Researchers counter autism with technology

Staff and students work with children, robots at Notre Dame Center for Families and Children

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

She can cheer a touchdown, dance to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” and play “Simon Says,” but she doesn’t have a heartbeat.

Meet one of the most recent additions to the Psychology Department’s family, Kelly the robot.

With two robots named Brian and Kelly, professors are running an innovative study on autism therapy in the Notre Dame Center for Families and Children.

In what is affectionately known as the Robot Autism Project, professors Joshua Diehl, Charles Crowell and Michael Villano use these interactive humanoid robots to improve therapy for children with autism. This is an extremely prevalent issue, Diehl said, approximating one person in every 100 people has autism.

“We know a little about what causes autism, and there’s a lot of focus on understanding it,” he said. “But there’s little focus on how we can effectively help the children by improving the therapies out there.”

This study is shifting that focus toward technology. Crowell said he and Villano recognized their opportunity when they saw Aldebran Robotics demonstrating the Nao model robot at a conference.

Hector Campbell, a junior at the University of Monterrey. “We learned a lot of things to incorporate little by little. We hope to strengthen our relationship with the university so our residents are inspired by this.”

As they learned about resident life at a Catholic university, the Monterrey visitors packed plenty of activities into their five-day visit, including meetings with Office of Residential Life and Housing, Student Affairs, Campus Ministry and the rectors of the newest dorms, said Erika Garza, Student Life coordinator at the University of Monterrey.

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The enrollment in college engineering programs around the nation has reached its highest level in 30 years, according to the American Association of Engineering Education, and Saint Mary’s College is no exception. The Engineering Dual Degree Program at Saint Mary’s has grown since its establishment in 1977.

Four students completed the program within a period of 13 years between 1993 and 2006, but most recently, in the three-year period from 2007 to 2010, three students completed the program; Dr. Toni Barstis, Saint Mary’s Chemistry professor and engineering program director, said.

Currently, there are six fifth-year students finishing the program at Notre Dame and 25 second-year students working toward the degrees.

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Morris Inn evacuated; buildings lose power

The Morris Inn was evacuated early Saturday morning after people smelled smoke. Read the full story on page 3.

By TESS CIVANTOS
News Writer

When a Catholic university in Mexico decided to start a residential dorm program for its students five years ago — the first such program in a country where most students live at home during college — the university needed an established example.

Enter Notre Dame, which partnered with the University of Monterrey to host three of its residence assistants (RAs) and an administrator from Wednesday to Sunday, giving them a chance to engage in dorm life and plan ways to bring the Notre Dame spirit back to Monterrey.

“They were very welcoming and amiable,” said Hector Campbell, a junior at the University of Monterrey. “We learned a lot of things to incorporate little by little. We hope to strengthen our relationship with the university so our residents are inspired by this.”

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Q: What is your favorite pickup line?
Tom: I lost my puppy. Can you help me find it in the motel across the street?

Q: What is your plan for Fall Break?
Tom: I’m going to visit a friend in New Mexico. I heard it’s really nice there.

Q: What is your celebrity crush?
Tom: I think I found my celebrity crush in that new movie. She’s so talented.

Q: Would you rather eat a plate of fried worms or drink a cup of toilet water?
Tom: I’d rather drink the toilet water. At least it’s not as gross as fried worms.

Q: Can you tell me about the Lucky 10 wedding event?
Tom: It’s a big deal. The Lucky 10 wedding is a special event where couples get married on 10/10/10. The day was said to be the perfect 10 for couples.

OFFBEAT

Wedding bells ring in a perfect 10 for couples
LAS VEGAS — Churches, banquet halls and other wedding venues across the country were extra busy Sunday as couples seeking a perfect 10 rushed to tie the knot on a once-in-a-century milestone: Oct. 10, 2010.

In Las Vegas — long a destination for weddings — one marriage license bureau extended its Sunday hours from 6 p.m. to midnight to accommodate the rush. Hotels and churches in New Hampshire’s Seacoast area were booked long before Oct. 10.

Catholicų seimas, and is open to the public.

IN BRIEF

Zahia Rahmani of the Institut national d’histoire de l’art will present “An Art Historian in France: Methods and Thoughts” in room 119 of O’Shaughnessy Hall from noon to 1:15 p.m. today. The Nano and St. Ed’s Visiting Scholar Seminar welcomes the public to this free lecture.

James Packer, professor emeritus in the Department of Classics at Northwestern University, will present “Digitalizing Imperial Rome” at 4:30 p.m. today in room 104 of Beaudry Hall. This lecture investigating a computerized approach to the architectural history of the Roman Imperial Forum is free and open to the public.

Executive Education’s program for earning a Certificate in Executive Management begins enrollment today. This will take place in room 161 of Mendoza College of Business and pre-registration is required. Classes will meet 10 times in the fall and 10 times in the spring.

Dale Abiquist, president of the American Chesterton Society, will present a lecture in honor of the anniversary of G.K. Chesterton’s visit to Notre Dame. This free lecture will take place today in room 140 of DiBartolo Hall and is open to the public.

International students are welcome to come discuss research and study abroad opportunities for spring 2010 in the Montgomery Auditorium in La Fortuna from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. tomorrow.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obnews.na@gmail.com

Know someone chill for Monday’s Icebreaker? E-mail obsphoto@gmail.com
Even though the course looked decorated for Halloween, the participants in Psi Chi’s “Monster Dash” 5K weren’t ghouls and goblins, although some were dressed in costumes. Psi Chi, Saint Mary’s international psychology honor society, held the Halloween-themed race Sunday, complete with decorations along the course and optional costumes. The race included more than 250 participants running and walking Saint Mary’s nature trails. Psi Chi donated all proceeds to A Rosie Place, a center for medically fragile children.

“I participated because I really like to do races, especially for a good cause like A Rosie Place,” said sophomore participant Whitney Thiel. “It’s a great chance to become involved in the community. Plus, I love running, and enjoyed sharing the experience with my friends.”

Senior Lauren Easton, Psi Chi president, met with other officers at the beginning of the year to decide on service events for the club. Being a cross country runner for Saint Mary’s, she suggested the idea of a 5K race. Another officer, Leanna Perez, recommended A Rosie Place as the fundraising organization.

A Rosie Place assists children who require feeding tubes, wheelchairs, walkers or even oxygen, Tieal Bishop, O’Hana Heritage Foundation’s executive director, said. Children are invited to stay in the building, which is set up like a house and is hospital certified. O’Hana Heritage Foundation built this safe haven for children in 2008. “Rosie Place is the first to serve this population of medically fragile children in the state of Indiana,” Bishop said.

Registration fees and donations from Monster Dash have the potential to benefit more than 2,000 children, Bishop said. An exact dollar amount of the total donation to A Rosie Place has not been calculated because donations are still being received. Easton said she estimates a total of more than $1,000 raised for the charity.

“I just wanted to extend a tremendous ‘thank you’ to everyone who helped out today — runners, walkers and also the volunteers. Everyone had a part in making this day a sensation,” Easton said after the race. “We look forward to visiting A Rosie Place and presenting them with the final donation. We couldn’t have asked for a more beautiful day and hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves out on the course.”

Contact Miranda Peretti at mperetti1@saintmarys.edu
The applied side of this is rewarding because we’re impacting these families’ lives. Crowell agreed and added that the Center for Families and Children is a vital aspect of the campus now. “Dr. Diehl is probably too modest to point this out, but this center offers a variety of services to the community,” he said. “So we are fortunate to have this center as part of the University, part of the psychology Department and part of the community. Even without being part of a center, anyone can make an effort to support people with autism. Villano, as an assistant Scout Master for a Boy Scout troop with two autistic members, has seen this outside of the study and said patience is key in developing communication.” They sometimes will be aloof or shout at you, but patience goes a long way,” he said. “The interaction may be unusual, but you can try to interact in ways that are meaningful to them.” This project has become a meaningful way to interact with the children, Crowell said. A child with autism is more drawn to the physical world because of a lack of social skills. The robot then acts as a bridge between this physical world and a more human world for the child. “We have this device that has an object nature as well as a simulated human nature,” he said. “Now there is a way to probe a child who would be attracted to this object and bring them to the human realm because it solves a bridge between this physical world and can emulate human behaviors.”

Kelly, one of two robots in the psychology department, dances Thursday in the Notre Dame Center for Families and Children.

"Autism in general is an interesting field. There’s just so much we don’t know," said Margaret Millea, junior. Since its beginning, the three professors agree the project has taken off rapidly. "It’s gone very quickly from a pipe dream to a full-blown study," Diehl said.

