ND, South Bend to begin taxi reforms

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

Early morning cab rides back from Club Fever will soon be safer for students thanks to reforms to South Bend taxi services planned by Notre Dame’s student government and the South Bend Common Council.

The changes are intended to reduce the number of unlicensed cabs operating in South Bend, improve taxi safety for passengers and prevent drivers from price-gouging customers, the most common offense, South Bend assistant city attorney Ann-Carol Nash said.

“Specific reforms addressing these concerns include prohibiting smoking in all vehicles, requiring a receipt for each passenger, publicizing standards for passing inspection, raising the fine for operating an unlicensed cab and requiring placards inside taxis that list the driver’s name, the fares and a phone number for complaints,” Nash said.

“They provide an essential service for many students who lack transportation for otherwise getting to and from various places, whether meeting up with friends, going to parties or going out with friends, going to parties or going into the workforce to find a job.” Bergstrand said. “The risks of parents losing jobs is heightened by the situation, and longer term, it means that there are prospects for our juniors and seniors heading out into the workforce to find a job.”

“As the job market reels, the country’s unemployment rate reflects the turbulent economy,” Bergstrand said. “At this moment, we have a very low level of output relative to our potential, which is revealed by an abnormally high unemployment rate of nine percent.” Bergstrand said. “The United States of America’s normal unemployment rate usually is at five percent.”

RecSports offers free fitness classes

Class members work out as part of a Turbo Kick fitness class Wednesday during “Try It, You’ll Like It” week, sponsored by RecSports.

By EMMA RUSS
News Writer

With a determined look on her face, junior Eileen Quandt thrust her leg in the middle of a Turbo Kick class hosted in Rockne Memorial Gym on Wednesday afternoon.

Quandt and the other members of the class not only got a good workout, but also burned their calories for free.

The Turbo Kick class was part of the “Try It, You’ll Like It” promotion RecSports is offering this week, which allows students to try all campus exercise classes free of charge, Kristen Malmstrom, RecSports fit-
QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BUILDING ON CAMPUS?

Students enter to win free pizza for their dorm Wednesday at the Campus Ministry Open House in the Coleman-Morse Center. The event showcased Campus Ministry opportunities available for students.

IN BRIEF

Former University President Edward A. Malloy will launch his newest book, Monk’s Tale: Way Stations on the Journey, today from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Hammes Student Lounge in the Coleman Morse Center. FIDES, which means “faith” in Latin, is an intense program of faith immersion for freshmen.

The Woody Allen film titled “Midnight in Paris” will be shown in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center tonight at 6:30 p.m. The cost is $3 for students.

The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival’s Mainstage Production of “The Merchant of Venice” will take place at the DeGolyer Mainstage Theatre in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center tonight at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $12 for students and can be purchased at http://performingarts.nd.edu.

The Class of 2015’s first trip to the Basilica and the Grotto will occur tonight at 9 p.m. Freshmen will meet in their residence halls and travel together.

The documentary titled “Cave of Forgotten Dreams” will be shown in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 9:30 p.m. The cost is $5 for students.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, email detailed information about an event to obsnews.nd@gmail.com.
Philosophy club approved for new school year

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

Members of the Undergraduate Philosophy Club, new this semester, will have a venue to engage outside the classroom with the work of Albert Camus, Friedrich Nietzsche and other philosophy experts.

Senior Katie Finley, club president, said before the Student Activities Office (SAO) approved the club in the spring, Notre Dame’s strong philosophy department lacked a corresponding student organization.

“Looking at other schools that have reputable philosophy programs like Notre Dame, all the rest had undergraduate philosophy clubs,” Finley said. “Notre Dame was the only one of its caliber that didn’t have a philosophy club.”

Junior and club treasurer Cameron Cortens said the organization allows philosophy majors to sharpen skills that apply to their academic goals and enables non-philosophy majors to pursue questions they do not encounter in class.

“Philosophy Club’s main purpose is to provide an informal atmosphere outside of classrooms and grades for Notre Dame students with an interest in philosophy to come together, share ideas, challenge themselves and one another intellectually on their positions and worldviews, and hopefully arrive at some fruitful discoveries in the realm of truth,” Cortens said.

The club consists of students studying philosophy as well as students studying other disciplines, according to Finley. “We have a lot of people who aren’t philosophy majors,” Finley said. “It’s just kind of a good way to get an opportunity to talk, especially because they don’t get that opportunity in their classes a lot of time.”

Finley said the club would meet once a week to discuss various philosophical writings. “We’re going to send out a short article ahead of time that isn’t too dry and academic, and then we’re going to discuss it,” Finley said.

Finley said she plans to host monthly movie events at which attendees can watch a relevant film and discuss the philosophical ideas it raises. Cortens said the Undergraduate Philosophy Club will screen “Fight Club” in September, but the exact date has not yet been determined.

The club will also have dining hall dinners with philosophy graduate students and professors to learn about their research, Finley said. She also said she hopes to organize a spring conference at which a University professor or an outside speaker will address club members. Last year, Finley said the club met as an unofficial group with between 10 and 15 members at each gathering.

“We’re hoping to get a lot more members now that we can advertise because we’re official,” Finley said.

The club plans to integrate philosophy lovers of all levels of study, Finley said. “We hope to make more of a connection between undergraduate students and graduate students and faculty members, especially for undergraduates that are hoping to go into graduate school for philosophy,” Finley said. “[Another goal is] also to get more people interested in majoring in philosophy, just to show them what studying philosophy is actually like outside the freshmen intro classes.”

Senior Dylan Belton, club vice president, said the club would have fun events in addition to the more serious ones so that members can get to know each other. “Philosophical discussions become more and more fruitful as the partakers grow in friendship and mutual respect for others involved in the discussion.” Belton said.

Senior Chelsea King, club vice president, emphasized the impact the club has already had on her experience at Notre Dame.

“As a transfer student, it has really proved to be a great place for me to meet many incredible individuals who all share a common passion in discussing very deep and profound questions about life,” she said. “I have made many friends since my time in the club.”

Contact Marisa Iati at miati@nd.edu

Interested in contributing to The Observer?

Just curious how we function?

Think you can do better?

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BASEMENT OF SOUTH DINING HALL
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Limited-time offer. Subject to wireless customer agreement. Credit approval required. Actives fee ($3.99/mo). Coverage & caps, including mobile broadband, not available everywhere. Geographic, usage & other conditions & restrictions that may result in svc termination apply. Taxes & other charges apply. Plans & equip may be new, used, or refurbished. Offers may not be available in all areas. See store or visit att.com for details and coverage map. Early Termination Fee ($185) may be required during first 30 days. Bad or STS introducing fee may apply after 30 days, $10 up to 315, depending on device & length of contract ($181). Subject to change. Appts may require paid fees. Regulatory Cost Recovery Charge $2.99 to $3.29/mo., logistics to help defray costs of connecting with certain networks & services on AT&T, is not a tax or gratuity (E911). Other Devices fee. Plans price: with 1-year agreement the lowest & minimum $129.79, data plan required at $59.99. Smartphone Data Plan Requirement. See store or visit att.com for details. Actual battery Guarantee and battery life varies. Data usage fees $15 automatically billed for each additional GB/month. Additional GBs provided if needed. $10/month is additional. All data including messaging, must be used in the U.S. or roam. For more details on data plans, go to att.com/dataplans. Sales tax calculated based on price of unlocked equipment. All new changes are intended. Facebook is a trademark of Facebook, Inc. ©2011 AT&T Intellectual Property. Service provided by AT&T Mobility. All rights reserved. AT&T and the AT&T logo are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.
FALL CAREER EXPO 2011

Thursday, September 8
4:00 - 8:00 pm
Joyce Center Fieldhouse

How to Prepare for the Career Expo

1. Compose a Resume that Markets You
   - Visit The Career Center Monday – Friday from 1:00 to 4:45 pm for a 15-minute resume review or check out times and dates for resume reviews held around campus at http://careercenter.nd.edu.

