Golden memories

Class of 1989 recall last national championship

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Editor

It’s been 24 years since the Irish last won a national championship in football, but 1989 Notre Dame alumni who were seniors during that undefeated 1988 season feel unmatched excitement once again as the University’s current unbeaten squad prepares for the Jan. 7 BCS National Championship game in Miami.

“The media didn’t have high expectations for our quarterback, Tony Rice. However, just like Tony showed everyone that he could lead the team, so has Everett Golson,” Feasel said. “Lou Holtz was in his third year of coaching at Notre Dame, just like [Irish] coach Brian Kelly is now.”

The media also honored in on a similar tragic story among the players, much like they have with Manti Te’o since his grandmother and girlfriend passed away within a day of each other before the Michigan State game.

“[Nose guard Chris Zorich] was raised by a single mom in a rough Chicago neighborhood and he

For ND Haters

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Graduate leads in outer space

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Editor-in-Chief

Commander Kevin Ford, who recently took command of the International Space Station (ISS), chose one simple phrase for his sound check Tuesday morning: “Play Like A Champion Today.”

Ford, a 1982 alumnus of the University, spoke with The Observer from the orbiting space station Tuesday during his five-month-long mission to the ISS. The 52-year-old Indiana native launched from Kazakhstan in late October and took control of the station when Expedition 34 began Nov. 18. Though Ford has been to space previously on a two-week space shuttle mission, he said there were still some surprises in the zero-gravity environment.

“Things float away from you very quietly. You learn as you get here, after you’ve been here for a few weeks, you kind of forget about where the floor is and where the walls are and where the ceiling is, and you can just operate in any kind of orientation and be happy there. So it kind of surprised me how your mind adapts to that,” he said. “The other thing that surprises you is just how bright blue the beautiful Earth is out there. Every time you see it, it just glows just like it’s neon. It’s a surprising view with your own eyes.”

Ford graduated from Notre Dame with a degree in aerospace engineering and has taken his love for the University to the ISS.

To uncover the truth and report it accurately

College alumna recounts road trip to 1988 Fiesta Bowl

By JILLIAN BARWICK
St. Mary’s Editor

For Julie Wagner Feasel, a 1989 graduate of Saint Mary’s, the similarities between the 1988 national champions and this year’s Irish are uncanny.

“The media didn’t have high expectations for our quarterback, Tony Rice. However, just like Tony showed everyone that he could lead the team, so has Everett Golson,” Feasel said. “Lou Holtz was in his third year of coaching at Notre Dame, just like [Irish] coach Brian Kelly is now.”

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Today’s Five:

Thursday
New Faces Art Show
O’Shaughnessy Hall
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Features pieces by first year graduate students.

Friday
“The Death of Socrates”
Eck Visitors Center
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Lecture from Kathrin Koslicki.

Saturday
Aiden Project
South Dining Hall
9:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Make fleece blankets for patients fighting cancer.

Sunday
Film: “Meet John Doe” by Frank Capra
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
3 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.
Released in 1941.

“Raising Voices for Urban Poverty”
101 DeBartolo Hall
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Speaker Mary Jo Bane.

Have a question you want answered? Email obsphoto@gmail.com

Question of the Day:
What is your favorite Christmas carol?

Claire Wiley
freshman
Pasequilla East Hall
“Christmas Lights by Coldplay.”

Alissa Bahr
freshman
Breen-Phillips Hall
“All I Want For Christmas Is You by Michael Buble.”

KayKay Essien
freshman
Keanen Hall
“White Christmas.”

Janice Chung
freshman
Breen-Phillips Hall
“God Bless Yee Merry Gentlemen.”

Colton Williamson
freshman
Fisher Hall
“Christmas Time Is Here.”

Sophomore Ana Martin del Campo works on her marketing project, Tailgamers, a professional tailgating service, in Le Mans Hall. Martin del Campo’s group designed a convenient service for Irish fans to have their tailgate tailored professionally and hassle free.

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THE FIVE NEXT DAYS:

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Want your event included here?
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TODAY

THE OBSERVER | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2012 | ndsmcobserver.com
Belle belts it on ‘The Voice’

By BRIDGET FEENEY
Saint Mary’s Associate Editor

While many students occupied their time this past semester studying abroad, working on internships or balancing homework and other extra-curriculars, one Saint Mary’s student spent the last several months living out her dream as a singer.

Syvia Yacoub, a Saint Mary’s sophomore, took the year off to pursue her aspirations of becoming a professional singer when she auditioned for “The Voice,” an NBC reality television show where participants compete on stage coached by successful musicians. When singers are selected to part-icipate on the show, they have the option to choose to be coached by one of four artists: Christina Aguilera, Blake Shelton, Adam Levine and Cee Lo Green.

Yacoub, a sophomore, said and said the opportunity to work with her has been an unforgettable one.

“Getting the chance to work with [Aguilera] and perform with her has been incredible,” she said. “She has been my idol since I was a little girl and to know that she knows who I am personally is something I respect.”

Though Yacoub received coach-ing and advice from Aguilera throughout the competition, she was also able to hear the other coaches’ opinions about her per-formances. Yacoub said she really enjoyed that aspect of “The Voice” and was grateful to hear additional feedback on her singing.

“It was awesome,” she said. “Not everyone gets coached by their idol, let alone four different amazing coaches. [They] are all really different artists and that feedback really helps you grow because you realize ‘Well this group thinks this, so I need to improve on this.’ It was great.”

While the comments and advice from Aguilera and the other three coaches were extremely helpful to Yacoub, she said she also benefit-ed greatly from the support of the Saint Mary’s community and her hometown of Muskegon, Mich.

“Everyone’s support means the world to me,” she said. “Friends, and even people I don’t know and alumni are all reaching out to me. The support has been impeccable and I personally feel I had one of the best hometown and school backings on ‘The Voice’. It feels great to know so many people support me.”

The support from all of her fans helped Yacoub push through some of the more stressful parts of her time on the show. She said the experience of rehearsals, perform-ing and competing was an “emotional rollercoaster.”

“I think I cried more on the show than I have in my entire life,” she said. “You just spin through so many different emotions. You go so quickly from excitement to being nervous to ‘I could go home tonight’ to ‘Oh my gosh, America saved me’ — it was crazy.”

After making it onto the show after the blind auditions and advanc-ing past the knockouts into the top 10, Yacoub was voted off of the competition last week after her performance of Alicia Keys’s “Girl on Fire.” While Yacoub is dis-appointed she is no longer on “The Voice,” she said she was expecting the elimination.

