Student government leaders pass the torch

Gans, Zupancic discuss plans for term at SGA helm

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Students to give back to South Bend

By EMMA RUSS
News Writer

Ex-marine discusses “Don’t ask, don’t tell”

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Gay rights activist and retired Staff Sgt. Eric Alva of the U.S. Marine Corps closed the Saint Mary's College Student Diversity Board's sixth annual Diverse Student Leadership Conference yesterday by urging this Little Theater audience to contribute to the fight for anti-discrimination. Alva's speech, titled, "Ending Don't Ask, Don't Tell." highlighted the history of the legislation since its signing in 1993 and his experience of serving under the legislation during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was the only law in this country that forced men and women to go to work and lie about who they are," Alva said. At a time when gay military applicants were being turned away for being honest about their sexual orientation and identity on enrollment forms, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy required that questions about applicants’ previous sexual relations with members of the same sex be stripped from military applications.

This change could have empowered gay citizens to apply for military service, but Alva said it was not the only stipulation of the agreement. While the military imposed a new policy requiring that questions about applicants’ previous sexual relations with members of the same sex be stripped from military applications.

In the end, the move was not just to go out into the community and perform service, but also to recognize the community as a whole. Alva said.

The event’s goal is not just to go out into the community and perform service, but also to recognize the community as a whole. Alva said.

"Don't ask, don't tell." highlighted the history of the legislation since its signing in 1993 and his experience of serving under the legislation during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Alva's speech, titled, "Ending Don't Ask, Don't Tell."
The March 29 article “Albion sweeps doubles pair” by Kristen Durbin, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, the Observer reserves the right to refuse to publish editorials not governed by policies of the administration of either the University of Notre Dame du Lac and Saint Mary’s University. The Observer is published at: 024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779. The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is $130 for one academic year. The Observer is a member of the Associated Press. All reproduction rights are reserved. The Observer online: www.ndobserver.com

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Doug Farmer.

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**Correction**

The March 30 article “Social Media Mask-Up” listed Rebecca Black at 18 years old. She is actually 13. The March 29 article “Albion accepts doubles partners to beat Saint Mary’s” was incorrect. The Bellas won one doubles match. The Observer regrets these errors.

**Question of the Day:** What is the most-played song on your iPod this week?

**New Bedford, Beach, Calif. — A California man is charged with demanding a rubdown and $200 while pretending to be a massage parlor inspector. Orange County prosecutors charged Edward Justin LaPorte with felony burglary and misdemeanor counts of impersonating a peace officer and firearm violations. The 47-year-old faces arraignment Friday in Newport Beach. Investigators say LaPorte is a former police officer from Illinois. They say he was wearing a badge when he entered the Golden Spa massage parlor in Lake Forest on Jan. 31 and told the manager he was investigating a complaint. Prosecutors say he then complained of back pain, and a massage gave him a back rub before LaPorte asked for a frontal massage, which was refused. No phone listing could be found for LaPorte and court records don’t list an attorney for him.

**Jersey bakery spews flour on surroundings**

ENGLEWOOD, N.J. — People might have thought they were part of a recipe when a northern New Jersey bakery blew its top and shot a cloud of flour over cars and buildings.

Acting Englewood Fire Chief Gerald Marion says a pipe became loose at the top of the La Esperanza Bakery so flour was being pumped into the building on Tuesday. Some people thought there was an explosion as flour filled the air and coated several adjacent buildings. A spokesman for the bakery told The Record newspaper it lost probably less than 10 bags of flour from the 20,000 pounds that were being delivered. The pipe has been resealed.

**Information compiled from the Associated Press.**

**Offbeat**

**Freshman Laura Winter pitches during the softball game against Purdue Thursday evening. Notre Dame won 7-5, bringing its record to 18-7.**

**Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email obsphoto@gmail.com**

**In Brief**

Dave Stangis, Vice President of CSR and Sustainability for the Campbell Soup Company will speak at 10:00 a.m. today in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business. The event is the sixth installment in the Ten Years Hence Lecture Series. The event is free.

Habitat for Humanity ND presents Jail ‘N Bail today from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Students can sign up to have a friend “arrested” by NISP officers anywhere on campus and brought to a makeshift jail on South Quad. The cost is $10 at the time of bailout. Sign up at habitat.nd.edu

Women’s Lacrosse will take on Rutgers today at 7 p.m. in Arlotta Stadium. Tickets are free for students.

La Alianza will present “Latin Expressions: Origenes” today at 7 p.m. at the Century Center at 120 S. Saint Joseph St. South Bend. Shuttles will be provided from Library Circle before and after the show. “Latin Expressions: Origenes” is a showcase of Latin dance, music and poetry and will feature performances by the First Class Stoppers, Project Fresh and TroopND. Tickets are $10 at the LaFortune box office and $12 at the door.

Saint Mary’s College students will host a walk to benefit South Bend’s hungry at 2 p.m. Sunday beginning at the Student Center at Saint Mary’s. Individual walkers should bring 3 cans of food for donation or $3. Teams should bring 3 cans of food per walker or $5. Register for more information at visit http://www3.saintmarys.edu/pr-yes-we-can-2011.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, email detailed information about an event to observer.nd@gmail.com.

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SOUTH BEND COMMUNITY NEWS
Friday, April 1, 2011

SMC joins with ND in celebrating community

By JILLIAN BARWICK
News Writer

This year’s third annual CommUniversity Day marks the first time Saint Mary’s students will be involved in the event, community commissioner Katie Cuda said. Cuda said Claire Sokas, a CommUniversity Day coordina-
tor at Notre Dame, reached out to her to get Saint Mary’s involved in the day’s service projects. Cuda and Sokas have cooperated with their respective student bodies to increase student involvement in CommUniversity Day.

By including Saint Mary’s in CommUniversity Day, I feel that the two schools will be able to reach more and more of the South Bend community now and in the future,” Cuda said. “Having students mingle with community members will continue to make the South Bend area a top priority for community service projects.”

Cuda said the goal of CommUniversity Day is to unite students from both Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame in assisting the surrounding South Bend community. Service projects like painting fire hydrants, collecting community, and participating in Notre Dame in assisting the CommUniversity Day is to unite students from both Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame in assisting the surrounding South Bend community.

“It is too often that students here forget they are part of the greater South Bend community, a community that — like most others — needs help at times,” Cuda said. “CommUniversity Day is a great way to get a large group of students doing community service projects. And covering a larger area rather than only a few students at a time.”

Many CommUniversity activities will take place on Notre Dame’s campus. Cuda hopes to incorporate service projects at Saint Mary’s in the future. From now on, the community commissioners at Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame will collaborate to make a joint CommUniversity Day a reality, Cuda said.

Students participating in CommUniversity Day service projects should visit communi-
tyday.nd.edu for additional information about individual projects. Transportation will be provided between the Notre Dame campus and the project sites. The day’s events will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will end with a picnic for participants and community members at the Robinson Community Learning Center.

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarw011@saintmarys.edu

Foundation shares solar energy

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

Notre Dame combined its social justice and sustainabil-
ity missions into one initiative when it decided to team up with the Let’s Share the Sun Foundation to install solar panels in Haiti.

To bring the cause closer to home and raise funds for the Foundation, the International Development branch of the Notre Dame Entrepreneurship Society will sponsor a dance Saturday.

The Foundation, launched by 1985 Notre Dame gradu-
ates Bill and Nancy Jordan, works with other organiza-
tions to provide solar energy solutions to poor countries around the world.

“We invite people to join together to share their diverse talents, resources and reali-
ties and help capture the sun’s energy and rays that improve the lives of people in poor communities,” Bill Jordan said. “It also enhances the lives of all those who choose to participate in the efforts.”

After an earthquake rav-aged the island nation in January 2010, the Foundation supplemented the University’s efforts to rebuild the area by donating four solar panels, installed by a Haitian electrician, to the building that houses Notre Dame’s Haiti Program in Leogane. Bill Jordan said.

Solar energy is a vital part of the Haiti Program’s master planning effort for the region, he said.

Jordan said his foundation is blessed to have good partner-
ships to work with, especially the Foundation’s connection with the University.

“Notre Dame has been instrumental in facilitating the growth of the Foundation,” Jordan said. “There has also been a generous spirit from the Notre Dame Haiti Program.

Sophomore Cristina Couri organized Saturday’s fundraising event, and said she wanted to raise aware-
ness for Let’s Share the Sun because of its noble efforts in solar energy.

“Let’s Share the Sun is a perfect example of an organi-
ization that wasn’t afraid to do something great no matter how difficult it was, and wasn’t afraid to say I can do something good with the skills I’ve been given,” Couri said.

Couri said the Let’s Share the Sun Foundation is an especially successful charity because it provides the mem-
bers of poor communities with the ability to enact change themselves.

“Making a difference in third world countries, not by throwing money at them, but by giving them the tools to help themselves,” Couri said.

“They’re not a charity that people without access to electricity living in the poorest conditions in the world, I don’t think our lives would be as fulfilled,” Bill Jordan said.

Mr. and Mrs. Jordan will be the keynote speakers at the “Making a Living Making a Difference” lecture Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m in Geddes Hall. The Let’s Share the Sun Foundation is associated with Jordan Energy & Food Enterprises, LLC, Bill Jordan’s for-profit solar energy compa-
y.

Sun Foundation shares solar energy

Contact Tori Roeck at vroeck@nd.edu

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Hellmann named leader in environmental science

By KRISTEN DURBIN News Writer

Notre Dame added another achievement to its distinguished leadership list when Jessica Hellmann, professor of biological sciences, was named a 2011 Leopold Leadership Fellow last month.

Based out of Stanford University’s Woods Institute for the Environment, the Aldo Leopold Leadership Program recognizes twenty prominent environmental scientists as fellows each year with the support of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Hellmann, who was instrumental in the creation of the University’s new Environmental Change Initiative (ECI), was informed of her recognition as a fellow in December after applying for the program the early last year. She said that being a fellow will help the non-scientific community understand her research.

“ar the PhD studies and time as a professor, I learned how to collect data, teach, write scientific papers and mentor students, but no one taught me how to talk to a member of Congress,” she said. “This program is a great opportunity to get specialized training that I wouldn’t normally get as a scientist.”

The fellows attend two-week intensive training sessions that aim to improve their leadership and communication skills by participating in mock Congressional hearings, speaking with actual non-governmental organizations and policymakers and interacting with the media, Hellmann said.

“The program is much more than an award, it’s a training program,” Hellmann said. “Once you’re identified as a leader who is working on leading research, you need help articulating and explaining your work to the public and to policymakers.

There’s a large gap between the science that we do, and the science and what science is figuring out. We needed the public to appreciate scientific science, but scientists also need to reach out to those who explain what we do because it can be useful in creating policy changes.

Hellmann said her recognition further establishes Notre Dame as both an outstanding research university and a leader in environmental science and sustainability. “Notre Dame is an institution, especially in the College of Science, is to take science and make the work we do relevant to society,” she said.

Hellmann and her colleague, biological sciences Professor David Lodge, are Notre Dame’s Leopold fellows, and they both have active roles in the newly minted ECI. One of the ECI’s primary goals is to translate science to the public in order to affect change in sustainability policies, Hellmann said.

“We want to influence the public to make better, science-informed decisions and to manage natural resources more intelligently and efficiently,” Hellmann said. “We’ll be able to use the information from this leadership program to look at sustainability from an interdisciplinary perspective.”

The new Sustainability minor, which will be offered to students beginning in fall 2011, arose from an ECI working group headed by Hellmann. She said her Leopold fellowship experience would affect her role in educating students about sustainability.

“Sustainability is all about finding the appropriate balance of resource use that defines the quality of life we allow us to preserve for future generations,” she said. “Some policies sound great scientifically, but it’s important to understand how those ideas could work socially as well.”

