Jenkins: Seeberg investigation had ‘integrity’

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Editor

Following media coverage of sexual assault allegations made by Elizabeth “Lizzy” Seeberg and an announcement from the St. Joseph County Prosecutor’s Office that no charges would be filed, the University called its investigation “thorough and careful.”

Seeberg, a first year Saint Mary’s student, alleged that a Notre Dame student athlete sexually assaulted her on Aug. 31. She committed suicide Sept. 10.

The University had previously declined to comment on the topic, citing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which prohibits colleges and universities from discussing students’ education records.

“As you know it’s unusual and perhaps unprecedented for me to comment on a case like this,” University President Fr. John Jenkins said in a Dec. 21 interview with The South Bend Tribune. “But I cannot stand by and allow the integrity of Notre Dame to be challenged so publicly.”

University spokesman Dennis Brown said because Notre Dame takes FERPA seriously, it has a policy of not publicly acknowledging the presence of disciplinary investigations.

“We think the principle of privacy is so important that we’re willing to take some of the criticism that comes with that,” Brown said.

The University worked with the accused student in the case of Seeberg’s allegations, however, and decided to speak about the investigation, Brown said.

“The investigation was thorough and careful and I believe that that needs to be understood by all,” Jenkins told The South Bend Tribune. “The main point I want to make is the investigation had integrity. It followed the facts where it led and any results were based on that sort of investigation.”

According to a Dec. 16 press release from the St. Joseph County Prosecutor’s Office, Seeberg alleged sexual battery, or forced touching of her breasts. Seeberg did not make an allegation of rape.

On Sept. 1, Brown said Seeberg went to St. Joseph Regional Medical Center to report a Notre Dame student-athlete assaulted her while they were in his dorm room on the evening of Aug. 31. A Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) officer, who Brown said has over 35 years of experience and has investigated over 200 sex crime allegations, met Seeberg at the hospital that evening and took a handwritten statement.

The next day, Seeberg asked the officer for a copy of her original statement and said she would like to submit a second statement.

While waiting for Seeberg’s second statement, Brown said the officer spoke with two students who had been with Seeberg and the accused student the evening of the alleged assault.

Seeberg e-mailed that statement to the officer at 9 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 5. Because the following day was Labor Day, Brown said the officer did not view the new statement until Sept. 7, at which time he found inconsistencies with the other two students’ statements.

The NDSP officer contacted the

Greenfields undergoes renovation

By VICTORIA JACOBSEN
News Writer

When customers return to Greenfields Café in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies this semester, they will find renovations have made the campus eatery hard to recognize.

Many aspects of the café — from the décor to the menu — have been modified with the goal of improving convenience and healthy eating options while lessening negative impact on the environment.

Greenfields has not been given a full renovation since the Hesburgh Center opened in 1991. In addition to giving the café a more modern feel, the changes are aimed at making the ordering process more user-friendly.

“Of course, we needed to geographically base the cafés off-campus, assigning a student representative to each off-campus area where students live. These representatives, who live off campus in the same area, are able to be direct liaisons between the council and the students.

Off-campus president Ryan Hawley said student government came up with the idea while discussing ways to increase the effectiveness of Off-Campus Council.

“It’s really to gain better communication with off-campus students,” Hawley said. “It’s hard when there’s three members of the Off-Campus Council and about 1,800 students off campus.”

Hawley said the ambassadors are geographically based, with a student from each of the housing complexes surrounding Notre Dame as well as from different neighborhoods of student housing.

The jobs of the ambassadors are mainly to distribute information.

Saint Mary’s will be hosting a French-themed dinner in honor of the feast of Father Basil Moreau.

The dinner — which will be held on Wednesday in the Noble Family Dining Hall from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. — will feature French dishes in honor of Moreau’s French heritage.

According to an e-mail sent to the student body from Barry Bowles, director of dining services, dishes include food items such as Coq au Vin, a chicken dish with mashed potatoes, burgundy wine and brandy.

Other dishes include Salade Verte, a salad made with mixed greens and Rôti de Boeuf au Poirve and Pommes Lyonnaise.

Some members of Notre Dame’s Class of 2011 will end their four-year college careers by completing their final semester at Notre Dame as part-time students.

Assistant registrar Lora Spaulding said some seniors choose to become part-time students in order to save money on tuition.

“If it’s a student’s last semester and they need less than 12 credit hours to graduate, they can discuss the possibility of becoming part-time with their academic dean,” Spaulding said. “We currently have 192 seniors enrolled as part-time, which is in the grand scheme of things really isn’t that many.”

Spaulding said tuition for part-time students is based on the number of credit hours they are taking during the semester. This semester, part-time students will pay $1,642 per credit hour, she said.

According to Spaulding, seniors who enroll part-time are unable to live on campus, but still have student IDs and continue to have the same

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM JENKINS: SEEBERG/page 5

DURING WINTER BREAK, GREENFIELDS INTERNATIONAL CAFE UNDERWENT A FULL RENOVATION WITH THE GOAL OF BECOMING MORE SUSTAINABLE.

‘Heritage’ dinner to honor Moreau

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary’s Editor

Seniors end careers as part-time students

By EMILY SCHRANK
News Writer

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**THE HOT SEAT: ONE PERSON, FOUR QUESTIONS, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES**

What was your favorite game so far this season?
Novosel: The UConn game, because we stepped up our level of play, and ever since then, we’ve been playing to make a statement in the Big East Conference.

When did you start playing basketball?
Novosel: My dad went to college for basketball and he got my siblings and me playing when we were little.

How do you get in the zone before games?
Novosel: I usually shoot with one other teammate in the pit, and we listen to music to get ready for the game.

Can you explain your nickname, Nasty? Novosel: It started when I played with my club team when I was a freshman in high school. They gave me the nickname and it’s been with me ever since.

Know someone who should be in the hot seat? E-mail obsphoto@gmail.com

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**IN BRIEF**

The Snite Museum of Art will display four etchings by Francisco de Goya until this Sunday. The display is located in the Schulz Family Works on Paper Gallery.

The 22nd Annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival will take place tonight and tomorrow in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Screenings will take place at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Cost is $3 for students, $5 for faculty and $6 for the public.

Evidence, A Dance Company will perform tonight at 7 p.m. in the Decio Mainstage Theatre of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Cost is $15 for students.

Student Activities Office will show “The Goonies” as part of their Dive-In movie event. The event starts at 10 p.m. tonight in the Rolfs Aquatic Center.

A passport fair will be held tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Hennes Mowbray Hall. No appointments necessary.

The film “The Apartment” will be shown tomorrow at 3 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Cost is $3 for students.

The Student Activities Office will sponsor Roller Rink 80’s Night tomorrow at 9 p.m. in LaFortune Student Center. Free skate rental and snacks provided.

“Superman’s Shorts” will be shown on Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. The event will take place in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, and is $3 for students.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews.nd@gmail.com
Campsuses take initiatives to improve health

SMC creates communal walking program

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary’s Editor

For some fresh air and exercise, Saint Mary’s College Women’s Health created a program offering students, faculty and staff the opportunity to come together for a community walk each weekday at 12:15 p.m., Catherine DeCleene, director of Women’s Health said.

“We began the walks because walking at a moderate pace for 30 to 60 minutes burns stored fat and can build muscle to speed up your metabolism,” said DeCleene. “Walking is also associated with cutting your risk of heart disease, breast cancer, colon cancer, diabetes and stroke.”

Women’s Health held the first walk on Monday, according to DeCleene, walkers meet each day at the mailbox outside of Holy Cross Hall. Walkers then proceed outside of Holy Cross to walk one mile around campus.

DeCleene said the walks will increase to two miles as the weather improves.

“Let’s face it, everyone tries to begin each year in a healthy, positive light,” DeCleene said. “What better way than you take a few minutes of your day to enjoy the beauty of the Saint Mary’s campus, meet new people, get some exercise and break your day up.”

According to DeCleene, about 12 to 15 people have participated in each walk each day thus far.

“Most people already know the importance of exercise for a healthy life, but still fail to get started,” DeCleene said. “It’s a well-documented and accepted fact that exercise is essential for ensuring that body systems and functions work properly. People who do not exercise on a regular basis suffer from various ailments and diseases as they grow older, including the problem of obesity.”

DeCleene said walking can be just as effective as jogging and can improve physical fitness.

“Often dismissed in the past as being too easy to be taken seriously, walking recently has gained new respect as a means of improving physical fitness,” she said. “Studies show that, when done briskly on a regular schedule, it can improve the body’s ability to consume oxygen during exertion, lower the resting heart rate, reduce blood pressure and increase the efficiency of the heart and lungs. It also helps burn excess calories.”

When asked about the number of people participating in the walks, DeCleene encouraged everyone to attend the walks, emphasizing the importance of exercise for a healthy lifestyle.

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“Holy Cross will grow like a mighty tree and constantly shoot forth new limbs and new branches which will be nourished by the same sap and endowed with the same life.”

BLESSED BASIL MOREAU, C.S.C.

Rolfs attendance increases as students escape the cold

By REGINA WOOD
News Writer

As the weather grows colder and the second semester begins, many students are working out, according to Jennie Phillips, assistant director of student fitness facilities at Rolfs Sports Recreation Center (RSRC). On Tuesday, 1,900 students worked out at Rolfs. Phillips expects to see about 2,000 people by next Monday, the beginning of the first full week of classes and Rolfs’ usual peak day of the year.

The RecSports staff reminds its supervisors this is the busiest time of the year, and all RecSports’ programs at recsports.nd.edu. Students can also receive a weekly e-mail listing upcoming events and programs.

Phillips said she anticipates the number of students will increase as the weather breaks as students become busier. Bookstore Basketball gets warmer.

“It is really helpful to talk to a professional just so you are making the most out of your time here,” said Phillips. “It is safe and effective,” Phillips said. “Do what you like, but exercise effectively,” said Phillips.

Phillips said she anticipates the number of students will increase as the weather breaks as students become busier. Bookstore Basketball gets warmer.

“We are really doing as many activities as possible,” said Phillips. “Try It Out programs, we have so many things to get involved with, including intramurals, clubs, sports, late night Olympics and fitness classes.”

Contact Regina Wood at rwood@nd.edu
Café continued from page 1

long lines and increase meal options. Greenfields now offers a hot cereal bar for breakfast and a soup bar during lunch hours, as well as various pre-packaged à la carte items.

The new décor is made almost exclusively of recycled or sustainable materials. The sides of the counters, for example, are made of pressed sorghum, while each chair is made of 111 recycled Coke bottles.

The effort to increase sustainability extends to the menu itself. The containers that package the to-go products are recyclable, and almost all the ingredients for menu items are locally produced, which cuts down on environmental impact caused by transportation.

Greenfields executive chef Karen Reynolds described the changes at Greenfields Café as part of a University-wide trend.

“As a campus, the initiative is to go for more locally grown products and to become more sustainable altogether,” Reynolds said. The increased emphasis on healthy meal options on the new menu is likewise a response to initiatives on the part of the University.

“This is an extension of the University’s overall initiative for wellness. This is something they envisioned,” Miller said. “The University is definitely interested in having people live healthier lifestyles, for a lot of reasons.”

The menu options are most- ly comprised of low-fat and organic foods, and taste was an important factor in designing the menu, Miller said.

“Our goal is to give great flavor profiles, so that people come not because it’s healthy but because it tastes good,” he said.

Reynolds was optimistic about customer reception of the changes at Greenfields.

