Basketball fans mad for tourney

By MEGAN DOYLE and SAM STRYKER
News Writers

As March Madness approaches and the Irish anticipate their tournament experience, some Notre Dame students will forfeit sunny afternoons at the beach for the lights of Madison Square Garden over their Spring Break.

The No. 4 Notre Dame men’s basketball team begins its quest for a championship in the Big East Conference tournament tonight as they square off against Cincinnati at 7 p.m. in New York. The quarterfinal game marks the next step in the team’s journey to a championship season.

If the team wins tonight, the Irish will play again in a semifinal game at 9 p.m. Friday evening. Sophomore Mickey Gardella said he could not remember the last time he missed the Big East tournament.

“My dad and I go every year,” he said. “I have been an ND fan my whole life so we always try to go to some of those games … but we see other teams play as well.”

Gardella, a New Jersey native, will travel home for spring break Friday. If Notre Dame wins Thursday evening, he will join the Leprechaun Legion at 9 p.m. Friday to cheer on the team in the semifinals.

The Notre Dame contingent in New York is typically smaller than at a home game in the Purcell Pavilion, Gardella said.

“It’s not the atmosphere of a home game here but it is still a high level of basketball,” he said. “Usually we are outnumbered in terms of fans … but it is still a great experience.”

Notre Dame students from the surrounding area and members of the band typically join the stands to support the team as they play for the Big East title.

“We had a great finish to the year, and we are very hot right now,” he said. “But we don’t know what will happen.”

The depth of the Big East Conference could help the team handle the heat of NCAA tournament competition, Gardella said.

“I think that would help us against a team like BYU or San Diego State that has not played the level of basketball,” he said.

Home game here but it is still a high level of basketball; as March Madness approaches and the Irish anticipate their tournament experience, some Notre Dame students will forfeit sunny afternoons at the beach for the lights of Madison Square Garden over their Spring Break. The No. 4 Notre Dame men’s basketball team begins its quest for a championship in the Big East Conference tournament tonight as they square off against Cincinnati at 7 p.m. in New York. The quarterfinal game marks the next step in the team’s journey to a championship season. If the team wins tonight, the Irish will play again in a semifinal game at 9 p.m. Friday evening. Sophomore Mickey Gardella said he could not remember the last time he missed the Big East tournament. “My dad and I go every year,” he said. “I have been an ND fan my whole life so we always try to go to some of those games … but we see other teams play as well.” Gardella, a New Jersey native, will travel home for spring break Friday. If Notre Dame wins Thursday evening, he will join the Leprechaun Legion at 9 p.m. Friday to cheer on the team in the semifinals. The Notre Dame contingent in New York is typically smaller than at a home game in the Purcell Pavilion, Gardella said.

“It’s not the atmosphere of a home game here but it is still a high level of basketball,” he said. “Usually we are outnumbered in terms of fans … but it is still a great experience.” Notre Dame students from the surrounding area and members of the band typically join the stands to support the team as they play for the Big East title. “We had a great finish to the year, and we are very hot right now,” he said. “But we don’t know what will happen.” The depth of the Big East Conference could help the team handle the heat of NCAA tournament competition, Gardella said. “I think that would help us against a team like BYU or San Diego State that has not played the level of basketball,” he said.

Basketball fans mad for tourney

By MEGAN DOYLE and SAM STRYKER
News Writers

As March Madness approaches and the Irish anticipate their tournament experience, some Notre Dame students will forfeit sunny afternoons at the beach for the lights of Madison Square Garden over their Spring Break. The No. 4 Notre Dame men’s basketball team begins its quest for a championship in the Big East Conference tournament tonight as they square off against Cincinnati at 7 p.m. in New York. The quarterfinal game marks the next step in the team’s journey to a championship season. If the team wins tonight, the Irish will play again in a semifinal game at 9 p.m. Friday evening. Sophomore Mickey Gardella said he could not remember the last time he missed the Big East tournament. “My dad and I go every year,” he said. “I have been an ND fan my whole life so we always try to go to some of those games … but we see other teams play as well.” Gardella, a New Jersey native, will travel home for spring break Friday. If Notre Dame wins Thursday evening, he will join the Leprechaun Legion at 9 p.m. Friday to cheer on the team in the semifinals. The Notre Dame contingent in New York is typically smaller than at a home game in the Purcell Pavilion, Gardella said.

“It’s not the atmosphere of a home game here but it is still a high level of basketball,” he said. “Usually we are outnumbered in terms of fans … but it is still a great experience.” Notre Dame students from the surrounding area and members of the band typically join the stands to support the team as they play for the Big East title. “We had a great finish to the year, and we are very hot right now,” he said. “But we don’t know what will happen.” The depth of the Big East Conference could help the team handle the heat of NCAA tournament competition, Gardella said. “I think that would help us against a team like BYU or San Diego State that has not played the level of basketball,” he said.

Habitat auctions historic window

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

Notre Dame fans can now purchase a window from the Main Building to add to their collection of University memorabilia. One of several windows removed from the Main Building in 1997 will be included in an auction hosted by the St. Joseph County chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Business professor Fr. Oliver Williams is one of the directors of this conference.

“The United Nations founded the compact in 2000,” Williams said. “The compact is made of 10 principles for companies to abide by and incorporate into their daily practice.” Companies join the Global Compact and promise to protect human rights, labor rights, environmental issues and anti-corruption practices. The Development Goals specifically outline 10 goals to significantly relieve poverty by 2015. To sign onto the Compact, the president of a company must write a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations indicating an interest in joining and promising to write a report each year indicating how the company is progressing in implementing the goals to end extreme poverty around the world. The Mendoza College of Business will host the conference from March 20 to 22. The United Nations Global Compact began in 2000 and established 10 principles for the betterment of humanity.

Business professor Fr. Oliver Williams is one of the directors of this conference. “The United Nations founded the compact in 2000,” Williams said. “The compact is made of 10 principles for companies to abide by and incorporate into their daily practice.” Companies join the Global Compact and promise to protect human rights, labor rights, environmental issues and anti-corruption practices. The Development Goals specifically outline 10 goals to significantly relieve poverty by 2015. To sign onto the Compact, the president of a company must write a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations indicating an interest in joining and promising to write a report each year indicating how the company is progressing in implementing the goals to end extreme poverty around the world. The Mendoza College of Business will host the conference from March 20 to 22. The United Nations Global Compact began in 2000 and established 10 principles for the betterment of humanity.
Fugitive comes out of hiding for wife’s lasagna

ROME — He avoided Italian police for a decade on the run, but couldn’t resist his wife’s lasagna. Police say Giancarlo Sabatini went into hiding in 2000, shortly after being given a 3-year, 8-month prison sentence in a cocaine trafficking case.

Acting on a tip, police staked out the homes of Sabatini’s wife and daughter Tuesday in Rocca Priora, a town near Rome. When they spied the daughter leaving her mother’s house and furtively dashing toward her home bearing a tray of lasagna, police, suspecting a secret guest, burst in and arrested Sabatini.

Many Italians prepare lasagna with meat sauce for lunch on the last Tuesday of Carnival. Police say Sabatini came from his hideout in Belgium to celebrate the last day before Lent with his family.

Swedish robber caught by cocaine

Swedish police arrested 27-year-old John Cameron and left three bottles of cocaine in a police box near a convenience store in the town of Sangen, in Sweden. The swede on Tuesday. His accomplice is still at large.

While inside, the robbers emptied 140 safety deposit boxes of at least $500,000 in cash and jewelry. But Prosecutor Frederik Larson said Wednesday they forgot to take the urine when they left “so we were able to get their DNA samples from the bottles.”

The evidence helped prosecutors win a 21-month prison sentence for the Swede on Tuesday. His accomplice is still at large and the loot hasn’t been recovered.

Correction: In the Feb. 8, 2011, issue, the Corrected for April 14, 2011, was misspelled. It should have been ‘43.”

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail obsphoto@gmail.com

**OFFBEAT**

**In Brief**

A Hospitality Lunch, hosted by the Stone Soup Community and sponsored by the Center for Social Concerns, will be held today in DeBartolo Hall at 11:45 a.m. A $5 donation is suggested.

The Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering is sponsoring a seminar today titled “Aerospace Metamaterial: Recent Advances and Applications” that will be held in 138 DeBartolo Hall at 3:30 p.m. The speaker is Dr. Hsin-Hsou Huang of Purdue University.

Today, the women’s lacrosse team will take on Ohio State at Arilotta Stadium at 4 p.m. Tickets are $3 for students.

The Math for Everyone lecture series, hosted by the Department of Mathematics, continues today with “Probabilistic in Lookup and Scream,” Christopher Swanson of Ashland University will be leading the talk at 5 p.m. in 117 Hayes-Healy Center.

The keynote address of the Greed Conference titled “Excess, Greed and the World they Created” will take place tonight in the Notre Dame Conference Center in McKenna Hall at 6 p.m. Professor Frederik Larson said Wednesday they forgot to take the urine when they left “so we were able to get their DNA samples from the bottles.”

The evidence helped prosecutors win a 21-month prison sentence for the Swede on Tuesday. His accomplice is still at large and the loot hasn’t been recovered.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
Group discusses senator turnover

By MEL FLANAGAN
News Writer

With student government turnover approaching on April 1, Student Senate discussed ways of improving the senator transition process for incoming senators at Wednesday’s meeting.

Overnight Committee Chair Paige Becker said the student government constitution requires this transitional work-shop to take place when old senators step down and new senators take over the positions. “It’s supposed to provide some background for incoming senators on Senate,” she said. “For example, the role of senators, parliamentary procedures, time constraints, commitments.”

Many current senators said the training should emphasize the importance of communication with other dorm leaders. Farley senator Leslie Tadlow said the workshop leaders should recommend the senators meet with their hall presidents regularly.

Knot senator Alex Kasparie proposed holding a few joint meetings a semester with both Senate and Hall Presidents’ Councils. “I know it’s a large group of people, but I think it could be constructive for the whole student body,” he said. “It would really help facilitate cooperation.”

Similarly, Paquerville East senator Julie Doherty said, an event for the incoming senators to meet and to get to know each other would greatly reduce any discomfort felt at the first few meetings.

Besides attending weekly Senate meetings, senators are also expected to serve on two committees, such as the Academic Affairs or Social Concerns Committee.

Chair of Academic Affairs Committee Al McGauley said the workshop should stress that senators are required to not only attend the committee meetings but also to be involved.

“As senators on the committee, you are the bulk of the working force,” Cavanaugh senator Tegan Chapman said.

Chapman said while there are other people on the committees, it is important for the incoming senators to realize a large part of the effort is their responsibility.

“(Non-senators) don’t feel they have to step up and do work,” she said. “But it’s part of your job, you got elected to do that.”

Contact Mel Flanagan at mflanagan3@nd.edu

Young women should study biology, chemistry and engineering to increase the female presence in the science field, four Saint Mary’s representative-said on local television Friday.

The women presented on “Economic Outlook,” a program on the local public television station WNTI.

The show featured Dr. Nancy Nekvasil, chair and professor of the Department of Biology, and Dr. Tony Barzits, professor of chemistry and director of the College’s dual degree engineering program. Erin Heck, a 2008 graduate, and senior Tara Hill also appeared on the program.

The show addressed women’s power to help the nation regain its competitive edge in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

“About one third of the U.S. students intending to major in engineering switch majors,” said Phil D’Amico, host of “Economic Outlook” and a member of St. Joseph’s County Chamber of Commerce.

The majority of students who make this switch are not women, D’Amico said, but the panel agreed students should begin education in science courses at a young age to foster interest.

Barzits said sixth to eighth grade is a crucial time to influence children, but she said conversation about STEM classes and careers with children should start even earlier.

“Everyone’s a scientist if they’re curious,” Nekvasil said. Nekvasil said STEM classes sometimes are resisted in elementary schools.

“Through no fault of their own, elementary education teachers are not terribly comfortable doing science,” Nekvasil said. “There have been many studies done that show there are girls that are comfortable with English and history, so they spend their day doing that.”

Student are not exposed to STEM curriculum because it does not exist in elementary schools.

“Science gets pushed to the end of the day and then maybe 10 minutes and maybe not every day of the week,” she said.

Teachers need to better engage students by supporting interest in science and using hands-on lesson plans, she said.

Saint Mary’s has dedicated nearly 150 years to educating women in the science field, Nekvasil said. The College encourages students to push themselves in the STEM fields.

“The Department of Chemistry/Physics and the Department of Biology will welcome young women to enter and complete our programs,” Nekvasil said.

We promise small classes, individual attention, opportunities for research, opportunities to learn lab skills and opportunities to grow into confident young women. The more women we get into the field, the more they realize the importance of STEM careers in the future.”

With the help of Saint Mary’s curriculum and teachers, Hill said she realized the vast possibilities for careers in the STEM fields and began working toward her biology major.

“I was never afraid she would be restricted to careers in either education or medicine by choosing to study science. After her experience in Saint Mary’s classrooms and study abroad, Hill discovered her passion for public health.

Nekvasil said the role of women in the sciences, and the obstacles provided by Saint Mary’s can be a mechanism for educating young women.

Among these outreach programs, students should view the opportunities available in the sciences, Hill said, and outreach programs which have been provided by Saint Mary’s can be a mechanism for educating young women.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu

Fans

continued from page 1

Fan schedule we have,” he said. Junior Andrew Fessler said his pilgrimage to Madison Square Garden for the Big East tournament is also an annual tradition.

“I used to go a lot when I was younger,” he said. “I’ve been going to one or two games a year for as long as I can remember.”

