Alumna raises funds to film on campus

By AMANDA GRAY

Nearly 20 years after the Notre Dame women’s swim team bus accident, University of Notre Dame officials approved filming on campus for a movie commemorating the event.

The film, “Two Miles From Home,” is a way for survivors Haley Scott DeMaria to reflect on the event.

“The one thing that jumps out at me is how young we were, and how long the rest of our lives are,” she said. “I now have lived with this [accident] longer than I didn’t.”

DeMaria is a way for survivors to film the motion picture.

DeMaria said the project, based on her 2008 book, “What Though The Odds: Haley Scott’s Journey of Faith and Triumph,” will still happen, but she is unsure when.

“I’m now working on key pieces of information that investors and studios would need if they decide to partner with us,” she said. “The timeline is up in the air … That is the nature of the movie industry. It could happen within the year, or it could be three years.”

DeMaria said the original plan was to fund the movie independently.

“Now, I’ve learned that it’s not that easy to raise the money,” she said.

This past summer, DeMaria took a more active role in putting together a funding plan for the film.

“This is such a personal story,” she said. “If I can’t do it right and with integrity, I wouldn’t do it.”

DeMaria worked with screenwriter Dan Waterhouse to get permission to the producers to film the motion picture.

DeMaria was granted permission to the producers to film the motion picture.

“DeMaria said the original plan was to fund the movie independently.

This past summer, DeMaria took a more active role in putting together a funding plan for the film.

“One key to success in any field, Weaver said, is having confidence even if you truly believe you can’t do it.

Although she and her husband are not teachers, Weaver said getting feedback from people immersed in the field can be helpful.

“We’re not teachers, but we’re in the game,” she said. “So, I think it will be useful for the students to talk to us about this stuff.”

One key to success in any field, Weaver said, is having confidence even if you truly believe you can’t do it.

“We went to drama school and didn’t learn very much,” she said. “In the 30 years since, I’ve now put together little bags of what I think is important.”

Weaver’s husband, off-Broadway director Jim Simpson, will also help teach the class.

Director of Admissions for the MBA program Brian Lohr said Mendoza has a history of supporting the armed forces and vice versa.

“If you go look at headstones in Holy Cross cemetery, you’ll see chaplains from the Civil War,” he said.

Schools are ranked by the programs available, the financial commitment to veterans and enlisted students, the success in recruiting military students and the school’s academic accreditations, G.I. Jobs magazine’s website stated.

The last three classes for the MBA program have averaged about 10 percent former military members, with all branches of the military represented, Lohr said.

“These students are tremendous leaders, coming from tremendous leadership experiences … They’re leaders in class, and they are working hard to prepare themselves for their next phase in life.”

Mendoza MBA named military-friendly school

By ANNA BOARINI

News Writer

G.I. Jobs magazine named the Mendoza College of Business MBA program a military-friendly school for the third year in a row.

Director of Admissions for the MBA program Brian Lohr said Mendoza has a history of supporting the armed forces and vice versa.

“Director of Admissions for the MBA program Brian Lohr said Mendoza has a history of supporting the armed forces and vice versa.”

Mendoza College of Business MBA program a military-friendly school

Professor researches tango

By CHRISTIAN MYERS

News Writer

It may take two to tango, but it only takes one passionate professor to study the dance.

A Fullbright grant recipient, Notre Dame professor Maria Rosa Olivera-Williams is currently conducting field research on the cultural aspects of tango in Argentina and Uruguay.

Olivera-Williams said her research will help finish the manuscript of her book, “The Rhythms of Modernization: Tango, Ruin, and Historical Memory in the Rio de la Plata Countries,” by 2012.

“I question how did tango … become the embodiment of modernization and a strong national symbol of Argentina and Uruguay,” Olivera-Williams said.

Notre Dame professor Maria Rosa Olivera-Williams researches the cultural aspects of tango in Argentina and Uruguay.

Her field research is the important final step in her years of research.
QUESTION OF THE DAY: How do you spend football away weekends?

Natalia Cuevas  
Sophomore  
Lyons

"I try to get work done while watching the game."

Cailltln Alli  
Senior  
Off campus

"Order Chinese with my roommates."

Kelsey Burke  
Senior  
Off campus

"I watch the game with friends."

Alberto Ortiz  
Sophomore  
Zahn

"Sleeping, hydrating and watching the game."

Ise Zenteno  
Sophomore  
Pascirilla West

"Studying like everyone else should be."

Chris Matthew  
Senior  
Stanford

"Watching Adventure Time!"

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

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IN BRIEF

There will be a philosophy colloquium entitled “Toward a Theory of Being” today in Malloy Hall Room 202 from 3 to 5 p.m. The speaker will be professor Lorenz Pantel of the University of Munich.

The Notre Dame Workshop on Ancient Philosophy will co-sponsor a Classics Colloquium entitled “Sacred Religion” today from 4 to 5:30 p.m in O’Shaughnessy Hall Room 303. The speaker will be professor Mark McPherron of Simon Fraser University.

The film “East is East/ West is West” will be shown tonight at 6:30 p.m in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for students.

The Latino Freshman Retreat sponsored by Campus Ministry starts today and concludes Sunday. The retreat focuses on issues of specific interest to first-year Latino students while building community and new friendship in a faith-filled context. The retreat is at Sacred Heart Parish Center.

The 2011 Domer Run is tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Registration is at 8 a.m. at the Aires and the race begins at 9 a.m. The race is a fun run to benefit local cancer education and awareness programs. All participants receive a T-shirt and a complimentary breakfast. Registration can be done online via RecRegister or at the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center.

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

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OFFBEAT

Politicians advocate for speed limits, tunnels for koalas

AUSTRALIA — Special koala tunnels and tougher road speed limits would help avoid one of the leading causes of death of Australia’s iconic marsupial, lawmakers said Thursday.

No one knows how many koalas are left in the wild, but the numbers are slowly falling and road deaths are the second biggest cause.

An inquiry by the upper house Senate urged national and state government to take action to nurture the furry marsupial.

The committee is pleased that the koala may not yet be eligible for listing as threatened. The committee believes that to have such a significant Australian icon included on the threatened species list would be national shame,” its acting chairman Doug Cameron said.

Some areas of dense koala populations have special koala-proof fences around major roads, and tunnels which allow the animals to cross safely underneath.

The Senate inquiry recommended local governments introduce lower speed limits around known koala areas, install koala-proof fencing on major roads, and build more tunnels and bridges to allow koalas to cross roads safely.

Kangaroo attacks man

GREEN CAMP, Ohio — An 80-year-old man is in fair condition after a kangaroo attacked him for 15 minutes at an exotic-animal farm in Ohio.

The Columbus Dispatch reports that the Marion County sheriff’s office received a 911 call from a woman saying her father-in-law was hurt. The injury happened at Kokas Exotics in Green Camp.

The farm owner’s son said the man was attacked by a 6-foot-tall, 200-pound male kangaroo. According to news reports, the attack came at breeding time when males can be aggressive.

The son said the kangaroo will be euthanized.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we may make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4941 so we can correct our error.
Seniors approach theses with passion

By AUBREY BUTTS
News Writer

Senior Michael Rodio began his career at Notre Dame as a biology major.

Now, Rodio is preparing for his senior thesis as a piano performance major.

“I would rather spend four hours a day at the piano bench than a lab bench,” Rodio said. Having a passion for his subject has driven his preparation for his thesis performance, Rodio said.

“Do a thesis because you personally need to do it, not because you feel like you have to,” Rodio said. “It sounds trite, but if you love something, your work will be great, no matter how difficult it is.”

Rodio will perform a full-length recital as his thesis. He said the show will last about an hour.

My performance will include pieces ranging from a Haydn sonata to Gershwin’s ‘Rhapsody in Blue,’” Rodio said. “I joined this group and really started to learn about food deserts and the disparities that exist in food availability and quality among different neighborhoods.”

Her experience with eND Hunger prompted Gillespie to research the relationship between food security and social class for her senior thesis.

“The most challenging thing so far has just been navigating the research process as a whole,” Gillespie said. “I’ve done plenty of research papers for classes, but this is the first time that I am doing something of this caliber.”

Gillespie described her research experience as more “hands-on” than previous college projects.

“We each chose our own topic, and we actually have to go out and collect our data,” she said. “It’s not just something where you sit in the library and research information.”

Gillespie’s post-graduation plans also influenced her thesis topic.

“I think I want to eventually work in the food industry, either with nutrition or with food policy, and my thesis topic relates quite well to that,” she said. “I hope to be better prepared for this field by the time I am done with writing.”

Senior Kevin DeLaMontaigne, another American Studies major, also said he hopes to draw examples from the local community for his thesis.

DeLaMontaigne will examine the way homophobic language affects the social power structures in schools today. He became interested in the topic after reading several books on the subject for his classes.

“Last year, I found out about eND Hunger, a group on campus that works with the West Side Food Security Council to increase food security on the West Side of South Bend,” Gillespie said.

Having a passion for his subject has driven his preparation for his thesis performance, Rodio said.

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SMC Quidditch Club sorts teams for season

By CECILIA GLOVER
News Writer

Saint Mary’s students may have been assigned a dorm when they first arrived at the College, but some received a new home last weekend when members of the Saint Mary’s Quidditch Club were sorted into their respective houses.

