



2002 NOTRE DAME VOLLEYBALL

Six-Time BIG EAST Champions • 10 Consecutive NCAA Tournament Appearances

Notes Package #1 • Aug. 27, 2002 • Contact: Alan Wasielewski, Wasielewski.3@nd.edu

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2002 Schedule

Shamrock Invitational

Aug. 30	Wis.-Mil.	7 p.m.
Aug. 31	Cincinnati	7 p.m.
Sept. 1	Cal Poly	3:30 p.m.

Loyola Marymount Classic

Sept. 6	at LMU	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	vs. #21 Colorado	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	vs. Saint Louis	5 p.m.

Sept. 10	at Valparaiso	7 p.m.
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Golden Dome Invitational

Sept. 13	Northwestern	4 p.m.
Sept. 14	Loyola (Md.)	10 a.m.
Sept. 14	#8 Pepperdine	7 p.m.

Sept. 18	at Purdue	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Michigan	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	Connecticut*	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	St. John's	2 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Rutgers*	2 p.m.
Oct. 6	at Seton Hall*	12 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Georgetown*	2 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Villanova*	1 p.m.
Oct. 21	at #4 Hawai'i	7 p.m.
Oct. 22	at #4 Hawai'i	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	Pittsburgh*	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	West Virginia*	2 p.m.
Oct. 29	at Illinois State	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	Providence*	4 p.m.
Nov. 3	Boston College*	1 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Syracuse*	1 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Miami (Fla.)*	7 p.m.
Nov. 17	at Virginai Tech*	1 p.m.

BIG EAST Championship

Nov. 23	BIG EAST semis	TBA
Nov. 24	BIG EAST final	TBA

NCAA Championship

Dec. 1-2	NCAA Championship	TBA
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* - indicates BIG EAST Conference match.

bold - indicates home matches in the Joyce Center.

2002 Shamrock Invitational

August 30

Cincinnati vs. Cal Poly, 4:30 p.m.
#25 Notre Dame vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 7 p.m.

August 31

Cal Poly vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 4:30 p.m.
#25 Notre Dame vs. Cincinnati, 7 p.m.

September 1

Wisconsin-Milwaukee vs. Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Notre Dame vs. Cal Poly, 3:30 p.m.

2002 Shamrock Invitational set for this weekend: The University of Notre Dame volleyball team (0-0) begins the 2002 season this weekend as it plays host to the 2002 Shamrock Invitational in the Joyce Center. Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Cincinnati and Cal Poly will visit campus this weekend, with the Irish looking to earn their fifth Shamrock Invitational tournament title.

Shamrock Invitational history: The Shamrock Invitational will be taking place for the sixth straight year and eighth time overall at the Joyce Center ... an early-season tradition for the Irish, 19 teams have visited Notre Dame for the event ... five ranked teams, BYU (#13, '00), New Mexico (#24, '93), Wisconsin (#18, '97), Colorado (#12, '98) and Pacific (#6, '99) have participated in the Shamrock Invitational ... Notre Dame won the tournament last season with a four-game victory over Idaho ... Notre Dame's **Kim Fletcher** was named the tournament MVP ... Notre Dame is 20-3 in the Shamrock all-time, the losses coming in three different tournaments to ranked opponents: Pacific (3-0) in '99, Colorado (3-0) in '98 and Wisconsin (3-1) in '97 ... Louisville is the only team to visit the Joyce Center for the Shamrock twice, losing to the Irish 3-0 last season and 3-1 in 1997 ... Wisconsin-Milwaukee is making its first appearance in the Joyce Center since 1994, while Cal Poly and Notre Dame will be meeting for the first time.

Visiting coaches have ties to the Notre Dame program: The Notre Dame volleyball program will welcome back two former members during the Shamrock Invitational this weekend. Kathy Litzau, the head coach of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, was formerly known as **Kathy Cunningham** before her marriage. A standout Irish player in the mid 80's, Litzau ended her Notre Dame career with 928 kills, 936 digs and 256 blocks as a 5-11 outside hitter and is currently ranked seventh all-time in dig average (2.61). Litzau has been coaching at UWM for eight seasons (163-110).

