval years.

During Riehle's tenure, as dean, this column posted a ten-button telephone as a switchboard for rooms in a Lyons Hall wing. The phone company responded and notified Riehle. He asked if it was stolen. Yes was the reply. "Well, the phone company took the phone and does not recommend anything, so don't do it again," Riehle ordered.

Lent is forgiving regardless of the approach or degree of sacrifice. For those who depend on Fat Weekend in prepara­tion, Lent can actually be the best of times. Less called of Riehle's oft-mentioned: "Let's not downplay the harmful effects of pot.

The problem with the Queer Film Festival is that it does nothing to combat the misperception described by Flores and Co. Instead, organizations and events tail­ored to address homophobia only serve to highlight our differences and create the very stigma that Flores so dearly dreads. If a gay movie were to be shown during the Queer Film Festival, it would be an admission of defeat. The festival is an attempt to grow our community and perhaps to dictate to your neighbor what he may do within the confines of his life. Please! Call the drug was it is; and don't demean "insalubrious."
"Slumdog Millionaire" has been racking up awards from every which way this awards season. And barring any upset, it will probably receive the season's highest honor, Best Picture at the Oscars. What was originally a film intended to go straight to DVD has truly become the Cinderella story of 2008. Only, in the process, it has become Goliath, leaving every other film to inhabit the role of David. However, the Academy's infatuation with biopics may very well prove the wild card factor here, and may land "Milk" the honor. "Milk" has been scoring best picture wins in film critics' circles across the nation, but has yet to receive the coveted grand prize at any of the nation's big audience awards shows ("Crash," anyone?). So, if the Academy feels in a maverick sort of mood, and the moment is ripe for an upset, "Milk" may very well pull it off. However, put your money on "Slumdog Millionaire," capping off its dream run with the Best Picture award.

Please Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu.

BEST ACTOR: SEAN PENN

This year's Best Actor race is probably the tightest of all the major categories. The list of nominees all delivered powerful performances this year; the competition is so stiff that even Leonardo DiCaprio and Clint Eastwood were left out of the category.

Sean Penn's turn as Harvey Milk shows he's clearly immersed himself so completely into Milk's character and delivers an utterly transformative performance that is nothing short of remarkable. For this, Penn will probably garner the Oscar, it may be Gus Van Sant's film's only major award.

The only real competitor standing in the way of Penn's second Academy Award in five nominations is this year's comeback kid — Mickey Rourke. Rourke's triumphant return in 'The Wrestler' has already won him a Golden Globe. His own story, which so closely parallels that of struggling has-been Randy "The Ram" Robinson, has struck a chord with audiences and critics alike. His authentic and sensitive performance might be strong enough to kick Penn out of the ring.

The Oscar, though, will go to Penn, whose acting tour de force will recruit the members of the Academy to vote for Harvey Milk over 'The Wrestler' for Best Actor.

Please Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: HEATH LEDGER

All, what a year to be a supporting actor.

This year's lower-profile category is hosting five powerhouse films this year: all of whom are deserving of their nominations. Josh Brolin ('Milk') has proven himself to be more than the pretty-boy son of another pretty-boy actor, bringing gravitas and power to throwaway roles. Michael Shannon, the lone actor from 'Revolutionary Road' to garner a nomination, is arguably that of struggling has-been Randy "The Ram" Robinson, has struck a chord with audiences and critics alike. His authentic and sensitive performance might be strong enough to kick Penn out of the ring.

The Oscar, though, will go to Penn, whose acting tour de force will recruit the members of the Academy to vote for Harvey Milk over 'The Wrestler' for Best Actor.

Please Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu.

TOP 10 FILMS OF 2008

1. "The Wrestler:" An awe-inspiring tour de force of a region, Darren Aronofsky's masterpiece is so deeply penetrating that it becomes a sort of beautiful requiem. Mickey Rourke's performance as an over-the-hill wrestler trying to hold onto the false hope that he can mount a comeback is iconic at the least and deserves placement alongside the great screen performances of the past. His emotional and moral anchor, a feat for a man portraying an institutionalized black sheep. Heath Ledger's turn as 'The Joker' in 'The Dark Knight' is nothing short of outrageous — it's a risk-taking move for an actor who rarely settles for the ordinary.

But despite the sentimentality that might come along with this decision, the Academy should choose Heath Ledger on Sunday night. Ledger's performance as the Joker in "The Dark Knight" is a transformative, revolutionary approach to a role that audiences have already seen on the big and small screen. Ledger torments his predecessors, became darker, funnier and more disturbing than most actors dare to let themselves. Ledger would become only the second actor to posthumously win a golden statue, a real testament to his performance.

Please Contact Andrei Liptar at aliptar@nd.edu.
Bryce Dallas Howard is among the newly crowned winners of the 81st Annual Academy Awards. Howard's performance as Melinda in 'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button' earned her the Best Actress award. She shared the stage with other winners, including Kate Winslet and Penelope Cruz, who took home the Best Supporting Actress and Best Actress awards, respectively.

Kate Winslet, who won the Best Supporting Actress award, debuted her performance as the Black Widow in 'The Reader.' Her role has been praised for its emotional depth and complexity. Winslet's performance has not only brought her an Academy Award, but also a Best Actress nomination at the upcoming Golden Globe Awards.