"The applied side of this is rewarding because we’re impacting these families’ lives. Crowell agreed and added that the Center for Families and Children is a vital aspect of the campus now. “Dr. Diehl is probably too modest to point this out, but this center offers a variety of services to the community,” he said. “So we are fortunate to have this center as part of the University, part of the psychology Department and part of the community. Even without being part of a center, anyone can make an effort to support people with autism. Villano, as an assistant Scout Master for a Boy Scout troop with two autistic members, has seen this outside of the study and said patience is key in developing communication.” They sometimes will be aloof or shout at you, but patience goes a long way,” he said. “The interaction may be unusual, but you can try to interact in ways that are meaningful to them.” This project has become a meaningful way to interact with the children, Crowell said. A child with autism is more drawn to the physical world because of a lack of social skills. The robot then acts as a bridge between this physical world and a more human world for the child. “We have this device that has an object nature as well as a simulated human nature,” he said. “Now there is a way to probe a child who would be attracted to this object and bring them to the human realm because it solves a bridge between this physical world and can emulate human behaviors."
You are Invited!

Please join the members of the Congregation of Holy Cross for a special Mass to celebrate

Founder’s Day
Feast of St. Edward the Confessor Patron Saint of Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C.

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
October 13, 2010 - 5:15 p.m.
Death row inmate seeks DNA tests

Associated Press

LIVINGSTON, Texas — An ex-con sent to Texas' death row for three murders last March took execution earlier this year by the U.S. Supreme Court is set to take another shot at life Thursday, a high court, which may decide whether prisoners can cast DNA items for DNA he claims could prove his innocence.

Attorneys for Hank Skinner, convicted of pummeling his girlfriend with a pickaxe handle and stabbing her to death outside their home in 1993 in their Texas Panhandle home, argue DNA evidence at his trial showed blood on his clothing from that night was his and from at least two of the victims.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments Wednesday on whether prison inmates may use a federal civil rights law to get DNA testing that was not performed before their conviction. Prosecutors have said they have refused to make some evidence for the purpose of conducting DNA testing.

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HUNGARY

Factory apologizes for caustic spill

Associated Press

KOLONTAR — The owners of the metals plant whose reservoir burst, flooding several towns in western Hungary with caustic red sludge, expressed their condolences Sunday to the families of the seven people killed, as well as to those injured — and said they were sorry for not having done so sooner.

MAL Rt., which owns the alumina plant in Ajka, also said it was willing to pay compensation “in proportion to its responsibility” for the damage caused by the deluge.

But the trouble may not be over.

With the northwest corner of the storage pool still showing a hole 50 meters (yards) wide where the mix of mud and water broke through last week, officials said the collapse of at least one of the breached walls was inevitable. That, they said, would probably unleash a new deluge of sludge in Hungary with caustic red sludge stored in the hills near Kolontar, just north of Kolontar, were told by police Saturday to pack a single bag and get ready to leave at a moment’s notice.

“This hasn’t changed,” Dobson said. “We are still on guard in case of any more spills.”

Illes said that, since it would be impossible to transfer the 2 billion cubic meters (658 million gallons) of red sludge still in the damaged reservoir anywhere else, he had set a 2-week deadline for closing up the huge opening.

“The hole is 50 meters (yards) wide and 23 meters (yards) high was under construction to save the areas of the town of Kolontar not directly hit by last week’s toxic flood.

“I would describe the situation as hopeful, but nothing has really changed,” Dobson told The Associated Press. “The wall to protect Kolontar is planned to be finished by tonight, but it will likely be several days before residents may be able to move back.”

Nearly all of Kolontar’s 800 residents were evacuated Saturday when Prime Minister Viktor Orban said the north wall of the massive storage pool - which is 24.7 acres (10 hectares) in size — was “very likely” to collapse because cracks that had appeared at several points.

The roughly 6,000 residents of neighboring Devecser, just north of Kolontar, were told by police Saturday to pack a single bag and get ready to leave at a moment’s notice.

“The hole is 50 meters (yards) wide and 23 meters (yards) high,” Illes said. “The job, including pouring enough concrete to raise three 10-story buildings, will have to be done from the air. This is unprecedented.”

Red sludge is a byproduct of the refining of bauxite into alumina, the basic material for manufacturing aluminum. Treated sludge is often stored in ponds where the water eventually evaporates, leaving behind a largely safe red clay. Industry experts say the sludge in Hungary appears to have been treated insufficiently, if at all, meaning it remained highly caustic.

With the eyes of the world on Chile’s no-expense-spared effort to ensure all the men emerge unharmed, the miners’ physical and mental health was being fastidiously monitored.

Precautions were taken against all manner of complications - aspirin to prevent blood clots, a special diet to settle the stomach, video monitors to watch for panic attacks.

And officials said the men were so giddy with confidence they were squabbling on Saturday, the day drills broke through to them, over who would get to be the last to take a twisting, 20-minute ride through a half-mile opening to a rock-strewn desert moonscape and into the embrace of those they love.

A tentative but secret list was drafted of which miners should come out first when the extraction begins, probably on Wednesday. But Health Minister Jaime Manalich said the order would be determined by two parameters - nervousness and mental health.

And officials said the men won’t be allowed to have a good look at the escape capsule built by Chilean naval engineers.

Over the past week, all the miners underwent tests to assess their health. Manalich said officials were concerned about acute hypertension in some of the miners as well as the opposite - sudden drops in blood pressure. In others because of the speed of the ascent to the surface.

Day one

Day one and your job is more than a job. It’s an opportunity to do your part. That’s why Ernst & Young opens its doors to make a difference. So you can feel good about giving back. Visit our website for details or volunteer through our corporate volunteer match site. And that makes coming to work even better.

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ERNST & YOUNG

Quality In Everything We Do

Chile

Miners prepare for journey back to surface

Associated Press

SAN JOSE MINE — A smooth-walled path to daylight awaited 33 trapped miners Sunday as they entered the tensile (final hours of a two-month odyssey christened in the terror of collapsing rock deep under a Chilean mountain.

With the eyes of the world on Chile’s no-expense-spared effort to ensure all the men emerge unharmed, the miners’ physical and mental health was being fastidiously monitored.

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Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Kevin Kimberly is a senior majoring in psychology and political science. He is eligible to run for president in 2024 and welcomes campaign slogans and ideas at kimberly@nd.edu

Submit a Letter to the Editor at submit@nd.edu

"Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live. It is asking others to live as one wishes to live." - Oscar Wilde

EDITORIAL CARTOON

CONTACT Kristen Durbin at kkimberl@nd.edu
As Notre Dame's and Saint Mary's gay and lesbian alumni gathered in South Bend earlier this month to honor friends and champions like Sr. Mary Louise Gade, an instrument of hope, and Lt. Col. Victor Fehrenbach, a hero's hero, I could not help but be struck by the vast divide between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in the LGBT community. Those gathered seemed-one-and-all so to be strong, adjusted, loving and well-loved. Yet each and every one of us was only able to stand there because, in a very real sense, we overcame the obstacles that were placed against us. Somehow, by the grace of God, many of us did this alone.

Now we seem to hear every few days of a teenage life ended by despair over real or perceived sexual orientation. (And is it those who think this is just a "gay problem," please note I said "real or perceived," not a problem implied in his acceptance speech, it is not for ourselves that we fight but for those who cannot fight for themselves.)

At the end of the day, GALAAD-NMSMC doesn't really need Notre Dame to recognize us (twich it hasn't) and we don't really need University President Fr. John Jenkins to meet with us (which he hasn't). But our struggling brothers and sisters, those who are following after us — those who, but for the grace of God we would still — they need it very much.

They need a University which is brave enough to say, "It doesn't matter if our friends are white. It doesn't matter if our friends are black. It doesn't matter if our friends are gay. We choose to accept you. If we lose money and power and prestige because of you, we'll overcome that. We love you more than this."

But most of all, I hope you see that it is the students of a University which has the compassion to say, "It does not matter if the leaders of the Church fly first class, or if the public rejects us because we choose to accept you. If even one of our students is hurt because of our rejection, it is too one too many. We love you more than this."

So their sake I remind Notre Dame of what is supposed to be — what it has been before in other situations — and of the profound, radical and unpopular depth of genuine love. Until that day comes — and it will come — only the students, the faculty and the staff of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's have the power to do what the administration will not. Don't be foiled by the gloomy former campus, even in a place as sunny as Notre Dame there are people who suffer in silence. And beyond these walls you are also the instrument of hope for the world, where naked hatred may still be found in broad daylight. In the end it takes less than you think to destroy someone. In all times and places challenge intolerance. Be Jesus to those who love you. Above all else serve love.

You may end up saving a life.

