Facebook use evolves at Notre Dame

Since its founding in 2004, thousands of students join the now ubiquitous networking site

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

This is the second installment of a three-part series that will explore the recent terms of use controversy involving Facebook and delve into the way interaction with and opinion of the site has changed since 2004, when Notre Dame students were first able to become users.

Unlike most Notre Dame students, junior Helen Syski has never been a Facebook user. Her cousin once tried, unsuccessfully, to create an account for her, but Syski made up her mind years ago that she would not join the popular social networking group.

If the more than 175 million people who actively use Facebook make up a country, that country would be the sixth largest in the world.

Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg made this observation in a Facebook blog post Feb. 18 when he announced the site was reversing itself to make decisions to change its terms of use. The original changes—which deleted language that said Facebook’s right to content would fully expire once a user canceled his account—caused Facebook members to be upset that the site retained a permanent license to their content.

Alarm throughout the Facebook community prompted Zuckerberg to return the terms of use to the previous version.

“This is the second installment of a three-part series that will explore the recent terms of use controversy involving Facebook and delve into the way interaction with and opinion of the site has changed since 2004, when Notre Dame students were first able to become users.”

“The Indian Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Yearbooks”

Facebook facts

- Founded by Mark Zuckerberg, with three co-founders, and launched from his dorm room
- Employees: 700+
- Headquarters: Palo Alto, Calif.
- More than half of Facebook users in the United States are teenagers and young adults
- Fastest growing demographic is those 30 years and above
- Second most trafficked PHP site in the world

Facebook’s CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, reversed changes to Facebook’s terms of use Feb. 18.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Thanks for the memories

Today is my last day as Editor-in-Chief of The Observer. I know this day was fast approaching, but I prevented myself from thinking about it for as long as possible because after this is graduation, and I don’t want to leave Notre Dame. These four years have been the best of my life and I probably won’t have another four years like them. They’ve been so enjoyable thanks in part to my time at The Observer. It was through The Observer that I discovered just how special Notre Dame is.

Last spring, we did a story on George Porter-Young, a former LaFortune employee who was originally from England. George found out he had leukemia and wanted to return home to live in England for the first time in 42 years. But because of his cancer, he couldn’t fly home and needed to raise money for an expensive cruise home and to cover other costs along the way.

After our story ran, the people of Notre Dame did the rest. Donations came in from staff, alumni and students and George had enough money to go home. And he did return in September to spend a few months with his family before he died in November. I know he and his family were grateful for all Notre Dame did for him. I hear all the time the good that people at Notre Dame do and George’s story is an example of the good Notre Dame can do.

I’ll always remember George and I’ll always remember the people who have made The Observer such a great place to work the past four years. Thank you to everyone who has worked late nights in our office and this list includes a lot of people.

We have a fantastic staff, filled with people who have some of the most amazing, energy and points on their GPA to help us put out the best paper we can.

Some of those 3 a.m., 4 a.m. and even 5 a.m. nights can be frustrating, but I try to balance them with everyone I worked with, for it was during those long nights that I made some great friends. It amazes me how much every body at our paper gives everyday to make our paper the best it can be, and I am eternally grateful to everyone on staff. You’ve given me a lot of great memories that I’ll always have. (And thanks for putting up with my love of Carole King’s music. I know that wasn’t easy).

Thanks to our readers, who pick up our paper everyday and read us despite the occasional typo. You keep us motivated to do our best.

Thanks to Jan Badicin, who drives two hours to deliver The Observer to its boxes everyday. No matter the weather, The Observer is always there, and that’s because of the dedication to our paper and pride Jack brings to his job. And thanks to Shirley Grauel, our office manager at The Observer and the woman who is the heart of our paper.

Shirley has worked at The Observer for over 30 years and after next fall, she will retire.

Shirley will always have a special place in my heart. She is my Notre Dame mother.

When I was sick last winter with a respiratory infection, Shirley made sure I was eating well and taking my medicine. She would even swipe extra food and drinks for me from Grab n’ Go so I could get through the day. She helped put my mom’s mind at ease back home.

Then when I had mono at the beginning of this year, Shirley made sure I was getting the care I needed to feel better and went shopping for me at Martin’s to get Gatorade and Campbell’s soup. She was always a phone call away, anytime of the day.

Every morning when I go into The Observer, Shirley’s is the first face I see. I’m always greeted with a friendly smile that would brighten my day no matter how crappy of a mood I’m in. I’ll miss that. I’ll miss talking about our families, watching “Who Want to Be a Millionaire” with her and talking about Notre Dame sports. Shirley is a true Irish fan, with season tickets to football, hockey, women’s basketball and men’s basketball — and she goes to every home game, whether the teams are bad or good. (Jack Swarbrick, she deserves your prime seats in the remodeled arena).

Shirley, thank you for being there for me these past few years. You mean so much to me and to everyone who’s worked with you at The Observer and I hope you know how much we all appreciate you and love you. Enjoy your retirement, you certainly deserve it.

The values expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.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 you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4041 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: TELL A STORY IN SIX WORDS.

Ryan Gabriel
junior
“told a story of the day”

Andy Hermansen
junior
“dreamt a girl liked me.”

Johanna Kirsch
junior
“Lost: Hard Drive. Files not recovered.”

Mary Lennon
senior
“Road Trip” This is an island.

IN BRIEF

Sexual Assault Awareness Resource Tables will be available in South Dining Hall, North Dining Hall and LaFortune today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tables are provided by Gender Relations Center.

“Guernica,” a play inspired by the true story of a ship that sank in 1937, will be performed in the Phyllis Studio Theatre in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The play is being performed at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. For more ticket information, performingarts.nd.edu or call the DeBartolo Ticket Office at 574-631-2800.

Beagel Bouts finals take place Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

The Notre Dame German Club is hosting a Sound of Music Sing-A-Long event at 7 p.m. in the Gruey Auditorium of Hesburgh Library. Admission is free, and food and free tea will be served at intermission. A costume contest will also be held.

Saint Mary’s College will host the “SMC Monologues 2009: Our Stories, Our Voices” Saturday and Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in the Vander Venet theater.

The Browning Cinema will present the documentary, “America the Beautiful. Is America the Beautiful.” Sunday at 3:00 p.m. in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

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

Trumpet player Todd Henkel plays at the 51st annual Collegiate Jazz Festival in the LaFortune Ballroom Thursday night with the University of Notre Dame Jazz Band II.

OFFBEAT

Teenage boys steal jewelry, hide it in Chicos bag

NEPTUNE, N.J. — But you can’t steal just one. Three teenage boys from central New Jersey have been charged with breaking into an apartment and stealing $7,000 worth of jewelry, then hiding the loot in an empty Cheeto’s bag. The bag was later found inside a swing set in a local park in Freehold.

The boys, ages 15 and 16, have been charged with attempted burglary, burglary and trespassing. Police recovered most of the stolen jewelry. The boys have been released to their parents.

Man claims military service allows him to rob candy store

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Authorities arrested a man who claimed he was justified in stealing candy at a truck stop because he had served in the military. Police said an officer confronted a 31-year-old man at the truck stop early Monday morning. The officer reported finding several packages of candy and nuts, two black T-shirts and a 20 oz. bottle of beer in his pockets.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

Tuesday, February 27, 2009

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The Observer • PAGE 2

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College hosts Lenten reflections

Bread Bowl discussions to occur every Friday during season

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

With the season of Lent now underway, Campus Ministry, the Office of Civic and Social Engagement and the Mission Council at Saint Mary's College have prepared reflection activities open to all students.

Lenten Bread Bowl Discussions begin today, and will be held each Friday during the Lenten season, except during Spring Break. The discussions will include soup bread bowls for a meal and will allow students, faculty and staff members to discuss topics relating to Lent.

"We will be using stories, prayers and discussion starters that Catholic Relief Services has prepared from their work around the world."

Regina Wilson
assistant director
Campus Ministry

"We will be using stories and discussion starters that Catholic Relief Services has prepared from their work around the world," Regina Wilson, assistant director of Campus Ministry said.

"By engaging with the stories of contemporary people from various developing countries throughout the world, we are hoping that we will all deepen our understanding of the relationship between communion with God in Christ and solidarity with all those who struggle around the world," she said.

The discussions, which begin at 12:15 p.m. and will conclude at 12:45 will be held in the West Wing of the Noble Family Dining Hall at the College.

"The discussions are going to be held in a way that is meant to provide a way for students to come together once a week during Lent to share their spiritual journey around a simple meal, prayer, and shared conversation," Judy Fean, director of Campus Ministry said.

"We hope students will join in the weekly lunches. People are invited to come whenever they can, once, twice, or weekly," Wilson said.

Fean said that she hopes the events will provide an opportunity for members of the Saint Mary's community to come together.

"We also hope that people will come together to bless the food and money for our communal fasting, almsgiving, and prayer in solidarity with the people of our community and the world."

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@ saintmarys.edu

Asian Film Fest to premiere at ND

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Writer

In order to promote cultural awareness, this weekend's Asian Film Festival at Notre Dame will show four Asian films and will include panel discussions and a student presentation Friday and Saturday evening in the Browning Cinema. student organizer Laura Wilczek said.

"Each culture has its own way of storytelling, and film is just one such way of cultural expression," Wilczek said.

"Thus, the film festival provides students with a chance to learn more about Asian cultures and how they are similar to American culture."

Wilczek is a member of the Asian Film Festival organizing committee, which is comprised of students and faculty and works with the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.

Senior Brandon Frost also helped plan the festival and choose the films.

"This year's festival is a unique combination of films that no other Asian Film Festivals at other universities have provided," Frost said. "It includes themes such as cooperation, the Asian-American experience and cross-cultural appreciation."

One of the films, "First Person Plural," is about an adopted Korean woman's search for her birth family. Wilczek said.

Wilczek said the film has personal importance for her because she is a Korean adoptee and therefore provides insights for those who aren't aware of such identity issues," she said about the film.

Frost said "Hula Girls," another film premiersing at the festival, holds personal significance for her native Hawaii. She has been hula dancing since he was five years old.

Before the film, a student from the Hawaii Club will perform a modern hula dance, Frost said.

"When I was studying in Japan, everyone mentioned the film "Hula Girls" when I told them I was from Hawaii," he said. "So we truly are showcasing some of the more famous films in Asia today."

The film "West 32nd," about Korean crime in Manhattan, will feature a question and answer session after the film.

Contact Laura Mcrystal at lmcrystal@ saintmarys.edu

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@ saintmarys.edu

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311 LaFortune • 574.631.9340 • grc@saintmarys.edu • pr@ saintmarys.edu

FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 1

2/22-3/1 "Giving a Voice" Posters Campaign featuring GRC FIRE Starters

2/23 Take Back the Night Prayer Service; 7:00 pm at Log Chapel March around Campus Speak Out at Bonfire; 8:00 pm 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 Cavadin 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 gcrcand@nd.edu or 631-9340

3/1 SAWA Sunday featuring petitions, ribbons and prayer cards at Masses

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@ saintmarys.edu

311 LaFortune • 574.631.9340 • grc@saintmarys.edu • pr@ saintmarys.edu
**Editors continued from page 1**

Charney is a Communication Students and English Writing major currently living in Holy Cross Hall. Originally from Angola, Ind., she has written for the news department since her freshman year and covered Hillary Clinton’s visit to South Bend last year.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bishop appologizes for remarks

ROME — A British bishop whose denial of the Holocaust denied Pope Benedict XVI in a controversy has apologized for his remarks, a Catholic news agency said Thursday.

Bishop Richard Williamson, with the conservative Society of St. Pius X, had faced worldwide criticism for a television interview in which he said no Jews were gassed during the Holocaust.

Williamson apologized in a statement Thursday to all those who took offense and for the distress he caused, the bishop did not specify that his comments were erroneous, or that he no longer believed them. As a result, Jewish leaders said the apology did not go far enough.

"If I had known beforehand the full harm and hurt in which they would give rise, especially to victims of injustice under the Third Reich, I would not have made them," Williamson was quoted as saying in the statement carried by the Zenit Catholic news agency.

Iraq welcomes Kuwait's leader

BAGHDAD — Iraq took another step toward healing its rift with Kuwait on Thursday as government leaders welcomed the highest-ranking Kuwaiti envoy since Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion.

The timing of the visit by Kuwait's deputy prime minister, Sheik Mohammad Al Sabah, was symbolic — it came Kuwaitis celebrated the 18th anniversary of the U.S.-led military campaign that drove out Saddam's forces.

Although much of tiny Persian Gulf nation was left looted and devastated by the Iraqi occupation, and Kuwait still claims billions of dollars in war reparations, it has refused appeals by Iraq's government to reduce its demands and forgive about $15 billion in Iraqi debt.

NATIONAL NEWS

Assisted suicide ring charged

ATLANTA — As authorities try to determine how many deaths nationwide may be linked to an alleged assisted suicide ring, members of the group known as the Final Exit Network are defending a mission they call "self-deliverance."