2. Prepare, Prepare, Prepare
   - Attend a “Prepare for the Career Expo” workshop
   - Determine your objectives for attending
   - Review the list of companies attending the Expo and position descriptions on Go IRISH
   - Visit company websites and review mission statements, annual reports, and products or services
   - Develop and refine networking skills
   - Develop your “Thirty Second Message”
   - Hello, I’m... [introduce yourself, your year and major, and interest in industry/career field]
   - Your company is... [demonstrate knowledge of company]
   - I’m interested because... [explain your interest in company]
   - I can... [match your skills with their needs]

3. At the Expo
   - Dress in business attire and bring several copies of your resume in a portfolio
   - Review the map of employer booths and take a bag for “giveways”
   - Be proactive by approaching employers
   - Speak with both young alums and experienced representatives
   - Demonstrate confidence and enthusiasm in delivering your “Thirty Second Message”
   - If they are interviewing the next day, ask the representative how to sign up for an interview (i.e. “After reviewing your company information and the position, I am interested in speaking with you further. How can I obtain a slot on your interview schedule at The Career Center?”)
   - Obtain the representative’s business card

4. Following the Expo
   - Send an email thank-you to the recruiters with companies of interest within 3 days of the Expo
   - If you obtain an interview:
     - Prepare by researching the company, industry, competitors, and the job or internship description on Go IRISH
     - Review The Career Center’s Interview Guide and practice sample interview questions
     - View The Career Center’s interview preparation workshop video on the home page of the website: http://careercenter.nd.edu

Career Fair Preparation

Workshops
International Students:
Monday, Aug. 29: 4:00pm in G20 Flanner Hall

Engineering Majors:
Tuesday, Aug. 30: 5:00pm in 216 DeBartolo
Monday, Sept. 5: 6:00pm in 216 DeBartolo

Fall Career Expo Boot Camp - All Majors:
Sunday, Sept. 4: 4:00pm in 114 Flanner Hall

Arts and Letters Majors:
Wednesday, Sept. 7: 7:00pm in 114 Flanner Hall

Resume Reviews
Arts and Letters Majors:
Monday, Aug. 29: 2-5pm, Waddick’s O’Shag
Thursday, Sept. 1: 2-5pm, Waddick’s O’Shag
Monday, Sept. 5: 2-5pm, Waddick’s O’Shag

Science Majors:
Monday, Aug. 29: 2-5pm, 219 Jordan
Monday, Sept. 5: 2-5pm in 219 Jordan

Engineering Majors:
Tuesday, Aug. 30: 2-5pm in 217 Cushing
Friday, Sept. 2: 9am-12pm and 2-5 pm, 217 Cushing
Monday, Sept. 5: 2-5pm in 217 Cushing
Tuesday, Sept. 6: 2-5pm in 217 Cushing

Business Majors*:
Thursday, Sept. 1: 1:30-4:30pm, 102 Mendoza
Friday, Sept. 2: 9am-12pm and 1:30-4:30pm, 102 Mendoza
Monday, Sept. 5: 1:30-4:30pm, 102 Mendoza

* To reserve a spot for the Mendoza resume reviews, call The Career Center. All other majors can sign-up on the sheets posted outside the resume review locations.

Utilize Go IRISH to Find Out More About the Companies, Industries, and Positions

To view all companies attending the Fall Career Expo:
1. Login to Go IRISH
2. Click on Events Tab
3. Click on Notre Dame 2011 Fall Career Expo to view participating employers and general posting information

To view job postings:
1. Login to Go IRISH
2. Click on “Jobs/Internships” and select Go IRISH Jobs
3. In the “Keywords” search, enter FCEL

Conduct Company and Industry Research

The Vault Online Career Library
https://careercenter.nd.edu/for-undergrads/library/
- Contains insider company information, advice, and career, industry, and employer guides and articles

Google News
http://news.google.com/
- Up-to-date information on companies

Company Websites
- Review mission statements, annual reports, and products or services

Go IRISH
- Login to Go IRISH for additional online resources

careercenter.nd.edu | (574) 631-5200 | ndcps@nd.edu
Fitness

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ness coordinator, said. “The free classes allow participants to try different class formats and instructors before making a commitment. They may also find one facility or a time more convenient,” Malmstrom said.

Quandt said the trial week is useful for students looking for a RecSports class to take during the semester. “The free trial sessions are really helpful,” she said. “I probably wouldn’t make the commitment without trying the class first.”

During the regular year, students and faculty can participate in RecSports classes for a small fee.

Junior Emily De Aranjo took two classes last year, Crunch Time and Zumba, and plans to sign up for the Turbo Kick class this fall. “It’s a great way to do it,” she said.

During the trial week, Malmstrom said some of the most popular classes in recent years include Zumba, Yoga, Pilates and Cardio Box. RecSports will also introduce a number of new classes this year, including Power Strength, Turbo Kick and SatAway, a class that takes place on away-game Saturdays and involves a number of upbeat activities.


In addition, RecSports will offer several new yoga classes this fall, including Yoga Basic and Yoga Challenge.

“The Yoga Challenge is geared toward individuals who have previous experience in yoga. Another new, unique class is Prayerful Postures Yoga on Sundays,” Malmstrom said.

Even though the “Try It, You’ll Like It” classes are free, the number of participants in the cost-free week is typically lower than the number of people who sign up for the actual classes, Malmstrom said. “In the 2011-12 year, we had 2,200 people participate in the free classes and over 6,300 registered for the regular fitness schedule,” she said.

Junior Aurora Kareh said that of the people who do sign up for the classes, she has noticed girls make up the majority. “There are never guys in the fitness classes,” she said. “If guys are looking to meet some girls, fitness classes are a great way to do it,” Malmstrom said.

“They are really helpful,” she said. “If guys are looking to meet some girls, fitness classes are a great way to do it,” Malmstrom said.

For more information on RecSports classes, contact Emma Russ at cruz@nd.edu.

College begins year with mass

By CAILTIN HOUSLEY Saint Mary’s Edsor

When Saint Mary’s President Carol Ann Mooney addressed the crowd at the College’s Opening Mass on Wednesday morning, she stressed the importance of educating both the mind and the heart.

“This is a community in which I see ample evidence of the presence of grace, and of the human capacity to accept that grace and pass it on in love,” Mooney said.

“Having the will to serve, the heart to serve, is wonderful. But without the skills to do so, we are of limited help,” Malmstrom said.

Nearly 700 students, faculty and staff congregated in O’Laughlin Auditorium during the Mass.

To truly answer the call of the Saint Mary’s mission, Mooney said, “we must also make full use of our talents … Whatever our educational or professional paths may be, we must develop the necessary competencies to meet the needs of our neighbor, our community and our world.”

Mooney said events like the Dance Marathon, the 12 Days of Christmas project and Rebuilding Together are all signs that Saint Mary’s women possess those talents.

“We are privileged to be their guides,” Malmstrom said.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chous01@stmarys.edu

CONFIRMATION

Are you interested in learning more about being Confirmed here at the University of Notre Dame?

Information Sessions:

Sunday, August 28, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 29, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 4, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
330 Coleman-Morse Center

Contact: John or Sylvia Dillon 574-631-7163

Follow us on Twitter

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Jobs
continued from page 1

Aid, could struggle to meet previous standards.

"In the current scenario, one of the largest concerns with the stock market down is the endowment for the University," McCormick said. "I think that correlates with the South Bend Common Council and representatives from Notre Dame student government. Some of the proposed reforms were abandoned, including requiring cameras in all taxis by 2013 and requiring that every vehicle used by a particular company display a uniform color and design.

"I will go into detail to have some kind of identifying information on the vehicle," Nash said. The proposed reforms are the projects of many years of work, McCormick said, and student government and the South Bend Common Council are still open to hearing students’ concerns.

"They’re still undergoing an implementation phase," he said. "Many reforms will take effect in 2013. Because of that, there is an opportunity to continue to provide input."

Social media and improved communication will also be a part of the Gans-Zupanic administration. "Also, we plan to open forums and communication by email, Facebook, Twitter and our website." Gans said she and her vice president are excited to work with the other members of SGA, in addition to the finer perks of the job.

"We’ll get free t-shirts and our own desks," she said.

Contact Kristen Rice at krice01@saintmarys.edu

Hurricane Irene alarms tourists on East Coast

Associated Press

HATTERAS — Hurricane Irene could hit anywhere from North Carolina to New York this week-end, leaving officials in the path of uncertainty to make a delicate decision. Should they tell tourists to leave during one of the last weeks of the multimillion-dollar summer season?

Most were in a wait-and-see mode, holding out to get every dime before the storm’s path crystalizes. North Carolina’s gov¬ernor told reporters not to scare people away.

"You will never endanger your tourists, but you also don’t want to over inflate the sense of urgency about the storm. And so let’s just hang on," North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue said Wednesday. At the same time she warned to "prepare for the worst."

In the Bahamas, tourists cut their vacations short and caught the last flights out before the airport was closed. Those who remained behind with locals pre¬pared for a rough night of violent winds and a dangerous storm surge that threatened to punish the low-lying chain of islands.

Irene has already hit Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, causing landslides and flooding homes. One woman was killed.

No warnings or watches were out late Wednesday in North Carolina though they were likely on Thursday. But on its Outer Banks, someistricts issued evacuation orders for a tiny bar¬rier island as Irene strengthened to a Category 3 storm, with winds of 120 mph.

By Thursday, that could inten¬sify to a monstrous Category 4 hurricane with winds starting at 131 mph.

We jam-packed as much fun as we could into the remainder of Tuesday," said Jessica Stanton Tice of Charleston, W.Va. She left Ocracoke Island on an early-morning ferry with her husband and toddler.

"We’re still going to give North Carolina our vacation business, but we’re going to Asheville" in the mountains.

Officials said Irene could cause flooding, power outages or worse as far north as Maine, even if the eye of the storm stays offshore. Hurricane-force winds were expected 50 miles from the center of the storm.
Class of 2015

First Visit to the Basilica and the Grotto

Processing from your residence halls, join your classmates at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart as you begin your years at Our Lady’s University.

Sacred music provided by the Notre Dame Folk Choir and the Notre Dame Glee Club.

Thursday, August 25, 2011
9:00PM
Begins at the Basilica and concludes at the Grotto
Earthquake rocks capital

WASHINGTON — There was a crack in the Washington Monument, and capstones were broken at the National Cathedral. In the District of Columbia suburbs, some people stayed in shelters because of structural concerns at their apartment buildings.

