ND closes for first time since 2000

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

The University of Notre Dame was closed due to snow Wednesday.

Freshman Phil Hootsman from Keenan Hall sleds down a hill while the University of Notre Dame was closed due to snow Wednesday.

University continues work for Sudan

By MEGAN DOYLE
Associate News Editor

A University delegation presented a student petition to policymakers in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md., in December to advocate for a sustainable peace in Sudan.

Social Concerns chair Pat McCormick, men’s lacrosse operations coordinator Kevin Dugan, graduate student Emmanuel Gore and junior lacrosse player Jake Brems met with representatives from the government and Catholic Relief Services during their trip.

“The visit to D.C. was the culmination of all the work we had all done as a school, not just student government but also the lacrosse team, the Kroc Institute, the Center for Social Concerns and dorms,” McCormick said. “All of these groups had come together to speak for justice and for a peaceful referendum. What was so exciting was to have the opportunity … to take Notre Dame’s advocacy to Washington and to Baltimore to make sure the voices of Notre Dame students were heard.”

The two-day itinerary included talks with Kalpen Modi, associate director of public engagement at the White House, Samantha Power, special assistant to President Barack Obama for Sudan, and Karen Richardson, international affairs liaison. The group also met with Peter QuAranito, the special envoy to Sudan from the State Department, and Catholic Relief Services.

“The discussion focused on the students’ campus-wide campaign to raise awareness of the Jan. 9 referendum in Sudan, genocide in Darfur and the critical role that young people play in mobilizing communities around key humanitarian issues,” a press release from Modi stated.

Pat McCormick speaks at a Sudan Rally in December with Fr. Hesburgh and men’s lacrosse operations coordinator Kevin Dugan.
Seated in the middle of the room, Gardner's best time is 8 minutes, 23 seconds, set when he won gold at the 2000 Olympics by beating Rabbit with golden cakes with family and friends and the rabbit-shaped glutinous rice cakes. The creator of the custom-baked sweets, Angelito Araneta Jr., says they are made with small diamonds, 24-carat gold foil and a few carat gold foil and a few small diamonds. The film will be shown from very nature of human existence. The Rabbit with golden cakes with family and friends and the rabbit-shaped glutinous rice cakes. The creator of the custom-baked sweets, Angelito Araneta Jr., says they are made with small diamonds, 24-carat gold foil and a few small diamonds. The film will be shown from

"I watched the frozen Saint Mary's Lake." Jennifer Berry
senior Walsh Family

"I worked at the Dining Hall." Steven Cress
junior off campus

Several students frolic in the aftermath of the severe winter weather yesterday. It was the first time the University closed due to winter weather since December of 2000.

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and reserves for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-6543 so we can correct our error.
Student government meets with South Bend police

continued from page 1

North Dame delegation delivered a petition signed by over 1,000 students and a copy of the resolution from Student Senate. McCormick said the Notre Dame delegation delivered a petition signed by over 1,000 students and a copy of the resolution from Student Senate. McCormick said the Notre Dame delegation delivered a petition signed by over 1,000 students and a copy of the resolution from Student Senate.

Pat McCormick and Brett Rocheleau

McCormick said his campaign idea is to try to really symbolize the Notre Dame community uniting for peace in Sudan." He said, "There was a lot of skepticism about whether we could make a difference, and Notre Dame students can confidently say we contributed to peace in Sudan and we will continue to work for peace in Sudan.

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

The Zahm freshmen said the major components of their platform are "really quite simple" and include "some wood, a few nails and a little old-fashioned dedication to hard work." "If I had to give one piece of advice to the student body about our campaign as a whole it would be this — we represent real change," Soler said. "Which would mean more to you, hangover hours in the dining hall and room for a development of a good promise of tax reform? If you said yes, then I don't really want your vote." Catherine Soler and Emily LeStrange

Catherine Soler is student body president, and LeStrange, off-campus concerns chair, are running a campaign promoting how student government works and what it can do.

"We hope students recognize that the work that we do here can be in regards to efficacy and previous relationships," Soler said. "We are very interested in doing things better and doing more for the student body.

James Ward and Heather Eaton

Ward, current junior class president, said he hopes to address the students their concerns about the university by becoming a stronger student leader who remains down-to-earth American hard work.

"Our main focus is to make student government more approachable. Students who can demonstrate leadership but at the same time remain one of the peers," Ward said.

Some of the topics the ticket is focusing on are the Grab n' Go system and the possibility of playing for Peace advocacy concert and turning the Notre Dame vs. Villanova game into a Playing for Peace game.

"We think that playing a major platform for the university to not only come together for important and urgent issues but also to hopefully do it in ways that are exciting for students," McCormick said.

Kevin Noonan and Matthew Thomas

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Sudan

continued from page 1

parts of Sudan have been in civil war for over 50 years. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) officially ended war in 2005 and called for six years of peace talks between the two regions. The agreement also scheduled a referendum for Jan. 9 in which Southern Sudan would vote on independence from Northern Sudan.

Notre Dame’s involvement in Sudan began on Oct. 5, 2010, when a delegation of Sudanese bishops visited the University to speak about the CPA. The bishops then travelled to Washington, D.C. and New York City to meet with national leaders and discuss the crisis.

As the referendum approached, the bishops said both sides began stockpiling weapons, and the possibility of violence loomed for the nation. The New York Times reported that while the results of the referendum are not official, nearly 99 percent of the voting underway in Southern Sudan voted for secession after 3 million votes were counted.

Voting proceeded with only small conflicts, but difficult times approach as the country heads to divorce.

In many ways the time of most concern is coming "alive," McCormick said. "The referendum itself was a potential flashpoint but the Comprehensive Peace Agreement will expire over the summer [and the country could split], so these next few months will be critical ones for Sudan. The advice we got from those who were closer to the situation was that we need to do whatever we can to avoid some investigation on their part."

McCormick and chief of staff Nick Ruof met with South Bend Police Chief Jeff Rynesarson and Fire chief Jim Soler, and student body vice president Andrew Bell met with the staff of Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) and South Bend Police Department (SBPD) as well as the St. Joseph County’s Sheriff’s Department and members of University administration including Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Doyle and Vice President for Public Affairs Tim Sexton.

Everyone agreed they had the same goals, keeping the students safe, keeping the community safe. Soler said. "Everyone was genuinely interested in not only making things better but maintaining it."

Soler said the talks highlighted the steps taken on both sides of the border. Students are making better decisions and police are being more consistent in enforcement.

"Capt. Rynesarson of SBPD said he’d seen a notable difference in student behavior since the fall," she said. "Not necessarily less partying but just being smarter, which is a good thing for everyone."

"At the party at Irish Row, the police set a limit, .05 blood alcohol level, which was recognized in students taken to jail and below would be cited. Which is good because at least there’s expectations and standards."

Soler said while alcohol-related student incidents still occur, the police have made strides in their execution. "In terms of respect and professionalism, we’ve come really far," she said. "We see a lot less antagonistic behavior from students don’t feel as targeted. The police feel they’ve earned our trust and that others had been instructed to ensure that that’s not the attitude that comes up when they interact with students."

At the meeting the representatives also discussed improving relevant student programming, Soler said.

Election

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Saturday, February 3, 2011
By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
News Writer

A display of CodePink ribbon panels in the Cushwa-Leighton Library is promoting peace efforts.

According to Hohl, the display contains "The Aesthetics of War and Reconciliation" exhibition showing at the Mørue Art Galleries now until Feb. 25.

Hohl said this display continues and expands on last fall's display, which was about the life of Jane Addams.

"This semester, the CodePink exhibit and the series of talks by women peacekeepers, continues to examine how we can continue the work and leadership of Jane Addams in establishing peace." Bob Hohl
Cushwa-Leighton Library

In addition, Barbara Gottschalk from Seeds of Peace will give a Feb. 23 public presentation entitled "Out Beyond Words: Building Seeds of Peace Worldwide."

Hohl said a Drumming Circle formed an open microphone for poetry, prose and thoughts for peace with wrap up the events March 4 in the Library.

"The display gives us the opportunity to reflect on something we seem to take for granted — peace," Saint Mary’s junior Kelly Golden said. "Whether we have given up hope for peace in a world that seems so dominated by war, or whether we forget about it because our personal lives are running smoothly, it’s healthy to be reminded that peace is still needed in the world."

Other students said it’s not just the idea behind the display, but the display itself that generates emotion.

"The panels themselves are moving," junior Kim Jordan said. "Just to think that each one was hand created by women in remembrance or memory or that people loved — that’s powerful. Each one of the creators has been influenced by war or some other tragedy."

Hohl said the display is a way to remember survivors of war. "Like the AIDS ribbon, it speaks to our heart and soul of the irreplaceable absence of people who are valued and cherished by family and friends," he said. "It’s a cry against those who would wage modern war."

According to Hohl, both lectures will be take place at the Cushwa-Leighton Library.

Cushwa-Leighton Library. Jacob will speak.

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Prof. researches doll marketing

Research focuses on customers at American Girl Place in Chicago

By MARISA IATI
Marketing Professor

Notre Dame marketing professor John F. Sherry, Jr. received the 2011 William R. Davidson Honorable Mention Award from the "Journal of Retailing," where his article on the American Girl Company appeared in 2009.

Sherry’s article, titled, "Why Are Themed Brand Stores So Powerful? Retail Brand Ideology at American Girl Place.”

Sherry and five other college professors wrote the article after observing customers at American Girl Place in Chicago. Sherry said Sherry said Sherry the most interesting aspect of the project was being admitted into the female world of American Girl Place.

The Journal of Retailing is a marketing journal that publishes four issues annually. One article each year receives the Award for Best Paper and one receives the Honorable Mention Award, Sherry said.

Sherry and his colleagues will receive a plaque at the American Marketing Association Winter Educators’ Conference in Boston later this month.

Sherry said he chose to research American Girl because he wanted to study a retail company that caters to females. "I had studied a number of other retail outlets that were more masculine in character, places like Niketown and ESPN Zone,” Sherry said. “Most of them that I studied before were male-oriented, and it struck me as a good idea to try to understand a female counterpart.”

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use of the Stepan Center this fall.

“We wanted to bring it back to Notre Dame,” director Grayson Duren, a junior, said.

Riddle said this year’s Revue is titled “Keenan Revue: Too Big For Saint Mary’s,” and ticket distribution begins today at 4 p.m. at the gate three of the Joyce Center.

Each student can bring two student IDs and get two tickets per student ID, Burley said. There will be 1,300 tickets per show, with three showings. Keenan residents who do not receive tickets.

Riddle said the Revue has been growing less offensive.

“What surprises me is we were going into past scripts, and they were vulgar,” he said. “In our two years [working with the Revue], it’s been much cleaner.”

Duren said the jokes have become more clever.

“We’ve been moving away from vulgarity because they’ve been censoring skits,” Nick Burley, Keenan Hall co-president and junior, said. “…The best thing you can do is find a balance between the two. Witty skits are just okay. Vulgar ones are hit or miss. Skits that strike the balance are the best.”

Duren said the Revue has 26 to 28 segments, including two speeches, four songs performed by the band and 20 to 22 skits.

Keenan residents create the skits and bring them to the Revue staff on tryout days, Duren said. After a few initial rounds, the remaining skits are brought before Keenan rector Fr. Dan Nolan.

“If it’s someone’s idea, they’ll be in [the skit],” Burley said. “It’s neat. You usually see a skit all the way through the creative process to onstage.”

The skits are put into a script, which is then censored by the rector, Riddle said.

“[In 2009] there was one skit cut,” Riddle said. “No full skits were cut this year.”

The musicians are all Keenan residents too.

“There is a good array of music this year,” Riddle said. “Everyone is going to be happy about the two ‘exotic dancer’ songs.”

The participants will be rehearsing through the week, Riddle said.

Duren said the dancer take collections during the Revue for Keenan’s Hall Scholarship, which the rector distributes the funds to hall residents. Alumni donations fund approximately 80 percent of the Revue, which cannot be paid for completely by Student Activities Office funding, Riddle said.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

Members of the Keenan Review perform at O’Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary’s College in 2010.
Punxsutawney Phil does not see shadow

Punxsutawney Phil is placed on a stump during the annual Groundhog Day festivities in Punxsutawney, Pa. Wednesday.

Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — The country’s most famous groundhog predicted an early spring Wednesday but wasn’t willing to go out on a limb to forecast whether his state’s Pittsburgh Steelers will win the Super Bowl.

Punxsutawney Phil emerged just after dawn on Groundhog Day to make his 125th annual weather forecast in front of a smaller-than-usual crowd in rural Pennsylvania who braved muddery, icy conditions to hear his handlers reveal that he had not seen his shadow.

Including Wednesday’s forecast, Phil has seen his shadow 98 times and hasn’t seen it just 16 times since 1887, according to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club’s Inner Circle, which runs the event. There are no records for the remaining years, though the club has never failed to issue a forecast.

