Students stand with Bangladesh

University members call for justice for war criminals, protest life sentence of Islamic party leader

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

Approximately 36 Notre Dame students from Bangladesh are standing in solidarity with their nation from more than 8,000 miles away.

Protests broke out across Bangladesh on Feb. 5 after Abdul Kader Mullah, the leader of the country’s largest Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami, received a sentence of life in prison for crimes committed during the war for liberation from Pakistan in 1971, according to Time Magazine. Jamaat-e-Islami members collaborated with Pakistan to perpetrate widespread rape, mass killings and a push against intellectuals, also according to Time.

Ahmed said many Bangladeshis thought the life sentence was not sufficiently severe.

“People thought that if somebody is given a life sentence for doing this sort of crime, then other crimes, like normal murders and other rapes, they don’t have justification for giving … capital punishment,” Ahmed said. “Their goal was to protest against that.”

Ahmed said Mullah should receive the death penalty because not only did he help plan Jamaat-e-Islami’s crimes, but he also participated in them.

“If someone who is actually involved in a crime is not given the capital punishment, what will happen to the other people who see Bangladesh’s PAGE 6

Aid offered in Zhang’s memory

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Editor

When Saint Mary’s then-freshman Ziqi Zhang entered electrical engineering professor Alan Seabaugh’s office last year to discuss her application for a summer NURF fellowship, Seabaugh said she knew Zhang was a special student.

“You could just see she was very mature beyond her years … not so self-centered,” Seabaugh said. “She was just open to everybody and wanted to know about all different things. We decided to offer the position to her, which was very rare for that to happen for a freshman.”

Zhang spent the summer of 2012 doing research in a Notre Dame nanoscience lab. Just months after completing her fellowship, the sophomore from China died in a bike accident near the entrance of Saint Mary’s campus Oct. 18.

To “carry her memory a little farther,” Seabaugh said one of this year’s NURF fellowships will be dedicated to Zhang.

“We wanted … to honor her because she touched everybody here in a big way,” he said. “I think none of us appreciated her as much as we did after all this happened because she

see ZHANG’s PAGE 6

Election results revealed

Observer Staff Report

The Judicial Council announced the results of the class council executive elections Thursday evening.

Next year’s Senior Class Council will be led by president Carolina Wilson, vice president Patrick Troy, treasurer Elizabeth Gibbons and secretary Michael Nichols. Rising juniors will be served by president Olivia LaMagua, vice president Caitlin Smith, treasurer Briggs Hoyt and secretary Martin Walsh.

Sophomore Class Council leadership will consist of John Gersfenstette, Michael DeSantis, Jane Goodson and Megan Schilling, who will serve as president, vice president, treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Elections for Freshman Class Council will take place in the fall.

Duncan develops new tradition in style

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

Residents of Duncan Hall have found an easier way to get their hands on a green blazer than winning the Masters Tournament.

Duncan presented 105 Highlanders with kelly green blazers at the hall’s first ever blazer ceremony Thursday night in the hall’s main lounge.

Duncan Hall president opened the event by introducing a speech from senior Josh Whelan, who was one of the organizers behind the blazers. Junior Joseph Whalen, Duncan Hall vice president, read each individual’s name as he received his blazer.

Whelan said the event was less about the ceremony itself and more about the blazers.

“The ceremony was a little extra event at the end of a long process,” Whelan said. “It was more of a formality to make this more of a tradition. The important thing is having the blazers and being able to wear them to our events.”

Whelan said part of his motivation for starting the blazer ceremony was Duncan’s lack of traditions because it is a relatively new dorm.

“I was looking for a way to create a tradition and change the reputation of Duncan from the new dorm with nicer rooms to a dorm with its own traditions,” he said.

In the future, the blazer could become an identifier for Duncan residents and a staple at events like pep rallies, Whelan said.

“Hopefully the blazers will be something recognizable that we

see BLAZERS PAGE 6
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What is one thing on your Notre Dame bucket list?

Christina Gutierrez
sophomore
Walsh Hall
“Plant a garden on South Quad.”

Emily Morgan
freshman
Panbhorn Hall
“Make an appearance on @ndmakeouts.”

Henry Schneider
sophomore
O’Neill Hall
“Climb to the top of the St. Mary’s water tower.”

Ingrid Adams
sophomore
Panbhorn Hall
“Get a grappling hook and climb to the top of South.”

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:
Want your event included here? Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Friday
Train Your Inner Jedi!
St. Liam Hall
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Workshop to cultivate focus and calmness.

Saturday
Annual Bridal Expo
Joyce Center
9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fashion show by Ashlee Rene’s Bridal.

Sunday
Men’s Basketball
Purcell Pavilion
2 p.m.-4 p.m.
Notre Dame vs. Cincinnati.

Monday
“Indictment of Child Labor by the Arts”
Hesburgh Center
7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
CCHR Symposium.

Tuesday
Women’s Basketball
Purcell Pavilion
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Notre Dame vs. Syracuse.

Four:7 Catholic Fellowship
Cavanaugh Hall
8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Student-led fellowship.

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

THE OBSERVER | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2013 | ndsmcoBServer.com

Free giveaways.

WEI LIN | The Observer

A referee lifts senior Joey “Kangaroo” Kim’s arm to pronounce him the winner of his match against MBA student Brendan “Mr. Balloonsands” Andrew in last night’s quarterfinal for the 155-lb. division. Bengals Bouts is an annual boxing tournament that raises funds for Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.
RecSports ‘holiday’ supports fitness goals

By CATHERINE Owers
News Writer

In celebration of National Recreational Sports and Fitness Day today, the Office of Recreational Sports (RecSports) is encouraging students not only to be fit, but also to inform its community about eating disorders.

Sophomore Kelly Gutrich, co-chair of Love Your Body Week, said the week’s events will educate students on how to maintain a healthy and self-accepting lifestyle in connection with National Eating Disorders Week.

As an undergraduate at the College, Grasso helped begin Love Your Body Week in 2011 and spoke about her own battle with anorexia nervosa at one of the first events.

"I am more than willing to get up in front of a crowd and reveal parts of myself, so others can know that they are not alone and that it is growing in the community as a day to be recognized."

RecSports is also using the day to promote the activities and programs it provides throughout the year, Grass said. "Since our launch five years ago, we have raised over $200,000, "Grasso said. "Inpatient and residential treatment for eating disorders are often imperative for survival and recovery." Grass said that Project HEAL assists women who cannot afford treatment for these disorders. This treatment costs between $500 and $2,000 per day and is not usually covered by health care, according to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health.

“Since our launch five years ago, we have raised over $200,000 and sent seven applicants to treatment, all of whom are doing well and reclaiming their lives” Grass said. “Inpatient and residential treatment for eating disorders are often imperative for survival and recovery.”

Visit theprojectheal.org for more information on Project HEAL. For more information on Love Your Body Week, visit saintmarys.edu/love-your-body-week

Contact Catherine Owers at cowers@ud.edu

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Week educates students on positive body image

By KELLY KONYA
News Writer

Next week, Saint Mary’s annual Love Your Body Week will educate students on how to maintain a healthy and self-accepting lifestyle in connection with National Eating Disorders Week.

Sophomore Kelly Gutrich, co-chair of Love Your Body Week, said 2011 alumna Christina Grasso inspired the planning committee to incorporate eating disorder awareness into the week’s events. Grasso founded the New York chapter of Project HEAL: Help to Eat, Accept and Live, which promotes self-acceptance and positive body image.

Grasso said members of Project HEAL work as mentors and consultants to diminish society’s obsession with body image, which is a common cause of eating disorders. Only one in 10 of the approximately 24 million Americans suffering from eating disorders receives the necessary treatment, according to the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders.

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Visit theprojectheal.org for more information on Project HEAL. For more information on Love Your Body Week, visit saintmarys.edu/love-your-body-week

Contact Kelly Konya at kkonya01@saintmarys.edu
Annual plunge benefits orphans

By CAROLYN HUTYRA
News Writer

Students can provide hope for HOPE on Saturday by taking an icy dip in Saint Joseph’s Lake during the fourth annual Polar Bear Plunge.

The fundraising event will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Saint Joseph’s Beach and is a joint effort between Badin and Dillon Halls. Badin Hall president Cristin Pacifico said the Plunge raises money for the HOPE Initiative, a charity in Nepal that promotes education and operates an orphanage.

She said Badin’s hall fellow, industrial design professor Ann-Marie Conrado, helped start the organization.

“All the money and proceeds we raise from this event go to Nepal to help orphans go to school,” Pacifico said.

Participating in the Plunge is free, but Pacifico said students can donate $5 to receive raffle tickets for the event. Pacifico said ticket pre-sales will be today in north and south dining halls and the LaFortune Student Center.

“Those tickets will guarantee that you get put in a raffle for different prizes like gift cards,” Pacifico said.

“We’ll also be raffling off some of the fair trade goods like hats and scarves that are made by the Nepali women,” Pacifico said.

Badin Hall vice president Brianna Leon said the raffle reflects HOPE’s support for fair trade commerce. She said Badin’s annual Conscious Christmas event, which takes place in the late fall, also supports this mission.

The event coordinators hope approximately 200 people participated in the Plunge, Pacifico said. She said approximately 200 people participated last year and the event raised more than $2,000 in total.

“Thanks to the funds raised from the Polar Bear Plunge and the other fundraisers that we do, [the orphans] are able to go to the top school in Nepal,” Leon said.

Pacifico said any donation is welcome and encouraged. Those who would like to donate but not participate in the Plunge will still receive a ticket to enter the prize lottery.

“I think [the money raised] really goes toward a good cause,” Pacifico said.

“We’ve had Skype sessions with the Nepali kids and … we’ve also been able to see the kids grow up and to see where that money is going, that really does give them hope to have a better future,” Pacifico said.

Pacifico said the Plunge offers Notre Dame students the opportunity for a unique thrill.

“What other time of your life can you dive into a freezing cold lake in February in South Bend other than the Polar Bear Plunge?” she said.

Contact Carolyn Hutyra at chutyra@nd.edu

Heritage Week celebrates SMC legacy

By CAILIN CROWE
News Writer

Saint Mary’s students and alumnae paid tribute to their heritage Thursday evening with a dinner in the Noble Family Dining Hall that celebrated the College’s rich history and promising future.

The dinner also garnered enthusiasm for the launch of the College’s Capital Campaign on Friday, according to a flyer provided at the dinner. The Campaign plans to raise $80 million for scholarships, professorships, facility improvements and other projects.

At the dinner, vice president for mission Sr. Veronique Wiedower attested to the value of Saint Mary’s heritage.

“The convergence of Heritage Week with the Capital Campaign brings a special opportunity to rejoice in the rich legacy that is Saint Mary’s and to sustain the excellence of the educational opportunities of which students have been afforded,” Wiedower said.

Chair of the Board of Trustees Mary Burke expressed appreciation for her time as an undergraduate at the College.

“I want to do everything I can to help young women receive a Saint Mary’s education,” Burke said.

“I hope that I can give back to Saint Mary’s in the same way one day,” Wiedower acknowledged Saint Mary’s history by dressing up as Mother Pauline O’Neil, the College’s first president from 1895 to 1931. Wearing O’Neil’s traditional garb, she said history and heritage are distinct.

“History recalls the facts about the past,” she said. “Heritage, on the other hand, is the remembering. A spirit that endures through time today, we are celebrating that essence at Saint Mary’s.”

