

2000 UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME VOLLEYBALL

October 9, 2000

Contact: Alan Wasielewski (219) 631-7516

2000 NOTRE DAME SCHEDULE		
Shamrock Invitational (Notre Dame, Ind.)		
9/1	#15 BYU vs. Clemson	BYU, 3-0
9/1	Fairfield	W, 3-0
9/2	Clemson vs. Fairfield	Fair., 3-0
9/2	#15 BYU	W, 3-2
9/3	Clemson	W, 3-0
adidas Invitational (Notre Dame, Ind.)		
9/8	#16 Michigan St. vs. #3 UCLA	UCLA, 3-1
9/8	#4 Nebraska	L, 0-3
9/9	#4 Nebraska vs. #16 Michigan St.	Neb., 3-0
9/9	#3 UCLA	L, 0-3
9/10	#3 UCLA vs. #4 Nebraska	Neb., 3-2
9/10	#16 Michigan State	L, 2-3
9/12	at Valparaiso	W, 3-0
Lady Seminole Classic (Tallahassee, Fla.)		
9/15	vs. Florida A&M	W, 3-0
9/15	at Florida State	W, 3-1
9/16	vs. Samford	W, 3-0
9/21	#22 Loyola Mary. (LMU)	W, 3-1
Golden Dome Invitational (Notre Dame, Ind.)		
9/22	#7 Colo. St. vs. #22 LMU	CSU, 3-0
9/22	Wyoming	W, 3-0
9/23	#22 LMU vs. Wyoming	LMU, 3-0
9/23	#7 Colorado State	L, 0-3
9/29	Villanova*	W, 3-0
10/1	Georgetown*	W, 3-0
10/7	at West Virginia*	W, 3-0
10/8	at Pittsburgh*	W, 3-1
10/11	at Illinois State	7:00 p.m.
10/18	at Michigan	7:00 p.m.
10/20	Rutgers*	7:00 p.m.
10/22	Seton Hall*	2:00 p.m.
10/28	at St. John's*	2:00 p.m.
10/29	at Connecticut*	2:00 p.m.
11/3	Boston College*	7:00 p.m.
11/4	North Carolina	7:00 p.m.
11/5	Providence*	2:00 p.m.
11/7	St. Louis	7:00 p.m.
11/11	at Syracuse*	1:00 p.m.
BIG EAST Championship (Notre Dame, Ind.)		
11/18	Semifinals	1:00, 3:30 p.m.
11/19	Finals	2:00 p.m.
11/24	at #4 USC	6:00 p.m.
NCAA Championship (Semifinals/Finals in Richmond, Va.)		
11/30 - 12/16 2000 NCAA Volleyball Tournament		
Home matches in bold All times local to site		
* indicates BIG EAST Conference Matches		

WHO: University of Notre Dame and Illinois State University.

WHAT: Notre Dame's third-consecutive road match.

WHERE: Redbird Arena, Normal, Ill.

WHEN: #20 Notre Dame vs. Illinois State, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7:00 p.m.

Irish 'Road Warriors' Travel to Illinois State for Third Consecutive Road Game: The Notre Dame Volleyball team (13-4, 4-0 in BIG EAST) heads west for a non-conference road match on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at Illinois State. The Irish boast a 6-0 record away from the Joyce Center this season, including capturing the Lady Seminole Classic title (Sept. 15-16) in Tallahassee, Fla.

Scouting the Redbirds: Notre Dame and Illinois State are meeting for the 13th time ... the series is tied at 6-6 ... Illinois State is 8-5 (5-2 in the Missouri Valley conference) in 2000 ... Irish senior **Christi Girton (Muncie, Ind.)** had 19 kills in the '99 meeting with the Redbirds while junior **Kristy Kreher (Birmingham, Mich.)** had a double-double with 15 kills and 13 digs ... Kendra Haselhorst leads the Illinois State offense this season with 210 kills on .270 hitting ... Illinois State is coming off a five-game victory at Wichita State on Oct. 7 ... the Redbirds have only played two home games so far in 2000.

West Virginia Recap: The Irish improved to 4-0 in the BIG EAST with two conference victories at West Virginia, Oct. 7, and Pittsburgh, Oct. 8.

