**PostSecret founder speaks**

By AMANDA GRAY

The secret that impacted PostSecret founder Frank Warren the most was the se- cret about a postcard.

“The only reason I know this secret exists is because of an email I received from a woman who said she wrote her secret on a post- card, thinking it was going to make her feel better, but when she saw it staring back at her, she felt horrible,” said Warren, the founder of Post- Secret, a community art proj- ect to which people send in postcards with secrets. “She tore the postcard in half and decided in that moment that she would never be the per- son with that secret again.”

Warren founded PostSe- crets in 2004 and has toured for the last five years with PostSecret Live, which took place in Washington Hall on Wednesday night.

SUB Ideas and Issues co- ordinator Tricia Corban said the event was cosponsored by the Student Union Board (SUB), the Junior Class Coun- cil and Notre Dame’s chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness.

At the event, Warren shared secrets that did not make it into the five PostSe- crets books, as well as some secrets of his own. Students also had the opportunity to share secrets via four micro- phones set up around the au- ditorium.

Warren said the tour is special for college campuses. “I think the project reso- nates with young people more than anyone else, and so I feel like the conversation I have on college campuses is so much more meaning- ful because young people are just more aware of what’s happening online,” he said. “But more than that, I think that they are at a place in their lives where they are more authentic with them- selves and trying to figure out what’s true in the world.”

For Warren, he likes to think of himself as a per- former, but because he’s giv- en hundreds of lectures, he notices differences and simi- larities with each new place he visits.

One thing I noticed abo-
**The Observer • Day-to-Day**

**QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHICH DINING HALL IS BETTER, NORTH OR SOUTH?**

Drew Williams
Senior
Stanford

"South is too confusing. North." 

Tina Andry
Sophomore
Paspaserrilla East

"North. There is no mush pit to get your food."

Julie Cleveland
Sophomore
Cavanaugh

"North. The architecture is more aesthetically pleasing."

Maureen Choman
Senior
Lewis

"North, I like the mints they have."

Nick Brandt
Senior
Stanford

"I like turtles."

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

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**OFFBEAT**

Lunchgoers by the hundreds bust a move in Sweden

STOCKHOLM — Some workers in Sweden have found a rather offbeat way to spend their lunch hour. Actually, on-beat is more like it.

Dripping with sweat and awash in disco lights, they dance away to pulsating club music at Lunch Beat, a trend that started in Stockholm and is spreading to other cities in Europe.

The first Lunch Beat was held in June 2010 in an underground parking lot in Stockholm. Only 14 people showed up. But they had so much fun they immediately planned another event. Word spread, and now the Swedish capital has a month-long Lunch Beats that attract hundreds.

On, 29, came to Lunch Beat with more than a dozen people from a government office.

"It’s great," she said. "We’ll go back sweaty together."

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**IN BRIEF**

A workshop titled “Library Workshop: Using RefWorks” will teach students to use the software to organize and generate bibliographies today at 4 p.m. in Room 247 of the Hesburgh Library.

NASNAD will host an art battle today called “Breaking Tradition: A Contempora- rary Look at Culture” at 5 p.m. in the Dooley Room of LaFortune.

Big Brothers and Big Sis- ters Association of Notre Dame and St. Mary’s will host a fundraiser at the Five Guys at Eddy Street Com- mions today from 5 to 9 p.m. Ten percent of the sales will benefit the club.

The Creative Writing Pro- gram will host a reading by British poet Richard Benen- garen, who will read his own work today at 7 p.m. in the McKenna Hall Auditorium. The event is open and free to the public.

Pangborn Hall will pres- ent a fashion show called “Project Pink: Fashion Extravaganza” today at 7 p.m. in the Oak Room of South Dining Hall. Benefiting SOS Rape Crisis Center, all clothes modeled by the stu- dent will be auctioned after the show.

Freshman Class Council will host a class-wide fire- fire as part of the “Fire and Ice Two Day Event” today from 8 to 10 p.m. on Holy Cross Hill. S’mores will be served.

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

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**LOCAL WEATHER**

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SA

Association finalizes constitution

By KRISTEN RICE
News Writer

This year’s members of the Saint Mary’s Student Government Association (SGA) met for the last time Wednesday before the new officers assume their roles April 1.

For their last order of business, members of SGA finalized the new constitution.

The student body must vote on the revisions, and 25 percent of students who vote must approve for the constitution to go into effect.

There will also be a banquet after Easter break to celebrate the new structure of SGA and the leaders from this year who made it possible.

Current members of SGA also shared their favorite memories of the year.

Student body president Nicole Gans said she is especially proud to be your advisor.”

“My favorite moment was when we all agreed upon the re-structuring of SGA,” Gans said. “Amanda Lester, public relations commission in charge of social media, said her favorite memory from the year was a particular event. “My favorite activity was the bowling night,” she said.

Karen Johnson, vice president of student affairs, who advises SGA, said she was impressed with the work SGA did this year.

“This is the most exciting year I’ve had,” Johnson said. “Thank you for a great year, and I’m very proud to be your advisor.”

As turnover draws near, Gans reminded the board they all need to pass on to a binder of the materials they used to those assuming their positions next week. Reflecting on the year as a whole, Gans said she was really grateful to work with such a talented group of students this year.

“Everyone in this room has affected the student body this year … and I couldn’t have asked for a better group of girls.”

Nicole Gans
student body president

Contact Kristen Rice at krice@圣marys.edu

MBA students win case competition

By CAROLYN HUTYRA
News Writer

Notre Dame MBA students swept first, second and third place at the 2012 Arthur W. Page Society Case Writing Competition in Corporate Communications this week in New York.

According to a press release, the winning projects focused on the 2010 Carnival Cruise Line fire, Groupm’s initial public offering and the Sony PlayStation network crash respectively.

Professor James O’Rourke, the faculty advisor for the projects, said Notre Dame has a good track record in the competition, which judges communications cases to be used in an educational setting.

“(The Arthur Page Society) has sponsored, for probably a dozen years, an annual case writing competition to expand the body of knowledge, to influence how communication is practiced and taught,” O’Rourke said. “Notre Dame has won the case writing competition more often than any other school.”

In writing a case study our aim is never to identify heroes and villains,” he said. “We’re not trying to make management look good or look bad. We’re trying to tell a story that will become the basis for a classroom discussion. Students who participated in the competition are enrolled in a course in Corporate Communication, O’Rourke said, which surveys a variety of topics within the area of communications.

“The students choose from among a world of issues out there bearing down on companies every day,” he said. “These issues might focus on employee communication, media relations, crisis management, investor relations, lobbying and legislative liaison. It may be an image, identity or reputation issue.”

The cases created in the classroom are submitted to competitions and can also be published, O’Rourke said.

“The past 20 years, we have published more than 250 cases,” he said. “Notre Dame cases are in use in 131 colleges and universities in this country and about half that many schools overseas.

O’Rourke said students speak to important people in the business world to prepare their projects.

“I provide [the students], if I can, with contacts in the business, and we set up telephone interviews with executives,” he said. “That provides us with answers to questions that aren’t addressed in the business press, and it also gives us an opportunity to ask them about strategy and tactics in dealing with these issues.”

Laura Divel, Russell Cramer and Sam DeLemos received first place for their project analyzing the causes of a Carnival Cruise ship that caught fire at sea, lost power and went adrift in the Pacific Ocean near Mexico for over a week, O’Rourke said.

“It was a story well told, but it was also thoroughly documented,” he said. “It was scrupulously fair. They did not look to point blame in any direction.

Divel said the people they contacted for the project set theirs apart.

“I think one of the things that set our case apart was that we interviewed [Tim Gallagher], the vice president of public relations at Carnival,” Divel said. “It made it a little more interesting because we got a little bit of what was going through his mind.”

Third place winner Shawn Do said he and his project partner John Hou sought to tell the story of the Sony PlayStation Network crash as fairly and accurately as possible.

“The material itself basically talked about when the crash went down [and] how Sony had hidden the facts from everyone for about a week or so,” Do said. “We basically laid out the timeline and how it all transpired.”

Divel said the hard work her group put into the project was worth it.

“It was definitely challenging, and we worked a lot of hours on it, but we enjoyed it,” Divel said. “I think the research was the biggest component of it and making sure we had accuracy because there is so much information out there. Our case was a crisis management case so the news media likes to take that up and publish a lot of details on it, and you have to distinguish what is fact.”

Contact Carolyn Hutuya at chutyra@nd.edu
Congratulations on making it to the Final Four!
We wish you all the best in Denver.
We are proud of you and we believe in YOU.

Go Irish!

Members of the ND women’s basketball teams, (1974-77):
Anne Marie Adams | Jeanne Appelt | Anne Berges Pillai ‘77 | Liz Berry-Kravis ‘79 | Mary Clemency ‘76
(Co-Captain, 74-75 and 75-76) | Beth Conlisk ‘80 | Patty Coogan ‘77 (Co-Captain, 74-75 and 75-76) | Carole
Cummings ‘77 | Barb Frey ‘78 | Maureen Maloney ‘77 (Co-Captain, 76-77) | Marge Meagher Hamm ‘78
(Co-Captain, 77-78) | Molly McGuire Sample ‘77 (Basketball and Crew) | JoAnn Mooney ‘74 | Ellen Myler ‘77
Judy Shiel Queen ‘77 | Pat Meyers Wyle ‘78

Women’s Basketball Coach: Sally Duffy (75-76, 76-77)
Anne Dilenschneider ‘77 (Field Hockey) | Jane Lammers ‘76 (Crew, Tennis)
Group to address distracted driving

By TABITHA RICKETTS
News Writer

First-year student Morgan Carrol is forming a new committee at Saint Mary’s to promote distracted driving awareness and prepare for a lecture in April.