Burke praised the women of Saint Mary’s past and present.

“The world needs Saint Mary’s College,” she said. “Our communities, our world and our families need faith-built leaders.”

Contact Cailin Crowe at ccrowe01@saintmarys.edu

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Contact Cailin Crowe at ccrowe01@saintmarys.edu
Businessman urges students to think globally

Siemens executive Thomas Herder spoke to students on developing a global mindset Thursday in Spes Unica.

By KAITLYN RABACH
News Writer

Thomas Herder, general counsel of the energy division of Siemens AG, kicked off the Saint Mary’s Department of Global Studies series called “On Developing Global Mindset” with a lecture Thursday in Spes Unica.

Herder said part of developing a global mindset is knowing companies cannot only rely on the United States, Germany and Japan. He said because many other countries are growing rapidly, there must be a shift away from a Eurocentric approach to business. “Siemens looks at the global market, breaks it down into regions and then focuses in on certain countries,” Herder said. “We then strategize from that mindset. We are a German company with a strong global footprint.”

Herder said cultural sensitivity is essential for success in international business. “It is important to do your homework so you know up front what you are going to be dealing with and how you as a foreigner will be treated in that specific setting,” he said. “It is essential to understand and appreciate different cultures, but it is also important to be aware of your own perspective and what is driving you. That way you won’t let others take advantage of you in the business setting.”

Herder said taking a few basic business classes helps prepare students for the global marketplace. He also emphasized the importance of having language and writing skills. “Liberal arts education teaches people how to think,” Herder said. “I can teach people how to negotiate contracts, but I cannot teach them how to think.”

Herder urged students to take advantage of the opportunities presented to them. “The only constant is change,” he said. “Embrace it, get used to it and look for opportunities for value-added change. Those who resist [change] are going to be left behind.”

Herder expressed the importance of compliance in a world where corruption is a problem. Compliance is important to Herder, he said, because Siemens had to pay $1.9 billion in fines to the European Commission and Justice Department in 2009 for corrupt business practices. Although Herder was not implicated in the allegations, he said he saw the scandal’s negative effects on the company. “If people in our company had done the right thing, we wouldn’t have had to pay $1.9 billion in fines and a lot of families would not have suffered,” he said. “From a global perspective, we see the darker side of corruption and the horrific effects it has on developing nations. I believe we are obliged to point out things that are wrong.”

Herder reminded students of the importance of common sense when traveling to unfamiliar places. He said women should be especially careful. “Do not let this stop you from traveling or taking advantage of job opportunities,” he said. “Just be aware of your surroundings.”

Workplace diversity is an important component of developing a global mindset, Herder said. “Companies are trying to get additional representation from minorities,” he said. “More representation adds to the richness of the company. Each individual comes with such different perspectives. This new major [of Global Studies] allows you to explore these different perspectives and develop a global mindset.”

Contact Kaitlyn Rabach at krabac01@saintmarys.edu

Lecture addresses evolving language

Barry McCrea, an English professor and published author, discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the malleability of language.

By MEG HANDELMAN
News Writer

English professor Barry McCrea discussed the relationship between language and modernity at the inaugural Keough Family Professorship of Irish Studies lecture Thursday in McKenna Hall.

McCrea specializes in modern European and Irish literature. He released a book called “Minor Languages and the Modernist Imagination” this year.

The abandonment of language dialects in rural communities is one of modernity’s immediate effects, McCrea said at the lecture. “The mass adoption by rural population of standard languages as mediums for communication was a highly imitative form of globalization, one which produced a tangible change for how language itself was produced,” he said.

McCrea said two main factors instigated the switch from dialects to regional language — people began to move to cities where a need for unity in communication existed, and a mass marginalization took place in the countryside as new languages began to replace the old.

“Merely feeling or imagining that somewhere out there, there existed another language that might be more authentically their own freed writers up to experiment with the language they now [felt as] English,” McCrea said. “They felt that English was borrowed and there was another language for them out there to be located.”

This sense of disconnectedness to their native language inspired writers to use language in new ways, McCrea said. Although people long for language to feel truly theirs, he said it is a natural predicament that language will always frustrate this longing.

Above all, adopting non-native languages offered the writers a new way to express their vision, McCrea said. “Choosing to write as a non-native in a particular language whose vernacular life has quickly disappeared was a way for both [Irish writer Seán Ó Ríordáin and Italian writer Pier Paolo Pasolini] to express ... a possible utopian vision of a language in which one might feel truly native to the world,” McCrea said. “A modernist ideal, really, of the new, perfect language for art.”

Contact Meg Handelman at mhandelman@nd.edu

— SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2013 | THE OBSERVER
Blazers (continued from page 1)

can incorporate into events and
to the Duncan community,” he said. “They can be more than an-
other apparel item.”

Duncan rector Terence Fitzgibbons said he hoped Duncan residents would wear the blazers to their upcoming
dance in Chicago.

Whelan said the blazers ap-
ppealed to him personally because
of his southern background.

“Coming north from Savannah, Ga., I’ve had to ad-
just to the change from button-
downs and khakis to sweatshirts and sweatpants,” he said. “I like the idea of getting something more formal for our dorms.”

Whelan said his roommate last school year developed the idea
by suggesting Duncan add green
school year developed the idea
of duncan hall blazers a last-
spring. whelan said Fitzgibbons
was both voluntary and avail-
able to the entire dorm, he said.
Whalen said he was glad so
many people participated in the
 event. “It was fantastic to see such
a great turnout,” he said. “This
kind of community support is
important because with-
out support we can’t start new
traditions.”

Contact Christian Meyers cmyers@nd.edu

Zhang (continued from page 1)

touched so many people. You
know she touched you, but you
don’t know how she touched
others.”

Seabaugh said this fellowship
will be awarded to a student
who expresses Zhang’s zeal for
lab research early in his or her
undergraduate career.

“We wanted to make a fellow-
ship … that will engage people
at a young age and get them in
the lab as she wanted to get into
the lab at a young age,” he said.

“It’ll give us a chance to share
some stories we had about her,
maybe use her life and the
things she did around here to
inspire others.”

Saint Mary’s chemistry pro-
fessor Toni Barstis, who advises
the dual-degree program in en-
gineering in which Zhang par-
ticipated, said the dedication of
the fellowship was meaningful.

“I’m humbled and deeply
grateful to Dr. Seabaugh for this
dedication,” Barstis said.

Zhang’s generous and
energetic spirit made her “great
to work with,” Seabaugh said,
and he was affected by that
spirit when her family came to
South Bend from China after
their daughter’s death.

“[Ziqi] inspired me with the
way she treated others,” he said.

“Her family was also incredible.
… You might think they would be
angry about the decision
to allow her to come [to Notre
Dame], but they said they were
honored that she did come. It
was incredibly generous and
the kind of spirit she had too. It
came from her family.”

Bangladesh (continued from page 1)

only planned the crimes?” Ahmed said.

Graduate student Rumana Reaz Arifin agreed a life sen-
tence was inadequate.

“It has been preplanned, it has
been organized, it has been cold-
blooded and it has been executed,” Arifin said. “It’s not just
a murder. It’s a genocide.”

Ashraf Khan, also a graduate
student, said although Mullah’s sentencing instigated the na-
tionwide protests, the focus has
expanded to calling for justice
across the south asian
nation, especially be-
cause the c ongregation of h oly
language and english to show
their voice or showing their
protest for one single thing, then it’s really a mass upheaval,” Arifin said.

To express support for the ac-
tivists, the Notre Dame students
from Bangladesh held a symbol-
ic protest Feb. 8 in front of Main
Building. Ahmed said the group
arranged candles in the shape
of the Bengali numerals for “71”
to express respect for the people
murdered in 1971.

“It shows we are with them,” Ahmed said. “We gathered in
front of the Dome. We all get
together and show our protest
with posters, both in our own
language and English to show
that we want … capital punish-
ment [for the war criminals].”

Bangladeshi students at other
American universities are also
expressing protest, Ahmed said.

Arifin said the Notre Dame
students from Bangladesh
wanted the University commu-
nity to know about the situation
in their country, especially be-
cause the Congregation of Holy
Cross runs Notre Dame College
in Dhaka. She said the group
could create an informational
exhibition if community mem-
bers were interested in learning
more.

“If somebody wants to know
more, then we can show more,” Arifin said. “We can tell them
about the history.”

Contact Mairsha Iati at
miati@nd.edu

NOMINATIONS FOR THE
SHEDDY EXCELLENCE IN
TEACHING AWARD

Students and Faculty are invited to
submit nomination letters to:
Johnn DellaNea
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
104 O’Shaughnessy Hall
This award honors one member of the Arts
and Letters teaching and research faculty for
outstanding teaching.
 Deadline: Monday, March 4, 2013

Follow us on Twitter.
@ObserverNDSMC

Girl Scout Cookie Booth Sale
LaFortune and Pasquerilla West
Sunday, February 24
2:30-4:00 pm $3.50/box
Come support the Girl Scouts of South Bend!
Sponsored by Campus Girl Scouts

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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**EGYPT**

**Youth find unique protest method**

Associated Press

CAIRO — An Egyptian opposition group is using a novel way to protest against President Mohammed Morsi: Sign him up for a chance to win a trip to space.

The April 6 Youth Movement said on its official Facebook page on Thursday that it had entered the Islamist leader’s name in the online contest because it wanted to make him come “back aboard a private spacecraft.”

The contest is being run by a company, Space Expedition Corp., which promises to send 22 contestants into space. It promises to send 22 contestants into space. It promises to send 22 contestants into space.

But later, the group became among the fiercest critics of the president and his Muslim Brotherhood, the fundamentalist group from which he hails. The opposition accuses Morsi of monopolizing power and going back on campaign promises to have an inclusive government and introduce far reaching reforms.

Morís supporters say the new government cannot immediate ly fix years of neglect and poor administration from Mubarak’s 29-year rule. The group also posted a collage of Morsi, who is a U.S.-trained engineer, in a white space suit.

“I want to go to space because I completed my mission,” April 6 mockingly quoted Morsi as saying below his image.

The contest is being run by Axe, a brand of men’s grooming products. It promises to send 22 people to the edge of space and back aboard a private spaceship. For the competition, Axe teamed up with U.S. astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon during NASA’s Apollo 11 mission in 1969.

Contestants sign up and then get their friends to vote for them. Those with the most votes move to the next stage where they compete in their own country for a chance to go into space. The top recruits advance to a space camp in Orlando, Florida, where they are to take part in three training missions. A panel of space experts chooses those contestants they think are prepared to make the trip into space.

The winners then are to fly 103 kilometers (64 miles) into space with the space tourism company, Space Expedition Corp.

**VENEZUELA**

Chavez’s health remains secret

Associated Press

CARACAS — At Caracas’s military hospital, the only outward signs that President Hugo Chavez is a patient inside the motorcade that come and go and the soldiers standing guard, some of them wearing red berets.

A poster with a large photo of Chavez smiling sits atop the Dr. Carlos Arvelo Military Hospital, but it has been there since long before the socialist leader was admitted upon his return from his latest cancer treatment in Cuba.

Some of the president’s supporters shout “Viva Chavez!” and “He’s back!” as they drive past the hospital, which this week has become the new center of attention in Chavez’s 23-month-long cancer struggle.