“I hope that we get more customers, Reynolds said. “I hope people are interested in eating better and trying some healthy food.”

Contact Victoria Jacobsen at vjacobse@nd.edu

Moreau continued from page 1

A bread and cheese display will also be included with the meal. A dessert station with assorted pastries and a variety of desserts will also be available.

Sr. Gude, vice president of Missions, said the dinner was held in honor of the founding of the College and Moreau’s contributions.

“Saint Mary’s College is a Holy Cross school,” Gude said. “The Sisters of the Holy Cross began teaching young women in 1844, a year after they came from Le Mans to the United States. From those beginnings evolved Saint Mary’s College, under the guidance of Mother Pauline.”

The dinner will be part of Saint Mary’s College Heritage Week, a week celebrating the history of the College. Heritage Week, the week is sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA) and will begin Monday.

According to Gude, the dinner has become a tradition at the College, and is held annually on or near Moreau’s feast day.

“It’s become a family tradition or ritual to remind us who we are,” she said.

Gude said it is important to honor Moreau’s feast day because he was such an influential person in the founding of the College.

“In a very real sense, without his vision, we would not be here at all,” she said.

Moreau was the founder of the brothers, sisters and priests of Holy Cross. Gude said.

“Saint Mary’s College is one small piece in a vast mosaic of Holy Cross ministries,” she said. “The family of Holy Cross serves in 16 countries and five continents. And it all began with Basil Moreau.”

According to the e-mail, the dinner is open to all students with I.D., regardless of whether or not a meal plan was purchased. Faculty and staff are also invited to attend with I.D. cards.

In addition, the e-mail said family and friends of the College, as well as guests of the community were invited to attend. The cost for a meal is $4.39.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Seniors continued from page 1

opportunities that full-time students have.

“Part-time students can still go to Ralls and can still have a meal plan, if they choose to do so,” she said.

Senior Allie Colaco, a biology major, said she is taking just one class as a part-time student this semester.

“I had the credits, so I figured I might as well save the money,” she said.

At a part-time student, Colaco said she will fill up some of her free time by working in a lab and serving as a teaching assistant (TA) in undergraduate science classes.

Senior Kevin Ritt said he didn’t initially plan on becoming a part-time student this semester, but after realizing he didn’t have enough credits to attend, he decided to become part-time.

“The idea of being part-time hadn’t really occurred to me, but my parents asked if I would mind doing it to save them some money,” Ritt said. “I have two brothers, one who just graduated, and one who is a sophomore in college, so the option of saving some cash was very appealing to them, and, frankly, the idea of only having one class didn’t bother me too much either.”

Ritt said he is especially looking forward to having more free time.

“I’m going to spend my time looking for a job after graduation, working out, and trying to hang out with my friends as much as possible before we all scatter after graduation,” he said. “I also expect to be outrageously good at video games by the end of this semester.”

Contact Emily Schrank at eschrank@nd.edu

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Seeberg continued from page 1

accused student on Sept. 9, but the student did not return the phone call.

The officer learned on Sept. 11, a Saturday, that the Sept. 10 suicide of a Saint Mary’s student was Seeberg. On Monday, Sept. 13, Brown said the officer contacted other local law enforcement agencies because the death changed the perspective of the investigation. He also tried again to contact the accused student. The accused student met with the NDSP officer on Sept. 15.

The Seeberg family, through media outlets such as ABC News and The Chicago Tribune, expressed concern with the two-week period between the original allegation and the meeting with the accused student. In his interview with The South Bend Tribune, Jenkins cited the inconsistencies between the students’ statements as reason for the delay.

“We conducted an investigation, I think, that was judicious and fair to all parties involved,” Jenkins said. “We grieve for the Seebergs, for the loss of their daughter. At the same time, we have to follow the facts where they lead.”

According to the statements from Seeberg, she was with the accused student, a Saint Mary’s student and another male Notre Dame student in a men’s residence hall at Notre Dame on the evening of Aug. 31.

Seeberg’s statement said the two male students appeared to text message one another, and then the male student and Saint Mary’s student left the room. According to Chicago attorney Joseph A. Power, Jr., who is representing the accused student, cell phone records that NDSP obtained for the investigation show that this text messaging did not occur.

Seeberg alleged that the male student-athlete then kissed her and touched her breasts, then threw her aside when he received a text message or phone call. Power said the text messages showed neither a text message nor incoming phone call at that time. He said the statements from the other three students and the subpoenaed cell phone records support a phone call from the accused student to the other male student. According to Power, Seeberg’s statement was inconsistent with those of the three other students, who said the phone call was placed because the accused student wanted the other two students to return to the room.

“I think it’s important that people recognize that the evidence shows one phone call,” Power said. “And that’s from the accused student from his phone to the dorm mate.”

The December press release from the St. Joseph County Prosecutor’s Office on its decision not to prosecute also cited inconsistencies in the statements.

“Only Ms. Seeberg and the student-athlete were present during the alleged battery,” the release stated. “Conflicts exist among the witnesses’ accounts of the events given to the police. Subpoenaed cell phone records are inconsistent with parts of the complaint itself.”

Jenkins said the University allows the prosecutor to make a conclusion on charges before determining whether to proceed with an internal disciplinary process. Brown said the University has not yet decided whether to hold a disciplinary hearing.

In November, Seeberg’s parents sent a letter through their attorney to Jenkins. Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Tom Doyle and Notre Dame general counsel Marianne Corr.

According to Brown, Corr read the letter and also sent it to NDSP because Jenkins and Doyle could ultimately serve as levels of appeal in the University’s disciplinary process, they did not read the letter.

“I am the ultimate court of appeal in disciplinary matters and, consequently, I tried to remain somewhat distant so I am not tainted by one side or another presenting their side of the story,” Jenkins told The South Bend Tribune.

Doyle met Lizzy’s father Tom Seeberg on Sept. 13 at a memorial Mass for Lizzy on Saint Mary’s campus. Since that time, Brown said Doyle maintained regular contact with Tom Seeberg.

Tom Seeberg declined to comment.

Beyond the Seeberg investigation, Brown said the University is working with the U.S. Department of Education on an overall review of its policies. This review is not related to any specific case.

He also said NDSP normally does not send reports to St. Joseph County Prosecutor’s Office if the student filing an allegation does not request that it be forwarded. Seeberg had not expressed an interest in sending the report to the prosecutor, but the University did choose to forward the investigation results.

The University will work with the prosecutor’s office to decide whether to begin forwarding every investigation into sexual assault allegations, Brown said.

“We’ll work with the prosecutor on that and try to determine what practice we should follow going forward,” he said.

Jenkins said there is always a potential to improve investigations.

“I’m certain, we can always improve,” he said, “but I am confident that this investigation was done with integrity. We followed the facts where they led. We achieved a sound result.”

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The Observer

The rhetoric of political Pygmies

Laura McCrystal
News Editor

Yesterday marked the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s inauguration as well as the two year mark of President Obama’s inaugural ceremonies. While both presidential messages were lofty and uplifting, our political dialogue today remains more petty and filled with personal greed than when Kennedy entered the presidency.

As a World War II veteran, Kennedy was strong on defense like Obama. Kennedy, like Obama, believed in a governmental role to solve problems and to spur the economy.

However, political communications strategies changed drastically since the days of Camelot.

Kennedy’s election over Vice President Richard Nixon was more of a choice for youthful style over substance, and both men had strikingly similar military and political service records as well as shared most issue-oriented viewpoints. In fact, when congressional Democrats and Republicans functioned through compromise, Democrats remained majority for 40 years. Newt Gingrich, while orchestrating the 1994 congressional Republican win, strategized that tearing down Congress was his only way to make Republicans a viable choice.

Thus, political discourse began evolving into the message of what we oppose rather than what we favor. Ironically, it is Obama’s long-term, steady goal of being a new type of politician — coupled with the assassination attempt of Representative Gabrielle Giffords — that may finally break our nation’s nasty rhetorical cycle.

Look no further than the new Republican-led House of Representatives to see a current example of focus-group-driven rhetoric most likely parsed by GOP language guru and pollster Frank Luntz. Prior to the Giffords assassination attempt, an economic advisory public reached most negatively to the term “job-killing” when offered various descriptions of what opponents previously and disapprovingly coined as “Obamacare.”

“Job-killing” rhetoric disgorged before them. Next year’s election rhetoric disgorged before them. Next year’s election will prove just how large Obama is and how puny his opponents.

Gingrich extended a hand to Republicans each step of the way and statesmanlike demeanor have boosted his approval rating to 53 percent this week. Undoing negativity Gingrich ingrained decades ago into our political discourse requires the Obama marathon approach. One-issue voters who see our political process as dysfunctional should for once expel the negativity and “job-killing” rhetoric that propelled Tea Party candidates to victory last year.

Obama has also remained unfailingly steadfast in his commitment to the rhetorical high road. His long-term efforts to extend a hand to Republicans each step of the way and statesmanlike demeanor have boosted his approval rating to 53 percent this week. Undoing negativity Gingrich ingrained decades ago into our political discourse requires the Obama marathon approach. One-issue voters who see our political process as dysfunctional should for once expel the negativity and “job-killing” rhetoric that propelled Tea Party candidates to victory last year.

Thank you for giving me a reason to spend my Saturday afternoons doing absolutely nothing other than sitting on my couch, watching television and reminiscing about football season.

Thank you for making students think about where you could teach me, and for those I am eternally grateful.

Thank you for making me rethink my decision to purchase that coat in white as soon as I remembered how that color quickly turned approximately five minutes before turning to gray or brown sludge.

Thank you to all of the students who make Starbucks’ peppermint hot chocolate, my favorite drink, taste especially delightful. There’s nothing like waking up to a mug of hot chocolate on a day when the wind-chill is 30 degrees below zero.

Thank you for teaching me balance. Or, at least, for reminding me I should extend a hand to Republicans each step of the way and statesmanlike demeanor have boosted his approval rating to 53 percent this week. Undoing negativity Gingrich ingrained decades ago into our political discourse requires the Obama marathon approach. One-issue voters who see our political process as dysfunctional should for once expel the negativity and “job-killing” rhetoric that propelled Tea Party candidates to victory last year.

“An inconvenience is an adventure far from over. Sudden changes from sunny blue skies are always a reason to smile. After all, it could be several months before the sun peeks out again from behind layers of gray gloom.

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Thank you for giving me a reason to spend my Saturday afternoons doing absolutely nothing other than sitting on my couch, watching television and reminiscing about football season.

Thank you for allowing Notre Dame students to look forward to getting to the beach during spring break. After spending January through March in South Bend, we appreciate tropical climate, beaches and snow-free days.

Thank you for the threat that even after spring break, winter is probably far from over. Sudden changes from sunny blue skies are always a reason to smile. After all, it could be several months before the sun peeks out again from behind layers of gray gloom.

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Re-evaluating politics in rememberance of Christina Taylor Green

Christina Taylor Green. Until a few days ago, we didn’t know Christina. We weren’t aware of this vibrant nine-year-old’s budding interest in politics. We remained ignorant of her love for swimming, gymnastics and baseball. We had no idea she delighted in picking blackberries. Now, we will never forget her name. Christina. Taylor. Green.

Given to us on September 11, 2001 — she was a fresh soul, unaware of the tumult and turmoil of a place she would so briefly call home. Perhaps it came with the gravity of being born on such a grave occasion, or maybe she came with the gravity of being born on this day.

