Mod quad, God quad win energy competition

Winning dorms reduce energy consumption by 15.7 percent as part of Campus Conservation Nationals

Quad Energy Competition Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dorm</th>
<th>Reduced energy by (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mod/God Quad</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Quad</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Quad</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Quad</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
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By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

This past month, conserving energy was a regional affair on campus, as dorms grouped as quads competed in the inaugural Quad Energy Competition.

According to a press release from the Office of Sustainability, said Notre Dame’s Quad Energy Competition is a part of Campus Conservation Nationals (CCN), a nationwide energy conservation contest in college dorms involving over 150 schools.

Each school gets to pick a three-week period between February and April in which to run their competition, with the dorms grouped as quads competing against one another.

According to a press release, the Mod Quad and God Quad team of Carroll Hall, Knott Hall, Pasquerilla East Hall, Pasquerilla West Hall, Siegfried Hall, Sorin College, St. Edward’s Hall and Walsh Hall won the $1,000 grand prize decisively, reducing energy consumption by 15.7 percent between March 10 and 30, compared to baseline data from the end of February.

Student coalition seeks to promote human dignity

By DAN BROMBACH
News Writer

The Notre Dame Coalition for Human Dignity formed this semester with the goal of fostering communication among clubs working on issues of human dignity, as well as raising awareness of the work these clubs do on campus.

Freshman organizer Matt Caponigro said the coalition derives its strength from the cohesion and spirit of cooperation shared among its member groups.

“We thought that maybe if we started a dialogue with each other that we could help each other to move forward on some of these human dignity issues, to be more effective and reach out to more people,” he said.

Caponigro said the Notre Dame Coalition for Human Dignity was founded as a passionate answer to a call to make this university a healing, unifying and enlightening force in a world that’s deeply in need.”

That has been our rallying call,” Caponigro said. “Caponigro said the coalition hopes to become a powerful advocate for human dignity by bringing together a diverse spectrum of clubs and individuals from across campus.

“We want to build a coalition that bridges the gap between students, administrators and faculty members so that we can truly effective in restoring human dignity to all people,” he said.

The coalition has already grown to include organizations such as Right to Life and the Black Student Association, and hopes to further expand as it becomes better organized. Caponigro said.

He said the coalition is empowered by its diverse membership, but this diversity can complicate its ability to make unified decisions.

The coalition revolves around partnership, sitting down at the table and talking about what we’ve been working on,” he said. “But

Acousticafé features student musicians

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

On Thursday nights at 10 p.m., Acousticafé transforms the basement of LaFortune Student Center from a dreary study space to a hip venue for live music.

Junior Matthew Almario, the Student Union Board (SUB) Acousticafé programmer, said the weekly event showcases students’ performances in an informal, low-key atmosphere.

“Aside from bigger concerts at Legends, there are not really too many places where students can perform,” Almario said. “So it’s a way for musicians here on campus to get their music out there and to create a nice environment on Thursday nights.”

Each week, students sign up for six 15-minute slots, and each act performs three to four songs, Almario said.

Although the most popular format for performers is a singer accompanied by acoustic guitar, Almario said Acousticafé attracts a wide...
The Observer

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The Observer regrets as well as a professional publication, and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

Offbeat

Alabama judge orders man to jail for sagging pants

PRATTVILLE, Ala. — A central Alabama judge ordered a man to serve three days in jail for contempt of court for wearing so-called saggy pants.

Twenty-year-old LaMarcus D. Ramsey was in Autauga County Circuit Court on Tuesday to enter a plea on a charge of receiving stolen property.

Circuit Judge John Bush told Ramsey his blue jeans were sagging too low and gave him the three-day stint.

The judge says he finds it disrespectful and a disruption when people wear pants below their waistline in his chambers.

“To me it’s not any different than if someone stood up in court and started cussing everybody out,” Bush said.

“It’s disrespectful court and I think as judges we’re expected to at least have some degree of control and respect for the courtroom the people have given us charge of.”

Cow escapes slaughterhouse, will be spared

PATERSON, N.J. — A cow that escaped from a New Jersey slaughterhouse will be spared.

The black-and-white bovine was running through the streets of Paterson sometime after 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Animal control officer John De Cando tells The Record newspaper it was like “Dodge City” with porkies in Michiana today and engagement opportunities in Michiana today at 6 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Student Lounge.
DPAC director to perform in charity dance showcase

By JILLIAN BARWICK
Saint Mary’s Editor

A small town farm girl who grew up on disco fever, Anna Thompson, executive director for the DelBartolo Performing Arts Center, will fulfill her dream of being a dancing queen in “Dancing With Our Stars,” an event benefiting the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Thompson will participate in the competition at the Hilton Garden Inn on April 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Thompson said she will perform the hustle at the event to the Motown classic “Working My Way Back to You” by The Spinners.

“I know the basic tango, fox trot, cha-cha and the hustle,” she said. “I have always loved dancing, and I have been watching ‘Dancing With the Stars’ since it began. My all-time favorite [contestant] was Emmett Smith.”

Thompson said her love of dance started early.

“My dad was a wonderful dancer, and I followed him wherever he led me,” she said. “When I was in college, I would bring my friends back home to Kalamazoo, Mich. and we would go dancing and have a great time.”

Thompson said as the curator of performing arts programming at Notre Dame, she develops interdisciplinary projects with visiting artists to the University.

In addition, Thompson said she has commissioned the first new works in music, dance and theatre bearing the name of the University to tour nationally and internationally.

Thompson said she has managed to balance her demanding job with intense dance practice.

“As part of the competition, DanceSport in Mishawaka has donated 10 lessons to each contestant for preparation,” she said. “I really, really love to dance though, so I have taken more lessons outside of the allotted 10.”

Thompson’s partner for the gala, Matt Smith, has been dancing for four years and has taught ballroom, Latin and swing dancing at DanceSport.

Thompson said Smith is currently the dance director and full-time dance instructor at the studio.

“Matt has been wonderful,” she said. “He is an excellent teacher, and had to take on the task of teaching me to not lead him.”

Thompson said Smith choreographed the dance as soon as she specified the song and style she wanted.

“When I told him I wanted to perform the hustle to ‘Working My Way Back to You,’ he looked at me, turned on the music, and began leading me into step after step,” she said. “The song is over three minutes unedited.”

As part of the competition, people donate $39 to vote for their favorite performers. This amount is the minimum number of dollars it takes to support one person at the center for one day.

Thompson said “The Center for the Homeless is not a revolving door of people just walking in and out every day and night,” she said. “The center seeks to help their guests for as long as it takes to get them back on their feet. These donations will really help operations at the center.”

By MARISA IATI
Associate News Editor

Student Senate discussed potential changes to freshman orientation and the upoming unveiling of The Shirt at its meeting Wednesday.

Junior Ricky Bevington, Student Campus Orientation Committee chairperson, said the committee hopes freshman orientation can be a vehicle for inclusion at Notre Dame.

“It definitely needs to be a student effort,” he said. “We’re working really closely with the dorms to be a resource... [The] goal is creating a sense of belonging on campus.”

