Pope Francis names new cardinals

Notre Dame alumnus Kelvin Edward Felix among 19 nominees

**By LESLEY STEVENSON**
News Writer

Pope Francis’s recently released list of 19 men who will soon become cardinals included a Notre Dame graduate. According to a report in The South Bend Tribune, the University is again challenging a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate that requires Notre Dame’s insurance plan to cover contraceptives, according to a report in The South Bend Tribune.

Notre Dame is asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit to grant the University an exemption to the mandate in light of a recent Supreme Court decision, the Tribune reported. The Supreme Court ruled Jan. 24 that the nonprofit organization Little Sisters of the Poor and other similar religious groups do not have to cover contraceptives until the Sisters’ lawsuit is resolved.

“Those questions guided my coursework and late-night talks and times spent alone. I’m still living those questions,” Temple said. He returned to Louisiana after graduation to earn a master’s degree in journalism, but his career path meant his team will receive both the grant money and further support from two poweringhouses, the NFL and GE, is incredibly helpful,” he said. The opportunities that come from that — collaboration and expertise — can really make a difference.

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Pope Francis embraces a boy with cerebral palsy after Easter Mass at the Vatican on March 31. On Jan. 12, the pontiff released a list of 19 bishops and archbishops who will become cardinals in a ceremony Feb. 22.

see CARDINALS PAGE 4

**Magazine editor reflects on career**

**By CHARLIE DUCEY**
News Writer

As the editor of Notre Dame Magazine, Kerry Temple tells the Notre Dame story — as a class of 1974 graduate, an undergraduate.

Temple said he returned to take a writer job at the magazine, became editor in 1995 and has led the publication for almost 20 years. Temple said his Notre Dame story began with the impression of the university he formed as a high school student in Louisiana. “I looked up to the local guys who went to Notre Dame from my high school and really liked what the place represented,” he said. “A campus visit convinced me that it was the only school I wanted to go to.”

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The goal of the Notre Dame project is to create an application for tablets and smart phones that diagnoses concussions based on voice patterns, specifically vowel sounds, which can be altered by concussive impacts, Poellabauer said. He said being selected means his team will receive both the grant money and further support from two poweringhouses, the NFL and GE, is incredibly helpful,” he said. The opportunities that come from that — collaboration and expertise — can really make a difference.

see RESEARCH PAGE 5

NFL funds ND team to study concussions

**By CHRISTIAN MYERS**
News Writer

The National Football League (NFL) and General Electric (GE) have teamed up to fund concussion-related research projects nationwide, and a Notre Dame research team is behind one of the 16 projects chosen so far.

Professor Christian Poellabauer said the 16 projects were chosen from a pool of more than 400 proposals by a panel of experts for the first of two GE-NFL Head Health Challenge projects. The nonprofit organization Little Sisters of the Poor and other similar religious groups do not have to cover contraceptives until the Sisters’ lawsuit is resolved.

“Those questions guided my coursework and late-night talks and times spent alone. I’m still living those questions,” Temple said. He returned to Louisiana after graduation to earn a master’s degree in journalism, but his career path meant his team will receive both the grant money and further support from two poweringhouses, the NFL and GE, is incredibly helpful,” he said. The opportunities that come from that — collaboration and expertise — can really make a difference.

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see RESEARCH PAGE 5

University appeals HHS ruling

**By MARISA IATI**
Assistant Managing Editor

The University is again challenging a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate that requires Notre Dame’s insurance plan to cover contraceptives, according to a report in The South Bend Tribune.

Notre Dame is asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit to grant the University an exemption to the mandate in light of a recent Supreme Court decision, the Tribune reported. The Supreme Court ruled Jan. 24 that the nonprofit organization Little Sisters of the Poor and other similar religious groups do not have to cover contraceptives until the Sisters’ lawsuit is resolved.

“There is no legitimate basis upon which an injunction could be granted to the Little Sisters of the Poor but denied to Notre Dame,” the University said in its motion, according to the Tribune.

see APPEAL PAGE 4
QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is your favorite dog breed?

Chloe Wieber
sohpomore
Hawthorne Hall
“Yorkie.”

Connor Malone
junior
O’Neill Hall
“Border Collie.”

Janine Romy
sohpomore
Breen-Phillips Hall
“Pomeranian.”

Peter Forbes
sohpomore
O’Neill
“Shiba Inu.”

Toni Schreier
sohpomore
McGillin Hall
“Husky.”

Zane Parker
sohpomore
Knot Hall
“Weens.”

Winter weather causes transportation issues for more than just motorists. After heavy snowfall at the beginning of the spring semester, bicycle racks around campus remain buried.
Design students create personal websites

By CATHERINE OWEDES
News Writer

In a competitive job mar- ket, students strive to dis- tinguish themselves from other job applicants. At Notre Dame, taking a web design courses can help undergrad- uate designers stand apart from competitors by creating per- sonal websites to showcase their work, according to se- nior MaryKate Green. Green said she used her senior class last semester as an op- portunity to develop and show off a new set of skills. “At this time, I was draw- ing in digital design agency job applications, searching for a way to diversify myself amongst all of the com- petitive applicants,” she said. “As a marketing and graphic design double major, I was expected to have a difficult time illustrating to poten- tial employers how I could use my diverse background and skills to create a market- ing message for their brand. I saw this class as the per- fect opportunity and plat- form to design a meaningful experience for my hopeful employers.”

Green said she wanted her website, nomidddlename.me, to show her personality as well as her marketable skills. “Every aspect of nomi- ddenname.me is carefully constructed to exhibit all my design and marketing skills as well as to give insight into my personality,” she said. “My biggest strength lies in finding a harmonious bal- ance between responsive web design and engaging, sensory marketing and mar- keting analytics.”

“Designing personal websites is a unique and beloved,” Prezek said. “I have also gotten feedback that the code is clean and precise, which is crucial for web design. I am con- stantly updating and editing my code so that it stays up to date with the most efficient techniques.”

Design professor Andre Murniek said students in web design have an ad- vantage in cultivating an online portfolio to show po- tential employers. “Design students who in- terview with employers can bring portfolios that show their website, an English- speaking personal website can be viewed at any time,” he said. “Now it’s be- come that if you don’t have a portfolio of presence, what would I call you?”

Murniek said the intro- ductory web design course is open to non-major design, as well. “We have people from all over the university,” he said. “For non-design students, their websites can include other information, for example, that even an English- major could display writing samples.”

Although the course is open to non-majors, Murniek said the course is in-depth. “We try to do serious de- sign,” he said. “We meet twice a week for two hours and 45 minutes in the design studio. It can be intimidating.”

In addition to creating per- sonal websites, Murniek said students also learn how to build mobile versions of their websites for touch- screen interfaces, such as those on iPads and iPhones. “It’s been somewhat of a revelation for them to see that part of my mission is to boost what we do in the interactive design arena.”

Contact Catherine Owens at cowers@nd.edu

“A few hiring managers and other business people have told me that it’s refreshing – that I have separated myself from the ‘pack’ by doing something creative with passion.”

MaryKate Green
design student

Saint Mary’s celebrates Heritage Week

By HALEIGH EHMSE
News Writer

Saint Mary’s College plans to celebrate its history and the 50th anniversary of the death of Sister Madeva Wolff, the third sainted Saint Mary’s, during next week’s Heritage Week festivities, se- nior Mollie Valencia said.

