Right to Life sponsors D.C. trip
Students rally in spite of poor weather conditions for annual March for Life

By KAITLYN RABACH
News Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Three hundred and twenty Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students joined thousands of anti-abortion demonstrators on Wednesday in Washington, D.C. for the 41st annual March for Life.

Due to low temperatures and winter storm warnings, senior Jennifer Gallic, Notre Dame March for Life Trip Coordinator, said some Washington-bound buses were cancelled and numbers at the event were smaller than usual.

“Unfortunately, only about half of our [590 registered students] were able to make it to D.C.,” Gallic said. “Despite the cold, the group that made it was excited to stand with hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers to defend life.”

The March began at 12 p.m. on the National Mall where anti-abortion advocates gathered for an hour-long rally. Notre Dame senior Amanda Bambury said. The group then marched to the Supreme Court to mark the anniversary of “Roe v. Wade,” the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that struck down anti-abortion laws, she said.

“For a gathering of so many people it is a very pleasant atmosphere,” Bambury said. “It is not violent or hateful at all, but is filled with people who are so full of life and who really want to try and make a difference.

“It is such an honor, a privilege and a blessing to be able to walk side by side with my fellow Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross students and faculty who are so passionate about the cause and to walk by people who have traveled so far to do that.”

The trip, organized by both Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Right to Life groups, receives sponsorship from the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, the Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns (CSC), is teaching the advocacy course to students from both universities in an effort to prepare to research and address specific social problems of interest. “The training session was a sampling of a lot of different ways of drawing attention to important issues,” Peck said. “We talked about what motivates people to act and how to tap into that when mounting an advocacy campaign.

“We also talked specifics: What are necessary considerations when hosting an event? How do you conduct a successful lobbying visit to a congressman, senator or other elected official? How do you frame your issue when talking to the media?”

Hebbeler said he plans for his students to split into four small groups to research and address specific social problems of interest to the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and CSC, including immigration reform, the conflict in Syria, global hunger and incarceration. He said students will develop a clear message about the topic and share that message through a “public meeting,” anything from lobbying a congressional representative to hosting a rally.

“The course project culminates in the public meeting, but we remind our students that it’s very much in the process where learning takes place,” Hebbeler said. Junior Matt Hing took Advocacy for the Common Good the first time it was offered in the spring of 2013. He said he studied immigration reform, worked on a letter-writing campaign and met with a congressional representative to discuss the issue.

“You do the project, and you can see that you enacted actual change,” Hing said. “You see all your efforts. You see the result you made. You can see people are talking about it afterward, and that was a really cool feeling to see that a group of people can actually make a small-scale difference with enough time and enough resources.”

Hebbeler said students often take Advocacy for the Common Good after they have first-hand experiences with injustice through programs like the CSC’s Border Issues Seminar. He said those students want to fight for justice but do not know how to accomplish real change.

“The main reason for this course on advocacy is for students to channel their passions on different social issues that they’ve encountered through their time here at Notre Dame,” Hebbeler said. “You become impassioned and then you...
QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Can you name the three crew members of the first manned moon landing?

Sean Perkins
freshman
“Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and Joe Smith.”

Luke Dziedzic
sophomore
Sorin College
“Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and I’m not even going to guess a third.”

Allie Soisson
senior
off campus
“Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and ... Brian Kelly.”

Troy Nguyen
freshman
Carroll Hall
“Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Queen Elsa.”

Charlie Warner
freshman
Carroll Hall
“Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Bradley Cooper.”

Eric Richelsen
freshman
Carroll Hall
“Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Tom Hanks. He was up there right?”

Sophomore Michael Flanigan seems unfazed by the cold after a Bengal Bouts workout on Tuesday, despite negative windchills. Similar below-average temperatures in the teens are forecasted to continue until Friday.
By KELLY KONYA and MACAILA DEMARLO
Saint Mary’s Editor and News Writer

Associate professor of communications Marne Austin took a new angle on her Introduction to Communications course last fall, requiring her 40 students to travel to the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in order to speak to local nuns.

If students are not actually doing communication, there is no point in studying it, Austin said. “Whether you identify as a Catholic or not, it’s important to understand our history and legacy being at this school.”

“The three young sisters who founded the College did so when the odds were against them, and to have the courage to do what they did is pretty remarkable and should be a story of empowerment for the women here,” Austin said. Students met with their assigned sisters five times over a five-week period, Austin said. Their assignment involved gathering oral histories from the sisters on their experiences in faith and service with plans to eventually compile a video documentary for the College and congregation.

Austin said she plans to use this practice in all of her introductory courses because it is a great way to engage both the ideal of interpersonal communication and standing history. “I think every moment is a moment of intercultural and interpersonal growth. So often we get stuck in our heads some idea of what ‘normal’ is, and there’s no such thing,” she said. “We think that people are the same and there’s this assumed homogeneity.”

“Even when we live in a place like South Bend or like Saint Mary’s, where we look around and think we know these people, we all have such different diverse stories to tell. There’s always those people in our communities who we overlook, including those right across the street from us or our neighbors who we see all the time, but we really have no idea who they are.”

The majority of the students were apprehensively excited about connecting with the sisters, but by the end of the five visits, all had gained invaluable stories to share with others, Austin said.

“But that isn’t to say that they didn’t have some hard times with it,” she said. “We did have a few sisters who had problems with Alzheimer’s, so a lot of the women in the classroom had to cope with that. They learned some awesome lessons from this and had to work in handling ethical issues.”

First-year student Kathryn Mathews said the experience completely changed her ideas of nun since she is not Catholic and previously believed nuns spent their entire days in prayer and reflection. Mathews was paired with Maura Brannick, a retired nurse from St. Joseph’s Hospital.

“When she [Brannick] saw all the poverty in town, she wanted to set up a free clinic for patients but didn’t have much money,” Mathews said. “So while working at the hospital, she met some interesting characters who eventually helped fund her project, like one Notre Dame student who was volunteering there.”

Mathews said Brannick discovered that Notre Dame student donated money toward her goal years later.

“The student told Sister Brannick that she would be the first one he’d see when he makes his millions,” Mathews said. “I saw her telling the project to her sisterhood doing the same thing,” Wells said. “Also, I’ve attended several mission trips to Belize, and in the same way, Sister Mary Elizabeth spent over 20 years working in Brazil to spread her mission and teach in schools there.”

Austin hopes her students will continue to engage with people around the College who have such great stories to share.

Currently, Austin is teaching an introductory course where the students will meet younger sisters in the convent and shadow them on a day-to-day basis.

“foster cross-campus community,” Austin said. “That’s why I embark on such projects. It’s the only way we’re going to grow.”

Contact Kelly Konya and Macaila DeMarlo at kkony01@ saintmarys.edu and mdemur01@ saintmarys.edu

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March
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Institute for Church Life and alumnae, Gallick said. The commitment to funding expresses the University’s larger commitment to expressing the importance of life issues to its students, she said.

“We have had people from Notre Dame go to the March since it started,” Gallick said. “The numbers were only a couple in the beginning, but Notre Dame has always been represented.

