Controversy surrounds Te’o
University confirms story of girlfriend’s death to be hoax, claims linebacker to be victim

By ANDREW OWENS
Assistant Managing Editor

Lennay Kekua, the girl believed to have been former Irish linebacker Manti Te’o’s girlfriend and who was reported to have died of leukemia in September, never existed.

After an afternoon of questions and swirling controversy, Notre Dame Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick addressed the situation, originally reported by Deadspin.com, at a press conference Wednesday evening.

Swarbrick said Te’o received a phone call from the number he was using for an ESPN awards show that took place Dec. 6. “When he answered it, it was a person whose voice sounded like the same voice he had talked to, who told him that she was, in fact, not dead,” Swarbrick said.

Following the phone call that day, Te’o received what Swarbrick called “persistent” contact from the number; the frequency decreased in time because Te’o stopped responding, Swarbrick said.

“Te’o waited to act on the situation until he went home for Christmas on Dec. 21 because he wanted to speak with his family about it in person, Swarbrick said. When he returned to campus, Te’o alerted head coach Brian Kelly and defensive coordinator Bob Diaco before Swarbrick was notified.

Swarbrick said he met with administrative staff to determine the extent of the contact and was given the news late in the fall semester. “I was well aware of the situation late in the fall semester,” Swarbrick said.

“When he returned to campus, Te’o wanted to speak with his family about it in person, Swarbrick said. When he returned to campus, Te’o alerted head coach Brian Kelly and defensive coordinator Bob Diaco before Swarbrick was notified.

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By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

The Mendoza College of Business plans to add a Master of Science in Business (MSB) to its graduate school offerings in June 2013.

Roger Huang, Kenneth R. Meyer professor of global investment management and interim dean of Mendoza, said the students will be non-business program college graduates with little to no work experience.

“The program will teach business fundamentals that will open the door to career opportunities, Huang said. The program’s content will reflect the mission of the University. “The program’s mission is to have ‘business for the good,’” Huang said.

This mission motivated the emphasis on ethics in the program’s curriculum, Huang said.

“An important part of business fundamentals is business ethics,” he said.

Huang said the MSB program lasts one year and is comprised of three semesters: summer, fall and spring. Students will complete 44 hours of coursework, he said.

The program will include two specialized courses that will connect each student’s

By MADDIE DALY
News Writer

Instead of spending winter vacation relaxing or saving money, several Notre Dame students donated their time to the underprivileged in their own backyards through the Center for Social Concerns’ Urban Plunge program.

Bill Purcell, the Center’s associate director for Catholic social tradition and practice, said this year’s theme was “Raising Voices in the City.”

Urban Plunge is a one-credit learning course that focuses on urban poverty in the United States. Purcell said. Students participate in a 40-hour immersive volunteer experience, usually in cities close to their homes.

Purcell said 230 students were chosen out of 280 applicants to this year’s program. These participants attended three preparatory class sessions about Catholic social tradition and practice, including Mary Jo Bane, a political science professor from Harvard University who specializes in poverty studies, Purcell said.

Chris Weber, a sophomore from Chicago, Ill., said he decided to participate in the program after hearing positive feedback about Urban Plunge from his roommate.

“From him, I learned that it would be a service trip over winter break,” Weber said. “When I saw that there were a couple of sites located in Chicago, I thought, ’Why not?’” Weber said he did not know what to expect from the experience but was confident it would be worthwhile.

“Even after the three Urban Plunge classes before break, I had

By KATIE McCARTY
News Writer

The Gender Relations Center (GRC) wants students to know how to protect themselves from unwanted attention. As part of National Stalking Awareness Month, the Center is hosting a campaign titled “Stalking: Know it. Name it. Stop it.”

Emmanuel Cannady, assistant director of outreach services at the GRC, said the campaign aims to educate people about stalking in order to reduce its prevalence.

“Stalking takes many different forms and is underreported,” he said. “The definition of stalking has more to do with impact versus intent. Any form of unwanted contact that causes anxiety and fear is stalking.”

GRC representatives will man informational tables in the

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 THE OBSERVER TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH AND REPORT IT ACCURATELY

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What is your favorite animal?

Anthony Abordo senior O’Neill Hall “Peregrine falcon.”

Federico Segura sophomore Duncan Hall “Giraffe.”

Jane Goodson freshman Walsh Hall “Dogs.”

Jordyn Conover junior Ryan Hall “Ke$ha.”

Meaghan Hannon sophomore McGlinn Hall “Dolphin.”

Pat Walsh sophomore O’Neill Hall “Snakes.”

A film crew from EA Sports interviews a Notre Dame student outside Notre Dame Stadium. The crew was on campus to film a promotional video for a competition to determine who will appear on the cover of the next edition of its popular “NCAA Football” video game series.
The Saint Mary’s College Board of Trustees announced Monday in a press release it would extend the contract for College President Carol Ann Mooney’s contract until May 2016.

Mooney began her presidency on June 1, 2004. She is the College’s first president who is also an alumna of Saint Mary’s.

“There is no doubt that my Saint Mary’s education shaped my adult life,” Mooney said. “My experiences and education at Saint Mary’s made me well prepared for law school and the world. My law background then helped me become a practical administrator.”

Under Mooney’s leadership, Saint Mary’s is currently developing many new projects, including the Sophia Program, a learning outcomes-based curriculum. The College is applying that particular program to the Class of 2016.

“There are many programs I would like to see fully implemented within the next couple of years,” Mooney said. “Seeing the Sophia Program being fully implemented into the College’s curriculum is something very important to me. I am also looking forward to doing some fundraising for the science building to be renovated and for an Angela (Athletic Facility) expansion.”

The Board of Trustees recently voted to approve a plan to add some co-educational programs to the College within the next few years. “This project is being executed by [Senior Vice President and Dean of Faculty] Dr. Patricia Fleming and will be under my direction,” Mooney said. “It will be nice to see these graduate programs come to life within the next couple of years.”

Some people who work beside the president expressed pleasure that the College extended her contract. “I am so excited she is staying,” Vice President for Student Affairs Karen Johnson said. “She is an amazing leader and a great role model.”

Students like junior Carolina Tapia shared cupcakes with the president yesterday in the Student Center atrium to celebrate her contract renewal. “I think this is great news for the college and our future,” Tapia said. “[Mooney] is a Saint Mary’s graduate and never hesitates to get to know the students. She is a great asset to this community and I am very happy to see she will be with us for a few more years.”

Contact Kaitlyn Rabach at krabac02@saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s President Ann Mooney celebrates the extension of her contract with Saint Mary’s students Wednesday.

Plunge
Continued from page 1

no greater understanding about the nature of the service I would be doing in Chicago at the Amate House site,” Weber said. “However, I was pleasantly surprised by the welcoming atmosphere there. The house staff was kind, funny, entertaining, and generous.”

Weber said he felt at home after getting to know everyone through conversation, games, and prayer. “Over the course of the next two days, my fellow Notre Dame volunteers and I visited four different locations to lend our help,” Weber said. “We were able to get a sampling of various services: decorating Rice Krispies treats with the elderly, packing donated food goods at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, helping out a creative writing workshop for eighth graders and helping teach addition and subtraction to first graders.”

Weber said Urban Plunge changed his view of Chicago and opened his eyes to an entirely different way of life. “Through these experiences, I was able to experience a whole different side of Chicago,” Weber said. “Additionally, I was privileged to meet amazing people from different walks of life, and I met some great fellow volunteers. For these reasons, I am glad that I participated in such a great service trip.”