Penelope Cruz, on the other hand, received her Best Actress award for her role in 'Volver.' Cruz's performance was a testament to her versatility and range, as she skillfully portrayed a woman dealing with the complexities of her past and present.

Other winners include Heath Ledger, who posthumously won the Best Actor award for his portrayal of the Joker in 'The Dark Knight.' The film itself also received several nominations, including Best Picture and Best Director.

These awards highlight the exceptional talent of the actors and filmmakers involved, showcasing the year's best cinematic achievements. With such prestigious accolades, these filmmakers and actors have solidified their places in cinematic history.
Duke rebounds with victory over St. John's

Struggling Xavier falls again to Charlotte 65-60 as Mack scores 12 points in final eight minutes for the young 49ers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Duke was in rare territory for one college basketball's premier programs over the last few decades. So the ninth-ranked Blue Devils went back to basics to right things for at least one game, a 76-69 victory over St. John's on Thursday night.

"We stopped playing with an edge on defense and that happens and it doesn't take much for it to happen," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said after the Blue Devils snapped a two-game losing streak that was part of them losing four of six. "We just have to find that edge and tonight we were closer to it and Elliott helped in that regard. It was a collective response on the defensive end."

Xavier guard Tu Holloway, who Krzyzewski said added some "serve" in recent practices, made just his second start of the season and he was the early spark Duke needed on the defensive end, pressuring the ball and improving the team's speed. "I found out I was starting two days ago after a couple of good practices," said Williams, who had a career-high 11 points on 5-for-6 shooting at Madison Square Garden. "I tried to be a spark for the veteran guys. I tried to think of it as just a game but it was pretty exciting." 

Gerard Henderson scored 19 points for the Blue Devils as the starters scored all but four points.

The Blue Devils (21-5, 9-3), who got a win and that's part of how they specialized in hard-to-find resources, Mack scored six consecutive points to put Charlotte ahead 56-53. A minute later, with the Blue Devils 76-69 win Thursday at Madison Square Garden.

Henderson said the Blue Devils did take the game as a "must-win.

"Absolutely we did. We had lost six," he said. "We got a win and that's part of how we want to play. This was a big win for us.

Charlotte 65, No. 16 Xavier 60

No. 16 Xavier's latest loss in its puzzling slide left coach Sean Miller fuming and Charlotte celebrating its win.

Able to corral its young but still talented and fleet-footed team, Xavier did explain the turnovers. "I can't even put it into words," said Jon Scheyer after the Blue Devil's 76-69 win Thursday at Madison Square Garden. "It's amazing how hard they work and how much they believe that we can beat any body we play.

"We also know that we've got a fine margin for error. It's why they needed the five-pointers and 16 points from Ian Anderson and why the tide turned when Mack got out of his funk, scoring all 12 points in the final 8 minutes, including a 3-pointer with 31 seconds left to put Charlotte ahead 62-58.

C.J. Anderson had 13 points and seven rebounds for the Musketeers (21-5, 9-3), who got only nine points from senior B.J. Raymond in their third straight road loss.

Upset with that even blowout of who should go first in the postseason, Miller declined to comment on the podium and released a brief statement after his team slipped a half-game behind Dayton in the A-10.

"They're playing their best basketball of the season right now," Miller said at Charlotte.

St. John's guard Quincy Roberts drives over Duke's Jon Scheyer in the Blue Devil's 76-69 win Thursday at Madison Square Garden.

Charlotte forward Phil Jones reacts Thursday after upsetting No. 16 Xavier 65-60 in Charlotte.
around the dial

NBA
Dallas at Houston
8:00 p.m., ESPN
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers
10:30 p.m., ESPN

Woods to return after knee surgery

LOS ANGELES — Eight months after winning his U.S. Open on one good leg, a healthy Tiger Woods is returning to golf. Woods said on his Web site Thursday that he will defend his title next week in the Accenture Match Play Championship, believing his reconstructed left knee and his game are good enough to win.

"I'm now ready to play again," Woods said. The Match Play Championship in Tucson, Ariz., begins Wednesday.

Players when Woods has beaten so often while compiling 65 victories were happy to hear he was coming. "He was ready to go weeks ago," Stuart Appleby said at Riviera. "I don't think he needs to do a couple of laps around the track. He'll be on that horse and he'll be whippin' it." The timing for Woods to end his 254-day break from competition could not be better for the PGA Tour, which has seen television ratings plunge after the world's No. 1 player had to miss the second half of the season, including two majors, the Ryder Cup and the FedEx Cup playoffs.

"We are delighted that the healthy Tiger Woods is returning to competition and look forward to watching him compete next week," commissioner Tim Finchem said in a statement.

The last shut Woods hit for real was a short par putt on the 91st hole of the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, where he defeated Rocco Mediate in a playoff to capture his 14th major, which Woods described as "probably the best ever under the circumstances.

He had surgery after the Masters last year to repair cartilage damage in his left knee, and suffered a double stress fracture in his left leg while preparing for his return.

He limped badly over the final few days of the U.S. Open, later saying the soreness was so bad at night that he couldn't wear his knee cap. A week after winning, he had reconstructive surgery, the third operation on his left knee in five years.

What is expert? "He's human," swing coach Hank Haney said. "He has played one tournament in 10 months. I would think he would be a little rusty, but I really don't know what to expect. Nothing with Tiger ever surprises me."

