Runoff election scheduled for Monday

With 15 votes separating the top two tickets, LaMagna-Andresen and Vidal-Devine continue campaign

By LESLEY STEVENSON
New Writer

The campaign for student body president and vice president will continue until Monday after the Judicial Council announced that no ticket succeeded in winning a majority of the total vote. A runoff election between junior Olivia LaMagna and her running mate, sophomore Rohan Andresen, and juniors Lauren Vidal and Matthew Devine will be held Monday. Judicial Council president and senior Michael Masi said, “The rules are you have to receive over 50 percent of the vote; you have to have a majority,” Masi said. “Neither ticket tonight got a majority so it proceeds to a runoff between the two top vote-getters.”

LaMagna and Andresen edged out Vidal and Devine by 15 out of 3,748 valid votes, according to the Judicial Council results. LaMagna’s ticket garnered 1,641 votes, 43.78 percent of the total, and Vidal’s won 1,626 votes and 43.38 percent.

“Right now, we won by a margin of 15 votes so we’re going to have a runoff,” Andresen said. “Monday’s going to be the election. We’re going to start campaigning immediately.”

LaMagna said she and Andresen were “ready to win.” Andresen said they would begin printing more posters tonight and updating social media with the news of the runoff.

“We were exhausted about 10 minutes ago, and now we’re so pumped up,” she said.

Vidal said she hoped the runoff would allow the student body extra time to read and better understand each ticket’s platform.

“We’re excited to campaign,” she said. “We’re excited that people are going to have more exposure to our platform and some of our ideas. We feel that the students really need to look at the platforms and really compare and make an educated decision.”

Freshmen George McCabe and Sean Campbell, the third ticket, earned 7.74 percent of the total with 290 votes. 191 votes abstained, and 290 votes were discarded as invalid, according to the Judicial Council results.

Voter turnout reached 191 voters abstained, and 290 votes were discarded as invalid, according to the Judicial Council results.

Students explore career opportunities

By CHELSEA WILLIAMS
News Writer

More than 50 companies attended Notre Dame’s Winter Career fair in hopes of recruiting potential future employees and interns on Wednesday. “We are looking for students who show leadership ability, as well as something that makes them stand apart on their resume, whether it be something like studying abroad or being an athlete, something that shows that they are able to balance and manage their time well,” Megan Bruso, a recruiter for M&T Bank, said.

Jasmine Shell, a recruiter for Ernst & Young, said it helps to know about the company and its mission, as well as know some information about what programs the company offers. This alone would be enough to spark an interesting interest.

A representative from Oaklawn Psychiatric Center talks with a student at the Winter Career and Internship Fair on Wednesday. Representatives from more than 50 companies attended the fair to recruit students.
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What is the most thrilling snow activity?

Anthony Meena
senior
Alumni Hall
“Snowball fights.”

Patrick Dever
junior
Morrissey Hall
“Building snowmen.”

Anthony Musso
junior
Duncan Hall
“Snowball fights.”

Danny Strickland
sophomore
Morrissey Hall
“Building snowmen.”

Libby Walsh
junior
Walsh Hall
“Snow football.”

Patrick Deasey
sophomore
Alumni Hall
“Ice skating.”

THE OBSERVER | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014 | NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Senior Frank Dyer competed in the 500 free style this past Friday in the Annual Shamrock Invitational. Dyer took 3rd place with a time of 4:32:46.
Panel debates role of Latino vote in 2014

By EMMA BORNE
News Writer

In light of recent focus on the Latino vote as the 2014 midterm election’s approach, Notre Dame hosted a panel discussion Wednesday evening in McKenna Hall entitled, “American Politics in the 21st Century: The Latino Vote and the 2014 Elections.” Christina Wolbrecht, associate professor of political science at Notre Dame, moderated the three-person panel. Panelists included professor of American politics Ricardo Ramirez, professor Michael Jones-Correa of government from Cornell University and professor of political science Sophia Wallace from Rutgers University.

Ramirez spoke first, asking why the Latino vote is suddenly receiving so much attention.

In response to his own questions, he said, “We have to look at the dramatic increase in the period between 1991 and 2011, more than a third of the new 13 million U.S. citizens were Latinos, you had a dramatic increase in the number of 18-24 year old Latinos between 1991-2006. "There’s almost as many Latino voters... to potential Latino voters.”

Jones-Correa said the Latino vote matters because these new voters have the possibility of swaying an outcome of an election. When you have new residents moving into the states will they maintain their own political orientation or create a shift? he said. There are three ideas around this question, Jones-Correa said. One, because Latinos tend to vote liberally, they will sway the states they move to. Two, and that is both mobilizing Latino voters for Democratic candidates as well as mobilizing them against Republicans in specific places,” Wallace said. The Latino vote is more important than many American citizens make it out to be. The U.S. should care about the Latino vote, Wallace said, because it has the potential to increase the number of Latino elected officials, mobilize politicians to respond to Latino issues, and moderate campaign ads for immigration.

“[Immigration] has become increasingly an extremely important issue in the Latino community, but it’s also affecting vote choice and that is both mobilizing Latino voters for Democratic candidates as well as mobilizing them against Republicans in specific places.” Sophia Wallace

Professor of political science at Rutgers University.

Wallace also said we observe a two-to-one ratio in favor of Democrats. “Both parties are trying to craft specific campaign strategies to mobilize Latinos, but a lot of this hinges on the handling of immigration as an issue.”

Wallace said the GOP runs a different process of applying for credit across the board. After studying abroad last summer, Brown decided to attempt to simplify the process of obtaining credit for courses taken while studying abroad. After studying abroad last summer, Brown decided to attempt to simplify the process of obtaining credit for courses taken while studying abroad. After studying abroad last summer, Brown decided to attempt to simplify the process of obtaining credit for courses taken while studying abroad.

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Latino will move to states that match their ideology, and three, Latinos will be influenced by the people around them and may even be swayed themselves to vote conservatively, he said. Jones-Correa said many first generation Latinos likely to claim no party affiliation and be more influenced by their neighbors because they want to integrate into American society or because they do not understand the mission of each party.

Wallace continued this thought and asked what the most important issues are for the Latino voter. “Immigration” has become increasingly an extremely important issue in the Latino community, but it’s also affecting turnout and affecting vote choice.

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In Wednesday night’s student senate meeting, the group discussed student government’s “One is Too Many” anti-sexual assault campaign, potential options for study abroad students, and other upcoming events this week.

Coccia said the campaign has received support from students. “We had about 2,800 signatures,” student body president Alex Coccia said. “And around 1,100 students indicated that they would be interested in becoming more involved in some form or capacity. We’ve been discussing various video series ideas among other things.”

Student body vice president Nancy Joyce said approximately 50 students have applied for the Food Services Student Advisory Board. Applications are due Friday. The advisory board will be announced at next Tuesday’s town hall meeting run by Food Services.

Senate debated a resolution penned by Department of Academic Affairs director Max Brown, which seeks to simplify the process of obtaining credit for courses taken while studying abroad. After studying abroad last summer, Brown decided to attempt to simplify the process of obtaining credit for courses taken while studying abroad. After studying abroad last summer, Brown decided to attempt to simplify the process of obtaining credit for courses taken while studying abroad.

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Alex Coccia
Student body president

Emanuele Barrufaldi, who presented the resolution with Brown, added that the University as a whole is becoming increasingly international with more and more students choosing to study abroad.

However, every college has a different method of applying for transfer credit, as well as different policies for accepting it, Barrufaldi said. Additionally, many students—especially engineers—choose to study abroad during the summer because their curriculums allow little to no room for electives.

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The resolution, which of course will try to follow in the footsteps of peer institutions such as Vanderbilt University and Duke University by establishing an online database to supply data on courses that the University has pre-approved for transfer credit. That way students taking a class previously approved by their college would not have to re-submit its syllabus for approval. The first thing we’re going to do is look at the last 4-10 years where students have studied abroad and received credit. The idea is to encourage students to go to really competitive international institutions, places we can be sure that we can give transfer credit for,” Brown said.

Classes that aren’t pre-approved would be subject to a standardized approval process and, if approved, would have their information added. The resolution, which officially requests the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Internationalization work with the Deans of the Undergraduate Colleges and Schools to establish the database and begin the process of standardization, passed unanimously.

Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu

Senate discusses ‘One is Too Many’ campaign

By MARGARET HYNDS
News Writer

In Wednesday night’s student senate meeting, the group discussed student government’s “One is Too Many” anti-sexual assault campaign, potential options for study abroad students, and other upcoming events this week.

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Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu
“Out of paper” was available when touched. The video features to move and contract his seemingly fixed sculpture as traditional Chinese red craft, best known in its form as Chinese and Japanese paper gourd art. Li Hongbo explained that he uses the material to reveal the different faces carved and painted out of Beijing, famous for his work. He Xiangyu, who also exhibited his work, said the exhibit of Rachel Hoefle – Out of paper” in London’s Frieze Art Fair represents less than 1/3 women.”

Hoefle’s work includes controversial subjects such as global capitalism, Hoefle said. “Celebrities will find it under the label of ‘post-skill movement.’”