Contact Maddie Daly at mdaly6@nd.edu
REV. JOHN I. JENKINS, C.S.C., INVITES ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND THEIR FAMILIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A

PRAYER SERVICE
To honor the legacy of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Monday, January 21, 2013
11:45 a.m.—12:15 p.m.
MAIN BUILDING ROTUNDA RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

“TO BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT PRAYER IS NO MORE POSSIBLE THAN TO BE ALIVE WITHOUT BREATHING.”
—DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
Stalking
Continued from page 1

North Dining Hall, South Dining Hall and the LaFortune Student Center, Cannady said. The Center will also hang posters with stalking facts and statistics in residence halls. Stalking takes many forms and is difficult to define, Cannady said. It can include sending unwanted gifts, texts, phone calls, pictures or contact on social media sites. There can be many mixed messages about what exactly stalking is, but the key word is ’unwanted,’” Cannady said.

The majority of victims are stalked by someone they know, Cannady said. Sixty-six percent of female victims and 41 percent of male victims are stalked by a former or current partner. One in six women and one in 19 men have been stalked.

“Men and women both underreport the crime, but for different reasons,” Cannady said. “Men tend to see stalking as merely annoying, not a potential threat, whereas women actually fear reporting the crime.”

Stalking transcends all 50 states, Cannady said, but many people are uninformed about its seriousness. Two-thirds of perpetrators stalk their victims once a week, and many more stalk their victims daily.

Stalkers fit no psychological profile, he said. Many move locations and are difficult to track.

Cannady said victims may suffer from anxiety, insomnia, depression and changes in behavior. He said friends should look out for these signs in one another.

“If you think you are being stalked, keep a log of all contact,” Cannady said. “This can be used for evidence. Be aware of who has access to your accounts on social media. If you think you are being stalked, do not hesitate to call NDSP [Notre Dame Security Police].”

Contact Katie McCarty at kmccarri6@nd.edu

Master’s
Continued from page 1

undergraduate background to the business world, Huang said. “We’ll try to make it more personal and individualized in that sense,” he said.

The University’s Career Center will help students find employment opportunities where they can put their new degrees to use, he said.

Huang first proposed the MSB program after meeting with deans from other private business schools in Notre Dame’s peer group, he said. Mendoza also conducted its own market assessment of the demand for business education, which indicated a niche for the proposed program.

“What we found is that there’s a growing demand for business education among non-business college graduates,” Huang said.

The business schools at Duke University, University of Florida, University of Virginia, Arizona State University, Wake Forest University and Catholic University of America have similar master’s programs, Huang said. He said the Master of Management Studies program at Duke’s Fuqua School of Business was a model for the new MSB program at Mendoza.

“We improved on the Duke program to come up with the current curriculum of our new program,” he said.

Huang said efforts to improve the curriculum will continue in order to meet the needs of non-business graduates hoping to enter the business world.

“Right now we are focusing on getting off the block,” Huang said. “Once our program is established, however, we want to keep improving it to be the best in the country.”

Huang said he also hopes to complement the new program with similar ones in the future. In particular, he said he would like to create a more specialized program in finance.

Huang said such master’s programs would complement the MSB program and the established Masters of Science in Accounting (MSA), which provides specialized training in accountancy.

The maximum number of students the program will accept each year is 110, Huang said, but he does not expect full enrollment in the first year.

“The first class will likely be smaller because we have not yet implemented our full marketing strategy, but in the future we hope to exceed 110 students,” he said.

Huang said the college is currently accepting applications for the first class of the MSB program and the application deadline is March 15.

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers@nd.edu

It’s time to change some futures.

ACE Application deadline is Jan. 22.

TEACH.

See more coverage online. ndsmcobserver.com
Islamist militants claim hostages in Algeria

Associated Press
ALGERS, Algeria — In a desert standoff deep in the Sahara, the Algerian army ringed a natural gas complex where Islamist mili-
tants hunkered down with dozens of hostages Wednesday night after a rare attack that appeared to be the first violent shock wave from the French intervention in Mali.

A militant group that claimed responsibility said 41 foreigners, including seven Americans, were being held after the assault on one of oil-rich Algeria’s energy facilities, 800 miles from the capital of Algiers and 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) from the coast.

Two foreigners were killed.

The group claiming responsibility said the attack was in revenge for Algeria’s support of France’s military operation against Islamist-linked rebels in neighboring Mali. The U.S. defense secretary called it a “terror-

ist act.”

The militants appeared to have no escape, with troops surrounding the complex and army helicopters clattering overhead.

The group — called Katibat Moulathamine or the Masked Brigade — phoned a Mauritanian news outlet to say one of its affiliates had carried out the opera-
tion at the Ain Amenas gas field, and that France and other allied forces should end their intervention in Mali to secure the safety of the hostages.

BP, the Norwegian company Statoil and the Algerian state oil company Sonatrach, operate the gas field. A Japanese company, JGC Corp, provides services for the facility.

In Rome, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta declared that the U.S. “will take all neces-
sary and proper steps” to deal with the attack in Algeria. He would not detail what such steps might be but condemned the ac-
tion as “terrorist attack” and lik-


ounced to account for the discrepancies in the number of reported hos-
tages. Their identities also were not clear, but Ireland announced that they included a 36-year-

old married Irishman. Japan’s Depart-
ment of Defense said two Japanese were among the six foreigners taken. A Norwegian woman said her husband called her saying that he had been taken hostage.

Hundreds of Algerians work at the plant and were also captured in the attack, but the Algerian state news agency reported they were gradually released un-

harmed Wednesday.

The Algerian minister said it seemed the militants were hop-
ing to negotiate their departure from the area — a notion he re-

jected. He also dismissed the-


in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. It was not immediately possible to account for the discrepancies on the phone, and I grew to care deeply about her,” Te’o said.

“There is no escape,” said a U.S. defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

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ened to it al-Qaeda activities in Pakistan, Afghanistan and in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. It was not immediately possible to account for the discrepancies
Boeing investigates alleged flaws in 787 design

Associated Press

The federal government grounded Boeing’s newest and most technologically advanced jetliner Wednesday, declaring that U.S. airlines cannot fly the 787 again until the risk of battery fires is addressed.

The Federal Aviation Administration’s emergency order affects only United Airlines, the lone U.S. carrier to operate 787s. United said it would put passengers on other aircraft and work closely with the FAA and Boeing to review its fleet of six Dreamliners.

The FAA action came on the same day that Japan’s two biggest airlines — which fly almost half of the world’s 50 787s — voluntarily grounded them pending full safety checks.

Boeing said it was working around the clock with investigators.

“Anytime you have a fire on board — whether it’s the battery that has caused it or a passenger that caused it or another electrical component — that’s a very serious situation on an aircraft and something not to be taken lightly,” said Kevin Hunt, president of the Flight Safety Foundation.

So far, no one has suggested that the plane’s fundamental design can’t be fixed. But it’s unclear how much will need to be changed.

The remedy could range from relatively quick-and-easy improvements to more extensive changes that could delay deliveries just as Boeing is trying to speed production up from five planes per month to 10.

The 787 is the first plane to make extensive use of lithium-ion batteries, which have been the focus of concerns in the past for their potential to catch fire.

The jet’s lightweight design makes it more of a fuel-sipper, and it’s so lightweight in part because it uses electricity to do things that other airplanes do with hot air vented through internal ducts. So a 787 with electrical problems is like a minivan that won’t haul kids. It goes to the heart of what the thing was built to do.