Hellmann said she hopes the program will help publicize her research examining the impact of climate change on endangered and culturally and economically important species, especially butterflies, and how these species adapt to environmental changes.

“One of the cornerstones of my research is discovering adaptation strategies for species to deal with the negative effects of environmental changes,” Hellmann said. “We have to figure out what the effects of these changes are, where they are the strongest, which species will adapt well to change and which ones will have a hard time.”

Examining the effects of climate change and increased urbanization on specific ecosystems can allow scientists to develop methods for helping important species survive and slowing the movement of these species, Hellmann said. This field of research can have major implications for the future of the planet and the species that inhabit it.

“Environmental issues, including climate change, represent some of the biggest challenges the young adult generation will face because the world is changing in profound and rapid ways,” Hellmann said.

Hellmann will expand on her current research during the two-week intensive training sessions in March that will be held at Stanford University. It will also include an opportunity for the new fellows to meet and work together.

Pat McCormick student body president

“ar the start of next fall for the University and the community to reduce its carbon emissions, as well as a number of other aspects of greening ND.”

Pat McCormick said he and Rocheleau have begun working with leaders of campus environmental clubs to integrate student voices into major decisions.

“Student government doesn’t just want to speak for you, student government wants to amplify your voice,” McCormick said. “We’ve been trying to work with these different groups to really fight for a student place at the table for these decisions.”

McCormick and Rocheleau also plan to expand on the University’s present cooperation with the West Side Food Security Council, a group of Notre Dame community leaders and six Notre Dame students.

So far, the council has worked to improve food availability on the west side of South Bend, one of the most underprivileged areas of the community. However, McCormick said the coalition, especially the community leaders, would like to expand it into a community-wide effort.

Projects like the coalition will build upon the community relationships established during the term of outgoing student body President Catherine Soler and Vice President Andrew Bell, McCormick said.

“We’re incredibly grateful to them [Soler and Bell],” he said. “It’s a great start to what we hope will be a continuing partnership with students and community members.”

In addition, McCormick and Rocheleau will hold another annual Playing for Peace game when the men’s lacrosse team takes on Georgetown in Arlington Stadium April 10. McCormick said they want to continue to draw attention to the renewed violence in Sudan, especially in the Abyei region of the country.

“We’re trying to see that student government has really launched this unprecedented effort of trying to amplify student voices on a national level as well,” he said. “We have met with peace-building organizations to get student voices there before and we want to continue to say national we can spotlight Sudan.”

The Playing for Peace initiative also ties in with long-term goals for McCormick and Rocheleau’s term. McCormick said he and McCormick are looking forward to planning a Playing for Peace mentor cohort for a social justice cause yet to be determined.

McCormick hopes to cooperate with the Student Union Board (S UB) on this project as a means of uniting the student and student government into one cohesive student union.

But the overall objective of his presidency, McCormick said, will be to redefine the general perception of student government at Notre Dame.

“The goal is to try to see whether we can convince students that it might be worth reimagining the limits of the generally cynical estimates of the difference students can make through student government,” he said.

McCormick said he would like to see the University fulfill President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh’s vision of Notre Dame as both a crossroads and a light-house.

“It should be a crossroads, a place where all the ideas of the world can intersect and be debated and discussed, but also a light-house, a place that can stand as a beacon of confidence for higher education in the U.S.,” McCormick said.

Contact Mel Flanagan at mflanag3@nd.edu

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Alva
continued from page 1
Alva said he could not come to terms with the contradiction that was occurring in his daily life.
As the first soldier to be injured and medically retired in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Alva put his life on the line for the freedoms of the American people. "[All] bad rights being stripped of me, even though I was fighting for rights," Alva said. "As a country that promotes democracy... we don’t give those freedoms to everyone... I was a man who was fighting for my country. It was for every single individual, not just the select few."
Those citizens outside of the “select few,” were the ones being affected by DADT and the recent proposals to ban same-sex marriage that were occurring at the same time, he said. When Alva first heard about DADT, he began to gain support, Alva’s partner at the time encouraged him to do something while he was still well-known enough to make a difference. Alva came out during a televised conference, declaring to the nation that he was a gay man and an American veteran.
Alva watched with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi in Congress when the House approved the repeal of DADT in May, but he also witnessed the Senate’s rejection of DADT in September. Alva said DADT was not immediately repealed after the act was signed into law, but the repeal has brought gay rights issues to the forefront of the national conscience.
"The signing of the repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ opened up a sort of Pandora’s box because it made people realize that everyone should be treated equally," Alva said.
Alva did not focus his speech solely on his experience as a gay man fighting in the armed forces. He also focused on his experience as a disabled man in American society. Three years into his first tour of duty in Iraq in 2003, Alva was permanently injured by a land mine. His right arm was broken and he still suffers from nerve damage in his arm today. He jokingly referred to himself as the joker for a diversity conference — Latino, gay and disabled — but his experiences and educational background in social work have taught him that life is too precious to live according to the opinions of other people.
"We get this one life tomorrow is just a word. It doesn’t exist, so live your life to the fullest," he said. "No one owns my happiness, and no one owns your happiness. So, I’m going to keep speaking on this issue.
Alva concluded his speech by urging students to challenge their school’s policy of nondiscrimination if those policies do not extend to instances of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Education is key in the awareness of gay and transgender rights, he said.
"The country is changing on the request that all people be treated with equal rights...[so] I encourage you to be the people that you want to be," he said.
Contact Caitlin Housley at chou01@stmarys.edu

Day
continued from page 1
number of clubs and residence halls have stepped up and organized their own projects in conjunction with CommUniversity Day. "This year we have been able to reach out to more community contacts than ever," Sokas said. "It was a big day of service that has blossomed into a huge day of service.
"This year we have been able to reach out to more community contacts than ever," Claire Sokas student coordinator CommUniversity Day said.
"This is a great project because it allows students to really see South Bend and directly interact with residents while helping out the Food Bank," food coordinator Melissa Janisch said. Overall, projects in the Community will take place on the Notre Dame campus, including a kids’ festival open to all children in the South Bend community.
The festival will take place on Irish Green from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will offer games, food, music, a cakewalk and a bounce house, coordinator Leah Bernardi said.
Projects run from 10 a.m. until the day concludes with a community-wide picnic at the Robinson Community Learning Center.
Contact Emma Russ at crus@nd.edu

Turnover
continued from page 1
up within the board and the Saint Mary’s community, Zupanic said.
“They put a face on student government,” Gans said. “They also made finances more transparent and set up a common groundwork between student government and the clubs on campus. We want clubs to know what student government can do for them.”
While the new board will continue with these initiatives, they said they also want to integrate more community engagement into their plans. "We want to increase awareness about the issues going on in the community, and we want to get our voices out there,” Zupanic said.
But Alva said he could not meet those needs.
At the Robinson Community Learning Center, where the festival will be held, they will be providing food for the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.
"We want to increase awareness about the issues going on in the community, and we want to get our voices out there,” Zupanic said.
"With this student technology board, more students can have a voice in how we interact with the technology departments on campus."
"This is a great project because it allows students to really see South Bend and directly interact with residents while helping out the Food Bank,” food coordinator Melissa Janisch said.
"Community members look forward to this day every year," he said. "People love working with and interacting with the students.
Service projects will also take place on the Notre Dame campus, including a kids’ festival open to all children in the South Bend community.
The festival will take place on Irish Green from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will offer games, food, music, a cakewalk and a bounce house, coordinator Leah Bernardi said.
Projects run from 10 a.m. until the day concludes with a community-wide picnic at the Robinson Community Learning Center.
Contact Emma Russ at crus@nd.edu

Contact Caitlin Housley at chou01@stmarys.edu

TENTATIVE OUTAGE DATES

Due to construction, there will be no weekend train or bus service between South Bend & Dune Park from 2:30 a.m. Saturday thru 3:00 a.m. Monday.

For Updates, Call (219) 878-1745 or Visit nictd.com
Bronx Zoo cobra found

NEW YORK — A highly venomous Egyptian cobra that went missing at the Bronx Zoo was found coiled in a dark corner of its house, almost 200 feet from where it had escaped from a holding cage, zoo officials said Thursday.

The approximately 24-inch snake was found coiled in a dark corner of its house, about 200 feet from where it had escaped from a holding cage.

The escape, which was confirmed by zoo officials, has raised concerns about the safety of the zoo's visitors and the animals inside.

Margaret Tanco, 51, said she was concerned about the safety of the zoo. “It’s very dangerous,” she said. “I hope they’ll be able to catch it soon.”

Serpent experts at the zoo said that the escape was not unusual for a snake that is native to the Middle East.

They added that the escape was a reminder of the need for improved security measures at the zoo.

“We are taking this very seriously,” said Terry Gamber, the zoo’s director of animal care. “We are reviewing our protocols and making sure they are up to date.”

The zoo has been working on improving its security measures in recent years, after several escapes of dangerous animals.

Phyllis Nimmer, a zoo visitor who was at the zoo when the snake escaped, said she was relieved the snake had been found.

“I was very worried about my friends and family,” she said. “But it’s good that they were able to catch it.”

The zoo has also been working on improving its public education programs to help visitors understand the risks associated with visiting zoos.

“They have only awakened the Bronx Zoo’s Cobra nation,” said Gamber. “We are committed to ensuring the safety of our visitors and the animals in our care.”

The zoo is open to the public and continues to work on improving its security measures and public education programs.

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The zoo is open to the public and continues to work on improving its security measures and public education programs.
Nixon library opens exhibit

Associated Press

YORBA LINDA, Calif. — For years, Richard Nixon’s presidential library was accused of covering up, but now, archivists say, the site is available online.

The library opened an expanded new exhibit Thursday that provides a more balanced and accurate account of the scandal that brought down a president.

“The public deserves nonpartisan, objective presentation,” said library director Tim Naftali, who alluded to the original display’s “corrosive” and whitewashed.

Among other things, the old exhibit portrayed Nixon’s epic downfall as a “coup” by his enemies and suggested the downfall as a “coup” by his enemies and suggested the downfall as a “coup” by his enemies. The new exhibit portrays Nixon’s epic downfall as a “coup” by his enemies and suggested the downfall as a “coup” by his enemies.

Nixon’s enemies “wasted no time in finding sinister and devious motives” for the break-in, the exhibit notes. The new exhibition notes that Nixon’s enemies “wasted no time in finding sinister and devious motives” for the break-in.

The presentation makes the best possible case for Nixon, mainly in Nixon’s own words, and avoids the so-called “revisionist” approach, said Ambrose in an interview with the Los Angeles Times.

“Too many of our friends and neighbors were suffering in preventable roadway tragedies every day,” said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. “We will continue doing everything possible to make cars safer, increase seat belt use, put a stop to drunk driving and distracted driving and encourage drivers to put safety first.”

The numbers are projections for 2010. The government expects to release final data on deaths and injuries, including specific state-by-state totals, later this year.

Highway death rate falls to lowest rate in 60 years

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Highway deaths have plummeted to their lowest levels in more than 60 years, helped by more people wearing seat belts, better safety equipment in cars and efforts to curb drunken driving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that 32,788 people were killed on U.S. roads in 2010, a decrease of about 3 percent from 2009. It’s the lowest number of deaths since the mid-1950s — during the presidency of Harry Truman — when more than 30,000 people were killed.

The Pacific Northwest region, which includes Washington state, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska, saw fatalities fall 12 percent. Western states including Arizona, California and Hawaii also posted larger declines.

Government officials said the number of deaths was still significant but credited efforts on multiple fronts to make roads safer.

“We will continue doing everything possible to make cars safer, increase seat belt use, put a stop to drunk driving and distracted driving and encourage drivers to put safety first,” LaHood said.

The numbers are projections for 2010. The government expects to release final data on deaths and injuries, including specific state-by-state totals, later this year.