Hoefle said art fairs can also incite controversy. She said the exhibit of Rachel Harrison’s work was to be introduced to international artists.”

Hoefle said those numbers are significant. “Exhibiting your work isn’t everything, (but) the art world is all about connections in terms of making your voice heard,” she said.

Hoefle ended her presentation with the work of Ai Weiwei, another artist based out of Beijing, famous for his controversial pieces of international acclaim. Ai Weiwei has catalyzed a whole new generation of Chinese artists, including He Xiangyu who also exhibited works at Art Basel Miami, who deal with controversial subjects such as the suppressive forces of global capitalism, Hoefle said.

Ai Weiwei, in particular is “really outspoken in his criticism of the Chinese government,” Hoefle said. She Visit ArtBasel.com and cwil.saintmarys.edu for more information.

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Rwanda

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

40 fearful days in the Hotel des Milles Collines, better known as “Hotel Rwanda.”

Fiona Rutagengwa said the atrocities her parents faced and witnessed have motivated her to work to prevent genocide in the future.

“My parents went through a lot and they haven’t talked about it throughout my life,” she said. “But knowing about their past inspired me to learn more about it, and I’m doing political science because I want to learn about international studies and how to make peace accords.”

“I feel like [my family background] is an important part of my life, and that’s basically why I’m here.”

Fiona Rutagengwa was born in Rwanda and moved to the United States when she was four years old because living conditions were unsafe for her family, she said.

“It’s kind of unbelievable, because I was born in Rwanda, and the way I saw it, it was the aftermath, and I’ve really been protected from the reality of the situation because all I remember was sunny days and banana trees everywhere,” she said.

But my parents kept telling me about what happened, and I realized that the developmental aspects ... are a little silly over there. It’s unsafe. My father told me that the reason we came here was it wasn’t safe enough.”

Despite the dangers the Rutagengwas faced during and after the genocide, Fiona said her parents emphasized faith throughout their trials.

“You’d think it would take me away from God a little bit, but actually, seeing the way my parents dealt with it ... they appreciated the fact that they survived and how they got out of the situation,” she said. “So that made their faith stronger, especially my mom.

“She thanks God every day and she stresses that it’s a blessing to be on this earth, and it’s made her a lot more religious, and that’s the way she raised our family — to be grateful for every day you have and the family that you have and all those people that support you. It’s really influenced the way she looks at the world and the way she raises us.”

Fiona Rutagengwa said her father has written a memoir about his personal experience, which he once shared with her.

“It was funny because that day I learned a lot of things that I didn’t know about him, like his experience, because it’s not everyday that you learn that,” she said. “I was there with my sister, and it was kind of eye-opening to see what he went through.”

Fiona Rutagengwa said her father emphasized a message similar to that of Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel — that we should “never again” make genocide a reality.

better understand the meaning of Jean Bosco Rutagengwa’s message, theology professors Fr. Dan Groody and Fr. Virgil Elizondo and project coordinator for the Institute of Latino Studies Colleen Cross accompanied the couple to their home country in December.

Fiona Rutagengwa said Groody first introduced her to Notre Dame when he began working with her parents two years ago.

Even though she was unable to return to Rwanda with her family in December, Fiona Rutagengwa said her parents have begun to share more with her about their personal experiences, thus inspiring her to live out her father’s mission.

“My mom told me the story about my family and what they’ve been through,” she said. “Her sister has experienced a lot of things, and she told me about her other sister, who died, and she was really maimed and everything, and that image hasn’t escaped my head for a long time.

“My mom has a lot of things hidden from me, but when she tells me things, it explains a lot about how my family is now and the after effects are. I appreciate her telling me. It kind of gives me inspiration to do more and really carry out my father’s plan of having it never again be a reality.”

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Fair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

conversation and helps recruiters to see students’ interest in the firm, she said.

“Instead of having a boring one way conversation where the recruiter is telling them everything they have to offer, but saying I know you have this or that, shows that they did their research and that they are interested in our passion and really want to work for our company,” Shell said.

Sophomore Kay Xu said she utilized Golrishi to find information about which positions were available on firms such as Ernst & Young and later followed through with research on each company’s website.

Recruiters encouraged undergraduates to not be afraid to seek out information and connect with them even if they are not yet able to meet the firms’ requirements this semester.

“It doesn’t hurt to at least put yourself out there, to learn more about the company,” Shell said.

Sophomore Lorelai McLaughlin said she plans to do more and really carry out her father’s mission.

“Even though I was not able to go back to Rwanda, I’ve always thought that sets Notre Dame students apart,” Shaw said.

Contact Chelsea Williams at cwill26@nd.edu

Election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

54 percent, less than the “upwards of 70 or 80 percent” Masi said he hoped for. Students can vote again Monday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Masi said. The election took place online through a GoogleDoc system.

“The same rules apply,” he said. “There’s a debate on Sunday in the LaFortune basement.”

The runoff debate will take place at 8 p.m.

Contact Lesley Stevenson at lsteven@nd.edu

Fair

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Fair

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One group who definitely felt increased comfort talking to recruiters since the last ca
My friend and I believed we could take the cold after leaving the warm, aesthetically-pleasing confines of DpAC in the hopes of catching the evasive trolley back to Saint Mary’s. We trudged through the snow to where the bus was scheduled to pass. It had only been a few minutes in the negative temperatures before the enthrallment of the student film festival wore off. The blush on our faces remained, their rosiness caused solely because of the icicles forming in our nostrils. Too quickly, our conversation transitioned from interpretations of the various films to an argument about my friends, typically foolproof obsession with getting somewhere early. Tonight the trolley was running on my schedule — late. For once, my untimeliness would have paid off. We found cover in the in the overhung entrance to Mendoza. After staring into the seemingly warm building, inadvertently fogging up the windows, I pounded on the door for two minutes in the hope that we could situate ourselves in a spot ideal for catching the bus while preparing our faces from forming stumply popsicles. No answer. The bickering continued, only stopping when a woman came to the door. She was cleaning inside, and looked at us with suspicious eyes. I hope welled up only to be crushed by the woman’s refusal to allow us in when we admitted we were not Notre Dame students. Rather than a verbal response, this denial manifested itself in a slow pulling of the door shut.

As the wind became increasingly bitter, we were warmed by a vision of ourselves as hoodlums. Both of us were bundled in black, hooded and scarved. We reveled at the idea of someone finding us threatening and judged all of humanity for turning us away in this kind of cold. A few moments later the woman appeared again in the crack of the doorway. “Would you like some hot chocolate or coffee?” she asked. We stood, silent and dumb. “I can’t let you in, but do you want some hot chocolate or coffee?” she repeated. After registering her compassionately and asking us to wait outside for the members of my class than I had in any other. These individuals want to learn. They want to experience the lives of those in America that lack the opportunities many take for granted. One girl in particular specifically stated she wants to be “less ignorant” of the lives of those living literally down the street from many of us, in that area of the city you don’t dare drive through without your doors locked. She admitted her ignorance pertaining to poverty and inequalities in the United States, and that is the first step to changing the course of the American society.

It is unfortunate, however, that it takes a seminar of this sort to educate students. But if this is what it takes to make a difference in society, I must certainly encourage it.

Katrina Linden is a sophomore English and Latino Studies major living in Lewis Hall. She can be contacted at Klinden1@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Government contributes to income inequality

Raymond Michuda
Common Sense

In his State of the Union address, President Obama vowed to tackle income inequality and declining economic mobility. If this venture goes as well as health care reform, working Americans had better watch out. Obama plans to use bigger government, more taxes and more regulation to push his agenda, but economic evidence, moral arguments, and good ol’ common sense suggest that reducing the size and scope of the federal government will actually be more beneficial.

Initially, it might seem counterintuitive that less government would be helpful, but the government itself takes many actions that create economic inequality. One of the major causes of this government-driven economic inequality is the welfare system. Welfare is supposed to provide assistance to the poor so they may live reasonably comfortable lives, but in many cases, it acts as a trap to keep people in poverty. If you’re poor, you should have a natural desire to climb the economic ladder to make more money, but free money from the government can erode this desire. Why work harder for more money if you can just get a check from the government? I’m well aware that not everyone has this mindset, but enough people do make it a serious problem. We must ask ourselves if these policies are truly helping people who leave them, not the number of people added. His policies that increase the income gap point to something I’ve been saying for a long time: Barack Obama is a colossal hypocrite.

I should note that there is a second cause of economic inequality I’m going to call natural inequality. This is inequality arising from the free market and the inherent differences of individual people. Everyone has a different work ethic, ability level and aptitude. It is the reason why some people are billionaires and others have never worked a job in their life. Although it inevitably leads to a great income inequality, I strongly believe a free market system is good for society because it rewards people for success and discourages failure.