Two years ago, Phil’s forecast was pretty wild. “This is probably the most something we’d see once every 50 years — maybe,” National Weather Service meteorologist Thomas Spriggs said.

Across the storm’s path, lonely commuters struggled against drifts 3 and 4 feet deep in eerily silent streets, some of which had not seen a plow’s blade since the snow started a day earlier. Perkins and soggy gogglers normally reserved for the slopes became essential for getting to work.

It’s like a bomb scene,” Santostefano said. “Thank God they left the building when they did.”

More than a half-dozen states began digging out from up to a foot of snow that made roads treacherous and left hundreds of thousands of homes without power.

Winter storm strikes US

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A fearsome storm spread a whitening shroud of white over nearly half the nation Wednesday, snarling transportation from Oklahoma to New England, burying parts of the Midwest under 2 feet of snow and laying down dangerously heavy ice in the Northeast that was too much for some buildings to bear.

Tens of millions of people stayed home. The hardy few who ventured out faced howling winds that turned snowflakes into face-stinging needles. Chicago’s 20.2 inches of snow was the city’s third-largest amount on record. In New York’s Central Park, the pathways resembled skating rinks.

The storm that resulted from two clashing air masses was, if not unprecedented, extraordinarily rare for its size and ferocious strength.

“A storm that produces a swath of 20-inch snow is really something we’d see once every 50 years — maybe,” National Weather Service meteorologist Thomas Spriggs said.

In reality, Pennsylvania’s Punxsutawney Phil emerged Wednesday just after dawn on Groundhog Day to make his 125th annual weather forecast in front of a smaller-than-usual crowd in rural Pennsylvania who braved muddery, icy conditions to hear his handlers reveal that he had not seen his shadow.

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WASHINGTON — The Republican drive to repeal the health care law ended in party-line defeat in the Senate on Wednesday, leaving the Supreme Court to render a final, unpredictable verdict on an issue steeped in political and constitutional controversy.

The vote was 47-51.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said the vote marked an opportunity for Democrats who voted for the bill last year “to listen to those who have desperately been trying to get your attention.”

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said, and he declared anew that continued aid to Egypt would be influenced by the Egyptian government’s response to the crisis.

While the U.S. has not directly called for Mubarak to resign — the protesters’ chief demand — Gibbs was echoing Obama’s public call one night earlier for an immediate and orderly transition to democracy in Egypt. Instead the images on TV were of a brutal clash between protesters and Mubarak supporters.

“If any of the violence is instigated by the government, it should stop immediately,” Gibbs said, while declining to speculate whether the Egyptian government was in fact behind the violence. Protesters contended plainclothes police were among the pro-Mubarak groups.

The White House had attempted to nudge Mubarak to the exits, dispatching former U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner as a special envoy to deliver the message. But by Wednesday, Wisner was on his way back to Washington.

Obama said his priority is evaluating scenarios of what might come next. But the conflict underscores the limits of the American president’s power to shape the outcome.

For example, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley acknowledged the hardline Muslim Brotherhood is “a fact of life in Egypt” and might play a role in the nation’s transition. U.S. officials haven’t met with members of the organization though they’ve spoken to other opposition groups, Crowley said.

Obama has spelled out what Egypt’s transition to free elections should look like, but he has refused to say whether Mubarak should be in charge all the while. Obama has spoken to Mubarak and telephoned fellow world leaders to try to bolster stability in the region, but he cannot stop violence in the streets of Cairo. To the degree Obama has spelled out consequences of inaction to Mubarak, the White House will not say much publicly.

Obama also is trying to find a balance between responding appropriately to events without being sucked up in hour-by-hour reaction. Gibbs said history was being made, and “this is not all going to be wrapped up in a matter of hours. It’s going to take some time.”

Thousands of supporters and opponents of Mubarak battled in Cairo’s main square on Wednesday, throwing stones, bottles and firebombs as soldiers stood by without intervening. The fighting started when several thousand Mubarak supporters, including some riding horses and camels and wielding whips, attacked anti-government protesters.

Gibbs didn’t directly answer when asked whether Obama viewed Mubarak as a dictator, saying the Egyptian president had a chance to show who he was. Mubarak has been an important ally to the U.S. during his 30-year reign, ensuring passage through the Suez Canal and maintaining peace with Israel. But for many Egyptian people, these have been years of corrosive poverty, repression and corruption.

Gibbs said the U.S. expects whatever government comes into power will respect the treaties entered into by previous Egyptian governments — a clear reference to Egypt’s peace agreement with Israel, which has provided an important measure of stability for the region.

American officials are keen to promote an ordered transition that safeguards Egypt’s status as a powerful American ally in the Middle East, instrumental in promoting Arab-Israeli peace, countering Iran’s growing influence and fighting terrorism.
INSIDE COLUMN
Super Bowl storyline

Somewhere, there is always a story to be told. As an aspiring journalist this is something that I hold dear. I could write a feature about anyone or you, because there is something interesting that you tick. So here is my story, as America’s unoffi- cial holiday approaches (aka Super Bowl Sunday) I will tell you the story of people that I have never met, so that you feel like you just did.

Every fan thinks they know the story behind Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers. He was a hotshot 14-year old playing football around the league. But few know that as a kid, he sold drugs on the streets of Houston to provide for his family. At the airport, on the bus and aboard the boat, children were playing with their parents’ (maybe even their own) iPhones and iPod touches. Not the New Moon crazed tweens, but 4- to 8-year-olds who barely grasp the concepts of basic arithmetic. It is difficult to impos- sible to teach anyone over the age of 65 how to use a computer, but these little rugrats can operate quite a complicated technology with ease. Then it hit me, as it has hit other financial analysts and tech gurus. We are entering the next great tech boom.

Smart phones and tablets are con- stantly being advertised to us in the media for good reason. They bring instant connectivity in an easy to use and portable interface. This is strangely reminiscent of the early personal computer days, with all the excitement of the early internet boom. What is still keeping people back, but not for long, is the price. Data plans and the hardware are expensive right now and not everyone can afford a pretentious Apple product or 3G, 4G and G4G data plans. But the mass- es want access to these products and more and more device makers and service providers will answer the call to create better products for a cheaper price.

The all-knowing and ever-prevalent internet is the big enabler of this new tech boom. What we are seeing is the drive to cloud computing and wireless connectivity. All data is stored and processed centrally and distributed to simpler machines for display and con- trol via the network. It is now very easy to locate a wireless router, even in the most mundane places, and data coverage for phones is getting better every day. You see, the reason I don’t own a smartphone is because it is cheaper to run a basic cell phone and I get all the connectivity I need from my netbook. I recently switched over to netbooks from powerful gaming laptops because of the portability and the price and they are great for class. Now with these newer and even more portable touch screen tablets, sometimes referred to as slates or pads, easy access to the web can be attained anywhere with some wireless signal. With the vast majority of daily tasks being web based, what more could you ask for? Tablets also provide a more comfortable format than a pocket-sized hand-held device, although many will opt for the convenience of being able to easily carry around a link to the net in their pocket.

There are many applications for these technologies that will allow them to be successful and widespread. The educational benefits are enor- mous. Imagine children being able to carry around a table that is especially with the frequent use of open source software. This will be a real game changer because even more people all over the world will have access to the Cloud and compete in the global mar- ket place. We may even begin to see the decline of traditional phone use in the U.S. as VoIP calls become more widespread with the inevitable lower- ing of data plan prices.

It’s not too late to change your major to Computer Science and Engineering. It is quite an exciting time in the field.

Mark Easley is a junior majoring in computer science. He can be reached at measley@nd.edu

Elephant in the Room

OBSERVER POLL

Who do you want to win the Super Bowl?
- Green Bay Packers
- Pittsburgh Steelers

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?
- Green Bay Packers
- Pittsburgh Steelers

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmobserver.com.

Mark Twain
U.S. novelist

"If you tell the truth you don’t have to remember anything."
That turbulent blizzard, once passed, left behind such a peaceful scene. We all like to think of Jesus as a man of peace. One of our archetypal images of Jesus, dating all the way back to the prophecies of Isaiah, is the Prince of Peace. And, in fact, when Jesus walked our earth, he indeed preached peace. He preached peace between peoples — “Those who live by the sword shall die by the sword” and “You shall forgive 70 times seven times.”

The first answer comes when I cannot avoid how many times the Gospels mention that “Jesus withdrew to a solitary place to pray.” Praying is perhaps the most frequently cited activity of Jesus in the Gospels. Jesus had a privileged relationship with the Father, as the Father’s only Son. As John’s Gospel tells us, “In the beginning, he was with God; he was God.” Still, when Jesus became human, he constantly needed to “withdraw to a solitary place to pray.” Clearly, if we wish to lead lives of peace, there is no shortcut around the human need to pray.

Second, I find it notable that, in none of the four Gospels, does Jesus call his first disciples later than chapter five. (And it is only this late in Matthew and Luke, who include infancy narratives, when Jesus could!=t call disciples for the good reason that he didn’t know how to talk yet!) From the beginning of his hectic public ministry, Jesus surrounds himself with friends who, like him, were hungry to find a place to pray in their lives and who supported Jesus in his mission. Jesus had a busy life, but he did not face it alone. This is an important lesson in leading peaceful lives. It can be a hard lesson in our culture. We inhale individualism like oxygen. We like to get things done on our own. But perhaps from the coincidence that we’re also often fried, or we’re constantly tired, or we quickly lose patience with others. Jesus lived a life as just as hectic as ours. But he did not live it alone, and he lived it in faith.

Third, as regards his daily work — a frequent robber of our peace — we can see that Jesus, though he’s constantly and tirelessly laboring for the mission, understands his work almost exclusively in terms of service. If we spend too much time thinking about how much energy we’re expending, or forget the other-centered goals for which we are laboring, our work can leave us self-absorbed and, ultimately, burnt out, or searching for a deeper meaning to live in our daily work. Jesus stays focused on the goal he is doing for others, and this seems to increase his energy for the mission, not drain it. Consequently understanding our work as service to others is an act of inner peace. For Jesus, as in any extent that Jesus does focus on himself, it is almost always in recognition that his life is in the hands of his Father. It is in his Father’s firm belief that his life is unfolding providentially. This trust in God’s Presence centers Jesus, brings him peace, even in the most stressful of situations. Whatever is being asked of him — to deal with a crowd or to be sold to a blind man or to be able to perform a miracle because of the people — Jesus is peaceful, because these are all things that were unfolding in God’s Providence, in God’s plan for his life. Trust in Providence brings with it the gift of peace.

The life of Jesus reveals a way, a through prayer, through friendships-in-faith, through a life of other-centered service, through a trust in Providence — that can turn even the most turbulent storms of our souls into long, snow-tucked quilts that speak to us only of peace.

This week’s column is written by Fr. Louis DelFia, CSC, ACE director of Pastoral Life and campus minister. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu.

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

**Effects of Arab riots on Israel**

Demonstrations all across Egypt have erupted against the government. In Lebanon, protestors have flooded the streets calling for a new government and Tunisia remains in a political turmoil. Arabs across the Middle East are taking things with their own hands asking for freedom of choice. And freedom they shall get, but what will be the cost of freedom to the Arab-Israeli conflict?

It is no mystery that the stagnant waters of the Arab world have become violent. Countless antigovernment protests are rising calling for a democratic system that would offer them better living conditions. With more than 25% of the Egyptian population under the poverty line, drastic reforms are much needed. However, economic incentives are not the only motives behind the protests. The political agenda of Arab presidents has been met with nationwide disapproval. In Egypt, therefore, rise, many Arabs, Egyptians especially, will not cut ties with Israel to help ou[t their Palestinian brethren by opening up the borders and voiding the Israeli peace treaty. Husayn Mubarak has ignored such requests for the sake of political and economic stability with Israel. He realized that adhering to the nation’s request by confronting Israel could potentially backfire and overthrow his government. He submitted to foreign-made pressure and to his own personal interests.

Now that riots are ubiquitous in Egypt, Mubarak’s 29.35 year-long trek is nearing its end (see my prior blog post). In addition to building a better economy, Egyptians will be constructing a different foreign policy that could aid the peace process between Israel and Palestine. As to how this new policy is going to affect the situation, I don’t know. One thing is for sure though. Israel will no longer depend on full cooperation from the Egyptian end. Now that Israel is dealing with millions of Arabs instead of handfuling of people, it must step back and weigh its actions accordingly.