Valencia, student director on the Alumnae Association Board of Directors, said many of the Heritage Week events will be centered around Sister Madeva and the mark she left on the college.

Junior Sarah Prezek, chair of the Mission Committee for Student Government Association said she worked with Valencia to plan the Heritage Week week.

“One of the most important goals of this week is to con- nect Saint Mary’s women to their history, and continually support our col- lege, the Sisters of the Holy Cross convent,” Prezek said.

Valencia said Sister Eva Mary Hooker, professor of English, and John Kovach, library archivist, will host a reading Sunday of Wolff’s work at 2 p.m. in the Student Center Lounge.

Riedinger House, the guest- house on campus, will also host two tea parties Monday, Valencia said. She said stu- dents can attend an update on the capital campaign Saint Mary’s launched last year Tuesday in the Vander Vennet Theater.

Valencia said it is important for students to understand how deeply Saint Mary’s was rooted in history and how much of that history could be found all across the campus, even in less frequented areas. “There are so many differ- ent places on campus that most students do not know about,” Valencia said. “They are the places highlighted during Heritage Week.”

To showcase some of this Saint Mary’s history, Sister Veronique Wiedower, vice president for mission, will lead Heritage Room tours Wednesday, Valencia said. She said students can also visit the college archives for tours Wednesdays.

Valencia said Saint Mary’s President Carol Ann Mooney will have dinner with ju- nior and seniors in Stapleton Lounge on Thursday.

“This dinner will allow stu- dents to dine family-style, similar to the type of dinner that was traditionally served when Regneaux Lounge served as the school’s dining hall,” Prezek said.

Prezek said long-sleeved t-shirts will be given out at each event, but she said she hopes that student choose to attend the events to learn more about the history of the college.

“The events are important to attend because each event sheds a light on aspects of Saint Mary’s that makes it unique and beloved,” Prezek said. “This [event] is an opportunity to learn about and experience Saint Mary’s history and traditions.”

Contact Haleigh Ehmse at hhehse01@saintmarys.edu

SMC students promote modesty in modeling

By ALEX WINEGAR
News Writer

Heshima Couture, a faith- based modeling agency found- ed in 2012 by Saint Mary’s senior Wendy Oduor and ju- nior Erin Cox, strives to em- brace the edginess of the fashion world while respecting the human body as a temple of God. “Every beautiful thing is rooted in how and why we see it,” Cox said. “It’s understood that the body is an instrument of God through a sense of glory and power. There are many definitions of modesty and how we see the body because it’s not our own Word but God’s.”

“Mostly for me is more of following a commandment that God said,” Oduor said. “It’s because he says in his word to honor your body, so he is telling me to honor my body.”

“So when I do it, yes, I do it because I want to do it, I don’t want to expose my body, but most importantly it’s like I am giv- ing respect to my creator, someone who died for me and my sins.”

Cox said he wants people to be inspired and hopes the pictures will build confi- dence in young girls because of its portrayal of people who love and perceive themselves the way they dress and hold themselves.

“I want them to see strong women,” Cox said. “I want them to be inspired by our models and the way that they carry themselves in the photos.”

“It’s a lot about attitude. It’s a lot about the way you want people to perceive you and perceive yourself.”

“I think that girls having strong role models is one of the most important things. There are so many influences out there and you want to be one of the ones that are good. That’s what we are trying to do.”

Oduor said viewers must understand that Heshima Couture is not a run-of-the-mill modeling agency. She said people can try to see God through a sense of glory in the photos.

“Want them to see that God can be a fun activity,” Cox said. “When you bring religion to some things, some people think it can be boring, but that’s not true. I want them to see that this is cool but see God in this. I want to make God more relevant.”

“Hope to help up-and- coming models, Oduor said she and Cox have big plans for the future. They want to cre- ate contracts with dependable models and fashion designers.

“We want to help aspiring models who agree with the same mission statement so we can help them to build their personal websites, Oduor said. “It’s only a year old, so we are also trying to find a team who are interested in helping it grow.”

“I want to see all of my mod- els make it up there and still preach the modesty. I want to see Heshima in Vogue and Elle, and with the definition of ‘I’m modest, but I’m fierce.’”

Contact Alex Winegar at awinegar01@saintmarys.edu
Pope Francis' list of new cardinals included Kelvin Edward Felix, archbishop emeritus of Castries, according to the National Catholic Reporter. Felix received a master of arts degree from Notre Dame in 1969, according to the Notre Dame Alumni Association.

“Of course he wasn’t elected because he is a Notre Dame alum, but because of his servant leadership in the Church for many years as bishop,” Cavadini said. “But it certainly shows (Notre Dame) can produce Church leaders.”

Lawrence Cunningham, Church historian and theology professor, said the pope’s attention to marginalized countries will allow those regions of the world the possibility of participating in the College of Cardinals’ main responsibility, naming a new pope.

“It’s usually around this time of year, the beginning of the year, that the pope typically nominates bishops and archbishops to the College of Cardinals,” Cunningham said. “One of the reasons he does that is to be sure that the Catholic world is represented in the College of Cardinals because the most important thing that the College does is to elect a new pope.

“The most interesting thing… was the fact that he named a cardinal from Haiti and a cardinal from Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso is one of the poorest, most wretched countries in Africa, and I think that that was done so that those bishops will have in the College of Cardinals a voice for the forgotten part of the world, not the third world but basically the fourth world, or the poorest countries of the world.

“The most important thing is that it says something about [Francis’] tremendous concern for the poor of the world.”

Cavadini said Pope Francis’ appointments of Archbishop Philippe Ouédraogo of Burkina Faso and Bishop Chibly Langlois of Haiti reflected his attempt to promote the Church’s core mission.

“Pope Francis wants to emphasize that the Church is not really here for its own sake, not here for itself,” Cavadini said. “The Church is here to serve. The Church is here to be a witness to God’s love and that means especially in places where that love seems to be most absent.

“In one sense, [Francis] wants the whole Church to be a church of witness to the belief that God is love and so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son.”
Research CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

assistance with their research.

“it’s not just funding, it’s more like a partnership,” he said.

Poellabauer said GE’s support in particular could be important in gaining approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), given the corporation’s experience with the application process.

Poellabauer said the winning award was granted to research that either diagnoses concussions more quickly and accurately, develops new treatments for concussions or improves assessment of when athletes are ready to return to competition. He said his project is unique among the winning proposals, most of which involve brain imaging.

“Our voice procedure seems to be very different from the other proposals,” he said.

The funds will be used for two aspects of the team’s research, Poellabauer said. The first will use be proving the technology can work, which is called “proof of concept.”

Poellabauer said the main component of the proof of concept is data collection. He said the team is partnering with high schools in Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Texas to test the system on student athletes. Participants will provide a baseline recording before their respective competition season and then the schools’ athletic trainers will administer subsequent tests after practices and games, Poellabauer said. The recordings will all be analyzed and compared to the baseline, and the results verified against any diagnosed concussions among the participants.

Poellabauer said the overall data collection effort will involve more than 1,000 students and the researchers expect a minimum of 50 concussions to occur within that group.

The second use of the funding will be developing an algorithm so that the app is fully functional on the device without the wireless connection and cloud computing currently required, Poellabauer said.