Notre Dame is committed to its students, Gallick said. Right to life is part of the Catholic Church’s mission and Catholic Social Teaching. She said the close relationship between the organization and the president’s office is evident in the university’s decision to give excused absences to students who participate in the March.

Gallick said involvement with the Right to Life Club at Notre Dame helped shaped her perception of others and taught her the importance of the inherent dignity of all human persons.

“This group really shapes how you view other people in terms of the dignity that they have,” Gallick said. “At its core, the pro-life movement is about human dignity, so that definitely provides a different outlook on life — you see people through their worth as created in God’s image.”

Gallick, who has attended seven marches in her lifetime, said she found it encouraging to stand with so many others with the same passion for pro-life issues. She said it gives her the strength to continue to fight for a cause she “holds dear to her heart.”

“Just being involved with pro-life issues can sometimes be discouraging when you see the culture shifting so far away from it,” Gallick said. “Being at the March last year … by people who are so passionate about it, reminds you that you are not the only person fighting for this and [shows] how important of an issue it is.”

The Right to Life Club at Notre Dame works to educate students on life issues and provides students with a way to get involved, Gallick said. Since the group is at a Catholic institution, she said she believes the group is supported more than pro-life groups at other American college campuses.

“Compared to other pro-life groups at other universities, our group is very well received,” Gallick said. “We receive a ton of support from the administration.

“There is always going to be, especially on college campuses, people affected by abortion, and for the people seeing reminders of the pro-life movement can be hard, but we have never experienced a lot of resentment or a lot of negativity.”

Saint Mary’s senior Alleigh Richthammer said she feels she is in the minority at Saint Mary’s since she is pro-choice.

“I personally feel like it is a woman’s responsibility to choose what she does as far as reproductive issues and I don’t think that the government, or anyone else, should be involved in that decision making process,” Richthammer said. “I think it is a citizen’s private right to choose what they would like to do.”

Richthammer said she thinks abortion will occur whether or not it is legal, and she said she feels abortion should be made safe as a result. Although she said she does not feel nervous about expressing her pro-choice views, at times she does feel reluctant.

“When the whole, I really haven’t experienced anything negative being a pro-choice supporter on Saint Mary’s campus, but it can feel a little awkward sometimes when people are talking about ‘killing babies’ or things like that,” Richthammer said. “When they bring it into that context, as far as abortions go, I don’t really view it like that. I view it as a woman’s reproductive health issue rather than an abortion issue.”

Gallick said the Right to Life Club is always willing to engage in discussion with students about their beliefs and said anyone is welcome to come to the group’s events, including those who are not pro-life supporters. She said events like the March allow members of the club to engage with people from all different backgrounds and support groups, especially those of younger generations.

“At the March you are able to network with other college campuses, people of older generations and experts for the cause,” Gallick said. “It is great to see so many people come together for the pro-life cause.”

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Advocacy
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

get back to campus and life goes on; things get busy and yet this passion remains.

“We provide this course as a structured way forward to work on these issues and effect change … We provide a way for [students] to address the root causes, the structures that create the injustice that they’ve encountered.”

Hebbeler said he worked with the CRS to implement the course last January. He said the CRS previously sent one representative to campus each semester to train the students in advocacy and prepare them for their work during the semester, but this year an additional CRS representative came to observe the process.

“Not other school is doing this exact thing with CRS,” he said. “We have other courses [at Notre Dame] that are examining advocacy … but as far as working with CRS in this manner on an accredited advocacy course, there are no other programs like that and courses like that.”

The class closely aligns with Catholic Social Teaching and the Church’s views on human dignity, Hebbeler said.

“These are large-scale issues, but Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that it’s the dignity of each individual that we are seeking to uplift, to protect, and that does something to our dignity,” he said. “Justice is right relationship, and so for the dignity of persons on the margins, but also our own dignity, we seek out these issues and we commit to the work in the name of solidarity.”

Peck said she considered the course her opportunity to follow a call to action.

“We can’t be content wishing well on the world or feeling bad because some people don’t have food to eat and that’s just too bad,” she said. “We are in a position to act, and this class is giving us the tools to do that.”

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Editor

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of The Observer’s news coverage for the past year.
“I am so honored and humbled to be chosen as The Observer’s next leader,” Jakubowski said. “I have learned so much from the past few years here and I cannot wait to see what we can accomplish going forward.”

Jakubowski became News Editor in the spring of 2013, and the first major project of her term was leading the coverage of Pope Francis’ election in March 2013. She will spend the upcoming summer as a reporting intern with the Concord Monitor in Concord, NH.

Jakubowski said she looks forward to building off the momentum of past Editorial boards and learning from the challenges ahead.

“I’m going into this with a lot of energy and excitement because I am so proud of the work everyone does in this office,” she said. “I have a lot to learn, and I am so lucky to be a part of this incredible organization.”

Jakubowski will take over as Editor-in-Chief on March 3.

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senators also discussed upcoming signature dorm events and general on-campus events.

Toni Schreier, McGlinn Hall senator said Majors Night will take place in South Dining Hall this Thursday from 6-8 p.m.

“Everyone is welcome, and we’re expecting both teachers and professors from every department to be there,” Schreier said.

Schreier also reminded senators that McGlinn casino night will take place this Saturday from 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

O’Neill Hall senator Kyle McCaffery said only one dorm has currently entered a contestant for next Thursday’s Miss Notre Dame pageant, an O’Neill signature event. There is, however, still time to sign up.

Other events in the next month will include the Keenan Revue and Lewis Hall of Pancakes (LHOP), which will occur on Feb. 7.

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‘Post-racial America’ isn’t a thing

Katrina Linden
Kat’s Meow

Possibly the most despised concept I have encountered, a “post-racial” society embodies a world in which naive individuals believe, because slavery is no longer legal in the United States and there is a black president in office, that racism has suddenly been abolished. I’m sorry to break the bad news, but we are anything but a progressive nation of racially accepting individuals.

A quick anecdote — I recently did a project on the ethnic identity at Notre Dame and found my primarily Caucasian classmates were very shocked to find that more than a dozen of my Latino peers have faced racial discrimination on campus over the past four years. Varying from blatant name-calling by peers, to racial profiling by a broad spectrum of Notre Dame affiliates, racism is very much alive.

I am not angry my classmates had no idea racist and prejudiced people exist on this campus. I suppose I am a little happy I had the pleasure to meet those innocent enough to hold nothing but positive views of their racially diverse peers. Or maybe they were shocked people voiced their racist views directly to ethnic students instead of laughing about it among their white peers. I would like to think it is the first explanation, though. But, as much as our brochures and commercials would love to boast a diverse and united campus, there still exists a distinct tension amongst a fair amount of the student body.

On a greater scale, I recently read an article in which a well-educated African American woman, unable to attain work, changed her name and ethnicity on a job-searching website to appear Caucasian and immediately received over a dozen job offers, while her original account — listing her true identity — received only two. The fact that she was forced to change her identity in order to be acknowledged by employers is unbelievable and a concept many people with a purely European background and name would not be aware was even a concern for people of color. This instance alone is enough to prove that “post-racism” has yet to be achieved in the United States. To be terribly cliché and quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we are not yet a nation that judges people “not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character,” but a nation that values whiteness over darkness, ethnicity over skills and most importantly, appearance over character.