Overthrowing any Arab government in the Middle East is dangerous for the status quo. I realize that democracy in Egypt and any other Middle Eastern country is necessary. However, people should be extremely careful with their new foreign policy choices, as this could lead to more Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is the never the answer for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We’ve seen many of them take place in the Middle East, and unfortunately, Palestinians suffer more with every war. As riots continue, we must practice self-restraint and wisely choose our next steps which comes to foreign policies. Despite all of the risks mentioned above, we are very blessed to be free of greedy dictators. I used to be ashamed of my Arab roots because we were not marked by it. We were intelligent, yet we specialized in demeaning manual labor. We were completely cut off from tomorrow we’ll be innovators.
Toes on the Nose/In Euphoric Company
Legends
10 p.m. - 12 a.m.
Free with ND/SMC/HCC ID

Two student bands take the stage at Legends. Last year’s Battle of the Bands winner Toes on the Nose follows In Euphoric Company, a trio made of up Sacramento natives that gets regular play on WVFI and has been making the rounds in the indie-music blogosphere.

McGlinn Casino Night
South Dining Hall
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
$5

Welcome to fabulous South Bend, home of McGlinn Hall’s signature event. All students are welcome to enter the Texas Hold ’Em tournament or take a few rounds at the black jack tables - playing with paper money, of course. The fake cash can be turned in for the raffle. If you don’t like gambling, then there’s nothing like dancing in left-left of South Dining Hall.

Flannel Formal
Oak Room of South Dining Hall
10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Blizzard got you freezing and feeling cabin-feverish? Pull on some snuggly flannel and snowshoe up to the Oak Room on the second floor of SDH. The “barn dance,” sponsored by the Texas and Minnesota clubs, promises to be a warm and ironic good time.

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Mishler” will be on view until Feb. 27. This exhibiton displays graphic Cuban posters from the second half of the 20th century. At CircaArts, you can watch local artists working live and in person as they create wintery scenes of local landscapes in pastel. The opening reception for this show, called “Let It Snow,” will take place Friday.

The South Bend Museum of Art (120 South St. Joseph Street) will be hosting an event called “Meet Me in the Gallery” from 5 - 8:30 p.m., where you can mingle and enjoy food and drink while listening to a live band. Over 450 artworks by junior and senior high school students selected to be included in the 2011 Scholastic Art Award exhibition will be on display in the gallery. Most of the First Friday events are free of charge, but there is a reduced cost of $5 for admission to “Meet Me in the Gallery” (free for museum members).

Additionally, Bombay International (119 South Michigan Street) will be hosting a tea tasting of various Chinese teas, and the Friends of the St. Joseph County Library will be hosting a book sale (333 South Michigan Street) from 4 - 8 p.m. Catch live music at C.J.’s Pub (236 S. Michigan Street) or at Chicory Café (105 East Jefferson Boulevard), both from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

There will be many more events occurring around the city during this month’s First Friday than the ones listed here. Also, the downtown Transpo trolley route will be available for free during the events. To see a full listing of events, go to http://www.dtsbfirstfridays.com/events.htm

Contact Lauren Henderson at lhender1@nd.edu
Irish class as No. 12 in the defensive end. ESPN rates the recruits, headlined by No. 15 six of ESPN’s final top-100 class of 23 recruits includes:

...have already enrolled in Wednesday. Combine those belt, the Irish coaches showed for improvement.

Brian Kelly only had weeks to do his plan. "I really would like to say that plan came together," Kelly said. "I had a plan, and that’s clear. I think I spoke at this press conference last year and said ‘listen, in 2011, our focus is the edge of our defense, it’s defensive linemen, it’s speed, it’s length.' And we hit that. We had a plan and it’s nice when a plan comes together like it did with this recruiting class. And now the next step is what we believe we’re really good at, and that’s defensive linemen. Kelly said recruiting defensive players is key for any team, sim- ple because of the nature of the game.

"You can’t fake it on defense," he said. "You can fake it a little on offense. Defensively, you have to win the one-on-one matchups. Sometimes you can not block the defensive end and option him. Sometimes you can do things with misdirection. But on defense, it’s about players mak- ing plays, and you can’t hide there. So the recruiting efforts start with the defensive line, and they work out from there. You can’t fake it on defense — you have to be able to recruit the players."

The recruiting process was difficult for the Irish coaches, both emotionally and physically. Fourteen states are represented in Notre Dame’s recruiting class of 2011, more than any other class in the country.

"If you take a look at the major BCS programs, their recruiting five or six states, and that’s a lot," Kelly said. "Just look at the nation and how they recruit compared to the 14 different states. I think Stanford is the only other school that even comes close to recruiting that many states."

In the last months, I still put up over 15,000 miles in terms of air travel and 55 hours in the air. It’s just requirements, lot of time. And you can’t just have six guys recruiting. You can’t just have six really good position coaches and three professional recruiters. All nine at Notre Dame have to recruit, and I think that you see that all nine of our coaches played a very important part of putting this class together."

The Irish coaching staff trav- elled the country following recruits, but they had one clear message to present — come to Notre Dame if you want to be at Notre Dame.

"I think you really have to be able to sell the message of Notre Dame," Kelly said. "It’s really clear. Number one, you would come to Notre Dame for a degree, and what that does for you. That’s number one, so the player has to have a connection there. If they have no value of a degree from Notre Dame, move to the next guy. Number two, he’s coming to play for Notre Dame, and to win championships at Notre Dame. That has to be clear, that he’s coming here, and he’s going to be part of a team at the University of Notre Dame. And three, that he wants to be developed — physically, socially, spiritually, in his skill. Those are the three things that we stay with as our bullet points, and we did not waver from those three things. We didn’t promise playing time. We didn’t promise 10 national championships. We did- n’t promise anything. We told them, ‘This is what we’re about, and this is what you’ll get if you come to Notre Dame.’"

Committing to Notre Dame also requires some flexibility. Kelly and his coaching staff sepa- rate players into three different categories rather than traditional positions — ‘Skill,’ which includes quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers and defen- sive backs, ‘Big Skill,’ which includes fullbacks, tight ends and line backers, and ‘Power,’ which includes offensive and defensive linemen. Kelly said that most recruits have one skill, but there’s a little bit of potential that they will end up at a new position, as long as communication stays consistent.

'Once we’re able to communi- cate what we’re doing and how we’re doing it instead of listening to someone else who knows more sometimes about our sys- tem than we do — which is absolutely ridiculous — as long as we get an opportunity to show you what our plans are for you and continue that message, we’re fine. Most of these young men, they want to be in the best position to help the team win. And obviously each of these young men that we have on this roster, they have dreams too, about getting a degree and play- ing in the NFL, and that’s what we want those kind of guys. So I think it’s less about ‘no, I’m only this.’ And when we do get that, that sends up a bit of a red flag for us. And that doesn’t mean we’re going to drop him, but it sends up a bit of a red flag. But Kelly and his staff did not want to go to any of those illeg- itimate tactics in racking up this class. Instead, defensive coordinator Bob Diaco boarded a red-eye flight to Brooklyn, N.Y., to arrive at Ishag Williams’ doorstep at 4:30 a.m. Upon Diaco’s arrival, Williams — the seventh-ranked defensive end in the country — can- celled a planned official visit to Penn State and committed to Notre Dame. Four days later Williams took his first classes on campus, opting to enroll for the current semes- ter and gain a few extra months under Diaco’s tutel- lage. Williams and Lynch are only the head-liners of a group of defensive linemen that will most likely define this recruiting class. Lynch, who did waffle back-and-forth concerning Notre Dame before eventually joining Williams as an early enrollee, will likely line-up opposite Stephtn Tuitt, hauling from Georgia, at many points in his career.

Tuitt briefly committed from Notre Dame to Tech to Tuitt. Notre Dame didn’t get Tuitt. Diaco and a few other coaches boarded a plane the next day on a trip to the Golden Dome in the first place. Their success led to his Tech commitment only lasting a brief period.

Tony Sprigmann, Chase Hounshell and Brad Carrico complete the top-15 defensive linemen, though at least one of them likely Williams — will eventu- ally move to an outside line- backer position, a la junior Darius Fleming.

Irish fans have not seen a position-filled roster quickly stocked with depth since the last recruiting class in 2004. Yet those linemen simply show the true strengths of Kelly’s recruiting efforts. Diaco’s 3-4 defense, only three defen- sive linemen, though at least one likely Williams — will eventu- ally move to an outside line- backer position, a la junior Darius Fleming. Insight: "If you take a look at the major BCS programs, their recruiting five or six states, and that’s a lot," Kelly said. "Just look at the nation and how they recruit compared to the 14 different

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu
Groundhog’s Day Class a new standard at Notre Dame

With a class consisting of seven Top-150 recruits according to ESPN, the Irish signed an impressive class filled with talent, and more importantly, one that addressed specific needs moving forward. Irish coach Brian Kelly’s goal was to strengthen the edge of his defense, and six defensive end recruits, including Top-150 signings Aaron Lynch, Ishaq Williams and Stephon Tuitt, does just that.

Williams will likely move to outside line-backer, as will four-star recruit Ben Councell. Lynch and Tuitt lead the group back. As will four-star recruit Ben Williams.

On the opposite side of the ball, the Irish signed four offensive linemen, including four-star-rated Matthew Hegarty. In the future, he will be blocking for dual-threat quarterback Everett Golson, whom looks to fit nicely into Kelly’s spread offense.

Notre Dame also signed solid targets for Golson, including four-star wide receiver DaVaris Daniels and four-star tight end Ben Koyack. Daniels could fit in nicely in the slot while Koyack has the body and ball skills to be a Notre Dame line of NFL caliber tight ends.

Other significant recruits include three-star offensive tackle Coty Merryman, his brother Josh, a defensive back, three-star running back Cam McDaniel, six-foot-six Troy Niklas, who could play offensive line, defensive line or tight end, and kicker Kyle Brindza.

JOSH ATKINSON
CB, ★★★, 185 pounds, 6’0”
Granada High School
Livermore, Calif.

Joining his twin brother George (above) in the 2011 recruiting class for the Irish, Josh Atkinson played on both sides of the ball in high school, but is listed by the Notre Dame coaching staff as a defensive back. He recorded 20 tackles and broke up 11 passes on defense and had 112 tackles with 10 sacks in his senior season. Aided by his size and physicality, Atkinson sheds blocks well and can knock receivers off their routes.

Though he does not have the pure speed of his brother, Atkinson has good recovery speed, an important asset for a defensive back. He and George both competed for Team USA in the Team USA vs. The World all-star game Wednesday. Atkinson has the size to play safety at the college level, or could see early playing time as a nickel back.

JALEN BROWN
CB, ★★★, 180 pounds, 6’1”
Irving MacArthur High School
Irving, Texas

Jalen Brown will be a familiar sight in the Irish secondary for years to come. Recruited by assistant coach Kerry Cook, Brown utilizes his long arms to break up pass plays in man coverage. Even though his high school defense did not give him reps, Brown’s quickness and instincts enabled him to show his talents on a regular basis, once he spends a year under seniors Gary Gray and Robert Blanton learning the defensive end position.

Brown has the potential to develop into a lockdown corner.

In addition, he plays with evident toughness and loves to dish out a big hit. His physical style of play will be an asset in run defense as well as against the pass, especially screen passes.

BEN COUNCELL
LB, ★★★, 220 pounds, 6’6”
A.C. Reynolds High School
Asheville, N.C.

An outside linebacker from Asheville, N.C., Councell recorded 141 tackles, 22 for loss, in his senior season, just his third season playing football. He also recovered two fumbles, blocked two kicks and scored two touchdowns. In his junior season, Councell showed a flair for the dramatic as he blocked a field goal to seal a state championship for the team.

Also a track star at A.C. Reynolds, Councell recorded 141 tackles, eight for loss, along with nine sacks. His performance as a senior then earned him a bid to play in the offense-defense U.S. Army All-American Game but also a spot as captain of the West team.

KYLE BRINDZA
K, ★★★, 219 pounds, 6’1”
Plymouth High School
Livonia, Mich.

Kyle Brindza will have an uphill climb at the kicking position as he competes as a freshman. With senior David Ruffer and sophomore Kyle Brindza.

Brindza next season, the Irish are returning the owners of the two longest consecutive field goals can send kickoffs through the end zone. Nonetheless, he is unlikely to see game action in 2011 for the Irish, he should be a key contributor in the future.

BRAD CARRICO
DE, ★★★, 287 pounds, 6’6”
Dublin Coffman High School
Dublin, Ohio

The first commitment of Notre Dame’s recruiting class of 2011, Brad Carrico started his high school career as a quarterback. He made the switch to defensive line after his sophomore season, and in his first year at the new position. Carrico recorded 74 tackles, eight for loss, along with nine sacks. His performance as a senior then earned him a bid to play in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

With his good size which has the potential to fill out even more with weight training, Carrico could possibly be a better fit on the offensive line. He played with a more innocence than the jam-packed defensive line crew in this year’s recruiting class.

DaVARIS DANIELS
WR, ★★★, 190 pounds, 6’3”
Vernon Hills High School
Vernon Hills, Ill.

DaVaris Daniels stated his desire to attend Notre Dame very early in the recruiting process but waited until Sept. 15 to verbally commit to Irish coach Brian Kelly and his staff.