To improve orientation, senators suggested increasing the comfort of lesbian, gay, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) students, instituting diversity training, reforming the College HAS (Hookups, Alcohol and Sexual Assault) issues program, hosting a sexual education session and distributing a sheet with useful miscellaneous information.

Bevington said anyone with suggestions about reforming freshman orientation should email sbco@nd.edu.

Senior Paul Baranay, vice president of The Shirt Project, said The Shirt will be unveiled April 20 at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore. Alta Gracia Apparel, a company with a social concerns focus, will produce this year’s The Shirt, he said.

“They have a factory down in the Dominican Republic where they pay all their workers a living wage, several times higher than other factories,” he said.

The price of The Shirt will increase from $15 to $18 this year, Baranay said, but shirts will be sold to students for $15 at the unveiling ceremony.

Baranay said some of the proceeds from sales will benefit The Shirt Charity Fund, which gives money to students who cannot and otherwise afford to participate in campus activities. The rest of the profits will cover students’ medical costs and fund student organizations, he said.

“Last year, we sold 165,000 shirts and we raised over $700,000 for students,” Baranay said.

Senator also approved junior Katie Hennessy for the position of Judicial Council’s vice president of elections.

Contact Marisa Iati at miati@nd.edu

By JILLIAN BARWICK
Saint Mary’s Editor

Anna Thompson, shown here with dance partner Matt Smith, will take part in “Dancing With Our Stars,” an event benefiting the South Bend Center for the Homeless on April 20.

Thompson is currently third in the polls. She said her total fundraising goal is $20,000, and she needs around 200 more votes to reach her target.

People can vote on Thompson online, or can send a check made to the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

“This really is a great cause for people to donate their time and effort to,” Thompson said. “My personal motto has always been ‘Just get up and dance!’ and that is exactly what I am doing.”

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarw01@ saintmarys.edu
Council honors work of intercultural leadership center

By BRIDGET FEENEY
Associate Saint Mary’s Editor

The National Council for Research on Women (NCRW) recently named Saint Mary's Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) the recipient of the 2012 Diversity and Inclusion Award.

According to the organization’s website, the NCRW is composed of a team of researchers dedicated to creating informed policies and debates to explore issues prevalent to young girls and women.

The Diversity and Inclusion Award is presented to organizations that expand upon its leadership, programs, policies and research activities in order to include minorities, the website said. This year, CWIL was one of two centers chosen for the award.

Elaine Meyer-Lee, director of CWIL, said the recognition is a great honor for Saint Mary’s.

“NCRW involves many highly accomplished women leaders and institutions, and this award affirms Saint Mary’s national leadership role in improving the lives of women and girls,” she said. “It is a great honor to have the creative, passionate, and sustained work towards inclusive excellence that CWIL staff has dedicated themselves to... rewarded by not only successful achievement and local impact, but also recognition from such an esteemed national organization as the [NCRW],” she added.

Meyer-Lee said the group’s mission to promote diversity has only become more prominent at Saint Mary’s since the center was founded in 2000.

“We have been quite successful in the criteria the award addresses, such as incorporating diverse leaders, attracting and engaging diverse participants, building in mentorship, having an impact on our broader community and establishing sustainable and replicable diversity and inclusion strategies,” she said.

Despite the award and recognition that comes with it, there are still some challenges with promoting diversity on campus, Meyer-Lee said.

“At Saint Mary’s, as in other higher education institutions, any kind of institution-wide change process moves slowly, given the complexity of all the different aspects it will have an impact on, on top of the normal human comfort with familiarity,” she said. “Keeping a persistent, creative and multi-faceted approach is necessary to move the whole institution forward.”

Saint Mary’s and CWIL will formally receive the award at the opening night of NCRW’s annual conference, “Agenda Setting 2012 Nationally and Globally: Leveraging Women’s Voices,” in Washington on June 20, Meyer-Lee said.

“Winning this award is important to us because Saint Mary’s has invested so much effort into our commitment to diversity and inclusion, including through CWIL, and our results do deserve national recognition,” she said.

“I hope this award might bring additional support to Saint Mary’s for the College’s great commitment to this area.”

Contact Bridget Feeney at bfeen01@saintmarys.edu

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Music continued from page 1

variety of artists.

“There are people who do four or five-piece sets,” he said. “This Thursday, there’s going to be a person doing a guitar, a box-drum and a trombone in one act. Another act is going to be a person on a trumpet (with) violin and guitar. Some times, we get a lot of different instruments.”

Best of Acousticafe takes place at Reckers the last Thursday of every month. Acts are chosen by students’ votes in an online poll available on the SUB website and Facebook page, a change Almario said started this year.

Before, it was a subjective thing (SUB) would just pick the four or five performers people thought were the best,” he said. “But this is a way for students to provide their input.”

Reckers is also a new venue for Best of Acousticafe, which used to take place in LaFortune basement before this year. Almario said “Reckers has given us a nice stage, so we’ve had a much larger turnout,” he said.

Almario said at its peak, Acousticafe attracts about 75 attendees, and he encourages students to come support the performers.

“It’s a good time to see people you know in your classes and say, ‘Oh wow, this kid’s cool!’” Hanratty said. “We like doing Acousticafe. Hanratty said she performed at open mic nights in high school and wanted to continue in college.

“In high school, I played random stuff at my school, and a little bit of open mic stuff where I lived, so when I came to college, I was definitely interested in doing stuff like that because I really liked performing for people,” she said.

Hanratty said she sings and plays guitar at Acousticafe, performing both covers and original songs.

“I write my own songs, so sometimes I do a couple originals and then mix in a few covers too, like Taylor Swift or Matt Nathanson,” she said. Acousticafe is a good, relaxed environment for students to display their talents, Hanratty said.

“It’s cool to have a place to perform and have it be really low-pressure and for the fun of it,” she said. “It doesn’t need to be a big organized choir or anything you need to come with a script. If people want to share their music, they have a place to do it.”

Contact Tori Roeck
vroeck@nd.edu

Coalition continued from page 1

it’s tricky, because there are a lot of different people at the table.”

In the future, the coalition hopes to host a signature event before the end of the year to raise awareness and encourage student participation in the fight for human dignity, Carponigro said.

“We’re hoping to do something like a concert on South Quad that brings everybody together, that shows our classmates and the rest of the Notre Dame community that we really do care about human dignity issues,” he said.

Carponigro said he is excited for the coalition to forge closer bonds with Notre Dame as it matures and expands as an organization.

“We’re looking forward to developing stronger relationships with the administration and with our peers so that we can really work together as a unified front,” he said.

Contact Dan Brombach at dbrombac@nd.edu

Energy continued from page 1

and each uses a baseline to level the playing field,” Novick said. “At the end of April, CCN will announce the final results, and we’ll find out how we did relative to other participating schools.”

Novick said publicity made a difference in the competition’s results.

“From what I’ve heard from Mod [and] God Quad, there was a ton of publicity and residents really rallied around the competition and made a concerted effort to keep up the energy conservation,” Novick said. “Initially, they were behind, but they didn’t give up and surged ahead in the last week of the competition.”