Christina’s life ended in an irrational fit of violence. She had spunk, intelligence and vision — so much potential whisked away with a whiz of metal. If she would have lived, we are sure she would have done great things for the world. But she is gone. And we endure. In a life taken so senselessly, is it possible to derive meaning?

When someone dies, what’s truly important is brought sharply into focus. Things that once seemed paramount become inconsequential, our mundane daily strife now seems laughable and the prism through which we view the world widens. Death causes us to reflect and re-evaluate. Death clarifies life.

Christina Taylor Green’s death brings great clarity and perspective to American political life. The things we once considered imperative no longer matter. The words we so carelessly slung at each other, the ceaseless bickering, and the aggrieved sense of self seem petty, immature and selfish. These actions absolutely did not cause the gunman to fire those shots; however, it should not prevent us from examining our political consciences. Too often we shout, bludgeon and generalize. We pass judgments about people, fellow Americans, we know nothing about.

That is not to say we should never disagree. We are America. We are a conglomerate group, they agreed on this: the importance of this nation transcended the importance of their own egos. For the sake of Christina and this country, we must strive to emulate their example. Will we choose the politics of difficulty — of honest discussion, of setting aside ego, of selflessness? Or will we fall victim to the ever enticing and easy politics of fear? We desperately hope Christina was right. We hope that through great tragedy comes great strength, great purpose, great meaning. We hope that tragedy of Tucson inspires the courage to put aside our egos and compromises, the reason to work towards a common good and the wisdom to realize this country is bigger than petty partisan bickering.

We cannot change Washington instantaneously, we cannot force people to adopt our mentality, however, how we choose to act at this specific juncture in time is entirely within our realm of control. We challenge you to go to lunch with someone you disagree with, politically or otherwise (present this article as a token of goodwill if you have to). We challenge you to find out what’s important to them, to listen, to re-evaluate, to be great.

Christina Taylor Green entered the world on a day of wickedness, let the day she left be one to inspire transcenence.

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The views expressed in this column are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Joining more well-known and mainstream films such as "The Social Network" and "Inception" in the running for numerous Golden Globes this year, is the highly acclaimed and somewhat controversial ballet drama/thriller "Black Swan." Directed by Darren Aronofsky, known for similarly dark but praised films "Requiem for a Dream" and "The Wrestler," the always exceptional Natalie Portman and impressive Mila Kunis star in a film that has left audiences both amazed and disturbed.

The visionary artistic direction of Aronofsky created a product that could be considered drama, thriller, suspense or even horror. One of the most obvious techniques of Aronofsky's film is the use of color and stark imagery to symbolically and physically represent the major themes and events the protagonist endures. The plot and wardrobe intertwine unmistakably and intentionally. The audience compares the "White Swan," Natalie Portman, to the "Black Swan," Mila Kunis. Portman is often dressed in white as the embodiment of fragility, naivety, innocence and purity while Kunis — more often clothed in black — is meant to represent confidence, sexuality, power and indulgence. Creating unquestionable extremes sets the tone for the messy and distressing transformation from the whites and blacks of a ballerina's stuffed animal-filled room to the blacks and reds of the makeup, wardrobes and blood that come from the unpredictable, dangerous beauty of becoming the Black Swan. The director's astute use of lighting and mirrors to reinforce the transformation and draw attention to the contrasts that come with the doppelganger reality and dual-nature of humanity.

Imagery alone is not what makes "Black Swan" the masterpiece it is, however. While the artistic representations give greater meaning and significance to the story, the movement of the events as they unfold is what seems to have left many both amazed and abhorred. Occasionally using slightly shaky camera angles that follow closely behind the protagonist as she moves in seemingly unthreatening places leaves the audience on edge at all times. Employing techniques similar to what makes an effective horror movie; the audience is rarely given a rest as startling entrances, frightening masks and disturbed doors for her as a serious actress), she comes off almost too controlled, just like her dancing, which is all technical and prided on "perfection" as she sees it. On the other hand, everything the black swan should be — impure, sexual and wicked.

What enables Portman to operate so beautifully is that she portrays the progression of her character with exact precision. Her performance is exceptional and "Black Swan" opens with a fragile ballerina, Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman), dancing the prologue of "Swan Lake" in the middle of a dimly lit stage as a lone violin plays eerily in the background. The music is as vulnerable as the ballerina and they exist harmoniously. Meanwhile, a figure stands in the near background, breathing heavily and watching intently. For a few moments, all is seemingly calm yet wrought with a brooding feeling, until the figure, a monstrous creature, rushes the ballerina, shaking the calm and causing both her and the music to descend into madness.

That is, in essence, the journey in Darren Aronofsky's adaptation of the classic ballet, "Swan Lake," a full-on descent into madness. He blends the same kind of restraint and great trust in his lead that enabled Mickey Rourke to mount a triumphant comeback in "The Wrestler." With a penchant for crime and technically, Aronofsky Portman to fall deeply into character and give a mesmerizing performance.

As a ballerina vying for the lead in "Swan Lake," she approaches her naive, focused and socially deprived self with an intensity that seems pure — white swan-like. Juxtaposed with her counterpart during their night out on the town, Lily (Mila Kunis, in a role that might open some doors for her as a serious actress), she comes off almost too controlled, just like her dancing, which is all technical and prided on "perfection" as she sees it. On the other hand, everything the black swan should be — impure, sexual and wicked.

It's during those moments when the two rivals cross that Portman for the first time gives herself unto a different self, if you will. That alternate self is the black swan. Although the true transformation and all the lurid scenes that arrive with it don't actually come until later, there's a noticeable shift in Portman's performance during their night out on the town. At some point between storming out of a club not knowing what just happened and her ensuing psycho-sexual fantasy, Portman's innocence and purity are abandoned and she is no longer the "sweet girl" her mother wishes she be.

Much like in "The Wrestler," Aronofsky takes a step back at this point, shines a light on his lead, and allows his actor to get swept up in his fever hallucination of a film. Just like the boxer, Portman stands center stage to prove herself in a role that could be the key to her as a serious actress, she comes off almost too controlled, just like her dancing, which is all technical and prided on "perfection" as she sees it. On the other hand, everything the black swan should be — impure, sexual and wicked.

Some of the best performances come when actors or actresses give themselves unto their director's uncompromising vision. Charlotte Gainsbourg gave arguably the best performance of any actor last year in "Antichrist," which won her the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival, because she allowed director Lars von Trier to insist in her the same state of mental anguish that he reportedly felt during filming. Likewise, David Lynch has always been able to get the best out of his female leads because he bewilders them, causing them to feel the same kind of fear towards the role and the process that he wants them to show as their characters come mentally undone before our eyes.

In the case of "Black Swan," Portman neither gives herself to Aronofsky nor does she try to match the grandiose ambitions on her. Instead, he operates almost like that monster creeping in the background at the film's open, painting while holding a shaking camera as the cost of his eyes. Portman, feels deathly afraid by his presence.

"Black Swan" isn't necessarily anchored by Portman's disappointing performance but is instead rooted all the more visceral because she is so unnerving as such a dynamic role. In this year's best performance, her none Portman embodies the fragility of the white swan and allows fear and dread wash over her as she unravels, making the film genuinely horrifying.
True Grit Salvaged by Bridges

By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

Joel and Ethan Coen’s faithful adaptation of 1968’s “True Grit,” the film that finally won John Wayne an Oscar for Best Actor, has a style and sensibility about it that only the Coens can pull off, and that might be its only fault.

If the Academy were ever inclined to award an actor back-to-back Best Actor awards, then Jeff Bridges would deserve it for his portrayal of Rooster Cogburn, the foul-mouthed, irritable gunslinger whom Wayne made famous 40 years ago. Only, in reality, the Academy would rather spread the love than give the same award to the same person over and over again (think Meryl Streep recycling acceptance speeches every year versus some up-and-comer bawling on stage as her career gets propelled to the next level).

Nevertheless, Bridges is nothing short of remarkable, anchoring the film and leaving Wayne’s seemingly unbeatable effort in his dust.

The story follows Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld, in a performance that felt forced but nonetheless has garnered her multiple awards wins), a 14-year-old girl whose father was gunned down by an outlaw, Tom Chaney (Josh Brolin). The smart-talking, determined girl seeks out Cogburn, a U.S. Marshal known for his shoot-first temperament and penchant for whiskey. Cogburn dismisses young Mattie, doubting that she has the lofty payment she promises him, but agrees to team up with her after she swindles a horse dealer out of a small fortune.

The two cross paths with a Texas ranger, LaBoeuf (Matt Damon, who more often than not fades into the background in an unmemorable performance) who has been chasing Chaney across the country for three years to no avail. What ensues is a Coen-infused Western shot with starry-eyed brilliance and a strong faithfulness to the source material and the genre.

Like their best works, the Coens walk a tightrope between good and evil with an ambiguity hanging over it all. Rather than judge its characters, the film stands back and makes no assertions about Chaney or Cogburn as if to say that maybe there was something downright rotten about both of them — one being the murderer on the run, the other the murderer with a badge. Instead, the story unfolds like a tall Western tale permeated by gunfights, drunken mishaps and an eye for a genre often forgotten by Hollywood these days.

As in many of their films, the Coens bring a light-heartedness to a heavy situation. Understandably, “True Grit” isn’t supposed to be some magnum opus of a Western meant to captivate our hearts and minds. However, the jokiness of it all, with everyone from Bridges to Brolin acting as though the chase is more of a wild goose chase than the hunt for a cold-blooded murderer, gets in the way of the film’s attempt to build to “the last gunfight.” Whereas Mattie is trying to avenge her father, Cogburn is too busy drunkenly rambling and trying to prove that he can shoot cornbread better than LaBoeuf.

The Coens have a résumé that few in Hollywood can top. With an Oscar for “No Country for Old Men” under their belts, they can afford to create art for art’s sake, or perhaps better put, a Western for their own enjoyment. Perhaps taking on a film that most believed was entirely Wayne’s was their way of indulging themselves in a subject matter/film dear to them the same way they did in “A Serious Man,” their homage to growing up in a Jewish family in 1960’s Minnesota. Were it not for Bridges, however, True Grit would have been a disappointment.

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From Greek gods to runway-worthy bods, fall break was full of the buff, the bronzed and the beautiful. Eight girls set out on a mission to conquer Athens, Rome, Cinque Terre and Milan in 10 days, taking in everything from the Parthenon to the Pantheon. We sunbathed on the shores of the Aegean, built the city of Rome in a day and hiked through the hills of the Liguria region. Nothing could beat the slight humiliation of trying to blend in at the Milan Chanel though — talk about an adrenaline rush! Watch the final edition of this semester’s “Scene Around the World” and try not to get too depressed you’re stuck in snowy South Bend instead of working on your tan.

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Rodgers looks to create legacy

Associated Press
GREEN BAY, Wis. — The list of Aaron Rodgers’ accomplishments in three seasons as the Green Bay Packers’ starting quarterback, one stands out as being something that really didn’t seem possible when he first took over as the starter.

He made Brett Favre an afterthought in Green Bay.

Going into Sunday’s NFC championship game against the Bears in Chicago, Rodgers is the undisputed face of the franchise, and his success in the playoffs is winning over almost anyone who still had doubts about his place among the NFL’s elite quarter- backs.

“I think he’s definitely the quarterback we all hoped he would become,” coach Mike McCarthy said. “He was a young talented quarterback, had a very bright future, and now we’re in year three of his development and he’s definitely developed into a special player. He does it the right way. He’ll break them down physically, mentally. He’s in a great rhythm right now.”