“I’m looking for students who understand the danger [of distracted driving] and who aren’t afraid to speak out about their views, who understand it’s important,” Carrol said.

Diverta Thompson, founder of Stop Texting AND Driving Distracted (STANDD), will address Saint Mary’s students on the perils of distracted driving April 25.

“She’s going to talk about her story,” Carrol said. “Her own son [Rodney Thompson] was killed in a texting and driving accident.”

According to the STANDD website, the organization’s mission is “to encourage individuals to Stop Texting AND Driving Distracted, while promoting safety and empowerment through knowledge, education, and purpose.”

Thompson has been featured in multiple newspapers and radio shows and spoken at churches, high schools and universities. She even appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show in 2010, according to the website.

“Her own son was killed in a texting and driving accident,” Carrol said. “I realized, this isn’t okay ... It was something that I wanted to take into my own hands and help.”

Carrol said she wants the committee to put up a series of flyers and sponsor promotions to publicize the event.

“We are going to come together to promote fundraising and collaborative ways to bring awareness to texting and driving,” she said.

She said the committee will sell STANDD bracelets at a table in the student center atrium leading up to the event.

“There are also pledge forms that we have where students can pledge not to text and drive,” Carrol said.

Contact Tabitha Ricketts at tricket01@stmarys.edu

Event to raise money for hospital

By MEAGHAN DALY
News Writer

From noon to midnight Saturday, over 300 Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students will bust a move for Riley Hospital for Children at the Dance Marathon in the Angela Athletic Facility.

Dance Marathon executive member Maureen Parsons said she hopes the event will teach students about the work Riley Hospital does.

“I think the biggest challenge we face each year is trying to convey to students how awesome of an organization Riley Hospital truly is,” Parsons said.

According to the Riley Hospital website, the Indianapolis hospital is one of the nation’s premier children’s hospitals, and Dance Marathon president Rebecca Guerin said Riley does not turn patients away for financial reasons.

Parsons said between 15 and 20 families of children in the Riley Hospital will attend the event, and they will share their stories throughout the day.

“Until you hear a Riley child share his or her story, you really do not know the impact of participating in Dance Marathon,” Parsons said.

Parsons said the theme of this year’s Dance Marathon is “Animal Kingdom.” The event will feature games, performances, food and even animals, she said.

The Dance Marathon will also cross over with Saint Mary’s Lil’ Sihs weekend, Parsons said. Lil’ Sihs participants will take part in the marathon from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and a “Silly Safari” will take place during that time.

Amy Tiberi, executive member of the Dance Marathon, said the goal of this year’s event is to exceed the $63,000 raised last year by 20 percent.

Guerin said she expects this year’s event to be a success.

“As the year comes to an end, it has been so gratifying to see so many college-aged students want to be a part of something so selfless,” Guerin said. “I think that our Animal Kingdom-themed marathon this weekend is truly going to be our best marathon yet. From the exotic animals to the glow-stick rave hour, it’s going to be a blast!”

Tiberi said Riley Hospital is a cause close to her heart.

“I am so passionate about this cause because I know people who have personally been affected by Riley,” Tiberi said. “What keeps me so connected to Dance Marathon is the feeling that you get when you see how many people you are helping and how grateful they are for all of the hard work our college puts in for this cause.”

Saint Mary’s students can register for the Dance Marathon in the Student Center Atrium, and Notre Dame students can visit www.nd.edu/medinfo. Day-of registration will begin Saturday at 11:30 a.m. in the Angela Athletic Facility.

Contact Meaghan Daly at mdaly01@stmarys.edu
Senate approves new members

By MARISA IATI
Associate News Editor

Student Senate passed a resolution Wednesday proposing the continuation of the Campus Bike Shop and approved three students for student government positions during the 2012-2013 term.

Student body president Pat McCormick also delivered his third and final State of the Student Union address, as required by the undergraduate student body constitution.

The resolution asked the University to “take definitive actions to provide or make space for a Campus Bike Shop” before the start of the fall 2012 semester. It requested the shop be a free service and “serve students sustainably by using salvaged parts and the labor of student mechanics.”

Senate approved sophomore Elizabeth Garvin and freshman Anh Ta for assistant student union treasurers. The group also appointed sophomore Josephine Stewart as a faculty advisor for the Notre Dame Student Bike Shop and approved three students to continue their roles in the Campus Bike Shop.

Stewart also said students should be more socially conscious, interact with a wide variety of people, “make your world smaller and learn from other people,” Lee said.

Stewart also said students should pursue service opportunities within their areas of interest.

Get involved with things that connect with your passion,” she said. “We will be changed and so will you.”

Panel

non-profit that grows free healthy food for the community, and Stewart said it is difficult to ensure people have access to nutritious food.

“We can’t afford not to grow and share healthy food,” Stewart said.

Unity Gardens also focuses on community health and nutrition education, McCormick said. “Get involved with things that connect with your passion. We will be changed and so will you.”

Sarah Stewart
Unity Gardens director

“Make your world smaller and learn from other people.”

Sarah Stewart
Unity Gardens director

Panel continued from page 1

“We have been united by our hope that something never was possible this year, something that has never happened before. It was the hope that students might write a new chapter in Notre Dame’s history.”

Pat McCormick
student body president

“We are especially grateful to both Notre Dame students and local police for a dramatically improved relationship between the student body and law enforcement.” McCormick said the recently enacted Indiana Lifeline Law will make medical amnesty state law July 1.

“This is a law for which students across Indiana have long advocated, and we are grateful to state legislators for their recognition that in emergency situations, student safety has to be the first priority,” he said.

Student government also advanced an agenda “for students in charting a course for the Notre Dame project.” McCormick said he said parts of this effort have included a sustainability initiative, the Playing for Peace tournament and food security in South Bend.

“We have been united by our hope that something new was possible this year, something that has never happened before,” McCormick said. “It was the hope that students might write a new chapter in Notre Dame’s history.”

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Pat McCormick
student body president
how competitive Bookstore Basketball can get," he said. “There’s a lot of talent out there.”

Curley said showing off students’ talent in the tournament allows for others’ talent to be cultivated. 100 percent of the profits from Bookstore Basketball go to Jumpball, a charity founded by a Notre Dame alum which sponsors free basketball camps for underprivileged children in Jamaica, he said.

“When you’re signing up for a team, you’re signing up for fun and it’s a huge Notre Dame tradition that makes Notre Dame unique," Curley said. "[B]ut on top of that, you’re making a whole new team possible for kids who otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to play any basketball.”

Curley said he traveled to Jamaica last summer to coach one of Jumpball’s camps. "They’ve kept a lot of kids out of trouble," he said, "and the biggest thing is that it gives [the kids] … good role models.”

Curley said students should come out to support Bookstore Basketball both as players and spectators. "Basketball both as players and spectators. It’s a place to give hope to those less fortunate.”


developmentally disabled, hopes to craft ‘Super Ponies,’ aims to work toward a bigger cause.

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developmentally disabled, hopes to craft ‘Super Ponies,’ aims to work toward a bigger cause.
The last green revolution gave us a tripling of yields, its side effects are not good. The mission of the next synthesis is to move agriculture from an extractive to a renewable economy and rescue us from the fallen world.

Wes Jackson
Land Institute President

... is that it survived, whereas [annual monoculture] crops died.
Jackson said exploring the potential of ecosystem agriculture, or “agroecology,” as a model for sustainable agriculture presents a major challenge to human thinking, but its benefits could provide solutions to agricultural problems.

“If we look upward to the ecosystem level, there are answers to questions we haven’t learned to ask,” he said. “Since [Rene] Descartes and [Francis] Bacon, the hardest thing to overcome in our industrial minds has been the reductive approach to problems that pays no attention to emergent properties present at every level.”

In order to reverse the destruction caused by current agricultural methods, Jackson said he and some of his colleagues in sustainable agriculture hope to implement sweeping changes in American farming practices over the next 50 years, with a goal of flipping grain percentages to 80 percent perennial and 20 percent annual. Jackson said he has helped develop a 30-year mission for a sustainable "green revolution" that would send 110 Ph.D-level scientists to various locations around the globe to implement these new agricultural practices.

“Those ... ecosystems are real economies. They use sunlight and recycle materials,” Jackson said. "The genius of the Kansas grasslands during the Dust Bowl years..."
WASHINGTON — After a three-month struggle, Mitt Romney edged into the mop-up phase of the race for the Republican presidential nomination on Wednesday, buoyed by Newt Gingrich’s decision to scale back his campaign to the vanishing point and Rick Santorum’s statement that he would take the No. 2 spot on the party ticket in the fall.

Romney campaigned by phone for support in next week’s Wisconsin primary while he shuttled from California to Texas on a fundraising trip, praising Gov. Scott Walker, for “trying to rein in the excesses that have permeated the public services union.” The governor faces a recall election in June after winning passage of state legislation vehemently opposed by organized labor.

Romney aides eagerly spread the word that former President George H.W. Bush would bestow a formal endorsement on Thursday, although they declined to say whether former President George W. Bush has been asked for a public show of support.

Seven months before Election Day, there was ample evidence of a preparation gap between the Democrats. Obama recently reported $84 million in the bank for the general election, while Romney was campaigning in last winter’s Iowa caucuses, Democrats claimed to have made 350,000 calls to voters as part of an early organizational effort. And while Romney is still raising money for the second half of the primary campaign, he and Restore Our Future, a super PAC that supports him, were outspending Santorum and his allies on television by a margin of more than 4-1, with an attack-heavy diet of television ads.

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There was no let-up in Santorum’s criticism of Romney, whom he said is “completely out of sync with America” and “uniquely disqualified” to lead the party against President Barack Obama.

Romney moves closer to Republican nomination

Associated Press

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Colorado blaze sparks action

Associated Press

CONIFER, Colo. — Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper on Wednesday suspended the use of state prescribed burns like the one that may have caused a deadly wildfire that destroyed dozens of homes near Denver.