Notre Dame also will get to see former assistant coach **Steve Schlick** lead his Cal Poly Mustangs this weekend. Schlick spent five seasons (1990-95) as the Notre Dame's top assistant under head coach Debbie Brown. The Irish enjoyed a 143-37 record with Schlick on the staff, capturing four consecutive Midwest Collegiate Conference championships, and, in Schlick's final year, a BIG EAST Conference title. Notre Dame advanced to the NCAA Tournament in Schlick's final four years at the school, twice reaching the Sweet 16 and going all the way to the Final Eight in 1993. In 1991, the Irish finished as the runner-up in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship.

Shamrock Invitational Promotions: The University of Notre Dame promotions department has big plans for the weekend tournament.

Friday, Aug. 30: B100 will set up a live remote outside the Joyce Center's Gate 10 and will be passing out free tickets for the volleyball matches. Fans can register for B100 concert tickets inside Gate 10. The 2002 Notre Dame

2002 Notre Dame Volleyball Roster

No.	Name	Year	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown	Notes
1	Emily Loomis*	So.	OH	6-1	Fort Wayne, IN	221 kills, 147 digs as a rookie in '01
2	Leah Nedderman*	So.	OH	5-10	Grapevine, TX	Appeared in five matches in '01
3	Kelly Burrell	Fr.	S	5-11	Phoenix, AZ	Will see playing time this season
4	Meg Henican	Fr.	OH	5-11	New Orleans, LA	Strong hitter ready to have an impact
5	Jessica Kinder**	Jr.	OH	5-10	Fresno, CA	Poised for a break out season
6	Lauren Kelbley	Fr.	MB	6-1	Bascom, OH	Accurate hitter ready to contribute
7	Kelly Corbett*	So.	MB	6-0	Mountain View, CA	Saw action in eight matches in '01
8	Kristen Kinder**	Jr.	S	5-9	Fresno, CA	Returns to start at setter 1,215 A in '01
9	Carolyn Cooper	Fr.	MB	6-3	Houston, TX	Talented rookie is strong at the net
10	Kim Fletcher**	Jr.	MB/OPP	6-0	St. Louis, MO	Preseason all-BIG EAST selection
11	Keara Coughlin***	Sr.	DS	5-8	Chicago, IL	Senior leader will play libero this year
12	Lauren Brewster	Fr.	MB	6-3	Brentwood, TX	Already one of the best blockers on team
13	Christa Moen**	Jr.	DS	5-4	San Antonio, TX	Quickness is her strength on defense
14	Janie Alderete***	Sr.	DS	5-4	Santa Clara, CA	Capable of spectacular digs
15	Katie Neff**	Jr.	MB/OPP	6-4	St. Louis, MO	Set for a career year in 2002
16	Lindsay Peterson	Fr.	OH	6-0	Mt. Carroll, IL	Provides depth on the outside for Irish

volleyball schedule magnets also will be given away at the matches.

Saturday, Aug. 31: The first 500 fans will receive a Shamrock Invitational foam-shamrock headband

Sunday, Sept. 1: The first 250 Notre Dame students will receive free pizza from Papa John's and a white memo board from BW3's.

Irish will begin the season ranked in the USA Today/AVCA Top 25: The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) and *USA Today* have released the preseason Division I poll for the 2002 season and Notre Dame is ranked 25th, earning 191 points. The #25 ranking marks the eighth time since 1993 that the Irish have been ranked in the *USA Today/AVCA* Preseason rankings. Notre Dame finished 22-7 last season and spent much of the year ranked in the top 25, then dropped out of the final poll after an NCAA Tournament loss to Michigan State.