Harsh Fla. weather causes destruction

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Winds gusting to 90 miles per hour were felt in Tampa, and emergency crews were responding to a report of a commercial building collapse with no injuries.

A janitor at an elementary school in a suburb northwest of Tampa was killed when he was hit by a hospital on the road after he was buried in the rubble.

“Winds were gusting and confused,” said Gulfside Elementary principal Chris Clayton, who added that many parents kept their children home from school because of the bad weather. At least the community college canceled classes.

A few small planes had flipped over in a small airport near Clearwater. Large traffic jams occurred during the bridge when a large roller coaster was hit by a truck and set on fire.

Trees were uprooted and a large awning collapsed behind the offices of Daytona Beach News-Journal.

Follow us on Twitter @thedsmnews
**Humanity or hummus?**

Priorities of student government

The student government office on the second floor of LaFortune is not quite the Oval Office, but April 1 marks a presidential change nonetheless.

Today Pat McCormick and Brett Rocheleau assume their respective positions of student body president and vice president, while Catherine Soler and Andrew Bell will step down after their year in office.

Soler and Bell are pleased with what they accomplished. They represented the student body with poise despite a slew of events in the fall, heat from the local community and the general red tape that too often paralyzes student government. They encouraged the use of social media and improved communication between student government and the student body. They were good at their job — and that is key.

Enter McCormick and Rocheleau. The team’s campaign succeeded on the strength of McCormick’s public speaking, his polished campaign and his promises for a student government that is bigger and brighter. The incoming administration’s plan — rewrite the presidential job description. McCormick promised a student government with no limits, a student government that is visible, a student government that makes students care about something more.

He wants to improve sustainability, reach out to the local community and hold a large-scale concert in the spring centered on the concept of social concern. The day-to-day tasks, the minute details that were the trials and the triumphs of the Soler-Bell administration, will be delegated to a “director of constituent services” while the president focuses on the world.

Today is McCormick’s first day. Today he will begin to answer the question that remains — can he do it? Can he successfully change student government into a larger voice? Will he find himself paralyzed in a slew of red tape and failed ambitions?

McCormick has promise. He speaks with clarity and conviction, and underneath the towering imagery of lighthouses and crossroads and world peace, he has an impressive track record. McCormick served as social concerns chair for student government with unbridled passion. He executed a successful campaign for mayor about the political crisis in Sudan this winter that culminated in the Playing for Peace rally and basketball tournament projects like END Hunger, and he connected himself with people who can help him in the future. (He also resurrected the Notre Dame Haiti Project from its 3.3-cent grave.)

Yet his experience remained inside the structure of the current student government. McCormick’s largest challenge, besides revamping this structure toward his ideal. Students will still turn to student government when wanting a better textbook rental system. But in his hands, McCormick could turn the perfunctory question-and-answer session following these events, I looked around and saw that my fellow attendees were riveted. I watched as tempers flared, voices raised and hands up after hand rose to speak. And thank goodness, because we need to talk.

When discussing education, it is easy to list the statistics, but I challenge all of you to attend the panel and forget about the numbers. They will always be there in some form or another, to remind us, reminding us that Finland produces more graduates, that males drop out at a faster rate than females, ... the list goes on. What will not always be there are the students. They will grow up, maybe graduate, maybe not, and many of them will enroll their own children in the same troubled system.

There is a crisis in our nation, but it is not a crisis about percent-
ages. It is a crisis about children. So we must start talking, start ask-
ing the people who hurt them: Do they lack accountability? How do we define accountability? How do we keep good teachers in schools and keep bad ones out? How do we deter-
mine who is a “good” versus a “bad” teacher? Each question

**Letters to the Editor**

**Project Salt**

CommUniversity day is coming up this Saturday. For your sake, I hope you’ve signed up. The day is a fantas-
tic opportunity to interact with the South Bend commu-
nity, make visible improvements in the community and have a really great time with really great people.

Inward, everybody should come to the wrap-up picnic at the Robinson Community Learning Center. There will be free food, more groups and a free concert hosted by ND Fighting NTDs, featuring some AcaoutiCafe favorites.

We, ND Fighting NTDs, are putting on the concert to promote a really incredible project that has the poten-
tial to raise Haiti’s national IQ by ten points. The proj-
ект, Notre Dame Haiti Project Salt Initiative, seeks to provide fortified salt for the residents of Haiti. Fortified salt contains iodine and DEC, a compound that prevents Lymphatic Filariasis.

All these scientific compounds have very concrete benefits. iodine is necessary to prevent cretinism in young children. Cretinism stunts mental and physical growth, leaving young brains trapped in various stages of development. Lymphatic Filariasis causes grotesque swelling of the limbs and drastically impedes quality of life.

NDHPS already has a factory running in Haiti which produces salt for less than 50 cents per pound. Getting fortified salt into the hands of the poor is a battle. The last spring, McCormick served as student government president and was big enough but often short of cash for any. McCormick was one of the few who stood up for the voiceless. McCormick is the only one to make an enabling change to student government.

The Observer will be a part of McCormick’s team. The Observer will be the voice of McCormick. The Observer will be the voice for student government.

The Observer is McCormick’s voice.

The Observer is McCormick’s platform.

The Observer is McCormick’s message.

**Crisis of education**

If there is one person I swore to myself I would never become, it was the person who writes Viewpoint articles while abroad. And while I have been agonizing over the lack of spoons in the dining hall, the hook-up culture and the existence of Saint Mary’s these past few months, it is for something altogether different that I feel compelled to write from my 3.3-cent grave.

On April 13, four national education reformers will come to Notre Dame to present a panel. “The System: Opportunity, Crisis, and Obligation in K-12 Education.” Last semester, I attended a campus showing of “The Lottery,” a documentary following children hoping to attend one of New York City’s elite charter schools. Instead of the showing of “The Lottery,” a documentary following children hoping to attend one of New York City’s elite charter schools. Instead of the

We are addicted to the Center for Social Concerns, and we reach for the world’s problems with our idealism and our talents. Perhaps, just perhaps, this hunger for something more can be combined with McCormick’s ideas to create something new.
Despite the challenges
of life, it is possible to live free.

Roy Batty.
The Observer

Dear Members of the Notre Dame-Saint Mary’s Community,
As the co-chairs of the University’s Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention, we want to deliver a simple and important message to anyone in this community who has experienced sexual violence: you are not alone.

Notre Dame is committed to addressing sexual violence in all of its forms. We actively seek to prevent sexual assault, address unacceptable or unlawful behavior when it occurs, provide resources and support for those who have been victimized, and ensure the safety and well-being of every student.

If you or someone you love has experienced sexual violence, Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. Please visit our website, csap.nd.edu, to learn more. And know that you are not alone.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sportiello
Round Variables

The state of being

In support of the chain of messages from Ms. Mason and Mr. Nawrocki, I think it is necessary to point out a fallen flaw with the entire structure of the upcoming “God Debate” on our campus. Our modern culture is mistaken in believing that if we think hard and long enough, everything can be supported by human reason, even the nonexistence or existence of God. However, it is ironic that I have come to understand the contrary to one of the greatest contributors to modern philosophy.

In his “Critique of Pure Reason,” Immanuel Kant claims that “being” is not a real predicate. In other words, a predicate is an attribute belonging to a subject (God, in this case). These would be attributes such as “omnipotent,” “all-knowing” and “good.” We then associate these attributes to God, the subject of our claim, as if it were a definition of this one and so on. However, according to Kant, the claim that “God is” or “God exists” does not add anything to our understanding of God, even whether or not He exists. Asking if God exists or what God is, for example, would ask yourself whether this newspaper believes. Believe it or not, though you have a perception that this paper exists, the skeptics claim you have no reason to believe that. This is why it is futile to argue with a skeptic.

With this in mind, it seems futile to reduce a demonstration of God’s existence to the absurdity of “proofs” that are nothing more than tautologies or circular reasoning. Other arguments are arguing with nearly incommunicable premises, each side will more likely conclude the other’s argument is “unreasonable.” Although I am not against examining the God debate’s merits or the reasons regarding the competitive structure of a debate suggests that we are looking for one side to come out on top, which in this case is not possible for the reasons stated above.

Although reason has its limitations, it is living in a time of unprecedented chaos. We do not believe in asking by drawing into question conclusions and common sense premises you have taken for granted, without any real motivation for doing so, simply to deny your main conclusion.

In hindsight, his sarcasm is obvious. So the sometime blade runner decides to return to the slave morality that defines the profession of the blade runner. He can no longer serve and preserve a society that no longer serve and preserve a society that no longer serve and preserve a society that no longer serve and preserve a society that no longer serve and preserve a society that no longer serve and preserve a society that no longer serve and preserve a society that no longer serve and preserve a society that no longer serve and preserve a society that no longer serve and preserve a society that no longer serve and preserve a society...

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

Mike Petravick

I am not overly concerned whether or not the dinner halls serve meat on Fridays during Lent. I don’t eat it, but I won’t force my beliefs on you. What concerns me more is the gluten-free food options on these days. As I was diagnosed as being a non-Celiac gluten intolerant over Christmas break, this is my first Lent dealing with this problem. I had never before given much thought to all of the gluten-free options available, such as pizza, potato pancakes and various vegetable casseroles. Even the fish options last week were breaded.

I’m not suggesting we take away these options because: (1) most people can eat them and (2) they taste good, but could we please have a gluten-free option that isn’t Rice Chex cereal or PB&J on bread which must be defrosted in the microwave? I’d be happy seeing one of the GF stickers on the SAO website goes to the Glass Club, just for your information.

FS. Gluten-Free ND?

Mike Petravick

LTEs to the Editor

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Sincerely,

Daniel Sportiello

I struggle to grasp what we cannot directly sense, God does not "hide" to avoid being found. Rather, God is living the human condition and overcoming them. "The flame that burns within the artist and to forge one’s own path, not to follow death — whether in four years, five years or ten — and is therefore will- ing to help Rachel and Deckard escape together — creative violence — one unknown, but free.

In his "Critique of Pure reason," Immanuel Kant claims that “being” is not a real predicate. In other words, a predicate is an attribute belonging to a subject (God, in this case). These would be attributes such as "omnipotent," "all-knowing" and "good." We then associate these attributes to God, the subject of our claim, as if it were a definition of this one and so on. However, according to Kant, the claim that "God is" or "God exists" does not add anything to our understanding of God, even whether or not He exists. Asking if God exists or what God is, for example, would ask yourself whether this newspaper believes. Believe it or not, though you have a perception that this paper exists, the skeptics claim you have no reason to believe that. This is why it is futile to argue with a skeptic.

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Arabic Culture Night: More Than Just Dancing

The Arabic Culture Night returns to Notre Dame for its fourth year tonight, and it promises to be bigger and better than ever. More than 40 students from the department have worked tirelessly to prepare this very special event and are ready to share their hard work.

"Arabic Culture Night is a unique opportunity to engage and explore culture," says producer Ghada Bualuan, director of Undergraduate Studies, Arabic & Mediterranean Middle East Studies. "It is a way to enrich students' understanding of Arabic and Middle Eastern history and heritage through music, literature and theater. It symbolically unites us all, students and audience, with an interrupted centuries-old Arabic Culture."

Arabic culture will be on stage in almost every imaginable art form. From dancing to poetry reading, the night promises to have something for everyone. Although all the material used is originally from the Middle East, the program is easily relatable. Invigorating music, profound readings and energetic dancing will appeal not only to students but also to audiences of all ages. The English translations help, too.

Senior Jonathan Liedl, president of The Arabic Club and chair of the Arabic Culture Night Committee, calls this night "the capstone event of [his and his peers'] Arabic careers here at Notre Dame."

"It’s great to reflect on just how far we’ve come," he says. "Additionally, this is the Arabic Club’s inaugural year on campus. And also, it really is an opportunity for us to show our appreciation for all the Arabic faculty, especially Ghada Bualuan and her husband Ramzi."