“I kind of had a feeling I would go home,” she said. “I had mentally prepared myself and got it all out of my system. I knew I just had this gut feeling. But I was really happy with my last performance — it had a message I think is important and the coaches were happy with it too.”

While her time on “The Voice” is over, she said her plans to return back to Saint Mary’s are still being finalized. Because she is still un-der contract with NBC and “The Voice,” she is unable to make any definite plans right now.

“Definitely I will come back to Saint Mary’s and visit,” she said. “There is a possibility I will be back next semester to finish the year but everything is still up in the air. It all depends on my career and me moving forward with my singing.”

Despite her uncertainties at the moment, Yacoub said she is confident in her career and hopes others take inspiration from her success on the show.

“You opened a lot of doors by being in this competition and making it to the Top 10, so expect more coming from me,” she said. “I hope my experience shows that someone with literally no connections can make it and that I’ve given people the drive and push to shout for what you want.”

Contact Bridget Feeney at bfeene01@stmarys.edu

PHOTO ADVERTISEMENT

PHOTO COURTESY OF SYLVIDIA YACOUB

Sylvia Yacoub performs Katy Perry’s “The One That Got Away” on the TV show “The Voice” during a hiatus from school to compete on the show.

Students Senate

Chairs update on semester progress

By MADDIE DALY
News Writer

Because of the new Senate structure established this year, student government department chairs no longer attend the weekly meet-ings to give updates from their various committees. However, at Wednesday’s meeting, each department head came to give an update on each group’s work so far this semester.

“Hopefully this will give you a good idea of what stu-dent government has been working on,” student body vice president Katie Rose said.

Director of campus tech-nology Yiting Zheng spoke about new mobile sites and printing problems.

“We have added grade and course search to the mobile Notre Dame website [m.nd.edu] so you can access that on your phone, in addition to laundry view and campus maps,” Zheng said. “We have also been working with print-ers, both making sure print-ers in dorms are working and trying to get printers in O’Shaughnessy Hall.”

Junior Liza Manfred from the Department of Constituent Services talked about future plans for field-ing student suggestions.

“Essentially what we’re go-ing to do is to vote on each item on the agenda. We’ve been working on making sure that our four improvements are working more regu-larly,” Manfred said.

The Department of Internal Affairs, represented by senior Ben Noe, is not only responsi-ble for the new Senate struc-ture but also for the creation of the two newest department representatives, athlet-ics and campus ministry.

Junior Brendan Dolan rep-re-sents the athletics department and explained their first initiatives.

“Our main goal was to get on board with the Leprechaun Legion,” Dolan said. “We’ve worked on music in the sta-adium, the ticket sharing program for basketball and trying to get one to stream games that are streamed on-line at UND.com.”

Junior Parker Dwyer up-dated the group on the Department of Residence Life.

“We have been working on the installation of hydration stations in the Rock, Rolff’s and all the halls,” Dwyer said. “We also submitted an acceler-ated hand dryer request like the ones in LaFortune mine,” Masi said. “We have expanded Safe Walk services by adding a golf cart to reach towards Saint Mary’s College, Eddy Street Commons and saint Mary’s student housing sites.”

Sophomore Ernst Cleo-fe, head of the Diversity Council, and Masi are working on three specific goals.

“Our three goals have been to continue working with the Diversity Council, trying to figure out where they’re going in the future, trying to keep momentum with the Call to Action movement and promot-ing a generally welcom-ing atmosphere on campus,” Cleofe said.

Masi and sophomore Matt Devine from the Department of Gender Issues described their attempt to de-ormalize the issue of gender interaction on campus.

“One of the main pushes we’ve been doing is changing the way we talk about gen-der on campus or trying to get students to speak about them at all,” Devine said. “And women attend certain classes to frame the way their four years progress, and we want to make these discus-sions more informal — not a segmented dialogue but a continuous conversation.”

Contact Maddie Daly at mdaly6@nd.edu

“ALL FRESHMEN ATTEND CERTAIN TALKS TO FRAME THE WAY THEIR FOUR YEARS PROGRESS, AND WE WANT TO MAKE THESE DISCUSSIONS MORE INFORMAL — NOT A SEGMENTED DIALOGUE BUT A CONTINUOUS CONVERSATION.”
Matt Devine
Department of Gender Issues

NEWS
NDSMCOBSERVER.COM | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2012 | THE OBSERVER

3
be able to experience both the frustra-
tion students felt during freshman seas-
ons and the pinnacle and ecstasy of Notre Dame football when you weren't defeated and in a position to play for the national championship.

Mr. Schlegel said a change in direction when former coach Charlie Weis was fired after the 2009 season brought new life into the program following a lackluster 2008 season under Dennis Franchione.

“In Loo’s first year, we went 5-6 as well, but it felt like a different 5-6,” Cobb said. “Even though it was an identification, it was to Franchione’s last year, we were competitive in virtually every contest.”

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Sexual Minorities in Uganda, requested she urge Notre Dame to take action for being conservative on this issue.

“I hope Fr. Jenkins and Dr. Entinikin listen to their faculty on this issue,” Dunn said.

The University has a responsibility, both as a Catholic institution and a partner with Uganda, to provide guidance to the country and discourage this bill, Day said.

Day said Notre Dame’s mission statement pledges that the University looks to nurture in its students, “a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice and oppression that burden the lives of so many. The aim is to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as man solidarity and concern for the humanity of every single person.”

“As the universal Church, Catholic leaders elsewhere in the world need to let the Ugandan Catholic Church know this bill is completely contradictory to our faith’s core beliefs,” she said. “I cannot think of anything more dehumanizing and degrading than this bill.”

Dunn said she has received numerous responses to the petition from Notre Dame faculty and staff praising her and her teammates and saying they are supporting her.

She has also received brief e-mails from University President Fr. John Jenkins and Dr. J. Nicholas Entinikin, vice president and associate provost for academic affairs.

“I hope Fr. Jenkins and Dr. Entinikin listen to their faculty on this issue,” Dunn said.

Contact Mel Flanagan at mflanagan@dnd.edu.

Feasel and three of her girlfriends piled into her parents’ station wagon while eight of her friends from Notre Dame drove a rented RV from the Midwest to Arizona for the game.

“The atmosphere in Phoenix was electric. It was clear that Notre Dame is not West Virginia, but I will say the West Virginia fans were incredibly nice,” Feasel said. “Notre Dame led the entire game. When the game was over, confetti was released, the team was lifted up and people stormed the field. Players and coach [Lou] Holtz were lifted up on other people’s shoulders — it was an incredible scene. I am so glad I was able to be there.”

As far as current students trying to purchase national championship tickets, Feasel had a lower bill.

