Movie screening to honor Mandela

By EMILIE KEFALAS
News Writer

The Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture will sponsor a screening of “Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom” on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, followed by a panel discussion of the film and its cultural and educational significance.

The film itself is based on Mandela’s autobiography of the same name. It stars Idris Elba as Mandela and Naomie Harris as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the South African politician and Mandela’s ex-wife. The panel discussion will feature Fr. Emmanuel Katongole of the Notre Dame Kroc Institute, Thomas Hibbs of Baylor University and Thomas Allen of Allied Faith Integrated Marketing company. Professor O. Carter Snead, the director of the Center for Ethics and Culture, will moderate the discussion.

The screening and discussion, already sold out, is the inaugural event of the Center for Ethics and Culture’s media and culture initiative.

According to a written description of the initiative put together by the Center for Ethics and Culture, “The question of how media arts (especially film and television) function and transform culture is a crucially important question that thus far has been underexplored in the social sciences. [Through the media and culture initiative] the Center for Ethics and Culture aims to engage this question in a comprehensive fashion—one that is simultaneously theoretical and practical.”

The event is a special advance screening of the film, which Snead said was made possible by the Weinstein Company, the film’s distributor. “Ndotre Dame is a culturally significant institution,” Snead said. “Moreover, as a Catholic university, we stand for the values at the heart of this film: mercy, equality and reconciliation; [University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore] Hesburgh’s legacy for the American civil rights movement stands as further reaffirmation of [notre Dame’s commitment] to these goods.”

Snead said the Center for Ethics and Culture planned the event well before Mandela’s recent death, but his passing provides an opportunity to honor and remember his legacy.

Spond turns injury into inspiration

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

No longer able to play the sport he loves, former Irish linebacker Danny Spond has turned his experience into a way to do something else he loves: inspiring others.

Spond, a senior, has founded the organization, Undefeated, in order to share his experience overcoming frustrated expectations through speaking engagements around the country.

“Undefeated is an organization I started to tell my story and the story of others. Senior Danny Spond, who retired prior to this season, takes the field against BYU on Oct. 20, 2012. After retiring from football, Spond launched Undefeated to share his personal story with others.

Farm employs autistic adults

By EMILIE KEFALAS
News Writer

The national unemployment rate among autistic adults is 90 percent, a statistic not surprising for Jan Pilarski, former director of the justice education program at Saint Mary’s, whose autistic son, Chris Pilarski was let go of his job after only three months of employment despite his attainment of a college degree, she said.

“As a parent of a young adult with autism, I always knew that once our son, Chris, finished the end of his schooling that it was going to be a rough road,” Jan Pilarski, former director of the justice education program at Saint Mary’s, whose autistic son, Chris Pilarski was let go of his job after only three months of employment despite his attainment of a college degree, she said.

Farm workers at Green Bridge Growers, a group that employs autistic adults, tend to an aquaponics greenhouse. The farm has started a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo to build a second greenhouse.
Two students masqueraded as a camel in the bitter cold Wednesday to commemorate this week’s ‘Hump Day.’ Based on the existence of only one hump this camel is likely of the Dromedary variety. A two-hump Bactrian camel, one of the few animals that regularly eats snow, might enjoy South Bend a bit more.

Call for peace and justice.

Kevin Song
Online Editor:
ads@ndsmcobserver.com
ph: (574) 631-7471
Tickets $3 for students.

Tickets $3 for students.

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Jazz Christmas carols.

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Visiting poet kicks off series at Saint Mary's

By KELLY KONYA
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's Poetry Club hosted Austin Segrest, poetry editor of "The Missouri Review" and the club's first poet of its inaugural season. Segrest, who was chosen to speak by Saint Mary's poet laureate Dionne Segrest, born in Birmingham, Alabama, said he studied classics at Emory University. He said his poetry is influenced by many of the classical poets, such as Ovid and Virgil, and their use and creation of myth.

Segrest said he has used psychoanalysis to revisit his personal past and to investigate his writing to be a part of this. It means the world." Segrest said.

Segrest said he has used psychoanalysis to revisit his personal past and to investigate the roots from which he sprung. There were just a few confluences that came together in my life, like I had just graduated from Emory University, I was working a research job, and actually living with my mother. I had moved in back home and so I think there were a lot of intersections coming together that then came up in the therapy that followed.”

Junior Elizabeth Kenney said she enjoyed Segrest’s reading and liked learning his background. “As a writer, I thought it was really interesting to hear about his techniques and the subjects he chooses to use in his writing,” Kenney said. “I liked the rhythm in his poetry and the honesty and how it sounded just like a conversation. I think he made an impression on many of the students in attendance, because he was so casual about his poetry but it reached very deep and touched on many topics people could re- vive in life. My mother died when I was first coming into my own as a writer, so it was very influential on how I viewed the world.”

"I thought his use of classical references were breathtaking, and having studied abroad in Rome, I love the way he weaves these connections and thinking of what the al- lusions mean for myself and then within his poems.”

Founder of the poetry club, junior Claire Bleecker, said she began the club this year in order to learn more about poetry and to encourage other students to try different types of art. “We were excited to have Segrest come to Saint Mary’s, because I think it’s so important for young writers to know that becoming a poet is a plausible thing.” Bleecker said. “Poets aren’t just these mythical creatures but very genuine and kind people.”

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Professor earns grant for energy research

By ALEX CAO
News Writer

The U.S. Department of Energy Advanced Research Project Agency awarded a $2,496,428 grant to a research team led by Notre Dame Electrical Engineering Professor Grace Xing in October.

Xing’s team of researchers from the University of Notre Dame and three tech compa- nies — IQE, ToPrint and the United Technology Research Center — is working to improve the process of converting and distributing electricity.

“If you look at electricity after it’s generated, we have various means: we have hydro-power, wind power, solar power — we have various ways of producing energy,” Xing said. “This electricity has to be converted to higher voltages so it can be transmitted and distributed. This power signal has to be converted — sometimes by stepping up voltage, sometimes by chang- ing the frequency.”

Xing said researchers could streamline the process sleeker, smaller and more efficient by making power-converting devices with a relatively new material called gallium nitride.

“Gallium Nitride is a type of semiconductor, not the heard-of semiconductor — that’s called Silicon,” she said. “That is the backbone of all of our modern electronics. You have it in your car, phone, computer. It’s in all the electronics you can think of including power stations. Some of them use silicon.”

“So the technology we’re using is a semiconductor called gal- lium nitride. Gallium nitride is a relatively new semiconductor in comparison to silicon. It has only been worked on for 25 years, but if you have used blue-ray disks or white LED’s, you have been using gallium nitride devices.”

“The same thickness of mate- rial of silicon supports 100 volts of energy but the same amount of gallium nitride supports 1,000 volts, Xing said.

“The more we think this re- search will benefit public in- frastructure or engineering research.”