Unfortunately, with the bailouts, stimulus packages, Obamacare, suggested tax increases for being rich, and now the proposed $10.10 minimum wage, this system is in great danger. All of these laws add more government while taking away corporate subsidies to his political friends, one of his crowning moments being his $535 million gift to Solyndra, a mismanaged, low-quality green jobs company that ended up going bankrupt. He brags about increasing the reach of government welfare programs (spending on them has increased 30 percent under Obama’s tenure), in reality, he may be trapping people in poverty. The success of welfare programs should be measured by the number of people we discourage from working to make a little bit of money, but still not enough to live comfortably. Like welfare, it’s a way of trapping people in low-income jobs and discouraging upward mobility.

After hearing me explain why current policy is bad, you probably wouldn’t have any alternatives I will suggest we pursue to reduce income inequality. The very first thing we should do is stop the government from actively creating a larger income gap. I’m not saying we need to get rid of welfare; I’m simply claiming that government policies should be more focused on encouraging people to take care of themselves. We should also stop absurd subsidies and start writing an equitable tax code. As for the natural inequality, I think we have a moral imperative to let the free market operate with little interference. Some people will end up rich and some won’t, but any action the government takes to help some groups and hurt others would have to take wealth from the rich and redistribute it to the poor. This sounds a lot like failed European socialism, and a little too much like the desires of our current president. Raymond Michuda is a sophomore in the College of Engineering. He can be contacted at rmichuda@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is that a girl?

When I wrote this, the elections for student body president still loomed over campus, drawing closer and closer. One night, a girl stopped by my room tonight to campaign for my vote. I live on campus in O’Neill. She said she was surprised by the notice of the night was actually hearing a girl’s voice in the hall when it’s not after 10 p.m. on a weekend night. I immediately assumed she was someone’s girlfriend, since the probability of someone casually hanging out with a friend who is a girl on a weekday night is frighteningly low at this school. My assumption was proved wrong yet disappointingly validated when she came into my room to give me a flyer for her campaign.

She told my friend and me to check out her website so we could see her platform. Rather than investigating the website, I immediately questioned her platform by asking her what her stances were on the controversial issues here at Notre Dame. She asked me what I considered to be controversial, so I named the obvious topics: single-sex dorms, parietals, lack of condom distribution on campus, the quota that 50 percent of our faculty must be Catholic. She replied by saying that the administration would never change and that the administration believes that since I agreed to come to this school, I had no right to complain. In other words, she said that she had no intention of tackling these issues. The impact of the stances taken on these issues is simply a way of life here at Notre Dame. It is not subject to change. So why even bother talking about it?

You might have guessed I think Notre Dame is on the wrong side of every controversial issue I named above. I think it is exceedingly clear that the segregation of the sexes here at Notre Dame is the direct cause of its abysmal gender relations. Differences in commute to classes and weekend nights, and the social consequences of it are immense. I think the majority of students here lack adequate gender relations. I think many of my male peers here fail to fully respect women because they’ve never had a girl friend whom they are as close with as a guy friend. I think most Notre Dame students lag behind in their social development because of these problems, and I think some students may never catch up. But in general, a rigid interpretation of the antiquated social teachings of the Catholic Church is more important than the welfare of the student body.

Notre Dame needs change in so many ways. But she isn’t going to change. Far worse than that, we aren’t even going to have a conversation about it. We will not elect a student body president who criticizes university policy. There will not even be an option for such a candidate on the ballot. But I want there to be. I want to talk about these issues. It’s time for change at Notre Dame, and even if you disagree, I hope you can at least agree to talk about it.

Stephen Hawn
junior
O’Neill Hall
Feb. 5

Rethink attitudes, reshape policy

Numbers, although they make statements more credible, are easily distorted. That is one of the points of the Wall Street Journal article “Examining the 77-cent myth,” (Feb. 3). As a business and sociology double major, I appreciated Durkin’s take on the gender wage gap, but I wanted to voice my own thoughts as well. Durkin suggests that the 77-cent statistic is misleading “almost to the point of being untrue” because it does not account for factors such as educational attainment, job type or consecutive years in the workforce. These controls, economists propose, could reduce the gap to 2-9 cents. However, all the sociological studies on gender and employment I have analyzed in class do control for these extraneous variables, yet they still confirm the existence of a sizable wage gap. Moreover, these factors are not unrelated to gender.

Consider this: today more college graduates are women than men. This means women and their partner grad entry-level jobs with comparable educational attainment and career trajectories. Since these well-educated women are delaying childbirth, we would see a 100 percent salary match between the male and their female counterparts across all fields — at least until women may leave the workforce for motherhood. But that is simply not the case. The gap is evident upon initial hiring and only grows as women struggle to break past the glass ceiling.

I do agree with Durkin that a considerable part of this problem is social — women are taught to be feminine, and, by praising polite and passive behavior, we discourage women from taking risks in the workforce. But we cannot solve the wage gap dilemma through social means alone. The government plays a paramount role in introducing policies that give women the choice to remain in the workforce if they so desire, such as better public daycare or even mandated paternal leave. Policies which grant more leave to mothers than fathers perpetuate inequality.

In sum, social attitudes dictate policy, and policy shapes social attitudes. Only when America attacks this problem through both social and legal means will we get to true gender equality in the workforce. Because whether we are fighting a 23-cent differential or a 2-cent differential, in issues of equality, “not that bad” does not cut it.

Caity Bobber
senior
off campus
Feb. 5

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J.K. Rowling’s comments about the romance between Ron and Hermione rocked the Muggle world this past weekend. In an interview for Wonderland magazine, Rowling admitted that she had Ron and Hermione end up together as a form of “wish fulfillment.” “For reasons that have very little to do with literature and far more to do with me clinging to the plot as I first imagined it,” Rowling said. “Hermione ended up with Ron.”

I can picture it now. Ron just bellowing, “Bloody hell, Rowling! This better be a JK!”

Is this an attempt to start a #TeamRon versus #TeamHarry war? Harry Potter is above that. The series focused on friendship and bravery, not love triangles. However, with Rowling pushing this idea into the foreground, what better time to reflect on the love that existed in the series?

To say that the sparks between Hermione and Ron were less heated than the flame of Ron’s hair isn’t giving the love story a fair shot. I remember how truly pained Hermione was after Ron insulted her by asking Fleur to the Yule Ball, then again while snogging with Lavender Brown. Those tears were genuine.

However, I believe Hermione had a lot more to offer than being someone’s wife. Although her boys were both quality kisser options, one of the things I enjoyed most about the series was how Hermione was a brave, intelligent, and independent woman. Also, marrying off the two main characters would have been the typical love story, and Harry Potter characters should not do the expected. Hermione and Ron fulfill the proven “opposites attract” theory. Hermione is high-strung, while Ron is relaxed. They keep each other in check. This is embodied in my favorite quote of the series, Hermione when told the boys, “If you two don’t mind, I’m going to bed — red — just like you.”

Such a classic sequence. Ron and Hermione go together better than Malfoy and hair gel. Hermione sees things in Ron that others ignore and they both truly appreciate each other.

Now for Harry. Let’s start out with the obvious, I’m definitely not #TeamCho.Chang. I mean she chose Edward Cullen over Harry Potter... No, thank you.

I have to admit I found Ginny’s character to be rather irksome in the movies. Throughout the whole series she was always feeding him tiny pies, tying his shoes, or uttering awkward pickup lines in the Room of Requirement. Nevertheless, she was a fine choice for Harry’s love interest. He saved her life and had the nicest hair. Also, I can’t help but think that Harry kind of wanted to date Ron’s little sister to get back at Ron for making him a third-wheel.

Overall, I’m not sure why Rowling felt it necessary to bring up this apparent romantic blunder. It undermines the real themes of the story and threatens to drag it into Twilight-esque love triangle territory. She should have just kept this to herself. Think about all the redheaded men of the world who were empowered by Ron’s ability to land the best female fictional character ever! Do the gingers of the world a favor and don’t mess with the reds.

Contact Erin McAuliffe at emcaulif@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
NATIONAL Signing Day
No place for bashing these kids

Mike Monaco
Sports Editor

Signing Day for me was a little more than three years ago.
After a long, thoughtful process, one morning I was ready to decide.
I had committed to the University of Notre Dame, where I would spend the next four years.
But unlike the recruits across the nation who officially signed their National Letters of Intent on Wednesday amid press conferences, high-school pep rallies andESPnU segments, I merely rolled out of bed one morning, walked downstairs, told my mother I had decided on Notre Dame. And that was that.

Unlike the recruits across the nation who had a never-ceasing peanut gallery in them, that was all leading up to the decision, my “fans” (friends and family) basically stayed out of my way and let me decide.

And unlike the recruits across the nation who dealt with backlash Wednesday from those very fans who had been promoting their favorite schools along the way, I received nothing but congratulations.

Sure, 40 years worth of a decision should trump a four-year choice in most instances, but 17- and 18-year olds are often thinking of the present, not the future.
So, really, the decisions are similar. Then why do recruits have to deal with the constant bashing and prodding (coercing?) throughout the process?

They shouldn’t.

Last week, former Irish receiver target Isaiah McKenzie tweeted a screenshot of “fans” criticizing him on a recruiting website’s message board.

Some of the lowlifes: “This kid is an idiot! Kelly and crew need to stop talking to him!” and “I just don’t think this kid would make it at ND.”

Yikes.

