Top football recruit dies in fall

By MATT GAMBER
News Writer

Irish football coach Brian Kelly said his program was “in a state of disbelief and incredible sadness” following the tragic death of top recruit Matt James, who fell from a fifth-floor hotel balcony and died while on Spring Break in Panama City Beach, Fla., on Friday.

Police said James, 17, was “drunk” at the time of the fall, which occurred around 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Days Inn Motel in Panama City Beach. An autopsy showed James died of brain injuries. He was vacationing with six parents and 40 fellow students from St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, police said.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Matt James in this most trying of times,” Kelly said in a statement Saturday. “Of my personal level, I got to know Matt quite well over the past few years, and he was a wonderful young man from a great family. Matt was an extremely talented person who was very bright and possessed a great dry sense of humor. He could not wait to join the Notre Dame family.

A vigil will be held at St. Xavier High School on Friday from 4 to 8 p.m., and a funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Xavier Church in downtown Cincinnati, according to a Tuesday press release from the high school. We are united in our grief over Matt,” St. Xavier president Fr. Tim Howe said in the release. “Our community is strong, and I know that the strength we receive from our faith in Jesus’ resurrection will help us get through this difficult time. Our love and prayers are for Matt and his family as we accompany them in the coming days of shared mourning.”

James, a 6-foot-6, 290-pound offensive tackle, was set to enroll in the fall as Kelly’s first major recruit at Notre Dame. The All-American chose the Irish on National Signing Day over Ohio State and Cincinnati.

“We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during this tragic time, particularly the family at St. X,” James’ parents, Jerry and Peggy, said in a statement Saturday. “Matt was a very special young man, and it is gratifying to us all that you could see that as well. We are touched by this outpouring of love.”

James’ high school classmate and quarterback, Luke Massa, is an Irish commit.

Class of ’14 promises diversity

By LIZ O’DONNELL
News Writer

The admitted Class of 2014 is the most talented and ethnically diverse Notre Dame has ever seen, said Assistant Provost of Admissions Daniel Saracino.

“This was the largest application class in history and at the same time it was the most academically talented and diverse class [we’ve seen],” he said. Saracino said the University received 14,515 applications, with an average in the top 9.9 percent rank-in-class, 1,119 SAT and 30.1 ACT.

“We admitted about 4,000 students and we project that we will enroll 2,035 students for the fall,” he said.

The average admitted student in the class boasted a top-4 percent class rank, a 1,434 SAT score and 32.6 ACT score.

In addition to these admitted students, Saracino said the admissions office placed 2,000 students on a waitlist.

“The academic profile of the students on the waitlist is similar to the academic profile of the group we admitted four years ago,” he said.

Concert to feature The Roots

By EMILY SCHRANK
News Writer

The Student Union Board (SUB) recently announced that the much anticipated spring concert will feature The Roots, the current house band for “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon,” on Saturday night in the Stepan Center.

“The biggest consideration for us is that we book a performer that Notre Dame students actually want to see,” said concert programmer Marie Wicht, a junior. “We really believe that The Roots will be one of the best concerts Notre Dame has ever had.”

Named as one of Rolling Stone Magazine’s top 20 live acts in the world, The Roots recently performed at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver and have released a total of 13 albums since 1993. The Philadelphia hip-hop group also won numerous awards, including several

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assoc. News Editor

Two titans of the academic world will clash tonight in the Leighton Concert Hall when famed anti-theist and author of books such as “God is Not Great” Richard Dawkins and famed anti-theist and author of books such as “God is Not Great” Hitchens and D’Souza represent the extremist viewpoints of their respective viewpoints.

“I’m not excited about the debate because an intelligent middle position will not be represented. The two debaters reflect, in my opinion, extreme anti-religious views, on the one hand, and an extreme right-wing view of Catholicism, on the other hand,” McBrien said. “It’s an important debate, but the religious side would require someone with a more comprehensive theological perspective.”

Junior Sy Doan, who wrote an Observer Letter to the Editor criticizing Hitchens’ aggressive debate tactics, said despite his reputation as an “intellectual bully,” Hitchens is still a “viable member of the intellectual community who Notre Dame should welcome.”

“I think it’s wrong that we expect intellectuals to be genial and mild-mannered,” Doan said. “Intelligence and comity do not necessarily go hand-in-hand.”

After President Barack Obama was invited to speak at last year’s spring concert, SUB invited The Roots to campus to play this Saturday.

Grammys, Wicht said. She said deciding on The Roots was “what took the bulk of our time.”

The concert planning process began last spring, but once an offer letter was sent out, The Roots signed the contract in about a week, she said.

“In comparison with the other contenders, they stood out as having a great, award-winning history and welcome,” she said.

‘God Debate’ sparks discussion on campus

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INSIDE COLUMN

Opening Day

As sports fans, almost everyone can name one event that epitomizes everything they love about that particular sport. If you’re an NFL fan, there is nothing greater than the Super Bowl. March Madness thrills just about everyone for the numerous gambling opportunities it provides as well as America’s seminal love for the underdog. If you’re a soccer fan, nothing will ever compare to the World Cup every four years.

But there is one event each year that, while not providing the excitement and drama that other events produce, represents something bigger than just about being a sports fan — Opening Day of the baseball season. Many people, no doubt, would scoff at such a premise. Opening Day is only the first of 162 games to be played for all 30 Major League Baseball clubs. It is seemingly insignificant in the grand scheme of the baseball season, and very rarely are there lasting memories made during Opening Day games. But Opening Day is about so much more than that.

For a true baseball fan, Opening Day is the beginning of the best six months of the year, because it means getting to follow your team every day. The baseball fan lives through every pitch and every at-bat, throughout the highs and lows of their team’s season.

Opening day is the signal that a long winter has ended, including a dreary February and half of March where there are no meaningful sporting events after the Super Bowl. It means that spring has arrived and summer is not far behind.

Most of all, Opening Day represents hope, and that is really what sports are all about. (Note: if you are a fan of the Pirates, this may not apply to you. I’m sorry, there is no much hope there.) Opening Day means the promise of never being bored on a lazy summer day. It means the excitement of a possible pennant race and the chance to dream of the World Series for me, and more importantly those loyal fans who have patiently waited for longer than I could ever imagine. It means never having to hope that love diminishes “Wait til’ Next Year.” It means the opportunity to go cheer on the Cubs this summer at Wrigley, what every Chicago fan believes is the greatest place on earth. For fans of every other team, there are aspirations of their own.

So at least for one day, I can forget about the fact that the Cubs have no bullpen, that we are stuck with Alfonso Soriano for another five years, and that Carlos Zambrano may never live up to his potential. I, like countless numbers of fans, dare to think that the stars could align just this year. The baseball season is underway, and no matter what happens for your team in the coming months, for now there should be only optimism.

Baseball fans: you are now invited to sit back, relax, and dare to dream.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets indulging in a professional publication and news for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-6549 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: What is your favorite periodic element?

Alice Harada
sophomore
Budin

“Unobtainium.”

Jeff Steimle
sophomore
Keevan

“Au, because it’s good to be the king.”

Joe Cannova
sophomore
Dillon

“Xenon, because it sounds cool when [Professor] Lappin says it.”

Christine Kim
junior
Ryan

“What elements are there? Wait no, potassium!”

Brian Argus
sophomore
Fischer

“Siliter, because I never win.”

IN BRIEF

“Is Religion the Problem?,” a public debate between Christopher Hitchens and Dinah D’Souza will take place tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The event is ticketed.

A lecture, “Rethinking Rwanda, 1994,” will take place Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at C103 Hesburgh Center. The event is free and open to the public.

The Haiti Bonfire Party will take place Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets will be on sale at the dining halls through April 5th for $10 and $15 at the door. All proceeds benefit Haiti relief efforts.

“Bursting the Bubble,” Notre Dame’s CommUniversity Day, will be Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Created to foster relationships between the community and the University, CommUniversity Day will feature a Kid’s Festival, campus tours and a community picnic. The event is free and open to the public.

The annual Holy Half Marathon will take place Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon. All of the proceeds from the event will go toward Katrina Relief through the Broadmoor Improvement Association.

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

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College festival aimed toward stress relief

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary’s Editor

In honor of the original Antostal, a College celebration aimed toward stress relief, the Saint Mary’s Student Activities Board (SAB) will host SMC Tostal, an event featuring a free concert and a variety of other activities.

“We have it to give the students the chance to relax a bit before finals,” SAB president Michele Peterson, a senior, said. Peterson said the Tostal activities begin at noon on Thursday. Activities include inflatables on the Library Green from noon to 4 p.m., including a bungee run, obstacle course, slide and human spheres, as well as a rock wall and mechanical bull.