A day after the East Coast’s strongest earthquake in 67 years, inspectors assessed the damage and found that most problems were minor. But the shaking raised questions about whether this part of the country, with its older architecture and inexperience with seismic activity, is prepared for a truly powerful quake.

The 5.8 magnitude quake felt from Georgia north to Canada prompted swift inspections of many structures Wednesday, including bridges and nuclear plants. An accurate damage estimate could take weeks, if not longer. And many people will not be covered by insurance.

In a small Virginia city near the epicenter, the entire downtown business district was closed. School was canceled for two weeks to give engineers time to check out cracks in several buildings.

At the 555-foot Washington Monument, crews found a 4-inch crack late Tuesday in the monument’s pyramidium — the section at the top of the obelisk where it begins to narrow to a point. The damage was discovered during a visual inspection by helicopter. It cannot be seen from the ground.

The monument, by far the tallest structure in the nation’s capital, was to remain closed indefinitely. It has never been damaged by a natural disaster, including earthquakes in Virginia in 1897 and New York in 1944, said Bill Line, a National Park Service spokesman.

Tourists arrived at the monument Wednesday morning only to find out they couldn’t get near it. A temporary fence was erected in a wide circle about 120 feet from the flags that surround its base. Walkways were blocked by metal barriers manned by security guards.

“Is it really closed?” a man asked the clerk at the site’s bookstore.

“Really closed,” said the clerk, Erin Nolan.

Steve Jobs resigns as Apple CEO

SAN FRANCISCO — Steve Jobs, the mind behind the iPhone, iPad and other devices that turned Apple Inc. into one of the world’s most powerful companies, resigned as the company’s CEO on Wednesday, saying he can no longer handle the job.

The move appears to be the result of an unspecified medical condition for which he took an indefinite leave from his post in January. Apple’s chief operating officer, Tim Cook, has been named CEO.

In a letter addressed to Apple’s board and the “Apple community,” Jobs said he “always said if there ever came a day when I could no longer meet my duties and expectations as Apple’s CEO, I would be the first to let you know. Unfortunately, that day has come.”

Jobs’ health has long been a concern for Apple investors who see him as an industry oracle who seems to know what consumers want long before they do. After his announcement, Apple stock quickly fell 5.4 percent in after-hours trading.

The company said Jobs gave the board his resignation Wednesday and suggested Cook be named the company’s new leader. Apple said Jobs was elected board chairman and Cook is becoming a member of its board.

Jobs’ hits seemed to grow bigger as the years went on. After the colorful iMac computer and the now-ubiquitous iPod, the iPhone redefined the category of smart phones and the iPad all but created the market for tablet computers.

His own aura seemed part of the attraction. On stage at trade shows and company events in his uniform of jeans, sneakers and black mock-turtlenecks, he’d introduce audiences with new devices, new colors, new software features, building up to a gran finale he’d predictably preface by saying, “One more thing.”

Jobs, 56, shepherded Apple from a two-man startup to Silicon Valley darling when the Apple II, the first computer for regular people to really catch on, sent IBM Corp. and others scrambling to get their own PCs to market.

After Apple suffered slump in the mid-1980s, he was forced out of the company. He was CEO at Next, another computer company, and Pixar, the computer-animation company that produced “Toy Story” on his watch, before returning.

The January leave was Jobs’ third medical leave over several years. He had previously survived pancreatic cancer and received a liver transplant.

Congratulations Edward A. “Monk” Malloy, c.s.c.
on the publication of the second volume of your memoir

MONK’S ALE
Way Stations on the Journey

Book Launch & Signing

Thursday, August 25, 2011
4:00 PM — 5:30 PM
Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore

“... a moving story of Monk’s personal growth from priest and professor to president of Notre Dame. ... It’s a story that makes you proud to be a Catholic.”

—JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR.,
National Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University

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Includes 20 halftones

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Inside Column

You know that old motivational speech where the coach tells you not to let your teammates down by not showing up to a game and steal your momma’s television? Well, what happens when you can’t get into the house because you lost your keys?

Just ask the NFL, the NBA, Spain’s La Liga, Serie A. Or maybe you just shouldn’t, because coaches aren’t allowed to talk to players during a lockout.

It is a bewildering state of circumstances that four of some of the world’s greatest leagues turned over the chairs and shut off the lights at some point this summer. Even more bewildering is the thought of what we would be doing if seasons weren’t actually cancelled.

Where would our country be if the NFL went into a lockout? Probably a depression. A battle of billionaires vs. millionaires took over hundreds of days to get resolved but no one was really worried — a $9 billion-per-year industry isn’t just going to fold for that kind of money on the line.

But what if it did? Would we walk out of Mass at the Basilica on a Sunday morning and go straight to the Stadium to watch the Michigan State game? College football undoubtedly would have benefitted from the “unfortunate” loss of their weekend brethren, probably enough to churn out a few extra prayers from athletic directors across the country.

Speaking of prayers, one can only imagine what Turkish and Chinese basketball team directors are doing right now. All we know is that the Turkish league all-star game is going to be pretty wild this year with Deron Williams, Kobe Bryant and Sasha Vujacic (does Maria even like Turkeys?).

But if you think the situation would have been bad here, think about Spain and Italy’s current predicament. Their beloved soccer leagues doused in history (and surely lots of garlic) are on life support everywhere.

The likes of Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Zlatan Ibrahimovic are certainly outside of team headquarters — this instant — in the cold and rainy Basque country picking and picketing with signs over the mere millions that they are barely getting by on.

If you think that would have been bad here if the NFL season was in true jeopardy, how do you think the Spaniards and Italians are feeling, where soccer is their first, second and third favorite sport to watch and a close tie for fourth with Formula One racing and basketball? That’s true desperation over issues where they can’t even change the channel to watch their favorite sons and NBA stars Ricky Rubio and Danilo Gallinari play ironically because of — say it with me — a lockout.

And what are we supposed to do if basketball season makes like a tree? Obviously the answer is watch more football, but after football season is over and the dreary winter months pick up, the only alternatives are to watch more hockey or study more. Looks like our GPAs will be going up.

The views expressed in this Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Andrew Gastelum can be reached at agastel1@nd.edu

Quote of the Day

“Neopessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars or sailed an uncharted land in the doorway for the human spirit.”

Helen Keller

U.S. blind & deaf educator

Submit a letter to the editor at ndsmcobserver.com

“I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE PEACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS”

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Currently we are more than halfway through Ramadan. As Muslims, we never want such a time to end, for there is greater opportunity during which one can grow closer to Allah and gain good deeds.

This is done through much frequenter prayer, Qur’an recitation, charity (zakah), and fasting. "The best way to understand what a person is to step in their shoes." This is first and foremost to exercise self-restraint and demonstrate discipline so that Muslims become more righteous, there’s also a second reason for the month of Ramadan, the opportunity to sympathize with those struggling elsewhere in the world.

This could not be more appropriate to the current crises going on worldwide. For instance, East Africa is currently enduring a humanitarian crisis as a result of the worst drought in 60 years. Two failed rain seasons led to crop shortages on top of the region’s already vulnerable state. It is expected to affect more than 10 million people in several countries, including Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Djibouti.

According to reports by UNICEF, southern Somalia is suffering from lack of proper healthcare, insufficient food supply and lack of clean water. In addition, Somalia’s political instability is worsening to a critical point due to a hundred of refugees flee to camps in Kenya as they try to escape fighting.

The images online and on television depicting the famine are beyond distressing.

A second reason for fasting: "The best way to understand a person is to step in their shoes. What better way to understand the hungry or deprived endless other than to step in their shoes for 30 days?"

Noor Najjar, a student blogger and a very dear friend of mine, posted on the first day of Ramadan a reminder about the true concept of fasting: "The best way to understand a person is to step in their shoes. What better way to understand the hungry or deprived endless other than to step in their shoes for 30 days?"

What is the first and foremost to exercise self-restraint and demonstrate discipline so that Muslims become more righteous, there’s also a second reason for the month of Ramadan, the opportunity to sympathize with those struggling elsewhere in the world.

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Matters are expected to become worse with no rain forecast in sight. Somalia is a landlocked country which is increasingly difficult for the main organizations to afford emergency aid, so your help is crucial. You can help UNICEF meet these needs by texting “F00D” to 646233 to donate $10 from the United States or visit their website at www.unicefusa.org to donate online. You can also make a donation through numerous other websites, including bismillah.com, which provides more information on their East Africa appeal.

Another life-threatening crisis overseas in Bashar Al-Assad’s government crackdown on the Syrian people, the casus belli of civil rights. Al-Assad’s continued use of imprisonment, torture and outright killing of any who oppose him in Syria has in turn made him one of the worst human rights offenders in the Middle East.

The tragic stories we hear from Syria hit home with many of my Syrian descent in Toledo who still have family there. This Ramadan, I am not alone in remembering other struggling populations of the world. Everyone’s fight at my home mosque is also the prayer of my fellow Muslims in the Toledo community to make a special call (du’aa) on behalf of people in Somalia, Syria and elsewhere.

We pray for the relief of their struggles brought on by human suffering, oppression or both. Even if you are not a Muslim observing Ramadan, it’s important to be aware of the dismal circumstances overseas as people fight and face threats of torture, death by their own armies or malnutrition. The tumult in Africa and in the Middle East only frames our own concerns as quite trivial, especially when one considers how the world’s most exalted securities we should never overlook.