My game ticket was $31.65 and the ticket to the official pep rally was $2,” Feasel said.

Feasel’s nephew, who is a Marine, bought tickets for the game from Stub Hub as soon as Notre Dame beat USC last Saturday, but he paid around $2,000 a ticket for only two tickets, Feasel said.

“I stopped the money he made serving in Afghanistan this year to buy a ticket for himself and his brother and asked for his keen to be extended an extra day so he could go to the game.

The official Notre Dame travel package are between $1,700 and $2,400 which is really too much for students to pay, with the game tickets starting at $350,” Feasel said.

Feasel said she is glad her daughter Meghan, a senior at Saint Mary’s, could have a similar football experience.

“I won’t be going to the national championship game, but my entire family has said they will chip in to help my daughter go because they know how much it means to her,” Feasel said.

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu.
For Irish haters

Vicky Jacobsen
Sports Writer

I realize that the editorial page of The Observer is not the best way to reach you and your brethren, but this is the one publication willing to give me a soapbox.

As Notre Dame detractor, you might not have run through the nearest public fountain after near-simultaneous losses by Kansas St. and Oregon made the Irish number one in the country. That was the therapeuticallyastic: “Well, even if we lose, we’ve far surpassed everyone’s expectations.” As the Irish took the field, unlike any other game this year, there was nothing I could really feel other than: “It’s within our grasp. And there’s nothing to do but win.” There’s something about finality, ultimacy, that brings what’s essential into the sharpest focus.

Most of us are living this reality intensely. The end of the semester generates precisely the same dynamic. Where once students spent a free moment watching a YouTube clip, they now spend it calculating the extra number of pages they have to write before they leave for Christmas. Exam schedules are plotted out and blocks of free time are bracketed for study. Many distractions and minor excuses to procrastinate are closeted away for a couple weeks, as our minds and energies hone in on the last push. Such is the usual effect of “the final moment.”

We are in the last days of the year. Advent — the beginning of the New Church year, as we begin again to celebrate one’s heritage. But something tells me he is unaware that we have the North America’s only Irish Language and Literature Department, which happens to be the largest Irish-speaking work-place in the world. Just a hunch.

“We refuse to join a conference for football.” I personally don’t see how joining a conference makes your school more virtuous. Army, Navy and BYU are also independents — that’s not exactly the most relevant model, is it? Besides, the Big Ten didn’t want Notre Dame when we asked to join (repeatedly) in the first half of the 20th century, back when we were a little Catholic school in the middle of nowhere.

“We have an exclusive contract with NBC.” This “undeserved” contract was one of back Reilly’s big gripes. The way people talk, you would think the athletic department had kidnapped Bob Costas and held him hostage in Zach’s basement until NBC acquiesced to our demands. Sorry, but this is purely a business decision. If you can think of a program to run on Saturday afternoons that would attract more viewers, I’m sure NBC would be willing to set up an appointment.

Notre Dame fans are obnoxious.” I find this funny, partially because the chances of having things thrown at you on gameday are next to nil. In a country where we spend so much time criticizing “bandwagon” fans, you would think Irish fans would get more credit for standing by their team through 20 years lost in the college football desert. If we didn’t love our school, we wouldn’t bother to love the football team. And if you could experience this school for yourself, I’d bet you wouldn’t bother to hate it, either.

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at vjacobse@nd.edu

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Christopher Damian
Ideas of a University

Flannery O’Connor once wrote: “The Catholic novelist doesn’t have to be a saint; he doesn’t even have to be a Catholic; he does, unfortunately, have to write ‘Catholic’ books.” She was “catholic” in her appeal to “Catholic Novelists and Their Readers,” she notes that “poorly written novels — no matter how pious and edifying the behaviour of the characters — are not good in themselves and are therefore not really edifying.”

In “The Idea of a University,” Cardinal John Henry Newman seeks to discuss and understand the nature of a University. In “Discourse IX,” Newman states that the University teaches all subject matter in an integrated way, such that the University is a coherent whole. Newman recognizes a primacy of secular aims in the University. This may be scandalous to some who would favor a “seminary model” for the Catholic University. The University, Catholic or otherwise, is not primarily a place for catechesis. Nor is it primarily a place of moral formation. One that functions primarily as a seminary is not a University. The University is a place for the pursuit of Knowledge. This pursuit is good in and of itself, and it does not need external justification. Newman identifies both the instrument and the result of this pursuit as “Liberal Knowledge.”

The media prides itself on being an environment of teaching and learning which fosters the development in its students of those disciplined habits of mind, body and spirit which characterize educated, skilled and free human beings.” To this end, the University has established a “core curriculum,” “a set of required courses intended to provide every undergraduate with a foundation in learning.” These courses are intended to provide the foundation for all of the pursuits of the University and to contribute towards the pursuit of Liberal Knowledge.

Notre Dame students are not unlike the majority of their peers at competitive private universities. Many students approach required courses as a series of hoops to jump through in order to obtain a diploma. This, however, is insufficient for the pursuit of Liberal Knowledge. One who approaches courses in this way cannot truly say that he or she has received a University education.

In a University, all courses will contribute to each other. No discipline can survive on its own. Specialization is particularly antithetical to the University, because it only allows for a narrow mind. The University is concerned with the liberalized mind.

Can one develop a liberal mind at Notre Dame? A professor remarked to me that Notre Dame no longer has a core curriculum. It has distribution requirements. We no longer aid our students in creating a coherent, holistic and integrated curriculum. Rather, we only ask that they take a certain number of courses in a certain number of disciplines. These courses may or may not make sense in light of one another; this largely depends on the students’ selections.

Do Notre Dame students receive a University education? Year after year, seniors have remarked to me that they wished they would have taken different courses, chosen a different major, spent their time differently. They suggest that a great amount of time here has been wasted. They say that they did not receive the education they thought they had come here to get. I’m unsure if this is the case for me.

Only in determining whether Notre Dame is a University can we determine whether it is a Catholic University. Yet, perhaps the reverse is also true. Newman notes: “If the Catholic Faith is true, a University cannot exist externally to the Catholic pale, for it cannot teach Universal Knowledge if it does not teach Catholic theology.”

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

What is a Catholic University?

In the article “A poor argument,” Adam Newman argues that poverty is not an excuse for the mediocrity of the American school system today. According to Mr. Newman, poverty “has been used by the education establishment to lower the expectations of what schools and teachers can achieve.” As minors in the Education, Schooling and Society program, we believe that poverty is an integral part of the web of influences that affect education. It cannot be ignored.