Fessler said you can’t even call the Notre Dame basketball team would enter the tournament with a different vibe this year than in seasons past.

“I’ve always been a big Notre Dame fan and expected them to do well, even though they haven’t always been good,” he said. “The difference is I’m a lot more excited now. It expects them to do well, not just me.”

This particular tournament is special for Fighting Irish fans because of high expectations for the team this year, Fessler said.

“It is really important to the fans because they have never done the well in the Big East tournament, so this year is exciting,” he said.

Fessler said the tournament of the basketball team in the Big East tournament will dictate how well the Fighting Irish play in the NCAA championship.

“It’s always important because we’re going against other top ranked teams,” he said. “It really impacts what we do in the tournament.”

The team’s success during the regular season will impact how far the team can advance in the Big East tournament.

“I think we will do well. I think we expect them to win some games,” she said. “It would be really exciting to win the whole thing.”

Rasch said Saint Mary’s can be a mechanism for educating young women.

“I think we will do well. I think we expect them to win some games,” she said. “It would be really exciting to win the whole thing.”

Rasch said Saint Mary’s can be a mechanism for educating young women.

“I think we will do well. I think we expect them to win some games,” she said. “It would be really exciting to win the whole thing.”

Rasch said Saint Mary’s can be a mechanism for educating young women.

“I think we will do well. I think we expect them to win some games,” she said. “It would be really exciting to win the whole thing.”

Rasch said Saint Mary’s can be a mechanism for educating young women.

“I think we will do well. I think we expect them to win some games,” she said. “It would be really exciting to win the whole thing.”

Rasch said Saint Mary’s can be a mechanism for educating young women.

“I think we will do well. I think we expect them to win some games,” she said. “It would be really exciting to win the whole thing.”
SGA
continued from page 1
installing a printer in the building. Printers existed in the dorms in previous years.
According to Chelsy, SGA will be single-handedly responsible for the funding of installation and maintenance of dorm printers.
Information Technology (IT) will still manage the equipment, although SGA received a green light to continue with the project.
“In our discussion at the last meeting of the semester, we were told that they will not share a budget with us,” Chelsy said. “Since the printer will be connected to this net- work, students will be able to print for free.”
Several board members expressed concern over the possibility that students would exploit the lack of print limit. Chelsy, Smith and Jones said they are looking into options for students taking advantage of the unlimited printing.
Another concern was SGA’s responsibility for maintaining the printers.
Student Activities Board presi-
dent Aliile Courtney said the maintenance of the printer is a critical factor in the decision.
“It’s very difficult to maintain a printer, as we’ve seen with the printer in the student center, and we need to really think about if we have the necessary manpower or not to handle this printer,” the board also discussed pro-
ected projects.
For the remainder of the year, the estimated cost of buying and maintaining a printer in one dorm room is $299. This cost covers the price of the printer (with scanning and copy-
ing capabilities) and two toners and three packages of paper.
The estimated cost was pro-
vided by Hausmann based on previous use of printers in the dorms.
Add a note here if necessary.
After a vote, SGA approved senior class president Kelly Johnson’s motion to install a printer in Holy Cross Hall before the end of the current semester. This decision does not ensure that the following administration will continue to fund and pursue the dorm printer initiative.
SGA also hosted a visit by inte-
rior designer Laura Connell dur-
ing the meeting. Connell, work-
ning closely with the SGA LeMans Hall basin project committee, brought fabric samples and a design concept to depict the plan for the renovation of the hall.
“The plan is to create a group area where everybody can just hang out,” Connell said. “It’s not a study space, but a place to relax after a long day. You don’t want to have to find another table.”
The renovation plan includes a kitchen area with a booth, gaming area with two tables with backgammon and checker-
board games built into them, a movie area and a “chill zone” which will have bean bags and two chase lounges, Connell said.
All of the furniture is custom designed and made-to-order. The ideal date for the furniture is April 5.
Contact Megan Loney at mloney91@saintmarys.edu

Architect speaks on city design
By ALLISON FACCHETTI
State Times
Leaving the planet in better shape for future generations through good city planning should be a goal for both architects and citizens, said visiting architect Dhiru A. Thadani Wednesday.
Thadani, a Bombay native, discussed the five crises Americans face in city plan-
ning today and the lessons he learned about urbanism from living in India during a lecture at Bond Hall.
“Urbanism is a perspective solution to the crisis we face today,” he said.
Thadani drew on his experi-
ences working around the globe to support his points.
“When you work in the city, you really need to think beyond defining the little ele-
ments of the building, but the space you are making is being an architect not just of the building, but of the city,” Thadani said.
He described the problems of population growth, the post peak oil era, climate change, public health and housing supply and demand.
He com-
pared working with climate change to “fighting a sumo

Window continued from page 1
dow have escalated to $500 as of Tuesday. The auction will con-
clude at 6 p.m. on Friday.
“This window would fit per-
fectly as a gift for alumni or a big fan it would be a great piece,” Williams said.
The proceeds of the auction will benefit both the Notre Dame Student for Humanity club and the Habitat clubs of several local high schools.
Notre Dame’s Habitat chapter will use its portion of the pro-
ceeds to fund its current construc-
tion project, and Williams said it is fitting that the win-
dow go to the Main Building, which would contribute to a University project.
“Our Notre Dame student chapter was looking for some funding for their build, so the timing was perfect,” Williams said.
Why is this window from a former Pella Windows and Doors plant in South Bend. Pella originally used the win-
dows as templates to construct replacement windows for the building.
Habitat bought the plant in May 20 at $1 and Williams said it now uses the space as a ReStore location. ReStore is the building material headquarters for several nationals.
Habitat windows are currently on display in the lobby of the building.
Contact Christian Myers at cmyers8@nd.edu

"Changing Your Collar"
Wednesday, March 26–27, 2011
Schedule
Saturday 10:00 a.m.: Debartalo Hall 141.
Mr. Myron Rolle 
Mr. Kenny Harris
Rev. Dr. James L. Byrd
12:30 p.m.: 
Complimentary Lunch
3:00 p.m.: 
Individual Sessions with Notre Dame Career Counselors
Sunday 8:45 a.m.: 
Bussara Roadtrip
Jim Crow Museum of Racist 
Memorabilia 
Adults $20
Students $10
Includes Transportation & Lunch
For More Information Contact: 
G. David Moss (574) 613-5550
Contact Allison Facchetti at afacchetti@nd.edu

THINK TANK
"CHANGING YOUR COLLAR"
Saturday, March 26-27, 2011
Midwest BLACK MAN'S
"THINK TANK"
"CHANGING YOUR COLLAR"
Saturday, March 26-27, 2011
Midwest BLACK MAN’S
"THINK TANK"
―CHANGING YOUR COLLAR‖
Saturday, March 26-27, 2011
Midwest BLACK MAN’S
"THINK TANK"
―CHANGING YOUR COLLAR‖
Saturday, March 26-27, 2011
Midwest BLACK MAN’S
"THINK TANK"
―CHANGING YOUR COLLAR‖
Saturday, March 26-27, 2011
Midwest BLACK MAN’S
"THINK TANK"
―CHANGING YOUR COLLAR‖
Saturday, March 26-27, 2011
Midwest BLACK MAN’S
"THINK TANK"
―CHANGING YOUR COLLAR‖
Wisconsin GOP cuts collective bargaining

Republicans bypass Democrats, approve proposal limiting public workers’ rights

Associated Press

MADISON — The Wisconsin Senate succeeded in voting Wednesday to strip nearly all collective bargaining rights from public workers, after Republicans outmaneuvered the chamber’s missing Democrats and approved an explosive proposal that has rocked the state and unions nationwide.

“You are cowards!” spectators in the Senate gallery screamed as lawmakers voted. Within hours, a crowd of a few hundred protesters inside the Capitol had grown to several thousand, more than had been in the building at any point during weeks of protests.

“The whole world is watch- ing!” they shouted as they pressed up against the heavily guarded entrance to the Senate chamber.

All 14 Senate Democrats fled to Illinois nearly three weeks ago, preventing the chamber from having enough members present to consider Gov. Scott Walker’s “budget-repair bill” — a proposal introduced to plug a $1.37 million budget shortfall.

The Senate requires a quo- rum to take up any measures that spend money. But Republicans on Wednesday took a step that began spending measures out of the legislation and a special committee of law- makers from both the Senate and Assembly approved the revised bill a short time later.

The unexpected yet surpris- ingly simple procedural move came after Walker, who had threatened to drag on indefi- nitely. Until Wednesday’s stum- ming vote, it appeared the standoff would persist until Democrats returned to Madison from their self- imposed exile.

In 30 minutes, 18 state sena- tors undid 50 years of civil rights in Wisconsin. Their dis- respect for the people of Wisconsin and their rights is an outrage, what will we be forgotten,” said Democratic Senate Minority Leader Mark Miller. “Tonight, 18 Senate Republicans conspired to take government away from the people.”

The state Assembly previ- ously approved the original proposal and was set to con- sider the new measure on Thursday. Miller said in an interview with The Associated Press there is nothing Democrats can do now to stop the bill. “It’s a done deal.”

The lone Democrat present on the special committee, Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, shouted that the meeting was a violation of the state’s open meetings law. The Senate’s chief clerk said hours later the meeting was properly held.

Senate convened within min- utes of the committee meeting and passed the measure 18-1 without discussion or debate. Republican Sen. Dale Schultz cast the lone no vote.

“His jigs is now up,” Barca said. “The fraud on the people of Wisconsin is now clear.”

Walker had repeatedly argued that collective bargain- ing was a “budget issue” because his proposed changes would give local governments the flexibility to confront budget cuts needed to close the state’s $3.6 billion deficit. He has said that without the changes, he may have needed to lay off 1,500 state workers and make other cuts to balance the budget.

Walker said Wednesday night that Democrats had three weeks to debate the bill and were offered repeated opportunities to come back, but were refused.

“I applaud the Legislature’s action today to stand up to the status quo and take a step in the right direction to balance the budget and reform government,” Walker said in the statement.

The measure approved Wednesday forbids most gov- ernment workers from collec- tively bargaining for wage increases beyond the rate of inflation. It also requires public workers to pay more toward their pensions and double their health insurance contribution, a combination equivalent to an 8 percent pay cut for the average worker.

Police and firefighters are exempt.

Walker’s proposal touched off a national debate over union rights for public employees and prompted tens of thousands of demonstrators to converge on Wisconsin’s capital city for weeks of protests.

Wednesday’s drama unfold- ed less than four hours after Walker met with GOP senators in a closed-door meeting. He emerges from the meeting saying senators were “firm” in their support of the bill.

For weeks, Democrats had offered concessions on issues other than the bargaining rights and they spent much of Wednesday again calling on Walker and Republicans to compromise.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald said earlier that Republicans had been dis- cussing concessions offered by Walker, including allowing public workers to bargain over their salaries without a wage limit. Several GOP sena- tors facing recall efforts had also publicly called for a com-promise.

“Tonight, 18 Senate Republicans conspired to take government away from the people.”

Opponents of Gov. Scott Walker’s budget-repair bill demonstrate at the Wisconsin State Capitol Wednesday.

Principles, Williams said.

The company must address the specific goals, which include working on child labor, eliminating discrimi- nation, improving the envi- ronment, and being com- mercially friendly technology.

“If globalization in the world’s economy is going to continue, it must be done in a fair manner,” Williams said.

The problem that the U.N. was trying to address is that many businesses based in multina- tional countries were pro- ducing the majority of their products in developing nations.

After they drafted the comp- act, Williams wrote to the organization to offer help in spreading awareness about the cause. The United Nations responded and asked Williams to host a confer- ence at Notre Dame for both United Nations, and business leaders.

“In 2002, we hosted the first conference here with a number of companies attending. I believe the first conference, over 6,000 businesses have signed on,” Williams said.

Four years ago, the United Nations contacted Williams again and asked if he would be on the board of directors for the compact. He accepted. Williams and his colleagues have since funded the compact and invited comp- act in third world coun- tries.

“Companies need to prac- tice better ethical standards, and are now being made aware of where their compa- ny makes its products and products happen in,” Williams said. “This is our chance, we must approach points which will be touched upon at this conference.”

A number of prominent companies will visit campus at the upcoming conference, including Coca-Cola, Microsoft, Nestlé and Levi Strauss.

In addition to raising awareness of company mal- practices at the conference, the conference will look at businesses’ role as humanitarian who are able to use some of their power to jumpstart impoverished nations.

The United Nations’ deci- sion to hold the conference at Notre Dame is another cause for hope, Williams said.

“Notre Dame strives to teach both the hearts and minds of students so they will be able to use their tal- ents to help others,” Williams said. “The United Nations and Notre Dame are congruent with their own.”

The Mendoza College of Business has already imple- mented some of the values and deals to be discussed at the conference in its educa- tional program.

“We want all of our undergraduate and MBA stu- dents to take an ethics course,” Williams said. “And look at some of the compli- cated problems going on in the business world.”

Williams said. “We believe that the goal of business is to produce both financial and human value.”

Contact Adam Llorens at allorens@nd.edu

Opportunity, crisis, and obligation in K-12 education

Thursday, March 10, 2011

The Observer • NEWS
Insider Column

What are you fighting for?

All right, we’re guilty. Sometimes we whine about working at The Observer, it is often going to be a pain in the neck with our griping about the weather and other things that go along with Notre Dame. But sometimes we get the opportunity to be a part of something, even indirectly, that reminds us why we’re so lucky to be a part of this University. Over the past two months, we have had the good fortune of organizing The Observer’s coverage of Bengal Boxing. It’s not like you think; there’s no denying that. In getting to know the boxers and going inside the boxing club to learn about the motivations and backgrounds of the various fighters, however, we have been inspired.