And sadly, there’s examples like that everywhere you look.

A high-profile recruit might expect to receive messages from rabid fans pushing their schools on social media. You could argue that comes with the territory.

The unabashed venom doesn’t.

A 4.5 40-yard dash time and a few All-State honors aren’t to be confused with an open invitation for criticism, certainly not for a 17- or 18-year old simply trying to make what he thinks is the best decision.

At the end of the signing day, they’re all just trying to make the right decision.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

In this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Kelly introduces 23 players as recruiting haul

Irish coach Brian Kelly named the 23-member class of 2014 during a press conference Wednesday, highlighting the talents of the incoming group ranked 11th in the country by both ESPN and Rivals.com.

After the departure of stars like Zack Martin, Chris Watt, Louis Nix and Stephon Tuitt, Kelly said the biggest focus of this class was in the trenches. The Irish reeled in four offensive linemen — all ranked within the top 240 recruits by CBS and Scouts, Inc. — along with six defensive linemen and five linebackers.

“I think if you really boil it down, it’s about the (defensive) front seven and the offensive line,” Kelly said. “Yeah, there’s some great skill players that I’ll talk about, but you’re winning up front, and building that depth in the front seven and the offensive line really stands out in this class, and then having some really good players across the board for us.”

Kelly credited the strength of the class to excellent work by his entire coaching staff, with a couple of exceptional performances. Schools in Texas are notorious for recruiting the top talent within the state’s borders, but Irish assistant coach Kerry Cooks landed three highly-ranked defensive players from the Lone-Star State. Additionally, Kelly credited the work of Notre Dame’s director of player personnel, Dave Peloquin, who worked through the late departures of offensive coordinator Chuck Martin and defensive coordinator Bob Diaco to keep recruits on board.

“(Peloquin) did an incredible job this year,” Kelly said. “He was short-staffed this year in the recruiting office. We had some departures within that office at a very untimely time in a sense during the recruiting process, and he held that together.”

With Nix and Tuitt — as well as running back George Atkinson and tight end Troy Niklas — forgoing additional years of eligibility to enter the NFL Draft this off-season, Kelly also emphasized the program’s commitment to four-year players, and said that expectation is communicated early in the recruiting process.

“When we have the opportunity to recruit a young man, they have to have a passion for wanting to get a degree from Notre Dame and winning a National Championship,” he said. “If they want to come here just to hang their hat to play football and go to the NFL, we passed on some pretty good players, because I don’t want guys to come here and not finish their degree.”

With signing day over, Kelly and his staff can now focus on working with the team they have on campus, which includes two members of the incoming class who enrolled in January. One early enrollee is Justin Brent, a wide receiver from Speedway, Ind., whom Kelly praised for having a college-ready body and plenty of speed. The other is 6-foot-3, 260-pound defensive lineman Andrew Trumbetti, a freak athlete who played running back and returned kicks in high school when he wasn’t on the defensive line.

After having several freshmen step into big roles last season, Kelly said he is interested to see the learning curve for each new player once they arrive on campus, and determine their impact from there.

“Physically, if you look at a number of these guys, you could say they could play right now,” Kelly said. “It’s developing them mentally to find out whether they’re going to play. It’s not physical. And you really can’t tell that until they get into camp and how they pick up the grind of going through double sessions and the grind of school and balancing all those things.”

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Alex Bars is a four-star recruit, according to multiple outlets, and ESPN ranks the 6-foot-6 lineman as the No. 2 prospect in Notre Dame’s class of 2014 and the No. 7 offensive tackle in the nation. 

Bars received offers from a host of schools, including Florida State, LSU, Michigan, Stanford and Ohio State, before committing to Notre Dame.

He adds size and quickness and is a skilled blocker who adjusts well mid-play and has the quickness to get into the second level.

In his senior season at Montgomery Bell Academy, Bars anchored the offensive line as the team posted a 10-1 record and made a postseason run to the state semifinals, and Bars earned a spot in the Under Armour All-America game.

Justin Brent adds needed depth to Notre Dame’s receiving corps and punt-return unit, both of which have been depleted by the graduation of TJ Jones. Brent’s 40-yard dash time of 4.51 does not account for his lateral quickness and sure hands in the middle of the field.

The Indianapolis native averaged more than 170 all-purpose yards per game in his senior season while earning all-state honors and was ranked No. 11 among the nation’s receivers by Rivals.com. Brent is a strong player who can fight through traffic and stretch the field vertically. He will join a talented Irish receiving corps, but one in which he will have a chance to contribute early on. He is also an dangerous returner, averaging 27.7 yards on kicks and punts.

Quenton Nelson is a four-star recruit and is rated the third-best inside linebacker in the nation by 247Sports. Nyles Morgan committed to Notre Dame at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl on Jan. 4, selecting the Irish over other finalists Ole Miss and Vanderbilt.

At 6-foot-5 and 225 pounds, Morgan is strong at attacking the ball-carrier at the line of scrimmage and making plays in pursuit, although he has room to improve in pass coverage. He finished his senior season with 115 tackles, 12 tackles for a loss and four sacks, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Morgan could be called upon for immediate playing time this fall for the Irish following the departures of Carlo Calabrese and Dan Fox.

A tight end and his outstanding play on both sides of the ball earned him a spot in the Under Armour All-America game.

Justin Brent

**OFFENSIVE LINEMAN**

**6’1” • 197**

Speedway High School

Indianapolis

Justin Brent adds needed depth to Notre Dame’s receiving corps and punt-return unit, both of which have been depleted by the graduation of TJ Jones. Brent’s 40-yard dash time of 4.51 does not account for his lateral quickness and sure hands in the middle of the field.

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Justin Brent

**OFFENSIVE LINEMAN**

**6’5” • 302**

Red Bank Catholic High School

Red Bank, N.J.

Quenton Nelson is a four-star recruit and rated the 175th-best player in the ESPN 300. According to Rivals, Nelson is a five-star recruit and the No. 28 player in the nation.

At 6-foot-5 and 302 pounds, Nelson already has the size to fit in among Notre Dame’s other linemen. He played most of his high school on offensive tackle, and Nelson could project as an offensive guard, as well. He chose Notre Dame over a long list of other offers, most notably Alabama, Michigan, Ohio State and Stanford.

One of three Irish commits to find a spot among the national Lombardi Award nominees, Nelson centered at U.S. Army All-American and a USA Today second-team All-American. A physical force, Nelson has the athleticism and drive to finish blocks well downhill.

Quenton Nelson

**DEFENSIVE LINEMAN**

**6’5” • 250**

Northern Valley Regional High School

Demarest, N.J.

Combining relentless energy with great athleticism, defensive lineman Andrew Trumbetti brings a unique set of talents to the depleted Irish defensive front.

The 6-foot-5, 250-pounder from New Jersey shows decent speed and strong tackling ability and has the strength and pass-rushing moves to plug in at defensive end for the Irish.

In high school, Trumbetti also showcased his great speed and strength by doubling as a tight end and his outstanding play on both sides of the ball earned him a spot in the Under Armour All-America game. Already enrolled for this spring semester, Trumbetti will be competing for early playing time as Notre Dame reloads after the losses of stars Stephon Tuitt and Louis Nix.

Andrew Trumbetti

**CORNERBACK**

**6’1” • 180**

Bishop Dunne High School

Dallas

Texas product Nick Watkins, the No. 15 cornerback recruit in the nation per Rivals, verbally committed to Notre Dame on Nov. 1 and became the second 284 pledge from the Lone Star State, joining defensive end Grant Blankenship.

At 6-foot-1, the lanky Watkins is the type of corner that former Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco traditionally recruited and should fit well into the Irish system, where he will enter a deep position group competing for graduated captain Bennett Jackson’s starting position as well as backup spots.

Watkins played both receiver and cornerback at Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas but will stay on the defensive side of the ball at Notre Dame. Watkins chose the Irish over offers from Alabama, Auburn, Florida State and other elite programs.
Hiestand adds to culture, hauls in four OL

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Editor

A little more than two years ago, Harry Hiestand was officially hired at Notre Dame.

The offensive line coach took over in January, months before the 2012 season.

At the time, Mike Golic Jr. was preparing for his fifth season in South Bend.

“He was so focused on coming in every day and doing whatever he could to help us be the best offensive line in the country,” Golic said of Hiestand. “He said that’s his goal from day one.”

Two years later, Hiestand has built a culture among the offensive linemen at Notre Dame. In 2013, the Irish allowed the second-fewest sacks (eight) in the nation. In 2012, Notre Dame averaged 4.9 yards per carry, the highest Irish average since 1996.

Hiestand’s influence and quest to produce the best line in the nation extends to recruiting, too. Last year’s No. 4 class in the country featured five offensive linemen, four of whom earned four-star ratings from ESPN. Four more linemen — including three ESPN four-stars — signed with Notre Dame on Wednesday (the Irish also have two verbal commitments from offensive linemen in the class of 2015).

Irish recruiting expert Mike Frank said the offensive line is the position group Notre Dame has best recruited in the past few years.

