Coach sings with Met

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

When Notre Dame vocal instructor Deborah Mayer caught word of an audition opportunity with the New York Metropolitan Opera, she had one week’s notice to make her lifelong dream a reality.

Mayer, who teaches voice lessons at the University, will perform the role of Gerhilde in “Die Walküre” this spring. The opera is part of German composer Richard Wagner’s Ring Cycle.

“The competition has better odds, because each week is a new chance to win,” she said. “At the end of the three weeks, the dorms get to choose the prizes based on how many times they’ve won.”

Myles Robertson, intern and program coordinator in the Office, said the Office also altered the structure of this competition from previous contests to accommodate each dorm’s unique characteristics.

“The competition also means that dorms get who get behind will not get discouraged and that people will be more inclined to participate.”

Campus to go ‘greener’

By EVELYN HUANG
News Writer

This semester, the Office of Sustainability is recharging its annual Energy Competition and renewing initiatives to make campus even “greener.”

Beginning Feb. 4, the Office will sponsor “Mega-Watt Madness,” a three-week energy conservation competition that will pit dorms against each other in three separate events, education and outreach program manager Rachel Novick said.

“This competition has better odds, because each week is a new chance to win,” she said. “At the end of the three weeks, the dorms get to choose the prizes based on how many times they’ve won.”

Linda Kurtos, director of sustainability, said the Office will jump-start RecycleMania on Feb. 3, joining a national movement toward campus sustainability.

“RecycleMania is a competition where colleges and universities around the country compete to reduce the amount of waste going into landfills,” Kurtos said.

The Office will also continue programs that have been successful in the past, such as the Green Discovery program, which Kurtos said strives to make labs on campus greener and is “going really well.”

Career Center gets new director

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Editor

Notre Dame’s well-respected Career Center came under new leadership when Hillary Flanagan assumed her role as director less than three weeks ago.

Former Career Center director

Lee Svete, who currently serves as Associate Vice President of Career and Professional Development in the Office of Student Affairs, sought out Flanagan to take over his position based on his six years of experience as director of career services.

Dr. Phil McGraw, left, speaks with Ronaiah Tuiasosopo, the man behind the Lennay Kekua hoax.
After several days of nearly record high temperatures, including a day with a high of 59 degrees, the temperature plummeted and snow returned to the Main Building and God Quad on Thursday night.
CBL courses encourage community service

By LILY Mcgill

Each semester, Notre Dame’s Spanish department, in conjunction with the Center for Social Concerns (CSC), offers community-based learning (CBL) courses that allow students to integrate their Spanish language learning with community service at various partner organizations in South Bend.

“Any community-based learning program is going to be coming from a perspective of mutuality,” said Rachel Parroquin, director of Spanish service learning. “We’re looking for ways that are going to be helpful for the community partners but also meet the learning goals of our students.”

Parroquin said student involvement in CBL programs allows for interaction with native speakers, language skill improvement and intercultural competence.

“It’s almost like a mini-immersion,” she said. “Getting off campus, getting to the community, having to negotiate meaning, having to figure out ways to say things, it definitely helps them to work on strategies.”

Parroquin said students in CBL programs have the opportunity to participate in activities including mentoring middle school students, reading aloud with preschoolers in Spanish and participating in a Latino outreach program through Memorial Hospital.

“We try to have a variety of programs in terms of student interests,” she said. The CBL program works consistently with more than a dozen community partners, including La Casa de Amistad, El Campito, South Bend Community Schools and the Sister Maura Brannick Health Center.

The impact of the CBL program on its partners has been enormous, totaling over 3,400 hours of community time in the 2011-12 academic year, Parroquin said.

“Language, Culture and Community” that requires students to commit to a minimum of 10 hours of service.

“The focus of this class has to do with immigration issues, looking closely at the South Bend community and how it’s impacted by immigration,” she said. “What are the issues that the Latino community, recent immigrants especially, have to face?”

At the senior level, Moreno teaches “Migrant Voices: Latino Literature through Service-Learning” and “Race and Ethnicity in U.S. Latino Literature,” both of which require two hours of community service per week.

Parroquin said the Spanish department’s Community-Based Learning program continues to grow with the help of the CSC and will be adding new courses in the future.

Contact Lily McGill at lmcgill@nd.edu

Professor discusses Aquinas, natural law

By KAITLYN RABACH

A Boston College professor connected Saint Thomas Aquinas’ themes of solidarity, justice and natural law with contemporary global feminism in a lecture at Saint Mary’s on Thursday.

Dr. Lisa Sowle Cahill’s talk, titled “Aquinas and Natural Law: Resources for Women’s Equality,” was part of the College’s 16th Annual Symposium on Aquinas. It took place in the Student Center Lounge.

Although Aquinas did not participate in the modern women’s movement, his ideas directly relate to contemporary Catholic social teaching, Cahill said. She said bringing Aquinas’ theory of natural law, which takes a ‘do good, avoid evil’ approach, into modern dialogue aids discussion about feminist theology.

“This natural law theory, applied equivalently with a 20th century lens, results in a basic notion of justice for all,” Cahill said. “Ethics of natural law offer modern Catholic feminists a solid basis to seek equality and combat global problems.”

Cahill said human beings must be responsible for each other. Solidarity should extend farther than a neighborhood or community and should cross cultures and religions, she said. Modern-day slavery, also known as human trafficking, is an important issue facing contemporary feminism, Cahill said.

“We have all this public rhetoric, but at the concrete level, there are more slaves in the world today than ever before,” she said. “In order to increase gender equality, Cahill said the world must value four themes: lifting up women through empowerment and allowing them to prove their own capabilities, focusing on the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, creating cross-cultural dialogue and calling men and women to seek human flourishing for all persons.”

“Justice is a virtue that governs right relationships in society,” Cahill said. “Human laws and practices should be based on justice. Justice is rooted in Aquinas’ natural law theory.”

Dr. Joseph Incandela, the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology, sponsored the symposium.

“Having Aquinas lectures at a Catholic college in a very significant way of calling attention to the ultimate harmony between faith and reason,” Incandela said. “Catholics colleges are founded on that harmony and work on the convergence of this approach with a significant emphasis on education.”