Lance Gallop is a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame, an officer of GALAAD-NMSMC and a former Viewpoint columnist. He has never regretted the road he has taken. If anything here resonates with you please consider donating to The Trevor Project, an LGB community, at www.thetrevorproject.org. Gallop can be reached at lgallop@tidewaterblues.com.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The foursome also let their geek show as they brought out a series of techy toys. For their encore the group showed off LED-infused jackets and spelled out “OK Go” on their backs before continuing with the music. When the band did continue, it did so with customized Gibson guitars that lit up and shot laser beams out of the headstocks.

OK Go also included plenty of audience participation. After performing its cuttingly hyper “A Million Ways,” Kulash noticed two students performing the video’s choreography in the crowd and invited them onstage to perform the dance as the band did a second take on the tune. Later in the show the band even pulled a student onstage to play guitar on “Here It Goes Again.”

While OK Go created many high points in its performance and showed a great range of styles, the overall concert experience was not entirely cohesive. The high points of the show came thanks to the geek rock songs of “OK Go,” the band’s first album, and “Oh No” Drummer Dan Konopka was at his best on these songs with his dry and crisp style. Songs from “The Blue Colour” are more musically complex, varied, introspective and difficult to replicate live. OK Go has come a long way since “Oh No!” The band toured for three years before recording “Of the Blue Colour”), and its total choreography does not mesh well. It was painful to move between the acoustic crooning of a broken heart on “Last Leaf” and the manic energy of the one-night stand in “Here It Goes Again”—before starting “Last Leaf,” Kulash had to half-jokingly direct the crowd, “Shut up, this is a sad song.” The “do-it-yourself,” punk, geek rock guitar of their earlier work just did not gel with the inflections of funk, blues and synthpop of the new album.

While the range of OK Go’s performance left concertgoers a little confused or thoroughly impressed, the band certainly lived up to the hype of its entertainment, even without the aid of videos. In fact, the variety of OK Go’s repertoire points to their dedication to a variety of endeavors, whether they are musical, visual or political. Many people know OK Go as the “guys from the treadmill video,” but they are much more than simply entertaining video. In fact, OK Go takes creating art very seriously, usually in an inventively smart, artistic; maybe all of the above. Artist Andy Ross on Capitol Hill. See? Much longer. In pursuit to freely creating and sharing their work, OK Go promotes net neutrality. As a part of this, Kulash has contributed to the New York Times and Washington Post and has testified with guitarist Andy Ross on Capitol Hill. See? Much more than treadmills.

With OK Go it is hard to predict what you are going to get. Serious, creative, geeky, smart, artistic, maybe all of the above. Certainly, you will get a group that follows their creative sensibilities without reservation and takes art seriously, usually in an inventively fun way.

Contact Carrie Powell at cpowell@nd.edu
Scene

NOTRE DAME

style spotter

Name: Bob Besio
Spotted: in Alumni Hall
Bob is sporting a striped button-down with dark wash denim jeans. It is the perfect combination of class and coolness for school or going out.

By COURTNEY COX
Scene Writer

MELISSA KADUCK | Observer Graphic

Playlist of the Week- Latin Flavor

by Maria Fernandez

1. "Loca"- Shakira
2. "Prrrum"- Cosculluela
3. "No me digas que no"- Enrique Iglesias ft. Wisin & Yandel
4. "He querido quererte"- Franco el Gorila ft. Tico el Inmigrante
5. "Inalcanzable (Remix)"- RBD ft. Jowell y Randy
6. "Tu Boca"- Chayanne
7. "Colgando en tus manos"- Carlos Baute y Marta Sanchez
8. "Echale pique"- Daddy Yankee ft. Yomo
9. "Sin mirar atrás"- David Bisbal
10. "La Guagua"- Juan Luis Guerra
11. "Irresistible"- Wisin & Yandel
12. "Por una mujer"- Luis Fonsi

Update your study and workout playlists for this last week before Fall Break with these 12 Latin tunes!

This playlist includes a variety of Latin songs and famous artists for you to listen to and share with your friends. Get through this hectic and stressful week with the fun and danceable rhythms of "salsa," "merengue," Latin pop and "reggaeton."

These new songs will get you energized during these last days of midterms and ready for a weekend of "fiesta!"

You can find the whole playlist on The Observer website, www.ndsmcobserver.edu

Contact Courtney Cox at ccox3@nd.edu
ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Frilling, Mathews pair up in Cali

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

Junior Kristy Frilling and Shannon Mathews enjoyed some success over the weekend, reaching the quarterfinals in doubles for the Rivieras/ITA All American Championships.

Frilling made it to the quarterfinal round in singles as well, where she fell to the nation’s top-ranked player, University of California senior Jana Juricova.

The duo began doubles action by bumping off Nicky Brook and senior Lindsay Clark of Yale, 8-3.

“Our doubles match went really well,” Frilling said. “We went up and had a lot of chances and I think Shannon and I will only get better the more we practice and get used to playing with each other.”

That win matched them with senior Mari Anderson and Juricova of California, the top two seeds in the week’s bracket and the top team in the nation.

“I have to eliminate those points, and if I want to be top two in the nation I have to do it,” Frilling said. “We also had a lot of chances to win the match against Cal, and I think by the have finished one-two for the Belles in each of their six races this year. She was once again impressed with the performances of her two top runners.

“Joanne [Almond] and Julia [Kenney] tag-teamed with the front three St. Francis girls the whole race,” she said. “It was great to see them stick it through and beat two of them.”

Bauters saw the race as an important opportunity for Almond and Kenney to grow as competitors and develop new strategies.

“They think they were able to learn something about their own racing strategy having to lead a pack rather than being in the thick of the pack,” Bauters said.

Although Almond and Kenney have been far out in front of the pack, Bauters said the rest of her team has the ability to close the gap on the talented duo.

“It’s hard to put a win into perspective, and I think by the time the season rolls around we will be able to pull out those wins. In singles play, Mathews fell 6-0, 6-2 in the first round against Florida junior Joanna Almond.

Mathews was set to play a consolation game against USC’s Valentina Pulido on Wednesday, but the match was canceled with the doubles match with Frilling.

Frilling beat Stanford sophomore Mallon Burrows 6-3, 6-4, before falling to Juricova in the quarterfinals.

“[Irish coach Jay Louderback] and I talked about how if I am going to win these tournaments instead of making quarters, etc., that I need to work on taking advantage of my opportunities, not playing scared and playing smart and consistent,” Frilling said.

Sometimes I go into lapses of games where I just give away points, and if I want to be top I have to eliminate those errors.”

The Irish will resume action Oct. 21, when they will travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., for regional qualifying.

Contact Megan Finneran at mgfinneran@nd.edu

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning didn’t have a touch- down pass for the first time since 1970, the NFL has no 4-0 teams. Denver, Minnesota, New England and Rams all went 3-0 in “70 bottom.

“We’re a team trying to transition into becoming a great team,” said coach Todd Haley. “If we had won this game, I’d be saying the same thing. Good is much bigger than four games. Good is measured a little differently, but we are transitioning and we are making progress.”

Jamaal Charles carried 16 times for 87 yards. Matt Cassel went 4-of-44 for 244 yards and one interception. “He had an interesting week practice wise. He got injured during the week and didn’t know quite what was going to happen. Next thing you know, he comes out and does a heck of a job for us. That’s why you’ve got to have depth. Everybody’s got to be ready at any time.”

Indy needed a victory to get back into a first-place tie in the AFC South, and was facing the opportunity to host a playoff football.

Kansas City (3-3), with four straight wins dating to last season, was the NFL’s last unbeaten team and brought a defense that hadn’t allowed more than 14 points in a game all season — until that game. With Manning having a rare off-day, the Chiefs motto was a bit different.

“We’re really good, when they don’t, you’re really bad,” Haley explained.

Then it was essentially a stalemate.

Haley said at a 45-yard field goal with 2 seconds left in the first half to make it 6-3. Vinatieri opened the second half with a 47-yarder and Succop countered with field goals of 35 and 43 yards to tie the score at 9.

Indy finally broke the tie with a 42-yarder with 14:40 left to give Indy a 12-9 lead, and then the Colts put the ball in Hart’s hands — who sealed it with his big run.

NFL
Hart, Colts overcome Cassel’s Chiefs in Indy

By MICHAEL TODISCO
Sports Writer

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Raiders break 13-game losing streak to Chargers in Oakland

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — After 13 straight losses to San Diego, it took just about everything bouncing the Oakland Raiders' way to end the skid.

Michael Bush ran 3 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with 3:39 remaining and Tyvon Branch returned a fumble 64 yards in the back of the end zone for a score as the Raiders ended the drought with a 35-27 victory over the Chargers on Sunday.

With the Chargers driving for the potential go-ahead score, a blitzing Huff hit Rivers just before his arm went forward, knocking the ball loose. Branch picked up the ball and raced 64 yards for the score to make it 35-27 with 58 seconds left.