The government provided an update on Chavez’s condition Thursday night, saying that he remained at the hospital and that “the medical treatment for the fundamental illness continues without presenting significant adverse effects.”

Information Minister Ernesto Villegas read the statement on television, saying that a “respiratory insufficiency” that arose in the weeks after the surgery “persists and its tendency has not been favorable, thus it continues to be treated.” The government has said Chavez is breathing through a tracheal tube.

“The patient remains in communication with his relatives, with the political team of his government and in close cooperation with his medical team,” Villegas said, adding that Chavez “keeps clinging to Christ, with a maximum will to live.”

The government hasn’t released a single photo of Chavez since his arrival in Caracas on Monday, and that has led some Venezuelans to question whether he’s actually in the hospital. Others insist he is there, just out of sight while undergoing treatment.

“There, where you see that balcony, the president is there,” said Juan Carlos Hernandez, a street vendor who pointed to the ninth floor, where Chavez is said to be staying.

Hernandez, who sells snacks from a stand with a parasol, said he used to work as a military police officer and provided security at the hospital from 2004 to 2006. He said the ninth floor has a special wing with various rooms where important people are typically treated.

He said the ninth floor has a special wing with various rooms where important people are typically treated, including generals and other military officers.
News

SYRIA

Bombs explode in civil war

Associated Press

DAMASCUS — A car bomb exploded Thursday near Syria’s ruling party headquarters in Damascus, killing at least 53 people and scattering mangled bodies among the blazing wreckage in one of the bloodiest days in the capital since the uprising began almost two years ago.

Bashar Assad’s grip on the heavily fortified capital also follows a string of tactics to loosen rebel fighters are resorting to guerrilla tactics to loosen the regime’s power. Following the attack, but suspicion will likely fall upon one of the most extreme of Syria’s myriad rebel factions, Jabhat al-Nusra.

The ticketing booth at the party building.

The violence has shattered the sense of normalcy that the Syrian regime has desperately tried to maintain in Damascus, a city that has largely been insulated from the bloodshed and destruction that has left other urban centers in ruins.

The rebels launched an offensive on Damascus in July following a stunning bombing on a high-level government crisis meeting that killed four top regime officials, including Assad’s brother-in-law and the defense minister. Following that attack, rebel groups that had established footholds in the suburbs pushed in, battling government forces for more than a week before being routed and swept out.

Since then, government warplanes have pounded opposition strongholds on the outskirts, and rebels have managed only small incursions on the city’s southern and eastern sides.

But the recent bombings and mortar attacks suggest that instead of trying a major assault, rebel fighters are resorting to guerrilla tactics to loosen Assad’s grip on the heavily fortified capital.

The fighting in Damascus also follows a string of tactical victories in recent weeks for the rebels - capturing the nation’s largest hydroelectric dam and overtaking airbases in the northeast - that have contributed to the sense that the opposition may be gaining some momentum.

But Damascus is the ultimate prize in the civil war, and many view the battle for the ancient city as the most probable endpoint of a conflict that according to U.N. estimates has killed nearly 70,000 people.

To defend the capital, Assad is using his most reliable and loyal troops, activists say, including the Republican Guard and the feared 4th Division, commanded by his brother, Maher. Armored checkpoints have sprung up across the city as part of the regime’s efforts to keep the rebels at bay.

Thursday’s car bomb hit a checkpoint on a bustling thoroughfare in the central Mezzarah neighborhood between the party headquarters and the Russian Embassy. The force of the explosion shattered the balco-

y of a nearby building, sent a huge cloud of black smoke billowing into the sky.

The state news agency, SANA, published photos showing a large crater in the middle of the rubble-strewn street and charred cars with blackened bodies inside.

“Afghan police round up 150 insurgents near the capital,” the state media reported.

“Today was huge. Everything in the shop turned upside down,” one local resident said. He said three of his employees were injured by flying glass that killed a young girl who was walking by when the blast hit.

“I pulled her inside the shop, but she was almost gone. We couldn’t save her. She was hit in the stomach and head,” he said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution for talking to foreign media.

Ambulances rushed to the scene of the blast, which sent a huge cloud of black smoke billowing into the sky.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but suspicion will likely fall upon one of the most extreme of Syria’s myriad rebel factions, Jabhat al-Nusra.

The group, which the U.S. has designated to be a terrorist organization, has claimed past bombings on regime targets, including the double suicide blast outside an intelligence building in May that killed 55.

Such tactics have galvanized Assad’s supporters and made many other Syrians distrustful of the rebel movement as a whole, most of whose fighters do not use such tactics.
Officials vow to search for missing persons

MEXICO CITY — Mexico said Thursday that it will work with the International Red Cross on the search for thousands of people who have disappeared during the country’s six-year-old war on drug cartels.

Officials provided few details of the arrangement signed in a public ceremony by the head of the International Red Cross and Interior Secretary Miguel Angel Osorio Chong.

The Red Cross said in a statement that it would provide “studies, protocols and technical assistance related to the search for the disappeared” but gave no specifics. Red Cross

The agreement was signed a day after Human Rights Watch requests for a copy.

MEXICO

Also on Wednesday, Mexican officials said they had a preliminary count of more than 27,000 people reported missing over the last six years, the majority of the cases blamed on drug cartels or smaller gangs.

Interior Subsecretary for Human Rights Lia Limon told MVS Radio on Thursday that the government would work to collect DNA from families of the disappeared, data that she called key to matching missing persons’ reports with the thousands of unidentified corpses found around Mexico in recent years.

She said the federal Attorney General’s Office had assembled a list of 27,523 missing people and the government is working to add to the sometimes sketchy information. She said the database would be constantly updated.

A civic organization released a database last year that it said contained official information on more than 20,000 people who had gone missing in Mexico since former President Felipe Calderon began his six-year term Dec. 1, 2006, and launched a campaign against cartels. In posting the database on its website, Propuesta Civic, or Civic Proposal, said the information was collected by the Attorney General’s Office.

The missing in Propuesta Civic’s database include police officers, bricklayers, housewives, lawyers, students, businessmen and more than 1,200 children under age 11. They are listed one by one with such details as name, age, gender and the date and place where the person disappeared.

The Human Rights Watch report said security personnel sometimes work with criminals, detaining victims and handing them over to gangs. The report cites incidents in which investigators used information collected in a case to pose as kidnappers and demand ransom payments from the victims’ families.

Authorities frequently fail to take even the most basic investigative steps, such as tracing victims’ cellphones or bank records, and rely on investigations.

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Authorities frequently fail to take even the most basic investigative steps, such as tracing victims’ cellphones or bank records, and rely on investigations.

A member of a caravan of Central American mothers displays a picture of her missing child during a Mass at the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Associated Press
Notice men’s basketball

If the Notre Dame men’s basketball team defeats Cincinnati at Purcell Pavilion on Sunday, it will mark the fourth straight season in which the Irish have earned 10 wins in the Big East — a remarkable feat considering the conference has consistently stood atop college basketball during the past decade.

It’s a shame so many students have failed to notice.

Irish coach Mike Brey’s squad — which recently clinched its seventh consecutive 20-win season, the first time that feat has been accomplished in program history — has consistently competed among the conference’s elite during his 13 seasons at the helm. But with Brey set to accomplish a personal milestone — four consecutive NCAA tournament berths for the first time in his coaching career — the student body has been mostly apathetic.

Unless a marquee program like Kentucky, Syracuse or Louisville is in town, the student section of Purcell Pavilion is mostly a ghost town. Even the enticement of ESPN’s “College GameDay” coming to campus could not attract a large student crowd, and the network’s strategic camera angles could not hide the fact that the vast majority of seats were empty. The electric atmosphere of that evening’s five-overtime thriller against Louisville carried little weight four days later when DePaul and Notre Dame played another overtime.

For a program that is consistently among the best in what is typically the nation’s best conference, the lack of support makes little sense. College basketball games are only two hours (with the exception of five-overtime tilts), which is the perfect amount of time for a midweek study break or a weekend activity.

Even the price is affordable. When members of the Class of 2013 were freshmen, a student ticket booklet cost $100. This season, one could be purchased for $65. If you just attended the seven Big East games and the November matchup against Kentucky and chose not to attend the other non-conference games, it only cost a sliver more than $8 per game — affordable for even a college student.

Sure, Notre Dame might not offer the best ticket policy and could offer some flexibility to students akin to other universities. Many students want to see Kentucky, Syracuse or Louisville, but they don’t want to pay for games against Evansville and Monmouth in the process. It’s not only the early non-conference attendance that suffers (that’s somewhat to be expected because of the lack of many marquee matchups), but also the student attendance against quality programs like Villanova, Georgetown and Cincinnati — matchups that students should want to see.

Selection Sunday is three weeks from Sunday, and the Irish are on the brink of clinching yet another bid into the field of 68 teams. Only two home games remain (Cincinnati and March 5 against St. John’s), and Brey would no doubt welcome a gaggle of new-comers on the Notre Dame bandwagon as Jack Cooley and Scott Martin, who’s currently sidelined with an injury, close out their Irish careers.

There’s no doubt Notre Dame’s a football school, but the quality teams Brey continues to develop are worthy of more of a showing from the student body. See if you can snag a last-minute ticket or find a friend with season tickets who might have lost interest. Use it as a midterm study break or as some time you set aside to enjoy yourself for the week.

But take the time to notice before the end of another entertaining season has passed.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The best ideas come as jokes. Make your thinking as funny as possible.”

David Ogilvy
American advertising executive

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Satnight’s alright

Joel Kolb
The Provocateur

The date was Saturday, Feb. 16. Without a home game for men’s bas-
ketball, the day in my mind was rel-
egated to a mundane workday with
little to look forward to — that is, of
course, with the exception of burrito
night at North Dining Hall. Besides
complicating the debate about dining
hall superiority, burrito night provides
weary, winter-worn students with the
motivation to work hard during the day.
A fair amount of you know the punch
line, as it were, to this story. It turned
out, hopefully by some unthinkable
oversight, but more likely because of
Junior Parents Weekend, that there was
no burrito night. The cavern in me
wanted to rise up and rebel, but the
French in me decided against that.
Why exactly did I feel so upset about such an
(admittedly) small thing? Barring a
physical addiction to burritos, the feel-
ing I experienced was entitlement.

In my mind, every Saturday night is
in my mind, every Saturday night is
Saturday night’s alright.

A laundry list of problems results
from me. as of just last year, it was
estimated that 62 percent of the an-
ual federal budget went to entitlement
programs. Many of our country’s fiscal
and budgetary problems stem from this
fact. A laundry list of problems results
from paying entitlements with the ma-
Jory of tax revenue. Daily operations
of the government are sacrificed due to
lack of funds. States in particular are
faced with the challenge of balancing a
budget while a critical amount of their
revenue goes to funding entitlement
programs.

Take Wisconsin, for example. About
two years ago, newly elected Gov. Scott
Walker was faced with a $3.6 billion
budget deficit. In order to balance
the budget, Walker proposed to make
various cuts in different areas of the
budget, but the main money-saving
decision came in asking teachers to
pay for a modest amount more of their
health benefits. Walker simply asked
public school teachers’ unions to pay
for 5.8 percent of their pension costs
and 12.6 percent of their healthcare
costs. Compared to the private sector,
the teachers still had a top-tier health
and retirement plan. However, because
of nothing but a sheer sense of entitle-
ment, the teachers made a preposterous
amount of stint about these modest
increases. The public teachers union
was used to always receiving more and
more from the state without thinking
about where the money actually came
from. When the Wisconsin legislature
met to pass the legislation in Madison,
protests broke out. Protests are not in-
herently bad things, but the protesters’
presence in Madison had many impli-
cations. For one, some of the people
were not even Wisconsinites — they
had been bussed in from New York.
On top of that, teachers in the Madison
and Milwaukee school districts took off
time from teaching to join the protest
in Madison. At one point, state senators
received death threats while walking
into the capitol building to do their job.