Contact Kaitlyn Rabach at krabach@saintmarys.edu
Career

continued from page 1

Flanagan said the university’s academic reputation and high-achieving student body also drew Flanagan to South Bend.

“Certainly working with the students here attracted me because this is a place where excellence is the standard,” she said. “It’s not something you’re striving for, it’s what exists. It’s the students, it’s the faculty, it’s everyone who’s here, so to be at a place where that’s the bar and that most people are going well above that is pretty exciting.”

Flanagan said one of her goals for her work with both undergraduates and graduate students is to change their overall perception of working with the Career Center.

“We want to get people out of the mindset that the Career Center is that place you show up at during second semester senior year to get a job,” she said. “With the way things are now, we would be doing [students] a disservice as an institution if the Career Center was just that old placement model.”

Flanagan said the first step toward altering the Center’s public reputation is exposing students to its services as early as possible, especially through the creation of new career service-oriented courses for first-year students.

“It’s about starting with [students] as freshmen, that self-assessment piece … that whole idea of networking, your social media presence, the way you present yourself professionally, it’s much more about personal brand,” she said. “That’s really what career development is about. It’s well beyond developing a resume.”

Flanagan said Svete’s promotion helped solidify support from the University administration for career services, which in turn will promote “discernment across campus as a concept.”

“There will be lots of new initiatives that won’t be siloed here but will be really collaborative across campus partners, so the Career Center will fit into … that synergy that’s here,” she said.

Flanagan said the University community outside campus, from alumni networking to positive relationships with employers who recruit heavily at Notre Dame, plays a crucial role in career development.

“Notre Dame’s community beyond the students — alumni, people who are natural champions of the University even without tangible ties to it — is a great resource for us,” she said. “The challenge in there is making sure we’re getting students to really think in terms of … using those resources in the best possible way. What’s great is Notre Dame has the community support to make things happen.”

During her adjustment to life at Notre Dame, Flanagan said she has already taken note of the unique community aspect of the University in her interactions with students.

“I met with a freshman before the Career Fair, and afterward he told me about his really successful experience and followed up with a thank-you note the next morning,” she said. “To experience what I thought would be true [about Notre Dame] but have it happen that quickly is pretty amazing. It’s one thing to hear it, but it’s another to experience it.”

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Chean nie about Ronaiah’s involvement in the Lennay Kekua hoax.

Te’o asked Ronaiah if he had been Skyping other girls and said he didn’t need Kekua admitting to Skyping other girls, the two got quieted down until Te’o texted his Skype was different. When Te’o looked into Kekua’s Facebook and Twitter, he initially declined. The program promised to air it during Friday’s show.

“Dr. Phil” airs locally on weekdays at 3 p.m. on WSBT.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

From left to right, Dr. Phil McGraw speaks with Ronaiiah Tuiasosopo, his father Titus and mother Chean nie about Ronaiiah’s involvement in the Lennay Kekua hoax.

**Opera**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Richard Wagner’s “Ring Cycle,” which Mayer said the Opera is performing in its entirety this spring to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Wagner’s birth.

“My manager told me they needed someone to fill a particular role that was being vacated, so I prepared the music with a week’s notice,” Mayer said. “It was one of those things where someone says ‘jump’ and all you can say is ‘okay, how high?’ It was nerve-wracking.

Mayer, a soprano, had auditioned for the Met in the past, but said this honor is a unique and exciting moment in her career.

“Anytime that any singer has the honor to sing something of Richard Wagner’s, that’s quite exciting,” Mayer said. “What young girl doesn’t want to sing at the Metropolitan Opera? I feel like I’ve been waiting for the Met my whole life.

Mayer said she spent 10 years training and performing in Europe before coming to South Bend to continue her career. The premiere rendition of the Ring Cycle is more modern than most, according to Mayer, and the logistical challenges of the stage and set will be unlike anything she has previously encountered.

The big issue with this production is the new set — it’s sort of like big teeter-totters, where the whole floor moves and hydraulics are involved and there are computerized productions and all,” Mayer said. “There will be a lot of climbing and movement, and the show really will be built around the set.

Another major challenge will be endurance and stamina, since “Die Walküre” is a four-and-a-half hour opera. Mayer said her personal preparation includes hours of working out and training physically for the role, which includes choreography stylistically comparable to that of Cirque du Soleil.

“They’ve been clear with us about upcoming events, able and encouraged students to share their ideas with the Office. “Participate and bring ideas. We are always open to how you see sustainability at the University,” he said. “More than anything, keep the hype up.”

Contact Evelyn Huang at ehuang1@nd.edu

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Just breathe

The question comes with a sudden feeling of anxiety and desperation, a sense of nausea in the pits of our stomachs. But we’ve settled into spring semester, and we can’t seem to avoid it:

“Do you know what you’re doing this summer yet?”

Or even worse: “Do you know what you’re doing after graduation?”

Cringe.

On Tuesday, we abandoned traditional sweats and denim for suit coats and pencil skirts, ties and button-down blouses. We dodged our friends who are happily employed come May and set out for the college student’s hunting ground — the Career Fair. The student body is job-searching with near-desperation now as the year rounds into its final turn, and we try not to visibly sweat through our perfectly ironed clothes as we chat up recruiters with a hunger for something, anything.

By today, most of those recruiters from Tuesday’s Career Fair have headed home, briefcases heavier with the weight of stacks of résumés. But the panic remains for those who have not yet settled on their summer plans or post-grad employment. To those still in freak-out mode, we have one piece of advice: Breathe.

We’re all here because we eventually have to leave for somewhere else. We’ll need to find those internships, service opportunities and jobs — and we need to put in hard work to find them. But we also need to stop stepping on our own toes as we search for the perfect job or the cookie-cutter internship to pad our résumés. When the semester ends, we will step off this campus in May with the advantages of our Notre Dame education, an education that prompts us to view the world holistically and with a distinct sense of self. But when we leave our classrooms and take that next step, we are not done learning. We choose a major based on what we want to study, but also what we think we want to do with our lives. But as we continue to study and work, we continue to learn about ourselves. Our internships and jobs are an education in themselves.