The event is quite a capstone with a rich variety of acts and talents. Ben Gavel, a senior Arabic student, will read poetry from revolutionary Tunis, "The Will of Life" and "To the Tyrants of the World."

Other Arabic students, Molly Herber, Ian Montijo, Victoria Braga and Joe Dufour will recite, in two parts, "Children’s Heaven," a short story from Naguib Mahfouz, a Nobel Laureate from Egypt.

Students have also prepared a comedy play, "The Dream Bistro." It tells the story of the hilarity that ensues when an arrogant playboy attempts to go on a date with two different girls at the same restaurant. Liedl promises good, clean comedy, with the slapstick aspect taken quite literally.

In addition to these performances and a short film produced by faculty and students, Arabic Culture Night will also feature premiere student artists performing various music and dance acts. The night will include a song, "Oh! your Love, Laure," performed by Tyler Harmsen and Sarah Kiningham, as well as a violin performance by Mat Madonia.

Dance acts will range from Oriental dancing to Dabke, forms of folkloric Lebanese dances. Students have been preparing for their rhythmic debut, giving their time, talent and passion freely. The dances will also feature typical Arabic costume, adding to the beauty of the dance.

Bualuan and Liedl encourage students of all majors and backgrounds to come experience this unique cultural event. Liedl came to Notre Dame with a Spanish background, but found himself drawn to the exotic and exciting language and culture of the Middle East. Even if students are happily content in their major, he still encourages them to attend. "[This night] helps us to realize that Arabic is more than just a language we learn from textbooks, it's the voice of an entire culture and people ... Everyone should come out to learn a little more about the people and culture of a misunderstood, but vital part of today's world."
Ready to sing, dance and enjoy one of the largest cultural events on campus? The university’s Latino student organization, La Alianza, will host their annual showcase Latin Expressions today. It will be an exciting night full of Latino history, culture and art.

The theme of this year's very much anticipated event is “Orígenes: Regresando a Nuestras Raíces” (Origins: Returning to Our Roots). The show’s performances will highlight the different musical, literary and folkloric traditions present in Latin America.

There will be a variety of different University groups and clubs participating in this event, Latin Expressions coordinator Rachael Carreño said. The show will consist of various dance performances by Troop ND, Project Fresh break dancers, First Class Steppers and Ballet Folklórico. There will also be several musical acts from groups such as Coro Primavera and Mariachi ND, as well as a special performance by a classical guitarist.

In addition to music and dance, Latin Expressions will also address current Latin American political issues in some of their performances.

“MECHA, a club on campus, is performing a spoken-word piece addressing the ongoing drug wars affecting Juárez, Mexico and other border cities, and a group of students will perform songs and a poem in quechua,” Carreño said.

Latino culture is known for its energetic, colorful and lively feel and character. This event will not only accurately inform the audience and vividly exemplify a variety of Latino customs and traditions, but it will also captivate and entertain the audience. It will encompass the particular calor y sabor (warmth and flavor) of Latino culture that this student community brings to our campus.

The event will take place at The Century Center in downtown South Bend and shuttle buses from Library Circle will facilitate student transportation to the venue before and after the show. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Box Office for $10 and will also be sold at the door for $12. For more information, contact Rachael Carreño at rcarreno@nd.edu.

Contact Maria Fernandez at mfernan5@nd.edu

On campus

What: Latin Expressions “Orígenes: Regresando a Nuestras Raíces”

Where: The South Bend Century Center

When: Friday, April 1, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

How much: $10 at Lafortune Box Office, $12 at the door

Learn more: Email ahavens1@nd.edu or rcarreno@nd.edu
NCAA BASKETBALL

Smart keeps Rams focused on game despite media circus

Associated Press

HOUSTON — They fought too hard to get into the second round of the tournament to let center stage to slip away.

“Coach kind of warned us how crazy it would be,” Virginia Commonwealth guard Joey Rodriguez said Thursday, grin

ning from ear to ear. “I just kinda shot a music video. That wasn’t even, but it’s been fun.”

Never mind that Reliant Stadium, where VCU plays Butler on Friday for the first semifinal, holds 10 times as many fans as the Rams’ Siegel Center back home in Richmond. Or that the attention from the national media sometimes resembles speed dating, with rapid-fire questions flying in every direction.

“I don’t think it affects us at all,” guard Brandon Rozzell said of the outside hoopla this week. “If anything, it’s kind of fun.”

Fellow seniors Rodriguez, Ed Nixon and Jamie Skeen agree.

“We know that we’re getting ourselves into,” Nixon said. “This game is just like another game. Of course, it has a bigger

impact, holds 10 times as many fans, but it’s a bigger stage, but we’ve got to play it like it’s just another game. Of course, it has a bigger

impact.”

Nixon said.

There are, however, still two days before the 11th-seeded Rams (28-11) play No. 8 Butler (27-9).

“I think once we take that bus ride on game day, it will. or practice here with the open practice it will be a little sur-

prising, shocked about what we’re really into,” Rozzell said. “I think no one is shell-shocked yet about how important this

thing has been.”

“I think the Rams will take care of it,” Rozzell said.

“If anyone’s uptight on the court or in the locker room, we notice it,” Rozzell said.

And if the Rams get too uptight, they’ll just try to get in the rotation April 9. “You’ve got to do your job. I mean, if you’re not doing your job, you pretty much roll with the punches,” Rozzell said.

“Tigers catcher Alex Avila said.

“I’m trying to change things around in April. Last April I wore long sleeves,” Verlander said. “The only thing I felt I was really cold on my body was coming out of the dugout. They have heaters in there.”

Johnny Peralta drove in his first run of the month. After going without an RBI in 66 spring at-bats, he hit a sacrifice

fly in his first plate appearance to drive in the Tigers lead.

Cabrera lined a single and Martinez hit a hot shot to short-

stop that Derek Jeter couldn’t corral. The ball squinted into center for a base hit. Cabrera walked the bases loaded before Peralta flew out.

“We did center some balls pretty good off CC, especially early,” Leyland said. “We didn’t have a lot of luck with it.”

Detroit closed to 3-2 on Inge’s December 2009 deal that sent Coke and Austin Jackson to Detroit, also made two terrific plays in center and homered in his third consecutive opening game.

Grandonder, to the Yankees’ December 2009 deal that sent Coke and Austin Jackson to Detroit, also made two terrific plays in center and homered in his third consecutive opening game. "They’re tough," Leyland said.

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Granderson helps Yankees top former team

Associated Press

NEW YORK — As soon as Justin Verlander was done for the day, the Detroit Tigers froze up.

Verlander held the New York Yankees in check for six

innings, throwing 114 pitches in six innings, and left

short in left field on a frigid afternoon, but Phil Coke served up a 15-pitch walk in the eighth. Tiger Curtis Granderson in the seventh and Detroit dropped its second game in six.

"I just felt absolutely not right. Nothing else to blame but myself," said Coke, scheduled to move into the rotation April 9. "You’ve got to do your job. I don’t do my job today. I’m irrita-

ted with the outcome of it."

Third baseman Brandon Inge, normally a reliable fielder, committed a costly throwing error, and a pair of wild pitches by young relievers Ryan Perry and Daniel Schlereth led to six runs for New York.

Victor Martinez singled in his first at-bat for Detroit, helping his new team build an early run, and Miguel Cabrera hit a sacrifice fly and scored twice. But by the time Mariano Rivera closed it out for a save, the final 10 Tigers hitters had been retired by New York’s imposing bullpen.

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Clay
continued from page 20 turned with Johnson’s four-run homer that put the Irish up 7-2, but it wasn’t over until the final strikeout. Purdue had rallied again in the seventh inning to draw within two runs, and with two runners on base and only one out, things looked far from done.
“To be honest, we were very calm [during Purdue’s rallies],” Maldonado said. “We were confident in our batters the whole game and knew that we would do whatever it took to win.”
Winters managed to ice the Boilermakers in the top of the seventh, ending the game with a score of 7-5. She logged a career-high 12 strikeouts in a crucial non-conference game. Irish batters struck out only twice.
“After the last out we were both relieved and excited,” Maldonado said. “Purdue was a very good team, but we managed to hold them for the majority of the game.”
This victory was a much-needed boost for the Irish after a tough loss to a talented Western Michigan team earlier in the week.

The Belles will get two shots at taking a game from Alma Saturday, with the first pitch slated for 2 p.m. as well as Sunday at 11 a.m. in Melissa Cook Stadium.

Contact Jack Yusko at jyusko@nd.edu

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

When the Belles travel to perennial powerhouse Alma for their first conference game of the season this weekend, they hope to bring along their hot streak at the plate.
Saint Mary’s (10-3) will enter the game coming off a doubleheader in which they took both games from Manchester, but Alma (17-2) has been even hotter recently. The team currently rides a ten-game win streak.
Alma’s success at this point in the season is typical for a team that has not finished lower than third in the conference rankings in over 25 years, and has qualified for 14 of the last 16 NCAA tournaments.
“They are always tough competition. They are a smart ball club,” Belles coach Erin Sullivan said. “They are definitely going to be a challenge for us.”

The Scots are the Belles’ first MIAA opponent of the year, but the St. Mary’s players and coaches do not see any need to overemphasize the importance of their conference opener.
“We want to make sure that we are playing each game really well, from start to finish — that it is just a good day,” Sullivan said. “That does not always result in wins and losses. I think it is just that we want to come out strong and at least play very well.”

Senior captain and outfielder Hayley Bojorquez echoed her coach’s sentiment, but said it would be a welcome accomplishment if the Belles could capture at least one of the decisions.
“We want to make sure that we are playing each game really well, from start to finish — that it is just a good day,” Sullivan said. “That does not always result in wins and losses. I think it is just that we want to come out strong and at least play very well.”

Belles hope to reverse. Bojorquez said that her team can display the mental toughness needed to put forth a tough performance.
“We want to start out a little bit stronger so that we do not have to come back from the bottom, but maintain the confidence in ourselves that we can come back from the bottom if we need to,” Bojorquez said.

As they try to show improvement and play an entire game of good ball, Saint Mary’s will also have to contend with the Scot’s tendency to start slowly representing an unwelcome trend the Belles hope to reverse.

If the Belles can challenge Alma, it will be due to a successful day from behind the plate. We’re looking to continue getting better every day and play our game,” Maldonado said. “When we play Notre Dame softball, we play our best. We’re going to give Providence our best games.”

The Irish will meet Providence in a doubleheader Saturday at 12 and 2 p.m. as well as Sunday at 11 a.m. in Melissa Cook Stadium.
Men's Tennis

Irish face non-conference matches

By ANDREW OWENS
Associate Sports Editor

With the regular season slate winding down, each match takes on added importance for the Irish, who will play three solid opponents in a span of two days this weekend.

No. 22 Notre Dame (12-8) will take on three non-conference opponents this weekend — Ball State (8-7), SMU (13-5) and IUPUI (15-11).

"Ball State and IUPUI are two teams from less major conferences not in our Big East but who are at-large bids," Irish associate head coach Bryan Sachire said. 

"But they are threats to win their conference and make it to the NCAA tournament." 

SMU, one of the more talented teams in the country, will enter Saturday's contest with some added rest after Tuesday's scheduled match against San Diego State was cancelled. Ball State dropped its last decision against Portland, while IUPUI defeated South Dakota State in its last match.

"All three are quality teams," Sachire said. "SMU is one of the top 20 or so teams in the country."

Notre Dame, meanwhile, has been playing some of its best tennis lately, winning four of its last five, including a win over Illinois, a top-10 program.

"We're in high spirits after our wins," Sachire said. "It would be great to go 3-0 this weekend.

After this weekend, the Irish will have only two matches remaining during the regular season, despite the Big East championships being four weeks away. As Sachire noted, the extra time will give Notre Dame a chance to shift their focus.