“The 55 girls in the club were split into four groups, representing the four houses at Hogwarts,” club president Leah Richman said, referring to the school in the “Harry Potter” book series.

“Many people think Quidditch and Harry Potter [are] dorky, but for us it’s just something we love.”

Abby Altman
secretary
Saint Mary’s Quidditch Club

Richman said the club tries to keep the magic of the books alive at every meeting. “We try to incorporate as much of the magic found in the books into playing the game,” she said. “We used a sorting hat to pick the teams — an element that is really involved in the sorting process at Hogwarts.”

“We have a lot of big dreams for the club,” Altman said. “Many people think Quidditch and Harry Potter [are] dorky, but for us it’s just something we love.”

“The club is a way for students who love Harry Potter to incorporate their passion for magic and wizardry into a real life experience,” Richman said.

Vice President Abida Coric said Saint Mary’s alumna Alie Hensley stumbled across the International Quidditch Association (IQA) on the Internet her junior year, and put the idea into practice last year.

Richman said she hopes the Quidditch Club will be a way for girls to embrace their individuality, especially freshmen. “There are many freshmen on the team, and we know it is hard adjusting to that first year, so we want this club to be an outlet for them — a place where they can be who they are.”

The Quidditch Club will have its first match Sunday at 3 p.m. on Library Green, and will host a “Halloween Hullabaloo” on Oct. 30 with themed food, drinks and a wizard rock band.

Contact Cecilia Glover at cglove01@saintmarys.edu
Tango continued from page 1

of research about modernization in Latin America and the cultural phenomenon of tango, she said. "I have been studying and writing on modernization in Latin America for many years," she said, "I became passionate about tango in 2000 when I saw people in Buenos Aires, [Argentina], who were doing what is currently known as 'milonga,' where you see a specific group of people and how they use it." Maria Rosa Olivera-Williams professor

But rewards often bring challenges. "The business is always changing, and the biggest challenge for all of us in the business — whether we are academics or a professional that works in this area — is to provide very good stories for the audience, whether they be at Peacock or on TV, in the theater," Weaver said. "It's just getting a little harder to make sure the story is as strong and needs to be original." Weaver continues to work on captivating the audience.

"I'm about to play a professor of queer theory in a movie out in California," she said. "I'm looking forward to working with the students, meeting them and sharing my passion," she said.

"I'm so excited to have my research at the Universidad de Montevideo and the Artigas Institute, which prepares me for all of these projects," she said. "It was also invited to deliver a lecture at the Universidade de Chile in Santiago, Chile."

"Olivera-Williams said to receive a Fulbright grant, a professor must have a strong proposal and clearly define how the grant will make an important difference in his or her research and final product."

"But I know lets me know that the scholars who read my research, and I felt the importance of it and shared my passion," she said. Contact Christian Myers at cmeyers@md.edu

<|prompt_end|>
A specialist works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday. Wall Street had one of its worst finishes of the year Thursday, with the Dow Jones losing 391 points.

Associated Press

Investors began giving in to fears Thursday that a global economic recovery already was starting to run out of steam, and stock markets shuddered around the world. Selling intensified around the world, and sent Wall Street near its worst finish of the year.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 391 points, which at one point was down more than 500, a return to the volatility that gripped the market this spring. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index, a broader measure of the stock market, and the Nasdaq composite, which is more heavily weighted with technology stocks, both fell more than 3 percent.

In Europe, the German Dax fell sharply. Traders bought metals such as copper, which is used in gadgets from China.

FedEx, a company that ships so many goods it is considered a bellwether of the global economy, cut its forecast for the coming year. It said customers are cutting back, which are signs that stocks even as the nation wrestles with how to tame its long-term budget problems.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note hit 1.71 percent — the lowest since the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis started keeping daily records half a century ago. It was 3.66 percent as recently as February. Yields rose when the economic forecast was brighter.

Small yields are a sign that investors buy bonds and sell stocks when prices higher.

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“Markets rely on confidence and certainty. Right now there is neither,” said John Canally, an economic strategist at LPL Financial, an investment firm in Boston.

It was the second consecutive rout in the stock market since Wednesday afternoon, when the Federal Reserve announced a change in strategy for fighting the economic slowdown — a bid to lower longer-term interest rates, and get people and companies to spend more money.

Economic news was bad around the world. A closely watched survey in China indicated a recession could be on the way there, and a manufacturing survey in Japan indicated a slowdown in China, which has been one of the hottest economies.

The probability of going back into recession is higher now than at any point in the recovery, said Tim Quinlan, an economist at Wells Fargo. He put his odds of a recession at 35 percent.

Investors poured money into American government bonds on Wednesday, indicating they see as less risky than stocks even as the nation wrestles with how to tame its long-term budget problems.

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Divided Congress clashes over disaster aid distribution

Associated Press

With the economy sputtering, Congress’ unusual difficulty in delivering disaster aid or even keeping the government from shutting down is a discouraging sign for action as a bitterly divided Washington looks ahead to critical debate on President Barack Obama’s jobs plan and efforts by a “supercommittee” to slash deficits.

Republicans controlling the House scrambled Thursday to resurrect a $3.7 billion disaster aid package after an embarrassing loss the previous day. Instead of reaching out to Democrats, House GOP leaders looked to persuade wayward tea party Republicans to change their votes and help approve the legislation.

The battling came as the stock market absorbed fresh losses and pessimism about the economy deepened. The atmosphere of this week’s fighting was reminiscent of the politicking over the economy’s deepened. The atmosphere of this week’s fighting was reminiscent of the politicking over the economy’s deepened.

The current imbroglio illustrates the difficulty lawmakers are sure to have when trying to resolve the problem or risk delays in getting disaster projects approved.

“I’m hopeful that Congress will work this out in the next couple of days,” Napolitano told The Associated Press as she flew to Joplin, Mo., to view tornado damage. “We have stretched this as far as it can go. We are scraping the bottom of the barrel.”

As of Thursday morning, there was just $212 million in the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s disaster relief fund. The failed House measure contains $3.7 billion. A rival Senate measure muscled through that chamber last week by Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., with the help of 10 Republicans, would provide $6.9 billion.

Republicans hope that if the House passes the measure Senate Democrats will have little choice but to accept it.

The drama and battling over disaster aid and stopgap spending is unusual. Such measures usually pass routinely since the alternative is shutting down much of the government and denying help to victims of floods, hurricanes and other disasters.

The current imbroglio illustrates the difficulty lawmakers are sure to have when trying to resolve tougher problems. The toughest task confronting the so-called supercommittee, which is supposed to come up with at least $1.2 trillion in deficit savings over the coming decade to implement the August budget and debt pact.

The panel had its third public meeting Thursday again exposing differences between Republicans and Democrats on taxes. The panel has until Thanksgiving to produce legislation — and there’s no sign yet of much progress toward agreement.

The chaos in the House contrasted with an unusually productive week in the Senate, which was on track Thursday to approve legislation to help American workers who fall victim to foreign competition. The move to renew expired portions of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which provides retraining and financial support for workers adversely affected by trade, sets the stage for Obama to submit trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama.

An Energy Department official said the reserve fund has at least $100 million in it. The program expires on Sept. 30.

Time is running short. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Thursday that the government’s main disaster aid account is “running on fumes” and could be tapped out as early as next week. She called on Congress to quickly resolve the problem or risk delays in getting disaster projects approved.

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Do good

When you're finished reading this editorial, take a walk. Walk past the Bellhart Arts Center, through Irish Green and down Eddy Street. Cross South Bend Avenue, and just as Club 23 comes into view on your right, turn left. You're standing in front of Perley Elementary School.

Perley is a microcosm of education in modern America. The performance statistics are startling. In the 2003-04 school year, only 24 percent of Perley's students met Indiana standardized testing requirements. Since then, the numbers have improved steadily, but not dramatically. In 2008-09, the most recent time frame for which performance data is public, 44.6 percent passed.

While this improvement is a step in the right direction, four out of 10 is not good. Perley students perform nearly 20 percent below the state average on these tests, and the Indiana average is middle-of-the-road compared to other states. But 60 percent is not good enough. Not in Indiana, not in Alabama, not anywhere. Suffice it to say, America has an education problem.

The American educational system has long been envied around the world. Recently, however, our priorities have shifted to domestic security, economic prosperity and international turmoil. Discussion of education reform often emits more heat than light, and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 has been widely criticized.

Education experts say the government must provide ways for schools to improve instead of simply punishing schools that perform poorly on standardized tests or throwing money at the problem. Accountability needs to be the main priority. While federal funding for education increased nearly 30 percent since the Act, test scores from 2000 to 2003 are nearly identical to those three years after the implementation.

Something needs to be done. This week, Notre Dame announced that its annual Forum will be titled “Reimagining School: To Nurture the Soul of a Nation.” The University will host events throughout the year to discuss the problems — and the solutions — in American schools. In an email to the student body last week, University President Fr. John Jenkins quoted Notre Dame's founder, Fr. Edward Sorin. In an 1842 letter to the Congregation of Holy Cross in France, Sorin proclaimed that Notre Dame would become “one of the most powerful means for good in this country.”

This statement emboldens us to act when met with challenges.