Woods began hitting short irons toward the end of December, and friends such as Mark O'Meara and John Cook said he had been playing plenty of golf over the last few weeks at his home course in Florida.

In Brief

Spurs Ginobili out 2-3 weeks with ankle injury

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Manu Ginobili started the season dealing with an injury to one ankle. Now the San Antonio Spurs super-sub is sidelined because of the other one.

Coach Gregg Popovich said Thursday before the Spurs played in Detroit that Ginobili is expected to be sidelined for 2-3 weeks.

"It's a stress reaction, not a stress fracture, which is important," Popovich said. "If it had been a stress fracture, there's no way he could have been playing, and certainly not as well as he has been.

Ginobili had X-rays, an MRI and a CT scan, and Popovich said the results were encouraging.

"The new bone is already starting to lay down, which means the healing process is underway," he said. "We're thinking that it will be 2-3 more weeks from tonight."
Leach agrees to new contract with Texas Tech

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech and coach Mike Leach agreed Thursday on a new contract after months of contentious negotiations.

Leach signed the contract shortly after he and Kent Hance, the university’s chancellor, met for about two hours Thursday afternoon to hammer out an agreement. Hance said the negotiating part lasted only about 15 minutes.

"Me and my family are thrilled to death that we're going to be in Lubbock for another five years," Leach said at an evening news conference. "I appreciate Chancellor Hance and Gerald (Myers') efforts to allow us to stay here and the opportunity to be here to coach the Red Raiders for many years to come."

Weeks ago, Leach and Tech essentially added on the financial terms of a five-year, $12.7 million contract that had no such restriction.

In the new contract that keeps Leach at Tech through 2013, Leach only needs to notify Myers in writing to interview at another school. The contract also includes a $250,000 bonus if Leach and Tech win the national championship, a $75,000 bonus if Tech participates in a BCS bowl and a $50,000 bonus if Leach is picked as national coach of the year.

If Tech terminates the contract, the school must pay Leach $400,000 for each year remaining on the agreement. And there is no buyout amount.

Hance said he is confident in Leach will stick around for many years.

"We'll just make that zero on the buyout," Hance said, recalling his conversation with Leach earlier in the day. "I know he's not leaving."

Myers said he has always wanted Leach to be Tech’s coach.

"I think that got lost with all the rhetoric and speculation," Myers said. "To put it mildly this has been a tough negotiation, and it's good to get it behind us."

On Tuesday, the school's Board of Regents scheduled a special meeting hours before a second deadline passed without Leach accepting Tech’s “last and final” offer. The board planned to meet Friday but that meeting was canceled once the deal was sealed.

The meeting was to have been in private to discuss Leach’s status, but the coach requested a public hearing late Wednesday. Under state law, the board had to grant his request. Leach then met with Hance to discuss his contract.

The termination clause that led to the stalemate had been added after Leach flew to Seattle to interview for the Washington job in December. Myers wrote to Leach's agents that he didn't want the coach interviewing elsewhere, then returning to Lubbock.

Texas Tech coach Mike Leach, center, watches from the sidelines as the Red Raiders play against Kansas on Oct. 25, 2008. Leach agreed to a new five-year contract Thursday.

Without commenting to reporters, he said he didn't want to unreasonably withhold permission for Leach to talk to other schools, just that he wanted to know when Leach was doing it.

In their ninth season under Leach, the Red Raiders reached unprecedented heights in 2008. They went 10-0 for the first time and beat top-ranked Texas to secure the highest ranking in school history at No. 2. Texas Tech was knocked out of BCS contention with a blowout loss to Oklahoma, then fell to Mississippi in the Cotton Bowl to finish 11-2.

Public opinion seemed to favor Leach as the drama unfolded. A few dozen supporters rallied on his behalf Tuesday, the day before a Texas Tech alumnus and another fan took out a full-page ad in the Lubbock newspaper blasting the Texas Tech administration for its stance.
Irish travel to Nike Invitational

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will head west this weekend to take on top teams. The Irish (1-3) began their season Feb. 13 with a 10-1 loss against top-ranked Alabama in the Rana Bash. Today, the team will begin the three-day Nike Invitational in Palo Alto, Calif., with games against the Sacramento State Bandits and the No. 5 Stanford Cardinal.

On Saturday, the Irish will take on Sacramento State and Stanford again. The team will finish the weekend by facing the Western Kentucky Lady Toppers on Sunday morning. Though the beginning of the season did not go Notre Dame’s way, several bright spots shone through.

In a 2-1 win over East Carolina on Feb. 14, sophomore Katie Fleiry hit a home run and a single, tallying both RBI. Sophomore Sandi Pitzenberger also had two hits in the game.

The two lead the Irish with batting averages of .364 and .444, respectively.

Senior pitcher Brittany Bargar also got off to a strong start. In 13.2 innings at the Bama Bash, she compiled a 2.56 ERA with 12 strikeouts. Bargar will have her hands full with Stanford (8-1). The Cardinal has already defeated Stanford, but already shows signs of offensive prowess. The Bandits hit five home runs in their two wins over Pacific, three of which came from the bat of senior Jamie Schirodi.

Notre Dame will play Sacramento State today at 1:00 p.m. and Saturday at 7:45 p.m. Western Kentucky (5-2) comes to Palo Alto following a successful campaign at the Auburn Invitational, which ended with a 13-0 victory over Eastern Kentucky.