“These are all free, so students can stop by between classes and have a bit of fun,” Peterson said. “There will also be a food vendor with ‘fudge puppies,’ which are basically waffles on a stick covered with chocolate and toppings, and freshly squeezed orange, lemon and lime juice.”

In the Spes Unica Hall Atrium and Student Center Atrium, henna tattoo artists will offer free tattoos. A photo booth will also be available to students in the dining hall during dinner.

The day will end with a concert featuring Josh Kelley and opening act Jon McLaughlin. Tickets are free and available to Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross students in the Student Center Atrium today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

“I love that SAB can provide students with a day of fun,” Peterson said. “We all work so hard, and by the end of the spring semester all students are often stressed with oncoming exams. SMC Tostal gives students the chance to allow students to relax for free.

“We are lucky that we can provide such a fun-filled day all for free, just for the students,” Peterson said. “They really deserve this, and SAB really hopes they enjoy all the events we planned.”

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Macwan: Unjust caste system needs change

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

The injustices of the caste system have plagued Indian society throughout the 3,000 years the system has been in place, but scholar and activist Martin Macwan said he believes the time is coming for a change.

Macwan presented a lecture Tuesday, hosted by the Kroc Institute, at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies, titled “Amalhitāta: Caste Discrimination: The Silent Revolution of India’s Dalits,” in which he addressed the causes and potential remedies for caste conflict and its consequences for the Dalits, the lowest caste group known as the “untouchables.”

Macwan, the founder of the Navsarjan Trust, said he hopes to apply his organization’s scholarly census research to combat the very real issue of social injustice in India’s caste system.

“It is a systemic issue, and if you want to address systemic issues, you need a broad-based organization,” Macwan said. “The question is, is there a link between research and action? I’m trying to create the synergy between the academic and the grassroots action.”

Macwan said the “systemic issue” of castes needs to be addressed on all of its political, social, economic and religious elements.

Macwan said a major problem is the disproportionate prevalence of the upper-castes in high government positions. He said 78 percent of the judiciary comes from only one class: the Brahmans.

While the caste system is originally drawn from Hindu teachings, it has become an institution within other major religions in India, including Christianity and Islam.

“Essentially the caste system is part of Hinduism — it is sanctified by the religion and scripture,” Macwan said. “Even today, though, you’ll find separate churches for Dalit and non-Dalit Christians.”

The social element of the caste system, Macwan said, is how the caste system has become perpetual for so many years.

“Part of it is socialization, which is how the system is taught from generation to generation,” he said. “Perhaps the most critical of the problems fueling the caste system is the pervasive economic inequality in India, especially regarding land and employment.

“In many cases, they have legal possession, but they don’t have the actual land, it’s being encroached on,” he said. “Most people are employed by caste-based occupations, and the self-employment rate among Dalits is less than one percent.”

The solution to these pervasive and complex problems, Macwan said, is large-scale action starting from the bottom.

“We realized social movements are effective when they are led by grassroots efforts,” he said. “Our program is going from village to village, telling people they are equal and there is a law.”

Ultimately, Macwan said real change will come as more of the Dalits become aware of the backward nature of the caste system and become engaged in the movement.

“It’s very important that the change is led by the people that have suffered from untouchability,” he said. “The counterrevolution is coming from the value that people are equal ... the struggle is on because people believe it is their right.”

Contact John Cameron at jcamero2@nd.edu
COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

New administration leads COR discussion

By MOLLY MADDEN
Notre Dame News Writer

Census participation and pep rally reform were among discussion topics at the first Council of Representatives (COR) meeting under student body president Catherine Soler and vice president Andrew Bell Tuesday.

“A lot can get accomplished at COR,” Soler said. “A lot of the decisions that we make as an administration are based on your feedback.”

Soler turned the discussion to the census forms currently being administered to the student body. She said student government is pushing for Notre Dame students to complete the census by sponsoring a dorm competition. The residence hall with the most participation will receive a pizza party from Hot Box Pizza.

“We can receive up to $1,200 in federal funding for each participating student,” Soler said. “It’s also incredibly helpful to the South Bend community.”

Soler said Irish football coach Brian Kelly will meet with COR in two weeks to continue the discussion about pep rallies.

“Coach Kelly is going to set aside an hour to talk to us,” she said. “This is really important because we’re the first student group he’s going to talk to.”

COR members approved juniors Erin Pankiw, James Kenney and Elle Metz as Directors of Special Events. Sophomore Brandon Vo was approved as Director of Communication and sophomores Claire Sunderland and Ricky Ilevington were approved as Directors of First Year Experience in Leadership Program for next year.

Soler closed the meeting by reminding the new council of the importance of their role as members of COR.

“As leaders of student organizations, you can bring issues here to COR to discuss or get feedback, anything on the table is open to discussion,” she said.

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

Debate continued from page 1

year’s Commencement ceremony, Notre Dame’s identity as a Catholic university has been criticized.

“Shun an important, admittedly controversial, member of the academic community in Mr. Hitchens only hurts Catholicism.”

--Sophomore Dennis Grabowski

One of the ongoing issues Soler brought to COR is the state of pep fest, which has been a source of much criticism.

“Pep rally reform is a big issue and is something that we’ve really been working hard on,” she said.

“They’re coming and they’ve been taking us seriously,” she said. “We know what the students want and we feel that we’ve really been making progress.”

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Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu

The Observer  ◆  CAMPUS NEWS
Wednesday, April 7, 2010

LET'S FACE IT, YOU'VE OUTGROWN DORM LIFE, YOU ARE OVER FREEMAN DORM PARTIES, YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT MOVING TO A place you WILL BE PROUD TO CALL HOME. SO MAKE MEMORIES. From Study Cramming to Tailgate Slamming Campus Housing at South Bend offers it all. Make lasting friendships, meet new friends. Get primed for kick-off with a pregame Tailgate - just a few steps away from your apartment. Moving on to the ultimate South Bend experience - living at South Bend one of your best college memories. Live your lifestyle and enjoy.

CAMPUS HOMES AT SOUTH BEND AND NOTRE DAME APARTMENTS

Page 4 Wednesday, April 7, 2010
ITALY

Vatican battles ‘hate’ campaign

Church officials say accusations at the Pope are part of anti-Catholic crusade

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican heatedly defended Pope Benedict XVI on Tuesday, claiming accusations that he helped cover up the actions of pedophile priests are part of an anti-Catholic “hate” campaign targeting the pope for his opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage.

Vatican Radio broadcast comments by two senior cardinals explaining “the motive for these attacks” on the pope and the Vatican newspaper chipped in with spirited comments from another top cardinal.

“The pope defends the life and the family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, in a world in which powerful lobbies would like to impose a completely different agenda,” Spanish Cardinal Julian Herranz, head of the disciplinary commission for Holy See officials, said on the radio.

Herranz didn’t identify the lobbies but “defense of life” is Vatican shorthand for anti-abortion efforts.

Also arguing that Benedict’s promotion of conservative family models had provoked the so-called attacks was the Vatican’s director of the College of Cardinals, Angelo Sodano.

“By now, it’s a cultural contrast,” Sodano told the Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano. “The pope embodies moral truths that aren’t accepted, and so, the shortcomings and errors of prices are used as weapons against the church.”

Also railing to Benedict’s side was Italian Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo, who described the cardinals’ comments as “divisory counterattacks” that are an “attemp both to the victims of clergy abuse and to gays and lesbians.”

“It makes me heartsick,” she said.

Sex abuse allegations, as well as accusations of cover-ups by diocesan bishops and Vatican officials, have swept across Europe in recent weeks. Benedict has been criticized for not halting the actions of abusive priests when he was a Vatican cardinal and earlier while he was the archbishop of Munich in his native Germany.

The mainland European scandals — in Germany, Italy, Austria, Denmark and Switzerland — are erupit after decades of abuse cases in the United States, Canada, Australia, Ireland and other areas.

In Germany, nearly 2,700 people called the church’s sexual abuse hot line in the first three days it was operating, a Catholic church spokesman said Tuesday. A team of psychologists and other experts have spoken with 394 people so far, ranging from several minutes to more than an hour. Trier Diocese spokesman Stephan Kronenburg said.

“Most callers reported cases of sexual abuse,” he told The Associated Press.

Benedict has ignored victims’ demands that he accept responsibility for what they say is his own personal and institutional responsibility for failing to swiftly kick abusive priests out of the priesthood, or at least keep them away from children.

But he has been protect- ed by a vanguard of senior Vatican prelates who are fending off what they contend is an orchestrated attempt to attack the leader of the world’s more than 1 billion Catholics.