The network's president, its medical director and two school-age Americans travel to Mexico resort areas during spring break each year. Much of the drug violence is happening in border towns, and tourists have generally not been targeted, though there have been killings in the big spring-break resorts of Acapulco and Cancun, well away from the border.

The University of Arizona in Tucson is urging its approximately 27,000 students not to go to Mexico. Other universities — in the Southwest and far beyond, including Penn State, Notre Dame, the University of Colorado and the University of Buffalo — said they would call students' attention to the travel warning issued Feb. 20 by the State Department.

The State Department has termed a short of warning spring breakers not to go to Mexico, but advised them to avoid group travel, prostitution and drug-dealing and take other commonsense precautions.

"Sage advice," said Tom Mang, a spokesman for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "We have had documented violence, attacks, killings, shootouts with the drug cartels involving not only the military but law enforcement personnel. It is indiscriminate violence, and certainly innocent people have been caught up in that collateral damage."

Mexico's drug cartels are waging a bloody fight among themselves for smuggling routes and against government forces, carrying out massacres and dumping beheaded bodies in the streets. More than 6,000 people were killed in drug violence in Mexico last year.

But Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora said in an interview with The Associated Press: "There is no major risk for students coming into Mexico in general terms. It is always important to advise the youngsters to behave carefully." Despite the bloodshed, the number of foreign tourists visiting Mexico surged to 23 million in 2008, up 2.9 percent from the year before, spurred in part by the tumbling value of the peso against the dollar, according to the country's Tourism Department. The department estimates 80 percent of tourists in Mexico came from the United States.

Cancun has always been one of our most popular destinations and that hasn't changed this year," said Patrick Evans of STA Travel, one of the biggest spring-break travel agencies. "Many of the packages we offer include lodging on the beach and in very nice resorts that take the utmost pride in making sure customers are safe." Some students said the warnings are unlikely to deter them.

University of Arizona sophomore Daniel Wallace is going to Puerto Penasco, or Rocky Point, for spring break, saying he is not worried about violence there. Besides, the 19-year-old said: "It's relaxing, it's warm, I'm a big fan of the beach and the drinking age is lower. It's a fun place to go.

Amanda Corbett, a soph­more at North Carolina State, said she is going snowboarding in Virginia because she couldn't afford Cancun. But three of her roommates are going there.

MUTINY ENDS AFTER GOVERNMENT FORCE

PHOENIX — The U.S. State Department and university officials around the country are warning college students headed for Mexico for some spring-break partying of a surge in drug-related murder and mayhem south of the border.

"We're not necessarily telling students not to go, but we're going to certainly alert them," said Tom Dougan, vice president for student affairs at the University of Rhode Island.

"There have been Americans kidnapped, and if you go you need to be very aware and very alert to this fact."

More than 100,000 high-school and college-age Americans travel to Mexico resort areas during spring break each year.

"Sage advice," said Tom Mang, a spokesman for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "We have had documented violence, attacks, killings, shootouts with the drug cartels involving not only the military but law enforcement personnel. It is indiscriminate violence, and certainly innocent people have been caught up in that collateral damage."

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Amanda Corbett, a soph­more at North Carolina State, said she is going snowboarding in Virginia because she couldn't afford Cancun. But three of her roommates are going there.

BANGLADESH

Mutiny ends after government force

DHAKA — Tanks rolled through the Bangladesh capital Thursday in a show of force that apparently persuaded mutinous border guards to lay down their arms, ending a two-day revolt that threatened to spread across the impoverished South Asian nation.

One officer said he saw the killing of a border guard on Wednesday, though there have been no reports of violence.

"I was confronted by the soldiers three times, but I have survived," the officer, Lt. Col. Syed Kamruzzaman, told ATN television station. "Allah has saved me from the face of death.

Authorities did not make any statement about the chief's whereabouts.

The mutinous guards had agreed to surrender after the government on Wednesday promised them an amnesty and agreed to look into their demands.

But as the process stalled and the revolt appeared to be spreading to other areas Thursday, recently elected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina warned the rebels she would "do whatever is needed to end the violence."

Hours later, tanks and armored vehicles with heavy machine guns rolled into the capital, taking up positions in residential neighborhoods around the border guards' compound. An Associated Press reporter saw several tanks stationed in a playground.

Fearing intimidation, the guards hoisted a white flag on Thursday afternoon and resumed laying down arms.

"All the mutinous border guards have surrendered their weapons," government negotiator Mahbub Ara Gani told reporters, adding that all military offi­cials with their families trapped inside the headquarters had been evacuated.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Facebook
continued from page 1

gauge in place before the Feb. 4 change.
Balancing privacy concerns with use of the Facebook site has never been an issue for Syski, whose older siblings, particularly a sister four years older than her, discouraged her from joining the site.
"I think there's always a tendency to objectify people," Syski said, one of the reasons she decided to stay away from Facebook.com.
Syski said she has talked to peers who also do not have Facebook, but could not immediately think of anyone beside herself who does not use the site.
Since most of her friends are users of the site, it would be easy for her to jump on their account to look around. But Syski said it's something she's probably only done five times.
Syski admitted there are some drawbacks to not being on Facebook.
"Occasionally I have been the last to know about something, but I usually get an e-mail when people include me on the Facebook invite," she said.
But the pros of being off Facebook have outweighed the cons for her, she said.
"I'm developing better friendships, and I find better ways to keep in touch with people," she said.
Syski is a rare case, as most Notre Dame students are Facebook users.
The History of Facebook at Notre Dame
Founded by Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg in 2004, the site, then known as the Facebook.com, came to Notre Dame later that year.
On Aug. 22, 2004, people with e-mail addresses ending @nd.edu could join the site. Notre Dame was among the first 60 colleges to join the networking community, and in a little more than a week, over 1,000 people had joined as Notre Dame users. The Observer reported Saint Mary's sophomore Liz Brown described herself as an active user of the site.
She doesn't plan to cancel her account anytime soon.
The next year, The Observer reported that at least one person in the office had a Facebook account, and they might look at it after a student gets in trouble. Saint Mary's administrators told The Observer then that they have it, but are not using it for positive reasons.
In September 2006, students voiced their anger about the addition of the Facebook news feed in Letters to the Editor. One inside? column called it the "news feed from hell."
Facebook here to stay?
It's difficult for some to remember that a few years ago, no one was sure how long Facebook would be around, whether it was a passing fad or here to stay.
"I believe the Facebook was a gigantic roadblock to my journey to become a better person," the senior wrote. "But it is so much quicker to be on Facebook and write on someone's wall."
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But the pros of being off Facebook have outweighed the cons for her, she said.
"I'm developing better friendships, and I find better ways to keep in touch with people," she said.
Syski is a rare case, as most Notre Dame students are Facebook users.
"Facebook three or four years ago may have been considered possibly something that was temporary," Brian Freeman, assistant director of Student Activities said earlier this week. "It wasn't necessarily something that was treated as, 'this is going to become a better person,'" the senior wrote. "But it is so much quicker to be on Facebook and write on someone's wall."
Finance Manager ♦  Ad Design Manager
The Observer, continuing applications for 2009-10 for the following positions: Controller ♦ Viewpoint Copy Editor Systems Manager ♦ Ad Design Manager
The Controller position, which provides great accounting experience, is open to rising juniors. It is a two-year position; the 2009-10 Controller will become the 2010-11 Business Manager.

The Viewpoint position is open to any student; sophomores are preferred.

The Ad Design Manager position is open to all students with graphic design experience and leadership skills.

All positions are paid.

Please contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu if interested.

Looking for an on-campus job?
The Observer is now accepting applications for 2009-10 for the following positions:
Controller ♦ Viewpoint Copy Editor Systems Manager ♦ Ad Design Manager

The model is designed for those with great accounting experience, open to rising juniors. It is a two-year position; the 2009-10 Controller will become the 2010-11 Business Manager.

The Viewpoint position is open to any student; sophomores are preferred.

Systems Manager applicants should be highly adept at computer troubleshooting.

The Ad Design Manager position is open to all students with graphic design experience and leadership skills.

All positions are paid.

Please contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu if interested.
B E N E F I T S

MARKET RECAP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama’s budget pro-
posal would significantly increase taxes on the
wealthy, while raising income taxes on many
businesses.

"We have been looking for signs that the
economy’s rate of decline might be slowing,
but can’t find any," said Nigel Gault, chief U.S. econo-
ist at the IHS Global Insight consulting firm.

The government benefits more evidence that consumers are scaling back purchases as jobs vanish,
home prices drop and stock portfolios shrink. Those factors fuel more job
and state and local taxes. The
increase would raise about $180 billion over 10 years.

discussing President Barack Obama’s 2010 budget Thursday.

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate
Finance Committee, said it raises concerns and "will
require more study." Among the other tax provi-
visions: The Alternative Minimum Tax would be
indexed to inflation, providing a long-term fix that would
spare more than 20 million taxpayers from being hit with
significant tax increases. The
travel ban was enacted 40 years ago
to make sure wealthy taxpayers
pay at least some tax.

A tax provision that
allows money-losing compa-
nies to get refunds from taxes
paid in previous years when
the companies were profitable —
would be expanded, costing $9.7 billion
over 10 years.

Capital gains taxes on small businesses would be eliminated, saving them $7 billion
over 10 years.

Oil and gas companies would face a series of tax increases, including an excise
tax for drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and elimination of the
manufacturing tax credits for oil and gas companies. In all,
new taxes on oil and gas companies would raise and
additional $31 billion over 10 years.

discussing President Barack Obama’s 2010 budget Thursday.

Unemployment reaches five million

WASHINGTON — As bad as it is already, the economy keeps getting worse — and government figures
Thursday provided more evidence that the downturn spiral won’t end anytime soon.

The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits tumbled 2 million
for the first time since record-
keeping began in 1967. And the num-
ber of first-time claims hit 667,000,
the highest in four years.

"The hope is that policy efforts by
the federal government will be able to
break that cycle," said Zach Pandl, an
economist at Nomura Securities
International. "But it’s still going to
take some time before that happens."

President Barack Obama’s $787 billion
stimulus package, for example, includes billions of dollars of infra-
structure spending, but most of the
impact will not be felt until 2010 or
later, Pandl said.

The Obama administration forecast
Thursday that the budget deficit will
hit $1.75 trillion this year, reflecting
the massive spending being undertak-
on to battle the severe recession and
the worst financial crisis in seven
decades.

Initial jobless claims jumped to
667,000 last week, the Labor
Department said, from the previous
week’s figure of 631,000. Analysts had
expected a slight drop in claims, in
spite of the shortfall at this time of year.
she said. "Our mission became to make women take care of themselves and aspire to be their absolute best."

Nadeau did not anticipate the outpouring of positive responses she received once the billboard went up in Times Square.

Both the models and the Dove representatives were anxious because no company had ever done anything like it, she said. "We are actually changing women," Nadeau said. "We are actually changing culture. We are actually changing media."

After Dove launched the advertising campaign, Nadeau and the first group of celebrities traveled the country and appeared on talk shows, including Oprah, to share their stories and talk about the media's impact on body image.

"We had to be the change we wanted to see," she said.

The Dove Self-Esteem Fund began to promote positive body image in younger girls, Nadeau said. When the models appeared on the Today Show and said one dollar would be given to the fund that for every click on the Dove Web site, the site crashed 15 minutes later. Nadeau said she wants to raise awareness about the manipulation of body image through airbrushed and unhealthy models.

"What kind of messages are we sending to women when we say we need to airbrush you so you're good enough?" she said. "The definition of beauty we see everyday is 125 percent fake."

Nadeau understands that it is hard for women to be comfortable in their bodies. She admitted that even she sometimes has negative thoughts about her body.

"I work out. I maintain a healthy diet and a healthy lifestyle and I am a size 10." she said. "Negative thinking needs to stop."

Nadeau also encouraged women to be friends to each other by refusing to discuss body image and by referring friends to professional help at signs of eating disorders or other dangerously obsessive behavior.

"We are our own worst enemy," she said. "Today starts accepting the flaws you think you have.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmcystal@nd.edu

Fever

continued from page 1

"For the most part, Notre Dame doesn't have a lot of options for what to do on weekends, except for dorm parties and parties off campus," she said. "This sounds like a good opportunity for students under 21 to go off campus and meet up with friends."

There is a lack of venues in South Bend where underage students can interact with each other off campus, Conley said.

"If Fever had an under-21 night, you would run into different people than you would normally," Conley said.

Sophomore Gabby Moriel, 20, said she also thinks a regular event for underage young adults would be popular among students, but she said if the party tonight goes well, the club should be considered integrating the overage and underage venues.

"The clubs by my house let you in if you're 18 or over, but you get a wristband if you are 21 and can be served alcohol," she said. "If things go well, maybe they can try the wristband thing." Moriel said allowing students over 18 into the bar will fill a void in the market for fun weekend events for students between 18 and 20.