I am unsure as to where I stand in this situation, because although I identify with my Mexican American roots very strongly, my name has German origins from my father’s side, which in itself reads very well on paper. Without having met me, many people believe I am white, but my obviously racially ambiguous features say otherwise. My father changed his last name a few decades ago to his paternal grandfather’s last name. He did so because he understood the necessity to assimilate as much as possible in America. But things are still uncertain for my future. My father is able to get away with being Caucasian or Latino when he chooses, but when the time comes for me to apply to jobs, I will be rewarded for my Caucasian name or rejected for appearing too ethnic and deemed unprofessional? Am I “light-skinned” enough to pass for Caucasian? Or am I not ethnic enough to fill the minority requirement for the company to which I will someday apply?

The fact that, statistically, I will likely be paid less than my white female counterpart is not acceptable. The fact that I will likely be passed up for a job because a less qualified, but more Caucasian-appining woman looks better for the company is not acceptable. But in an America where job opportunities are difficult to come by, it is reality.

Many people say that ethnic individuals need to “get over” slavery, or segregation, or the mass genocide of Native Americans, because we now have equal rights and hundreds of years of slavery and racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States should be forgone. Though we read about the Civil Rights Movement in our history books, we forget that our grandparents, and probably a lot of our parents, lived in a time where blacks, Latinos and other ethnic minorities were not equal to whites. There are people alive today in America who fully support segregation and see nothing wrong with their beliefs, and that alone is scary.

As much as I would love for one’s skin color or ethnic-sounding name not to play a part in the judgment of his or her character, it is reality. We will never live in a post-racial America. As pessimistic as that sounds, there will never be a point in which I can just be a human being. I will always be an “other” in predominantly white America. But, I am not sure if that’s a bad thing. Like being Mexican American, I like being recognized as an individual with a rich heritage and background. I will not apologize if I sound too “radical,” because this is anything but a militant rant as some may like to assume — it is presentation of reality. But I will yell “Viva la Raza!” if my “too liberal” words are not enough and that becomes what it takes for my ethnicity to be respected.

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

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When I think about the sheer number of things wrong with our federal government, I get rather overwhelmed. It’s quite sad that I feel this way, but this is the reality of the modern American political arena. If I were writing a book, I might have enough space to identify all of these problems, but since this isn’t the case, I want to talk about what I view as one of the most important issues in American politics, which is our federal government’s mind-boggling fiscal irresponsibility.

Currently, the government is about $17 trillion in debt, which comes out to $54,000 per citizen and $150,000 per taxpayer. Since September 2012, national debt has increased by $2.5 billion each day. With this type of problem, you’d think Congress and the president would make a serious effort to fix it, right? But that’s operating under the assumption that our politicians behave rationally. This year, the government will spend $3.8 trillion. If I were writing a book, I might use an outsider’s perspective to realize those numbers just don’t add up.

There are multiple factors causing this problem, but here I want to pinpoint the main cause and address that. Government spending is largely divided into two categories: discretionary and mandatory spending. Every year, the government can freely choose how much money to appropriate to discretionary categories, which include defense, infrastructure, education and other smaller budgetary items. As a whole, discretionary spending will make up about 30 percent of this year’s budget, with defense spending accounting for 20 percent of the total budget.

Mandatory spending, on the other hand, will account for 64 percent of this year’s spending. This type of spending is dominated by the entitlements (including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid). Spending for these programs is based on set eligibility requirements instead of yearly appropriations. The government can decrease mandatory spending by changing eligibility requirements or lowering benefits, but doing so reduces the amount of free money that people receive, which is political suicide. Therefore, there is far more control and oversight over discretionary spending. Government must actively choose how much to spend each year, as opposed to mandatory spending, where the money spent is already decided by previously written laws. This notion has been demonstrated in the past 50 years, where mandatory spending has steadily eroded the discretionary share of the budget.

For those of you that think our spending problem is caused by defense, consider this: In 1963, defense spending was equal to about 10 percent of GDP, and entitlement spending was about six percent. In 2013, defense spending was around four percent of GDP (and falling), while entitlement spending was around 15 percent and growing rapidly. Clearly, in the recent years of debt explosion, we’re seeing a significant increase in entitlement spending at the expense of defense funding. To make matters worse, some of the entitlement programs will run out of money soon if current laws remain unchanged, with Medicare becoming in solvent around 2025 and Social Security following suit around 2035. Even though these entitlements are some of the most prominent expenditures in the budget, our mathematically-challenged politicians have found a way to set them on a path for destruction. The maddening part is that we’ll all be paying into Social Security for about 25 years, but if the Congressional Budget Office’s projections are correct, we won’t get any of our money back. Personally, I dislike the concept of Social Security in the first place, but if we pay into the trust fund, we ought to get a return on our investment. And it gets even worse: the “Affordable” Care Act will add $1.8 trillion to federal outlays over the next 10 years. To me, the Democrats’ insistence to retain this law is baffling. Spending this much money on a controversial new program when we already owe $17 trillion is blatantly irresponsible. The bottom line is the government needs to stop creating new spending programs because it cannot handle the ones we already have.

As citizens, we need to hold our politicians accountable, but we don’t. Instead we keep electing the same people and expecting different results. If we don’t act soon to curtail our national debt, we will eventually get to the point where the government is consumed in a sea of interest payments, and entitlement spending has exploded to the point that our country can no longer afford to defend itself from foreign enemies. Raising taxes is simply not the answer. It doesn’t address the out-of-control growth of mandatory outlays, and it only provides more money to feed Congress’ spending addiction. The spending itself must be reduced, and we must elect people willing to do this. Until then, we’re stuck with more and more creditors who would like to have a President and Congress with foresight and common sense.

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

Fiscal woes: The federal spending addiction

An outsider’s perspective

Katarina Goitz
Guest Columnist

In my peace studies class, I also learned on an international level that foreign organizations and world powers are notorious for entering war-torn countries and attempting to rebuild them using their own strategies. In the aftermath of war, for example, we learned from visiting professor Laura Heideman that internationals in Serbia and Bosnia, although temporarily helpful, funded some unnecessary initiatives and disrupted the functional workings of local nonviolence organizations by forcing them to structure like Western NGOs. As a result, many of the local organizations crumbled when the foreign donations dried up.

When foreign powers address the issues they or their donors believe to be most important in ways they think are most effective, ignoring the customary practices and current initiatives of local organizations, their actions lead to an inefficient usage of resources. In the same way, “insiders” in a community usually personally know the people and understand that the area needs better than “outsiders” do.

While this is all very true, I have often wondered, “What about me?” If my hometown is relatively peaceful and I personally know the people and understand the key to working as an “outsider” was to come from a background free from the major struggles the people in these communities face, does that mean I can never do anything to help them except for changing legislation? I am compelled by the power of local community organizing, but does that mean I am useless on a local level if I am in an unfamiliar city? While in Chicago on the Latino Communities Organizing Against Violence Center for Social Concerns seminar, I attempted to resolve these burning questions.