Ask yourself, what was the cause of
these months of mayhem and unrest
in the Wisconsin state capitol? The
cause was entitlement. The teachers
felt it was their right to have these ben-
efits. The power of entitlement caused
people to be beside themselves. The
power of entitlement resulted in the
recall (however unsuccessful) of a gov-
ernor who had done nothing remotely
criminal.

There are a lot of tough choices that
need to be made in the near future. If
a politician seems hesitant to make a
tough change, it is because they are
well versed in the power of entitle-
ments. It is virtually political death
to try to make major cuts to today’s
entitlements. The uproar in Wisconsin
and political hesitation merely speak to
the power of entitlement.

With any luck, this Saturday night
we’ll all be treated to another burrito. If
eaten in the perspective of this column,
burrito night can provide not only
food, but food for thought.

Joel Kolb lives in St. Edward’s Hall and
is a sophomore studying mechanical
engineering. He can be reached at
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The views expressed in this column are
those of the author and not necessarily
those of The Observer.

Netflix show captures political drama

Critical acclaim director David Fincher helms the
first two episodes, and his stark cinematography
adds quiet gravity to every shaky detail and glamorous
gala.

Frank’s startling asides are equally compelling.
The series premiere opens with Underwood directly
addressing the audience as he twists the neck of a
canine hit-and-run victim. He continues to do so
throughout the show, usually with an eye roll and
a snide comment about the person he’s trying to
smoosh. The most powerful of these moments
comes when Underwood delivers a eulogy at the fu-
neral of a teenager from his South Carolina district.
He recounts the profound experience of his father’s
death, turns to the camera and, in the same breath,
reminds us that his father did nothing but take up space.

Instances like these are the genius of “House of
Cards.” Viewers become complicit in Underwood’s
underhanded dealings and invested in his plans as
we gain further access to his thoughts. This tactic
is borrowed from the identically titled BBC miniatures
that aired in the nineties, which was adapted from a
novel by Michael Dobbs, who is currently an executive
producer.

Writer Beau Willimon, who gained prior experience
writing the political thriller The Ides of March, up-
dates the show to reflect the current political climate.
Claire Underwood runs the Clean Water Initiative, a
charity that she wants to expand on an international
scale. As ruthless as her husband, Claire fires half of
her staff in order to hire one person with access to
resources she desperately wants.

“House of Cards” certainly has credentials, but it re-
mains to be seen whether audiences will actually buy
into this new television format. Viewers may not be
willing to purchase Netflix subscriptions simply for its
own original series, but this show is definitely worth
watching for current subscribers. Netflix caters to
fans of binge watching by placing all thirteen season
episodes online at the same time. This could be
the beginning of a new era of television, and “House of
Cards” is an ambitious start (Hulu’s original series
don’t count. Let’s be real. No one watches those.)

This column originally ran in the Feb. 10 edition of
The Hoya, serving Georgetown University.

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

You’ve read the
The Scene writers voted on the films they think will win during Sunday’s Oscars as well as the films they think should win but probably won’t. Do you agree with their picks?

**BEST PICTURE:**

**Will likely win:** “Argo”

“Argo” is considered the frontrunner of the category after its numerous award wins, not to mention it is an extremely entertaining and well-executed movie. Unless you think the Academy wants to go for yet another biopic like “Lincoln” to take the win (which is certainly a strong possibility), then this film is probably your best bet.

**Should win:** “Zero Dark Thirty”

It’s not just because everyone loves Spielberg (even though his film “War Horse” didn’t win a single Oscar last year), but more so because he recreated a crucial part of American history — filled with speeches and political debates — in a movie both accurate and enjoyable (for a biopic).

**BEST ACTOR:**

**Will likely win:** Daniel Day-Lewis — “Lincoln”

While no man has even won an Oscar for portraying a president, this guy knocked it out of the park. Daniel Day-Lewis took on the role of the most renowned and beloved president in history: a man who both abolished slavery. Sure, he’s won two Oscars already, but the guy crafted his own unique Lincoln that was historically accurate rather than traditional. He is “the” Daniel Day-Lewis, so cower in fear, other nominees.

**Should win:** Joaquin Phoenix — “The Master”

It’s unfortunate that Daniel Day-Lewis and Joaquin Phoenix made such incredible movies in the same year. Daniel Day-Lewis is an undeniably incredible actor, and may take the Oscar, but Phoenix’s commitment to his role in this movie was amazing. We had chills throughout the entire movie because of the intensity Phoenix brought to the screen.

**BEST DIRECTOR:**

**Will likely win:** Steven Spielberg — “Lincoln”

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**Should win:** Ang Lee — “Life of Pi”

While it’s not considered a frontrunner for best picture, you can’t ignore the fact that Ang Lee made a supposedly “unfilmable” movie into an Oscar-worthy film. It also helps his chances that Ben Affleck (“Argo”) and Kathryn Bigelow (“Zero Dark Thirty”) weren’t even nominated in this category.

**BEST ACTRESS:**

**Will likely win/should win:** Jennifer Lawrence — “Silver Linings Playbook”

She delivered a multi-layered, witty and emotionally powerful performance that would have fell flat with most other actresses. Her role has earned her both a Screen Actors Guild award and a Golden Globe. It’s going to be a tough race competing against the outstanding Jessica Chastain, but if she can beat Robert De Niro in a screaming match, Lawrence can take down anyone.

**Should win:** Anne Hathaway — “Les Miserables”

If you haven’t heard it a thousand times already, Anne Hathaway rocked this 20-minute role like a champ. Let’s just give her the Oscar already.

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:**

**Will likely win/should win:** Robert de Niro — “Silver Linings Playbook”

In a category comprised entirely of past Oscar winners who all gave great performances, it’s really anyone’s game. But De Niro delivered a heaping dose of both charm and raw emotion to his role. Not only has he not won an Oscar in 32 years, but he also hasn’t even been nominated in 21 years. He’s overdue and deserves this year’s Oscar.

**Should win:** Bradley Cooper — “Silver Linings Playbook”

He’s overdue and deserves this year’s Oscar.

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:**

**Will likely win/should win:** Anne Hathaway — “Les Miserables”

If you haven’t heard it a thousand times already, Anne Hathaway rocked this 20-minute role like a champ. Let’s just give her the Oscar already.

**Should win:** Adepero Oduye — “Tyler Perry’s Good Hair”

It’s a love letter to classic horror/monster genre and seems to be one of Tim Burton’s favorite pet projects. Burton has never won an Oscar before and this humorous, dark and heartfelt animated film could finally be what earns him his time of recognition. To put it simply, it’s a great film with a great director who’s due for a win.

**BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY:**

**Will likely win/should win:** “Lincoln”

The fast-paced dialogue and lengthy monologues in “Lincoln” should earn the film the Oscar for best adapted screenplay. Tony Kushner’s storyline relies upon more than a decade’s worth of historical research, and Daniel Day-Lewis brings to life one of America’s greatest orators.

**BEST ANIMATED FEATURE:**

**Will likely win:** “Wreck-It Ralph”

It won the Annie Award for best picture, and while that’s not a guaranteed victory at the Oscars (“Kung Fu Panda” beat Oscar winner “WALL-E” for that award), it certainly helps. One can certainly argue it’s not the best film of the category, but it’s still a great, funny and charming movie that has the passionate supporters and awards to guide it to the Oscar win.

**Should win:** “Frankenweenie”

It’s a love letter to classic horror/monster genre and seems to be one of Tim Burton’s favorite pet projects. Burton has never won an Oscar before and this humorous, dark and heartfelt animated film could finally be what earns him his time of recognition. To put it simply, it’s a great film with a great director who’s due for a win.
By WILLIAM NEAL
Scene Writer

This year, we’ve seen arguably one of the best lineups of best picture nominees in a long time. Between the films “Amour,” “Argo,” “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” “Django Unchained,” “Life of Pi,” “Lincoln,” “Silver Linings Playbook” and “Zero Dark Thirty,” there’s plenty for Academy members and fans alike to discuss for the Oscars this year. But while there are often one or two clear frontrunners in the category, the race for best picture this year is really turning some heads.

In a surprising turn of events, after Ben Affleck was snubbed from the best director category — an award that of- ten determines the best picture winner — for “Argo,” his film has gone on to dominate the award season. So far, “Argo” has brought in key awards from the Director’s Guild of America (best director), Producers Guild Awards (best picture), Writers Guild Awards (best adapted screenplay), British Academy Film Awards (best film/director) and Screen Actors Guild Awards (most outstanding cast), all after the Oscar snub in best director. It seems in the eyes of the public, “Argo” has pushed itself to be the frontrunner of the top award in the mov- ie industry. So where do the other films stand in comparison?

All of the films nominated offer something unique. Films from such a wide variety of genres broke into this category — everything from spaghetti westerns and musicals to stories of war, romance, poverty, fantasy and history. Everyone has their favorite genre, but when that time comes to fill out their Oscar ballot people often do not vote with their favor- ite. Instead, people often base their vote on the mass public and critical opinion. Competition runs high and even people begin to look at films they once looked at with awe in a much more critical light. Many critics will argue that while “Life of Pi” is a true achievement in filmmaking and a stunning piece of cinematography, the film doesn’t convey its religious mes- sage until it is shoved down your throat in the end. Harsh, critics.

Critics argue that the suffocating camera work, several less than impres- sive performances and the ambiguous theme in “Les Misérables” put it out of the race. “Django Unchained” and “Zero Dark Thirty” (my personal favorites) are two excellent films, yet the movies’ controversial themes of slavery and tor- ture (respectively) will overshadow their chances of winning. As for “Amour” and “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” I believe the two films are just not getting the at- tention, press and support that they need to win. The unfortunate fact is that the Oscars are highly political awards, and the films that receive the best press coverage often jump to the top of the category.

So while I would love to say that all of these films have their fair shot of win- ning, critics will point out two front- runners come this Sunday: “Argo” and “Lincoln.” Like many past best picture frontrunners, these two movies follow stories based on true events in com- pletely different styles. Most people who have seen the two films will tell you that “Lincoln,” while a highly respectable film, falls flat in keeping the audience’s attention — especially in comparison to “Argo.” Then again, as the result of the 2011 battle between “The King’s Speech” and “The Social Network,” showed us, the Academy is a sucker for a good bi- opic, meaning “Lincoln” would be the likely winner between the two. But until Sunday rolls around and that final title is called, it’s all fair game.

Contact William Neal at wneal@nd.edu

By LAUREN MATICH
Scene Writer

As Notre Dame students, we love cere- mony, tradition and gold statues; just look to the dome for evidence. We love huddling around television stations in too-small dorm rooms to watch nationally-televised competitions, holding our breath until a winner is proclaimed. During the first few months of spring semester, when we all are at the peak of football season withdrawal, the time until we all take up football watching as a quasi-professional sport again can seem centuries away.

