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NOTRE DAME

W O M E N ' S B A S K E T B A L L

2000-01 Schedule/Results (4-0)

November

5	Sun.	Ohio All-Stars (exh.)	W, 91-56
14	Tues.	Finnish Select (exh.)	W, 98-53
17	Fri.	at Valparaiso	W, 71-46
20	Mon.	Arizona	W, 95-65
22	Wed.	at #19 Wisconsin #	W, 83-56
24	Fri.	vs. #6 Georgia # (ESPN)	W, 75-73
27	Mon.	Fordham	7:00 p.m.

December

3	Sun.	vs. North Caro. % (ESPN2)	1:30 p.m.
6	Wed.	Villanova *	7:00 p.m.
9	Sat.	Purdue	7:00 p.m.
18	Mon.	Western Michigan	7:00 p.m.
21	Thurs.	at Marquette	7:00 p.m.
28	Thurs.	at USC	7:00 p.m.
31	Sun.	Rice	1:00 p.m.

January

3	Wed.	at Virginia Tech *	7:00 p.m.
6	Sat.	Rutgers * (BETV)	12:00 p.m.
9	Tues.	at St. John's *	7:30 p.m.
13	Sat.	Virginia Tech * (BETV)	2:00 p.m.
15	Mon.	Connecticut * (ESPN)	2:00 p.m.
21	Sun.	at Seton Hall *	12:00 p.m.
24	Wed.	at West Virginia *	7:00 p.m.
31	Wed.	Providence *	7:00 p.m.

February

3	Sat.	at Boston Coll. * (BETV)	12:00 p.m.
7	Wed.	Pittsburgh *	7:00 p.m.
14	Wed.	at Syracuse *	7:00 p.m.
17	Sat.	at Rutgers *	7:30 p.m.
20	Tues.	Miami *	7:00 p.m.
24	Sat.	Georgetown *	1:00 p.m.
27	Tues.	at Pittsburgh *	7:00 p.m.

March

3-	Sat.-	at BIG EAST Championships
6	Tues.	(Storrs, Conn.)
16-	Fri.-	NCAA First and Second Rounds
19	Mon.	(campus sites)
24-	Sat.-	NCAA Regionals (Pittsburgh,
26	Mon.	Birmingham, Denver, Spokane)
30-	Fri.-	NCAA Final Four
1	Sun.	(St. Louis, Mo.)

* indicates BIG EAST Conference game.

Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge, Madison, Wis., championship game televised by ESPN

% Honda Elite Classic, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

BETV - BIG EAST Television

Bold indicates home game.

All times are local.

Game No. **5**

(#5 AP/#5 ESPN/USA Today) **Notre Dame Fighting Irish (4-0)**
vs. **Fordham Rams (0-2)**

The Date and Time: Monday, Nov. 27, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. EST.

The Site: Joyce Center (11,418) in Notre Dame, Ind.

Radio: All Notre Dame games are broadcast on WHLY-AM (1620 in South Bend) with Sean Stires (play by play). This live broadcast also is available through the Notre Dame athletic department web site at www.und.com.

Websites: Notre Dame (www.und.com), Fordham (www.fordham.edu/athletics).

TONIGHT'S GAME

The fifth-ranked Notre Dame women's basketball team takes on Fordham tonight for the first time since winning the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge last weekend in Madison, Wis. The Irish beat 19th-ranked host Wisconsin 83-56 on Wednesday in the first round and edged sixth-ranked Georgia 75-73 on Friday in the title game. This game will mark the first ever meeting between Notre Dame and Fordham.

Four of Notre Dame's five starters average double-figure scoring, while the Irish have outscored their four opponents by 76 points in the first half. Among the best players in the country at their three respective positions, sophomore shooting guard **Alicia Ratay** (17.5) leads the team in scoring and three-point shooting (13-20, .650), while senior point guard **Niele Ivey** (16.8) and senior All-American center **Ruth Riley** (14.5) both poured in a game-high 19 points in the victory over Georgia. Senior Kelley Siemon (12.5) had her first double-double of the season vs. the Bulldogs (13 pts., 11 rebounds).

The Irish enter the Fordham game with a 4-0 record and look for their third 5-0 start in the history of the program and second in the last three years. Notre Dame also puts school-record 24-game winning streak at the Joyce Center on the line.