When referee Clete Blakeman upheld the call on replay, years of frustration were let out by the small, but enthusiastic, crowd of Raiders fans.

Rivers threw for 431 yards and two touchdowns and Malcolm Floyd had a career-high 213 yards receiving but the Chargers have only them- selves to blame for their third straight road loss of the season.

The Chargers have allowed two blocked punts, two long touchdown drives in the second half led by backup quarterback Jason Campbell and the big play at the end by Branch and Michael Huff for their first win over San Diego (2-3) since September 2003. That was the second longest active streak to Buffalo's 14-game losing streak to New England.

For everybody here the ultimate goal is to get to the World Series, Branch said. "This is the first step. We're all looking to get to the end." The Reds kept their first postseason appearance in 15 years, committed six errors in the last two games of the series after finishing second in the NL with a club-record 988 fielding percentage during the regular season.

Associated Press

Raiders sweep Reds, advance to NLCS again

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Cole Hamels pumped his fist when it was over, and the Philadelphia Phillies celebrated with a few chest bumps and a handshake line before returning to the clubhouse for more champagne.

Ho-hum. Another ace, another dominating performance and one more trip to the NL championship series.

Hamels struck out nine in a complete game, 8-2 shutout in Game 2 Monday night that helped Philadelphia even the NL Division Series and take a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five division series.

Branch and Michael Huff for the big play at the end by quarterback Jason Campbell and the big play at the end by Branch and Michael Huff for their first win over San Diego (2-3) since September 2003. That was the second longest active streak to Buffalo's 14-game losing streak to New England.

"I knew I hit it OK," Utley said. "I hit a ball in the first inning I thought I hit better than that one, but lucky for us, the weather is still warm and it's a good hitters' ballpark."

The Reds never regained their footing after Halladay shut them down in the series opener. The surprise NL Central winners led 4-0 in Game 2 but quickly fell apart, committing four errors in a gut-wrenching 7-4 loss that put them on the brink of elimination.

Hamels took it from there.

The 2008 World Series MVP, quite the luxury to have as a No. 3 starter in the postseason, increased his perfect mark against Cincinnati to 7-0 in eight career starts. He also improved to 6-3 in 11 postseason outings.

I have that sort of positive energy every time I come here, said Hamels, who tossed five shutout innings in his major league debut in Cincinnati in 2006.

Hamels allowed only two runners to reach second and none of the Reds got to third. He also got some help from his defense in the first when center fielder Shane Victorino sprinted into the gap in left-center to grab Phillips' liner with speedy Drew Stubbs on first.

The Associated Press

The Phillies celebrate with champagne showers after their 2-0 victory over the Reds in the NLDS to advance to the NLCS.

Raiders ended the drought

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Phillips' liner with speedy Drew
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Brown
continued from page 20

Friday’s match at Cardinal Arena gave some of the Irish a sense of deja vu as the two teams last meeting was in the final round of the Big East championship series. The 25-17, 25-19, 25-19 loss against Louisville (25-21, 23-25, 25-17) knocked the Irish out of the title for the fourth straight year, and the 3-0 (25-17, 25-17, 25-19) loss at Cincinnati makes the Bearcats the solo undefeated team in the conference.

Although the Irish (11-7, 4-2) may curtail the match into a fourth set and posted impressive numbers, they were not able to pull one over on the Cardinals, who out-hit them .291 to .173. It was the first time the Irish were out-hit in a league match in 21 consecutive games, dating back to the 2008 season. Louisville also out- blocked Notre Dame, 12-5, and made a fewer number of errors in each set. The Irish defense was not where it has been in recent matches, a flaw that Brown felt strongly affected each of the matches.

“We felt like we knew our blocking and defense could be a lot better,” Brown said. “That area was not as strong as it has been in the past.”

Notre Dame’s outside hitters continued to be dominant on the floor, but faced tough competition on the other side of the net in both matches.

“I think we stuttered a little bit (on offense),” Brown said. “I think there are some things that we did very well, but I think overall, the team hitting percentage that we’d like to have is higher than what we need to have to be successful, we struggled a little bit with.”

Freshman Andrea McHugh lead the team with 15 kills and seven digs and junior Kristen Dealy made 13 kills accompanied by four digs. Senior middle blocker Kellie Sciacca joined in the Irish offensive with 14 kills of her own while freshman Sammie Brown had 32 assists.

Junior libero Frenchy Silva had 18 digs in the match, but she was not able to compete with five Louisville players making double-digit efforts, even after the Cardinals lost starting libero Lindsey Mango to an injury in the first set.

The Irish had an experience similar to Saturday’s on Sunday at Cincinnati, but they were unable to hold much sway over each set in the match and did not post the strong statistics they have been up to this point in the season. They did manage to improve their hitting from Saturday’s low percentage to a .204, with a set-high .375 in the second set.

McHugh led Notre Dame once again in kills with 12, followed close behind by Sciacca with 11. Sciacca is now only three away from hitting the 1,000 career kills mark. Sammie Brown led the defense with nine digs while Silva scooped up seven. Brown also had 30 assists in the match.

The Bearcats have now won 35 consecutive home games, a record that was consistent with the control they showed over their home court. On more than one occasion Cincinnati posted multiple unanswered kills and a number of players made more than one ace in the match. The Irish were able to close in on the Bearcats lead in each set, but were not able to overcome Cincinnati’s consistent hitting, including a .387 clip in the final set.

“These were the two toughest teams in the conference for us to play against, and I think there were some bright spots but I certainly think that we had some weaknesses that were exposed, and that we can learn a lot from it,” Brown said.

The Irish have a few days to recover and get back on track before facing another conference opponent on Oct. 15, when Notre Dame hosts DePaul.

Contact Meghan Veselik at mvesel01@nd.edu

MLB
Yankees looking at ALCS

Associated Press

NEW YORK — They had stumbled into October, playing the last two months of the season as if they were just another team, failing at the plate and finding the mound uncharacteristically often.

For only the third time in their proud history, and the first since 1944, they failed to hold on after leading on Labor Day.

But now, as the weather turns crisp, the New York Yankees have regained their sharpness of the first four months, once again looking like the World Series champions of old in their first-round sweep of the Minnesota Twins.

“In here, we were never worried about that stuff,” Nick Swisher said Saturday night after the Yankees advanced to an AL championship series matchup against Texas or Tampa Bay. “I think in the postseason, experience plays a huge factor, and we have a lot of it in this clubhouse.”

New York was 66-37 through July before going 29-30 the rest of the way as numerous players wound up in the trainer’s room and some on the disabled list.

Andy Pettitte was sidelined from Aug. 10 to Sept. 19 because of a strained left groin, and Alex Rodriguez was out from Aug. 20 to Sept. 5 with a strained left calf. Not long after he was acquired from Boston on July 31 trade deadline, Lance Berkman spent two weeks on the disabled list with a sprained right ankle.

Mark Teixeira has played with a broken pinky toe on his right foot since being hit by a pitch from Oakland’s Vin Mazzaro on Aug. 31. A few days later, Telo injured his right thumb on a fielding play, an injury that eventually required a shot of painkiller.

Brett Gardner had a sore right wrist that needed a cortisone shot in mid-September, around the same time Swisher received a cortisone shot in his sore left knee.

Clark
continued from page 20

well,” Clark said. “During the last four or five games, he has put tremendous effort in.”

From this game, Clark wanted to take away the lesson that they need to start becoming dangerous during portions of the game to ensure more wins in the future.

“We’ve got to start the game well, play the middle of the game well. That’s the challenge, to play the complete 90 minutes together,” Clark said.

The Irish will welcome the Golden Eagles from Marquette to Notre Dame’s Alumni Stadium at 7 p.m. Wednesday with to redeem themselves in the Big East Conference.

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu
Saint Mary’s wins one, loses one in triangular

By KATHERINE MACK Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s got its first win in three weeks against MIAA foe Albion on Saturday in their first match of the triangular before dropping their second match against host Beloit.

The Belles (4-14, 2-7 MIAA) came out strong against the host Britons, winning in a five-set battle (19-25, 29-26, 25-21, 15-25, 15-9).

Saint Mary’s match against Albion was not reminiscent of the last time these two teams faced off a month ago, when the Belles crushed the Britons (4-18, 0-9 MIAA) three games to none.

The Britons did not start the match the way they wanted, as their first set attack percentage was .010 compared to the Britons’ .161, but still better, .069. They hung tough however, and brought their attack percentage to a positive number for the rest of the match. Attack percentage proved to be key in getting this important win for Saint Mary’s, since they were victorious in each set in which they outplayed the Britons in that category.