Notre Dame in the USA Today/AVCA Top 25 Preseason poll:

1993: 19, 17 in final poll
 1994: 16, 12 in final poll
 1995: 12, 14 in final poll
 1996: 9, not ranked in final poll
 1997: 17, 18 in final poll
 1998: 16, not ranked in final poll
 1999: NR, not ranked in final poll
 2000: NR, 21 in final poll
 2001: 21, not ranked in final poll
 2002: 25, TBA

Highly-touted freshman class ready to contribute: The 2002 University of Notre Dame volleyball team arrived on campus to begin its preseason workout program on Thursday, Aug. 8. Ten returning veterans have combined with six members of the '02 freshman class to provide head coach Debbie Brown with one of her deepest teams since she took over the Irish program in 1991.

Lauren Brewster, Kelly Burrell, Carolyn Cooper, Meg Henican, Lauren Kelbley and Lindsay Peterson were named *Volleyball Magazine's* fifth-rated recruiting class and *Student Sports Magazine's* third-rated group.

"The Irish loaded up on tall, talented athletes," *Volleyball Magazine* writes.

"In addition to two Fab 50s (#26 Meg Henican and #36 Lauren Brewster), 6-3 middle Carolyn Cooper, 5-11 setter Kelly Burrell, and 6-1 middle Lauren Kelbley are headed for South Bend."

Irish earn academic award: The University of Notre Dame volleyball team was one of 47 Division I programs honored with the American Volleyball Coaches Association/Molten Team Academic Award for the 2001-02 season. The award honors college and high school teams that displayed excellence in the classroom by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.00 scale (or 4.10 on 5.0 scale) during the school year.

The Irish finished the 2001-02 school year with a 3.33 team grade-point average and were one of the 27 Division I teams honored by the AVCA to compete in the 2001 NCAA Tournament. Fellow BIG EAST Conference member Syracuse also was in the Division I list.

The AVCA/Molten award was distributed to a record 177 volleyball programs this year. The college ranks produced 120 schools (47 Division I, 20 Division II, 32 Division III, 12 NAIA and nine junior/community colleges). A total of 57 high school programs earned the distinction.



**USA Today/AVCA Top 25
Preseason Poll (Aug. 12, 2001)**

Team	Pts.	Final '01
1. Stanford (54)	1610	1
2. Nebraska (4)	1502	3
3. USC (2)	1445	5
4. Hawai'i (5)	1349	13
5. Long Beach State	1300	2
6. Arizona	1282	4
7. Florida	1255	6
8. Pepperdine	1188	8
9. Ohio State	1064	12
10. Wisconsin	967	7
11. UCLA	912	9
12. Pacific	778	14
13. Utah	654	15
14. Northern Iowa	645	16
15. Michigan State	629	19
16. Penn State	620	17
17. Texas A&M	482	11
18. Colorado State	411	10
19. Illinois	385	20
20. UC Santa Barbara	346	NR
21. Colorado	308	23
22. Kansas State	232	18
23. BYU	203	22
24. Santa Clara	195	NR
25. NOTRE DAME	191	NR

Other receiving votes and listed on two or more ballots: South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, Louisville, San Diego, Washington State, San Jose State, Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas, Utah State, Duke, Baylor, **Cincinnati**, Georgia Tech, **Loyola Marymount**, **Michigan**, Texas Tech, **Cal Poly**, Eastern Washington, Oregon State, South Florida, Alabama and Southwest Missouri State.

bold - indicates 2002 Notre Dame opponents.

() - first-place votes.

The 'Fab 50,' Volleyball Magazine's rating of the top 50 recruits in the nation, is one of the premier rankings of incoming freshmen. The list is ranked first through 50 in order of the impact they are expected to make in college volleyball during the next four years. Former Irish standouts Marilyn Cragin, Jaimie Lee and Mary Leffers, along with current players Kelly Corbett, Kim Fletcher, Kristen Kinder and Emily Loomis have been listed among the 'Fab 50.' Henican (ranked 26th) and Brewster (ranked 36th) represent the list for this year's freshmen group.