Notre Dame sailed to victory (15-0, 15-7, 15-4) over BIG EAST foe West Virginia in Morgantown, W.V., Saturday afternoon. The Irish utilized a highly effective offense to dominate the Mountaineers, committing just five hitting errors in the match. Notre Dame began the match by winning the first game 15-0 while totaling 13 kills on 18 attempts with no errors for an amazing .722 team hitting percentage in the game.

Junior **Kristy Kreher** led the Irish offense with 12 kills on 19 attempts and just one error (.579 hitting percentage). Kreher also had seven blocks in the match. Notre Dame was able to give the entire roster playing time in the match, but senior **Christi Girton** and junior **Marcie Bomhack (Waukesha, Wis.)** were able to tally five kills in the two games they played.

The Mountaineers were led by Jamie Boardman with 12 kills and three blocks.

Pittsburgh Recap: The Irish moved on and outlasted BIG EAST foe Pittsburgh to earn a four-game (15-9, 10-15, 16-14, 16-14) match victory at Pittsburgh, Pa., Sunday afternoon.

Four Notre Dame hitters notched double-digit kills in the match, led by senior **Christi Girton** who had a career-high 30 kills. The two-time conference co-player-of-the-week had 57

2000 NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL ROSTER

2	Denise Boylan***	Sr.	S	6-1	Lisle, IL	Benet Academy
3	Malinda Goralski**	Jr.	MB	6-1	Missouri City, TX	Clements
4	Kristy Kreher**	Jr.	OPP	6-1	Birmingham, MI	Marian
5	Jessica Kinder	Fr.	OH	5-10	Fresno, CA	Bullard
6	Marcie Bomhack**	Jr.	OH	6-0	Waukesha, WI	Catholic Memorial
7	Christi Girton***	Sr.	OH	6-3	Muncie, IN	Muncie Central
8	Kristen Kinder	Fr.	S	5-9	Fresno, CA	Bullard
9	Jo Jameyson***	Sr.	MB/OH	6-1	Alvin, TX	Alvin
10	Kim Fletcher	Fr.	MB	6-0	St. Louis, MO	Nerinx Hall
11	Keara Coughlin*	So.	DS/OH	5-8	Chicago, IL	Marian Catholic
12	Adrienne Shimmel***	Sr.	DS/OH	5-10	Mission Viejo, CA	Capistrano Valley
13	Christa Moen	Fr.	DS	5-4	San Antonio, TX	Oliver Wendell Holmes
14	Janie Alderete*	So.	DS	5-4	Santa Clara, CA	Archbishop Mitty
15	Katie Neff	Fr.	MB	6-4	St. Louis, MO	Cor Jesu Academy
16	Michelle Graham**	Sr.	S	5-8	Austin, TX	Austin

* - denotes monograms earned

Head Coach: Debbie Brown (Arizona State, '82, 10th season at Notre Dame)

Assistant Coaches: Steve Hendricks (Ball State, '90), Lindsay Rosenthal (Notre Dame, '98)

AVCA/USA Today
Top 25 Poll
October 9, 2000

Rk	School ('00 record)	Points (1st)
1.	Nebraska (15-0)	1489 (49)
2.	Hawaii (14-0)	1447 (10)
3.	Colorado State (16-1)	1369
4.	USC (13-0)	1334 (1)
5.	Pepperdine (13-2)	1240
6.	Arizona (14-1)	1192
7.	Wisconsin (15-2)	1061
8.	Minnesota (16-1)	1055
9.	Florida (13-3)	993
10.	UCLA (10-5)	973
11.	Ohio State (16-0)	960
12.	Penn State (14-4)	788
13.	Pacific (13-3)	783
14.	UC Santa Barbara (11-4)	707
15.	Utah (13-2)	694
16.	Santa Clara (14-1)	580
17.	BYU (11-5)	565
18.	Long Beach State (11-4)	521
19.	Michigan State (11-4)	366
20.	NOTRE DAME (13-4)	340
21.	Stanford (9-6)	271
22.	Texas A&M (10-4)	223
23.	Loyola Marymount (12-5)	197
24.	Missouri (14-2)	90
25.	Utah State (12-5)	74
Others receiving 30 or more points: Texas Tech, North Carolina		
<i>Italics</i> = 2000 Notre Dame opponents		