Although local people of Little Village in Chicago staffed most of the organizations we visited, I did meet some people who were from other areas. I learned that the key to working as an “outsider” was to listen to the residents’ ideas, learn more about local culture, show that you care and help those in need. At Enlace, a community group that works against nonviolence through programs such as mentoring in schools and attempting to build relationships with the streets, we met Catherine Furung, a school-based mentor who met regularly with students and listened to them, trying to build relationships with them and help them create goals for the future. She told me that even though she was from a different state and demographic than the students, she was able to connect with them by finding other things they had in common. Even though it would take them time to open up, it really made a difference when she just listened to them and made them feel as if they were in a fair judging, showing them she cared.

At Saint Agnes of Bohemia Church, we met Fr. Tom Boharic, a priest in a predominantly Hispanic area who himself was not Hispanic nor originally from that neighborhood. He said he was concerned with striving to learn about and appreciate the culture of the community, deferring to their wisdom. He said being an outsider is fine as long as one is seeking to learn from the community. He described an outsider’s presence as potentially being seen as an “act of peace” because that person is willing to come into a violent neighborhood just because he or she cares about its people. Much of the community organizing in which he was involved also stemmed from what the parishioners wanted to organize. He acted upon what they needed and not just upon what he wanted to do. Additionally, I learned from the executive director of the Southwest Organizing Project, Jeff Bartow, that it is important to appreciate the local culture and to present oneself in an honest way. Using one’s own manners and speech is fine because attempting to use the local vernacular sounds false if it is unnatural. It is also unfair and insincere telling someone from the local area that you are “just like” him or her if it isn’t. It is vital to be genuine because the people from the local area can tell if someone is acting falsely.

Although people from the local community leaders, it is possible for an “outsider” to work against violence through community organizing as long as he or she appreciates the culture, defers to local knowledge and tries to find common ground while still remaining genuine. I have received affirmation that being a legislator is not my only option when it comes to effecting change in communities. I could also work as a counselor in a school, lead a community organizing program or work with a local church to help those in need. Overall, knowing that the local people have the best knowledge, I need to work humbly with them to meet the needs of their community. Instead of coming in with my own solutions, I need to listen and work out solutions with local community members, using their systems, since their insights are just as good if, not better than, my own.

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
If horseracing is the sport of the kings (even though it’s not a sport), then gambling is the way everybody else deals with having to stand around in the heat for hours on end watching little men whip large animals around a circle. We bet on everything sports-related in this country, from the Super Bowl (reported line as of 7 p.m. last night — Broncos -2.5) to, in last year’s Super Bowl, whether the San Francisco 49ers would score exactly four points (+9999) and even whether or not Beyoncé’s hair would be straight or curly at the start of the Super Bowl halftime show last year (Straight: +140, Curly/Crimped: Even Money).

Technically, I’m pretty sure, sports gambling in the United States is fairly restricted, and is pretty much limited to sports events and can pretty much only be done in Nevada, with some exceptions. The laws and regulations on gambling are complex and difficult to decipher, so, like the good business student that I am, I’m just not going to. What I do wonder, though, is how we haven’t developed into gambling on Hollywood. With the wide variance of results and seemingly little predictive ability of studies when it comes to what will and won’t be a success (see: “The Lone Ranger,” “R.I.P.D.”), it could be argued that the betting possibilities for Hollywood films is more exciting than those for sports events.

If I gave you an over/under of “The Dark Knight” on its opening weekend in 2008 of $150 million at the domestic box office, a couple things would have come into play. One, did you think “The Dark Knight” had the potential to come close to or exceed the all time opening weekend record set by “Spider-Man 3” the year before (the record was $151 million)? The first film in the series, “Batman Begins,” had only opened to $48 million, so maybe you should take the under — that’s a big leap. But in the time since Christian Bale’s star had risen, and the trailer had been exploded on the Internet. On top of that, in a morbid sense, Heath Ledger’s career had been cut short by “the awesome” Heath Ledger’s career had been cut short by “the awesome” Heath Ledger’s career had been cut short by the awesome Heath Ledger’s career had been cut short by Heath Ledger’s career had been cut short by the awesome Heath Ledger’s career had been cut short.

But would all that have been worth it putting a bet on even money odds (you make back as much as you bet on top of your original bet) for the Batman sequel to break the all time opening weekend record? Well, it should have been, because it did, earning over $156 million and blowing past the previous record in its way to an eventual billion-dollar global box office haul. That’s just an example from the past, though. Let’s take a look at some possible bets for this coming weekend. Obviously, this kind of gambling is straight up illegal if you do it in real life, but if I’m just doing it for fun, nobody can prosecute me, right? Sounds like a solid legal defense if I’ve ever heard one. Anyways, here we go. First, just to lay some ground rules for the non-degenerates. If the odds are +/−, it’s describing either how much money you have to bet to win $100 (a minus odds) or how much you win if you bet $100 (a plus odds). So, with the bet above that the 49ers would score exactly four points, the +9999 odds means that if you’d bet $100 and they had scored exactly four points, you would have won your $100 back plus an extra $9999.

If the odds are 2:1 or 4:1 or 3:2, it’s you multiply the fraction by your bet and then add your origi- nal bet. So, if the odds on me to finish this article on time are 60:1 and you were to bet $5 (fishy child), and I were to finish it on time and you won the bet, you’d win $305 dollars (60x5=300, plus your $5 bet). An over/under bet is even money or 1:1 odds. I am in contention for worst gambler of all time. The first time that I went to Las Vegas after I turned 21, I walked in $200 in my pocket and somehow managed to lose with a net $240 loss. I don’t know what happened, but whatever it was, you should never actually take gambling (or any) advice from me. Thank goodness this is fake, but also so that I’m the editor so nobody can stop me from writing it.

I, “Frankenstein” O/U $15 million

The only film opening this weekend is the Aaron Eckhart starrer “I, Frankenstein,” a movie whose trailer looks like, with a little reworking, could have been a hilarious fake film trailer in the hands of Robert Rodriguez or Quentin Tarantino. But since it’s not fake, but a very real, very expensive ($68 million budget), very awful looking hands of Robert Rodriguez or Quentin Tarantino.

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But in the time since Christian Bale’s star had risen, and the trailer had been exploded on the Internet. On top of that, in a morbid sense, Heath Ledger’s premature death six months before the film’s release and rumors of an all-time great vil- lain in his performance as The Joker had spiked interest in the film. But would all that have been worth it putting a bet on even money odds (you make back as much as you bet on top of your original bet) for the Batman sequel to break the all time opening weekend record? Well, it should have been, because it did, earning over $156 million and blowing past the previous record in its way to an eventual billion-dollar global box office haul. That’s just an example from the past, though. Let’s take a look at some possible bets for this coming weekend. Obviously, this kind of gamb- bling is straight up illegal if you do it in real life, but if I’m just doing it for fun, nobody can prosecute me, right? Sounds like a solid legal defense if I’ve ever heard one. Anyways, here we go. First, just to lay some ground rules for the non-degenerates. If the odds are +/−, it’s describing either how much money you have to bet to win $100 (a minus odds) or how much you win if you bet $100 (a plus odds). So, with the bet above that the 49ers would score exactly four points, the +9999 odds means that if you’d bet $100 and they had scored exactly four points, you would have won your $100 back plus an extra $9999.