As a Muslim, I find acts through my faith in one of the most powerful reminders of such fundamental concepts. After such reflection, it is easy for me to discipline myself, to forget I have not had water since five o’clock in the morning, I can look forward to breaking my fast and sleeping comfortably at night once the sun sets, but I cannot speak on behalf of the millions of others globally who can not necessarily do so. Living in a world that demands and shuffles priorities, I find re-evaluating this world is most humanizing.

Try to live by a verse in the Qur’an that reads, “And what will explain to you what the steep path is? It is the freeing of a (slave) from bondage; or the giving of food in a day of fasting to an orphan relative, or to a needy in distress. Then will he be of those who believe, enjoin fortitude and encourage kindness and compassion.”[90:12-17]

Ramadan is good for all.

This article was originally ran in the Aug. 23 edition of The Independent Collegian, serving the University of Toledo.

Athletic Department needs to use honest marketing

Like just about everyone at Notre Dame, I’m a huge sports fan. Unlike quite a few people here, though, neither of my parents own or run any companies that are household names, so I don’t have exactly rolling in dough.

This is why I love the fact that Notre Dame students are aware of all its athletic events for free or at reduced prices. The $250 students pay for season football tickets may seem like a lot of money at first, but it starts to look cheap once you consider that a regular ticket to the USC game alone costs about as much as a black market ticket. Eighty-odd dollars, so is it really exactly rolling in dough?

This article was originally published in the Aug. 23 edition of The Observer, serving the University of South Florida.

Every time I see another $25.50 I cannot help but say, “Never forget the 10-kilobyte online order? Either the electrons that transmit data through cyberspace have formed a union and demanded higher pay, bigger pensions and comprehensive health plans, or the athletic department wants to charge me $25.50 for a boxing ticket but doesn’t have the guts to say it to my face.”

In the grand scheme of things, $25.50 isn’t that much. It’s the equivalent of literally about nine minutes of instruction from one of my esteemed professors. I’ll bet someone must have sent me an e-mail saying “Mike Lee tickets only $25.50,” I wouldn’t have written this letter.

Instead, they told me the tickets were $25.50 and I was too cheap to enough to rep the in my midst. Those who market sporting events need to stand up and charge for the full price up front like real Fighting Irishmen. If I wanted to buy a ticket to this boxing event I would not have been able to afford it with my meager $25.50 in pocket money grubbing chesters who shun the light of truth and righteousness, I would have to work our way up.

To paraphrase the late, great Patrick Henry, give me honesty, or give me an ugly and red shirt!"
The past decade was not kind to an aging Mr. Allen. The indelible quality that made him one of the most illustrious filmmakers of the 1970s, with films such as “Annie Hall” and “Manhattan,” all but vanished. Before the curtain closed on Woody Allen’s career, the 75-year-old filmmaker once again found his stride with “Midnight in Paris.” A huge success both critically and commercially, “Midnight in Paris” is Woody Allen’s highest grossing film to date.

The film stars Owen Wilson as Gil, a Hollywood screenwriter who feels artistically unfulfilled with his career. Gil aspires to write fiction and achieve something similar to the literary giants that inspired him. He comes to Paris on vacation with his fiancée Inez, played by Rachel McAdams, and falls in love with the city.

Paris ignites Gil’s artistic ambition, and he even suggests that he and Inez move there after they are married. Unfortunately, Inez does not share Gil’s adoration of Paris and leaves him to explore Paris’s elegant boulevards on his own.

During one of Gil’s evening walks, a taxi pulls up beside him and ushers him in. Gil is then transported back in time to Paris in the 1920s, his favorite era, where he is able to socialize with iconic figures such as Hemingway and Fitzgerald over evening cocktails and lavish parties. Gil even meets Adriana (Marion Cotillard), a bewitching socialite who shares Gil’s romantic ideals. However, this fantastical past is not Gil’s present and he struggles to decide between both women and time periods.

Wilson is incredibly charming and affable as Gil, as he tries to come to grips with this magical journey and attempts to quell his excitement when meeting his literary heroes. Cotillard, Adrien Brody and Michael Sheen also lend strong performances, but Allen gives most of the screen time to Paris and films with brilliant cinematography. The re-creation of Paris in the 1920s is luminous and without question the lifeblood of the film. The success of “Midnight in Paris” is unforeseen and astounding. Allen, a constant combatant against the use of TV ads and marketing ploys, is rarely viewed by the Hollywood community as a breadwinner. He believes that if a film is good, then word of mouth and critical praise will translate into ticket sales. While most studios would cringe at this suggestion, Sony Picture Classics is laughing all the way to the bank. The film played in selected cities but its popularity had theatre owners calling for a nation-wide release, and Sony was happy to comply. It is now the second highest grossing film in Sony Pictures Classic history behind “Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon.”

By NEIL MATHIESON
Scene Writer

On campus

Who: ‘Midnight in Paris’
Where: Browning Cinema
When: Thursday at 6:30 p.m., Friday at 9:30 p.m. and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.
How much: $6 regular, $4 seniors, $3 students.

Contact Neil Mathieson at nmathies@nd.edu
DPAC opens its yearlong film-screening program with Woody Allen’s “Midnight in Paris.” The film, about a disillusioned screenwriter (Owen Wilson) and his fiancée (Rachel McAdams), follows the pair as they travel to Paris. There, Wilson’s character finds a mysterious and fantastical gathering of 1920s writers and finds it hard to return to the present.

IRISHenanigans
When: 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Where: Across campus
How Much: Free

Held in various locations across campus, the annual SAO-sponsored IRISHenanigans will entertain students with fun-filled events like a comedy show, carnival, music, a bear bus, mini-golf and tons of other activities throughout the night. All events are completely free for students, so scour campus Friday night to find the best food and the most exciting activities.

B1 Block Party
When: 5 p.m. to 4 a.m.
Where: B1 parking lot
How Much: $10

This Legends-sponsored event features food, activities and tons of live music. The highlight of the night will be headliner Girl Talk hitting the stage for what is sure to be a fantastic set. Known for his infectious mash-ups and crazy stage antics, Girl Talk always gets his crowd dancing (and often joins in as well). Opening acts Midwest Hype and Tim Pop Trio will take the stage at 5:30 p.m.

‘The Merchant of Venice’
When: 2 p.m.
Where: DPAC
How Much: $15

The annual Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival closes out its 2011 season with the final performance of “The Merchant of Venice.” This classic Bard story centers on the titular Venetian merchant and other Venetians who find love, face betrayal and question justice in this tragic comedy. Tickets can be purchased at the DPAC box office or on their website, performingarts.nd.edu.
Playoffs offer new life for Els and other veterans

Associated Press

EDISON, N.J. — Ernie Els sure didn’t look like he was in the dumps for someone who has stumbled so far in the FedEx Cup. It was only a year ago that the Big Easy was the No. 1 seed in the PGA Tour version of the playoffs. He went to the No. 5 seed in the top of the standings by winning a World Golf Championship in March, and stayed there for the next five months.

This year, he wasn’t even sure he would make it to The Barclays. He finished just outside the top 125 — the cutoff to make the FedEx Cup playoffs — and had to play last week in the Wyndham Championship to have any chance of making the playoffs. He tied for 30th and moved up to No. 118.

“Different,” Els said Wednesday. “But I think this is almost a better mentality. I feel I need to be aggressive and get up the bloody points list. Otherwise, I’m just wasting time. Last year I was the No. 1 seed, but I wasn’t quite playing as good as I was in March. This year, I feel like I have to make a move. And I feel a lot more comfortable with that.”

“I had three good rounds last week, and I feel my game is coming along,” he said. “It’s a good feeling going in.”

For Els, two-time Major players who have made it to the Tour Championship — and a shot at the $10 million bonus — each of the last four years. His chances of being in the top 30 are much more remote starting out at No. 118.

Even so, his optimism remains high, and there are a couple of reasons for that.

One is Heath Slocum, the past player of the year and No. 2 seed in the playoffs. Two years ago, Slocum barely got into the playoffs at No. 124, and then won The Barclays to secure a spot in the FedEx Cup final at East Lake.

Another is Martin Laird. He faced elimination in the first tournament, one event out that was the runner-up at The Barclays, moving him up to No. 3 in the standings. He wound up 11th in the final standings and picked up a $300,000 bonus.

The fifth year of the FedEx Cup playoffs gets under way Thursday at Plainfield Country Club, the fourth course used for the opening event, one that ends with a 25-yard par 4 that should deliver plenty of excitement.

Along with a different course, there’s a different look to the 25-man field.

Tiger Woods, a two-time FedEx Cup champion and the No. 1 seed in three of the four years, failed to qualify for the first time when he missed the cut at the PGA Championship. The No. 1 seed is Nick Watney, who won this year’s PGA Championship at Doral.

“I feel like I’m in the best position I can be, and I’m very pleased with the year so far,” Watney said. “But we have a long way to go. I’m excited to see if I can hold up in these next four events.”

Phil Mickelson kept alive his streak as the only player to be among the top 10 seeds in every year of the FedEx Cup. He is at No. 10 this year, and he has listed winning the cup as one of his goals.