It’s evident that this club is not one that is without its fair share of obstacles. Fighting is not the only thing that is going on inside the club. The club is involved in a number of other projects that benefit the community. The club has been involved in a number of charitable events, and they do come in contact with a variety of people, each with their own set of challenges. It is evident that this club is not one that is without its fair share of obstacles. Fighting is not the only thing that is going on inside the club.

Many of our writers have been inspired by the stories of the fighters. It’s evident that this club is not one that is without its fair share of obstacles. Fighting is not the only thing that is going on inside the club.

The Observer

Letter to the Editor

The Homer Simpson effect

A few months ago, I found myself at a cocktail party with a friend of mine from high school, breathing in that unique perfume smell of body odor, cigarettes and shattered dreams. Upon finding that the only open seats for blackjack were located next to a chain-smokin’ man with an exciting variety of prison tattoos and more poker chips than teeth, my friend and I decided to wait it out and watch some TV instead. Playing at that moment was a commercial in which men leapt through their TVs trying to grab three-dimensional beer cans, causing a nearby man to casually remark, “This is a new way to play video games.”

In spite of these conflicting viewpoints, the real driving force behind this debate is not some philosophical concern about the role of public sector unions, but rather the need to confront the stark reality that Wisconsin faces a massive deficit burden that fighters have made clear they want to address. Gov. Walker reasons that eliminating collective bargaining rights of state workers will make budget cuts for them to obtain future pension and benefit guarantees on the table. Thus, the state’s fiscal crisis forces it to choose between the status quo and the potential for effective, long-term change.

The Homer Simpson effect is one of the most popular examples of the Simpson effect, which is a phenomenon in which people tend to perceive a character’s actions as more intentional and deliberate than they actually are. In the case of Homer Simpson, the effect is often used to describe the way in which people may perceive him as a more significant figure than he actually is, due to his popularity and influence on popular culture. The Homer Simpson effect is often used to describe the way in which people may perceive a character’s actions as more intentional and deliberate than they actually are. In the case of Homer Simpson, the effect is often used to describe the way in which people may perceive him as a more significant figure than he actually is, due to his popularity and influence on popular culture.

The Observer

Observer Poll

What are your plans for Spring Break?

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndsmobserver.com

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

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph95@nd.edu and Chris Allen at callnen06@nd.edu

I do not want people to be agreeable, as that is the trouble of liking them.

Jane Austen

English novelist

The Observer

Viewpoint

Deficit and debt

In the past few weeks, coverage of the ongoing debate has centered between Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and the state’s public sector employee unions has dominated the headlines and editorial sections of newspapers, talk shows and websites throughout the country. At issue in this contentious debate is the right of Wisconsin’s state workers to collectively bargain for wages and benefits. Gov. Walker, backed by Republican lawmakers and business groups, has been successful in the state legislature, which has proposed eliminating this right and is asking state workers to take a greater percentage of the health and pension benefits. On the other hand, Democrats and union members, while accepting the increased contribution requirements, have vehemently opposed the efforts to strip workers of their collective bargaining rights. They have staged massive, often violent demonstrations in the state capital building and even, in the case of the Democratic members of the state senate, fled to Illinois to deny the legislature the ability to vote on the proposed bill. Republicans argue that collective bargaining for public sector workers is an inherently flawed policy — they contend that, while private sector unions are acceptable because they seek to bargain for a greater share of the profits of their own labor, public sector workers create no profits, and so are merely trying to grab an ever larger slice of taxpayer dollars (ironically, a position shared by the great liberal icon Franklin Delano Roosevelt). Democrats see collective bargaining as merely the opening skirmish in a strategic war to whitewash the rights of all workers, public and private.

In spite of these conflicting viewpoints, the real driving force behind this debate is not some philosophical concern about the role of public sector unions, but rather the need to confront the stark reality that Wisconsin faces a massive deficit burden that fighters have made clear they want to address. Gov. Walker reasons that eliminating the collective bargaining rights of state workers will make budget cuts for them to obtain future pension and benefit guarantees on the table. Thus, the state’s fiscal crisis forces it to choose between the status quo and the potential for effective, long-term change.

The Homer Simpson effect

A few months ago, I found myself at a cocktail party with a friend of mine from high school, breathing in that unique perfume smell of body odor, cigarettes and shattered dreams. Upon finding that the only open seats for blackjack were located next to a chain-smokin’ man with an exciting variety of prison tattoos and more poker chips than teeth, my friend and I decided to wait it out and watch some TV instead. Playing at that moment was a commercial in which men leapt through their TVs trying to grab three-dimensional beer cans, causing a nearby man to casually remark, “This is a new way to play video games.”

In spite of these conflicting viewpoints, the real driving force behind this debate is not some philosophical concern about the role of public sector unions, but rather the need to confront the stark reality that Wisconsin faces a massive deficit burden that fighters have made clear they want to address. Gov. Walker reasons that eliminating the collective bargaining rights of state workers will make budget cuts for them to obtain future pension and benefit guarantees on the table. Thus, the state’s fiscal crisis forces it to choose between the status quo and the potential for effective, long-term change.

The Homer Simpson effect

A few months ago, I found myself at a cocktail party with a friend of mine from high school, breathing in that unique perfume smell of body odor, cigarettes and shattered dreams. Upon finding that the only open seats for blackjack were located next to a chain-smokin’ man with an exciting variety of prison tattoos and more poker chips than teeth, my friend and I decided to wait it out and watch some TV instead. Playing at that moment was a commercial in which men leapt through their TVs trying to grab three-dimensional beer cans, causing a nearby man to casually remark, “This is a new way to play video games.”

In spite of these conflicting viewpoints, the real driving force behind this debate is not some philosophical concern about the role of public sector unions, but rather the need to confront the stark reality that Wisconsin faces a massive deficit burden that fighters have made clear they want to address. Gov. Walker reasons that eliminating the collective bargaining rights of state workers will make budget cuts for them to obtain future pension and benefit guarantees on the table. Thus, the state’s fiscal crisis forces it to choose between the status quo and the potential for effective, long-term change.

The Homer Simpson effect

A few months ago, I found myself at a cocktail party with a friend of mine from high school, breathing in that unique perfume smell of body odor, cigarettes and shattered dreams. Upon finding that the only open seats for blackjack were located next to a chain-smokin’ man with an exciting variety of prison tattoos and more poker chips than teeth, my friend and I decided to wait it out and watch some TV instead. Playing at that moment was a commercial in which men leapt through their TVs trying to grab three-dimensional beer cans, causing a nearby man to casually remark, “This is a new way to play video games.”

In spite of these conflicting viewpoints, the real driving force behind this debate is not some philosophical concern about the role of public sector unions, but rather the need to confront the stark reality that Wisconsin faces a massive deficit burden that fighters have made clear they want to address. Gov. Walker reasons that eliminating the collective bargaining rights of state workers will make budget cuts for them to obtain future pension and benefit guarantees on the table. Thus, the state’s fiscal crisis forces it to choose between the status quo and the potential for effective, long-term change.

The Homer Simpson effect

A few months ago, I found myself at a cocktail party with a friend of mine from high school, breathing in that unique perfume smell of body odor, cigarettes and shattered dreams. Upon finding that the only open seats for blackjack were located next to a chain-smokin’ man with an exciting variety of prison tattoos and more poker chips than teeth, my friend and I decided to wait it out and watch some TV instead. Playing at that moment was a commercial in which men leapt through their TVs trying to grab three-dimensional beer cans, causing a nearby man to casually remark, “This is a new way to play video games.”

In spite of these conflicting viewpoints, the real driving force behind this debate is not some philosophical concern about the role of public sector unions, but rather the need to confront the stark reality that Wisconsin faces a massive deficit burden that fighters have made clear they want to address. Gov. Walker reasons that eliminating the collective bargaining rights of state workers will make budget cuts for them to obtain future pension and benefit guarantees on the table. Thus, the state’s fiscal crisis forces it to choose between the status quo and the potential for effective, long-term change.
The implications of Lenten conversion

The Christian gospel is perceived as para- doxical and difficult at best. It amounts to a way of life which is not governed by the virtues so highly prized by our technocratic society: success, efficiency, immediate gratification and control.

The Christian gospel is perceived as about success (as brief, a crucial part of our) – it is efficiently, frequently delayed and encouraging and entra- ins us with control to one whom we cannot see.

If unlearning ingrained habits and replac- ing them is the way to life hereafter, and doing it is central to our faith “journey,” my purpose is to point out three pitfalls of mod- ern culture which commonly beset us. In his own words, Fr. Michael Heintz, Guest Columnist, refers to them:

The second pitfall is the tendency to think that religion is a private affair between “me and God” and that I am not to be judged of my religious thought undoubtedly has its remote origins in this American culture. While religious faith is and should be quite personal, it is never private. The incarnation of Jesus and the experience of the Church is mediated through a community of faith. This is why there is RCIA, it involves the whole parish, and has been described as “Fr. Smith instructing Mr. or Ms. Jackson.” That is why very frequently Catholic children’s first penance is experienced as a community, not individually, not simply as an act of faith. It is a confrontation of faith with God and the Church. It is a confrontation with other people.

Thirdly, what I would like to suggest is an understanding of our Christian faith as a social or even organic phenomenon is crucial. Our experience of Jesus is, in fact, mediated through sacraments — public and discrete rituals of the Church which bring us into contact with Jesus himself. That meeting place with Jesus is always within community, grace and requires a human or created agent. A on a very practical level, we desperately need one another, and the Church needs our love, our understanding, our support.

Understanding our Christian faith as a social or even organic phenomenon is crucial. Our experience of Jesus is, in fact, mediated through sacraments — public and discrete rituals of the Church which bring us into contact with Jesus himself. That meeting place with Jesus is always within community, grace and requires a human or created agent. On a very practical level, we desperately need one another, and the Church needs our love, our understanding, our support.

Listening to the Letter to the Editor

If you ever want to see your precious moose again, you will wire 50,000 ilx points to my account at the National Bank, 600 W. 7th St., Account Number: 41.665-110.718.

P.S. In no way shape or form is the above account number the latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates of your estranged moose.

Nick Gretha
State of Minnesota

Know where the moose is?

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndsmcobserver.com

Michael Heintz is the director of Divinity in the theology department. He can reached at michael.heintz@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
By TROY MATHEW
Scene Writer

Looking for substantial exercise, a great way to support the community or possible lakeside entertainment from a Maritachi band? Look no further than Notre Dame’s 2011 Holy Half Marathon. Its flyers advertise this year’s race as “bigger, better and holier” than ever.

“We’ve added a lot of improvements over last year. We’re trying to build this year’s race up as much as an event,” Holy Half co-director Gabby Tate said in an interview with The Observer.

USA Track and Field will certify the 2011 Holy Half’s 13.1 mile route for accuracy in order to avoid an unforeseen mishap that occurred in the previous year’s race.

“Last year, there was some construction on campus we didn’t get notice of, so the route ended up being shorter than planned,” Tate said.

Changes have been added in order to make the Holy Half a more memorable and special experience for the runner as well.

“Last year I think we made some sacrifices at the expense of the participants, so that’s something we’re trying to avoid for this year’s race,” Tate said.

Runners will receive a performance T-shirt instead of a regular T-shirt, along with coupons and promotions from the race’s sponsors, which are still being determined. Runners may also enjoy a unique form of race-time entertainment.

“We’re trying to get a Maritachi band to perform around the lakes for runners, which I think will be really fun. We’re also working on getting tons of water bottles and water stickers for the runners,” Tate said.

Entertainment can be found in the lively student-rural runner crowd as well. Hyed as a costume contest, the race spurs students to express their personality. A group of Waldos, a man in a Scrooby Doo costume and a ghost, complete with a sheet over his head, were among last year’s costumed participants.

Also in the theme of improvement, Tate hopes to heighten community involvement in this year’s Holy Half. The previous four races donated proceeds to the Breastroad Improvement Association, a cause devoted to rebuilding New Orleans after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. The 2011 race has a more local philanthropic focus.

“The three charities the race will support are St. Adalbert School, Michiana Down Syndrome and South Bend’s Center for the Homeless. Each charity will be manning a water station, so they really have a lot of involvement in the race,” Tate said.

Race participants will also have a unique method of donation.

“The theme of this year’s race is ‘Who are you running for?’ and runners will get to pick which specific charity their money goes toward,” Tate said.

Representatives from each charity will be present at the race to answer any questions, fostering a highly interactive donation experience. For Tate, the social aspect of the race is truly evocative of the Notre Dame community.

“I feel like the Holy Half represents what Notre Dame stands for. This is a big athletics school, and everyone is involved with that, so it has that aspect, but it also deals with social concerns which a lot of the students here find important,” Tate said.

As a four-year runner and three-year co-director, Tate traces her interest for directing the race back to her experience as a freshman.

“When I ran in (the Holy Half) my freshman year, I just thought it was a really important and fun event, she said. “That really inspired me to take on more responsibility with the race. (Co-director) Sean Kickham and I have been involved ever since.”

The race will take place April 10 at 10 a.m. Participants can sign up for either the half marathon or 10k race. Runners can register on the day of the race starting at 8 a.m., or by visiting nd.edu/holyhalf.

Contact Troy Mathew at tmathew2@nd.edu

Who are you running for?:
Holy Half 2011

Holy Half:
A How-To Guide

Finish the 13.1 miles of a half marathon can be a momentous and exciting accomplishment — or pure torture for the unprepared. Follow these tips to ensure your stride across the finish line is a triumphant one rather than an agonizing crawl.