This Sunday, a different kind of cere- mony and tradition will be playing out on the television sets around campus, and a different sort of gold-gilded figure named Oscar will make an appearance. Dust off your television, initiate the Facebook event invitation chain and anticipate that being up much later than you want to be because Pinterest is making Oscar watch parties more of a reality than ever.

According to Los Angeles stylist and Huffington Post consultant Tabitha Evans, a great Oscars party doesn’t need to cost a fortune or go “all out.” “For a put-together shindig, focus on one element that is important to your vision. If you’re going for a super-glam feeling, convince your guests to break out the old prom dresses that only get used once a semes- ter. Complete the glam feeling by toast- ing like stars with sparkling juice. If food is an important element of how you want to celebrate awards season, Oscars.org has great recipes inspired by what foods are actually served by the academy this year. Huffingtonpost.com suggests coordinating dishes with your projected best picture winner. One ex- ample was shepherd’s “pi.” Some of them are pretty ambitious for a dorm kitchen, but throwing a smashing party is about creatively improvising with what’s avail- able to you.

To some party hosts, atmosphere is everything. Oscar-themed decorations are heavy on the star-studded glitz and glamour, so start a hunt for stray strands of twinkling lights. Use gold star shapes and glitter as a theme for your decora- tions — the perfect opportunity to pull out your gold football season accessories again.

If your party is focused on the high-stakes races, start the night off by showing the trailers of the best picture nominees. As the night progresses, of- fer guests categorical ballots to cast their votes and bingo cards to keep the tempo of the party moving along during the long night. Both the ballots and bingo cards are available to print for free at Oscars.org.

For a more casual and informal get-to- gether, an Orville Redenbacher-themed menu might be the ticket. There isn’t a food that symbolizes American cinema more than popcorn. The blog somethingwanky.com features a post with 40 different recipes that involve differ- ent popcorn goodie concoctions includ- ing Snickers popcorn, cinnamon bun popcorn, peanut butter popcorn balls and fudge mint popcorn made with Thin Mints. Other foods that are sure to get guests in the cinematic mood are hot dogs, nachos and any assortment of candy-wall candy.

The themes and details that can con- tribute to a great Oscars party are as varied as the films and actors being recognized. However you decide to cel- ebrate the awards show, don’t forget to tune in Sunday at 7 p.m. to see who takes home the gold.

Contact Lauren Matich at lmatich@nd.edu
Exclusion sullies sports’ shine

The Observer | Friday, February 22, 2013 | NDSMObserver.com

Andrew Gastelum
Associate Sports Editor

“In today’s society, being different makes you brave. To overcome your fears, you must be strong and have faith in yourself.”

Heartrending, Inspiring, Moving.

If told you I flows from the mind of a 14-year-old who passed, maybe a Gandhi or a Churchill or a Lincoln, you would have no doubts.

But it came from a podium of American sports, where role models are molded whether they agree to it or not. So, you might say I had to be Vince Lombardi or Jackie Robinson who said it.

In fact, it came from a plain, bare-bones blog post last Friday.

His author is not a household name because of his athletic prowess. Instead, he is a household name because of his life story.

The author is American soccer player Robbie Rogers and last week he announced that he is gay.

But Rogers has not been without problems. His stardom has been marred by social pressures and his blatant machismo that comes with sports accept psychology.

Still too much, both socially and psychologically. There may be there, but the pressure is higher, there is a mark to prove it.

“You don’t say there isn’t already support for gay athletes, from athletic directors to current players to Charles Barkley. Former teammates and soccer fans gave Rogers widespread support.

But in the pantheon of modern-day American sports like basketball, football, hockey and baseball, there has yet to be an openly gay male athlete.

There was former NBA player John Amaechi, who came out in his book after retiring. There are plenty of women who have received support after coming out and continuing playing. But for male athletes and the supposed machismo that comes with sports, there has been no such case that the supporters’ sector may be there, but the pressure is still too much, both socially and psychologically.

That should never be the case in sports. Sports accept people from all backgrounds, colors, creeds and lifestyles.

Why should an athlete’s livelihood be dreamt to be dreamed because of how he lives, and who are we to make that decision?

This is not a call advocating gay rights. Nor is it one advocating against them. It is but a genuine evaluation of the world of sports we live in. One that I thought was open for whoever wanted to play, and one that has blindsided me with its sense of exclusion.

Growing up, when I saw a kid watching my friends and I shoot hoops on the playground, I asked him if he wanted to play. I did not care what he looked like. I did not care what religion he was.

So why won’t the world of professional sports let “gay” and “superstar” athlete work together?

Thirty-five years ago, Glenn Burke became known as the first openly gay baseball player. Los Angeles Dodgers manager Jim Gilliam considered Burke “the new Willie Mays,” and yet the social pressures and his blatant mistreatment forced him to quit his dreams of playing the game he loved.

Thirty-five years later, Rogers did just the same Feb. 15. He said he quit the game he loved when living with a constant fear that his secret would get in the way of his dreams.

I do not care what he looked like. I did not care how he lived his life.

I just cared to see if he wanted to play ball.

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

Golf

The snow is gone from the Match Play Championship, and so are Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods.

In a stunning conclusion to what already is a bizarre week on Dome Mountain, Shane Lowry of Ireland made a 4-foot par putt on the 18th hole to eliminate Rory McIlroy in the opening round Thursday of golf’s most un-predictable tournament.

Moments later, Charles Howell III finished off a fabulous round in cold conditions by defeating Woods on the 17th hole. Howell, who had not faced Woods in match play since losing to him in the third round of the 1996 U.S. Amateur, played bogey-free on a course that still had patches of snow and ice after being cleared Thursday morning.

The match was all square when Howell hit a wedge that stopped inches from the cup on the 15th hole for a conceded birdie. Then, he holed a 25-foot birdie putt on the 16th and went 2 up when Woods missed a 12-foot birdie putt.

The final matches were played in near darkness, and they could have stopped after 15 holes. Woods wanted to play on, even though Howell had the momentum. Woods wanted to be a contender for the day, and neither of them made a bogey.

“We both played well,” Woods said. “He made a couple of more birdies than I did. He played well, and he’s advancing.”

McIlroy, the No. 1 player in the world, built a 2-up lead early in the match until Lowry rallied and grabbed the moment by chipping in for birdie on the par-3 12th and then ripping a faucal metal to within a few feet for a conceded eagle on the 13th. Lowry missed a short par putt on the 14th, only for McIlroy to give away the next hole with a tee shot into the desert and a bunker shot that flew over the 15th green and into a cactus. But the two-time major champ hung tough, coming up with a clutch birdie on the 16th to stay in the game.

McIlroy nearly holed his bunker on the 18th, and Lowry followed with a steady shot out to 4 feet and calmly sank the putt.

“Deep down, I knew I could beat him,” Lowry said.

“There’s a reason I’m here, and this is match play.”

For McIlroy, more questions are sure to follow him to Florida for his road to the Masters. He now has played only 54 holes in the first two months of the season, missing the cut in Abu Dhabi and losing in the first round at Dove Mountain.

“You want to try and get as far as you can, but I guess that’s match play,” McIlroy said. “I probably would have lost by more if I had played someone else in the field. It wasn’t a great quality match. But it would have been nice to get through and just get another day here and another competitive round under my belt.”

Just like that, the Match Play Championship lost its two biggest stars in one day.

The only other time the top two seeds lost in the opening round was in 2002, when Woods and Phil Mickelson lost at La Costa.

Luke Donald nearly made it the top three seeds except for a clutch performance. He holed a 30-foot birdie putt to halve the 17th hole and stay tied with Marcil Siem of Germany. Donald then birdied the 18th from 7 feet to win the match.

Luis Oosthuizen, the No. 4 seed, rallied to get past Richie Ramsay of Scotland. The opening round was halted Wednesday after 3 1/2 hours because of a freak snowstorm that covered Dome Mountain with nearly 2 inches. It continued to snow at times overnight, and it took nearly five hours to clear snow from the golf course for the tournament to resume.

Turns out snow wasn’t the only surprise.

Howell said he has never beaten Woods — not as an amateur, not even in dozens of games at Isleworth before Woods moved away to south Florida. What a time to change that losing streak.

“I had to play extremely well to have a chance and I still kept waiting for that Tiger moment,” Howell said. “It never came.”

-looking for a difference to make your business stand out? The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 104 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds are prepaid. The charge is $5 per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without incurring refunds.
League addresses HGH testing changes

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — NFL senior vice president Adolpho Birch said Thursday the league and players association need to reach agreement soon on HGH testing.

The NFL and the union agreed in principle to HGH testing when a new 10-year labor agreement was finalized in August 2011. But protocols must be approved by both sides and the players have questioned the science in the testing procedures, delaying implementation.

“The longer we continue to stall on this issue or we don’t have an effective regimen in place, it’s a disservice to all of us,” Birch said at the NFL’s scouting combine. “We need resolution. This is enough. We’ve been talking about this for two years.”

In 2011, the NFL became the first professional league to agree with its players on HGH testing. But while the sides debated the scientific validity of the test, the union still is not satisfied with the process.

Meanwhile, Major League Baseball will test for HGH throughout the upcoming regular season. Last year, players were subject to blood testing for HGH during spring training.

On Tuesday, the union said in a conference call it favors HGH testing, but only with a strong appeal process.

“We’ve had kind of a long history in our union and the league’s relationship and that’s deteriorated the trust between the two, and the players don’t feel comfortable moving forward and I don’t feel comfortable moving forward without the proper protections in place,” NFLPA President Domonique Foxworth said. “As far as I understand, there’s no good reason not to have those protections in place, so that’s kind of the hold up as far as HGH is concerned.”

“HGH testing that doesn’t give our players the opportunity to appeal, that’s just a nonstarter.”

Birch noted the union has asked for appeals to be handled by a neutral, third party, and that the league has proposed a third-party arbitration since 2009. In MLB, positive tests and resulting discipline can be challenged by the union before an arbitrator.

MLB and its players’ union agreed before the 2012 season to start releasing the identity of substances causing a player’s positive test. Birch was asked whether the drug Adderal is a trend in the NFL or an excuse used by players who tested positive for performance enhancers.

“That is one of the features we have proposed is to release the substance that was tested for so there is no ability to go beyond and minimize what the violation was,” Birch said. “I think it also helps other players realize what substances cause this. But the union has consistently rejected that, so that’s another feature they said they’d take today from Major League Baseball and that they’ve rejected today.”

Union spokesman George Atallah disputes Birch’s claim.

“It’s part of our collective bargaining agreement to keep everything confidential,” Atallah said. “Part of the reason why it’s kept confidential is if a player needs some sort of treatment, he can get treatment without public pressure.”

NCAA BASKETBALL

Cincinnati falls to UConn in overtime

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Shabazz Napier put Connecticut on his back again, helping the Huskies to their fourth overtime win this season.

Napier scored 11 of his 27 points in extra time Thursday as UConn (18-7, 8-5 Big East) beat Cincinnati 73-66.

DeAndre Daniels added 17 points and tied a career high with four blocked shots for the Huskies (18-7, 8-5 Big East), who are now 4-1 in overtime games.

Napier has scored 46 points in those overtime losses, hitting nine of his 14 shots, and going 8 for 12 from 3-point range, and Napier hit six of his nine shots from behind the arc. He made one of two, before Napier hit a 3-pointer with 36 second-chance points. The Bearcats had 17 on Thursday.