Contributors included sophomore Allison Zundarski, who recorded a match- and season-high 16 kills and junior Lindsey Stuss with 12 kills and a career-best 20 digs.

Freshman Hailee Lefler raked in 45 assists and senior Meghann Rose added 28 digs.

The Belles second opponent on Saturday, however, proved to be too much as they fell to Beloit (12-9) by a score of 3-1 (15-25, 25-16, 25-13, 25-15).

The Britons brought their positive momentum with them, winning the first set in decisive fashion, 15-25 against the Buccaneers. Saint Mary’s just could continue their dominating play for long as they lost the next three sets, and consequently the match. Overall, the Belles were outdone in almost every positive statistical category by the Buccaneers.

Contributors for the Belles included Rose, leading the defense again with 22 digs and Stuss leading Saint Mary’s offense with nine kills.

Saint Mary’s will play again this Tuesday at 7 p.m. when the Belles host MIAA opponent Olivet.

Contact Katherine Mack at kmack1@nd.edu

SMC SOCCER

Team gives up hat trick to Cook

By JOE WIRTH Sports Writer

The Belles fell victim to a tremendous individual effort Sunday, as Marian freshman Samantha Cook netted a hat trick to send the Belles to an 8-2 loss, 6-2.

Cook scored in the Belles’ loss to Marian Sunday.
ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish finish fifth of 14 in Knoxville

By MEGAN FINNERAN

This weekend may not have brought a first-place finish for the Irish, but it certainly brought success nonetheless. The team traveled to Knoxville, Tenn. for the Mercedes-Benz Championships at Tennessee at the Nashville Hills Country Club, where they finished fifth of 14 teams.

Freshman Nicole Zhang came out tied for ninth, while junior Sonju Park ended up tied for 13th.

The team totaled 876 strokes on the 54 holes, behind Tennessee’s first place score of 849.

The Irish improved with each day, lowering their scores from 293 the first day to 293 the second and concluding with a 288.

“Our team strives to always be the best we can be, both in terms of the strength of the field, so we were pretty disappointed,” freshman Kristina Nhim said.

“There are a lot more opportunities opening up than we thought we had, so I am happy with my performances because there’s always something that I could have done better,” Nhim said. “It’s frustrating, and I really want to improve on managing my mistakes and not letting bad shots distract me.”

The team was able to improve to a fifth-place tie with Kent State to conclude the second day of play. Park and Zhang remained closely tied, ending the day tied for ninth at 71 strokes for the 18 holes. Conan fell to 56th after shooting an 81, while Nhim and Park remained at their original rank with 76 and 75 strokes respectively.

The final day of play turned competitive as Zhang picked up her performance, firing an even-par 72 to bring herself up to ninth place with a total of 216, closely behind Mississippi’s first place golfer, Natalie Gleadle, at 207.

Park and Zhang both improved on the final day, with Zhang falling to 68th at 222 total, as did Nhim who moved up to 42nd place with her 72 for the final day of play. Conan fell to 65th place as she used 78 strokes for the day.

“All of us have different aspects of the game to improve on because we all have different strengths and weaknesses,” Nhim said.

The Irish now have a week-long break before the Landfall which starts Oct. 22.

“Each had a very tough first round match, as Blas played a returning starter from Virginia, probably the country’s best team this year, and Dan played one of Florida’s better players,” Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said.

The idea in sending them to the qualifying rounds was to expose them to high national level competition and give them the opportunity to see where they are,”

No. 39 Wait was unable to continue in the main draw of the event after falling Thursday to No. 14 Marcel Thiemann 6-3, 6-1, pushing Wait to the consolation round.

Watt fell to Ashley Walling of Tulsa, ending his tournament.

The Irish will next play host to the Midwest Regional Championships that begin Oct. 21.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mves301@ndmails.english.

ND WOMEN’S ROWING

Season opens at Head of the Rock Regatta

By CORY BERNARD

Notre Dame opened the 2010-11 season by winning both varsity eights, the men’s and women’s, at the Head of the Rock Regatta. Featuring six sets of paired varsity eights, four boats, two novice eights and four varsity eight-boats, the Irish finished in third place in the team standings, just behind Big 10 competitors Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Irish coach Martin Stone said that the varsity eight headed into a sea- son opener prevented from finishing higher. However the disappointment of finishing third was tempered by the effort given by the entire squad.

“It was a good job overall, we would just have liked to go faster,” Stone said. “Everybody competed well, quite a few people placed 2. We just need to develop more aggressiveness.”

Stone said the Badgers and Golden Gophers both possess fine squads, and it was their execution which was the differ- ence in the meet.

“Wisconsin and Minnesota beat us,” Stone said. “We just need to do a couple things better.”

Even so, Stone also said his squad expects to compete for first place, regardless of the competition.

“We came to win, that’s what we do at Notre Dame,” Stone said.

A promising early-season sign for the defending Big East champions was the performance of the gold and blue novice-eight boats, anchored by freshmen coxswain Christina Dines and Leah Corcoran respectively.

“We won the novice 8, so our first years did well,” Stone said. Integral to the success of the younger rowers is the presence of more experienced girls on Notre Dame’s roster.

“It’s a good mix,” Stone said, referring to the mix of freshmen and upperclassmen. “Obviously we expect the learning curve for the freshmen to be steeper than the older girls.”

Next up for the Irish are their home meet against Tulsa on Oct. 29. Events will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Contact Cory Bernard at bernardc@nd.edu

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Contact Cory Bernard at bernardc@nd.edu

The Observer ◆ SPORTS

Monday, October 11, 2010
HOCKEY

No. 17 Irish split two games

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

The No. 17 Irish split a pair of games in the season-opening Warrior College Hockey Ice Breaker Tournament in St. Louis this weekend. Notre Dame beat Holy Cross, 6-3, Friday before losing a heartbreaker to No. 14 Boston University in the tournament’s championship game on Sunday.

Terrier defenseman Sean Escobedo scored with 1:07 left on the clock to win the game for Boston University. Sophomore left wing Nick Larson led the way with two goals for the Irish (1-1-0) in a game in which neither team held more than a one-goal lead.

The Terriers held a 2-1 lead after the first period, but Larson scored both goals in the second stanza and, with another goal from freshman defenseman Shayne Taker, the teams entered the final period tied 4-4. Even though the teams combined for five goals in the second period, the final 20 minutes were a defensive struggle, with neither team lighting the lamp until Escobedo’s game-winner.

Freshman goalie Steven Summerhays made his Notre Dame debut against the Terriers, stopping 19 of 24 Boston University shots.

In the opener against Holy Cross, freshman left wing Anders Lee scored a hat trick in his first regular season Division I action. Lee got the Irish off to a hot start, netting his first goal just 1:58 into the game. After Shayne Stockton tied it up for the Crusaders, Lee scored a hat trick in his first official practice Thursday.

"It went pretty well, actually," Achonwa said. "Our offense we run is based on contact, and we run the same with the Canadian team. So offensively, it’s not that different."

Achonwa had to leave practice early to take an exam, and has four more scheduled for this week. Missing so much class was actually a great introduction to Notre Dame, she said.

"The people at Notre Dame are indescribable," she said. "Academic advisors, tutors, coaches. There’s an unlimited amount of people who are willing to help you.”

In fact, Achonwa, a native of Guelph, Ontario, missed just one event that can’t be made up — last weekend’s pre-season hockey game between Notre Dame and Guelph.

"I thought they were coming this weekend," she said. "I probably know some of the players.”

But the tournament itself allowed Achonwa to prepare for the collegiate season in many ways, including watching — and playing against — team USA, the eventual champions. The team is coached by Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma and is comprised of star WNBA players and one collegiate star, Connecticut senior Maya Moore.

"I learned a lot from playing with, playing against and just watching the game and observing," Achonwa said. "We played against and with the best players in the world. You can’t put a value on just watching Diana Taurasi and Tina Charles. You just pick up little details."

Notre Dame will face Auriemma’s Huskies twice during the regular season and could see them again in the Big East or NCAA Tournament.

"I didn’t get to talk to him, but he seems like a very intense coach. He likes to win. He holds a good team together," Achonwa said. "It made me excited to get a preview of playing him and Maya Moore and UConn this season."

"As much as I love team Canada, I can’t wait for our season to begin. I’m very competitive.”

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Notre Dame defeats three teams in relays

By MICHAEL TODISCO
Sports Writer

Notre Dame got off to an encouraging start to its season, defeating three visiting teams at the Dennis Stark Relays Friday at Rolfs Aquatic Center.

The event honored former men’s and women’s head coach Dennis Stark, who was in attendance for the resounding Irish victory, as Notre Dame won 11 of the 12 events, with the one blemish coming on a disqualification.