He certainly made a believer out of veteran Packers wide receiver Donald Driver.

“I love him,” Driver said. “I don’t know if you can put words to it but he’s playing like one of the top quarterbacks in the game, if not the best.”

Rodgers might not have made the Pro Bowl this season, but there’s no shortage of praise coming his way for his outstanding performance in last Saturday’s playoff rout of Atlanta. Rodgers has passed particularly well since he sustained his second concussion of the season and sat out the Dec. 19 loss at New England.

Bears linebarker Lance Briggs said he isn’t bothered by all the national attention on Rodgers.

“Not that it all is,” it’s a sign of respect for what the Packers and Aaron Rodgers have been able to do,” Briggs said. “They’ve been doing a lot of that this whole year. It’s due.”

Rodgers appreciates the praise from fellow players, fans and pundits, but it doesn’t think he deserves it—not yet.

“I have to put some more hardware around here,” Rodgers said.

It once seemed as if Rodgers would never escape comparisons with Favre. But with No. 4 now retired—perhaps even for good this time—Rodgers finally is free.

Rodgers said.

Favre interjected himself into the national conversation about the current Packers quarterback last week, telling ESPN in an e-mail that Rodgers is “the best” quarter- back remaining in the playoffs and paying compliments to the Packers’ receivers and defense.

“I think they will win it all! I hope they do, if you are wondering,” Favre said in his e-mail to the network.

Some fans snickered through- out Wisconsin. No, they really weren’t wondering.

When asked about Favre’s comment, Rodgers’ response was upbeat but brief.

“Any time I’m getting a coment like that from somebody who’s had a ton of success in the NFL, it’s quite an honor,” Rodgers said.

And that’s about the most Rodgers and the Packers have said about their former quarterback in recent weeks.

With the Packers still scram- bling to make the playoffs in December, somebody asked Rodgers whether his apprenticeship under Favre helped or hurt his career.

“I’ll be honest with you, man, I’ve answered that a gazillion times,” Rodgers said then. “So I don’t really want to go back into that. Especially not this week.”

And after the Packers beat the Vikings at the Metrodome in November, McCarthy was asked whether his team might finally be rid of the Favre-driven circus.

“I’m rid of it, you need to get rid of it,” McCarthy said at the time.

Rodgers hit the toughest stretch of his season a few weeks ago, after that Vikings game, sustaining his second concussion of the season against Detroit and sitting out against New England.

Rodgers said he was proud of the way backup Matt Flynn played against the Patriots, but missed playing himself.

“When you go from being a backup for three years to the starter, you just relish those opportunities,” Rodgers said.

And when it gets kind of taken away from you, it’s just really tough to not be able to get back in the game.”

Rodgers has been hotter than ever since returning, leading the Packers to back-to-back wins to make the playoffs. His standout play has continued in the post- season.

“Aaron is a very consistent player and probably stems from his personality,” McCarthy said. “He’s clearly one of the most consistent quarterbacks that I have had the opportunity to work with. He is the same person every day. He doesn’t swing with the highs and lows of the game. It’s all practice and for our practice is going on here. I think it really carries over to the play- ing field.”

Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis (left) tackles Patriots receiver Wes Welker during Sunday’s 28-23 win.

Revis and Jets defense can’t wait for Steelers

Associated Press
FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Darrelle Revis used to wonder if something like this would even be possible.

He’s considered by many to be the best shutdown cornerback in the NFL and has helped lead the New York Jets to the AFC championship game for the second straight season.

It’s a long way from those anx- ious days in Pittsburgh, a city in metropolitian Pittsburgh where big dreams just help you get by.

“IT’s a tough town,” Revis said Wednesday. “It makes you grow up fast. There’s a lot of negativity there.”

And, he said plenty of it. Crimes, friends in trouble and people down on their luck. It was tough to stay focused.

“The one thing I did growing up is lean on the people doing posi- tive things,” Revis said. “Growing up, it’s a tough town.”

When asked about Favre’s claim of being a first-round pick, Revis recalled.

“My Dad’s from there. I remember seeing billboards of him from our hometown and wanting to make it out of there.”

Well, he certainly succeeded.

He was a star at the University of Pittsburgh, became a first-round pick in the Jets in 1997, and is headed for his third straight Pro Bowl.

That’s if, he’s not playing in the Super Bowl in a few weeks.

First, he’s coming back home and hoping to leave with an AFC title and a huge win over the Steelers on Sunday night.

“It means a lot to me,” Revis said. “Jason Taylor is from there, too. We’re both from the same city, the same town.

We played them a couple of weeks ago, and we’re talking about just getting a win from where we’re from, and in front of our families and close friends. It’s the same situation. It’s the AFC championship, but also it’s more personal, being from Pittsburgh, being from Jason Taylor.”

It was only a few months ago that Revis was a training-camp holdout with his complicated con- tract situation a lead story line on HBO’s “Hard Knocks.” He eventu- ally signed a new deal, reported to the team and was back in the starting secondary for the regu- lar-season opener.

The lack of preparation meant he wasn’t close to being the type of player he was last season, though, when he shut down star wide receivers week after week.

Then came a strained left ham- string that sidelined him for two games.

“Coming into the season, we all knew it was going to be a set- ting point,” Revis said. “The coaches knew, (general manager) Mike Tannebaum and those guys knew because I hadn’t been in football mode. I was trying to work out as much as I can and do what I needed to do to prepare myself, but it’s totally different now, you’re not in training camp.

Revis sets personal goals before each season and goes about them down on a sheet of paper. They serve as a reminder to himself for how good he knows he can be—

and expects to be.

“Didn’t reach a lot of them this year,” Revis acknowledged. “But one of those goals is where we’re at right now, going to this place we’re at, winning this game and going to the Super Bowl. I think that’s just a team goal as well for us, just getting here. Everybody’s had the same goal since we got to the Super Bowl and winning.”

Revis has been a major factor in the Jets’ run. The health concerns are no longer an issue, and the contract situation is a distant memory. Revis has been at his best the last several weeks, shut- ting down Pittsburgh’s Hines Ward and Indianapolis’ Reggie Wayne, and teaming with Antonio Cromartie to keep away Tom Brady’s favorite weapons last Sunday night.

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Golf

Love chosen as U.S. captain

Associated Press

MIDLAND, Ill. — Davis Love III had to share his big day with Chicago’s beloved Bulls.

If he leads the Americans to the Ryder Cup in the fall of 2012, he’ll have the whole town to himself.

An emotional and enthusiastic Love was introduced Thursday as the next U.S. captain of the Ryder Cup, then spent the next few hours being feted across Chicago. He was made an honorary member at Medinah Country Club, where the 2012 matches will be played, got a miniature replica of the Stanley Cup, and hooned with Chicago’s sports royalty. Scottie Pippen, Dan Hampton and Ernie Banks.

“Good luck to you,” Pippen, who teamed with Michael Jordan to win six NBA titles with the Bulls, told Love at an afternoon reception. “I’m looking forward to pumping some champagne with you.”

All five of Chicago’s pro teams presented Love with personalized jerseys, and the White Sox threw in a ball from the 2005 World Series. Love also was to be a guest of the Bulls at their game against the Dallas Mavericks later Thursday night.

“The whole world is going to be watching what we do here in Chicago,” Love said. “When we get here, when the European team gets here, we’re going to be at least a point ahead because we’re going to have the Chicago fans, the Chicago energy.”

The daylong celebration of Love’s appointment wraps up a week that put the Ryder Cup in the news some 18 months before the next shot in stroke. Europe, which won the gold trophy in Wales last October, appointed two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal as its captain Tuesday.

Love’s appointment was hardly a secret, and it was clear he’s already working on a plan to reverse the Americans’ recent Ryder Cup woes. Europe has won six of its last eight match-ups.

Love has started talking with PGA and Medinah officials about course setup. He’s thought about the quality he wants in his vice captains and who might be suited for those jobs. At dinner Wednesday night, he and wife Robin spent part of the time looking at the ballrooms and imagining how they could be configured for team meeting rooms.

As for those disastrous rain-suits that leaked, causing a distraction before the Americans even tired off in Wales, Love pledged that a big part of his job will be making sure his players feel as comfortable and prepared as possible.

“I’m a players’ captain,” he said earlier in the day. “I’ll try to get them what they need to be successful. I’m not going to tell the best players in the world how to play golf. I’m not going to read their minds. I’m going to stay out of their way and let them show their talents. I think a good leader knows he’s got a great team and just gets them prepared and let’s them go play.”

Love, a 20-time winner on the PGA Tour, played on six Ryder Cup teams and was the first three matches, with Tom Kite as his partner, were against Olazabal and Seve Ballesteros, the “Spanish Armada” that formed one of the most daunting teams in Ryder Cup history.

Love won that first match, but never beat Olazabal again. They never played each other in singles.

Olazabal won his second green jacket in 1999, and while his dulled day was that of Greg Norman, the Spaniard held off a late charge by Love, who was the runner-up.

Love recalled that Olazabal brought a special Spanish wine to serve at the Masters’ Champions Dinner that next year, and he gave Love the left-hand bottle.

“I’ll always remember his generosity,” said Love, who said he has not spoken to Olazabal this week. “He’s always been a good friend. He’ll be a tough competition. On Thursday we’ll be friends, and Sunday night we’ll still be friends.”

Love said he would consider playing if he earned his way on the team, although a U.S. captain has never qualified for the team in recent decades. Love last qualified for the team in 2004, when Europe routed the Americans at Oakland Hills.

NBA

Anthony trade talks still in air despite Nets

Associated Press

DENVER — Carmelo Anthony was hampered by a sprained left ankle during a spirited 5 on 5 scrimmage at practice on Thursday. When he stepped to the line, his Denver Nuggets teammates began whistling and clapping, scolding the All-Star forward — just like the home crowd has been doing lately.

“You’re a bum, Carmelo!” Smith taunted as Anthony laughed and clumsily swished all three free throws.

Anthony also missed a portion of a postgame TV interview at the Pepsi Center Wednesday night following his 5-point performance in Denver’s 112-107 win over the Phoenix Suns, which came three hours after the New York Nets ended trade talks for the Nuggets star.

That’s not a wise move by the frustrated fans, suggested Kobe Bryant, whose Los Angeles Lakers visit the Nuggets on Friday night. He suggested that if Anthony were at all torn about leaving Denver or staying put, the call might just push him over the edge and on his way.

Bryant said it’s been “tough” being holed at home once in his 15 years with the Lakers and that was in the 2009-10 season after saying during that offseason that he wanted to be traded. He said the fans came around when they saw him playing hard.

Anthony’s been playing hard, too, but the drama has been playing out since last summer, when Anthony declined to sign a three-year, $65 million extension with the Nuggets.

Bryant played with Anthony at the 2008 Olympics and said his friend doesn’t necessarily want the bright lights of Broadway but just a shot at a title.

“It has nothing to do with a bigger market,” Bryant said. “It’s about winning. If you want to keep a player here, make the right decisions, make the right choices, personify him around a guy that will help you win and there will be no problems. If the owner will make the right decisions, bring in the right personnel, then he’ll stick around.

“It’s not rocket science.”

What appears to be rocket science, though, is putting together a trade that will satisfy all parties, especially Anthony, who never gave the Nets or Nuggets an indication one way or the other whether he’d sign his extension to facilitate a trade to New Jersey.