"I think they would get a lot of business because there isn't much else to do," she said.

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Idol' chooses three additional finalists

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nick Mitchell probably won't be having the last laugh on "American Idol."

The outrageous 37-year-old sketch comedian, who performed as his over-the-top alter ego Norman Gentle, was one of nine semifinalists sent packing Thursday on the poplar Fox singing competition.

"I'm looking for employment — always," Mitchell of Brookfield, Conn., told host Ryan Seacrest before his dismissal.

The second group of the eighth season's finalists not headed to the unemployment line are Allison Iraheta, a 16-year-old high school student from Los Angeles; Kris Allen, a 23-year-old University of Central Arkansas student from Conway, Ark.; and Adam Lambert, a 26-year-old theater actor from Los Angeles.

The trio received the most viewer votes.

"I thought Nick was hilarious, so I didn't know what was gonna happen," said Lambert.

While the show's four judges were more than satisfied with Lambert's elastic take on the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction," they had a mixed reaction to fellow finalist Allen's performance of Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror."

The panel was also impressed with red-haired Iraheta's red-hot rendition of Heart's "Alone."

"You just blew it out of the box!" Randy Jackson exclaimed after Iraheta performed Wednesday.

The three finalists will join 28-year-old church music director Danny Gokey from Milwaukee, 21-year-old musician Alexis Grace from Memphis, Tenn., and 27-year-old oil rig worker Michael Sarver from Jasper, Texas, who were selected as the first three finalists last week.

Next Tuesday, 12 more semifinalists will vie for three spots in the competition's top 12.
Student Affairs
is now accepting nominations for the
Denny Moore Award
For Excellence in Journalism
Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.
Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.
For a nomination form, please visit our website at:
http://osa.nd.edu/get-involved/student-activities-and-awards/denny-moore-award/
Nominations are due by Thursday, March 5, 2009.

Asian
continued from page 3
with director Michael Kang and screenwriter Edmund Lee, according to the festival's Web site.
The fourth film, "Last Life in the Universe," is a Japanese-Thai co-production in three dif-
ferent languages, the Web site said.
The festival will also feature academic panels by professors Kathleen Bergquist, an as-
tivation researcher at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Stephanie DeBoer, a film and theater professor at
Indiana University, Bloomington.
Frost said the Browning Cinema is typically full for each film, and he hopes festival attendees will gain an appreci-
ation for Asian film.
"Asian and Asian-American films are quite different than the normal Hollywood films," he said. "It really gives us a deeper insight into the world of film but more importantly, it acts as a medium which we use to stimulate thinking about some of the people and cul-
tures that make up our country and the world."
Contact Laura McCrystal at
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Four arrested for assisted suicide

Associated Press
ATLANTA — Joining the Final Exit Network costs $50, and the privileges of membership include this: When you’re ready to die, the organization will send you two "exit guides" to show you how to suffocate yourself using helium tanks and a plastic hood.
The Georgia-based organization says it is providing an invaluable and humane service. Authorities call it a crime.
Four members of the Final Exit Network, including its presi-
dent and its medical director, were arrested Wednesday and charged with assisted suicide in
the death of 58-year-old John Celmer last June at his home near Atlanta. Investigators said the organization may have been involved in as many as 200 other deaths around the country.
"The law is very clear, and they clearly violated it," said Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokesman John Bankhead.
The arrests came after an eight-month investigation in which an undercover agent pos-
ing as someone bent on suicide infiltrated the Final Exit Network, which bases its work on "The Final Exit," a best-sell-
ing self-killing manual by British author Derek Humphry.
Members of the Final Exit Network are instructed to buy two new helium tanks and a hood, known as an "exit bag," according to the GBI. In court papers, investigators said the organization recommends helium because it is undetectable during an autopsy.
The network, which was founded in 2004 and claims 3,000 members, donors and vol-
teers that make up our country
united...
Transparency needed in student government

On Monday, Notre Dame held elections for class council. Two of the elections, sophomore and senior class council, had no reported violations, but this wasn’t the case in the junior class council race.

Both tickets were accused of at least one election violation. The ticket of Caitlin Pulte, Henry Shire, Luke Stavole and Tim Castellini was found not guilty on their charge, but the ticket of Kevin Kimberley, Alexa Doyle, Dylan Fernandez and Rachel Roseberry was found guilty of two charges brought against them. Since the election resulted in a runoff, the Kimberly ticket was not allowed to spend any additional money on their campaign during the runoff period.

What exactly was this ticket guilty of? The student body doesn’t know, because the Judicial Council Elections Committee can’t reveal the violations in accordance with guidelines set forth in the Student Constitution.

Judicial Council president George Chamberlain said it was important to protect the integrity of the candidates and that revealing the violations would further damage the campaigns.

This policy should change and student government should amend the Constitution to allow the Judicial Council to disclose election violations.

While class council elections aren’t exactly the most pressing issue for the student body, students are still electing a group of their peers to represent them for the coming year and work to better their time at the University. In making that decision, students have a right to know how the tickets have conducted themselves during their campaigns because it might affect how the tickets represent the students while in office. If the tickets are cutting corners in their campaigns, who’s to say they won’t cut corners once they get in office?

By not revealing the violations, the Judicial Council said it is trying to preserve the integrity of the candidates. If anything, keeping the violations a secret hurts the integrity of the candidates. The violations are hidden from the students, and those unfamiliar with the process of running for class council have no idea what the ticket could have done to deserve this punishment. If the Judicial Council revealed the violations, students can judge how bad the allegations are for themselves, rather than having to speculate what might have happened. Under the current system, students are supposed to simply place their faith in the Judicial Council and take its word that the problem has been resolved.

Instead of containing the damage done by the allegations, the Judicial Council is perpetuating it, and is not helping students make an informed decision about their future leaders.
If you give a columnist a Keystone ...If you give a columnist a Keystone...
By PATRICK GRIFFIN
Scene Writer

Just over two weeks before St. Patrick’s Day, Legends of Notre Dame will offer an early indulgence as one of America’s foremost Celtic rock bands comes to South Bend. The Young Dubliners, veteran performers who will perform at Legends tonight.

The Young Dubliners’ latest effort, “Saints and Sinners,” was released earlier this month. Following their 2007 release, “With All Due Respect,” The Irish Sessions – the Young Dubliners’ rendition of a handful of traditional Irish songs – is the band’s first batch of original work since 2005. Mixing traditional Celtic melodies with pop hooks, the Dubliners’ songs reflect the band’s experiences following several intense years of international touring. Tracks such as “Howaya Girls,” “Backseat Driver,” and “Saints and Sinners” showcase the band’s knack for melodic anthems. At the same time, the band displays its social consciousness, often with tracks such as “This Time” and “My Town,” which discuss the political unrest of the past few years and the current economic hopelessness that grips the nation. The acoustic ballad “In the End” even discusses the problem of global poverty and negligence in places such as Darfur.

Though the band has been busy touring with the likes of Johnny Lang, Collective Soul and Jethro Tull, completing anywhere between 180 to 250 shows a year, they understand the importance of providing fans with new original efforts.

“We live on the road, but were aware that if every few years we don’t give our fans the highest quality songs we can, that level of excitement and anticipation may not last forever,” comments lead guitarist and vocalist Keith Roberts on the Young Dub (as they are affectionately referred to by fans) Website, youngdubliners.com.

Hailing from Los Angeles, Calif, the quintet has been active since 1988. In their steady careers, the members of the Young Dubliners have remained true to their musical passions while producing eight full-length albums. “We’ve never been about hit singles, but we have always been focused on making the 12 tracks per project the best they could be,” Roberts said. While the musical production of the band has been rather consistent, the band’s line-up has undergone several rearrangements throughout their 20-plus year reign.

Founded by Dublin natives Roberts and former mandolin and harmonica player Paul O’Toole, the band planted its roots in the formidable pub scene in California. Bassist Brendan Holmes soon joined the duo, and the band’s first recorded tracks came from their five performances. Several original cassette and album members later, the Young Dubliners jettisoned themselves from the limited pub scene to explore more expansive opportunities.

Today, the Young Dubliners boast a diverse international fan base and a set band roster including Roberts, Holmes, guitarist Bob Boulding, violinist and keyboardist Chas Waltz, and percussionist Dave Ingraham. Additionally, Eric Bigler, a pipe and whistle player famous for his work on the “Titanic” and “Braveheart” soundtracks, has appeared on the band’s three latest albums and is a touring stalwart.

Comprised of traditional rock instruments such as the guitar, bass and drums, as well as traditional Irish instruments like the violin, harp, mandolin, Uilleann pipe and pennywhistle, the Young Dubliners fuse traditional Irish folk music with contemporary alternative rock and pop. The musical results are quite dynamic. At times, the Young Dubliners yank the listener to faraway Ireland with the dancing musicality of the violin and whistle. Don’t label the band as traditional Irish rock just yet. The band has a rousing form of gothy anachronistic rock bands, as well as vivacious pub songs, and anything in between. The Young Dubs seem to perform outside of a strict musical formula. The variety between songs is refreshing and keeps listeners blindly anticipating each track. The band’s versatility makes it an art unlike any other that has graced the stage of Legends this year.

The band will play their befuddled and prepare to rock for Friday night’s performance by the Young Dubliners at Legends. The show begins at 10 p.m. and is free to all ND, SMC and HUC students.

Contact Caitlin Ferraro at c Ferraro18@nd.edu

The Young Dubliners, who have been making music for over 20 years, are veteran performers who will perform at Legends tonight.

The Young Dubliners’ latest release, “Saints and Sinners,” is a genre-bending combination of traditional Irish and alternative rock.

By ALEXANDRA KILPATRICK
Scene Writer

If you’re looking for upbeat Irish rock with strong Celtic and alternative influences, look no further than the Young Dubliners’ newest CD, “Saints and Sinners,” released Feb. 2. The Los Angeles-based band’s 2009 LP offers an eclectic mix composed of catchy pop tunes that simply make you want to get up and dance, heart-wrenching traditional Irish ballads, traditional Celtic sounds combined with solid rock and roll, and insightful lyrics. The album also features guest bagpipe player Eric Rigler, most known for his work on the soundtracks for “Braveheart,” “Titanic,” and “Road to Perdition.”

The album opens with its title track. “Saints and Sinners,” a fast-paced pop-rock melody with danceable Celtic violin and distorted guitar sounds, is an extremely catchy chorus, and interesting lyrics. “Oh sweet Jesus / Will heaven save us / Lived it hard but you’d hardly blame us / Broke the mold when we stole the show / No regrets if the truth be told.”

“Howaya Girls” is a similarly pop-rockin’ anthem perfect for dancing, but has more of a kooky hoedown vibe to it with fun bagpipe riffs and a “Wipe Out”-like lead in to the chorus’ charmingly Irish vocals. “Rosie” certainly has more rock influences but seems more like a cliché Celtic rock song, especially with the lyrics on the chorus. “Rosie sweet Rosie / Money don’t grow on trees / If I thought for just one see it did / I’d be down on my knees.”

A personal favorite, “Buy You a Life,” has amazing distorted guitar hooks combined with a nostalgic sound on the violin and excellent advice in the chorus’ lyrics. “Don’t live your life like you’re the only one in it / Don’t waste another minute / Thinking about your / Self Open up and throw back / All your covers / Your sisters and your brothers / They’ll buy you a life.”

With a sound akin to a traditional Irish ballad, “In the End” also offers a nostalgic sound with the acoustic guitar as well as very pensive-sounding vocals and poignant lyrics. “Please don’t run don’t turn away / Children’s eyes beg us to stay / This time / No more strangers only a friend / We’ll all go together in the end.”

“Backseat Driver” adds humor to the mix with its high energy and nonsensical lyrics, “Oh no here we go again / it’s the backseat drivers / Going nowhere / Tell you when we’re there / We’re only mindless / Backseat drivers.”

“Saints” begins as a traditional Irish dance song with Rigler on bagpipes and upbeat violins, but the well-played electric guitar is quickly thrown into the mix, giving the instrumental version more of a rock and roll feel. “(I Don’t Think I’ll) Love Anyone,” like “In the End,” is a heart-wrenching ballad with quieter introspective piano and vocals than the louder Celtic rock anthems towards the beginning of the album.

“My Town” offers a refreshingly positive perspective on the difficult economic times beginning with the inspirational piano and building up to an upbeat chorus with lead vocals and percussion, as well as slightly cliché lyrics. “On and on you look for something / Closing your eyes / Don’t hear the storm / Don’t see your closing / Down into your darkest blue / Rise up until you shine through.”

The lyrics may be slightly cliché, and the Celtic influences may make the listener believe that they’ve certainly heard the songs before, but Keith Roberts and the band put an interesting spin on each rock anthem and ballad, making the songs unique. The Young Dubliners will be playing a Legends tonight.