Notre Dame has won its first four games by an average of 21 points. The hot shooting of sophomore **Alicia Ratay**, strong point guard play of **Niele Ivey** (32 assists, 14 steals, 16 turnovers) and dominating presence and shooting touch of All-America center **Ruth Riley** (14 blocks, 23-36 FG) have led the Irish to big early leads. Forwards **Kelley Siemon** (20-31 FG) and **Ericka Haney** (14 points vs. Wisconsin) have given the Irish timely contributions.

Head coach **Muffet McGraw** is in her 14th year at Notre Dame with a 292-115 (.717) record and her 19th as a collegiate coach with a 380-156 (.709) mark. She has led the Irish to five straight NCAA tournament appearances and seven overall. McGraw was named a finalist for the Naismith Women's Basketball and AP coach-of-the-year awards last year.

COACHES VS. CANCER RECAP

Seniors **Ruth Riley** and **Niele Ivey** both scored a game-high 19 points and were named to the all-tournament team to the Irish to a 75-73 win over sixth-ranked Georgia in the championship game of the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge. The Bulldogs erased an early 11-point deficit before taking their first lead

LAST IRISH GAME

Notre Dame 75, Georgia 73
November 24, 2000
Kohl Center, Madison, WI

Georgia (73)

Name	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Nolan	35	6-14	2-5	0-0	2	4	3	14
Briggans	19	1-1	0-0	0-0	3	0	1	2
McDonald	34	3-14	0-0	4-4	10	1	4	10
K. Miller	36	7-9	3-3	1-2	4	6	3	18
C. Miller	32	5-17	0-6	1-1	4	3	2	11
Thomas	25	4-9	1-1	0-0	6	1	3	9
Brown	13	2-3	0-0	1-2	6	3	2	5
Washington	1	0-0	0-0	1-2	0	0	0	1
Murphy	5	1-2	1-2	0-0	0	0	1	3
Team	200	29-69	7-17	8-11	35	18	19	73

Notre Dame (75)

Name	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Haney	36	3-12	0-0	2-2	6	5	3	8
Siemon	38	5-10	0-0	3-10	11	3	1	13
Riley	29	6-10	0-0	7-7	8	1	3	19
Ratay	38	6-12	2-3	2-3	2	2	0	16
Ivey	39	7-10	3-5	2-2	4	4	3	19
Joyce	8	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0
Hernandez	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Barksdale	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0
Leahy	9	0-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0	0
Team					3			
Total	200	27-56	5-8	16-24	36	16	11	75

Georgia 38 35 -- 73
Notre Dame 41 34 -- 75

FG Pct: Notre Dame 48.2, Georgia 42.0. **3-PT FG Pct:** Notre Dame 62.5, Georgia 41.2. **FT Pct:** Notre Dame 66.7, Georgia 72.7. **Turnovers:** Notre Dame 16, Georgia 13. **Blocked Shots:** Notre Dame 2, Georgia 3. **Steals:** Notre Dame 9 (Ivey 3), Georgia 7. **Attendance:** 6,851

NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES



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ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL

(Nov. 19)

Rk.	Team	Record	Last Wk.
1.	Connecticut * (40)	1-0	1
2.	Tennessee	1-0	2
3.	Duke	3-0	3
4.	Purdue *	3-0	4
5.	NOTRE DAME	1-0	6
6.	Georgia *	1-1	5
7.	Rutgers *	1-0	7
8.	Iowa State	0-0	10
9.	Penn State	2-0	11
10.	LSU	2-1	9
11.	Louisiana Tech	3-1	8
12.	Oklahoma	2-0	14
13.	Texas Tech	0-0	15
14.	Oregon	2-0	24
15.	Mississippi State	0-0	17
16.	Virginia	2-1	13
17.	SW Missouri St.	1-0	21
18.	Stanford	0-1	12
19.	Wisconsin *	1-1	16
20.	Auburn	0-0	23
21.	Illinois	1-0	25
22.	North Carolina St.	1-1	19
23.	Xavier	1-0	NR
24.	Boston College *	2-0	NR
25.	Vanderbilt	0-1	20

ESPN/USA TODAY POLL

(Nov. 19)