“I’ve followed this a long time and I can’t remember Notre Dame doing a better job of back-to-back classes filling in their offensive line with both a body for each position plus elite talent for each position,” said Frank, who runs the ESPN-affiliated Irish Sports Daily. “I think they’ve just really done an outstanding job with it.”

Long lull

But before these past two strong seasons — both in terms of recruiting and on-field production — Notre Dame had not attained the same level of success along the offensive line. In 2003, former Irish center Jeff Faine was selected in the first round of the NFL Draft. But from 2004 onward, only seven Notre Dame offensive linemen have been drafted, with only one — Ryan Harris — chosen before the sixth round (Harris was a third-round pick in 2007).

The 2012 recruiting class consisted of two offensive linemen, and the 2011 and 2010 classes featured just one ESPN four-star apiece.

“One of the things that I think was pretty obvious during the mediocre years prior to the national championship run was that their offensive line just wasn’t physical,” Rivals national recruiting analyst Mike Farrell said.

In the four seasons before Hiestand arrived, the Irish went a combined 29-22. Golic was there for those four seasons, and he played for three different offensive line coaches before Hiestand became his fourth.

John Latina, currently the assistant head coach and offensive line coach at Duke, recruited Golic to Notre Dame and coached him during his freshman season. The following year, however, Frank Verducci took over for Latina. Kelly was then hired to replace Charlie Weis the next season, in 2010, and Ed Warinner stepped into as the new offensive line coach, a position he held for two seasons before moving to Ohio State after the 2011 campaign.

“I was fortunate to work with a lot of great guys, but I think everyone will benefit from having a coach that’s been there three years now and has that foundation laid or how he wants things done,” Golic said.

Building a family

When Hiestand joined the Irish staff in 2012, he stressed continuity among the offensive linemen. He stressed family. He stressed togetherness.

“He came in and that was the biggest thing he preached is that, ‘We are going to do everything on and off the field together. We are going to be that one cohesive unit,’” Golic said. “So that when it came time to be on the field, you could be counted on [by] not only the rest of the team but by the guy next to you. That’s the biggest thing you really need to have going as an offensive line is that continuity and that level of comfort between all the guys.”

Hiestand had the linemen do everything together. They ate their meals together. They were together for meetings and walkthroughs. They stayed 30 or 40 minutes after practices for extra work. They watched game film together and talked through what they saw.

“When you get into game situations it makes it so much easier to talk and work those things out because you’ve already done that together,” Golic said.

see O-LINE PAGE 8
‘Underrated’ class is high on athleticism, upside

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Editor

From 2013 all the way back to 2006, that’s where Notre Dame’s recruiting classes ranked in the final class rankings, according to Espn. In six of the last eight years, the Irish finished in the top 10. As the book begins to close on the 2014 recruiting cycle, Notre Dame currently checks in at No. 11 in Espn’s RecruitingNation Class Rankings.

“I think that maybe, previously, some classes may have been overrated by some of the experts,” Irish recruiting expert Mike Frank said. “I think in the end this one will be a little underrated.”

Frank, who runs the Espn-affiliated Irish sports daily, cited plenty of raw talent that could lead to real production down the road among the 23-member class (which includes early-rollers Justin Brent and Andrew Trumbetti).

“I think the only reason these guys probably aren’t rated a little higher as far as individuals is because they haven’t fully grown into their bodies,” Frank said. “But when you look at just pure athleticism, it’s as good as you’re going to get. I think they’ve got some great talent coming in there.”

No position group earned as much praise from Frank than the defensive line. Frank lauded recent defensive tackle Pete Mokwuah, calling the former Rutgers commitment “a real steal” for the Irish.

Trumbetti, a defensive end from Demarest, N.J., and defensive end Jay Hayes are the two highest-rated defensive-line prospects in the Irish class, as Espn rates both as four-star prospects. Frank said he is also high on fellow defensive ends Jonathan Bonner and Grant Blankenship.

Along with the defensive-line prospects, a group of athletic linebackers with pass-rushing ability add to an exciting mix of defensive prospects with athleticism and upside, according to Frank.

“They have a bunch of guys who I want to call them projectable guys — they’re guys that can really run but are going to need to add some weight,” he said.

In particular, Frank tabbed Kolin Hill, Jhonny Williams and Blankenship as projectable prospects.

“What I really love about all three of those guys is that they’re extremely aggressive, very, very quick off the ball,” he said. “All three of them play with their hair on fire. They’re just real intense, fast-twitch players that Notre Dame’s been lacking recently when you talk about pass rush and explosion from the edge.”

Frank noted that, of the 12 commitments listed as defensive linemen or linebackers, many could slot in at either position.

On the other side of the ball, Frank praised another talented yet still-developing prospect in quarterback DeShone Kizer. Espn rates Kizer as a four-star prospect and the No. 16 dual-threat quarterback in the class of 2014.

“He’s got a big arm. He moves extremely well. And he improved dramatically from his junior to senior season much as we saw [Irish rising sophomore quarterback] Malik Zaire do from his junior to senior season [in high school],” Frank said.

Rivals national recruiting analyst Mike Farrell said he’s also excited by Kizer’s raw ability and added that the signal-caller could be the player in the Irish class who has the biggest long-term impact.

Defensive end signee Jhonny Williams (12), pictured playing for Berrien Springs (Mich.) High School, is one of multiple Irish defensive commits described as “projectable” by Irish recruiting expert Mike Frank.
GRANT BLANKENSHIP
DEFENSIVE END
6’7” • 320
The Colony High School
The Colony, Texas

Defensive end Grant Blankenship, from The Colony High School in Texas, ranks as a three-star recruit and the No. 66 player in the state, per ESPN. Blankenship verbally committed to Notre Dame in early July.

Blankenship, weighing in at 6-foot-5 and 320 pounds, is slot- ted to play defensive end or outside linebacker, though he will need to add weight to his frame. He brings solid speed, allowing him to cover a lot of ground and get to the quarterback quickly. Blankenship led his high school team with a high of 16 sacks last season. His speed and versatility should allow the defense another measure of flexibility as Notre Dame looks ahead.

JONATHAN BONNER
DEFENSIVE END
6’4” • 249
The Colony, Texas

The suburb of St. Louis, M., native committed to the Irish within days of receiving his offer in June after impressing coaches with his performance at the line- man challenge.

At 6-foot-4 and 249 pounds, Bonner played defensive end and tight end at Parkway Central High School — where he amassed 86 tackles, 17 sacks and 26 tackles for loss — and projects to the defensive side of the ball for the Irish. Bonner, who chose Notre Dame over offers from Michigan State, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Purdue, among others, has the flexibility to profile in a variety of defensive positions at Notre Dame and still has room to grow.
**Tyler Newsome**

**KICKER/PUNTER**

6'2" • 175

Carrollton High School

Carrollton, Ga.

Sam Mustipher projects as an interior lineman at the next level. Rivals.com ranks him as the No. 12 guard and the No. 3 player in the state of Maryland, coming out of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School.

Mustipher chose the Irish early, committing in April over offers from Alabama, Michigan and Northwestern, among others.

Mustipher will have to continue to add size, but he was listed as a “Pleasant Surprise” by ESPN in regards to his performance at the Under Armour All-America game in January. He is strongest in run blocking, where he gains leverage and has fantastic hand positioning against defenders as he drives to the second level. Mustipher also does a good job of moving his feet.

**Nile Sykes**

**LINEBACKER**

6'2" • 219

Montini Catholic High School

Lombard, Ill.

Nile Sykes played defensive end at the high-school level but projects to be an inside or outside linebacker at Notre Dame. His athleticism and strength complement his speed and range on the field.

At 6-foot-2, 219 pounds, Sykes is instinctually quick in his ability to react to and shed blockers. His speed enables him to inflict immediate pressure off the edge in getting off the mark and up field. He tallied 80 tackles this past season, 22 for loss, with 12 sacks and two interceptions.

Sykes committed to Notre Dame on Dec. 15 over offers from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, South Florida and Syracuse, among others.

**Nic Weishar**

**TIGHT END**

6'5" • 210

Marist High School

Chicago

Standing at 6-foot-5, Nic Weishar had no problem making the tough catches as a receiver while playing for at Marist (Ill.) High School. A four-star recruit, Weishar had a storied career for the Red Hawks, breaking the Illinois state record for career receptions with 256. He also compiled 3,284 receiving yards and 28 touchdown receptions during his career.

Weishar projects as a tight end for the Irish. Though he doesn’t possess blistering speed, Weishar’s high-flying ability and knack for making tough catches are reminiscent of other tight ends that have come through the Irish ranks, including current NFL players Kyle Rudolph and Tyler Eifert, as well as Troy Niklas.

**Jhony Williams**

**DE/LB**

6'5" • 230

Berrien Springs High School

Berrien Spring, Mich.

Jhony Williams, from Berrien Springs, Mich., also plays basketball and competes for the track-and-field team at Berrien Springs High School.