Alumnus Thom Browne earned a degree in accounting in 1988, and he is now a successful fashion designer, recently acclaimed as the designer of Michelle Obama’s chequered coat from Inauguration Day. Irish football coach Brian Kelly majored in political science at Assumption College and worked for a Massachusetts state senator before he began to coach football. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice studied piano at the beginning of her undergraduate career, but ended up pursuing a graduate degree in government and international studies from Notre Dame.

Higher education has empowered these graduates. They trusted the lessons they learned here and elsewhere to guide them as they traveled away from campus, and as they charted their own courses, they continued to learn.

As we prepare to join their alumni ranks, we’re looking forward for our first internships and our first jobs that will eventually contribute to our careers. And when we job search, we have the chance to try something new and unexpected, to take that next step and walk off the beaten path. We have the chance to move somewhere that’s not Chicago. We have the chance to challenge ourselves and to change our minds.

We have the chance to find our own brand of success, whether it is in medicine or business, service work or government. No matter where we go, we can and will continue to learn along the way.

So we can brush up our résumés and polish our business shoes. But we can also remember, in the middle of it all, to just breathe.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

“Chop your own wood and it will warm you twice.”

Henry Ford
American industrialist
Gary Caruso  
Capitol Comments

In the closing days of a campaign, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus endorsed the scheme saying “states that have been consistently blue that are fully controlled red ought to” consider the change. The GOP-batched ploy seeks to also change Ohio, Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin and Virginia’s elections currently won by democrats but won by President Obama twice. The rules-changing ploy purposefully dilutes the one-person, one-vote principle, especially in urban areas where African-Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics, the college-educated, gays and non-religious voters — mostly Democrats who twice overwhelmed supporting Obama — live in heavy concentrations.

Republicans reason they must either suppress their opponents’ electoral power at the ballot box or divide Demons of each strength. Priebus encourages this systematic rigging to help elect a Republican without actually winning a majority of the popular vote. Republicans currently claim they did not earn majority support last year, the GOP, aberrantly changing its policies, needs to rig a handful of states now to compete in the 2016 election. Republican Congressional Election College rigging that created a Republican-led Congressional Election College-based redistricting on currently gerrymandered congressional districts that will keep the GOP competitive regardless of policy flaws.

His plot is simple. The state winner would not earn all of the state’s electoral votes. Votes would be awarded one electoral vote for each congressional district. The two electoral votes of each U.S. senator would be piled onto the already skewed congressional districts’ winner regardless of the total statewide vote. Using just Pennsylvania and Virginia as examples, President Obama won all 33 electoral votes while Romney won none. The GOP scheme would allow Romney a 24-9 advantage despite losing by 300,000 and 150,000 votes respectively.

Democrats need to counter these rules changes through legislation or ballot initiatives by creating unbiased, nonpartisan commissions to redraw the congressional districts before any electoral vote redistribution. Assuredly that would reduce the atypical number of Republicans presently in congress. It will also forever discredit the amoeba-shaped Priebus districts and preserve community borders.

Interestingly, Pennsylvania traditionally exercised parity regardless of governmental party control. Its longstanding precedence — prior to the 2000 and 2010 Republican-drawn “amoeba” congressional maps — maintained the principal of “wholeness,” that is, of maintaining as many complete and natural municipal divisional lines. Most of the 67 counties were not divided. The few divided counties preserved the integrity of townships and municipalities. Districts remained quite stable without looking like amoeba with spider-legs, salamander fins and trapezoid edges.

Parity existed for three decades from Watergate and the Reagan landslide through the Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich elections. Democrats peaked with a 13-10 edge while Republicans held an 11-9 edge, the state last year. Since then, however, the Pennsylvania GOP has shamelessly created disfigured districts, even splitting my small hometown, Canonsburg, along certain streets to dilute the impact of traditionally reliant Democratic votes. Republicans gained a 12-7 edge that was washed out by anti-Bush sentiment to favor Democrats 11-9. But in 2012, Pennsylvania Republicans recreated a 13-5 delegation advantage through grotesque tentacle-looking districts that split a majority of districts and major cities to dilute their natural community vote.

As national voter demographics evolve, the GOP has decided to tilt the states so hinging on newly trending blue states like Texas, Georgia and Arizona. That looming shadow portends a Republican winter longer than six years. In any case, thankful the GOP does not forecast the weather.

Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame ’73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director at the U.S. House of Representatives and in President Bush’s administration. His column appears every other Friday. Contact him at GaryJC Caruso@alumni.nd.edu

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

Jack Rooney  
The Liberal Medium

Last Monday, my humble campus was finally blessed with one of Mother Nature’s most truly magnificent gifts: snow. To some of us on campus, this powdery white precipitation might be viewed as a nuisance, to others, a novelty. All of us, however, have made the transition from sneakers and Sperrys to ugg. All of us, however, have made the transition from sneakers and Sperrys to ugg. All of us, however, have made the transition from sneakers and Sperrys to ugg. All of us, however, have made the transition from sneakers and Sperrys to ugg.

The GOP’s electoral groundhog game

The GOP’s electoral groundhog game

I am perfectly content to wait for spring because in a way, I think winter, and especially the snow, brings out the best in us. Sure, at times the serene beauty of winter brings with it bone-chilling winds and dangerously icy sidewalks, but it’s all worth it. While walking to class early in the morning last week through the wind that is South Quad, I heard someone yell, in a voice much too loud for any time before 9 a.m., “Weather builds character!” Though this merry winter warrior was certainly aiming for physical humor, I found profound truth in his exclamation as well. As a matter of fact, I think it is remarkably true in a number of ways.

Of course, the cold, wind and snow build our physical durability, but weather builds character in a much deeper way than simply thickening our skin. I have found snow makes us more willing and happy to help one another. Whenever it snows at home, one of my neighbors always elective the snowplow the entire length of the block with a snow blower before anyone else is even awake. When Chicago was inundated with snow in the winter of 2011-12, all of our neighborhood took on the waist-high snowdrifts together. Never before, or since, have I seen such impromptu teamwork and genuine care for the community.