Denver native Chauncey Billups, who’s been dragged into the Anthony trade talks, said he understands why Nuggets fans are hooting Anthony but sympathizes with his teammate.

“Melo’s like a little brother to me, so I hate him going through that,” Billups said. “If Anthony, who didn’t stop to speak with reporters after practice Thursday, has said the Nets don’t bother him or affect his game, suggesting he’ll always be a part of the Nuggets no matter what, that’s fine with the other.

“Players in Denver are starting to drown out the cheers for the superstar who led the Nuggets to seven straight playoff berths but has left the extension without his signature, leading general manager Masai Ujiri and team president Josh Kroenke to seek a trading partner so they don’t lose him to free agency this summer without any getting anything in return.”

Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov canceled his flight to Denver to meet face-to-face Thursday with Anthony and told the team on the Nets’ trip to Newark to “avoid” talks with the Nuggets, saying he was unhappy with how it played out in public, that it took too long, got too expensive and cost the team games.

Ujiri said Wednesday night he’s in discussions with “plenty of teams” about Anthony but that he held no animosity toward the Nets for pulling the plug on a prospective trade. He denied that he tested the Nuggets a couple of first-round picks and rookie power forward Derrick Favors.

With the Nets out of the picture, the Nuggets are expected to get back into the mix with other possibilities including the Bulls, Mavericks and Rockets.

The Nuggets might have to settle for much less from a team that sees Anthony as a “rent-a-player” for a shot at a championship before losing him as a free agent in a few months.

The Knicks haven’t had enough offers for the Nuggets, but they appear to be the one team that could lure Anthony into signing his extension to facilitate a trade.

Anthony was born in Brooklyn and said he’d love to play in the Big Apple, so with the Nets done talking, the Knicks can expect a bigger wave of Melo chatter.

“We’ve gotta make sure we stay focused and he prepared. We can’t let them affect us,” Knicks star Amar’e Stoudemire said. “I haven’t got to make sure we make sure we play hard every night.”

Knicks coach Mike D’Antoni was surprised to hear that Pierce pulled out of his part suit of Anthony, but he said Wednesday night he didn’t think it affects him. And he said that should some of his players’ names get bandied about, he would hope it wouldn’t distract them.

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Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony smiles during a game Saturday. Trade talks involving Anthony continue to heat up.
Irish to host Notre Dame Invitational

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will try to post fast times and strong individual performances when it hosts the Notre Dame Invitational Saturday.

As an early season meet, the Irish have an opportunity to polish their times before the Big East championships, which are now less than a month away. The invitational will also be an early test for the team, as it will feature solid competition in Michigan State, DePaul, and Western Michigan.

"This weekend is important because it is a great opportunity to get a lot of people qualified for the Big East meet," graduate student Jack Howard said. "It is also a good tune-up before we head into the meat of our schedule."

The team is already off to a great start this year, having notched several individual and relay wins at both of its opening meets.

"So far, we have had a lot of great performances in all three phases — running, jumping and throws," Howard said. "We have a ton of depth and a lot of strong returners from last year, plus we have some new faces who are really stepping up, so it is pretty exciting."

In particular, one of those great performances was turned in by heptathlete Justin Schneider. At last weekend’s Bob Eubanks Open, Schneider won six of seven heptathlon events and scored 5,497 points, breaking his own personal record and earning Big East Male Field Athlete of the Week honors in the process.

With scores like that, Schneider and the Irish should be primed for another run at a conference title. Notre Dame took home both the indoors and outdoors championships last year.

"Our goal is just to keep improving so that we’re running our best come the conference meet and beyond," Howard said.

The Invitational will take place Saturday at the Loftus Sports Center. Field events will kick off at 10 a.m., while running events will begin at noon.

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Bednarski continued from page 16

season on both the men’s and women’s sides. Bednarski attributed the top rankings to the success his squad experienced throughout the fall season.

"We had several extremely good results, which is probably why coaches who voted for rankings put us number one on both sides in the preliminary poll," Bednarski said. "It gives us hope that we should be fighting for medals during this coming season."

The duals kicks off a stretch of three consecutive weekends of dual meets across the country for the Irish, who have plenty of time to adjust to the loss of Meinhardt ahead of the conference championships in early March. After a disappointing third place finish in last year’s national championships, the Irish look to prove their lofty early season ranking is warranted.

"Our goal is to prepare to be in the top four, and during the final days just get to the highest place possible in the circumstances," Bednarski said. "I’m optimistic because of the kids’ talent and hard work, and we’re excited to see how this season will go."

Contact Luke Mansour at lmansour@nd.edu

MLB

Leyland knows job not guaranteed after season

Associated Press

DETROIT — Tigers manager Jim Leyland is blunt as he assesses the situation he and his boss, general manager Dave Dombrowski, face entering the final years of their contracts.

"My tail’s on the line, Dave’s is on the line," Leyland said Thursday at Comerica Park as the team started its winter tour across the state, a few weeks before spring training. "We all know that."

Leyland’s deal was extended by two years during the 2009 season, giving him at least one more shot of helping owner Mike Ilitch hoist World Series hardware.

"I came here to give Mr. (Mike) Ilitch a world champions trophy," Leyland said, entering his sixth season as the Tigers’ manager. "That’s what I’m going to continue to try do as long as I’m the manager. If I got to the point where they don’t want me to be the manager anymore, then so be it, that’s their business."

"If somebody thinks that I’m going to be intimidated by the fact that this is the last year, I’ve got all kind of energy, I feel good. I’m really looking forward to it. That’s not going to be a topic."

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Ronan, Saint Mary’s take down Hornets

By LAURA COLETTI

Junior guard Maggie Ronan scored 18 of her 20 points in the first half as Saint Mary’s defeated Kalamazoo 90-59 on Thursday night.

After a slow start by both teams and multiple turnovers, the Belles (12-2, 5-3 MIAA) jumped out to a 22-12 lead with 11:25 remaining in the first half. Missed layups and offensive opportunities allowed the Hornets (2-14, 1-7) to close the gap to 26-25 with 7:02 remaining in the half, but Saint Mary’s managed to take a 44-34 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Belles coach Jennifer Henley said she was satisfied with her team’s first half performance, but acknowledged that her team needed to make adjustments in the second half.

“We talked about a lot of things at halftime,” Henley said. “We talked about a lot of things that we were doing defensively, taking a better stand against what they were doing with us and offensively, communicating more with each other.”

The Belles did just that as they scored the first six points of the second half to increase their lead to 16. Junior forward Kelley Murphy scored 14 points in the second half, including six during a five minute stretch in which the Belles outscored Kalamazoo 13-0.

“I think we had moments of very good defense,” Henley said. “I think we countered [our mistakes] a little bit with getting out and getting our transition game going and getting some points offensively.”

The play of senior captain Liz Wade at point guard was another strong point for the Belles. Wade finished with six assists and created many scoring opportunities on the offensive end.

“Liz Wade did a good job for us in getting some early steals and making things happen in transition,” Henley said. “She’s our four year point guard, and she’s one of our captains and she gets things going for us.”

Henley still feels that her team needs to improve other aspects of its game.

“I think we need to cut down on unforced turnovers,” she said. “We made some silly mistakes in our transition game, and we need to do a better job of boxing out and getting rebounds and eliminating second chance points that we give up teams … We need to do the little things as we move forward to the second part of our conference play.”

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

The Irish return home this week, competing for the first time on Notre Dame’s campus since early December.

The Irish welcome Michigan State, DePaul and Western Michigan to this weekend’s indoor Notre Dame Invitational with the hope of building upon last weekend’s performance in the Bob Eubanks Open at Grand Valley State.

Though the Irish brought limited numbers to last weekend’s competition, they still posted several top performances. As sophomore Rebecca Tracy won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:09.05, and senior Rudy Atang came in second in the shot put with a distance of 14.26 meters.

This weekend will be the first time since the Blue and Gold Meet on Dec. 3 that the full Irish squad will be participating.

“We had a meet in December, just to kind of figure out where we’re at, and then we had basically a month off,” Irish coach Tim Connelly said. “The Christmas vacation was a week longer this year. Most people like that, but I think it kind of hurt you because it took away a week of training and competing.”

As this weekend is only the second competition of the season for the Belles, including six during the Blue and Gold Meet on Dec. 3.

“It’s track. You don’t say we take different bases,” he said. “It’s just a step to kind of see where we’re at and how far we have to go before the conference meet, which is a month from now.”

The Irish are expected to rely on a broad range of players to rack up top honors this weekend. Three senior middle-distance runners are expected to be key contributors in Kelly Langhans, Natalie Johnson and Abby Higgins.

Connelly realizes a deep and versatile squad is necessary to have a successful team, especially in conference competition.

“If you’re going to have a good track team, you have to have a bunch of kids covering a lot of different bases,” he said.

Connelly said he believes in the importance of indoor track. Rather than a simple preparation for the outdoor campaign, he also said it is vital to win indoors in January, February and early March, not just the spring.

“It’s track. You don’t say we take indoors more seriously than outdoors, or vice versa,” Connelly said. “The Big East holds a championship for both indoors and outdoors, so obviously we’ve got an obligation to be at our best for both.”

The Irish begin their 2011 home schedule at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

SPORTS WRITER

By LAURA COLETTI

The Belles did just that as they took down Hornets 90-59 on Thursday night.

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Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu
**Buckeyes continued from page 16**

It’s definitely a big series for us. The No. 8 Irish (15-5-3, 12-5-1 CCHA) have been a program for the long term since the Buckeyes swept them out of the CCHA playoffs last March. A home series is a special day, and the Buckeyes have three losses in the CCHA standings — one point ahead of Michigan for the top spot in the conference.

The Buckeyes (12-2-9, 7-7-2-2 CCHA) rank seventh in the conference, but are riding a stretch of strong play heading into the series with the Irish. The team defeated Miami of Ohio twice during a recent home series. Jackson said the Buckeyes pose a strong test despite their middling position in the standings.

“They’re one of the one of the hottest teams in our conference,” Jackson said. “They’re going to be a formidable oppo-

ent for everybody in the last part of the season. Knocking off Miami twice is pretty impres-

sive.”

The Buckeyes feature a deep and experienced group of for-

wards that have been putting up huge statistics all season. John Albert, who averages more than a point per game, and senior forward Sergio Somma have been leading the scoring attack for Ohio State and pose a challenge for Jackson’s defense.

The teams will face off in a two-game series with the first game beginning Friday night at 7:05 p.m., and the second taking place on Saturday at the same time.

Contact Chris Allen at
callen10@nd.edu

**Welsh continued from page 16**

But Welsh said he was confi-
dent in his group of players’ ability to handle the competition.

“Our divers are a strong group led by three experienced sen-

iors,” Welsh said.

The Spartans field a strong team of opponents for the Irish on the swimming side of the meet as well.

“In every event, the fastest Michigan State swimmer is very strong,” Welsh said. “We expect a very tough meet.”

Welsh also added that the team’s preparation has been a “normal week of practice for swimming and lifting” for the potentially grueling meet.

Friday’s match is the second-
to-last meet before the Big East schedule kicks off.

“We are always looking for signs of improvement,” Welsh said. “That will be our primary focus this week also.”

Last week, the Irish took down Northwestern and Cleveland State. Welsh was pleased with his team’s performance.

“Our team raced very well,” Welsh said. “We are eagerly to build on that high level of per-

formance.”

The meet begins at 5 p.m.