Create a shameless playlist
A good playlist is essential to maintain focus and energy throughout the race. Keep in mind, however, that “good” is relative. Don’t be self-conscious about your race-day music choices. If Miley or similar sickeningly-sweet pop music gets you amped, crank it up. The purpose of the playlist is to keep you motivated and block out the clumping feet and gasping lungs surrounding you during the race, not to show off your indie music cred. The running playlist can be considered a judgment-free zone — unless of course your playlist contains Nickelback. In that case, I will judge you heavily.

Invest in looking legit
We’ve all seen the jeans-wearing gym goers, and we all know the disdain they garner. These unfortunate, and endearingly clueless, patrons of the gym give us a valuable lesson: know your look. The half-marathoner, but your quality gear will last you through the extensive training process and beyond. Plus, buying fancy new gear will spur you to go out training more often to show it off.

Stick to your routine
Everyone develops a routine through his or her training, and whether it’s a pre-race burrito or an intensive stretching regime, you need to stick to what works for you. While a substantial meal rich in carbohydrates a few hours before the race is generally a good idea, there’s no one-size-fits-all, race-day routine. With that in mind, don’t get too caught up in what information your frantic Google search brings. Develop your own system and stick to what works for your body.

Find a Friend
To the ultra-competitive Notre Dame student look, a place at the back of the pack can be a source of much chagrin. Take advantage of these unpredictable conditions do not guarantee the same will be true for this year’s race. When in doubt, under dress. The temperature will feel much warmer once you start running, and shedding layers of clothing during the race is not always a possibility.

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

Contact Troy Mathew at tmathew2@nd.edu
There is no way to avoid pop music. It’s your ringtone. It’s on your iPod when you walk to class. It pumps into your bathroom while you shower. It plays constantly at Widdicks, Sharro and in your earbuds while you study. It has become ubiquitous within the anticipated pop lifestyle.

But pop songs, specifically those songs that are universally “popular,” regardless of musical merit or your opinion, have a very detailed role within our collegiate society. Their purpose, far and wide, is to create a common touchstone of community that can be recognized and shared within any context, and the only way that happens is if the lyrics are good enough to be remembered. Yesterday at my breakfast and coffee meeting with chums at Widdicks, one of my friends expressed deep consternation about the fact that Katy Perry’s song “Last Friday Night” is not as popular as, say, “Firework.” She was upset because, in her opinion, the lyrics of “Last Friday Night” are far more interesting.

“So there’s a stranger in my bed/There’s a pounding in my chest/All over the room/Pink flamingoes in the pool/Smell like a million/DJ’s passed out in the yard” are just a smattering of the lyrics my friend so passionately defended as she read them in declamatory fashion from her BlackBerry.

My other friend decided to step up to defend a song he felt was far superior. “Like a G6” by—do we even care? “Poppin’ bottles in the ice, like a blizzard/When we drink we do it right/gettin’ stizz/tippin’ sizzurp in my ride, like three 6/Now I’m feelin’ so fly like a G6.”

His argument seemed to center on the fact that “G6” remains focused on a singular topic, whereas “Lasers” is interesting, far from lazy, but for Lupe it just sounds awkward.

I sat in not-so-silent awe, watching two of my friends share stabbing opinions as they debated the poetic merit of Perry vs. Far East Movement. The music major in the corner had passed incredulity and ended the conversation I witnessed yesterday, lyrics matter.

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

Contact Stephanie DePree at sdeprez@nd.edu

By CHRISS COLLUM
Scene Writer

After over three years of silence following his critically acclaimed sophomore album “Lupe Fiasco’s The Cool”—a loose concept album following the inner-city exploits of a character named “The Cool”—Lupe Fiasco returns this week with “Lasers.”

But in those three intervening years, Lupe has hardly been sitting still. He fought (and lost) a not-so-private battle of wills with his label, Atlantic, over contractual issues that resulted in the delaying of “Lasers” and the scrapping of his three-album “Lupe: N.D.” concept. Lupe also had an original song featured on the “Twilight: New Moon” soundtrack—one of the few hip-hop artists on the soundtrack.

These events, not surprisingly, baffled some of his longtime fans who still thought of Lupe as an “underground” rapper not enshrined in major label shenanigans and blockbuster movie soundtracks. Naturally, anticipation was high for “Lasers,” with many fans fearing a contract-fulfilling corporate byproduct. Unfortunately, a large portion of “Lasers” fits that description quite well.

However, Lupe apparently still thinks of himself as a less mainstream musician as well—Atlantic Records thinks otherwise. In an interview with the entertainment website BoxedIn.com last week, he went on the record about “Lasers.”

“One thing I try to stress about [Lasers] is, I love and hate this album,” Lupe said. “I listen to it and I like a lot of some of the songs. But when I think about what it took to actually get the record together … I hate this album. A lot of the songs are not on the album, I’m kinda neutral to it … I know the sneaky business deal that went down behind the song, or the artist or singer or songwriter who wrote this hook and didn’t want to give me this song in the first place.”

It is not often that an artist comes out so publicly against his or her own album before it is even released. Needless to say, this is far from a glowing recommendation for “Lasers.”

On the opener, “Letting Go,” Lupe echoes these sentiments, sounding frustrated, even caged as he raps: “My self-portrait / Shows a man that the wealth tortured / Self-absorbed with his own self / In the opening bars before repeating ‘I’m getting out of control’ in the hook.”

This kind of back-against-the-wall desperation fits very well given Lupe’s recent struggles, and it seems like it would be a natural progression for someone cast so abruptly out of the underground into the limelight. However, it’s hard for Lupe to try capture that sort of lightning in a bottle when paired with artists like Trey Songz over beats that he didn’t even choose. For any other mid-level hip-hop star, this album would work perfectly well, but for Lupe it just sounds awkward.

Tense political verses have no place coupled with a Skidar Green hook, such as in second single “Words I Never Said.” That track is saved by some of Lupe’s best rapping to date (see: one-liners such as “And this ain’t Jersey Shore / Homie it’s the news”) but just seems strange. The lyrics of the hook seem unrelated to the rest of the song.

There is still room for some classic Lupe on “Lasers” though. “Till I Get There” sounds like a throwback to his debut album “All Black Everything” shows the same kind of social consciousness we have come to expect from Lupe.

Even on songs that Lupe has come out against, saying that he was practically forced into recording over the track, he still kills it usually. Smash hit Modest Mouse-sampling of the first single, “The Show Goes On,” is a stellar effort, and album closer “Never Forget You” while certainly different for Lupe, is great as well, featuring a beautiful chorus from John Legend.

But then there are the painful-to-listen-to tracks, such as “State Run Radio,” which might have the most irritating hook heard in quite a while, or “Break the Chain,” a spasmy number that just drags on and on. Beyond that, there are about half a dozen so-so tracks that would shine on most other emcee’s albums, but coming from Lupe sound forced and somewhat distant.

Blaming Lupe for any of this seems unfair though, given his statements about “Lasers.” Let’s just hope that next time around he’s working by his own rules, so that maybe we can get the instant classic he still has in him.

Contact Chris Collum at collum@nd.edu
**NCAA BASKETBALL**

**Tourney format presents seeding challenges**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kemba Walker keeps getting snubbed. By his Big East teammates, then the Associated Press. Even now, he keeps making everybody he faces pay for it.

Walker had 28 points in another stellar performance Wednesday, leading the 21st-ranked Huskies past No. 22 Pittsburgh 59-53. The junior guard is the Big East's second-leading scorer and is perhaps the league's best player, having missed all but 12 minutes of last Friday's loss to Xavier with a hand injury. But TCU fans have been hoping that Wright will be fit for the Big East tourney.

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — NCAA selection committee chairman Gene Smith hopes he's seen the last of this week's complications. The Ohio State athletic director is already dealing with a scandal in his own football program and a delayed arrival in Indianapolis. Two committee members are also dealing with what Smith calls "significantly different" experiences they had as UConn presidents.

And Smith's committee hasn't even gotten to the hard part yet — selecting the first 37 at-large teams for the NCAA tournament.

"This committee is very close, very cohesive and we're sure to keep that up through the NCAA staff," Smith said. "I'm ready to roll."

The Associated Press

The Huskies had been hoping that Wright will be fit for the Big East tournament, which begins March 10.

Smith has prepared some comments for the Huskies.

"We're excited to select the first team to reach the NCAA tournament," he said, before the phone line went dead.

Two or three minutes later, Smith was back explaining what had happened and what he would and would not discuss.

"Sorry we had some technical difficulties, we had to sift through all the data and the conference to announce Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel was suspended for two games and fined $250,000 for violating NCAA rules. Tressel, school officials said, waited more than nine months before notifying school compliance officials about his players' involvement in selling signed memorabilia in exchange for money and tattoos."

After that news conference, Smith drove from Columbus, Ohio, to Indy for the selection committee.

Then, Wednesday morning, while Smith was making his opening statement to reporters, things went awry.

"We're excited to select the 37 at-large teams coupled with the 31 automatic qualifiers," he said, before the phone line went dead.

"We're excited to select the first team to reach the NCAA tournament," he said, before the phone line went dead.

Two or three minutes later, Smith was back explaining what had happened and what he would and would not discuss.

"Sorry we had some technical difficulties, we had to sift through all the data and the conference to announce Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel was suspended for two games and fined $250,000 for violating NCAA rules. Tressel, school officials said, waited more than nine months before notifying school compliance officials about his players' involvement in selling signed memorabilia in exchange for money and tattoos."

After that news conference, Smith drove from Columbus, Ohio, to Indy for the selection marathon.

Then, Wednesday morning, while Smith was making his opening statement to reporters, things went awry.

"We're excited to select the 37 at-large teams coupled with the 31 automatic qualifiers," he said, before the phone line went dead.

"We're excited to select the first team to reach the NCAA tournament," he said, before the phone line went dead.

Two or three minutes later, Smith was back explaining what had happened and what he would and would not discuss.

"Sorry we had some technical difficulties, we had to sift through all the data and the conference to announce Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel was suspended for two games and fined $250,000 for violating NCAA rules. Tressel, school officials said, waited more than nine months before notifying school compliance officials about his players' involvement in selling signed memorabilia in exchange for money and tattoos."

After that news conference, Smith drove from Columbus, Ohio, to Indy for the selection marathon.

Then, Wednesday morning, while Smith was making his opening statement to reporters, things went awry.

"We're excited to select the 37 at-large teams coupled with the 31 automatic qualifiers," he said, before the phone line went dead.

"We're excited to select the first team to reach the NCAA tournament," he said, before the phone line went dead.

Two or three minutes later, Smith was back explaining what had happened and what he would and would not discuss.

"Sorry we had some technical difficulties, we had to sift through all the data and the conference to announce Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel was suspended for two games and fined $250,000 for violating NCAA rules. Tressel, school officials said, waited more than nine months before notifying school compliance officials about his players' involvement in selling signed memorabilia in exchange for money and tattoos."

After that news conference, Smith drove from Columbus, Ohio, to Indy for the selection marathon.

Then, Wednesday morning, while Smith was making his opening statement to reporters, things went awry.

"We're excited to select the 37 at-large teams coupled with the 31 automatic qualifiers," he said, before the phone line went dead.

"We're excited to select the first team to reach the NCAA tournament," he said, before the phone line went dead.

Two or three minutes later, Smith was back explaining what had happened and what he would and would not discuss.

"Sorry we had some technical difficulties, we had to sift through all the data and the conference to announce Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel was suspended for two games and fined $250,000 for violating NCAA rules. Tressel, school officials said, waited more than nine months before notifying school compliance officials about his players' involvement in selling signed memorabilia in exchange for money and tattoos."

After that news conference, Smith drove from Columbus, Ohio, to Indy for the selection marathon.

Then, Wednesday morning, while Smith was making his opening statement to reporters, things went awry.

"We're excited to select the 37 at-large teams coupled with the 31 automatic qualifiers," he said, before the phone line went dead.

"We're excited to select the first team to reach the NCAA tournament," he said, before the phone line went dead.

Two or three minutes later, Smith was back explaining what had happened and what he would and would not discuss.

"Sorry we had some technical difficulties, we had to sift through all the data and the conference to announce Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel was suspended for two games and fined $250,000 for violating NCAA rules. Tressel, school officials said, waited more than nine months before notifying school compliance officials about his players' involvement in selling signed memorabilia in exchange for money and tattoos."

After that news conference, Smith drove from Columbus, Ohio, to Indy for the selection marathon.

Then, Wednesday morning, while Smith was making his opening statement to reporters, things went awry.

"We're excited to select the 37 at-large teams coupled with the 31 automatic qualifiers," he said, before the phone line went dead.

"We're excited to select the first team to reach the NCAA tournament," he said, before the phone line went dead.
NBA

Jackson sympathizes with Heat

Associated Press

MIAMI — It has come to this: Even Phil Jackson is offering a sympathetic word to the reeling Miami Heat.

The coach of the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers has taken plenty of jobs at the Heat in recent months, over everything from how this roster was put together, Erik Spoelstra’s job security, and this week the already-infamous episode dubbed "Crygate."

So on Wednesday, with the Heat in a five-game losing streak, Jackson stood on their home floor and had ample opportunity to poke Miami again.

He went the other way instead.

From what I’ve heard, this team feels like they’re being looked at to lose, or they’ve been hoped at to lose,” Jackson said before the Lakers practiced for their Thursday game in Miami. “I know locally that can’t stand true, but nationally, if that’s the case, it’s a burden to carry. And then those games that are dramatic become bigger than they really should be."

That certainly seems to be the case around Miami these days.