Junior Martha Dee, Walsh Hall sustainability commissioner, said promoting the competition in her dorm contributed to its success.

“I used Hall Council as a way to get the word out about the competition and to rally up some support,” Dee said. “We put up signs in each of the bathrooms to promote turning off the lights and made a conscious effort to turn off lights in large social spaces.”

Part of the competition took place during spring break, and Dee said eliminating “vampire devices” from unused electronics during this time was important to the victory.

“We put up signs in each of the bathrooms to promote turning off the lights and made a conscious effort to turn off lights in large social spaces.”

Martha Dee sustainability commissioner
Walsh Hall

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakubo1@nd.edu

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WASHINGTON — For all the turmoil of the long primary season, President Barack Obama is right where he expected to be: taking on Mitt Romney and targeting him as a wishy-washy protector of the rich. With the November outcome likely to hinge on the economy, Obama will now engage more directly with the help of an experienced, well-financed campaign organization.

The campaign for the White House took on a decidedly different feel on Wednesday, a true two-man race for the first time. Yet even as Republican Rick Santorum’s withdrawal a day earlier changed the dynamic, beginning the general election in earnest, the contours of the Romney-Obama race had already been becoming clear.

Both sides will keep pounding voters with ferocious arguments over who has the best vision for jobs, economic security and giving Americans a shot at a better life. In sharp and steady doses, directly or through aides, Obama and Romney will also accuse the other of being dishonest with voters and out-of-touch with their daily woes.

Everything gets faster and louder now.

Obama will pick his spots in targeting Romney directly until the election draws closer, needing to juggle the demands of his job and eager to remind everyone that he is the one who is already the president. Obama’s Chicago-based campaign, meanwhile, will be working vigorously to challenge Romney and try to define him.

In a sign of the bitter fight ahead, Obama campaign manager Jim Messina went after Romney the day the race was joined: “The more the American people see of Mitt Romney, the less they like him and the less they trust him.” The Obama campaign followed that on Wednesday with a video of some of Romney’s most divisive or awkward moments during the Republican primaries, titled: “Mitt Romney: Memories to last a lifetime.”

The events that shape the race may well be surprises to the candidates as well as everyone else, like the economic collapse of late 2008. If the campaigns have their way, however, the narratives are set: Romney assailing Obama as an economic failure who had his shot, and Obama depicting Romney as one who would gut middle-class America.
Don’t look now, but the year is almost over.

One month separates us from the freedom, sunshine and boredom of summer. I am not sure where the year went, but we are entering into the last quarter of the semester, or eighth of the year, at least according to the highly scientific approach of dividing the school year up into the periods between breaks. As we begin the last sliver of the year, a segment that passes faster than good weekends in South Bend, we have come to the startling realization that, for all intents and purposes, I am halfway done with my time at Notre Dame. Class, weekend, class, weekend, class, weekend, et cetera.

While current juniors and seniors might smirk and say that it is both way too soon to talk about the future, I think about my dwindling days on Our Lady’s campus, the sudden shift over the past four months. The last quarter of the year is somewhat unsettling. I think of it as a metaphorical continental divide, where one stops looking back to the past and reverses the flow towards the future.

I remember taking stock at the end of the first semester four months ago and being somewhat comforted by the fact that I had five semesters remaining in college. Three-eighths is not so intimidating of a fraction. Now, all of a sudden, the denominator of that fraction has changed to a two for the first time, and the thought is sobering. If there were a giant line that demarcated the two halves of one’s time in college, I feel that my classmates and I are in the process of storming across it.

Last month, most of us engaged in the annual ordeal of room picks, the majority of us for the second time and, for many of us, the last. In just a couple of weeks, we will choose classes for the fifth time. For those of us studying abroad, this means that we will register for classes only two more times at Notre Dame, most likely for senior year. Things get real quickly.

On the topic of study abroad, perhaps there is nothing else that makes your time more fleeting than the prospect of spending a semester somewhere else. I find myself talking to friends about the race, and it’s not even the big one. I think of it as a metaphorical continental divide, where one stops looking back to the past and reverses the flow towards the future.

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Last month, most of us engaged in the annual ordeal of room picks, the majority of us for the second time and, for many of us, the last. In just a couple of weeks, we will choose classes for the fifth time. For those of us studying abroad, this means that we will register for classes only two more times at Notre Dame, most likely for senior year. Things get real quickly.

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Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are fundamental to American society. They provide much-needed financial security to the poor, disabled and elderly. But as I wrote last time, these programs are growing at unsustainable rates, and there are economic, fiscal and moral imperatives for reform. Too often, lawmakers and other commentators speak about the need to reform these programs without offering solutions (as I did in my last article). To break this trend, I am going to explore the best policy options for reforming each of these programs.

There are only two changes that can be made to Social Security in order to avoid it going bankrupt in 2036: raising the amount collected through payroll taxes and lowering future benefits. Raising the payroll tax (currently at 2 percent of income to both employee and employer) and the income cap (currently at $110,000) are necessary, but projections that neither alone will be enough to fund Social Security over the long term. Thus, along with tax increases, benefit increases will have to be slowed for most but raise the retirement age will have to increase by a year or two but exempt those who are in physically intensive labor professions. What usually gets lost when examining Social Security is that it was never meant to provide a retiree’s entire source of income. Currently, Social Security provides only half of what a middle class American would need for a comfortable retirement. Thus, to promote better savings, the government should reform the tax code and create mandatory 401(k)s for retirement (in addition to Social Security) that would give people the flexibility to choose how they invest.

Many people currently believe that Social Security poses a larger fiscal problem than Medicare and Medicaid. This is partially due to the fact that the Social Security trust fund went bankrupt in 2036 and currently makes up the same percentage of the federal budget as Medicare and Medicaid combined (roughly 20 percent). However, as health care costs grow, Medicare and Medicaid will grow much faster than Social Security, which is why reforming these two programs should have much higher priority than reforming Social Security. The best option overall and under the Roman Catholic tradition is that they simply reimburse the high cost, low quality care that has become the trademark of the American health care system. Most people believe that our system is the best in the world, but they are wrong. In the U.S., while average annual medical expenses (excluding out-of-pocket expenses) are double Canada, Japan or France, life expectancy is lower and infant mortality is worse. Also, many people assume that we’re the most innovative country, but the U.S. produces only 40 percent of the world’s patents.

First off, I would like to commend everyone involved in the Easter Triduum at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart for such a beautiful Mass. I highly suggest it for anyone who hasn’t yet gone; words cannot describe the experience. However, there was an aspect of Easter Vigil that I found particularly distasteful. Since it is such a special and unique Mass, a large line had built up outside of the Basilica, à la Disney World. Once the church bell tolled at 7:30 p.m., however, any semblance of order immediately broke down. In a fashion reminiscent of a Black Friday opening at Wal-Mart, everyone ran in a haphazard scramble to claim a pew. For a few minutes, an unspoken mob mentality seemed to rule. When the dust settled, everyone sat solemnly as they waited for Mass to begin at 9 p.m., as if that shameful display a couple of minutes ago never happened.