Before it carried paying passengers, the 787 was closely reviewed by inspectors from Boeing and the FAA.

Mike Sinnett, chief engineer on the 787, said last week that the plane’s batteries have operated through a combined 1.3 million hours and never had an internal fault. He said they were built with multiple protections to ensure that failures “don’t put the airplane at risk.”
Kate Barrett
Fallpoint

Welcome back, and — though it feels like an inaccurate term when it’s 21 degrees outside — welcome to the Spring Semester 2013. Likely you have some new courses, a new schedule, some super-clean notebooks and folders recently purchased at home or from the bookstore. A new semester almost always provides a chance for a fresh beginning. Sort of like New Year’s or Lent, only with an academic twist: “I will start my papers earlier than the night before they’re due,” “I will review my notes after class” or “I will quit checking Facebook during class.”

This past Tuesday, January 15, marked the anniversary of a little-known beginning here at Notre Dame. 169 years ago Tuesday, the Indiana legislature officially chartered the university, “L’Université de Notre Dame du Lac,” as Fr. Edward Sorin, CSC, named it in his native French, or “The University of Our Lady of the Lake.” Perhaps you’ve already heard the famous story about Fr. Sorin’s arrival in November of 1842, when he looked out over the wooded and snow-covered property from up between Corby Hall and Old College, and — thinking he saw only one lake under all that snow — dedicated Notre Dame to the care of Mary, Our Lady. At the time of Fr. Sorin’s brave (some might say improbable) beginning, the Congregation of Holy Cross, the religious order of priests who sent him from France into the “mission territory” of Indiana, was still close enough to its own beginnings that Fr. Sorin knew well the founder of the Congregation, Fr. Basil Moreau, CSC. Fr. Moreau, now called “Blessed” to signify his one-step-away-from-sainthood status, knew the Catholic Church in France needed a bold new beginning after the French Revolution. His priests, brothers and sisters tended to the re-education of the children and families in France who had been deprived of religious instruction and parish life. However, even at the same time Blessed Basil wanted to bring the faith to mission territory and — lucky for the future Notre Dame — Indiana fell squarely into that category. Fr. Sorin’s five hundred acres woods and (as he would soon realize) two lakes became the site of the third Catholic university established in the United States. The essential, inspirational influence of the Congregation of Holy Cross remains central to Notre Dame. Our beginnings are always with us in the best sense of the word, no matter how many times our campus and academic communities here welcome new students, begin new semesters, offer new majors, dedicate new buildings or open new residence halls. Whether we are new here or have been a part of the community for many years, we can draw upon the zeal and energy of the Congregation of Holy Cross and challenge ourselves at the same time, to contribute the best of who we are to what Notre Dame will become.

This Sunday we will celebrate the Feast Day of Blessed Basil Moreau, CSC, in each of the residence halls, at the Basilica, and at Holy Cross parishes all over the world. On campus, the “Think you know Moreau?” scavenger hunt will give clue-hunters a chance to explore this place in a whole new way (here’s a clue for you: sign up at campusministry.nd.edu). January is a month for the brave at Notre Dame: It’s cold, dark, and sometimes knee-deep in snow. It’s a time for new beginnings and re-commitment to our community, our work and our studies. But Januarys at Notre Dame have grown out of a brave legacy since they were nothing more than what Fr. Sorin’s imagination could describe. As he wrote to Fr. Moreau during those very early and difficult days, “We shall not fail to find a blessing here.” Now it’s our turn to find the blessings and to offer our own as well.

Kate Barrett is the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Ministry in the Office of Campus Ministry. She can be reached at kbarrrett@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
It’s time to do something about guns in America

Adam Newman
Scientific Potential Est

At 9:35 A.M on December 14, 20-year-old Adam Lanza, wearing military armor and equipped with a rifle and two handguns, shot and killed 20 children and six adults. The carnage was horrifying, with the medical examiner confirming that each dead child sustained between two and 11 bullet wounds. Words cannot describe the evil and horror that occurred, but I use words in this letter to conservatives that something has to be done about this in America.

Sandy Hook is just one of the 61 American mass shootings since 1982, most notably Columbine in 1999, Virginia Tech in 2007, Fort Hood in 2009, the shooting of a Congresswoman in 2011 and the mass shooting at a movie theater in Aurora this past summer. Sadly, America does not just have a major problem with mass shootings, but overall homicides by firearms as well. America has 3.2 murders per 100,000 people as a result of firearms. To some this may not seem like much, but it does in comparison to other industrialized countries, such as France (0.5), the UK (0.2) and Switzerland (0.8), the second highest country. Not surprisingly, America also leads the world in guns per 100 people with 88, nearly double as the next highest country, Switzerland (46). According to the Children’s Defense Fund, 2,800 children die every year as a result of gun violence, which is the equivalent of a Sandy Hook shooting every other day.

Gun laws will not prevent every shooting and it is possible that gun laws would not have prevented Sandy Hook (although most of the children were killed by an assault weapon that was purchased legally). Sandy Hook symbolizes the horror of America’s gun violence epidemic and the need to do something about it. If there was ever an event that called for new controls on guns, it is Sandy Hook.

Without doubt, the safest and most efficient way to prevent another Sandy Hook is to enact common sense, reasonable gun laws that allow people to purchase certain handguns and shotguns, but do not allow them to buy assault weapons, limit the number of guns one can purchase and end purchases to the mentally ill. This must occur on the federal level, because city and state gun controls are weakened by guns that pour in from places with less strict gun laws.

As what usually happens after a mass shooting, conservative politicians refuse to take any major steps about restricting access to guns or steps to prevent mass shootings (even if they may say differently in public). Conservatives usually reference the Second Amendment of the Constitution as an argument against new gun controls. Americans do have the right to bear arms, but no democracy can have a right without restrictions. In America, the First Amendment protects the freedom of speech, but the Supreme Court has ruled one cannot yell “fire” in a crowded theater, nor can one defame someone’s reputation. There have to be limits. And as the Supreme Court has ruled before, gun controls can coexist with the Second Amendment.

What is perhaps the most perplexing is how many conservatives simultaneously identify as “pro-life” and oppose common sense gun controls. NY Times columnist Thomas Friedman perhaps it in perspective the best: “In my world, you don’t get to do it yourself ‘pro-life’ and fight against common-sense gun control — like banning public access to the kind of semiautomatic assault rifle, designed for warfare, that was used recently in a Colorado theater … Pro-life can mean only one thing: “respect for the sanctity of life.” And there is no way that respect for the sanctity of life can mean we are obligated to protect every fertilized egg in a woman’s body, no matter how that egg got fertilized, but we are not obligated to protect every living person from being shot with a concealed automatic weapon. … The term ‘pro-life’ should be a shorthand for respect for the sanctity of life. But I will not let that label apply to people for whom sanctity for life begins at conception and ends at birth. What about the rest of life? Respect for the sanctity of life, if you believe that it begins at conception, cannot end at birth.”

Sandy Hook was just one of a string of mass and solo shootings that comprise America’s gun violence epidemic, which without question is partially due to the high prevalence of guns in our society. Even with scenes of crying parents and cold, hard numbers, conservatives still refuse to do anything to prevent gun violence. Whether it be out of courage or conviction, guilt or anger, I ask my conservative friends to support common sense gun laws that still allow people to bear arms, but could help lower the high prevalence of gun homicides and the mass shootings in America.

Adam Newman is a senior political science major. He can be reached at armstrong2025@uww.edu.