The Vernon Hills standout contributed in many ways. City side and showed a flair for the dramatic as he blocked a field goal to seal a state championship for the team.

Also a track star at A.C. Reynolds, Councell recorded 141 tackles, eight for loss, along with nine sacks. His performance as a senior then earned him a bid to play in the offense-defense U.S. Army All-American Game but also a spot as captain of the West team.

His speed is one of his best assets, as he competed in the 100-meter dash in high school with a personal best of 10.66 seconds.

The Michigan native was one of the most heavily recruited player in the nation in the class of 2011 and features a very strong foot, as he consistently made long field goals and sent kickoffs through the end zone. Although he is unlikely to see game action in 2011 for the Irish, he should be a key contributor in the future.


Capsules by Observer Sports Staff
Having only played two years of organized football coming into Notre Dame, Farley is the epitome of raw talent. With a 40-yard dash of 4.5 seconds and versatility on both sides of the ball Farley can only improve in a competitive environment.

Out of Charlotte Christian High School in North Carolina, the all-state phenomenon tallied 1,400 yards and 12 touchdowns while being used as a slot receiver, wideout and inside linebacker. As a defensive back, Farley recorded 49 tackles this past season, after previously committing to Notre Dame in June before with coach to join team. With the ability to play multiple positions, look for Farley to be all over the field, from special teams to receiver to safety, where his ball-hawking abilities are sure to shine.

ATHLETIC and tough, Jarrett Grace will join the Irish roster as a lineshooter, and has the potential to play either inside or outside.

He recorded 95 tackles during his junior year and 69 tackles in his senior season, and was an all-Ohio first team selection.

Grace has the size to contribute early, but behind the likes of Manti Te’o and Carlo Calabrese, his best opportunity for early playing time will likely be on specialist teams.

He pursues ball carriers well, keeps moving throughout the play, and his technique will be an asset for him.

He has the size to be a good run stopper, but also the speed and quickness to cover tight ends and running backs.

It looks like being Irish runs in the family as Conor’s father, Terry, was an All-American quarterback for Notre Dame in the 1960’s. But rather than hurling touchdown passes like his father, Hanratty will be protecting the quarterback with his solid tackling and tackling skills.

The lineman learned from legendary coach Lou Malzahn at New Canaan High in Connecticut (where he won two state championships) and will probably make the switch from tackle to guard, allowing him to use his agility to serve as the critical pulling guard.

He possesses solid pass protection skills and footwork, fitting the mold of a spread-style lineman, but does need work on his run blocking and downfield blocking.

Matthew Hegarty, a four-star offensive line recruit, had offers from nearly every elite program in the country, including Oregon, Auburn, Stanford and USC. But Notre Dame beat out nearly every school and landed Hegarty in April and didn’t waver.

He is the No. 36-ranked prospect in the country by ESPN and was named a 2010 Army All-American and to the 2010 USA Football Junior National Team. Both honors were largely based on his large number of pancake blocks, 81, compared to his lack of sacks given up this past season.

Hegarty was also an All-State first team All-Academic for his 3.8 GPA at Aztec High School in Aztec, N.M. He is very versatile and could move inside to the guard position or stay at tackle, which he played in high school.

Though Chase Hounshull plays on both the offensive and defensive lines in high school, he was primarily recruited by Ed Warner as one of the many defensive linemen in the 2011 class. Suited to play defensive end in the 3-4 scheme and tackle in the 4-3, Hounshull could be his best asset.

Quick and powerful for his size, Hounshull will find himself fighting to see the field as an underclassman with the other standout defensive ends in this class.

His experience on the offensive line may not be wasted; a return to the offensive line would not be particularly surprising to relieve the stress on the already talented defensive ends. On the other hand, Hounshull could very well become an integral part of a Notre Dame’s defensive front in the coming years.
AARON LYNCH
DE, ★★★, 240 pounds, 6'6"
Island Coast High School
Cape Coral, Fla.

After a slightly rocky recruiting process, Aaron Lynch signed with the Irish as one of the top defensive prospects in the country. Lynch originally committed to the Irish early in the process, then switched to Florida State before returning to Notre Dame. His 31 solo tackles and 10-and-a-half sacks led to a bid in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. He excelled early in his senior season, winning All-State honors, and his high-level performance carried over into the actual game, where he recorded two-and-a-half sacks and a forced fumble.

Lynch enters the Irish roster behind veteran starters Ethan Johnson and Kapron Lewis-Moore, but his pure athleticism gives him a chance to make his presence felt early in his career.

ANTHONY RABASA
LB, ★★★, 233 pounds, 6'3"
Columbus High School
Miami, Fla.

A speed-rushing type of player, Anthony Rabasa played defensive end in high school, but will likely join the Notre Dame roster at outside linebacker. In his senior year at Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, he recorded 40 tackles, eight sacks and four fumble recoveries. He has a body type with room to expand, which should help him round out his game. Rabasa joins the Notre Dame roster behind two-way player Darius Fleming and returning letter-winners Prince Shembo and Steve Filer.

JESSE TITUS
DE/OL, ★★★, 270 pounds, 6'6"
Monroe Area High School
Monroe, Ga.

Stephon Tuitt committed to Notre Dame in September before decommitting, committing to Georgia Tech, and recommitting to the Irish in a matter of days in mid-January.

Tuitt, arguably the top prospect in the Class of 2011, landed in the top-100 lists of nearly every recruit service. For example, Rivals.com rates him as a five-star prospect, and the second best defensive lineman in the country.

His size and impressive speed for a defensive lineman could propel him into the mix of things in his freshman season. Although the Irish return both starters at defensive end, Tuitt should see some meaningful time at the position in 2011. It is only a matter of time before he emerges as a starter and key contributor on the Irish squad.

NICK MARTIN
OL, ★★★, 270 pounds, 6'4"
Bishop Chatard High School
Indianapolis, Ind.

Offensive lineman Nick Martin, a two-way standout at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, originally committed to Kentucky, where his father played in the 1980s, but in due time instead opted to join his older brother, Irish sophomore Zack Martin, after Notre Dame offered him a scholarship in December. He committed to the Irish on Jan. 5.

Martin started on offense and defense for Bishop Chatard in his senior season and helped the Trojans win the Indiana Class 3A state championship. It was Bishop Chatard’s first state title since 2007. Martin will likely compete for a vacant spot on Notre Dame’s offensive line following the departure of fifth-year guard Chris Watt.

TROY NIKLAS
OL, ★★★, 290 pounds, 6'7"
Servite High School
Fullerton, Calif.

Troy Niklas was the last member of this recruiting class to commit, as he waited until National Signing Day to publicly choose Notre Dame over Arizona State and Washington. Niklas starred as a two-way player at Servite High School near Anaheim, Calif., although he was recruited by Notre Dame as a defensive lineman.

He has good size and will need to bulk up quickly to be a candidate for playing time at such a deep position in his freshman campaign. He joins Stephon Tuitt, Aaron Lynch, Brad Carrico, Chase Lumphkin and Tony Springmann in the top defensive line haul.

TONY SPRINGMANN
DE, ★★★, 276 pounds, 6'6"
Bishop Dwenger High School
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Only traveling two hours from his hometown Fort Wayne, Ind., Tony Springmann already knows two players on the Irish roster — coming from the same high school as sophomore tight end Tyler Eifert and junior receiver John Goodman. He was recruited nationally on both sides of the ball. For Springman, his expected to play on the defensive line, at least initially. Springmann’s top attribute as a defensive end is his speed. He will need to add bulk before he can be expected to compete at the highest level, but not enough where it slows him down too much and takes away what he does best.

He will compete with a very deep freshman defensive line class, along with returning contributors, for playing time in 2011, although it is unlikely he will play in his freshman campaign.

ISHAQ WILLIAMS
OL, ★★★, 322 pounds, 6'5"
Lincoln High School
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Williams played defensive end in high school but has been recruited as an outside linebacker. In his senior year at Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, he recorded 90 tackles, eight sacks and four fumble recoveries. The four-star recruit was the first of 90 ESPNU 150, Williams selected from dozens of offers, including those from Oregon, Ohio State, Florida and USC. He chose to enroll early and is now taking classes at Notre Dame.

Capsules by Observer Sports Staff
ND survives chaotic period

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

As up and down as Notre Dame's season was on the football field, it may have fluctuated even more on the recruiting trail.

There were commitments, decommitments and, rarest of all, recommitments leading up to National Signing Day Wednesday, when the Irish signed 23 new players to join the team next fall.

Mike Frank, who covers recruiting for the ESPN-affiliated website Irish Sports Daily, said the arrival of Irish coach Brian Kelly gave Notre Dame an immediate bump at the beginning of the recruiting process.

"Any time you get a new coach in, you're going to get a lot of intrigue by a lot of prospects," Frank said.

Before the season even started, Kelly used the buzz surrounding his arrival to land a number of elite prospects, including four-star defensive end Aaron Lynch, who committed July 30 during his official visit to Notre Dame.

That same day, the Irish also landed three-star linebacker Anthony Rabasa and four-star running back Justice Hayes. When the season kicked off, Kelly already had 11 players verbally committed.

"(Notre Dame) had a great run in the summer of getting a lot of elite players committed," Frank said.

After early-season struggles -- including losses to Michigan, Michigan State and Stanford -- Frank said some players began to waver in their commitment to Notre Dame.

Those three in a row were tough for anybody to stomach and that kind of started to show the cracks in the armor," he said.

The Irish still landed a big commitment from four-star defensive end Stephon Tuitt. Wins against Boston College, Pittsburgh and Western Michigan got the Irish back on track and seemed to assuage the minds of potential recruits -- at least, until their now-infamous 35-17 loss to Navy in the Meadowlands.

"(Notre Dame) obviously turned around and played pretty well there for three games, and then Navy happened," Frank said. "I think a lot of the top kids started to have some doubts about where the program was headed."

In the month that followed, both Lynch and offensive lineman Jordan Prestwood switched their commitment to Florida State and Hayes flipped to Michigan. At his National Signing Day press conference Wednesday, Kelly said Lynch's early commitment made it easier for opposing teams to negatively recruit against Notre Dame.

"They knew their competition," Kelly said. "When [Lynch] committed to us, everybody in the country knew who they had to work against. They didn't have to work against Auburn or Florida or Miami, they just had to beat Notre Dame because he committed to Notre Dame."

The Irish bounced back, though, winning their final four games and allowing just one touchdown in the process.

"Kids focus on wins," Kelly said. "Any time you get a new coach in, you're going to get a lot of intrigue by a lot of prospects, and sometimes you have to work against. They didn't have to work against anyone else in the country."

Now that all 23 letters of intent are signed and official, there are some doubts about the future for the 2011 recruiting cycle.

The same weekend Lynch recommitted, Kelly and his staff went on a recruiting trip at work securing a pledge from five-star defensive lineman Isiah Williams. Williams was down to Notre Dame or Penn State, that's what it was and set to take an official visit to State College on Jan. 15, but the night before, Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco reportedly visited Williams in his Brookhaven home at 4:30 a.m. and not only got him to cancel his trip to Penn State, but get a verbal commitment on the spot.

"When Bob Diaco came and visited him at the last minute, he thought that's where (Williams) said. "These people really, really want me and this is the right thing for my future,"" Frank said.

Kelly said Diaco's early-morning visit was not the only time the staff went to great lengths to land Williams. He said defensive line coach Mike Elston once sat in on the car outside Williams' home for 4 ½ hours waiting for Williams after one of his high school playoff games.

"Just as it looked like things were slowing down for Kelly and his staff, they got one last scare from Tuitt. The defensive end had been taking visits to other schools and Jan. 19 was his commitment to Georgia Tech. Kelly, Diaco, Elston and recruiting coordinator Chuck Martin immediately flew down to Tuitt's home in Monroe, Ga., and the next day, Tuitt recommitted to the Irish.

"Tuitt has four coaches there was really, really for us, making a statement and making sure that what we were talking about and what he saw when he came to campus -- the culture and what his family saw was really the truth of the matter, and that we really have to overcome that message," Kelly said. "We had four coaches there to make sure that message was clear."

Now that all 23 letters of intent are signed and received, the drama of the 2011 recruiting cycle has finally come to a close.

Contact Sam Werner
swerner@nd.edu
While most of Notre Dame’s 23 recruits will join the Irish this summer, five made the choice to leave high school early and enroll in classes this spring.

Quarterback Everett Golson, kicker Kyle Brindza, linebacker Ishaq Williams and defensive linemen Aaron Lynch and Brad Carrico are taking classes at Notre Dame and will participate in spring football practices, which begin March 23.

“These young men get this opportunity to really understand Notre Dame and the rigors of the classroom, the community, being in the dorms, finding South Dining Hall, understanding all those things before they have to play in the fall,” Irish coach Brian Kelly said.