Mr. Newman begins his argument by distinguishing between “traditionalists” and “reformers” in the educational debate. We find this categorization problematic and unproductive, in that it is implies that “traditionalists” are not advocates of meaningful reforms in the educational system for all students. In fact, both “sides” are trying to reform schooling, just in different ways and informed by different research. Mr. Newman says: “Reformers believe that the best way to improve student outcomes is to provide students with effective teaching.” The ‘Caterer and Report’, which is widely considered the most influential educational study of the 20th century, concluded that family resources matter more than school quality for academic achievement. Good teachers matter. Still, we believe that poverty has huge consequences for student achievement; conclusions that teacher quality and accountability are all the more needed to fix the system lack insight into the forces that shape student achievement. Mr. Newman, you are right that quality teachers greatly impact the academic lives of low-income students. However, we cannot ignore the immense impact that poverty has on students before they even attend school. Children living with them a great variety of experiences and circumstances that cannot be neglected. Poverty is also a culture. In particular, poverty affects every aspect of one’s life, from housing, health and culture. Richard Rothstein, research associate of the Economic Policy Institute and senior fellow at the University of California (Berkeley) School of Law, dispels arguments for the accountability movement similar to yours in Class and Schools, with revealing data. For example, by the time a child from a low-income family enters kindergarten, he or she will have been, on average, 4 million fewer words than the average middle-class child. Furthermore, compared to less-educated parents, well-educated parents read more to their child, use more complex language, and are able to use more sophisticated vocabulary and encourage more inquiry. The implications for literacy and early learning are astounding. There are far too many middle-class parents, who approaches courses in this way cannot truly say that he or she has received a University education.

In a University, all courses will contribute to each other. No discipline can survive on its own. Specialization is particularly antithetical to the University, because it only allows for a narrow mind. The University is concerned with the liberalized mind.

Can one develop a liberal mind at Notre Dame? A professor remarked to me that Notre Dame no longer has a core curriculum. It has distribution requirements. We no longer aid our students in creating a coherent, holistic

A poor argument indeed
The Notre Dame Dance Company performs their first production this Thursday and Friday night at 7 p.m. in Washington Hall, a performance in the works since the beginning of the school year.

“This dance production is a showcase of the talents of all the hard working dancers in Dance Company.” ND Dance Company President Anne McDonough said. “The show [allows] student choreographers to express themselves through choreography and also for dancers to interpret that choreography and expose their emotions to the audience through dance.”

The show will consist of dancers’ performances of a wide variety, ranging from jazz, lyrical, ballet, tap, pointe, and contemporary.

“You should expect to see pieces with different stories behind them that all celebrate the beauty and intricacy of movement,” McDonough said.

The performance will be largely made up of dances choreographed by the students themselves, where it is very apparent that each member of the Dance Company looks forward to each others’ creativity and artistic visions. From the top down, the support and enthusiasm among the Dance Company is very apparent, and McDonough expressed her excitement to see all of her dancer peers’ talent showcased on stage. This sentiment is thoroughly reciprocated among all of the members, as freshman dancer Sarah Rohrman expressed her own excitement towards her fellow dancers’ work.

“I really like the emotion behind Kaleen Defilippis’ piece, ‘Come Home Soon,’” Rohrman shared. “It’s just fun to perform! I’ve gotten to see ‘Some Nights,’ a piece by Maggie Miller a lot in rehearsal, so it’s probably one of my favorites, along with ‘Breathe Me’ [by Mari Grief], and ‘Awake My Soul’ [by Julia McGinty].”

The long process leading up to the production was a significant one. McDonough described how choreography was invited from the members at the beginning of the year, and since then met once a week, spending 40 minutes on a dance routine.

“Typically choreographers will start the rehearsal with some sort of warm up and review of the previous week’s choreography and then continue teaching the number and setting spaces for the dancers,” McDonough said. “Usually Dance Company pieces are not finished until the week before or even the week of the show, simply because there is not enough time in a semester.”

The level of dedication is very impressive, and major time commitments did not escape McDonough’s description of the process.

“As college students, it is difficult to maintain the level of training and discipline in dance that many of us practiced in high school,” McDonough said.

However, it is precisely this strain on the members’ time that truly speaks on each dancer’s passion, throwing themselves in their art.

“A huge reason Dance Company is inspired to put on this show is to be able to help students continue their training, passion and love for dance despite the fact that their lives are more hectic the older they get,” McDonough said. “It sounds cheesy but I feel like this club has become my baby...It makes me happy to share my passion with others on the company.”

The close-knit relationship in the company is apparent.

“Everyone is here (in the ND Dance Company) simply because they love to dance and want to share it with people,” Rohrman said. “We’ve put so much work into this performance every week since August, and I think everyone’s just ready to be able to showcase that.”

“The Notre Dame Dance Company’s show will be Thursday and Friday night at 7 p.m. at Washington Hall. Admission is $5.”

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The Offspring, Sublime, blink-182

If you like: The Offspring, Sublime, blink-182

Contact Jesus Mendoza at jmendoz@nd.edu

The band returns to its usual crude, inappropriate self for “Stop When the Red Lights Flash” and “Lazy Bones,” a pair of loud, fast entries dealing with disillusionment and tiredness, candidacy showcasing Armstrong’s sassy attitude that one can’t help but love. Brash and abrupt, songs like “Makeout Party” and “F*** Time” leave even less work for the imagination.

The album’s only single, “Stray Heart,” presents a more vulnerable, heartbroken image of Armstrong. Built upon an upbeat, springy bass line, it’s obvious through the track’s cleaner language and contagious chorus that this is a venture into pop territory. Although it’s understandable that the band needed a more radio-friendly track to promote the album, it would have been nice to see Green Day stick to the garage sound purported to be the focus of “DOS!”

“Nightlife” is the most interesting experiment on the set list, a slower track with an offbeat guitar, heavy bass line, and guest vocals from Lady Cobra, lead singer of the relatively unknown band Mystic Knights of the Cobra. Lady Cobra’s provocative rapping and Armstrong’s distorted vocals give a more ska punk sound, reminiscent of fellow 90s band Sublime. Just as racy as other tracks, this is a successful risk into previously unexplored influences for Green Day, a sound that they can hopefully expand in later albums.

Armstrong’s best and most heartfelt track has to be “Amy,” a tribute to the late artist Amy Winehouse. Like “See You Tonight,” the song consists of just Armstrong’s vocals and a guitar. Painfully sweet in his call for Amy to be his friend, Armstrong beautifully paints his anguish over the loss of the artist. Listening to his honest lyrics, one can practically see Armstrong onstage, alone with his guitar, strumming in a lone spotlight. This song would not be out of place on the Ed Sullivan Show for its true soulfulness and purity.