Perhaps more than bringing people together though, I love the snow because it is so simply and uniquely fun. Nothing quite lets out our inner child than the prospect of playing in the snow until we can’t feel our fingers anymore. The simple fact is winter allows us to revert to our five-year-old selves for a while and make snow angels, go ice-skating and build snowmen. This observation was perfectly portrayed last Wednesday night, when at the stroke of midnight, hundreds of my fellow students and I, all legal adults this mind you, took to South Quad and engaged in the largest snowball fight I have ever had the pleasure of partaking in. For the record, I am proud to claim, though unauthoritatively so, a victory for South Quad.

Winter affects our lives in many more ways, too, many of them we don’t necessarily realize. In many areas, including Chicago, the “politics of snow” is a well-documented political phenomenon. With electoral elections occurring in the middle of winter, the timely and effective management of snowstorms can make or break a campaign. As a matter of fact, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley’s re-election campaign in 1979, partly due to his mismanagement of a blizzard in January of that year that dumped just shy of 19 inches of snow on the city. In the same vein, many Midwestern governments regularly spend tens of millions of dollars on snow removal each winter.

As a self-professed literary nerd, though, perhaps my favorite impact snow has on our lives comes in the symbolic nature of snow. In literature, snow can be used as a symbol of purity and rebirth. Snow, particularly an excess of snow, is traditionally used to represent death. Or, as James Joyce most beautifully depicted the snow in his short story “The Dead,” snow can be the universe’s great equalizer, joyously stunningly and elegantly depicts the snow “falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead.”

Beyond all of the politics, symbolism and cultural significance though, it all comes back to the simplicity and beauty of nature. Indeed, there are few moments in one’s life more breathtakingly beautiful and romantic than watching fragile flakes of snow descend gently to the ground in a quiet winter’s night. Take some time to sit back, relax and enjoy the snow.

Jack Rooney is a freshman studying political science. He can be contacted at jrooney1@nd.edu

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

Enjoy the snow

The GOP’s electoral groundhog game

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7
Super bowl Sunday is all about over-the-top extravagance. The bruising Ravens are squaring off against the high-octane 49ers. The host city? None other than boozy, revelry-loving New Orleans. The biggest diva in music, Beyoncé, is set to perform at halftime, perhaps with her former bandmates from Destiny’s Child making an appearance. Corporations are shelling out nearly $4 million for a 30-second advertising spot. In other words, go big or go home.

As a spectator, you had better be ready to uphold your end of the excessive bargain. That means if you are hosting or attending a Super bowl party, don’t plan on ordering pizza or cutting any corners in supplying limitless belly-filling grub. Super bowl Sunday comes but once a year, so make sure you do it right and make some delicious (though not nutritious) snacks for the big game.

Whether you live off-campus and have access to a full kitchen or live in a dorm and are limited in space and cooking supplies, making some delectable snacks for Sunday’s festivities is not only easy but also rewarding. homemade snacks will impress friends and taste infinitely better than the store-bought variety.

For this weekend, fellow Scene writer Kicki Astuno and I have prepared a savory and a sweet snack — Buffalo Chicken dip and No-bake Cocoa Peanut butter Cookies. Both are super easy to make and taste deliciously indulgent. You can make the dip first, and while it is baking in the oven you’ll have plenty of time to prepare the cookies. It’s as easy as that. Be sure to also check out our corresponding video of Kicki and I preparing these snacks in the kitchen at ndsmcobserver.com. Both recipes are adapted from AllRecipes.com.

**Buffalo Chicken dip**

**Serves eight**

**Ingredients**

- 1.5 pounds grilled chicken, chopped and shredded
- 16 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup ranch dressing
- ¾ cup hot sauce
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

**Nachos and/or crackers for serving**

**Directions**

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Spread shredded chicken in a large baking dish.
3. Pour ranch dressing and hot sauce over the chicken. Add in cream cheese and one cup of the cheddar cheese. With a large spoon, break up and stir mixture in the pan.
4. Sprinkle the remaining cup of cheddar cheese over the mixture. Bake in the oven 25-30 minutes, until bubbling.
5. Remove and let cool for five minutes.
6. Serve with nachos or crackers.

**No-bake Cocoa Peanut butter Cookies**

**Makes 24 cookies**

**Ingredients**

- 2 cups white sugar
- ⅛ cup butter
- ⅛ cup milk
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2/3 cup smooth peanut butter
- 3 cups quick cooking oats
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

**Directions**

1. Place a large sheet of wax paper on a baking sheet or kitchen counter. In a medium saucepan, combine sugar, butter, milk and cocoa. Cook the mixture over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture reaches a rolling boil. Remove the saucepan from the heat and let it cool for a minute. Stir in the peanut butter until smooth. Add the oats and vanilla, stirring until mixed in well.
2. Using a spoon, ice cream scoop or cookie dropper, drop heaping tablespoons onto the wax paper. Allow the cookies to cool completely before serving.
By MIKO MALABUTE
Scene Writer

"Movie 43" is a mess from the start to even after the credits when an inappropriate shot about a cartoon cat begins. However, the film’s consistent self-awareness of its own dreadfulness is enough for many of the viewers to excuse the on-screen abomination they just witnessed. The film aims and hits so low that it should be considered groundbreaking in the art of intentional tastlessness. Bravo, “Movie 43.” You deserve every missing Clover in this rating.

THE MASSIVE MESS OF ‘MOVIE 43’

By WILLIAM NEAL
Scene Writer

I don’t know where to begin with “Movie 43.” There is no denying that this is a truly terrible movie, but sticking with that logic would be taking the easy way out of this review. I say this because it was clearly the intention of everyone involved in the project to make one of the crudest and most tasteless films the public has ever seen.