BRAZIL

Record rains kill 95 in Rio De Janeiro

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — The heaviest rains in Rio de Janeiro’s history triggered landslides Tuesday that killed at least 95 people as rising water turned roads into rivers and paralyzed Brazil’s second-largest city.

The ground gave way in steep hillside shacks,促成 a brown-red pathways of destruction through shan- tytowns. Concrete and wooden homes were crushed and hurled downhill, only to bury other struc- tures.

The future host city of the Olympics and football World Cup ground to a near halt as Mayor Eduardo Paes urged workers to stay home and closed all schools. Most businesses were shuttered.

Eleven inches (29 centimeters) of rain fell in less than 24 hours, and more rain was expected. Officials said potential mudslides threat- ened at least 10,000 homes in the city of 6 million people.

Paes urged people in endangered areas to take refuge with family or friends and he said no one should venture out.

“It is not advisable for people to leave their homes,” said Paes. “We want people to preserve lives.”

He told the Web site of the newspaper O Globo that the rainfall was the most that Rio had ever record- ed in such a short period. The pre- vious high was nine inches (24 centimeters) that fell on Jan. 2, 1966.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva urged Brazilians to pray for the rain to stop.

“This is the greatest flooding in the history of Rio de Janeiro, the biggest amount of rain in a single day,” Silva told reporters in Rio. “And when the man upstairs is nervous and makes it rain, we cannot ask him to stop the rain in Rio de Janeiro so we can go on with life in the city.”
2014

continued from page 1

years ago,” he said. “There are siblings of Notre Dame students who couldn’t afford to come.”

Of the 2,035 students projected to enroll for the fall, Saracino said 23 percent will be of ethnic diversity and 3 percent will be international students.

He said, however, statistics are only part of the whole package the new incoming class will offer.

“It is appropriate to say it isn’t fair to boil our applicants and admitted students to numbers,” he said. “Involvement, community service, leadership, talent in music and performing arts is great, if not greater, than ever before.”

Saracino also said he was pleased to see talented students coming from all over the country and the world.

 “[I’ve seen] students coming from remote parts of the United States and the world,” he said.

“It’s exciting to me to see students coming from the North Pole, small towns in Wyoming and they’re just as talented as students from New York and Chicago.”

With the struggling economy, Saracino said more than half the incoming class will likely receive financial aid.

“We’re meeting 100 percent of the full demonstrated need of every student, a commitment we started in 1995 and we’re not backing away. We have leveled the playing field, and if a student wants Notre Dame, they can come.”

Daniel Saracino, Assistant Provost of Admissions

“We’re meeting 100 percent of the full demonstrated need of every student, a commitment we started in 1995 and we’re not backing away. We have leveled the playing field, and if a student wants Notre Dame, they can come.”

Recruit

continued from page 1

and was also on the Spring Break trip, according to the Associated Press.

Hagerty said they did their best to find a group that directly responded to the requests of the student body.

Mike Posner, a singer, songwriter and producer who has collaborated with various artists, including Kid Cudi and 3OH!3, will open for The Roots. Known for his mixed tapes and high-energy shows, Posner is also scheduled to be a part of this summer’s Warped Tour.

Tickets for the SUB spring concert went on sale Tuesday morning and can be purchased at the LaFortune Box Office for $10. Only 1,500 tickets are available and both Wicht and Hagerty said they expect the show to sell out.

Contact Emily Schrank at eschrank@nd.edu

SUB

continued from page 1

are known for their fantastic live performances,” Wicht said. “Once the results from the student body survey came in, The Roots became one of our top options.”

Of the seven genres listed on the survey, hip-hop was the clear preference, said senior Brian Hagerty, the concert’s co-producer along with Wicht.

“When we narrowed down our options based on price and availability, we felt that The Roots would put on the best concert and would generate the most excitement among the student body,” he said.

Writing News.

E-mail Sarah at smervosh@nd.edu

For the 14,515 non-need-based scholarships, three to four percent will be on R.O.T.C., scholarships and seven percent or more will be on financial aid athletic scholarships,” he said.

“More than half will only be able to afford Notre Dame because of aid.”

Saracino said despite the increase in numbers, the University is still committed to meeting all need.

“We’re meeting 100 percent of the full demonstrated need of every student, a commitment we started in 1995 and we’re not backing away,” he said. “We have leveled the playing field, and if a student wants Notre Dame, they can come.”

Because admissions decisions have been sent out, Saracino said the admissions office will work to answer the questions of students deciding whether or not to attend Notre Dame.

“Notre Dame is not for everyone, we don’t try to claim we are. The best advice I can give to anyone is to visit and talk with the Notre Dame students and possibly shadow a student, spend a night in a residence hall and go to classes,” he said.

Saracino also said alumni will be calling admitted students to ask if they have any questions or concerns. The Center for Social Concerns and the Dean of the First Year of Studies will contact students as well.

“After all that, if they say no, then I feel comfortable. We haven’t lost a student because of an unanswered question,” he said. “With directors, campus ministry, if all that crosses them then it wasn’t meant to be. We want to make sure they don’t choose to go elsewhere because of some unanswered question.”

Contact Liz O’Donnell at rodonne@nd.edu
B R I E F

18,000 gallons of oil spill in La. refuge

NEW ORLEANS — Authorities say a pipeline has spilled 18,000 gallons of crude oil into a canal in a wildlife refuge about 60 miles southeast of New Orleans. There was no immediate word about the extent of damage or the cause. The Coast Guard says Chevron Pipe Line Co. has closed off the leaking section and investigators are evaluating the spill from a plane.

The refuge covers nearly 49,000 acres of marsh in Plaquemines Parish, near the mouth of the Mississippi River. It holds a number of bird species and provides a place for migratory birds to rest as well as winter habitat for ducks and other wild fowl.

Dartmouth faces worker complaints

CONCORD, N.H. — Dartmouth College on Tuesday disputed allegations that it has failed to bargain in good faith in negotiating a contract for workers at the college-owned Hanover Inn.

The union representing 65 hotel workers filed a complaint last week with the National Labor Relations Board alleging that college administrators have refused to consider the union’s contract proposals or offer any of their own. The union, which also represents 500 food service, maintenance, security and other campus workers, has been trying to negotiate contracts that avoid significant layoffs and 500 food service, maintenance, security and other campus workers, has been trying to negotiate contracts that avoid significant layoffs and

Recession doesn’t hamper birth rates

ATLANTA — U.S. births fell in 2008, probably because of the recession, updated government figures suggested Tuesday.

The one exception to the trend was the birth rate among women in their early 20s, which perhaps felt they didn’t have the luxury of waiting for better economic times. The birth rate for women in their early 20s rose a surprising 4 percent in 2008, probably because of the recession, updated government figures suggested Tuesday.

In a statement, the FCC said it remains “firmly committed to promoting an open Internet and to policies that will bring the enormous benefits of broadband to all Americans” and “will rest these policies ... on a solid legal foundation.”

Comcast welcomed the decision, saying “our primary goal was always to clear our name and reputation.”

The case centers on Comcast’s actions in 2007 when it interfered with an online file-sharing service called BitTorrent, which lets people swap movies and other big files over the Internet. The next year the FCC banned Comcast from blocking subscribers from using BitTorrent. The commission, at the time headed by Republican Kevin Martin, based its order on a set of net neutrality principles it had adopted in 2005. But Comcast argued that the FCC’s order was illegal because the agency was seeking to enforce more principles, which don’t have the force of regulations or law. That’s one reason that Martin’s successor, Democratic FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski, is trying to formalize those rules.

The cable company had also argued the FCC lacks authority to mandate net neutrality because it had deregulated broadband under the Bush administration, a decision upheld by the Supreme Court in 2005. The FCC now defines broadband as a lightly regulated information service. That means it is not subject to the “common carrier” obligations that make traditional telecommunications services share their networks with competitors and treat all traffic equally. But the FCC maintains that existing law gives it authority to set rules for information services.
This evening, Christopher Hitchens, the famous, and sometimes infamous, British-American journalist and anti-theist will debate Dinesh D’Souza, a star of the conservative right movement in the states. This event has been billed “The God Debate” at Notre Dame, and certainly should prove interesting for everyone in attendance. However, many students I have talked to don’t know too much about either debater, much less what positions they generally hold and should be expected to argue tonight, so I took it upon myself to do a little research and watch some of their past debates.

I’ll begin with the more well known of the two debaters, Christopher Hitchens. As a journalist he has written for The Atlantic and The Nation, and currently pens columns for Vanity Fair. In addition to his columns and magazine work, he has penned a myriad of independent works, including “God Is Not Great.” The piece in which he laid out his extensive argument against major monotheistic religions.