Green Day has provided another fine entry into its decade’s old repertoire, boldly embracing new styles while still maintaining its tried and true image with loyal fans. It’s great to see that the band has retained its creativity across the years, and will surely do so with the upcoming and final installment of its trio of albums.

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If you like: The Offspring, Sublime, blink-182
After years spent trying to justify my love of literature, I finally had that moment. It was an elusive but complete satisfactory second of pure realization and understanding when scarlett swore that she “would never go hungry again.”

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Huskies left out in the cold after conference shift

Associated Press
Hartford, Conn. — Connecticut found itself left behind in the conference realignment shuffle again Wednesday as Louisville was picked over the Huskies to join the Atlantic Coast Conference, becoming the fifth football member to leave the Big East in just over a year.

UConn had been courting the ACC and was thought to be a leading candidate to replace Maryland after the Terrapins accepted an invitation earlier this month to join the Big Ten.

“I know this may seem like a tough moment for our fans, but we need to focus on the fundamentals of academic success across the university and in our athletic program as well,” UConn president Susan Herbst said. “We are winners. We win, we like to win and we will continue to play the best possible opponents. We will be athletically successful, regardless of our conference, because of our successes in NCAA competition.”

The Huskies have a resume they thought would be attractive to the ACC. UConn has won 10 NCAA basketball championships since 1995 (seven women’s titles and three men’s), and has a football program that has been to five bowls in its first decade as an FBS program.

It also has a top-20 research university in a top-40 media market, and has a television contract with New York cable network SPORTSNET.

“Husky Nation is strong all over the country and the world,” athletic director Warde Manuel said. “UConn has one of the most captive audiences of any school in the country and we have strong penetration in several of the nation’s largest television markets.”

But Louisville was thought to be a better fit for ACC football, with better facilities, a larger stadium, a longer history as a major college football program, and the perception of being a better “football school.”

That upset some UConn players, who noted Tuesday that UConn is just two seasons removed from a Fiesta Bowl berth, and is 4-4 against Louisville in Big East play after beating the Cardinals last Saturday.

“When you’re judged and people don’t know what really happens, it gets under your skin,” defensive end Trevardo Williams said. “We’ll use that as motivation because we’re actually a good team.”

The ACC’s decision doesn’t mean UConn will stop trying to find a better landing spot than the Big East. The ACC remains a possibility if the league decides to expand to 16 teams, or if any other schools leave that conference. Clemson and Florida State have been mentioned as potential targets for the SEC.

“We have and will continue to monitor the situation regarding conference realignment,” Manuel said, “and work to ensure that UConn is in the best position for the continued success of our athletic programs.”

The loss of Louisville and Connecticut is a tough moment for our fans, but we need to focus on the fundamentals of academic success across the university and in our athletic program as well.”

NCAA

Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner John Swofford addresses the media July 22. The ACC added Louisville on Wednesday.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 404 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without inquiring first.

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NEW YORK — The most polarizing Hall of Fame debate since Pete Rose will now be decided by the baseball shrine’s voters: Do Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa belong in Cooperstown despite drug allegations that tainted their huge numbers?

In a monthlong election sure to become a referendum on the Steroids Era, the Hall ballot was released Wednesday, and Bonds, Clemens and Sosa are on it for the first time.

Bonds is the all-time home run champion with 762 and won a record seven MVP awards. Clemens took home a record seven Cy Young trophies and is ninth with 354 victories. Sosa ranks eighth on the homer chart with 609.

Yet for all their HRs, RBIs and WS, the shadow of PEDs looms large. “You could see for years that this particular ballot was going to be controversial and divisive to an unprecedented extent,” Larry Stone of The Seattle Times wrote in an email. “My hope is that some clarity begins to emerge over the Hall of Fame status of those linked to performance-enhancing drugs. But I doubt it.”

More than 600 longtime members of the Baseball Writers’ Association of America will vote on the 37-player ballot. Candidates require 75 percent for induction, and the results will be announced Jan. 9.

Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza and Curt Schilling also are among the 24 first-time eligibles. Jack Morris, Jeff Bagwell and Tim Raines are the top holdovers among the 24 first-time eligibles. Collins ranks eighth on the homer chart with 609.

If recent history is any indication, the odds are solidly stacked against Bonds, Clemens and Sosa. Mark McGwire and Rafael Palmeiro both posted Cooperstown-caliber stats, too, but drug clouds doomed them in Hall voting.

Some who favor Bonds and Clemens claim the bulk of their accomplishments came before baseball got wrapped up in drug scandals. They add that PED use was so prevalent in the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s that it’s unfair to exclude anyone because so many who-did-and-who-didn’t questions remain.

Many fans on the other side say drug cheats — suspected or otherwise — should never be afforded the game’s highest individual honor.

Either way, this election is baseball’s newest hot button, generating the most fervent Hall arguments since Rose. The discussion about Rose was moot, however — the game’s career hits leader agreed to a lifetime ban in 1989 after an investigation concluded he bet on games while managing the Cincinnati Reds, and that barred him from the BBWAA ballot.

The BBWAA election rules allow voters to pick up to 10 candidates. As for criteria, this is the only instruction: “Voting shall be based upon the player’s record, playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character, and contributions to the team(s) on which the player played.”

That leaves a lot of room for interpretation.

Bonds, Clemens and Sosa won’t get a vote from Mike Kils of The Denver Post. “I plan to vote for all three,” he wrote in an email. “I understand the steroid/PED questions surrounding each one, and I’ve wrestled with the implications,” he wrote in an email.

“My view is these guys played and posted Hall of Fame-type numbers against the competition of their time. That will be my sole yardstick. If Major League Baseball took no action against a player during his career for alleged or suspected steroid/PED use, I’m not going to do so in assessing their career for the Hall of Fame,” he said.

San Jose Mercury News columnist Mark Purdy will reserve judgment.

“At the beginning of all this, I made up my mind I had to adopt a consistent policy on the steroid social club. So, my policy has been, with the brilliance in the way they set up the Hall of Fame vote where these guys have a 15-year window, I’m not going to vote for any of those guys until I get the best picture possible of what was happening then,” he wrote in an email.

“We learn a little bit more each year. We learned a lot during the Bonds trial. We learned a lot during the Clemens trial. I don’t want to say I’m never going to vote for any of them. I want to wait until the end of their eligibility window and have my best idea of what was really going on,” he said.

Clemens was acquitted this summer in federal court on six counts that he lied and obstructed Congress when he denied using performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds was found guilty in 2011 by a federal court jury on one count of obstruction of justice, ruling he gave an evasive answer in 2003 to a grand jury looking into the distribution of illegal steroids. Bonds is appealing the verdict.