When you walk back to Notre Dame, you will rejoin a vast majority of students who matriculated from top-performing public and private high schools across the country. In this environment, it is easy to sit in our comfortable ivory tower. Yet because of the Notre Dame mission to “do good,” many of us feel an insatiable urge to help. We volunteer at schools like Perley here in South Bend, we sign up for summer service projects aimed at helping schoolchildren and we give up two years of our lives after graduation to work with Teach for America or the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE).

But something more needs to be done. Why should we do it? Two reasons, really.

First, because as the statistics from Perley illustrate, something more needs to be done. Second, because we can. The Forum begins Monday with a keynote speech by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, younger brother of the president that signed the No Child Left Behind Act. Bush is now CEO of the Foundation for Education Excellence, a think tank working to prepare American schoolchildren for success in a competitive global economy. After his address Monday, four of the leading American voices on education will convene Wednesday to discuss ways to meet education's extraordinary challenges.

Assuming you're back from your walk by Monday, go to the Forum. Ask questions. Make your voice heard. Listen. Learn.

Something needs to be done. And here lies the main problem. We, and so many others, have with the death penalty. Why risk the chance of killing an innocent man when you could keep him locked up in prison for the rest of his life?

Many argue that it is not cost effective, however, that argument has proven to be on less concrete grounds given the high costs of appeal cases. For example, Urban Institute reports that in Maryland, death penalty cases cost three times more than non-death penalty cases at around $3 million for a single case.

Others argue that the death penalty deters murdering. Yet, over 65 percent of the countries with abolished the death penalty. It seems odd that proven deterrent is being abolished more and more across the globe. Some undeveloped nations as the United States should not continue to practice such an archaic law.

Although Davis’ case is one of grief and sorrow, it is significant in increasing awareness of capital punishment. Hopefully, the millions of people who have been disturbed by Davis’ execution will act on their grief and push legislation to make a change.

Daniel Azic
Editorial Designer
ndsmcobserver.com
I hate taking issue with my fellow conserva-
tives. With so much damage being caused by our liberal counterparts, it is
dumb to spend time bickering amongst
ourselves about details. However, it is
important we put up a united front when it
comes to solving our nation's problems.
The Fair Tax is a popular conservative
proposal to solve our unfair and broken
tax code. There are many ways to cheat
the current system, if you can find the loop-
holes in the code.
The Fair Tax involves the elimina-
tion of federal income taxes in favor of
a high national sales tax. The idea is to
more equally distribute the tax burden
amongst all Americans because all of us
have to consume goods and services,
regardless of our financial status. The
theory is sound, however, I think it really
overlooks major realities on the ground
that not only would create the same
problems we are having now, but could
even be worse.
Basic reform of our current system is
not enough to truly equate the tax bur-
den faced by all citizens of all financial
classes. The current progressive system
makes only the top half of all Americans
essentially pay all of the taxes. That
would mean that I pay for myself and
someone else. If you are not personally wealthy.
The common saying is “they can afford to pay
more.” The problem is the “super-rich” people
are usually in charge of large and small
businesses that create jobs for everyone
else. If we don’t reward and incenti-
ize people to invest, then jobs don’t get
created and we lose our edge to others
overseas who will step up.
People also predicate that taxes are
the only way we can achieve some type of
social safety in our self-indulgent and
greed-filled capitalist society. This
is fundamentally untrue because the
wealthy are also patrons of many social
causes that improve the lives of the
downtrodden. It is one thing to be able
to volunteer to build a house for Habitat
for Humanity. It is a whole other thing to
buy the materials to build the house.
The wealthy also donate to religious
organizations that seek to fulfill social
welfare services in the community.
These organizations operate at much
higher efficiencies than the government
could ever hope to achieve. We need a
tax system that gives all Americans
the same story in practice. This is quite
a radical reform that must first be asked
several questions.
1. Are we asking the right thing to do?
2. State of Grace. You don’t want to arrive at Mass on a stolen bicycle, do you?
3. Sustainability. I got that bike so I could ride to and from my house off-campus.
4. Thou shalt not steal. If you accidentally borrowed my bike yesterday, please return it to me, no ques-
tions asked! The bike is a brand-new, silver, 54 cm, 18 speed with shimano shifter
aluminum men’s road bike. It has dropped handle bars with black bar tape and
says “zeerogras” in white. Drop it off at the lost and found, or contact me and we
can meet up. I understand if you like riding my bike. I like riding it too. I hope who-
ever took my bike could find it in his or her heart to help a poor graduate student
out and give it back!
Thank you, Notre Dame!

Mark Easley
Elephant in the Room

Have an opinion
Write a Letter to the Editor
Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reasons why you should return my bike

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, my bike was stolen. While true that I didn’t lock it prop-
erly, that still gives nobody a right to steal it. I’m hoping it was more “borrowed
without permission” by a student later for classes, and I can sympathize as anyone
who knows me can assure you. And I will be totally nice about it if you return it,
because I understand needing to get across our gorgeous campus quickly.

Here are the reasons you should return my bike:
1. Sustainability. I got that bike so I could ride to and from my house off-campus. If you return it, I won’t have to drive, thereby reducing my carbon footprint and do-
ing my part to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.
2. State of Grace. You don’t want to arrive at Mass on a stolen bicycle, do you?
3. I will take care of it. Many bikes around here fall victim to Old Man Winter,
but I have a house with a basement and a garage. I will ride it regularly, maintain
the tires, oil the chain, etc. If you won’t take care of it this winter, at least return it
by the first snowfall.
4. Thou shalt not steal. If you accidentally borrowed my bike yesterday, please return it to me, no ques-
tions asked! The bike is a brand-new, silver, 54 cm, 18 speed with shimano shifter
aluminum men’s road bike. It has dropped handle bars with black bar tape and
says “zeerogras” in white. Drop it off at the lost and found, or contact me and we
can meet up. I understand if you like riding my bike. I like riding it too. I hope who-
ever took my bike could find it in his or her heart to help a poor graduate student
out and give it back!
Thank you, Notre Dame!

Friday, September 23, 2011

MARK EASLEY

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Jill Voreis graduating off campus Sept. 22

I WANT YOU TO PAY MORE TAXES

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By COURTNEY ECKERLE

“Drive” is the kind of movie that makes you feel at least 45 percent cooler as you’re leaving the theater. Ryan Gosling plays a wunderkind, unnamed Hollywood stunt driver by day, and a heist getaway man by night. When he falls for the pretty and troubled young mother next door (Carey Mulligan), chaos is introduced into his regimented lifestyle.

Director Nicolas Winding Refn masterminded this ‘80s-infused noir drama, set in the streets of L.A., which are shown off in the film’s opening sequence. The soundtrack is a huge asset to the film, and sets the tone without taking over the movie. Featuring Cliff Martinez, former drummer of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, the music is subtle but powerful. Such music is a difficult feat for any movie, let alone one in the action/suspense genre — which usually tosses subtlety out the window of a cop car while doing a triple flip in the air.

But this reflects Gosling’s mysterious, subtle and powerful character. Gosling’s character is a minimalist who lives in an empty apartment, save for a table and chair. Gosling’s character speaks Madonna little. “I’m a driver,” he says, and he really doesn’t need another word. His character speaks through distinct James Dean-esque actions like making a fist with his leather driving gloves or chewing on an ornately carved toothpick. It adds suspense to the movie, because every gesture is subtle but powerful. Such music is carved toothpick. It adds suspense to the movie, because every gesture...
Guess who’s having the … Worst. Week. Ever.

You stayed up past 2 a.m. finishing a lousy paper. You got shamelessly dumped by a South Dining Hall diner. You flunked a test — which by Notre Dame standards (at least if you’re a Poli Sci major) means you got a B. Whatever it is, your week kind of stinks.

Have no fear, though. There’s someone out there whose week was way worse, and on doing it the whole world to see. Think Tiger Woods, Arnold Schwarzenegger, etc. — people who make you think. “Wow, at least that wasn’t me.”

So to celebrate the fact that our lives aren’t as bad as we think they are, or at least not as open to mockery. Scene is launching the “Worst. Week. Ever.” column. Subjects will vary on a weekly basis to really anyone who has made fools out of themselves. If you want to nominate your roommate, send me an email.

This week, we begin with the person who inspired this column: long, long ago. A man who told scared viewers he was high off a drug that shared his very own name. A man who famously claimed he shared blood with a tiger. A man who has three ex-wives and a couple of goddesses cursing his existence. A man called Charlie Sheen.

Just when Sheen’s uncontrollably blaming star was finally pputtering out, the season premiere of “Two and a Half Men” aired Monday. Sheen was booted back into the spotlight, a place that had become a second home to him during his public meltdown last spring. Instead of reveling in his re-found fame, though, Sheen was forced to watch Ashton Kutcher steal his show — literally.

Kutcher replaced Sheen on the famous CBS sitcom “Two and a Half Men” after Sheen was fired as the main character. This week’s premiere, which began with the death of Sheen’s character and introduced Kutcher as the new millionaire in town, premiered to 27.5 million viewers — the show’s largest audience ever. Sheen not only watched himself die, but also saw a younger, handsome man replace him with obvious success.

To add insult to injury, Sheen participated in Comedy Central’s celebrity roast, which aired the same day as the “Two and a Half Men” premiere. Talk about masochistic. As the gorgeous Kutcher took his stride on CBS, William Shatner knocked Sheen’s looks for all they were worth.

“First off Charlie, I’m 80-years-old. You’re what, 47?” Shatner asked.