Yes, “Movie 43” is awful, but that’s because it never stops trying to be awful. There have been many films in the past that have shared this same intention (“Scary Movie,” “Kung Pow: Enter the Fist,” “Marx Attacks,” “Star Wars: The Phantom Menace”), but “Movie 43” takes this concept to new height. Basically, it’s a film made up of shorts, each with a different director and cast of familiar faces. The only cohesive factor of this movie is the overarching story of a crazed screenwriter (Dennis Quaid) pitching one awful idea after another to a producer (Greg Kinnear) who grows increasingly disturbed with each story. Side note: I’m not sure if Dennis Quaid is supposed to be playing himself here, but he doesn’t have a name in the movie and makes numerous remarks about his “out of work” status.

Anyway, the movie’s first short features the two biggest stars of the “Movie 43” extended cast, Hugh Jackman and Kate Winslet. Despite their extended experience with sophisticated dramas, Jackman and Winslet have one of the more crude storylines in which a woman’s blind date turns out to have a prominent sexual deformity. Whether or not this is your brand of humor, you can’t help but laugh that these two talented actors have agreed to star in a segment as ridiculous as this. In fact, when we cut back to Quaid after the story, Kinnear says an actress like Winslet would never attach herself to such a film. In fact, when we cut back to Quaid after the story, Kinnear says an actress like Winslet would never attach herself to such a film. In fact, when we cut back to Quaid after the story, Kinnear says an actress like Winslet would never attach herself to such a film. It’s a film made up of shorts, each with a different director and cast of familiar faces. The only cohesive factor of this movie is the overarching story of a crazed screenwriter (Dennis Quaid) pitching one awful idea after another to a producer (Greg Kinnear) who grows increasingly disturbed with each story. Side note: I’m not sure if Dennis Quaid is supposed to be playing himself here, but he doesn’t have a name in the movie and makes numerous remarks about his “out of work” status.

Anyway, the movie’s first short features the two biggest stars of the “Movie 43” extended cast, Hugh Jackman and Kate Winslet. Despite their extended experience with sophisticated dramas, Jackman and Winslet have one of the more crude storylines in which a woman’s blind date turns out to have a prominent sexual deformity. Whether or not this is your brand of humor, you can’t help but laugh that these two talented actors have agreed to star in a segment as ridiculous as this. In fact, when we cut back to Quaid after the story, Kinnear says an actress like Winslet would never attach herself to such a film. In fact, when we cut back to Quaid after the story, Kinnear says an actress like Winslet would never attach herself to such a film. It’s a film made up of shorts, each with a different director and cast of familiar faces. The only cohesive factor of this movie is the overarching story of a crazed screenwriter (Dennis Quaid) pitching one awful idea after another to a producer (Greg Kinnear) who grows increasingly

"Movie 43"
Relativity Media

Director: Bob Odenkirk
Cast: Dennis Quaid, Hugh Jackman, Kate Winslet, Anna Faris and Emma Stone

"The most important question here is "does the movie make you laugh?" Well, yes and no. For a film that relies on telling several isolated stories, not all of them are going to deliver. Overall, "Movie 43" is a mess from the start to even after the credits when an inappropriate shot about a cartoon cat begins. However, the film’s consistent self-awareness of its own dreadfulness is enough for many of the viewers to excuse the on-screen abomination they just witnessed. The film aims and hits so low that it should be considered groundbreaking in the art of intentional tastlessness. Bravo, "Movie 43." You deserve every missing Clover in this rating.
The sacred tradition of Wimbledon

Mary Green
Sports Writer

Editor’s note: This is the fifth in a 10-part series discussing the best event in sports. In this installment, Mary Green argues for Wimbledon.

When I applied to this fine university, the admissions essay options included the question, “What is on your bucket list?” Naturally, I had to include some sort of sporting event, but the dilemma remained of which one to choose. Would I pick the Super Bowl and the entertainment circus that surrounds it? Should I stick to my Southern roots and surround it? Might I go for “best Record-breaking showdown in tennis history”?

Instead, I wrote that I wanted to attend one certain event, “to witness the harmony between time-honored tradition and fierce competition in a setting that has drawn even the Queen of England herself.” If I were going to pick Wimbledon on my list because it is a tournament unlike any other.

Of course named The Championships, Wimbledon, the tournament started in 1877, making it one of the oldest, continuously-running athletic competitions in the world. Each June, hundreds of thousands of spectators, ranging from casual fans to tennis fanatics, descend upon the All England Club for a fortnight to attend arguably the most prestigious of the tennis Grand Slam championships.

In the past few years, fans have witnessed some of the most notable matches in the sport’s history on the most notable courts in the world. Each June, hundreds of thousands of spectators pack the grounds, filling the stadium to the brim, causing the roaring to reverberate off the walls, and the sight of the British flag adds to the aura of the event.

The Championships include matches that span three days and win the pair the ESPY for “Best Record-Breaking Performance” two weeks later.

Two years earlier, crowds were treated to what some call the best match in history, the 2008 gentlemen’s singles final between Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. This epic showdown pitted the then-No. 1 and No. 2 players against each other for nearly five hours of fast-paced tennis, showcasing the brute strength of Rafa and the polished finesse of Roger. At the end of a match that kept viewers on the edges of their seats for the duration, the outcome signaled a changing of the guard as Nadal claimed his first Wimbledon title and overtook Federer as the world’s No. 1 player.

Though these matches have yielded new legends and tales for the ages, Wimbledon fans don’t just flock to the All England Club for the tennis. They come for everything the tournament embodies: the all-white dress code, strawberries and cream, the Royal Box, Wimbledon’s tradition, both on and off the court, distinguishes it from the three other Grand Slams.

With the international popularity of tennis, the Championships embrace fans from all corners of the globe. No, it is not as popular an international event as the World Cup or the Olympics. However, Wimbledon’s distinction from those two events is that it is true to itself.

The World Cup and the Olympics try to keep up with the times by building ultra-modern stadiums and promoting themselves using the likes of Shakira and the Spice Girls. Wimbledon does none of that.