“There’s some work involved in getting it all to work efficiently on tablets and smart phones,” he said.

The researchers are partnering with the software company Contact Inc. to eventually bring the application to the public, Poellabauer said. Contact is focusing their efforts on commercialization while the researchers improve and test the effectiveness of the application.

“Our hope is by 2015 to have this in the market,” Poellabauer said.

Poellabauer said chemistry and biochemistry professor Mayland Chang was also doing research related to concussions and other traumatic brain injuries and would submit a proposal for the second GE-NFL Head Health Challenge.

“The NFL has committed to funding concussion research given the attention concussions have had the last few years,” he said.

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers@nd.edu

Temple CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ultimately brought him back to Notre Dame through a writing job at Notre Dame Magazine in 1981.

“The magazine seemed like an extension of the University and the education I had gotten, and the subject matter was varied and engaging and dealt with stuff I liked,” Temple said. “To a large degree, my work at the magazine is a continuation of my time as an undergrad.”

Temple said he published a book in 2005 that addresses some of the same questions that interested him as a Notre Dame student.

“Some years ago I wrote a book, ‘Back to Earth,’ about the search for God in the natural world,” he said. “It was the book I dreamed of writing when I was an undergrad here, when I was exploring the world and myself and my place in it.”

Throughout his years at Notre Dame Magazine, Temple said he has seen much continuity in the magazine’s message and approach, even amid changes in political climate and University life.

“From the onset — back in 1972, because of some visionary leadership at the time — Notre Dame Magazine dealt with the tough questions. The very first issue asked, ‘Who Lives and Who Dies?’ It had articles on abortion and euthanasia and capital punishment,” Temple said. “It was still a pretty edgy publication when I joined the staff [in 1981], and I think that reputation endures to a certain degree. And the questions posed are perennial; we’re still asking them.”

Since becoming editor in 1995, Temple said he has worked to maintain the focus and esteem of Notre Dame Magazine, which circulates approximately 150,000 copies during each quarterly publication.

“Its philosophy is essentially the same,” he said. “It reflects a university that takes on difficult questions, that is engaged in that world and addresses complicated issues that our readers confront in their lives.”

Kerry Temple
Notre Dame Magazine editor
cover asked, Who Lives and Who Decides? It

“it reflects a university that is engaged with the world, tells stories of alumni engaged in the world and addresses complicated issues that our readers confront in their lives.”

Contact Charlie Ducey at cducey@nd.edu
Campus at a crossroads

Dan Brombach
Viewpoint Editor

This week, the University announced plans to add three interdisciplinary buildings to Notre Dame Stadium in an initiative titled the “Campus Crossroads Project.” We are told these facilities will integrate and centralize student life in ways the Notre Dame community has never seen before, with a new student center, a digital media studio, a RecSports facility and music, anthropology and psychology classrooms.

The additions will also boast a new club-level seating, a new scoreboard and a 500-seat ballroom that could substantially improve the gameday experience. The plans for the surrounding walkways include significant improvements in landscaping, which will undoubtedly make for a more pleasant experience walking among a more beautiful section of campus.

There’s no doubt in our minds that this project will live up to its current promise, enhancing both the daily lives of students and the experiences of visitors year-round. This project meets long-present needs of the Notre Dame community and we applaud the way in which Notre Dame’s administration has paid attention to the needs of the University’s students and academic departments in addition to the needs of its sports teams. We believe these three new buildings will be physical testaments to Notre Dame’s dedication to cultivating a student’s mind, body and spirit.

Academic departments will benefit from the project. The music department was in sore need of an upgrade — its home, Crowley Hall, was built in 1938. Although there’s no mention of a chapel in the Campus Crossroads blueprints, the Sacred Music program will gain a “state-of-the-art” practice facility in the new buildings.

The anthropology and psychology departments, housed separately in Flanner Hall and Haggar Hall, respectively, wished to relocate to locations more accessible for off-campus visitors, so as to better conduct research with subjects who arrive from South Bend. Now, both departments will have access to the best resources a Notre Dame research facility can offer in a part of campus easily accessed.

Students will benefit from the project. All students will gain a new location to meet, study and relax. Off-campus students who typically park in the stadium lot will no longer have to circle a desolate, empty stadium during the non-football months to trek to the populated sections of campus — a new community hub will offer comfort and respite from the bitter cold.

Sports teams will benefit from the project. A lot of the buzz has been football-focused, as fans have eaten up promises of improvements to the overall gameday experience. Will there be video boards? How about FieldTurf? The basketball teams also gain a new practice facility in what is now Rolls Sports Recreation Center with the relocation of RecSports to the new complex.

Clearly, the announcement of this stadium expansion plan is a historic moment for Notre Dame.

There have been public concerns about the incredible price tag, or about the focus on these specific improvements to student life. While Notre Dame has made it clear funding for this project will come from donors, will this construction cannibalize donations that might otherwise have been donated to other causes or student needs?

Essentially, there are other segments of student life at Notre Dame that would benefit from increased funding (e.g. overcrowding in dorms, increased student club funding); funding they potentially could lose if donors who would have given to the University are drawn away to give specifically to the new construction project. Other needs persist among the student body and the campus community — we ask the University not to lose sight of these needs during this construction project.

We are excited about the design for this fantastic new facility, and about what it represents for the Notre Dame community. This project heralds the beginning of a new era for Notre Dame, and we are eager to watch it come ever closer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An ill-conceived bragging point

Nathaniel Gotcher
fifth-year senior
Morrissey Manor
Jan. 31

contact Dan Brombach at dbrombach@nd.edu

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

The new plans for a student center, confusingly called “Campus Crossroads,” exhibit a level of cynicism and disrespect for the students that is hard to match. Students are the life of a university. Education is a university’s first mission. At Notre Dame, the real heart of the university, not the athletic department, not student life or any other program, is the heart and the mind, but in many ways, our investment is elsewhere. Our investment is in accruing prestige, not knowledge. We care more about maintaining our huge endowment, rather than educating our students. We see the lessons of Fr. Edward Sorin and Blessed Basil Moreau. The new plan for Notre Dame (as well as any other university) has to be a two-fold one. We have to show a good face to the world, while quality of student life, the very core of all we do, is rotting away. This new community hub will offer comforts and respite from the bitter cold. We care about going against convention and being the first to do something new, as if tradition no longer has a meaning to us.

Besides the fact that the facility in question is grounded-breaking in neither design nor concept, the disregard for student need is astounding. First of all, the stadium is not the center of campus now, and it should not be. Our strength as a university is not in our sports programs, but in our faith and our academics. Secondly, the quad system of the University is completely overlooked in a design that turns the three buildings proposed away from each other and not toward each other. Instead, they have a huge field that nobody will be allowed to use flying between them, blocking any natural path from one to another. The proposal further sprays the campus, pushing for expansion while forgetting the need to keep our campus walkable. The walkability depends on being able to travel directly and quickly to other buildings. Instead of creating a behemoth building that is difficult to walk around, every effort should be made to improve, renovate and build in the heart of campus, centered on God Quad, which houses the very symbol of our University. I have watched this campus develop for over the past five years. I have seen the new Law School addition built, as well as Ryan Hall, Stinson Remick Hall, Geddes Hall, the Rice Center and the Stayer Center. I have followed the path that campus planners have been taking closely, not only because I am an architecture student, but also because among the many reasons I love Notre Dame is the beauty of its campus. Notre Dame’s campus center, which currently includes God Quad and South Quad, is distinctive, ordered and meaningful. It points not only to the early years of the University and the hard work of those that built this place we call home, but also to the fundamental realities that led to the founding of Notre Dame.