“46,” Sheen replied. “Then how come we look like we went to high school together?” Shatner asked, digging the nail into Sheen’s ego’s coffin.

Seth MacFarlane commented on Sheen’s deteriorated career, noting his passing of the torch to the younger generation.

“I really think you and Emilio should do a follow up to ‘Men and Work’ and you can call it ‘Men Who Don’t Work Anymore.’” MacFarlane said. “Honestly Charlie, I never thought I would live to see this night.”

To watch someone get verbally slaughtered and successfully replaced all in the same day would crush anyone’s spirits. Charlie Sheen, you officially get the “Worst. Week. Ever.” Award. #Winning.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

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

Adriana Pratt
Assistant Managing Editor

By CLAIRE STEPHENS

While some of us hit the beach, took classes abroad or had an internship, junior Alex Andre was on his way to being discovered by the world.

Andre just released his first mixtape entitled “Good Day.” Andre, a big hip-hop fan, got his start when his friends experimented with their computer’s audio.

“A few of my friends used to record funny rap songs with their computer mic doing stupid stuff,” Andre said. “I went to a party with a couple of verses and recorded over a beat and they were like ‘Alex is tight. I’m feeling that’.”

Andre began writing his own songs last winter break, and continued over the summer when he had more time. He recorded with DJ Spydey, a disc jockey from his hometown. His first show was at Acoustica.

“It was kind of weird since everyone was doing music,” he said. “We’re all at the same level. It’s a broad range of hip hop, covering all the bases, from raw instrumentals, shop for beats. I feel like that, boom, put it in. Sync has to line up, it has a feel.

Andre said he was surprised how many people texted, called and Face Book messaged him once he became better known.

“They asked me if I was signed,” he said.

But Andre said he likes that hip hop is not a job for him right now.

“I’m not going to stop studying. I’m doing what I love right now,” he said.

If I’m not inspired I can not write for a couple of weeks. But I’m usually pretty inspired.

One of the most popular hits on his new mixtape is “Dorm Party Anthem,” an addictive, tongue-in-cheek song about the Notre Dame party experience.

“One day, Cee Lo Green’s ‘Forget You’ came on the radio, and I started feeling a rap flow over the verses. The title ‘Dorm Party Anthem’ popped into my head. At that point the songs write themselves.”

In discussing Notre Dame, partying and hip hop, the classic on-campus entertainment that is Legends’ Hip Hop Night inevitably came up.

“Hip hop night gets me … I’m active in the black community on campus, so people come to be seen, but that music is just whack. You just can’t dance to it,” he insisted. “When I want to dance, I put on some Kanyy or Carins Mayfield.

His all-time favorite music consists of big jazz and funk artists like Miles Davis, Colrane and Keith Jarrett, as well a broad range of hip hop, covering Outkast, Tupac, Most Def, Public Enemy, A Tribe Called Quest, Common, Nas, Fashawn and Wale.

One of the challenges Andre has faced is fighting against people’s impression of rap, which he clarifies as different from hip-hop.

“Most people are exposed to club stuff, and it’s not hip hop. [Hip hop] is not money, sex, weed and fancy cars, it’s real life,” he said. “Humble yourself and talk about real things. These cats are saying nothing, they’re just trying to make money.”

Andre also discussed how racial expectations play into his musical endeavors.

“I don’t feel a huge need to prove my legitimacy as a white artist in a black genre, but you have to walk a certain line. I have a great amount of respect for hip hop and its history as part of black culture. I’m not trying to appropriate it as white music. I’m just doing me.”

Andre hopes to confront important issues in his lyrics and inspire his audience the way hip hop has inspired him.

“Hip hop has had a profound influence on me. It’s brought me out of dark places, it’s helped me though things, it encompasses all emotions,” he said.

“Whenver I do music, I have a respect for what hip hop has done for me and I try to emulate that. Hip hop is honest.

Andre is a Stanford junior with an infectious sense of humor and an uncanny sense of rhythm. He prefers hugs over handshake and stryve for better music at Hip Hop Night. He represents Notre Dame’s next ferocious talent, hidden behind the smile of a tall white boy from Illinois.

Andre’s work can be found on his YouTube Channel, aandrehiphop, his Facebook page and for download at hotnewhiphop.com.

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By CLAIRE STEPHENS

Scene Writer

CLAYTON MARINA KOZAK | Observer Graphic
Thank you, Pac-12

For once, money saved college football. It wasn’t the money given to a player by a booster to convince him to come to the booster’s school.

It wasn’t the money made by television bowl games that keeps a playoff from happening. It was the money that comes from a television contract.

When the Pac-12 wouldn’t agree to give University of Texas a greater share in revenue earned by the newly formed Longhorn Network, it saved college football.

The Pac-12 decided that instead of allowing Texas, Texas Tech and Oklahoma to abandon the Big 12, which would have been the largest of the dominions to fall in conference realignment, the Pac-12 decided to stay at 12 teams. In doing so, it saved college football.

But most importantly, by not allowing the move, the Pac-12 saved the integrity of college football, and of college sports as a whole.

Some experts have predicted that the consequences of forming four 16-team “super conferences” would be far more devastating than they’ve expected. The four conferences and the 64 teams in the conferences would no longer have any use for the other teams in college football or for the NCAA itself. They could secede from the NCAA with few to no repercussions. Would the TV networks stop broadcasting their games, and would any team honestly stop watching?

The 64 schools would no longer be under NCAA regulations and could resort to any kind of recruiting practices, including the payment of players. This could even become the norm. All that would be pure and about college football would fall to the wayside as the new era of 64-team league became just like another professional sport.

Players could transfer without punishment to an school that could offer more money. Would eligible rules continue to apply, or could anyone who was enrolled in a school play football, even those who have already played for four years?

So, thank you Pac-12. Thank you for giving Texas to take the lion’s share of the profits. And thank you Texas, for being greedy enough to not want to agree to equal revenue sharing among the schools of the Pac-12.

With one move, you saved college football.

Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu.

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NFL

Romo expects to play Monday

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — With his arms crossed, ball cap on — forward — and an electronic stimulation device working to heal his broken rib, Tony Romo could only watch as the other Dallas Cowboys quarterbacks threw in front of passers at the start of practice Thursday.

Still, just being on the field was an indication Romo is close to starting Monday night against the Redskins.

Romo wore a jersey and shorts and moved gingerly. When everyone stretched, he was slow to join them, and didn’t do anything that required bending or moving his arms. At the start of team drills, he stood with the backups, watching with his arms clasped behind his back. Jon Kitna worked with the first team and wouldn’t say if Romo can’t.

“I fully expect him to play,” Kitna said.

Coach Jason Garrett repeatedly referred to Romo’s status as day-to-day. He also added, however, that constant monitoring of his progress. He called it a good thing that Romo was on the field Thursday and said the quarterback doesn’t necessarily have to practice to be cleared for the game, but would like to see him get in some work.

“I’m going to get a feel for how he’s feeling going into the game and then we’ll see if he’s ready for some action or not,” Garrett said. “It’s still early in the week. It’s a little too early in the week. We want to get in into all those hypothetical situations.”

Coaches and a teammate Romo said Monday was moving around better than they’d expected. Many of them pointed to the fact that Romo was able to return to Sunday’s game with the rib injury — and a broken lung that had yet to be diagnosed.

As scary as that sounds, it was a small enough tear that he should be fully recovered long before kickoff.

“His back has been up, he has been positive, he has been good to go with a regular work week,” tight end Jason Witten said. “He is very active in meetings and doing what needs to do to get back out there.”

This was Dallas’ first practice since Romo came over the broken rib and a tear in his lung to pull out a come-from-behind victory against San Francisco Sunday. He’s been praised for his toughness and leadership just a week after being scorned for bad plays and poor decisions that led to a loss in the opener and also he earned the NFC offensive player of the week award.

“The legend has begun,” linebacker Bradie James said. “Punctured spleen, kidney, whatever it is, he’s going to be out there.”

The Cowboys came out of the opener game with so many injuries to key players that Garrett gave the entire squad an extra day off Wednesday. They could afford it because they have an extra day before the next game, which also is at home.

The status of many other key players remains in flux. Six others didn’t practice, including running back Felix Jones (shoulder) and receivers Dez Bryant (thigh) and Miles Austin (hamstring).

Austin aggravated an injury in practice Thursday in Irving, Texas.

The Observer CLASSIFIEDS

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

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Ducks
continued from page 14

Howard came at quarterback as freshman Lauren Gable and junior Katharine Mack rotated and threw for two touchdowns apiece. Gasser also said she was impressed with new defensive adjustments, which helped the defensive unit create four turnovers in the last game.

Badin (0-2) looks to bounce back from a 28-0 loss to Cavanagh on Saturday night. Cavanagh had three touchdown passes, including a 20-yarder from Sam Nordlund to senior Evan Howard.

“I think we’re in a position to get better,” senior quarterback and captain Jenny Gasser said. “Both Gable and Mack have been playing strong and have brought our defense a new level.”

Howard said it was a combination of pressure from the quarterbacks, which are becoming a more solid team.

“This is a football team that’s built to put pressure on the quarterback, which are becoming a more solid team.”

Jenny Gasser Howard senior captain

“Both Gable and Mack have been playing strong and have brought our defense a new level. Combined with our defense’s ability to pressure the quarterback, we are becoming a more solid team.”