After that performance, Toppers junior Lindsay Antone was named co-Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week. Antone hit for a .637 batting average in three games with two doubles and 5 RBI. She leads the team with a .480 overall batting average.

The Irish do not face the Lady Toppers until Sunday, and will play them at 12:00 p.m.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Irish travel to Nike Invitational

Top athletes travel to Big East finale

By DOUG FARMER
Sports Writer

From the first days of fall practice, the Irish coaches have focused the team on this weekend.

"Where we really want to run is the Big East championships," coach Joe Plase said from the start. After each meet along the way, he repeatedly said, "This was just one small step to getting the team ready for the Big East." Those long-awaited Big East Championships have finally arrived. The team departed for New York City on Thursday for the competition this weekend.

A couple of seniors lead the men's and women's squads across the country. For the men, senior Bill Buzaid will compete in the 5,000 and 1,500 meter dash. Patrick Smyth will race in both the 3,000 and the 5,000, and Dan Clark will do his part in the mile, a notoriously difficult Big East event.

The men is a bear. There are two guys seeded under four minutes, head coach Joe Plase said. "Distance running has always been pretty darn good in the Big East." As for the women, the dominating field events duo of seniors Anna Weher and Mary Saxer expect to headline the women's performances. Weher hopes to place in both the shot put and the weight throw, while Saxer will try to keep her incredible pole vault season rolling.

The deep underclassmen hope to follow the seniors' examples. In the mile, freshmen Jordan Rincon and junior Balazs Molnar run the 400 and 800. Junior Jack Howard will represent Notre Dame in the 400.

Sophomore Justin Schneider finished second in the multi events as a freshman, and will have a chance to improve on that this weekend, with strong Irish participation throughout the field events supporting him. The Schipper brothers, Matt, a junior, and Kevin, a freshman, have already qualified for the NCAA Championships, and will pole vault this weekend as well. Meanwhile, Eric Quick is jumping in both the triple and long jump.

All the competitors face strong competition at the Big East championships. The stiffest opposition will come from Connecticut and Louisville, as both are anticipated to fight for the first and second team places in both the men's and women's results.

"People don't understand how good the Big East Conference is in track and field," Joe Plase said. "Year in and year out, track or cross country will be the conference's most competitive sport the conference has. Now, this year basketball may be, but year in and year out, track or cross country is the most competitive sport the conference has."

That sport will have a chance to live up to its billing this weekend in the Big Apple. Most of the finals are scheduled for Sunday, but the long jump, the weight throw, the pole vault, the 5,000, and the middle-distance events are both freshmen Jordan Rincon and junior Balazs Molnar running the 400, and junior Jack Howard will represent Notre Dame in the 400.

Contact Doug Farmer at dfamer1@nd.edu

Read more about Notre Dame sports at The Casual Observer blog at observersportsblog.wordpress.com

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Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Carolina Panthers placed the franchise tag on Julius Peppers Thursday, setting up a potential nasty showdown with their four-time Pro Bowl defensive end who wants to play elsewhere next season.

The move came moments after the Panthers signed All-Pro guard Osi Uwécuma to a six-year deal worth more than $30 million in the first three seasons. Having locked up Gross, the Panthers then placed the non-exclusive tag on Peppers, who had said he would request a trade under that scenario.

"Julius was expecting to be franchised," Peppers' agent, Carl Carey, wrote in a text message. "We will continue to work toward a resolution that is in line with his professional goals."

Under the non-exclusive franchise tag rules, Carolina offered Peppers a one-year guaranteed deal worth $16.7 million that would immediately count against the salary cap. While Peppers can still solicit offers from other teams, any club signing Peppers would have to surrender two first-round draft picks to Carolina.

Placing the tag on Peppers Thursday allows the Panthers to trade him for something less than two first-rounders and instead of letting him walk away in free agency. But Peppers has power because no team would likely trade for him without first securing a long-term contract agreement.

A person close to Peppers on Thursday afternoon said he would agree to be traded to only four teams, including the Dallas Cowboys, who do not hold a first-round pick. So the Panthers face the prospect of not being able to work out a trade and then having Peppers either hold out or be disgruntled while eating up a giant portion of their salary cap.

But while Peppers has been adamant that he won't sign a long-term deal with Carolina, general manager Marty Hurney wouldn't rule out Peppers returning and said the team will not immediately seek a trade.

"We've said many times how many times we value Julius," Hurney said. "We would like him to play here."

NFL teams can place the franchise tag on just one player, so the Panthers were scrambling to come to terms with Gross before the Thursday afternoon deadline.

Carolina's first-round pick in 2002 placed last season under the franchise tag in a one-year, $7.45 million deal. His cap hit would have made him one of the NFL's highest-paid offensive linemen. "Jordan is one of the top left tackles in our league and our division," Hurney said of Peppers in a brief phone interview Thursday afternoon.

"I think it was much easier on the team dealing with him."

Peppers, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2002 draft, is a freakish athlete and Carolina's career sacks leader. But Peppers has also been criticized for inconsistent play — he had a career-high 14 sacks this past season, but a career-low 2% the year before.

Even in 2008, Peppers didn't receive a single tackle against Denver and was shut down in Carolina's upset loss to Arizona in the playoffs.

Peppers, who turned down a lucrative contract extension before the start of last season, has some leverage because Carolina is likely to get him for the franchise tag in 2010 if the franchise tag in 2009. "We are so glad we were able to hold him," Hurney said. "We've said many times how much we valued Julius."