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

The Oracle Editorial Board

Renowned ex-cyclist Lance Armstrong is expected to appear on the Oprah Winfrey Network this week to admit his use of banned performance-enhancing drugs before his memorable seven Tour de France victories. But as the world reacts to Armstrong’s confession, the question remains as to how the world should view the man once considered the most influential athlete in the world and the legacy he leaves behind — which includes the Livestrong Foundation, which has raised more than $470 million to fight cancer.

There is no denying the regrettable reality of Armstrong’s actions, even more so his emphatic dedication to lying about them. Armstrong cheated and lied about doing it under oath during a court deposition in 2006 and in the media multiple times after that. Armstrong will have to face many people regarding his actions — the World Anti-Doping Agency, all of his past sponsors, all of his past team mates, all of the people who claimed he was doping before and all of his fans.

But nobody understands the seriousness of Armstrong’s actions more than Armstrong himself. More than anything that Armstrong has accomplished, recovering from his reputation will turn out to be the second most trying feat he will ever face. Regardless of the implications that doping will bring, Armstrong’s future

Armstrong’s influence extends far beyond his accomplishments as an athlete. When he was 25, he was diagnosed with stage three testicular cancer that spread to his lungs and brain. Armstrong battled through cancer, got back on his bike and won the Tour de France seven times in a row. It made for an inspirational story and Armstrong lived the life of a celebrity and hero for years after that. He was one of the few cyclists who was a household name and an inspiration to those affected by cancer. His story forces the public to question the standards we place on athletes and the pedestal we put them on just to watch as they notoriously fall.

There is no sense or humility in rationalizing Armstrong’s actions, there is humility in allowing Armstrong — and his foundation — the chance at a normal and vitriol-free life as long as he tells the truth. Armstrong, like the majority of people, was prone to the inevitable cadence of feats and failures that define the human condition. Despite how much he may have disappointed those who looked up to him, it would be unforgive for us to overlook his contributions outside of professional cycling and his storied battle against cancer.

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
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By CLAIRE STEPHENS
Scene Writer

David O. Russell’s “Silver Linings Playbook” follows Pat, recently out of a medical hospital on plea bargain after beating his wife’s illotet near-ly to death. Pat, who had long been undiagnosed for bipolar disorder, is determined to get in shape and get better to get his wife back, who now has a restraining order against him. Back home, Pat’s worried parents urge him to take his medication and spend more time with them to heal his relationship with his football-obsessed father. Instead, he meets Tiffany through a mutual friend, who also struggles with men-tal illness after the death of her husband. Their awkward, quirky and sometimes inappropriate demeanors both attract and repel each other in this rom-com with bite.

Unafraid to be messy, stressful and frustrating, the film tackles real life problems by focusing on family, forgive-ness, mental illness, life and love. “Silver Linings Playbook” draws in the audience to the characters and the family to make them feel like a part of the drama, help-less on the sidelines to stop everyone from descending into the slippery slope of past mistakes.

Often more driven by drama driven than by comedy, the film still retains a dry sense of humor of the awkward and socially inappropriate pair. Lawrence’s sharp, sassy, sometimes ruthless charac-ter is the perfect foil to Cooper’s hope-less, optimistic fixation on his wife. DeNiro, the obsessive, relentless father with foot-ball superstitions and gambling problems further complicates and limits Pat as he struggles to find his silver lining.

The movie is careful and insightful with its portrayal of mental illness — including OCD, bipolar disorder and depression — and mixes it with the struggles of living, coping and moving on. Every character is affected by the trials of family life and marriage, and the rest of the cast plays an important role in the story.

The film is able to cover issues of such weight without becoming melodramatic or cliche’, maintaining the romance in a realistic, well-paced way. It’s not oppo-site attraction, forbidden love or hopeless romance; perhaps their relationship is destined to be, but with truly challenging obstacles including a spouses, mental ill-ness and family wounds.

“Silver Linings Playbook” works so well due to the stellar performances by Cooper, Lawrence and DeNiro — perfect for the roles and delivering the quality of acting expected of them. The rest of the cast, in-cluding Chris Tucker and Julia Stiles, give the story believability and depth, and the film is not surprisingly nominated for multiple best ensemble cast awards.

Unlike most rom-coms or romance dramas that give away the ending in the trailer, “Silver Linings Playbook” creates moments of actual drama and suspense, especially at its close. The characters are so well developed and liked that the au-dience knows the fragility of their minds and fears for their wellbeing the high stakes of their actions. Though the ending was still fairly predictable, this rom-com takes the audience along for a ride most movies in the genre can’t hope to compete with.

Though it likely won’t win the Academy Award for Best Picture, “Silver Linings Playbook” is a great showcase for Cooper and Lawrence’s abilities to play both dra-ma and humor convincingly to move a story. “Silver Linings Playbook” is an en-tertaining combination of both genres for both genders.

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“Silver Linings Playbook”
The Weinstein Company
Directed by: David O. Russell
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence

“Zero Dark Thirty”
Annapurna Pictures
Directed by: Kathryn Bigelow
Starring: Jessica Chastain

In the midst of Oscar season, I spent my winter break catching up on all of the highly acclaimed films of the past two months. Without question, this has been an astounding year for film as every mov-ie I saw, whether it was “Life Of Pi,” “Les Misérables” or “Argo,” I was convinced this film received its fair share of criticism from the u.s. government. Countless members of congress, including sen. John McCain, and it is ludicrous that Bigelow has been snubbed from the “Best Director” title at the Oscars this year. I firmly believe that “Zero Dark Thirty” is the best film of the year.

By WILLIAM NEAL
Scene Writer

By CLAIRE STEPHENS
Scene Writer

By WILLIAM NEAL
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Contact William Neal at wneal@nd.edu

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When it comes to adapting a musical for the big screen, there’s little the director can tweak from the original source. “Les Misérables” is no exception, especially because of its status as one of the most adored musicals of all time. I’ve been a longtime fan of the play myself, and having the opportunity to see it on the big screen with such an incredible lineup of talent was enough to hook my interest.

This isn’t the first time “Les Mis” has been adapted into a movie — the original starred Liam Neeson, the man who can do it all — but what was so intriguing about this new take on it was that for the first time in a musical film, the actor would be singing live on camera. Usually, the actors just lip-sync to a recorded track. The result is a near-three-hour film that, while having its fair share of flaws, is an overall success. Keep in mind I say this as someone who is familiar with the musical, and for those of you who are going in blind, there’s a chance you’ll have a far different opinion. What makes this film a success is that it stays faithful to the original music, and for those of you who are going to see it twice, I can assure you it’s worth it, as it lacks the needed emotional range. The two actors is stunning to say the least.

Jackman makes a remarkable job carrying this film as the lead. He’s had years of experience in musical theater, and there is no denying that Jackman has talent. Because I’m sure you haven’t heard this enough times yet, Anne Hathaway knocks it out of the park in her 20-minute role as Fantine and her performance is the crown jewel of the film. Her performance of “I Dreamed a Dream” is shattering. The emotional and vocal range of these two actors is stunning to say the least.

Russell Crowe’s performance, on the other hand, falls short in comparison. The guy is an amazing actor, and while he got his start as a singer, it’s clear that Crowe doesn’t belong in a musical. Eddie Redmayne gives an excellent performance as Marius and provides a much-needed sense of emotion and energy to the final act of the film. Seyfried performs well and holds her own as Fantine. The chemistry and interaction of the characters and the emotional and vocal range of these two actors is stunning to say the least.