“I try to be the best leader for this team, and guys look for me to make shots,” he said. “All I’ve got to do is see the ball go in the hoop one time, and I feel like I’m going to make the next one.”

The teams were tied a 55 going into overtime before Napier hit two 3-pointers as part of a 6-2 run by UConn. Napier made a layup, sending the game into overtime tied at 55.

The teams were tied a 55 going into overtime before Napier hit two 3-pointers as part of a 6-2 run by UConn. Napier made a layup, sending the game into overtime tied at 55.

The Huskies made six 3-pointers in the first half, as it built a 37-34 halftime lead. Cincinnati, meanwhile found its success inside, with 34 points in the paint. The Bearcats outrebounded UConn 44-28 and had 17 offensive boards.

Cincinnati was 10 of 19 from 3-point range, and Napier hit six of his nine shots from behind the arc.

The Huskies made six 3-pointers in the first half, as it built a 37-34 halftime lead. Cincinnati, meanwhile found its success inside, with 34 points in the paint. The Bearcats outrebounded UConn 44-28 and had 17 offensive boards.

UConn had given up 20 offensive rebounds in each of the last two games, leading to a combined 36 second-chance points. The Bearcats had 17 on Thursday. A Rubles foul shot cut UConn’s lead to 43-41 with 17:23 left in the game and it stayed that score for the next 7 minutes, until Rubles banked in a long 2-point jump shot to tie it.

UConn missed seven straight shots and was held without a field goal for almost 9 minutes before a Tyler Olander dunk gave them a 45-43 lead. The Huskies had just three baskets in the first 13 minutes of the second half.
Deadline passes without any blockbuster deals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The only trade involving Dwight Howard came last summer. The potent scorers that moved did so long ago.

There was no eye-catching activity left for deadline day, resulting in minor deals Thursday to the disappointment of those hoping for a frenzy.

Josh Smith stayed put and the Boston Celtics’ core stayed together, leaving J.J. Redick, dealt to Milwaukee, as the biggest name to be traded.

There were nine moves, nothing approaching a blockbuster and none to jump-start the Lakers.

Players such as James Harden and Rudy Gay were traded far before the deadline, but with teams perhaps fearful of new penalties for the biggest spenders. Thursday was mostly quiet.

“I don’t think I’ve seen fewer trade deadline deals, ever,” said Houston general manager Daryl Morey, who completed two trades Wednesday. “But I think it’s a one-year blip.”

The Atlanta Hawks held onto Smith, and Utah kept both Paul Millsap and Al Jefferson on a day when much attention was focused on both situations, since those players have value and could leave their teams this summer as free agents.

The long-shot deals never materialized. Howard remained in Los Angeles, just what Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak repeatedly said would happen. Howard’s unhappiness and struggles since he was acquired from Orlando last summer fueled speculation that the Lakers might move him before possibly losing him for nothing as a free agent.

“It took a while for league to understand our position was exactly what we stated,” Kupchak told reporters. “I think they finally got it.”

Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce will continue wearing Celtic green, as will Rajon Rondo when he’s healthy enough to put on a uniform again.

The Celtics did make one deal, acquiring guard Jordan Crawford from the Washington Wizards for center Jason Collins and injured guard Leandro Barbosa.

Those were the types of trades that were left after the big names that were available had already been moved. Oklahoma City sent All-Star Harden to Houston the preseason, fearing it couldn’t pay what last season’s top sixth man would want after already giving lucrative long-term deals to Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook.

The Memphis Grizzlies broke up their frontcourt when they sent Gay to Toronto in a three-team deal with Detroit.

“i think normally a point was made, normally you would see big deals being made. We can’t forget, Andre Iguodala, that deal was made in the summer. That could have potentially been a trade deadline move,” said Denver Nuggets president Masai Ujiri, referring to the player he acquired in the four-time Howard trade in August.

“Howard was traded right before the season started. That could have been a potential trade deadline move. Rudy Gay was started a couple weeks ago. There was some cleanup before this date. Apart from a couple guys who were out there all the time in terms of big names, it just went by. I can’t explain it.”

Finances certainly played into it. The collective bargaining agreement that went into effect in 2011 came with much more punitive penalties for teams that repeatedly exceed the luxury tax and limits the options of those over the salary cap, and decisions Thursday were made with that in mind.

Golden State sent forward Jeremy Tyler to Atlanta and guard Charles Jenkins to Philadelphia in separate deals, slicing more than $1.5 million off its payroll after beginning the day about $1.2 million over the league’s $78,307,000 luxury tax.

Rebuilding after trading Howard, the Magic decided Redick wasn’t in their plans while averaging career highs in points (15.1) and field goal percentage (45.0).
Associated Press

TORONTO — James van Riemsdyk kept the Buffalo Sabres reeling on Thursday night.

Van Riemsdyk scored twice to power the Toronto Maple Leafs past the Buffalo Sabres 3-1 in Ron Rolston’s first game as an NHL head coach.

Rolston, who until Wednesday was the head coach of the AHL’s Rochester Americans, was hired as the Sabres interim coach following the club’s decision to fire Lindy Ruff. Ruff, who also played 10 seasons for Buffalo, had been behind the club’s bench since 1997 and was the NHL’s longest-tenured head coach.

Prior to arriving in Rochester, Rolston spent seven seasons as a head coach with USA Hockey’s national program, leading the under-18 squad to three gold medals and a silver in four world championship appearances.

Van Riemsdyk played for Rolston for two years, earning a world championship gold medal in 2006 before getting silver the following year.

“He’s a big reason for the success I’ve been able to have as a hockey player,” van Riemsdyk said. “He really instilled that confidence and trust that he had in me as a player and he put me out there in pretty much every situation in every game and allowed me to grow. There was obviously some growing pains my first year, but the second year I was able to blossom under his tutelage and I feel thankful for everything he taught me.”

But Rolston could only watch as the Sabres dropped their third straight and fifth of their past six games.

“I thought we played well in parts of the game,” Rolston said. “I didn’t like our second period, obviously it was the turning point.”

“We had too many turnovers, we were facing things, long shifts in the defensive zone. It was the difference.”

Toronto erased a 1-0, first-period deficit with two goals in the second.

“The second period wasn’t good enough,” said Sabres goalie Ryan Miller, who turned aside 33 shots. “We stopped doing some things we did early in the game and it caught up with us.”

Van Riemsdyk’s power-play goal at 14:28 of the third — his team-leading 11th — gave Toronto breathing room after Miller stopped him with a glove save earlier on the power play.

Maple Leafs’ coach Randy Carlyle said van Riemsdyk’s work away from the puck was a big reason for his success.

“He probably skated as strong in this hockey game as any game he has this year,” Carlyle said. “It’s good to see him move his feet and be rewarded.”

“I think if he continues to skate and move his feet the way he did tonight, I don’t think he shouldn’t continue to score if he’s going to stay around the net and go into those tough areas.”

“His goal to continue to play with our top-six grouping of forwards and he’s going to maintain power play time, all of those things should indicate he can continue to make contributions. It’s all up to him.”

Dion Phaneuf also scored for Toronto, which won its third straight home game.

Ben Scrivens stopped 31 shots for Buffalo, which extended its winning streak to three straight home games.

Both goaltenders were sharp as Miller made a quality save on Toronto’s Leo Komarov while Scrivens twice denied Thomas Vanek with a nice split-pad save.

“You just try to get on a roll and stop as many pucks as possible,” Scrivens said of his stop on Vanek. “Obviously I was fortunate he wasn’t able to get the rebound up on me, but I gave myself an opportunity to make the save.”

“Maybe a little bit of both hard work by me and unfortune luck on his part.”

Phaneuf’s one-timer with four seconds remaining on a power play at 1:15 of the second tied it. The goal was the 100th of Phaneuf’s NHL career.

Buffalo’s Steve Ott put a backhand past Scrivens at 7:08, but it was disallowed because of a goalie interference penalty on Kevin Porter.

Van Riemsdyk put Toronto ahead 2-1 at 18:04, converting a nifty 2-on-1 break with Phil Kessel as the Leafs outshot Buffalo 15-6.

We didn’t start very well. ... we got our skating game going in the second,” Carlyle said, “and once we can get that race up and come at teams in waves, we can be an effective team grinding teams down.”

“That’s what we felt the case was tonight because we didn’t skate very well and were fortunate to get out of the first period with the score what it was.”

Notes: NBA slam dunk champion Terrence Ross of the Toronto Raptors took in the game. ... Toronto entered the game leading the NHL in hits (476) and fighting majors (20). ... The Sabres and Leafs will meet once more this season, March 21 in Buffalo. ... Rolston has been Rochester’s head coach since the 2011-12 season, having compiled a 63-44-17 record.
Fencing

Notre Dame prepares for home advantage

Irish freshman foil Lee Kiefer competes at the Notre Dame Invitational on Oct. 27, 2012. The Irish host the Notre Dame Duals on Saturday.

By BRENDAN BELL
Sports Writer

With the regular season coming to a close, the Irish will compete in their final dual meet of the season at the Notre Dame Duals on Saturday. Sophomore women’s foil Madison Zeiss said the challenges the Irish will face this weekend provide a good measuring stick for both the No. 2 men’s and No. 1 women’s sides.

“I definitely think Northwestern will be the most solid competition and Wayne State is also a very good team for the women’s foil,” Zeiss said. “Air Force is particularly strong on the men’s side, as well.”

Cleveland State, Detroit and Lawrence College will also compete. The No. 8 Wildcats women’s team will present one of the biggest challenges for Notre Dame during the meet.

Zeiss said competing in the Joyce Center provides the Irish with a sense of familiarity. But she also said Notre Dame focuses well when competing away from home.

“Knowing the gym and knowing the set up and everything will definitely be nice,” Zeiss said. “When we travel and when we get on the bus we attain a great sense of focus and we need to be careful to have that same focus here on campus and I think we will do it.”

The Midwestern Conference championships follow the Notre Dame Duals and are only a piece of the larger puzzle for the Irish, who aim to win a men’s and women’s national championship. If Notre Dame makes the national championship round, it will compete in San Antonio, Texas, for a fourth national championship under Irish coach Janusz Bednarski.

“This is a good tournament to practice and get our feet under us before the NCAA qualifiers,” Zeiss said. Since the beginning of the season, Zeiss said the team has grown in many dimensions.

“I definitely think the entire team has improved,” Zeiss said. “The new epee coach has really improved a lot and some times they have been really carrying the team and I think they will continue to do great for us in the upcoming matches.

“We have all been training hard and as a team have improved ... By NCAAs we will be peaking, I think and ready to compete for the national championship.”

The Notre Dame Duals will take place all day Saturday in the Joyce Center.

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Irish senior guard Skylar Diggins looks for an open player during Notre Dame’s 93-64 win over Louisville on Feb. 11.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Fisher tops Knights in finals

Special to The Observer

Fisher won the men’s inter-hall basketball championship Wednesday in a 51-36 victory over Keenan. The Green Wave entered halftime locked in a 26-all tie with the Knights, but dominated the second half en route to the championship.

Keenan senior Ryan Dunbar said Fisher executed better in the second half and took advantage of the Knights’ mistakes.

“The Green Wave made big shots when they had to and we didn’t execute as well as we planned,” Dunbar said. “Fisher went on a run and we couldn’t make the plays to stop it. But I’m really proud of our guys. The effort and the hustle were there, but the shots weren’t there. And we missed a couple of assignments on defense. But we gave ourselves a chance to win, which is ultimately all you can do.”