Recent developments have been haphazard and, having seen the plans for the future, I do not see our campus staying comprehensible, compact and beautiful. Instead, I see a university that is desperate to be relevant to other institutions becoming just as desperate to be relevant in higher education. I see haste and carelessness in an effort to show a good face to the world, while quality of student life, the very core of all we do, is rotting away. This new student center seems to be just another shiny package used to brag to the world that we are a premier, forward-thinking institution, while forgetting the needs of the students.
Gary Caruso
Capital Comments

Not long ago, everyone considered the annual State of the Union address a yearly grand presentation reminiscent of the dignified ancient Greek theater, symbols marking the duality of life — Melpomene, the muse of tragedy and Thalia, the muse of comedy. Regarded as a political oratory, presidents spoke earnestly with formality and distinction before a respectful, courteous joint session of Congress. Franklin D. Roosevelt reassured the nation following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Lyndon B. Johnson honored the legacy of John F. Kennedy, slain by an assassin. This writer stood on the floor of the House of Representatives just 10 feet from an optimistic Ronald Reagan. But alas, in recent years many in Congress have turned the evening into personal fascades through their rude and outright zany antics as though they traveled over the rainbow into another realm. In 2009, during President Obama’s first State of the Union speech, South Carolina Republican Addison Graves “Joe” Wilson was formally rebuked by the House of Representatives when he breached longstanding decorum by pointing at the president and twice yelling, “You lie.” At this week’s speech, Representative Steve Stockman (R-Texas) went out to protest what Stockman called “a wholesale violation of Obama’s oath of office and a disqualifying offense.” Stockman has brought with him such harsh critics of the President like Ted Nugent and Chad Henderson, a student whose hoax of enrolling into Obamacare mislead journalists.

Obama succinctly articulated his accomplishments, oftentimes understated by his administration. Honoring American citizens who make the state of our union strong, the President noted both before and after his speech that America is the world’s number one place to invest. Of 80 interruptions, the president’s speech ran over time — three due to laughter, 40 standing ovations (19 bipartisan, 21 Democrat-only), while 42 rounds of applause were Democrat-only, 36 rounds were bipartisan and only two rounds were indistinguishable. CNN Polls conducted both before and after his speech asked if the president’s goals would move the country in the right direction. Obama gained 17 percentage points after delivering this year’s address. His job approval rating rose to 69 percent afterward — almost identical to George W. Bush’s 16 percent jump in 2006 when he also began at 52 percent.

Nearly a third of respondents said Obama should act alone on major issues while two-thirds preferred that he work across party lines and compromise. Obama invited the GOP to work with him, however, also warned that continual gridlock forces him to act within his executive powers to overcome the stalemate.

This success, the political factions split the post-speech dialogue. The more zany Obama foes seemingly whisked down some yellow brick road. Rod Serling should have introduced them crossing over with, “You unlock this door with the key of imagination. You’re traveling to another dimension, not of sight and sound, but also of mind; a journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of the imagination. At the sign post ahead, your next stop? The Twilight Zone.”

Some like Stockman hover on the bubble of pseudo-psychology, tucking into a script driven by the policy base down toward the unceremonious path with wild-eyed rhetoric and straw-man issues. Obviously not admitting that the current deficits or unemployment numbers are lower, Stockman said, “After five years in office, Obama refuses to admit his policies have failed.” Stockman is running in the Texas Senate primary against incumbent Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas).

Others, like Representative Tim Huelskamp hover on the bubble of pseudo-psychology, simply dive headfirst into the Land of Oz by disrespectfully and blatantly ignoring traditional decorum while tweeting a running stream of more than a dozen insults aimed at the President during the speech. The Kansas Republican posted such inventive against the Commander and Chief saying the speech “reads like dictates from a King” and accusing the president of an “imperial presidency,” asking if “a diplomat in Bengazhi… gave his life for this country,” using “crony capitalism” and “politicalizing the military to end his term.”

Huelskamp sealed his first-place prize for whacko-of-the-week by confronting MSNBC television host Rachel Maddow. Asked to explain his tweets, Huelskamp said, “[Regarding Banghazi]… because it’s Hillary Clinton you don’t want the answers, Rachel, face the fact. The President very clearly ran against the military. He continues to highlight them when it helps politically… Oh it’s pretty clear. He wanted to bring the troops home, he wants to close Gitmo, he wants to do all kinds of things… it’s very clear, and all of a sudden he’s all for presidential power.”

Should anyone have the phone number for Toto, please urge the canine to run for Congress and bring sanity back to the First District of Kansas.

Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame ’73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security. He was a legislative and public affairs director at the U.S. House of Representatives and in President Clinton’s administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at GaryCaruso@alumni.nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

President Obama’s State of the Union address - if you were to translate it into prose, it would read like this:...
By KEVIN NOONAN
Scene Editor

The one-of-a-kind thrill and amazement of “The Intergalactic Nemesis” returns to Notre Dame this weekend, as creator, writer, production designer and director Jason Neulander and his cast and crew present both their original production, “The Intergalactic Nemesis — Book One: Target Earth.” The group performed this piece in the Browning Cinema two years ago, as well as their sequel, “The Intergalactic Nemesis — Book Two: Robot Planet Rising.”

The show in the spring of 2012 received rave reviews from at least one prominent theater critic in The Observer’s Scene section (me), and, as can be seen from the director below, the sequel aims to repeat and enhance the fun.

For a little background on the show, it combines a full graphic novel projected onto a screen behind the stage with actors reading and acting the script like a radio play on stage. Meanwhile, a Foley artist works in center stage creating all of the sound effects live for the action in the play. It’s an exhilarating and truly entertaining concept that the cast and crew executed magnificently for the first show. Neulander agreed to speak over the phone before the performance this weekend, and the full transcript of the interview is below. “Intergalactic Nemesis — Book One: Target Earth” will begin at 2:00 p.m. Saturday in the Debartolo Performing Arts Center and tickets will be $10. “Intergalactic Nemesis — Book Two: Robot Planet Rising” will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in DPAC and tickets will start at $15.

KN: We talked two years ago when you came through and I just re-listened to the interview, it was interesting because one of the things you talked about was that you were about to be touring around the world, you went to Edinburgh, you played on Broadway, you played at the Kennedy Center. But when you came to Notre Dame two years ago you were still starting to build momentum. It was still a brand new show. I’m curious what it’s like now four years into the show and now that you’ve achieved so much success what it’s like looking back on where you’ve come from?

JN: It’s funny you say that, success is a wonderfully moving target. But it feels amazing. Everything that’s happened with the project so far has been nothing but a dream come true. It’s really hard to believe that when I launched a show in 2010, I had no idea that all of this would happen. It’s totally remarkable looking back, just amazing.

KN: When you last came here you were debuting “Book One,” and now you guys have “Book Two” on tour, where does the story take off from “Book One” into “Book Two”?