The Colorado State Forest Service said the 6-square-mile wildfire started after a controlled burn last week that was meant to reduce vegetation. Instead, the blaze went out of control Monday when high winds gusts blew embers across a containment line and into unburned forest.

Hickenlooper said the ban on such fires on state lands, including state parks, would be in effect until a review of the wildfire is complete.

Also Wednesday, Colorado’s deputy state forester apologized for the fire. The Colorado State Forest Service announced that an ember apparently jumped a containment line Monday and started the blaze.

“This is heartbreaking, and we are sorry,” Duda said in a statement.

The ban doesn’t affect land controlled by the federal government — which accounts for over a third of Colorado. However, Hickenlooper urged counties and federal agencies to also consider suspending such burns for now.

Meanwhile, some 400 firefighters from several states were focusing on building containment lines around the wildfire, which broke out Monday. Until now, the fire’s erratic pattern has forced firefighters to focus on protecting homes, not stopping the burn.

“We’re going to try to take a bite out of this fire,” Jefferson County sheriff’s spokesman Jacki Kelley said.

Air tankers dropped retardant and two National Guard helicopters dropped water to assist firefighters on the ground. Smoke from the fire created haze around Denver, obscuring views of the Rocky Mountains.

As crews dug lines around the fire’s perimeter, a search team was using dogs to look for a woman missing in the fire zone. Her home was among 27 destroyed or damaged in the blaze.

The bodies of Sam Lamar Lucas, 77, and Linda M. Lucas, 76, were found earlier this week at their destroyed home. Their cause of death was pending.

Hickenlooper said he doesn’t blame some of the 900 evacuated homeowners in the mountains southwest of Denver for being angry.

“Their houses have been destroyed. Their lives have been changed forever. It’s not their fault,” Hickenlooper told KOA radio.

Later Wednesday, some local sheriff’s deputies started taking homeowners of destroyed homes into the burn area to see what was left of their homes.

A slurry bomber glides over the Lower North Fork wildfire as it burns southwest of Denver on Tuesday.

Not that Romney was leaving the primary wars behind.

Romney recently reported $84 million in the bank for the general election, while Romney was campaigning in last winter’s Iowa caucuses, Democrats claimed to have made 350,000 calls to voters as part of an early organizational effort. And while Romney is still raising money for the second half of the primary campaign, he and Restore Our Future, a super PAC that supports him, were outspending Santorum and his allies on television by a margin of more than 4-1, with an attack-heavy diet of television ads.

Colorado State Forest Service says the 6-square-mile wildfire is complete.

Associated Press

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INSIDE COLUMN

Dwindling talent, swelling attitude

In case you have not heard, Tiger Woods is back — or so the “experts” say. They also said he was “back” after he took the lead in the final round of last year’s Masters (and then proceeded to choke it away). He was also “back” after he won the Chevron World Challenge this past December with a whopping 17 other players in the field.

Now, experts claim he is back after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational last weekend, which only had two of the world’s top 10 players in the field.

I understand that Tiger Woods is one of the few athletes who can transcend sports and bring in an entirely different audience to the game so he truly competes in the world of sports, the world of news and the world of media, but with this win, he has as many wins on tour this year as George McNeil, yes, the George McNeil.

So before everyone starts penciling him in as the Masters’ favorite, let’s remember that there are other players with names like McIlroy, Mickelson and Westwood who have had much stronger years to this point and who have much stronger major track records in recent seasons.

The fact is, Tiger Woods will never be fully “back,” and sports fans have to accept that. He will never be the Tiger of 2005. Heck, he will never be even the Tiger Woods of 2007 again. Long gone are the days of Tiger routing fields by ten shots.

At this stage of his career Tiger is what he is — a top 15 player who will win a few tournaments this year. He said that he would to do this when he is 36 years old and, after multiple surgeries on his knee and Achilles tendon, he is an old 36, and time is catching up to him.

Tiger’s golf game may never come back, but, unfortunately, his winning and temper tantrums on the course seem to be in full swing. Even in winning last week, anytime his shot was just slightly off, he would complain as if the “Golf Gods” were out to get him — it was never his fault. Instead of tipping his hat to the gallery after a shot, he is generally cursing that the shot was not better.

Some call that his competitive fire, I call it unprofessional.

Tiger is consistently curt with media and his playing partners, and, despite their undying support, he shows little to no recognition of his fans. Tiger’s overall disdain for golf etiquette is embarrassing and off-putting.

Do not get me wrong, I respect Tiger’s talent, but that is about all I respect about him. As far as golf is traditionally the ultimate gentleman’s sport, and Tiger certainly is no gentleman.

Contact Joe Wirth at jawirth@nd.edu.

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

A nation’s greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members”. This quote by Mohandas Gandhi reflects a belief held by most Americans that markets cannot always effectively allocate resources towards those who hold little market power, such as the sick, elderly and poor.

Beginning with the Progressive Era in the early 1900s, American policy became more directed towards both protecting and assisting these Americans. The most significant steps came with the creation of Social Security (old age retirement insurance) in 1935, Medicare (health insurance for the elderly) in 1965 and Medicaid (health insurance for the poor and long term care insurance for the elderly) in 1965.

At the time of their creation, these programs were extremely controversial. But due to their effectiveness at helping the disadvantaged, they have become widely popular. This is why those who (both Democrats and Republicans) who created Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid were on the “right side of history.”

However, these programs will become dangerously costly over coming decades due to two trends. The first trend is the aging of the population. After WWII, there was a major increase in population growth where 80 million Americans were born between 1946 and 1964. These Americans are known as the “baby boom” generation. The first “boomers” turned 65 these beneficiaries eligible for Social Security and Medicare) in 2011, and 10,000 will turn 65 every day for the next two decades. The second trend is the rising cost of health care. Over the past three decades, health care has grown roughly three percent faster than gross domestic product and will continue to grow at a slightly slower, but still unsustainable pace over coming decades. This rate compounded over many decades will dramatically raise how much every American spends on health care.

The combination of these two trends will cause spending on these programs to skyrocket. While projections are difficult to make because of different assumptions and uncertainty, the numbers are all bleak. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently projected that by 2021, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and interest on the debt will take up nearly all tax revenue. By approximately 2050, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid will take up all tax revenue, and by 2080, Medicare and Medicaid will take up all tax revenue. If these numbers do not scare you, I do not know what will.

While there may be nothing more important to the fiscal future of the United States than to reform these programs, there is nothing more difficult. The dependence that older Americans have on these programs, combined with their high participatory rates in elections and the understanding reality that older people can be easily fooled and scared by politicians has made reforming these programs the “third rail of American politics.” (Electricity runs through the third rail on a train track. If you touch it, you get electrocuted.) The irony is that most reform proposals only affect those who are 55 or younger and preserve current benefits for anyone older. Even still, nearly every time that either party proposes reform, the opposing side, instead of proposing an alternative solution, works to vilify the proposal to gain the senior vote.

As these programs, deemed unsustainable, grow and take up a larger and larger portion of the federal budget, lawmakers will most likely cut the “low-hanging fruit” in the budget spending on critical investments like education, innovation, infrastructure and scientific research. Even though investment in spending has fueled America’s prosperity since its conception, its short-term payoff is small, making it very easy to cut relative to the difficulty of reforming Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. To make cuts in these areas would be misguided as the world becomes more globalized, technologically advanced and competitive.

As I said earlier, those who created Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid were on the right side of history for doing so. But if the status quo continues, and these programs go unreformed, America will accumulate fiscally unsustainable amounts of debt as critical investments are cut. As a result, America will begin the slow but steady decline over the next half-century towards a fiscal future that would make even the Greeks cringe. Then, when today’s young people have become old, future generations will reopen the history books and curse those who refused to reform Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid to the wrong side of history.

Adam Newman is a junior finance major. He can be reached at anewman3@nd.edu.

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Submit a Letter to the Editor

Weekly Poll

What did you think of the Third Eye Blind concert?

It was awesome! I went for Hoodie Allen!

Who’s Third Eye Blind?

Vote by 5 p.m. Thursday at ndsmcobserver.com
The Syrian crisis

Mark Easley

Chaos once again reigns in the Middle East as Syria is engulfed in rebellion against the feared Assad regime. For years, Bashar al-Assad and his family have oppressed the Syrian people and have fomented violence in the region to maintain power. Now in the wake of the Arab Spring, public revolt has boiled over and violence has erupted as the people try to rid themselves of Assad. More than 9,000 people have died since the uprising started a year ago.

The United States already has had the green light for war in Syria for quite some time. We not only have an obligation to stop Assad from killing his own people, but the Syrian government is also responsible for the direct and indirect deaths of U.S. service members during the Iraq during the Iraq War. Hundreds of Syrian foreign fighters poured into Iraq to wage jihad against the United States. Money, guns and bombs also passed through the border to aid militiamen and insurgents fighting against U.S. forces. And for all the world knows, Saddam Hussein’s alleged weapons of mass destruction could have been moved to Syria before the invasion of Iraq began.

Assad and his government are guilty of crimes against humanity, being a state sponsor of terrorism and acts of war against the United States and Iraq. For even more incrimination, the Assad regime’s actions caused serious trouble in Lebanon with its occupation of the country from 1975 to 2005 and aiding the terrorist organization Hezbollah. This meddling has caused conflicts with Israel that has made the people of Lebanon and Israel suffer.

Assad has been an enemy of free people since he took power and he rightfully deserves a spot in the axis of evil. What complicates the situation is more external than internal. While Syria is heavily armed and well funded, I have no doubts the U.S. military will wipe the floor with their defenses and bring Assad to justice. These paper tiger regimes in the Middle East simply can’t stand up toe-to-toe with the U.S. in a fight. What is troubling is the significant Russian and Chinese presence in the country. Both countries are there to increase their access to resources as well as solidify their sphere of influence in the region. Some fear that engaging and removing Assad militarily could cause some backslash from one or both of the countries, perhaps even a hold military response.