“We thought that our device can be used as a replacement for our current infrastructure or for en- gineers to help develop the next- generation of infrastructure,” she said.

Contact Alex Cao at acao@nd.edu

MANDELA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mandela added significance to the film. He additionally said members of the Saint Mary’s community are now paying more attention to the event by people at the University. Of course the event now takes on a deeper importance,” Snead said. “This is a time when we are reflecting on Mandela’s legacy.”

Snead said Mandela’s legacy is important especially at a place like Notre Dame, which prides itself on not only being a research institu- tion but also a promoter of values such as freedom, equality and reconciliation. “Mandela’s commitment to non-violence and reconciliation is an important issue we want to explore and celebrate,” Snead said.

Snead said he is happy the event sold out, and he said the Center for Ethics and Culture is excited about adding more screenings of the film on campus.

“We’re very excited the film sold out in short order,” Snead said. “There’s a lot of interest in [another screening], and we’re certainly open to the possibility of additional screenings. We’ll just have to see what’s possible.”

Snead said the Africana Studies Department and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies have joined the Center for Ethics and Culture in sponsoring the event, and the University itself added the event as an official remembrance event following Mandela’s death.

Snead said the Center for Ethics and Culture chose this film in particular as the first event of the media and culture initiative be- cause it is not only visually and audibly stimulating, but also intellectually and emotionally thought-provoking.

“Our feeling was that [the first film featured in the new initia- tive] had to be aesthetically beau- tiful and normatively rich,” Snead said. “We also thought [the film] would attract a large and diverse audience.”

Contact Jack Rooney at jrooney1@nd.edu

MANDRA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There was no one in Room 329 to hear the Sacred Heart carillon bells ringing on December 24, 1941. The innovative new place opened a few months earlier specifically to make life easier for the men and women who work at Notre Dame — gone. An Assistant Coach needing a loan knocked on the door but no one answered. How could this be?

Hoping to get a glimpse of the man from our past, the coach walked down three flights of stairs where he found the newly relocated and much larger library of Notre Dame College.

For an idea dreamed up in a pub a few months earlier by two Notre Dame professors, this innovative place without an audience was embraced by so many professors, staff and coaches, that things were really taking off. It would stay here in the Administration Building, writing low-interest loans to the men and women of Notre Dame for the next seven years — until it outgrew this space too.

Today, Notre Dame Federal Credit Union is still devoted to serving the men and women of this great University. It’s what we were founded to do. No one else can say that. For us, it is both an honor and a responsibility we take very seriously.

Merry Christmas to you from your family at Notre Dame Federal Credit Union, where we always hear the carillon bells of Sacred Heart.

Find out more at www.NDFRoom329.org.
SMC choirs to sing Christmas carols

By ALEX WINEGAR
News Writer

This Sunday, the 28th annual Lessons and Carols event will take place at the Church of Loreto at 7:30 p.m., sponsored by Campus Ministry, the Department of Music, the Department of Communication, Drama, Dance, Theater and the Church of Loreto.

Regina Wilson, assistant director of campus Ministry, said Lessons and Carols is a gathering of prayer that was started by the Church of England. Readers recite scripture, and Saint Mary’s and the Church of Loreto’s choirs sing sacred songs of the season, she said. “The way you can hear everything as part of women’s choir be-participate for a second year Mar-ia Wesler said she chose to read readings and carols in 2012, sophomore. The choirs sing sacred like religion. Wilson said she believes the event is a celebratory occasion for the community to be in prayer together. “I find it to be an experience of prayer,” she said “...There are a lot of people that have been coming for years. This is their advent thing to partici-pate in.”

The readings and lessons are readings that we carefully select based on theme,” Wilson said. “This year we picked readings that convey or represent im-mate, Wilson said. The choirs in-clude women’s choir, liturgical choir, collegiate choir, Lore-etto choir and Hand Belle Choir. A candlelight ceremony featuring “Silent Night” closes the event, she said. “We invite different people from the College to do the read-ings. We have seven different lessons and readings,” she said. “...Of the seven readers there are two faculty members, one student, two sisters, a couple of ministers so it is a representa-tion of the College.”

The readings often relate back to the mission of Saint Mary’s and to the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Wilson said. “It is very connected with the mission of the sisters of the Holy Cross so the readings of-ten have something to do with justice,” she said. “And this year in particular to Mary and jus-tice to Saint Mary’s to some of the thematic elements.”

After participating in Lessons and Carols in 2012, sophomore Maria Wesler said she chose to participate for a second year as part of women’s choir be-cause the event was a lovely experience. “The Church of Loreto is just so beautiful,” Wesler said. “The way you can hear everyone sing in there and [the way it] echoes is gorgeous,” she said. Saint Mary’s students also recognize the importance of keeping tradition and the value it has for the College, Wesler said. “It’s a part of maintaining the culture and also maintain-ing the values of Saint Mary’s,” she said. “I would say Lessons and Carols would probably be a good part of the Saint Mary’s tradition because it does keep alive the certain values that our school holds sacred like religion. Wilson said she believes the event is a celebratory occasion for the community to be in prayer together. “I find it to be an experience of prayer,” she said “...There are a lot of people that have been coming for years. This is their advent thing to partici-pate in.”

Contact Alex Winegar at awineg01@saintmarys.edu

Event to unite various scholars

By CAITLIN SISK
News Writer

On any college campus, vari-ous academic disciplines are somewhat separated. But twice a semester, Notre Dame’s Center for the Study of Religion and Society hosts presentations as part of the Colloquium on the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion to unite scholars from diverse fields.

The Center will host one of these presentations, titled “Beyond Coping: Pentecostalism in Prison in Rio de Janeiro,” on Friday.

The speaker, Dr. Andrew Johnson, a former visiting scholar at Princeton University, will present on his research about religion at the margins of society, specifically the Pentecostalism move-ment and its presence among prisoners in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

By CAITLIN SISK
News Writer

“The readings and lessons are readings that we carefully select based on theme,” Wilson said. “This year we picked readings that convey or represent images of Mary. And they aren’t all scripture. For instance there’s a lovely poem by Hildegard von Bingen that we’ve used several times and that we are going to read again this year,” she said.

The event begins with a pro-cession of the choirs singing a congregational song. Readings and lessons with either choral or congregational signing alter-nate, Wilson said. The choirs in-clude women’s choir, liturgical choir, collegiate choir, Lore-tto choir and Hand Belle Choir. A candlelight ceremony featuring “Silent Night” closes the event, she said. “We invite different people from the College to do the read-ings. We have seven different lessons and readings,” she said. “...Of the seven readers there are two faculty members, one student, two sisters, a couple of ministers so it is a representa-tion of the College.”

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By CAITLIN SISK
News Writer

The presentations, although focused on topics related to re-ligious studies, also offer useful information not only for those looking to study religion but also for those wishing to participate in social research, Hoffman said. “They also talk about how they do their research and different aspects of their research, so I think for anyone that wants to do research it’s good to come and listen to the speakers to get a feel for how others do it,” Hoffman said.