Panthers sign All-Pro Gross

Associated Press

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A person close to Peppers on Thursday afternoon said he would agree to be traded to only four teams, including the Dallas Cowboys, who do not hold a first-round pick. So the Panthers face the prospect of not being able to work out a trade and then having Peppers either hold out or be disgruntled while eating up a giant portion of their salary cap.

But while Peppers has been adamant that he won't sign a long-term deal with Carolina, general manager Marty Hurney wouldn't rule out Peppers returning and said the team will not immediately seek a trade.

"We've said many times how many times we value Julius," Hurney said. "We would like him to play here."

NFL teams can place the franchise tag on just one player, so the Panthers were scrambling to come to terms with Gross before the Thursday afternoon deadline.

Carolina's first-round pick in 2002 placed last season under the franchise tag in a one-year, $7.45 million deal. His cap hit would have made him one of the NFL's highest-paid offensive linemen. "Jordan is one of the top left tackles in our league and our division," Hurney said of Peppers in a brief phone interview Thursday afternoon.

"I think it was much easier on the team dealing with him."

Peppers, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2002 draft, is a freakish athlete and Carolina's career sacks leader. But Peppers has also been criticized for inconsistent play — he had a career-high 14 sacks this past season, but a career-low 2% the year before.

Even in 2008, Peppers didn't receive a single tackle against Denver and was shut down in Carolina's upset loss to Arizona in the playoffs.

Peppers, who turned down a lucrative contract extension before the start of last season, has some leverage because Carolina is likely to get him for the franchise tag in 2010 if the franchise tag in 2009. "We are so glad we were able to hold him," Hurney said. "We've said many times how much we valued Julius."

Panthers sign All-Pro Gross
Glavine agrees to one year deal with Braves

Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Tom Glavine has returned to the Atlanta Braves for one more season, reaching a preliminary agreement on a $1 million, one-year contract.

The deal is likely to be announced Friday, a person familiar with the negotiations said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Braves had not yet confirmed it. It will contain $3.5 million in bonuses based on roster time.

"It's very close," Braves spokesman Brad Hankje said Thursday night. "They're going to talk again in the morning."

The left-hander, who turns 43 next month, was 2-4 with a 5.54 ERA in 13 starts last season, cut short by an elbow injury. Glavine's partially torn elbow tendon was repaired on Aug. 21 by Dr. James Andrews, who also cleaned up Glavine's shoulder.

A 305-game winner, Glavine earned his 300th win with New York in 2007 before returning to Atlanta' s fifth starter behind Javier Vazquez and Kenshinashi last month, was 2-4 with a 5.54 ERA in 13 starts last season, cut short by an elbow injury. Glavine's partially torn elbow tendon was repaired on Aug. 21 by Dr. James Andrews, who also cleaned up Glavine's shoulder.

A 305-game winner, Glavine earned his 300th win with New York in 2007 before returning to Atlanta.

Tommy back," manager Bobby Cox said. "It's always better to have him."

Glavine's return will likely happen at some point this year, Cox said.

Glavine and his 4-year-old son, reaching a preliminary agreement on a $1 million, one-year deal with Braves...
There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent and a time to speak
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Friday, February 27
“A Time To Heal” Dinner with Speakers
5–7:30 pm Legends

John Cavadini, Department Chair and Professor of Theology
Carolyn Nordstrom, Professor of Anthropology
Tim Latham, President of Men Against Violence
Kyle A.C. Rocca, Survivor of Sexual Assault
Anonymous Student, Survivor of Sexual Assault

All are welcome and the dinner is free, but you need to RSVP by February 23 to grc@nd.edu or 631-9340.
Tourney finishes Saturday

Lytle and Hoffman set records on Thursday

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

At the halfway point of the 2009 Big East Conference Championships, Notre Dame finds itself in a familiar position, leading the field with 296 points after two days of competition.

The Irish followed up their strong performance on Wednesday as two Notre Dame records fell on the day. In the consolation round of the 50-yard freestyle, Irish junior Andrew Hoffman recorded a time of 20.39, breaking 2005 Notre Dame graduate Frank Krakowski's record. Krakowski had originally set the 50-yard freestyle Irish record books.

In the consolation round of the 200-yard individual medley after a strong surge in a time of 1:50.63, the team's best of the season. Heading into the final two days of competition, Notre Dame leads Louisville by 25 points. The Irish will look to extend that lead on Friday, when the Big East Championships resume at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis at 10 a.m.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

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FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 1

2/22-3/1 'Giving a Voice' Poster Campaign featuring GRC FIRE Starters
2/23 Take Back the Night Prayer Service; 7:00 p.m at Log Chapel
March around campus
Speak Out at Bonfire; 8:00 p.m at Holy Cross Hill
(with hot-chocolate, smores and free t-shirts)
2/24-26 Resource Tables from 11:30 to 1:30pm in LaFortune and the Dining Halls
2/25 Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSAP) Student Forum 7:00 pm in Reckers Hospitality Room
2/27 "A Time to Heal" Dinner with Faculty and Student Speakers
Carolyn Nordstrom, Professor of Anthropology
John Cavadi Department Chair and Professor of Theology
Kyle A.C. Rocca, Survivor of sexual assault
Tim Latham President of Men Against Violence
Anonymous Student Survivor of sexual assault
5:00-7:00 pm at Legends. All are welcome and the dinner is free, but you must RSVP by February 23 to grc@nd.edu or 631-9340
3/1 SAAW Sunday featuring petitions, ribbons and prayer cards at Masses

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish in good shape to win lucky number 13

Miller sets school record in 50-yard freestyle

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Coming into the second day of competition of their Big East Championship title defense, Notre Dame was in good shape. The No. 25 Irish were in led the field with 80 points, 12 ahead of second-place No. 23 Louisville.