Lynch, a four-star recruit, and Williams, a five-star recruit, both committed just days before the spring semester began on Jan. 18. Williams committed Jan. 14 and Lynch on Jan. 15. Lynch had originally committed to Notre Dame over the summer, but switched to Florida State for a brief time in January before recommitting to the Irish.

Brindza, who committed to Notre Dame last spring, originally attempted to enroll an entire year early in order to compete for kicking and punting duties on the 2010 team. However, Notre Dame admissions declined his request.

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Enrolling early allows players extra time to work out with the team and learn the Irish playbook, which could translate into opportunities early in the fall season.

This could be especially critical for Lynch and Carrico, who are among six defensive linemen to sign with the Irish in 2011.

“You would think that with the number of guys who can play that position, somebody might break through at that position. But it’s so hard,” Kelly said. “The guys that are going to be here, the five guys that are here, they’ve got a shot too, because we’ve got a chance to evaluate them against ... Zach Martin, Taylor Dever ... guys that have played quality competition.”

“But I would say that there’s a lot of defensive players that are going to get a chance to compete. The extra time will also give Golson, this year’s only quarterback recruit, a chance to establish himself next to quarterbacks Tommy Rees and Dayne Crist, Kelly said.

“I think it becomes pretty clear that Tommy Rees and Everett Golson are two different quarterbacks relative to the style,” Kelly said. “I think what you’ll see is Tommy Rees and most likely Dayne Crist and the other quarterbacks fit into that category. And then on the other side of the ledger you’ll have Everett Golson.”

Of the five freshmen who enrolled early in 2010, three saw significant playing time this season.

Rees played in nine games and started four after junior quarterback Dayne Crist had season-ending surgery. He led the Irish to consecutive wins over Utah, Army, USC and Miami in the last four weeks of the season.

Wide receiver T.J. Jones earned a starting position in fall camp, and started seven of the 12 games in which he played. He scored a touchdown in each of his first two games, against Purdue and Michigan, becoming the first freshman to accomplish such a feat. He finished the season with 23 catches for 306 yards and three touchdowns.

Cornerback Lo Wood played in 11 games.

“The football element is big, but the assimilation into being a Notre Dame student is really what enrolling early is about,” Kelly said.
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By COURTNEY COX  
Scene Writer

The Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, has been the breeding ground for some of America’s quirkiest indie films as well as some of the most stunningly realistic portraits of human life. It has launched films like “Precious” and “Little Miss Sunshine” on a trajectory ending in success. It is a beacon of creativity in an industry so often concerned with receiving the highest numbers at the box office.

The film festival took place this year from Jan. 20-30.

Like Crazy

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for U.S. Dramatic Competition, this film has themes that would lead one to believe it is a stereotypical chick flick (first love, long distance romance, youth). Sundance, however, does not award Grand Jury prizes to films that lack creativity and emotional depth. It will tug at the heartstrings of audiences of all ages and will catapult its stars (Anton Yelchin and Felicity Jones) to bona fide movie stardom. It also features Jennifer Lawrence, who captivated audiences at Sundance in last year’s U.S. Dramatic Competition winner, “Winter’s Bone.”

How To Die In Oregon

This film, winner of the Grand Jury Prize for U.S. Documentary Competition, touches on a subject very few like to think about. It follows the terminally ill of Oregon (the first state to legalize physician assisted suicide) and their desire to die with dignity. Sure to be controversial, this film takes audiences through some of the most important contemplations on life and why some choose to exit early.

My Idiot Brother

Paul Rudd stars in this comedy about getting knocked down and relying on the goodness of one’s family. His sisters pass him around until he eventually gets his life back in order. It promises to be one of the most endearingly funny portrayals of family life and the obligations that surround it. The cast, including Emily Mortimer, Elizabeth Banks, Zooey Deschanel and Rashida Jones, should provide the perfect back-drop to Rudd’s inherent charm.

Cedar Rapids

Ed Helms as a salesman? Whoever thought he could pull it off! The actor famous for his portrayal as Andy Bernard on “The Office,” stars in this film about salesmen attending a conference in Cedar Rapids. The characters, including John C. Reilly, seize the conference as an opportunity for personal growth. It may not be the most artistically moving film at Sundance, but it’s sure to be a light-hearted and fun film.

Contact Courtney Cox at ccx3@nd.edu

STARS BLEND WARMTH AND STYLE AT SUNDANCE

By COURTNEY COX  
Scene Writer

Winter is perhaps one of the most difficult times of the year to display one’s sense of style. The bitter cold can force South Bend inhabitants into a fashion rut, but one way to combat this season’s lack of sartorial appeal is to seek inspiration from stars at Sundance Film Festival. Celebrities most often seen sauntering down the streets of Los Angeles in dresses and light jackets are forced to bundle up for the Park City, Utah, weather.

Kate Bosworth

Kate makes a flowy maxi dress transition into winter by adding a shearling bomber jacket. While a flow length dress is highly impractical in this weather, a cool bomber jacket is not. A shearling bomber jacket is perfect for the winter because it provides extra warmth without adding plenty of bulky layers. It’s one of the best investments a shopper can make for winter because it can be worn every day.

Elizabeth Olsen

Considering she’s Mary Kate and Ashley’s kid sister, it’s no surprise that Elizabeth Olsen was one of the most stylish up-and-comers at Sundance this year. Though the sun may not be shining in Utah, Olsen’s bright marigold purse is a great accent to any draf winter wardrobe. She also masters the art of wearing a hat with style and the raspberry color is a great accent to her light bag. Olsen’s ensemble proves that a few well-chosen pieces can transform an otherwise simple outfit.

Demi Moore

Mrs. Kutcher looks extremely chic and comfortable in layers of slouchy black. The layered look can be difficult to do right. It can overwhelm thin silhouettes and create bulk in undesirable places. Demi manages to do it right, however, by sticking to a monochromatic color palate. It minimizes the effect that oversized clothing tends to have. Slouchy layers are the perfect trend to try during the winter because they protect from the cold while still looking extremely fashionable.

As important as clothing choice is, the makeup choices one makes during the winter. The common thread uniting all the celebrities pictured is their fresh face. They define their features and enhance their complexion with light amounts of blush and bronzer. It gives them an appropriate glow without ever appearing orange.

Contact Courtney Cox at ccx3@nd.edu
**NBA**

**Drexler expects London team**

Associated Press

LONDON — NBA great Clyde Drexler expects London to be a franchise being based in London, maybe even within the next decade.

"Clyde the Glide," in the British capital to help promote the first regular-season NBA games to be played in London in March, said Wednesday that basketball has proven itself in Europe and expansion to the continent may just be a matter of time.

"If the demand continues, that could actually happen," Drexler told The Associated Press. "We're probably 10 years or so away, but that is not too far sighted to happen."

The NBA has played preseason games in London in the past four years, packing fans into the 20,000-seat O2 arena last year, the league decided it was time to emulate the NHL and NFL, both of which have played regular-season games in London.

The Toronto Raptors and New Jersey Nets will play a pair of games at the O2 this weekend.

"Basketball is a global sport," said Drexler, who spent more than a decade playing for the Portland Trail Blazers. "There's a demand around the world, and facing that overseas fan-

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**NFL**

**Matthews, Polamalu battle for better hair**

Associated Press

DALLAS — Vince Lombardi Burgess probably wouldn't have used to have Clay Matthews or Troy Polamalu on those great Packers teams of the 1960s.

Their hair? Uhh, that might've been a problem.

At a Super Bowl where there's been nearly as much focus on pugnacious linemen and counterparts as zone blitzes and passing schemes, one of Lombardi's former players has suffered at all the attention going to all that hair, from Polamalu's out-of-control curls to Matthews' stringy top.

 Heck, one might think there's a hair concept in town. But don't bother asking Lombardi Burgess about that. He gave up on NFL-type fashion a long time ago.

"Coach Lombardi didn't like long hair and he didn't like facial hair," said Jerry Kramer, a Hall of Fame lineman for the guy whose name is on the Super Bowl trophy.

"It wouldn't have been, 'Comb your hair! Cut your hair! He wouldn't use that as a reason to talk to you. We were all pretty trim and neat. We hadn't done all that hair.

My, how times have changed.

Polamalu and Matthews have such famous manes that each has his own endorsement deal.

The Steelers safety picks for Head & Shoulders when he's not donning his helmet and should pads, while the Steelers linebacker recently landed an endorsement deal with Suave.

They aren't the only ones.

Many other stars have such famous manes that they might as well be using it to make a living.

Raven helmet sponsors, for example, clearly don't mind all the endorsement dollars at stake, have played right along with all the queries about coiffures. The Packers star even doved out a little good-natured trash talk about this year's NFL Style of the Year.

"They may have won the defensive player of the year," Matthews said. "But there's nobody in the NFL this year who has won best hair in the game on the defensive side. So I'm real happy about that. I think it's a unanimous decision."

Drexler told a little more diplomatic about his rival, noting that both attended college at Southern Cal.

"There must be something in the water at USC," Drexler said, breaking in a grin nearly as big as his hair. "We'll just call it 'Clyde the Glide'."

On media day, Polamalu dis-appointed by showing up with his usual bouncy dreadlocks; he looks so tall, from the massive afro to the 15-inch braids flaring out from the back of his helmet in trib-

BA Bowl. There's everything from shampoo endorsement deals. Brett Keisel certainly would've loved to have a demand around the world, a little like that.

"No, I'm not a random beard thrower in for the guy whose name is on the Super Bowl trophy," Polamalu said Wednesday.

"This is my media day hair, "This is my hair," Matthews said a few days before coming out on Super Bowl days. If you were in Pittsburgh, this is how it looked.

Matthews is short on details when asked about Green Bay head coach Dom Capers or Ron Roethlisberger and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

There is no such hesitancy when asked what was more important — a Super Bowl championship or conditioner?

"You need shampoo, obviously. We need that clean. We can't have it greasy and out there on game day, es-

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Belichick wins third coach of year honor

Associated Press

DALLAS — Bill Belichick is closing in on Don Shula.

The New England coach Bill Belichick won The Associated Press' 2010 NFL Coach of the Year award on Wednesday, the third time Belichick has earned the honor. Belichick, who also won in 2002 and 2003, now trails only Don Shula, a four-time winner of the award.

For leading the Patriots to a 14-2 record, the best in the league, Belichick received 30 votes from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the NFL. That easily beat Raheem Morris, who led a turnaround in Tampa Bay and got 11½ votes.

Belichick has overseen a transition in New England to a younger team, particularly on defense. Of course, he still has Tom Brady at quarterback. Of course, he still has the Moss deal look even better. And making the Patriots a better team — typical of what Belichick has done since getting a second chance to be a head coach. The first was a flop with the Browns, where he went 37-45 in four seasons and alienated nearly everyone in Cleveland.

"When I chose him, people at the league office, people in this town, sent me tapes of him in Cleveland and said, 'You don't want to hire this guy,'" Patriots owner Robert Kraft said. "And, remember, he went 5-11 (in his first year with Patriots) and we gave up a No. 1 draft choice (to the Jets to get him). People thought we were nuts.

"So I think that probably was one of the best decisions I've made in football."

Belichick basically rebuilt the defense, particularly the secondary, where rookie Devin McCourty made the Pro Bowl. He showed confidence in BenJarvus Green-Ellis as his main running back, and Green-Ellis rushed for 1,089 yards. Belichick claimed Danny Woodhead when the Jets cut him, and Woodhead was a dynamic piece of the offense and special teams.

Then there was the Randy Moss case.

Eager to remove the recalcitrant receiver, Belichick stole a third-round draft pick from Minnesota in early October for Moss, who lasted a month with the Vikings, then was cut.

Meanwhile, Belichick traded with Seattle for Detion Branch, the 2005 Super Bowl MVP with the Patriots. Branch had a rebirth in New England, making the Moss deal look even better.

And that was just in the NFL. Belichick basically rebuilt the offense. Dynamic piece of the offense for a lot of different things. In the end, it's each individual team and that collection of players that particular year and that particular time during the season or whatever it is, that was able to go out there and be successful.

Belichick is closing in on Don Shula.
Sixers down Nets; Cavs lose 22nd straight

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Lou Williams scored 26 points and Jrue Holiday had 20 points and 10 assists as the Philadelphia 76ers took a 106-92 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Wednesday night.

Jodie Meeks added 10 of his 15 points in a 14-2 third-quarter run that broke the game open and led to the ejection of Nets coach Avery Johnson for arguing a non-call after point guard Devin Harris apparently was fouled by Elton Brand.

Andre Iguodala added 16 points and Brand had 15 and 10 rebounds for the 76ers, who won their fifth in six games and beat the Nets for the third time in as many meetings this season.

Harris, Brook Lopez and Kris Humphries all had 16 points for New Jersey, which lost for only the second time in its last seven home games.

Leading by just one, the Nets took command in the third quarter. Philadelphia took command early in the third quarter when Meeks and center Spencer Hawes scored all the points in the big run to put a 3-7 game that turned a seven-point game into a 69-48 laugher.