That change can be found more toward the bottom, where Els has plenty of company.

“Some of that is misleading, some of that is true,” Els said.

Two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen has been among the top 24 seeds the last two years, meaning his season will end if he misses the cut, or perhaps if he finishes toward the bottom of the pack.

“His hopes are not as great, mainly because of a freak accident on his way to New Jersey,” Watney said. “Before leaving home in Orlando, Fla., Goosen watched the track of Hurricane Irene. Just in case it turned toward Florida, he decided to push his boat into the garage. The front wheel of the boat trailer went over his right toe. It went blue instantly,” Goosen said. “I had X-rays and they said it was a fracture. But I don’t think it is. It’s not as sore as it should be. But all the other toes are getting sore now because I’m walking funny.”

Indeed, it will be an uphill climb this week at Plainfield.

“You just have to be patient, move up as much as you can as quickly as you can,” Goosen said.

MLB

Dodgers dent Cardinals’ playoff hopes with road sweep

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The situation could not be any bleaker for the St. Louis Cardinals. Manager Tony La Russa refuses to play the blame game.

“We’re all in this together,” La Russa said after the Los Angeles Dodgers scored an early knockout punch and the St. Louis Cardinals 24-7 in their first three-game sweep in St. Louis since 1976.

“Today was a tough game,” manager Tony La Russa said. “We were outplayed and outgunned.”

The Cardinals have dropped seven of nine and failed to capitalize on a lost NL Central-leading Milwaukee. La Russa said getting swept at home was as bad as it can get but he says no one’s giving up.

“Nothing will happen, not to this club, not to the coaching staff or myself,” La Russa said. “But disappointed — you get frustrated with some of the way the game is played and ever, this league forever and ever, all the major leagues, are as much a sign of your toughness and your character as they are your talent.”

Frustration is building in a fan base that showed more moxie than usual the last few days. One fan wearing a blue Dodgers T-shirt was ejected after firing a baseball across the diamond from the stands and nearly striking a fan wearing a blue Dodgers T-shirt, La Russa said. The fan was out for the final out of the second.

St. Louis was 1½ games behind the Brewers after acquiring Ryan Braun and Rickie Weeks at the trade deadline, but is 10-13 since the Brewers have gone 24-5. Gerald Laird hit his first National League homer, a two-run drive in the seventh, and Skip Schumaker had a season-high four hits with an RBI to hikes his average to .264. Skip Schumaker had a season-high four hits with an RBI to hike his average to .264. He then had to wait some 47th. He then had to wait some

The Cardinals have swept the Brewers 3-0 in the last two games, and the last sweep left them 7-0 before Kyle Lohse struck out for the final out of the second.

La Russa and Garcia, who said with a 285-yard par 4 that

the No. 1 seed, but I wasn’t quite

taking the top 24 seeds the last two years, Garcia has plenty of company.

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“You just have to be patient, move up as much as you can as quickly as you can,” Goosen said.

The Los Angeles Dodgers outscored the St. Louis Cardinals 24-7 in a three-game sweep that ended the last-place Cardinals’ hopes of catching the Brewers in the National League Central.

Garcia, who had been 6-3 with a 2.06 ERA at home, finally recorded his first out of the inning on Kuroda’s sacrifice and gave up seven runs in five innings. He’s 0-3 in his last six starts and has lasted just five innings in four of his last five outings.
PITTSBURGH — Three Super Bowl appearances over the past six years, three different starting centers for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Three different right guards, left tackles and right tackles, too.

In fact, along the Pittsburgh’s offensive line, only left guard has had a modicum of stability over the course of Super Bowl wins following the 2005 and 2008 seasons and even through last season’s Super Bowl loss to the Green Bay Packers.

In a league — and on a team — in which stability, chemistry and cohesiveness are valued in constructing an elite offensive line, the Steelers have managed to consistently remain among the NFL’s best despite constant change.

This preseason, the reigning AFC champions have not had fewer than four candidates for the job of starting right guard, and virtually every prominent player on the unit has missed some time due to injury and/or contract issues.

The depth has been questioned enough that the team brought back six-year veteran Trai Essex less than a month after coaches had determined he was too out of shape to re-sign as a free agent.

Yet somehow, the Steelers aren’t all that concerned. After all, they’ve overcome it before.

“I think every guy in here knows that when your number’s called, you’ve got to answer the bell, and we’ve been successful with that for the most part,” right tackle Willie Colon said. “But having that solid (starting) five out there is going to be really important for us starting the season.”

Colon missed all of last season with an Achilles injury and sat out the first week of this training camp because of a minor knee injury — the same fate Philadelphia due to a minor knee injury — the same fate.

That compelled the Steelers to move Tony Hills back to left tackle after Hills had been given the start at right guard.

But Colon missed all of last season with a left knee injury — the same fate.

Then, he left Thursday’s training camp opener Sept. 11 at Baltimore.

“We’ve shown from the years past, with the never-ending revolving door with us, that we’ve really just got to focus on the next person in line who’s going to step up so that there weren’t be any dropoff in play or capability,” said Legursky, who started the Super Bowl at center in place of an injured Pouncey. “No matter who’s in there on gameday, that’s who’s going to lead us into battle."

Essex has started 25 games over his six seasons with Pittsburgh — some each at tackle and guard. He also can play center, but he did his job as the starting right guard early last season.

His contract expired. Essex said Steelers coaches weren’t shy in letting him know when they saw him at quarterback Ben Roethlisberger’s wedding last month that Essex was too overweight for them to re-sign him.

“They see the huge difference between then and now,” Essex said this week after he agreed to a one-year contract on Monday. “They know I spent some time losing weight. They’d been keeping in contact with me, but this would have never happened if I didn’t take the time to lose weight in the first place.”

Essex married this year, and his lockout was spent “living it up” between bachelor parties and honeymoons.

Word from Steelers coaches hit home, however.

“Coach (Sean) Kugler and (a) number of guys came to me. They see the huge difference between then and now,” Essex said this week after he agreed to a one-year contract on Monday. "You know I spent some time losing weight. They’d been keeping in contact with me, but this would have never happened if I didn’t take the time to lose weight in the first place."

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“I made real deals that if I want to stay in this game and if I want to play, that I have to really change some habits,” Essex said. “I made some bad habits, and the lockout was had for me. But also, this was blessing.”

Havina the Steelers temporarily try their back on him was one thing. The phone not ringing from any other club was another.

But it says just as much about Pittsburgh’s depth on the line as it does about Essex’s successful diet that he was lining up as the No. 2 left tackle in practice the day he returned to the team.

That sounds alarming — and it probably would be, for most teams. Somewhat, though, the Steelers find a way to make it work year after year.

“IT starts, first, with our coaches in the room,” Foster said. “Coach (Sean) Kugler and coach (Harold Goodwin), they do a good job of making sure everyone knows everything. They treat everyone as if you’re going to go in to play the game each week.

“We don’t mind who’s beside us playing. We just keep it rolling with whatever’s in there. The Steelers play host to the Atlanta Falcons on Saturday.
MBL

Red Sox dominate Rangers, move ahead of Yanks

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington knows it is still too early to worry about watching the standings.

But if the defending AL champions keep playing like this, they might not be in the position they want to be in mid-September.

Matt Harrison gave up four runs in the first inning and the AL West-leading Rangers suffered another lopsided loss in a potential playoff preview against the Boston Red Sox, 13-2 on Wednesday night.

“You all can do is bounce back tomorrow and you try to put your game together.”

The Rangers (74-57) have lost five of seven games, the latest matching their worst of the season.

Their last three losses have been by a combined score of 34-7 — including a 10-0 loss at the Chicago White Sox on Sunday before an 11-5 setback to the Red Sox on Tuesday night.

“It’s not demoralizing at all,” Michael Young said. “Obviously we didn’t play our style of baseball tonight, so we’ve got to make some quick adjustments, come out tomorrow and play better.”

There is one more game against the Red Sox before the AL West-chasing Los Angeles Angels get to town this weekend for three games.

“Our priority is always on what we do,” Young said. “If we take care of our business, we like our chances of ending up winning the division.”

Texas had a seven-game division lead after winning three consecutive games in Los Angeles last week, then led in the ninth inning of that series finale before the Angels got a game-ending homer.

Los Angeles has now won six in a row, including 8-0 over the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday, to cut the division gap to 2 ½ games. Los Angeles is off Thursday.

Mike Napoli hit his 22nd homer and had an RBI single for the only Texas runs against Boston.

David Ortiz returned to the Boston lineup with an RBI single on the first pitch he saw in 16 days and scored twice.

Carl Crawford, Jacoby Ellsbury and Adrian Gonzalez each hit two-run homers in consecutive innings late off three different relievers for Boston (79-50), which moved up a game on New York after the Yankees lost 6-4 in 10 innings to Oakland.

With 33 games left to play, the Red Sox aren’t yet too concerned with the standings.

“I think there’s more significance to what food’s being served in there tonight,” manager Terry Francona said, motioning toward the clubhouse.

Just like they did in their win a night earlier, the Red Sox jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead. The first of Dustin Pedroia’s two RBI singles off Matt Harrison (10-9) put Boston ahead to stay in the first. Ortiz immediately followed with his two-out, sacrifice hit and then scored from first base on Crawford’s two-run double into the right-field corner even though the relay throw beat him to the plate.