I don’t wish to place myself on some moral high ground, or be some kind of Jeremiah of Notre Dame; we each have our own sins and faults which only we and God can ever truly know. However, I want to point out the bitter irony of this un-Christian action in such a holy environment. One would think that the people who come together and unite under the Roman Catholic tradition is that simply reimburse the high cost, low quality care that has become the trademark of the American health care system. Most people believe that our system is the best in the world, but they are wrong. In the U.S., while average annual medical expenses (excluding out-of-pocket expenses) are double Canada, Japan or France, life expectancy is lower and infant mortality is worse. Also, many people assume that we’re the most innovative country, but the U.S. produces only 40 percent of the world’s patents.

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The show is centered on Jess's everyday life as an elementary school teacher in her late 20s, which might seem dull, cliché and overwrought. Yet "The New Girl" has a unique and witty twist that has audiences hooked.

After a devastating breakup with her cheating boyfriend, Jess decides to move in with three single men — Schmidt, Nick and Winston. And from this moment on, all of the fun and laughs begin. Her three new roommates each have very different jobs and personalities. However, they complement each other very well, adding a lot of humor and excitement to the story line. Living with Schmidt, Nick and Winston, you never know what to expect.

Schmidt, played by Max Greenfield, is a businessman who sees himself as super-polite Schmidt are also very well-intentioned, providing some comic relief to their everyday struggles for employment, money and love. The funniest and quirkiest of Jess' roommates, Nick, played by Jake Johnson, is a law school dropout who currently works as a bartender. Nick's life is characterized by an endless wave of unemployment, money and love.

Winston's facial expressions and antics Brings New Twist
By MARIA FERNANDEZ
The Observer

Who's that girl? It's Zooey Deschanel, starring as the adorable Jess Day in Fox's latest TV sitcom, "The New Girl." Deschanel is a former professional athlete who currently works as an afterschool nanny-tutor. Recently, she has even started dating Russel (Dermont Mulroney) or as her roommates call him, Mr. Fancyman. Russel is a handsome and wealthy father of one of Jess's elementary school students.

Deschanel plays an amazing role as Jess. Her cute style, demeanor and witty personality make every one of her acting choices come together perfectly. Coming from the perspective of a teacher and not a celebrity, Deschanel has captured viewers' hearts.

"The New Girl" is a funny and entertaining show that will get you mind off of studies and immerse you into the average, but unpredictable life of Jess, Schmidt, Nick and Winston.

The show airs Mondays at 9 p.m. on Fox.

Contact Maria Fernandez at mfernan35@udel.edu

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By SAM STRYKER
Assistant Managing Editor

Spring has sprung, and with it, a new batch of chicks is hatching. No, not the avian kind, but of the cinematic variety. The Hollywood box office is starting to heat up, and it isn't just thanks to blockbusters like the recently released "The Hunger Games" or the moderately anticipated summer-movie films. No, there is something to be said for the ladies of many of these movies — they are young, gorgeous and most importantly, vying to be Hollywood's next "It-Girl."

The barrage of eligible young lasses first hit with "The Hunger Games." To be sure, the film's massive box office haul is largely a product of the popularity of the book it was based off of. But someone had to bring these characters to life, and most importantly, the heroine Katniss Everdeen. Many an actress could have simply shown up to the set, but Jennifer Lawrence embodied Katniss to the core. Lawrence is beautiful, spunky and talented — she was nominated for an Oscar for Best Actress at the age of 20 for her work in "Winter's Bone," the second-youngest ever to accomplish such an honor.

Following swiftly behind Lawrence is Lily Collins, daughter of British musician Phil Collins. Don't be fooled by the famous last name — Collins may have a famous last name, but she is completely on her own, starring opposite Julia Roberts in the recently-released take on Snow White, "Mirror, Mirror." Lily is young, beautiful and a hot acting commodity and like Lawrence, she seems to be known for her thespian talent, not her off-the-screen antics.

Rounding out the list of up-and-coming actresses is Emma Stone, who perhaps best embodies this notion of the "new" Hollywood actress. Stone is swiftly approaching household-name status, thanks to her work in the critically-acclaimed "The Help" and her upcoming role as Gwen Stacy in the upcoming blockbuster "The Amazing Spiderman."

Once again, Stone is a young lady known for her acting chops, not her biting wit and easygoing persona. It is easy to forget how beautiful she is when she is so talented and driven in her craft. It would seem Hollywood is good in good, albeit manicured, hands.

So why, all of a sudden, are these Hollywood actresses known for being just that — actresses, not celebrities, tabloid-fodder and lightning rods for controversy? Point the finger at the long list of ladies who enjoy the spotlight too much — Lindsay Lohan and Megan Fox at the top — and to those who are arrogant or spiteful about their place in American culture — Katherine Heigl and Kristen Stewart immediately come to mind.

Audiences tend to forget how talented Lindsay is — "Mean Girls" is a cult-classic — and Fox starred in the first two installments of the gargan-"Transformers" series. But then legal and personal problems began to envelope Lohan's public persona, and Fox was essentially fired for comparing director Michael Bay to Hitler. Neither were very endearing to the American public and consequently, they may have blown their shot at Hollywood glory.

Surveying the list of up-and-coming actresses, it is easy to forget how beautiful she is when she is so talented and driven in her craft.

Whereas some actresses become too media-exposed, others display a disdain for the limelight audiences find pretentious. Stewart's notorious pouty face and Heigl's bratty comments — she withdrew her name from Emmy consideration because she didn't feel her "Grey's Anatomy" role was developed enough. A slight to the show's writers — have certainly pushed them out of favor with the public.

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Although Fred seems dubious, while a British romance celebrating the sport of fly-fishing in a dry desert Middle Eastern climate may seem preposterous, "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" has everything a good dramedy should, from religious and political discussion, to international affairs, to a preponderance of salmon.

Ewan McGregor portrays Fred Jones, a British government fisheries expert, who is approached by international consultant Harriet Chetwood-Talbot (played by Emily Blunt), a high-strung Prime Minister's press secretary. She tells Fred when the self-proclaimed atheist man of science claims to be an atheist, Harriet represents the liberally minded and wealthy Yemeni Sheikh Muhammed (portrayed by Amr Waked), who commisions the project in order to improve Anglo-Arab relations.

While Fred seems dubious of the plausibility of the project, considering the Yemen’s dry arid climate and general lack of proper conditions for salmon to thrive, as well as the astro-nomical amount of money and resources necessary to fund the project, he eventually agrees to advise Harriet and Sheikh Muhammed. As to be expected in almost any dramedy, a predictable romance eventually buds between Fred and Harriet.

Kristin Scott Thomas plays the high-strung Prime Minister’s press secretary. Patricia Maxwell, who must find a Middle East story “without explosions.” She hits the jackpot when she discovers the news of Sheikh Muhammed’s budding salmon fishing project. Director Lasse Hallstrom sets the movie up as a feel-good international affairs drama, but it quickly becomes apparent the story is much more complicated.