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Bet: I’d bet however much Aaron Eckhart got paid to star in “I, Frankenstein.”

Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Kevin Noonan
Scene Editor
Would you take a moment and count up all the hours you spent on Netflix, Hulu, HBO Go or any other video streaming site. My count, probably underestimated, is around 500 hours. Five hundred wondrous video streaming site. My count, probably underestimating the number of hours spent on Netflix, Hulu, HBO Go or any other video streaming site.

The Notre Dame Student Film Festival returns to the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center for its 25th year to celebrate the works of aspiring filmmakers. Past students who participated in the festival have gone on to prestige and awards-filled careers, and audience members can participate in the festival by voting for the Audience Choice Award.

The Magicians of Basketball and Ambassadors of Goodwill, the Harlem Globetrotters, bring their high-flying and wild play style to the Joyce Center this weekend as a part of their 2014 Fans Rule tour, after last year’s mania that included letting fans vote on the rules in the game.

This acclaimed documentary details the administrative and student life at Cal-Berkeley, one of the most prestigious colleges and institutions in American academia. In the New York Times review, Stephen Holden said the film shows that “the modern university is a complex organism that, to function efficiently, needs every component, including someone to cut the grass.”

Greedy CEOs brought up the idea, “Well, why don’t we make the websites pay for the bandwidth they require? They’re using the Internet even more than the consumers are!”

With the decision from last week, the fatcats got their wish. Part of the verdict negated two previous rules on Internet neutrality. First, wired and mobile connections may not block lawful content or services. Second, fixed line providers may not “unreasonably discriminate in transmitting lawful network traffic.”

Essentially, Verizon, AT&T and Comcast now get to be the online mob, collecting “protection” kickbacks so that websites, especially kingpins like Google, Amazon, Facebook and Netflix, still get speedy connections.

Then, if a payment is missed, suddenly posting a status, loading a movie or doing some online research takes entire seconds to load. Consumers, as in you and I, get the worst deal, and we begin to migrate to new sites that pay their due.

Then, there’s also the question of to whom the extra dues will bounce back. Corporations hate losing money, so the consumers are going to be footing the bills. That means if you want a website with more bandwidth, you’ll have to pay for it. If the ISPs follow through with their agenda, soon we’ll have the Internet of the rich, where you can watch movies and download files, and the Internet of the poor, where you can read articles on static websites.

Now, the battle was lost, but the war still struggles on. I provided you with a white lie to grab your attention, and the truth is the Internet isn’t dead yet.

In fact, this past week, Wired declared war. Down with the FCC, Wired says, down with ISPs. The soldiers, the consumers, need to make their wishes heard. The Internet should be an equal place. It’s a place of the people, where anyone can be heard, and fame arises from true talent and ingenuity rather than wealth and class.

All those hours of Netflix, of watching funny cats and grueling through last-minute research papers have prepared us for this. The very item that will be taken away from you is the Internet of the poor, where you can read articles that websites, especially kingpins like Google, Amazon, Facebook and Netflix, still get speedy connections.

When you escape from reality and find yourself worrying about the troubles of individuals I will never see again once the episode, season or show ends. But all that’s over. There’s no more Netflix. You’re free. Live your own life.

I’d like you to take a moment and count up all the hours you spent on Netflix, Hulu, HBO Go or any other video streaming site. My count, probably underestimated, is around 500 hours. Five hundred wondrous video streaming site. My count, probably underestimating the number of hours spent on Netflix, Hulu, HBO Go or any other video streaming site.

Ladies and gentlemen, the truth is the Internet died on Jan. 14, 2014. With the ruling of a district court on Verizon v. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the days in which we thrived with net neutrality are over, putting an end to online equality. Based on this historic decision, Verizon, Comcast, AT&T and all the other Internet Service Providers (ISPs) can now dole out preferential treatment to the websites they choose.

Let’s get down into the nitty-gritty on this. Before this decision, the exchange for a website looked like this: The consumer pays the ISP for their connection, the ISP connects you to the website you want and anyone can make a website and host information.

However, the ISPs realized they had made a mistake with this agreement, as they only levied a one-way toll.
Steelers, Ravens play old-school

Aaron Sant-Miller
Sports Writer

This is the third in a 10-part series discussing the best rivalry in sports. In this installment, Aaron Sant-Miller argues for Steelers-Ravens. Join the discussion on Twitter by using the #RivalCity.

“The players hate each other, the coaches hate each other... There’s no calling each other after the game and inviting each other out to dinner, but the feeling is mutual. They don’t like us and we don’t like them.” — Hines Ward, retired Steelers receiver

Clearly, the Jackie Moon philosophy of “Everybody love everybody” has not yet found a home on the gridiron in Baltimore and Pittsburgh, in which those Steelers coach Mike Tomlin terms the best rivalry in football.

Since Thanksgiving of 2007, the Ravens and the Steelers have played 14 games, with both teams winning every game but one, the game was decided by only one score. More impressively still, 11 of the last 15 times these teams have gone toe-to-toe, the winner has won by four points or less.

Some people may reject the notion that this is the best rivalry in sports. Some may even reject the idea that this is the best rivalry in the NFL. Though the NFL structure encourages rivalries, the salary cap, injuries, the draft, community, and scrappiness. Oh, and the violent nature of the game do their best to prevent anything but the idea from these two teams? These are the two most physical sports teams in the nation and they have the reputation to match what is seen on Sundays. When they meet, it is a clash of linemen, bringing some semblance of accuracy to every war metaphor applied to the game of football.

This past Thanksgiving, that brutishness was on display. When the game ended, the Steelers had lost their starting running back, a top defensive lineman and four offensive linemen in injuries, while the Ravens lost two of their top corners, a top receiver and a starting outside linebacker. Just another Ravens-Steelers matchup, as this has become the standard for these two teams.

This rivalry doesn’t have catchy names for critical game-deciding plays. Would you expect anything else from these two teams? These are two teams that pride themselves in a certain working-class identity, just getting the job done.

Still, you had the infamous attempt at a “fumble interference” with “inference” with Ravens returning Jacoby Jones, you have Charlie Batch’s game winning drive in 2012, the Falcons’ 55-yard drive and 26-yard touchdown pass to Torrey Smith with eight seconds left in 2011 (this is after he had dropped the wide-open go-ahead score two plays previously) and Pokamaka’s strip sack of Flacco with less than four minutes remaining and the Steelers down four in 2010.

This rivalry has the essential elements of all good rivalries. Close games. Relevant teams with a history of excellence. Memorable moments. An intensity that, in football, brings a unique physicality and scrappiness. Oh, and the teams hate each other. That’s fun too.

Name two other teams who regularly put up a better performance and you will not argue the relevancy of these two teams at all.

This table is set. Two teams have an impressive resume in recent history and consistently play uniquely close games.

| NFL | Ex-Cowboy Brent convicted

Associated Press

DALLAS — Former Dallas Cowboys player Josh Brent was convicted Monday of intoxication manslaughter Wednesday for a fiery wreck that killed his teammate and close friend, Jerry Brown. Brent faces up to 20 years in prison for a December 2012 wreck after a night of partying with fellow Cowboys players. He could also get probation.