Contact Alexandra Kilpatrick at akilpatrick@nd.edu

The Young Dubliners, who have been making music for over 20 years, are veteran performers who will perform at Legends tonight.
Spotlight on service
Bengal Bouts is a well-established institution in South Bend. By now you've heard about the 79-year-old amateur boxing tournament. You've heard about the boxing legend dominating the front pages of the newspaper, the endless hours each fighter dedicates to training. You may have even heard about the infamously quoted "1,000 day" — the story that the coaches drilled into their athletes.

Look up to your older brothers of growing up to be firemen, before the snow melts in South Bend your age. He was pounding out a astronaut, or the next Bengal Bouts: his brothers. He added: "The Bouts are very important to us. It's what we do," Desplinter said. "My oldest brother just started his sophomore year. I don't know where it came from.

"I think it is what brings anybody else to the Bengal Bouts. It is the combination of fun and courage, in an unlikely chance to show faith in yourself in places that you really would, a way to test yourself.

Those who've been through Bengal Bouts can understand what Desplinter means. "You can just tell the change that comes over somebody when they have been through the experience," Desplinter said. "There is a kind of confidence that you carry around with you afterwards, and I can see that in my brothers very clearly."

But Desplinter has had his share of struggles to get to this point. He boxed his freshman year, losing in the quarterfinals to the defending champion. After suffering an injury several days before the Bouts started his sophomore year, Desplinter could not fight, and he spent the spring semester of his junior year abroad.

Appropriately enough, Desplinter's favourite memory when the Bengal Bouts program tracs back to his very first year, and to the stories he heard from his older brothers. "I had been hearing about the Bengal Bouts my whole life, and hearing about how they are the most difficult things, impossible to get through," Desplinter said. "When the clock hits seven, I always think of it, I just find myself still down there hitting the bag.

And the feeling at the end of a complete practice reminds Desplinter of why he joined the program and persevered through Bengal Bouts. "The reason I stuck with Bengal Bouts was not because I wanted to win and not because I needed to look up to my brothers. It was because I didn't think I could do it, and I needed to prove to myself that I could do it."

"No one thought that I could do this, and myself most of all, but I really thought that if I could make it through one practice, make it through the fights, people who have challenges much greater than I do would have looked at me and said, 'Well if he could do it, I could do it.'"

"This honorable inspiration does trace back, though, to Brian Desplinter's first sources of knowledge of the Bengal Bouts: his brothers.

"I owe whatever I accomplish to the example they set," he added. "The Bouts are very important to us. It's what we do."
"Dude, the entire purpose of my existence in this world changed today. That's big."  

Pat Ryan  
former boxer

"Strong Bodies Fight" is a project created by the Bengal Bouts boxing club, and as a member of the club, and as a Film, Television and Theatre (FTT) major, Weber saw "the opportunity to do something new and special with the Bengal Bouts."  

During his sophomore year, he began to envision a documentary detailing the missions in Bangladesh. Acting on the advice of a friend, who told him not to wait but rather to make the idea a reality, Weber stayed on campus over fall break of his junior year to establish contact with several Holy Cross priests about his idea—which was originally to travel alone with a camera but soon evolved into something much larger.  

"I realized this was something so big that I wanted to do justice to this film," Weber said. "I didn't want it to be a Special Olympics kind of thing. I wanted it to be a professional documentary."  

Weber, with help from longtime Bengal Bouts coach and businessman Tom Studdes, used the program's strong alumni base to raise the money necessary to fund the trip. "I think [the alumni's] generosity says something about the program," Weber said. "That the four years, or even one year, they did Bengal Bouts at Notre Dame was one of the most impactful experiences of their entire life."  

So Weber, Ryan and four current Notre Dame boxers—sophomores Lea Rubinkowski, Tomas Castillo and Patrick Martin—and head coach of Bangladesh with FTT professor William Donaruma and a professional film crew to shoot documentary footage and experience first-hand the fruits of the program's labor for the first time.  

"The film's title, "Strong Bodies Fight," is derived from a quote that defines the Bengal Bouts mission: "Strong bodies fight, that weak bodies may be empowered to have a better place.""  

But Weber said his interpretation of that quote, from director emeritus Dominick "Nappy" Napolitano, was "that after his time in Bangladesh it's easy for us to go into a place like that and think, 'I am the one who has everything to give.' I chose to be body fighting for the weak," Weber said. "But when you go there, you realize there's strong, too. They have something to offer, and you have to be willing to listen to the people."  

Weber said that message is one that can only be conveyed through a continued student presence in Bangladesh.  

"There needs to be that connection to Bangladesh that stays with the program, and it can only be through the students," Weber said. "Every year there's got to be boxers coming back saying, 'Look, we're here, we know what it's like, we've seen how what we do over here has a positive impact over there.'"  

Weber: "Building a bridge"  

Boxing club president Mark Weber, right, takes on sophomore James Woods during a semifinal bout on Tuesday. Weber, left, is ranked No. 10 in the 165-pound weight class.  

"If there's one thing I've really tried to do here at Notre Dame, it's to use my talents to whatever I find the needs of the world to be,"  

Mark Weber  
Bengal Bouts president

Contact Matt Gamber at mgameber@nd.edu

Friday, February 27, 2009

The Observer • BENGAL BOUTS

Not many college seniors can pinpoint the day their life's purpose became clear, but Mark Weber can.  

It was last summer, halfway around the world in Bangladesh—a place where an Notre Dame student had never been before. A place Bengal Bouts participants had for 79 years helped financially but had never actually seen. A place Weber found not weakness, pain and despair, but strength, love and hope.  

"We had just visited a school that had been built and was funded by the Bengal Bouts, and these girls had sung for us and almost all of us cried," said Weber, the boxing club president who, along with one former and three current Notre Dame boxers, spent two weeks in Bangladesh last summer.  

"We were back in our room, talking it all in, and [former boxer Pat Ryan] turned to me and said, 'Dude, the entire purpose of my existence in this world changed today. That's big.' And I felt the same thing," Weber said. "It's a reorientation of the way you look at life, and that permeates into every day we spend here."  

"Having a daily awareness of that helps us not only to be better boxers, but to be better people and better citizens of the global family, rather than just students at the University of Notre Dame who are boxing."  

The institution—known as SIBC (Strong Irish Clans) project is also dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Bangladeshi people.  

"I've really tried to do whatever I find the needs of the world to be," Weber said. "I'm most proud of building this bridge to Bangladesh from the Bengal Bouts," said Weber, a Grand Rapids, Mich native. "Our relationship with Bangladesh is no longer just a check that gets sent over every year. It is a relationship, a friendship and tie that we want to live on."  

The program annually sends up to $50,000 to Bangladesh, primarily to fund educational initiatives—but an investment, Weber said, not a donation.  

"We're investing in the children there so that they can be empowered to have a better life," Weber said. "We're just giving them a handout, we're giving them an opportunity to better themselves. Knowing that your time in the Bengal Bouts is an investment both in yourself and in something body all the way across the world, that's what makes it truly special and truly unique."  

"That's big."  

By MATT GAMBER  
Assistant Sports Editor

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"That's big."
130 pounds
Joe Hof vs. Michael Sayles

PREDICTIONS
Murphy: SAYLES
The junior has worked hard at his craft over the past two years. Hof has shown himself in great shape for the season. His speed and endurance will be key as he goes for his 130 pounds title. Sayles has a distinct technical edge and should be able to handle Hof's offense. Hof should be able to come out on top.

140 pounds
Kris Perez vs. Eric Feduska

Kris "El Azteca" Perez is pound-for-pound one of the most exciting boxers in recent bouts history. Perez overpowers opponents with speed and has a knack for causing damage with his uppercuts. He has a unique style that has clearly worked well for the undefeated champ.

PREDICTIONS
Murphy: PEREZ
El Azteca makes his history becoming only the 10th fighter to win all four years. Perez has shown the ability to devastate an opponent early and stay on them throughout the night. Feduska must be on the lookout for Perez's blowout victory.

145 pounds
Bobby Powers vs. Mark Weber

The No. 1-seeded Powers has used his height well in his first two fights. Weber has also shown a good strategy against his opponents. Weber put in a great fight to get himself into the prelims over James Woods, but his style doesn't mesh well with the taller Powers.

PREDICTIONS
Murphy: POWERS
Weber put in a great fight to get himself in the finals over James Woods, but his style doesn't mesh well with the taller Powers. The junior will be able to keep Weber outside as long as he can stick to his game plan.

150 pounds
Tim Thayer vs. Matt Poslusny

Tim Thayer has looked strong in his title defense so far this year. Last year, the champ battled heavily on a big, powerful right hand. This year, the junior has shown a more complete package in his two very decisive wins to reach the finals.

PREDICTIONS
Murphy: POSLUSNY
Poslusny looked strong taking on some of the toughest punches on Tuesday, something that he needs to hold on against Thayer. If he can continue to move side-to-side and throw some shots, he will have a good chance.

155 pounds
Dan Rodgers vs. John Maier

Rodgers steps in to the Lions' Den one last time in hopes of wrapping up his third championships. The senior from Siegfried Hall is as technically sound as a fighter as you will see in the Bout. He also holds the clear experience advantage which means a lot in these fights.

PREDICTIONS
Murphy: RODGERS
Maier has been surgical with his punches in a couple impressive wins to get to the finals, but Rodgers has been down this road many times before. His patience in the ring will allow him to pick his spots well and get the win. Maier will need to continue to use his quick feet and long arms well.

PREDICTIONS
Simmons: RODGERS
Rodgers keeps a calm demeanor while throwing good combinations. Maier will have an overwhelming reach advantage like in past fights so he simply will have to outbox Rodgers, not an easy feat.
160 pounds
Jim Deveraux vs. Jordan Bucci

**PREDICTIONS**

**Murphy:** DEVERAUX
Bucci looks to over-match his opponent as Deveraux has had to take few hits and should be able to slow down the junior. Deveraux will have to stop taking so many hits if he hopes to win.

**Simmons:** DEVERAUX
Deveraux sports a strong jab and punch shot. Bucci has become a very well-rounded fighter this year by changing plants and utilizing his hooks. Deveraux will have to stop taking so many hits if he hopes to win.

170 pounds
Andres Villalba vs. Bernardo Garcia

**PREDICTIONS**

**Murphy:** VILLALBA
Garcia worked the body well in his semifinal fight, but will have trouble getting inside against the lightning quick Villalba. The captain will pace himself well while throwing strong punches to win this one.

**Simmons:** VILLALBA
Villalba has been tenacious and dangerous as last year. He relies on head movement and quick jabs to punish fighters. Garcia will need to use his reach to disrupt Villalba, a move that was taken advantage of his infamous uppercut.

185 pounds
Leo Rubinkowski vs. John Tchoula

**PREDICTIONS**

**Murphy:** TCHOULA
Rubinkowski is the longest hitter Tchoula has faced so far this year. After a year of getting stronger, Tchoula has more experience in a single punch than any other fighter on Saturday night.

**Simmons:** TCHOULA
Leo defeated Tchoula last year with a tense last round punch. He has slipped for Tchoula to land any of his head-turner-like punches of late.

165 pounds
Daniel Brennan vs. Alex Duffy

**PREDICTIONS**

**Murphy:** DUFFY
Duffy has been running around for four years and seems to get stronger each season. He coached through his first couple of fights and should be able to use his size and experience to take home a championship.

**Simmons:** DUFFY
Brennan will have to get his punches off quicker than he's done in previous fights and prepare for flurry of hard hooks. If Duffy maintains good speed coming in on Brennan and coming out, he can take the fight.

175 pounds
Mike Lee vs. Benford

**PREDICTIONS**

**Murphy:** BEGAY
Burns has proved that he is a hard worker in the ring, but Begay looked much quicker in his earlier fights. The senior should be able to avoid a lot of Burns punches. The question will be in he can score his own.

**Simmons:** BEGAY
Begay has pushed himself to the edge this year working on his combination punches and footwork. Burns remains icy calm, expanding with hooks and uppercuts. This will be a match of hard footwork vs. concentrated power.

200 pounds
Benford Begay vs. Pat Burns

**PREDICTIONS**

**Murphy:** BEGAY
Burns has proved that he is a hard worker in the ring, but Begay looked much quicker in his earlier fights. The senior should be able to avoid a lot of Burns punches. The question will be in he can score his own.

**Simmons:** BEGAY
Begay has pushed himself to the edge this year working on his combination punches and footwork. Burns remains icy calm, expanding with hooks and uppercuts. This will be a match of hard footwork vs. concentrated power.

**Pat Third Degree**
Burns is another fighter with a boatload of experience. He throws accurate punches to the body and head and throws his opponents off of their games early in fights. He won a very close split decision over Bart Dear on Tuesday by fighting off long flurrys of punches.
Love of boxing draws Lee to Notre Dame

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Mike Lee wanted to be a part of Bengal Bouts so much that he transferred to Notre Dame to do it.