Cleveland's slide reached 22 games — one shy of the NBA's single-season record — as Danny Granger scored 23 points and Darren Collison added 22 to lead the Indiana Pacers to a win over the Cleveland Cavaliers, who has lost 22 straight games and 33 of 34.

The Pacers improved to 4-15 this season over the Cavs, and Indiana won its second straight under interim coach Frank Vogel, who replaced the fired Jim O'Brien last week.

Before the game, Vogel joked about not being well known when Cleveland's bench went to Vogel's locker room. He went to lunch on Wednesday with center Roy Hibbert and wasn't recognized.

"People don't know who I am," Vogel cracked. "I'm not surprised. A number of folks can't even sign my autograph. I may as well have been the Hall of Fame. That's fine with me."

Cleveland has been beyond bad of late. Before taking the lead in the third quarter on Sessions' three-point play with 1:15 left, the Cavs had gone more than 217 playing minutes without a victory. Three straight losses under interim coach Mike Brown, who fumbled it and the Cavs' chance slipped away.

The cansouded Cvcos coach Byron Scott dropped his head and a small but boisterous Cleveland crowd headed toward the exits and another cold ride home.

The Pacers moved into a tie for fourth place with the Nets and Boston.

The Cavaliers' long losing streak is almost history. The Cavs didn't cave, scoring 26 points off 17 Minnesota turnovers and they feasted on Minnesota's mistakes.

The score tied 110-all. Collison drained a 3-pointer from the left side with 1:08 left, forcing the Cavs to call a timeout. Cleveland's Elyana then hit a tough jumper to pull Cleveland within grabbed a miss when Parker grabbed a miss by Granger, the Cavs seemed to be in business. But Parker's short shot in the lane rimmed out, and Granger was fouled. He made both free throws to give the Pacers a 115-112 lead.

On Cleveland's next possession, Sessions drove in the paint and drew two defenders before dumping the ball underneath to J.J. Hickson, who fumbled it and the Cavs chance slipped away.

When the horn sounded, Cvcos coach Byron Scott dropped his head and a small but boisterous Cleveland crowd headed toward the exits and another cold ride home.

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When the horn sounded, Cvcos coach Byron Scott dropped his head and a small but boisterous Cleveland crowd headed toward the exits and another cold ride home.
Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Suddenly, beating ranked opponents is becoming a regular thing for Indiana. After scoring a 19-game losing streak against Top 25 foes, the Hoosiers did it again Wednesday night — and this time the fans didn’t even storm the court.

Junior Tom Pritchard and Verdell Jones each scored 12 points, and Indiana led from start to finish, holding off two second-half comebacks by No. 10 Minnesota for a 60-57 victory.

"That week’s win definitely boosted our confidence. I think we got five straight stops at the end of that game, and that’s a couple of more like that tonight," Pritchard said. "I think we’ve grown into being a good team."

The Hoosiers (12-11, 3-7 Big Ten) still have plenty to prove, but they are making strides.

On Wednesday, three of Indiana’s projected opening-day starters — Maurice Creek (ineligible) and Christian Watford (broken hand) — were (ineligible) and Christian Watford (broken hand) — were dressed in street clothes. A injured Emeka Okafor (left ankle on the top of Ibaka’s knee), Blake Hoffarber, Minnesota’s best 3-point shooter, had a chance to force overtime with a

Durant’s dominance, 43 points lead Thunder over Hornets

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kevin Durant continued on a scoring tear with 43 points and 10 rebounds and led a key fourth-quarter run and a defensive stop to beat the New Orleans Hornets 104-93 on Wednesday night.

Durant scored 15 points for the third time in four games, and he leads the NBA with 40-5 points over the last four games. The league's scoring leader hit

The league's scoring leader hit

Andersen scored 10 of New Orleans' first 14 points of the game around by outscoring New Orleans 25-18 in the first quarter and taking control of the game.

The Hornets pulled out a 91-89 victory with 0.2 seconds left in the third quarter.

"You've got to set the tone and play with intensity,'" Crean said. "It was direct, in the sense of 'We've got to finish this out.' In all those huddles at the end, all they were talking about was finishing. When they go in, it's still a 4-2 run plays an edge, and if they can continue to develop belief, they're going to be really good."

Minnesota (16-6, 5-5) can already see the difference.

When these teams last met, Jan. 4 in Minneapolis, it was the Hoosiers who held on for a 67-63 win.

This time, the Hoosiers never let Minnesota take the lead or even tie the score. Austin Hollins missed the first chance to tie it when he clanked a free throw with 3:05 to go.

Then, in the final two seconds, Blake Hoffarber, Minnesota's best 3-point shooter, had a chance to force overtime with a 3-pointer from the left wing. It hit the rim with inflammation in his right knee. It was Jones' first game against a ranked opponent since Jan. 20.

And yet after watching Minnesota (16-6, 5-5) cut a 16-point lead to one with 3:05 to go, the Hoosiers buckled down and played the way coach Tom Crean expects.

"The accountability in the huddle form player to player has gone way up," Crean said. "If you miss that free throw, you're going to get it from the bench."

"We've got to finish this out," Pritchard said after one of the biggest games in his three-year career.

That's when Minnesota finally rallied. Hoffarber and Hollins sparked an 11-4 run to get Minnesota to 39-34. Hoffarber finished with 15 points, while Hollins had 13.

The Hoosiers, however, answered with an 11-0 run to make it 50-34 with 9:48 left.

But the Gophers weren’t finished.

The Observer ◆ SPORTS

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The Observer ◆ SPORTS

Indiana takes down second straight ranked team

Associated Press

Associated Press

The win put Oklahoma City a half-game ahead of the Hornets for fourth place in the Western Conference and clinched the sea- son series sweep of the Thunder.

The Hornets pulled out a 91-89 win against Oklahoma City just nine days earlier in New Orleans, with Paul coming up nine days earlier in New Orleans, with Paul coming up

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Call for Presentations

Students from all colleges are invited to submit abstracts of proposed presentations of their Research, Critical Analysis, or Creative Endeavours for:

The 4th Annual University of Notre Dame Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Friday, May 6, 2011

Submissions due: Friday, March 25 | Notification by: Wednesday, April 6

Guidelines and Application are available at: http://undergradresearch.nd.edu
Brey
continued from page 20
squad that has not won a Big East game in over a year, a streak going back 21 games to a 51-50 win over Marquette last January. But looking back to last year’s defeat at the hands of wireless Rutgers on the road, the Irish are making a concerted effort to do nothing different from their big 56-51 road win in Pittsburgh Jan. 24.

“Especially going on the road, we want to leave it all on the floor, which was something that gave us the victory,” senior guard Ben Hansbrough said.

Hansbrough took control of the game after Notre outscoring Pittsburgh (20-2, 8-1) 13-12 by himself in the final 10 minutes of the game, finishing with 19 points and 7 assists. Bray said acknowledging Hansbrough’s outstanding play, and wants to continue giving him the ball to take control of the game against the Blue Devils.

“I. Ben does a great job when we get the ball in his hands and just let him make his reads.”

Brey said. “It’s a luxury to have a guard who can just make decisions at the end of the clock like that.”

Against Pittsburgh, Notre Dame took advantage of its slow-burn offense, rushing the Panthers into taking shots while holding them to a season-low 51 points.

“The one thing about burning it like that is that you have to be patient and we have a veteran group that believes in that,” Brey said. “It’s a very drastic style of play which means less shots and touches but it just shows the belief that this group has in the system.”

But DePaul looks to counter the Irish’s slow-burn style of play with the speed and versatility of their pair of freshmen leading scorers, power forward Cleveland Melvin and guard Brandon Young. In last Thursday’s 75-60 loss to South Florida, Melvin led the team with 17 points and four blocks while Young added 11 points and three assists.

The size of the Blue Devils could pose double for the Irish as Melvin is paired up with six-foot-eleven junior center Krys Faber, who had 16 points and six rebounds in Tampa.

Meanwhile, the Irish have lost sophomore Mike Broghammer for the year after he struggled to stay healthy with tendinitis in both knees.

The power forward played sparingly in ten games this season, averaging 1.8 points and 1.1 rebounds a game.

The Irish look to continue their three-game win streak while the Blue Devils look to break theirs tonight at Allstate Arena.

The game will be televised on ESPN at 9 p.m.

Contact Andrew Gastclum at agarstel1@nd.edu

Grossman
continued from page 20
Grossman said whenever diving coach Caiming Xie attempts to give instruction, it quickly becomes a highlight of practice.

“Our coach is Chinese and sometimes hard to understand, so some of the funniest stories of are times when there were funny miscommunications between him and our team,” she said.

“Sometimes we just have no idea what he is talking about.”

Even in the pool, the team is sure to have a good time.

“It is also funny when there are some good smacks during practice,” Grossman said.

Especially when you are learning a new dive, it is likely that you will get lost in the dive and end up landing on your stomach which is of course painful but also funny,” Casey said that having such a strong chemistry ultimately increases the team’s confidence in one another.

“We love to joke around, but we are also very motivating when we need to be serious in a practice or meet,” she said.

Grossman had a moment that demonstrated the team’s chemistry in one of last season’s Big East championships.

“In meets it is key that you do not let nerves hold you back from going for a dive. Having you to be confident that because you have practiced a dive hundreds of times, you can nail it when it counts,” Grossman said. “But it is very important that teammates do well because all the points are added together for the team score. Going into the Big East championships, it is important to have confidence in teammates because every point counts. It is going to be a close meet, but we can win if everyone performs their best.”

Contact Megan Golden at mgoldel@smcm.edu

Atang
continued from page 20
up to this point in the current indoor season, as well. She won the Notre Dame Invitationals, at a distance of 14.94 meters, in addition to placing second in the Bob Eubanks Open (14.26 meters) and third at the Indiana Relays (15.10 meters). The strong performances she has shown in the past two seasons have earned the praise of her coaches.

“I have been our best thrower in the shot put the last couple of years,” Irish coach Tim Connelly said. “She should be a Big East scorer (again).”

While Connelly and the rest of the Irish have benefited from Atang’s presence, they almost could not imagine life without her.

“Atang has big expectations for herself this year, and continues to represent Notre Dame as a true team member is a huge advantage heading into Big East championships.”

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Gay nails jumper to push Aztecs to win over Colorado St.

Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — D.J. Gay sank a jumper with 1.8 seconds left to lift seventh-ranked San Diego State past Colorado 56-54 Wednesday night.

Gay, who has a reputation for coming through in the clutch, then hauled in the long inbounds pass as the buzzer sounded and his teammates mobbed him.

Travis Franklin’s driving layup for Colorado State had tied it with 10.1 seconds remaining. James Rahon scored 15 points and Kawhi Leonard posted his 32nd career double-double with 12 points and 17 boards for the Aztecs (22-1, 7-1 Mountain West), who got quite a scare from the Rams (15-7, 5-3). Colorado State might have pulled off the upset had they not been so off-the-mark from the free throw line, where they were just 14-22.

Andy Ogide scored 18 points and pulled down a dozen rebounds for the Rams, who haven’t beaten a top-25 opponent since upsetting 25th-ranked Air Force in the 2004 Mountain West Conference postseason tournament.

Ogide’s two free throws tied it at 52 with 4:21 remaining back-to-back baskets by Franklin, Billy White’s short jumper put San Diego State back on top 54-52 two minutes later after a series of stops by both teams.

Coyne continued from page 20

Coyne and her staff changed their approach to recruiting to achieve a diverse roster.

“In 2005, we went 3-12, the next year we went to the final four,” Coyne said. “In between that time, my practice and recruiting philosophy changed.”

This turn-around from club team to successful varsity sport included the program’s first ever Big East championship in 2009, and continues as the 2011 Inside Lacrosse preseason media poll ranked Notre Dame 10th. Coyne recognizes the importance of such national exposure to recruiting.

“I think a part of you wants to be recognized, we always want to be one of the best in the country,” she said. “Kids playing lacrosse in junior high see that (preseason ranking) and they know about Notre Dame.”

With such success comes a higher standard, a fact Coyne said her staff is doing a better job communicating to high school seniors.

“We’ve been doing a good job letting them know, so when they get here they know what the expectations are,” she said of freshmen new to the program. “From a lacrosse standpoint, we are getting top players.”

A group of seven, six of whom have been regular contributors since their freshman year, the senior class is highlighted by team captains Shaylyn Blaney and Jackie Doherty.

“They are exceptional players,” Coyne said of her senior captains. “More than that, though, those two represent the senior class’s commitment to the program.”

The rest of Notre Dame’s roster has also shown similar commitment to Irish lacrosse, Coyne said.

“We have a really good retention rate,” she said.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu

Gay sank a jumper with 1.8 seconds left to lift seventh-ranked San Diego State past Colorado State 56-54 Wednesday night.