The athletic Williams is quick at the snap and bowls over his opponents to make a beeline for the quarterback or ball carrier. Williams is fast and powerful on the field and excels as a pass-rusher. Williams originally committed to the Missouri in September before pledging to Notre Dame on Nov. 27. His explosiveness will give him power on the field, but he needs to bulk up to be truly effective for the Irish.
And spending the countless and sometimes thankless hours together naturally forged a brotherhood and a confidence that not only the linemen could count on each other, but that the whole team could trust the men up front, Golic said.

“You want to be the group that when the game is on the line, put it on us. That’s the mentality that [Hiestand has brought],” Golic said.

But the familial atmosphere cultivated by Hiestand and the bond it produced weren’t limited to the field.

### A shift in recruiting

Offensive lineman Sam Mustipher verbally committed to Notre Dame on April 15. Though the 6-foot-3, 294-pounder did not visit campus during the season, Mustipher made the trip from Maryland to South Bend in mid-December, when the Irish were in the midst of bowl practices, for the annual team banquet.

“The older guys looked out for all of the recruits when I was up there,” Mustipher said. “[Fellow 2014 offensive-line signee] Quenton Nelson, Jimmy Byrne and myself were with the offensive line for pretty much the entire weekend. They just looked out for us, cared for us.

“It’s a very tight-knit group,” Mustipher added. “A lot of the coaches there say it’s one of the most, if not the most, tight-knit groups. And that was something that I really look forward to. The older guys take care of the younger guys.”

Those younger guys comprise the recent strong offensive-line classes, another testament to Hiestand’s handwork. Though he won’t be confused with a stud recruiter who can bounce around the nation and poach top prospects who play other positions — “He’s not a ... rock star recruiter,” Farrell said — Hiestand has repeatedly cast his line at a decided target and, more often than not, reeled in his catch.

“His job is to close on offensive linemen,” Farrell said. “Now he’s got a territory, of course, but he’s not considered one of those flashy recruiters that make their name going out and getting top kids. I think he’s very direct and I think that kids that want to go to Notre Dame love that.”

Frank added that if the goal is someone to send to Florida to recruit an elite running back, Hiestand likely wouldn’t be too effective.

“But mainly his job is, ‘Hey, just go out and find as the best line- men, the guys you really want. Get them here and coach them up,’” Frank said. “I’m going to guess Brian Kelly wouldn’t trade Harry Hiestand for hardly anybody in the country as an offensive line coach.”

Mustipher wouldn’t either.

“I feel like he’s the best offensive-line coach in the country,” Mustipher said. “The way coach Hiestand treats his players, the way he approaches the guys, the way he gets the best out of the guys day in and day out is something that’s unmatched that I’ve ever seen.”

And when it comes to casting his line and finding the guys Hiestand really wants, Farrell said the Irish have done a better job identifying the very tough, physical offensive lineman that he believed were lacking in the pre-2012 years.

### The incoming group

Nelson, a five-star recruit and the No. 29 player in the nation according to Rivals, is the highest-rated (per Rivals) of the four offensive linemen in Notre Dame’s class of 2014. Kelly praised Nelson’s relentlessness on Wednesday, and Farrell said Nelson is definitely the jewel of the four linemen.

“I think he’s a guy that could be very, very special,” Farrell said. “I think he has the most tools of an offensive lineman coming in since [former Irish offensive line- man] Sam Young.”

Mustipher, Byrne and fellow offensive lineman signee Alex Bars round out this year’s unit, a group that has already had a jumpstart on the brotherhood building that has typified a Hiestand-coached position group.

“I’ve become close with all of them, especially that weekend we came up,” Mustipher said. “I was already close with Quenton, but that weekend we really bonded. Jimmy and I really bonded that weekend as well. Our families met each other and they talked for a long time.”

I went to the Under Armour [All-American Game] in Florida [in January] and I actually roomed with Alex there, so I spent a week with him.

Couple those four with the five linemen from the recruiting class of 2013, and add all of them to the older returnees — many of whom received valuable experience in 2013 as injuries decimated the line — and the result is depth across the board, one of Kelly’s main takeaways from the overall class of 2014.

As of now, the Irish will enter spring ball with 15 scholarship offensive linemen, 15 players joining to form one corps under Hiestand.

“The sky is really the limit for that group,” Golic said. “There’s a ton of talent along there and they’ve got a great guy there to develop it.”

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

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### Upside

“[He] is so raw and he has no idea what he’s doing right now, but he gets by on athleticism,” Farrell said. “If they can teach him, because he’s a very, very good athlete, ... he could be a home-run fit for that offense.”

Given the lean toward potential in the class, Frank said he does not expect too many commits to step in and log significant playing time in 2014. Still, Frank sees a strong class, even if it isn’t rated as highly as the class of 2013, or other Notre Dame classes of years past.

“I really like this class. It’s not probably gonna be ranked in a lot of top 10s,” he said.

“What I really like about this class is they have a whole lot of athletes, a lot of guys who can run and probably just as important, a lot of guys who play with a lot of passion. I think that’s something that coach Kelly has really tried to find, is players that play with a lot of effort, play with a lot of fire.

“I think he’s landed a good number of those.”

For more on Notre Dame recruiting, check out Mike Frank’s Irishsportsdaily.com.

Email Mike at mikefrank18@sbcglobal.net and tell him The Observer sent you.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu
Missing some sass in your life? Jennifer Lawrence can help you with that. Returning to the big screen as empowered Katniss Everdeen, our strangely lovable murderer jumps back into the brawl amidst growing turmoil. Meanwhile, weep for the loss of majestic Phillip Seymour Hoffman. Great for satisfying your anti-capitalist sentiments.

What: “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire”
When: 8 p.m.
Where: DeBartolo 101
How Much: $3

The purpose of the ScreenPeace Film Festival is to challenge students, faculty, and members of the community to reflect more deeply on peace issues arising around the world. Culbertson said, “We see the festival as complementing our teaching about peace with concrete, and often complex, examples of current conflicts and peacebuilding efforts.”

All of the films screened at the festival received significant critical acclaim upon their release in theaters, and two, “The Act of Killing” and “The Square,” have been nominated for the 2014 Oscar for Best Documentary. Beyond the critical acclaim, the films are chosen due to their relevance to subjects that students cover in classes every day.

“We give particular attention to topics addressed in current peace studies classes and in faculty research, and have faculty with relevant expertise lead discussions after the films,” Culbertson said. We also try to include films, such as ‘Wadjda,’ that have received significant critical attention but have not been screened elsewhere in the area.”

Culbertson has overseen the festival since its inception in 2008, and said the core concepts haven’t changed over the years, but this year in particular has a little more ‘punch’ to the festival, not only by adding a new documentary, “The Trials of Muhammad Ali,” which shows tonight at 7 p.m., the festival continues Friday at 6:30 p.m. with “Wadjda,” which details the struggles of a 10-year-old girl in Saudi Arabia who wants to buy a bike in spite of cultural norms, and is also the first ever film in Saudi Arabia directed by a woman. Following “Wadjda” on Friday is “NO” at 9:30 p.m., a film that follows a 1988 advertising campaign to oust Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

Saturday’s screenings begin with “The Square” at 6:30 p.m., which places the audience inside an immersive view of the turmoil in Egypt of the last two or three years. The festival closes Saturday night with “The Act of Killing,” shows a part of Indonesia where death squads, who reenact their killings in the style of Hollywood movies, are celebrated heroes. Tickets to the festival screeners are free, but they must be reserved online at performingarts.nd.edu.
Give Wilson some respect

From the shadows, Wilson calmly threw for over 200 yards, two touchdowns, no interceptions, and completed over 70% of his passes in the biggest game of his career, with the brightest lights shining. Now, as a Super Bowl winning quarterback, Wilson still manages to stand head and shoulders below his counterparts in the elite quarterback club. Critics will continue to shrink the successes of Wilson. He doesn’t possess the skill set of other top passers. It’s the team around him that makes him good; he rode a historically great defense and strong running game to a Super Bowl, where they won him a ring. While most quarterbacks bring home millions of dollars, Wilson isn’t even in the top-50 salaries for the position.

Heck, Wilson is still stuck in the no. 2 role to Russell Wilson, who was recently voted MVP of the NFL. One of the reasons why Russell Wilson just beat in the Super Bowl.

I doubt Wilson minds this too much, but the quarterback makes weekly trips to the Seattle Children’s Hospital during his days off. He also organizes a summer passing camp in several cities for young football players. All the proceeds go to The Camp of Champions Bay Ridge Diabetes Association.

Will anything change for Wilson? Eventually, in time. When Wilson is forced to raise himself up above those who step into the spotlight.

Until then, Wilson will keep doing what he does: perform at a high level and win football games. Next time you’re asked to name the top quarterbacks in the NFL, throw Wilson out there.

The regular media process of the NFL will fail to raise Wilson above the rest, even with a Super Bowl ring. When the quarterback position is talked about, Wilson will be stuck in the shadows of the big names at his position, the big contracts at his position, and the super talented players around him.

Wilson was a two-star recruit, and been overlooked as an elite quarterback. He is the epitome of the underdog story. Wilson has never been given the recognition he deserves, as if some other personal characteristic reigns supreme on his social identity.