McGwire is 10th on the career home run list with 583, but has never received even 24 percent in his six Hall tries. Big Mac has admitted to using steroids and human growth hormone.

Palmeiro is among only four players with 500 homers and 3,000 hits; yet has gotten a high of just 12.6 percent in his two years on the ballot. He drew a 10-day suspension in 2005 after a positive test for PEDs, and said the result was due to a vitamin vial given to him by teammate Miguel Tejada.

Biggio topped the 3,000-hit mark — which always has been considered an automatic credential for Cooperstown — and spent his entire career with the Houston Astros.

“Hopefully, the writers feel strongly that they liked what they saw, and we’ll see what happens,” Biggio said last week.

Schilling was 216-146 and won three World Series championship, including his “bloody sock” performance for the Boston Red Sox in 2004.
Patriots thriving on special teams

Scoring on special teams also can give the offense more time on the sideline to rest and plan. If a player returns a punt or kickoff for a touchdown, Tom Brady can watch his defense go right back out on the field.

“It’s a great thing to happen for a team,” he said. “We’ve been fortunate the last few weeks. I don’t think there’s really an advantage for our offense sitting over there. I’d prefer to be out there playing. But if we’re scoring points, that’s a great thing.”

Making contributions on special teams is important for players, whether they score or not. It can lead to long careers they wouldn’t have if they had to get by only on their offensive or defensive talents.

Slater has just one reception in five seasons with the Patriots but leads the team with 14 special teams tackles and has 72 in his five pro seasons, all with New England. Martin has five in three games with the Patriots and 62 in his career that began with Baltimore in 2006.

“We’re a very close knit group of guys,” Slater said. “We understand how we’re going to keep jobs in this league and we take a lot of pride in what we’re doing.”

Especially when the emphasis the Patriots put on special teams leads to big plays and victories.

“You’re not counting on the special team to score every game. It’s just not realistic for that to happen,” Slater said. “But when it does happen, it brings a huge momentum swing to the game. In the case of the last two weeks, it’s been huge for us.”

And the teams that don’t stress special teams as much?

“They are usually teams,” Martin said, “that are losing.”

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Derrick Martin has built a championship career out of playing on special teams.

The seven-year veteran earned Super Bowl rings the past two seasons — first with the Green Bay Packers and then with the New York Giants. Now he has a shot at a third straight title with the New England Patriots.

He offers no apologies for making his mark on special teams rather than on the higher profile offensive or defensive units.

“You look for guys to step in and contribute,” Martin said Wednesday of special teams. “Don’t be out there just because you have to, but take it as a serious job, make sure you’re making the plays that you’re supposed to make.”

The Patriots (8-3) have made some big ones during their five-game winning streak with touchdowns on a 104-yard kick-off return by Devin McCourty, a 68-yard punt return by Julian Edelman and a 22-yard fumble return by Edelman after McCourty jarred the ball loose on a kickoff return.

Plays like that can energize the Patriots and deflate their opponents.

“You feed off of it,” Martin said. “When you see somebody else making a play, you’re like, ‘Man, it’s probably my turn to make that play,’ and everybody’s competing to make that play, but they’re all doing their job. So everybody’s working well as a team.

His next chance comes Sunday in Miami where a win would give the Patriots their fourth straight AFC East title.

The Dolphins (5-6) also have made some big plays on special teams with Marcus Thigpen scoring on a 72-yard punt return and a 96-yard kickoff return this season.

“It’s not going to be an easy task going against them, and it’s not going to be easy for them going against us,” said Marlon Moore, Miami’s second-lead ing tackler on special teams. “It’s going to be a long day on both sides of the field for special teams, and that’s going to be a big difference in the game.”

In their last two games, the Dolphins have allowed touchdowns on a 79-yard punt return and a 98-yard kickoff return. But Miami’s special teams have improved since the 2010 season when they were especially poor against New England.

In two games against the Patriots that season, the Dolphins allowed three special teams touchdowns, one each on a punt and kickoff return, as well as a blocked field goal.

Another blocked field goal set up a touchdown two plays later.

If the Patriots can keep making big plays — and scoring touchdowns — on special teams it will result from the seasonlong focus on the importance of that phase.

“Our hard work and preparation throughout the week is starting to show itself in the games,” special teams captain Matthew Slater said. “We haven’t changed anything. We just continue to approach things the same way we always have and sometimes you’re fortunate enough for things to happen in your favor, the ball to bounce the right way in your favor.

“And we’ve been able to have that the last two weeks.”

In a 59-24 win over the Indianapolis Colts, Edelman’s punt return for a touchdown and the extra point tied the game 14-14 and the Patriots never trailed again. Four days later, on Thanksgiving night, McCourty’s hit on kickoff returner Joe McKnight knocked the ball into the air and Edelman caught it and ran in for a touchdown that gave the Patriots a 28-0 lead in their 49-19 win.

McCourty was chosen for the Pro Bowl as a rookie in 2010 and anchors the secondary at safety for a team, he said. “We’ve been fortunate the last few weeks. It’s just not realistic for that to happen,” Slater said. “But when it does happen, it brings a huge momentum swing to the game. In the case of the last two weeks, it’s been huge for us.”

And the teams that don’t stress special teams as much?

“Those are usually teams,” Martin said, “that are losing.”

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Belles look for individual success at Calvin

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s will take on its toughest competition yet as it goes up against NCAA Division I, II and III squads at the Calvin Winter Invitational.

The Belles’ small team size will affect their overall score, but Belles coach Mark Benishek said he thinks the team will still compete on an individual level.

“I think we are a little out-numbered at this meet, seeing as there will be Division I, II and III teams there,” Benishek said. “There will be a lot of talent there. The Division I and Division II schools have very, very large teams. When it comes to overall team points, we will be outscored, that’s just a given based on their size. Our limitation is our small squad size which will affect us when it comes to team scores, but individually we should have some great swims.”

The meet is set up like the MIAA championship meet, where all swimmers will compete in the morning and then the top 24 finishers for each race will move on to the finals that evening. Benishek said it is an opportunity to calculate what the Belles need to work on over winter break.

“It will be a good way to evaluate ourselves at the midpoint of our season,” Benishek said. “I think we will have quite a few who make the finals.”

Benishek said with the Division I and II schools attending the meet, the overall quality of the races will improve for the Belles.

“It is always good to compete against better talent and swimmers with faster speeds,” Benishek said. “It helps push everybody all around, whether you’re a Division III team or you’re a Division I team. Individually, it’s definitely going to help up their time and speed for their events. It’s a great meet for that reason and that’s why we keep coming back to it.”