Jurors took about nine hours over two days to convict Brent, who led from the courtroom in handcuffs as family members sitting in the front row of the gallery sobbed.

Among those sitting with Brent’s family was Stacey Jackson, Brown’s mother. Jackson did not respond to questions as she left the courtroom Wednesday with Brent’s family, but she has said in interviews that she’s frustrated Brent and could testify in support of a lighter sentence for him when that phase of the trial begins Thursday.

Attorneys from both sides remain under a gag order that prevented them from commenting after the proceedings. Prosecutors say Brent, a defensive tackle, was drunk when he crashed his Mercedes on a suburban Dallas highway in December 2012, killing Brown, a linebacker on the Cowboys practice squad who had also been Brent’s teammate at the University of Illinois. Officers who arrived on the scene said Brent trying to pull Brown’s body from the wreckage.

Police say Brent’s blood alcohol level was tested shortly after the crash at 0.18 percent, more than twice the legal limit for drivers in Texas. Prosecutors last week argued that the bulky, 320-pound defensive tackle had as much as 17 drinks the night of the crash.

Brent’s attorneys argued the blood tests used by police were faulty and that Brent could not have drank nearly that much. Attorney George Milner said his client was “guilty of being stupid behind the wheel of a car,” not drinking beforehand.

Brent retired from the NFL last year, but his ties to the Cowboys were prominent at trial. Two current players, Barry Church and Danny McCar, testified about hanging out with Brent and Brown, first playing video games, then having dinner and going to Priavse, a Dallas night club.

HII | CAROLINA 3, PHILADELPHIA 2

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jiri Tlusty scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period to lift the Carolina Hurricanes to a 3-2 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday night.

NHL

Tlusty beat Flyers goalie Steve Mason from close range high to the glove side with 6:10 remaining.

Each team scored once in the second period, with Gerbe putting the Hurricanes up 2-0 with a breakaway goal with 6:22 left in the period. Gerbe benefited from a mistake by Flyers defender Luke Schenn, who mishandled the puck as he tried to pass it in the open net. Gerbe tapped the puck in and slid it into the net.

The Flyers tied it just 3 minutes into the third period on Hartnell’s power-play goal. Giroux took the initial shot from the top of the left circle and Wayne Simmonds failed on the rebound attempt. But the puck caromed off Khudobin and to Hartnell, who scored from point blank range.

Mason had struggled in his last four games, with a 4.55 goals-against average, but had a strong career record against Carolina and had the best record of Carolina goalie Antton Khudobin and into the goal.

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Irish return to host Notre Dame Invitational

By CASEY KARNES
Sports Writer

Notre Dame returns to Loftus Fieldhouse on Saturday for the Notre Dame Invitational after last weekend’s successful road trip to Michigan for the Simmons-Harvey Invitational.

The Irish excelled in Ann Arbor last weekend, claiming 27 top-10 finishes on the women’s side and 24 on the men’s. The 400-meter relays were particularly impressive as both the men (3:17.84) and the women (3:49.11) claimed first place. Both teams, the women led by sophomore Michelle Brown and the men, by seniors Chris Giesting and Pat Feeney, qualified for the NCAA championships last season, and Irish head coach Joe Piane said their confidence level is rising as this season progresses.

“For the ladies, confidence is extremely high, because we have not only a good team of four, but we’re deep to about six ladies,” Piane said. “And on the men’s side we have two great legs in Feeney and Giesting, and then four or five freshmen that could really fit in. So I think both of their confidence is really high.”

The 400-meter relays also placed first in Notre Dame’s first home meet of the season, the Blue and Gold Meet, where the Irish won 26 out of 33 events. The Notre Dame Invitational will be the first time the Irish have hosted a meet since before break winter, and Piane said they are eager to return to their home track.

“I think it helps a great deal,” Piane said. “They understand the place, they know the place. They hopefully get a good night sleep in their own bed. But the best thing is that this track is so fast, and it’s fast because it’s huge. It’s the biggest indoor track in the United States, so that’s got to help.”

Still getting used to the home track will be a talented group of freshmen. Piane said he has been pleased with their performance thus far, particularly middle-distance runners Chris Marco and Jacob Dumford. Piane said that both freshmen and returning runners should only get stronger as the season continues.

“Every year you can improve a great deal,” Piane said. “For some kids it was the first time they competed, for some of them the first in nine months. I saw some kids compete very well. We had a lot of good things happen, we really did.”

With the ACC championships only a month away, the Irish have only a few more meets to prepare, meaning that the freshmen’s growth must continue.

Piane also said he is likely to decrease the amount of experimentation as runners focus on their strongest events. Last weekend, Brown added the 200-meter dash to her arsenal, and finished second. While that was a successful experiment, Piane said that as the events increase in intensity, runners will be more likely to conserve themselves for their best races.

“We’ll probably do some [more experimentation], but the farther along you go, you can’t experiment as much,” Piane said. “For example ... we have the Meyo meet [coming up], and I can guarantee you those guys are going to want to run really fast in the individual events.”

Notre Dame will look to defend its home base and continue its strong early start to the season at the Notre Dame Invitational on Saturday.

Contact Casey Karnes at wkarnes@nd.edu

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Buzzer-beating layup pushes Olivet past Belles

By A.J. GODEAUX
Sports Writer

Despite leading for the first 16 minutes of the second half, Saint Mary’s was unable to withstand a frantic Olivet rally in the final minutes, as the Belles fell to the Comets 70-68 Wednesday night.

“We played a great game tonight,” Belles coach Jenn Henley said. “We just went cold from the floor in the last 8 minutes. Still, I’m proud of the way our team played tonight.”

After an 11-2 run put the Belles (5-12, 3-5 MIAA) up 61-52 with 8:33 left in the game, Saint Mary’s looked well on their way to their fourth conference win, but Olivet (15-2, 7-1) would not go away, going on a 12-3 run of their own to take their first lead of the second half with 3:47 left on the clock.

The Belles kept the deficit within three, and after Comets senior guard Kelsey Campbell split two free throws, the Belles had the ball down 68-65 with an opportunity to tie the game with 22 seconds left. Belles sophomore guard Maddie Kohler found herself with a wide-open three-point attempt from the left wing and hit the shot to tie the game with 10 seconds to go.

Coming out of a Comets timeout, Olivet senior guard Chelsea Siba went coast-to-coast, draining a circus shot layup with four-tenths of a second left to give the Comets the win.

“We had our chances to put this one away down the stretch,” Henley said. “We just let them stay around too long, and they made the most of it.”

It was a tale of two halves for the Belles, who, after, battling back and forth with the Comets in the opening minutes of the first half, opened up a nine-point lead going into halftime. However, the Comets rebounded from a poor first half by sinking 50 percent of their shots in the second to fuel their comeback.

Despite winning the turn-over battle 17-14, Henley said the turnovers the Belles did commit were costly.

“Our turnovers down the stretch really were what gave Olivet the momentum in the closing minutes,” Henley said.