President Obama certainly doesn’t want to deal with a conflict against two of our biggest rivals (in an election year nonetheless), so for this reason alone it is unlikely we will see U.S. and international forces deployed in Syria. However, a braver man would be able to call that bluff. Just as we were near powerless to stop the Russian invasion of Georgia in 2008, Russia and China would similarly be powerless and foolish to stop an invasion of Syria. With the backing of the international community and strategic deals to appease Russia and China, it is very possible to achieve a regime change and return peace to Syria. Would I trust Barrack Obama to do it successfully? If Egypt and Libya are any indicators — No, Jose! It doesn’t look like help is coming any time soon for the people of Syria, and for that I am truly sorry.

Mark Easley is a senior computer science major. He can be contacted at measley@nd.edu.

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Monologues to dialogue

I acted in “Show Some Skin: The Race Monologues,” and I had the privilege to embody an anonymous submission from the Notre Dame community in front of over 750 students, faculty, family and friends. On behalf of everyone involved with “Show Some Skin,” I offer my sincerest gratitude to you who came out on Friday and Saturday — many of you sitting in the Carey Auditorium steps and filling the aisles — to support us and learn about our cause. We also thank the faculty who wrote the “Reactions to ‘Race’” letter to the editor. In light of the ASA and BSA and Trayvon Martin incidents, “Show Some Skin” couldn’t have come at a more propitious submission from the Notre Dame community in- time soon for the people of Syria, and

South America, anyone?

The end of the year is approaching and I am willing to bet there is at least one other senior out there who doesn’t have definite plans for after graduation. Well fear not fellow nomad, I am here to propose a solution for you. I am looking to accompany one backpack through South America. I plan on leaving the first week of October and will tentatively travel for about a year. I am not looking for someone to travel the whole time, just long enough to assuage my parents’ worries. If you don’t already have plans, this is an excellent opportunity to do some volunteer work, experience new cultures, improve your Spanish and cross some things off the ‘bucket list’ list. Equipped with a backpack and a tent, the opportunities are endless. I am searching for someone who is adventurous, so I’ll leave my proposal short and sweet — which should be more than adequate for the true adventure enthusiast.

Please email me at acarrollo@stmarys.edu if you are interested or have any questions. Peace.

Alicia Carroll
Senior
St. Mary’s
Mar. 28

UWIRE

Google Play could be new competition for Apple

Recently Google replaced its old Android Market with the shiny new Google Play. Whereas the old Android Market was centered (obviously) on Android phones, Google Play sits dead-center on the Google toolbar used by PCs and smartphones alike.

The service offers music, movies, books and games in one online marketplace. While obviously somewhat lacking iTunes, Google Play differs in one major way from Apple’s mega-lucrative media service: Google Play stores all your media in the cloud, i.e., on the Internet, so you never have to download that song or game or book or whatever you want to have. You can simply stream your whatever of choice from the web, without ever properly downloading it to your computer.

Google Play is not the first cloud-based entertainment service. Netflix and Hulu have transformed the entertainment industry with their online subscription-based video-streaming services. With iTunes Cloud, Apple let users sync media across all their Apple-connected gadgets, but Google, however, have limited themselves to movies and TV shows.

Ryan Kindel

Daily Trojan

Tunes Cloud does not actually store media in the cloud. Google Play marks the first major attempt at e-entertainment streamed strictly from the cloud. iTunes will not be quivering in its boots quite yet. While Google Play talks big (offering “millions of songs and books” and “thousands of movies”), its selection compared to Apple’s is pretty weak, and users who want e-books or movies will more likely turn to a service built specifically for that medium. And competitors can take comfort too in the fact that Google’s ambitious side projects often fizzle. (Who remembers Google Wave?)

However, Google has never been a company that doesn’t innovate. If Google Play gets some traction now, it could become a formative milestone in modern entertainment, the final step away from physically having one’s music toward having a license to hear it.

This article originally ran in the March 27 version of The Daily Trojan, serving the University of Southern California.

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

Scene Writer

Trashcan lids and youthful exuberance gave Delta Spirit both acclaim and a sense of destiny when they first hit the scene in 2006. With hype for their third and latest full-length album “Delta Spirit” snowballing from a successful SXSW appearance and tour with My Morning Jacket, it seems as though the band might finally break into main-stream consciousness.

There have been a few setbacks, including a lackluster “History from Below” sophomore album and a brief spurn with trio Middle Brother for lead singer Matt Vasquez. The venture was a singer/songwriter project with Taylor Goldsmith and Deer Tick’s John McCauley.

But armed with new guitarist Will McLaren, the band set to work in Woodstock, N.Y. on this new album.

Last year, the band told Rolling Stone they were sick of being shoved into the Americana genre. They spoke of incorporating into this album their “love of hip-hop, the ‘90s progressive production and finding slow jams “closer to Montell Jordan than Neil Young.”

Although they were among the best of Americans bands, this determination for genre growth produced a solid album with perhaps more general appeal.

However, the band may have put aside some of their unique voice. Most of the songs feel like television songs — they work well in the background because they don’t distract from the scene too much. This is a real departure from previous albums centered on rowdy, gut-burning howling from Vasquez.

The band has said that this album is its first eponymous album because it has finally found its voice. The name draws up images of a spooky deep south of blues and hoo doo. “Delta Spirit” sounds much more like something out of their home state, with the first single “California” an ode to it. Vasquez’s backwoods-bar-jukebox howl brings enough of the blues to “California” to carry along current fans, jumpstarting the album’s musical scale like a raspy Tarzanan.

It doesn’t hurt that he has an ideal look to go along with his haunting voice either, like a swarthier Stevie Ray Vaughn. “Money Saves” has a rhythm and chord progression with edge that is reminiscent of previous works, specifically “Bushwick Blues” starting off with a high pitched tongue roll, “Telling the Mind” is also a more familiar track with its out of control pace and creative arrangement.

The album’s opening track, “Empty House,” is like running in slow motion. You know it is actually moving quickly, but you feel it very slowly. It is without a doubt one of the most compelling tracks on the album.

The band champions the blue collar worker over a great guitar hook with the opening line, “Glistening gems, in the concrete I paved / One every couple of feet / They got mixed up, in the lyme and the sand / Nobody noticed, but me!”

Considering Delta Spirit’s initial appeal with their fresh and creative trashcan banging and exuberant “I Think I’ve Found It EP” sound, this album comes as a mild disappointment. The songs aren’t always ideal for Vasquez’s voice, but that comes off well, as more importance placed on a collaboration of band style rather than on how best to display him.

There are more ballads than up-tempo, heart kicking songs that gave the band their niche. However, it may serve as the impetus to get the band the attention and appeal they need to indoctrinate new listeners with the Delta Spirit. The band members made this album, for better or worse, for themselves — a modern parable that should be applauded.

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By: Delta Spirit

Label: Rounder Records


“Delta Spirit” changes it up

By: Delta Spirit

Label: Rounder Records


#Fairytale

Lily Collins as Snow White in the upcoming film, “Mirror Mirror.”

Contact Mary Claire O’Donnell at madonna5@nd.edu

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It’s hard to find those stories heartening when they have that fantastical element — you know it’s not real life, so there’s little hope that it can happen to you.

This is, however, a national trend, so clearly the pop culture business is doing something right. NBC’s “Grimm” does a relatively good job of putting a new spin on the fairy tale story. It combines the always-popular crime drama genre with the new fairy tale trend, which is unique and entertaining. The highlight of this trend so far, though, will be “Snow White and the Huntsman,” which opens June 1. Charlize Theron is terrifying yet compelling as the Evil Queen. The plot twist of the huntsman looks appealing, especially with Chris Hemsworth as the Huntsman. Kristen Stewart as Snow White is disappointing, however, but hopefully she won’t bring down the whole movie.

As a trend, pop culture could do worse than fairy tales. There was obviously a reason we all loved them as children, so if anything, we’ll tune in as adults just to reminisce. But we can only hope that this trend does not end up with Kristin Stewart and a sickly pale Robert Pattinson as the faces of this trend.

Contact Mary Claire O’Donnell at madonna5@nd.edu
The world of Westeros is looking stark. Or, rather, stark.

HBO’s hit fantasy series “Game of Thrones” returns April 1 for its second season which promises warring families fighting for the throne — including the aforementioned Starks — and as much intrigue, lust and political conviviality as the beloved first season.

That word “fantasy” may have turned you off from “Game of Thrones” almost immediately. But if you’re still reading, rest assured that the show — based on the “A Song of Ice and Fire” series of novels by George R.R. Martin — is much more than greasy men in armor storming castles and non-human creatures wreaking havoc on medieval-esque towns.

Game of Thrones will appeal to the thirst for epic fantasy of “Lord of the Rings” fans, but with a much grittier and less family-friendly tone. The show combines this with the character drama of “Mad Men,” the political machinations of “The West Wing,” and the am, sensual-ity of “True Blood” for something that is far more than just fantasy.

Be prepared, though. There are practically an encyclopedia’s worth of characters (with tons more coming in Season Two) living in this complex kingdom of geographic jurisdictions, each with their own distinctive brand of politics and justice. The fight for the throne is the product of a long history of coups, battles, murder and exile with no clear end in sight.

Let’s not forget, too, that “Game of Thrones” is violent, bloody and only at home on this premium pay cable channel.

But, complicated and coarse as it is, “Game of Thrones” is one of the finest shows on television today. Impeccably written, each episode does full justice to the source material while exploiting its specifically visual medium to expand on.