Beyond the controversial nature, Tarantino, with incredible acting and direction, builds the story and expressions. I understand the need to be historically accurate and building the story is not a positive one (just look at the box office). Despite that, the film is still entertaining and a must-see for any fan of the original valjean, colm Wilkinson), after a 20-year sentence for stealing a loaf of bread, he got his start as a singer, it’s clear that Crowe doesn’t belong in a musical. Eddie Redmayne gives an excellent performance as Marius and provides a much-needed sense of emotion and energy to the final act of the film. Seyfried performs well and holds her own as Fantine. The chemistry and interaction of the characters and the emotional and vocal range of these two actors is stunning to say the least.

The film as a whole is uneven, yet when it’s good, it’s fantastic. In the end, Hooper’s “Les Misérables” should be recognized for its amazing collaboration, performances and effort.

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“Les Misérables” Working Title Films
Directed by: Tom Hooper
Starring: Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried, Russell Crowe

By WILLIAM NEAL
Scene Writer

By ANKUR CHAWLA
Scene Writer

“Django Unchained” paired great writing and directing with even better actors to be one of the biggest movies of the holiday season and on the Oscar short-list for best picture of the year. Quentin Tarantino is known for his unique, out of the box and often-controversial films, and “Django” is no exception. In the so-called “spaghetti western” Tarantino explores the pre-Civil War South and the attitudes towards African Americans.

Jamie Foxx plays Django, a former slave who is purchased and freed by a bounty hunter, Dr. Schultz (Christoph Waltz), interested in the bounty on Django’s former owner. Their escapades are marked by witty dialogue and a dark humor surrounding the characters and racism of the time. However, only when the eccentric, wealthy landowner Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his troupe of house slaves, advisors and his awkwardly close sister are introduced did the movie pick up.

After working with Dr. Schultz, Django sets his focus on reuniting with his wife he was separated from, Broomhilda, who had been purchased by Candie. The interaction of Candie with those around him provides an, albeit extreme, window into the atmosphere of the early 1800s and actors such as Samuel L. Jackson and DiCaprio work incredibly well together. The beauty of the movie comes from the depiction of characters and the persona Tarantino gives them. Much like in “Inglorious Basterds,” Christoph Waltz is impeccable in taking on his character, whether he is a vicious Nazi commander or whimsical dentist turned bounty hunter, and it is no surprise he won the Golden Globe and is an Oscar frontrunner.

Though largely overshadowed, Jackson’s role as the humble sidekick to DiCaprio’s wealthy landowner is the best acting in the movie.

That being said, in my opinion Tarantino over sensationalized the issue of race simply for the sake of making a shocking film with the overuse of a particular word and repetition of dialogue and expressions. I understand the need to be historically accurate and building the backdrop of the movie, but it was done so to the point of excess.

Beyond the controversial nature, “Django” was also incredibly long at over two and a half hours, and seemed to drag at times. While admittedly most of the film’s humor and comic relief came during the dead time that didn’t move the plot forward, there was both too much build up and several times where the movie felt it could have, or should have, ended.

Still, as a whole “Django” was vintage Tarantino, with incredible acting and at times brilliant dialogue. I do hope, though, that in the future, Tarantino does not make cameos in his movies and tries to limit them to a reasonable length.

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“Django Unchained”
The Weinstein Company
Directed by: Quentin Tarantino
Starring: Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio

By ANKUR CHAWLA
Scene Writer

By WILLIAM NEAL
Scene Writer

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A NEW KIND OF MUSICAL WITH ‘LES MISERABLES’

“Les Misérables” Directed by: Tom Hooper Starring: Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried, Russell Crowe

“Django Unchained” Directed by: Quentin Tarantino Starring: Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio

The Weinstein Company

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Wilson deserves Rookie of the Year

At the end of a career, when everything is said and done, a player is judged for whether he or she won in the big games. So why do the playoffs not matter in choosing the NFL Rookie of the Year?

Realistically it comes down to three players, and surprise, they are all quarterbacks. The first overall pick of the 2011 NFL draft, Andrew Luck; the second overall pick, Robert Griffin III; and the 75th overall pick in the third round Russell Wilson, who was drafted to be a backup behind assumed starter Matt Flynn. Sorey Alfred Morris and Muscle Hamster (rookie nickname of the year goes to Doug Martin, hands down). If the playoffs were more of a factor, then Russell Wilson would be the named the 2012 Offensive Rookie of the Year.

Each of these three phenoms took their respective team to the playoffs. Luck amassed an 11-5 record with Colts, RGIII led the Skins to a 9-6 record (one loss in overtime), Wilson led the Seahawks to a 10-6 record. But only one has a playoff win under his belt — Doug Martin, hands down). If people only cared about the regular season, there would be no need for the wildcard berth in the playoffs.

Russell Wilson is exactly that — a wildcard. He was not guaranteed anything, but he did the most with what he had. He may not have had the same passing or rushing yards as the other two candidates, but he simply got the ball in the end zone, scored more points than the other teams and won clutch games. And if it wasn’t for Pete Carroll, we might be watching Wilson this weekend. Overall, the wildcard teams the ace and king every time.

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Armstrong to AP: ‘People can decide’ the truth

Lance Armstrong said viewers can judge for themselves how candid he was in his interview with Oprah Winfrey.

“I left it all on the table with her and when it airs the people can decide,” he said in a text message to The Associated Press.

Armstrong responded to a report in the New York Daily News, citing an unidentified source, that he was not candid when he acknowledged during Monday’s taping with Winfrey that he used performance-enhancing drugs. Although the first installment of a two-part interview doesn’t air until Thursday night, there has been no shortage of opinions or advice on what Armstrong should say.

Livestrong, the cancer charity Armstrong founded in 1997 and was forced to walk away from last year, said in a statement Wednesday it expected to see the truth.

“An appealing, but if we are going to continue to bring these stories to the forefront, we have to be ready to hear the more difficult stories as well,” Armstrong told The Associated Press.

Armstrong faces some very tough choices. According to a source with knowledge of the situation, Armstrong has information that might lead to his ban being reduced to eight years. That would make him eligible to compete in elite triathlons, many of which are sanctioned under world anti-doping regulations, in 2020, when Armstrong will be 49. He was a professional athlete in the three-discipline sport as a teenager, and returned to competition after retiring from cycling in 2011.

That person also said the bar for Armstrong’s redemption is higher now than when the case was open, a time during which he refused to speak to investigators.

Armstrong faces a Thursday deadline on a decision whether to join a lawsuit against the United States Postal Service as a defendant in at least two cases. That suit alleges Armstrong founded in 1997 and was stripped of all seven wins, lost nearly all of his endorsements and was forced to cut ties with Livestrong.

Armstrong came out of nowhere, wilson led the Seahawks to a playoff win under his belt — Doug Martin, hands down). If people only cared about the regular season, there would be no need for the wildcard berth in the playoffs. Russell Wilson is exactly that — a wildcard. He was not guaranteed anything, but he did the most with what he had. He may not have had the same passing or rushing yards as the other two candidates, but he simply got the ball in the end zone, scored more points than the other teams and won clutch games.

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Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — In the end, Chip Kelly chose the NFL, giving the Eagles their guy.

Philadelphia hired Kelly on Wednesday, just 10 days after he decided to stay at Oregon. The 49-year-old Kelly, known as an offensive innovator, becomes the 21st coach in team history and replaces Andy Reid, who was fired on Dec. 31 after a 4-12 season.