The tournament keeps tradition alive by honoring the same time-proven practices that have been in place for decades. Instead of opting for an additional day of play that would bring in more revenue, the Club’s officials still insist on taking a day of rest on the middle Sunday of competition. Wimbledon does not try to alter its identity for the sake of progress, and it does not need flashy sideshows to draw in audiences. The Championships are reliable and steadfast, something that will not change any time soon. This unwavering nature in a quickly changing world, in addition to the incredible tennis, makes Wimbledon not only a unique sporting event but also the best sporting event in the world. Like innumerable other fans around the world, I just hope I will be able to walk the grounds of the All England Club and cross Wimbledon off my bucket list sometime soon.

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

SMC Swimming

SMC prepares for showdown with Olivet

By RICH HIDY
Sports Writer

After falling to Calvin and Kalamazoo, the Belles will attempt to rebound against Olivet on Saturday at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.

The Belles are looking for a strong performance in their final test before the MIAA championships that begin Feb. 13. “This event is going to be very evenly matched and it is important that we close out the regular season strong in order to get ready for conference play,” Belles coach Mark Benishek said.

One of the match’s intriguing events will be the 50-yard freestyle. Belles sophomore Anna Nolan, coming off a pair of third-place finishes in the 50-free and the 100-yard backstroke, will face fellow sophomore Ilarmin Johnson of Olivet. Both Nolan and Johnson are in the upper echelon of competitors in the MIAA. As a team Saint Mary’s excels in the 200-yard freestyle relay, the final event to close out the weekend. The quartet, which is led by Nolan and senior Ellie Watson, finished in the top five in Saint Mary’s school history against Calvin and Kalamazoo.

Benishek said the Belles are concentrating on intense preparation in advance of the MIAA championships. If Saint Mary’s is going to make a splash in that tournament, it will need to build momentum against Olivet, Benishek said.

“This is a great precursor for what is coming ahead,” Benishek said. “We will try to earn some impressive times this weekend as we finalize our training for the last meet.”

The Belles will swim against Olivet on Saturday at the Rolfs Aquatic Center beginning at 1 p.m.

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Notre Dame hosts two teams

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame returns home this weekend to host a pair of back-to-back dual meets. The Irish (3-2) will host No. 5 Duke and IUPUI on Sunday afternoon in the Eck Tennis Pavilion. Last weekend, Notre Dame fell 4-3 in a tough loss to No. 28 Harvard, but returned the next day to sweep No. 31 Memphis 4-0. In both matches, claiming the doubles point fueled Notre Dame’s momentum.

“We have been focusing on maintaining that energy and intensity that we brought against Memphis,” Irish junior Ryan Bandy said. “We will use that win to propel us into the weekend.”

The Irish will need to bring forward the lessons learned last weekend as they look to take down undefeated Duke (5-0). The Blue Devils most recently defeated No. 37 Northwestern 4-0, handing the Wildcats their first loss of the season. The Blue Devils shine in all areas of play, led by the No. 1 pair in the country in doubles play, Henrique Cunha and Michael Mengel, along with No. 39 Fred Saba and Chris Redlicki, No. 23 Saba, No. 38 Hemmeler, No. 43 Mengel and No. 123 Tahir.

IUPUI enters its match with Irish without a win. The Jaguars (0-6) most recently faced UW-Green Bay in a 7-0 loss. In that meet, they lost each singles set and each round of doubles competition.

The Irish enter the weekend of competition having recently seen one of their youngest contributors earn an award. Freshman Quentin Monaghan earned the Big East Player of the Week honor Wednesday after going 2-1 in the No. 3 singles slot last weekend. He follows junior teammate Greg Andrews, who earned the honor the week before. Both Monaghan and Andrews have played large roles in Notre Dame’s success this season.

The Irish have been struggling all season in doubles play, but the win over Memphis served as an opportunity for improvement when they won the doubles point. They will look to continue performing this weekend against both visiting squads.

“We have been working on doubles and on specific skills for individual guys,” senior Blas Moros said.

Play begins at 12 p.m. Sunday against Duke and will continue at 6 p.m. against IUPUI.

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Squad looks to bounce back

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

This weekend the Irish face their final competition of the regular season. Notre Dame travels to Evanston, Ill., today for the Northwestern Invitational, where it will face Northwestern, Missouri State and No. 20 Iowa.

“This upcoming meet is one last chance to race before conference,” senior Chris Johnson said.

The Irish enter this weekend having lost for the first time this season as Harvard topped them 264-100 at the Shamrock Invitational on Saturday. Notre Dame earned a split, however, when they topped Towson 279-69.

The Northwestern Invitational serves as the last preparation before the Big East championships, which begin Feb. 27. As the defending champions, the Irish have been looking forward to the meet all season. The Invitational will allow the squad to see where full adjustments need to be made.

Northwestern is 1-1 this season, coming most recently off a 161-122 loss at Iowa, another team the Irish will face this weekend. Freshman Jordan Willimovsky has led the squad throughout this season, winning the 1,000-yard freestyle at Iowa with a time of 9:27.14. Senior Charlie Rinkus has also played a large role in the team’s success, coming just one-hundredth of a second shy of first place in the 200-yard butterfly at Iowa.

Northwestern’s strongest event at Iowa was the 50-yard freestyle, in which Wildcats earned four of the top five spots. On the diving side, junior Nick Pinkerton won the one-meter dive at Iowa with 265.00 points.

Prior to the Hawkeyes’ win against Northwestern, Iowa had back-to-back losses against No. 8 Indiana and No. 10 Ohio State. Iowa brings a wide range of talent to the meet, especially in the 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke. The Hawkeyes finished with three swimmers in the top three in both events against Northwestern, led by senior Jordan Huff’s 45.18-seconds finish in the freestyle and sophomore Korey Schneider’s 55.07-seconds finish in the breaststroke. On the board, freshman Addison Bos cute posted a personal best in both the one- and three-meter dives with 325.13 and 341.78 points, respectively.

Missouri State (3-3) enters the meet off a 119-85 win at Missouri S&T last weekend. The Bears broke four pool records in the meet, none of which are currently ranked. The Irish got a good look at Tennessee last weekend. This Sunday, the two squads will see who made better use of the early scouting report.

Although Notre Dame did not play Tennessee at the ITA Kick-Off last weekend, the No. 18 Irish (3-1) were on hand to watch the No. 25 senior Charlie Rinkus and Britney Sanders. “Their doubles are always very good, and we’re usually very strong in the doubles, too,” Louderback said. “We usually have an advantage over teams, but against them we really don’t.”