A side plot runs parallel to the main plot’s idealistic expectations of Anglo-Arab cooperation and portrays Harriet’s paramour Robert (played by Tom Mison) going missing in action in the War in Afghanistan. Hallstrom juxtaposes the action in the War in Afghanistan and the Hallstrom also occasionally dabbles in religious discussions. Sheikh Muhammed questions how the self-proclaimed atheist man of science claims to be an atheist. The sheikh uses fishing as an analogy for religion at one point in the film, explaining to Fred anyone willing to wait for a fish to bite for hundreds of hours on end must have some semblance of faith.

Aside from the predictable romantic development and several hulls in the film's pace, the movie is an excellent British romantic drama that covered everything from international affairs to religion to the science of salmon fishing, offering a different look at a region of the world typically portrayed as troubled.

Contact Alex Kilpatrick at akilpatr@nd.edu

By ALEX KILPATRICK

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SPORTS AUTHORITY

Coaches in headlines spoil week of sports

It's the first line and I am already dropping the bomb. Well, now it is the second line but here it is. This week in sports was the best one of the year.

We saw national championship games won, Opening Day celebrated, an underdog story and, of course, masters and the final of the hectic NHL playoffs.

So there is plenty to talk about. Right?

But check the headlines. They are not about the story of the green jacket or the start of the SEC. No, they are about coaches.

The same guys who sit inconspicuously at the end of the bench are now more important than the game going on the court. The same middle-aged men who are well enough not to move from their playing days are the ones making the most noise. The figureheads who head the front lines of their teams in press conferences and appearances are now making the headlines, for all the wrong reasons.

One of these coaches cannot not leave a football team on good terms. Former Arkansas coach Bobby Petrino crashed his motorcycle, joined by an Arkansas assistant. And she was around the same age as Petrino's daughter. And she was engaged. And she tried to cover it all up. That merits swift criticism, and that should be the end of it.

But don't blame the media. It's not just these three either. See Sean Payton. Urban Meyer. Mike D'Antoni. John Tortorella and even Jose Mourinho.

But don't hate the media. They are simply reporting a story worth reporting. It's not just as sports fans for letting controversies and scandals take control of our sacred games. I want to talk about Bubba golf. Kentucky basketball and Dodge Magnum's 50th anniversary, not infidelity, insensitive remarks and bad coaches.

We feed these stories by giving them the fervent attention we should be giving to the better things in sports. We go back out there. We love most in sports: the thrill and fun of the game. The coach who was supposed to win his first game today. The one-out jam in the sixth.

I just want my sports back. You should too.

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastel1@nd.edu.

MLB

 Nationals take down Mets 4-0

NEW YORK — Johan Santana threw 93 pitches. He was due up in the bottom of the fifth and it appeared to be a natural spot for a pinch hitter.

But when Santana sauntered out to the on-deck circle with a runner on one in a run game, it created quite a buzz at Citi Field. No, it had nothing to do with his ability with the bat. It was seeing the Mets’ No. 1 starter ready for another inning on the mound.

Santana walked the only batter he faced in the sixth but he managed to turn in another positive performance in a 4-0 loss to Stephen Strasburg and the Washington Nationals on the 50th anniversary of the Mets’ first game.

“I was able to compete and I feel good,” Santana said Wednesday. “I told (manager Terry Collins) I felt good and he let me go back out there. I didn’t come through, but at least I was able to warm up and come back out again. So that’s a good sign.

Meeting in a blustery, chilly stadium, Strasburg (1-0) and Santana each got off to an erratic start. However, Strasburg was able to turn in a dominating performance coming back from major arm operations.

Santana (0-3) allowed five hits in five-plus innings but his wild pitch gave Washington a 1-0 lead in the second inning of a game that lasted 3 hours, 36 minutes even though the Mets had only three hits. New York pitchers combined to walk 10 and hit one batter.

“I’m very happy at this stage,” Collins said, “and five days from now you’ll see him again.”

Strasburg allowed two hits and struck out nine while throwing more than 100 pitches for the first time in the major leagues. He helped the Nationals take the final two games of the three-game series against their division rival with stellar pitching — Boss DETWILER shut down the Mets on Tuesday night.

“I was going to hold him to 100 pitches but I didn’t know who to go to to get out of the jam,” Nationals manager Davy Johnson said of the two-one-out jam in the sixth. “I probably would’ve had to strangle him to get the ball to him out of the game.”

Ryan Mattheus, Sean Burnett and Henry Rodriguez each pitched a scoreless inning for a Nationals bullpen that is without closer Drew Storen, who is out with a strained right hamstring.

New York’s bullpen gave up two bases-loaded walks and a run-scoring grounder by Chad Tracy in the eighth. By that time, much of the announced crowd of 34,614 had left.

The 33-year-old Santana, a two-time Cy Young Award winner, was making just his second start in 19 months after undergoing left shoulder surgery. His operation was about two weeks after Strasburg had elbow ligament-replacement surgery in September 2010.

Santana’s fastball was clocked at about the same speed (98 mph.)

Strasburg gave up a single to his first batter, Ruben Tejada, and walked Daniel Murphy in a 26-pitch first inning. After starting the second with a walk, he started to command his curveball better and went on a run of retiring 10 in a row until hitting Ronny Cedeno with a pitch and Strasburg walked out in the fifth.

“I was really concerned early because he was pitching backward. He was using a lot of changeups, back-to-back changeups, curveyballs, even cutting his fastball,” Johnson said. “He got straightened out in the third inning and started pitching like he can.”

Said Strasburg: “I have four out pitches. It’s just a matter of commanding them.”

Ike Davis singled in the sixth, ending an 0-for-18 start. That was just the second hit for the Mets, who wore their white uniforms instead of their traditional pinstripes for the anniversary game.

Santana needed 27 pitches to get through the first and finished with 99 overall. In the second, he bounced a slider in front of the plate that went to the backstop, allowing Mark DeRosa to score. Delmon single led going off the inning and moved to third on Xavier Nady’s single to right.

Santana retired 10 in a row, striking out four straight at one point, before allowing back-to-back singles in the fifth.

He looks great,” catcher Josh Thole said. “I think it’s what everybody expects from him.”

The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without refunds.

Sue Dunn at 1-7819. For more information, visit ND’s website at:
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This Day in History:
1861 - Fort Sumter is shelled by Confederate forces.
1945 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies at Warm Spring, Georgia. Harry S. Truman becomes president.
1955 - Dr. Jonas Salk’s discovery of a polio vaccine is announced.
1983 - Harold Washington is elected the first black mayor of Chicago.
CHICAGO — Lance Briggs once vowed he would never play another down for the Chicago Bears. He keeps negotiating new deals with them, though.

The Bears agreed to a one-year contract extension through 2014 with the Pro Bowl linebacker, keeping one of their cornerstone players happy.

“This was by far the least amount of time I’ve ever had with the Bears trying to (negotiate) a contract,” Briggs said on a conference call with reporters Wednesday.

A person familiar with the situation said the new deal basically guarantees about $8 million over the next two years. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the terms were not released.

Briggs, whose six-year, $36 million contract would have expired in 2013, was scheduled to make nearly $4 million next season. Instead, he gets a $3 million bonus up front, along with a $250,000 workout bonus and $3 million in salary.