JN: So “Book Two” picks up two weeks after “Book One” ends, and it is important for folks to know that you definitely do not have to see “Book One” to see “Book Two.” The story in “Book Two” does stand alone; there’s definitely no obligation to see both. In “Book Two,” my biggest inspiration for “Robot Planet Rising” was my relationship as a viewer for “Empire Strikes Back.” “Star Wars” kind of sets up that universe and then “Empire Strikes Back” kind of makes it darker and more complex and introduces some new great characters, and that’s exactly what we tried to do with “Robot Planet Rising.”

So basically it picks up two weeks later, Timmy and Molly are still on Romanovia when their guide, the guy who kind of introduced them on that world. Elbee-Dee-Oh, disappears into deep space, and it’s up to Molly and Timmy to find out what happened to him. But at the same time, unbeknownst to Molly and Timmy, through a crazy set of bizarre circumstances, Molly’s former fiancé, Dr. Lawrence Webster, finds himself on Romanovia at exactly the same time. Needless to say, things get very complicated very quickly. I’ll leave it there. It’s filled with mystery; it’s filled with adventure. Yeah, I guarantee you it delivers.

KN: With such a busy touring schedule, how do you find time to write this and coordinate with the artists and stuff like that?

JN: That’s such a great question because I really don’t know. We’re in the middle of developing “Book Three” and it is extremely difficult to find the time, although somehow I managed to do it. But looking back on it as I’m working on it now I’m like, “What the hell did I do last time?” and I honestly don’t remember so it’s all kind of a blur.

KN: I don’t mean to come off as insulting with this question, but how do you keep it fresh? I know with the first one, one of the things I loved so much about it was that it was a totally new experience; I’d never seen anything like it before. How do you keep the energy fresh in the sequel and keep it from being stale?

JN: For me, the reason I’ve stuck with this project is really it’s all about the characters for me. So the mechanism by which we’re delivering the story, the format of the live show, to me is secondary to the experience of trying to do our best to tell a great story and develop great characters. I think with “Book Two,” the format is the same and audiences that saw “Book One” will immediately understand how to watch this new chapter in the series, the story is really kind of developed at a pretty high level. It’s pretty different in feel from “Book One.” Like “Book One” was really pretty straightforward episodic adventure; in “Book Two” what we do is we take four of what appear to be completely distinct, separate story arcs and over the course of act one we weave those together so you’re like “Oh, that’s what’s going on.”

And then act two takes off like a rocket ship and never stops once all the arcs come together. One of the big inspirations for “Book Two” was the movie “The Big Sleep.” It stars Humphrey Bogart, and it’s a film noir detective story. Timmy follows this mystery story arc, for example, and that has a pretty different feel from anything in “Book One.” And likewise introducing Lawrence Webster and his assistant Dr. Natasha Zorokov as characters, there’s one like them in “Book One.”

And then when Natasha and Molly get together, which happens pretty early in act one of “Robot Planet Rising,” they’re such great foils for one another, you can’t help but get caught up in their story. Plus, with “Book One” you had one actor doing a lot of multiple roles and the other two actors doing basically individual characters. With “Book Two,” each of the three actors, there’s six main characters and each of the actors plays two. So there’s a lot of vocal pyrotechnics going on that you just didn’t get in “Book One.”

KN: I’m looking at your touring schedule, and you’ve Hawaii, Canada, all over the world, but I’ve got to imagine that this is just a fun thing to be doing. Does it feel like work to you guys?

JN: It’s really fun. One of the really fun things about when we get to bring the sequel back to a venue is, what happens when we bring ‘Book One’ is most everybody who comes to see the show really has no idea what they’re in for. And they come in curious and I really think they walk out fans. But what happens with ‘Book Two’ is now usually the audience is about half and half people who’ve seen the first one and people who haven’t. The people who’ve seen the first one, they’re already invested in the show and they bring this energy into the room, it’s kind of like a rock concert. It’s amazing. And because the audience now, at least half of them, know how to watch the show, from the get-go they’re in it. And that’s really remarkable, and so far it totally has not gotten old. That’s something everybody talks about after pretty much every performance just how amazing the audience reaction is. So that’s definitely one of the main things that keeps it fun. Plus we get to tourists also a little bit while we’re traveling so that’s pretty fun, too.

KN: You’re four years into this, you’re writing ‘Book Three’ right now, where’s the future for this show? Or are you even looking that far? Where do you see this down the road?

JN: Well, with the show itself I think I just want to see how long we can sustain touring all three productions. But then with the ‘Intergalactic Nemesis’ universe that we’ve created, I’m already looking at expanding that. Right now I’m in the beginning of developing a podcast based on Jean-Pierre Despernis who’s one of the secondary characters in ‘Target Earth.’ My dream of the project would be to see the main trilogy a series of feature films, I’d love to develop a couple of television series out of it. I’d love to see a couple characters take on a life in a trade paperback novel series. So for me, now that we’re at the tail end of developing the live productions and that’s starting to take on a life of its own, I’m really starting to focus on how can I expand the title, how can I expand the characters and how can I just raise much greater awareness among the general population of what this project is.

Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu
“They Reminisce Over You (T.R.O.Y.)”
Pete Rock & CL Smooth

“NFL on Fox”
Scott Schreer, Reed Hays and Phil Garrod

“The Other Side”
Bruno Mars featuring Cee-Lo Green & B.o.B.

“Black Skinhead”
Kanye West

“Radioactive (Remix)”
Imagine Dragons featuring Kendrick Lamar

“Ohma”
Counting Crows

“Let’s Go”
Gypria

“Ain’t No Mountain High Enough”
Marvin Gaye

“Here Comes the Boom”
Nelly

“Go Long”
Nipsey Hussle featuring Z-Ro and Slim Thug

“Friday Night Lights Theme”
W.G. Snuffy Walden

“Devil Town”
Tony Luccia

My earbuds are in; my radar is on. My eyes sweep across South Quad, keeping an eye out for quasi-familiar faces to avoid. Spotted: one bubbly girl from my math tutorial. Her ponytail is bouncing. She is eager to ponte on any chance for social interaction, hoping someone will notice that her water bottle matches her Vera Bradley laptop case. This is serious. My instincts kick in and I cut across one of the diagonals on South Quad, successfully avoiding a chummy run-in.

I am not a social piranha. I am not a nerd. Proof: I had to look up how to spell “piranha,” and Google could not figure out what word to suggest for autocorrect (is “pyrrnaha” really that far off?). I had my ponytail-bouncing. Shortly after, I would smile at anyone I knew or any cute boys I wanted to know. As a first-semester freshman, I couldn’t understand why I was the only one skipping through campus, waving madly at the girl I stood next to in the pasta line last Tuesday. Then I learned why some students avoid small talk at all costs. After the smile and the hug comes the inevitable inquiry, the “What have you been up to lately?”

Oh, both parties will pat themselves on the back for feigning interest in their Facebook friend’s life. Fewer will listen to or remember the answer to their cordial question. As Notre Dame students, though, both will probably have an exciting and impressive feat to offer off-hand. “Oh, I’ve just been perusing Peruvian literature” or “I’m kind of worn out today from my six-hour shift at the lab — you’d think I’d be used to it by now.”