Shaking off the jitters from the first day, Notre Dame continued to increase its lead over the Cardinals and the rest of the field. The Irish had 209 points to bring its overall score to 409. Louisville held onto second with 242.5 points.

Irish sophomore Amy Lytle set a record-breaking performance in the 50-meter freestyle. Her time of 22.37 made her the fastest swimmer in Notre Dame history, but couldn't earn her a win. She was out-touched by one hundredth of a second by Louisville junior Whitney Campbell.

Sophomore Lauren Sylvester started the day off well for the Irish with a third place finish in the 500-yard freestyle. She finished with a time of 4:50.32.

Freshman Emily Barton placed next for the Notre Dame in the 200 individual medley. Farrell came in second and Barton finished less than a second behind her for third. The Cardinals once again took first place in the race. Notre Dame's Ashlee Edgell finished just outside of the top three with a time of 2:01.77.

The Irish divers dominated the 1-meter springboard, with junior Natalie Stilt and sophomore Heidi Grossman grabbing the top two spots with scores of 290.15 and 268.05, respectively.

In the final race of the day, the 200 freestyle relay team snugged second in 1:31.01, just shy of Louisville's winning mark.

Under the direction of first-year head coach Brian Barnes, the young Irish squad will continue their quest for a record-extending 17th consecutive Big East Championship. Barnes is used to winning after spending three seasons as an assistant at perennial powerhouse Auburn University.

The meet will conclude Saturday.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker@nd.edu

311 LaFortune • 574.631.9340 • grc@nd.edu • grc@nd.edu
Boards

continued from page 28

could end up being a metaphor for Notre Dame’s season. Despite many chances to get its season back on track, Notre Dame keeps letting them slip away and is in grave danger of missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time in three seasons.

Saturday’s game at Providence (16-10, 8-6) represents one of Notre Dame’s final chance to keep its Tournament hopes alive and prevent the metaphor from being complete for now.

A win over the Friars would keep a 9-9 conference record a realistic goal for Notre Dame’s Big East slate. On the rest of their schedule, the Irish have four home games, the most challenging coming against No. 14 Villanova on March 2. After Providence, Notre Dame has one road game left on its schedule when it travels to No. 1 Connecticut on Feb. 28. That’s a good thing for Notre Dame, who has been abysmal on the road this season. The Irish have a grand total of two road wins this season — against 2-25 Loyola Marymount and 8-18 DePaul — hardly wins they can brag about.

Assuming a loss at Connecticut, Notre Dame could get in the NCAA Tournament with a .500 Big East record. Last season, both Syracuse and Villanova finished 9-9 in conference play and faced each other in the first round of the Big East tournament. In a virtual play-in game for the Big Dance, the Wildcats won, and played on in March, while Syracuse was relegated to the NIT for the second straight season.

But this scenario would likely require Notre Dame to overcome its road woes and beat the Friars Saturday. Providence, who sits in sixth place has done what Notre Dame has failed to do this season — beat the middle of the pack teams in the Big East. Its biggest win came against Syracuse, and it has a record of 8-2 against teams below it in the standings. Providence returns many players from last season, and it is a team that Notre Dame wants to remedy its rebounding problems from two years ago.

Despide many chances to get its season back on track, Notre Dame needs to keep them from slipping away and in grave danger of missing the NCAA Tournament...

Huskies

continued from page 28

its season rests largely on the hands of sophomore forward Maya Moore. Moore is a dominant force in the Big East this season, and the first time a freshman player garnered the award on the women’s men’s side. She is one of the most well-rounded players in the country.

“Shes an amazing player,” McGraw said. “She’s somebody that you enjoy watching because she’s a hard worker, she’s a really great kid. She’s just a great person and I think everybody likes her. And when you watch her play you just have to kind of smile and when you watch her play other teams, it’s fun to watch. I’m not sure I’m going to enjoy it as much on Sunday. But there’s so many things she can do. She can control the game at both ends of the floor; she’s a great defender. She can score in so many different ways and she’s just pretty unstoppable.”

Muffet McGraw Irish coach

McGraw said Bruzewski has been making field goals, the rest of the Irish haven’t been as consistent. And against the Huskies they can’t afford to make those mistakes. So McGraw said if the Irish will strive for one thing against the Huskies it’s a boost in their defensive game.

“Because we have times where we don’t shoot the ball particularly well, we have times where we will go four or five minutes without a field goal. We’ve had those kind of droughts, so we really need to pick it up on the defensive end,” McGraw said.

The Irish will look to put a dent defensively in Moore and the Huskies Sunday at 2 p.m.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

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But the Irish have their own sophomore who’s starting to come into her own. Forward Becca Bruszewski had 20 points over South Florida and five defensive boards. McGraw said Bruszewski deserves all the credit for her improvement.