Every colloquium has a differ-ent topic, ranging from the idea of science versus religion to investi-gations of hookup culture on col-lege campuses, she said. “I think there should be differ-ent topics all of the time so it reaches all of the audience, and it’s not just the same thing over and over again. It brings more of a crowd,” Hoffman said.

The colloquium began to bring together different disciplines, she said. “We hold them so that com-munication across the disci-plines becomes better, and also it’s a place for the graduate stu-dents to kind of network and get to know other graduate students in other departments,” Hoffman said.

The Center for the Study of Religion and Society hopes to in-clude all disciplines in these dis-cussions on topics related to the study of religion, Hoffman said. “The majority of them right now are coming from the sociol-ogy department,” she said. “Our ideal is to have grad students and faculty come from sociology his-tony, political science, theology.”

Contact Caitlin Sisk at csisk@nd.edu
Spond

Continued from page 1

to hopefully inspire others as they face every day challenges,” Spond said.

Spond’s experience in sixth grade is something he remembers clearly. “I knew it had to be something that I love to do,” Spond said. “I told myself I had two options – the first one is to go into the shadows or turn this into a project that’s something I’m passionate about, the second one is that it’s something I love to do.”

Spond said he knew he wanted to explore different interests to figure out what would help him get through the end of the year, and he decided to use the $2,000 he had to start a small business. He decided to start a small business to try and make some money, he said. “I realized that it was something I love to do, and I wanted to make it into something that would give me the opportunity to help people,” Spond said.

Spond said he wanted to help others through his business, and he decided to focus on providing a service to help people with anxiety and depression. “I wanted to help others who are struggling with these issues, and I think that by doing so, I can help them find some relief,” Spond said.

Spond said he started his business called “Undefeated” to help others who are struggling with anxiety and depression. “I wanted to create a company that would provide support and inspiration to others who are going through similar struggles,” Spond said.

Spond said he has found that people are very open to share their stories, and he has heard many different stories from people who have used his services. “I think it’s really important to listen to the stories of others, and I’m grateful that I have been able to help so many people,” Spond said.

Spond said he hopes to continue to help others, and he is excited about the future of his business. “I’m excited about the future of Undefeated, and I’m looking forward to continuing to help others,” Spond said.

Contact Kathryn Marshall at kmarshal02@saintmarys.edu.

Farm

Continued from page 1

Pilarski said, “There’s that unknown of wondering what will happen after that, because everything has been supportive up to that point. I guess you could call it a problem, and I had to think about what I want to do next.”

Jan Pilarski subsequently headed to Chicago, where she pursued her interest in aquaponics. “I'm reaching out to the autism bloggers, just to get mentioned under blogs as guest blogs, and blogging about our own experiences with autism and how we're coping with it,” Pilarski said. “I’m reaching out to the autism bloggers, just to get mentioned under blogs as guest blogs, and blogging about our own experiences with autism and how we're coping with it.”

Jan Pilarski is a native of Ireland, and she has been active in the autism community for many years. “I'm reaching out to the autism bloggers, just to get mentioned under blogs as guest blogs, and blogging about our own experiences with autism and how we're coping with it,” Pilarski said.

Contact Emilio Kefalas at ekefal01@saintmarys.edu.
Tied into happiness

Scott Boyle
The Silencer Seeker

This is the last clue — here’s where to look.

Go to the place where they keep all the books.

When the hour hand points to the jersey I wear
You will find a nice but naughty girl sitting in there.

I can’t tell you which floor — I don’t even know
But you can’t solve my puzzle unless you know what she knows.

She will only share this with the first lucky three,
but you can’t solve my puzzle unless you know what she knows.

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

The chocolate games, day 4

Ask her for the clue, she’ll have what you need.

Remember, guys, there can only be three!

But if no one can find her after fifteen,
Go to @irishchocolate for a hint from me.

The Chocolate Games have now come to an end.
But this isn’t the last of me, your Chocolatefry. Thanks for the love — I’m so glad that I came.
Forever and always, Love Thee Notre Dame.

Louis Nix
senior
In your dreams, Dec. 11

Contact Dan Brombach at dbrombac@nd.edu

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Obama is not ‘worst president in history’

Katrina Linden
Kat’s Meow

Now that Obama’s "Affordable Care Act" has successfully — or not so successfully — been put into action, I think it’s time that we use the income the program will bring to euthanize the old. Okay, not really. But we need to kill the old school of thought that says all aspects of socialism are bad and that capitalism is always the answer.

A politician recently compared the injustices of apartheid to what he said were the implied injustices of the ACA. While little of the ACA could ever be defined as anything but terrible, final week cannot last forever. Smile becuase classes are hours from being over for good, and break awaets at the end of the tunnel. Smile because a camel walked into your class yelling about Hump Day. Smile because you saw a professor a keffife over it is the universal language of kindness. “It is the universal language of kindness.”

As of the writing of this sentence, it is two degrees outside. I’ve slept for 47 minutes of the past 44 hours. I’ve still have two group projects, two papers, and this column due in the next two days, with six finals looming in the future. It’s a situation no different than those faced by students all over campus as stress creeps in and starts dampening campus Christma spirit. There’s little we can do to avoid or alleviate the pain. But here’s what you can do. Somewhere between finding your finest pair of sweatspants, grabbing some snacks and trekking to the library, try this: Put on a smile.

Smile because today’s Thursday, and Fever beckons. Smile because while tomorrow night being “study days,” you fully intend on sneaking out one last weekend. Smile because you know better than to be at the library for the bun run. Smile because while little of finals could ever be defined as anything but terrible, final week cannot last forever. Smile because classes are hours from being over for good, and break awaets at the end of the tunnel. Smile because a camel walked into your class yelling about Hump Day. Smile because you saw a professor a keffife over it is the universal language of kindness. “It is the universal language of kindness.”

“Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-widening horizon of needs, chances, tasks. All your life you have been taught the joy and glory of the climb.”

Winston Churchill
British politician

Put a smile on

Matt Miklavic
The Main Idea

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Winston Churchill
British politician

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb."

Follow us on Twitter @ObserverViewpnt
By CAELIN MILTKO
Scene Writer

Praised as one of the greatest American photographers of the 20th century, Ansel Adams captured the natural beauty of the American west through his iconic black and white photography until his death in 1984.

From November until January, Notre Dame's Snite Museum is housing an exhibition of his work in conjunction with the South Bend Museum of Art as part of the traveling "Ansel Adams: Masterworks" collection.

The four photographs at the Snite are "Mount Williamson, Sierra Nevada from Manzanar, California," "Aspens, Northern New Mexico," "Winter Sunrise, Sierra Nevada from Lone Pine, California," and "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico." The two featuring California are from the Mrs. Lorraine Gallagher Friemann Fund, "Aspens" is from Museum purchase by exchange from Samuel J. Schatz, and "Moonrise" was lent to the museum by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ayers.