Not even two weeks ago, the Heat were in a virtual tie with Boston for the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Miami hasn’t won since, falling to third in the East, 4½ games behind the Celtics and two games behind the Chicago Bulls.

Even the No. 3 seed in the East playoffs isn’t exactly a team to beat Chicago more than Miami’s bench is struggling — getting outscored by 149-51 in the last four games. The Lakers haven’t lost since, with five of their eight victories since the break coming in the Heat.

＂One thing for sure about this league is that we all know what our roles are,” Lakers guard Kobe Bryant said. “They’re still trying to figure that out.”

Clearly, that’s the case. Bibby was added essentially in place of Carlos Arroyo at point guard. James Jones, Eddie House and Zydrunas Ilgauskas have largely fallen out of the rotation at small forward and center.

Lakers forward Lamar Odom said the Heat plight is one of the biggest stories in sports right now. Considering who was offering opinions on the Heat a few miles away on Wednesday, he may be right.

Tiger Woods — with his own issues with his golf swing and health — weighed in on the state of the Heat earlier this week.

"I think it’s a little bit of a lack of cohesion, they add (Mike) Bibby, so it is going to take a little longer. They have 18, 19 games left in the season, somewhere around there. They have plenty of time to turn it around and get rolling for the playoffs." The Lakers head into Thursday as the league’s hottest team, winners of eight straight.

But even the champs have had their issues at times this season, mild ones anyway, with a four-game slide and a pair of three-game losing streaks on their resume.

That last three-game slump ended with the embarrassing pre-All-Star-break loss in Cleveland. The Lakers haven’t lost since, with five of their eight victories since the break coming in the Heat.

Bibby wasn’t about licking his wounds, just seizing an opportunity to poke Miami again.

“If we’re going to work, we’re going to work,” Bibby said. "Less talk, more action.”

Said Spoelstra. "Oh, there was plenty of talking as well."

Miami lost to Portland 105-96 on Tuesday night, after which Wade suggested he’d like to see rotation changes and Bosh insisted he would be demanding the ball more often down low. And on Wednesday, those themes hadn’t changed much.

Spoelstra took the rare step of immediately watching Tuesday’s game in his office afterward, and Bosh was planning to chat with Wade and James.

“We’re all in this together, but at the end of the day, we know what people are going to be looking at,” Bosh said. “And we know who’s going to get the finger pointed at them first. And rightfully so — we’re asked for this, coming together, and we knew that coming into the situation. We take the responsibility of it. It is what it is, no matter what we say, no matter what we do.”

Lakers forward Lamar Odom said the Heat plight is one of the biggest stories in sports right now. Considering who was offering opinions on the Heat a few miles away on Wednesday, he may be right.

Tiger Woods — with his own issues with his golf swing and health — weighed in on the state of the Heat earlier this week.

“From what I’ve heard, this has come to this: They’re not playing their best,” Jackson said before the Lakers practiced for their Thursday game in Miami. “They’re not playing their best team. They’re still trying to figure that out.”

Clearly, that’s the case. Bibby was added essentially in place of Carlos Arroyo at point guard.

James Jones, Eddie House and Zydrunas Ilgauskas have largely fallen out of the rotation at small forward and center.

Lakers forward Lamar Odom said the Heat plight is one of the biggest stories in sports right now. Considering who was offering opinions on the Heat a few miles away on Wednesday, he may be right.

Tiger Woods — with his own issues with his golf swing and health — weighed in on the state of the Heat earlier this week.

“The difference between us is that we all know what our roles are,” Lakers guard Kobe Bryant said. “They’re still trying to figure that out.”

Clearly, that’s the case. Bibby was added essentially in place of Carlos Arroyo at point guard.

James Jones, Eddie House and Zydrunas Ilgauskas have largely fallen out of the rotation at small forward and center.

Lakers forward Lamar Odom said the Heat plight is one of the biggest stories in sports right now. Considering who was offering opinions on the Heat a few miles away on Wednesday, he may be right.

Tiger Woods — with his own issues with his golf swing and health — weighed in on the state of the Heat earlier this week.

“One thing for sure about this team, we won’t go down without a fight,” Ilgauskas said. "And we’ll keep on fighting.”

The Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism

The Department of Art, Art History and Design is pleased to announce its annual competition for the Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism. Currently, Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit essays on any topic in the history of art or art criticism for consideration in the competition. Essays must deal with the visual arts. They may have been written in conjunction with a course taken at the University, but need not have been.

Rules governing the competition are available in the Art Department Office, 306 Riley Hall.

Two copies of the submission must be delivered to the Art Department Office by 4:00 PM, Monday, March 21st to be eligible.

A student may only submit ONE entry.
After several months off, the Irish are eager for the return of warmer weather and warmer waters. Notre Dame will get both Sunday when it travels to Oak Ridge, Tenn., to take on Alabama and Minnesota.

The Crimson Tide possesses the advantage of climate, as they rowed outdoors in the colder months while lakes and rivers are frozen further north. The Golden Gophers also present a difficult challenge, having already defeated the Irish in a few races at the Head of the Rock Regatta in October.

Irish coach Martin Stone said his squad is looking forward to facing Minnesota again.

“I think they’re pretty solid,” he said of the Golden Gophers.

“They got us pretty good up at the Head of the Rock so we’ll be interested to see how they race,” Sachire said. “They’re a really good team,” Stone said.

“We’re still doing testing this week,” Stone said. “We’ve had some personal bests and people are working hard. I feel pretty good.”

Another challenge the Irish will face next week is the absence of open water. Some boats have yet to be finalized because his staff does not yet have adequate racing experience on which to determine groupings. He said the lineup in Tennessee will almost certainly not be the same throughout the season.

“We’re just kind of subjectively putting people in boats based on how we think they’ll race,” he said. “I imagine things will change, though. We’ve been a long time out of the water and we still need to see how people perform.”

The Irish will bring a few proven commodities to Oak Ridge this weekend. Senior tri-captains Emily Crosby, Stephanie Gretch and Carol Ann Michel all participated as members of the varsity eight boat in the fall. Stone said his squad can look to the entire senior class as models.

“As a whole, our senior class has done a wonderful job this year of doing everything the right way,” Stone said. “Emily, Stephanie and Carol Ann really just epitomize what the whole senior class has done for this program.”

The seniors will be expected to lead their team in their quest for the same goals the Irish have always had.

“In terms of performance-type goals, every year you are expected first to compete for your conference title, and then the national title,” Stone said. “I think it’s understood here.”

Notre Dame will remain in Oak Ridge over Spring Break to train and will face Buffalo on Saturday before heading home. Sunday’s action begins at 11 a.m.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu

Irish face to compete in Tenn.

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

Irish face off against No. 11 Kentucky Wildcats

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

Fresh off the program’s biggest victory in nearly a decade, the No. 25 Irish will continue their momentum into their matches next week at the U.S National Junior Team exhibition match and a critical road trip to Lexington, Ky.

Notre Dame (10-7) defeated No. 6 Illinois, 5-2 Tuesday evening, after stepping up together for a complete match against a top opponent earlier in the season.

“It was a big win for us,” Irish associate head coach Ryan Sachire said.

Prior to the match, Sachire identified two key components to winning the highest level in tennis, and said those factors will determine their success next week as well.

“The first is you have to play well enough to put yourself in position in position for success,” he said. “And the second is having the mental toughness behind.”

There is no drop off in the talent of the opponents the Irish will face next week. The team will travel to Boca Raton, Fla. Tuesday for the U.S. National Junior Team exhibition match. The contest will not count toward the team’s overall record, but the Irish still want to continue the strong play they have put forth in recent weeks.

“Our plan is to play the starters,” Sachire said. “We don’t know the format yet — we don’t have to adhere to the typical format. We’ll be taking 11 or 12 guys and want to get them all matches, but if they are a limited number, the starters will play. If we can get everyone to play, we will.”

From Iowa, Raton. Notre Dame will travel to Kentucky for a Thursday match against the No. 11 Wildcats.

“They’re a really good team,” Sachire said. “They’re at the same level as Texas A&M and Illinois, two teams we’ve seen this season. We just need to play the way we’re capable of playing.”

With the Big East championships now less than two months away, Sachire hopes to see the team play with some consistency the rest of the way.

“The same keys apply the rest of the year,” he said. “We need to perform well at all seven available positions where points are available.”

Contact Andrew Owens at owens2@nd.edu

Irish to compete in Tenn.

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

Irish face off against No. 11 Kentucky Wildcats

The No. 21 Irish travel to a warmer climate this Spring Break, as they head to Kaneohe, Hawaii for the Dr. Dennis Thompson Invitational. After a 10th-place finish at the Central District Invitational, Notre Dame is looking for a stronger performance this time around.

Though forced inside for much of the offseason between the fall and spring seasons, the Irish delivered on some goals from 2010. Stone said the individual fitness aspect of winter workouts has yielded some impressive results.

“I think we’ve accomplished a lot of our goals,” Stone said. “We’ve had some personal bests and people are working hard. I feel pretty good.”

According to Stone, boats have yet to be finalized because his staff does not yet have adequate racing experience on which to determine groupings. He said the lineup in Tennessee will almost certainly not be the same throughout the season.

“We’re just kind of subjectively putting people in boats based on how we think they’ll race,” he said. “I imagine things will change, though. We’ve been a long time out of the water and we still need to see how people perform.”

The Irish will bring a few proven commodities to Oak Ridge this weekend. Senior tri-captains Emily Crosby, Stephanie Gretch and Carol Ann Michel all participated as members of the varsity eight boat in the fall. Stone said his squad can look to the entire senior class as models.

“As a whole, our senior class has done a wonderful job this year of doing everything the right way,” Stone said. “Emily, Stephanie and Carol Ann really just epitomize what the whole senior class has done for this program.”

The seniors will be expected to lead their team in their quest for the same goals the Irish have always had.

“In terms of performance-type goals, every year you are expected first to compete for your conference title, and then the national title,” Stone said. “I think it’s understood here.”

Notre Dame will remain in Oak Ridge over Spring Break to train and will face Buffalo on Saturday before heading home. Sunday’s action begins at 11 a.m.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu

Irish to compete in Tenn.

The women’s rowing team, pictured above, will travel to Tennessee to compete against Alabama and Minnesota.

“We’re still doing testing this week,” Stone said. “We’ve had some personal bests and people are working hard. I feel pretty good.”

“We’re just kind of subjectively putting people in boats based on how we think they’ll race,” he said. “I imagine things will change, though. We’ve been a long time out of the water and we still need to see how people perform.”

The Irish will bring a few proven commodities to Oak Ridge this weekend. Senior tri-captains Emily Crosby, Stephanie Gretch and Carol Ann Michel all participated as members of the varsity eight boat in the fall. Stone said his squad can look to the entire senior class as models.

“As a whole, our senior class has done a wonderful job this year of doing everything the right way,” Stone said. “Emily, Stephanie and Carol Ann really just epitomize what the whole senior class has done for this program.”

The seniors will be expected to lead their team in their quest for the same goals the Irish have always had.

“In terms of performance-type goals, every year you are expected first to compete for your conference title, and then the national title,” Stone said. “I think it’s understood here.”

Notre Dame will remain in Oak Ridge over Spring Break to train and will face Buffalo on Saturday before heading home. Sunday’s action begins at 11 a.m.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu

Irish to compete in Tenn.

Irish face to compete in Tenn.

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

Fresh off the program’s biggest victory in nearly a decade, the No. 25 Irish will continue their momentum into their matches next week at the U.S National Junior Team exhibition match and a critical road trip to Lexington, Ky.

Notre Dame (10-7) defeated No. 6 Illinois, 5-2 Tuesday evening, after stepping up together for a complete match against a top opponent earlier in the season.

“It was a big win for us,” Irish associate head coach Ryan Sachire said.

Prior to the match, Sachire identified two key components to winning the highest level in tennis, and said those factors will determine their success next week as well.

“The first is you have to play well enough to put yourself in position in position for success,” he said. “And the second is having the mental toughness behind.”

There is no drop off in the talent of the opponents the Irish will face next week. The team will travel to Boca Raton, Fla. Tuesday for the U.S. National Junior Team exhibition match. The contest will not count toward the team’s overall record, but the Irish still want to continue the strong play they have put forth in recent weeks.

“Our plan is to play the starters,” Sachire said. “We don’t know the format yet — we don’t have to adhere to the typical format. We’ll be taking 11 or 12 guys and want to get them all matches, but if they are a limited number, the starters will play. If we can get everyone to play, we will.”

From Iowa, Raton. Notre Dame will travel to Kentucky for a Thursday match against the No. 11 Wildcats.

“They’re a really good team,” Sachire said. “They’re at the same level as Texas A&M and Illinois, two teams we’ve seen this season. We just need to play the way we’re capable of playing.”

With the Big East championships now less than two months away, Sachire hopes to see the team play with some consistency the rest of the way.

“The same keys apply the rest of the year,” he said. “We need to perform well at all seven available positions where points are available.”

Contact Andrew Owens at owens2@nd.edu

Irish face to compete in Tenn.

Irish face to compete in Tenn.

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

Fresh off the program’s biggest victory in nearly a decade, the No. 25 Irish will continue their momentum into their matches next week at the U.S National Junior Team exhibition match and a critical road trip to Lexington, Ky.

Notre Dame (10-7) defeated No. 6 Illinois, 5-2 Tuesday evening, after stepping up together for a complete match against a top opponent earlier in the season.

“It was a big win for us,” Irish associate head coach Ryan Sachire said.

Prior to the match, Sachire identified two key components to winning the highest level in tennis, and said those factors will determine their success next week as well.