“We’ve played her at a lot of different spots, she’s got a lot of versatility. She can play on the perimeter or inside. She’s having a lot of fun the way she’s playing right now and I think that for her that’s when she plays at her best. We’re not looking for her, we’re not running plays for her. She’s just creating her own shot right now and playing within the framework of the offense,” McGraw said.

Even though Bruszewski has been making field goals, the rest of the Irish haven’t been as consistent. And against the Huskies they can’t afford to make those mistakes. So McGraw said if the Irish will strive for one thing against the Huskies it’s a boost in their defensive game.

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Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

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Friday, February 20, 2009
expected to switch to shortstop this season after starting at second base for three years. He hit .307 with eight home runs and 36 RBIs last year and was named a second-team all-Big East player. Two Irish football players will also help lead the baseball team this season. Senior Evan Sharpley led the team in home runs with 13 last year, and he is expected to start at first base. Sophomore Golden Tate started only nine games last year but is expected to start in left field.

Junior outfielder A.J. Pollock was named to the preseason honor roll by Baseball America. Pollock started all 55 games last season and hit .352 with four home runs and 42 RBIs.

Sophomore catcher Matt Scioscia, son of former major league catcher and current manager of the L.A. Angels of Anaheim Mike Scioscia, is expected to split time this spring with sophomore Cam McCullough. Both will have to fill the gap left by Sean Gaston, the fifth-year senior and tri-captain of the L.A. Angels of Anaheim leaguer and current manager Mike Scioscia, is expected to start at first base. Sophomore Gaston batted .301 and compiled just nine errors in his four-year playing career.

Baseball America also predicted that Notre Dame would make the NCAA Tournament as a No. 4 seed and finish second in the Big East. The Big East coaches picked the Irish to finish third in the conference. Notre Dame went 16-10 in the Big East last season. The Irish lost three straight games to South Florida to end the regular season, then lost another to USF and one to West Virginia to exit the tournament.

Notre Dame lost six players to the MLB draft last year, including star pitcher Kyle Weiland, David Phelps, Wade Korpi, Brent Graffy, Sam Elam and Brett Lilley. They'll have to replace the potential to break out at the same time they struggled to put the ball in the same way.

Though the Irish won both games, Jackson acknowledged that they struggled to put the ball on the same level, but they have the potential to break out at any time.

“We play a more simple game on the road.”

Eirk Condra
Irish captain

Notre Dame has played the role of road warrior all season, currently sporting a 11-2-1 record away from the Joyce Center this season. Prior to a Feb. 8 loss at Ohio State, the Irish hadn't lost on the road in an 8-3 non-conference thrashing of No. 7 Nebraska-Omaha after the fact, "Jackson said. "I'm afraid of them right now because they haven't scored a lot of goals in the last month, and that's hurt them, but they have the potential to break out at any time."

Irish coach Jeff Jackson said while he'd like the league crown for seeding purposes, he didn't want his team to get hung up on it.

'I'm not going to put a ton of emphasis on winning the conference championship because there's a lot more to play for after the fact," Jackson said.

First, Notre Dame will need to take care of business against the Mavericks, who currently sit in sixth place in the conference with 26 points. Recently, though, Mike Kemp's squad has struggled, going winless since Jan. 9.

The Mavericks are led by their power-play unit, which ranks fourth in the CCCHA with a .12 percent efficiency. Irish captain Erik Condra, though, was confident in the team's ability to step up defensively.

"Northern [Michigan] had a great power play coming in here and our penalty kill stepped up and did the job," he said. "And I think that's what we need to do this weekend."

Early in the season, Notre Dame and Purdue's School of Veterinary medicine.

Dr. Logue is a graduate of University of Notre Dame and Purdue's School of Veterinary medicine.

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Keith Kitson Logue, DVM

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Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Molly Ringwald, 41; Dr. Dre, 44; Matt Damon, 42; John Travolta, 53.

Happy Birthday: Not everyone has as innovative and original a mind as you. Open your eyes, let your mind fly. You can use your creative power in ways you might never have imagined. Now is the time to be bold, be adventurous. There are no limits on your achievements. Be a leader who makes a difference.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Promises love and good times. The encounters you have had with different people you've helped out will be remembered now, as do not hesitate to open the door or to play your part. An unexpected surprise will cause alterations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's no one's business what you are doing with whom, or by being good, you will write opposition. Do not pressurize, knowing what you will get in return. A professional change will depend on the decisions you make.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make the changes that will help you get ahead. You can be a leader who makes a difference so don't hold back. If someone questions you, do not direct that person and continue confidently down the path you know you should. * * *

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do not have to be tense or making your pass uneventful. You act quickly by the deadline. You will be out, with your friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have what it takes to map people to think the way you do. If you are a group leader, you will be a driving force. You must acquire. You are also picky, you will not give up your goals. * * *

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your emotions out of your decision making if you don't want to make a mistake. Hard work, lots of detail and not letting others numbers will determine the outcome of whatever you are trying to achieve. * * *

LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct. 22): You have positioned yourself well so don't let anyone cause you to question your choices. Campus approach to life, love and creativity will bring others to your side, give you the strength to follow through with your plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Criticism will discourage you until you can avoid it if you are diligent and perfect what you are pursuing. It's not worth the risk of losing the confidence of someone who can help you in the future. * * *

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have to take action based on what you feel is right, not what someone else is telling you. Back up how you are and what you can do. It may be in your approach or someone old projects can earn things needed. * * *