McGillin vs. Walsh
By NICK BOYLE
Sports Writer

Coming off tough losses, McGillin and Walsh will each look to right the ship when they square off Monday night.

In their last games, McGillin (1-1) lost to Walsh Family, while Walsh (0-1) lost a close contest to Ryan by only a touchdown.

“A loss in our first game wasn’t what we were looking for or expected,” senior quarterback and captain Lindsay Navarre said. “But on the other hand, it was good to get out there and get our new players some valuable experience.”

The Wild Cats will try and use this newly gained experience to improve on field with short passes,” she said.

“Get out there and get our confidence against Walsh. Our defense worked hard, and we’ll be looking for improvement during practice. I think we’ll come out with a lot of confidence against McGillin.”

The side of the ball, the team knows where they need to get better, and we’ve already seen improvement during practice. I think we’ll come out with a lot of confidence against McGillin.”

“The real issue was getting our offense to a new level,” Navarre said.

By NICK BOYLE
Sports Writer

Two talented teams will collide Tuesday night, as Badin (1-1) and Pasquerilla West (0-1) lay in the field with short passes,” she said.

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Breen-Phillips hopes to bounce back against Farley

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

Breen-Phillips and Farley will take place at a game with bragging rights on the line for the rest of the season. Both teams (0-2) hope to salvage its season after losses to Pangborn and Howard last week, while Farley (1-0) hopes to remain undefeated. The game will take place at Howard 28-7, on Tuesday, but had a small breakthrough when they scored their 29th touchdown in two years. Breen-Phillips hopes this touchdown will spark its offensive output, but the Bakes also want to hold teams to few losses.

“Worked out some kinks against Howard, but we are still feeling better on defense,” senior captain Maria Lynch said.

Lynch also said the Baby Bakes will need to get comfortable with a new quarterback, as their starting quarterback was injured in Tuesday’s game. Farley is, meanwhile, looking to keep its momentum going after a satisfying win against Howard.

“We need to get comfortable being a more consistent defense,” Lynch said. “We are feeling confident in our up offense.”

The showdown between Breen-Phillips and Farley will take place at 7 p.m. on LaBar Fields on Sunday.

“The season has only just begun,” Lynch said. “The good things from Sunday, we need to continue to make all of our options dictable team. We are working to make all of our options threats rather than focusing on only one or two people.”

The Pyros will look to sophomore running back Kiah Schaefbauer and junior safety Anna Perino to lead them to victory Sunday evening.

Farley’s defense is looking to dominate Sunday’s game as the offense, Lewis said. “Their defense is going to be the deciding factor going into this weekend.”

With Blood and Haller leading the offense, Lewis is looking to dominate Sunday’s game against Welsh Family.

“We are optimistic,” Redline said. “The season has only just begun.”

Coming off a strong win over McGlinn 1-1) on Monday, the Whirlwind (2-0) are looking to continue their winning streak come Sunday.

“We are feeling confident in both our offense and defense,” senior captain Charlotte Seady said. “So far, we have had on one touchdown against us and we want to keep it that way.”

Having a powerhouse defense is not Welsh Family’s only asset. Junior quarterback Vicky Moreno has racked up an impressive 428 passing yards thus far and shows no signs of stopping.

“Moreno has been outstanding on the field,” Seady said. “She has definitely become the backbone of our offense.”

Walsh teams off against Lewis on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the LaBar Fields.

Contact Stephanie Banta at sbanta01@smu.edu

Howard vs. Badin

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

After a convincing 28-7 victory over Breen-Phillips on Tuesday, Howard looks to have rediscovered the strong offense and stifling defense that have made it traditionally successful. However, the Ducks (1-1) will face tough competition in a Badin team very eager for its first win.

After being shut out in their season opener, the Ducks offense looked re-energized Tuesday night, scoring four touchdowns.

“We had a really good practical on Monday and made some key variations in our lineup,” senior receiver and captain Jenny Gassner said. “As a result, we were able to play our style of football.”

Some of the key changes for this weekend

See DUCKS/13

Pyros and Wild Women to try for their first win; Welsh Family attempts to stay undefeated against Lyons

By STEPHANIE BANTA
Sports Writer

After falling to McGlinn last Sunday, Lewis is ready for redemption.

“Last week was rough,” senior captain Libby Redline said. “But, now that we have one game under our belt I feel that we are a lot more confident going into this weekend.”

With the loss the Chicks (0-1) are looking to improve their defense and take advantage of the chemistry between junior quarterback Connaught Blood and sophomore receiver Colleen Haller.

“Connaught is a great team player and leader [off the field],” Redline said. “When she and Haller connect on the field they are unstoppable.”

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Contact Stephanie Banta at sbanta01@smu.edu

Howard vs. Badin
Defending champion Sorin to take on Zahmbies

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

With a demonstrative victory in its first game, Sorin looked poised to emulate the success of last year’s championship team. The Otters (1-0) will be up for a tough game Sunday, though, as they face a well-rested Zahm team looking to start its season with a win.

Sorin opened its season last Sunday with a strong 24-8 win over Fisher. The Otters displayed a combination of high-powered offense and aggressive defense, holding Fisher to four first downs the entire game.

Despite the positive result, Sorin’s junior quarterback and team captain Ted Spinelli believes there is room for improvement. “I think that the first game was an inaccurate representation of the talent on this team,” Spinelli said. “If we play a complete game this week, we can score even more points.”

Spinelli will be important to the success of the offense, as he ran for a touchdown last week and threw a long touchdown pass to junior receiver Ryan Robinson. “Senior center and captain Ryan Costello is confident in the team as it heads into the final game of the season. "We plan to utilize the run early on in the game and have our quarterback make some plays down the field," Costello said. "To achieve offensive success, the Zahmbies will look to junior quarterback Alex Bowman and senior running back Colin Casey."

On defense, Zahm features junior linebacker and defensive coordinator Greg Allare, who looks to make the plays and calls necessary to stop the Otters. "Zahm kicks off its season against defending champion Sorin at 1 p.m. Sunday at Riehle Fields."

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnett@nd.edu

Seigfried vs. Knott
By ANDREW CARDOZA
Sports Writer

One of the best interhall ri- valries will take place again when Siegfried and Knott go head-to-head on Sunday, as each team looks to form some separation in the league standings. Knott (1-0) opened its season with a low-scoring win against Duncan. The lone score of the game was a touchdown pass from junior quarterback Jake Coleman to sophomore receiver Joe Mc Gilluddy. "Knott took away many positives from the game, but junior captain Brian Kwak knows his offense will need to step it up for this week’s contest." Last week, our defense showed real potential to match up well against anyone we go against," Kwak said. "We proved that we have improved since last year." The Juggerknotts’ know they have talent and potential, and looks to expand and build upon its foundation this season. Kwak believes that the their style of play will help them win major changes.

"This year we are looking to develop a lock down defense that can compete with any style of offense and a more dynamic offense that can keep opponents on their toes," Kwak said. Siegfried (0-0) has a bye last week. The Ramblers are coming off a successful 2010 campaign that ended in disappointment when they fell in the semifinals. Last season’s loss has given the team more reason to have a stronger season. "We are hungry to get back to the stadium, like we did two years prior to that loss," Siegfried senior captain John Aver- sa said. For the Ramblers and the Juggerknotters, rivalry runs hot. "We will have to play hard to beat a team as big, strong and fast as Knott," Aversa said. Siegfried and Knott square off at 1 p.m. at Riehle Fields this Sunday.

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Alumni vs. Duncan
By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

Coming off offensive struggles, Alumni and Duncan both look to continue their defensive dominance and increase their offensive production when they face each other this weekend.

Alumni (1-0) hopes to build upon last Sunday’s 7-0 shutout against Knott. "Our defense played extremely well," senior running back and defensive coordinator Dan Dand- sill said. "They really didn’t have a chance to score. The defense was lights out.”

The Dawgs hope to complement this with a reinvigorated offense. Their starting quar- terback, sophomore Will Cro- din, did not play last week due to a rolled ankle. This week he is questionable based on his performance at practice. "If Will plays this week, look for him to have a big impact on the game," Dand Jill said.

With a healthy offense, the Dawgs hope to put everything together and boost their off- ense against Alumni. "We need to get the little things right," Dand Vill said. "We’re looking to build on it this week.

Duncan (0-1), on the other hand, is coming off a tough loss against Alumni. "The defense also played well," junior right tackle and cap- tain Neil Eveld said. "We just gave up one big pass play that ended up being a touchdown.”

The Highlanders are tight- ening up on defense after a strong showing in a pass-favoring Dawgs offense. "We need to get the little things right,” Eveld said.

Offensively, the Highlanders come off a disappointing week when a last-minute touch-down was called back due to holding. Duncan expects sophomore quarterback Josh Whelan to have a big game and get the offense going. "The offense is doing their thing, as we hope to improve on last week," Eveld said.

Alumni - the Dawgs - can pit their strong defenses against each other at Riehle Fields at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Isaac Lorton at slorton@nd.edu

Carroll vs. Fisher
By ERNST CLEOFE
Sports Writer

Fisher and Carroll will meet Sunday when the Green Wave look to rebound from an opening loss while the Vermion hope to continue their win- ning ways.

Fisher (0-1) heads into the game coming off a loss to So- rin. Fisher started the game in a slump, giving up two quick touchdowns and finding itself im- mitting early miscues on the way to a 24-6 defeat.