The cast is filled to the brim with incredible talent, both old and new, though don’t expect to recognize most of them. Sean Bean, who played Boromir in “Lord of the Rings,” does the cast as Ned Stark.

With a fine attention to detail and an emphasis on location shooting, rather than a reliance on CGI effects to create a backdrop, “Game of Thrones” pulls you into a new world at once familiar and foreign. Its vivid depictions of the frozen North, the sun-baked South and the deserts of exile are magical in a wholly realistic way.

All this has contributed to “Thrones’” critical adoration, picking up major Emmy — which notoriously shuns “fantasy” series — and Golden Globe nominations and wins in every area.

“Game of Thrones” isn’t just a critical favorite, though. It earns big audience numbers for HBO and has set a record for HBO’s DVD and Blu-Ray sales. Regardless of its high quality of production and its sheer appeal, “Game of Thrones” is ultimately just really good, entertaining TV.

And that holds true whether you like fantasy or not.

It should also be noted that, while “Thrones” does participate in a lot of the sensationalized, lascivious behavior that HBO shows are often known for, it also presents some of the strongest, most compelling female characters on contemporary television. In fact, one could easily argue that it is these very stories.

The Department of Music presents John Thiessen, a Baroque trumpeter who the New York Times described as “brilliant,” Craig Cramer, organist, and Keith Collins, Baroque bassoonist, Sunday in DPAC. The performance will include pieces from some of the greatest artists of the Baroque era.

By MAIJA GUSTIN
Senior Scene Writer

Thursday, March 29, 2012
Five months ago, I proclaimed the Wicked Witch of the West was dead. Who would have known that it would take this long for him to melt away as it were Magic? No more "Who’s your own owner?" chants, no more jabs and jokes, no more sun boycotts. Just say the Magic word.

What the Dodgers needed was a return to their roots that laid-back, yet competitive fire stoked by management that fought the day before we let corporate America control the biggest team in America’s biggest market. And if you ask anyone about the figure who epitomizes Los Angeles sports, that answer is Magic Johnson.

Doesn’t sound like entertaining baseball game to be going to a three-hour long, nine-inning baseball game. No, it isn’t. There’s no entertainment, either. Don’t say baseball teams are just trying to be legendary, they aren’t. They are just trying to be money-making machines. Magic has been on the sidelines for a long time, but the Magic has always been there.

Mark Walter — everything turned out as planned. Frank McCourt tried to make it a business — and if they win a World Series — goes to a three-hour long, nine-inning baseball game. No, it isn’t. There’s no entertainment, either. Don’t say baseball teams are just trying to be legendary, they aren’t. They are just trying to be money-making machines. Magic has been on the sidelines for a long time, but the Magic has always been there.

As part of the agreement, under an agreement that the purchasers “would acquire the land surrounding Dodger Stadium, including its parking lots, for $150 million.”

They invested that much money, “I’m sure they’ll invest to get a winner,” said Tommy Lasorda, the Dodgers’ retired Hall of Fame manager. “They’ll wish them all the luck, and I admire them. I know both of them personally. It’s going to be a long day for them, they come into Los Angeles as a baseball player for the Lakers.”

The acquiring group, called Guggenheim Baseball Management, has several other investors, among them Mandalay Entertainment chief executive Peter Guber, Guggenheim Partners president Todd Bidwell and Bobby Patton, who operates oil and gas properties among his investments. Kasten is the former president of the Los Angeles Lakers, the Los Angeles Kings and Washington Nationals.

"I am truly honored to have partnered with such talented individuals and to be associated with the Dodgers organization," said Walter. "We look forward to building upon the legacy of the Dodgers and providing long-term stability to one of the most revered franchises in baseball.

The 52-year-old Johnson played 13 seasons for the Los Angeles Dodgers, winning five NL championships and three MVP awards in a Hall of Fame career.

He retired from the NBA in 1991 after being diagnosed with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. He briefly came out of retirement during the 1995-96 season and had a short stint coaching the Lakers. Since leaving basketball, he has been very successful in business, investing in movie production company and restaurants.

He also has been an activist in the fight against HIV.

"I’m upset he didn’t cut me in," current Lakers star Kobe Bryant said. "I’m going to have to talk to him about that.

McCourt paid $430 million in 2004 to buy the team, Dodger Stadium and 250 acres of land that include the parking lots, from the Fox Division of Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp., a sale that left the team saddled with about $50 million in cash at the time. The team’s debt stood at $579 million as of January, according to a court filing, so McCourt stands to make hundreds of millions of dollars even after a $313 million divorce payment to former wife Jamie, taxes and legal and banking fees.

Kasten is expected to wind up as the team’s top day-to-day executive.

The other two finalists were:

— Stan Krosen, who founded the NHL’s St. Louis Blues, the NBA’s Denver Nuggets, the NFL’s Colorado Avalanche and Major League Soccer’s Colorado Rapids. He is also majority shareholder of Arsenal in the English Premier League.

— Steven Cohen, founder of the hedge fund SAC Capital Advisors and a new limited partner of the New York Mets; biotechnology entrepreneur Patrick Soon-Shiong; and another, Todd Boehly of Wasserberg Media Group.

It remains to be seen whether Major League Baseball will challenge the deal in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware, where the case is before Judge Kevin Gross.

Under the agreement reached by MLB and McCourt in November, a private auction was to be held among the finalists and McCourt was to select the winner by Sunday. The sales agreement is to be submitted to the bankruptcy court by April 30, ahead of a hearing seven days later, and the sale completed by April 30, the day McCourt is to make a divorce settlement.

MLB

Johnson, Kaster buy Dodgers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — One Los Angeles franchise is buying another.

A group that includes former Lakers star Magic Johnson and longtime baseball executive Stan Kasten agreed Tuesday night to buy the Dodgers from Frank McCourt for a record $2 billion.

The price would shatter the record for sports franchise sales. Stephen Ross paid $1.8 billion for the NFL’s Miami Dolphins in 2008, and in England, Malcolm Glazer and his family took over the Manchester United soccer club in 2005 in a deal then valued at $1.47 billion.

Mark Walter, chief executive officer of the financial services firm Guggenheim Partners, would become the controlling owner.

The deal, revealed about five hours after Major League Baseball submitted its list of three finalists for the Dodgers, is one of several steps toward a sale of the team by the end of April. It is subject to approval in federal bankruptcy court.

"I am thrilled to be part of the historic Dodger franchise and intend to build on the fantastic foundation laid by Frank McCourt as we drive the Dodgers back to the front page of the sports section, the number one team in the community of Los Angeles," Johnson said in a statement.

As part of the agreement, the Dodgers said McCourt and "certain affiliates of the purchasers" would acquire the land surrounding Dodger Stadium, including its parking lots, for $150 million.

They invested that much money, "I’m sure they’ll invest to get a winner," said Tommy Lasorda, the Dodgers’ retired Hall of Fame manager. "They’ll wish them all the luck, and I admire them. I know both of them personally. It’s going to be a long day for them, they come into Los Angeles as a baseball player for the Lakers."

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Williams eliminated in quarterfinals, ready for rest

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Venus Williams sagged in the wooden changeover chair as if it were a cushy recliner, her head tilted back, her tank on empty. She rose slowly to play the final two games and lost both, but grinned as she walked to the exit, perhaps because she was headed for a well-deserved rest. Weary after winning three consecutive three-set matches, Williams was eliminated Wednesday by Agnieszka Radwanska in the quarterfinals of the Sony Ericsson Open, 6-4, 6-1.

“It was disappointing not to be able to feel my best today,” Williams said. “I was able to keep it close in the first set and try different strategies, but it was definitely a mental battle, and today I didn’t conquer the mental part of it.”

Williams’ serve lacked its usual velocity, and by the final game she wasn’t even chasing shots in the corner. The tournament was her first since the U.S. Open last August, where she withdrew after being diagnosed with a fatigue-causing autoimmune disease.

“It has been a great tournament,” she said. “Obviously I’m disappointed and would have liked to have gone further, but it’s a great start.”

Eager to keep points short in the 85-degree sunshine, Williams charged the net often but frequently had to lunge for shots. She committed 38 unforced errors to 10 for Radwanska, and won only five of 26 points on her second serve.

“It was pretty hot out there,” Radwanska said. “Maybe that was why she didn’t look that good.”

In the men’s quarterfinals, 2009 champion Andy Murray overcame an upset stomach and early deficit to beat No. 9-seeded Janko Tipsarevic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Two Williamses were eliminated in 18 hours. Younger sister Serena lost Tuesday night to former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki. Venus needed a wild card to enter the tournament because she’s ranked 134th. The three-time Olympian’s goal has been improve her ranking enough to qualify for the London Games, and she’s projected to climb next week back into the top 90.

Williams said her ailment requires her to save all her energy for tennis, but she strayed from that approach with a day off Tuesday.

“I should have rested more probably,” Williams said. “After a while you start to feel like maybe everything’s behind you. I definitely learned maybe if you’re doing something right, don’t change it.”

Her energy reserve appeared low from the start of the quarterfinal, and she lost the first seven points. Radwanska took advantage of Williams’ lethargy by hitting several drop shots for winners and pouncing on weak second serves.

When Williams had a chance at an easy overhead, she walked up to the ball flat-footed. Facing break point early in the second set, she mustered only a 72-mph first serve, well below her norm of 110 or more.

Williams lost the final six points, dumped her last shot into the net and began looking ahead to the clay-court season. She plans to play next week at Charleston, S.C.

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Thursday, March 29, 2012

WTA

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Deadly shootings in France prompt updated security

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain has planned for a dizzying array of security nightmares surrounding the Olympics, including a coordinated attack like the London transit bombings, a dirty bomb or a cyber-attack.

In the wake of France’s deadly shootings, one scenario weighing heavily on the minds of security officials is the self-starter operating with little or no help from others.