For me, these conversations went much like my freshman racquetball class. I would hit the ball and the ball would come back to hit me. For after my acquaintances dazzled me with eloquent anecdotes, they expected me to share something stupendous. And just like in racquetball, I let the ball drop in my court. It’s not that my life is boring — it’s just that folding laundry is not on par with interviewing the mayor of Chicago. Do I spend all my time folding laundry? No. So what do I spend my time doing? That is the question.

Confession: I am a procrastinator. But I am not just any procrastinator. No, that would not do. I would call myself a productive procrastinator, much like my grandma would say that she is in active retirement. Complacent procrastinators may resign themselves to a “Breaking Bad” break or a Starbucks run, but productive procrastinators will continue to reject the accepted and attempt the ludicrous.

Being a productive procrastinator is an art — an art that is practiced by many, but recognized by few. Do you color code your drawers instead of writing your philosophy paper? Do you sprint to Rols rather than tackle your problem set? Are you reading this article instead of reading “The Odyssey”? If so, you may be a productive procrastinator.

The good thing about productive procrastinators is that we seem to have our lives together. We have picked up every crumb; we have planned out our outfits the night before … the week before … we are not ashamed of our productive procrastinating ways. It’s just that when people ask us what we have been up to, we don’t want to admit that we have been hole-punching for 20 minutes.

But someone has to hole-punch. Someone has to bake muffins. The problem is: that all secular music was sinful. Turn on the radio today, and you’ll see that the public, much like Katy Perry’s ex-fiancé, is hot and then cold. The procrastinator in us loves small talk, but the productive part of us craves to do more with our wasted time. We may avoid talking to acquaintances, since it reveals our less than normal natures and stops us from accomplishing that which need be accomplished. Once we know them well enough to reveal our amour of multitasking, we enjoy long and meaningful conversations — as long as we can brush our teeth and practice our plies at the same time.

Contact Erin Thomassen at ethomass@nd.edu
Sox-Yanks rivalry steeped in lore

Kathleen Blanco Sports Writer

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SELECTED CLASSIFIEDS

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Red Sox vs. Yankees. Hands down the best rivalry in sports. Do I even need to say more?

There really is no explanation necessary to defend this as the greatest sports rivalry. Its span stretches from 1801 to the present. And, since the day the Red Sox traded Babe Ruth to the Yankees in 1913, there was no going back. The rivalry’s fate was sealed.

The Curse of the Bambino adds an element to the rivalry with which no one else in sports can compete. The Red Sox won four World Series, and they sold Ruth to the Yankees for $125,000 and a $300,000 loan. Probably the worst decision anyone could make. That sin haunts the Red Sox for almost a century, and it still fuels the rivalry today.

The best thing about this rivalry: It is always relevant. Even with Boston’s last place finish under Bobby Valentine, the Sox-Yanks rivalry was still there. Everyone knows what is at stake when Boston and New York meet. It is win-or-lose. The Sox-Yanks rivalry is the great sports rivalry.

Speaking of tension, 10 years ago is the day the Don Zimmer-Pedro Martinez flap. The 2003 ALCS was tied 1-1, tensions were high, and pitchers Martinez and Roger Clemens weren’t helping. The Yankee bench cleared once when Martinez nicked right fielder Karim Garcia’s helmet. Then it was Clemens that got Sox slugger Manny Ramirez in the shoulder with a fastball high and inside. That did it. Next thing you know benches were cleared, and 72-year old Yankee coach Don Zimmer went straight for Pedro Martinez. Martinez threw Zimmer down — I mean, he is 40 years his junior — and then it was pure chaos. It’s that spurring pure rivalry, and I don’t know what is. With every great rivalry comes the great moments. The Yankees had the lead. The Red Sox had a 4-3 lead. They cleared once when Martinez hit a home run briefly in the first half.

The Yankees were in a deep hole, but the Red Sox were never able to put together a run or cut into the deficit. Even when George hit a jumper falling out of bounds that went over the corner of the Garden, the Ball Boy ran through the hoop, it didn’t matter. Dragic hit a 3-pointer to take back the lead and to give the Sox a 62-45 lead.

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Irish welcome Wildcats to Eck for rematch

By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

Eight days after upsetting No. 13 Kentucky on the road, No. 22 Notre Dame will have a chance to take down the Wildcats again on Sunday, this time in the friendly confines of Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The Irish (5-0) handed the Wildcats (5-1) their first loss of the season Saturday in a thrilling, back-and-forth battle that Notre Dame won at the wire, 4-3. Irish coach Ryan Sachire said he anticipates another close match as both teams adjust their lineups.

“It’s a different venue,” Sachire said. “We love this place. Especially recently, our players have really bought into the idea of protecting the Eck. We excited to come back after beating them at their place and try to beat them here.”

Freshman Eddy CovaIosci was key to the last Irish victory, pulling out the decisive match for the win and earning ACC Tennis player of the week honors. Sachire said CovaIosci will be just as important this weekend, but he also is comfortable with any of his players in a high-pressure situation.

“We’ve talked to our guys all year about opportunities for success and Eddy did a great job of stepping up and managing that situation,” Sachire said. “We’re confident that he can play at that level if he has that opportunity. And that can be said for any of the rest of our guys as well. [Against Minnesota], it was [junior] Wyatt McCoy that filled that role, so we’re very confident in our players.”

With that level of depth, Sachire said he will wait until Sunday to set his lineup, but plans to make some changes to counter Kentucky’s moves.

Senior Greg Andrews, Notre Dame’s top player, has struggled as of late. The No. 22 singles player in the country suffered a straight loss in singles to Minnesota junior Leandro Toledo and Kentucky senior Tom Jomby, but has paired with sophomore Alex Lawson to climb to No. 21 nationally in doubles.

Behind Andrews and Lawson, the Irish are off to their best start in over a decade, but Sachire said the team is tempering its excitement and looking down the road.

“We’re confident that we’re capable of being a pretty good team, but we realize that this is still January,” Sachire said. “It’s a long year. This is a marathon and we’re only at mile four. So, we’re taking this all in stride. We’re obviously excited to be playing well at the moment, but we knew coming in to the year that we had a good team. We’re on the right track, and we still have a lot of work left to be done.”

The Irish return to the Eck Tennis Pavilion to square off against Kentucky for the second time in as many weeks at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu
By MIKE GINOCCHIO
Sports Writer

Sophomore attackman Matt Kavanagh looks to shoot against North Carolina on March 2, 2013. He is Notre Dame's top returning scorer.

No. 5 Notre Dame kicks off its 2014 season with a pair of exhibitions this weekend when it hosts Bellarmine and Detroit.

The Irish are coming off a season in which they went 11-5 and lost in the NCAA Quarterfinals to Duke, the eventual national champion. Notre Dame, which returns four of its five leading scorers from last season, will look to again field a competitive team in its first year in the ACC.

“This year, we’ve got maybe the most challenging schedule that I’ve ever seen a team have,” Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. “No part of that scares us — it’s very exciting.”

Notre Dame will first battle Bellarmine, a team that went 7-7 in 2013 but had five of their seven losses come by two goals or less. The Knights ranked 35th in the country in scoring defense last year, but lost their first ever All-American, goalkeeper Dillon Ward, to graduation.

Following the matchup with Bellarmine will be a tilt with Detroit and top-seeded Notre Dame struggled with during the first round of the NCAA tournament last year. The Titans struggled most of the year, compiling a 5-10 record, before earning an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament by winning the MAAC Championship.