He’ll be introduced at a news conference Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at the Eagles’ practice facility.

Kelly, who was 46-7 in four years at Oregon, interviewed with the Eagles, Cleveland Browns and Buffalo Bills in a two-day span after leading the fast-flying Ducks to a victory over Kansas State in the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 3.

The Eagles are known to have interviewed 11 candidates, including two meetings with Seahawks defensive coordinator Gus Bradley. All along, Kelly was thought to be Philadelphia’s first choice in a lengthy process that took many twists.

“Chip Kelly will be an outstanding head coach for the Eagles,” owner Jeffrey Lurie said in a statement. “He has a brilliant football mind. He motivates his team with his actions as well as his words. He will be a great leader for us and will bring a fresh energetic approach to our team.”

On the day he fired Reid, Lurie appeared to be describing Kelly when he said he wanted to find “a real smart, forward-thinking coach” who is “strategic, a strong leader, very comfortable in his own skin.”

The enigmatic Kelly reportedly was close to signing with the Browns after a long interview Jan. 4. He met with the Eagles for nine hours the next day, setting up a soap-opera scenario in which the Eagles were competing with Browns CEO Joe Banner, their former president and long-time friend of Lurie who left the organization after an following a failure. But that roller coaster ended when Kelly opted to remain — temporarily — in Eugene, Ore.

“It’s a very difficult decision for me. It took me so long to make it just because the people here are special,” Kelly told KEZI-TV.

“The challenge obviously is exciting for me, but it’s an exciting time and it’s a sad time — saying goodbye to people you love and respect, and I wanted to make sure I talked to my players and did it in the right fashion and talked to our staff. I feel I did.”

The Eagles interviewed two other high-profile college coaches — Penn State’s Bill O’Brien and Notre Dame’s Brian Kelly. Both of them elected to stay with their schools.

Bradley was considered by many to be the leading contender, though former Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt and former Ravens coach Brian Billick were in the mix.

That all changed when Kelly had a change of heart.

The visor-wearing Kelly built Oregon into a national powerhouse. The Ducks went to four straight BCS bowl games — including a bid for the national championship against Auburn two seasons ago — and have won three conference championships.

Kelly originally went to Oregon in 2007 as offensive coordinator under Mike Bellotti. Before that, he was offensive coordinator at New Hampshire, where he started devising the innovative hurry-up offense the Ducks are known for now.

Oregon finished last season 12-1. The team was ranked No. 1 and appeared headed for another shot at the national championship until a 17-14 loss to Stanford Nov. 17.

Ducks athletic director Rob Mullens said Wednesday that Kelly called him at 7:15 a.m. PST to tell him he had changed his mind: “He wasn’t sure if that opportunity would present itself again, so he felt this was the right one at the right time.”

Mullens now faces a coaching search amid recruiting season. “I’ve turned the page,” Mullens said. “I was surprised when I got the call this morning, but as the leader of this organization, my focus is on moving forward and that’s what we’re doing. I’m laser-focused on what’s next, and that’s finding the right fit to lead Oregon football.”

It’s unknown whether the possibility of NCAA sanctions based on Oregon’s use of recruiting services factored into Kelly’s reversal. He indicated in Arizona that he wasn’t running from anything.

“We’re cooperated fully with them,” he said. “If they want to talk to us again, we’ll continue to cooperate fully. I feel confident in the situation.”

Kelly doesn’t have any pro coaching experience, but aspects of his up-tempo offense are already being used by New England and Washington.

The Eagles fired Reid after two forgettable years. A late flurry brought the team to an 8-8 finish last season, but this season, Philadelphia endured an eight-game losing streak, and dropped 11 of its final 12. A 3-1 start soon washed away, and Reid’s 14-year tenure ended not long after. Within a week, Reid was Kansas City’s new coach.

Still, Kelly has tough shoes to fill. Reid won more games than any coach in franchise history and led the Eagles to nine playoff appearances, six division titles, five conference championship games and one Super Bowl berth.

Kelly and the Eagles have the No. 4 overall pick in the draft as well as some talented players on offense who could fit his up-tempo scheme. Running back LeSean McCoy and wide receivers DeSean Jackson and Jeremy Maclin seem like an ideal match. Quarterback Nick Foles, however, isn’t.

“I’ve never run the zone read,” Foles said after the season. “I’m more of a dropback guy. I’ve been under center. I’ve been in the gun. If I can adapt, I want to. But I’m not a zone-read quarterback.

Some people are gifted with different things. That’s just not one of my skill sets. I can work on the speed in the offseason and get better with that. But I’ve always been a dropback guy in the pocket. I’ve been able to make plays on my feet throwing the ball or running for a first down.”

On the other hand, Michael Vick could be perfect. But it’s unlikely the Eagles would want to pay the $16 million they’d have to shell out for an injury-prone quarterback, who will be 35 next season.

Kelly had high praise for Foles after Oregon beat Arizona 56-31 in September 2011.

“I’ll tell you what; I’m glad Nick Foles is graduating,” Kelly said at that time. “I catch myself watching him in awe sometimes. Nick is a hell of a football player. That kid’s a warrior. He’s as good as any kid I’ve seen in the country.”

Others interviewed by Lurie, general Howie Roseman and president Don Smolenski were defensive coordinator Tom Bradley, offensive coordinator Mike McGugan and offensive coordinator Jay Gruden.

The first Eagles to react to Kelly’s hiring on Twitter were defensive players.

Defensive end Brandon Graham wrote: “Happy to have Chip Kelly!! Now it’s time to get to work!”

Safety Kurt Coleman wrote: “Welcome Chip Kelly to the Eagles family. Can’t wait to see what he brings to the team in 2013!”

Oregon’s players gave Kelly a Gatorade bath at the end of his last game, and some seemed re-signed to their coach moving on.

“We’re all behind him,” quarterback Marcus Mariota said.

“He’s someone that you can look to and learn a lot of life lessons from. Whatever happens, happens. We’ll see where it takes us.”

Kelly took the road to Philadelphia and the NFL. Eagles get their man, hire Oregon’s Kelly

Former Oregon head coach Chip Kelly answers a question during media day for the Fiesta Bowl in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Jan. 3.
Livestrong, Sporting Kansas City sever ties

The home stadium of Sporting Kansas City, formerly named Livestrong Sporting Park, has a new name following a disagreement between the Major League Soccer team and the cancer charity founded by Lance Armstrong.

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The loss of trust — not money or a tarnished reputation — led Sporting KC's sever ties with the cancer charity founded by Lance Armstrong, according to a team official.

But Sporting KC's chief executive Robb Heineman also said Wednesday the "tumultuous environment" that developed before the cyclist admitted using performance enhancing drugs also played into the Major League Soccer team's decision to end the relationship.

"The severance for us was about violating the trust of a partnership. That's what they did. Does Lance bleed over into that? Certainly," Heineman said. "Whether anyone wants to say it or not, he's connected to the foundation. He's why we have to always answer questions around him. ... It's something you can't get away from."

Sporting KC announced Tuesday the team was changing the name of Livestrong Sporting Park to Sporting Park and ending its novel arrangement with the charity that began in 2011.

Under the naming rights deal, Livestrong didn't pay to have its name on the $200 million soccer stadium in Kansas City, Kan. Instead, the team promised to donate $7.5 million in stadium revenues to Livestrong over six years.

Heineman said the decision came after ESPN reported that Livestrong recently said Sporting still owed $756,000 of the $1 million promised to the foundation in 2012. Heineman said the team doesn't owe Livestrong any money, but he would not discuss the contract.