"Mount Williamson" comes from a collection Adams created during World War II as an attempt to document the lives of Japanese Americans interned in Manzanar, California.

The picture shows the mountains as a storm passes over them — the way the photograph captures the light falling through the clouds is particularly remarkable.

"Moonrise" features a small New Mexico town, though more than half of the photograph is taken up by the night sky. Adams is said to have claimed it was one of his best photos in a conversation with Dave McAlpin in January 1943.

Adams started his career in California's Yosemite Park when his family took annual trips to the national park. His first trip to the park was when he was 14 years old and at age 17, he joined the Sierra Club. He worked as a custodian at the Club's LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite and eventually became the official photographer of the Club's annual outings in Yosemite. This launched his career in photography.

According to the Snite, his personal style combines "careful observation with an ability to capture fleeting effects of light and atmosphere." It is this style that allows for his extraordinary ability to capture light effects in his photographs not seen in many others.

Adams was known for the stories he told about when he took each of his photographs. He was known for going to great lengths to get the photographs he wanted, going out for four consecutive mornings to capture the correct image for "Winter Sunrise." He used camera and darkroom to manipulate tone in compositions that he 'preconceived' when confronting his subjects in the field, the Snite Museum said on the exhibit's website. Adams wrote two volumes on photographic technique and published countless books of photographs. He worked all over the American west, documenting the wilderness through his camera.

He is credited with being one of the greatest artists-activists in the 20th century. His works showcase wilderness many Americans have never experienced and is part of the reason many of the national parks he features have remained untouched by industry.

Contact Caelin Miltko at cmoriari@nd.edu

FRIEDAY THE 13TH

"Superstitious"
Stevie Wonder

"Bad Day Worst Day"
Killer Mike

"No. 13 Baby"
Pixies

"Knock on Wood"
Otis Redding

"Bad Luck"
Langhorne Slim

"Trouble On My Mind"
Pusha T ft. Tyler, the Creator

"Friday the 13th"
The Black Keys

"Having A Real Bad Day"
Taj Mahal

"Mr. Bad Luck"
Jimi Hendrix

"13"
Elliott Smith

"$*** Luck"
Modest Mouse

"Friday"
Rebecca Black

Andrew Gastelum
Editor-in-Chief

I figured that for the last Kickblack ever, we change things up a bit. And by change things up, I mean gift you with the greatest compilation of “Oh yeah how could I forget about this?” songs ever found in one era. Whether it brings back memories of a boring summer you spent indoors or losing 5-0 to your best friend when no bounces were going your way, the FIFA 11 soundtrack is the way to go.

Basically, I was getting tired of listening to the same music that I have stored over the past year on Spotify and thought to look up the last five FIFA video game soundtracks. And with this week being papers week, I may have made one of my better decisions on the academic year. And no, I’m not lying. If you need a random compilation of upbeat, quirky, catchy music to get through the long nights and fluorescent lights, search for the FIFA playlists on Spotify. Some incredibly generous people out there in the music community have put together unofficial playlists with all the songs this also goes for movie soundtracks and even the new Grand Theft Auto.

After listening to the last five FIFA soundtracks, FIFA 11 stands apart from all else. It features some really weird underground music like "Odessa" by Caribou or "Ace of Hz" by Ladytron, if you’re into that stuff. It also features some low-key, head-nodding indie classics like “Rhinestone Eyes” by Gorillaz, "O.N.E." by Beastie Boy and “I Can Change" by LCD Soundsystem.

And if you’re still not interested in that, the soundtrack carries some more top 40 based tunes that you’ll be sure to recognize like "Tighten Up" by The Black Keys, "I Can Talk" by Two Door Cinema Club, "Flash Delirium" by MGMT and even some overly-aggressive Linkin Park.

But the best part of the soundtrack are the songs that you know you have heard in some capacity before, and just never knew the name of. Everyone has those songs where Shazam took too long to load and you have to resort to hopelessly Googling “song in Acura commercial” so you can add to your collection.

For me, it was Chromeo’s “Don’t Turn the Lights On” and “Can’t Sleep” by Adrian Lux. You can even find some obligatory-for-any-FIFA Scandinavians rap and South American/Spanish lisp-pop. My usual finals week routine is a lot of GfT Talk and Childish Gambino. But now I have a backup.

However, just a fair warning, you might be tempted to leave your work and play a few games of FIFA. And for that, you’re welcome.

"FIFA 11 Soundtrack"
Record Label: Electronic Arts
Genre: Sports Soundtracks
Songs: "Tighten Up" by The Black Keys, "I Can Talk" by Two Door Cinema Club

THE KICKBACK

"FIFA 11 Soundtrack"
Record Label: Electronic Arts
Genre: Sports Soundtracks
Songs: "Tighten Up" by The Black Keys, "I Can Talk" by Two Door Cinema Club
During Fall Break, I spent a lot of time back in Cleveland at a local coffee shop. By myself, for hours a day, I would read books and drink coffee. Peace, calm, contentment — all things that I hadn’t enjoyed in a long time.

What was keeping me from these things? I couldn’t help but wonder. And I couldn’t help myself remember.

As I packed up my books and clothes and headed back to my home in Farley Hall, I realized the only person keeping me from the peace I was seeking in my life was me. I realized I said yes to so many opportunities that I never gave myself time to just sit on my futon or sit in a coffee shop and read books.

So I dared myself to say no to things: the opposite of that Jim Carrey movie, “Yes Man.”

My problem was that I was a Yes Girl. I said yes to everything, afraid of missing out, afraid of silence, afraid of stillness.

Every moment was spent with other people or spent doing something productive. I rarely gave myself any time to slow down and breathe.

After Fall Break, though, things all changed.

I remember one day my two good friends asked me to study with them. It was right after we returned from Fall Break. And for once, I said no.

This was in sharp contrast to before Fall Break when I used to study with them every single night. Every single night I had so much fun with them. Every single night I wasn’t alone. Every single night I got basically no homework done. Every single night I went to bed past two a.m. Every single night I got no sleep.

Before my coffee shop revelation, I thought that was a good thing. I thought it was good to have a core group of people I hung out with every day, good to always be having a good time, good to be constantly on the go. But with that first no, and the many that followed, I found it’s not that simple.

When I said no to studying with my friends, I instead had dinner with an old friend and had a heart to heart with a freshman in my section. I did some reading for class. I went to bed before 11. I got 9 hours of sleep. And in the morning, I went to the Grotto before heading to class.