And: they admit, there are limits to what security personnel can do.

“You cannot exclude something similar,” said Denis Osvald, head of the International Olympic Committee’s coordination commission for the London Games.

“Every Olympic venue will be specially protected, but of course, when you are in the street, people waiting for the bus waiting to go to an Olympic venue could be a target.”

Mohamed Merah — a 23-year-old Muslim extremist who says he trained in Afghanistan and used a local church for killing paratroopers, Jewish children and a rabbi in a weekend shooting rampage in the French city of Toulouse — was dead last week after a 32-hour standoff.

French officials say Merah moved in extremist Muslim circles in France and had been to Afghanistan twice. He told police he had trained in the Pakistani militant stronghold of Waziristan. He also had a long criminal record and a brother who had been suspected in a 2007 network that sent militant fighters to Iraq.

But French officials say there wasn’t enough evidence of a threat to put Mohamed Merah under regular surveillance. Olympic security officials face a similar problem with some Islamic radicals in Britain ahead of the games.

“The reality is that there are hosts of people like this and most of them will never do anything,” said a British government official who spoke on condition of anonymity to the AP because of the sensitivity of his work. “You can’t follow everyone around.”

That doesn’t mean Britain isn’t one of the most high-security nations in the Western world. Since British suicide bombers killed 52 people in rush-hour attacks on July 7, 2005, MI5 and police counterterrorism units have vastly boosted their intelligence network. The country’s surveillance agency, known as GCHQ, has the capability to listen in on people’s telephone conversations and monitor their online communications. Surveillance units have also been attached to troops serving in places such as Afghanistan, specifically to gather intelligence that may lead back to Britain.

There are also special teams to look at suspect financial transactions — an aspect of anti-terror strategy that gained more attention following last year’s terror attacks in Norway.

“Rightist extremist Anders Behring Breivik’s set off a 2,100-pound (950-kilogram) fertilizer bomb in the heart of Oslo that killed eight people before going on a shooting rampage at youth camp that left 69 dead. Breivik’s name came up on a list of people who had transferred money to Polish chemical firm under scrutiny in an international anti-terror initiative — but Norwegian authorities didn’t investigate further because his order was so small.”

“The profile of these loners is different to what we saw with the four suicide bombers in 2005,” said Noman Benotman, a former jihadist with links to al-Qaida who still maintains contacts within the jihadist community. “Many of these people have strong convictions and they manage to stay off the radar for the most part.”

Although the 8,000-mile torch relay starts in May — more than two months ahead of the games — security and law enforcement officials are bracing for a number of potential threats as the torch snakes through Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and parts of the U.K.

Inside Britain’s domestic security agency of MI5, a clock counts down the minutes before the torch arrives in England.

“To terrorists, the Olympics present a golden opportunity because they know they will get the world’s attention,” said Noman Benotman, who now works as an analyst for the London-based Quilliam Foundation. “It doesn’t really matter whether they kill seven or 70.”

Although there is no intelligence to suggest a credible and specific threat to the games, officials have spent years taking precautions for the Olympics since London won the bid before the 2005 attacks.

Britain is already known as a leader in ‘Big Brother’ surveillance — there are nearly 30 CCTV cameras near George Orwell’s house alone in North London. The author of “1984” warned more than six decades ago of a time when it would be nearly impossible to escape from the watchful eyes of the state.

For the games, more cameras will be added to Britain’s 4.3 million, and some will be used in conjunction with advanced facial recognition software and databases that can match vehicle registration numbers to names.

Olympic venues have also been designed with security threats in mind — special shatterproof glass has been installed, structures have been built with advice from explosives experts and paths have been laden with curves and gaps deliberately meant to slow down a potential attacker.

“If you look at the Internet, there are web sites calling exactly for these types of lone-wolf attacks,” said Rob Wainwright, head of The Hague-based Europol, which will be sharing databases with law enforcement officials during the Olympics.
Phelps and Lochte revive rivalry at Indy Grand Prix

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Michael Phelps wants to prove he’s still the world’s best swimmer.

Ryan Lochte believes he can still beat Phelps head-to-head.

Welcome to the next installment of the world’s hottest swimming rivalry, which will be replayed three times over the next three days at the Indianapolis Grand Prix. While the meet is filled with past Olympic medalists and future Olympians, there are two swimmers everyone will be watching — Phelps and Lochte.

“You find people who bring out the best in you, and [Lochte] definitely brings out the best in me,” Phelps said Wednesday, less than 24 hours before the meet began.

But Phelps acknowledges he hasn’t been himself in the run-up to the London Olympics, which explains why he’s entered in five events this week — the 100 free, the 100 and 200 fly, the 200 IM and the 400 IM. An event he once swore he would never compete in again.

“The biggest thing is if I want to achieve the goals I’ve set, I’ve got to be in tip-top shape,” Phelps said. “Part of that is swimming longer races. The 400 IM is the toughest race and the most painful one.”

Lochte hasn’t exactly been in top form recently, either.

After winning five gold medals and beating Phelps twice at last year’s world championships, he had a miserable performance at the U.S. winter nationals and, like Phelps, was relegated to that consolation heat in Austin.

Some of the poor times can be attributed to his training schedule. But when Phelps and Lochte are swimming against one another, good things tend to happen.

“No matter where I’m at in my times, I’m going to go up to the blocks and race — whether it’s Michael or anyone else,” Lochte said. “It’s fun. Every sport needs a good rivalry and I’m glad to have that rivalry with such a great athlete.

For the Indy fans, this week could produce a rare treat.

Lochte also is scheduled to compete in five races and will face Phelps three times — in the 100 free and 100 fly on Thursday and perhaps the premier event of the weekend: Saturday’s match-up in the 200 IM. The contest pits the two fastest Americans in the event.

It’s a rematch between the 2008 Olympic gold and bronze medalists. And Lochte will try to hang onto the world record in a pool that Phelps has been known to break records in.

And with Lochte pushing him, it could happen again.

“Every rivalry is different,” Phelps said. “(Ian) Crocker and I was different from what Ryan and I have. Ryan and I, we swim so many different strokes against each other. Crocker and I really only swam one event. But it is fun.”

Fans aren’t the only ones who will be watching.

Brendan Hansen, a former Olympic teammate of Lochte and Phelps, acknowledges he’s been paying attention, too, and believes it’s the kind of rivalry that can help the whole American team.

“What they have is a healthy rivalry,” said Hansen, who is attempting a comeback at age 30. “No matter what happens, going into London, those are two guys you can build off, that you can feed off and of they’re definitely going to be the backbone of this U.S. team.”

Regardless of what happens in Indy this week or at this summer’s Olympic Trials in Omaha, Neb.

Other prominent swimmers competing in Indy include Missy Franklin, Cullen Jenkins, Kara Lynn Joyce, Dana Vollmer and Dara Torres.
Prime minister bans Syrian officials from Olympics

Associated Press

LONDON — Dozens of officials in Syrian President Bashar Assad’s regime will be blocked from attending the London Olympics, Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron confirmed Wednesday as he pledged to make the event “the greatest show on Earth.”

Cameron said those subject to international travel bans and asset freezes would not be able to attend the sporting spectacle, which takes place from July 27 to Aug. 12.

“I don’t think we should punish the athletes for the sins of the regime, so Syria will be taking part in the games and that is right,” Cameron told reporters as he held talks with International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge, who was in town for the IOC’s final inspection visit before the games.

“But let’s be absolutely clear, Britain has led efforts within the European Union and elsewhere to institute asset bans, travel freezes and punishing sanctions against this despicable regime. Anyone covered by one of those travel bans will not be welcome in London,” Cameron said.

A total of 41 organizations and 127 people linked to the Syrian regime have had European Union sanctions imposed upon them, including Assad’s British-born wife, Asma. Diplomats have conceded they could not prevent her from entering Britain, but insist she do not expect her to try to travel to the U.K.

Britain’s Home Office, which is responsible for border control, will need to decide whether to grant a visa to attend the Olympics to Syrian Olympic Committee president Gen. Mowaffak Joumaa, a close Assad aide who is not currently covered by sanctions.

The ministry can deny entry if it feels an individual’s presence in Britain would not be “conducive to the public good.”

Cameron said he, Rogge and London organizing committee chairman Sebastian Coe used their talks to discuss transport, security planning and attempts to make sure ordinary people benefit from the legacy of the London Olympics.

The British leader — who said he runs and plays tennis once a week — insisted a key goal was to raise public participation in sports, particularly among young people.

Cameron later played a game of badminton in the garden of his Downing Street home with Coe and two schoolgirls.

British Prime Minister David Cameron held a news conference Wednesday announcing that dozens of Syrian officials will be banned from the upcoming Olympic Games.
Associated Press

TOKYO — Ichiro Suzuki gave his fans in Japan a performance to cheer about.

Suzuki had four hits in his return home. Dustin Ackley homered and singled in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Oakland Athletics 3-1 Wednesday night in baseball's season opener.

“It was very special to open in Japan,” said Suzuki, who spent nine seasons in Osaka with the Orix Blue Wave. “I wanted to have fun and give the fans something at this special time and wanted to share a special moment with them.”

Major League Baseball and the players' association are using the series to assist rebuilding in Japan following last year's earthquake and tsunami. A group of players and coaches traveled to the disaster zone on Tuesday to conduct a baseball clinic.

Felix Hernandez combined with two relievers on a six-hitter as MLB opened its season in Tokyo.

“I wanted to have fun and give the fans something at this special time and wanted to share a special moment with them.”

Associated Press

AC Milan holds Barcelona to scoreless draw at San Siro

MILAN — AC Milan held Barcelona to a 0-0 draw Wednesday in the opening leg of the quarterfinals, the first time in 30 matches and more than two years that the Spanish team had been held scoreless in the Champions League.