Volleyball Magazine Poll
October 9, 2000

Rk	School	2000 Record
1.	USC	13-0
2.	Hawaii	14-0
3.	Nebraska	15-0
4.	Colorado State	18-1
5.	Arizona	14-1
6.	Pepperdine	13-2
7.	Ohio State	16-0
8.	Wisconsin	15-2
9.	Minnesota	16-1
10.	Penn State	14-4
11.	Pacific	13-3
12.	Florida	13-3
13.	UCLA	10-5
14.	Long Beach State	11-4
15.	UC Santa Barbara	11-4
16.	Utah	13-2
17.	Santa Clara	15-1
18.	BYU	11-5
19.	Stanford	9-6
20.	Texas Tech	16-1
Others: Utah State, NOTRE DAME, Michigan State, Kansas State, Loyola Marymount, North Carolina, Baylor, Michigan, Arizona State, Cal Poly		
<i>Italics</i> = 2000 Notre Dame opponents		

attack attempts in the match and committed just 10 errors for an impressive .351 hitting percentage. Girton added 15 digs in the match.

Junior opposite **Kristy Kreher** continued her hot-hitting streak, totaling 22 kills, 10 digs and eight blocks against the Panthers. The 20-plus kill performance is Kreher's fourth of the year (23 vs. #15 BYU, 21 vs. #16 Michigan State and 32 vs. #22 Loyola Marymount).

Junior **Marcie Bomhack** also had a double-double in the match with 19 kills and a match-high 19 digs. Classmate **Malinda Goralski (Missouri City, Texas)** was the fourth Irish hitter to total double-digit kills with 12. Goralski, the team's leading blocker this season, also had five blocks in the victory.

The victory closed out an impressive weekend for senior setter **Denise Boylan (Lisle, Ill.)**. Boylan led the team to a .425 hitting percentage against West Virginia on Saturday, Oct. 7, followed by Sunday's .318 team hitting mark at Pittsburgh. She also had a career-high 86 assists in the match against Pittsburgh with 10 digs. The 86-assist mark breaks the school record for a four-game match that Boylan set on Sept. 21, 2000, against #22 Loyola Marymount.

Freshman **Kim Fletcher (St. Louis, Mo.)** played a hand in the Irish victory as well with a career-high eight kills on 11 attempts with just one error (.636 hitting percentage).

Pittsburgh was led by Stacy Renick and Marcie Thiesen who had 25 and 27 kills, respectively.

Girton Named Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week for the Second Consecutive Week: For the second time in as many weeks on Oct. 2, Christi Girton was named Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week. She led the team in kills in both BIG EAST match victories last weekend. Against Villanova, Girton had eight kills on 10 attempts with one error (.700), playing in just two games against the Wildcats. She also led the Irish in kills with 16 against Georgetown, adding nine digs and four blocks. Girton ended up hitting .354 in the two matches this week with 24 total kills (4.8 per game).

Girton had previously been named the Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week for her performance against Loyola Marymount, Wyoming and Colorado State, Sept. 21-23. In the three matches that week, Girton tallied 49 kills (5.44 per game), 34 digs (3.77 per game) and a .318 hitting percentage. She notched 23 kills in Notre Dame's upset win over #22 Loyola Marymount. In the Irish sweep of Wyoming, she played in only two games recording 10 kills and five digs. She also earned a spot on the Golden Dome Invitational All-Tournament Team with her solid play.

Girton becomes the second Irish player to

earn player of the week honors this season. Denise Boylan was given the honor on Sept. 4.

Head Coach Debbie Brown: Now entering her 10th season as head coach, **Debbie Brown** has led the Notre Dame volleyball team to victory in nearly 75 percent of its matches, going 241-84 (.741) since she joined the program in 1991. That success came after six years as head coach at Arizona State (1983-88), giving her a 357-167 record over 15 seasons.

Brown has coached teams that have qualified for the NCAA tournament 13 times and have won nine conference championships. The Irish have won four of five regular-season conference titles since they began BIG EAST play in 1995 and also have won four of five BIG EAST tournament titles. An NCAA berth at the end of the 2000 season would give **Brown** her 14th consecutive post-season coaching opportunity.