Fisher graduates three seniors from its team, but senior Mike O’Neill said the group effort in Wednesday’s game demonstrated the Green Wave’s strong potential in coming years.

“It was a team effort, and everyone really stepped up and had a big performance,” he said. “We have a good group of young kids, so watch out for Fisher next year.”

Next week, RecSports will cover the men’s inter-hall ice hockey championship.
Irish aim for momentum change in Bloomington

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

The Irish will try to bounce back from a two-loss weekend with tilts against Baylor on Saturday and Indiana on Sunday.

Although the No. 22 Irish (5-3) usually have more experience indoors than visiting teams from southern climates, they might not possess the same home court advantage when they host the No. 19 Bears on Friday afternoon.

“We’d probably rather play them outdoors, but since we’re playing them here in February it’s inside,” Irish coach Jay Louderback said. “They’ve always been a team that hits the ball very big. They play an aggressive game and they just played the National Indoor, so they’ve been indoors a lot.”

Notre Dame and Baylor have played every year since 2007 (the Bears lead the all-time series 5-4), but familiarity won’t help the Irish as Baylor graduated four seniors in 2012.

Although Baylor is ranked in the top 20, the Bears have lost five of their last six matches, including all three at the national Team Indoor Championships Feb. 8-10.

After their Friday evening match, the Irish will travel to Bloomington, Ind., to take on Indiana (8-2) on Sunday morning. The Hoosiers have lost their last two matches by a score of 4-3 to Tennessee on Feb. 15 and Kentucky on Sunday.

Despite Indiana’s recent slide, Louderback said the Hoosiers still belong in the same company as the Irish.

“They’re a little like we are,” he said. “They’re one in the group that is anywhere from about 10 to 40; it seems like there are lots of schools in there that are just all so close, and Indiana is right in there.”

Louderback said Notre Dame will arrive in Bloomington on Saturday, which will give the Irish a chance to get used to Indiana’s courts before Sunday’s match.

“They’re always a tough team at home, [because] their courts are pretty fast,” Louderback said. “You have to adjust to them some.”

The Irish dropped three spots in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings after losing 4-3 to Purdue at home Feb. 15 and falling 5-2 at Northwestern. Louderback said he wasn’t too concerned about the losses, as Notre Dame has been competitive in all of their matches.

“Every match since [Bowling Green] we haven’t had one match that either team couldn’t have won,” Louderback said. “I think that’s better than just going out and winning a lot of easy matches.”

Notre Dame has only won the doubles point in two of its eight matches so far this spring, a troubling development for a team that puts a strong emphasis on winning the first point of the match.

Although the Irish could not pull out the doubles point against Northwestern on Sunday, Louderback said the new doubles team competing against the Wildcats pleased him.

“We had [junior Jennifer] Kellner and [senior Chrissie] McGaffigan still play together, but the other two teams we switched the partners around and we thought they both played really well,” he said. “Even though we’ve played a few matches, we’re still in the process of looking at some different combinations. Our big goal this year is to be ready by Big East time and be playing really well.”

The Irish will begin this weekend’s competition against Baylor on Saturday morning at 10a.m. at the Eck Tennis Center. Notre Dame then heads south to Bloomington, Ind., to take on the Hoosiers on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. at the Indiana University Tennis Center.

Contact Vicky Jacobson at vjacobse@nd.edu
By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

Despite a successful 2012 sea-
son, No. 3 Notre Dame would like
this weekend to go a little differ-
ently than it did last year.
In fact, the Irish downed
then-No. 2 Duke, 7-3, in the sea-
son opener.
Notre Dame followed that up, however, losing to Penn State
4-3 in overtime.
This year’s squad is fresh off
Saturday’s 13-5 demolition of the
then-No. 1 Duke heading into
Sunday’s matchup with the No. 9
Nittany Lions (2-0) at noon in
University Park, Pa.
Irish junior midfielder Jim
Marlatt, who scored a career-
high five goals Saturday, said
Notre Dame (1-0) is out for re-
venge after last year’s lackluster
performance against Penn State.
“Our defense played out of
their minds [but] our offense cost us
the game,” Marlatt said. “in spite of losing
we just continue to play well,”
Marlatt said.
If Saturday’s Rout of Duke is any indication, scoring will not
be a problem for the 2013 Irish.
In fact, the Fighting Irish’s five-goal
output, freshman attack Matt
Kavanagh netted four goals in his
collegiate debut. Senior attack
Sean Rogers and senior midfield-
er Steve Murphy added two goals
each. The 13 goals were the most
for the Irish in a season opener since
2005 against Penn State.
“It’s a good start, good mo-
momentum,” Marlatt said. “It was
fun to play someone else other
than ourselves after five weeks
of preseason. So it was a good start,
something to build on. Last year
we beat Duke and then we kind
of laid an egg against Penn State,
especially offensively so we defi-
nitely need to focus on building
off that 13 goal performance.”
The Nittany Lions posted a
dominant offensive perfor-
mance of their own Sunday
against No. 11 Denver. Penn State
exploded for 15 goals against
the Pioneers after bury-
ing 11 in a season-opening win
over Michigan. Junior attack
Shane Sturgis leads the squad
with eight goals through two
games. Sturgis and senior attack
Jack Forster ripped four goals
each against Denver.
“We watched the second half,”
Irish senior goalie John Kemp
said of the Penn State win over
Denver. “So we saw how much
offensive firepower [the Nittany
Lions] have. They shot the ball
hard. They took good shots.
Offensively they kind of did
what they wanted so we’ve got
preparing for them obviously
offensively.”
Kemp, an All-American in
2012, powered an experienced
Irish defense against the Blue
Devils on Saturday. Notre Dame
led the nation in goals-against
average last year, and Duke mus-
tered just five goals as Kemp
notched 10 saves in the cage.
“(Our defensive performance
Saturday) is something to go
out and kind of emulate,” Marlatt
said. “We just went into every
game the same way, knowing that
we have to communicate, take
evryone’s role and be there for
each other. Defensively it’s a
thing where everyone has to do
their part for us to succeed so ev-
ryone’s just got to go in and play
the way that we want everyone
to play.”
Marlatt said he sees a lot of
similarities between the Nittany
Lions and the Blue Devils.
“I think [Penn State] is pretty
similar to Duke but maybe a
little more disciplined,” Marlatt
said. “They’re aggressive. They
put two poles on the faceoff so
we know they’re going to come
to the faceoffs, try to be aggressive at
first and then kind of sink in.”
Last year, the Irish weathered
the initial aggressiveness from
Penn State, holding the Nittany
Lions scoreless for the first 21
minutes. Defense wasn’t the
problem, Kemp said.
“We didn’t really play very
well offensively last year,” Kemp
said of the Penn State win over
Denver. “Defensively, we de-
initely want to get back at them. I think that was
the first time we lost to them in quite some time. They’re a real
team.”
Marlatt, meanwhile, said the
Irish are excited to face a famil-
iar foe.
“It’s a team we’re familiar with
— we’ve played them in the past
— so we’re looking forward to it,”
Marlatt said.
The Irish seek revenge against
Penn State on Sunday at noon in
University Park, Pa.

Contact Mike Monaco at
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Irish senior midfielder Ryan Foley evades a Nittany Lion defender
during Notre Dame’s 4-3 loss to Penn State on Feb. 26, 2012.

Irish senior pitcher Nick McCarty worked a complete game as Notre Dame defeated Mercer in a close 5-4 ballgame to complete its rally against
Sarasota, Fla. despite failing to win two poles on the faceoff so that we can
prepare for them obviously.

Two players performed well
each week over the weekend to
prepare for them obviously.

Eric Jagielo and freshman
pitcher Nick McCarty to its
weekly honor roll on Monday.
Jagielo went 6-for-11 with two
doubles and eight RBI in the
tournament. McCarty pitched
five shutout innings of relief to
take the 6-5, extra-innings win
against Florida Gulf Coast.
The Irish will need solid
work from the plate and from
the mound again this week-
end if they want to return
to South Bend with a series vic-
tory against a strong Tulane
rotation with a 1.54 team era.
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end if they want to return
to South Bend.

Like the many college stu-
dents of the New Orleans for Mardi Gras festivi-
ties, the Notre Dame baseball
team will take a late-winter trip
to New Orleans. Unlike other
students, however, the Irish are
not looking to revel in the city’s
vibrant nightlife. Instead, the
Irish travel to the Big Easy
looking to sweep a three-game
weekend series with Tulane.
The Irish (2-1) will face the
Green Wave (3-1) after earn-
ing wins against Florida Gulf
Coast and Ohio State in the
season-opening Snowbird Tournament
last weekend in Sarasota, Fla.
Despite failing to
come back against
Mercer in a close 5-4
game Sunday, Irish coach Mike Aoki said the team aims to maintain
the momentum it earned from
winning two of three games.
“A big thing is that we just
continued to play well,”
Aoki said. “In spite of losing
that game on Sunday, I thought
over the entire weekend,
Two players performed well
enough in the opening week-
end to garner early-season con-
ference attention. The Big East
completed its rally against
Mercer in a close 5-4 ballgame to
complete its rally against
Sarasota, Fla. despite failing to
win two poles on the faceoff so
that we can prepare for them
otherwise.
Aoki said he anticipates three
pitchers to start this week.
“Aoki said he anticipates three
pitchers to start this week.
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pitchers to start this week.
Irish face toughest competition of the season

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

The No. 25 Irish hit the road this weekend, traveling to Columbus, Ohio, to face No. 4 Ohio State. The Buckeyes (10-2) will be the highest ranked opponent Notre Dame (6-4) has faced this season.

Ohio State dropped its second contest of the season 4-3 last weekend to No. 1 Virginia. Its only other loss came against No. 14 Texas A&M on Feb. 10. The Irish enter the weekend following a 4-3 victory over No. 23 Michigan.

“The [Michigan] win will give us some confidence going into this weekend,” junior Ryan Bandy said.

Junior Billy Pecor has become a leader for the Irish lately, clinching the win over Michigan with his victory in singles play. Pecor also earned a win in doubles play during the contest. The Big East awarded Pecor Player of the Week honors for his efforts.

For the Buckeyes, No. 62 sophomore Chris Diaz.

Notre Dame will travel to Columbus, Ohio, on Feb. 23 to face No. 4 Ohio State, the highest-ranked team the Irish have faced this season.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

Notre Dame takes competitive edge south

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

The Irish will travel to North Carolina this week for the second time this season. Notre Dame (4-5) will compete in the Pirate Invitational in Greenville, N.C., against Liberty, East Carolina and Fairfield.

Due to potentially adverse weather conditions, Beth Keylon-Randolph, the coach of host team East Carolina, announced alterations to the schedule Thursday. Lehigh, one of the teams originally scheduled to compete, has withdrawn from the tournament.

East Carolina will be hosting its third tournament this season. The Pirates (5-3) have lost twice to Ohio and once to St. John’s. One day after falling 9-5 to the Red Storm, East Carolina bounced back with a 1-0 win. Liberty (1-3) earned its only win of the season against HIPPIH by the count of 5-2. Fairfield opens their season this weekend, competing for the first time in Greenville. The Stags recently earned the top spot in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference preseason coaches’ poll.