In an age where writers and thinkers are largely expected to hold one particular view steadfastly throughout their career, Hitchens has unapologetically gone from being a socialist to somewhat of a libertarian, and from a Nader supporter in 2000 to a slightly right wing Bush supporter in 2004. He has alienated many former colleagues over his support for the Iraq War but remains at odds with other conservatives that play that the Religious Right.

Dinesh D’Souza, on the other hand, has been a fairly consistent conservative throughout his Dartmouth days through his time as a Reagan advisor and into a number of conservative fellowship positions. D’Souza is certainly an unashamed Christian apologist, with the groundwork of his argument put forth in his 2007 book, “What’s So Great About Christianity.” For his part, D’Souza argues the compatibility of religion and technology, the benefits of Christian moral values in the United States and the importance of Christianity on history.

While he has inspired much controversy on numerous points, past debates have shown him to be more than capable of handling himself. The “God Debate” tonight is not the first time these two have debated the effects of religion on society. In 2007, they debated at the decidedly religious King’s College in New York City. Again, in 2009, they debated in front of an audience of nearly 7,000 at the University of Central Florida. Both debates played out similar. D’Souza was generally calmer, acting in more of a college debate style, making points in order and looking for direct rebuttal to each. Hitchens is much more cavalier and perhaps more rhetorical in his presentation. While his arguments are less organized, they often cover a lot of ground in a short amount of time.

As for the winner of each debate, every review online has largely been more indicative of the writer’s personal conclusion. It seems, atheist bent blogs and magazines declared Hitchens the winner, and religious writers awarded D’Souza the victory. Looking forward, what does that mean for tonight? Most audience members probably judge the winner based on their own initial bias. It’s not that the content of the debate may be more important and informative than simply seeing who can knock the most knockout blows down the home stretch.

Although both individuals are larger-than-life public intellectuals, neither are the type of academic thinkers that carefully outline key issues, attempt to create some agreement on definitions and move forward cautiously and courteously. Rather, they are giants of their own particular view who defend it vigorously with little regard to the academic thoroughness in the debate. However, would students have been lined up out the door to snap a ticket to see two old professors consider every point before moving forward cautiously and courteously. D’Souza will probably judge the winner indicative of the writer’s predisposition, it’s not that the content of the debate may be more important and informative than simply seeing who can knock the most knockout blows down the home stretch.

Jason Coleman is a senior accounting major. He can be contacted at coleman.70@nd.edu

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

We owe our gratitude

We at Notre Dame are blessed by a large number of people who provide service which many take for granted. Unfortunately, we sometimes forget about the men and women who toil behind the scenes in our Security department, our Fire Department, without these men and women, our Security people and our Fire Department.

We owe our gratitude.

Jason Meyer, C.S.C.
Notre Dame
March 31

Quote of the Day

“More often than not, a hero’s most bitter battle is the one you never see; it’s the battle that goes on within him or herself.”

Kevin Smith
U.S. screenwriter

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“Not one is ready for a thing until he believes he is ready to take that step.”

Napoleon Hill
U.S. author
Humans belong to the order of primates. Social sexual activity outside of reproductive events within oneself, here and now, the real Lennon was like the rest of us: in his effort to become something more than a man, he lost his way. He woulda been a friend to all, if only for that fall. We wish we could watch your son play the game. Instead he rose high to heaven. High above the 7/11s, high above South Bend, he'll be with us each game, Matt James: Memorial to Matt James

Memorial to Matt James

Letter to the Editor

So,” I said. “I was thinking that I would give my students John Lennon as an example of the Overman.” Peter laughed. “I don’t think that it’s okay to tease your students like that. I think they won’t get the joke.”

Daniel John Sportiello

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ROME — Easter Mass at the Vatican is by no means for the faint-hearted faithful. The day started at 5:30 a.m. for the Saint Mary’s girls who stayed in Rome for Easter, or “Pasqua,” in Italian, after the end of the Rome program’s semester. We hopped on the metro to St. Peter’s Basilica and were in line to get into the square by 6:40, and already there were at least 70 people ahead of us. Every 15 minutes after, the line seemed to grow by a hundred — luckily we were on the edge and could sneak out for cappuccinos to get us through to 8:15, when the gates opened.

When police started letting the crowd through, the force of a thousand people pushed the security stations back and forth over the crowd, a few strings up on old fishing rods. One group was even holding up one strip of cardboard that simply had “Vietnam” written on it in Sharpie.

The weather had forecasted rain since 6 a.m. It had only sprinkled twice during the two hours of waiting, but everyone around was armed with ponchos and umbrellas. It seemed as though we might be granted an Easter miracle and escape without too much rain. Then, five minutes before Mass started, the sky opened up and it began to pour. Umbrellas went up, plastic bags got tied to heads and people fumbled into ponchos as the Pope processed out to the altar with a parade of drums and Swiss Guards.

The entire Mass continued in absolutely miserable wet cold, but the weather didn’t seem to ruin the event for anyone. We sang from our booklets, listened to the readings in several different languages and tried not to get our umbrellas hooked in anyone’s hair. The rain seemed to bring out the triumphant Catholic spirit in small but heart-warming ways. People were loaning others spare umbrellas or even passing out tissues to the people around them to wipe their wet chair seats. The rain made waving big flags a bit tougher, but it didn’t seem to hold off any of those who wanted to celebrate their country’s presence at the Mass.

Thankfully, an hour and a half in, the sky cleared and the rain started again, and we were finally able to see Pope Benedict XVI up on the altar. We shook hands and exchanged benedictions with the pope, nothing seemed to dampen the celebration of the faithful in St. Peter’s Square on Easter. Emerging at least spiritually stronger from the cold, the crowds and the rain, those gathered in Rome on Easter seem to feel that the Catholic Church would do the same going into the future.

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Contact Courtney Eckerle at ecker1@saintmarys.edu

From left, Saint Mary’s sophomores Nora Cusick, Courtney Eckerle and Christine Martin stake out their rain-soaked seats for the Easter Sunday Mass in the Vatican on April 4.
When it was released in 2000, the British film "Billy Elliot" was a box office success and earned three Oscar nominations. A few years later, it was adapted into a Broadway play that would go on to be, not only the most successful musical of the year, but one of the most impressive performances. Broadway nor-
more impressive performance. of this play is its genre. As a Broadway-style show, "Billy Elliot" is an outstanding display of talent and hard work. The musical does a wonderful job of adapting the movie and the dialogue into songs accompanied by beautiful ballet and tap dance perfor-
mances. Children are a big part of the cast, not only for the character of Billy himself, but his friends and ballet class-
mates. A Broadway play whose main roles are executed by children is unusu-
ally and ultimately made for all the more moving and per-
sonal.
Another interesting and unique aspect of this play is its genre. Broadway nor-
mally deals with either comedy or more "hilariously memorable char-
acters and backdrop of star-
crossed love. Now that you’ve finished singing "Under the
Sea" in your head, here are a few more reasons why you know you love "The Little
Mermaid."
Ariel is totally lovable. Though she lacks the bookish smarts and somewhat independ-
ence of our darling Belle, Ariel’s curiosity, determination and red hair make up for it. Every little girl wanted to be her for Halloween because she was the coolest. And she saved Prince Eric’s life! She’s so damsel in distress, that’s for sure.
She’s also headstrong, but in the best possible way. And everyone digs a rebellious
streak. While most never went behind their father’s back to turn from mermaid to human, Ariel is easily the most realistic princess in the Disney reper-
toire. Yes, Jasmine is way cool, but everyone sees a little of her-
selves in the gorgeous princess of the sea. The other characters of "The Little
Mermaid" are just as appealing. Ursula is easily one of the best villains in the Disney universe. She’s as scary as the evil queen in "Snow White," as funny as Captain Hook and looks like a cross between Medusa, Joan Rivers and RuPaul. Her big song, "Poor
Unfortunate Souls," steals the show and lets the busy baddie primp and parade herself into Ariel’s good graces, nabbing her beautiful voice along the way.
While Flounder is a great sidekick, insofar as crazy-cute animal friends go, Sebastian is just the tops. He’s witty, cynical and makes beautiful music (listen, "Kiss the Girl," to boot). And while one might easily see him as nothing more than a wet blanket, those with a funny bone know that there’s more to this crustacean than a perfect
meal (Scuttle the seagull is pretty great, too).
Disney movies are chock full of Prince Charming. But are any as charming as Prince Eric? He’s tall, dark and handsome, he loves his
dog and he wants to find true love. Oh, and he’s not afraid to run a brown mast into a giant sea witch in order to save said true love. He really is a true Renaissance man.
"The Little Mermaid," released in 1989, stradd-
les that awkward barrier between the 80s and 90s. But it does it with style. It keeps the well-
colored hair of the 80s, but combines it with the brilliance that is children’s entertainment of the 90s.
"The Little Mermaid" is considered a renais-
sance for Disney Studios, which, until its release, had failed to create a true classic. "Sleeping Beauty" in 1958. While "Robin Hood," "The Aristocats" and "The Great Mouse
Detective" are beloved by many, most Disney films from this stagnant period fall by the way-
side compared to their predecessors and succes-
sors.
"The Little Mermaid" revitalized the brand, paving the way for brilliant films from "Aladdin" to "Wall-E." The new Disney of the90s also
proved that princesses don’t have to wait for Prince Charming to save the day, and that pop music goes just as well with animation as do the more classical songs of Disney’s past.
Where would we children of the 80s and 90s be without "The Little Mermaid?" Lost in a sea (pun definitely intended) of mediocre children’s animation, like that rubbish your little brother watches on Nickelodeon — that’s where we’d be. So take a few minutes out of your weekend to sit down and appreciate one of Disney’s finest. In this fine weather, it’s basically like being at the beach. Basically.