“The first is you have to play well enough to put yourself in position in position for success,” he said. “And the second is having the mental toughness behind.”

There is no drop off in the talent of the opponents the Irish will face next week. The team will travel to Boca Raton, Fla. Tuesday for the U.S. National Junior Team exhibition match. The contest will not count toward the team’s overall record, but the Irish still want to continue the strong play they have put forth in recent weeks.

“Our plan is to play the starters,” Sachire said. “We don’t know the format yet — we don’t have to adhere to the typical format. We’ll be taking 11 or 12 guys and want to get them all matches, but if they are a limited number, the starters will play. If we can get everyone to play, we will.”

From Iowa, Raton. Notre Dame will travel to Kentucky for a Thursday match against the No. 11 Wildcats.

“They’re a really good team,” Sachire said. “They’re at the same level as Texas A&M and Illinois, two teams we’ve seen this season. We just need to play the way we’re capable of playing.”

With the Big East championships now less than two months away, Sachire hopes to see the team play with some consistency the rest of the way.

“The same keys apply the rest of the year,” he said. “We need to perform well at all seven available positions where points are available.”

Contact Andrew Owens at owens2@nd.edu

Irish face to compete in Tenn.

Irish face to compete in Tenn.
FENCING

Irish head to NCAA regionals

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

An undefeated regular season comes to a head this weekend for Notre Dame, as both the men’s and women’s squads each send a group to Detroit, Mich., for the NCAA regionals at Wayne State University.

The event serves as a qualifier for the NCAA championships, which will take place the following weekend at Ohio State in Columbus, Ohio.

Each Irish team sends 12 athletes, four in each discipline, to the regional championships. The coaching staff expects each fencer to qualify.

“I think it’s really great. Just as the average student enjoys the break from schoolwork and the academic element, it gives the players a chance to get away,” Aoki said. “Also, it gives us a chance to experience, hopefully, some nice weather which we don’t see a lot of in South Bend.”

The Irish are coming off a weekend at the Winthrop Invitational in Rock Hill, S.C. during which the team went 1-3 against foes Winthrop and Manhattan.

“Four of the five are at the national level,” Villaflor said. “The last weekend we didn’t do well at all, so we’ve been working hard at it, trying to make a few adjustments here and there,” he said. “Obviously, the at-bats were pretty good against Purdue and Penn State, the first two games. Then the next weekend against Seattle we struggled. It’s very much a work in progress.”

One constant for the Irish thus far has been the pitching of weekend starters Brian Dupra, Cole Johnson and Todd Miller — all seniors. Each member of the trio carries a sub-4.00 earned-run average into the upcoming weekend.

“Aoki continued from page 16

It’s really great. Just as the average student enjoys the break from schoolwork and the academic element, it gives the players a chance to get away,” Aoki said. “Also, it gives us a chance to experience, hopefully, some nice weather which we don’t see a lot of in South Bend.”

The Irish are coming off a weekend at the Winthrop Invitational in Rock Hill, S.C. during which the team went 1-3 against foes Winthrop and Manhattan. For the second straight weekend, the Notre Dame offense failed to find the firepower it possessed during the season. Aoki said the team is working hard in practice to get back on track at the plate.

“I think you have to stay pretty positive. The guys have been working hard at it, trying to make a few adjustments here and there,” he said. “Obviously, the at-bats were pretty good against Purdue and Penn State, the first two games. Then the next weekend against Seattle we struggled. It’s very much a work in progress.”

One constant for the Irish thus far has been the pitching of weekend starters Brian Dupra, Cole Johnson and Todd Miller — all seniors. Each member of the trio carries a sub-4.00 earned-run average into the upcoming weekend. As a group, the staff has displayed phenomenal control, walking just six batters in more than 60 innings of work, something Aoki said the staff has learned with experience.

“I think it’s just that they are older guys who understand the importance of throwing strikes,” he said.

The slate of games will be a test for the Irish, highlighted by a game with ranked Coastal Carolina March 12. The Chanticleers (7-4) are coming off a dream season for the program in which the team went 25-10 before falling to eventual champion South Carolina in the NCAA Super Regional. Aoki said the stretch features a strong overall level of competition.

“The level of competition is pretty darn good. First you have UAB, which is a team that’s on a long winning streak, Coastal Carolina is a team that’s fresh off playing in a super regional last year and they started the season with a ranking in the teens. Kent State is a team with a bunch of solid players, and UTSA just gave [No. 12] Texas all they could handle in a game Tuesday night,” he said. “I’d say it’s a pretty good level of competition.”

The team first takes the field at 11 a.m. Saturday against UAB, before facing Coastal Carolina later that day at 2:30 p.m. The Invitational wraps up with a matchup against Kent State at 11 a.m. Sunday.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu
Contest continued from page 16

regular season contest, a home defeat at the hands of Western Michigan, 2-0 Feb. 26, which prevented the Irish from capturing the CCHA regular season championship. Though the Irish have moved on from the loss, they are still looking to use lessons from it for this series.

“At home against a team like Western Michigan — they had a lot on the line just like we did. That’s playoff hockey, and we’re going to have to be prepared for games where the visiting goaltender is playing extremely well,” Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. “We’re going to have to avoid frustration and certainly play more disciplined.”

Though penalties taken is one thing the Irish hope to improve, one constant lately has been strong goaltending, with both sophomore Mike Johnson and freshman Steven Summerhays playing well in recent weeks. Johnson will continue to be the No. 1 netminder, with Summerhays another viable option.

“Mike’s the guy I’ve looked towards as being the more experienced guy in this situation,” Jackson said. “But Steven certainly played well enough in the last six weeks that, if necessary, he’ll be in there. It depends on if it is a two or three game series.”

The Irish and Lakers have met up through five days of the break, with Notre Dame picking up a pair of 4-2 victories on Feb. 14 and 15. But with those games five months behind the team, much has changed on both squads. In particular, a new goaltender has revitalized the Lakers.

“Even since they put the freshman (Kevin) Kaplanka in goal, midseason or so, they’ve been a pretty good hockey team,” Jackson said. “They’ve had good success defensively. He’s definitely made a difference for their team.”

While the length between games will change things from the first two contests the teams played against each other, there is one more contest left of the playoffs.

“It’s do or die. It happens at every level, once you get to the playoffs, guys get to a new gear, and it’s just a lot more intense and a lot more physical,” Johnson said. “The speed’s faster. It’s more fun to play in the playoffs, just because of all those factors.”

Regardless of the series result, the games will mark the last time the Irish hockey team will play on Joyce Center ice since joining Division I in 1968. Notre Dame will move into the brand new Compton Family Center next season.

Though the memories will be bittersweet, the Irish are focused solely on winning the games at hand.

“I think it’s going to be a tough weekend,” Johnson said. “But hopefully we can have some success if we do the right things and stick to our game plan.”

Notre Dame takes on Lake Superior State at 7:35 p.m. Friday, 7:05 p.m. Saturday and, if necessary, 7:05 p.m. Sunday at the Joyce Center.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles to begin season with Florida tourney

By KATIE HEIT

Sports Writer

With Belles coach Erin Sullivan leading the way, the team is ready to begin its sea- son with a four-game tournament in Fort Myers, Fla.

Since becoming head coach at Saint Mary’s, Sullivan has helped her teams clinch five consecutive seasons with 20 or more wins. But she won’t let it go to her head.

“I’m just making sure to focus on the small successes we have and not worry about anything else,” Sullivan said. “We cannot control what our opponents do — only what we do.

With 10 games scheduled through five days of the break, the team will face a range of opponents.

“I’m not worried about any team in particular,” Sullivan said. “These games are all important to us as they give great feedback on how prepared we are at this stage of our season.”

Junior Kate Mitchell said she is eager to start the season.

“The good thing about our tournament in Florida is that we don’t really know much about our opponents,” Mitchell said. “That’s why we’re so excited because we learn to make adjustments within the moment.

Senior caption Hayley Bojorquez said her team’s ability to make last-minute adjustments against the opponents would be crucial to the team’s success this season.

“I think our biggest problem is we fail to adjust,” Bojorquez said. “We wait a little too long before we make key adjustments. Every time we play in our season, we play double headers. In the past we’ve struggled to make adjustments right away and instead wait until the second time around to get it right.”

Bojorquez said the inability to make adjustments prior seas- sons has had a dramatic affect on the team’s results in confer- ence play.

“I think that has been a huge factor in why we have not been able to win our conference, which is our ultimate team goal,” Bojorquez said. “We don’t fix what needs to be fixed early on so it hurts us in the end. This year we are looking to improve on that.”

No matter what happens next week, Sullivan said she would be satisfied if her team per- forms to the highest level it can.

“The best thing about our sport is you always have a chance to come back,” Sullivan said. “That will to win and succeed is what will determine our success. Success for us isn’t about winning every game, it’s about playing the best we can play and being a team through- out the high and low.”

The Belles open their season Sunday against SUNY Brockport at 9 a.m.

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

Playoff continued from page 16

Well, we’ve been up and down all year. It’s been a rebuilding season, and to be sure, but in those six intimidating away games, they went 2-3-1. That’s a pretty good performance for a team with a lot of young players.

“We’re going to have to avoid the pressure of playoff hockey, and we’re going to have to avoid the pressure of playoff hockey,” Johnson said. “Our team is ready to go.”

Despite the recent success, Johnson said, “At home against a team like Michigan, we’re not going to be able to be relaxed.”

Instead of a celebration, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan’s 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There’s just this sinking feeling.

Playing at home is important to a solid core in the Joyce Center history, and a vocal crowd was on hand to witness what should have been a title celebration.

Instead of a celebration, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan’s 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There’s just this sinking feeling.

Playing at home is important to a solid core in the Joyce Center history, and a vocal crowd was on hand to witness what should have been a title celebration.

Instead of a celebration, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan’s 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There’s just this sinking feeling.

Playing at home is important to a solid core in the Joyce Center history, and a vocal crowd was on hand to witness what should have been a title celebration.

Instead of a celebration, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan’s 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There’s just this sinking feeling.

Playing at home is important to a solid core in the Joyce Center history, and a vocal crowd was on hand to witness what should have been a title celebration.

Instead of a celebration, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan’s 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There’s just this sinking feeling.

Playing at home is important to a solid core in the Joyce Center history, and a vocal crowd was on hand to witness what should have been a title celebration.

Instead of a celebration, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan’s 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There’s just this sinking feeling.

Playing at home is important to a solid core in the Joyce Center history, and a vocal crowd was on hand to witness what should have been a title celebration.

Instead of a celebration, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan’s 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There’s just this sinking feeling.

Playing at home is important to a solid core in the Joyce Center history, and a vocal crowd was on hand to witness what should have been a title celebration.

Instead of a celebration, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan’s 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There’s just this sinking feeling.

Playing at home is important to a solid core in the Joyce Center history, and a vocal crowd was on hand to witness what should have been a title celebration.

Instead of a celebration, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan’s 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There’s just this sinking feeling.

Playing at home is important to a solid core in the Joyce Center history, and a vocal crowd was on hand to witness what should have been a title celebration.

Instead of a celebration, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan’s 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There’s just this sinking feeling.
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.
**Hockey**

Notre Dame takes on Lake Superior State in CCHA tournament

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

After a one-week hiatus, Notre Dame returns to home ice this weekend for a second round CCHA playoff matchup against Lake Superior State in the final round of hockey games that will ever be played at the Joyce Center.

The No. 8 Irish (21-10-5, 18-7-3-2 CCHA), who earned a first round bye after finishing second in the conference, will battle the Lakers in the best-of-three series for the right to move on to the CCHA semifinals at Detroit’s Joe Louis Arena March 18-19. LSUH (12-15-9, 8-12-8-5), the CCHA’s No. 8 seed, advanced to the second round after sweeping Ohio State last weekend.

Notre Dame will look to rebound after falling in its last weekend.

**ND Softball**

Squad to travel to California for invitational tourney

By JACK YUSKO
Sports Writer

As Spring Break approaches, the Irish are preparing to head for warmer climates — but the next week will be anything but relaxing.

The tournament will indeed be tough and if we’re there yet,” Clay said. “We haven't peaked yet, but the team stands at this point in the season, said senior catcher Alexia Clay.

“This tournament is a great opportunity to see where we need to be and if we're there yet,” Clay said. “We look forward to this tournament every year as there are always tough teams to beat and good softball to be played.”

The tournament will indeed be tough. This year, the Irish (12-2) will play No. 10 Oklahoma, Cal State Fullerton that attracts many top-25 softball teams from across the nation, including eight former national champions.

Widely considered the premier midseason tournament, it is the perfect opportunity to gauge where the team stands at this point in the season, said senior catcher Alexia Clay.

“This tournament is a great opportunity to see where we need to be and if we’re there yet,” Clay said. “We look forward to this tournament every year as there are always tough teams to beat and good softball to be played.”

The tournament will indeed be tough. This year, the Irish (12-2) will play No. 10 Oklahoma, Cal State Fullerton, No. 17 Louisiana-Lafayette, New Mexico, No. 5 Washington and No. 6 Michigan.

In addition, recent injuries have benched a few key players, and the team was dealt its first two losses last week at the Diamond 9 Citrus Classic.

Yet even with such a rigorous schedule and couple of setbacks, the team maintains confidence. The Irish came off their two consecutive losses with a three-game winning streak to finish out the invitational and Clay believes things are looking up.

“We’ve had a few injuries lately but have adjusted well. We’re playing great together and going up,” Clay said. “We haven’t peaked yet, which is a good thing as we can continue to improve until the regional hump later in the season.”

With the postseason nearing, the Irish are grateful for the chance to continue to improve until the regional hump later in the season.”