Notre Dame finished the relays with 200 points. Illinois State (196), Valparaiso (118) and Saint Mary’s (112) all finished behind the Irish.

Irish coach Brian Barnes said he saw many positive signs during his team’s performance on Friday.

"I’m liking the direction and the attitude this team is displaying right now," he said to the team. "It was good to watch the team compete in a tared state and still be tough."

Barnes said he was specifically pleased with the way his 200 meter medley team competed. Sophomores Kim Holden and Lauren Scott and seniors Amywen Miller and Samantha Maxwell combined for a time of 1:46.14, good enough for first place.

"Holden, Scott, Miller and Maxwell swam very tough together," he said. The 200 free relay team also performed well, earning a meet record with its time of 1:35.19. The race was anchored by Miller, who capped off the race with a split time of 22.99.

Although the Irish performed strongly, Barnes stressed that the team still needs to improve.

"We’re going to try to be much better in the next meet than we were tonight,” Barnes said. The Irish will get their chance in a battle against two top-20 Southeastern Conference opponents, when they travel south for a three-team contest with Auburn and LSU.

"It’s two weeks away, and we’re going to continue to work hard," Barnes said. "We’re going to show up down there better suited to compete than we were today. We’re just a bit rusty.”

Contact Michael Todisco at mtodisco@nd.edu
Irish to a win in the 400 back-gold.

Kevin Rahill and senior earned an early lead for the performances. called some of the team's best 400 free relay, which Sullivan 400 breaststroke relay and the in the 200-yard freestyle relay, but three races, including wins said.

senior captain Mike Sullivan performance this year, and start the season with a win. 2009, the Irish were thrilled to top the Grizzlies (190) and where they earned 256 points annual Dennis Stark Relays, past, Hamilton said this team is same meet against Michigan in the Crusaders (120).

It was a great weekend," Hamilton said.

By MAIJA GUSTIN Sports Writer

The Irish earned gold in all but three races on their way to their first victory of the 2010 season over Oakland and Valparaiso.

The Irish hosted the 46th annual Dennis Stark Relays, where they earned 256 points to Oakland (190) and the Crusaders (120).

After suffering a loss in this same meet in Oak- land in 2009, the Irish were thrilled to start the season with a win. We defin- ed a better performance this year, and that's something we're happy about and excited to build on," senior captain Mike Sullivan said.

The Irish earned gold in all but three races, including wins in the 200-yard freestyle relay, the 400 backstroke relay, the 400 breaststroke relay and the 400 free relay, which Sullivan called some of the team's best performances.

Junior Marshall Sherman earned an early lead for the Irish in the 90 free relay and freshman Frank Dyer, junior Kevin Rahill and senior Thomas Van Volkgen mar- tained the lead on the way to gold.

Sullivan himself propelled the Irish to a win in the 400 medley relay alongside teammate Bertie Nel, Sherman and senior Joshua Nosal finished off the victory with a time of 3:04.98.

Sophomore Christopher Johnson, junior Joseph Raycroft, freshman Joshua Chen and senior Colin Babcock out-swam the com- petition for another gold in the 400 breaststroke relay.

"We are deep in the back and breast events, so we expected to do well there," Sullivan said.

"I thought our sprinters did a good job of stepping up and swimming fast in the 200 freestyle relay, and the 400 free as well."

The Irish also defeated the competition in the 400 medley relay, the 400 individual medley relay, the 400 butterfly relay, the diving relay and combo diving.

"The competition overall was very strong, so we had to work very hard to win," Sullivan said.

Waldrum was pleased with his team's performance in the second half.

"In hindsight, they scored a goal so quick that I think that got them even more moti- vated in the first half," Waldrum said.

Notre Dame, however, looked like a different team in the second half, registering three shots in the first nine minutes. The Irish broke through in the 65th minute when Augustin hit a streaking Henderson, who drew Rutgers goalkeeper Emmy Simpkins out of the goal before punching in the go-ahead tally, her 12th on the year. Just two minutes later, Augustin found fellow senior Erica Lanteri in the box, who fired home her third goal of the season to give the Irish a 3-1 lead.

With the two wins this weekend, Notre Dame extend- ed its Big East unbeaten streak to 73 games, register- ing a 70-0-3 record in those contests.

Contact Mike Grotimer at mgrotimer@nd.edu

Men's Swimming and Diving

Irish start season with win in Stark Relays

By MAIJA GUSTIN Sports Writer

The Irish got on the board first in the 13th minute when freshman middlefielder Elizabeth Tucker led Augustin with a beautiful pass into the box that she put in the back of the net for her eighth goal of the season. Rutgers, however, respond- ed less than two minutes later when a cross hit off senior defender Julie Schilder's leg for an own goal that tied the score at one. Neither team seemed to find an offensive rhythm after the Irish mis- take, and the game remained tied at the half, but it gave Rutgers new life in a critical confer- ence matchup.

"In hindsight, they scored that goal so quick that I think that got them even more moti- vated in the first half," Waldrum said.

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Contact Mike Grotimer at mgrotimer@nd.edu

The Belles will start the NCAA Qualifying rounds. They have earned the privilege of conference success into the nation- al tournaments and compete for an NCAA title. With a strong showing in the NCAA title under their belt, they have earned the privilege to host two of three rounds in the NCAA Qualifying rounds.

"We've got the NCAA Championships coming up in the spring," Hamilton said. "And we want to win the whole thing."

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

GREGORIAN CHANT & POLYPHONY

With Organ by Dierick Buxtehude

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

9:00 P.M.

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JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Junior Melissa Henderson battles for a header with a Rutgers defender in Notre Dame's 3-2 victory Sunday in Alumni Stadium.

Contact Mike Grotimer at mgrotimer@nd.edu

Karla Schacher scored in the box in the 77th minute to put Rutgers within one. The Scarlet Knights had a chance to tie in the final minute of action, but senior goalkeeper Nikki Weiss covered up a weakly hit shot to seal the Irish win.

Waldrum was pleased with his team's effort in the second half.

"I think more than anything we really talked about getting more competitive at halftime," Waldrum said. "The whole first half we were playing against a team that was really desperate, and hosting the Big East tournament this year, they were desperate for a win today. They came out really competitive and we came out lethargic and flat, so at half- time we stressed coming out and matching that intensity."

With the two wins this weekend, Notre Dame extend- ed its Big East unbeaten streak to 73 games, register- ing a 70-0-3 record in those contests.

Contact Mike Grotimer at mgrotimer@nd.edu
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JAMES SOLLITO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY

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“A ROUGH SPECTRUM OF WOMEN’S FASHION AT NOTRE DAME”

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ND WOMEN’S SOCCER

No. 5 Irish dominate Scarlet Knights

By MIKE GOTTIMER
Sports Writer

No. 5 Notre Dame made sure its senior class would wrap up its regular season home careers with a Garden State sweep this weekend over Seton Hall and Rutgers.

The Irish kicked off the weekend on Friday with a 2-1 win over Seton Hall. Senior midfielder Rose Augustin and junior forward Melissa Henderson led the Irish as each player registered a goal and an assist.

The Irish attacked early and often in the match, firing off 32 shots compared to the Pirates’ four with a 15-2 edge in shots on goal.

Notre Dame’s aggressive attack led to an early 1-0 lead when Augustin scored just 1:21 into the game, which

see AUGUSTINPage 18

ND VOLLEYBALL

Big East winning streak ends

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame saw its 19-match Big East regular season win streak snapped by Louisville Saturday in Morgantown.

“I think that we had some bright spots and I think that at times we struggled against both of these teams,” Irish coach Debbie Clark said. “They’re a good team, opened the game very well, and didn’t let us settle, but I was very pleased with how we responded.”

West Virginia took an early lead in the game with their only two goals of the night up on the board in the first 21 minutes. The final result ended Notre Dame’s four-game win streak.

“I was obviously disappointed with the result, but I was very pleased with how the team fought back after being two goals down,” Clark said. “A lot of teams would surrender at that point, but I thought we really responded well. I felt sorry for the team, I thought they deserved more.”

The Mountaineers were the more dominant team in the first half of the game, putting up three shots on goal, and leading in saves.

“They’re athletic, and they’re a good team,” Clark said. “It was a combination of maybe the goalkeeping on their part and some bad luck on our part. They were economic with their scoring.”

Though they were outplayed in the first half of the game, the team started to pull together in the second half.

“I think we just set up the pressure. We knew we had to get back in the game,” Clark said. “We pressed very hard, which was successful to some extent, but we weren’t able to finish.”

With only eight minutes left in the game, the Irish offense was able to connect to break away from a potential shutout. Senior forward Steven Perry made a shot off an assist from sophomore midfielder Dillon Powers in 82nd minute.