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Taking chances is for amateurs who don't know how to play the game. You can stay in control by keeping things simple, stable, and usable. Change will come when the time is right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will build strength of character by pursuing things that are good for you — like a fitness regime and healthy diet. Learning will lead you to a whole new world of prosperity and increased self-esteem. Show confidence in all you do for a better you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's time to venture into talks with someone who can contribute to what you are working on. You can be a manager in a position that was thought to be out of reach or landed on your back needs to be accomplished in order to finish where you began. * * *

Breakfast: You are outgoing, kind and willing to help the underdog. You are a thinker and a doer. You are invited to be much appreciated. You are loved. * * *

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Printed by Mike Martin
27 Oscar nominee for "Training Day," 2001
28 Some singing
31 Spin cycles?
30 PBS station with a "Writer's Life"
24 "A Writer's Life"
21 Some livestock
16 Novel about its first word
10 Soprano ___
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(Answers tomorrow)

THE OBSERVER

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Irish kickoff season in Florida this weekend

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Notre Dame can escape the snow this weekend when it heads to Florida to play Ohio State, Illinois and Purdue in the inaugural Big East/Big Ten Challenge.

The Irish, who were 33-21-1 last season, send righty Brian Dupra to the mound in the first game, against the Buckeyes, tonight at 7:30. Dupra was 3-3 with a 5.44 ERA last season. Notre Dame faces the Illini Saturday and the Boilermakers Sunday.

The tournament, which features eight Big East teams and eight Big Ten squads, starts a 15-game stretch away from home for the Irish. Their first home game comes on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 against Ball State.

Senior Jeremy Barnes is

Batter up!

Irish take momentum into UConn territory

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Assistant Managing Editor

Wining on the road against South Florida was a huge confidence booster for the Irish, but Connecticut has had wins like that game after game. That's why the Huskies are the No. 1 team in the nation.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the Irish are up for the challenge. The trip to Connecticut is always one the team looks forward to, and with Connecticut fans that treat basketball like Notre Dame does football, the Irish women know they'll be respected no matter what the outcome.

"We always like playing there because the crowd is always so great. They have a lot of energy and it really is an educated crowd. They cheer for good basketball and certainly their seeing a lot of it the way Connecticut has been playing all year. They're an outstanding team," McGraw said.

Coming of a huge 86-79 win over South Florida Tuesday, the Irish know they can play with teams at the top of the Big East. But Connecticut is a different story. The Huskies are 8-3-2 and ranked No. 7 in the poll.

Notre Dame is 11-4 all-time against Penn State, and has won six straight games in the series. The Irish defeated the Nittany Lions 12-9 last year in South Bend.

Penn State dropped their opening match last weekend against Robert Morris, losing 12-11 in double overtime.

Notre Dame junior Kevin Deeth stops on a dime during a 5-2 Irish win over Northern Michigan last weekend in the JACC.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By CHRIS HINE
Assistant in-Chief

Early in the second half of Notre Dame's 79-68 loss to West Virginia Wednesday, Mountaineers guard Daryll Bryant missed a 3-pointer.

It seemed like a good defensive stop for Notre Dame until West Virginia grabbed the offensive rebound and then another, and then another. And then another. And then another.

On West Virginia's fifth shot of the possession, Mountaineers forward DeSean Butler finally put Notre Dame (14-11, 5-4 Big East) out of its misery by hitting a jumper in the lane. Most teams struggle when they allow second-chance points, it's no surprise a team that allows fifth-chance points would lose.

In many ways, that possession saw UNO/page 25

ND Women's basketball commentary

Irish take momentum into UConn territory

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By CHRIS HINE
Assistant in-Chief

Early in the second half of Notre Dame's 79-68 loss to West Virginia Wednesday, Mountaineers guard Daryll Bryant missed a 3-pointer.

It seemed like a good defensive stop for Notre Dame until West Virginia grabbed the offensive rebound and then another, and then another. And then another. And then another.

On West Virginia's fifth shot of the possession, Mountaineers forward DeSean Butler finally put Notre Dame (14-11, 5-4 Big East) out of its misery by hitting a jumper in the lane. Most teams struggle when they allow second-chance points, it's no surprise a team that allows fifth-chance points would lose.

In many ways, that possession saw UNO/page 25

ND Women's basketball commentary

Irish take momentum into UConn territory

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Assistant Managing Editor

Wining on the road against South Florida was a huge confidence booster for the Irish, but Connecticut has had wins like that game after game. That's why the Huskies are the No. 1 team in the nation.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the Irish are up for the challenge. The trip to Connecticut is always one the team looks forward to, and with Connecticut fans that treat basketball like Notre Dame does football, the Irish women know they'll be respected no matter what the outcome.

"We always like playing there because the crowd is always so great. They have a lot of energy and it really is an educated crowd. They cheer for good basketball and certainly their seeing a lot of it the way Connecticut has been playing all year. They're an outstanding team," McGraw said.

Coming of a huge 86-79 win over South Florida Tuesday, the Irish know they can play with teams at the top of the Big East. But Connecticut is a different story. The Huskies are 8-3-2 and ranked No. 7 in the poll.

Notre Dame is 11-4 all-time against Penn State, and has won six straight games in the series. The Irish defeated the Nittany Lions 12-9 last year in South Bend.

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