Rk.	Team	Record	Last Wk.
1.	Connecticut * (39)	1-0	1
2.	Tennessee (1)	1-0	2
3.	Duke	3-0	4
4.	Purdue *	3-0	6
5.	NOTRE DAME	1-0	5
6.	Georgia *	1-1	3
7.	Rutgers *	1-0	7
8.	Penn State	2-0	10
9.	Louisiana Tech	3-1	8
10.	LSU	2-1	9
11.	Iowa State	0-0	11
12.	Texas Tech	0-0	13
13.	Oklahoma	2-0	17
14.	Mississippi State	0-0	16
15.	Virginia	2-1	15
16.	SW Missouri St.	1-0	21
17.	Oregon	2-0	NR
18.	Auburn	0-0	20
19.	Boston College *	2-0	22
20.	Old Dominion	0-2	12
21.	Illinois	1-0	24
22.	Stanford	0-1	14
23.	North Carolina St.	1-1	18
24.	Xavier	1-0	NR
25.	Vanderbilt	0-1	19

* indicates 2000-01 Notre Dame opponents

four minutes into the second half. Georgia built a six point with 9:29 before Ivey ignited a 11-0 run in a span of 2:21 for a 68-65 Irish lead. The Bulldogs scored six straight to lead 71-70 before **Alicia Ratay** gave Notre Dame a 72-70 lead. After a pair of Ivey free throws and a Georgia basket, **Kelley Siemon** made one of two free throws for the 75-73 final after the Bulldogs missed a desperation three pointer as time expired.

In the first game of the event vs. host Wisconsin, **Ratay** and **Riley** both were held to single-digit scoring in the same game for the first time, and **Ivey** and **Siemon** poured in a combined 43 points. Junior **Ericka Haney** added 14 points to lead fifth-ranked Notre Dame to an 83-56 win. The Irish built a 41-26 halftime lead on the strength of 17 first-half points from Ivey and pulled away from the Badgers with the help of 15 second-half points from Siemon.

IVEY NAMED COACHES VS. CANCER MVP

Fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** was named the MVP of the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge as she helped the Irish win the event with her play. She totaled 41 points on 14-21 shooting (7-9 3PT, 6-6 FT) in 71 minutes of action along with 13 rebounds, 11 assists and eight steals vs. just 10 assists. Ivey recorded game-high scoring vs. both Wisconsin (22) and Georgia (19).

DOUBLE-DOUBLE FOR DOUBLE "3"

Fifth-year point guard Niele Ivey entered the season with seven career double-doubles (four in '99-'00 and three in '98-'99) and had a pair of double-doubles in the first two games season. She scored 12 points and had 10 assists and five steals vs. Valparaiso in the season opener. Ivey then recorded 11 assists against just one turnover to go along with 14 points against Arizona. She was one rebound short of her third double-double vs. Wisconsin.

THE RILEY REPORT

National player-of-the-year candidate **Ruth Riley** has been at her dominating best in the lane through four games this season. In addition to her offense efficiency (23-36 FG, .639), Riley has blocked 14 shots, while committing just seven personal fouls. The two-time BIG EAST defensive player of the year is averaging one block shot every seven-plus minutes she plays.

RATAY OFF TO FAST START

Sophomore Alicia Ratay had 11 three pointers in the first two games on just 15 attempts, a percentage of .733 that topped the Irish opponents' free-throw percentage (.639). In the season opener vs. Valparaiso, Ratay scored 20 points on 7-12 shooting (6-9 3PT) and nailed four three-pointers in a span of 3:47 late in the first half. She was a perfect 4-4 (3-3 3PT) in the first half of the Arizona game before finishing 8-10 FG, 5-6 3PT and 5-5 FT for 26 points.

SIEMON STARS IN MADISON

Senior **Kelley Siemon** sparked the Irish with 21 points vs. Wisconsin -- including 15 in the second half. She continued her strong play with a double-double in the championship game vs. Georgia. Siemon added 13 points and a game-high 11 rebounds.

POLL POSITION

When the preseason women's and men's basketball polls were announced, the University of Notre Dame was the only Division I-A institution ranked among the top 20 teams in Associated Press standings in the sports of football, men's basketball and women's basketball. The Irish women's basketball team entered the season with its highest-ever preseason ranking at sixth in the AP (now fifth) and fifth in the ESPN/USA Today polls, while the men's team was ranked 15th in the preseason AP rankings (now 14th). Notre Dame currently stands 11th in football (8-2 record). It's the first time in Irish athletic history all three of those Notre Dame teams have been ranked in the top 20 in the same week.