Milestone: With her 16-kill effort against Georgetown on Oct. 1, senior **Christi Girton** surpassed the 1,000-kill plateau for her career. Girton currently has 1,047 career kills. She becomes the 11th Irish player to surpass 1,000 kills in a career.

Boylan Earns Player of the Week Honors: Senior setter **Denise Boylan** was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week on Monday, Sept. 4, for her performance during the Shamrock Invitational (Sept. 1-3). She led the team to three victories, including a come-from-behind upset over #15 BYU. **Boylan's** statistics over the course of the Shamrock tournament: 136 assists (12.36 apg), 27 digs, 10 blocks, 10 kills and five aces.

Twenty Years in the Making: The Notre Dame volleyball team is celebrating its first 20 years of varsity status this season. One of the university's first varsity sports for women founded in 1980, the volleyball program is one of the most successful in school history. Of the 597 matches the Irish have played, they have been victorious in 417 of them for an impressive .700 winning percentage.

Preseason Honors: Notre Dame senior setter **Denise Boylan** was chosen as the BIG EAST preseason player of the year on Aug. 8. Boylan earned first-team all-BIG EAST honors in 1999 after leading the Irish with 1,132 assists and 35 aces. Her career marks of 3,291 assists and 11.84 assist per game average are both second in school history.

Boylan was joined on the preseason all-BIG EAST team by fellow senior **Christi Girton**. **Girton** had previously earned second team all-BIG EAST accolades after the 1998 and 1999 seasons. She led the team in kills (333) and digs (201) last season and ranks 10th on the career hitting percentage list with a .254 mark.

Top Hitters Return: Even after the loss of

Probable Notre Dame Starters

Setter

Denise Boylan, Sr. 6-1 (Lisle, Ill.)

Outside Hitters

Marcie Bomhack, Jr., 6-0
(Waukesha, Wis.)

Christi Girton, Sr., 6-3
(Muncie, Ind.)

Opposite

Kristy Kreher, Jr., 6-1
(Birmingham, Mich.)

Middle Blockers

Jo Jameyson, Sr., 6-1
(Alvin, Texas)

Malinda Goralski, Jr., 6-1
(Missouri City, Texas)

Defensive Specialists

Janie Alderete, So., 5-4
(Santa Clara, Calif.)

Keara Coughlin, So., 5-7
(Chicago, Ill.)

Notre Dame Sports Information

Publicity for Notre Dame volleyball is coordinated by sports information assistant Alan Wasielewski. Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available to the media by contacting Wasielewski at (219) 631-3397. Requests to interview student-athletes should be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Media may contact head coach Debbie Brown directly on weekdays at (219) 631-6307. Credentials for home games can be obtained by calling Wasielewski.

Come Join the Fun at the Joyce Center

The Notre Dame Promotions Department is supporting a number of new and exciting promotional events at the Notre Dame volleyball games in 2000.

The Irish will play host to Beach Volleyball Night on Friday, Oct. 20, when Notre Dame meets conference foe Rutgers. Fans are encouraged to dress for the beach and be ready to party. The first 250 fans will receive a free sun visor.

There will also be a Dad-Daughter Day when the Irish meet Seton Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22. Daughters 16-and-under receive free admission when accompanied by their father to the match. There will be a series of giveaways throughout the afternoon.

Mary Leffers, the top career percentage hitter in school history, Notre Dame boasts two of its top all-time ball strikers on its 2000 roster.

Kristy Kreher put together one of the best hitting percentage seasons ever in 1999, recording 272 kills on 592 attempts with only 85 errors (.316 percentage). **Kreher** has moved up the career charts as well, ranking second in hitting percentage with a .294 mark entering the 2000 season. In 15 matches this season, she has a .320 percentage (224 kills, 73 errors on 472 attempts).

Senior **Christi Girton** also had an impressive 1999 season with 333 kills and just 111 errors for a .302 mark, which is tied for the 10th-best season mark in Irish history. **Girton** boasts a .270 percentage in 2000 (209 kills, 61 errors on 474 attempts).

Home Court Advantage To Be Tested: The Irish continued their traditional success at home in 1999 with a 10-2 Joyce Center record. Notre Dame is 165-64 all-time in the Joyce Center and the Debbie Brown era (1991-current) is even better. Since 1991, Notre Dame has won 113 of 133 home matches for a stellar .849 winning percentage.