"The way the schedule is built, we've played a lot of matches," Sachire said. "After this, we will focus on player development. When you compete a lot, you lose some sharpness because you're focusing on competition and not on skill development. We'll have a chance to train and practice and improve our skills.

The next Irish match will not take place until April 13, nearly two weeks away, when Notre Dame travels to Columbus, Ohio to play Ohio State.

The Irish will face Ball State in Muncie, Ind., at 2 p.m. Saturday and travel home to play SMU and IUPUI Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively, at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

ND Women's Tennis

Notre Dame excited to host double meets

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

The No. 19 Irish are eager to add two more wins to their record this weekend as they take on No. 44 Long Beach State and No. 32 Texas A&M at home.

The Irish (9-8) will enter these games after suffering a tough 5-2 loss to Georgia Tech March 24.

We have really been focusing on our consistency from the baseline which will definitely help us in all of our future matches," freshman Julie Sabacinski said.

Sabacinski has attempted to improve her own consistency in singles play and in doubles play with partner and fellow freshman Jennifer Kellner.

The Irish are eager to showcase their three ranked players, including No. 3 junior Kristy Frilling, No. 63 junior Shannon Mathews and No. 105 freshman Jennifer Kellner.

Additionally the Irish are home to the No. 22 doubles team composed of Matthews and Frilling. Frilling enters this weekend with a 13-1 record.

None of the current members of the Notre Dame team have faced Long Beach State in their college careers. The last matchup between the teams went to the Irish with a score of 5-2. Long Beach State is coming off a loss against Pepperdine, bringing their season record to 12-4.

"The last time the Irish faced Texas A&M (9-4) was during the 2010 season, when Notre Dame won 4-3. The Aggies will come to South Bend after a comfortable win March 27 against Kansas. The Aggies and the Irish have met eight previous times. Notre Dame leads the series 7-1.

"We want to be as intense and competitive as possible this weekend," Sabacinski said.

In these two matches, Notre Dame will face the Big West Player of the Week Claudia Malenovska from Long Beach State and No. 34 Nazari Urbina from Texas A&M.

"Notre Dame will face off against Long Beach State today at 4 p.m. and Texas A&M Saturday at 1 p.m. Both games will be played at the Eck Tennis Pavilion and will be broadcast live online."

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

SMC Tennis

Belles hope to come out on top of close matches

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's is counting on their hard work paying off this weekend when they face Trine and North Central at home.

The Belles (5-5, 0-1) were bested Tuesday in the conference opener by visiting Albion, 7-2. Despite the margin, most of the matches were very close. This was especially true on the singles side, where Saint Mary's forced a third set or tiebreaker in four of five losses. That effort was not enough to beat the Britons (5-1), but Belles coach Dale Campbell said his players would stay confident and be aggressive going forward.

"We have to stay assertive, and remain especially offensive in doubles. We have discussed that we have to play every match to win. We can't win playing defensively. It serves us no purpose in any of our matches. The best teams play offensively," Campbell said.

The Belles offensive will take on Trine Saturday, a conference matchup they have fared well in the past. Saint Mary's has swept the Thunder (3-6) 9-0 in each of their past two meetings. Trine's main strength is the top of its doubles lineup. Their first two pairings are 6-1 this year.

"We're in high spirits after our win against Albion. It was very close. This was especially true on the singles side, where Saint Mary's forced a third set or tiebreaker in four of five losses. That effort was not enough to beat the Britons (5-1), but Belles coach Dale Campbell said his players would stay confident and be aggressive going forward."

"We want to be as intense and competitive as possible this weekend," Sabacinski said.

"The way the schedule is built, we've played a lot of matches," Sachire said. "After this, we will focus on player development. When you compete a lot, you lose some sharpness because you're focusing on competition and not on skill development. We'll have a chance to train and practice and improve our skills.

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Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu
Congratulations on your acceptance to Notre Dame!

**Spring Visitation Weekend 2011**

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**Women’s Golf**

**Irish hope momentum carries over to Athens**

By LAURA COLETTI

The Irish hope to carry the momentum they gained winning the John Kirk Intercollegiate Invitational March 21 and 22 to the 39th Liz Murphey Collegiate Classic Friday in Athens, Ga.

The tournament, one of the most unique intercollegiate events in the country, is hosted by the University of Georgia and features five top-10 teams in the 23-team field.

“We’re all really excited about this tournament and being part of one of the best tournament fields of the year,” senior captain Katie Conway said. “It presents a great opportunity for us to pick up wins against many top-ranked schools.”

Among Notre Dame’s competition are defending champions and third-ranked Alabama, along with No. 4 Duke, No. 5 Purdue, No. 6 LSU and No. 7 Virginia. There are also seven other top-25 teams entered in the tournament.

Georgia’s course will also present a challenge for the confident Irish.

“Coming off a win, we are all feeling confident and more prepared as a result for this week,” Conway said. “The University of Georgia’s golf course is one that you need to stay focused on and choose your targets well, because with its large, undulating greens, it is that much more important to position yourself well.”

This year’s Classic is special and different than years past because it features new playing and scoring methods. Traditionally, teams are scored by three golfers from different schools playing together. In this tournament, five players from each team will compete together. Coming off a stellar performance for the Irish this weekend will be junior Becca Huffer, who was named the Big East Women’s Golfer of the Week. Seniors So-Hyun Park and Conway will also be competing, and will be joined by freshmen Nicole Zhang and Kristina Nhim.

“This tournament is different than others because we are all playing together, which will be a first for all of us in our college golf careers,” Conway said. “Playing together presents the opportunity for us to feed off of each other and keep each other up and motivated throughout our rounds.”

The tournament’s scoring method is atypical as well. The 54-hole, 72-par course features one round of play each day. Typically, the four best scores at the end of each round are counted. In this competition, the four best scores from each hole will count towards the final score.

“The tournament is still being scored the same way for (ranking purposes), but there will be a separate competition taking place to determine who takes home the trophy,” Conway said.

The Irish tee off today in Athens.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

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**Pitching**

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the Panthers (13-9, 1-2), who have a lineup that includes eight batters with batting averages over .300.

Pittsburgh senior catcher Kevan Smith leads the ballclub with a .459 average, 34 hits and 5 doubles.

While freshman hurler Anthony Melver is the only scholarship lefty available off the bench, Aoki said he is not concerned with the absence of a lefty in the week-end rotation.

“All of them [Dupra, Johnson and Miller] have weapons to handle left-handers,” Aoki said. “They all seem to be able to jump into the zone on a pretty consistent basis. I don’t think it’s going to be an enormous issue. When you look at the Big East, there’s not one team that’s just left-handed dominant.”

Confident that his pitchers are up to the challenge, Aoki said he was especially pleased with their performances earlier in the year against Gonzaga and Coastal Carolina, teams with potent line-ups.

The first-year skipper is more concerned with the productivity of his own offense, which showed signs of turning the corner in a 3-2 win over Central Michigan on Tuesday.

“You just try to go out there offensively and have some quality at-bats,” Aoki said. “You’re going to be able to handle. Hopefully we can get a quality swing on it.”

Freshman right-hander Dan Slania has been a reliable option out of the bullpen for Aoki, as the rookie picked up his third save of the season Tuesday’s win. Although Slania has emerged as a go-to arm out of the pen, Aoki said he will consider sophomore right-hander Adam Norton and junior righty Will Hudgins in late game situations as well.

“I think the way we’ve been doing that is that as the game goes along, you try to play matchups,” Aoki said. “Maybe Norton will give us a pretty good matchup, or Hudgins, or somebody else — it really depends on the type of hitter.”

The Irish take the field in Pittsburgh Friday at 3 p.m., Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at noon.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu
Success

continued from page 20

guys did a great job cutting and finishing all the feeds I gave them. I did well, but obviously my teammates were a big part of my success.

The Irish are coming off what coach Kevin Corrigan called their "most complete game of the season," which was played against Rutgers Sunday. Rogers said the team has been working on putting together more efficient possessions in preparation for the Wildcats (7-2).

"We definitely want to control the game, and have smart and sustained possessions," he said. "We don't want to make it easy for our defense by taking shots away. The key for us is to get good looks and take advantage of all the good looks we get."

Notre Dame hopes its defensive game will carry over from last week against Rutgers Sunday. Rogers said the team has been working on making multiple times in the game, and the latter part of our schedule is tougher, and getting into the post season," Kemp said. "[Coach Kevin Corrigan] talks, and being together almost all the time on the field really helps us prepare for other people. Familiarity with everyone is kind of what's helping us," Kemp said. "Communication on defense and helping each other out will help out the team against Villanova."

Villanova (7-2) will travel to South Bend fresh off its second loss of the season, a 5-4 defeat Saturday from No. 1-ranked Syracuse. Wildcat senior defenseman Brian Karalunas was already been named Big East defensive player of the week earlier this season.

"Offensively, they have basically six attackers who can play at all times. They don't run any particular sets — they're more free flowing, hard to guard and dangerous," Rogers said. "They have one of the best defensive players in our league in Brian Karalunas. He gets the ball multiple times in the game, and the rest of the defense is very aggressive."

Kemp said he agreed the Wildcats have a lot of depth on their roster.

"Villanova is kind of a team that, I don't want to say doesn't have a lot of talent, but has good players who play well together," he said. "We've started preparing for what they do and how they run their offense, and they don't really have one guy who can do it all. They all work together. They have a lot of guys who can put it in the net. They're a good all-around team."

Although the Irish remain undefeated and recently moved up in the rankings, the team remains humble and is not getting too comfortable with its record just yet.

"You want to have confidence, and you get it from beating other teams. That's the mentality you want to have," Kemp said. "You don't want to be too confident, though. With a high ranking it's easy to kind of forget the other talent that's out there. You don't want to overlook teams on your schedule, especially going into league play. We take everything week to week."

Now that the Irish are halfway through their season, Corrigan continues to emphasize the goal the Irish made at the beginning of the season — to win a national championship. Kemp said.

The latter part of our schedule is tougher, and getting into the Big East play and [doing well] will jumpstart us going into the postseason," Kemp said. "[Coach Kevin Corrigan] talks, and he knows that we'll just keep it up and play hard," Kemp said. "We want to have confidence, and you get it from beating other teams. That's the mentality you want to have," Kemp said. "You don't want to be too confident, though. With a high ranking it's easy to kind of forget the other talent that's out there. You don't want to overlook teams on your schedule, especially going into league play. We take everything week to week."

The Irish will look for their tournament just two weeks away and a championship in sight, the team is focused on the remaining rounds left to play.

"We've tried all year not to get caught up in rankings and results," Kubinski said. "We obviously have set the Big East as a goal, and we have goals beyond the conference tournament. But we have to concentrate on what we're doing this week in Louisiana and keep on getting better."

The Irish take to the links Saturday at the Collegiate Club in Baton Rouge.

Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu

The Observer • SPORTS
Irish set for Mike Poehlein Invitational

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

The Irish got over their opening season nerves last weekend and now will focus on inching toward the June nationals, starting with the Mike Poehlein Invitational in West Lafayette, Ind., this weekend.

“Now that some of us have gotten our first meet out of the way, we have a starting block to build from,” senior thrower Rudy Atang said, who took third place Saturday in Arizona when she threw 15.69 meters in the shot-put event.

Two Irish athletes received awards last weekend. Sophomore Jeremy Rae was named the Big East Men’s Outdoor Track Athlete of the Week and junior pole-vaulter Kevin Schipper was named the Big East Men’s Field Athlete of the Week.

“Last weekend, there was a lot to learn. I think it’s fair to say that we all individually found aspects in our performance, whether good or bad, that we can improve on.”

Rudy Atang
senior Irish thrower

Rae finished second in the 1,500-meter race at the Stanford Invitational last weekend in 3:44.09, marking a personal best and the current best collegiate time in the country. He was 0.32 seconds ahead of UTEP’s Elkana Rotich.