HEAD COACH MCGRAW INKS FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT

Muffet McGraw is in her 14th season with the Irish and 19th as a collegiate coach. She recently signed a five-year contract to continue as coach of the Fighting Irish women's basketball program through the 2004-05 season. McGraw has guided Notre Dame to five consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and seven of the last nine. The last four years have comprised the most successful period in the history of the program, thanks to a combined 106-26 record. The Irish followed up their 1997 NCAA Final Four appearance and 31-7 record with an NCAA Sweet 16 appearance in '98. Then

NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP (1999-2000 statistics)

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Other	Notes
50	Kelley Siemon	F	6-2	Sr.	12.5	8.0	64.5 FG%	22 vs. Wisconsin, double-double vs. Georgia
3	Ericka Haney	G/F	6-1	Jr.	7.5	3.3	11 assists	Versatile, athletic player has taken over starting pos.
00	Ruth Riley	C	6-5	Sr.	14.5	6.8	14 blocks	Coaches Vs. Cancer all-tournament team
22	Alicia Ratay	SG	5-11	So.	17.5	3.8	55.0% 3PT	Scored go-ahead basket vs. Ga. with 99 seconds left
33	Niele Ivey	PG	5-8	Sr.	16.8	4.3	8.0 APG	Coaches Vs. Cancer MVP with 41 pts., 11 assists

NOTRE DAME OFF THE BENCH

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Other	Notes
4	Le'Tania Severe	G	5-9	Fr.	--	--	--	Sidelined by stress fracture, expected back by Jan.
5	Jeneka Joyce	G	5-9	Fr.	5.0	0.3	7 3PT FG	Hampered by ankle injury in last week
11	Karen Swanson	G	5-7	So.	0.0	0.3	21 minutes	Walk-on player saw action in 23 games last year
23	Monique Hernandez	G	5-9	So.	2.0	0.5	4 assists	Backup point guard averages 10.3 minutes per game
31	Amanda Barksdale	F	6-3	So.	1.0	1.5	6 blocks	Blocked one shot every 4.3 minutes last year
41	Imani Dunbar	G	5-7	Sr.	2.0	0.3	4 assists	Played in 26 games with 5 starts last year
44	Meaghan Leahy	F	6-4	Sr.	2.8	2.0	6 steals	Key reserve this year with 52 minutes of action

came 26-5 and 27-5 marks the last two years that represent the top two seasons ever at Notre Dame in terms of winning percentage. Prior to coming to Notre Dame, she spent five seasons at Lehigh where she compiled an 88-41 record for a .683 winning percentage. McGraw has been named a finalist for the Naismith Women's Basketball coach-of-the-year award in each of the last two seasons.

IRISH VS. TOP 10

The Irish have won five straight (#6 Georgia last week, #9 North Carolina in '99-'00, #6 UCLA and #6 Duke in '98-99, #6 Texas Tech in '97-98) and eight of their last 10 games vs. top-10 non-conference opponents (also beating #8 Alabama, #8 North Carolina State and #6 Iowa in '96-97 and falling to Tennessee twice (ranked second and 10th in '96-97). Notre Dame has a 6-5 record vs. all top 10 teams (including 4-0 vs. non-conference opponents) since the start of the 1998-99 season.

24 AND COUNTING

Notre Dame extended its school-record home winning streak to 24 wins with its home-opening victory over Arizona. The streak was the sixth longest active streak in the country entering the season, behind Grambling (66), Kent (31), Texas Tech (30), Louisiana Tech (27) and Old Dominion (24).

IVEY REACHES 1,000-POINT PLATEAU

Fifth-year PG **Niele Ivey** scored five points in the first four minutes against Valparaiso to surpass the 1,000-point milestone in her career. She joined the list of 16 other Irish players (including **Ruth Riley**) who have scored at least 1,000 points. Ivey scored 15 points in five games as a freshman in 1996-97 before a knee injury ended her season. She then scored 254 points in '97-98, 369 in '98-99 and 358 in '99-'00 to reach 996 points entering the season. She finished with 12 points vs. Valparaiso, 14 vs. Arizona and 22 vs. Wisconsin to bring her career total to 1044 -- 16th most points in Irish history.