Brown and her staff reached across the nation for their six incoming freshmen. Brewster is from Brentwood, Texas, Burrell hails from Phoenix, Ariz., Cooper calls Houston, Texas, her hometown, Henican is from New Orleans, Kelbley is from Bascom, Ohio, and Peterson is from Mt. Carroll, Ill..

Debbie Brown coaching is in her 12th year as the mentor of the Irish volleyball program: Debbie Brown has guided the program throughout the 90's and into the new century, developing the Irish into a volleyball power in the BIG EAST and one of the best programs in the nation. Brown is 276-94 (.746) and has earned numerous coach-of-the-year accolades throughout her 11 years with the Irish, including the 2000 and 2001 BIG EAST Coach of the Year awards.

Notre Dame picked by league coaches to win its third-straight and seventh-overall BIG EAST Championship: Notre Dame has been picked to win its third-straight league title this year, as voted by the conference head coaches. The Irish received 10 of 13 first-place votes, finishing ahead of Pittsburgh and Rutgers.

Two Irish players landed on the preseason all-BIG EAST squad. Junior setter **Kristen Kinder**, the 2001 BIG EAST Setter of the Year, and junior middle blocker **Kim Fletcher** made Notre Dame the only conference team represented by two players on the preseason all-BIG EAST team.

Pittsburgh's Wendy Hatlestad was named the Preseason BIG EAST Player of the Year.

The top four teams in the conference (which includes 13 teams with the addition of Miami) will qualify for the 2002 BIG EAST Championship in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Nov. 23-24.

Notre Dame has won the last two conference championships, including last season's showcase in Pittsburgh (defeating Georgetown in five games). The Irish have won their last 27 matches against BIG EAST Conference teams and have posted 34 straight wins in regular-season league action. Notre Dame also is 43-0 at home against BIG EAST Conference opponents.

Home court winning streak will be tested this weekend: The Irish enjoyed just the second undefeated home-court schedule in 2001, pushing their home-court winning streak to 22 matches. Notre Dame has not lost on the Joyce Center floor since a three-game setback vs. #7 Colorado State on Sept. 23, 2000.

The 22-match streak is the second-longest in school history behind the 27-match run Notre Dame compiled from Oct. 24 – Nov. 21 in 1986.

Libero: The NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee has introduced another rule change that will have a large effect on how the game is played. After the introduction rally scoring in 2001, the 2002 season marks the beginning of the libero era in women's collegiate volleyball.

A libero (designated back row player) will be allowed in the lineup for the 2002 season. A defensive specialist that does not count toward the team's substitutions, the libero can freely replace any player that has rotated to the back row. Unlike traditional substitutions that are administered by the referee, the libero can enter the match any time there is a dead ball.

Since the libero is a defensive player, a certain restrictions have been established on the libero's offensive capabilities. A libero only plays in the

2002 BIG EAST Preseason Coaches Poll

School	Points	BIG EAST	Overall	'01 Finish	vs. Notre Dame
1. Notre Dame	166	12-0	22-7	1st	-
2. Pittsburgh	151	7-5	11-16	5th	H - Oct. 25
3. Rutgers	142	10-2	17-6	t-2nd	A - Oct. 5
4. Georgetown	135	10-2	18-9	t-2nd	A - Oct. 12
5. Connecticut	128	9-3	21-7	4th	H - Sept. 27
6. Miami (Fla.)	100	NA	17-7	NA	A - Nov. 15
7. Virginia Tech	88	5-7	9-19	t-8th	A - Nov. 17
8. Seton Hall	82	6-6	13-12	t-6th	A - Oct. 6
9. St. John's	76	6-6	18-9	t-6th	H - Sept. 29
10. Boston College	70	5-7	18-11	t-8th	H - Nov. 3
11. Syracuse	51	3-9	14-13	t-10th	A - Nov. 9
12. West Virginia	45	3-9	14-13	t-10th	H - Oct. 27
13. Villanova	27	2-10	7-17	12th	A - Oct. 13
14. Providence	13	0-12	6-20	13th	H - Nov. 1

back row and cannot serve or attempt to block a shot. The libero cannot attack the ball above the net, nor can the libero set the ball with an overhead finger pass in the attack zone.