The Belles look to end their fall campaign with strong swims against tough competition beginning Thursday at the Calvin Winter Invitational in Grand Rapids, Mich.

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SMC BASKETBALL | ARIADN 66, SMC 58

Saint Mary’s falls in conference-opener

Saint Mary’s senior guard Kayla Wolter looks to get past a Wheaton defender during the Belles’ 66-63 victory over the Thunder on Nov. 15, 2011 at the Angela Athletic Facility.

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s dropped a tough decision Wednesday night, losing to Adrian by a score of 66-58.

The loss marked the first conference defeat for Saint Mary’s (2-4, 0-1 MIAA) this season, which dropped the decision despite outshotting the hosts from the floor.

Saint Mary’s started the game strong, jumping out to an early four-point lead just a minute into the game. From that point on, the teams traded leads, with the Belles up 14-13 with 6:41 remaining in the first half.

This would be the final lead of the game for Saint Mary’s, as the Bulldogs (1-3, 1-0) used a 15-0 scoring run to knock the game open. They took a 12-point advantage into the second half, taking a 16-point lead, and eventually cut the deficit to four points on a jumper by freshman forward Eleni Shea with 5:37 left in the game and again on a lay-up from freshman guard Bernadette Jordan with 3:57 left in the game. Unfortunately for the Belles, that would be as close as they came, as Adrian used a combination of timely shots and clutch free throws to close out the game with an eight-point cushion.

Adrian caused 22 Saint Mary’s turnovers and grabbed 19 offensive rebounds on the way to their victory.

Junior guard Shanlynn Bias led the Belles in scoring with 20 points. Shea and sophomore forward Ariana Paul chipped in 15 points each and seven rebounds each, while freshman guard Sarah Macius chipped in 10 points off the bench for the visitors.

Saint Mary’s will next take on conference foe Olivet when the Tigers visit South Bend on Saturday at 3 p.m.
Irish freshman forward Cameron Biedscheid attempts to dribble away from Chicago State defenders during Notre Dame's 92-65 victory over the Cougars on Monday at Purcell Pavilion.

Opposites

Tim Abromaitis stuck around at Notre Dame long enough to earn two degrees. Brey has put some of the elder statesmen of college basketball in a position to compete for Big East and NCAA titles.

Kentucky

Brooklyn, N.Y., and a 75-68 loss to Duke on Nov. 13 in Atlanta — before hosting its next three tilts in Rupp Arena.

"It wasn’t [a road game]," Calipari said of the matchup with the Terrapins. "I think we probably had 60 percent of the fans. We still had 40 percent. We may have 40 people in the building here [on Thursday]. This will be a new experience for them. I will be anxious to see how they respond.

Though the teams both enter- ed the season with high ex- pectations and spots in the preseason rankings, the pro- grams have been constructed in divergent ways. Notre Dame (6-1) features experienced upper- perclassmen while the Wildcats (4-1) deploy a seemingly endless stock of blue-chip freshmen.

Kentucky had four underclass- men drafted in the first round of June’s NBA Draft but reloaded with the second-ranked re- cruiting class in the nation, ac- cording to ESPN. Brey said the Irish, meanwhile, focus on de- veloping their youngsters into upperclassmen.

"We’re not going to get as many of the one-and-done guys," Brey said. "It’s just a dif- ferent world. ... So we get four and a lot of times I like to make them five-year guys. And how about this? We made [graduate student] forward Scott Martin a six-year guy."

The Irish, who are riding a four-game winning streak, are hoping that experience pays off Thursday. Senior forward Jack Cooley, senior center Garrick Sherman and junior guards Eric Atkins and Jerian Grant have all averaged double-digit points for Notre Dame while Martin has averaged eight points and eight rebounds a game.

"I hope [our experience] comes into play," Brey said. "That’s been a big thing that has helped us here consistently over the years, that we’ve stayed old. ... Certainly if we’re going to be successful on Thursday night our experience and our poise are going to have to be present and we’re going to have to be re- ally good in that department for close to 40 minutes to beat the talent that they put on the floor."

Wildcats freshman guard Archie Goodwin, the 15th over- all player in the class of 2012 ac- cording to ESPN, and freshman forward Alex Poythress, the 13th overall incoming freshman, lead Kentucky in scoring with 19 points and 18.4 points per game, respectively.

"I’m really impressed with Goodwin, with the plays that he makes and the slashing stuff to the bucket," Brey said. "It’s really hard to stop him when he turns the corner. Very impressed. He plays with a steadiness and a great poise."

The Irish will also face a tough task in defending a trio of athletic- ic Kentucky big men. Freshman forwards Nerlens Noel, the top overall recruit in the nation, and Willie Cauley-Stein team with sweet-shooting sophomore for- ward Kyle Wiltjer to form a front- line that could give the Irish trouble similar to what it faced against Saint Joseph’s on Nov. 16 in Brooklyn, N.Y. The Irish lost 79-70 in overtime to the Hawks, who had their own frontcourt trio combine for 47 points and 31 rebounds.

"A really tough frontline beat us in New York. Saint Joe’s old athletic frontline," Brey said. "So we did not have success there."

"(Kentucky’s) shooting per- centages in the paint are off the charts. Keeping a body on people, not letting them get too deep, keeping them to one [shot] and done will be the ultimate challenge. But it’s a similar prepa- ration, an athletic frontline, to what we see in the Big East a lot of nights. We have to neutral- ize these bouncy, athletic, long frontlines. The nights we do it we’re able to get out with a win."

To counter the shot-block- ing prowess of Noel and Cauley-Stein, Brey said the Irish will need to continue to shoot the ball proficiently from outside the paint. Notre Dame made 12- of-22 three-pointers in Monday’s 92-65 victory over Chicago State.

"I think we are going to have to get some buckets outside the paint because of their shot- blocking," Brey said. "So we’re going to have to make some shots. Whether it is three or mid-range stuff, we’re going to have to stop and make some stuff.”

Notre Dame squares off with Kentucky on Thursday at 7 p.m. in Rupp Pavilion. The game will be televised on ESPN2.
Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community.

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Name
Address
City
State
Zip

Happy Birthday: Take a look at what’s being offered and stick to practical plans that have potential to grow. A change in the way you approach people and projects will lead to greater prosperity and freedom. Speak openly. Your numbers are 8, 11, 17, 21, 31, 41.