Notre Dame has only had one easy win so far: a 7-0 sweep over Bowling Green on Jan. 18. The other three matches have been 4-3 nail-biters, with Notre Dame winning two against Illinois and Georgia Tech and losing the third to Nebraska. Louderback said these early tests can help his team as they head into the bulk of their spring schedule.

“I feel good about how our kids have played under pressure against some good teams,” Louderback said. “To win 4-3 games against those teams is not easy to do, and I think they’re feeling more comfortable playing matches.

“We haven’t played since the first of November, so it’s just getting into the matches, getting used to playing against other opponents, and I thought our kids have handled it really well so far.”

The Irish and Volunteers will hit the courts at the Eck Tennis Pavilion at 9 a.m. Sunday.

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Ohio State

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Fortunately for the Irish, they will have their entire roster to counter the Buckeyes as junior right wing Michael Voran made the trip to Columbus, Ohio, and is expected to play, Jackson said. "[Wednesday] was the first day of the 2012-2013 season where we actually practiced our entire roster," Jackson said. "Right now I think we've got five lines worth of guys that could potentially play."

That fact bodes well for Notre Dame as its opponents will have difficulties matching a healthy Irish roster, Irish junior center T.J. Tynan said.

"Depth is huge for a team and I think we are a deep team," Tynan said. "When we get four lines rolling, there are not many teams that will be able to keep up with us. I think we got away from that during the struggles that we had. It was big to get goals from other guys this [last] weekend."

In addition to receiving goals from the third and fourth lines Saturday, the Notre Dame also netted a power-play goal to finish Saturday's game, ending its 0-for-14 power play streak.

"We've worked on power play every day this week," Jackson said. "It's just a matter of them getting their mojo back, their chemistry back."

Notre Dame's goal-scoring issues have not been contained just to its power play unit as the team averaged 1.5 goals per game in its eight games in January.

"We've been too perimeter-ish, which has led to not scoring a lot of goals. In all situations, we just have to be more intense at getting to the net, whether it's from the cycle, on the power play, off the rush or off faceoffs," Jackson said. "It takes effort and it takes courage. We have to continue to push them to fight for that ice."

"Hopefully we can build off what we did Saturday night and come back with a great performance on Friday!"

The Irish will take the ice against the Buckeyes tonight and Saturday at Value City Arena in Columbus, Ohio, at 7:05 p.m.

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Notre Dame travels to Chicago for duels

By BRENDAN BELL
Sports Writer

After a successful weekend in New York in which the men and women compiled an overall record of 15-5, Notre Dame will take part in the Northwestern Duals in Evanston, Ill., on Saturday.

Last weekend the Irish turned in strong performances in back-to-back competitions. First, Notre Dame competed in the St. John's Invitational, where the men's team went 3-2 record and the women went 5-4, dominating some of the strongest competition in the country. The next day at the NYU Invitational, the men matched their 3-2 record while the women went 4-1.

Sophomore foil Madison Zeiss competed last weekend and said the team was excited about the results, especially given the nature of early season meets.

"I was there for both meets and I think we performed extremely well," Zeiss said. "Given the low preparation time and how close the meet was after winter break, it was a very good confidence boost for the rest of the season."

Zeiss said while the team fenced well, the specific matchups helped produce the successful results.

"A lot of the team gave really strong performances," Zeiss said. "Coach [Bednarski] was matching us up with the people that we knew we would perform well against."

Zeiss said there will be opportunities this weekend to go up against some fresh competition.

"This weekend there will be a few of the same teams, but also a few new ones," Zeiss said. "All of these teams will be the teams we are competing against at the national championship level, though, and so it is critical for us this weekend."

Among the teams competing this weekend are women's No. 1 Princeton, as well as traditionally strong men's programs Ohio State and Stanford.

Zeiss said it is difficult this early in the season to determine how strong the other squads will be, but she expects the level of competition to be high.

"I don't know how strong the other teams are and how hard they have been training, but we can control our own performance, and I know we have been working hard," Zeiss said.

Zeiss said the Irish have not deviated from their regular routine since last weekend's competitions.

"We fenced well and had hard practices on Tuesday and Wednesday, and then Thursday we took it easy in preparation for Saturday," Zeiss said.

Notre Dame will take to the mats Saturday in Evanston, Ill., for the Northwestern Duals.

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By ANDREW CHENG

Notre Dame and Cincinnati meet Saturday at 2 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

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Irish to scrimmage Detroit

By SAM GANS  
Sports Writer

The Irish will take the field for the first time on their own campus this season when they host Detroit in an exhibition Saturday night.

The matchup against the Titans is Notre Dame’s last preseason game before traveling to Duke for the regular season opener Feb. 16. Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said the primary objective of the scrimmage against Detroit is to prepare for the clash against the Blue Devils.

“My objective any time before our first game is to prepare us for our first game,” Corrigan said. “I really don’t care what the result of our scrimmage is, short of I need to learn what I need to know about our team, our guys need the opportunity to prepare themselves and their play and stuff for the first game.”

The Irish enter the season ranked No. 3 in the country, while Big East coaches selected them as the favorites to win the conference in the league’s preseason coaches’ poll. Notre Dame won the Big East regular season title last season with an undefeated conference record, but lost to St. John’s in the semifinals of the Big East tournament and bowed out against Loyola in the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament.

“I think that … in every area we saw things that we needed to get better at. Maybe some things where we need to put more of our efforts somewhere else,” Corrigan said. “Maybe some areas where we need to look at the personnel we have in certain situations.

“And then things like cleaning, where we didn’t clear the ball well, it cost us goals. Defensively, the problem was more that we weren’t clearing the ball than it was that we were playing bad defense, and so we’ve got to make some progress there.”

The Irish will square off against the Titans at 7 p.m. Saturday night in the Loftus Center.

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Notre Dame returns home

By RICH HIDY  
Sports Writer

The Irish return home this weekend to take on hundreds of participants in one of the most prestigious tournaments in the country, the 26th Meyo Invitational, inside the Loftus Sports Center on Friday and Saturday.