These numbers are being challenged in 2000 as the Irish have played #1 Nebraska, #4 Colorado State, #7 UCLA, #15 BYU #17 Michigan State and #22 Loyola Marymount in the first four weeks of the 2000 season. Notre Dame also will play host the 2000 BIG EAST volleyball championship Nov. 18-19.

A Highly-Rated Group of Freshmen: The class of 2004 that features **Kim Fletcher** (St. Louis, Mo.), **Jessica Kinder**, **Kristen Kinder**, **Katie Neff** (St. Louis, Mo.) and **Christa Moen** (San Antonio, Texas) was ranked the ninth-best recruiting class in the nation by *Volleyball Magazine*. **Fletcher** and **Kristen Kinder** were members of *Volleyball Magazine's* "Fab 50" list of the top senior high school volleyball players in the country.

Freshmen Contribute Early in the Season: The 2000 freshmen class has made some significant contributions in the first seven matches of the year. OH **Jessica Kinder** and MB **Kim Fletcher** have been in and out of the rotation for the Irish in the first three weeks of the season. **Fletcher** has played in 33 of the 58 games this season, scoring 49 kills, 23 digs and 22 blocks. **Jessica Kinder** has come off the bench with an effective jump-serve to score 11 aces and also has 26 kills and 50 digs.

MB **Katie Neff** and S **Kristen Kinder** were in the starting lineup of the third game versus Valparaiso and Villanova. **Kristen Kinder** set the Irish to a .409 hitting percentage in the decisive game against Valparaiso and added three kills. **Neff** had two kills and a block in the game versus the Crusaders. **Kristen Kinder** also saw action in the Florida A&M match, playing two

2000 BIG EAST Standings (Oct. 9)

Standings	'00 Overall	BE
1. Rutgers	15-3	4-0
2. Notre Dame	13-4	4-0
3. St. John's	18-4	3-1
4. Connecticut	12-6	3-1
5. Pittsburgh	14-6	2-2
6. Georgetown	11-7	2-2
7. West Virginia	6-10	2-2
8. Providence	14-8	1-3
9. Syracuse	13-8	1-3
10. Villanova	7-12	1-3
11. Boston College	5-13	1-3
12. Seton Hall	6-13	0-4

2000 Preseason All-BIG EAST Team

Denise Boylan, Notre Dame
Christi Girton, Notre Dame
 Dama Fiume, Syracuse
 Kiran Gill, Georgetown
 Sarah Katinger, Providence
 Yulia Vtyurina, Georgetown

Preseason Player of the Year Denise Boylan, Notre Dame



games and totaling four kills, 15 assists, three aces and nine digs.

Freshman DS **Christa Moen** has seen action in 19 games this season, tallying 22 digs.

A Record Number of Home Matches?: The Irish have 17 home matches scheduled in 2000. If Notre Dame qualifies for the BIG EAST tournament (the top four teams in the conference will make up the tournament field) it will have an opportunity to play the most home matches in the program's history. Notre Dame played 18 home matches in 1992 and 1996.

Freshmen Connections: Four of the five Notre Dame freshmen enjoy two different bonds. **Jessica** and **Kristen Kinder** will be the first pair of twins to take the court for the Irish. Classmates **Katie Neff** and **Kim Fletcher** are both from the St. Louis, Mo., area and played on the same club team, the St. Louis Elite.

BIG EAST Weekly Honors

Players of the Week:

Sept. 4:	<i>Denise Boylan, Notre Dame</i>
Sept. 11:	Dana Fiume, Syracuse
Sept. 18:	Dana Fiume, Syracuse Kiran Gill, Georgetown
Sept. 25:	<i>Christi Girton, Notre Dame</i> Dana Fiume, Syracuse
Oct. 2:	<i>Christi Girton, Notre Dame</i> Sarah Katinger, Providence
Oct. 9:	Kera Carter, Rutgers