Disney’s "The Little Mermaid" is an awesome movie. It’s often forgotten, shadowed by greats such as "Beauty and the Beast," "The Lion King" and "Finding Nemo." However, it stands as a classic in its own right with its all-too catchy soundtrack, exotic locales, hilariously memorable char-
acters and backdrop of star-
crossed love. Now that you’ve finished singing "Under the

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**The Little Mermaid**

Disney’s return to glory

"The Little Mermaid" is as appealing. Ursula is easily one of the best villains in the Disney universe. She’s as scary as the evil queen in "Snow White," as funny as Captain Hook and looks like a cross between Medusa, Joan Rivers and RuPaul. Her big song, "Poor Unfortunate Souls," steals the show and lets the busy baddie primp and parade herself into Ariel’s good graces, nabbing her beautiful voice along the way. While Flounder is a great sidekick, insofar as crazy-cute animal friends go, Sebastian is just the tops. He’s witty, cynical and makes beautiful music (listen, "Kiss the Girl," to boot). And while one might easily see him as nothing more than a wet blanket, those with a funny bone know that there’s more to this crustacean than a perfect meal (Scuttle the seagull is pretty great, too).

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Duval back in Augusta after three-year hiatus

Associated Press
AUGUSTA, Ga. — David Duval ambled away from the 13th tee, strolled over the Nelson Bridge and found a nice, comfortable spot to plop down in the middle of the fairway.

He sat there for a couple of minutes, next to his ball, staring at the sculpted green covered with the woods on the other side, soaking up the brilliant colors of the azaleas and dogwoods.

The perfect place to reflect, to think back on all he once was at Augusta National and still hopes to be.

But Duval isn’t much for reminiscing or any of that mushy stuff.

“It was brutally there. They were playing sooo slow,” he grumbled Tuesday after a practice round that dragged on for nearly five hours. “I was just trying to keep from going to sleep.”

For Duval, so much has changed since the last time he contended at the Masters, nearly a decade ago. From the expanded waistline to the errant shots to the wandering club to the putters, it’s as if a mirror reflects the guy who once ruled as golf’s No. 1 player.

This is the first time he’s qualified for the Masters since 2006, when he shot a 10 on the second hole and missed the cut for the fourth year in a row. He’s here thanks to a runner-up finish at last year’s U.S. Open.

Then again, so much remains the same.

Duval still walks the course with an aura reserved for the greats, not someone who last won a tournament at the 2001 British Open, not someone who took personal jabs with his shirttail hanging out, not someone who once was sandwiched between Anthony Wall and Danny Willett at No. 11 in the world rankings.

Maybe it’s the aloof demeanor, obscured by those wrap-around glasses. Maybe it’s the standoffish body language, who’s-looks-perfectly-frumpy with his shirttail hanging out, not about to make small talk with the gates of the azaleas and dogwoods.

There was always a mystery about Duval, and the fact that a once-brilliant golf game got away from him in the blink of an eye only adds to the intrigue. At nearly every hole, some patron inquisitive about the wreckage that is Duval’s career will ask him or his caddie, nostalgic perhaps, if he’s not really paying a lick of attention to the folks shouting, “Go ‘em, David!” and other encouraging words.

For the record, Duval feels just fine — about his fame, too.

“I’m comfortable, entirely comfortable,” he said. “It’s difficult, though. It’s a difficult time. But I’m not feeling depressed to vertigo.”

For the record, Duval feels just fine — about his fame, too.

“I’m in control of what I’m doing right now,” he said. “I feel like I’m swinging the golf club how I want to. I feel like I’m striking the golf ball how I want to. To me, it’s a matter of performing and doing that more regularly than I may be at the moment.”

If nothing else, Duval seems to have rekindled a sense of festiveness with the media that melted away as his scores went up and up. He now feels as though he’s put up enough good results — the 2009 U.S. Open and this year’s AT&T at Pebble Beach — to elicit all those annoying questions about his slump.

“I don’t feel like he’s missed the cut in four of his seven PGA Tour events this year,” said David Duval sends a chip toward the green during a practice round at Augusta Tuesday. Duval has not played in the Masters since 2006.

“Some of this, I don’t understand,” he said. “I’m trying to figure out all the questions I’ve been answering for a couple of years now, and I don’t know why I need to answer them any more than I have. I have talked about it.”

Duval might have hit rock bottom at that 2006 Masters. He was ranked No. 143, then started the second round with a double bogey at No. 1 and a triple at No. 2, and two more penalty strokes before he finally escaped.

But that day, as bad as it was, also signified that Duval’s shootin’ shooting skills had not total- ly abandoned him. He started to make five birdies over the final 12 holes, including a 7-iron from 150 yards that was nearly good enough to make the cut, of course, but a start.

Duval never doubted that he’d make it back to the Masters in some way. Whether he can ever be the sort of player he was at Augusta National remains to be seen.

Over a four-year stretch beginning in 1998, Duval had a pair of runner-up finishes, plus a third and a sixth. He still believes those are four green jackets that got away.

“I’d like to see him at his best again,” said Jim Furyk, who joined Duval for the practice round along with Justin Leonard.

“I played a lot of golf with him back when he was the best player in the world,” Furyk said. “And he was really, really good. I guess the rest of that is Duval never wanted to get back to that level again? It’s difficult to do. But I really liked what I saw today in his game.”

“So he’s come back and that he’s worked out the flaws in his swing, which were caused by injuries and waning confidence. But he finds it difficult to keep it together from round to round, even shot to shot.

On Tuesday, for instance, he made a nifty little wedge shot right up to the flag at No. 15. Then he came back with a wild swing off the tee at the par-3 16th, his left arm flying off the club as he hit a screaming line drive that cleared the ropes, and fans walk en masse — photographers and reporters tagging along, and fans outside the ropes walking in masses. Augusta National remains to be seen.

No one is allowed inside the ropes, and fans walk en masse — there’s no running at the Masters.

“Folks are yelling, ‘Go get ‘em, Dave!’” Duval said Wednesday, before he knew of his starting time. “If there’s one week that you would rather have a pairing with me, considering the circumstances, it would probably be this week.”

Choi sure didn’t mind. He was hoping for it.

Despite some language barriers, they are comfortable playing together. Choi last played with Woods in the third round of the Memorial, which Woods won on the 1st hole. This will be his 13th time playing with Woods.

“Even when all this came out and the rumors of Tiger coming back, my friends were saying, ‘Wouldn’t it be cool if you were paired with Tiger when he played his first tournament?’” Choi said through his interpreter and agent, Michael Yim.

“It’s funny because I sort of beat him,” Choi said. “I left them ideas that it would be cool if I was paired with the Tiger, and it happened,” he said. “It’s a good surprise.”

Choi found out on the 14th hole from a Masters official.

If it didn’t sink in at the time, there were a dozen reporters waiting for him as he walked off. The 19th green after his practice round. Choi can expect a lot more attention when he tees off Thursday.

PGA

Tiger’s Masters pairing perfect to avoid TV coverage

Associated Press
AUGUSTA, Ga. — Tiger Woods has an ideal tee time for his return to golf at the Masters — at least as far as TV is concerned.

After weeks of speculation about what pairing partners for the opening two rounds at Augusta National, the starting times released on Tuesday had Tiger Woods lines up a put in last year’s Masters Championship. Most of Tiger’s opening round will not be covered by ESPN.

more to do with “when” than “who.”