Checking in at 5-foot-11, Russell Carrington Wilson has always been stuck in someone’s shadow. Even as a professional baseball player, the Michigan quarterback is overlooked nearly every analysis. Overlooked as an elite quarterback, Wilson has never been given the recognition he deserves, as if some other personal characteristic reigns supreme on his social identity.

Over high school, Wilson was a two-star recruit, and been overlooked as an elite quarterback. He is the epitome of the underdog story. Wilson has never been given the recognition he deserves, as if some other personal characteristic reigns supreme on his social identity.

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Wilson proved his critics wrong time and time again. Wilson threw for 11,720 yards, 109 touchdowns, and only 30 interceptions. His second class for Penn State was second-best class in the Big Ten. The Spartans are ranked no higher than 21st nationally by the analysts, but it’s starting to show.

Michigan State head coach Mark Dantonio’s biggest victory might have been hanging on to defensive lineman Malik McDowell of Southfield, Mich. His parents told reporters this week that they wanted their son to go out of state, and he visited Ohio State.

When the Spartans did lose a lower-ranked defensive lineman in Darius Slade of Martin, N.J., he switched his pledge from Nebraska to Michigan State two weeks ago and ended up signing with the Buckeyes.

That’s one of our teams we’re nose-to-nose with right now in recruiting,” Meyer said of the Spartans. “We don’t win them all because I know we lost a couple, too. But that’s a real battle right now.”

Big Ten teams continued to increase the number of recruits signed from the Southeast. According to BTN, Big Ten schools signed 158 players from the conference’s footprint and 71 from the SEC. At Nebraska, 15 of its 24 recruits came from states that have SEC schools. Ohio State put up two top-50 prospects, but the best linemen in the country out of Georgia, and Penn State and Wisconsin brought in quarter- backs from Florida.

“There are some quality kids that can escape and play in the Big Ten,” ESPN.com analyst Craig James said. “Big Ten coaches realize that if they want to compete on the national stage and beat the 2012 and No. 3, but they’re just not close to us.”

About the only thing Meyer didn’t do was reel in the Big Ten’s highest-ranked recruit. Michigan accomplished that, signing cornerback Jabrill Peppers out of Paramus, N.J. (Catholic High).

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Penguins crush Sabres in last game before Olympics

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Sidney Crosby scored a highlight-reel goal and added an assist, leading the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 5-1 victory over the Buffalo Sabres in a pre-Olympic tune-up against goalie Ryan Miller on Wednesday night.


Drew Stafford scored for the NHL’s worst team, and U.S. Olympic goalie Miller finished with 29 saves. Buffalo (15-33-10) dropped to 4-9-4 in its past 17 and winless in its last eight home games (0-8-1).

Fleury stopped Buffalo’s Brian Flynn in close. Crosby circled his own net and built up a head of steam by driving up the left wing. Accepting Matt Niskanen’s pass while crossing center, Crosby didn’t break stride in cutting between Flynn and Mike Weber. He then drove toward the net and snapped a shot just inside the top right corner.

Malkin then provided an insurance goal on a breakaway with 2:12 left in the second period. Pouncing on Marcus Foligno’s turnover inside the Penguins’ blue line, Malkin streaked past flat-footed defender Jamie McBain. Driving in alone on Miller, he faked going right and went left to deposit the puck in the open side.

Miller is one of Team USA’s three goalies selected to play at Sochi, and the game against the Penguins was regarded his best outing of the season. He allowed on the first 28 shots he faced.

The floodgates then opened in the third.

Gibbons made it 4-1 by scoring off a face-off to the right of the Buffalo net by snapping a shot at the short side.

Neal then capped a transition rush with 7:48 left. Accepting Malkin’s drop pass and with Sabres defenders backing in, Neal waited for Malkin to set a screen in front before snapping a shot beating Miller on the stick side.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT
Irish set for final dual meet

The Irish will return to competition in their home pool against Cleveland State on Saturday at Rolfs Aquatic Center. The No. 24 Irish will take on out-of-conference opponent Cleveland State in their last meet before the ACC Championships begin Feb. 19. "The big focus for this meet is to get some last minute racing in before ACC’s," junior Bridget Casey said. "We are really focused on ACC’s in less than two weeks and have already started tapering for the championship, so this meet against Cleveland State is our last opportunity to really get up and get going before conference."

Notre Dame will maintain its home-pool advantage for the second consecutive weekend after hosting the two-day Shamrock Invitational at Rolfs Aquatic Center last Friday and Saturday. The Irish capitalized on having home-pool advantage at last week’s Invitational after winning 16 out of 20 events to defeat Iowa 263-106.

"The Shamrock Invitational was a great meet for us, for some of our girls it was their big taper meet and they swam very well," Casey said. "We were all wearing racing suits for Shamrock to get a feel for racing in suits before our big conference Championship [because Coach Barnes] is big on preparation and getting a feel for racing in fast suits."

"This weekend [against Cleveland State] is another great opportunity for us to get on the blocks and race and see what we can do." Cleveland State enters this meet after a 118-114 win over Illinois-Chicago (UIC) on Saturday and, like the Irish, have one more chance to see what it can do in the pool.

Senior Alex Johansson carried the Vikings against UIC with first place finishes in the 200-meter medley relay, 50-meter free, 100-meter fly, and 400-meter free relay. Johansson leads the Vikings this season in the 50-meter free, 50-meter yard fly and 400-meter medley relay. Just as the Irish prepared for the ACC championships by wearing racing suits in the Shamrock Invitational, the Irish are using this meet against Cleveland State to test possible adjustments to their lineup, Casey said.

"We are switching up our line-up a little bit for this meet and we get to swim events that we don’t normally get to swim," Casey said. "This meet against Cleveland State is our last opportunity to really get up and get going before conference."

Though this will help the Irish prepare for conference, switching up the line-up also poses its threats.

"Our biggest challenge against Cleveland State is that we are going to be in different events than usual," Casey said. "I am confident that we will step up and swim fast, however we do not have as much practice in ‘off’ events.” While the Irish will rest up until Saturday before taking on the Vikings, Cleveland State competes against Valparaiso in its last conference meet of the season Friday.

As the season comes to a close, the Irish are ready to finish out the season strong with this last meet against the Vikings, Casey said.

"Our mindset going into this meet is to race, be competitive, and have fun," Casey said. "This meet is our last dual meet of the season and Tim Walsh’s last dual meet as well, and we look forward to honoring Tim and to swimming fast one last time.

The Irish and Vikings square off Saturday at noon at Rolfs Aquatic Center.

Contact Kit Loughran at kloughr1@nd.edu

Notre Dame honors late coach with home meet

The Irish will host their annual home meet, recently renamed the DeCicco Duals, this weekend at the Castellan Family Fencing Center.

This year’s meet has extra significance for the Irish fencing program, as it is the first year that the tournament is named after former Irish coach Mike DeCicco, who passed away last spring.

"We will fence this weekend in honor of coach DeCicco," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "He had a huge influence on both the program and the university, which fuels many of the fencers’ motivations to do well in this weekend’s bouts."

Though the Irish have built momentum heading into the weekend, the team will no doubt be tested, with an important match against rival Penn State on Saturday.

"It will not be easy, as we have some very good teams, such as Penn State, coming into town," Bednarski said. "For several years, Penn State has received more medals than we have, so it will be like a revenge for the past to beat them this weekend."

"Other than Penn State, other schools will compete against the Irish, such as Ohio State, Wayne State and Northwestern.

Last weekend, senior captain Gerek Meinhardt and a number of other Irish fencers were absent at the Northwestern Duals while aiming to qualify for the World Championships and the Olympic games, but they will all be returning this weekend to compete in the DeCicco Duals.

"With our top fencers back, the team is exceptionally confident heading into this tournament," Coach Bednarski said. "Having Meinhardt back on the men’s foil squad, as well as having sophomore Lee Kiefer and junior Madison Zeiss back on the women’s foil squad, will benefit us immensely in the foil matches.

The Irish will aim for success on their home turf, fencing for their ranking as well as in honor of Coach DeCicco.

"All the fencers we have competing will be in good shape, so I don’t expect there to be many problems from the squad," Coach Bednarski said. "The DeCicco Duals is a very important competition to us, and we would like to show everyone just how skilled we really are and achieve success this weekend."

The DeCicco Duals begin Saturday morning at the Castellan Family Fencing Center.

Contact Rebecca Rogalski at rrogalsk@nd.edu
Poor defense dooms Belles

By KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s fell 87-53 on the road to Calvin on Wednesday.

The Belles (6-14, 4-7 MIAA) had a slow start from the beginning and could not break past the Knights (14-6, 9-3).

“We did not play solid defense in the first half,” Belles coach Jennifer Henley said. “We missed a lot of shots in the paint that we normally miss.”

The poor execution of offense, combined with a lack of defense, did not help the Belles, Henley said.

Sophomore forward Krista Knapke was the first to score for the Belles and was the Belles’ leading scorer with 11 points. Junior forward Ariana Paul, who had 10 points, led the team along with Knapke through the first half.

Despite the Belles’ efforts, the Knights led by 30, 52-22, at the end of the first period. Saint Mary’s looked for a new start with the beginning of the second period. Henley said they played better in the second half.