For the first time in a long time, I felt free. It’s so easy to get locked up in the go-go-go mentality of Notre Dame. Before Fall Break, my schedule had become as fixed and repetitive as the “lather, rinse, repeat” on the back of a shampoo bottle: wake up, shower, get dressed, go to work, go to class, go to lunch, go to class, go to work, go to dinner, go to Folk Choir, go to study, go to hang out with friends, go to sleep. Repeat 100 times.

Since saying no, my schedule doesn’t feel like it’s suffocating or constraining me. Since saying no, I have time not only for friends and fun and work and conversation, but also, for silence and stillness and contemplation.

It seems counterintuitive when we live in a place as lively and full of opportunities as Notre Dame. To say no to an opportunity goes against everything that got us into this school in the first place. We got in because we said yes to AP classes, yes to student government positions, yes to playing varsity sports, yes to acting in plays, yes to responsibilities. In essence, we said yes to every opportunity that could further our future.

But we can’t say yes to everything. I began to ask myself, “Why am I saying yes to studying with my friends?” If the answer was simply because I wanted to see them, then I should say yes. But if my answer was because I didn’t like the thought of being alone even though I had a ton of work to do and knew I would get no work done with them, well, then maybe I should say no.

Another thing that I realized in my journey through No-ville: saying no to something is just saying yes to something else.

When I say no to a party, I’m really saying yes to watching the Irish Bachelorette with my roommate. When I say no to dinner, I’m really saying yes to a nap. When I say no to studying with my friend, I’m really saying yes to actually being productive.

“Yes” and “no” are not inherently good or bad. Saying no is not a bad thing, if we’re saying no for the right reasons. Similarly, saying yes is not a good thing, if we’re saying yes for the wrong reasons.

To feel free in my hectic life, I didn’t have to say no to everything or yes to everything. I just had to be honest with myself and do what was best for me.

Contact Gabriela Leskur at glekur@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
With hurt RG3, QB2 can be No. 1

Associated Press

TOKYO — Jeff Carter scored the tiebreaking goal midway through the third period and the Los Angeles Kings beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 3-1 Wednesday night for their fifth straight victory.

Carter beat former teammate Jonathan Bernier with a wrist shot between the legs on a 2-on-1 break at 9:40 for his eighth of the season. Maple Leafs defensemen Paul Ranger failed to keep the puck in the Los Angeles end, creating the odd-man rush.

Kyle Clifford added an insurance goal with 1:59 remaining and Drew Doughty also scored for Los Angeles before 18,375 at the Air Canada Centre.

Following a 0-0 overtime Tuesday night in Montreal, the Kings improved to 12-1-4 in their last 17 games.

Martin Jones, a 23-year-old rookie, made 38 saves to earn his fourth win in four NHL starts. Jones came into the game with a .973 save percentage and 0.65 goals-against average. He had stopped 73 of 75 shots and hadn’t been beaten in 142 minutes, 46 seconds.

Cody Franson scored his first of the season for the Toronto in the second period.

The Maple Leafs were without captain and top defender Dion Phaneuf, who was serving the final two games of a two-game suspension for a hit on Boston’s Kevan Miller last weekend. But forward Joffrey Lupul returned after a season-long absence due to a groin tear.

The Maple Leafs showed more jump than a Los Angeles team that had been playing for the second night in a row. Toronto outshot the Kings 39-23, but was unable to convert most of its chances.

Los Angeles scored first on the power play at 10:30 of the first period, on a high wrist shot by Doughty from the top of the circle. It was his sixth goal of the season and the 200th point of his 396-game career.

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Belles look for first conference win versus Trine

By MIKE GINOCCHIO
Sports Writer

After their last game ended with a heartbreaking one-point loss, the Belles look to bounce back against Trine on Saturday. The Belles (2-6, 0-1 MIAA) are searching for their first conference win against the Thunder (1-5, 0-1 MIAA), who also lost their MIAA opener. Though the Thunder have just one victory, Belles coach Jennifer Henley refuses to take them lightly. “Trine has some very good players,” Henley said. “They are led by [sophomore] Alivia Recker and [junior] Kelsey Henselmeier, who are two very strong guards. You also can’t look past [junior forward Amy] Newell, who is Trine’s go-to in the inside.”

Recker leads the Thunder with an average of 12.7 points per game, while Henselmeier is second with 10.8 points per game and leads the starters with a .510 field goal percentage. Newell paces the rest of the team with an average of 12.7 points per game and 9.9 rebounds per game. The Belles have surrendered 70 or more points in each of their last three games and five of their last six. But Trine has struggled offensively this season, averaging just 53.2 points per game. The Belles view this as a key game, both as a chance to capture their first conference win and as an opportunity to break a three-game losing streak. “On paper, yes, we are on a bit of a slide, but this team continues to get better with each practice,” Henley said. “We have been in some close games down the stretch lately... hopefully we have learned from those mistakes in those games and can continue to improve as we face Trine.”

The Belles face Trine on Saturday at the Angela Athletic Facility at 3 p.m.

Belles senior guard Shantynn Bias dribbles during a game last season. Bias leads Saint Mary’s with 13.6 points per game this season.

Reaney propels Irish surge

By ALEX WILCOX
Sports Writer

After dropping its first three meets of the season, Notre Dame has turned it around lately, winning its last four, thanks in large part to the performance of junior Emma Reaney. The All-American from Lawrence, Kan., has made an impact in the pool since arriving as a freshman in 2011. She qualified for the NCAA Championships as a freshman and sophomore and was named a first-team All-American in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke last season.

This year, Reaney has continued to build on her reputation as one of the top swimmers in the country. She has already qualified for this year’s NCAA Championships. Since this is Notre Dame’s first year in the ACC, Reaney admitted she feels especially honored to receive all the accolades she has. “I truly am honored,” Reaney said. “I know this conference is loaded with very talented and hard-working swimmers and for them to recognize an ACC newcomer as one of them so many times is a little surreal. It does put a little extra pressure on me to perform well at the ACC Championships, but I think the team and myself are up to the challenge.”

Despite all of her individual accomplishments, Reaney continues to focus on the team. “I think our season has gone fairly well, especially the last couple months,” Reaney said. “We started off a little rocky, but I think we learned from our mistakes quickly and applied changes right away. I’m so proud of this team and how far we’ve come since my freshman year and seeing all the hard work we’ve been putting in pay off in a big way this past weekend was very rewarding.”

Reaney said the key to all her success this season is simply hard work and dedication. “To be honest, just putting my head down and toughing it out,” Reaney said. “I think I’ve worked harder this season than I ever have before, both in the pool and in the weight room, and it’s so nice to be able to get to a meet and know you have that to rely on.”

All her hard work has earned her a spot in the NCAA Championships in March, which Reaney said will allow her to stop worrying about times and just swim. “It’s definitely a relief,” Reaney said. “Now it’s not so much about the specific time, but simply swimming as fast as you can.”

Even though Reaney herself has already qualified, she is still looking to help her team. “I want to get a relay or two qualified for NCAs as well as place high as a team at the ACC meet,” Reaney said. “If we stay on the upward trend we’ve been on, there’s no saying how high we can go, both in the ACC and the NCAA.”