Fisher plans to improve their offensive execution against Carroll (0-1). "We want to make sure to execute and move the ball better and not allow avoiding turnovers,” junior captain Matt Hart said.

The Green Wave also want to solidify their defense after giving up three touchdowns last week.

Carroll hopes to ride the early momentum from their win against St. Edward’s last week. Carroll capitalized on strong offensive execution and a solid defense.

“We came in with a game plan on offense and stuck with it,” junior quarterback and defensive coordinator John Kether Marrero said. "Then we just had a well-ex- ecuted defense.”

The team does hope to im- proved on their special teams mistakes and penalties. The Vermoin want to add new plays into their offensive and defensive playbooks. “We want to not have too many mental mistakes,” Marr- ero said. “We want to throw in new wrinkles and sharpen up our offense.

Fisher and Carroll play at Riehle Fields at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Ernst Cleofe at ecleofer@nd.edu Stanfield vs. Keough
By JONATHAN WARREN
Sports Writer

Stanford will open its sea- son this Sunday against a resilient Keough team that is looking for redemption.

The Kangarors (0-1) produced a solid defensive per- formance in a loss to Keenan 17-10 last Saturday. "Our defense is going to continue to be hard hitting throughout the game," junior keough captain and linebacker Rob Toole said. "The Kangarors, however, struggled to gain consistency on offense, committing three turnovers and five penalties. Keough hopes the momentum from their strong defense last week will carry over to Sunday. "We have had some pretty tough losses in the past, and we are expecting for this one to be even more vicious," Toole said. "We really want to come out healthy and expecting a victory Sunday.”

Stanford comes into the game hoping to improve upon its 3-1 finish last year. "It’s going to be a great year and be strong heading into the playoffs,” junior cap- tain Paul Babihak said. “We’ve always been at the top of our division, and I think we’ll be back there by the end of the season." Babihak said his team has rallied around new offensive coordinator junior Matthew Tausen and will be ready to take on the Kangarors.

Keough has always played us close, but we’re pretty pre- pared for them,” Babihak said. "We’re really excited and can’t wait to hit the field Sun- day.”

Griffins will look for their defensive line to be a strong Sunday. Junior Jim Waclawik and senior Matt Obendorf, proven performers for Stanford, will be impor- tant pieces on the line.

Stanford and Keough will face off at 3 p.m. at Riehle Fields.
SMC VOLLEYBALL

Hope provides stiff challenge for Belles

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Belles will face their biggest challenge of the season thus far when they travel to play on No. 13 Hope this Friday.

The Flying Dutch (10-2, 4-0 MIAA) enter the match with an unblemished conference record. Saint Mary’s (3-6, 2-3 MIAA) is looking to carry its momentum and continue a high level of play from earlier this week, when the team defeated Trine University at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Belles coach Toni Kuschel knows what sort of threat the Flying Dutch pose. “They are a very tough, fast-paced team,” she said. “We will need to play consistent volleyball. We will need to come up with big plays when they are needed.”

The Belles, on a stringing together their first set of wins this season, are determined to continue the high quality of their recent play. “We have been playing really well defensively,” Kuschel said.

The Belles have looked to a number of players for consistent performance this year, including a number of a large freshman class. Freshman outside hitter Kati Schneider and junior outside hitter Stephanie Bodien have been playing particularly well.

“Schneider has been playing very well for us this year, averaging three kills per set,” Kuschel said. “Bodien has been passing very well and has come up with some big plays at crucial points in the set. She has also been a great vocal leader out on the court for us as well.”

It is going to take more than consistent play for Saint Mary’s to be able to defeat their ranked opponent, though Kuschel said her team must mentally prepare for the challenge as well.

“It always feels good coming off a win, but this match will be a test of how mentally tough we can be as a team,” she said.

The Flying Dutch roster is loaded with youth, with only two seniors on the squad. However, lack of age does not indicate a lack of talent, as freshman outside hitter Jenna Grasmeyer was named the MIAA’s first player of the week.

Saint Mary’s takes the court in search of its second consecutive win at 7 p.m. Friday at Hope.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

Dan Beebe leaves Big 12

Associated Press

There was talk of solidarity, plans for stability, expressions of encouragement.

And then there was a step toward forced confinement from the Big 12 as it sought to prevent any more departures following a topsy-turvy year in which it lost Nebraska and Colorado and learned it will lose Texas A&M soon enough.

The Big 12 damped embattled Commissioner Dan Beebe on Thursday and announced a plan to bind nine member schools together by holding a huge financial hammer—their TV rights for the next six years—over their heads. The plan is far from a done deal, since it must be approved by some if not all the schools’ governing bodies.

But if it sticks, any school that considers leaving the Big 12 would have to leave their TV rights—and millions of dollars—behind in a blow much more punishing than a typical exit fee.

“These are very strong handcuffs,” Oklahoma President David Boren said after Big 12 university leaders met for more than an hour by telephone. “The grant of rights really does bind the conference together and it shows that we fully intend to stay together.”

Handcuffs. That’s what it has come to in a fractured league that seemed ready to split apart on Monday.

There are still signs the Big 12 has a lot of healing to do.

Oklahoma, which was trying to leave the Big 12 for the Pac-12 just a few days ago, and Missouri, which wanted to leave for the Big Ten in 2010, even staged competing news conferences to start spreading the new message of goodwill and stability in the Big 12.

But officials, often portrayed as the Big 12 bullies, chose not to say anything at all. Still not addressed was whether the Big 12 wants to do something about Texas’ lucrative Longhorn Network deal that casts an ominous shadow over the rest of the league.

Beebe is gone after five up-and-down years that included securing a 13-year, $1.2 billion contract with Fox Sports but sharp criticism for failing to keep Nebraska (Big Ten) and Colorado (Pac-12) from leaving over the summer. Texas A&M plans to leave by July for the Southeastern Conference.

Former Big Eight Commissioner Chuck Neinas will serve as interim commissioner. Boren said Neinas will not be a candidate to take the job permanently.

Revenue sharing and a change of leadership were considered by some schools, notably Oklahoma, as the top issues to address to save the league in the latest round of conference realignment.

The Big 12 splits revenue from its Fox Sports contract evenly, but only half of the money from its top-tier deal with ABC goes into equal shares. The rest is weighted toward the programs that play on the network more frequently.

Boren said nine remaining schools—all those except for Texas A&M—“agreed” to give a six-year grant of their first- and second-tier television rights to the Big 12.

The six-year term runs past the next negotiating period for the top-tier contract, currently with ABC/ESPN, in a bid to keep the nine schools together for the next contract.

“If you wanted to talk about one important action that really does demonstrate that this conference is going to be stable, that we’re not going to have year-to-year dramas like we have had, I think that grant of rights is a very essential item,” Boren said.

Bayliss continued from page 20

a little hit and add to their game.

The rest of the Irish squad will stay on campus and compete in the Tom Fallon Invitational at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

“The younger guys are staying back and playing in the Tom Fallon Invitational which is going to be a format where if you win, you advance, you continue to play players who are doing exactly what you’re doing,” Bacci said. “So everyone will sort of get a read on where they are.

“We know the teams and the players so I think it will be a good gauge for us to be able to evaluate the guys we have.”

Both the Napa Valley USTA/ITA Invitational and the Tom Fallon Invitational begin Friday and conclude Sunday.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

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Dan Beebe leaves his post as Big 12 commissioner amidst a number of conference realignment rumors.

The Belles celebrate after scoring a point during their Sept. 14 match against Alma. Saint Mary’s lost the match 3-1.

JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

Contact laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

Search of its second consecutive season over the rest of the league.

Hope provides stiff challenge for Belles
SMC Cross Country

SMC heads to MIAA Jamboree

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

After getting their feet wet at the highly competitive Calvin Invitational last weekend, the Belles dive headfirst into conference action Saturday as they travel to Angola, Ind., for the MIAA Jamboree.

The Invitational boasted a 16-team field, with four MIAA schools. At the Jamboree, hosted by Trine, all nine conference members will be present. Though Calvin has taken the conference title the last six years, Belles coach Jackie Bauters said the Jamboree will also feature good competition from other schools.

“Hope and Calvin are back-and-forth in the rankings both nationally and regionally,” she said. “It’s a competitive situation there. Also, Albion’s women’s team is pretty solid this year, and Alma and Adrian have some good lead runners that help them score well. It should be a really interesting day.”

Saint Mary’s possesses a solid lead runner in senior captain Joanne Almond. Almond posted a personal best by more than 40 seconds at the Calvin Invitation-al, and clocked the Belles’ first sub-19 minute five-kilometer time since 2007.

“She’s a well-rounded leader,” Bauters said. “Her teammates can watch her actions and see her hard work, but she’s also a real rah-rah leader, and she’s the first person to acknowledge another person’s accomplishment.”

Due to a few non-standard races to open the season, the Belles have not yet raced a six-kilometer race, the distance of Saturday’s course. Bauters said her team is excited to compete this weekend and hopes to learn more about its strengths and weaknesses.

“We are definitely ready to perform well this weekend,” she said. “It will be good for us to see where we are and where we need to go in another month. We had our first real 5k last weekend so we’re still figuring ourselves out.”

On their way toward understanding their abilities Saturday, the Belles will have to navigate an unfamiliar course. According to Bauters, a home course can aid the host school as they know the location of certain difficult stretches.