The last time Barcelona failed to score in the Champions League was in the 0-0 draw with Rubin Kazan in November 2009.

“There's a first time for everything,” Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola said. “Milan is happy with the result and that's a real compliment for us. Not scoring away from home does penalize us a bit, as I think we will have to score twice to go through.

“They are strong in so many aspects, I don't think one goal will be enough. But the pitch will be better than this one, so there'll be a bit more speed. We're used to playing to win.”

Barcelona players complained about the state of the pitch, with lumps of turf flying up with every tackle and players slipping constantly.

“It's a shame the pitch isn't suited to a game of football. In- ter and Milan deserve a better pitch,” Guardiola said. “In the past few years we've worked a lot, we've also lost and drawn. But whatever the result we've never been a team to complain about the referee or anything. To be the best you need to overcome these difficulties.”

Milan will find out in the return leg at the Camp Nou next Tuesday how much it will regret Robinho's woeful miss early on, while Barcelona should've had a first-half penalty when Alex Sanchez was brought down by goalkeeper Christian Abbiati. Lionel Messi, who has scored 55 times this season, had a goal rightly ruled out for offside at the San Siro.

This is only the second time a match between these two European heavyweights has ended scoreless in 14 meetings.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who spent an unhappy season at Barcelona, was also kept quiet although he should have done better with two opportunities.

“I'm happy,” Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri said. “The lads put on a good performance, they interpreted the game as they should have done, attacked strongly and defended well when they had to. It's a good result to go to Barcelona with. It will be a difficult game but two out of three results will favor us.

“Next week I want a game like that of four-five months ago when, especially in the first half, we had several brilliant chances which we then wasted. So I want to have the same chances next week.”

These teams also played each other in the group stage, with defending champion Barcelona beating Milan 3-2 in November in their last matchup. And the opening draw at the San Siro was supposed to promise a similar amount of goals.

Madrid forward Robinho should have scored in the third minute.

Milan attacker Kevin Prince Boateng's shot crashed off defender Gerard Pique and the rebound was headed on by Ibrahimovic to an unmarked Robinho just outside the six-yard box, however the Brazilian shot over the crossbar.

Milan was almost made to rue that missed opportunity immediately when Boateng found the ball low across the face of goal.

Barcelona went close when Ab- ba's shot being parried by Abbiati. But Antonio Nocerino managed to clear off the line with Dani Alves sliding to try and tap it in the net in the ninth minute.

The Spanish side should have had a penalty after a well-worked free kick came to Sanchez, who beat the offside trap, rode a tackle from behind and was then brought down by Abbiati as he rounded the goalkeeper.

Ibrahimovic had his first sight of goal in the 20th minute, shoot- ing straight at goalkeeper Victor Valdes. But Barca was starting to get into its stride to dominate possession as Milan struggled to carve out opportunities.

A lovely Barca move followed by a one-two between Xavi and Messi finished with the midfield- er's shot being parried by Abbiati.

Associated Press

Mariners right fielder Ichiro Suzuki has one of his four hits in Seattle's 3-1 win over the A's on Wednesday at the Tokyo Dome.

“Ichiro leads Seattle to season-opening win in Japan

TOKYO — Ichiro Suzuki gave his fans in Japan a performance to cheer about.

Suzuki had four hits in his return home. Dustin Ackley homered and singled in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Oakland Athletics 3-1 Wednesday night in baseball's season opener.


Ackley homered in the fourth off McCarthy, and Oakland's Kurt Suzuki doubled in a run in the bottom half. The score remained 1-1 until the 11th, when Brendan Ryan doubled against Andrew Carignan (0-1), Chone Figgins sacrificed and Ackley singled to center.

“I was able to put a good swing on that one,” Ackley said. “Our team is off to a good start, and that's all that matters.”

Jerry Blevins relieved, Ackley stole second and Ichiro Suzuki singled for a two-run lead. Brandon League closed it out for the save.

Tom Wilhelmsen (1-0) got the win with two hitless innings. Cuban defector Yosmis Cespedes, who signed a $36 million, six-year contract with Oakland last off-season, set the club this year.

Seattle and Oakland complete their two-game series Thursday.

“I'm happy,” Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri said. “The lads put on a good performance, they interpreted the game as they should have done, attacked strongly and defended well when they had to. It's a good result to
Bellef stands on pitching, look to continue streak

By NICK BOYLE
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s will aim to carry on its winning ways. No. 6 Saint Mary’s will take on Carthage this weekend. After dropping four contests in a row, the Belles have bunched back with three consecutive wins coming into conference play.

“I think we had a little slip there with the losing streak,” Bellef coach Erin Sullivan said. “We were questioning our hitting, and we’ll use some of those big games in a short period of time. We got out [of slump] Sunday, and then played a couple of games Monday. We just took some confidence, trusting the work we put in and being better.”

Since Carthage (10-2) is one of the top two teams in the nation, Saint Mary’s Sullivan said today’s contests will be a good test for the Belles (13-5) and a great opportunity for their upcoming conference schedule.

“We want to make sure we play well this weekend,” Sullivan said. “We don’t want to make any mental errors. They are one of the best teams in the mid-west and will prepare us for the good teams we will play in conference." To compete against Carthage, the Belles will need to be sharp both offensively and defensively. Sullivan said this sharpness needed to start with pitching.

“We need our pitchers to come out sharp,” Sullivan said. “They need to get ahead in the counts and cut back on walks. Our hitters also need to be sharp and have quality at-bats. We’ve had too many pop-up outs and strike- outs recently.”

With conference play coming up quickly, Sullivan said he hopes his team can stay on the rise and keep the momentum going.

“Our seniors are all playing well right now,” Sullivan said. “For us to succeed, we need our leaders to step up and help us win at the top of their game. They want to have a good season and need to challenge themselves to always bring their best.”

Saint Mary’s hosts Carthage today, with the first pitch scheduled for 3:30 p.m.
Kubinski continued from page 24

ing averages of all time on the teams they’ve been on is a great testament to how good of players they’ve been.”

The trio’s most successful season thus far came during their junior year when the Irish took home eight top-two team finishes. Scodro led the Irish last year with a scoring average of 73.3, while Walker and Usher finished the year with scoring averages of 73.9 and 74.9, respectively. Not only has the trio brought success to the team, but they have also changed the style of play. Walker said, “I think the three of us sort of revolutionized the program in terms of the style of players that we are.” Scodro said, “The three of us are longer hitters and more aggressive. I think that when all three of us started to travel in our sophomore year it kind of gave a new dynamic to the team.

Yet, the influence Scodro, Walker and Usher have made reaches beyond just their play on the course. Having played on the team for four years, the seniors have now become leaders. According to Kubinski, the Irish recently had a team meeting to discuss how they can improve. They struggled the team experienced in their last two tournaments.

“In the team meeting, Max spoke right up,” Kubinski said. “When he speaks, there is no questioning the young guys are listening and gaining confidence and really excited to finish off this season in a big way. Tom and Chris have always been the same way.”

“I think without that leadership, a coach is really searching for things, but with those guys it really puts us in a great position to finish off this season on a high note.”

Among the trio, Scodro has grabbed the most headlines thus far. The Irish senior has been the most consistent player on the team, holding down a 71.9 stroke average in school history. Scodro has also made the most headlines off the course.

“Max is just getting better and better,” Kubinski said. “I think his stroke average this spring is as good as anyone’s we can remember so he is doing just an outstanding job.”

Having played in every event this year and last, Walker has been a stalwart in the Irish lineup. Of the three seniors, Walker has made some of the biggest improvements since he came to Notre Dame as a freshman. “It’s great to see Chris now as a senior and the strides he has made these last three years — his emotional maturity, dedication to the game,” Kubinski said. “He has not necessarily shown this spring, but the last couple of years, shooting a 67 in down in Texas last year, and the capability he has, winning all four matches at The Match Play, just shows a lot to show what he has done to grow as a player and as a person.”

Finally, Usher has achieved his fair share of success in the past four years. While he has struggled in his senior year so far, Usher tied for first in the Big East Championship in the St. Mary’s Invitational his sophomore year and won the St. Mary’s Invitational his junior year.

“Tom has been older than his age since he arrived,” Kubinski said. “He is just such a mature young guy. He had an injury last year but he hasn’t let the little bit and he made a swing change in the fall, but he is really coming around. I am really excited to watch the three of them play at the [Fall American Intercollegiate at The Woodlands Golf Course] and then go to the Big East championship and NCAAs.”

Despite the achievements of the senior trio over the past four years, they are not done yet. The Irish have not reached the NCAA finals since 1996, but they are hoping that they can change this. Walker said, “I think that more than anything, [we] three seniors have never been to the national championship finals and that’s something that at the start of the year we really set up as a goal for us and for the team.”

“I think more than anything, [we] three seniors have never been to the national championship finals and that’s something that at the start of the year we really set up as a goal for us and for the team.”

Chris Walker Irish senior

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Hudson continued from page 24

compiled a team-high 411 average with two home runs and 22 RBIs in 23 games. 

Aoki said he is hoping to hang on to his veteran catcher for a senior season but is proud of the progress Hudson has made since joining the Irish program. “I really do think he’s elevating himself into a position where he’s a seventh- or eighth-round [draft pick],” Aoki said. “Hopefully we can hang onto him. [But] if not I’m pleased with what he’s done. His at-bats are such good at-bats, he just makes people get him out and he’s not afraid to hit with two strikes and part of that goes back to him having offensive ability.”

Part of the challenge for any catcher to produce offensively is to overcome the natural wear and tear inherent to the position. Despite Hudson’s swelling offensive output, he said he remains concerned with defense and handling the pitching staff while his offensive output. “Growing up, all my coaches said, ‘If you’re going to be a catcher, then be a catcher.’ I really thank all my coaches from high school and Little League for stressing defense first,” he said.