The senior captain and two-time Bouts champion spent his freshman year at the University of Missouri before coming to Notre Dame. "I came here my senior year [of high school] to watch the 75th anniversary for Bengal Bouts, and that was probably the moment that I realized I wanted to box and I wanted to fight at Notre Dame," Lee said. "That was one of the main things that made me want to transfer.

"At that point, I'd already gotten into Mizzou and was thinking about Notre Dame, not really sure, and then I saw Bengal Bouts Championship night, with the ring in the middle of the JACC, and that kind of just sold it for me." With the help of his cousin, Lou Hall, Lee wasted no time getting involved with the program.

"He was a captain in 1992, and he works in my corner," Lee said. "He kind of started me off the summer I found out I got into Notre Dame. I told him I got in, and he started teaching me. I had the ring coming in, and I really fell in love with the program and the sport." Lee found immediate success in the ring, winning the 175-pound crown in his sophomore year in a technical knockout that was called in the third round. His junior year, he successfully defended his title.

"I fought a very good friend of mine, [fellow captain] Andrés Villalba, and we just went toe-to-toe for three rounds." Lee said. "I think it was the best fight of our lives. When we were done, we hugged and everything was great.

Lee also got more involved in leadership each year. In 2008, he served as a junior captain before becoming a senior captain this year.

"When I came in sophomore year, I really had no idea what the program was," Lee said. "I had the opportunity of being captain junior year, and it really taught me a lot about the program.

That year, Lee traveled to Bangladesh with senior Mark Weber, who is president of Bengal Bouts. Weber was there to film a documentary about the Holy Cross Mission that Bengal Bouts supports.

"I went over there, helped out, saw where all the money's going, what all the proceeds are doing in terms of building schools, helping the missions," Lee said. "It was really an unbelievable experience.

Lee said senior captains have a lot of behind-the-scenes responsibilities, including raising money, designing tickets and posters and procuring advertisers for the program.

"Mark and I had a goal of trying to raise a lot of money this year despite the recession right now," he said. "We just had a ton of ideas, a lot of things we could improve on. I think in the end we'll meet those goals. We're just really excited about making the program bigger, helping out even more.

"Lee, a finance major, said he hopes his experience in Bengal Bouts can help him in the business world.

"It's definitely a nerve-wracking experience to jump into that ring in front of a thousand people," he said. "I hope that when I have a board meeting or whatever and I'm nervous about it, I can think back to when I was fighting and get some of that.

Heading into the last week of Bouts, Lee said he feels pressure to win his third straight title, but that winning is not everything.

"Finals night is three rounds, two minutes each," Lee said. "You train for months, think about it every day, and basically you have six minutes to do what you want to do. But when I'm done with it, no matter what, I know I'm going to be so happy I did it."

"When you get done, and they raise your hand it's definitely worth it," Matt Camber said.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

Villalba refocuses on training after championship loss

By BY MATT GAMBER
Assistant Sports Editor

So much for summer break.

After losing to his now-fellow senior captain Mike Lee in the 176-pound division title fight last year, Andres Villalba rededicated himself to perfecting his technique during the summer break he took home in New Mexico.

"I just tried to fine-tune everything I learned in years past," said Villalba, who will face Bernardo Garcia in the 176-pound final Saturday. "I don't think that long to learn the hands-up, knees bent, stuff like that — but it really takes a long time to find your niche, to define the style of boxing you're going to do.

Villalba even went toe-to-toe with a professional, sparring in an Albuquerque gym with a boxer who had delivered three knockouts in three career fights.

"That helped a lot because it's not the same when you're not actually getting punches thrown at you," Villalba said.

Villalba's training program included morning runs and mid-afternoon lifts, designed, he said, to add weight for interhall football. He had never received any boxing training outside of that provided in Bengal Bouts practice, and Villalba said the strict regimen improved his footwork, head movement and endurance.

"I think it's safe to say that last year I was a little hit more raw. I threw a lot of big punches and didn't pick my spots," Villalba said. "I think I do a much better job this year of keeping my punches up and seeing the punches and doing a lot of place with my punches. I try to be more effective and waste less energy so I can step it up each round instead of tapering down.

Villalba's development in the ring from last year to this year mirrored that he made in wrestling in high school.

"The same thing happened with that transition from junior to senior year," Villalba said.

"Ireally raw my junior year, really trying to over-power people, and my senior year I transitioned into more of a technical wrestler, kind of the same thing I did with boxing." Andre Villalba

By Matt Camber
Assistant Sports Editor

Villalba's senior year was a two-time state champion wrestler in Arizona, so Villalba had been around that sport from a young age. His experience on the mat helped him make the switch into the ring.

"It takes a lot of balance, so I had a lot of things to adapt when I transitioned over to boxing," Villalba said.

"I basically didn't do any organized boxing before arriving at Notre Dame. Villalba had put on the gloves and thrown some punches at least once before.

"At home in my room, I have a picture when I'm about six years old," Villalba said. "Me and my cousins are in my backyard with boxing gloves on and we're hitting each other."

Villalba hopes he'll leave the ring Saturday night with a Bengal Bouts title, but either way, he said boxing will be one thing he carries with him when he leaves.

"I think it's something I can do as long as I have a punching bag at home," Villalba said. "I've been a competitor my whole life starting probably with tee-ball and Pop Warner football, so I don't know what I'll do after I graduate. I'm going to have to get hit somehow."

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Trip to Bangladesh helps define Rubinkowski

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Leo Rubinkowski always knew he was going to be a senior captain for the annual Bengal Bouts because he actually visited Bangladesh in the 79-year history of the tournament. "I had a preconceived idea of what a captain was supposed to be and thought that I needed to change in order to fit into the role," Rubinkowski said. "It was only after I realized that I was picked to be a captain because of who I was—not who someone thought I could be—that I became the leader I wanted to be."

"I feel like it really has been a meaningful experience," he said. "Because I feel like I've had a closer relationship with the Bouts." As a senior captain, it is Rubinkowski's responsibility to train the younger fighters, most of whom have little to no boxing experience. "I feel like it's a lead-by-example kind of thing," he said. "We show up everyday, we work hard every day, and we do it with a smile on our faces." Rubinkowski said one of the best feelings he's experienced from Bengali Bouts is witnessing a boxer with little experience coming in to learn to fight and succeed in the tournament. "It's a good feeling to see someone really grab onto it," he said. "I'm not even proud because I know that I helped them, but I'm just proud to see that they really found something that speaks to them and that they can call their own."

If he doesn't capture the title, Rubinkowski will always remember his time in Bangladesh, half a world away. "I'd be super, super excited about winning. But I guess over the course of four years, it's really sunk in how big the Bengal Bouts is," Rubinkowski said. "The real thing is that people remember is the charity aspect of the Bouts. If I win, that would phenominal, I would love it, but win or lose, I'm fine."
Perez goes for historic fourth consecutive championship

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

The name Kris Perez evokes different responses depending on who you talk to. The kid who knocks people out. The YouTube kid. The best pound-for-pound boxer in Bengal Bouts. The undefeated three-time champion.

But to those that train with him, Perez, a senior captain, possesses dedication, work ethic, leadership by example and willingness to help others at all costs.

"I don’t know any other boxer on the team that works as hard as he does or brings his focus and work ethic every day, day in and day out to practice," senior Bengal Bouts captain Mark Weber said. "That’s what makes him a leader."

Perez’s leadership started when he played soccer in high school. A four-year varsity player in Corsicana, Tex., Perez was a captain his junior and senior years. He also kicked for his football team. He always liked boxing, but there were no gyms nearby, so he started when he arrived at Notre Dame to play in shape.

"It was a different experience," Perez said. "This is not like anything I’ve experienced before. It tested me at a different level."

Before his first fight, Perez was scared, but he said the training kicked in once he entered the ring and understood the three-time champion.

"Basically just muscle memory took over," he said. As Perez worked his way to a championship freshman year. His ring antics caught other people’s attention. Senior captain Mike Lee, a 195-pound champion who transferred to Notre Dame before his sophomore year, heard about Perez when he joined Bengal Bouts because of Perez’s power in the ring. Law student Will Burroughs, the heavyweight champion the past two years, had a similar experience.

"There’s a reason, that’s the kid from YouTube," Burroughs said. "I had no idea what that meant."

It meant that his sophomore year Perez threw an overhand right that knocked his opponent unconscious before he hit the canvas and that a video of the fight (the first result where you search “Bengal Bouts”) had been watched 8,500 times.

Perez downplayed the knockout.

"I just caught him with a good punch, and he went down," he said. "I like that people like to see my fights but I don’t like that it’s at the expense of someone else."

Weber said that attitude defines Perez.

"He’s humble. You never see him running his mouth despite the fact that he’s one of the best boxers on the team, if not the best," Weber said.

All three of them point to Perez’s willingness to work with other boxers as what makes him captain material. He’ll stay after workouts to practice with another boxer, offer advice when they spar and lead by example with his unbelievable work ethic.

"I never felt that I know more than someone else or the things I do know are enough to make a person better," he said. "I’m always thinking, I’m always trying to see what other people are doing and improving."

He won again in his sophomore year, beating Chris Hartstein in the finals of the 140-pound weight class. Junior year, he wanted a challenge. So he and Lawrence "Sully" Sullivan, a senior Marine ROTC member and former champion, decided to promote a fight. It was Sullivan who would cut weight; Perez would pack it on and they would meet in the middle.

"He could have stuck to his weight in the low 130s and won a champion," Lee said. "The fight before him was at Subway eating a foot-long sub. He decided to mess up a weight class to fight a past champion and a senior and one of the best fighters in the program hands down."

Sully and Perez worked their way through the 149-pound weight class. When they met in the finals, the lights in the Joyce Center dimmed and the crowd went bonkers. The two of them let each other have it. Perez came out on top.

"Fortunately it was my night and I got the victory, but you fight any other night and Sully could have won it," he said. "It’s definitely going to be one of the memories I take from the Bengal Bouts experience."

Ask why Perez moves down opponents and you get a variety of answers, all of them dangerous enough in themselves but deadly when combined: Quickness, footwork, power, vision, defense, everything you don’t want to face in a boxing opponent. Take it from the best fighters in the program.

"Some opponent I feel obligated to tell them what I do know," he said.

"I told him the other day, he may be tiny, smaller than some of the guys that I fight, but he’s hitting me harder than some of the guys I spar against who are 200 pounds," Burroughs said. "It hurts. He can pack a punch, that’s for sure." Weber, who has sparred Perez, said he’s not as wild as people think. He’s more patient and is always thinking.

Weber, who has sparred Perez, said he’s not as wild as people think. He’s more patient and is always thinking.

"I’m always trying to see what my opponent is doing so I can capitalize on that."

Since he’s undefeated, Perez admitted that staying motivated to work hard became a challenge at times. But, he said, that’s not an excuse to slack off, especially if he wants to follow through with his plans to box after graduation.

He wants to fight as a pro, he said, but first will try to fight as an amateur in the Golden Gloves program for six months to a year. He said he has to drop to the 122-pound weight class this fall or weigh more than 140 pounds. He said he can’t wait to get inside the ring.

"If I lose in the tournament, my chances of having a successful career outside of Bengal Bouts don’t seem too promising," he said.

Whether he goes on to fight or not, Perez said Bengal Bouts will stick with him after graduation.

"The workouts in general are different compared to any other sport I’ve been involved in," Perez said. "And I’m really going to miss that bond, that brotherhood that you develop through all the workouts."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu
This weekend, the renowned Spectrum Dance Theater will perform "The Theater of Needless Talents," a dance piece inspired by the Jewish artists who managed to find some light during the dark times of the Holocaust.

Since their founding in 1982, the Spectrum Dance Theater (SDT) has been a pioneer in popularizing contemporary dance, as well as a leader in dance instruction by encouraging the precision and growth in quality of many other forms of dance. The dance group hails from Seattle, Wash., yet they have recently spent much time touring the U.S. and Europe.

Over 500 students participate in one or more of the 64 classes offered to people of all ages, under the direction of professional SDT members. In fact, the youngest member of the SDT is one year old, while the oldest is 80 years old. On average, 40 students are given some form of scholarship to attend the Spectrum Dance Company School.

By way of dance, the SDT has given back to their local Seattle community in numerous ways. The STD provides over 120 hours of dance education to local schools in the Seattle metropolitan area. The Theater has embraced its Washington roots by teaming up with local arts organizations. In 2007, the group collaborated with local Seattle venues, such as the 5th Avenue Theater and Seattle Opera.

Supported by the Performing Arts Fund, the SDT is an avid supporter of the right for all children to have fair access to perform, learn about and appreciate all forms of art. The Fund works in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts, an independent agency that strongly believes that "A great nation deserves great art."