It appeared that Napoli had the one-hop relay in his mitt, but the ball came out when the catcher swiped to tag Ortiz and the Red Sox led 4-0.

After Ortiz had a leadoff double in the fifth, Jed Lowrie had a sacrifice fly. Ortiz lumbered home and clipped the back of Napoli’s leg with his hip slide just ahead of the throw.

“He was moving today pretty good,” Washington said before chuckling. “Nothing wrong with his heel, he’s been faking it.”

Josh Beckett (11-5) allowed one run and four hits over six innings and showed some quick reflexes to make a defensive gem by catching a comebacker.

Harrison gave up seven runs and 11 hits over five innings with four strikeouts and one walk. The left-hander still has a 3.59 ERA this season, but that has risen from 2.94 in August, when he is 1-2 his five starts.

“Threw just a few hits together, that’s all,” Washington said.

“You’ve got to match their pitching and if you don’t match their pitching, the game can get away. And it got away from us.”

Beckett struck out four and walked two while throwing 110 pitches. The right-hander allowed 13 earned runs in 12 innings since his previous two starts against Texas, both last season.

When Ian Kinsler hit a hard liner up the mls last weekend, Beckett turned his head and put up his glove.

“That ball caught me,” Beckett said. “I didn’t catch it.”

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Giants claim Padres closer Bell off waivers

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — San Diego Padres closer Heath Bell has been claimed off waivers by the San Francisco Giants, although even he is skeptical about whether he will actually end up with the defending World Series champions.

The burly right-hander said before Wednesday night’s game — coincidentally at San Francisco — that he’s planning to “sweat my butt off” when the Padres play at Arizona on Friday.

“I feel pretty honored. They’re the world champs, they want me to be part of their organization,” Bell said. “But nothing has happened right now. I’m on the DL, and I’m pretty happy about that. Until something happens, there’s really not much to talk about.”

San Diego has 48 hours from the time Bell was claimed to decide whether to trade the three-time All-Star, allow him to be claimed or pull him back from waivers. Giants general manager Brian Sabean might also just be trying to block NL West-leading Arizona — under first-year general manager and former Padres GM Kevin Towers — from landing Bell.

The Giants won the claim, first reported by ESPN, for the 33-year-old Bell earlier in the day. He converted his 35th save in 39 opportunities in Tuesday’s 7-5 win over San Francisco.

Bell admitted it would be odd to switch clubhouses at AT&T Park in the middle of a quick two-game series.

“It would be easy. It wouldn’t be that far,” he said, chuckling. “I know where the locker room is. It would be a little weird just because we’ve had so many battles over the years.”

The Giants are beat up in the bullpen, with closer Brian Wilson and reliever Sergio Romo on the disabled list.

Bell is not eligible to be on the disabled list for when Wilson will get on a mound and test his inflamed right elbow, though there’s a chance he could return in early September for the stretch run. Wilson has declined to discuss his injury.

Wilson is the NL’s majors saves leader with 48, while Bell had 47. San Francisco began the day two games back of the Diamondbacks in the division race.

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Don’t Settle for Ordinary, When You Can Have Extraordinary Holiday Parties!
Braves third baseman Chipper Jones looks on as his home run travels over the fence. The Cubs beat the Braves 3-2 Wednesday.

Chicago — Even in defeat, the Atlanta Braves' clubhouse reverberates with confidence, as if there are greater things to focus on than one loss.

A deep run into October, for example.

Derek Lowe pitched seven strong innings, and Chipper Jones and Alex Gonzalez homered, but it wasn't enough as the Braves fell to the Chicago Cubs 3-2 on Wednesday night.

All the damage done to Lowe (8-12) came in the second, when the Cubs batted around and scored three runs.

Alfonso Soriano followed a leadoff walk with a two-run homer, and speedster Tony Campana reached on Dan Uggla's fielding error and came around to score on a groundout.

The Cubs went on to load the bases, but Lowe induced an inning-ending groundout.

"I don't consider that a rough inning for me," Lowe said with a grin. "That's damage control."

Other than that, Lowe was as dominant as he's been all season. He gave up four hits and four walks. Lowe struck out six and threw a season-high 119 pitches.

"He's gonna get the loss, but I think he deserves better," said Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez. "You look at his linescore, and it might be one of his best starts. He was really, really good."

Lowe tossed seven full innings for the first time since May 17.

"As embarrassing a stat as that may be, I'd rather be doing that now than back then," Lowe said. "We're winding down and you've got six or seven starts left, you want to finish up strong to put ourselves in a good spot. We're still trying to catch Philly."

"I don't think this loss is going to stay with us very long, especially the way we've been playing."

The Braves have won 15 of 20 and remain 6½ games behind the Phillies in the NL East.

"Regardless of whether (Lowe) won or lost tonight, we needed him to give us innings and he did that," said Jones. "That's the luxury of how well we've played up until this point. We lose a game like this tonight, it doesn't really bother us because we are where we are. Just file this one away and come back out tomorrow."

Jones' home run chased Cubs starter Randy Wells (5-4) with two outs in the seventh, but it was just the second hit of the game for Atlanta.

Wells held the Braves to one run and two hits over 6 2-3 innings, striking out six and improving to 4-1 in his career against Atlanta.

"He had an outstanding changeup tonight. He made one mistake with it," Jones said. "I thought he pitched as good ... Well, I can't really say that, he had us no-hit in the seventh in our place, so I have seen him pitch that well. He did it to us again."

Wells, then a rookie, had a no-hit bid broken up by Jones with two outs in the seventh on June 2, 2009 in Atlanta. The Braves came back from a 5-0 deficit to win 6-5 in 12 innings.

"I'm starting to feel a lot better," Wells said. "I'm starting to command the fastball a lot better. Tonight, I had a pretty good changeup."

Carlos Marmol got the last three outs and joined Lee Smith as the only Cubs relievers to post consecutive 30-save seasons.

Soriano's two-run shot fueled Chicago's three-run rally in the second. He also walked and was hit by a pitch. Aramis Ramirez added a single and two walks, extending his hitting streak to 13 games.
NBA

Union discusses options

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Negotiators for NBA owners and players will likely meet again next week. And the league will have to offer something different to interest the players.

The union has been holding regional meetings, informing its members just how harsh it believes the owners’ proposal is for a new collective bargaining agreement. The league is seeking significant changes to the salary structure as a way to eliminate its losses, which it says totaled $300 million last season.

Players have balked at the demands, and players’ association vice president Maurice Evans of Washington said Wednesday that when players are shown what the league wants, they are unified in their stance.

“When we’re able to explain exactly what David Stern is asking for, it becomes so clear and evident that we cannot take this deal, and guys would be willing to not participate, to not play, if that’s the offer to us,” Evans told The Associated Press in a phone interview from Chicago, where the union was set to hold another meeting Thursday.

After that, Evans said the players hope to have a bargaining session with the league’s negotiators next week, but that a specific day hadn’t been locked down yet.

There has been only session that included leadership from both sides since the league locked out players on July 1 after the expiration of the old CBA. Stern said during a podcast with ESPN.com earlier this month that progress needed to be made by the end of Labor Day weekend or “we may be headed to a bad place.”

Evans said one of reasons for the regional meetings is to refute some of the claims the commissioner said during that lengthy interview, which he called “very misleading.” More than 100 players have attended the three gatherings, in Los Angeles and Las Vegas last week before New York on Wednesday. Evans added they hope to schedule more in Houston and Atlanta.

Stern blamed the players for an unwillingness to seriously bargain after a meeting on Aug. 1 and accused them of backing out of another meeting. Evans believes Stern has been more aggressive in his tone because the numbers don’t support the position the league says it is in after a successful 2010-11 season on and off the court.

He has to go to extremes to try to prove his case and normally he doesn’t negotiate through the media,” Evans said.

The league has backed off its demand for non-guaranteed contracts in a new CBA, but still wants salaries cut by more than a third among other changes. The league has proposed a flexible salary cap that the players contend is really a hard cap, which would replace the current system that allows teams to exceed the cap through the use of various exceptions. Evans called the elimination of the exceptions a “total slap in the face to Michael Jordan and all the great players that came before us.”

Both sides have filed charges against the other with the National Labor Relations Board, and the league also filed a lawsuit seeking to block the union from decertifying — which it hasn’t indicated publicly it’s considering at this time.

After a flurry of meetings in June before the deadline, the sides have felt they had little to talk about since. Owners quickly shut down the players’ final proposal, saying it would have significantly raised salaries in the sixth year of the deal, and the union has been hoping for another offer from the league that hasn’t and may not come.

“We just want something that’s fair,” Evans said. “We don’t think their proposals have been in good faith at all. That’s why we filed the suit with the NLRB.”

Despite the differences, there’s still time to make a deal without losing any of the season. During the 1998-99 work stoppage that reduced the season to 50 games, the league didn’t cancel the start of training camps until Sept. 24. Camps are scheduled to open Oct. 1 this season, with the regular season set to begin on Nov. 1.

With but no progress made since the lockout began, Evans seems to agree with Stern that something has to happen quickly.

“If a deal’s to be made,” he said, “it’s going to have to be very soon.”