RILEY, RATAY NAMED NAISMITH CANDIDATES

Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** and sophomore guard **Alicia Ratay** are among the 30 pre-season candidates listed for the 2000-01 Naismith College Basketball Player of the Year Award presented by the Atlanta Tipoff Club. Riley was one of 15 finalists for the Naismith Award a year ago. The women's Naismith Award was first presented in 1983 and honors the outstanding college basketball player in the United States. The award program was founded by the Atlanta Tipoff Club, an organization dedicated to recognizing the achievements of student-athletes in basketball. The candidates were selected by a vote of the Board of Selectors comprised of leading basketball coaches, journalists and basketball analysts.

IRISH UNDER McGRAW

Yr.	Record	Pct.	Honors
'87-88	..... 20-8	..... .714	..... No. Star Coach of the Yr.
'88-89	..... 21-11	..... .656	..... MCC Champions, NWIT
'89-90	..... 23-6	..... .793	..... MCC Champions
'90-91	..... 23-9	..... .719	..... MCC Champions
'91-92	..... 14-17	..... .451	..... NCAAs, MCC Champions
'92-93	..... 15-12	..... .555	
'93-94	..... 22-7	..... .786	..... NCAAs, MCC Champions
'94-95	..... 21-10	..... .677	..... NWIT
'95-96	..... 23-8	..... .742	..... NCAA Second Round
'96-97	..... 31-7	..... .816	..... NCAA Final Four
'97-98	..... 22-10	..... .688	..... NCAA Regional Semis
'98-99	..... 26-5	..... .839	..... NCAA Second Round
'99-'00	..... 27-5	..... .844	..... NCAA Regional Semis
Total	288-115	.715	7 NCAA Appearances

BIG EAST Conference (five seasons, '96-'00)
74-14 (.841)

Midwestern College Conference (six seasons, '89-95)
87-15 (.853)

KEVIN WHITE RADIO SHOW



A weekly half-hour talk show featuring first-year Notre Dame athletics director Kevin White debuted Aug. 27 on Chicago's ESPN Radio 1000. "The Kevin White Show" is scheduled to air from 11:00-11:30 p.m. for 30 consecutive Sundays on ESPN radio (1000 AM in Chicago, www.espnradio1000.com). The show also can be heard in 35 states. White will welcome to the show a series of guests and prominent figures associated with college athletics, including administrators, coaches and media members.



BIG EAST COACHES' PRESEASON POLL

1.	Connecticut (13)	169
2.	Rutgers (1)	152
3.	NOTRE DAME	150
4.	Boston College	129
T5.	Georgetown	100
T5.	Virginia Tech	100
7.	Villanova	94
8.	Pittsburgh	92
9.	Miami	88
10.	Syracuse	53
11.	St. John's	49
12.	Providence	44
13.	Seton Hall	39
14.	West Virginia	15

2000-01 Preseason Player of the Year

Shea Ralph, Sr., G/F, 6-0, Connecticut

2000-01 Preseason Rookie of the Year

Diana Taurasi, Fr., G, 5-11, Connecticut

Preseason All-BIG EAST First Team

- *Svetlana Abrosimova, Connecticut, G/F, Sr.
- Sue Bird, Connecticut, G, Jr.
- Tasha Pointer, Rutgers, G, Sr.
- *Shea Ralph, Connecticut, G, Sr.
- ***Ruth Riley, Notre Dame, C, Sr.**

Preseason All-BIG EAST Second Team

- Becky Gottstein, Boston College, F, Jr.
- Niele Ivey, Notre Dame, G, Sr.**
- Alicia Ratay, Notre Dame, G, So.**
- Katie Smrcka-Duffy, Georgetown, G, Sr.
- Tammy Sutton-Brown, Rutgers, C, Sr.

* - unanimous selection

WEEKLY RANKINGS

Here's where Notre Dame has been ranked in the weekly polls during the 2000-01 season:

<u>Week</u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>ESPN/USA Today</u>
Preseason	6	5
Nov. 14	6	--
Nov. 19	5	--

EVERYBODY'S ALL-AMERICAN

Senior center **Ruth Riley** became Notre Dame's first AP first-team All-American in 2000 and is a preseason favorite to win All-America honors for the third time in her career (she also was second-team AP pick in 1999). She has been named to the preseason All-America teams in a variety of national publications. Here is a list of some of Riley's preseason honors:

<i>Sports Illustrated For Women</i>	First Team
<i>Women's Basketball Journal</i>	First Team
<i>Lindy's All-American</i>	First Team
<i>Athlon Sports</i>	Second Team
<i>ESPN Magazine</i>	Preseason "PTPer"
<i>Street & Smith</i>	High Honorable Mention
Beth Mowins, ESPN.com	Among Top Five Centers In Country

OTHER IRISH HONORS

In addition to Riley's accolades, senior point guard **Niele Ivey** has been named by Beth Mowins of ESPN.com one of the top five point guards in the country, while Mowins also has rated the Irish backcourt as one of best in the country. Sophomore guard **Alicia Ratay** has been named preseason All-America by *Women's Basketball Journal* as a sixth-team pick. She is one of only three sophomores on the six-team, 30-player list. Freshman **Jeneka Joyce** has been listed as one of the top freshmen according to *Athlon Sports*.

IRISH FACE TOUGH SCHEDULE

An ESPN nationally-televised home game against defending NCAA and BIG EAST champion Connecticut and nine games against teams from the 2000 NCAA women's basketball championship highlight the 2000-01 Irish schedule. The 27-game slate features 13 homes games and appearances in two national tournaments. In addition to the Jan. 15, contest against Connecticut, the Irish will welcome 2000 Final Four participant Rutgers, 1999 NCAA champion Purdue and Pacific-10 power Arizona to the Joyce Center. Notre Dame will travel to Wisconsin on Nov. 22 and 24, for the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge, facing the host Badgers in the opening round and NCAA tournament team Georgia in the championship game (televised by ESPN). The Irish will play on ESPN2 when they travel to Orlando to take on North Carolina at Honda Elite Classic. The 16-game BIG EAST schedule features two games against conference newcomer Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh and Rutgers and one each with Villanova, St. John's, Connecticut, Seton Hall, West Virginia, Providence, Boston College, Syracuse, Miami and Georgetown. First-ever meetings with Fordham and Rice, the first game against USC in 15 years and a trip to Marquette round out the non-conference schedule.

NOTRE DAME AMONG RECENT WINS LEADERS

Notre Dame has won 106 games in its last four seasons, the sixth most wins of any school in the country. Here's where the Irish rank in terms of their wins over the last four seasons:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>'96-'97</u>	<u>'97-'98</u>	<u>'98-'99</u>	<u>'99-'00</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tennessee	29	39	31	30	129
2. Connecticut	33	34	29	36	134
3. Louisiana Tech	31	31	30	30	122
4. Old Dominion	34	29	28	29	120
5. UC Santa Barbara	24	27	26	30	107
6. Notre Dame	31	22	26	27	106

EXCITEMENT BUILDS AS SEASON-TICKET SALES DOUBLE

Season-ticket sales for the 2000-01 Irish home season have more than doubled from a year ago, going from 940 in 1999-2000 to more than 2,500 for the upcoming season. Notre Dame's average home attendance has jumped from a per-game figure of 1,747 in 1996-97 (the year the Irish played in the NCAA Final Four in Cincinnati) to 1,914 in 1997-98, then 2,996 in 1998-99 and finally to a 3,392 total in 1999-2000 to rank 26th nationally. Irish women's basketball season tickets remain on sale and can be purchased by contacting the Notre Dame ticket office at 219-631-7356.

IVEY AMONG BIG EAST ALL-STARS

Niele Ivey spent part of her summer with the BIG EAST Women's Basketball All-Stars, averaging 11.8



IVEY, RILEY CLIMB IRISH CAREER SCORING LIST

1. Beth Moran (1993-97)	2,322
2. Katryna Gaither (1993-97)	2,126
3. Karen Robinson (1987-91)	1,590
4. Trena Keys (1982-86)	1,589
5. Sandy Botham (1984-88)	1,460
6. Ruth Riley (1997-2000)	1,458
7. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	1,439
8. Shari Matvey (1979-83)	1,373
9. Margaret Nowlin (1988-92)	1,298
10. Mary Beth Schueth (1981-85)	1,233
11. Letitica Bowen (1991-95)	1,205
12. Heidi Bunek (1985-89)	1,202
13. Krissi Davis (1987-91)	1,194
14. Danielle Green (1995-2000)	1,106
15. Niele Ivey (1996-2000)	1,063
16. Carrie Bates (1981-85)	1,060
17. Mollie Peirick (1994-98)	1,034

points and 3.7 rebounds on the six-game competitive tour of Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. in June. The All-Stars, led by West Virginia head coach Alexis Basil, went 5-1 on the tour with wins over Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria. Ivey scored in double figures in four of the six contests and registered a personal tour-high 17 points in the squad's first meeting with Simon Fraser. She scored a team-high 16 points in the All-Stars' final game.