Since its role in the SDT since 2002, Donald Byrd has led the dance group to immense success. In 2006, the SDT premiered the first of its Studio Series at the Madrona Dance Studios in Seattle. Byrd has also been an invaluable component in transforming the dance repertoire of the SDT; the ingenuity of the avant-garde dance pieces under his direction has attracted the attention of numerous world-class dancers, both at home and overseas.

The group is currently on a four month-long tour across the United States. Collegiate stops along the way include Duke University, The University of Virginia and Notre Dame.

The Theater of Needless Talents is a dance act in memory of Jewish artists who, while prisoners in Nazi death camps, sought to give hope to those with little spirit during the Holocaust. Through their respective arts, these brave men and women managed to give optimism and strength to those who were surrounded by pain, misery, and suffering. Since the event was first showcased in February 2008, the SDT has received immense praise from critics and audience members alike for their emotional presentation.

The program is composed of dance numbers and theatrical vignettes performed in combination with the music of Erwin Schulhoff, an exceptional Jewish composer who lost his life during the Holocaust. The title of the program in honor of Karel Svenk; in the 1930's, his perform troupe was known as "The Theater of Needless Talents." Svenk lost his life in 1945 while in one of the many movements of the Jewish prisoners from Auschwitz to Mauthausen.

Beginning Thursday night, the Spectrum Dance Theater offers four performances running through Saturday night. For show times, pricing, and more information, please visit performingarts.nd.edu

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu

SDT is not afraid to try new things or new genres of dance, including this modern piece with hip hop music.
**NHL Panthers beat Rangers for Tortorella's second loss**

Panthers rebound from loss to Red Wings with win over Senators to win fifth game in last six tries

Associated Press

NEW YORK — John Tortorella took back-to-back doses of what got former New York Rangers coach Tom Renney fired.

A painful and frustrating lack of offense has left the Rangers with little room for error over the past two months.

Tortorella’s home opener as the Rangers’ new coach Thursday night looked similar to his first game a day earlier as New York failed to hold a one-goal lead in the third period of a 2-1 loss.

The latest version against the Florida Panthers was worse than the previous because the defeat came in regulation and left the Rangers pointless despite a 41-22 shots advantage.

David Booth and Nathan Horton celebrated team mate Brett McLean’s game-winning goal during the third period.

Booth and Horton have accounted for five of the Rangers’ seven wins this season.

“We can’t take the line so fine here in being 1-0 again,” said Tortorella, sounding like Renney. “We have to try to get that second goal so that type of situation doesn’t hurt you.”

The Rangers also led 1-0 after second period, with some discipline for the Rangers on both sides.

New York had scored fewer than three goals in 14 straight losses.

Tortorella, who served a four-game, window interim stint as Rangers coach at the end of the 1999-2000 season, replaced the fired Renney on Monday.

After saying some players seemed to tire in the third period at Toronto due to a lack of condition, Tortorella had no issue with his team’s stamina or effort one night later. New York just can’t break out of the slide in which it has dropped 12 of 14 games.

New York has scored one power-play goal in nine opportunities and has failed to score on a power play in 15 of 17 attempts.

“New York recoequald 30 shots on Florida’s 16 in the first two periods, but again had one goal to show for it in the new uptempo game,” captain Chris Drury said. “We weren’t able to get it, so it is not good.”

San Jose 2, Ottawa 1

The San Jose Sharks’ power-play unit took full advantage of a rookie’s mistake.

Patrick Marleau scored power-play goals 1:18 apart in the second period, with some discipline for the Senators on both sides.

New York made 15 saves on a three-game winning streak.

“Certainly playing with a cushion and getting that second goal changes the dynamic of both of these games,” captain Mike Fisher said. “We’re all in such a close bat­tle and everyone on both sides knows it.”

The Panthers bounced back from a 6-1 loss at Boston on Tuesday at the start of a five-game trip that still has stops at Toronto due to a lack of points. They are one point ahead of Buffalo and Carolina.

“We’re all in such a close battle that second goal so that type of situation doesn’t hurt you.” Tortorella said. “I’m looking forward to keeping up with the team, because I think they have picked up how we want to play very well. We just can’t finish.”

Florida and the Rangers are tied for sixth place in the Eastern Conference with 20 points. They are one point ahead of Buffalo and Carolina.

“Tortorella played a great hockey game,” Panthers coach Peter DeBoer said. “I’m happy 21st birthday to the one and only: Mike Fisher scored a power-play goal in the first game, which has lost four of five (1-3-1) following a season-high five-game winning streak.

“For the most part we played pretty well,” Fisher said. “We created some chances and even late, we had some point-blank chances and Boucher played really well. It was just in the second period, with some disci­pline. Everyone knows they have a great power play and that was the game.”

Alex Auld stopped 22 shots.

Lee had finished serving a looking moment earlier when he was sent off again for holding Mike Grier at 9:39. The rookie defenceman put his team in an even deeper hole when he had an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty added to his holding minor.

“On the bench we felt the momentum was kind of changed when that happened and then we really wanted to bear down and make them pay,” said San Jose center Joe Thornton, who got his 54th assist on Marleau’s goal. “We did that and that was the rea­son we won.”

Brian Boucher made 23 saves for the NHL-leading Sharks, who ended a four-game winning streak one night earlier with a 4-1 loss in Detroit.

“Special teams are huge,” Boucher said. “If you can win the special teams game, you’re going to win a lot of hockey games and it seems like we’ve done that this year. It was probably not a good play by Lee — I’m sure they’re not happy about it — but good for us to capitalize on it.”

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PGA

Tiger Woods removes his hat as he approaches Tim Clark, of South Africa, after Clark’s 4 and 2 victory in their second-round match at the World Golf Championships Accenture Match Play Championship Thursday.

Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — Just about everything went according to plan for Tiger Woods in his celebrated return to golf.

Except he didn’t plan on leaving early.

Woods had no complaints with his game or his knee, but he had no answer Thursday for Tim Clark of South Africa, who played 16 holes without a bogey and knocked the world’s No. 1 player out of the Accenture Match Play Championship.

“Where does Woods go from here?”

“I go to the airport,” he said.

Woods looked as good as he did eight months ago when he won the U.S. Open. His knee felt so strong that when Woods discovered his tee shot hit the desert on the 15th hole hit a cart path and went out of bounds — a shot that ended any hope of a rally — he chose to walk 350 yards back to the tee instead of accepting a ride in the cart.

“I knew I had to play out of my mind to beat him,” Clark said.

And he did, pouring in six birdies and constantly putting the pressure on Woods throughout a sunny day in the high desert. Clark won, 4 and 2, when he hit his tee shot 4 feet that Woods conceded for birdie after failing to chip in from off the greens.

“I hit it really good today,” Woods said. “I just didn’t make enough birdies. Tim made some birdies there, and I didn’t answer him in the middle part of the round, and consequently I got behind.”

Only about 100 fans waited eight months to see him. “I was really working hard to keep myself calm and try to play my own game,” Clark said. “I put a lot of iron shots pretty close, and I think perhaps he wasn’t expecting that or not. But I don’t think I’m going to intimidate Tiger Woods, let’s put it that way.”

Tiger comeback falls short

Mets Santana scratched due to sore elbow

TORREY PINES, Calif. — New York Mets ace Johan Santana was scratched from Friday morning’s “B” game against Italy because of tenderness in his pitching elbow.

Mets manager Jerry Manuel said the decision was precautionary because Santana has a history of feeling elbow soreness this time of year. Santana remains on track to make his regular exhibition game debut Tuesday.

“I am not trying to do anything crazy out there,” Santana said. “I am going to take a couple days and relax and get ready for Tuesday.”

The left-hander said his elbow felt stiff after a bullpen session Wednesday, and he told pitching coach Dan Warthen he wanted to take some time off from throwing before preparing for his first game.

Santana had been slated to pitch one inning Friday, added to help pitch for the World Baseball Classic.

Griffen out indefinitely because of concussion

Norman, Okla. — Oklahoma standout Blake Griffin is still recovering from a concussion and Sooners coach Jeff Capel said Thursday he isn’t sure when the preseason All-American will be healthy enough to play.

Griffin has been out since sustaining the concussion during the first half of a loss at Texas on Saturday. The 6-foot-11 sophomore sat out as No. 3 Oklahoma (25-3, 11-2 Big 12) lost 67-74 at home to No. 5 Kansas on Monday.

The Sooners visit Texas Tech on Saturday. Griffin will not be allowed to play unless he clears a battery of medical tests.

“He has to be able to do things,” Capel said. “First of all, he’s got to be able to not have headaches, not have nausea. We aren’t going to do anything until we know he’s fine and those symptoms have cleared. Then we’ll be able to determine better whether he’ll be available to play on Saturday.”

Colletti unsure if Dodgers are close to Manny deal

Scottsdale, Ariz. — General manager Ned Colletti called the Los Angeles Dodgers’ latest offer to Manny Ramirez a “significant concession” by the team but said he’s not sure how close the sides might be to a deal.

Colletti and owner Frank McCourt met Wednesday in Los Angeles with Ramirez’s agent, Scott Boras, and offered the free-agent slugger a $25 million, one-year contract with a $20 million player option for 2010.

“It obviously gives Manny a lot of flexibility. If he were to agree to something like that, then nine, 10 months from now he’s free to try the market again,” Colletti said Thursday. “So if you have the chance to guarantee the chance to do something else, it’s pretty good stuff to be in.”

The offer is similar to the two-year, $45 million deal with a buyout or club option that the Dodgers put on the table in November.
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Irish set for tough weekend

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

When you are ranked as the fifth-best team in the country, most teams will see you with a target on your back. As Notre Dame has steadily risen up the rankings this season, the Irish are used to the feeling. This weekend will simply be more of the same.

Notre Dame (9-1) hosts top-25 teams in three days. On Friday at 3 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion, No. 12 North Carolina (9-2) faces the Irish, and on Sunday at noon the Irish host No. 23 Wake Forest (8-1).

Notre Dame has faced quite a bit of top competition this season, defeating No. 3 Stanford and No. 4 Baylor at the ITA Indoor Team National Championships before losing to No. 1, and eventual national champion, Northwestern. This past weekend the Irish defeated two more top-50 teams in BYU and Utah, both on the road. Three more Irish victories this season have also been against top-50 opponents, two of which were in the top-25.

The benefits of such a strong schedule are obvious, especially with seven of the team's nine victories coming against such stiff competition.

"Almost every match we play for the next two or three weeks is just going to be a tough match. But that is good for us. Our kids want to play better teams," Irish coach Jay Leachback said.

"Every match we play we know as we go out we have to be ready because it is going to be a tough one. Because of that, our team knows that there really can't be a let-up as we go out," he said.

Notre Dame shares one interesting characteristic with North Carolina; both teams faced both Stanford and Baylor in the National Championships. The difference between the Irish and the Tar Heels though, is that Notre Dame defeated both Stanford and Baylor while North Carolina suffered its only losses against top-25 competition.

"Every match we play we have to face a top-25 team in the next three days and just going to be a tough match. Because of that, our team knows that there really can't be a let-up as we go out," he said.

"We always have really tight, good matches with North Carolina," Leachback said. "They had a couple of really close ones at the National Indoor, 5-2 and 4-3. So they are good, they are one of the teams that will be battling for the NCAs this year."

The Irish success at the National Championships, playing two matches in three days and winning two of them, bodes well for this weekend. The quick turnaround between Friday and Sunday should have little unforeseen effect on the team.

"We do it, every year," Leachback said. "We have a few stretches like that during the year, but it helps us get used to the end of the year. When you get to the final 16 teams at the NCAs, you could have to play four top-15 matches in five days."

Two matches in three days against top-25 competition would face most teams, but to Notre Dame, this is just another average weekend of tennis.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

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NFL

Officials OK Vick for home confinement

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. - Imprisoned NFL star Michael Vick will be allowed to serve the last two months of his sentence under home confinement because there is no room at a halfway house for him, a government official told The Associated Press Thursday.

Vick's serving a 23-month sentence at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., after pleading guilty to bankrolling a dogfighting operation at a home he owned in eastern Virginia's Surry County. He also admitted to participating in the killing of several underperforming dogs.

Vick's lawyers have said they expected him to be moved any day into a halfway house in Newport News. But because of a lack of space, Vick will be released instead to his home in nearby Hampton at some point on or after May 21, said the official, who has knowledge of the case but requested anonymity because the individual was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

"We are aware of reports regarding the release of Michael Vick," Vick attorneys Billy Martin and Lawrence Woodward said in a written statement. "As his attorneys we understand and respect that there is a process that the Bureau of Prisons follows therefore it is not appropriate for comment at this time."

Vick's agent, Joel Segal, did not return messages seeking comment. Vick's mother, Brenda Boddie, said in a telephone interview that she knew nothing about the arrangements.

The Hampton house is one of four Vick still owns, according to bankruptcy court papers. He sold the Surry County property that served as headquarters for his BadNewz Kennels soon after his July 2007 indictment.