The Irish enter the weekend having most recently suffered a close 7-5 loss to No. 1 Oklahoma. The game lasted nine innings, proving Notre Dame’s ability to compete at the top, according to Irish senior catcher Amy Buntin.

“Although the score at the end didn’t show it, that game showed us that we will fight until the last out of the last inning,” Buntin said. “It was an exciting game to be a part of and we want to continue playing with that same enthusiasm.”

Despite the loss, the Irish left the field with other successes. Their five runs broke the Sooners’ streak of more than 35 scoreless innings. Junior pitcher Laura Winter helped lead the squad with 14 strikeouts, while the deep batting order collected eight hits.

“We are rolling into this weekend with the same energy we brought to the Oklahoma game,” Buntin said.

The invitational schedule remains tentative due to weather but the Irish are currently scheduled to start the weekend Saturday at 1 p.m. against Liberty followed by East Carolina at 5:30 p.m. Notre Dame will finish the Pirate Invitational in Greenville, N.C., on Sunday at 9 a.m. against Fairfield.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu
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Brey
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24
quarterfinals of the Big East tournament.
“It’s very familiar territory for us heading down the stretch
in the midst of maybe getting a double-bye,” Brey said. “We’ve
been in that race before. Of course, our last four are very
challenging.”

Notre Dame bested the Bearcats 66-60 on Jan. 7. Irish
junior guard Jerian Grant spearheaded the Notre Dame
attack with 19 points on 7-for-10 shooting from the field. As a
team, Notre Dame made nine of 16 three-pointers. Bearcats
junior guard Sean Kilpatrick scored 15 points in the loss.

Brey said the key to winning
games down the stretch will be
powering through the in-
evitable valleys that come with
the peaks. The Irish missed 18
of their first 19 shots against
the Panthers on Monday and
had three points total nearly
13 minutes into the game. Brey
said the Irish have realized
the importance of defense and
rebounding when the offense is
sputtering.

“The four remaining games
are all [against] really good
teams,” Brey said. “What I’ve
liked — what I think we’ve
come to grips with — is we’re
going to have our lulls. We’re
going to be unsmooth. Can we
just go back and guard and
rebound like that? And that’s
hard. When guys’ offense isn’t
going good will they do that?

“Well on the road the other
night. Pittsburgh, there was
the mentality ‘Boy, we better do
that or we’re going to get blown
out.’ … If we have our lulls we
have our lulls. Let’s just rely on
defending and rebounding the
ball and [being] mentally tough
to know that if it’s a close game,
we’ve been pretty good in close
games.”

Brey said graduate student
guard Scott Martin, who has
missed the last eight games
with a knee injury, could be
close to returning.

“I don’t know about [play-
ing] this weekend but I think
he’s really trying to make some
progress toward a full practice
— or going live five-on-five —
on Friday, which would be a big
step,” Brey said. “I don’t know
if he would be really ready
and just two days of practice.
I think we’ve just got to see a
couple full days of practice. But
we are making progress. I’m
classified.”

The well-rested Irish tip off
against Cincinnati on Sunday
at 2 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Mike Monaco at
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Jackson
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24
Western Michigan enters the
contest allowing only 1.94
goops per game. Slubowski
has started every game for
the Broncos this season and
ranks 11th in the nation in
goals against average and
even second in minutes played.

Jackson said winning mat-
ters more against a tough
defensive opponent than
the game’s style. “It’s about
goaltending and teams that
play good team defense,”
Jackson said. “And that’s
why, like Sunday, you have to
be willing to win a game 2-1.”

A stifling defense and
goalie are not the only prob-
lems Notre Dame might face
this weekend. The Irish will
also deal with the tough-
est crowds in the CCHA at
the 3,667-seat Lawson Arena.

“They’ve got a great stu-
dent section — it’s like a little
bandbox in there,” Jackson
said. “The fans are right on
top of you. … If they were
my fans, I’d be happy to have
them. They’re into the game
and it’s a loud building.”

This will be the second se-
ries between the Irish and
the defending Mason Cup
champion Broncos this sea-
son. The teams split a pair
of games in the Compton
Family Ice Arena in early
November.

“The personnel’s the
same. I’m sure the tactical
end of the game’s probably
fairly similar,” Jackson said
of the series compared to
the series in November. “It
just depends on where their
mindset is and where ours is,
if there’s any differential.”

The Irish and Broncos
face off against the Broncos
at 7:35 p.m. tonight and
7:05 p.m. Saturday night at
Lawson Arena in Kalamazoo,
Mich.

Contact Sam Gans at
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CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1  “Hold on, why are you being dragged into this?”
2  Last single digits?
3  Unlikely to develop clothing lines?
4  Filched
5  2007 Oscar winner Swinton
6  Wildlife
7  Twin or triplet
8  San Francisco’s tower
9  Bear in “The Jungle Book”
10  Resign
11  Salem’s-By-Portland dir.
12  Classic brand with a bunny mascot
13  Choices for poachers
14  Crop-eating catepillars

DOWN
1  Ring gir.
2  Part of a crack response?
3  One in a pack
4  “No worries”.
5  First European to cross the Mississippi.
6  It’s lighter than mustard.
7  It has its limits, briefly.
8  Gun prevention meas.
9  Like some debts.
10  “I’m gone”.
11  It’s loud to have the field.
12  Does some flattening.
13  Poke on Facebook, say.
14  Relaxes

Horoscope | Eugenia Last

Celebrities born on this day: Ashley Greene, 26; Ellen Page, 26; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 34; Kathy Griffin, 58.

Happy Birthday: You need to put a little more fun and interest into your life. New hobbies, passions or physical challenges will help you discover a side of you that has been buried due to responsibilities. Let your imagination take over and you’ll find a lifestyle that is rejuvenating. Communication skills will be amplified.

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Cancer (June 21-July 22): Don’t hesitate if an opportunity arises that allows you to run business with pleasure. The better you are at managing your personal affairs, the further ahead you will go. Preciousness and decisiveness will raise your profile. Take the initiative.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Make whatever alterations are necessary to achieve happiness. Don’t give in to demands being put on you by someone you feel is stifling you. A short trip will open your eyes to what’s available if you are willing to make a move.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put practicality first. You may want to overreact to compensate for something, but you are best to keep things simple and to the point. Live by your rules, not what someone else wants you to do.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let situations play out naturally and eventually everything will fall into place. A change in your relationships will benefit you in the end, so don’t lament something you cannot alter. Love is in the stars and socializing is a must.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Learning and trying new pastimes will lead to an interesting meeting with someone who is trying to achieve similar goals. Larger quarters or closer proximity to others will add comfort, opportunity and joy to your life.

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate and protective. You are outgoing, charming and original.
**Men's Basketball**

**Rested and ready**

Notre Dame faces Cincinnati in Big East homestretch

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

After playing a pair of over-time thrillers last week, the No. 25 Irish could finally rest and recover.

Notre Dame (21-6, 9-5 Big East) squared off with two conference foes on the road in a quick Saturday-Monday turnaround, but the rundown Irish have had ample time to recover for Sunday’s tilt with Cincinnati at Purcell Pavilion.

“Much needed, really much needed,” Irish coach Mike Brey said Wednesday of the respite. “We took [Tuesday] off. We’ll go a little bit [Wednesday], not crazy, and then we’re going to take [Thursday] off, shorten the week up and then we have two days to get ready for Cincinnati. And then I love the fact that we don’t play until [March 2] after the [Cincinnati] game.

“This is really needed for us, probably just as much mentally as physically.”

With four games remaining in the standing-room-only Big East, the Irish are entrenched in fifth place, though they are just one-and-a-half games out of first place. Cincinnati (19-7, 7-6), meanwhile, has lost three of its last four games and has fallen to 10th place in the league.

While the Bearcats fell to Connecticut 73-66 on Thursday night, the Irish will have had five full days between games after downing Pittsburgh 51-42 on Monday.

“I can be a fan and root a little bit,” Brey said. “We’re always rooting standings down the stretch. Certainly when you have a win like we did Monday it’s nice to put that in the bank for a while and see what the rest of the league does.”

Brey said the Irish are eyeing one of four double-byes to the NCAA tournament.

**Team travels to play key CCHA weekend series**

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

No. 11 Notre Dame will face one of the toughest teams and venues in the country when it travels to Kalamazoo, Mich., this weekend for a two-game series with No. 7 Western Michigan at Lawson Arena.

Following a 2-1 victory over Miami (Ohio) at Soldier Field on Sunday, the Irish (19-12-1, 15-8-1-1 CCHA) trail the second-place Broncos (18-8-6, 14-6-4-2) by one point in the conference race with four games remaining, and are three points behind the CCHA-leading RedHawks.

The Irish clinched a top-five CCHA finish last weekend, which guarantees a first-round bye in the CCHA tournament. Notre Dame needs just one win or shootout win in its final four games to secure home-ice advantage in the second round of the conference tournament.

**Irish hit the road to play DePaul**

By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Sports Writer

No. 2 Notre Dame will not venture far from home to play DePaul in Chicago on Sunday. But though the drive is short, the Irish (24-1, 12-0 Big East) will face an unfriendly environment for this conference road game. The Blue Demons (18-8, 7-5) will defend their 14-1 record at home when Notre Dame arrives at the McGrath-Phillips Arena. The game could be quite a challenge for the Irish, coach Muffett McGraw said.

McGraw said the DePaul fans’ energy will produce plenty of noise, as tickets for the game sold out Wednesday.

“I love to play it here,” McGraw said. “The McGrath-Phillips arena is like a high school gym, so it’ll be very loud, and it’s going to be difficult. It’s a struggle to play up there. They are really, really tough at home.

“We expect [Blue Demons senior guard] Anna Martin to be back,” McGraw said. “She’s their top player that’s been out for a while so i’m sure that they’re going to play their starting five in the game on the irish schedule in recent years,  mcgraw said.

“For us too,” she said. “So, those two guys inside are tough for us to guard. They’re playing really well right now, and they have a good team because you can’t double team them because their guards shoot the ball well.”

The Irish are coming off a resounding 87-49 victory over Marquette on Sunday in which senior guard Skylar Diggins put up 23 points and moved into sole possession of second place on Notre Dame’s all-time scoring list. Junior forward Natalie Achonwa chipped in 17 points.

**Women’s Basketball**

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**Hockey**

Irish coach Jeff Jackson said he is aware his players check other CCHA scores in the middle of a tight conference race whether he wants them to or not, but it’s critical they remain focused on their own game.

“It doesn’t matter if I mind, I’m sure they’re doing it, and they’re on the internet all the time so I’m sure that they’re looking at everything, no matter what I say,” Jackson said. “I just want them to stay focused on the process here, because the only thing that matters right now is Friday night.”

Less than a week after playing the RedHawks — the nation’s top scoring defense — the Irish will face the No. 3 scoring defense in the country when they head to Kalamazoo. Behind sophomore forward Mitch Comtois and junior forward Katherine Harry and junior Jasmine Penny, stand at 6-foot-3 and 6-foot-1, respectively, McGraw said the Blue Demons use their size to spread the floor and create space on the perimeter for their sharp-shoot ing guards. Harry and Penny present particularly difficult matchups for Notre Dame and have consistently been a tough game on the Irish schedule in recent years, McGraw said.

“Last year, Penny had a really good game against us here and Harry is a tough matchup for us too,” she said. “So, those two guys inside are tough for us to guard. They’re playing really well right now, and they have a good team because you can’t double team them because their guards shoot the ball well.”

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