“Perry has been playing very

see CLARKPage 14

SMC GOLF

Belles grab six straight MIAA titles

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Coming into the fall season, No. 7 Saint Mary’s had two goals: win the MIAA title and make a run at the national championship. After Saturday’s landslide victory in the conference championship at Red Valley Country Club, the Belles are halfway there.

Firing a 312 for the day and 635 overall, Saint Mary’s captured its sixth consecutive title.

“That was a great perform- ance,” Belles coach Mark Hamilton said. “It was probably our best round of the year.”

Senior Mary Kate Boyce was the medalist for the tournament and showed once again that she is one of the premier

see BOYCE/Page 18

MEN’S SOCCER

West Virginia overcomes Notre Dame in Morgantown

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

Despite a momentum burst in the second half, the No. 22 Irish lost their first Big East match of the season 2-1 Saturday against West Virginia in Morgantown.

“All of the teams in the Big East, they take the most out of us. It’s one of the hardest places we’ve visited out of the Big East,” Irish coach Bobby Clark said. “They’re a good team, opened the game very well, and didn’t let us settle, but I was very pleased with how we responded.”

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“Perry has been playing very

see CLARK/Page 18

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Achonwa returns from FIBA championships

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Achonwa returned to Notre Dame Monday night, and got back to work quickly. In fact, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said, the coaches couldn’t keep her away.

“She got back Monday night late, came to the 7 a.m. work- out Tuesday morning, came back in the afternoon for a post workout, came in Wednesday to shoot,” McGraw said. “I mean, we’re excited that she’s got that interest, but she really needs to rest.”

Achonwa did not work out with the Irish over the summer because she was playing with Team Canada, so she has not been able to spend much very

see MCGRAW/Page 17
Two straight

Another fast start and late drama result in Notre Dame’s second straight win

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

Once again a quick start and ugly finish resulted in a Notre Dame victory. After taking a 17-3 lead into halftime, the Irish held on for a 23-17 victory over Pittsburgh Saturday.

“We got off to a pretty good start offensively, but as we’ve shown, we are really good at stubbing our toe,” Irish coach Brian Kelly said. “That’s us, so you’re going to have to get used to it, because I’m trying to get used to it.”

Junior quarterback Dayne Crist had one of his best performances this year, on his 21st birthday, racking up 242 passing yards on 24 completions, including a first-quarter touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Michael Floyd. Crist added a 10-yard scramble for a score midway through the second quarter and did not turn the ball over all day.

“He saw some things today that he feels better about,” Kelly said. “He’s making progress.”

The Panthers opened the scoring halfway through the first quarter with a 26-yard field goal, but the Irish responded with a methodical, fast-paced drive that culminated in the Floyd-Crist connection for the Notre Dame lead. Pittsburgh would miss a field goal before allowing a 15-play, 80-yard drive capped by the Crist run that gave the Irish a 14-3 lead.

“They had us off-balance defensively with the no-huddle offense at a faster tempo than we could have ever practiced,” Pittsburgh coach Dave Wannstedt said. “They did a good job. They were very efficient early.”

The Irish had not shown this tempo in earlier games, but Crist said that it had always been part of the team’s offensive scheme.

“We’ve really been doing it since the summer, and you can just see the way that we operate it, it can be very effective,” he said. “It’s nice being able to switch the tempo at any point in the game.”

Senior kicker David Ruffer added the first of his three field goals in the second quarter to give the Irish a 17-3 lead heading into the locker room, and opened the scoring in the second half with a 50-yard field goal that impressed his coach.

“Nobody would have thought 50 yards was like automatic,” Kelly said. “He kicked that thing into the net — I had to look twice that it was 50 yards. He’s just been outstanding.”

The Irish offense, however, began to sputter just as the Panthers found their rhythm. Pittsburgh found the end zone on a rush from sophomore quarterback Tino Sunseri late in the third quarter and had most of the momentum heading into the fourth quarter.

Notre Dame looked poised to regain control, driving from its own 16-yard line to the Panther 15, but the offense failed to punch the ball into the end zone, leading to Ruffer’s third and final field goal that gave the Irish a 23-10 lead with under ten minutes remaining.

On the ensuing drive, facing third-and-two near midfield, Sunseri rolled to his right and found junior wide receiver Jon Baldwin all alone for a 56-yard score that stunned the home fans and brought Pittsburgh within one score.

Though the Irish had contained Baldwin, the Panthers’ most explosive threat, for most of the game, it seemed that he had slipped free at the worst possible time.

“You can’t leave Baldwin by himself all the time,” Kelly said.

When the Irish ran seven plays on the next drive and failed to score even a field goal, sophomore punter Ben Turk was able to pin the Panthers on their own 10-yard line, setting up a three-and-out with just over three minutes remaining.

Notre Dame got the ball back in a position to run out the clock, but failed to convert more than one first down, giving the ball back to Pittsburgh on its own 7-yard line thanks to another punt from Turk.

“We flipped the field position today,” Kelly said. “Ben Turk was outstanding punting the football.”

The Panthers looked to advance the field and set up a possible game-winning score, but strong defensive line pressure and solid tackling from the secondary set up a fourth-and-four at the Pittsburgh 13. Sunseri looked for his favorite target, Baldwin, but senior cornerback Gary Gray was all over the play and batted the pass down, allowing the Irish to escape with a tight victory.

“Were in good coverage,” Kelly said. “Gary did the right thing, reacted to the football, and came up with a big play.”

When Crist took the final knee to run out the clock, the players celebrated the tight win with special gusto, realizing the significance of the much-needed win. Though the second half was filled with Notre Dame struggles, Kelly wanted his players to enjoy the victory — until Monday.

“We need to win games, and it’s not a beauty contest yet for us,” he said. “I just told them, ‘Enjoy the win.’ We’ll micromanage this and talk about what we could have done and should have done on Monday. Enjoy the victory. It’s a good win.”

Senior quarterback Darrin Walls, a Pittsburgh native, agreed with his coach.

“It was a great win. It’s always good to beat your hometown team,” he said. “We practiced hard all week and definitely came out with a winning mentality today.”

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph20@nd.edu

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Player of the game

David Ruffer
Irish kicker

Ruffer accounted for 11 of Notre Dame’s points, including three field goals that were never in doubt.

Stat of the game

28:38
Notre Dame held on to the ball for 28:38 Saturday the most time it has done so all season. Yet the Irish rank 115th in the country in the statistic.

Play of the game

Crist’s 10-yard touchdown run to give the Irish a 14-3 lead in the first quarter

Crist’s run up the sideline from 10 yards out gave Notre Dame control of the game.

Quote of the game

“As we’ve shown, we are really good at stubbing our toe ... But that’s no. So you’re going to have to get used to it.”

Brian Kelly
Irish coach
quarterbacks: Dayne Crist completed 12 consecutive passes in one stretch, only to follow that with six consecutive incompletion. He did not throw any interceptions through.

running back: Aramando Allen and Cierre Wood both averaged at least four yards per carry, but they only ran the ball 20 times. The latter fact is not their fault, but it did limit their impact.

receiver: No Irish receiver made any breathtaking plays, but they caught the ball consistently, and eliminated nearly all mistakes. Theo Riddick continued his rise, and Michael Floyd made a 10-yard grab.

offensive line: The Irish line let Pittsburgh defensive linemen spent quite a bit of time in the Irish backfield, sacking Crist three times and hurrying him more often than that.

defensive line: Pittsburgh was able to gain yards consistently throughout the game, but timely tackles for loss halted their serious attacks, and strong pressure in the fourth ended the game.

linebackers: The Irish linebackers helped contain the Pittsburgh rushing attack from any big plays, but Pittsburgh still averaged 3.5 yards per carry, including 5.5 from starter Ray Graham.

defensive back: Pittsburgh managed 272 yards through the air, including 36 on a fourth quarter touchdown pass that brought the Panthers back into the ball game.

special teams: David Ruffer converted all three of his field goal attempts, including a 50-yarder that even Irish coach Brian Kelly admitted surprised him. Punter Ben Turk averaged 46.6 yards per punt.

coaching: The Irish came out ready to play Saturday, and the defense looked good from the outset. But as the game progressed, Notre Dame regressed, and that trace back to Kelly.

overall: Notre Dame won, and that is what matters, but the inability to put Pittsburgh away when the Irish had the chance was unnerving, as usual.

adding up the numbers

The Notre Dame defense recorded six tackles for losses of 18 yards in the Pittsburgh backfield, including two sacks.

Crist completed 12 consecutive passes Saturday, the third-longest streak in school history.

Michael Floyd’s first quarter touchdown reception was his 19th in his career. That moves him into a tie for fifth place in school history.