The five-bedroom, 3,538-square-foot home with an in-ground pool in Hampton is assessed at $748,100, according to city tax records.

Vick also owns an interest in a $2 million beach house in Suffolk, bankruptcy court papers show. His eight-bedroom home in suburban Atlanta is scheduled to be sold at auction March 10, with a minimum opening bid of $3.2 million.

Vick will be on electronic monitoring and will only be allowed to leave home for activities approved by his probation officer, the official said. Vick is eligible for release in July.

According to Vick's lawyers, the former Virginia Tech standout plans to resume his pro football career. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who suspended Vick without pay, has repeatedly said he will review Vick's status after the legal proceedings are completed.

Falcons general manager Thomas Dimitroff said earlier this month that the Falcons will try to trade the contract rights on Vick to another team, Vick, once the highest-paid player in the NFL and among its most popular, has a contract that runs to 2013 and calls for him to receive a base salary of $39 million and a bonus of $43 million in 2009. The remainder of the contract is worth $45.11 million, with an additional possible $3 million in Pro Bowl bonuses.

Officials of some other NFL teams have said they are not interested in Vick because they would rather not face the wrath of pet lovers and groups such as PETA, which has been a constant fixture at Vick's hearings.

Vick also earned substantial sums from endorsement deals with Nike and other companies, but that income vanished after the dogfighting convictions virtually destroyed his image as well as his finances. Vick filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in July, claiming assets of $16 million and liabilities of $204 million.
Irish ready to take on Cardinal

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

Coming off a solid victory over Ohio State, Notre Dame looks to continue its winning ways against visiting Stanford.
The No. 11 Irish (2-1) sustained their only loss of the season to national No. 1 Northwestern last weekend at home.
"We rely on a tough, tight schedule now to prepare us for the postseason" Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "Competition is tough, so big games are important for us."
Junior attacker Gina Scioscia is pacing the team's offense with six goals and four assists. The sophomore scoring trio of Kailene Abt, Jillian Byers and Shaylyn Blaney have all scored eight goals each in their three games.
Senior Erin Goodman will likely get her 39th career start at goal for the Irish.
"Stanford is always a good team," Coyne said. "It was a difficult loss to them last season, and now that they are here we really want to make up for that."
The matchup will take place at the Loftus Sports Center, 2 pm.

Contact Nathaniel Lee at nlee5@nd.edu

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FENCING
Irish set to host Midwest tourney

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer
Notre Dame will host the 11th Midwest Conference Championships this weekend at the Joyce Center, featuring both individual and team matches throughout the event. However, men's and women's Irish squads come into the tournament ranked first in the latest USFCA poll.

"I feel very positive for the (team), and I know they will continue to remind the country why Notre Dame's fencing program is truly world class," assistant coach Marek Stepień said. "They have been training extremely hard and I'm certain that at the [Midwest Conference] Championships and on into next season you will see some very impressive results."

The Irish head into this weekend at the top of the college fencing world after a set of remarkable regular seasons in which the men's team posted a perfect 33-0 mark and the women's squad finished 32-2. Both win totals are records in a program that has produced two national championships and dozens of All-Americans since the arrival of head coach Janusz Bednarski seven years ago.

Despite being a young and relatively inexperienced group, the Notre Dame fencers have placed themselves in a prime position to compete for a national championship after posting wins over so many ranked teams this spring.

"It's very hard for coaches to predict (results)," Bednarski said. "I've been in this business for so long. There are so many factors we can't control, especially on such a young team. But anything can happen if we make it to the Bloody Four."

The Midwest Conference Championships are one of the first steps on that road. Individual play begins Saturday in a pool format, and eliminations are expected to begin by the early afternoon. Sunday features team play throughout the day.

The biggest obstacle for the Irish this weekend is last year's winner, No. 3 Ohio State. The Buckeyes edged out the Irish by 70 points total to earn the victory. Unlike the Irish, Ohio State returns much of its talent from last year.

Competition will begin at 8 a.m. at the Joyce Center. The tournament marks the final event for Notre Dame before the NCAA Regional Qualifiers in mid-March.

Contact Michael Blasco at
mblasco@nd.edu

NFL
Holmes scheduled for marijuana hearing

Associated Press
PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers receiver and Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes waived his right to a preliminary hearing Thursday on a misdemeanor marijuana charge stemming from an October traffic stop.

Holmes' attorney, Robert DeGreco Jr., said he waived the hearing because district judges cannot assess witness credibility or constitutional challenges.

District Judge Gem Biccard commended Holmes for donating the gloves he wore when he caught the Super Bowl-winning touchdown pass for charity, saying it showed fine character.

The auction raised $70,200 for the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Inc. Holmes, 6-year-old son, Santonio III, has the blood disease.

Holmes did not speak to reporters.

Pittsburgh police said they found three marijuana cigarettes and cigars in Holmes' car when he was pulled over on Oct. 23. Holmes was stopped because his car was similar to one they were looking for in a drug sting, police said.

Holmes was cooperative and alerted officers to the drugs, police said.

DeGreco characterized the charge "as low as a grade a misdemeanor you can get." The penalty is up to 30 days probation and a $500 fine, he said.

Coach Mike Tomlin deactiva-
Holmes for a game following the traffic stop. He was not arrested and received a court summons, which is common with misdemeanor charges in Pennsylvania.

Holmes said he "learned a lot" from missing a game following the traffic stop. Before the Super Bowl, Holmes told the media that he had dealt drugs for a year in his hometown of Belle Glade, Fla.

A first-round draft pick out of Ohio State in 2006, Holmes has had two other run-ins with the law since the Steelers drafted him. In June 2006, he was charged with domestic violence in Columbus, Ohio. Those charges were dropped when the mother of one of his three children declined to help prosecute.

Holmes received anger management and domestic violence counseling through the NFL.

In May 2006, Holmes was arrested for disorderly conduct by police in Miami, who later dropped the charges.

No trial date has been set on the marijuana charge. A formal arraignment was scheduled for April 29.
Irish tennis

Irish host A&M, travel to Madison

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame fell to Kentucky Monday but will have a busy weekend to try and forget about. The No. 25 Irish (6-6) host No. 13 Texas A&M tonight before traveling to Wisconsin Sunday.

Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said the Aggies may boast the nation's best top-three lineup with senior cinematances.

"After that they are pretty solid, but they count on dominating you at the top," Bayliss said. "They are outstanding at No. 1 doubles as well... Their coaches, Steve Denon and Bobby McKinley, are truly outstanding and will have the Aggies prepared." Wisconsin will also prove to be a tough foe for the young Irish lineup with strong players at the top.

Wisconsin is coming off a win over No. 21 Wake Forest Saturday. Notre Dame edged the Badgers last season, 4-3, when the last match went to a tiebreaker.

Despite the loss to the Wildcats Monday, the Irish did receive some strong individual performances.

Freshman Casey Watt and sophomore Stephen Havens were able to come up with a big doubles win over Kentucky's Graeme Dyce and Eric Quinn.

"It was gratifying to see Casey and Stephen come out of the blocks so quickly and play well against Kentucky," Bayliss said. "In particular Casey's level was very high. When they are fully engaged they can be pretty difficult to play, as each returns serve well and they hurt you in different ways.

"Stephen is more of a classic doubles player while Casey is such a great athlete that he can go outside the norm that most opponents expect in his shot selection."

Notre Dame's top singles player, senior Brett Helgeson, suffered a foot injury Feb. 19 against Northwestern, but he played against Kentucky and should be good to go this weekend, Bayliss said.

"Brett's injury held up well against Kentucky," Bayliss said. "He was close to 100 percent and is better today than he has been after competing, so we hope to have him for A&M."

Notre Dame will return home after Sunday's contest to host Michigan on Wednesday.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabare@stmarys.edu

Colt players to test free agency

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts knew the salary cap would put them in a pinch. They were hoping it wouldn't hurt too much.

No such luck.

The team, already prepared for Marvin Harrison, Jeff Saturday and Hunter Smith to become free agents Friday, now must add Josh Thomas and Dominique Rhoades to the list.

Thomas' agent, Craig Dommann, told The Associated Press Thursday the backup defensive end and sometimes starter plans to test the market. Rhoades' agent, Todd France, told The Indianapolis Star that the team's second-leading rusher last season would do the same.

Calls to France Thursday afternoon by The Associated Press weren't immediately returned.

The news came a day after the Colts officially released the record-setting Harrison to free up $6 million under the salary cap for the first time in 11 years because of the new cap rules, and that's not something we quite frankly planned for," Polian said Sunday during the NFL's annual scouting combine. "As a result, we've got some issues with veterans."

Thursday's negotiations could dictate how much things will change next season, which will open with Jim Caldwell taking over the coaching reins from Tony Dungy, who retired in January.

Caldwell has already replaced the defensive coordinator and special teams coach. Who'll have on the field is still up in the air.

Harrison, Saturday and Smith were three of the longest-tenured Colts on the 2008 roster. All could be with new teams within days or weeks.

Rhodes' best season was his rookie year of 2001, when he rushed for 1,104 yards after he became the starter when Edgerrin James suffered a season-ending knee injury. He spent 2007 with the Raiders before returning to the Colts, where he had 538 yards and six touchdowns last season. He also caught 45 passes, including three TDs.

Thomas, who replaced the injured Dwight Freeney in the starting lineup during the second half of the 2007 season, had a career-high three sacks in 2005 and a career-high 55 tackles in 2007.

Others who are unsigned include linebackers Tyjuan Hagler and Freddy Keiaho, cornerback Katie Nadiff, safeties Matt Giordano and offensive lineman Dan Federkell. All have started at least once over the past two seasons.

The Colts did take care of two other players Thursday.

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The Observer • SPORTS

Friday, February 27, 2009
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and you can’t let Darin (Ruf) beat you,” Schrage said. “If you get the guys out around them, they try to play a real fast game, and Gonzaga is the opposite — they’ll take a lot of pitches and try to play a longer game.”

After being shut out in their season opener by Ohio State last Friday, the Irish topped Illinois and Purdue in successive days to complete their opening weekend in Florida. This weekend marks the second of four tournaments Notre Dame will play to open its season. The Irish will play nine games March 6-15 in either Houston or San Antonio as part of the Rice Classic and the Irish Baseball Classic.

“Especially the first three weeks when you’re getting down and playing in warm weather, you want to get better each weekend and minimize your mistakes,” Irish coach Dave Schrage said. “Our first nine games are all against great competition, so we’ll find out a lot about our team and what we need to work on. At the same time, we’re trying to look at lineup combinations, guys’ roles out of the bullpen, things like that.”

One who began to solidify his spot in the Irish pen last weekend was Steven Mazur, Schrage said. The junior right-hander threw three innings of no-hit ball over two appearances last weekend, striking out three and walking one. He appears to be the frontrunner for the closer’s role, which was left empty when would-be senior Kyle Weiland chose to sign with the Boston Red Sox.

“We had a nice job closing out two out of three games there,” Schrage said. “That’s an area, losing Kyle, Weiland, we weren’t quite sure who’d be in that role. We’re going to give Steven an opportunity.”

Sophomore left fielder Golden Tate started and led off all three contests for the Irish and had at least two hits in each game. His seven hits, four runs and two doubles are all team-highs for Notre Dame.

“You’ve got to be real happy with how Golden Tate played,” Schrage said. “He got an opportunity to play out in left field, and he made some nice defensive catches out there. That was a nice surprise, but a nice start for him.”

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Irish want more D vs. Friars

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Defense defense defense defense.

That’s not a chant. It’s Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw’s mantra.

She said after No. 23 Notre Dame’s 90-79 win over Syracuse Tuesday she wanted to see better defense and was comfortable playing a game with the score in the 60s. This after a game where senior guard Lindsay Schrader scored 23 points, and all five starters scored in double figures.

But the team is on board. McGraw said the players realize the defense needs improve.

“I think they’re a little disappointed at what’s been going on,” McGraw said.

Notre Dame (19-7, 8-6 Big East) will have a chance to improve Saturday when it travels to play Providence at 2 p.m.

The Friars (10-17, 4-10) only score 58.1 points per game, which gives the Irish defense a chance to make a statement.

“We’d sure like to,” McGraw said. “That’s our goal is to hold them under their average. If we can do that, especially on their home court, that would be a good sign for our defense.”

A large part of McGraw’s defensive focus this season has been on guarding the perimeter, and the Irish will have a chance to put it to use against Providence. Junior guard Catherine Rose has made 33.7 percent of her 3-point attempts this season, and forward forward Brittany Dorsey has sank 32.9 percent of hers.

McGraw said she continues to work on perimeter defense and search for the definitive answer.

“We pretty much try to do the same thing and sometimes we’re more effective than others,” she said. “I wish I knew what the answer was for when we’ve played it well.”