“It makes a big difference,” Bauters said. “None of this team has seen the course we’re running this weekend. It’s a little hilly, so knowing it well enough to know where to push is helpful. We won’t have that advantage this weekend, but we’ll overcome it.”

The women’s race at the MIAA Jamboree begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu

SMC Soccer

Alma hands SMC tough shutout loss

By MATT UNGER
Sports Writer

A lone goal in the 54th minute proved to make the difference in Alma College’s 1-0 win at Saint Mary’s on Thursday evening.

Alma (7-1-3-1), the defending MIAA conference champions, faced few scoring threats and limited Saint Mary’s (5-2, 1-2) to just one shot on goal for the entire match.

The Belles had their best scoring opportunity of the contest in the 51st minute, while the game was still in a scoreless draw. Sophomore midfielder Kerry Puckett struck the Belles’ lone shot on goal, but it was turned away. Just over a minute later, sophomore midfielder Mollie Valencia biffed a shot over the goalkeeper, but it was denied by the crossbar.

Saint Mary’s also had a chance to tie the game in the final minutes, but senior defender Keely Noonan’s corner kick sailed wide of the net.

The Scots’ winning and only goal came when freshman forward Mackenzie Smith took advantage of a failed Belles’ attempt to clear the ball out of the defensive zone. After Saint Mary’s kicked the ball around, it bounced Smith’s way and she struck the open shot through the back of the net.

Despite being outshot 19-6, including 8-1 in shots on goal, the Belles managed to keep the game competitive. Freshman goalkeeper Chanler Rosenbaum made six saves during the game, including four in the scoreless first half.

The Belles, however, were unable to counter the Scots’ attempts with any shots on goal or corner kicks, leading to a quiet first half.

Despite the loss, Belles’ coach Michael Joyce was impressed by his team’s effort against the defending MIAA champs.

“While [Alma] had more of the play and had more shots, we’d played well enough to give ourselves a shot at a win,” Joyce said. “We’ll move forward knowing we can play with anyone in the conference.”

The Belles will look to quickly rebound from their loss in a road match against MIAA opponent Albion.

Albion may pose less of a challenge than Alma, as it will enter the game at 0-7, including 0-4 in conference play. In addition, Albion has been out-scored on the season by a margin of 21-6.

The Belles will head to Michigan face Albion at noon Saturday.

Contact Matt Unger munger@nd.edu

Dealy

continued from page 20

momentum. It also makes it more fun to play.”

The Irish take the Joyce Center court at 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu

Please recycle

The Observer.
Clark continued from page 20
to do their job. And it always starts with our forwards (if they can’t create scoring chances in their half).
That strong team defense must continue if the Irish wish to play well against the top-ranked Car-
dinals (6-1-0). Louisville has not been shut out this season and has scored at least two goals in five games.
"The past results, along with the high ranking of both squads, give some extra meaning to this contest. "I think we’d be kidding our-
selfs if we said it wasn’t a game with a little extra impor-
tance,” Klazura said. “There’s a lot there that’s on the table: our record, this is a huge game for the Big East, huge game for RPI and then when you lose to a team two times in a row, you kind of want to get them the third time.
When asked if the Irish look at Marquette as an opportu-
nity to bounce back and move forward in the right direc-
tion, Waldrum said that is the team’s only option.
“It has to be because if we don’t (look at it as an oppor-
tunity), we’re not going to be playing in the postseason at all,” he said. “Right now, we’re fighting for our lives just to stay in the Big East. We have to have a big win. We can’t afford to go in there and not play well. We’ve got our backs against the wall right now.”
The Irish will return to ac-
tion Sunday at Marquette at 2 p.m.

Bohboy continued from page 20
lead at halftime.
Waldrum said Bohboy has been one of the few bright spots this first half of the season.
"Bohboy’s play was a posi-
tive factor getting us to the goal gives her two in the last two games. Hopefully we’ve got her on the right track," he said. "Outside of that, I think we are just not consistent. (When) it’s early in the year, you think it’s going to come, it’s going to come, but we’ve got 10 games into it. We’ve got a lot of work to do, and we’ll start Saturday when we get home.
The Bulls (4-3-3, 0-1-2 Big East) tied the game 1-1 with 3:36 remaining in the sec-
ond half, sending the game into double overtime. The tie marks Notre Dame’s second overtime finish, the other ending in a 2-1 loss to No. 5 North Carolina.
The Irish will continue Big East competition on the road, as they take on No. 14 Marquette over the weekend. The matchup will mark Notre Dame’s fifth game on the road against a ranked opponent. The Irish are 1-2-2 on the road so far this season.
"(Marquette is a) very good team — as good as anybody we’ve played this year. They are very athletic and intense, and they’re off to a great year," Waldrum said. "We’ll be in a lot of trouble Sunday if we don’t play well. We’ve got a lot of bad breaks and the way we did to-
day. It’s a very difficult place to play.”
"Marquette (9-2-2, 2-1 Big East) is coming off a 2-1 victory over DePaul, giving the Golden Es-
gles an impressive 3-0 record in games forced into overtime this season. Marquette’s two losses came at the hands of No. 10 Florida State and No. 25 West Virginia.
No. 10 Florida State and No. 25 West Virginia.
Notre Dame won 2-1.

SMC Golf
Belles face strong competition
By JOE WIRTH
Sports Writer
The Belles will be in action this weekend at the DePauw Small College Classic, a two-day tournament with a strong field that has four of the top 10 teams in the country.
Saint Mary’s hopes to re-
bond following disappointing finishes to Oliver and Hope in a three-
team joust last weekend. The Belles finished fifth strokes behind Hope and 22 strokes be-
hind Clayton, Ind.
Because of the competitive field, coach Mark Hamilton knows this tournament will be a big test for his team, but it will also provide an opportunity for them to spark their season and test themselves against some of the best teams in the country.
The Belles have yet to win a MIAA match and their best fin-
ish so far in the conference was a tie for eighth at the O’Brien National Invitational.
We know they’re good with the ball in one-on-one matchups, they’re good moving the ball from side to side. So I think it’s going to be important as a team to keep the ball.”
Clark also recognizes the Car-
dinals’ ability to make a tran-
sition.
"They’re very dangerous in the break," Clark said. "They pressure you very hard when you have the ball and they’re also strong in set pieces. They’re good in every department.”
The matchup is the Big East opener for each squad. Clark, however, is trying to approach it as a typical game.
"Obviously you’d like to win the league and you’d like to win the conference tournament and they’re certainly goals for the team I’m sure," he said. "But I also think making it to the NCAA Tournament is the biggest of all aims and it doesn’t really matter whether it’s conference games or non-conference games.”
Given the recent history be-
tween the Irish and Cardinals, it’s going to come — but we’re just not consistent.
"When it’s early in the year, we are just not consistent. We make too many mistakes,” Mark Hamilton Belles coach
“We have to bounce back and this tournament will be a tremen-
dous challenge,” Hamilton said. “The field is very strong with four of the top 10 national-
ally, including who I am, the two best teams in the country in Wash-
nington University and DePauw.”
Si
or C
rist
e
n Brown consistently led the Belles this season and hopes to con-
tinue her good play this weekend.
A n o t h e r standout for Saint Mary’s has been freshman Janice Heffer-
on, Her score of 86 Wednesday was the second best score of the day for the Belles. Saint Mary’s is also looking for top performances from juniors Cara Kielty and Jessica Kinnick and senior Natalie Matuszak.
Hamilton knows he has a talented team and thinks they are close to playing their best.
He said they have to put full rounds together and get rid of the big numbers.
“We have good holes and we have a lot of good nines, but we have a hard time backing it up,” Ham-
ilton said. “We make too many mistakes. We have to clean up our rounds.”
The competition will begin Thursday morning at 11 a.m. at the Deer Creek Golf Course in Clayton, Ind.
Contact Joe Wirth at

Email Allan Joseph at ajophb2@nd.edu

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TRON (1982) DIRECTED BY STEPHEN LISBERGER Saturday, September 24 at 3pm After hacker Kevin Flynn (Jeff Bridges) tries to crack a secret systems code, he is converted into a stream of bits and bytes so he can compete in a sequence of games within the computer itself. To survive, Flynn must fight band together with the game’s hero, Tron, (Bruce Boxleitner), To put an end to the dastardly Master Control program.

INCENDIES (2009) DIRECTED BY CLAIRE SIMONNEAU Saturday, September 24 at 6pm and 9pm A mother’s passing sends two Quebecois siblings on a journey to the Middle East to uncover the secrets of their family history. Denis Villeneuve’s Academy Award nominated adaptation of Wajdi Mouawad’s celebrated play examines the atrocities of war.

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Across

Down
1. “... in Berlin” (1906 live box office hit)
2. Mineral used as chalk by tailors
3. Born on Christmas Day
4. Enlargement
5. Unskilled laborer
6. Newton-matter fraction
7. No more
8. Kind of box for input
9. Moral theory that doesn’t allow for shades of gray
10. Old-fashioned letter opener
11. You might keep a watch on it
12. Weird Al Yankovic’s first Billboard single
13. What tuning forks are made of
14. Clipped
15. Sleep in British slang
16. 3-kg, legged sterile
17. Had one do through persuasion

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**EUGENIA LAST**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Josephina Cabañas</td>
<td>1922-06-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wilson</td>
<td>1940-06-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Hall</td>
<td>1945-06-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Murray</td>
<td>1948-06-29</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Happy Birthdays: Everyone deserves recognition, but if you receive an emotional mixture that can’t be controlled, you will suffer less. Share when to walk away from a personal situation that can benefit you. Dang and wood and put effort into the things that show promise. Towns will come if you make the right choice. You resonate at 1.9, 12.3, 15.4, 18.3, 21.5, 24.7

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Don’t let a setback regarding long-term goals upset you. A change is necessary to eliminate past annoyances. Put emotions on the shelf and deal with matters directly, swiftly and seriously. Love nothing more than...