Schipper finished first in the pole-vaulting event at the Arizona State Invitational with his 5.20-meter clearing, the best height in the conference and the fourth-best in the nation.

“We do keep in mind that some of us will be racing through June, so how we do in March doesn’t have too much impact on our season as a whole,” Rae said. While these early meets may not have as much direct impact in terms of team records, they provide opportunities for athletes to obtain qualifying positions.

Sophomore middle-distance runner Rebecca Tracy joined Rae and Schipper as probable qualifiers as well, finishing in 4:22.78 to take 10th place in the first section at the Stanford Invitational.

“We hope to continue on from Stanford and improve on what we have already accomplished,” Tracy said. “We may move some people around and try them in different events than they ran indoors as well, based on last weekend’s performances.”

Other successful performers expected to carry over their streak from last weekend include senior Justin Schneider, who took second in the decathlon at the Alabama Relays with 6,909 points and junior Maddie Bittenger, who finished third in the pentathlon with 3,035 points.

“Last weekend, there was a lot to learn. I think it’s fair to say that we all individually found aspects in our performances, whether good or bad, that we can improve on,” Atang said.

The Mike Poehlein Invitational kicks off Friday, April 1 at 3 p.m. with the hammer throw, the only event of the day. The meet continues Saturday at 10 a.m. with the discus throw and javelin. The women’s 10,000-meter running event will begin at 11 a.m.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

Irish Studies Classes
Fall 2011

IRST 30360-01
MW 1:30-2:45
Melissa Dinsman
Irish Modernism

IRST 30111-01
MW 3:00-4:15
Ian Kuijt
Archaeology of Ireland

IRST 30423-01
MW 3:00-4:15
Sean McGraw
Irish Politics: 1916-2009

IRST 20314-01
MW 3:00-4:15
Shan-Yun Huang
Bewildered Beginnings: Coming-of-Age Novels

IRST 20531-01
MW 4:30-5:45
Ailbhe Darcy
Irish America

IRST 10101-03
MWF 1:55-2:45
Mary O’Callaghan
Beginning Irish I

IRST 20103-01
MWF 1:55-2:45
Tara MacLeod
Intermediate Irish

IRST 10101-02
MWF 10:40-11:30
Mary O’Callaghan
Beginning Irish I

IRST 10102-02
MWF 10:40-11:30
Tara MacLeod
Beginning Irish II

IRST 30413-01
MWF 9:35-10:25
James Smyth
British History: 1660-1800

IRST 10102-01
MWF 9:35-10:25
Mary O’Callaghan
Beginning Irish II

IRST 20107-01
TR 1100-12:15
Peter McQuillan
The HIDDEN IRISH

IRST 40530-01
TR 1100-12:15
Declan Kilber
Wilde and Synge

IRST 43504-01
TR 1100-12:15
Mary Burgess
Seminar: Modern Irish Fiction

IRST 30309-01
TR 1230-1:45
Sarah McKibben
Great Irish Writers

IRST 20108-01
TR 230-3:15
Jeremiah Gillan
Verbal Arts & Oral Traditions

IRST 40513-01
TR 330-4:45
Mary Burgess
Culture and Politics of Northern Ireland

IRST 20541-01
TR 330-4:45
Christopher Fox
Irish Connections

IRST 43505-01
TR 3:30-4:45
Susan Harris
Seminar: Gender Troubles: Contemporary Irish Fiction

IRST 40111-01
TR 3:30-4:45
Briona Nic Dhiarmada
The Irish Hunger Strikes

IRST 30362-01
TR 9:30-10:45
Cathal Goan
The Irish Language Lyric Song Tradition

IRST 43511-01
MW 3:00-4:15
Denis O’Hearn
Irish Connections

IRST 30124-01
TR 230-3:15
James Hamrick
Swift to Heaney: Irish Poetry Since 1700

Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies
THE OBSERVER

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ND SOFTBALL

Johnson's grand slam secures win over Purdue

By JACK YUSKO
Sports Writer

The bases were loaded, there were two outs and Purdue was mounting a sixth-inning comeback Thursday when Irish senior captain Heather Johnson hit a grand slam out of the park to secure a 7-5 Notre Dame victory over Purdue.

"The turning point in the game was definitely Heather's grand slam," junior outfielder Alexa Maldonado said. "It gave Laura [Winter] and the rest of the team some breathing room. They were a good hitting team, so we knew we would need more runs to secure the win." Notre Dame (18-7) defeated Purdue (19-8) at home despite two major Boilermaker rallies coming during the fifth and seventh innings. The Irish defense started the game strong, allowing the offense to gain the lead and hold it instead of having to regain lost ground.

Freshman pitcher Laura Winters started the game with a scoreless first inning, giving us the chance to jump head. I led off the game with a single and was able to score on [senior catcher] Lex Clay's opposite field homerun," Maldonado said. "Lex's home-run was the start to our rally — everything just rolled on from there.

The game may have one constant in the Irish lineup has been junior Tom Usher, the recently crowned Big East golfer of the week. Usher finished 20th overall at the Schenkel Invitational with a two-over-par three-day score.

"Tom is our most consistent golfer. We can always count on him to be around or under par round in and round out," Kubinski said. "He's really a leader of this team."

Irish travel to face Pittsburgh

BASEBALL

Irish travel to face Pittsburgh

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Along with several Major League teams taking the field for the first time at home, Pittsburgh welcomed Notre Dame in its conference home opener Friday. The Panthers will be looking for their first Big East win at Charles L. Cost Field, while the Irish hope to christen the facility with a loss on the strength of their pitchers.

"Pitching is always going to be a big deal," Irish coach Mik Aoki said. "The pitching staff has been solid all year long. [The players] pitch to their strengths. We're lucky to have three players who can step up to the challenge."

Aoki will hand the ball to his trio of senior right-handers Brian Dupra, Cole Johnson and Todd Miller. The three starters have logged 16 quality starts and have propelled Notre Dame (10-12-1, 2-1 Big East) to second in the conference with a team ERA of 2.69.

But they should face its toughest test of the season against Sophomore Adam Norton throws a pitch against Central Michigan March 29. The Irish won 3-2 at home.

SPORTS
10 years later

Under Niele Ivey’s guidance, Skylar Diggins leads Notre Dame to its first Final Four in a decade
Chris Masoud
Sports Writer

Swagger sets ND apart in Final Four

Notre Dame will face Connecticut in the NCAA tournament, as the two teams have the most storied programs in the country, but they have never met in the national championship game. The game will be played in Indianapolis, where the Lady Irish have played before, and where the Huskies have won the championship three times.

Auriemma's players may be the only ones left in the tournament who have experience in a national title. But McGraw's could be the only ones in the country who want it more.

Arimr"n's players may be the only ones left in the tournament who have experience in a national title. But McGraw's could be the only ones in the country who want it more.

For Irish, all roads lead to UConn

Irish coach Muffet McGraw takes a clip of the net after Notre Dame's 73-59 win over Tennessee Monday. The Irish will play Connecticut Sunday in the national semifinals.

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Muffet McGraw and Niele Ivey were all smiles Monday night, and the Irish brought their historic jig to Dayton, Ohio, Monday night after a 73-59 victory over the No. 4 Lady Vols.

The Irish haven't had the opportunity to perform that jig in the Final Four since 1995 when they won a non-superior tournament. That was just a tough first matchup, she said. "You have the pressure of being a top seed, you're supposed to win. Coming into the tournament we were not really at the top of our game. I think each game we took a little more in rhythm and I think we're just starting to really peak right now."

Novosel and Peters kept the tempo going against Temple in game two in Salt Lake City. Novosel put up 17 points while Peters earned her ninth career double-double, and then some. She came out with 17 points, 12 rebounds, three assists, two steals and two blocks.

But defensively we didn't win it all. The defense came out with 19 turnovers on the night and never allowed the Owls to get closer than within five points. Game three was a similar story, with the Irish taking control on both ends of the court. Then defeating No. 5 Oklahoma 78-53. Notre Dame is 4-0 in the last four years in the NCAA tournament, but the only drama coming out of this game was Brusweski exiting play early with a twisted knee — then returning, with a twisted knee.

Her fellow captain, Mallory, made up for the loss with a season-high 20 points, a strong recovery from the shooting slump she was suffering. Novosel chipped in 15, Peters 17 and 13 rebounds while Higgins had 12 assists.

The intensity continued against Tennessee, when Notre Dame snapped an 0-20 streak against the Lady Vols. Leading the Irish on Monday was Higgins. She finished with 24 points and 12 assists. McGraw showed by getting a technical foul for brushing off a Tennessee player with her body-slammed the baseline.

She showed up, and the Irish brought their historic jig to Dayton, Ohio, Monday night after a 73-59 victory over the No. 4 Lady Vols.

The Irish have gone beyond their 1995 championship season to end and no one else does either, so we're going to go as far as we can."

"I think it's a huge disadvantage to only have six players. I think the team has great chemistry," McGraw said. "Our championship team in 2001, we played six people. It's like playing with six hands of foul trouble, it's really not as much of a disadvantage as people may think."

Especially when Connecticut has the incredibly talented Maya Moore, a player Notre Dame has not been able to stop yet.

"I'm not sure that you can stop her. And definitely you can't do it with one person. She is just a phenomenal player," McGraw said. "She's incredibly difficult to guard. I don't think we've gone into any of the three games thinking we would hold her down."

But Brusweski agrees with her coach in another important aspect, that this team is just hitting its peak.

"There's no better time than the end of the season to reach your peak, and that's when you want to be playing your best basketball at the end."

The Irish will take on the Huskies for a fourth time, hoping that this one's the charm. Sunday at the Consco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis at 9:30 p.m. in the semifinals of the NCAA tournament.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@ saintmarys.edu
Getting to the point

Ivey lends experience to Skylar Diggins, Notre Dame as team prepares for national semifinals

By LAURA MYERS
Senior Sports Writer

It was 2001, and Notre Dame’s point guard had just scored 21 points to lead her team in a 90-75 victory over No. 1 Connecticut in the national semifinals.

Notre Dame’s future point guard, all of 16 years old, was rooting for her hometown team to win it all. Even then, Skylar Diggins admired Niele Ivey.

“She was awesome at distributing the ball to her teammates but she could also score,” Diggins said. “She just put herself in a position for her team to score, whether it was her shot or getting a shot for others.”

In her senior season, Ivey was a first-team all-Big East and a third-team All-America selection. She averaged 12.1 points and 6.9 assists per game.

She was a freshman when Notre Dame played in its first Final Four, in 1997. She started in its next Final Four. She graduated from Notre Dame a champion.

Now a new roster of Irish players, none more than Diggins, look to Ivey for guidance.

“They look at me and say, ‘She’s been where I want to go.’”

Niele Ivey
Irish assistant coach

It was 2007, and Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw had just called her championship point guard to offer her a position as an assistant coach.

Notre Dame’s future point guard was 16 years old and lighting up Indiana high school basketball.

“When Coach McGraw called me”, Diggins recalled, “my family there had to be a reason for me to come back here to the best place in the world for me,” Ivey said.

This reason was to help the team compete for national championships. And to recruit Skylar Diggins.

“I was trying to prep for my interview, and people told me ‘You need to get Skylar Ivey.’” Ivey said. “I had no experience at the assistant coaching level or as a recruiting coach.”

But the Washington High School superstar was more than receptive to Ivey as a potential coach.

“She called me all the time,” Ivey said. “We developed a relationship during the recruiting process. She’d come up to campus, we’d go out to eat. That relationship was a major factor in Diggins’ decision to join the Irish despite an offer from historical powerhouse Stanford.

“It made it more attractive to Skylar to know she’d be able to play and learn from Niele,” McGraw said.

It was 2009, and Notre Dame’s future point guard was beginning her college career. Notre Dame’s guards coach was there for every step of it.