Woods is to tee off at 1:42 p.m. Thursday in the penultimate group for the second straight year. Barrying any delays, his group likely will be on the ninth hole when Woods’ live coverage begins at 4 p.m.

It will be the first time Woods has competed since a shocking sex scandal began to unfold the day after Thanksgiving.

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Men’s Division I Baseball
USA Today Today Poll

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Women’s Division I Softball
USA Today Today Poll

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NCAA Men’s Basketball

A crowd of more than 70,000 watches at Duke beats Butler, 61-59, to capture the school’s fourth national title Monday. Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski tied former Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp for the second most championships in history.

### Duke tops Butler for school’s fourth national title

**Associated Press**

INDIANAPOLIS — Minute by minute, second by second, the NCAA title game got better and better. Then came the final four seconds — four ticks of the clock that produced one of the most dramatic finishes to one of the most memorable games college basketball has ever seen.

“I’ve been fortunate enough to be in eight national championship games, and this was a classic,” said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, who has won six of those. “This was the toughest and the best one.”

Butler had two chances to win it Monday night — one on a 15-foot fadeaway, another on a desperation half-court shot at the buzzer.

But both shots clanked cruelly off the rim. Near misses. Duke held off the upstart Bulldogs 61-59, ending the small school’s search for the perfect, Hollywood ending.

And though the sad, tired looks on the faces of the Butler players may not have told the story, when people look back on this magical night in sports — in a day, a year, a decade or more — it will be hard to say there really was a loser.

“We came up one possession short in a game with about 145 possessions,” said Butler’s 33-year-old coach, Brad Stevens. “It’s hard to stomach when you’re on the wrong end of that.”

Even before the game, there were signs that this could be a good one. The storylines were right. There was Butler, enrollment 4,200, the team that practices at the fieldhouse where “Hoosiers” was shot. The Bulldogs, playing six miles from campus, were on the verge of creating a sequel to the movie, based on real life, in which the tiny Indiana school goes against the big boys and comes out a winner.

There was Duke, the uber-successful team that much of America loves to hate — good this year, but not overwhelming, a team that made it every bit as far on grit as it did on raw talent.

For 39 minutes, 56 seconds, nobody backed down. There were seven ties, 15 lead changes and, amazingly, neither team built a lead of more than six.

Every possession was a struggle. Every point came at a price.

Butler guards Ronald Nored and Willie Veasley made life hell on Duke’s outside players, Jon Scheyer and Nolan Smith. But Scheyer and Smith worked off picks, worked to get open, and got their shots and their points.

### In Brief

**MLB players may file collusion grievance against owners**

NEW YORK — Baseball players may file a collusion grievance against owners with conspiring against free agents last winter.

“We have concerns about the operation of the post-2009 free agent market,” new union head Michael Weiner said Tuesday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. “We have been investigating that market. Our investigation is far along but not yet complete.”

The sides reached a standstill agreement last year giving the union additional time to decide whether to proceed with a grievance against teams alleging misconduct after the 2008 season.

Management denies any violation of the collective bargaining agreement, which states clubs may not act in concert with respect to free agents.

**Former Lion Rogers must repay $6.1 million to team**

DETROIT — A judge says former Detroit Lions receiver Charles Rogers must repay $6.1 million to the team.

Rogers was suspended for substance abuse in 2005 and was released by the Lions the next year. The team has been trying to recoup two-thirds of his $9.1 million signing bonus.

U.S. District Judge Julian Abele Cook said Monday the money must be repaid. An NFL arbitrator made the same conclusion in 2008. Lions attorney Thomas Bruetsch (BROOCH) declined to comment on Tuesday. Michael Cafferty, a lawyer for Rogers, says his client would like to play football in Canada and share some of his pay with Detroit.

Rogers was the second pick in the 2003 NFL draft. In January, the former Michigan State star was sentenced to 93 days in jail for violating a court order to stay sober.

**Vikings’ Favre and wife Deanna become grandparents**

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings may have finally found their quarterback of the future: Brett Favre is now a grandfather.

His 21-year-old daughter, Brittany, has given birth to a boy — Parker Brett. The little gunslinger weighs in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces.

Grandpa Brett says on his Web site that he and wife Deanna are “very proud” to welcome their first grandchild.

Favre has yet to announce whether he will return to the Vikings and play a 20th season in the NFL. Last year the 40-year-old enjoyed one of his best years and helped lead the Vikings to the NFC title game.

The baby’s arrival was first reported by the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

The NFL says it knows of no other grandfathers among current players.

The NFL says it knows of no other grandfathers among current players.
associated press

ASHBURN, Va. — the quarterback holding the burgundy No. 5 Washington Redskins jersey was Donovan McNabb. From everything that was said, it might have been simpler to just go ahead and call him John Elway II.

The six-time Pro Bowl star was introduced Tuesday at Redskins Park. All things being equal, he would rather be preparing for a 12th season with the Philadelphia Eagles, but an Easter Sunday trade between NFC East rivals has opened what he called “a new chapter in the book of Donovan.”

“I’ve always believed in finishing where you started,” McNabb said. “I think there’s a lot to be said with that. Not a lot of quarterbacks in this league are able to do that these days. Sometimes it’s a lot better. Sometimes you’re forced into change. I would have loved to (stay in Philadelphia), but it didn’t happen.”

Instead, he is with the Redskins, the team that Mike Shanahan, and both went to great lengths to say that trading two draft picks for a 33-year-old quarterback with a few nicks is a smart move. They’d have been rewarded by repeatedly invoking Elway, who was 34 when Shanahan became coach of the Denver Broncos in 1995.

“Turns 34 this year,” McNabb said. “And finished John’s career with two Super Bowls. I know I’ll have to continue to follow behind that.”

It makes for quick answer to people asking about his new role with ‘Skins.

People were saying John Elway should retire,” Shanahan said, “until he won the Super Bowl.”

Before the pursuit of such lofty goals, there were the necessary reflections and thank yous from McNabb to Philadelphia. Most of his words for his former team and city were upbeat and gracious — “I feel like I was treated with respect.”

they’re rebuilding, and they’re going young,” McNabb said. “So I never knew 33 years old was old, but I guess I’m too old.”

And, while Shanahan’s offense will have a host of personnel alterations to Reid’s, McNabb cited what he thinks will be one substantial difference.

“I start with the run game,” McNabb said. “I know probably a lot of you come from Philadelphia don’t know much about this run game. But we will run the ball here.”

And, when asked if the rug had been pulled out from under him in Philly, McNabb said: “It did.”

“we had two young guys on the outside, a very effective tight end, a young running back (Brian) Westbrook was coming off an injury, the offensive line was trying to jell, we were missing guys in, and some guys were hurt,” McNabb said. “But they moved in another direction. There’s nothing I can do on that particular point.”

McNabb said he expects “hopefully cheers” when he returns to the Philadelphia with the Redskins next season, yet he refused to portray it a special date on his mental calendar.

“I don’t look at it any different than playing the Giants or Dallas,” McNabb said. “Nothing like I’m going to run my head through a locker or start throwing stuff through my house. It’s an opportunity for us to play another team.”

McNabb was clearly relieved to have constant trade speculation behind him — “I’m just so happy that it’s over” — and that he ended up with a team among those at the top of his wish list.

Shanahan’s history with McNabb stretches back roughly 10 years. Shanahan said the quarterback has a lot of affection for Denver, and McNabb said the quarterback has a lot of affection for Denver.

But McNabb also has a special relationship, and he did right by Donovan at the end of the day; Smith said. “There wasn’t a time when we had to tell a team we weren’t going to come.”

The next priority is a contract extension for McNabb, whose current deal expires at the end of the upcoming season. McNabb and Shanahan both said the quarterback has a lot left in the tank — again citing Elway as an example — but the coach wouldn’t rule out taking a quarterback with the No. 4 overall pick in this month’s draft.

Given the woeful state of the offensive line, however, it would seem the Redskins would now want to target a player to protect McNabb’s blind side.

Another bit of housekeeping for McNabb was a talk with his old teammates in Campbel, the Redskins’ starter for the last 3 seasons. Shanahan said the Redskins have given Campbell permission to explore a trade up in the April 22-24 draft.

“I let him know that this wasn’t one of my plans, to try to come and take his spot,” McNabb said. “I told him The sky’s the limit for you. Continue to work your head high.”

McNabb immediately began taking part in the team’s offseason conditioning program, but he’ll also take some weeks off to deal with the logistics of moving. It’s less than two weeks away from his first Redskins minicamp.