Notre Dame Statistical Leaders

Kills:	Kristy Kreher	224
	Christi Girton	209
	Marcie Bomhack	144
Attack Attempts:	Christi Girton	474
	Kristy Kreher	472
	Marcie Bomhack	416
Hitting Percentage:	Malinda Goralski	.369 (138 kills, 34 errors, 282 att.)
	Kristy Kreher	.320 (224, 73, 472)
	Denise Boylan	.311 (53, 16, 119)
Assists per game:	Denise Boylan	13.14
	Kristen Kinder	7.64
	Kristy Kreher	0.83
Aces:	Marcie Bomhack	16
	Denise Boylan	14
	Keara Coughlin	14
Digs:	Marcie Bomhack	148
	Kristy Kreher	133
	Christi Girton	126
Blocks:	Malinda Goralski	64
	Jo Jameyson	39
	Kristy Kreher	38

Neff and Fletcher will get a chance to play hometown St. Louis University when the Billikens visit the Joyce Center Nov. 7. The Kinders, who call Fresno, Calif., home, will get to return to the west coast when the Irish travel to USC Nov. 24.

California Dreaming: When the Irish travel to Los Angeles, Calif., for their final regular season match up versus USC, a number of players will get a chance to play in their home state. The Golden State is home to four players on the 2000 roster: Senior **Adrienne Shimmel** (Mission Viejo), sophomore **Janie Alderete** (Santa Clara) and freshmen **Jessica** and **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno).

Texas Representation: Texas also boasts four players on the 2000 Irish roster. Seniors **Jo Jameyson** (Alvin) and **Michelle Graham** (Austin), junior **Malinda Goralski** (Missouri City) and freshman **Christa Moen** (San Antonio) will compete with California for state bragging rights in the Irish locker room. Assistant coach **Lindsay Rosenthal** (Austin) also hails from the Lone Star State.

Shimmel Off the Bench: Senior OH **Adrienne Shimmel** has provided the Irish quite a boost off the bench this season. She set career-highs in kills (six), attack attempts (16) and blocks (three) in the Irish victory over Samford.

Shimmel's 24 kills on the season has eclipsed her career total of 17 entering the 2000 campaign.

Toughest Schedule? Notre Dame has faced one of the toughest schedules in the nation this year. According to the AVCA/USA Today Oct. 9, rankings, the Irish have faced two of the top five teams in the nation #1 Nebraska and #3 Colorado State in the month of September. The Irish will also meet current-#4 USC on Nov. 24, in Los Angeles.

Eight teams in the top 25 appear on the Notre Dame schedule this season. The Irish have knocked off #15 BYU (now ranked 17th) and #23 Loyola Marymount.

Notre Dame In BIG EAST Competition: Since Notre Dame joined the BIG EAST Conference in 1995, it has won four regular-season conference titles in volleyball. Until Georgetown knocked the Irish off in the BIG EAST Tournament in 1999, Notre Dame had compiled a 10-0 record in the BIG EAST Tournament and won four titles. Current Irish OH **Marcie Bomhack** was named MVP of the BIG EAST Tournament in 1998.

Goralski Patrols the Net: The loss of 1999 BIG EAST Player of the Year Mary Leffers to graduation has been eased by the steady play of junior **Malinda Goralski**. Through 17 matches in 2000, Goralski has nearly surpassed

her career totals over the last two years:

1999:	Kills	Blocks	Hitting Percentage	Games Played
	110	77	.271	91
2000:	Kills	Blocks	Hitting Percentage	Games Played
	138	64	.369	53

The Missouri, Texas, native had a career-high 15 kills in the five-game loss to #16 Michigan State on September 10. She matched that number of kills in the Irish upset of #22 Loyola Marymount.

Goralski, who leads the BIG EAST in hitting percentage with a .369 mark, followed her performance against LMU with a 10-kill match against Wyoming. She totaled those 10 kills on 12 attempts without committing an error for an amazing .833 hitting percentage. She also leads the team in blocks this season with 64.

AVCA Poll History: Since Debbie Brown took over the program in 1991, Notre Dame has made numerous appearances in the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) poll. Notre Dame's first ranking came in the preseason poll of 1992. Notre Dame's highest ranking was seventh on Oct. 10, 1995, after an Irish eight-match win streak. The highest final ranking was 12th in 1994, when the Irish advanced to the final 16 teams in the NCAA tournament. Notre Dame is currently ranked 20th in the poll, the highest the Irish have climbed since they placed 16th in the 1998 preseason poll.