Contact Matthew Robison at
mrobison@nd.edu

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**Freshmen continued from page 16**

men to step up,” junior Kristy Frilling said. “Every match is impor-

tant, and we have a tough schedule and I think we’ve got a lot of tough matches. So I think to make sure we’re all really ready to compete.”

Part of the No. 1 doubles team in the NCAA two years running, Frilling is returning with her third doubles partner in three years — fellow junior Shannon Mathews.

“It’s definitely been a challenge because a new partner means a whole new game style,” Frilling said. “So far it’s worked out pretty well, and I think math and Shannon will work well together.”

Mathews was a part of the team’s No. 1 doubles last year, and Luderbach has high hopes for her success with Frilling as a partner.

Even with the number of return-

ing players, Luderbach knows that he will have to amend his coaching style slightly this season in order to break in the new players.

“This year is going to be a little dif-

ferent because when we have two freshmen into the lineup, we’ll have to adjust more when we find out how those freshmen do in dual matches,” Luderbach said.

In addition to the team’s success, Frilling has her own personal goals. “I want to stay at the top of the rankings in both singles and dou-

bles,” Frilling said. “For my singles, I want to go out and win all of my matches and qualify for the individ-

ual NCAs and the doubles tourna-

ment.”

Frilling hopes that success this season will help her in her quest to eventually gain professional status.

“I’m going to try to play some tournaments this summer to try to establish a professional ranking, and after I graduate I’m going to try to go on tour for a while and see how that goes,” Frilling said.

For now, Frilling is just focusing on leading her team to an NCAA tournament title.

“Every season is new no matter what, so you can’t go in thinking that rankings matter,” Frilling said. “You still have to perform the best you can because the results will speak for themselves.”

The Irish hit the courts on Saturday at Illinois at 1 p.m.

Contact Katherine Heit at
kheit@nd.edu

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**SMC Swimming and Diving**

**Calvin next on MIAA lineup for Saint Mary’s**

By KELSEY MANNING

Sports Writer

The Belles return from a week of training in Florida with a tough matchup against six-time defending MIAA Champion Calvin College. In what will be Saint Mary’s final meet of the season, the squad is set to encounter a familiar foe.

In early December, Saint Mary’s competed at Calvin in a combination Division I, II and III Winter Invitational.

The Belles finished in ninth with a particularly strong performance from junior Audrey Dalrymple, who earned a spot in the 200-yard breaststroke final. Tomorrow’s adversary, Calvin, took second in that event.

In the final meet before the break, Saint Mary’s fell just short of Olivet in a short dual meet. The effort was high-

lighted by the individual per-

formances of Dalrymple, along with sophomores Ellie Watson and Katie Griffin and junior Megan Price. The four swimmers achieved six indi-

idual wins, bright spots in the tough 107-96 loss.

Though the Olivet meet brought the Belles to 0-2 in dual meets for the season, they will try to pick up wins in three upcoming matches against Calvin, Albion and Hope.

Saint Mary’s will host Calvin in its final home meet of the year tomorrow at the Rolfs Aquatic Center at 6 p.m.

Contact Kelsey Manning at
kmannin3@nd.edu

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**SUMMER CAMP POSITIONS — HIRING NOW!**

Secure your summer job! Camp Rancho Framasa is an inclusive, residential camp, located in south central, Indiana, operated by the Catholic Youth Organization since 1946. Serving campers aged 7 to 16 in various programs.

We offer a welcoming staff community in a beautiful outdoor setting. General Staff, Counselor Manager, Inclusive Programming, Challenge Course Counselor, positions available. All positions start at $2350/week.

Training is provided; start date May 28, 2011.

For more information and an online application visit www.campranchoframasa.org

Questions? angie@campranchoframasa.org

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Crossword

Across
1. Progress too slowly 13. 1,000
3. Opposite elevation 15. 1,000
4. Tavern 16. Math error
5. Popular name for a tortoise 17. Things hanging up the stairs
6. Image that stays with you 18. Traffic reader, you might see it
7. TV show whose opening music is the What's "Where Are You?"
8. Where Alfred Kropp was born 19. Frequent fret
9. What an ancient child Becky 40. Lively in one's teens?
10. Make checks payable to: The Observer and mail to: P.O. Box 779 Notre Dame, IN 46556

Down
1. 1,000
2. 1,000
3. 1,000
4. 1,000
5. 1,000
6. 1,000
7. 1,000
8. 1,000
9. 1,000
10. 1,000

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

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=request?

EUGENIA LAST

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORNOH

TEMPY

WELLOB

SNORPI

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NEW BIBLE Jumble Books Go To: http://www.tyndale.com/jumble/

Answer here:

LAST WEEK'S JUMBLE:
Answer:

NOW ARRANGE THE CIRCLED LETTERS TO FORM THE SURPRISE ANSWER, AS SUGGESTED BY THE ABOVE CARTOON.

JUMBLE

TUESDAY VARIETY SHOW

LAURA McGINN

PleasANDville

JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY

THE CROSSWORD

Across
29. The Cryptogram's playwright, 1995
32. Meeting in which one person is anxious to have a sex
33. Decades of old prison work
34. Phone transactions, a
36. LCS
37. Word a word in a Pennsylvania college name
39. He's back
41. Spy at standard Turner's "Dum" before leaving
44. Alien success
45. A new year end with one
46. Publication
48. Director

Down
1. Milky drink
2. Cover
3. Bathroom cough
4. Male size male
5. Candy, e.g.
6. Cleavage/see and such
7. Randi getting the lead out
8. ContinentalScreen formation
9. Embroidery expert
10. Black
11. Last week
12. Analyst who raised the index fingers of the Punjab
13. Flip a light
14. Word on Harry Potter's belt initials in the Hungarian
15. Common glass in the dark room
16. Claims dependence in laboratories
17. Aroma
18. Mouse locomotive

THE OBSERVER

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: State Wilson, 45; Stacy Dash, 45; Bill Maher, 55; David Lynch, 65
Happy Birthday! Pray that he or she be in the midst of all that is good and that he or she be sustained and given the will to make right choices. Pray that his or her path be smooth.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't feel pressured to make changes now. Your plans are in a positive phase. Your family will inspire and motivate you to take on a new challenge or to strike out on a new path. Self-determination will lead to success.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You need a vacation or something that will get your mind in a positive phase. Your family will inspire and motivate you to take on a new challenge or to strike out on a new path. Self-determination will lead to success.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Go. Get after it. Take action is half of the battle. When you do enough good will be easy to see but don't dwell.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Getting involved in what's going on around you will make you feel like you are a part of something important and it will help you feel more decisive. If you have the discipline and the internal motivation to follow through...

LEO (July 23-Aug 22): You don't want to worry yourself sick before you are ready to launch your plan. Socializing should be fun, not a chore. Someone you are about to give you a much-needed injection of whisky.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 22): Look to the future and take advantage of whatever is available to you. Change is breaking your way but it is up to you what you do with it. Make the most of it and you will prosper, but be negative is by not and you will not.

LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22): You can sit where you are and let people do your work for you. You must pursue everything you are in life and push is the only word you will ever need to use in a life-changing election. "

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): It's about change and keeping life different. A trip or change of scenery for the day will open your mind to a world of possibilities. It's time to get things moving again and getting out of what you may have become stuck in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): Be careful around the people most critical of your every move. Offer less, affect more, and make yourself move. It is a way to handle situations in which you have to wait, not even. Do this, not that.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): Don't feel that what you are doing change in your current situation is not worth doing more. Be open and honest, even if you are not likely to get anywhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): Letting go of the past can be problematic if you remain stuck in the past.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): You must go to your heart's desire. If you are not sure what that heart's desire is, then you may feel you are being led astray or beinginish yourself. You are not the only one that has to do this.

THE FORECASTER WAS WEATHER AGHAST

Answer: When they found out workout fees were increased, it WAS A "STRETCH"

Answers tomorrow:

THE OBSERVER

Celebrity Daily Horoscope

TOMORROW'S CROSSWORD

TUESDAY VARIETY SHOW

THE OBSERVER

HOROSCOPE

CROSSWORD

JUMBLE
HOCKEY

Seeking vengeance
Irish look to knock Buckeyes in Columbus

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame returns to the place where its 2009-10 cam-
paign came to a bitter end when it traveled to Columbus, Ohio, this weekend to take on
Ohio State.

Though a large portion of the
Irish roster is made up of freshmen, the more experi-
cenced players on Irish coach
Jeff Jackson’s squad have not
forgotten the disappointing
swEEP at the hands of Ohio State in the first round of the CCHA playoffs, including an 8-1
blowout in the final game.

“You can’t forget —
that’s the team that knocked us out last year,” senior wing
Calle Ridderwall said. “They ended our season, which is
something I’ve hoped a lot of
guys who were here last year have
in the back of their heads.

The team has quite a few return-
ning starters, but also lost some
of its top rivals. Ohio State, St. John’s, Yale and
Columbia will comprise a field
of some of its top rivals. Ohio State, St. John’s, Yale and
Columbus will comprise a field
of its best in recent years.”

Last season was a familiar story
for the Irish — a high ranking, a
successful regular season and an
exit in the semifinals of the NCAA
tournament. This year, Notre Dame is hoping to make it all the way.

“I think there’s a good chance of
us being in the Final Four again, and once you get to that point you
always have a chance of winning,” Irish coach Jay Louderback said.

“When you’re in the Final Four, you’re in the Final Four,”
he said.

The team has quite a few return-
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major players with the departures of their last year’s senior class. Thankfully,
the team has a handful of freshmen
prepared to fill the void.

“It’ll be important for the fresh-
er players to step up and bring in the new momentum we gained from a
stellar showing at the Dallas
North American Cup when both
the men’s and women’s squads
traveled to the Big Apple to partic-
ipate in the NYU Duals on Friday.

The tournament will provide
an early-season test for the
Irish, who lost star fencer Gerek
Meinhardt for the season due to
torn meniscus. The Irish will
have the opportunity to test out
different lineups against top
competition at the NYU duals in
the wake of losing the NCAA
champion and former
Olympian.

“There are many fencers who
are going to New York with the
opportunity to show that they
can replace Gerek,” Irish coach
Janusz Bednarski said.

“Fortunately we have a wide
bench, and there are some
good guys who are ready to
step up and take his place.”

The NYU duals will also give
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some of its top rivals. Ohio State, St. John’s, Yale and
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that Bednarski called one of the
toughest at the NYU Duals in
the last ten years.

The Irish recently ranked No. 1
in the initial USFCA poll of the

ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Finals ultimate goal for ND

By KATHERINE HEIT
Sports Writer

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FENCING

Meinhardt out, Irish
head to NYU Duals

By LUKE MANSOUR
Sports Writer

The Irish hope to continue the
momentum they gained from a
stellar showing at the Dallas
North American Cup when both
the men’s and women’s squads
traveled to the Big Apple to partic-
ipate in the NYU Duals on Friday.

The tournament will provide
an early-season test for the
Irish, who lost star fencer Gerek
Meinhardt for the season due to
torn meniscus. The Irish will
have the opportunity to test out
different lineups against top
competition at the NYU duals in
the wake of losing the NCAA
champion and former
Olympian.

“There are many fencers who
are going to New York with the
opportunity to show that they
can replace Gerek,” Irish coach
Janusz Bednarski said.

“Fortunately we have a wide
bench, and there are some
good guys who are ready to
step up and take his place.”