“It feels like being drafted again,” McNabb said. “You been selected by a new team. You’re going through all the emotions of learning new plays, being with the guys, working out. so it feels like I’m about 22 again.”

He laughed and added: “The body may not respond that way.”
Belles look to remain unbeaten in conference

By MATT ROBISON
Sports Writer

After defeating Alma and Trine, two of the weaker teams in the conference, Saint Mary’s will face Calvin, its first formidable opponent in MIAA play, at home today.

In order to place well in the conference tournament, the Belles (8-3, 2-0) need to win matches against top teams like the Knights.

“Calvin is a very strong team, so it will be good to see where we stack up with them,” Campbell said. “Campbell has seen steady improvement this season, something that every coach loves to see in his players.

“Our growth has been substantial,” Campbell said. “We are a more mature team than we were last year. We think more between points and on changeovers and seem to adjust our styles of play better than last year.”

Early on, the focus was on doubles play, attacking the net and shot-making. Now, the Belles are just trying to iron out the kinks as they head into the heart of their MIAA schedule.

“We need to continue to move forward in doubles and attack the ball,” he said. “In singles, we need to play an offensive, yet high-percentage strategy to prepare for our toughest opponents.”

Those tough opponents are on the way, and Calvin is the first in a string of challenging competition. Getting out of this match with a victory could be a solid starting point for the Belles.

“We have a tough stretch in the schedule right now,” Campbell said. “Hopefully, we can do well here, while also improving ahead of the conference tournament.”

Junior Jillian Hurley has yet to lose in singles play this season, and she has won 10 straight doubles matches with her partner, junior Mary Therese Lee. Campbell is confident in the Belles’ chances of pulling out a crucial victory today. He said he was “not sure when to expect victory, but for us to pull through in the end.”

As competitors, the Belles look forward to this type of challenge, and Campbell expects the best out of the players.

“We play for this type of competition,” Campbell said. “This is where we want to be.”

Contact Matt Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

NHL

Brodeur wins 600th in shutout of Thrashers

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Martin Brodeur got his 600th career win with his second straight shutout and the New Jersey Devils beat the Thrashers 3-0 on Tuesday night in Ilya Kovalchuk’s return to Atlanta.

Kovalchuk, the former Thrashers captain who was traded to the Devils two months ago, didn’t score but returned to see the Thrashers eliminated from playoff contention for the ninth time in their 10-year history.

Dean McAmmond, Zach Parise and Travis Zajac scored and Brodeur stopped 19 shots.

The Devils began the night tied with Pittsburgh for first place in the Atlantic Division and second place in the Eastern Conference, taking over that spot when the Penguins lost to Washington.

The shutout was Brodeur’s league-leading ninth of the season and the 110th of his career. Brodeur and the Devils beat Carolina 4-0 on Saturday.

McAmmond scored on a pass from Dainius Zubrus in the first period, and the Devils padded the lead with goals in the opening minute of each of the next two periods. Parise pushed the puck past Johan Hedberg 51 seconds into the second period, and Zajac scored 10 seconds into the third. Hedberg stopped 24 shots.

Kovalchuk made his first return to Atlanta since a Feb. 4 trade that sent forward Niclas Bergfors and defenseman Johnny Oduya to the Thrashers.

Kovalchuk will become a free agent after this season.

The 37-year-old Brodeur improved to 10-0-2 against Atlanta. He was pulled after allowing three goals in the first period in Atlanta on Dec. 19, but the Devils still beat the Thrashers 5-4.

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The Observer  ●  SPORTS

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Most Reverend
Reinhard Marx, 
Archbishop of Munich-Freising

will celebrate the
11:30 a.m. Mass
today

Wednesday, April 7, 2010
Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Everyone is invited to attend.

The Observer  ●  SPORTS

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

The Observer  ●  SPORTS

Wednesday, April 7, 2010
Men's Tennis

Irish win one, drop one in Texas matches

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

The No. 36 Irish split the two matches they played in Texas over Easter break, defeating SMU, 5-2, before falling to No. 12 Texas A&M, 6-1.

"We played a pretty complete match against SMU on Saturday," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "They have a great stadium, but the courts were pretty quick and I thought our guys did a good job of adjusting to them."

The Irish started off the weekend with a victory over SMU, led by winning two out of the three doubles matches to claim the doubles point.

Singles wins by juniors Stephen Havens and Dan Stahl, sophomore Sam Keeton and freshman Blas Moros impressed Bayliss.

"Blas Moros played more aggressively [Sunday night] against A&M," Bayliss said. "He stayed up tight on the baseline and played a very gritty match."

"The Irish will attempt to regain their momentum at home today, facing No. 2 Ohio State at the Eck Tennis Pavilion."

"We know Ohio State well," Bayliss said. "Despite their ranking, they are very well coached, very well prepared and a really good team."

Junior David Anderson were the only two Irish players to drop a match, as they lost close matches at No. 1 and No. 3 singles, respectively.

"I basically had nothing to lose. I got involved early in the race and I raced less conservatively than I normally would," John Shawel Irish sophomore said.

In addition to these top finishes, the Irish earned multiple successful results across the board. In field events, the Irish had a huge turnout for men's hammer, where junior Greg Davis took third, closely followed by junior John Bolcher and sophomore Mitchell Gormley in fourth and fifth, respectively.

"I am looking forward to a couple more races before Big East to improve my kick and build on today," Cattuna said.

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Sophomore Allison Schroeder took second and junior Natalie Johnson took fifth in the 800, and sophomores Susanna Sullivan and Molly Hirt took third and fifth, respectively, in the 3,000. The men also had a series of top finishes. Junior Matt Brown took third in the 400 hurdles, junior Edward Mitchel took fifth in the 400, sophomore Mitch Lorenz took fourth in the 800, junior Greg Kiley took fourth in the 1,500, and senior Thomas Noel took fourth in the 3,000 Steeplechase.

Cattuna summed up the goals for the future for both herself and the team as a whole. "Over the next couple of weeks I'll work on becoming more mentally and physically ready to compete with [other runners] in the race and hopefully earn some points for our team," Cattuna said.

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Knights continued from page 20

only giving up two hits.

Valdivia also had plenty of offensive help. The Irish scored eight runs off of 12 hits. Six of those runs came in the final inning to seal the deal for Notre Dame.

It was a total team effort,” said Wright. “We all contributed in one way or another to the win.”

The Irish’s second win was a little harder to come by, however. The back half of the double-header was stopped three times due to the weather, and the game was not completed until two days later.

Despite the inconvenience, Wright said that the game was a blessing in disguise for the Irish.

“It showed us that our team can work through adversity,” Wright said. “We all contributed in one way or another to the win.”

We need to stay consistent. We can’t take anybody for granted. We need to go out there and play our game.”

Kristina Wright
Irish catcher

The Golden Grizzlies mounted a comeback in the top of the seventh, plating two runs on a series of Irish miscues in the field. Senior reliever Steve Mazur entered the game with two outs and the tying run at the plate, but he induced a ground ball out to hold the Irish lead at 8-5.

Notre Dame added some insurance in the bottom half of the inning, as the first three batters reached to load the bases with nobody out. Junior David Casey entered as a pinch hitter and knocked in a run following an error in the field, and Mills cleared the bases later in the inning with his second triple of the afternoon to finish with four RBIs.

“That was big,” Schrage said. “I thought our kids were really battling and hitting the ball in play, that kind of opened the floodgates and we were able to score five and bounce back. We showed some resilience, and we need more of that.”

The Irish look to mount their first winning streak of the season since the season-opening series when they take on struggling Western Michigan (5-21) tonight before Big East play resumes.

Every win is an important win for us,” Schrage said. “We need to get on a roll, we need to get on a winning streak. I think tomorrow is one of the biggest games we’re going to play this season. We can’t be win, lose, win, lose, which is what we’ve been doing. Tomorrow I’m going to be really excited to see if we come out and play and get after it.”

First pitch is set for 5:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium.

Contact Chris Masoud at

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles dominate Hornets in sweep

By KEVIN BALDWIN and TIM SINGLER
Sports Writers

Saint Mary’s stormed out to a 3-0 win in five innings at Kalamazoo on Saturday and dominated 23-5 in Game 2, which was delayed until Tuesday due to inclement weather on Saturday.

The Belles never looked back during Game 1 as they blasted 20 hits off the Hornets pitching staff. This offensive explosion propelled the Belles to their first NCAA victory of the season.

Saint Mary’s actually trailed after the first inning, 2-1, in its rout of Kalamazoo. In the next two innings, the Belles scored nine and 14 runs, respectively. This put the game out of reach for the winless Hornets.