His salary for 2013 is $4.5 million, with $2 million guaranteed and $4.75 million for 2014. The deal also includes $250,000 workout bonuses in 2013 and 2014, plus a maximum of $3 million in 2013 and $500,000 for those seasons.

“I’m grateful,” Briggs said. “I’m happy.” As for the situation getting resolved, adding, “Once a couple guys get on, really the first time I’ve cranked it up like that — and lost a little bit of my consistency that I’d had all day,” Briggs said. “It’s inexcusable. This loss rests solely on my shoulders today.”

Ben Zobrist hit a tiebreaking two-run single, part of a four-run ninth inning by Tampa Bay in its 4-2 win over Verlander and the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday. Verlander allowed four runs in nine innings against the New York Yankees last week. He walked two and struck out 10 in a one-hitter into the ninth and inherited a bases-loaded jam with one out.

It was something that needs to be addressed, Briggs said. “I just so happened that he got fired the very next morning.”

“We’re very excited for Lance and the Bears,” Emery said in a statement. “Lance has been a very valuable and productive member of our team. Seven straight Pro Bowls is quite a record of success. This is a very positive step for our team in our efforts to win championships.”

The extension for Briggs is just the latest in a long line of moves since Emery was hired. He’s approached the Bears’ biggest need by acquiring Pro Bowl receiver Brandon Marshall in a blockbuster trade with Miami and signed running back Michael Bush to a four-year, $14 million contract to team with the disgruntled Matt Forte in the backfield.

He also signed Jason Campbell to back up quarterback Jay Cutler, brought in special teams star Eric Weems and added corners Kelvin Hayden and Jonathan Wilhite for depth in the secondary, but there are still other issues to address.

Forte hasn’t signed his $7.74 million franchise tender, and linebacker Brian Urlacher’s contract expires after the upcoming season.

Briggs said he hopes Forte’s situation gets resolved, adding, “I want him to be happy.” As for Urlacher?

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Bears owner Jerry Pritzker, who was there to negotiate a blockbuster trade with Miami and signed running back Michael Bush to a four-year, $14 million contract with the disgruntled Matt Forte in the backfield.

Associated Press

Thursday, April 12, 2012

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Associated Press
Pacers beat Cavaliers 104-98 in overtime

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — One of Indiana's players wrestled Cleveland's Tristan Thompson to the ground before the game. The Pacers then had to fight off the spunky Cavaliers.

Danny Granger made a 3-pointer in overtime and scored 23 points, and George Hill made a dagger 3-pointer in the extra session, lifting Indiana to a 104-98 victory on Wednesday night and allowing the Pacers to hold onto the No. 3 spot in the Eastern Conference for one more day.

David West added 19 points for Indiana, which had won eight of 11 since losing to the Cavaliers on March 21. Hill had 17 and Roy Hibbert finished with 14 rebounds, five assists and 11 blocks for Indiana, which was 6-1 in its last seven.

The Pacers outscored the Cavaliers 10-4 in OT and stayed just ahead of Boston and Orlando in the standings.

This was a dogfight — playfully and literally.

Before the game introductions, West got into a mock fight with Moondog, the Pacers' floppy-eared mascot, who often interacts and teases opponents. West accidentally struck the character in the mask, sending him to the hospital with an eye injury.

"I feel terrible about that, I really do," said West, who was visibly upset. "We were just playing when it happened."

"George Hill made some huge plays. He's down on himself right now for missing those three free throws, but I told him he was the reason why we got the lead back. He's able to turn the corner and make some plays for us."

Frank Vogel

Pacers coach

Hill then converted on a 3-pointer that allowed the Cavs to overcome a 10-point deficit and open a seven-point lead. Granger then nailed a 3-pointer, and after Hudson scored for Cleveland, Indiana's leading scorer made an 18-foot jumper to put the Pacers ahead 101-96.

After Jamison misfired, Hill put the Cavs away with his 3, making it 104-96 with 53 seconds left.

It was some vindication for Hibbert, whose missed free throws gave the Cavs late life and they trimmed the deficit to six during the improbable run, with Hill's turnover and four misses in his past three games.

"We thought he (Moondog) knew I'm sorry," Hibbert said. "He's down on himself right now for missing those three free throws, but I told him he was the reason why we got the lead back. He's able to turn the corner and make some plays for us."

Hill missed one of Indiana's five free throws in the fourth, but he scored for Cleveland, Indiana's leading scorer making four turnovers and eight day.

Antawn Jamison scored 21 and Lester Hudson 19 for the Cavaliers.

Gibson gave the Pacers an 88-84 lead early in the OT, but the Hawks sliced it to a one possession game on Kirk Hinrich's open jumper.

The teams traded turnovers over the next 2 minutes — with the Hawks' Smith getting picked cleanly by Pierce with 30 seconds to play, but the Celtics' maintenance called for an offensive foul on the other end with 16.1 seconds to go.

Smith front-rimmed a 3 and Boston gained possession after a battle for the rebound went out of bounds off a Hawks' player in front of Boston's bench with 1.3 seconds left.

Boston inbounded the ball to Rondo, who fired it in the air as the horn sounded. Pierce, just 6 of 19 from the floor, raised his arms in triumph.

In a back and forth fourth quarter during which the teams traded the lead five times, Boston went up 82-81 on Garnett's jumper from the top of the key with 1.26 to go, but Zaza Pachulia hit one of two free throws on the Hawks' next possession, tying it with 74 seconds left.

Bass then hit a short jumper in the lane and the Hawks' tied it again on Joe Johnson's jumper with 47 seconds to play.

Pierce, who struggled from the floor all night, missed a 3 but Garnett grabbed the rebound.

After Boston's timeout-out, Gar- nett forced to take a long fadeaway that missed the rim badly and the 24-second shot expired during a scramble for the rebound.

Teague front-rimmed a long jumper as the horn sounded, sending the game to OT.

Boston opened an 80-26 lead on Garnett's 3-point play when he drove around Pachulia for a reverse layup and was fouled, hitting the free throw to cap a 7-0 spree with 4:04 to play. The Hawks then retied it on Teague's jumper from the left wing a minute later after Johnson hit two free throws.

Surging Celtics beat Hawks

Associated Press

BOSTON — Paul Pierce overcame a miserable shooting game with a key jumper in overtime and Rajon Rondo finished with a triple-double with 20 assists, 10 points and 10 rebounds to lift the surging Boston Celtics to an 88-86 win over the Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday night.

Kevin Garnett had 22 points and grabbed 12 boards before fouling out with just under 3 minutes left in OT, and Brandon Bass, who also hit a jumper in overtime, added 13. Bass and Pierce hit jumpers, giving Boston an 88-84 lead early in the OT, but the Hawks sliced it to a one possession game on Kirk Hinrich's open jumper.

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**Women's Lacrosse**

Basketball star Mallory joins lacrosse squad

Observer Staff Report

Just a week after losing in the national championship game with the women's basketball team, graduate student Brittany Mallory has joined the women's lacrosse team.

Mallory, a guard, averaged 5.8 points per game and started all 39 games for the Irish. She also tallied 2.1 steals per game in helping Notre Dame to its second consecutive runner-up finish.