David Ruffer has connected on a field goal in each of the nine games he has started at kicker.

Harrison Smith led the Irish defense with 11 tackles, one interception and two pass breakups.

Aramando Allen carried the ball 13 times for 56 yards, averaging 4.3 yards per carry, and Cierre Wood added 28 yards on seven carries.

Freshman Bennett Jackson returned four kickoffs for 83 yards, bringing his two-game total to 194 yards on returns.

Can we really be happy at all with Notre Dame’s win over Pittsburgh? Wasn’t this just another example of letting a team off the hook that the Irish were much better than? Isn’t it pretty clear that Dayne Crist doesn’t have what it takes to be a successful quarterback in this offense? Isn’t this team just like last year’s?

The nature of Notre Dame football fans lends itself to extreme highs and extreme lows. A bad loss means that the Irish have no chance of beating any other teams for the rest of the season, so we’ll just have to wait for next year — and fire our head coach. A good loss shows that Notre Dame can play with anyone, and that the team is just on the brink of being the best Irish team anyone’s ever seen — just wait until next year.

A good win (like the one against Purdue) shows just how talented the Irish roster is, and how amazing a coach we’ve hired and that we should be 8-3 going into USC — Utah should be a breeze. A bad win (like the win over Pittsburgh, for many) is basically a loss, because we can really expect this team to beat any talented teams, especially if they show no pride in the school and tradition which they represent.

Notre Dame beat Pittsburgh. Sure the victory was sloppy. Yes, the Irish let the Panthers back into the game and showed very little killer instinct by not scoring a touchdown in the second half. But they did beat Pittsburgh, a team that they should have beaten. And winning those games, those you should win, is a sign of a team that’s on the rise.

Brian Kelly summed up it nicely in his post-game press conference.

“This is not a transition year,” he said. “This is a winning year. We don’t allow [the Irish players] to grow. But they’re growing. And that’s really what we’re going through, some growing pains as we move forward. But I’m a believer that you can put those and still win football games.”

This is an Irish squad with an offense still trying to find its identity. They have a quarterback who has now made six career starts, an offensive line with only two players who had ever started a game at the position, and a receiver playing the position of a game. But when asked if Crist’s zero-interception performance against Pitt was a step in the right direction, Kelly beamed. He had a look on his face that said, “Just wait. This kid’s going to be something special, and you’re just seeing the beginning.” Crist is not an elite college quarterback, but he’s going to be. It may not bring many changes on the field yet, but the attitude around the Notre Dame football program is changing. Kelly said so himself.

“There’s something they’re starting to develop a little bit and that is they believe they’re going to win,” he said. “We’re not there yet, but we’re taking the right steps towards where we want to go as a football team.”

This team is not ready to be a national powerhouse. They aren’t ready to play in a BCS bowl, and they probably aren’t even ready to beat USC. But this is the beginning of something special. They are starting to make strides in the right direction, and beating Pittsburgh, a team that the Irish should have beaten, is just one of those strides.

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

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu

Ugly win is still a positive step
Irish join others by playing in pink

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saturday was a win for both of Irish coach Brian Kelly's families as the Notre Dame won the field while supporting breast cancer research and awareness. Sunday's game was a special one.

"Anytime you get a chance to see your family it's special, you know, because the (coaches) game is spent in the locker room in a week," Kelly said. "We've got two families: football family and our own family. So when you get a chance to share it with your family, that's a great day. Again, doing it at Notre Dame, it doesn't get any better than that." 

Kelly was able to bring both his families together at the end of the game when he stood behind his players as they held on to one another and sang the Alma Mater. "It's big," he said. "My grandma had breast cancer and she overcame that. I think that builds trust in coaches and things about things other than football." 

Kelly had also supported the new adidas pink-accented line, wearing a pink armband and navy and white Notre Dame visor. "It's big," he said. "My grandma had breast cancer and she overcame that. I think that builds trust in coaches and things about things other than football." 

Kelly was not the only one who was happy to support the cause on Saturday. His players proudly sported pink wrist or arm bands on the field and used pink Gatorade towels instead of white ones on the sidelines. "It's big," he said. "My grandma had breast cancer and she overcame that. I think that builds trust in coaches and things about things other than football." 

Rusher's field goals were 32-, 50- and 31-yards. The 50-yarder is the sixth-longest field goal in history, and the first of more than 50 yards since 2003. 

Rusher is obviously doing things that obviously not many people, including myself, thought he could do," Kelly said. "He's just been outstanding. The kicking game and the kickers, in particular, were very strong." 

Sophomore punter Ben Turk also performed above expectations Saturday. Turk entered the game with a net punting average of 36.52, but two 51-yard punts helped his average rise to 38.07 on the afternoon reach 47 yards.

Contact MEAGHAN VESELIK at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

scoring summary

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<td>First quarter</td>
<td>Notre Dame 0, Pittsburgh 3</td>
<td>Dan Hutchinsons 25-yard field goal with 7:26 remaining. Drive: 12 plays, 66 yards, 6:22 elapsed.</td>
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<td>Second quarter</td>
<td>Notre Dame 14, Pittsburgh 3</td>
<td>Crist 10-yard run (Rucker kick) with 5:22 remaining. Drive: 6 plays, 30 yards, 2:11 elapsed.</td>
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<td>Third quarter</td>
<td>Notre Dame 20, Pittsburgh 3</td>
<td>Ruffer 50-yard field goal with 12:11 remaining. Drive: 4 plays, 1 yard, 3:50 elapsed.</td>
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<td>Fourth quarter</td>
<td>Notre Dame 23, Pittsburgh 10</td>
<td>Ruffer 31-yard field goal with 9:06 remaining. Drive: 10 plays, 77 yards, 4:50 elapsed.</td>
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By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Editor

Irish junior quarterback Dayne Crist celebrated his 21st birthday in style Saturday, with 242 passing yards and two total touchdowns.

"No better present than get-ting a win on your birthday," Crist said. "She was giving me a happy birthday. We were celebrating the win, and the team was celebrating the birthday." 

Time of possession

The Irish had the ball for more time than they did in any other game this season — 28:38. Nonetheless, Notre Dame's average time of possession remains among the lowest in the country, at 26:07. Only two of the 120 teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision hold into the ball for less time: Houston at 24:03 and Middle Tennessee State at 23:57.

"At the end of the day I'm not a big time of possession guy," Kelly said. "I'd rather have more points on the board than time of possession and sitting hero going we won time of pos-session but we lost." 

Notre Dame ranks 82nd in the country in points per game at 24.33. 

Touchdown marches

Notre Dame has the longest touchdown drive of the season this week against Boston College, lasting 4:44, until the Irish scored their first touchdown Saturday, covering 77 yards in 13 plays and 4:50.

Their next touchdown drive lasted 6:23, as Notre Dame used 15 plays to cover 80 yards. The Irish had mounted only one touchdown drive longer than 6:23 in the last two seasons — a drive that lasted 6:40 against Pittsburgh in 2009.

Kicking, kicking, kicking

Senior kicker David Butler continued his streak of perfection, as he sent three kicks through the field goal uprights Saturday. Those three field goals brought his season total to 16, on 16 attempts. The streak of 16 consecutive successful field goals is the longest in Notre Dame history, yet alone the longest to open a career. The previous record was held by sophomores Nick Tausch, set last year at 14 field goals.

Ruffer's field goals were 32-, 50- and 31-yards. The 50-yarder is the sixth-longest field goal in history, and the first of more than 50 yards since 2003. Ruffer is obviously doing things that obviously not many people, including myself, thought he could do," Kelly said. "He's just been outstanding. The kicking game and the kickers, in particular, were very strong."

Sophomore punter Ben Turk also performed above expectations Saturday. Turk entered the game with a net punting average of 36.52, but two 51-yard punts helped his average rise to 38.07 on the afternoon reach 47 yards.

Contact DOUGLAS FARMER at dfarmer1@nd.edu

statistics

Rushing Yards

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Penalty Yards

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Contact DOUGLAS FARMER at dfarmer1@nd.edu

Rushing

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Two weeks removed from a three-game losing streak, Notre Dame created another streak Saturday — a two-game winning streak — by defeating Pittsburgh 23-17. 

Junior quarterback Dayne Crist led Irish by recording two touchdowns in the first half, one a one-yard pass to junior receiver Michael Floyd and the other a 10-yard run down the sideline. Senior kicker David Ruffer converted all three of his field goal attempts, including a 50-yarder in the second quarter and a 31-yarder in the fourth quarter that gave the Irish a 13-point lead. 

Senior safety Harrison Smith led the Irish defense with 11 tackles and an interception. Sophomore linebacker Carlo Calabrese added nine tackles. 

Irish reach .500 with victory