Belles sophomore forward Krista Knape led all scorers with a season-high 23 points, while junior forward and senior guard Shanlynn Blass added 10 points and six rebounds.

The Belles are off this weekend, but will attempt to climb back into the thick of the MIAA race with a home game against Adrian College at 7:30 next Wednesday at home.

Contact A.J. Godeaux at agodeaux@nd.edu
By ZACH KLONSINSKI
Sports Writer

After continually being among the top teams in the Big East, the Irish face new challenges with the team’s move to the ACC, having to prepare for new opponents, facilities and playing styles. The Irish are now in a conference with six teams who finished last season ranked above them in the final polls.

“The ACC, top to bottom, might be the best conference in the country,” said Irish coach Jay Louderback, now entering his 25th season at the helm of the program. Louderback also noted that although they have never played in the conference before, the Irish are not complete strangers to ACC competition.

“We’ve usually played three or four ACC schools every year in our regular season, so we’ve been to a lot of those schools,” he said.

Louderback and assistant coach Catrina Thompson will look to the experience of the team’s three seniors: Britney Sanders, Jennifer Kellner and Julie Sabacinski.

“We have three seniors that have played in our lineup for three years … They all have played number one doubles at times so they’ve got a lot of good match experience, big match experience,” said Louderback. “We have three freshmen that are going to be playing for us that haven’t been through any college tennis so those seniors will really help us with that transition.”

This freshman-senior relationship has already manifested itself on the doubles court. Two of the three doubles teams for the Irish are made up of a senior and a freshman. Kellner and freshman Monica Robinson will team up as well as Sabacinski and freshman Mary Closs. The other doubles team consists of Sanders and her sophomore partner from last year Quinn Gleason.

“We felt like with three seniors, the experience they have would be unbelievable to have one on each doubles team,” said Louderback. “We tried it in the fall … and the teams meshed really well. We felt very good about it.”

The good results quickly followed in the fall, as the Irish doubles squads defeated Michigan’s number-one-and two doubles teams in the first tournament of the year. “They looked really good,” said Louderback. “It was just something we tried and it happened to work immediately.”

As the fall season progressed, sometimes the team would send different players to different tournaments around the country, often splitting up the three teams and causing players to constantly play with different partners, something Louderback said would be good both for those already in the doubles rotation and for increasing the depth of the team overall.

“When someone’s out, we’ve got two or three others that will be able to just go right in,” he said.

On the singles side, Louderback thinks the team will be very deep. Five of the six slots on the singles side to start the year will consist of players who also play doubles in a typical dual match, with the sixth position still open for a number of different players to play their way into.

“I feel like we just don’t have any holes this year,” said Louderback. “We look very good from (position) one to six.”

Louderback will look to his seniors off the court as well to teach the ins and outs of college tennis, as the team has to do a lot more traveling this year than last.

“Flying out of here in February is not always fun.”

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zklonsin@nd.edu

Kevin Song | The Observer

Irish senior Britney Sanders serves as senior Julie Sabacinski looks on during the pair’s doubles match during Notre Dame’s 4-2 victory over Baylor on Feb. 23, 2013. Sanders and Sabacinski are two Irish players with the opportunity to compete at both singles and doubles in the upcoming spring season.

Write Sports.
Email Mike at jmonaco@nd.edu

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to play,” Herr said. “But I learned so much from it. It was ridiculous actually because even after games where I didn’t play, the coaches didn’t need to talk to me — I didn’t have an impact on the game, I was just in the stands — but they [asked], ‘Hey, what’d you see out there?’ … It was like a self-check.”

Jackson said many similarities — both positive and negative — exist between the two players. “Sammy still needs work on his skating, similar to Anders,” he said. “He needs to develop more agility to his game and first-step quickness and Anders was the same way. But his body and his hockey sense and his hands make him a formidable player.”

Those attributes have come in handy for both Herr and the Irish. With the score tied at three and less than six minutes remaining on Friday against Lake Superior State, Herr worked his way toward the net to score the game-winning goal. He added another goal on a breakaway to make the game’s final margin 6-3.

Herr will try to continue to use that “big” mentality — fine-tuned from learning from the stands a year ago and working hard in the weight room in the offseason — to lead the Irish to a sweep when they host No. 11 Northeastern on Friday and Saturday night.

“It’s difficult [when you’re a freshman] because you’ve got guys that are 24 [years old] out there and you consider them big and manly guys,” Herr said. “But you’ve just got to play the role and you’ve got to realize if you’re not strong enough and you’re getting bounced around, you’ve got to get strong enough and you’ve got to compete harder. And if it’s not working out for you, you’ve got to make it work.”

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu
Meinhardt
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

competition would likely make him the top foilist in the International Fencing Federation (FIE) rankings.

“Finding out from my coach in Paris felt great obviously but it actually wasn’t a huge deal at first,” he said. “It really set in coming back and getting congratulations from my family and the Notre Dame family... I’m incredibly grateful for that support.”

Irish fencing coach Janusz Bednarski has high praises for Meinhardt as he went along, the accolades began to pile up — the number one foilist in the world. “Gerek is someone who can blend high-quality academics with the time-consuming work required to be the best foilist in the world,” Bednarski said. “And his teammates say, ‘Hey I want to do that, too.’”

Meinhardt stressed how different NCAA competition was from the international scene.

“I really like fencing [for Notre Dame] because of the team atmosphere,” he said. “Unlike with the international events, I’m training with my teammates all the time.”

Currently in his first year of the MBA program at Mendoza, Meinhardt works to balance his NCAA and elite international competitions with his life as a Notre Dame student.

“It takes a lot of effort and time-management as far as getting work done,” he said, “but luckily my parents got me set in coming back and getting work done,” he said, “but luckily my parents got me set in coming back and getting work done,” he said, “but luckily my parents got me set in coming back and getting work done.”

Meinhardt has attained the highest accomplishment of his life as a Notre Dame student.

“The Irish have averaged 45.3 points in the paint per game, which is more than half of their points scored per game.”

“We’ve been looking to play down low more over the last few games,” McGraw said. “We have been trying to establish our inside game before we go outside, so that’s something we’re going to continue to work on.”

On Monday, the Irish claimed their 17th win of the season over No. 11 Tennessee 86-70. Nonetheless, Notre Dame failed to win the battle on the glass against the Lady Vols (14-4, 3-2 SEC). Tennessee finished with 46 rebounds to Notre Dame’s 33.

“We didn’t really rebound well against Tennessee, so it’s really important for us to really establish ourselves on the boards against Miami,” McGraw said. “Still, we have quite a few things we’re focusing on fixing. The primary focus is our defense. On the perimeter, in the post, and rebounding, we need to get better in all those areas.”

On Monday, the Irish gave up 46 first half points but held Tennessee to only 24 points in the second half. According to McGraw, this was a result of some defensive adjustments at half time that the team may carry on against Miami.