Less than a month ago, I was supremely confident this Irish team would win the regular-season CCHA title, storm through the league playoffs and claim another trophy in Joe Louis Arena — making a serious run at another Frozen Four appearance.

Coming into this weekend’s playoff-opening series against Lake Superior State, however, I have no idea what to expect. Notre Dame’s freshman-laden team, which usually means there will be some humps later in the season.”

**Baseball**

Team to head south for break

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

The Irish bats have gone cold in their past six games, but the team will head to warm climates and try to get hot at the plate as they play eight games in nine days over Spring Break.

Notre Dame (4-6) will compete against UAB, No. 24 Coastal Carolina and Kent State in the Caravelle Resort Classic in Conway, S.C., and against Iowa and Gonzaga in the Irish Classic in San Antonio.

The team will also face off against Texas-San Antonio in a regular game between the two tournaments.

Irish coach Mik Aoki said it would be beneficial for his team to hit the road and play in warm cli-

**ND Swimming & Diving**

Irish to send swimmers to NCAA qualifiers

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

The final practices are in the books, and the Irish are prepared to extend the seniors’ final season by bringing a solid performance in the NCAA Zone qualifying meet in Columbus, Ohio.

Eager to earn her spot in the NCAA meet, sophomore Jenny Chiang said the Irish are confident in the two women and four men from Notre Dame who will be competing in the zone meet.

“I think we have a very strong team between [senior] Heidi Grossman and I on the women’s side and [senior] Eric Lex, [senior] Nate Geary, [senior] Wes Villalfor and [sophomore] Ryan Koter on the men’s side. This may be one of the best teams our program has had,” she said.

Chiang said she and Grossman have worked the past several weeks to perfect their dives for the upcoming meet.

“In preparing for big meets, our practices usually change from doing a high quantity of a specific dive to about three to four each of multiple categories of dives and focus more on quality,” Chiang said. “This way we are able to practice all the dives we will be competing in the meet because by now we don’t need to be making big corrections on our appearances.

Notre Dame celebrates after a game against Rutgers April 9, 2010. The Irish will play at South Carolina and San Antonio over break.

see COACHES/END PAGE 14

see PLAYOFF/END PAGE 14
IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, March 10, 2011

THE OBSERVER

ALL HE DOES IS
WIN, WIN, WIN

NOTRE DAME’S ALL-TIME WINNINGEST PLAYER, TY NASH,
RETURNS HOME FOR THE BIG EAST TOURNAMENT
Three years ago, Ben Hansbrough was toiling away unhappily at Mississippi State. Less than five months ago, Big East coaches not only left the Irish senior guard off the Preseason All-Big East First Team, they did not even grant him honorable mention status.

Tuesday, those same coaches named Hansbrough the Big East Player of the Year. After unanimously naming him to the All-Big East First Team on Sunday.

Three years ago Notre Dame finishing 12-20 and ending the season with a loss to Penn State in the NIT semifinals.

Less than five months ago, the Irish finished seventh in the Big East preseason coaches’ poll, five spots behind Villanova.

Now, the Irish enter postseason play after finishing second in the Big East and No. 4 in the nation’s final polls. Unexpected rises seem to be the theme to Notre Dame’s season: to the extent that Villanova would have needed to win two games in order to face Maryland in the Big East quarterfinals tonight. Also, the Wildcats couldn’t even beat South Florida Tuesday, further skewing the preseason prognostications.

Only two questions remain: How high can the Irish rise? And will Hansbrough and Notre Dame end up flying too close to the sun?

The Irish hosted a top-five ranking in January 2003 after opening the season with 12 wins in their first 13 games. This season, an identical storyline only this time dropping to the No. 15 slot in the polls.

A late-season, three-game swoon allowed the Irish to slide into a No. 5 seed for the NCAA tournament. Mike Brey’s current squad only lost consecutively games once and, thus, could face a No. 16 seed in the NCAA’s opening round.

The most unexpected aspect of this season is that Notre Dame deserves a No. 1 seed. But can Irish handle such accolades, or will no one being the underdog and instill an overly-conversational backfire and Ben, Brey and the boys?

No matter how many fans — and columnists — speculate, no one can know for sure how Notre Dame will handle the heat, but certain indicators should tell us with confidenc at St. Patrick’s Day approaches.

For the first time in recent memory, Notre Dame did not suffer an embarrassing loss this season. Granted, all five of its losses thus far are marginals which could qualify as eye- sores — at an average of 16 points per loss — but each of those losses also came on the road, against NCAA tournament-bound programs. Thus, it is realistic to presume the Irish will avoid an embarrassing upset against an opponent akin to Old Dominion or Windthrop, as they have in the past.

Another change from years past is that Notre Dame has proven it can win games when it’s five-point shooting does not show up on a given night. In back-to-back games at the Old Spice Classic in November, the Irish shot a combined 5-34 from deep, yet still prevailed over Cal 75-71 and Wisconsin 58-51. At some point in the coming tournaments, fourth- year forward Tim Abromaitis’s shot will not be falling. This is a Notre Dame squad that can survive such a drought.

The Irish also know how to slow down an opposing team’s offense. Though Notre Dame put up 51 points to top then-No. 19 Villanova on Feb. 28, it also held itself to 56 points in a 15-31 victory over then-No. 2 Pittsburgh on Jan. 24.

The security blanket known as Brey’s “burn” offense allows Notre Dame to score whatever tempo its opponents bring to the court. Whether facing a high-flying Kansas or a plod- ding Purdue, the Irish will have options.

But the most encouraging difference between this version of Notre Dame and the ones previously seen did not reveal itself until the final regulation game — a 74-67 victory over then-No. 16 Connecticut. When Hansbrough’s team is more than eight minutes left, it seemed that sans their cata- lyst, the team would fold. Instead, Notre Dame rose without its leader.

Already broken down, the Irish defeated two top-20 teams while senior forward Carleton Scott rode the bench nursing a sore hamstring, and Notre Dame rallied to the upset at Pittsburgh without Abromaitis attempting a single field goal. The Irish were a team of who matter who does not show up on any given day. Combine that with consistent performance from no matter what the opponent, an independent streak, the 3 and a varied offense, and perhaps this is finally the year for a deep Notre Dame run.

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

Follow The Observer on Twitter @NDObsSports

Irish enter Big East as No. 2 seed

By MIKE GOTIMER Sports Writer

After completing one of the best regular seasons in school history, No. 4 Notre Dame heads to the Big East Championship as the No. 2 seed in the conference and looks to take the first step in having one of the program’s best postseason ever.

In what is arguably the strongest conference tourna- ment in NCAA history — which boasts a field that includes as many as 11 teams that could make the NCAA Tournament — the Irish (25-5, 14-4 Big East) earned a double bye and the Òprogram’s first championship to go along with their best regular seasons in school history, No. 4 Notre Dame boasts the conference’s top-four awards. Of opened up where you could otherwise get knocked out of the tournament.

The one thing we talked about even back in the fall and I talked about it over the summer was our program, we’ve gotten an identity and a respect and a rhythm in this league now, and we’ve played on Friday night here in New Orleans in the semis, but our program’s never played on Saturday night,” Brey said to bigeast.org after receiving his Coach of the Year award. “And I verbalized that I haven’t talked about anything like this in my career, I haven’t talked about anything like this in my career.

By MIKE GOTIMER Sports Writer

SARAH O’CONNOR/The Observer

Irish freshman guard Eric Atkins drives past Marquette sophomore guard Junior Cadougan in Notre Dame’s 80-75 victory over the Golden Eagles Jan. 22.

“I think individual honors for Ben … and you know you probably say, ‘Oh, OK,’ but I think those guys have been around this program now for a while and you’ve been around it this year — it’s pure in wanting his team to win,” Brey said. “It’s extremely pure, it started back in June, so I firmly believe … his team doing things is something he wants to remain honor and put his mark on as he goes on to play in the NBA and comes back to reunions, et cetera.”

The Irish are certainly off to an auspicious start in New York, but they would undoubtedly like to return to South Bend with a conference cham- pionship to go along with their individual accolades. While the Irish have played in the Big East semifinals before, including a 53-51 loss to West Virginia last year, they’ve set their focus on reaching the program’s first championship game.

“The one thing we talked about even back in the fall and I talked about it over the summer was our program, we’ve gotten an identity and a respect and a rhythm in this league now, and we’ve played on Friday night here in New Orleans in the semis, but our program’s never played on Saturday night,” Brey said to bigeast.org after receiving his Coach of the Year award. “And I verbalized that I haven’t talked about anything like this in my career, I haven’t talked about anything like this in my career. I think this group has embraced that and we’re (going to) try like heck to get to that.”

Notre Dame finds itself on a favorable side of the bracket to accomplish that goal as the Irish boast a 6-2 record against the teams they could potentially play before Saturday night’s final. The other double bye on their side is No. 3 seed Louisville, who the Irish beat 89-79 in early in February 9. In Notre Dame’s first game, however, the Irish will face No. 7 Cincinnati or No. 15 South Florida.

Meanwhile, the Irish will tip-off at Madison Square Garden tonight at 7 p.m. on ESPN.

Contact Mike Gotimer mgotimer@nd.edu
Back to the Big Apple

Irish senior forward Tyrone Nash fulfills childhood dreams of playing in Madison Square Garden

By ANDREW GASTELUM

Almost two decades ago, Tyrone Nash crossed a busy Eighth Avenue in downtown New York, clutching his father’s hand. Dodging the traffic, Nash couldn’t have been happier. His eyes twinkled in front of the magnificent palace in front of him, for he was there to see his favorite player take on his favorite team in America’s sports citadel.

My first [Knicks] game was seeing Michael Jordan kill us at the Garden,” said Nash, Irish senior forward and Queens native. “I was four years old and my dad took me. I’ll never forget it.”

That is where the dream began for Nash. He grew up in the shadow of the Garden with a fantasy that all New Yorkers share to play there. But Nash got the chance earlier, as a young athlete with his local basketball team as a halfway filler.

He had to go to half-time when I was in a youth league and that was the only time I thought I would play at the Garden,” he said. “But lo and behold I got the chance to play there every season.”

Nash’s Big East career. Years multiple times throughout his career started. That is where my basketball career started.”

Nash has come a long way from the hoop on the back of his door, as the experienced senior is a key part of No. 4 Notre Dame’s run this season. With the Irish’s 70-67 win at Connecticut Saturday, he had 13 points and five rebounds — Nash became the all-time winnigest player in Notre Dame basketball history with 94 wins, passing the mark Tory Jackson and Luke Harangody set last season.

“It is a story that I can tell my grandchildren when I get older. That granddad is part of the winnigest class in Notre Dame history,” said Nash. “I’m etched in history now, and it’s a great thing. If you would have told me that coming into my freshman year I would have never believed you. It is a testament to the great teams that I have been on. We just keep winning.”

The teams keep on winning, but Nash is a bigger part of the winning than he gives himself credit for. The senior is averaging 9.7 points and 6.1 rebounds per game, while leading the team in offensive rebounds with 76. He has scored in double-figures in five of the past six games, highlighting his fourth double-double of the year with an 11-point, 11-rebound effort against then-No 19 Villanova on Senior Night.

Following Nash’s lead, the Irish are 21-1 when they out-rebound their opponent and 12-1 when Nash scores in double figures. He has helped to build a plus-5.1 rebounding margin over opposing teams on the season. Nash has done this while also guarding colossal centers that epitomize his 6-foot-8 frame.

“It is a different task every day,” the forward said. Sometimes I have to guard the biggest guy on the court, but then again he has to guard me on the offensive end too. I just try to use my speed and quickness and make his life hell when he has the ball. It’s good that I can be versatile and guard the big men but then go out there and guard the guards. It’s definitely an asset to my game.”

After he rips away a rebound from his bigger opponent, the senior often brings the ball down the court himself to set up the offense, something that he picked up as a hybrid star in high school.

“I was like a guard-forward,” Nash said. “It was more of a comfortability thing. My old coach used to always trust me with the ball and I made good decisions. It just stuck. And [Irish] coach [Mike] Brey realized that it could help the team out a little bit. It brings out the other team’s big man and relieves some of the heat off the guards who face a lot pressure when they bring the ball up the court.”

At times, Nash even plays like a true point guard. His vision and passing abilities over his career have resulted in 82 assists in the past four seasons, including a seven- assist night at Providence Feb. 14. Nash is averaging 3.8 assists per game this season, a career high that was bolstered by the Irish in assists in eight games this season, credits the coaching staff for his development, and, moreover, for the essential confidence in his game necessary for a multi-tool player like himself.

“I think Brey has helped me by just giving me a chance,” Nash said. “He instilled confidence in me and my game, which is something that I lacked in my freshman year and going into my sophomore year. He would just tell me, ‘You can do it. Go for it.’ Because of that, the confidence in my game went up and provided me with the opportunities that I have today.”

Those opportunities were not always there for the senior, who was also offered scholarships from Kentucky, St. John’s, Purdue and many others. Nash sat behind veteran forwards his freshman year, averaging less than four minutes per game. But he was never one to quit, starting off- season work immediately after his freshman season.

“Nothing in life is given to you and you have to learn everything,” Nash said. “I learned that early on in my freshman year. I made a real effort to go home and work hard on my game to show the coaches how I have improved so I could earn some minutes on the court and play in this league. After that I was able to start my first game that year. It just made it feel that much better that I worked so hard for it and I earned it.”