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Overworking will lead to a nasty situation. Stay put pressing yourself and demands on others. Child out and do the nice thing. Enjoying friends or forcing on work and getting ahead will be of lesser way to spend your day. Encouraged to remain in several positions on your own time. **TIP**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Memories may be a bit, but put them as a reminder and you can avoid making a mistake that would result in loss of a friendship. Say little, do little. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Rather to get down on an argument when no one win. **TIP**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Don’t judge others, or you will be judged. Help someone in need, without expecting or providing. Consider your motives and then open your eyes. Concern no one in politics, including you. You can do good, or make matters worse. You decide. **TIP**

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Your way of thinking is turning an unusual turn. Before your emotionally polish isn’t working for something new, understand what you are doing. Focus on long-term benefits and don’t let fate lead you astray. Professional ambitions first. **TIP**

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Renewed friendships will bring back memories and uncover old ideas and plans. Remember a new situation and open your eye. Encourage more social interaction in person. Friendships with fellow beings will bring knowledge and foresight. **TIP**

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Don’t let ambition rival the way of personal relationships. Tend to your health and other people neglect the people and things that are important to you. Find what you haven’t missed because you didn’t take the time. **TIP**

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your willpower and determination is daunting. Connect with people who care for you or have something to offer that you can use to excel. Skype your profile and connect with people who can offer better options. Don’t waste time with ants. **TIP**

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) It’s Earnest. Be proper to take responsibility. Show effort, over any and every thing, or you will be contacted. Don’t try to talk your motives or intentions. Love easy be a high cycle, but without honesty, it will be short-lived. **TIP**

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Stop silent or working. Deal with issues and eat your foods. You too social and think of way out of whatever situation you face. Dealing with emotions will be difficult, but if you don’t make the right change, it will become more difficult. **TIP**

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Financial progress is apparent, lower in your time. Your potential is great and completely true. A conversation with someone who thinks life is not too hard to help is a perfect one partnership. Because of emotional outbursts. Eat well and get some rest. **TIP**

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Work on important relationships. Whatever the connection is business orabble oralay or the same. A conversation with someone who thinks life is not too hard to help is a perfect one partnership. Because of emotional outbursts. Eat well and get some rest. **TIP**

**THE CLAMMY HANDSHAKE**

**JOE MILLER AND KELLY LYNCH**

**THE LONDON EXPRESS**

**ALEX GRISWOLD AND LEE HAGGENJOS**

**JUMBLE**

Send these four Jumbles, one from each to form four ordinary words.

**HENRY ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION**

**YAVEH**

**DUGRO**

**TOVELI**

**MAHRPE**

**HAP**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoons.

Answers:

Yesterday’s Jumbles: CRUMB AVOID CLEAN PRIMER
Answer: They learned about Big Ben after a passegery did this. — CHIMED IN

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**ndsmcobserver.com | page 19**

Friday, September 23, 2011

**THE OBLIGE**

**THE OBSERVER**

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Men’s Tennis

Irish travel to separate invitational.

By SAM GANS

Sports Writer

After opening their season at the Illini Invitational, the Irish squad will split up this weekend. Four players are heading out to St. Helena, Calif., for the Napa Valley USTA/ITA Invitational and the rest of the squad competing in the Tom Fallon Invitational on campus.

Seniors Casey Watt, Niall Fitzgerald and Samuel Kreton and sophomore Greg Andrews will be making the trip to Napa Valley with coach Bobby Bayliss.

One week after facing several of the country’s top teams in Chicago, the Irish will again face a daunting challenge this weekend, at an invitational that includes Tennessee, Tulsa, UCLA, Cal-Berkeley and Vanderbilt. All five made the NCAA Tournament last season, with four of these teams being ranked No. 20 or higher.

Bayliss hopes the experience gained last week will carry over this weekend. “There were four top-20 teams (at the Illini Invitational),” Bayliss said, “and it was who could really be a top-20 team this year and ourselves.”

“We were obviously in all the matches and the disappointing thing was the number of times we served defensively for a match or had set points or match points and didn’t get them. And hopefully, we’ll build on that this week. The field is equally strong.”

The Napa Valley Invitational also consists of the top eight teams, so some of whom have already turned professional. This weekend’s strength of the college teams present, the tournament’s unique format and the reward for winning makes the invitational prestigious.

“It’s kind of a round robin format,” Bayliss said. “And the winner of the entire event gets a wildcard into a high-level pro event next summer, which is very difficult to do. So it’s exciting. It’s something we’ve been looking forward to and we’re hopefully going to do well.”

Bayliss has a number of different expectations for the weekend.

“We’re never going out there (just) to try to look good,” he said. “We’re going to try to win each match that we’re in and do as well as we can possibly do.

“More importantly to me, though, is to see if there’s any progress from week to week. Each week we’re just happy when he needs to work on during the year and so what I’m excited about seeing is if any of them have been able to grow.

Men’s Soccer

Prime time

Notre Dame set to play No. 3 Louisville on national broadcast.

By SAM GANS

Sports Writer

No. 12 Notre Dame faces its biggest test of the season so far — in the Big East opener, no less — when it hosts the defending national runner-up and No. 3-ranked Louisville on Saturday.

The Irish (4-1-2) are on their strongest start since 1983. A large part of that success is improved team defensive play, with Notre Dame allowing just two total goals in the past three games after surrendering four in the previous three.

Senior defender Greg Klaszura said there are a few different reasons for the recent improvement.

“Obviously a big [goal] of the back four is getting a shutout and maybe a little bit more — playing well on the field,” Klauszka said. “I think everybody is playing well. [Senior goalkeeper] Will [Walsh] looks really sharp and is keeping us really organized.”

But the defense stepping up is not just attributed to the back four. Irish coach Bobby Clark said: “I always say with the defense, it’s not just your defenders but the whole team defends and the whole team attacks.”

“Just trying to look good,” he said. “If our midfielders aren’t getting good pressure on their midfield then it makes it very difficult for the defenders.

Women’s Soccer

Irish hit the road for weekend trip.

By MEGAN GOLDEN

Sports Writer

After a one-hour weather delay, No. 20 Notre Dame struggled to find a rhythm in a 1-1 tie against unranked South Florida. Even Mother Nature could only do so much to delay the next disappointing finish for an Irish team that has struggled to close out tight games.

On a day in which Notre Dame (4-4-2) dominated the stat sheet, the Bulls played for 90 minutes and rallied late. The Irish outshot the Bulls 26-13 (9-7 on goal) and recorded eight corner kicks to South Florida’s seven.

“I thought it was a great first half, and we let it slip away in the second half,” Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. “Unfortunately, it’s continued to be a habit, and we’re not good enough at the end of the day. We’ve talked about having these 10-minute pockets of time that we seem to fall asleep, and we did it again. It’s very disappointing and frustrating.”

Irish freshman forward Lauren Bohakoy put Notre Dame on the board in the 88th minute.

ND Volleyball

Irish prep for Nova and Gtown.

By CORY BERNARD

Sports Writer

After three straight wins — a streak during which they lost only one set — the Irish have booked their first weekend for a pair of Big East matchups.

Notre Dame will open conference play Saturday against Georgetown and will face Villanova Sunday. ESPNU will nationally telecast the Irish senior outside hitter Kristen Dealy said that, unlike some common Big East opponents, the Hoyas and the Wildcats have remained familiar foes from year to year.

“We’ve seen them before, you face a totally different team every year,” Dealy said. “With Georgetown and Villanova, though, they have been pretty consistent the last couple of years.”

During last year’s regular-season, the Irish played both teams. They swept the Hoyas, but fell to the Wildcats.

The Irish later avenged the loss to Villanova with a win over the Wildcats in the Big East championship. Dealy said the Irish must remain focused if they want to beat both these teams.

“If you’re not good enough, it’s normally a little weaker, which means we just need to focus on playing really clean and taking care of business,” she said. “Villanova is a great defensive team. They always give us a hard time. To beat them it’s a matter of being really mentally tough because they can just out-dig you.”

As a senior, Dealy has experienced her share of ups and downs along with the Irish as she faced the Big East season. She said she wants to make sure Notre Dame’s younger players stay focused when playing teams like Georgetown and Villanova.

“One thing about the Big East is you can look back at the end of the season and think, ‘I really wish we had taken those teams more seriously,’” Dealy said. “With the younger girls having never experienced that, I feel the responsibility to remind them to keep focused.”

The Irish hope the presence of ESPNU cameras and the prospect of a free t-shirt will attract a large crowd. Loud support from fans can really make the Irish effort, Dealy said.

“Volleyball is really based on chemistry, energy and momentum,” she said. “It’s going to be a lot of people talking on the court, and when people in the stands are talking, they contribute to that energy and