Calvin was the first to score in the second period with a layup from junior forward Breanna Verkaik, and the Belles could avoid errors as they continued to miss shots and turn the ball over.

The Knights had their largest lead of 42 points at the 10-minute mark of the second half.

With 1:55 left on the clock, sophomore forward Eleni Shea scored back-to-back jumpers, but Calvin still led by 33 points.

The Belles were 23-63 (36.5 percent) from the field, while Calvin shot 37-64 (57.8 percent).

The Belles will try to rebound against Kalamazoo.

“Moving forward, we need to prepare for Kalamazoo,” Henley said. “I feel we match up well with them, but at the end of the day, we have to defend.”

The Belles take on Kalamazoo on Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Anderson Athletic Center in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Contact Kit Loughran at kloughr1@nd.edu
with the crowd and just get-ting used to the new arena. It’s been an adventure for us and we expect this will be yet another big road test for us.”

After a narrow, four-point win over Maryland on Jan. 27, the Irish responded by winning their next two games by 26 and 21 points, respectively.

Florida State (15-6, 3-5) has not been able to establish a comparable winning streak. The Seminoles broke a four-game losing streak Jan. 26 with a 70-54 win over Virginia Tech but lost to Wake Forest on Sunday.

Seminoles senior forward Natasha Howard leads Florida State’s scoring and in rebounds and recently broke the school’s record for career double-doubles with 32. 1984 graduate Sue Galkantas held the former record of 31 for nearly 30 years.

“Natasha Howard is really good,” McGraw said. “She averages over 20 points a game, and she really is one of the best players in the league. She’s an all-conference type of player. She’s a great rebounder, she’s a great scorer, she’s really athletic and she can run the floor. She is incredibly talented and their best player.”

As of this date, Howard is averaging 18.5 points and rebounds per game.

Florida State dropped out of most recent AP top-25 poll but previously was tied for the No. 23 ranking, and McGraw said the Seminoles field a talented team with multiple threats. Florida State has performed well at home, putting together an 8-2 home record this season, compared to 6-4 on the road.

“Michaela can come in and shoot the 3-pointer so well,” McGraw said. “She’s one of the best shooters in the conference. She’s somebody we count on to come in and score points quickly. Madison Cable is also having a great year. She’s just coming off a career high in rebounding [against Virginia Tech]. She also had her career high in scoring against UCLA. She’s a very capable rebounder and scorer. They’re a big reason we are so successful this year and … we’re looking to them to play a big role in every game.”

McGraw also praised a specific player for her efforts.

“Morgan Jones, who’s our point guard [senior Cheetah Delgado] is also very good and they have a guard on the wing, [sophomore] Morgan Jones, who’s a really good shooter and wing player,” McGraw said. “They’ve got some talent and they’re a very dangerous team, especially at home.”

So far this season, Delgado has made 133 assists, well more than twice as many as the second-highest total on the team. Jones averages 13.3 points per game, second only to Howard.

Irish sophomore guard Jewell Loyd leads Notre Dame players in scoring with 17.5 points per game, but senior guard Kayla McBride is close behind with 17.1.

McBride’s offensive output has surged in recent weeks, including a team-high 23-point effort against Duke (21-2, 8-2), and on Monday she was named the espnW National Player of the Week as well as the ACC Player of the Week. McBride earned the honors after a week in which she averaged 20.3 points per game.

Although the Irish will be aware of Howard, Delgado and Jones, McGraw said that her team will work on its own game.

“We like to really focus on ourselves and what we can get better at,” McGraw said. “Rebounding and defense are two areas where we are always trying to improve.”

The Irish and Seminoles take the court Thursday at 7 p.m. in Tallahassee, Fla., at Donald L. Tucker Center.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu
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Happy Birthday: Take time to plan your actions. Stepping into a situation that can spin your life out of control must be avoided. This is a year to be progressive but also organized and cautious. Keep your actions simple, affordable and within reason. Listen for wise advice and stick to commitments with people who can enhance your life and your success.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Impulse will be your downfall. Fight against any desire to get involved in an argument or to do something totally out of character. Erratic behavior will leave you in a vulnerable position with few choices. Proceed in secrecy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Communications and sharing plans with people whom you respect have enormous result in an opportunity to travel. You may have new personal goals to craft, but you should be sure to spend time with someone special to improve your relationship.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): What you are told will be questionable. Stick to facts when discussing personal or professional matters. You can ask for favors, but first find out what’s expected of you in return. Contact old colleagues if you feel uncertain about your current position.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Add flair to whatever you do or say. The way you express your likes and dislikes will make a difference to the outcome. There are gains to be made if you connect with the right people. Share your concerns and your solutions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you don’t like something, change it. Taking action and being proactive will result in an opportunity to travel, learn or discover new ways to enjoy and live your life. A chance to spend time with someone special will improve your relationship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What you are told will be questionable. Stick to facts when discussing personal or professional matters. You can ask for favors, but first find out what’s expected of you in return. Contact old colleagues if you feel uncertain about your current position.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don’t make personal or domestic changes. Moderation in all that you do is necessary if you want to avoid loss. Invest in something that will bring you a safe and steady return. Accept a contract or settlement that is offered.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Getting together with people from different backgrounds will be enlightening. A change in attitude or to the way you express your likes and dislikes will make a difference to the outcome. There are gains to be made if you connect with the right people. Share your concerns and your solutions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don’t exaggerate when discussing problems with friends or relatives. Good will tend to catch on and can spread rapidly. Stick close to home and catch up on old jobs that have been left undone. Don’t let someone from your past cause trouble.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don’t make unnecessary alterations to the way you do things. Keep relying on what’s worked for you in the past. Keep life simple and you will not have any need to worry about what’s going to happen next. Consistency equals stability.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Initiate change and follow through with your plans. Don’t allow an emotional mediator to come between you and your accomplishments. Actions speak louder than words and bring you the results you deserve. Stick to the rules and you’ll avoid interference.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone from your past will play an intricate role in your future. Do your best to reconnect and explore new possibilities based on past interests. You can stabilize your financial situation if you make the right choice or move.

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, innovative and intuitive. You are adaptable, flexible and fun.
By GREG HADLEY
Sports Writer

At 21-0, No. 2 Notre Dame is one of only two remaining unbeaten teams in the nation. What separates the Irish from the rest of the country is more than just senior all-American guard Kayla McBride and senior forward Natalie Achonwa. Irish coach Muffet McGraw said her team's deep bench has been the squad's greatest asset.

"The strength of our team is that our bench is as good as any team in the country," McGraw said. "We're getting [27.7] points off the bench and it's something that we've able to count on all year long."

Led by sophomore guard Michaela Mabrey and junior guard Madison Cable, the Irish bench has been key.

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By RENEE GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

The No. 16 Irish suffered their first loss of the season Wednesday night at No. 22 Illinois, falling 5-2.

Notre Dame (6-1) faced the Illini (3-2), and the Irish showed well in the doubles matches. Senior Ryan Bandy and sophomore Eric Schnurrenberger won their match 6-1, while senior Billy Pecor and freshman Josh Hagar beat the No. 27 doubles team in the country of juniors Farris Gosea and Blake Bazarnik.

"You can't let guys back in the matches when they're the quality of the Illinois team, that's what did it for us," Irish coach Ryan Sachire said.

The only doubles loss was the No. 22 Irish pair of senior Greg Andrews and sophomore Alex Lawson to the Illini's pair of Tim Kopinski and Ross Guignon, who are ranked fourth in the nation in doubles.

"They did a good job of rallying. You know, we won the doubles point and we were up and in the singles too," Sachire said. "They really made a run at us and turned the tables quickly. We were certainly disappoint-ed about our inability to do the same to them."

The Irish were not able to mount a similar charge in singles, however. Though Schnurrenberger got the second Irish point with a close win, the Illini beat Notre Dame in the five other singles matches.

"We have to work on finishing when we get a lead," Sachire said. "We can enjoy the fact that we're winning, but then putting the hammer down and finishing is important."

Andrews, ranked No. 22 at singles, fell first to Illini Irish senior Greg Andrews accepts the award for Most Outstanding Preformer at the Big East conference championship on Apr. 21. Andrews lost in both singles and doubles on Wednesday at Illinois.

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By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Sports Writer

With two consecutive, decisive victories in ACC matchups against Duke and North Carolina State, the undefeated No. 2 Irish have created momentum for their next conference contest against Florida State tonight in Tallahassee, Fla.

Notre Dame (21-0, 8-0 ACC) will play on the road for the second time this week after traveling to Durham, N.C., on Sunday and defeating No. 5 Duke 88-67.

Despite remaining undefeated on the road, McGraw said that road games in the ACC have been a challenge.

“So far in the ACC, we’ve found that every place we go has been a tough place to play,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “[It’s difficult] McGraw relies on bench for depth, offensive spark

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EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Michaela Mabrey looks to pass during Notre Dame's 99-50 victory over UNC Wilmington on Nov. 9. Mabrey averages 9.4 points a game, good for fourth on the team.