To play strong defense, Notre Dame will have to neutralize senior guard Chelsea Schlenk, who leads the team in points per game (11.5) and free throw percentage (85.1) and can also shoot the three.

“We really have to make sure we take the charge, McGraw said, make her a tough defender in the paint.

“The great thing about Erica is I don’t know whether she’ll take the charge or block the shot,” Schlenk said. “If someone comes in there out of control she’s going to take the charge. She can be really difficult to score on.”

Contact Bill Brink at wbbrink@nd.edu

Belles continued from page 24

with just over six and a half minutes to play, holding a 31-23 halftime lead. Most of the Belles success in the first half came from points in the paint by senior forwards Erin Newsom and Anna Kammrath.

The Belles played well defensively against the Knights in the first half. Newsom and Kammrath dominated the defensive glass, preventing the Knights from having many second-chance opportunities.

After halftime, it seemed that the Knights had made some second-half adjustments, playing the Belles much closer in the paint and preventing Kammrath and Newsom from getting rebounds off missed shots.

Belles held a 49-32 lead about halfway through the second half until the Knights had two consecutive three-point plays that sparked a Calvary rally. The Knights cut the Belles lead to just 11 points with eight minutes remaining in the contest.

The determined Knights continued the chip away at the Belles lead, cutting the deficit to as low as two points with 2:15 remaining. Under a minute to play, Newsom hit four free throws that sealed the game for the Belles and put the Knights away for good.

Saturday’s finals match up is a rematch against Hope College. The season series is tied, with the Belles giving Hope their only loss of the season. The game will be played at Hope Saturday at 3 p.m.

Contact Alex West at aweast@hcc-nd.edu

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Glorifying God as Global Mission: Hindu Wisdom on Making Known Our Faith

5th Annual Holy Cross Mission Lecture at Notre Dame
Lecturers:
Franck X. Clooney, S.J.
The Parkinson Professor of Divinity and Professor of Comparative Theology, Harvard Divinity School

Discussion and Reception to Follow

Sunday, March 1
7:00 pm
Morcom Science Auditorium
Sponsored by: Holy Cross Mission Center
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Conveniently located to N.D. in the Edison Lakes Business Park (Mishawaka) 8 minutes from Notre Dame, directly east on Angela /Edison Road
Revenge
continued from page 24

"We have to just concentrate on getting up there to New England and getting back Saturday and letting it rip up there with a great team," Irish coach Mike Brey said.

Irish senior guard Kyle McAlarney added: "This is a huge opportunity and we know it'll be a huge opportunity for us to go out and just let it rip.'"

And Irish junior Luke Harangody, who is a key player with Brey and McAlarney.

"Saturday's a big game but we still have to be thinking to lose, we're just gonna go out and let it rip." See a common thread in all these responses?

The coach said the "let-it-rip" mindset stems from Notre Dame's underdog status heading into the Connecticut game. The Huskies are 26-2 overall and 14-2 in Big East play while the Irish are 16-11 and 7-8 against conference foes.

"Saturday's gonna be a lot of fun. Everyone's gonna count us out in that game so that's why we're just gonna go in there and go for it," Harangody said.

The returning Big East player of the year also said he and his teammates are looking forward to playing in front of a raucous Connecticut crowd.

"I hope to see some Notre Dame fans out there behind us. Probably not a lot because that's a tough place to play," Harangody said. "But I'm excited to go there... I love being under the dogleg, especially in an environment like that."

The Huskies sit in first place in the Big East while Notre Dame is looking to climb closer to a top-8 seed for the conference tournament. The Irish are in tenth place but a win over Connecticut would go a long way toward improving the team's resume. The Irish are 1-7 against opponents currently in the top 25.

"This group in pretty level-headed, they know it's a great opportunity. It's a big game. It's not like we haven't been in any big games this year...," Brey said. "I think it's gonna test us that it's a great opportunity."

The last time the Irish squared off against the Huskies, Notre Dame played them close but could not take a lead late in the game. The Irish shot 32 percent from the field in the second half, including just 20 percent from behind the 3-point line.

"We played those guys well last time. I'd like to have a couple of those looks we had here in Storrs," Brey said. "We had some clean looks from outside but..."

Harangody poured in 24 points in that contest but he was the only Irish player to score in double figures. Brey said he hopes Notre Dame's supporting cast, especially point guard Tory Jackson, continues to play well on Saturday. Jackson had 13 second-half points to lead the Irish over Rutgers.

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As Notre Dame prepares to take on Connecticut's Big East frontcourt, the team outside shooting against Rutgers may be a good omen. Jackson and McAlarney, the starting backcourt, combined to hit 5-of-9 3-point attempts.

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McAlarney said the Irish will be loose before taking on Connecticut, repeating the team's approach at Michigan when asked what big Saturday's game is.

"It's not like our lives are on the line," he said. "It's obviously a huge game for us, huge opportunity. We just wanna let it rip."

The game tips off at 2 p.m. and will air live on CBS.

Contact Fran Tolon at ftolon@nd.edu

Seniors
continued from page 24

top seed in the conference tournament. The Irish are game for the first time since the three series March 13-15 after receiving a bye in the CCHA tournament, which begins next weekend.

The Irish (19-5, 7-15-4-3), perennially one of the conference's top squads, has through some great moments this season.

Michigan State is second in the CCHA standings with 21 points, ahead of only Bowling Green (17 pts.).

With a big weekend, though, the Spartans could surpass Lake Superior (21 pts.) and Western Michigan (22 pts.) to climb up to No. 9 in the final CCHA standings.

"We're looking to play to win, and they're going to come out and fight," Brey said. "They're a tough team to play against, and Ohio State found that out."

Despite the Spartans' struggling season, they boast one of the nation's top goaltenders in Jeff Lerg. That alone makes the Spartans' road to the top feasible.

"Sometimes the wounded animal is the most dangerous."
- Jeff Jackson

Irish coach

"It's a mental thing, and we have to make sure we're sharp."
- Senior netminder Jordan Pearce, a big reason why he will be honored following Saturday's game. He could be a difference maker in the contest on Sunday. The record for the season's all-time win list with a victory tonight. The Irish have 123 goals and only trails Brown (54) and 90-100-25 Madison (55).

"I think it's a mental thing, and we have to make sure we're sharp."
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Hicks
continued from page 24

which will be honored following this season's final game.

"I'm excited to go there... I love being under the dogleg, especially in an environment like that."

The Huskies sit in first place in the Big East while Notre Dame is looking to climb closer to a top-8 seed for the conference tournament. The Irish are in tenth place but a win over Connecticut would go a long way toward improving the team's resume. The Irish are 1-7 against opponents currently in the top 25.

"This group in pretty level-headed, they know it's a great opportunity. It's a big game. It's not like we haven't been in any big games this year...," Brey said. "I think it's gonna test us that it's a great opportunity."

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#25 Men's Tennis vs. #13 Texas AM @ 7 p.m.
#2 Hockey vs. MSU @ 7:05 p.m.
Win pairs of Free airfare tickets!

Saturday
#1 Fencing Conference Championships
#5 Women's Tennis vs. Wake Forest @ 12 p.m.
#8 Men's Lacrosse vs. Dartmouth @ 11 a.m.
"Early fans- Free Knit Hats"
#12 Women's Lacrosse vs. #1 Stanford @ 9 p.m.
"Early fans- Free Crocs"

Sunday
Men's Basketball vs. #10 Villanova @ 7:00 p.m.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

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MICHAEL MIKUSKA

THE DOME PIECE

DAVID CAVALDI

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's community.

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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Orlando Bloom, 32; Stephen Hawking, 70; John Lewis (Olympics), 48; Richard Molt, 60.

Happy Birthday: You must be strong this year, if you want to maintain your status. A change of circumstances may well take you on an adventure this year. In the end, you will arrive at your destination, but the journey may be more memorable.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't squander any capital when it comes to what you really want. You can budget cleverly. You can make a good impression by doing a fine job and putting your personal and professional best forward.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be shy about telling what others expect. You will be able to perform better than anyone who makes lackadaisical predictions. Your personal ability may not be your first choice but it will give you an edge and strengthen your opinion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It is time to make your situation clear and to do something about it. If you underestimate or changing everything, discuss the problems you are experiencing and, if you do not get any cooperation, it is probably time to move on. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be shy, when there is no shock to be done. A change at work may be on your mind, but at the end, you will find a chance. Getting arrested is likely to be your best concern.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take care of responsibilities now and you will be praised for your ability to get things done. Once you pay your debts behind you, you can enjoy a splendor that will allow you to feel free and easy about your life and your future. 4 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A personal message can be seen as a prompt and focused on getting what you need. Observing and identity will be what count in the end.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you mix business with pleasure or share your thoughts, you may be taken advantage of and for someone else's benefit. Focus quickly on the people and things that you are expected to take a place in.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be very secretive about your plans. If someone gets wind of what you are doing, do not forget to socialize and take them with you. Protect your interests and your future. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Love is in the picture and a social evening will pay off emotionally. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be very focused on your year. You don't want to be put in a position where you have to make a decision that will be behind you. 4 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The advice on what you are told. Do not explain in your case. Don't overdo it. You will have to sit through an emotional situation. Doctor is not to take a partner if you can get a job done on your own. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are ready to deal with what you are at hand. You don't have to make a choice. You can allow yourself to be trapped. You will have to draw the line between thrill and reality. 3 stars

Make your choice as you start. Some advice on what you are told. Don't forget to measure with an eye. You will be able to focus on becoming a leader. You don't have to be afraid of the unexpected. 4 stars

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THE OBSERVER
Irish hope to avenge loss, boost NCAA tournament resume

By FRAN TOLAN

On Wednesday, Notre Dame narrowly escaped with a win over lowly Rutgers for the second year in a row. Now, the Irish will try to salvage a season split against mighty Connecticut for the second year in a row.

Notre Dame has won four of its last five games and, after dispatching the Scarlet Knights, the Irish are concentrating on the No. 2 Huskies. Connecticut snapped Notre Dame's 45-game home winning streak on Jan. 24, but on Saturday the Irish will get a chance for revenge in Storrs.


see REVENGE/page 22

Baseball

Team heads to the desert for three games down south

By MATT GAMBER

Notre Dame will again escape the dreary conditions of the Midwest this weekend as the Irish head west to Arizona for the inaugural Phoenix College Classic.

Notre Dame (2-1) will play three games — against Gonzaga Friday, Dayton Saturday and Creighton Sunday — in the tournament, which Dayton is hosting. Friday and Saturday's games will be at Diablo Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., and Sunday's contest will be played at Marich Field in Phoenix.

Sophomore right-hander Cole Johnson (1-0, 3.00) will take the ball tonight against the Bulldogs' (3-1) right-hander Matt Fields (0-0, 0.00), who threw seven shutout innings in his first outing.

"We've been bringing him back slowly, but he'll get the start Friday night on a pitch count," Schrage said. "It's important we get him out there.

BrianDupra (0-1, 2.84), another sophomore righty, will get the nod Saturday against the Flyers (1-2). Dupra surrendered two earned runs in 6 1/3 innings in Notre Dame's opener against Ohio State on Feb. 20 and was charged with the loss.

Dayton will send left-hander Quinn Hasclhorst (0-1, 12.46) to the mound.

"They have a little bit of power, and they'll be scrappy," Schrage said.

see CREIGHTON/page 21

Hockey

ND ready for two vs. MSU

Seniors to be honored during Friday night's game at Joyce Center

By MATT GAMBER

Tonight's home game against Michigan State may be senior night, but Irish coach Jeff Jackson knows that this senior class still has to take care of some business in the Joyce Center.

"For me personally it'll be a bittersweet moment," Jackson said. "It'll be bitter to see them play their last home regular season game, but it's also sweet to know their work is not yet complete."

No. 2 Notre Dame (25-4-3, 19-4-3-3 CCCLAA) has already wrapped up the league's regular season crown and the

see SENIORS/page 22

Men's Lacrosse

Squad opens home season with Dartmouth

By SAM WERNER

Even though junior attack Neal Hicks is coming into the weekend as the reigning Great Western Lacrosse League (GWLL) player of the year, Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said it would take a balanced effort across the board for Notre Dame to run its record to 3-0 this weekend against Dartmouth.

"If teams adjust defensively and take him away, we're not concerned with how many points Neal Hicks has, but how many points we have," Corrigan said.

see HICKS/page 22

SMC Basketball

Belles on to MIAA title game

By ALEX WEST

With a win over Calvin on Thursday night, Saint Mary's has punched their first ever ticket to the MIAA Championship.

The Belles defeated the Knights 67-58 at the Angela Athletic Complex to add one more chapter to their already successful season.

In the first half, the Knights (16-10) took an early 7-2 advantage. The Belles (17-9) were able to respond with an eight-point run, primarily from taking advantage of second chance opportunities.

The Belles continued to lead for the rest of the first half, leading by much as 11 points.

see BELLES/page 21