NOTRE DAME IN OPENERS

Notre Dame improved to 16-8 in its 24 season-opening games and have won their last six openers after the Valparaiso victory. Notre Dame has an 11-3 record under Muffet McGraw in its first games of the season with the only losses coming to third-ranked Penn State in 1991, at Marquette in 1992 and the SHU loss in 1994.

PRIOR TO THE COACHES VS. CANCER CHALLENGE

The Irish won a pair of preseason exhibition games before opening the season with two wins in advance of the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge. Following is a recap of those games:

Notre Dame 95, Arizona 65

Four of fifth-ranked Notre Dame's five starters reached double figures in scoring by halftime as the Irish build a 57-29 lead over visiting Arizona at the Joyce Center -- just two points short of the school record for most points in a half. **Alicia Ratay** had 15 first-half points, and Ivey's first three point FG gave the Irish a 31-12 lead just 8:38 into the game. Notre Dame's starters averaged just five minutes in the second half, and the Irish bench allowed the Wildcats to get no closer than 25 points. Notre Dame shot .623 from the field, while the Irish defense held Arizona to .328 shooting, had 13 steals and blocked nine shots. Notre Dame finished with 31 assists to 17 turnovers.

Notre Dame 71, Valparaiso 46

The sixth-ranked Irish drained nine of 11 three pointers and used six steals and three blocked shots in the first half alone to build a 47-17 halftime lead on the way to their sixth consecutive season-opening win with a 71-46 victory at Valparaiso. Four players scored in double figures for the Irish, including a game-high 20 by sophomore **Alicia Ratay**. Fifth-year guard **Niele Ivey** had 12 points and 10 assists, while senior center **Ruth Riley** chipped in 13 points. Leading 7-4 nearly five minutes into the game, the Irish exploded for 40 points in the final 15:25 of the first half (a rate of 2.6 points per minute) to build their 30-point halftime advantage. Notre Dame made eight three-point shots during its run, including four by Ratay in a span of 3:47. Notre Dame's bench took over in the second half and played 52 minutes. Valparaiso twice pulled within 23 points but could not cut into the lead any further. The Irish improved to 14-0 all-time vs. the Crusaders and to 11-3 under McGraw in season openers.

Notre Dame 98, Tapiolan Honka 53

Notre Dame wrapped up its preseason exhibition schedule with a 98-53 win over the Finnish team Tapiolan Honka on Tuesday at the Joyce Center. Five players scored in double figures for Notre Dame, including 15 from senior **Meaghan Leahy** and 14 from freshman **Jeneka Joyce** -- both reserves. Sophomore **Alicia Ratay** led the Irish with 17 points. Jamika Jones, a member of the WNBA's Miami Sol, led all scorers with 22 points. Fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** helped the Irish build a 56-31 halftime lead with seven points, eight assists and nine rebounds in the first half. Joyce netted all 14 of her points in 14 minutes of action in the first half with four three-point shots and two free throws. Leahy poured in 10 points in the second half as the Irish pulled away from Tapiolan Honka.

Notre Dame 91, Premier All-Stars 56

Six players scored in doubles figures, including all five starters, to pace the Irish to a 91-56 win over the Premier All-Stars in an exhibition game at the Joyce Center. Irish freshman **Jeneka Joyce** and All-Star Joni O'Connell led all scorers with 16 points. The Irish led 47-29 at halftime before opening the second half with a 22-9 run in the first seven minutes to build a 69-37 lead. The Premier All-Stars never got closer than 30 points in the loss. Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** fueled the Irish second-half spurt with 10 of her 12 points during the run. Seniors **Kelley Siemon** (14) and **Niele Ivey** (12), junior **Ericka Haney** (15) and sophomore **Alicia Ratay** (10) also added double-figure scoring. Lisa Cline chipped in 15 for the All-Stars. The Irish built a 22-8 lead at 12:55 of the first half before the All-Stars pulled within four points at 24-20. Notre Dame then eased away once again to take a 47-20 halftime advantage.