Contact Alex Wilcox at awilcox1@nd.edu
“Rebounding is critical every game, and we’ve done a good job rebounding,” McGraw said. “I wasn’t quite happy with it in the UCLA game, but we definitely need to concentrate on keeping them off the boards, because they are a very good rebounding team.”

Michigan has also found balance on offense, as it is second in the Big Ten with 18.8 assists per game. The Wolverines have had five games this season with at least 20 assists.

“I think the thing with Michigan is they’ve got a lot of new players this year,” she said. “They graduated some kids, so they’re still looking at different things. They really have played very well this year; I think they’ve surprised some people already.”

Notre Dame will make just its fourth road trip of the season when it travels to the Crisler Center on Saturday. McGraw said the team’s most recent road game, a 77-67 win over then-No. 10 Penn State on Dec. 4, has given its younger players confidence in their ability to play away from home.

“I think the veterans always have been [confident],” she said. “I think it’s the freshmen [who need confidence], and I was really pleased [freshman forward] Taya Reimer played very well on the road at Penn State. I think it’s a learning experience; every game for the freshmen is something new, so we hope they continue to play as well as they have so far.”

Notre Dame will face Michigan on Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Crisler Center in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu
thinking too much about them, we might not come out of the
game doing what we’re good
at. we have to be aware of their
strengths and what they’ll do,
but it’s more important what
we can do. our guys have done
a very good job of that this year,
especially with the schedule
we’ve had. we’ve played a lot of
good teams and teams that play
a lot of different ways, so i think
they will be able to adjust.”

Nonetheless, as the irish
commute to ppl p ark, they will
be embarking on their first ap-
pearance in the college cup.

“we’re trying to keep things
as normal as you can,” clark
said. “we’ve played a lot of big
games in the acc this season.
we’ve played a really tough
schedule. we’re trying to keep it
as normal as possible; we’re not
doing anything different from
what we’ve done before.”

At the same time, notre dame
has been performing well. the
irish have not lost a game
since oct. 26 and, over its last
eight matches, notre dame has
trailed for only 1:52. the irish
enter the college cup off a 2-1
semifinal win over michigan
state on saturday.

“we’re very focused,” clark
said. “i think there is a quiet
focus within the group and i
think that’s the way we’ll keep
it, as best we can. there is a
quiet glow that comes out from
a big win like we had last week
end, but it’s good to get back to
work.”

According to clark, when it
comes to moving past big wins,
notre dame players benefit
from the heavy academic work-
load this time of year.

“One of the good things
about notre dame is that they
know finals are coming up,”
clark said. “they can’t relax
too much; you’ve got to keep
focused between your prac-
tices and your studies. i think
they’ve managed to keep pretty
grounded.”

At the same time, as clark ex-
plained, the irish need to also
find enjoyment in their craft
and maintain a mental balance.

“I think back to last year
when we faced indiana [in a 2-1
ncaa tournament third round
loss], i thought we didn’t play
[and have fun],” clark said.
“That was disappointing and
they were disappointed. when
we work hard, we become a
very good team. if we can do
that, we’ll enjoy ourselves, we’ll
have fun doing it, and we’ll get
a good result. if we start out
working well, i think that’s the
key to our game. i think if we
forget about individual perfor-
mances and just work hard for
each other, we’ll be in very good
shape.”

notre dame will look to do
just that on friday in its 5 p.m.
semifinal match of the ncaa
championship against new
mexico. should the irish ad-
vance, they will face either
maryland or virginia in the
national championship on
sunday at 3 p.m.
Irish junior forward Pat Connaughton, shown dunking during Notre Dame's victory over Stetson, had 21 points Wednesday.

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

at Notre Dame that Kelly had his entire staff return after a 12-1 season in 2012.

Pinstripe Bowl awaits

Notre Dame's opponent will be wearing red and white. Other than that, nearly everything about Notre Dame's bowl experience this season will be different than it was a year ago.

It will be playing in a new baseball stadium instead of one that used to be one. It could be playing in the snow instead of in the 70s. It will be playing for the George M. Steinbrenner Trophy instead of the national championship. Kyle Flood is the opposing coach instead of Nick Saban.

Instead of playing one-loss Alabama in the BCS National Championship Game, the Irish will play in the Pinstripe Bowl in Yankee Stadium against spurring AAC member Rutgers, who needed a win in its final game of the season to qualify for a bowl game.

After the final game of the season, Flood fired three of his assistants, including the Scarlet Knights' defensive coordinator.

The Scarlet Knights gathered their sixth win of the season when they routed two-win North Dakota State 31-6 on Saturday. Despite the season-ending victory, Rutgers has dropped five of its last seven games and three of the last four.

Against teams that finished the season 5-6 or better, Rutgers was 0-5. The average margin of defeat against those teams was 21.8 points and Houston and Cincinnati both beat Rutgers by 35 points.

The Irish went 5-4 against teams .500 or better, highlighted by a September win over Big Ten champion Michigan State. Rutgers' six wins came over two teams who combined for 11 wins over FBS opponents. Twelve FBS teams had at least 11 wins by themselves this season, including three teams who beat the Scarlet Knights.

Despite Rutgers' apparent shortcomings, Irish coach Brian Kelly was quick to hype up the Big Ten-bound Scarlet Knights.

“They beat Arkansas this year. They played Louisville, Fresno [State]. They’re going in the Big Ten. This team is going to be in the Big Ten this year,” Kelly said Sunday. “If they don’t play well, they’ll beat us. We have everything to lose. We want to win the football game.”

Sophomore running back Paul James leads the Scarlet Knights on the ground, with 833 yards and nine touchdowns despite only playing in eight games.

Senior quarterback Chas Dodd started the last two games of the season and will likely be the signal caller against the Irish, after replacing junior Gary Nova. Dodd threw for a combined 465 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions against Connecticut and South Florida.

The Scarlet Knights have been dangerous in the return game this season, scoring three touchdowns on kick or punt returns. Freshman receiver Janarion Grant has two of those touchdowns and averaged 21.7 yards per kick return and nearly 18 yards per punt return.

On defense, Rutgers has been stout in the run game, allowing just 91.5 yards per game on the ground, which ranks sixth in the country. In its wins, Rutgers has allowed just 66.8 rushing yards per game; in its losses, it allowed 122.3 yards. In their final game against South Florida, the Scarlet Knights yielded just 10 rushing yards to the Bulls. That number may be deceiving, though, because teams have opted to throw the ball against the Scarlet Knights.

Rutgers has allowed 311.4 passing yards per game, which ranks 120th out of 123 teams in the nation. Opponents have thrown the ball 39.5 times per game against the Scarlet Knights and two teams eclipsed the 70-attempt mark this season.