The Baltimore native played lacrosse during her first three years of high school and earned All-County and All-American honors as a midfielder. Mallory will play defense for the Irish for the remainder of the season.

Mallory is not the first Notre Dame player to play a second sport this year. Freshman Pat Connaughton now pitches for the Irish baseball team after starting at guard for the men's basketball squad.

San Diego’s Cory Luebke struggled in the first inning, when he threw 43 pitches and walked four. With two-outs, he loaded the bases by walking Chris Young and then forced in Willie Bloomquist with a walk to Jason Kubel. Luebke struck out Paul Goldschmidt to end the threat.

Luebke then threw 61 pitches over his final 4 1-3 innings. He allowed one run and four hits, struck out five and walked four.

With two outs in the second, Bloomquist hit a ball of the top of the wall in left field that was ruled a triple. Three of the umpires went in for a video review and upheld the call. Bloomquist was stranded when Aaron Hill flied out to center.

Luebke allowed one run and four hits in 5 1-3 innings, struck out five and walked four.

**SMC Tennis**

Belles set to square off with Bethel

By ISAAC LORTON  Sports Writer

In one of its biggest regular-season matches of the year, Saint Mary’s will look to take down Mishawaka rival Bethel. Even though the Pilots are a mere five miles away, the Belles will enjoy home-court advantage against the familiar foe.

“Our conference matches are the most important to us,” Belles coach Dale Campbell said. “But this game is definitely up there in terms of importance. You want to beat your cross-town rivals because there will be some bragging rights, which are always nice.”

The Belles (8-6, 1-2 MIAA) seek to draw upon confidence gained from a hard fought 5-4 victory over Trine last week.

“I think the win will serve us well,” Campbell said. “It was a good bounce-back win after a loss to Alma. It was a great confidence boost because it is pleasing to see the team turn around a tough loss into a win.”

Saint Mary’s has had the upper hand against Bethel (10-5, 4-4 MCC) in recent history, winning the past three matchups against the Pilots under Campbell’s coaching term.

“We look to continue our winning streak against Bethel. However, we do not want to underestimate them. ”

Dale Campbell
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**MLB**

Denorfia leads Padres to win

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Chris Denorfia hit a two-run homer with one out in the eighth inning Wednesday that carried the San Diego Padres to a 2-1 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks, who had been the last unbeaten team in the major leagues.

Denorfia’s clutch shot to straightaway center field — his first of the season — came on a 2-1 pitch from David Hernandez (0-1). Cameron Maybin was aboard on a walk.

Center fielder Chris Young lost his glove over the fence trying to make a leaping grab. Someone from the Padres’ bullpen retrieved it for him.

Ernesto Frieri (1-0) threw 1 1-3 innings, and Huston Street pitched a perfect ninth for his first save.

San Diego’s Cory Luebke struggled in the first inning, when he threw 43 pitches and walked four. With two-outs, he loaded the bases by walking Chris Young and then forced in Willie Bloomquist with a walk to Jason Kubel. Luebke struck out Paul Goldschmidt to end the threat.

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Irish Split with Scarlet Knights

By ERNST CLEOFÉ
Sports Writer

After beginning the day by extending their winning streak to nine games, the Irish picked up their first Big East loss of the season in the back half of a doubleheader with Rutgers on Wednesday.

The Irish (20-11, 4-1 Big East) started off their day in Piscataway, N.J., with a 4-1 win over the Scarlet Knights (17-21, 6-7) behind an impressive effort by sophomore pitcher Laura Winter. Winter threw a complete game with seven strikeouts, giving up only one run on three hits. "She had great presence and she played with intensity that rubbed off on the team," senior captain and outfielder Alexa Maldonado said. "Even when there were moments where she gave up hits, she had the presence to keep control of the game, and she could count on us to give behind her."

In the third inning, freshman designated hitter Cassidy Whidden gave Winter the only cushion she needed with a three-run home run. Junior catcher Amy Buntin added to the Irish lead shortly thereafter when she continued her current hot streak with a solo home run in the fourth.

Along with the offensive output, the defensive effort behind Winter was key to the Irish victory. "We played good defense that kept the game in control for us," Maldonado said. "And we scored when we needed to."

After cruising to a victory to open the series, Notre Dame faced trouble in the day's second game. The Irish got off to a good start by picking up a five-run lead after four innings at the plate. But in the bottom half of the fourth, Notre Dame started to make mistakes. Following two Irish errors, the Scarlet Knights loaded the bases. After Rutgers scored a run with an RBI single, the Scarlet Knights tied the game at five with a grand slam.

After falling behind by a run in the sixth inning after a Rutgers' solo shot, the Irish mounted the game again in the seventh inning to push the game into extra innings. In the bottom of the ninth, Rutgers catcher Kylee Bishop drove in the game-winning double off Winters, who took on the loss after pitching five innings of relief and allowing two runs on four hits. In the second game, Notre Dame's errors prove to be enough to deny them the series sweep and their tenth-straight win.

"In the first game, we were in control during the game," Maldonado said. "In the second game, we let things get out of control on defense and we stopped making batting adjustments during the time."

Notre Dame will look to get back on track in the Big East when it travels to Syracuse for a three-game weekend series starting Saturday.

Contact Ernst Cleofé at ecleofe@nd.edu

Irish sophomore pitcher Laura Winter fires a pitch in a 7-2 win against Connecticut on April 1 at Melissa Cook Stadium.

Contact Ernst Cleofé at ecleofe@nd.edu

THE CUSHWA CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF AMERICAN CATHOLICISM presents

Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?: A Historical Introduction

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John Fea
Messiah College

Saturday, April 14, 2012
Notre Dame Conference Center, McKenna Hall
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Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study
“Conceptions of Truth and the Unity of Knowledge” Conference
APRIL 12-14, 2012

Schedule for
FRIDAY, APRIL 13
All conference sessions will be held in the Notre Dame Conference Center in McKenna Hall. All conference meals will be served in the Morris Inn.

First Session: 9:00am to 12:30pm
Osborne Wiggins (University of Louisville)
Does introspection (a first-person perspective) remain indispensable to psychology?
Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)
Zygmunt Pizlo (Purdue University)
What is the nature of perception?
Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)
Keith Lehrer (University of Arizona / University of Miami)
Intuition and Coherence in the Keystone Loop
Lunch (12:30 to 2:00 p.m.)

Second Session: 2:40 pm to 5:20 pm
Celia Deane-Drummond (University of Notre Dame)
How is theology inspired by the sciences?
Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)
Robert Hanna (University of Colorado, Boulder)
What is the nature of inference?
Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)
Carsten Dutt (University of Heidelberg)
Truth in Interpretation
Dinner (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.)
Questions? Call NDIAS (574-631-1395)
Belles take opener, lose game two in 11 innings

By NICK BOYLE
Sports Writer

Traveling to Hope College, Saint Mary’s split its double-header Wednesday against its conference foe, taking the first contest in a 3-0 shutout while losing the second, 9-7, in an 11-inning thriller.

The first game featured an effective team effort from the Belles (16-8, 3-3 MIAA) to keep the hosts off of the scoreboard. Belles sophomore pitcher Cali Grace Selner dominated for the visitors, throwing a complete-game shutout.