The NYU duals will also give
Notre Dame an early glimpse of
some of its top rivals. Ohio State, St. John’s, Yale and
Columbus will comprise a field
that Bednarski called one of the
toughest at the NYU Duals in
the last ten years.

The Irish recently ranked No. 1
in the initial USFCA poll of the

MEN’S SWIMMING

Michigan State next for Irish

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame looks to return the
tavor to the Spartans in East Lansing, Mich., on Friday after
Michigan State handed the squad a loss in a head-to-head match up
last season.

The Irish fell to the Spartans
121-179 a year ago. In the all-time
series, however, the Irish lead 5-3.

Irish coach Tim Welsh described
this year’s Spartan squad as “one of
their best in recent years.”

In addition to the daunting task
of beating a strong Michigan State
team, the team will have to deal
with the extra stress of competing
on a day of classes.

“As an away meet on a school day is especially challenging,” Welsh
said. “Diving is especially chal-
lenging. Expect diving to be a sig-
nificant factor in the outcome of the meet.”
LEADING with CONFIDENCE
Annual questions return for Irish

It's that time of year again. Mid-January. The days of syllabus week, laundry, and just amounts of snow and the annual questioning of Notre Dame basketball. What classes will be the easiest this semester? When will the Irish ever win a game on the road? When will the South Dining Hall no longer result in frostbite? Does Notre Dame have an offensively safe from a 3-point barrage? Are there more than seven plays on the Irish roster? Can Mike Brey right the ship before an excess amount of damage is done to his team's resume? If only these questions hadn't all been heard before. Just like cupcake classics and scary snowfalls, doubting Notre Dame has become an annual trend, seemingly with decades of tradition supporting it.

The only chance to buck this habit lies in the very hands of the doubters, and perhaps this is finally the year Brey, Backstrom, Tim Abromaitis and the rest of the Irish make a statement.

Losing on the road in the Big East, or against Kentucky, in Kentucky, is far from preferable, but there are darker black marks to have against you. Syracuse (with only one loss). Marquette (and St. John's are all likely NCAA tournament teams. They should be expected to defend their respective home courts. Notre Dame has briefly ascended to the top-10 by doing just that, beating likely March Madness teams Gonzaga, Georgetown, Connecticut, Cincinnati and St. John's. At some point the Irish will find their stride on the road. It is nearly inevitable, especially with a trip to DePaul coming up on Feb. 3.

As for the Irishman's phobia of an offense that so often goes three points at a time, take a deep breath for a somewhat-common-sense factoid. Teams that shoot 3s and make them are more likely to win; teams that don't, or do not attempt them, are more likely to lose.
After making switch to Notre Dame, senior guard Ben Hansbrough has embraced a leadership role

By ERIC PRISTER
Associate Sports Editor

Receiving contributions from transfer students is not a rarity for the Notre Dame basketball program. In fact, two current Irish starters did not start their career in South Bend. But senior guard Ben Hansbrough does more than just contribute for the Irish — he has become the de facto leader of the 2010-11 Notre Dame squad, both on and off the court.

“Being a captain, obviously you have to be a leader,” Hansbrough said. “My overall role is just to continue to get this team going, and provide my spirit and work ethic for the team, and just hope it rubs off on everybody.”

Hansbrough is leading the Irish in scoring, assists, steals and 3-point percentage. Irish coach Mike Brey has repeatedly talked about how well Hansbrough has embraced his role as the emotional leader of the Irish squad as well, something he learned from the Notre Dame veterans when he arrived in 2008.

“Three years ago when I came here, [former Irish players] Zach Riddlesland, Kyle McAulane, Ryan Ayers and Luko Zellar were on the team, and it helped just being around those guys and watching how they carried themselves,” Hansbrough said. “It really was like a learning process for me. And then once you become a senior, it’s almost like you’ve watched these guys and how hard they’ve worked and you try to embrace it and set an example for the younger guys and then how we do things here. Hopefully they can enjoy the Notre Dame experience at the same time.”

Hansbrough began his career at Mississippi State University, and played two seasons with the Bulldogs. He averaged 8.5 points over those two years, but when it came to deciding on a new school, he knew that Notre Dame would offer him exactly what he was looking for.

“Obviously you get the best of both worlds here — academic and with sports,” Hansbrough said. “Basketball’s in the best conference in America, and you’re constantly getting national exposure. At the same time, you’re graduating from an excellent academic institution.”

Hansbrough thrives on his confidence, and it’s that confidence that allows him to play at a high level. And once he starts hitting shots, it becomes very difficult to stop him. Hansbrough scored 19 points in the first half against Kentucky, including three straight 3-pointers and 11 points in a row.

“It’s kind of weird, because me and the guy that rebounded for me, Pat Holmes, Jr., he can kind of tell when I go onto that zone,” Hansbrough said. “It’s just hoping you can get to that zone, and constantly working every day, training on your game. Once you get out there on the court and you start to see a couple shots go in, it’s almost like you’re reminiscing from these workouts when you get hot and you can’t wait to touch it again and get another shot up there. Also, my teammates have been doing a great job of finding me when I get into the zone, so it’s partly to their credit also.”

Hansbrough claims his confidence was instilled in him from competing against his older brothers Greg and former North Carolina standout Tyler. And current Indiana Pacers forward Austin Hansbrough.

“I think a lot of the confidence comes with the family I was raised in,” Hansbrough said. “I have two very competitive older brothers, and me being the youngest, you almost have to learn how to play with an edge just to compete with those guys. Tyler being 2 1/2 years older than me and Greg being 4 1/2 years older than me, at such a young age you have to kind of learn how you’re going to compete, and I think you pick up an edge, and that edge may reflect confidence. I just think it’s instilled in me almost, being the littlest of the three.”

In addition to the confidence he learned, Hansbrough said that some of his determinations came from watching Tyler’s achievements — 2008 National Player of the Year, 2009 National Champion, 2009 NBA Draft lottery pick.

“My brother’s had a lot of success,” he said. “I would say that I took a lot of his work ethic. Seeing the success he’s had and just watching and learning how he got there, you kind of learn how he was successful with his work ethic and his game on and off the court. You just can kind of learn from it, and it’s been really good for me to learn from that and see the success he’s had from his hard work. You just try to adapt it, and it’s worked for me also.”

Because they went to the same high school, Hansbrough was able to witness his brother’s work ethic up-close — sometimes too close.

“We played on the same high school team, and we never played against each other, so the only rivalry we had would be in open gym at school, and those were pretty bad. There were some lost teeth a couple times. It happens,” he said.

When asked which of the two lost their teeth, Hansbrough answered pointedly,

“Umm ... me,” he said, laughing.

Hansbrough said he embraces any opportunity to get better, and he was allowed a unique opportunity this summer. He played in pickup games at Chapel Hill, N.C., against professional and college athletes, including New York Knicks point guard Raymond Felton.

“It was great for me, because as an athlete, you always want to try to train against the best competition out there,” Hansbrough said. “I was able to train with Raymond Felton, and it was great to go out and play with somebody who’s at that level and compete against. That was really good for my game.”

“It brought my confidence up to a new level, and it brought my game up to a new level too. Going around those guys and seeing how they treat the game and how they dedicate themselves to the game. It was just good for me. Watching how he was a point guard at a professional level, and watching how he got everybody involved, and his tempo, speed and work ethic really surprised me, and I’ve just been trying to translate some of that stuff into my game.”

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu
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Nov. 14 Liberty — W
Nov. 17 Chicago State — W
Nov. 22 Maine — W
Nov. 25 Georgia — W (OT)
Nov. 26 California — W
Nov. 28 Wisconsin — W
Nov. 30 Indiana State — W
Dec. 8 Kentucky — L
Dec. 11 Gonzaga — W
Dec. 19 Stony Brook — W
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Dec. 29 Georgetown — W
Jan. 1 @ Syracuse — L
Jan. 4 Connecticut — W
Jan. 8 St. John’s — W
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Jan. 22 Marquette
Jan. 24 @ Pittsburgh
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Feb. 6 Rutgers
Feb. 9 Louisville
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Feb. 23 @ Providence
Feb. 26 Seton Hall
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March 5 @ Connecticut

TYRONE NASH: 9.9 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 2.8 apg
CHRIS OTULE: 5.2 ppg, 2.7 rpf, 0.2 apg

Nash has received consistent playing time for four years now, so he is no stranger to the physical style of play in the Big East. Otule, a sophomore, has not fully adjusted to that not-always-desirable aspect yet. Thus, Nash should be able to negotiate his way past Otule’s three-inch height advantage and 30-pound weight difference and hold his own down in the post. If Nash can keep Otule from ruling the boards, most likely with the help of Abromaitis, Martin, senior forward Carleton Scott and sophomore forward Jack Cooley, the Golden Eagles will have difficulty gaining offensive momentum consistently, a factor that could make all the difference Saturday.

EDGE: NASH

BENCH PERFORMANCE/INTANGIBLES

Marquette went seven-players deep against Notre Dame during its 79-57 victory over the Irish on Jan. 10. For the past few weeks, Notre Dame has only been able to go seven-players deep itself, but with the progressive return of senior forward Carleton Scott, currently coming off the bench, suddenly the Irish have eight players to rotate on the hardwood. Sophomore forward Jack Cooley provides a big body when the Irish need that presence.

Meanwhile Marquette’s Vander Blue is a dangerous weapon hidden on the bench. Golden Eagles coach Buzz Williams tries to use Blue as a change of pace, but in their previous meeting, the Irish held Blue to only two points in 29 minutes.

EDGE: CROWDER

BEN HANSBROUGH: 15.7 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 3.8 apg
DARIUS JOHNSON-ODOM: 15.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 2.8 apg

Each team’s leading scorer will likely draw his counterpart for a defensive assignment, which could inhibit their usual points-production. Hansbrough has proven to be a complete player for the Irish this season, including showing abundant amounts of emotion on the court. Furthermore, his defensive performance against Connecticut’s Kemba Walker cemented his status as completely necessary. Johnson-Odom has not faced as stiff a challenge as Walker — currently the nation’s second-most prolific scorer — and thus will likely struggle more slowing Hansbrough than Hansbrough will slowing the Golden Eagles’ leader.

EDGE: HANSBROUGH

TIM ABROMAITIS: 15.3 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 2.1 apg
JAE CROWDER: 13.0 ppg, 6.7 rpf, 1.5 apg

Crowder is quickly moving into the national spotlight as an increasingly difficult matchup. The combination of a body size of some college football linebackers and the ability to drop back and hit a jump shot creates a dilemma for any defender. Abromaitis, solidly built himself, should be up for the challenge, but if Crowder gains any momentum against the Irish forward, he will be difficult to slow down before the final buzzer. Contrarily, Abromaitis’ offensive repertoire hinges on his 3-point shooting and ability to slip behind the defense for backdoor lay-ups. In all of reality, both of those skills are easier to slow down than Crowder’s pure physicality.

EDGE: CROWDER

ERIC ATKINS: 7.3 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 3.6 apg
DWIGHT BUTCKS: 10.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 4.1 apg

Buycks, a senior, will likely continue Atkins’ introduction into the world of Big East point guard play. The Irish freshman has performed admirably thus far as he has averaged 2.7 assists per turnover, and recorded zero turnovers in his first Big East start against Connecticut Jan. 19. The Golden Eagles veteran will push Atkins on all fronts, including his defense, but the Maryland native has shown savvy so far, and should continue doing so.