"When they started to, for the lack of a better term, start to drag us through the mud a little bit in public around the relationship, that's just nothing we have an interest in," Heineman said. "I would call it inaccurate, unfair and a breach of confidentiality. I think that's at the core of any of this."

But he said it's difficult to parse how much the loss of trust in Livestrong was because of the contract discussion in the media and Armstrong's doping admission played into the end the partnership.

"It's a hard thing to say because one is so connected to the other," he said. "If this would just have been about Lance and his reputation would we have made the same decision at some point? Potentially. Potentially.

"Because what this has begun to do over time as I mentioned to you is erode the focus of what we and the partnership were all about," he said. "It wasn't about answering questions about what Lance did or didn't do."

Heineman said Sporting and Livestrong had discussions for several months about their partnership but would not go into detail about those discussions.

"I think as the tension and as the tumultuous environment continued to kind of surround Livestrong, we kept working with them around how can we modify things," Heineman said. "I think that what we saw was the brand was evolving ... And for us the vision of Livestrong always was it was going to be much bigger than one person."

Armstrong resigned from the board of directors for Livestrong in November after a report by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency accused the cyclist of helping run "the most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen" within his U.S. Postal Service and Discovery Channel teams.

Armstrong had persistently denied doping until this week when he admitted to Oprah Winfrey he used performance-enhancing drugs during his cycling career, which included seven straight Tour de France victories. The first installment of the two-part interview airs Thursday night. Greg Lee, chief financial officer for Livestrong, said in an emailed statement that it was the charity that terminated the agreement with Sporting KC, and the foundation doesn't discuss specifics about arrangements with its partners. He said his role is "to ensure compliance by our corporate partners."

"If a partner doesn't live up to the terms of our agreement, we have no choice but to bring that agreement to an end," he said. "Foundation spokeswoman Katherine McLane also said while Livestrong "did not receive a significant portion of the revenues it was promised, it still invested nearly $40,000 in programs to serve people affected by cancer," at several Kansas City area institutions. McLane also said in an email that Livestrong will continue to invest such programs in the Kansas City area.

Sporting Park is scheduled to host the MLS All-Star game on July 31.
Abraham expected to play against 49ers

Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — It’s too early for the Atlanta Falcons to know how much defensive end John Abraham will play in Sunday’s NFC title game.

Abraham, the NFL’s active sacks leader, made it through just 15 snaps in last week’s divisional playoff victory over Seattle before aggravating a left ankle injury that forced him to leave in the second quarter.

“You don’t want to lose a good player,” Falcons defensive coordinator Mike Nolan said. “We won the game, so there’s something we did right. But it does change things.”

The Falcons are making contingency plans in case Abraham is unable to play at full strength against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday at the Georgia Dome.

Abraham, who has not been available to speak with reporters this week, missed practice on Wednesday even though coach Mike Smith listed him as having limited participation.

But it’s clear that the Falcons (14-3) will be pleased to have Abraham on the field for any length of time against San Francisco (12-4-1).

“He’s a sack master,” linebacker Sean Weatherspoon said. “That’s what I like to call him — Father Abe. We look forward to getting him back out there this week. I think the guys that had a chance to play in his absence did a good job stepping in and doing what they need to do in order to help the team get the win.”

Abraham, 34, was initially stepping in and doing what he expects the 13th-year veteran to start on Sunday. Even so, the Falcons are giving reserve ends Cliff Matthews, Jonathan Massaquoi and Lawrence Sidbury more work this week in case Abraham has to make an early exit.

Matthews took the balance of the work against Seattle, playing 46 snaps and making two tackles opposite Kroy Biermann, Atlanta’s other starting end.

Abraham, though, is a special talent.

“Obviously he’s an integral part of this defense,” Biermann said. “When you lose a player like that, it kind of puts a little bit of strain on you, but the guys behind him know that they’ve got to step up, play that role and get it done.”

The 49ers present several problems for Atlanta’s defense.

Quarterback Colin Kaepernick is coming off an impressive playoff win over Green Bay, passing for 263 yards and two touchdowns and rushing for 181 yards and two touchdowns. He set an NFL single-game record for yards rushing by a quarterback.

Smith knows the Falcons must do their best to contain Kaepernick in the pocket while keeping tight coverage on receivers Michael Crabtree and Randy Moss and tight end Vernon Davis and Delanie Walker.

Running backs Frank Gore andLaMichael James also create issues in the passing attack, too.

“They have playmakers at both levels with their offense,” Smith said. “You’re going to have to put together a plan to try to slow down certain aspects of it. It’s a very explosive offense they’ve created.”

Though Abraham’s 122 career sacks rank 13th on the NFL career list, he hasn’t had one since Nov. 29 when he took down New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees to help seal a 23-13 victory.

The following week, Atlanta won its second NFC South title in three years.

Before the Falcons traded for him in 2006, Abraham had a long injury history in six years with the New York Jets. He’s overcome assorted ailments and offseason surgeries with Atlanta, however, and has missed just two games over the last six seasons.

“When you watch the film, he played through the pain a little bit,” strong safety William Moore said. “It was hard to even tell. He rotates a lot, so I didn’t even know he was out at one point.”

Moore learned of Abraham’s absence soon enough while Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson and the Seahawks were carving up Atlanta’s defense in the second half.

After Vance Walker sacked him early in the third quarter, Wilson completed 13 of 18 passes for 230 with two TDs.

“The Falcons did a decent job covering deep routes, but they struggled badly in trying to defend tight end Zach Miller and other targets Wilson hit in the middle of the defense. “Those were still miscues on our end,” free safety Thomas DeCoud said. “We were short on a drop here or there or someone didn’t carry someone here or there. Those things were more about us rather than things that they did.”
High-powered Flying Dutch roll over Belles

BY KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s fell short in its efforts to take down No. 3 Hope College last night, as the Flying Dutch secured an 87-41 victory in Holland, Mich.

The Belles (5-12, 3-5 MIAA) anticipated a tough fight coming into the game and planned to stand strong in their defensive tactics, Saint Mary’s head coach Jennifer Henley said. However, the Belles struggled to shut down the potent offense of the Flying Dutch (15-1, 7-1). The victory was a return to its usual dominance for Hope, as it bounced back from its first loss of the season against No. 2 Calvin (13-1, 7-0).

Saint Mary’s junior guard Shanlynn Bias led the team with 15 points, combining 5-of-10 shooting from the floor with five free throws. Freshman forward Eleni Shea scored eight points, while senior guard Ayla Wolter added six points and three steals for the Belles.

The depth of the veteran Hope bench showed against the young Saint Mary’s squad. Despite the loss, which shut down the Belles’ two-game winning streak, the young team continues to power through the season without getting caught up with winning or losing, Henley said.

After the loss, Saint Mary’s will now look to rebound when they take on Olivet (10-6, 6-2) on Saturday in Olivet, Mich. Facing the Comets (10-6, 6-2), who secured a close 62-58 victory over Rochester on Wednesday night, should be another difficult matchup for the Belles, and will force the team to lock down their play on the defensive end of the floor.

“Our effort in preparing for games is more concentrated on the defensive end of things,” Henley said.

Saint Mary’s will play Olivet at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Cutler Event Center.