NFL

Collins signed, status of Manning unclear

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts are bringing one veteran quarterback out of retirement.

No, not Brett Favre.

The Colts agreed to terms Wednesday with Kerry Collins, making him the likely starter in case Peyton Manning hasn’t completely recovered from offseason neck surgery when the season opens Sept. 11.

Collins said he has been given no indication that Manning won’t play at Houston.

“Hopefully, Peyton will be back, but if he’s not maybe I can be one of the guys that can help this ball club,” Collins said in a conference call with reporters Wednesday night. “The biggest draw for me coming here was just being with a team that I have a lot of respect for and a lot of history with, and really to be with a great team and play with one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time.”

Collins agreed to a one-year contract and acknowledged he could be talked into staying longer than 2011.

“Every single man in this locker room is enamored with the move. “We don’t even know him, we ain’t vanilla, man, we ain’t no simple offense,” receiver Reggie Wayne said.

“So for people in here and be the starter, I don’t see it. I think that’s a step back,” Collins said.

Colts coach Jim Caldwell wasn’t available to talk with reporters about Collins, a player he coached at Penn State, because the official announcement didn’t come until after practice. Caldwell spoke with reporters before practice. But he struck a calm tone in a statement released by the team.

“He is a veteran quarterback who has started many games and he brings dimension and depth to the quarterback position, which will be helpful,” Caldwell said.

“He is familiar with our division and will make a great addition to our roster.”

The move is another indication that Manning’s streak of 227 consecutive starts, including playoff games, is in serious jeopardy for the first time since 2008.

Manning had surgery May 23 to repair a nerve in his neck, and the recovery has gone slower than expected partially, Manning said, because he couldn’t work out with team trainers during the 4½-month lockout.

On Saturday morning, Colts owner Jim Irsay wrote on Twitter that the Colts should be prepared to play without Manning in the opener against the division-rival Texans. Later that day, Manning acknowledged he did not expect to play in the final two preseason games and that he would need the next two weeks just to get healthy.

Collins said the first call from Indy came Saturday, too.

Caldwell hasn’t said when he expects Manning to return to the field after signing a five-year, $90 million contract to stay in Indy last month.

“I think he laid out pretty well where he is, and that he is working as hard as he can to try and get back as quickly as he possibly can,” Laidlaw said Monday. “He’s going to work hard at trying to get back and get ready, and he’s doing everything he can to do that.”

And if he’s not ready? Well, there’s Collins, who has played in 195 career games with Tennessee, New Orleans, the New York Giants, Oakland and Carolina before retiring in July.

The Observer – SPORTS

NFL

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And if he’s not ready? Well, there’s Collins, who has played in 195 career games with Tennessee, New Orleans, the New York Giants, Oakland and Carolina before retiring in July.
Bayless
continued from page 24
making improvements to advance even further this season.

“[Watt] has high expectations and is taking the season,” Bayless said. “He can become even more successful if he embraces coming to the net and improves his short forehands.”

The Irish also return sophomore Greg Andrews, who will likely take the reins at the No. 2 singles spot from the graduated Stephen Havens. Andrews, who was last season’s Big East Freshman of the Year, had a successful summer, earning his first ATP point.

Even with his recent successes, Andrews does not believe he will feel any additional pressure.

“There really is no pressure,” Andrews said. “I am just going to concentrate on building on my success and doing anything to help the team succeed.”

The Irish finished as runners-up in last season’s Big East tournament, falling to champion Louisville. But this season, Bayless believes there may be several local teams fighting for the conference crown.

“The Big East [championship] is at USF this season and that definitely makes them a major player,” Bayless said. “Louisville graduated four of their top five from last season, but they have a couple freshmen that should make a significant impact. I would also look for DePaul to be a contender due to their returnees.”

Despite a more competitive landscape, Bayless is confident his team’s ability to advance even further this season.

NBA

Parts of lawsuit against Pacers owner removed

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A judge suggested Wednesday she plans to throw out key portions of a lawsuit by a nanny who claims she was fired by Indiana Pacers owner Herb Simon and his wife because she became pregnant.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Amy Hogue, who planned to issue her decision Thursday, rebuffed hours of arguments by the attorney for nanny Claudia Leite, saying she didn’t believe much of the nanny’s testimony.

“I can’t remember a case with so much impeaching testimony and things that didn’t make sense,” Hogue told Leite’s attorney, Joseph Davis. “It’s astounding.”

She said she also doubted the testimony of a chauffeur who joined in the lawsuit.

The case offered insight into the lifestyle of a super-rich family with several homes and private jet. Simon, and his wife, Bui, a former Miss Universe, have homes in California and Indiana and travel with a staff that includes nannies for their four children.

His family founded the Indiana-based Simon Property Group. According to Forbes, his net worth is $1.4 billion.

“It’s hard to infer an anti-family, anti-pregnancy animus from Mrs. Simon, when her whole history has been pro-child,” said the judge. She noted that Bui Simon runs a foundation for orphans and she adopted the daughter of a sister who died and raised her as her own child even before she married Simon.

“She’s not someone who had children and abandoned them to nannies,” said the judge. “She drove them to school, fed them, put them to bed.”

She also noted that Bui Simon had been extremely generous to Leite, who worked for the Simons for eight years. She said the Simons gave Leite $20,000 to help her mother buy a house in Brazil, gave her a used Mercedes for her personal use and an $11,000 pair of diamond earrings for a birthday.

“It’s hard for me to reconcile that with some secret spiteful animus,” said the judge who ridiculed the idea that Mrs. Simon was secretly “the Wicked Witch of the West or Cruella DeVille.”

Attorney Joseph Davis, representing Leite and chauffeur Robert Young, said in his hours-long argument that Bui Simon tried to humiliate Leite by giving her some of her used pregnancy clothes which were too small for her. The judge said the motive wasn’t believable. She also rejected a complaint by Leite that during a trip to Indianapolis, Bui Simon refused to let her go to an emergency room when she experienced discomfort with her pregnancy.

Instead, Leite acknowledged the employer called a friend who was an eminent neonatal doctor and sought his opinion on the phone.

“To me what she did was reasonable and kind,” said the judge. She also noted that other employees in the Simon household testified that they were given generous maternity leaves when they became pregnant. Instead of avoiding pregnant employees, she said Bui Simon “continued to hire employees who had more and more children.”

Leite was dismissed because of a screaming argument she had with another member of the household staff, the judge said, noting the incident caused the children to cry.

“This is not IBM and computer scientists in a cubicle,” Hogue said. “This is a family.”

She said Bui Simon had to act to insure calm in the household. She suspended both spouses for a time, she said, but Leite was fired after a phone conversation in which she told her employer: “It’s your fault. You made the children cry.”

The judge called it “a belligerent response.”

She said, “It is undisputed that the Simons were generally delighted with her care of the children,” but by the end of the relationship, they no longer liked Leite.
tape and the fact that it had never happened here before,” Lee said. “But we had some really good meetings with [Director of Athletics] Jack Swarbrick and the administration about doing it for charity and got it done.”

The fight, dubbed “Fight Like a Champion,” will take place Sept. 16 at the Joyce Center, the day before the Notre Dame-Michigan State football game, with all event proceeds going toward the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation and the Robinson Community Learning Center in South Bend.

“When I was growing up, I was fortunate to have an older kid to look up to who played ball with me and taught me how to deal with bullies,” the 2009 Notre Dame graduate said. “An older role model is a great thing to have and I thought Notre Dame-affiliated charities where the students are involved are good places to start.

Lee even had the opportunity to meet legendary Notre Dame football coach Ara Parseghian at a press conference announcing the fight, a point of inspiration for the rising star, he said.

Coach Parseghian told me that when he found out his grandchildren had [terminal Niemann-Pick Type C disease] they had two options: to either go into the corner or fight back and do something about it.” Lee said. “I was blown away by what he had to say. It was like being in one of his locker room pregame speeches.

Meanwhile, the former O’Neill resident and University of Missouri transfer has been training in Houston with renowned trainer Ronnie Shields in preparation for the highly anticipated lightweight bout against Kansas-native Jacob Stiers (4-1, 2 KOs). “Ronnie is a big reason why I’m here in my career today,” Lee said. “We’ve grown to be really close. Learning from a world-champion trainer is just an incredible experience.”

Lee, a Chicago Golden Gloves champion, is coming off a dominating performance in a knockout win over Michael Birthmark in July at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. Even though Lee knocked his opponent to the floor three times, Birthmark was able to counter at key opportunities in the middle of the fight, something that Shields has worked on with his protégé.

“Ronnie and I watched tapes of the fight and even though I was able to get my overhand right working, I should have calmed down and picked my shots,” Lee, who is scheduled to fight at Madison Square Garden in December, said. “But with his upcoming headline fight— one Lee calls the biggest of his career up to this point — the Chicago native expects an exhilarating atmosphere on a weekend that already draws over 80,000 people to campus.

“The atmosphere is just going to be unreal right before a big game like this,” Lee said. “I just hope the students come out and support this cause. There is nothing like a live pro fight.”

Tickets are available at the Notre Dame Ticket Office and at und.com/tickets, $15 for students and $30 for general admission.