The Irish have thrown the ball more than 40 times in a game only this season, when Notre Dame attempted 53 passes in a 41-30 loss to Michigan. Notre Dame will play Rutgers on Dec. 28 at noon in the Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium in Bronx, N.Y.

Contact Matthew DeFranks
at mdefrank@nd.edu

M Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

The Bison shot 58.3 percent from the field in the first half and Bjorklund missed just one shot.

“The big fellas down low is a bear,” Brey said. “We doubled a little bit early in the game. They made threes. Then you’re trying to trade twos and keep up with them. At some point you’ve got to have an offensive spurt to kind of escape a team like that. We never really could get that.”

The Irish made just 10 field goals in each half and shot 49-29 from three-point range. Junior forward Pat Connaughton notched a team-high 21 points but on Notre Dame’s next possession, senior guard Taylor Braun, who bounced a pass over to Connaughton, knocked down both free throws with 41 seconds remaining and drew a foul with 39 seconds remaining.

Three, Grant drove the lane and knocked down his first three-pointer of the night to tie the game at 24. But North Dakota State kept driving on Notre Dame and carried a 39-37 lead into halftime.

“They started off hitting some shots which gets them confident,” Connaughton said. “And it showed throughout the game, near the end of the game, when they were hitting the tough shots.”

North Dakota State entered the game shooting 51.3 percent from the field for the season, tied for eighth in the nation. Notre Dame ranked 126th in the nation in defensive efficiency, per kenpom.com.

“The Irish will look to get back in the win column when they square off with Indiana on Saturday in the Crossroads Classic in Indianapolis. The Hoosiers (8-2) have won back-to-back games over North Florida and Oakland, respectively, since falling to No. 2 Syracuse, 69-52, on Dec. 3. Indiana also lost against No. 9 Connecticut, 59-58, at Madison Square Garden on Nov. 22. Sophomore guard Yogi Ferrell and freshman forward Noah Vonleh lead Indiana in scoring at 16.4 and 12.8 points per game, respectively.

After battling the Hoosiers, Notre Dame will face No. 3 Ohio State (8-2) on Dec. 21 in Madison Square Garden.

“This is a long, long run right here,” Brey said. “It’s disappointing where we’re at, at 7-3. But you do have two huge games coming up that could make you feel a lot better about yourself. So you really can’t dwell on what’s happened to date.”

“The Irish have only lost three games by Dec. 11 one other time (2011-12) in the past 10 seasons.

Notre Dame tips off against Indiana on Saturday at 4:35 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

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Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

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Down

1. Urban cacophony |
2. (construction peak) |
3. Toward the back |
4. Organic compound with a double-bonded oxygen |
5. South of Castle Pinafore |
6. “... and so” |
7. Princess known as the Defender of the Elbians |
8. Declined, as stocks |
9. Composer, Dominic whose name means “silver” in Italian |
10. Almost reaches |
11. Musical syllable before and after the “ed” |
12. Enzyme suffix |
13. “... Mz” |
14. Creatively |
15. Feds |
16. Model |
17. Aquarium fish |
18. Program |
19. Column |
20. N.F.L. record-holder for consecutive starts |

The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

1. Embarrassing |
2. 4.8 or 6.4 p.m. |
3. An article |
4. 1-800-A-CROSS |
5. AT&T users. Text NYT to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/multipuzzles for more information. |
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Sudoku

Who knows the answer? |

The Word Area

Yesterday’s Jumbles: VIXEN GUILD SWATCH ABLAZE |

Answer: The storm damaged the taxi when it did this — H AILED A CAB

The Celestial Scoop

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:
Halle Steinfeld, 17; Mos Def, 40;
Mo’Nique, 46; Jermaine Jackson, 59.

Happy Birthday:

Concentrate on what you can do to get ahead personally and professionally this year. Take action instead of just talking about what you want to do. Look for alternatives that are within your budget that still allow you to strive to reach your goals. Travel will give you the opportunity to seek out new lifestyles, living arrangements and job opportunities. Your numbers are 9, 12, 16, 19, 25, 32, 36.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do not spend all your hard-earned cash. You may want to surprise or spoil the people you love, but keeping your cash and offering your help, kindness and love is a better choice. You will learn from an experience you have regarding integrity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Step things up a notch and prepare to get a lot done. Interesting information regarding someone you know will help you make a decision about this person. Respond openly to a different lifestyle, philosophy or way of doing things.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make adjustments to your schedule to ensure you have time to take part in the events that are scheduled toward the end of the year. Speak up about what you want and what you intend to do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don’t shy away from change. Showing your ability to move along with the times will make a difference to future prospects and participations. Throw a little romance into the mix late in the day and enjoy what life has to offer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Plan an eventual day that includes friends, peers and sharing thoughts, ideas and plans for the future. Mixing business with pleasure may be encouraged, but should be treated with caution. Jealousy or possessiveness is likely to develop.

VERO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out of the house and into the hustle and bustle in your neighborhood. Keeping secrets may not be easy, but it will be necessary. You are likely to get all set with someone you are close to. Proceed with caution.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect to be criticized if you don’t stick to the rules or if you mess over a plan that isn’t practical. Have your defense ready and your facts and figures accurately calculated to back your choices. An emotional situation will catch you off guard.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Re-evaluate what you have done in the past and where you happen to be in the present and what you want to achieve in the future. As the year comes to a close, having your game plan in place will ease stress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don’t believe everything you hear. Go to the source and find out firsthand. Someone is likely to meddle in your affairs. Focus on what you know and do well, and refuse to get dragged into situations that can only be trouble.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don’t count on anything doing what you want it to do or when you want it to. If you want something done, do it yourself. A relationship will flourish if you add a little romance into the mix. Enjoy time alone with someone you love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Discipline will get you back on track. Pull out your to-do list and make all the adjustments necessary to improve your life and your relationships with the people you care about most. Someone older will influence your future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make time for friends. The information you gather can make a difference to your financial situation. Honesty will make a difference to the outcome of a relationship. Romance can lead to a promise.

Birthday Baby:
You are playful, receptive and inventive. You are entertaining.

Jumble | David Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RUFGY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TAMGU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer: RUFY |

The Math Class on the Space Station

Who is the answer? |

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday’s Jumbles: VIXEN GUILD SWATCH ABLAZE

Answer: The storm damaged the taxi when it did this — H AILED A CAB

Work area

Crossword Answers by Christopher Brucker

Sudoku by The Mepham Group

Horoscope by Eugenia Last

Highly Punnyly | Christopher Brucker

Controlled Chaos | Hillary Mangaford
MEN’S SOCCER

Irish meet Lobos in semis

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

As the No. 3 Irish travel to PPL Park in Chester, Pa., for a semifinal match against No. 7 New Mexico, the team will remain ensnared in cold weather conditions. On Friday, the weather forecast puts the low temperature at 25 degrees.