Junior Hayley Bojorquez had a phenomenal game as she belted a grand slam in the fourth inning. The marked her seventh homer of the season which ties the St. Mary’s school record.

Bats

continued from page 20

we still have to shore up our defense. Our guys have been working really hard on their approaches, extra hitting. It’s paying off for them.”

The Irish bats came alive in the third inning against Oakland starter Aaron Wick, as senior designated hitter David Mills followed DeSico’s home run with a triple to right-center. Senior first baseman Casey Martin knocked in Mills with a sacrifice fly, and center fielder Bill Warrender followed with a walk. Senior right fielder Brayden Ashdown capped the Irish rally by clearing the bases with his first home run of the season.

The biggest surprise of the game came from Irish starting pitcher Adam Norton (1-0), the regular starting third baseman. In his first appearance as an Irish uniform, the freshman tossed four innings,

racking up six strikeouts and allowing two earned runs.

“I thought the biggest thing about our pitchers was that we didn’t walk anybody,” Schrage said. “One of the things we’ve been hammering home is (not) giving up free bases. When you do that, you’ll win a lot of games.”

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Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

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Wildcats
continued from page 20

scores in the first three minutes of the second quarter to take a 4-1 lead, its largest of the game. The Irish scored just once in the second quarter and headed into the intermission trailing 4-2.

The defensive character of the game continued after halftime, with nearly 10 scoreless minutes passing before freshman midfielder Steve Murphy cut the Villanova lead to just one. The Wildcats responded quickly, however, and took a 5-3 lead into the fourth quarter.

Despite the dominance of both defenses in the first three quarters, the offenses would steal the show in the final period and provide a thrilling end to the game. Notre Dame reeled off five consecutive goals to open the fourth quarter, including a highlight-reel score from senior defenseman Mike Greigton, who intercepted a pass when the Irish were a man down and took the ball the length of the field to score.

At the end of the Notre Dame run, the Irish held an 8-5 lead halfway through the final period, but Villanova had an offensive explosion of its own to show. The Wildcats scored just 14 seconds after the Irish took their biggest lead and then added another 30 seconds later to cut the Notre Dame advantage to one. Villanova’s Paul Webber then scored with 5:07 left to tie the game and then added the decisive goal with 2:10 to play. Though the Irish peppered the Wildcats goalie with shots in the final seconds, goalie Billy Hurley turned them away to seal the Villanova victory.

Though Irish coach Kevin Corrigan was pleased with his team’s overall play, he was concerned about the lack of playing time.

“We actually played better against Villanova. You know, we just didn’t make enough plays,” Corrigan said. “It’s been an interesting year — we’ve been so close in all of our losses, but the combination of playing well and making plays is something we have to do.”

Junior midfielder Zach Brenneman led the Irish with two goals and two assists, while senior attack Neal Hicks netted a goal and three assists. Freshman goalkeeper John Kemp made his first career start in the loss and made 10 saves.

“I think [Kemp] played very well. We didn’t play as well I’d hope in front of him,” Corrigan said. “I have great confidence in John, and I know we’re going to win a lot of lacrosse games with him in the goal.”

Going into the homestretch of the season, Corrigan hopes his team will find the consistency in avoiding errors it has been searching for throughout the campaign.

“It’s as simple as this: We’ve got to stop giving away goals at the defensive end and wasting opportunities on the offensive end.”

Corrigan said. “We’ve got to play smarter consistently.”

The Irish look to snap their two-game losing streak and find their first Big East victory when Georgetown visits Arlotta Stadium on Sunday in a clash televised on ESPNU.

Coyne
continued from page 20

Coyne said. “We played great defense at the end of the game. We had great passing after halftime. (Senior Gina Scioscia) has excellent field vision and she found Ansley, who stayed composed and put two moves on the goalie and nailed her shot.”

As the Irish head into a three-game homestand, Coyne said the Irish will continue to improve after getting through a grueling road portion of their schedule.
THE OBSERVER

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Happy Birthday: Letting the little things get to you will only hold you back. Keep your long-term plans in the forefront and plan out your position and how you may be able to change them. This will help you stay focused on what matters.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Don’t let personal troubles stand in the way of what you need to accomplish. Your energy is high, so let out your frustration at the challenges you are facing.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Your current plans may run aground as the weekend approaches. It seems that change is in the air, so be prepared to make adjustments.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21): Stress will peak this weekend, and you may find it difficult to deal with. You can handle the pressure, but it may take a bit of effort.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22): Look for someone you trust to turn to and consider how you can work together to reach a common goal. This decision will have a significant impact on your future.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22): Put your heart into whatever you do. There is no room for error if you want to succeed. You could be on the verge of achieving something big.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Do not give up on the idea of someone who interests you personally. A new opportunity may present itself, and you can be successful if you put in the effort.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): Proceed with caution. You will be able to soothe and soothe, depending on your needs. If you feel overwhelmed, you will find a way to get things done.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): It is time to make an adjustment that will make up for some of the areas you may feel have been lacking. You will find a close relationship that will have a positive impact.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): You may have to do some quick math if you are trying to find a way to have more money to be able to balance your budget. You may have to make some big changes at home and with family.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Love is on the rise this month, and you may find yourself coming to a relationship. Setting the record straight and finding your way will help you on your way to the right relationship.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Don’t stress your thoughts if you think they are going to be hurt. Your personal growth will lead to a change in the way you do things. A problem with someone you’ve been close to will lead to a change you will regret.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20): Connections will be a part of you, and you will be lost in the activities. A change in your personal life will not be as dramatic as you think.

Birthday Rule: You are immune, embattled and disabled. You are diplomatically determined and a strong leader. You are bound by tradition and strong values.

Eugenia’s Web site: eugeniaweb.com for complete horoscope interpretations and eugeniaweb.com/besk for frequently asked horoscope questions.
Baseball

Back to basics

Notre Dame returns to fundamentals in win

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

"Taking a break from a rigorous schedule can be the best thing for a struggling team. With the Irish coming off a 1-5 run against Big East foes South Florida and Georgetown, Oakland provided that relief, as Notre Dame took full advantage of the non-conference matchup to get back to the fundamentals.

"I thought we really started swinging the bats in Georgetown," Schrage said, "so hopefully that will continue, and see BATS/page 17"

Women's Lacrosse

Team splits pair of close contests at Georgetown, Loyola

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

The No. 15 Irish recorded plenty of experience in close end-game situations over Easter weekend as they split a pair of games, losing to No. 13 Loyola, 11-10, and pulling out a last-second victory over No. 14 Georgetown, 12-10, and pair of games, losing to No. 14 Easter weekend as they split a end-game situations over plenty of experience in close

"While the Irish struggled with fundamentals in win Georgetown were horrible," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "It is traditionally this kind of game against Georgetown." Coyne said. "They had great looks and converted them. We had two yellow cards and that can always hurt you in games like this. Overall, I think it was a well-played game on both sides."

"The Irish found themselves again in a late-game situa- tion with the score tied 10-10 against the No. 13 Greyhounds (8-4). Junior Ansley Stewart scored a goal with six seconds left in the game to give the Irish the 11- 10 victory. Coyne had nothing but praise for her team's effort.

"Playing two nationally ranked programs on the road, back-to-back, in the heat, this was a huge weekend for us," see COYNE/page 18"

Softball

Bats fuel routs of Rutgers

By BOBBY GRAHAM
Sports Writer

Sophomore catcher Kristina Wright said one of the greatest strengths of this year's Irish team is their ability to overcome adversity.

"Accordingly, the squad was able to bounce back from a disappointing loss against Loyola Chicago and snag back-to-back 8-0 wins against conference foe Rutgers. The wins keep the Irish (27-6, 5-0) undefeated in Big East play, which is a major team goal," Wright said.

"The team's first win came with junior Jody Valdivia at the mound. Valdivia pitched six scoreless innings while

"They were tough matches with tough conditions for both of them," sophomore Kristy Frilling said. "To summarize both of them, I think overall as a team we played really well." Saturday, the Irish fell to the Bears despite winning the first point of the game.

"Baylor is always tough to us from the point of view," Coyne said. "This is the kind of game against Baylor." Coyne said. "They have all talent- ed players," Frilling said. "When we played them we expect a tough match from them every year."

"After falling in the second doubles competition, third dou- bles players freshman Chrissie McGaffigan and junior Kristen Krisik decided the highly sought after doubles point in favor of the Irish as they beat their No. 12 Baylor opponents, 8-6."

"Krisik and I had a really tough match," Frilling said. "We lost to them a few times last season, and we've all really glad