Detroit may sport the strongest attack in the MAC in 2014, returning its top nine goal and points scorers.

“I can’t wait for (the exhibitions),” Corrigan said. “You get to a point in the preseason where you’re not sure what kind of progress you’re making. In order to make the decisions about your team, you need to play against somebody else.”

Corrigan will be looking to replace three-year starting goalkeeper John Kemp, an All-American and a vocal leader on defense. Junior Connor Kelly will get the nod at goalie, with freshman Shane Doss pushing for early playing time.

Corrigan, however, was quick to dismiss comparisons.

“We try not to talk about anybody replacing anybody — every year is new, every team is different,” Corrigan said. “We’re not looking to replace John Kemp, were looking to have Connor Kelly come in and do his job.”

Whether it is Kelly or Doss who seizes the starting job, they will have an experienced and high-powered offense in front of them. The Irish will bring back a trio of proven scorers, led by sophomore attackman Matt Kavanagh.

Kavanagh (who had 32 goals and 48 points in 2013) will get help from junior attacker Conor Doyle (20 goals, 30 points) and senior midfielder Jim Marlatt (20 goals, 32 points), among others.

Despite perennially being a middle of the pack offensive team — Notre Dame has had an adjusted offensive efficiency ranking of just 27th since 2010 — Corrigan said he has no plans to revamp his offense to become more explosive.

“If we win, our offense and our defense were successful,” Corrigan said. “If we lose, they weren’t as successful as they needed to be. We need to play smart, efficient offense (this year) that allows us to be up by one when the game ends.”

The Irish will look to finish the preseason on a high note when they battle Bellarmine on Saturday at 2 p.m., and Detroit on Sunday at 12 p.m.

Contact Brian Plamondon at bplamond@nd.edu

By BRIAN PLAMONDON
Sports Writer

The Irish resume play on Sunday, the Irish turn their attention to Indiana. Louderback says the Hoosiers aren’t a team to be taken lightly. “Indiana is good,”

Louderback said. “They’re about the same as Illinois. I think Indiana is probably a little deeper than Illinois. They’re, from one to six, very similar. They have a good number one, and then from two to six they’re all the same.”

The Irish have also been playing as a well-balanced unit and have not surrendered a point in any of their three wins. Louderback sees these matches as a good litmus test as the Irish get closer to their first season of ACC play.

“(Illinois and Indiana) are two teams that’ll end up ranking anywhere between the top twenty and forty,” Louderback said. “This’ll be a good weekend for us.”

The Irish resume play against the Illini on Friday at 3:30 p.m., and will conclude the weekend’s play with a match against Indiana on Sunday at 10 a.m.

Contact Brian Plamondon at bplamond@nd.edu

By MIKE GINOCCHIO
Sports Writer

Coming off a tournament weekend where No. 23 Notre Dame split two matches against No. 24 Arizona State and Oklahoma State in Evanston, Ill., the Irish (3-1) will return home for a pair of matches over this weekend, starting against Illinois on Friday and then facing Indiana on Sunday. This is the first time the Irish have faced off against the Fighting Illini (3-0) and the Hoosiers (3-0) this season.

When it comes to Illinois, Irish head coach Jay Louderback says he knows where his team will need to step up. “They always play really good doubles,” Louderback said. “Maybe two of the last three years we’ve lost the doubles point to them. We’ve beaten them every time but it makes it a lot tougher and their doubles are always just really good.”

While his team looks to stymie the doubles play of the Illini, including senior Misty Kedzierski and freshman Louise Kwong, Louderback will also be dealing with an opposing coach he knows quite well. Illini head coach Michelle Danso played for him at Notre Dame and was once his assistant.

“She was not only a good singles player but also a really good doubles player,” Louderback said of Danso. “We get along, we’re very close. It’s hard playing them when it comes to Illinois, very well … just not when we play them. She always has them ready to play.”

The Irish will likely counter the play of Illini with their own doubles teams, including sophomore Quinn Gleason and senior Britney Sanders.

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Contact Mike Ginocchio at mginocch@nd.edu

Exhibitions kick off Notre Dame’s season

Irish return home to face Illini, Hoosiers

ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Irish return home to face Illini, Hoosiers

No. 5 Notre Dame split two matches against No. 24 Arizona State and Oklahoma State in Evanston, Ill., the Irish (3-1) will return home for a pair of matches over this weekend, starting against Illinois on Friday and then facing Indiana on Sunday. This is the first time the Irish have faced off against the Fighting Illini (3-0) and the Hoosiers (3-0) this season.

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Contact Mike Ginocchio at mginocch@nd.edu

No. 5 Notre Dame split two matches against No. 24 Arizona State and Oklahoma State in Evanston, Ill., the Irish (3-1) will return home for a pair of matches over this weekend, starting against Illinois on Friday and then facing Indiana on Sunday. This is the first time the Irish have faced off against the Fighting Illini (3-0) and the Hoosiers (3-0) this season.

When it comes to Illinois, Irish head coach Jay Louderback says he knows where his team will need to step up. “They always play really good doubles,” Louderback said. “Maybe two of the last three years we’ve lost the doubles point to them. We’ve beaten them every time but it makes it a lot tougher and their doubles are always just really good.”

While his team looks to stymie the doubles play of the Illini, including senior Misty Kedzierski and freshman Louise Kwong, Louderback will also be dealing with an opposing coach he knows quite well. Illini head coach Michelle Danso played for him at Notre Dame and was once his assistant.

“She was not only a good singles player but also a really good doubles player,” Louderback said of Danso. “We get along, we’re very close. It’s hard playing them when I like to see them do very well … just not when we play them. She always has them ready to play.”

The Irish will likely counter the play of Illini with their own doubles teams, including sophomore Quinn Gleason and senior Britney Sanders.

On Sunday, the Irish turn their attention to Indiana. Louderback says the Hoosiers aren’t a team to be taken lightly. “Indiana is good,”

Louderback said. “They’re about the same as Illinois. I think Indiana is probably a little deeper than Illinois. They’re, from one to six, very similar. They have a good number one, and then from two to six they’re all the same.”

The Irish have also been playing as a well-balanced unit and have not surrendered a point in any of their three wins. Louderback sees these matches as a good litmus test as the Irish get closer to their first season of ACC play.

“(Illinois and Indiana) are two teams that’ll end up ranking anywhere between the top twenty and forty,” Louderback said. “This’ll be a good weekend for us.”

The Irish resume play against the Illini on Friday at 3:30 p.m., and will conclude the weekend’s play with a match against Indiana on Sunday at 10 a.m.

Contact Mike Ginocchio at mginocch@nd.edu
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has to be good." Notre Dame enters the weekend in eighth place in the 11-team Hockey East, three points behind the sixth-place Wildcats. But the Irish are also tied for the fewest Hockey East games played, as they try to work their way to the top four of the conference by the end of the regular season to receive a bye and home-ice advantage in the conference tournament.

"It’s not just four points, it’s an opportunity for us to get four points and get on a bit of a roll here," senior defenseman Stephen Johns said. "And I think we have to if we want this season to go as long as possible. I think we all know we’re capable of doing it, but it’s a matter of fact that we need to go out and actually do it."