Once the libero comes out of the match, the player must wait at least one point before reentering.

Janie Alderete, **Keara Coughlin** and **Christa Moen** might all be seen wearing the libero jersey this season – a jersey that must not match the color worn by the rest of the team.

Notre Dame vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee series notes: The Irish and the Panthers will be meeting for the third time ... the two teams have not met since an MCC Conference Championship match in 1994 (a 3-0 Notre Dame victory) ... Wisconsin-Milwaukee won the first meeting between the two teams back in 1983 ... Kathy Litzau, formerly Kathy Cunningham, was one of Notre Dame's most noteworthy volleyball players in the mid-80's ... she ended her Notre Dame career with 928 kills, 936 digs and 256 blocks as a 5-11 outside hitter ... she also amassed 45 double-digit kill matches, six 20-plus kill matches, 22 double-double matches while ranking seventh all-time in dig average (2.61) ... Notre Dame is 0-1 against Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the Joyce Center.

Notre Dame vs. Cincinnati series notes: The Irish and the Bearcats will be meeting for third time ... Notre Dame leads the series 2-0 ... this is the first time the Irish and Bearcats will not meet on a neutral court ... Notre Dame defeated Cincinnati 3-2 at the Eastern Kentucky Colonel Invitational in 1987 and 3-0 in an NCAA Tournament first-round match in Columbus, Ohio ... **Janie Alderete** (10 digs), **Keara Coughlin** (six digs) and **Kim Fletcher** (two kills) all appeared in the '00 NCAA Tournament match.

Notre Dame vs. Cal Poly series notes: The Irish and Mustangs will be meeting for the first time ... Cal Poly finished 15-11 in fifth place of the competitive Big West Conference in 2001.

Notre Dame faces tough schedule this year, including 15 of 28 regular-season matches on the road: The young Irish squad faces a tough road this season, which includes matches against #21 Colorado, two matches at #4 Hawaii and a home match with #8 Pepperdine. A key stretch of the schedule will be a six-match road trip from Oct. 5 through Oct. 22. That trip will take the Irish from two consecutive weekends on the east coast competing in BIG EAST Conference matches to the middle of the Pacific Ocean, taking on #4 Hawaii twice in two days.

2001 Notre Dame**Statistical Leaders**Kills

K. Kreher	331
M. Goralski	322
K. Fletcher	252

Attack %

M. Goralski	379
K. Fletcher	305
K. Neff	294

Assists

K. Kinder	1215
K. Kreher	92
J. Alderete	25

Digs

J. Alderete	294
K. Kinder	242
K. Kreher	223

Blocks

M. Goralski	171
K. Fletcher	118
K. Kreher	101

Aces

K. Kinder	38
J. Alderete	30
K. Kreher	26

Games Played

M. Goralski	103
K. Kinder	103
J. Alderete	103
K. Kreher	100
K. Coughlin	100
K. Fletcher	99
M. Bomhack	99

bold - indicates 2002 returnees

Notre Dame Sports Information:

Notre Dame volleyball information is readily available on the world wide web at www.und.com and by contacting Assistant Sports Information Director Alan Wasielewski at 574-631-7516.

A weekly release is usually available on Wednesday during the regular season, as well as other special releases when required. Complete meet recaps are posted on www.und.com.

If you are interested in receiving information on Notre Dame volleyball via e-mail, please let Wasielewski know at Wasielewski.3@nd.edu.

Player interviews and game credentials should be arranged through Wasielewski at least 24 hours in advance.