If Hudson continues to put up the numbers he has to this point in 2012, his coach can’t be disappointed in his catcher, not even selfishly.

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Seniors continued from page 24

ly three seasons later, Louderback said memories like those are why he sends Kristy Frilling’s perfect record at No. 1 doubles in dual matches her way. Boys’ doubles partners, and I’ve never seen her send a complaint from either one of them, she’s out and they’re gonna do it a n y t h i n g. That’s probably the thing I’m most proud about. The way they’ve handled being great leaders and team mates.

“Hiestand and Elliott are well-liked, and there are enough of them that the team never feels like it’s losing,” Mathews said. “Those responsibilities fall upon us, because we’ve had on our team in the past.” Mathews said. “Our freshman year we had really good leaders on our team with [current assistant coach] Kelly Teft, who was our senior captain at the time and Kate Pets, and we just learned a lot from those two.” Louderback said. “I think the pair’s success — they are currently the No. 1 doubles tandem in the country — meant they had little difficulty gaining the respect of their younger teammates.

“ telling them that we are fun yet business is done’ kind of leaders,” Frilling said. “I think both we both try to lead by example, things like positive role models for all of our teammates.” Louderback said the team will miss their captains’ attitudes along with their talent following graduation.

“Besides them being really good players, their dedication to just doing whatever it takes to win, that I think that’s probably the thing we’re gonna miss the most about them,” Louderback said.

Frilling said she is ready to give up competitive tennis just yet.

“I am hoping to play professional tennis after I graduate,” Frilling said. “It’s pretty hard so we’ll see where that takes me. I know if I will truly ever be able to quit tennis. It’s hard to just stop doing something that has played such a prominent role for my entire life.

Mathews will start a new chapter as a law student at the University of Florida where she plans to pursue a career in sports law. She said it would be a “little bit different. Competitive tennis won’t be at the forefront of my life for the next couple of years, but I’ll definitely continue playing and each weekend and the summer and that sort of thing for fun, so I won’t hang them it forever.”

Frilling and Mathews will lead the team into competition against Pitt (3-0), 1-0 Big East) at the Elk Tennis Pavilion at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Vicky Jacobson at vjacobse@nd.edu

Dame.

Coaches continued from page 24

the Brian Kelly era. In case you don’t recall, much of the offensive line under Charlie Weiss was, well, not so stellar. While Weis recruited big, talented linemen, those linemen never reached their potential. They got bigger, sure, but were regularly handled in terms of speed and quickness. Linemen like Jonas Clausen struggled so much under center.

Warriner revamped that en
tire offensive front and quietly made it an area of strength for Notre Dame at that position.

“Of course, Mathews and Frilling are prepared to return the ball during Notre Dame’s 6-1 loss to Duke in March,” The seniors are focusing on enjoying their last matches as college athletes.

The Irish seniors Kristy Frilling, left, and Shannon Mathews prepare to return the ball during Notre Dame’s 6-1 loss to Duke in March. The seniors are focusing on enjoying their last matches as college athletes.

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

Slaughter — who will also drop down and play outside linebacker — and Zeke Mot
ta will anchor the unit Da
cro described as a year-long project. The defensive backfield is going to require a massive amount of work and maybe even some game day man
gement,” Diaco said.

“Slaughter probably has the best corners”.

“Slaughter knows the proper footwork to pick up a post route or to to-the-point, which he is a great way to properly read a blitz. Trick plays and roll-ups will fly upon the assistant coaches.

Assistant coaches won’t get the most attention, but they definitely won’t get anything close to the most discussion at water cool-

“ I feel like I have big shoes to fill with Gary and Blanton gone,” Jackson said. “I’m just trying a transition to more being a leader for my mate-
mates.”

Diaco said Collinsworth’s commit,

“Because of the inexperience and lack of depth at cor-

“Bob Diaco
Irish defensive coordinator

There’s going to be guys rolling in and out at corner, they all need to play. Whether we like it or not, they all need to play.”

Big recruiting coup

Fresh off a big recruiting weekend that saw some of the premier high school seniors on campus, Notre Dame claimed five new commit-

“Over 20 yards per return.”

Big recruiting coup

In case of injury, the Irish defensive coordinator

“Diaco said Collinsworth’s energetic style is contagious. ‘He’s werewolf,’ Diaco said. ‘I love that guy. That guy is as high-energy as you’re gonna find. He is a high-
collision player, he is right there when the ball is on the ground. If your energy bucket is a little empty, hang around Austin a lit-
tle bit and it will be filled back up in a hurry.”

Bob Diaco
Irish defensive coordinator

“I feel like I have big shoes to fill with Gary (Gay) and alot Benchtold’s gone ... I’m just trying to transition more to being a leader for my teammates.”

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FOOTBALL

Young defensive backs are still 'in progress'

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Associate Sports Editor

Say goodbye to former Irish defensive back Harrison Smith, Gary Gray and Robert Blanton. Say hello to Notre Dame's Mix Aoki, Robert Jackson, Lo Wood and Austin Collinsworth.

Just a year after the Irish secondary started four seniors, Notre Dame will trot out a youthful defensive backfield low on experience, but high on potential.

"[The secondary] is a work in progress," Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco said. "We have a couple of stalwarts at safety who played a lot of reps a year ago. Those young guys behind them are a work in progress. We've got a bunch more that are going to be added to that group in August."

Senior safeties Jamoris\nsee DEFENSE/page 22

Hudson noticed by pro scouts

By ANDREW OWENS
Assistant Managing Editor

After junior catcher Joe Hudson went 1-for-3 with three RBIs on Sunday to cap off a 4-for-10, seven-RBI weekend and an Irish sweep over Pittsburgh, Irish coach Mik Aoki said that's not the production he wanted out of his starting catcher.

"From a selfish standpoint, I wish he was hitting .290 and we didn't have all the scouts in the stands looking at him," the Irish skipper quipped.

It's no secret that national scouts have taken notice of what Aoki has known for a while now: Hudson can hit.

"Part of [his production] is on the assumption that he didn't have a lot of offensive ability ... He has good hand-eye, and for a kid hitting with strong power numbers, he doesn't strike out a lot, he's taken a lot of walks, he's making pitchers pitch to him and I think that's the key," Aoki said. "It's not that for his first two years that he was without offensive ability, it was just not necessarily well-directed offensive ability."

After hitting .264 as a freshman with one home run and six RBIs in 22 games and .239 with no home runs and 14 RBIs in 53 games as a sophomore, Hudson has finally put it together in his third year at Notre Dame.

Hudson said this season he has benefitted from an improved approach and has stayed "locked-in" mentally during each at-bat.

"It all comes down to hard work in the offseason," he said. "I feel very comfortable with these coaches ... They've taught me so much about the game of baseball and life and I couldn't speak higher about those guys. It's really nice to see the success correlates to the field."

Prior to the start of the season, Aoki said he expected a surge in protection from his catcher, though Hudson said he didn't expect it to be this high — through Tuesday's loss to Illinois-Chicago, the catcher...\n
BASEBALL

Veterans redefine Irish technique, standards

By PETER STEINER
Sports Writer

In their four years at Notre Dame, seniors' Max Scodro, Chris Walker and Tom Usher have led the Irish to a Big East Championship title, an NCAA tournament regional appearance and a combined five individual tournament wins.

Considering the Irish failed to record a tournament win three years ago, the impact these three seniors have had on the Irish is undeniable. But even though these seniors’ success is easily seen in the statistics they have compiled, it is even easier to understand their achievements through the words of their coach.

"Without these three guys and their contributions, I don't know where we would be," Irish coach Jim Kubinski said. "They have done a tremendous job and to have the top three scor...\n
Irish junior catcher Joe Hudson awaits a pitch during Notre Dame's 12-4 win against Easter Michigan on March 20.\n
see HUDSON/page 21

Changes in coaching staff may bring success

There are some familiar faces, and a couple new ones.

The offseason saw a high-profile departure join a former Notre Dame coach, while new additions are onboard for the spring.

Most importantly, this group will have more to do with the success of the 2012 season than any other.

No, I'm not talking about quarterbacks. I'm talking about assistant coaches.

Former offensive line coach and run game coordinator Ed Warinner was one of the unsung heroes of the first two years of...\n
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Men's Golf

Senior doubles partners find success in leadership

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

On one Texas night three years ago, then-freshman Shannon Mathews was in position to boost Notre Dame into the top level of college tennis.

"We were in the quarterfinals playing Baylor in the NCAAs, and she was the last match on," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "The score was 3-3, and it came down to her match. We were in Texas so there was a huge Baylor crowd and they were really nasty; they were on Shannon like crazy."

Mathews went on to win the third set, 6-4, clinching the match for the Irish and sending Notre Dame to its first Final Four in program history.

"Having all my teammates cheering and being able to clinch the match [was incredible],'" Mathews said. "Just being able to share that moment with my teammates and run game coordinator Ed Warinner was one of the.unsuspecting heroes of the first two years of...\n
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Women's Tennis

Veterans redefine Irish technique, standards

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Assistant Sports Editor

Say goodbye to former Irish defensive back Harrison Smith, Gary Gray and Robert Blanton. Say hello to Notre Dame's Mix Aoki, Robert Jackson, Lo Wood and Austin Collinsworth.

Just a year after the Irish secondary started four seniors, Notre Dame will trot out a youthful defensive backfield low on experience, but high on potential.

"[The secondary] is a work in progress," Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco said. "We have a couple of stalwarts at safety who played a lot of reps a year ago. Those young guys behind them are a work in progress. We've got a bunch more that are going to be added to that group in August."

Senior safeties Jamoris...\n
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Irish junior catcher Joe Hudson awaits a pitch during Notre Dame's 12-4 win against Easter Michigan on March 20.\n
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