The meet will feature roughly 50 teams that represent different conferences, including the Big Ten, SEC, Big East and the ACC.

The ‘Meyo Mile’ will feature runners attempting to break the four-minute barrier, a noteworthy accomplishment.

“People from all across the country come in and everybody tries to break four minutes,” freshman distance runner Josh O’Brien said. “Historically we have a professional runner who paces the run. For fans that are interested, you might not ever see this again in your lifetime,” O’Brien said.

In each of the past two seasons, senior Jeremy Rae earned first place in the mile run while cracking the prestigious four-minute mark. Rae turned in a time of 3:59.62 last year, falling just short of his 2011 time of 3:59.62. The senior is injured this season and no member of the Irish will participate in this mile sprint.

The Irish will be looking to turn in a strong performance this weekend in preparation for the Big East championships.

“Coach [Joe] Piane has been stressing that we get in a good week of practice,” O’Brien said. “We need to be sharp and prepared come race time. Our previous training is designed for us to do well in this meet. We have worked on faster repeats to sharpen up our form.”

The Meyo Invitational begins Friday and runs through Saturday, concluding with the men’s 4x400 meter relay.

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slump-busting resurgence, freshman forward Zach Auguste provided crucial minutes against the Wildcats on Wednesday. Auguste scored four points in six minutes off the bench and mixed up the rotation for Notre Dame.

“I talked about sometimes how your rotation can get stale,” Brey said. “I think it’s fair to say we were a little stale with our rotation. ... Those [new] guys give us life and juice. It’s energized the guys that are playing heavy minutes having those guys come in, having a new guy to kind of help.”

Brey said he is especially pleased with the fresh physicality Knight and Cooley provide when playing together. Cooley has hauled in 30 rebounds in the last two games while Knight has played a more bruising post game than did the perimeter-oriented Martin.

“We’re playing two big guys,” Brey said. “Only a couple times [Wednesday] did we have one big in. ... We’re playing two big guys and those two big guys have got to screen and pound away and get on the board. I think the tone that the two of them set — Jack has a side-kick now pounding away — it makes the rest of our team more physical.”

The Irish will look for more of that physicality Saturday when they go up against DePaul’s 6-foot-8 junior forward Cleveland Melvin, who leads the Blue Demons in scoring and rebounding with 16.7 points and 7.8 rebounds per game. Melvin scored 16 points against the Irish last season in a losing effort.

Junior guard Brandon Young is tied with Melvin in scoring at 16.7 points per game. Young leads DePaul in Big East play with nearly 18 points per contest. The Baltimore native scored a game-high 21 points in DePaul’s 79-74 overtime loss to St. John’s on Wednesday.

The Irish will turn to a pair of their own Maryland guards to square off with Young on Saturday. Junior Eric Atkins ranks third in the Big East with 6.3 assists per game while fellow junior Jerian Grant ranks sixth with 5.6 helpers per contest.

Recently, Atkins and Grant have been part of an Irish effort to play more aggressively on both ends of the court.

“We pressured the ball a little bit more [Wednesday] instead of our three-point line defense,” Brey said. “We got out and we contested some. We trapped some ball screens, which is an aggressive thing. Everything is kind of attacking and I think our guys are really feeling good about that and if we made a mistake and it’s something attacking and playing really hard we’ll live with it.”

Despite the recent energy and optimism, Cooley said the Irish have not proved anything with their recent two-game stretch.

“It’s really good to keep winning, but we’ve got to keep doing it,” Cooley said after beating Villanova. “We can’t look at it that we’re on a streak or that we’ve won any games. We just have got to keep thinking we’ve only got five wins and we’re in the mix.

“We’re not in the lead, so we need to keep fighting and scrapping to make our way in this league.”

The Irish take on the Blue Demons on Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill.

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Righting the ship

Irish carry momentum into matchup against DePaul with key adjustments and physical play

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

Reinvented and reinvigorated, the Irish look to direct the momentum from their current two-game win streak toward Saturday’s matchup with DePaul in Rosemont, Ill.

After losing three of four games and losing graduate student guard Scott Martin to injury, Notre Dame (17-4, 5-3 Big East) has righted the ship with an influx of newfound energy. In his first start of the season, senior forward Tom Knight powered the Irish with a career-high 18 points in a 73-65 victory against South Florida on Saturday and freshman forward Cam Bieschod busted out of his slump Wednesday by scoring a career-high 18 points to help top Villanova 65-60.

The Irish, who returned the same five starters from last year’s NCAA tournament squad, have been forced to adjust since Martin’s knee injury. Irish coach Mike Brey said Notre Dame has adjusted and is simply looking to get a win against the Blue Demons (10-10, 1-6), who have lost five consecutive games and seven of their last eight.

“You go into the season thinking you’re going to be something and stuff happens and you’ve got to kind of shift gears and I kind of like where we’re at right now,” Brey said after Wednesday’s win. “I don’t know who we’ll be in two weeks but we’ll do what we’ve got to do to win a league game.”

In addition to Knight’s elevated role and Bieschaid’s 0 CC hA), relieved to put their losing streak Saturday, one win. "I don’t know who we’ll

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Irish seek to continue streak

By BRIAN HARTNEIT
Sports Writer

As No. 2 Notre Dame looks to extend its season-high winning streak Saturday at Purcell Pavilion, it will face a Cincinnati squad currently trending in the opposite direction. The Bearcats (8-12, 0-7 Big East) have lost seven straight games since their last victory, a win over Long Island on Dec. 30.

Meanwhile, Notre Dame (19-1, 7-0) has won 14 straight games into its share of offensive woes. The Bearcats average a conference-low 53 points per game. Nonetheless, the Bearcats possess a talented scorer in senior guard Dayonta Hollins who leads the team in scoring with 15 points per game.

"She’s hard to guard, she has great speed and can really score," McGraw said of Hollins. "We had trouble last year trapping her, and we weren’t really successful in anything we tried."

McGraw said the best game plan to counter Hollins involves strong communication.