A potential boost for Notre Dame this weekend is the expected return of sophomore forward Thomas DiPauli, who missed the last four games due to injury. He will come back to an Irish team that’s won five of their last six games, but been unable to sweep any Hockey East opponent this season.

"It’s going to be a tough weekend," Jackson said. "[New Hampshire is] battling for a top-four spot in the conference, and we’re still thinking that’s a possibility, but we’ve got to win games."
The Irish and Wildcats square off at 7:30 p.m. tonight and 4 p.m. Saturday in Durham, N.H. Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

Sophomore forward Thomas DiPauli wards off a defender Nov. 16 against Merrimack. He returns Friday after missing four games.

WBBall
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in the Maryland game as we wanted to, so I think this was kind of our chance to redeem ourselves."

The second half of the game featured another play that brought the home crowd to its feet, this time courtesy of a series of quick passes between sophomore guard Jewell Loyd and freshman guard Lindsay Allen capped off by an alley-oop layup for Loyd.

"It brought us energy," McGraw said of the play. "We just needed something to get that crowd going. We’d just been so dead in terms of our pace and our effort at both ends of the floor. We just looked like we were going through the motions, so that really perked the crowd up, so it was good to see we had a little bit of energy in our tank."

Loyd, playing with a brace on her knee for the second straight game, dropped 14 points in the contest, while McBride led all players with 18. Reimer and senior forward Natalie Achonwa also posted double figures in scoring with 15 and 10 points, respectively.

McBride said her team’s mental toughness has been the most important factor in their 20-0 start.

"We’re a really tough team," she said. "We have this mentality of, we know what our goals are, and we’re not ready to settle for anything less than that."

Another test awaits the Irish en route to accomplishing those goals when they head to Cameron Indoor Stadium to face No. 3 Duke on Sunday.

The Blue Devils (21-1, 8-0 ACC) are led by senior guard Tricia Liston, who averages 18.4 points per game and 50.4 percent from behind the arc. The team comes in to the contest in the wake of a last-minute, 76-75 win over Miami on Thursday, in which junior center Elizabeth Williams sank two free throws with 1.7 seconds left to take the close victory for the Blue Devils.

"This is going to be yet another big road game for us in a string of many," McGraw said. "It’s a tough time of the year. You’re in a grind, so we’ve really got to be focused mentally and be ready because it’s going to be just a battle. I think it’s going to be a war."

"We beat them last year to go to the Final Four, and I’m sure they have revenge on their mind."

The top two squads in the ACC and two of the top three teams in the country will clash Sunday, when the Irish meet the Blue Devils at 2 p.m. at Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, N.C. Contact Mary Green at mgreen8@nd.edu
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Sports

a tough night you gotta come back and compete right away and almost kind of flush it a little bit.”

Still, Brey said the only way to restore confidence in his squad is to come out on the right side of a few games. “You need to come into that locker room and feel good about a win to kind of feel good about yourself, and you can’t simulate that in practice,” he said. “I think you want to send a team out Saturday that’s loose and ready to compete and not like, ‘Oh my gosh, we need a win.’ Because that won’t help us.”

Boston College (6-14, 2-5) enters the game off a decisive 76-52 win over Virginia Tech on Wednesday, its first victory in four tries and only the second win in the last nine outings. The Eagles are 10th in the ACC in scoring offense but last in both scoring defense and scoring margin. Against the Hokies (8-12, 1-7), Boston College shot 44.4 percent from the field and hit 14 three pointers on 37 attempts.

“Saturday we play a team that can shoot the heck out of it and played well [Wednesday], and in a lot of the same situations we’re in,” Brey said. “You know, as they’re trying to figure it out.”

The Eagles placed four players in double-figure scoring against Virginia Tech, including sophomore guard Olivier Hanlan, who leads the team with a season average of 18.6 points per game. Eagles redshirt junior guard Alex Dragicevich, who transferred from Notre Dame following his sophomore campaign, will make his return to the Purcell Pavilion with his new unit. Dragicevich has made 11 starts for Boston College and has played in all 19 games this year. After scoring eight points against Virginia Tech, Dragicevich is averaging 4.6 points per game and is hitting 43.1 percent of his shots from behind the arc.

“Alex has found a niche out there at BC,” Brey said. “I know he wasn’t playing there for a while, but he certainly played well [Wednesday]. And he certainly will be ready to play against us. And you know what, I have a lot of respect for Alex because he was part of a lot of big wins here. He was helpful to us in the years that he was here.”

Brey said the Irish will focus on the offensive side of the ball. “I think we’ve tried to simplify lately, just on the offensive end, how can we help each other,” he said. “Reversing the ball and screening off the ball more, I think there’s been some slippage there.”

Irish sophomore forward Austin Burgett underwent surgery to address a heart issue Wednesday. The procedure went according to plan, Brey said, and Burgett will join the Irish on the sideline Saturday before beginning rehab sometime next week.

After hosting Boston College, Notre Dame will travel to face No. 2 Syracuse before returning home for contests against North Carolina and Clemson.

“The history of us here is when you’ve been in these kind of situations, you get one or two [wins] and all of a sudden you feel a little better about yourself, and one or two can become a couple more,” Brey said. “I know a couple years ago, one became nine, or eight more. I don’t know if we can do that with this personnel. I’m just being flat-out honest with you. But can we pick off a couple and feel a little better and get a little more confident? That way is probably more who we are.”

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

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Irish role against hapless Hokies
Senior guard Kayla McBride leads all scorers with 18

By MARY GREEN
Sports Writer

The five-and-a-half minute run also saw the Irish finally penetrate the Virginia Tech defense in the paint.

"I think it was just getting the ball inside," senior guard Kayla McBride said of what sparked the run. "They went to the 2-3 [zone] towards the end of the first half, and we just started getting inside and getting easy looks and getting steals and turnovers, which allows us to get in transition, and we just started hitting shots."

No. 14 Notre Dame will face its first true road test in more than two months, as the Irish (15-9-1, 4-6-1 ACC) committed a season-high 20 turnovers Tuesday in a 68-53 loss to Virginia on the way to its third-straight losing result.

Irish not only have to re-acclimate themselves to life away from Compton, but they’ll have to do so in a rink larger than their home playing surface.

The Irish (15-9-1, 4-6-1 Hockey East) played Boston College in Fenway Park in Boston on Jan. 4, but the last time Notre Dame played a non-neutral site game outside of Compton Family Ice Arena was 12 games ago in a 3-1 loss at UMass-Lowell on Nov. 23.

"The Irish not only have to re-acclimate themselves to life away from Compton, but they’ll have to do so in a rink larger than their home playing surface."

"We're taking too many penalties on the road," Jackson said. "Our Olympic practice rink here isn't nearly as big as their rink is. It's an ocean out there. Getting acclimated to the rink will be important, plus they have a rowdy building and a big student crowd. It's a tough building."

Special teams could play a big impact in this weekend's series. New Hampshire enters the game averaging just 7.39 penalty minutes per game, the lowest in the nation. Notre Dame, meanwhile, will hope to limit a New Hampshire power play, led by senior forwards Kevin Goamas and Nick Sorkin, that has converted on 20.7 percent of its attempts this season.

"We're taking too many penalties on the road," Jackson said. "You can't take penalties like that on the road, because you're going to have a hard time winning. We have to play with more discipline, and our goaltending..."