“Game one was a great team effort, we played very clean softball,” Belles coach Erin Sullivan said. “Selner threw a fantastic game, and our defense was solid with no errors.”

The second game started off well for Saint Mary’s, as freshman first baseman Jordie Wasserman drove in two with a home run. The Belles manufactured one more run in the seventh inning to secure the shutout win.

“Wasserman hitting the homerun was huge for us,” Sullivan said. “We had quality at bats all game.”

The two teams traded runs in the ninth and 10th before Hope moved two across in the top of the 11th inning. The Belles were not able to answer in the following frame, ending the game.

“We didn’t hit super-well in game two, but we were able to come back to score five runs in the seventh to tie the game,” Sullivan said. “That was very timely, clutch hitting.”

The Irish will look to snap their losing skid Friday in a weekend series at home against Cincinnati.

Contact Andrew Gostelm at agostelm1@nd.edu
Spring continued from page 20

Gasp, shock, awe

That’s right, it’s the person next to Tommy Rees that will decide Notre Dame’s fate this year. It’s the person to the left of Andrew Hendrix that should carry the load for the Irish. It’s the person to the right of Everett Golson that will be better than they were a year ago. It’s the player sharing a backfield with Gunner Kiel that will grind out the wins for Notre Dame.

And with a returning backfield featuring 1,000-yard rusher Cierre Wood, running back-converted-receiver-converted-running back Theo Riddick and USC transfer Amir Carlisle, why shouldn’t the running back be the most meaningful position on the field?

Wood — who combined with Jonas Gray to top nearly 2,000 yards rushing — enters camp the undisputed starter in the backfield and will look to build on last season, when he scored nine touchdowns on the ground.

Riddick and Carlisle will fight for playing time behind Wood, while George Atkinson III could provide the “big back” option for the Irish. Atkinson has the size (he stands at six-foot-one) and speed (remember his two kick returns last season) and can change the game. And that is right, I’m doing both, and I’m liking where I’m coming. It’s very exciting, but you have to get in shape, and I’m getting there.

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Riddick continued from page 20

said he is focused on working hard to improve all aspects of his offensive game.

“I mean, everyone wants the ball. It’s why you play the game,” he said. “But just makes you come to work every day, instead of taking days off and saying ‘I’m in this position, I have all this and I’m at this rank.’ Everyone’s on an even playing field, so you have to come out and bring your ‘A game every day.’

The Irish coaching staff un-conventionally groups slots receivers and running backs into the same skill group during practice, meaning Riddick has split reps with senior Cierre Wood, sophomore George Atkinson III and senior Robby Toma, among others. Riddick said the focus on both positions makes him and the other hybrids more versatile.

“You can be very dangerous if you can [play] both [slot receiver and running back]. So far, I’m doing both, and I’m liking where I’m coming. It’s very exciting, but you have to get in shape, and I’m getting there.”

Riddick

Blue-collar Golic

Senior offensive lineman Mike Golic Jr. has been identified throughout his career as a hard worker in all aspects of the game. With the addition of Harry Hiestand as offensive line coach in the offseason, Golic believes he has a coach who shares his blue-collar mentality.

“I definitely would describe coach Hiestand as a very blue-collar guy,” Golic said. “He’s about coming in and working hard and giving a great effort every day, and we’ll work on everything else from there. He’s the person you can say you always control is your effort, and that’s one thing we’ll never sacrifice. It’s a great effort on the offensive line.”

Filling the vacancy left by Ed Warinner’s move to Ohio State in the offseason, Hiestand was hired from Tennessee as Notre Dame’s offensive line coach and run game coordinator. Golic said the 29-year coaching veteran has returned focus to technique and helped him improve his fundamental game.

“Something that (Hiestand) has been really focused on is technique, and not so much scheme and working on scheme and things like that, but those basic techniques that can bail you out of a bad situation,” Golic said. “Whether you’re seeing a new scheme or not, if you’re in that fundamental position that he’s teaching, you’ll be able to handle anything a defense will throw at you. It’s something that’s already helping us all out a lot.”

After seeing extensive time on the offensive line in 2011, Golic returns to Notre Dame for a final year of eligibility hoping to improve his game and follow his father’s footsteps into the NFL.

“Most of the guys that come here, if you come to play big-time Division I football, you have [NFL] aspirations,” Golic said. “I absolutely want to take my shot and try to play in the NFL, but I’m worried about this year first and worried about a great senior season. We’ll let the chips fall where they may after that.”

Contact Chris Allen at callos10@nd.edu

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

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Let’s Just Say It Involves Stadium Cups!

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I think we lost our approach. Let them off the hook there with game. In the last four innings of the inning. The right-hander early, but couldn’t capitalize on the freshman out of the game. Nimke threw a seven-strikeout complete game for the jam, striking out two straight batters following Jagielo’s double. Western Michigan on Wednesday night. Storrie, in his hands, so we’re still trying to find out who can do what.”

Instead of trying to find a niche in the offense, Riddick finds himself playing both running back and slot receiver. Joe Hudson, but Broncos freshman running back and slot receiver. Eric Jagielo. Notre Dame Irish sophomore third baseman Eric Jagielo swings during Notre Dame’s 7-3 win against Toledo on April 3.

Men’s volleyball team wins national title

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

The words “national championship” resonate for all athletes and sports fans, speaking directly to the desire to be on top. The No. 1 Irish earned their place at the top this weekend by capturing the title of Div. I national champions at the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation (NCVF) championship in Kansas City, Mo., on April 7. Notre Dame (34-7) finished a grueling season the best way possible,” senior setter and coach Rehberg said. “This showed our hard work throughout the season paid off.”

Notre Dame proved its determination during the final day of the national tournament with three three-set matches Saturday. The Irish led 2-0 heading into the third inning, but the Broncos broke through for three runs against Rubbinaccio, who struggled to throw strikes as he struggled through the lineup. Compounding the issue, the Irish bats struggled to support

Riddick and Golic look to improve this spring

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Editor

In addition to the signature gold helmet, senior playmaker Theo Riddick has worn many hats for Notre Dame. First, he was a kick returner and situational running back. Then, he was a lightning-quick slot receiver. Entering his fourth season in an Irish uniform, Riddick finds himself playing both running back and slot receiver as the most experienced member of a group of hybrid offensive players grouped under running backs coach Tony Alford. Riddick said at this point he does not have a defined role. “I don’t think anyone has roles right now,” he said. “At this point, like coach [Alford] said, everybody wants the ball in their hands, so we’re still trying to find out who can do what.”

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Running backs could take pressure off QBs

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Sports Editor

Almost everything means nothing. Almost nothing means anything. Players have 15 practices to prove to the coaching staff — and an overeager fan base — next year will be different. You’ll hear about so-and-so impressing and this-and-that position battle. But you won’t hear that from me. I’m here to talk about the most meaningful position for Notre Dame this year: running back.

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Irish senior running back Theo Riddick breaks off a run during a March 24 practice. Riddick, a receiver in 2011, will see playing time as both a slot receiver and running back in 2012.

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