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Belles senior guard Annie Doyle looks to pass to a teammate during Saint Mary’s 66-63 win over Wheaton on Nov. 15, 2011. Hope defeated the Belles 87-41 on Wednesday night.
Junior guard Shanlynn Bias led the team with 15 points.
Calabrese notched an assist on the lone goal scored by junior center T.J. Tynan on the power play in a 1-0 win at Michigan State last Friday and another in a 4-2 loss at Bowling Green on Tuesday. “I think being poised with the puck [is the biggest improvement I’ve made this season],” Calabrese said. “I think making better puck decisions and helping out on the power play here — I didn’t get on the power play until the end of the year last year — just being able to contribute that way.”

Last season, the Irish went 12-6-3 in 2011 before going 7-12-0 in 2012 for a final season record of 19-18-3 and no NCAA tournament appearance. This season, the Irish were 14-4-0 in 2012, but have dropped three of their first four games since the turn of the calendar after a three-and-a-half week layoff.

Calabrese said Monday, before the team’s most recent loss to the Falcons on Tuesday, the Irish learned from last season’s late fade. “I think we learned a lot from last year,” he said. “I think this year, our mindset’s a lot different at this point in time than it was last year. Our past three games since break have all been on the road. In the past three years, we’ve had a game at home to kind of be a tune-up game to be prepared for a road stretch. Any time you play college hockey, it’s tough to win on the road, so we’re not panicking. Everyone’s positive. But that is in the back of our minds, what happened last year.”

Calabrese and the rest of the Irish next hit the ice Friday, when they’ll take on Alaska in the Compton Family Ice Arena.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

“So I think it’s a quiet and calm confidence in him, but he does do a good job with his teammates and I think he does a real good job in his approach to not just the game, but situations within the game that are sometimes stressful.”

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach
Confidence
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

— shooting 17-for-38 on the year. But Loyd can score in a variety of ways. She can drive, she can cut backdoor and she can get out in transition. All in all, she averages 13 points per game, averaging 5.7 rebounds per game, good for second on the team behind junior forward Natalie Achonwa. She attributed her rebounding ability to a mindset ingrained in her by Notre Dame’s coaches.

“Boxing out and rebounding is something we do every day in practice, so it’s kind of like a habit,” Loyd said. On a team that features a number of veteran scorers, including Diggins and McBride, Loyd said she has found her niche as the utility guard, a scrappy player who can score, rebound and defend. “[My role] depends on game situations,” Loyd said. “At times, I can be a really good passer. I can score at certain times. I just try to do what’s needed. A lot times it helps with Skylar on the floor because everyone covers Sky. So there’s opportunities to score.”

Moving forward, Loyd said she knows she needs to continue to improve. She pointed out several areas on which she needs to focus. “There’s always things to help improve my game,” Loyd said. “You can always improve ballhandling, knowing the offense a little bit more and personnel. Reading the defense is something that’s still hard to do. I’m trying to watch film and stuff to get better everyday.”

Up next for Loyd and the Irish is a home matchup Sunday against St. John’s. Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING & DIVING

Belles return recharged and ready to compete

Junior guard Kayla McBride takes the ball down the court against Georgetown on Tuesday, as Loyd trails closely.

Now-sophomore Anna Nolan swims backstroke at the Defiance Invitational on Nov. 12, 2011. The Belles return from their winter training trip and begin competition at home Friday. Saint Mary’s will next swim against conference matchups Kalamazoo and Calvin, who both have defeated the Belles in the past.

By D.H. KIM
Sports Writer

After a week of training and competition in Mesa, Ariz., Saint Mary’s will face a tough conference test this Friday, when they host MIAA foes Calvin and Kalamazoo. Both Calvin (2-3) and Kalamazoo (1-2) will pose as stiff challenges to the Belles, as they both placed higher than Saint Mary’s (0-3) at the Calvin Winter Invite on Dec. 1. The Knights and Hornets placed fourth and sixth respectively, while the Belles finished in a distant 11th.

“Those are some of the toughest teams in the conference, and generally we don’t have a positive history with them,” Belles senior captain Genevieve Spittler said. “But we will still go out and swim our best.”

In spite of their earlier defeats, the Belles are looking primed to improve in this weekend’s action, in part due to their winter training trip to Arizona. After spending much of the nine-day trip working as a team in the pool, Spittler said the team should be ready for their dual meets at Notre Dame.

“We’re facing tough conference opponents, but we will be ready,” she said. Friday’s meets are especially significant for Saint Mary’s, as the dawning of 2013 has brought the MIAA Championships ever closer. After facing the Knights and Hornets this weekend, the Belles will have just one more conference meet — a Feb. 2 dual meet against Olivet — before traveling to the conference championships in Jenison, Mich.

But while the championships loom ever closer, Saint Mary’s is focused only on the next step in the journey, and that’s finding it’s first win of the season this weekend.

The Belles will host Calvin and Kalamazoo on Friday at the Rolfs Aquatic Center. The meets will begin at 7 p.m.

Contact D.H. Kim at dkim16@nd.edu
21. What an eclipse's major axis passes through
31. Teeny bit
32. Smooths
34. Collage flat with the greatest number of chapter houses (200+)
39. Org., with lots of big shots!
40. Heart reading, briefly
41. Not law-related
42. Study
44. Pig in Candies
46. Quarantine
48. Big name in travel
51. 1885 film sequel Razzle-nominated for Worst Visual Effects
55. However
56. Prime window seat
1. T. Rex, e.g.
2. One who knows the neighborhood
4. Regulatory group
6. Canadian roadside sign
7. Agenda's best buy or end
8. Kind of team Department where Camembert cheese is made
9. Inconsistent, sounding speaking style
10. Classic consoles
11. Stand's partner
12. Special sight?
13. Proceed, say
14. Cry preceding "Are too!"
15. 2,000-live-action animated comedy
16. Only astronomical sign with an intimate symbol
17. No One's "(Emperor n)
18. Regular events
19. Late breakfast time
20. For dieters
21. Establishment that may display checkboard
22. Ukrainian city, once
24. 2006 Winter Olympics city
25. "When doubted, a Pacifica capital"
26. Kids' doorbell, c.s., e.g.
27. Raz-burn! Darn, it!
28. It's hard to get a reaction out of... in a moment
29. "They live in a California..." in LA
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Deadly shooter

Freshman guard starts her collegiate career as scoring machine, key player in Irish victories

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

From the moment she first stepped onto the court in Purcell Pavilion, freshman guard Jewell Loyd has dazzled Irish fans, scoring 20 points in an 88-28 exhibition win over Edinboro.

Since then, she’s been nothing but spectacular. The Big East honored Loyd on Monday as the conference Freshman of the Week, the third time she has received that award this season. In a 75-71 overtime win at South Florida on Jan. 8, Loyd notched her first career double-double with 18 points and a career-high 13 rebounds.

Although Loyd said she appreciates the praise, she recognized that it’s just a product of hard work in practice, something she needs to continue.

“I thank them for giving me that award,” Loyd said. “But I’ve got to stay grounded and keep getting better. I couldn’t have done that without my team. I’ve still got to work. It’s awesome that I got it but I’m not getting caught up in that. Two days later, she scored 14 points and grabbed five rebounds in a 71-46 win over Rutgers in Purcell Pavilion. Simply put, Loyd can do just about everything on the court. As a highly touted recruit from Niles West High School in Chicago, Loyd’s success as a four-year starter did not take long to translate to the collegiate level.

“It’s a different game, a different style of play,” Loyd said. “The confidence I get from my team and my coaches helps me. When you step out onto the court you can’t think, ‘oh I’m just a freshman, I’ve got to just pass the ball.’ They give me the confidence to just shoot.”

From behind the three-point line, she’s deadly...