Since then the forward has been the most consistent force for the Irish. Along with fourth-year forward Tim Abromaitis and fellow senior Ben Hansbrough, Nash has started in every contest this year. On top of that, the senior has played in a team-high 80 consecutive games, dating back to February of his sophomore year. That type of consistency has developed the Irish into a top-five team. Nash, however, is not ready to celebrate this ranking, knowing that there are still three more teams ahead of him.

“Don’t get me wrong, it’s great, but I don’t want to be satisfied with that,” the veteran said. “I don’t want to get too comfortable with a ranking. It doesn’t mean anything when we get to the tournament. We still have a lot of work to do and goals to be fulfilled.”

Starting tonight, Nash can expand his records at the famed Garden, a place that holds a special meaning of home-court advantage to the senior.

“Playing at home in front of my home crowd is just an incredible feeling,” Nash said. “Hopefully we could come out of there with a win this time and a Big East championship in my hands. It would definite- ly be a great story.”

Reflecting on his career before practice in the Purcell Pavilion Monday afternoon, the senior’s wide grin — provoked by thoughts of New York — soon morphed into a meticulous smile. His eyes twinkled due to the magnificent palace in front of him.

“I’m going to miss this whole thing ... All of it,” the senior said, ready to return to his home on 7th and West 31st one last time.

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastell@nd.edu
Notre Dame
Record: 26-5 (14-4 BIG EAST)
AP: 4 Coaches: 4

BEN HANSBROUGH 18.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 4.2 apg
The Big East Player of the Year has proven to be a complete player for the Irish this season, including showing abundant amounts of emotion on the court. Furthermore, his defensive performances against the likes of Connecticut’s Kemba Walker and Pittsburgh’s Ashton Gibbs cemented his status as completely necessary. Hansbrough enters the Big East tournament 12 for 16 on 3-point attempts, and will be a difficult matchup for any and all who face him.

TIM ABROMAITIS 15.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.8 apg
'Abromaitis’ offensive repertoire hinges on his 3-point shooting and ability to slip behind the defense for backdoor finishes. Luckily for the Irish, Abromaitis has made 18 3s over his last four games, including a Purcell Pavilion record nine against Villanova Feb. 28. The Wildcats learned that leaving Abromaitis open can be a grave mistake, and Notre Dame’s opponents in the Big East tournament would be wise to learn from Nova’s mistake.

SCOTT MARTIN 9.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.8 apg
Martin has struggled recently on the offensive end, scoring just 15 points in his last three games combined. But when he is making his shots, Martin is a dangerous weapon for the Irish, and his size at the guard position creates a mismatch for almost everyone who guards him. He likely will not lead Notre Dame in any categories, but the Irish need him to contribute points and rebounds if they are going to make a run in the tournament.

TYRONE NASH 9.7 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 2.7 apg
Nash has received consistent playing time for four years now, so he is no stranger to the physical style of play in the Big East. He often gives up size to whomever he is guarding, but has done an excellent job defending the centers around the Big East. Nash will score and rebound for the Irish, but may help their offense most with his vision, creating three-point attempts with his inside-out passing ability.

BENCH PERFORMANCE/INTANGIBLES
Most of Notre Dame’s opponents are deeper than the Irish, but freshman guard Eric Atkins is leading the Big East in assist-to-turnover ratio, providing a stabilizing force for the offense, and sophomore forward Jack Cooley has come on strong in the second half of the season.

Winning his third Big East Coach of the Year award in five years, Irish coach Mike Brey has done an excellent job leading the Irish this season. Notre Dame can run and shoot or can slow things down and run the ‘burn,’ and Brey has switched between the two masterfully this year.

Follow The Observer’s continued coverage of all of MARCH MADNESS, live from Notre Dame.
the last five Big East Coach of the Year awards, but, slow down the onslaught. Ah, the springtime.

Thursday, March 10, 2011 page 5

In two evenly-matched contests, Notre Dame came up the victor twice. Connecticut junior guard Kemba Walker and his Huskies have risen to the top-10 in the country, and nearly fallen out of the polls. Georgetown could not figure out how to score against Notre Dame, as the Irish held the Hoyas more than 10 points below their season average.

In a roller coaster of a season, the Hoyas have risen to the top-10 in the country, and nearly fallen out of the polls. Georgetown could not figure out how to score against Notre Dame, as the Irish held the Hoyas more than 10 points below their season average.

The Irish have given us legitimate reasons to think big — perhaps even into April — and have been rewarded for those performances this week with the No. 4 spot in the polls and individual recognition for Ben Hansbrough and coach Mike Brey. But what I love about this team is that it has earned a top-25 ranking because they win. I remember how excited Brey was when he joked that he should retire if he doesn’t make it to Saturday.

Though I’ve claimed to be a believer in the Irish every step of the way this season, when big games presented themselves, I’ll admit my faith wavered. I knew Notre Dame was good, but I never thought that it would beat then-second-ranked Pittsburgh on the road. I knew the Irish were one of the best teams in the country, but beating Connecticut on the road is always a test. Nobody wants to face the Red Storm at home, otherwise known as Madison Square Garden. St. John’s ran Notre Dame out of the gym when they met in New York City, while the Irish did likewise in South Bend.

I knew Notre Dame was good, but I never thought that it would beat then-second-ranked Pittsburgh on the road. I knew the Irish were one of the best teams in the country, but beating Connecticut on the road is always a test. Nobody wants to face the Red Storm at home, otherwise known as Madison Square Garden. St. John’s ran Notre Dame out of the gym when they met in New York City, while the Irish did likewise in South Bend.

Predicting the Irish postseason: Big East and NCAA
Notre Dame faces a long history of NCAA missteps

Despite eight trips in his 10 years at ND, Irish coach Mike Brey has yet to tally three wins in one March.

By MATT GAMBER
Senior Sports Writer

Notre Dame begins play Thursday in New York with a realistic shot at advancing to, and winning, the program’s first-ever Big East tournament title. But the Irish, who are ranked No. 4 nationally, have their eyes on another tournament in which they will likely receive a top-two seed.

Notre Dame will qualify Sunday for its eighth NCAA tournament during coach Mike Brey’s 11-year tenure, and a strong showing at Madison Square Garden this week should guarantee the Irish a No. 2-seed, if not a No. 1, in the NCAA. While that high seeding will provide an added amount of pressure to perform in the Big Dance, the Irish are a veteran group that has been to the NCAA tournament before.

Unfortunately for Notre Dame, that experience hasn’t been altogether successful in recent years. After the Irish won six of their first seven games to escape the bubble and earn a No. 6-seed in last year’s tournament, Notre Dame suffered a first-round upset to No. 11 Old Dominion, 51-50, in New Orleans.

“It’s just amazing how fast it can end,” Brey said after the loss. “Once you get into these one-and-done tournaments, anything can happen.”

In addition to having that experience from which to learn, there might be two silver linings for this year’s Irish team that received 20 points ahead with a 14-0 run that nearly propelled Brey to a victory over legendary Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, under whom Brey coached in the early 1990s.

2003: No. 6 seed
Brey, in his first season at Notre Dame, ended an 11-year tournament absence by qualifying for the NCAA’s after winning the Big East’s West division title in the regular season — in large part thanks to the efforts of forward Troy Murphy, who won his second straight Big East player of the year award in 2001.

Murphy, a first-team All-American and the 19 points in Notre Dame’s first-round game to help lead the Irish past No. 11-seed Xavier, 83-71.

No. 3-seeded Mississippi ended Notre Dame’s run in the second round, however, when Rebels guard Jason Harrison’s 3-pointer beat the shot clock and gave Ole Miss the lead, 57-55, with 46 seconds to play. The Irish fell, 59-56, to end Brey’s first season.

2004: No. 8 seed
Notre Dame won back-to-back NCAA tournament openers for the first time in 23 years, beating No. 9 seed Charleston, 82-62, to advance to a game with No. 1 seed Duke, the defending national champion.

The Irish led their second-round game 71-64 with six minutes to play, but the top-seeded Blue Devils would recover with a 20-6 run that gave them an 84-77 victory.

Then-Duke star Jason Williams made the go-ahead free throws with 1:04 to play and made another pair 30 seconds later to bury an Irish team that received 20 points each from David Graves and Matt Carroll in the near-upset.

Notre Dame trailed 45-39 at the half and 48-39 with about 16 minutes to play, but the Irish surged ahead with a 14-0 run that nearly propelled Brey to a victory over legendary Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, under whom Brey coached in the early 1990s.

2005: No. 5 seed
Notre Dame snuck by No. 12-seed Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 70-69, in the first round. In that game, Murphy needed every one of his 27 points to top the Panthers, who were led by current-Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl and were making their first-ever NCAA appearance.

Playing in Indianapolis, the Irish enjoyed a quasi-home court advantage and drilled 13 3s to beat No. 4-seed Illinois, 68-60, and advance to their first Sweet 16 since 1987.

Notre Dame would advance no further, however, as top-seeded Arizona — led by the trio of Luke Walton, Jason Gardner and Jerod Frye — rolled by the Irish 88-71. Notre Dame turned the half over 19 times in a game it trailed 53-40 at the half.

2006: No. 5 seed
A year after suffering a first-round upset, Notre Dame held serve in its first game by beating No. 12-seed George Mason, a popular Cinderella team in its major run to the Final Four in 2006.

The Irish shot only 24.5 percent (13 of 53) from the field, and 17.6 percent from 3 (13 of 17), in a game that saw senior forward Luke Harangody pull in 22 rebounds but score only 10 points on 3-of-17 shooting.

The Irish still fell in the first round 74-64 to an Eagle program that secured its first NCAA tournament victory.

The Big South champions held off a Notre Dame team that rallied back from a 54-34 deficit to take a 63-62 lead with 2.21 left, as the Eagles finished the game on an 11-2 run of their own to send the Irish packing.

2007: No. 6 seed
Notre Dame knew to look out for No. 11-seed Winthrop, a trendy upset pick, but the Irish still fell in the first round 74-64 to an Eagle program that secured its first NCAA tournament victory.

The Big South champions held off a Notre Dame team that rallied back from a 54-34 deficit to take a 63-62 lead with 2.21 left, as the Eagles finished the game on an 11-2 run of their own to send the Irish packing.

2008: No. 5 seed
A year after suffering a first-round upset, Notre Dame held
Hansbrough, Walker among Big East honorees

Pittsburgh’s Gibbs, Providence’s Brooks named by coaches to all-conference first team

By ERIC PRISTER
Associate Sports Editor

Among other accolades, including Big East Player of the Year, Irish senior guard Ben Hansbrough was named to the Big East all-conference first team. Joining Hansbrough were five others, Connecticut junior guard Kemba Walker, Providence senior guard Marshon Brooks, Georgetown senior guard Austin Freeman, Pittsburgh junior guard Ashton Gibbs and St. John’s senior guard Dwight Hardy.

Hansbrough finished third in the Big East in scoring, averaging 19.5 per game, and 11th in assists with four per contest. His 45-percent 3-point shooting percentage is also third in the conference. Hansbrough averaged over 20 points per game in Big East play, including four straight contests over 20. He was the only player unanimously named to the all-Big East first team.

“He’s been amazing,” Irish coach Mike Brey said after the loss to Notre Dame. “He has a great basketball IQ. Kemba Walker finished second in the Big East in scoring with 21.1 points per game. He led the Huskies in scoring in 25 of their 31 games this season, scoring 24 points or more 13 times. He played a conference-high 37.4 minutes per game and finished 10th in the Big East in assists with 4.3 per contest.

“He’s leading a lot of young people to some awfully good places,” Huskies coach Jim Calhoun said after Connecticut’s Feb. 16 win over Georgetown. “I’ve never seen a guy be able to do those kinds of things. He obviously wins games, but he’s also a pretty good guy to watch play. He’s fun to watch play.”

Marshon Brooks led the Big East in scoring with a 24.8 points per game average. He scored 20 points or more in all but three Big East games, including a 52-point explosion in Providence’s one-point loss to Notre Dame Feb. 23. Brooks also finished first in the conference in rebounds, pulling down just over seven per game. He led the Friars in points in 26 of their 31 contests, and recorded seven double-doubles.

“Marshon Brooks is able to make the right plays — not just scoring, but make the right passes,” Friars coach Keno Davis said after the loss to Notre Dame. “I feel like he is pretty unselfish, I don’t know. But it’s a special player. He can score in so many ways.”

Austin Freeman scored 17.8 points per game for the Hoyas, good enough for fifth in the Big East. Freeman was named the Preseason Big East Player of the Year, and scored at least 20 points in 11 contests this season. He ranked third in the Big East in free throw percentage, shooting 86.7 percent from the charity stripe.

“Marshon Brooks is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”
Mike Brey
Irish coach

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Hansbrough’s been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything (player).”

“Austin Freeman in most situations is unflappable,” Hoyas coach John Thompson III said after Georgetown defeated Villanova Jan. 29. “So the last three minutes of the game were only indicative of what he’s done the last four years. They’re running, trapping and making it hard to do what you want to do, so you put the ball in his hands because good things happen.”

Gibbs finished sixth in the Big East in scoring for the regular season champions, averaging 16.1 points per game. He led the conference in 3-point percentage, making 46.6 percent of his shots from beyond the arc, and in free throw percentage at 89.5 percent. Gibbs sunk at least three 3-pointers in 19 contests this year for the Panthers.

Hardy was named the Big East Most Improved Player and earned Big East Player of the Week three times, the most in the conference.

Contact Eric Prister at epister@nd.edu
The Irish finished the regular season winning 11 of their last 12 contests and earned the No. 2 seed in the Big East tournament. Three victories over top conference opponents would earn them their first ever Big East tournament title.

Follow Douglas Farmer, Eric Prister and Matt Gamber as they travel to New York to cover Notre Dame’s road to the championship.