ARIES (March 21-Apr. 19) Work on personal and professional partnerships. Set up rules, schedules or whatever else is required to avoid setbacks. Back away from the people dragging you down and spend more time with the people who can help you progress. Love and romance are in the stars.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Control whatever situation you face. Put a unique touch on whatever you pursue. Revisit old relationships and consider how you can revitalize a situation that you feel has potential. Love is in the stars, and a commitment or change is apparent.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Do your own thing. Pursue your dreams, hopes and wishes. Don’t settle for less when you know you can have so much more. Speak up honestly about your needs and you will weed out the people who are taking advantage of you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Spend more time with friends, family or your lover. Personal opportunities will develop if you get involved in an area that interests you. Don’t hold back — you have good ideas that will be well received. Love is highlighted.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don’t lose focus or effort. Honesty and honesty will find you where you stand and what can be accomplished. Problems with your residence or a family member can be expected. You have implemen change if you want to avoid discord.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You’ll gain knowledge by interacting with people in your community. Knowing what is in demand will help you strategically come up with a service you can offer in order to bring in extra cash. Don’t write off a deal that you think you can have more.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Review your past and you will recognize a pattern you keep encountering. Set a new standard and use it to improve your methods and to accomplish your goals. Don’t argue a losing battle when you should be following your own path.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Take time to turn your home into a stress-free sanctuary. You need to find your comfort zone in order to revitalize your creativity. Love and romance are in the stars. The people you associate with should be those who inspire you the most.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The past will come back to haunt you if you are indulgent emotionally, physically or financially. Reconsider the partnerships you have and if you are benefiting or giving up too much. Put more effort into a creative skill that can bring you greater prosperity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Being a team player will help you with your professional achievements. Getting along and sharing interests with someone you enjoy spending time with will lead you into a long-term partnership. Don’t make a radical decision for the wrong reason.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Choose your words carefully. Don’t make a promise you won’t be able to keep. Focus on family and stability. Home will be your safety zone and where you should put your time and effort. A visitor will offer positive feedback and inspiration.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) School and school until you get what you want. Offer a creative plan that will be difficult to ignore. There is money to be made and partnerships to be formed. Don’t be afraid to compete or风险 when you just have to follow your heart.

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, resourceful and innovative. You are persistent and courageous.

| CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Kwanten, 36; Jon Stewart, 50; Ed Harris, 62; Paul Shaffer, 63. |
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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Big Blue battles the Blue and Gold

High-profile matchup will be clash of age, youth

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

In a battle of programs with opposite philosophies, the Irish will try to defeat No. 8 Kentucky, the reigning national champions, on Thursday in a marquee matchup in the SEC/Big East Challenge at Purcell Pavilion.

“They think for a lot of people, it’s our season-opener,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “I think our fans have looked at it [that way]. … I think it’s going to be a great night. It will be a great atmosphere in our building. I think [it will be] two very good teams going at it early in the season. But I think for our players, it’s the one they have talked about all summer.”

Kentucky coach John Calipari said he is interested to see how the Wildcats respond to the presumably raucous environment. Kentucky opened the season with two games at neutral sites — a 72-69 win over Maryland on Nov. 9 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, and a 92-65 victory over No. 19 UCLA last week.

“We were expecting a lot from her coming in,” the coach said of Loyd. “I think she was pretty well-hyped coming in, and deservedly so. She really is strong on the floor, drive and kick, they are going to look to take a lot of threes per game. So we are really going to be tested defensively.”

Bradford is the MAC West Player of the Week after scoring 21 points — 15 coming in the second half — on 9-of-11 shooting. Bradford also recorded three blocks, two steals and two assists. For the season, Bradford is second on the team with 14.8 points per game, 3.3 assists, 2.5 blocks and 2.0 steals per game. The freshman guard us, they are going to run the floor, drive and kick, they are going to look to take a lot of threes per game. So we are really going to be tested defensively.”

Irish junior guard Jerian Grant looks to pass during Notre Dame’s 92-65 victory over Chicago State on Monday at Purcell Pavilion. Grant matched a career-high with 22 points against the Cougars.

Notre Dame may be closing the talent gap

Chris Allen
Sports Editor

You won’t need your detective’s hat Thursday night in Purcell Pavilion to tell Kentucky and Notre Dame apart. On the floor Thursday night will be two programs representing the yin and the yang of college basketball — two diametrically opposed methods of competing for championships.

There is the Irish way — experiences, teamwork, passing and ball control. It has come to be encapsulated in the last half-decade in the “burn” style of Mike Brey and in the groups of players who grow in Brey’s program, developing a sixth sense for each other on the court. Notre Dame basketball players stick around for the long haul. Forward Scott Martin has been in college basketball since 2007 — when Kentucky center Nerlens Noel wasn’t even in high school yet. Former Irish forward Mike Brey and in the groups of players who grow in Brey’s program, developing a sixth sense for each other on the court. Notre Dame basketball players stick around for the long haul. Forward Scott Martin has been in college basketball since 2007 — when Kentucky center Nerlens Noel wasn’t even in high school yet. Former Irish forward

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Squad looks to stay perfect against Chippewas

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

Coming off a convincing 76-64 victory over No. 19 UCLA in Pauley Pavilion, No. 5 Notre Dame carries a perfect record into tonight’s matchup with Central Michigan.

With a home tilt against No. 3 Baylor looming, the Irish (4-0) will travel to Mount Pleasant, Mich., to take on the Chippewas (2-2).

Although Central Michigan is unranked out of the Mid-American conference, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the home team can present several problems to the favored Irish.

“They are really athletic,” she said. “They have some really good players. … [Sophomore guard] Crystal Bradford on the wing, she’s probably their best player and she is just really hard to guard. She is a big guard and she can score in a lot of different ways. They play a lot of five-out — a little four-out, one-in — but they play five-out so they are going to stretch our big guys.

“They are a little bit smaller. This will be the first game where we have a size advantage this year. But they can get up and guard us, they are going to run the floor, drive and kick, they are going to look to take a lot of threes per game. So we are really going to be tested defensively.”

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Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd defends a pass during Notre Dame's 88-28 win over Edinboro in the season-opening exhibition Nov. 1 at Purcell Pavilion.

“I think for our players, it’s the one they have talked about all summer.”

One they have talked about all season, the coach said. “I think for our players, it’s the one they have talked about in the classrooms, in the weight room, in the film room, in practice. I think it’s going to be a great atmosphere in our building. I think [it will be] two very good teams going at it early in the season. But I think for our players, it’s the one they have talked about all summer.”

Irish guard Jewell Loyd defends a pass during Notre Dame's 88-28 win over Edinboro in the season-opening exhibition Nov. 1 at Purcell Pavilion.

“We were expecting a lot from her coming in,” the coach said of Loyd. “I think she was pretty well-hyped coming in, and deservedly so. She really is strong in every area. Her biggest area of improvement so far has been her defense. That has probably surprised me more than anything because she has really