“We worked on guarding the post a little bit differently, which helped,” she said. "We also dealt with screens differently, which helped as well. We’ve been working on our zone too, but that’s still an area we’re going to keep improving on.” Notre Dame will look to continue its undefeated start to this season tonight at home against Miami. The game begins at 8:30 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Aaron Sant-Miller at asantmil@nd.edu

Irish junior guard Whitney Holloway looks for a teammate during Notre Dame's 99-50 home victory over UNCW on Nov. 9, 2013.

Irish junior guard Whitney Holloway looks for a teammate during Notre Dame's 99-50 home victory over UNCW on Nov. 9, 2013.
Horoscope | Eugenia Last

Celebrities born on this day: Bobbazer Gotti, 39; Gary Foy, 40; Diane Lane, 49; John Hurt, 74.

Happy Birthday! Jump into action and take a leap of faith. Take the skills you have acquired over the past year and turn them into something that will help you aspire to new heights. Strive to reclaim love, compassion and diversity. Remain with others and make a commitment that will inspire you to live, love and laugh. Your numbers are 2, 8, 12, 20, 34, 47.

Aries (March 21-April 19): What you do to help a cause will tune questions. Take care of personal responsibilities before offering your services to others. A relationship will take an emotional turn. Speak up and air your concern, but don't make an impulsive move. ♣♣♣

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Opportunities are present, but you may misunderstand what's expected of you. Do not make a commitment. You are not yet off learning all you can and developing a plan that will enable you to handle whatever situation you face with ease. ♣♣♣

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Put your best foot forward. Ask questions and take on new projects. What you offer will be greatly appreciated. A change will occur in the way you move forward with your plans if you receive someone a helping hand. ♣♣♣

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Emotional matters will lead to arguments if you aren't careful about how you deal with others. Take a deep breath and get involved in something you enjoy doing. Avoiding sticky situations will give you time to think through matters and regroup. ♣♣♣

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Getting more, the more mobile you are, the happier you'll be. Taking on domestic tasks will help improve your relationships, comfort and attitude. A partnership looks good and details regarding how to move forward can be made. ♣♣♣

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Before making a decision, listen to what's being offered. An impulsive move will turn into a costly one. Live in the now and romance will set the mood. Children will play a role in this decision you make. ♣♣♣

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get together with someone who brings out the best in you. Positive ideas will result in changes that will encourage you to live better. Focus on partnerships that make you feel relaxed, or spending time with someone who brings you comfort and joy. ♣♣♣

 Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An impulsive move will turn out to be costly. Love is in the stars and romance will set the mood. Children will play a role in a decision you make. ♣♣♣

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Go over your personal papers and look at your finances. A better idea on how you want to handle this situation. Focus on love and romance. A change at home will bring an impulsive move will turn out to be costly. Love is in the stars and romance will set the mood. Children will play a role in a decision you make. ♣♣♣

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Opportunities are present, but you may misunderstand what's expected of you. Do not make a commitment. You are not yet off learning all you can and developing a plan that will enable you to handle whatever situation you face with ease. ♣♣♣

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional matters will lead to arguments if you aren't careful about how you deal with others. Take a deep breath and get involved in something you enjoy doing. Avoiding sticky situations will give you time to think through matters and regroup. ♣♣♣

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Get out and mingle, offer assistance and go where the action is. There are deals to be formulated and money to be made. Don't let an impulsive move. ♣♣♣

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, unique and tenacious. You are dedicated, loyal and humanitarian.

The Observer | Thursday, January 23, 2014

Highly Punny Look Christopher Brucker

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Crossword | Will Shortz

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Jumble | David Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

DAILY

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HOCKEY

Herr embraces role as goal-scorer for Irish

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

One of the players leading Notre Dame in goals this year did not find the back of the net at all for the Irish a season ago. It was not because he missed the majority of the season to injury or was ineligible. And it was not because he's a freshman this season.

Sam Herr spent much of his rookie campaign watching his team's games instead of playing. The now-sophomore did rack up some minutes — he played mostly sparingly in 13 of Notre Dame's 41 games and had one assist — but was usually scratched and relegated to the stands, where he learned by watching former Irish captain Anders Lee.

Following Lee's departure to the New York Islanders organization, Herr has followed in his footsteps by doing what Lee did best: score goals.

Herr is tied with fellow sophomore forward Mario Lucia for the team lead with 12 goals. Herr embraces role as goal-scorer for Irish

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Hurricanes visit Purcell

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

After a three-game stint on the road, the No. 2 Irish will return to Purcell Pavilion tonight to host ACC rival Miami.

"We love playing at home because our fans are the best in the country," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "They give us energy and are so much fun to play in front of. We need that, so after three in a row, we are a little fatigued. It will be great to be back in the friendly confines of Purcell Pavilion."

Notre Dame (17-0, 4-0 ACC) will attempt to contain an offense that emphasizes 3-point shooting. Miami (11-7, 3-2 ACC) is averaging 19.6 3-point attempts per game, and 30 percent of the Hurricanes' shots are from beyond the arc. The Irish, though they lead the NCAA in 3-point shooting percentage, only fire from beyond the arc on January his freshman season with a bout of mononucleosis. That was sandwiched between a first half and second half of the season marred by individual inconsistency.

"When we recruited him, we certainly saw some potential for him to develop into a top-line player," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "But last year, I think he had a hard time finding that consistency. He'd show signs — like one game he'd play really good and then he'd kind of disappear for five games. So he wasn't in the lineup as much as he probably would have liked to have been."

As lack of playing time mounted, the message from Jackson to Herr was clear: to see the ice, the 6-foot, 206-pounder needed to play bigger.

So Herr said he used the time to make mental notes of how Lee played big by getting to the net and winning the puck in tough areas of the ice. He combined those mental notes with increased strength developed over the summer to breakout this season.

"Obviously, it’s frustrating for any player sitting out; they want to contribute more forward Mario Lucia for the no. team lead with 12 goals. Herr embraced role as goal-scorer for Irish

FENCING

Meinhardt earns top world rank

By ANDREW ROBINSON
Sports Writer

After a third-place finish at the Paris Foil World Cup this past weekend, Notre Dame captain and U.S. National Team foilist Gerek Meinhardt is on top of the world — literally. At the end of the prestigious international tournament, Meinhardt became the first American in history to be named the world's top foilist.

The Irish captain, representing the United States in the event, entered the weekend with the No. 2 world ranking. His primarily goal, however, was simply to start the 2014 season with a strong showing.

"I wasn’t sure what to expect honestly," he said. "The first tournament of the season can be a little shaky sometimes."

Meinhardt showed few signs of shakiness, however, winning his opening bouts 15-9, 15-10 and 15-9 against world-class competitors from Germany, South Korea and the Czech Republic. He took a quick 11-5 lead against James Davis of Britain in the quarterfinals, and capped it off with a 15-10 victory.

In the semifinal matchup, Meinhardt squared off with Enzo Lefort from the host country France. He fell behind 8-6 early in the bout, but charged back to a 13-8 lead. Lefort, however, with the loud home crowd providing him energy, battled and got the final touch in a 15-14 victory. Lefort went on the win the gold, and Meinhardt finished with the bronze.

"There’s always room for improvement," he said, "but I was really happy to finish in third place."

Shortly after the bout, Meinhardt’s coach brought him even better news — the points he earned in the