Diggins played at the No. 2 guard position behind senior point guard Melissa Lechlitner, and adjusted to college life while becoming one of the most accomplished freshmen in Notre Dame history.

“She has been her mentor. I think she has done a fantastic job of helping her in every way,” McGraw said. “At practice, off the court watching film, just talking about leadership. She’s really, really been the guiding force for Skylar since she came on campus.”

Ivey and Diggins analyzed film nearly every day, and worked on adjusting the high school star to the college game. Diggins’ biggest improvement came in the weight room, Ivey said, as she worked to get stronger.

The results were remarkable: Diggins became a starter just five games into her career, and led the team in scoring (13.8 ppg), steals (2.6 spg) and assists (3.2 apg).

But the relationship extended beyond basketball.

When Ivey was at Notre Dame, then-assistant coach Coquese Washington served as her mentor in every aspect of campus life. Ivey has played the same role for Diggins.

“She’s basically like my daughter,” Ivey said. “I’m always worrying about her, about the court, about the classroom. We know each other inside and out. Whenever she is going through things she goes to me, and I’m happy to be there for her.”

It was 2010, and Notre Dame’s No. 2 guard had become Notre Dame’s point guard, with guidance from one who’d been there before.

“Ivey helped me through two transitions, the one from high school to college and the second from two-guard to point guard,” Diggins said.

When Diggins struggled to learn the details early in the season, Ivey was right there to teach her.

“You could tell in the first couple games she hadn’t gotten into her groove yet understanding how to run a team,” Ivey said. “And I think that’s where I came in. I’ve been a point guard my whole life, a pegging point guard.”

The two continued to watch film together nearly every day, picking apart Diggins’ games and Ivey’s games to mold and improve the new point guard.

They’ve watched Ivey’s 21-point performance against Connecticut on March 30, 2001, several times. The last time was before the Big East championship game.

“I think I’m going to have to return to that and see how they executed,” Diggins said.

Under Ivey’s guidance, Diggins has begun to play like the player she looked up to all those years before.

“People even say we have the same ponytail. We mimic each other a lot,” Ivey said. “The only difference is she’s left-handed and I’m right-handed.”

The complete transition was no more evident than in the regional round of the NCAA tournament. Diggins distributes the ball to her teammates, but she can also score.

Against Oklahoma Saturday, Diggins broke Notre Dame’s NCAA tournament record with 12 assists. Against Tennessee Monday, she scored 24 points. In doing so, she became the only sophomore in Notre Dame history to score more than 1,000 points in a season. Her total is now at 1,016.

“The desire to win, her competitiveness, we’re the same. We have the same passion.”

It’s 2011, and Notre Dame’s current point guard is ready to lead her team against No. 1 Connecticut in the national semifinals.

Notre Dame’s former point guard, 10 years removed from school, is rooting for her hometown team to win it all.

And Niele Ivey admires Skylar Diggins.

“Her mid-range game is something that’s developed as a sophomore. And that’s something I wish I’d had,” Ivey said. “She has it all.”

In her sophomore season, Skylar Diggins was a first-team all-Big East and a third team All-America selection. She averages 14.4 points and 4.8 assists per game.

She has just a bit further to go to imitate her role model, her “mom,” her coach, her friend.

“She’s helping me run this team like she ran it when they won the national championship.”

Skylar Diggins
Sophomore point guard

Assistant coach Niele Ivey and sophomore point guard Skylar Diggins have a discussion during Notre Dame’s 73-59 win over Tennessee Monday. Diggins scored 24 points in the game.
Record-breaking wins, deva

By LAURA MYERS
Senior Sports Writer

During the first game of Notre Dame’s season, the 2001 championship team presented the current squad with an auto-graphed basketball and told the team, “Now it’s your turn.”

This year’s captains, seniors Becca Bruszewski and Brittany Mallory, placed the ball in the team’s locker room, where it has stayed ever since.

At the time, it just seemed like a nice thing to say, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. But after an up-and-down season, the Irish are in the Final Four since the first time since that 2001 trip.

“It almost seems like fate,” McGraw said.

A look at the season that got them there.

The first half: Nov. 12, 2010 – Jan. 5, 2011

Notre Dame began play with a 99-48 win over New Hampshire, and ended the first half of its season with a 97-21 win over Southeast Missouri State in which it broke six school records.

In between, the team compiled a 13-3 record that included 11 games of 80+ points, and five wins by a margin of more than 50.

It also included three losses to ranked teams, starting with an 86-83 loss in double overtime to No. 15 UCLA and an 81-76 loss to No. 9 Kentucky three days later.

“After we lost to Kentucky, we were 2-2 on the season and I told the team that’s how the ‘97 Final Four started out,” McGraw said. “And we didn’t lose to ranked teams [in 1997], but we started out 2-2 and ended up 31-7.”

Four games later, Notre Dame traveled to Texas to play No. 1 Baylor and lost 76-65.

“We talked about how close we were to the No. 1 team on their home court,” McGraw said. “We tried to stay positive.”

The Irish then won seven straight games leading into conference play and won their first conference game against Marquette.

Notre Dame started the season uncertain about this year’s team after losing starting guards Lindsay Schrader, Melissa Lechlitner and Ashley Barlow, all of who had graduated with numerous conference and national honors. After finishing the 2009-10 season ranked No. 7, the Irish were No. 12 in the AP preseason poll.

Sophomore guard Skylar Diggins took over the point guard position previously held by Lechlitner, and senior guard Brittany Mallory, senior forward Devereaux Peters and junior guard Natalie Novosel became regular starters for the first time.

“We had our growing pains early, which is good for us,” Diggins said. “We were a young team. A lot of players didn’t start last year. A lot of people just coming in and getting in-game experience really helped them out.”

At the start of Big East play, the Irish were ranked No. 13. But a turning point came in early January, when McGraw said she realized her team could truly contend.

Connecticut: Jan. 8

At home against No. 2 Connecticut, the Irish led much of the game and lost by heartbreaking three points in the final 30 seconds of play.

“We saw how close we were playing with the number one team in the country,” she said. “We saw that a little bit at Baylor. … There were flashes of it early. But the Connecticut game was the biggest in terms of confidence boosting.”

In that game, Peters scored 17 points and had 13 rebounds, one of her 10 double-doubles this season. Diggins and Novosel scored 16 each, and the teams went into halftime tied at 41.

By the end of the second half, Connecticut had pulled ahead, 59-53, and it was evident that the Irish had to find a way to be more physical in order to compete with the Huskies.

“I thought all year they were one of the toughest teams in the country.”

– Oklahoma coach Sherri Coale

March 26

“It was a struggle,” Peters said. “It was a good test for us. We had to play Connecticut and we didn’t think we could lose.”

Peters and Braszewski were dominant. They really have a good team. I’m very impressed with them, and I think this is one of the best teams they’ve had in a long time.”

– St. John’s coach Kim Barnes Arico

Jan. 23

There is a reason that McGraw is in the Hall of Fame. There is a reason her teams always win, and there is a reason she has won a national championship. They don’t go away.”

– Baylor coach Kim Mulkey

Dec. 1

“More points in the paint, more points in transition, more bench points, more offensive rebounds. I mean, Notre Dame outplayed us in every way today.”

– Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma

Jan. 8

“They killed us on the inside. Peters and Bruszewski were dominant. They really have a good team. I’m very impressed with them, and I think this is one of the best teams they’ve had in a long time.”

– St. John’s coach Kim Barnes Arico

Jan. 23

“We showed tape, we practiced it for two days and it went completely out the window.”

– Seton Hall coach Anne Donovan

Feb. 8

Opposing coaches on the power of this season’s Irish

“Proceeds from this book help support Notre Dame’s sports teams, and the University’s Athletic Department.”

– New Hampshire coach Maureen Magarity

Nov. 12

“They really are just a tremendous team and it was an honor to play against them. I think they obviously have some huge goals ahead of them this season.”

– Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma

Jan. 8

“What they did last season was remarkable. They are just a dominant team. They really have a tremendous team and it was an honor to play against them.”

– Oklahoma coach Sherri Coale

March 26

“We saw that a little bit at Baylor. … There were flashes of it early. But the Connecticut game was the biggest in terms of confidence boosting.”

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– Seton Hall coach Anne Donovan

Feb. 8

Players chase after a loose ball during Notre Dame’s 76-73 loss to No. 2 Connecticut Jan. 8. Irish coach Muffet McGraw called the loss a “catalyst” for the rest of the season.
But Diggins missed a jumper at the end of the game, and Huskies guard Kelly Faris put Connecticut ahead.

Notre Dame wouldn’t lose again for over a month.

**Conference play: Jan. 12 – Feb. 28**

Notre Dame’s defense and post play were keys to a 14-2 conference record that included wins over ranked teams (No. 16 Georgetown, No. 23 St. John’s, No. 25 Syracuse and No. 19 West Virginia) and the program’s second-largest conference win ever, 89-38 over Seton Hall on Feb. 8.

On Jan 23, the Irish took another personnel hit when standout freshman guard Kayla McBride announced she would be leaving the team for personal reasons. At that point, McBride was averaging 8.7 points in 24 minutes per game.

“Her reasons are her own reasons,” said assistant coach Niele Ivey, who played point guard for the 2001 national championship team. “We’ve been up and down, but we knew we were going to lose our best basketball.”

Heading into the Big East tournament, the Irish had lost six games. All were to teams ranked in the top 15, and five were by a single-digit margin. At this point, Notre Dame was ranked No. 7.

“We’ve been up and down, down a lot within the team. The reason is injuries and losing two people, but we knew we had to come together,” Mallory said. “We knew it was going to happen. At some point, we knew we were going to play our best basketball.”

**The Big East tournament: March 6 - March 8**

The loss to DePaul gave Notre Dame the No. 3 seed in the Big East tournament, held in Hartford, Conn.

The Irish took care of Louisville 63-53 in the quarterfinals before a rematch with DePaul just a week after their first game. This time, it was Notre Dame pulling off the last-minute victory, defeating the Blue Demons 71-67 on the strength of Diggins’ 19 points.

The win sent Notre Dame to the Big East tournament championship for the first time in program history and to a match against Connecticut for the third time this season.

On a court that was anything but neutral, the Irish were down just one, 32-31, at halftime before ultimately falling 73-64.

In their first season as regulars, Novosel was named the Big East’s most improved player and Peters the Big East defensive player of the year.

Despite the loss, the tournament gave Notre Dame momentum that it took to the NCAA tournament, and still hasn’t ceded.

“It’s fun to see the growth and maturity since the beginning of the season,” McGraw said.

The loss to DePaul gave Notre Dame… your worst fears are going to come true because of how they play, how they get the ball from point A to point B, and what they do when they get in the lane and how aggressive they are.”

– Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma

**The Final Four, April 3-5**

The Irish will bring the automated basketball with them to Indianapolis for Notre Dame’s first final four appearance since that run, said assistant coach Niele Ivey, who played point guard for the 2001 national championship team.

“Ivey sided with Muffet, saying this season was beginning to look like “destiny.”

But after everything it has endured, Diggins said the team has a lot more than fortune on its side.

“As you can see this team is playing with a lot of energy and tenacity and relentless,“ Diggins said. “We all come out here with a lot of excitement knowing we have a chance to make history again and be like them.”

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

**What they said**

Opposing coaches on the power of this season’s Irish

“We turned the ball over 28 times and you can’t do that against a team like Notre Dame and expect to be in the ball game, which we weren’t in the end.”

– Cincinnati coach Jamelle Elliot

Feb. 26

“We got beat by one of the best teams in the country.”

– DePaul coach Doug Bruno

March 7

“We've been up and down, down a lot within the team. The reason is injuries and losing two people, but we knew we had to come together.”

– Assistant coach Niele Ivey

Feb. 26

“We've been up and down, down a lot within the team. The reason is injuries and losing two people, but we knew we had to come together.”