EDGE: ATKINS

SCOTT MARTIN: 9.9 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.7 apg
JIMMY BUTLER: 15.4 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 2.1 apg

Martin, a Purdue transfer, came to Notre Dame with much promise before an ACL injury sidelined him all of last season. After two years spent on the bench, it has taken Atkins so far, and should continue doing so.

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JIMMY BUTLER: 15.4 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 2.1 apg

Martin, a Purdue transfer, came to Notre Dame with much promise before an ACL injury sidelined him all of last season. After two years spent on the bench, it has taken him some time to readjust to game speed, though with each game he has slipped more into a groove, including an 11-point performance Wednesday during Notre Dame’s 66-58 victory over No. 25 Cincinnati. His natural quickness will be needed against Marquette in order to slow down the likes of Butler, who pours in his 15.4 points per game while remaining below the radar. If Butler gets going Saturday night, Martin will likely face a quick leash from Irish coach Mike Brey in favor of a more physical defend-
Women’s: Notre Dame vs. St. John’s

Despite taking a back seat to Novosel in scoring, Diggins is still Notre Dame’s most dangerous player on both sides of the ball. While her scoring average is on line with last season’s pace, Diggins has become a better distributor as McGraw’s offense runs through her. She ranks sixth in the conference with 4.7 assists per game, and her defense has also improved. Lindsay should have a difficult time creating her own shot, but will not be asked to handle the scoring duties. The veteran guard will still play a valuable role for St. John’s as a ball handler. In the end, Diggins should outperform Lindsay, if for no other reason than her advantage amid their similar first names.

EDGE: Diggins

SKYLAR DIGGINS: 14.1 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 4.7 apg
SKY LINDSAY: 6.3 pgg, 2.7 rpg, 1.2 apg

BECCA BRUSZEWSKI: 8.3 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.7 apg
CENTHYA HART: 8.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 0.9 apg

McPherson, but she’s more than capable of providing the lift. The sophomore guard ranks third on the team in scoring with 10.1 points per game. Mallory has struggled to find a rhythm since injuring her ankle during the first game of the season during a loss against Kentucky. The senior guard is averaging 8.1 points and 5.8 boards in just 18 minutes per game. Freshman Kayla McBride ranks fourth on the team in scoring, but has a knack for getting to the hoop, but will face a greater challenge in keeping Novosel in front of her while providing Lindsay a bit of support in keeping Diggins out of the lane.

EDGE: SMITH

BRITANY MALLORY: 6.8 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 2.3 apg
SHENNEIKA SMITH: 14.5 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.9 apg

BECCA BRUSZEWSKI: 8.3 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.7 apg
CENTHYA HART: 8.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 0.9 apg

Novosel has taken her game to another level this season, especially on the offensive side of the ball. Leading the Irish in scoring and is the eighth-leading scorer in the Big East, Novosel, who is McGraw’s most consistent player and a factor in the game plan of opposing coaches. She is also comfortable taking the final shot of the game. McKenzie is a bit of an unknown in her second season for the Red Storm. She is a good ball handler with enough skill to get to the hoop, but will face a greater challenge in keeping Novosel in front of her.

EDGE: NOVOSEL

NATALIE NOVOSEL: 15.2 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.3 apg
NADIRAH McKENITH: 7.2 pg, 4.3 rpg, 3.2 apg

This will be the matchup of the night. Peters is coming off her third consecutive Big East Honor Roll appearance, and has improved every aspect of her game. After being plagued by injuries in her first two seasons, the senior has responded to addition playing time with her best numbers in her career. More importantly, she’s staying out of foul trouble. But Stevens is St. John’s second legitimate scoring option after Smith, and blew through the Irish for 21 points and 11 rebounds last season. The junior forward is a serious threat on the offensive side of the ball. Leading the Irish in scoring and is the eighth-leading scorer in the Big East, Novosel, who is McGraw’s most consistent player and a factor in the game plan of opposing coaches. She is also comfortable taking the final shot of the game. McKenzie is a bit of an unknown in her second season for the Red Storm. She is a good ball handler with enough skill to get to the hoop, but will face a greater challenge in keeping Novosel in front of her.

EDGE: STEVENS

DEVERAUX PETERS: 10.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.9 apg
Da’SHENA STEVENS: 12.0 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 1.4 apg

Notre Dame has one of the deepest benches in the league, and it’s only getting better as the season progresses. Not every team can bring a 6-foot-3 freshman off the bench, but McGraw has that luxury in Natalie Achonwa, who averages 8.1 points and 5.8 boards in just 18 minutes per game.

BENCH PERFORMANCE/INTANGIBLES

NATALIE NOVOSEL: 15.2 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.3 apg
NADIRAH McKENITH: 7.2 pg, 4.3 rpg, 3.2 apg

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

The Observer ◆ IRISH INSIDER

2010-11 Schedule

Nov. 12 New Hampshire — W
Nov. 15 Morehead State — W
Nov. 18 UCLA — L (2OT)
Nov. 21 @ Kentucky — L
Nov. 26 IUPUI — W
Nov. 27 Wake Forest — W
Nov. 28 Butler — W
Dec. 1 @ Baylor — L
Dec. 5 Purdue — W
Dec. 8 @ Providence — W
Dec. 11 Creighton — W
Dec. 20 @ Valparaiso — W
Dec. 29 Gonzaga — W
Dec. 30 Loyola-Marymount — W
Jan. 2 @ Seton Hall — L
Jan. 5 @ Marquette — W
Jan. 8 Connecticut — L
Jan. 12 Louisville — W
Jan. 15 @ Pittsburgh — W
Jan. 18 Georgetown — W
Jan. 23 St. John’s — W
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Critics of the Irish team this season have said Notre Dame is too young to be good, with a major weakness in the post. Senior forward Devereaux Peters is making sure those critics know that they’re wrong. And she manages to do so while sitting out for up to 15 minutes per half.

“A lot of people were talking about how we’re low in the post this year and how we don’t have a post game and that was going to be our weakness. And the posts were kind of like, ‘Oh, Ok, that’s our weakness, huh?’” Peters said. “We took that as a shot at us, so ever since then we’ve been fighting back. In practice, we’re running if we miss them so it’s really ingrained it our heads this year that we have to box out and get on the boards, especially because we’re not as big as most people. They really hit that fire under us early.”

Standing at 6-foot-2, Peters knows she is not one of the tallest players at her position, but that hasn’t stopped her from making the Big East Honor Roll for three consecutive weeks. Peters makes sure to bring her all to the court each game, leading her squad in rebounds (6.5 per game), blocked shots (5) and field goal percentage (.570), while placing third in scoring with an average of 11.1 points per game. Peters sees pushing for perfection as a negative aspect all the time, however, as she feels it helped her bring her performance to where it needs to be this season after a rough start.

“I think I started out really slow and I was getting really frustrated with how I was playing. I wasn’t feeling well in the big games, I felt like I wasn’t really coming through,” she said. “So I tried to pick it up more in practice, my teammates were pushing me more. I expected more of myself, and I think it’s starting to come out now. But once I finally had a really good game where I started to pick the pace back up and started to finish and do the things I used to do, it was just uphill from there and once I started playing better I got that confidence back.”

Peters wasn’t worried about her playing meeting her own expectations as much as she was concerned about doing the best for her team. She could sense a trend coming out in her performances earlier this season, a trend that wasn’t getting her anywhere and almost lost her spot on the court.

“I saw how I was playing was affecting the team as a whole,” Peters said. “My play had downgraded a lot from last year and last season, even though I didn’t play the whole season, I really wasn’t performing at all. I wasn’t doing much of anything. It was getting to the point that they [her teammates] were like, ‘I don’t know if we’re going to have to take your spot or what’s going to have to happen to make you turn it around.’ So that kind of woke me up. I thought, ok, I have to pick it up. I’m not really doing much of anything.”

“I don’t want to let the team down and I don’t want to sit on the bench either. So I think that really motivated me to pick it up and really get back to playing how I used to.”

The Peters on the court this season sports knee braces on both knees after tearing her ACL earlier in her career, and struggled with tendinitis early on, but has turned her play around to become one of the most explosive players on the Irish squad. And her efforts have not gone unnoticed. “This is really the best that she’s played,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “She’s really been playing well really all season, but has turned her play around to become one of the most explosive players on the Irish squad. And her efforts have not gone unnoticed.”

Coming into the season ready gave Peters not only a chance to work on her own strengths and weaknesses but to also mature as a player and to see where she can most help her team. “The biggest thing she’s doing is she’s staying in the game.” McGraw said. “I fault trouble plagued her early. She’s been really smart, she’s really maturing, and she’s finding ways to score, in addition to the great job she’s doing on the boards and on the defensive end. Really pleased with the way she’s playing right now — she’s definitely become a force inside.”

McGraw wasn’t ready to let Peters’ fouls be an excuse for making a lesser impact on the court, and she let her know it. “I think at first, with me fouling so much, Coach still expected me to get the numbers. She told me at the beginning of the year that she wanted me to average a double-double,” Peters said. “And she still expected that from me even though I was fouling. After your second foul in the first half, you sit out. So I was sitting out for about 15 minutes, but she was still expecting me to get 10 and 10.”

“It really pushed me to work harder even if I wasn’t getting as many minutes because she was still expecting a certain standard out of me. I was really pushing to work hard in those minutes that I was in because I knew I wasn’t going to get as much. Now that I’m getting them [minutes] more, I’m already trying to get my average so it’s just a bonus to have that extra time.”

And Peters has been working toward that double-double each game. Peters has secured four of them, most recently at Pittsburgh Jan. 15 where she had 15 points and a game-high 10 rebounds, as well as two blocks, two steals and four assists. Peters shared her fifth double-digit rebounding game on Tuesday night against Georgetown when she made a game-high 12 rebounds, outdoing her previous performances this season. It was the seventh double-digit rebounding effort of her career and is exactly the kind of play Peters expects out of herself. Not for her own stats but for her team. “Everybody’s really working on getting the rebounds in because if you out-rebound a team, you are most likely going to win the game,” she said. “I just want to do my part. I don’t necessarily need to be making the great plays. Sometimes it’s for me to guard a certain person or to make sure I box out or do the little things like come high when I’m supposed to. So I really want to make sure I do my role in every game, whatever it might be, and not necessarily make sure to be the big time person, even if it’s not getting noticed, I just want to do whatever they need me to do to win that game.”

She may not need the attention, but Peters has definitely become a firework on the court for Notre Dame this year. Contact Meaghan Veselik at mveselik1@ndmymail.com

After a slow start to the season, senior forward Devereaux Peters is making her mark down low for ND
New confidence gives new hope

The look on Becca Bruszewski’s face in the first five minutes of Notre Dame’s 80-58 win over Georgetown Tuesday was all anyone needed to see.

The senior forward scored four of her 10 points in the opening minutes of the game. Twice, she barreled through several defenders on her way to the basket, her eyes fiercely inquiring why the Hoyas were trying to mess with her team.

The concentration on斯基’s face in the first half Tuesday was another tell. The sophomore guard hit five of eight shots and five of five free throws for a total of 17 first-half points, enough to bury the country’s No. 16 team by halftime.

That attitude of overwhelming confidence has spread to the rest of the team, and has become obvious to those watching.

"Now I think top to bottom we have that. I think everybody’s getting that, because that’s why we’re out of Skylar," said Irish coach Muffet McGraw. "We’re feeding off of that.

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Peters REBOUNDS

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