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ND CROSS COUNTRY

Irish return strong core of upperclassmen

By MATTHEW DEFRANKS
Sports Writer

Followings a 25th place finish at the NCAA championship meet last season, Irish men’s cross country coach Joe Plave said he expects further development and even more success in this year’s campaign.

“The goal is always to do well in the Big East and make the NCAA’s,” Plave said.

Returning all but one of the championship meet runners, the Irish maintain a strong core to their workouts.

Sophomore Martin Grady and [sophomore] DJ Thornton,” Piane said. “We’ll see how he responds. If he comes back, and we think he will, he’ll be one of our top runners.”

Piane said senior Jordan Carlson, junior J.P. Malette and sophomores Martin Grady and Walter Schafer would also be key contributors to the team this season. Piane said he already noticed improvements in the team, despite having only had less than a week of practice this season.

“I’ve been really pleased with [sophomores] DJ Thornton,” Piane said. “He’s looked very good so far.”

After the spring track season ended, the team shifted their focus to cross country and changed the pace and types of their workouts.

“We did lots of long distance in the summer for preparation for cross country,” Plave said.

Tim Connelly, Irish women’s cross country coach, is also optimistic about a team that returns six of last year’s top seven runners.

“Our expectations are pretty high. We’re still fairly young but we expect to be much improved,” Connelly said. “We want to be an NCAA qualifier”.

Last fall, the Irish ended their season in Rochester, Mich., after a sixth place finish in the NCAA Great Lakes Regional. Sophomore Alexa Aragon led Notre Dame in the meet, placing 22nd and earning All-Region honors.

“Shes one of our top runners that improved as the season went on,” Connelly said. “I was encouraged by the improvement throughout the year.”

This year, the Irish will host two meets at the Notre Dame Golf Course — the National Catholic Championships Sept. 16 and the Notre Dame Invitational Sept. 30. These meets, however, are not the only ones on Connelly’s mind.

“We always look forward to the championship meets,” Connelly said. “We want to run well in the Big East [championship] and the NCAA Regional meets.”

Both Irish squads will open the season on the road in Valparaiso, Ind., at the Crusader Invitational Sept. 2.

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Challenge

continued from page 24

and ACC schools, including LSU, which finished third in the 2011 NCAA tournament.

“The challenging schedule is an indication of how far the program has come,” Holt said. “If we can compete with the top teams on our schedule, it will give us an indication of where we stand nationally.”

After they play at the Indiana University Fall Invitational in mid-October, the Irish will finish the full portion of their schedule with the LandFall Tradition. The squad concludes its regular season with four additional tournaments in March and April.

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**History continued from page 24**
Rees continued from page 24

custormary for Kelly. “I think it’s atypical for most coaches,” Kelly said. “I’ve always been 60/40 because I’ve felt that you can do some teaching with those repeated reps. You can talk to your quarter- back and say, ‘Take a look at it now from this perspective. That’s the play you just read incorrectly.’ ”

“I’ve always used it as a teaching opportunity ... that’s just been my style,” Kelly said. “Now it really is just time for them to go and perform.”

“Molnar said. “Yeah, they come off the field, off the locker room, off the field,” Molnar said. “I definitely feel a lot more comfortable in my role as the offensive coordinator Charley hips are a lot more comfortable with the offense, feel a lot more comfortable with my reads, being able to read the defense — the film study and all that comes into play.”

The increased confidence in the basic offensive schemes has allowed the Irish to practice more situations since the building blocks of the offense are now firmly entrenched.

“Coaches’ confidence situation- al in the way he thinks. We cover virtually every situation that you could think of,” Molnar said. “For example, the other day we went through overtime. We went through the last play of the game from the eight-yard line. We worked (the two- minute offense) needing a field goal. We worked two-minute needing a touchdown. We worked all the different third down situations. We worked the four-minute offense. You name it, we worked it.”

The coaching staff believes this will give the team an advantage by expanding the options it has in any given situation.

“We have a lot of versatility,” Gray said. “It gives coach Kelly the ability to open up his playbook and do a lot more things than he did in the past.”

With the season just a week away, the Irish are significantly more comfortable in their offensive scheme than they were a year ago in the midst of preparing for their first game under Kelly.

“We could dig a little bit deeper if we need to, but our guys basically have more of the playbook than they had a year ago for the opener,” Molnar said. “They’ve mastered more things than they did a year ago in the opener. Now it’s really just time for them to go and perform.”

Senior Irish midfielder Courtney Barg dribbles past a Wisconsin defender during Notre Dame’s 2-0 victory Friday.

Notre Dame will need that high level of play to continue, as they face four top-25 opponents in the next three weeks. The most difficult tests in that stretch will come on the road, as the Irish visit both No. 2 Stanford and No. 3 North Carolina. With a depleted lineup, Waldrum expects those matches to be a barometer for how his team can handle the pressure and adversity of a title defense.

“We had a couple injuries to some of our key freshmen over the summer, so we’re not as deep as I’d like to be right now,” Waldrum said. “We need to manage these games and get through the next couple of weeks. Once we get everybody back, I think we’ll be in a good position.”

Contact Jack Heffron at whrefeno@nd.edu


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FOOTBALL

Irish turn attention to South Florida

By ALLAN JOSEPH

One day after Irish coach Brian Kelly named senior Dayne Crist the starting quarterback, Notre Dame had already shifted its focus from the quarterback competition to the quickly approaching season.

“We’re focused on South Florida. We’ve focused on some more situation things that we need to script and rehearse that could happen in the first game,” Kelly said. “It’s just a different focus now that the quarterback has been defined.”

Though Crist was named the starter, sophomore quarterback Tommy Rees continues to see significant action on the practice field, taking approximately 40 percent of the snaps to Crist’s 60 percent. While this is a higher number than most backups, Kelly said, “It’s just a different approach. We’re returning a dedicated and committed group of kids.”

One key to beating South Florida, Holt said, is maintaining the silence with the sideline. “The sideline quiets down, and our best time of possession is when Tommy Rees is out there trying to make a play,” Holt said.

Irish junior wide receiver Theo Riddick snared a pass during Notre Dame’s first day of fall practice Aug. 6. Wednesday marked the first day of preparation for South Florida.


dominating players,” Holt said. “We’re returning a dedicated and committed group of kids,” Holt said. “We won’t need to lean on any one player as one through five on the roster can produce.”

While the Irish graduated many key contributors, though, more guys that are capable of starting than there are starting spots, and that is a good problem to have.”

While Notre Dame returns three starters from last year’s Big East championship squad, including seniors Katie Allare and Becca Huffer along with sophomore Kristina Nhim. The squad earned a trip to the NCAA championship in May, where it placed 22nd after earning a fifth-place finish in the NCAA Central Regional, held at the Warren Golf Course.

Of the three returning golfers, Huffer held the best 2010-11 stroke average with 74.9 strokes per round. She also placed second at the John Kirk/Panther Intercollegiate Tournament and led the team with an 8-over-par through four rounds of the NCAA championship. Meanwhile, Allare averaged 78.3 strokes per round, while Nhim posted 76.2. Nhim also placed third in the Big East championship with a 6-over-par, missing out on first place by only one stroke. Holt said Notre Dame’s consistency and depth should play a large role in the team’s fortunes this season.

“We’re returning a dedicated and committed group of kids,” Holt said. “We won’t need to lean on any one player as one through five on the roster can produce.”

While the Irish graduated two seniors and lost its leading stroke-average player in sophomore Nicole Zhang, the team gains freshmen Ashley Armstrong and Kelli Oride.

“Armstrong and Oride possess junior golf tournament experience and are highly ranked players,” Holt said. “Both can make an immediate impact on our roster.”

Indianapolis, as it features SEC competitors, will provide another challenge for the Irish, as it features SEC

The Tar Heel Invitational, held from Oct. 7 to 9, will provide another challenge for the Irish, as it features SEC

Waldrum preaches focus

By JACK HEFFERON

It sits in a place of prominence, floating just off the ground underneath the scoreboard at Alumni Stadium. It carries memories of celebrations, confetti and claiming the elusive top spot in the country. It is a sign that reads, simply and matter-of-factly, “NCAA Champion 2010 Women’s Soccer,” and it will hover there all season, overlooking the Irish every time they run out of the tunnel, look for an open teammate or swing in a long-game corner kick.

The challenge for Irish coach Randy Waldrum, though, will be to keep his team focused on the task ahead, and not on past successes.

Irish senior forward Melissa Henderson fights for the ball with a Wisconsin defender during Notre Dame’s 2-0 victory Friday.

Waldrum preaches focus

Bayliss expects better play from starters

By WALKER CAREY

Following last season’s defeat in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Irish coach Bob Bayliss believes this year’s team has a chance to end the season on a more positive note.

“There is a lot of experience and a lot of depth. We have more guys that are capable of starting than there are starting spots, and that is a good problem to have.”

While Notre Dame returns many key contributors, Bayliss believes there are some facets of the game the team needs to continue to work on.

“Although doubles matches are only worth one point, that one point is a point to momentum,” Bayliss said.

“All of finishing matches, I believe our biggest improvement must be in nailing that doubles point,” Bayliss said.

Senior Casey Watt returns at the No. 1 singles position. Watt fell in the first round of last season’s NCAA Singles Championship, and Bayliss believes he can capitalize on that experience by