– Assistant coach Niele Ivey

Feb. 26

“That was our game plan, to not let them score in the paint. I don’t know what happened.”

– Temple coach Tonya Cardoza

March 22

“It becomes a battle of wills, and I thought that they just didn’t give ground. They really put their feet in the paint and said, ‘You’re not going to get all the way to the rim.’ They were very tough-minded in the paint.”

– Syracuse coach Quenten Hillsman

Feb. 1

“Across the board, they had great player movement, ball movement, intensity and sense of urgency. They got to a lot of loose balls and used the glass well. I am very impressed with this team.”

– Tennessee coach Pat Summitt

March 28
Notre Dame

Third Final Four adds to McGraw's legacy

By ANDREW OWENS

In 1987, when Notre Dame athletics director Gene Corrigan intro-duced Muffet McGraw as the head coach of the Irish, he told those in attendance that he would not find a better candidate even if he had uti-lized an additional year to find someone to lead the program.

Not even Corrigan could have imagined the depths the former Lehigh head coach would take the program to, and how McGraw pre-pared her team for its third Final Four appearance, with enshrine-ment into the Hall of Fame coming this summer. Not to mention her most sparkling achievement: transform-ing the Irish into one of the sport's biggest powerhouses.

Ten years ago, the Irish were playing in their second Final Four appearance under McGraw and were able to average a loss in the Big East championship game to Connecticut with a 90-75 victory over the Huskies in the national semi-finals. A decade later, McGraw once again finds herself in Connecticut between her squad and an appear-ance in the national title game.

“We weren’t really thinking about [the possibility of the Final Four] too much,” McGraw said. “We had our reunion in the fall, they presented me with a basketball and said ‘We won one, now it’s your turn.’”

During McGraw’s 2001 team did not have the advantage of playing in their home court.

McGraw, now in her 29th season as a collegiate head coach, has often hard to deal with adversity and obstacles, with this year being no different. Earlier this season, two key contributors left the team for personal reasons — junior forward Erica Solomon and freshman guard Kayla McBride. Overcoming the two departures, injuries to Bruszewski at critical times and the uncertain health status of senior forward Devereaux Peters heading into the season, McGraw has pulled off one of the most impressive performance- In her illustrious career.

“She’s been unbelievable,” senior guard Brittany Mallory said. “She’s led us from losing people from injuries. She’s got a great mindset, and she’s here before she’s. She just kind of getting us ready for everything.”

When the Irish take the court Sunday night, McGraw will off one of the best coaching staffs in the country sitting next to her — one that includes assistant coach Niele-Ivey, who starred on the 2001 championship squad.

“I think I’ve been fortunate to have great coaches with me,” McGraw said. “We’ve had great assistant coaches over the years. The coaches are extremely competi-tive. We want to win and we hate to lose.”

This season’s Final Four squad will have one advantage that McGraw’s 2001 team did not have — the advantage of playing in their home state. McGraw, however, does not think the close proximity will play much of a role in Sunday’s matchup.

“We do get to go on a bus instead of a plane which is kind of nice but other than that we’re going to be staying in a hotel in a different city,” she said.

With two more wins this season, McGraw can reach the pinnacle of college basketball by adding an NCAA championship to her resume.

“It’s rewarding [to reach the Final Four],” McGraw said. “I think I’ve been fortunate to have great coaches with me.”

She’s the woman with the answers, Irish senior forward Becca Bruszewski is the team’s main voice, though she has to look to keep intensity high during the tough contest.

Senior guard Brittany Mallory and senior forward Devereaux Peters keep Notre Dame in close games with their all-out defense.

How they win:

Notre Dame is on a wave of momentum that has grown with each game of the NCAA tournament, and are playing their best basketball of the season. These factors could tip a game in Notre Dame’s favor.

How they lose:

Several team members have been playing through injuries throughout the tournament. Notre Dame needs every member of its lineup, no matter how small, to contribute to their serious challenge to Connecticut.

CONNECTICUT

Auriemma builds UConn program in success

By ANDREW GASTELUM

771 wins, seven national championships, 12 Final Fours. And Geno Auriemma still has a full head of hair.

The Connecticut coach probably doesn’t remember what it is like to lose, having to go back all the way to the 1992-93 season to find the last time that his Huskies team posted double digits in the losing column. In fact, the coach has only had one losing season in his career — the 1985-1986 season, when the Huskies went 12-15 in the program’s first year of existence.

Meanwhile, the Connecticut coach has established himself comfortably at the top of his profession, with a conference with 17 Big East tournament championships, including a stretch from 1993-2002 during which Connecticut (36-1) won nine consecu-tive titles. Auriemma earned his 10th Big East coach of the year honor this year, after leading the Huskies to a 31-2 record in 2011.

“This is a great coach,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “He’s a great coach on the defensive end. I don’t think he gets enough credit on defense. … Over the past 23 seasons, I don’t think there’s been a better coach in the country.”

In addition to his regular-season prowess, Auriemma has been to the NCAA tourna-ment in each of the past 23 seasons. Even more impres-sive is that he has led the Huskies to the Sweet 16 or beyond in his past 19 March Madness trips.

And with Tuesday’s 75-40 pounding of No. 2 seed Duke, Auriemma advanced to his fourth straight Final Four — all with four-time first team All-American senior guard Maya Moore, who went for 28 points against the Blue Devils.

But the coach’s biggest accomplishment came in a typical 31-point UConn win over No. 21 that night, the Auriemmas-led Huskies won their 89th consecutive game, dating back to the 2007-2008 season. The mark topped the 88-game winning streak of the leg-endary John Wooden and UCLA compiled from 1971-1974. When asked how he felt during that time, the Connecticut coach answered with sharp disap-proval.

“No, this is not the same as the Wooden era.”

With another visit to the Final Four, it comes as no sur-prise that Auriemma is setting his sights on an eighth national- al championship, understand-ing the tough task at hand.

With the three teams that are there, you can make a case for all three of them to be there. There is not one of those teams that you can take away and say that and-so-and-so should be there,” he said Wednesday. “This is probably the most unique Final Four in the history of college basketball. There are a lot of similarities between these teams. They each have different styles of play, different personal-ity types, sizes and speeds. There are a little bit of every-thing and it is going to be a true test for whoever can win those two games. They are going to have to adjust to a variety of things and that is what the best coaches do.”

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastel01@nd.edu
Texas A&M

Aggies haven’t been there, but plan to act like it

No. 2 Texas A&M Aggies

Record: 31-5

Path to the Final Four:
64: 87-47 over McNeese State
32: 70-48 over Rutgers
16: 82-56 over Stanford
8: 58-46 over Baylor

Key players:
Senior forward/center Danielle Adams is critical to her team's defensive and offensive efforts. She averages 3 points per game nearly twice as many as any other teammate. She also leads her team with 8.6 rebounds and 1.33 blocks per game.

How they win:
If it’s possible for a two-seed to be a wildcard, the Aggies are that. Compared to the other three teams remaining, the Aggies are an unknown in this tournament, which means opponents probably aren’t familiar with their style of play. This could work as an advantage.

How they lose:
The Aggies have never played in the Final Four and could easily succumb to the pressure of competing against a historically successful program for a championship.

Stanford

Ogwumike sisters lead strong Cardinal team to Indy

By CHRIS MASOUUD
Sports Writer

Connecticut and Tennessee may have combined to win 11 of the last 15 national championships, but Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer has built a powerhouse on the West Coast. Under VanDerveer, the Cardinal have won 19 consecutive PAC-10 titles and two NCAA championships.

"Tara VanDerveer is one of the icons in women's basketball. She's one of the elite coaches." - Muffett McGraw, Irish coach

No. 1-seed Stanford Cardinal

Taking advantage of its eighth NCAA tournament appearance, No. 2-seed Texas A&M stepped up in the clutch Tuesday, as it defeated top-seeded Baylor for the first time in four tries this season and secured a ticket to its first-ever Final Four in Indianapolis.

The Aggies (31-5) — which lost twice in the regular season and once in the conference tournament to fellow Big 12 power Baylor (34-3) — knew all along that they were capable of beating the Bears. Aggies coach Gary Blair admitted in a press conference call Wednesday that his team was simply unable to close out tight games.

"We won all three games, we were leading in all three games. I was the 37-minute coach," Blair said. "I just didn't coach well in the last three minutes, and our kids didn’t make good decisions, and Baylor did. They deserved to win all three games.

The Aggies approached their fourth and final matchup against Baylor with a different intensity.

"We played the socks off of them, and they knew it," Blair said. "I think that's one of the reasons why they didn’t want to try that fourth time against us, and I think it bothered Baylor more playing us for four than it did playing Baylor." Blair said he enjoyed the win against Baylor, but he has even higher expectations for his team. In the final minutes of the regional final, Blair called a timeout to remind his team how to celebrate appropriately.

"I wanted our kids to realize, when we win this thing, we don't dog on the floor. Okay? Act like you’ve been there before. Give respect to Baylor, because they’ve been to Final Fours," Blair said.

"I said we’ll have time to celebrate later. But why do you want to ruin your best celebration on just getting to the Final Four? If we can get to the Final Four and win the whole thing, I’ll be on the top of that dog pile.

The Aggies have been pretty consistent all season, minus a couple bumps in the road. Falling to Duke in just their seventh game of the season, the Aggies bounced back and went on a 12-game winning streak. Aside from the early loss, Duke and the three tough losses against Baylor, only Kansas State was able to put a black mark on Texas A&M’s record.

Led by the region’s most outstanding player in junior guard Sydney Carter, the Aggies have accomplished… for Stanford, what this senior class has accomplished… and we’re feeling good about it," VanDerveer said. "Tara’s a great coach. She’s one of the elite coaches, and her teams have been very successful over the years."

The respect is mutual. VanDerveer credited Notre Dame for taking down the No. 1-seed Tennessee in the regional finals Monday in Dayton, Ohio. The No. 1 seed Cardinal took down No. 11 seed Gonzaga in a convincing…

"It's a national title game," VanDerveer said. "I think Gonzaga shows there's more than just a couple teams that can play basketball. There are more than a couple players too.

Stanford will face Texas A&M Sunday with a trip to its third national title game in four years on the line.

Stanford forward Nneka Ogwumike averages 17 points per game and leads a big Cardinal team that is tough in the paint.

Senior guard Jeanette Pohlen is the outside complement to Ogwumike. She shoots 3-pointers with 41.2 percent accuracy and has made 93% of them on the season.

How they win:
The Cardinal are deep and experienced, and are the only team that has beaten Connecticut this season. Since then, they’ve only grown.

How they lose:
Though they did defeat Connecticut, the Cardinal struggled early this season with losses to physical teams like DePaul and Connecticut. The Pac-10 is not known for that type of play, and Stanford could struggle against a peaking Big East team.

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

Texas A&M players celebrate Eight win over Baylor Tuesday.

No. 3 Stanford Cardinal

Record: 33-2

Path to the Final Four:
64: 86-59 over UC Davis Thursday, March 10
16: 72-65 over North Carolina
8: 64-55 over Gonzaga

Key players:
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contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

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Left: Sophomore guard Fraderica Miller dribbles during Notre Dame’s 67-54 win over Utah in the round of 64 on March 19.

Below: Junior guard Natalie Novosel evades a Temple defender during Notre Dame’s 77-64 victory over Temple in the round of 32 on March 21.

Above: Novosel drives to the basket during Notre Dame’s 78-53 victory over Oklahoma in the Sweet 16 Saturday, which sent the Irish to their first Elite Eight since 2001.

Center: The Irish celebrate winning the Dayton Region after their defeat of Tennessee Monday night.

Left: Senior forward Devereaux Peters grabs a rebound during Notre Dame’s 73-59 win over Tennessee Monday, the first victory over the Volunteers in program history.