Coyne recognizes the importance of such national exposure to recruiting.

NHL
Franzen scores five as Wings roll

OTTAWA — Johan Franzen scored five goals and the Detroit Red Wings sent Ottawa to its eighth straight loss by beating the Senators 7-5 on Wednesday night.

The Senators (17-27-8) have lost 14 of 15 and haven’t won a home game since beating Pittsburgh on Dec. 26.

Kris Draper and Niklas Kronwall also scored, and Jimmy Howard made 29 saves for the Red Wings. It was Detroit’s first visit to Ottawa since October 2008.

Milan Michalek scored twice for Ottawa, and Peter Regin had a goal and two assists. Chris Campoli and Alex Kovalev also scored for the Senators.

Robin Lehner was pulled midway through the second period after allowing four goals on 19 shots in his first home start.

Brian Elliott allowed two goals on 19 shots in relief.

The Senators took a 1-0 lead on Kovalev’s power-play goal, but Franzen scored twice in 48 seconds to put Detroit ahead.

Ottawa retook the lead when Regin and Campoli both scored their second goals of the season.

After a slow start to the second period the Red Wings scored twice in a span of 13 seconds to go back in front. Lehner made two great saves, but couldn’t stop Draper on the third attempt as he beat the rookie over the shoulder.

On the ensuing play, the Red Wings took control and continued to pressure Ottawa deep in its end before Nicklas Lidstrom found Kronwall at the blue line.

Kronwall drilled a shot through traffic and beat Lehner through the legs.

That marked the end of Lehner’s night. The home fans didn’t appreciate the goaltending change as Elliott, who has lost his last 11 starts, was loudly boosed.

Franzen completed his hat trick with a power-play goal 30 seconds into the third, beating the Elliott to the short side.

The Senators tied it 5-5 just 29 seconds later when Michalek scored his second of the night.

Back-to-back penalties gave the Red Wings a two-man advantage for 68 seconds, and they made the most of it as Franzen scored his fourth of the game to make it 6-5.

The Senators appeared to tie it again with just under eight minutes remaining, but the goal was disallowed on the ice. The call was then confirmed by video review.

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JEFF KNUREK
EUGENIA LAST
SCOTT MITCHELL and MATT MOMONT

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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28 Makes fun of
23 One getting a
21 Yes ___
18 Production site
17 Spy sent by
16 Record label of
15 River of York
12 One in on the

PLEASANNDVILLE
JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY

I can’t wait for the Winter Career Fair!!

I really need it to help me get a job!!

The Mating Ritual
SCOTT MITCHELL and MATT MOMONT

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensible link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.
**Irish travel to DePaul for Big East matchup**

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Sports Writer

In the midst of the biggest blizzard of the year, No. 8 Notre Dame has taken the nation by storm, especially after ending No. 2 Pittsburgh’s 20-game home winning streak with a 56-51 victory.

But it’s not yet time for celebration. The second-place Irish (17-4, 6-3 Big East) have their eyes set on winning the Big East title and that comes with winning more games on the road, starting tonight with DePaul after a nine-day break.

“Thi break came at a really nice time for a veteran team who have been laying a lot of minutes,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “It’s good to rest and then get back out there for a big stretch.

Waiting for them is a struggling, DePaul (6-14, 0-8)."}

**FENCING**

Pfarr stays involved with Irish

By JOE WIRTH
Sports Writer

Due to other commitments, including ROTC and academics, senior Chris Pfarr has not fought in a match for the Irish this season. But even though he has been less involved in this year’s team on the strip, he still leads and supports off.

“My individual goal is to graduate. I am taking 23 credits and doing everything I can to stay afloat and have fun senior year,” Pfarr said. “I live with four other fencers and try to support them when they need it. This year the winning weekend I will be there to support my team and watch them kick (explicative).”

He said that the team has high expectations every year and this year is no different.

**Track and Field**

Atang looks for strong Big East appearance

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

The track and field career of Irish senior shotputter Rudy Atang did not begin quite as she anticipated.

Atang attended her first practice in fifth grade, and was planning on participating in the track portion of the sport. After a few instructions given from the coaching staff, however, she quickly changed her mind.

“I actually wanted to be a runner, but then the coaches told all the runners (to) go run a mile and a half,” Atang said. “I decided, ‘no, I don’t want to run a mile and a half.’”

So I’ll go over with the throwers.

Luckily, for her and the Irish, she stuck with that choice.

Last season, Atang was one of the top throwers in the Big East. She placed ninth in the shot put in the conference’s indoor championships, with a distance of 14.19 meters. She then improved her mark in the Big East’s outdoor championships, with a throw of 15.02 meters, her best of the season. It was good enough for her to finish seventh, as well as score team points for Notre Dame with her top-eight finish.

Atang has continued to excel
IRISH INSIDER
Thursday, February 3, 2011

Nine 4-Star Recruits
Six Top-100 Recruits
23 Recruits

2011 National Signing Day

Photos courtesy of Asheville Citizen Times, Vernon Hills H.S., Servite H.S., Whitney Gray and Bishop Dwenger H.S.
Graphic illustration by Blair Chemidlin
NSD may actually hold an influence

I traditionally ridicule National Signing Day. Watching football players barely three years younger than me play with baseball caps on, even a sweating bulldog this year — seems inherently pointless.

Yet this past season I confronted a very difficult realization: Freshmen really do affect the direction of a program.

My biggest quandary is whether this day of teenage glorification has always focused on the vast inaccuracy of most recruiting projections and reactions. A 22-year-old's physical and mental characteristics often bear no resemblance to his appearance four years prior.

Yet today's descriptions of Everett Golson, Darius Atkinson, of Ishag William and Aaron Lynch will still be very accurate in September. And, as hard as this is for me to admit, freshmen matter.

A year ago, few Notre Dame fans knew who Tommy Rees' early enrollment. TJ Jones did not even make our radar so well. Yet it is nearly impossible to imagine this season's recruiting without the five recruits who signed on them. All of them were highly regarded and will eventually move to the starting lineup.

While a full year under their belt, the Irish coaches showed how much room for improvement there was.

Kelly received 18 faxes with signatures on them Wednesday. Combine those with the five recruits who have already enrolled in classes this semester, and the class of 23 recruits includes six of ESPN's final top-100 recruits, headlined by No. 15 six of ESPN's final top-100 with the five recruits who signed on them. How much room for improvement there was.

Notre Dame fans for the next hauling, 23 recruits full, Tommy Rees' early enrollment, fans were overjoyed at the vast inaccuracy of most recruiting projections. A 22-year-old's physical and test scores.

The Irish recruiting staff did waffle back-and-forth before eventually joining Notre Dame before eventually joining Williams as an early enrollee, before eventually joining Williams as an early enrollee, likely line-up opposite Stephen Tuitt, hailing from Georgia, at many points in his career.

Tuitt briefly decommitted from Notre Dame to turn his eyes toward Georgia Tech in January. Some schools would have shrugged their shoulders and signed three more defensive ends. But Williams would have bad-mouthed Tech to Tuitt. Notre Dame did not.

And Aaron Lynch will still be for years prior.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily The Observer. Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

end in the country — can- cellled a planned official visit to Penn State and committed to Notre Dame. Four days later Williams took his first classes on campus, opting to enroll for the current semester and gain a few extra months under Diaco's tutelage. Williams and Lynch are only the headliners of a group of defensive linemen that will most likely define Notre Dame's defense in the next few years.

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But Kelly and his coaching staff separated the country following putting this class together.

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It just requires a lot of time. And that's okay.
Groundhog’s Day Class a new standard at Notre Dame

With a class consisting of seven Top-150 recruits according to ESPN, the Irish signed an impressive class filled with talent, and more importantly, one that addressed specific needs moving forward. Irish coach Brian Kelly’s goal was to strengthen the edge of his defense, and six defensive end recruits, including Top-150 signings Aaron Lynch, Ishaq Williams and Stephon Tuitt, does just that.

Williams will likely move to outside line-backer, as will four-star recruit Ben Councell. Lynch and Tuitt lead the group back, as will four-star recruit Ben Councell. Lynch and Tuitt, Ishaq Williams and Stephon Tuitt, more importantly, one that addressed specific needs according to ESPN, the Irish signed Thursday, February 3, 2011 page 3.

On the opposite side of the ball, the Irish will be blocking for dual-threat quarterback Everett Golson, whom looks to be the most athletic quarterback in his class and could be a weapon offensively for the Irish at either running back or wide receiver.

His explosiveness is most evident when looking at his best single-game performance of his senior season when he ran for 206 yards and three touchdowns on his way to being named to the Castleton Valley High School. Atkinson’s performance earned him not only a bid in the U.S. Army All-American Game but also a spot as captain of the West team.

His speed is one of his best assets, as he competed in the 100-meter dash in high school with a personal best of 10.66 seconds.

GEORGE ATKINSON WR, ★★★, 190 pounds, 6’2” Granada High School Livermore, Calif.

Listed as an athlete by most recruiting services, George Atkinson III scored 17 touchdowns in his three seasons at Granada, and could be a weapon offensively for the Irish at either running back or wide receiver.

JOSH ATKINSON CB, ★★★, 185 pounds, 6’0” Granada High School Livermore, Calif.

Joining his twin brother George (above) in the 2011 recruiting class for the Irish, Josh Atkinson played on both sides of the ball in high school, but is listed by the Notre Dame coaching staff as a defensive back. He recorded 20 tackles and broke up 11 passes on defense and returned three kicks and one punt for a total of 131 yards.

JALEN BROWN WR, ★★★, 170 pounds, 6’1” Irving MacArthur High School Irving, Texas

Jalen Brown will be a familiar sight in the Irish secondary for years to come. Recruited by assistant coach Kenny Cosgrove, Atkinson utilizes his long arms to break up pass plays in man coverage.

Even though his high school defense was on the aggressive side, Atkinson’s quickness and instincts enabled him to close quickly. Atkinson will need to get comfortable playing on a regular basis, once he spends a year under seniors George and Josh Atkinson.

Brady Carrico stated his desire to attend Notre Dame very early in the recruiting process but waited until Sept. 28 to verbally commit to Irish coach Brian Kelly and his staff.

The first commitment of Notre Dame’s recruiting class of 2011, Brad Carrico started his high school career as a quarterback.

He made the switch to defensive line after his sophomore season, and in his first year at the new position, Carrico recorded 74 tackles, eight for loss, along with nine sacks. His performance as a senior then earned him a bid to play in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

With his good size which has the potential to fill out even more with weight training, Carrico could possibly be a better fit on the offensive line, a position with more scarcity than the jam-packed defensive line crew in this year’s recruiting class.

BEN COUNCELL LB, ★★★, 220 pounds, 6’5” A.C. Reynolds High School Asheville, N.C.

An outside linebacker from Asheville, N.C., Councell recorded 141 tackles, 22 for loss, in his senior season, just his third season playing football. He also recovered two fumbles, blocked two kicks and scored two touchdowns. In his junior campaign, Councell showed a flair for the dramatic as he blocked a field goal to seal a state championship for his team.

Also a track star at A.C. Reynolds High School, he runs the 100-meter dash in 11.1 and the 4x100 meter in 44.1, the quickest of Notre Dame’s linebacker recruits.

The four-star recruit played in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas and was named the Division 4-A State defensive player of the year and first team All-Western North Carolina.

DaVARIS DANIELS WR, ★★★, 150 pounds, 6’3” Vernon Hills High School Vernon Hills, Ill.

DaVaris Daniels stated his desire to attend Notre Dame very early in the recruiting process but waited until Sept. 28 to verbally commit to Irish coach Brian Kelly and his staff.

The Vernon Hills standout contributed in many ways, County fumbled and showed a flair for the dramatic as he blocked a field goal to seal a state championship for his team.

His speed is one of his best assets, as he competed in the 100-meter dash in high school with a personal best of 10.66 seconds.

KYLE BRINDZA K, ★★★, 199 pounds, 6’1” Plymouth High School Canton, Mich.

Kyle Brindza will have an uphill climb at the kicking position as he competes as a freshman. With senior David Ruffer and sophomore Koyack set to depart, the Irish sign Brindza to help fill in the need.

He and George both competed for the dramatic as he blocked a field goal to seal a state championship for his team.

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MATTHIAS FARLEY  
CB, ★★★, 194 pounds, 6’0”  
Charlotte Christian High School  
Charlotte, N.C.

Having only played two years of organized football coming into Notre Dame, Farley is the epitome of raw talent. With a 40-yard dash of 4.5 seconds and versatility on both sides of the ball Farley can only improve in a Notre Dame system.

Out of Charlotte Christian High School in North Carolina, the all-statephenom tallied 1,500 yards, 22 touchdowns while being used as a slot receiver, wideout and at safety. As a defensive back, Farley recorded 49 tackles this past season, after previously committing to Notre Dame in early with the recruit to join team. With the ability to play multiple positions, look for Farley to be all over the field, from special teams to receiver to safety, where his ball-hawking abilities are sure to shine.