“The one thing about Notre Dame is that our guys can adjust pretty well,” Irish coach Bobby Clark said. “Midwest people can adjust a little bit like Scottish people, for the most part, because you know the weather is going to be a bit better. No matter where you go, it will be a bit better than the weather is in South Bend.”

Yet Notre Dame (15-1-6, 7-1-3 ACC) will face more than the weather on Friday, as it also faces the talented Lobos (14-5-2, 7-1-1 Conference USA). New Mexico won 1-0 at Washington on Saturday to advance to ACC Play.

“They are very good in set pieces,” Clark said. “They’ve got four or so guys who are over 6-foot-3. With some pretty big guys, that means set pieces become pretty important for them. They have a variety of ways to attack you because they also have a technical side and a direct side to them. They’ve just got good lads who can play, top to bottom.”

On the other sideline, Notre Dame has been establishing a legacy of success in South Bend. Over the last two seasons, the Irish are a combined 32-5-7.

“The most important thing, in this case, is to concern ourselves with what we do,” Clark said. “I think if we start going, it will be a bit better than normal. I don’t think we’ve hit our stride yet,” McGraw said. “I think we can get a lot better at both ends of the floor, and we’re a team that can score a lot of points.”

Ten teams with a rebounding margin of plus-18.3 boards per game are tied for first among Big Ten Conference teams. The Irish are also very good in field-goal percentage at 66.7 percent on 170-for-255 shooting, in field-goal percentage at 66.7 percent on 170-for-255 shooting, while the Irish are third nationally with a rebounding margin of plus-9.6 per game through games played Sunday. The Irish are first nationally with a rebounding margin of plus-18.3 boards per game and out rebounded the Bruins 32-30.

Irish sophomore midfielder Connor Klekota vies for the ball during Notre Dame’s 84-69 win over Santa Clara on Nov. 22 at Purcell Pavilion.

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant pushes into the lane during Notre Dame’s 84-69 win over Santa Clara on Nov. 22 at Purcell Pavilion.

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Team tests winning streak at Michigan

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

No. 4 Notre Dame will look to extend its season-opening win streak to nine games when it travels to Ann Arbor, Mich., to face Michigan on Saturday. But Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she believes her team is still playing far from its potential.

“I don’t think we’ve hit our stride yet,” McGraw said. “I think we can get a lot better at both ends of the floor, and we’re a team that can score a lot of points.”

The Irish (8-0) put together a complete effort in a 90-48 victory over UCLA on Saturday, as they shot 56.3 percent from the field and limited the Bruins to just 28.0 percent shooting from the floor. The Irish received 46 points off the bench Saturday, including a career-high 21 points from junior guard Madison Cable.

McGraw said bench play would be important for the team as it moves closer to ACC play. Notre Dame sophomore guard Michaela Mabrey has averaged 10.0 points per game off the bench, while Cable has averaged 6.6 points per game and has shot 64.3 percent from 3-point range.

“(Three-point shooting) is really important for us, and I think (Cable) coming out and having a big game was huge for her confidence and just for us down the road to be able to count on her to score some points,” McGraw said.

“Certainly, her 3-point shot is one of the best on the team. We’re looking for production off the bench, and we certainly got it in the UCLA game.”

While the Irish will look for increased bench production, they will also seek to win the battle on the boards against Michigan (7-3). The Wolverines are tied for first among Big Ten teams with a rebounding margin of plus-9.6 per game through games played Sunday.

The Irish are first nationally with a rebounding margin of plus-18.3 boards per game and out rebounded the Bruins 39-23.

MEN’S SOCCER | NORTH DAKOTA STATE 73, ND 69

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Editor

Notre Dame tried everything to slow down North Dakota State.

Irish coach Mike Brey barked at the refs and beckoned the crowd as he ran up and down the sideline.

The Irish played man-to-man defense, then a 2-3 zone, then around the perimeter.”

Even “Crazy Train” blared in the final two minutes.

But Notre Dame (7-3) could not stop the Bison (7-3) on Wednesday night, as North Dakota State came out of the tunnel an All American and earned a 73-69 win.

“I was very worried about this one and my worst fears came true,” Brey said.

Bison senior forward Marshall Bjorklund scored a season-high 26 points on 11-for-14 shooting, and the Irish could only muster 35.7 percent shooting from the field.

Bjorklund, who ranked second in the nation last season in field-goal percentage at 66.7 percent on 170-for-255 shooting, scored at will in the paint.

“We’ve got a really good post player,” Coach Brey said.

Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco has accepted the head coaching position at Connecticut, according to reports Wednesday night.

CBS Sports’ Bruce Feldman reported that Diaco’s deal is for five years and starts at $1.5 million per year.

Diaco was in his fourth season at Notre Dame after previous defensive coordinator stints with Irish coach Brian Kelly at Cincinnati in 2008 and Central Michigan in 2005. He also coached linebackers and special teams at Virginia from 2006 through 2008.

In 2012, Diaco helped construct a defense that allowed 30.3 points per game during Notre Dame’s undefeated regular season.

Diaco won the Broyles Award as the nation’s best assistant coach last season.

On Dec. 3, former Irish offensive coordinator Chuck Martin accepted the head coaching position at Miami (Ohio).

Kelly said receivers coach Mike Denbroek would serve as offensive coordinator for Notre Dame (8-4) against Rutgers (6-6) in the Pinstripe Bowl on Dec. 28.

On Sunday, Kelly said he was not sure if the rest of his staff would stay intact but said he endorsed his assistants for leadership positions.

“If there’s a head job out there that makes sense for one of the assistant coaches, I’d look at them,” Kelly said. “I have really good football coaches. You never know. But, as I said, my guys aren’t out sending resumes looking for jobs. If the right situation comes along, all these guys, especially the ones that have been with me a long time, they know what it looks like. They’d be great at running programs.”

This year was the first time sports editor By MIKE MONACO | ndsmcobserver.com

Irish coronavirus engineer Stewart Collins examines his team’s performance during Notre Dame’s 84-69 victory over Santa Clara on Nov. 22 at Purcell Pavilion.

Bison hand ND third loss

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant pushes into the lane during Notre Dame’s 84-69 win over Santa Clara on Nov. 22 at Purcell Pavilion.

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Michael Phillips said, “It’s hard for people to wrap their brains around it, but we’ve got a really good post player in Furgi, North Dakota. And he does that to a lot of people.”

Bjorklund notched 16 second-half points as the Bison seemingly counted every run by Notre Dame, who only led for 2:23 in the second half. The Irish tried double-teaming Bjorklund in the first half, but North Dakota State responded by shooting 5-for-7 from beyond the arc in the opening 20 minutes.

“Having shooters on our team, it really spreads out the court,” Bjorklund said. “I’m able to go one-on-one. I feel pretty confident in doing that no matter who’s playing defense. Early they kind of sent a few doubles and we hit some open guys around the perimeter.”