JARRET GRACE  
WR, ★★★, 235 pounds, 6’3”  
Colerain High School  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Athletic and tough, Jarrett Grace will join the Irish roster as a linebacker, and has the potential to play both inside and outside.

He recorded 95 tackles during his junior year and 69 tackles in his senior season, and was an all-Ohio first team selection.

Grace has the size to contribute early, but behind the likes of Manti Te’o and Carlo Calabrese, his best opportunity for early playing time will likely be on special teams.

He pursues ball carriers well, keeps moving throughout the play, and his technique will be an asset for him.

He has the size to be a good run stopper, but also the speed and quickness to cover tight ends and running backs.

EILAR HARDY  
S, ★★★, 172 pounds, 6’0”  
Picketeringon High School Central  
Picketeringon, Ohio

With cornerbacks Darrin Walls departing the defensive backfield and seniors-to-be Gary Gray and Robert Blanton entering the final year of eligibility at Notre Dame, recruiting impact players to play defensive back was a key focus of this recruiting cycle.

Hardy should shore up the depth chart and be ready early in his career. He is versatile enough to play corner back or safety at the college level.

Hardy is a physical player who makes solid tackles, especially in the run game — a quality in Irsh Dana’s defensive scheme. He will need to add muscle to play effectively in college but is renowned for his fluidity and quickness that allow him to play either as a free ranging safety or a cover corner.

CHASE HOUNSHELL  
TE, ★★★, 285 pounds, 6’5”  
Lake Catholic High School  
Kirtland, Ohio

Though Chase Hounshell plays on both the offensive and defensive lines in high school, he was primarily recruited by Ed Warner as one of the many defensive linemen in the 2011 class. Suited to play defensive end in the 3-4 scheme and tackle in the 4-3, Hounshell’s versatility may be his best asset.

Quick and powerful for his size, Hounshell will find himself fighting to see the field as an underclassman with the other standout defensive ends in this class.

His experience on the offensive line may not be wasted, a return to the offensive line would not be particularly surprising to relieve the need for a highly talented defensive ends. On the other hand, Hounshell could very well become an integral part of Notre Dame’s defensive front in the coming years.

EVERETT GOLSON  
QB, ★★★, 175 pounds, 6’0”  
Myrtle Beach High School  
Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Originally committed to North Carolina, dual-threat quarterback Everett Golson switched over to Notre Dame on Dec. 2. He has enrolled early and will compete for the wide-open quarterback race at spring practice. Nonetheless, it will be difficult for Golson to crack the starting lineup as a freshman, as all of his competitors for the starting job have the chance to build on Brian Kelly’s spread offense for a year already.

Golson is built more like a quarterback than a quarterback, and some analysts question his ability to start at quarterback in college because of his height. However, Golson has some very strong traits as a passer, including his arm strength, which could lead to him being the Irish signal-caller in the future.

CONNOR HANRATTY  
OL, ★★★, 300 pounds, 6’4”  
New Canaan High School  
New Canaan, CT

It looks like being Irish runs in the family as Conor’s father, Terry, was an All-American quarterback at Notre Dame in the 1960’s. But rather than hurling touchdowns as his father, Hanratty will be protecting the quarterback, his specialty is to shore up the depth chart and see the field early in his career.

He possesses solid pass protection skills and footwork, fitting the mold of a spread-style lineman but does need work on his run blocking and downfield blocking.

MATTHEW HEGARTY  
OL, ★★★, 280 pounds, 6’5”  
Aztec High School  
Aztec, N.M.

Hegarty, a four-star offensive line recruit, had offers from nearly every elite program in the country, including Oregon, Auburn, Stanford and USC, but committed to Notre Dame in April and didn’t waver.

He is the No. 36-ranked prospect in the country by ESPN and was named a 2010 Army All-American and to the 2010 USA Football Junior National Team. Both honors were largely based on his large number of pancake blocks, 81, compared to his lack of sacks given up this past season.

Hegarty was also an All-State first team All-Academic for his 3.8 GPA at Aztec High School in Aztec, N.M. He is very versatile and could move inside to the guard position or stay at tackle, which he played in high school.

CHASE KOYACK  
TE, ★★★, 242 pounds, 6’5”  
Oil City High School  
Oil City, Pa.

Notre Dame has a long history of excellent pass-catching tight ends, and Ben Koyack could be next in line. After catching seven touchdowns during his junior season, Koyack was sidelined for the rest of 2009. He came back strong for his senior campaign, having 101 yards and 11 touchdowns and was named to Pennsylvania’s AAA all-state team.

While Koyack has shown the ability to produce with the ball in his hand, his strength is his pass-catching ability. His size and ball skills make him a dangerous threat vertically, and he can be used as a receiver because of his size and good on-field awareness.

Koyack will join the Irish behind junior Tyler Eifert and fifth-year senior Mike Ragone.
Stephon Tuitt committed to Notre Dame in September before decommitting, committing to Georgia Tech, and recommitting in September before decommitting, committing to Kentucky, where his father played in the 1980s, but in due time instead opted to join his older brother, Irish sophomore Zack Martin, after Notre Dame offered him a scholarship in December. He committed to the Irish on Jan. 18.

Martin started on offense and defense for Bishop Chatard in his senior season and helped the Trojans win the Indiana Class 3A state championship. It was Bishop Chatard’s first state title since 2007. Martin will likely compete for a vacant spot on Notre Dame’s offensive line following the departure of fifth-year guard Chris Stewart.


capsules by observer sports staff

Photo courtesy of Irish Sports Daily

Photo courtesy of Walton Tribune

Photo courtesy of Bishop Dwenger High School

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Thursday, February 3, 2011

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AARON LYNCH

DE, ★★★, 240 pounds, 6’6”

Island Coast High School

Cape Coral, Fla.

After a slightly rocky recruiting process, Aaron Lynch signed with the Irish as one of the top defensive ends in the country. Lynch originally committed to the Irish early in the process, then switched to Florida State before returning to Notre Dame.

His 31 solo tackles and 10-and-a-half sacks are second only to a U.S. Army All-American Bowl. He excelled early in his recruiting process with an innate abilities, and his high-level performance carried over into the actual game, where he recorded two-and-a-half sacks.

Lynch enters the Irish roster behind veteran starters Ethan Johnson and Kapron Lewis-Moore, but his pure athletic ability gives him a chance to make his presence felt early in his career.

ANTHONY RABASA

LB, ★★, 233 pounds, 6’3”

Columbus High School

Columbus, Ga.

A speed-rushing type of player, Anthony Rabasa played defensive end in high school, but will likely join the Notre Dame roster as a linebacker. Rabasa was heavily recruited from the same high school as sophomore outside linebacker. Rabasa’s top attribute as a defensive end is his speed. He will need to add bulk before he can be expected to play on the defensive line, at least initially.

Rabasa joins the Notre Dame roster behind more-veteran Darius Fleming and returning letter-winners Prince Shembo and Steve Filer.

STEPHON TUITT

DE, ★★★, 270 pounds, 6’6”

Monroe Area High School

Monroe, Ga.

Williams played defensive end in high school but has been recruited as an outside linebacker. In his senior year at Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, he recorded 10 tackles, eight sacks and four fumble recoveries.

The four-star recruit was the first of 90 recruits to commit to Notre Dame. He chose to enroll early and is now taking classes at Notre Dame.

Photo courtesy of Walton Tribune

TONY NIKLAS

OL, ★★★, 276 pounds, 6’6”

Bishop Chatard High School

Indianapolis, Ind.

Tony Niklas was the last member of this recruiting class to commit, as he waited until National Signing Day to publicly chooses Notre Dame over USC. Niklas starred as a two-way player at Servite High School near Anaheim, Calif., although he was recruited by Notre Dame as a defensive lineman.

He has good speed but will need to bulk up quickly to be a candidate for playing time at such a deep position in his freshman year.

He joins Stephon Tuitt, Aaron Lynch, Brad Carrico, Chase Hounshell and Tony Springmann in the top defensive line haul in the country. He is unlikely to see meaningful game action in 2011 because of the depth the Irish now carry at that position.

Photo courtesy of Servite High School

Photo courtesy of Bishop Dwenger High School

Photo courtesy of Irish Sports Daily

Photo of Bishop Dwenger High School

Photo Credit: Irish Sports Daily Photo Credit: Bishop Dwenger High School
ND survives chaotic period

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

As up and down as Notre Dame's season was on the football field, it may have fluctuated even more on the recruiting trail.

There were commitments, decommitments and, rarest of all, recommitments leading up to National Signing Day Wednesday, when the Irish signed 23 new players to join the team next fall.

Mike Frank, who covers recruiting for the ESPN-affiliated website Irish Sports Daily, said the arrival of Irish coach Brian Kelly already surrounded his arrival to Notre Dame an immediate bump at the beginning of the recruiting process.

"Any time you get a new coach in, you're going to get a lot of intrigue by a lot of prospects," Frank said.

Before the season even started, Kelly used the buzz surrounding his arrival to land a number of elite prospects, including four-star defensive end Aaron Lynch, who committed July 30 during his official visit to Notre Dame.

"They knew their competition," Kelly said. "When [Lynch] committed to us, everybody in the country knew who they had to work against. They didn't have to work against Auburn or Florida or Miami, they just had to beat Notre Dame because he committed to Notre Dame.

The Irish bounced back, though, winning their final four games and allowing just one touchdown in the process.

"Kids focus on wins," Kelly said. "Any time you get a new statement and making sure that message was clear."

Kelly said Diaco's early-season efforts -- at work against Auburn or Florida or Miami, they just had to beat Notre Dame because he committed to Notre Dame.

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Five recruits already adapting to college life

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

While most of Notre Dame’s 23 recruits will join the Irish this summer, five made the choice to leave high school early and enroll in classes this spring.

Quarterback Everett Golson, kicker Kyle Brindza, linebacker Ishaq Williams and defensive linemen Aaron Lynch and Brad Carrico are taking classes at Notre Dame and will participate in spring football practices, which begin March 23.

“The young men get this opportunity to really understand Notre Dame and the rigors of the classroom, the community, being in the dorms, finding South Dining Hall, understanding all those things before they have to play in the fall,” Irish coach Brian Kelly said.

Lynch, a four-star recruit, and Williams, a five-star recruit, both committed just days before the spring semester began on Jan. 18. Williams committed Jan. 14 and Lynch on Jan. 15.

Lynch had originally committed to Notre Dame over the summer, but switched to Florida State for a brief time in January before recommitting to the Irish.

Brindza, who committed to Notre Dame last spring, originally attempted to enroll an entire year early in order to compete for kicking and punting duties on the 2010 team. However, Notre Dame admissions declined his request.

Enrolling early allows players extra time to work out with the team and learn the Irish playbook, which could translate into opportunities early in the fall season.

“This could be especially critical for Lynch and Carrico, who are among six defensive linemen to sign with the Irish in 2011,” Kelly said. “You would think that with the number of guys who can play that position, somebody might break through at that position. But it’s so hard,” Kelly said. “The guys that are going to be here, the five guys that are here, they’ve got a shot too, because we’ve got a chance to evaluate them against Zach Martin, Taylor Dever ... guys that have played quality competition.

“But I would say that there’s a lot of defensive players that are going to get a chance to compete.

The extra time will also give Golson, this year’s only quarterback recruit, a chance to establish himself next to quarterbacks Tommy Rees and Dayne Crist, Kelly said.

“I think it becomes pretty clear that Tommy Rees and Everett Golson are two different quarterbacks relative to the style,” Kelly said. “I think what you’ll see is Tommy Rees and most likely Dayne Crist and the other quarterbacks fit into that category. And then on the other side of the ledger you’ll have Everett Golson.”

Of the five freshmen who enrolled early in 2010, three saw significant playing time this season.

Rees played in nine games and started four after junior quarterback Dayne Crist had season-ending surgery. He led the Irish to consecutive wins over Utah, Army, USC and Miami in the last four weeks of the season.

Wide receiver T.J. Jones earned a starting position in fall camp, and started seven of the 12 games in which he played. He scored a touchdown in each of his first two games, against Purdue and Michigan, becoming the first freshman to accomplish such a feat. He finished the season with 23 catches for 306 yards and three touchdowns.

Cornerback Lo Wood played in 11 games.

“The football element is big, but the assimilation into being a Notre Dame student is really what enrolling early is about,” Kelly said.

Contact Laura Myers
lmyers2@nd.edu
Call for Presentations

Students from all colleges are invited to submit abstracts of proposed presentations of their Research, Critical Analysis, or Creative Endeavours for:

The 4th Annual University of Notre Dame Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Friday, May 6, 2011

Submissions due: Friday, March 25 | Notification by: Wednesday, April 6

Guidelines and Application are available at:
http://undergradresearch.nd.edu