2000 BIG EAST Tournament: The 2000 BIG EAST Volleyball Tournament will be played at the Joyce Center for the first time since 1995. The semifinals are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18, with the championship to be played on Sunday, Nov. 19. The Irish boast a .909 winning percentage (10-1) in tournament play since they joined the league in 1995 and have captured four tournament titles.

Dominance: In the past decade, only three BIG EAST schools have claimed the volleyball tournament crown. Pittsburgh dominated the late '80s and early '90s with seven straight titles, while Notre Dame won the next four, led by tournament MVPs Angie Harris ('95), Lindsay Treadwell ('96), Jaimie Lee ('97) and **Marcie Bomhack** ('98). Providence ('83, '85, '87) and Georgetown ('99) are the only other schools to have won a BIG EAST championship.

New Format: The BIG EAST Conference has a new four-team format after experimenting with an expanded three-day, six-team field in 1999. The tournament will include the top four teams according to the final regular-season standings.

The semi-finals are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18 at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. The championship match is slated for 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19.

2000 Individual Match Highs			Team Match Highs			BIG EAST Conference Leaders (for all games as of Oct.9)			
Kills:	Kristy Kreher	32	Kills:	at Pittsburgh	99	Hitting Percentage:			
	vs. LMU			vs. LMU	97	<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>		
	Christi Girton	30		vs. Michigan State	83	<i>Goralski, M.</i>	<i>ND</i>	.369	
	vs. Pittsburgh		Attack Attempts:	vs. LMU	250	Miller, A.	SJU	.359	
	Kristy Kreher	23		at Pittsburgh	217	Nickels, J.	UP	.352	
	vs. BYU			vs. Michigan State	212	<i>Kreher, K.</i>	<i>ND</i>	<i>.320</i>	
Attack Attempts:	Kristy Kreher	60				Dykema, J.	UC	.312	
	vs. LMU		Hitting Percentage:	at West Virginia	.420	Assists/Game:			
	Marcie Bomhack	58		(39 kills, 5 errors, 81 att.)		<i>Boylan, D.</i>	<i>ND</i>	<i>13.14</i>	
	vs. LMU			vs. Clemson	.408	Ward, J.	GU	12.30	
	Christi Girton	57		(63, 14, 120)		Norris, C.	UP	12.21	
	vs. LMU, Pittsburgh			vs. Wyoming	.400	Fanning, S.	PC	11.52	
				(43, 11, 80)		Kurasaki, R.	SJU	11.21	
Hitting Percentage:	Malinda Goralski	.833	Assists:	at Pittsburgh	94	Blocks/Game:			
	(10 kills, 0 error, 12 att.)			vs. LMU	93	Venarchik, L.	RU	1.39	
	vs. Wyoming			vs. Michigan State	72	Bach, R.	BC	1.25	
	Christi Girton	.700	Aces:	vs. Florida A&M	13	Kirikakou, M.	RU	1.25	
	(8, 1, 10)			vs. Valparaiso	8	Dykema, J.	UC	1.23	
	vs. Villanova			vs. Villanova	8	<i>Goralski, M.</i>	<i>ND</i>	<i>1.21</i>	
	Kristy Kreher	.579		at West Virginia	8	Kills/Game:			
	(12, 1, 19)					Fiume, D.	SU	4.64	
	vs. West Virginia		Digs:	vs. LMU	105	Renick, S.	UP	4.63	
Assists:	Denise Boylan	86		at Pittsburgh	75	Roudovski, O.	SJU	4.47	
	vs. Pittsburgh			vs. Fairfield	67	Carter, K.	RU	4.29	
	Denise Boylan	84	Blocks:	vs. LMU	15	Katinger, S.	PC	4.23	
	vs. LMU			vs. Notre Dame	14	<i>Kreher, K.</i>	<i>ND</i>	<i>4.23</i>	
	Denise Boylan	66		at West Virginia	13	Aces/Game:			
	vs. Michigan State					Vtyurina, Y.	GU	0.58	
Aces:	Marcie Bomhack	5	Notre Dame vs. Opponents				Kiriakou, M.	RU	0.51
	vs. Florida A&M						Warner, L.	GU	0.50
	Janie Alderete	4					Mullen, M.	GU	0.48
	at Valparaiso						Tuyay, P.	RU	0.47
	Keara Coughlin	4				Digs/Game:			
	vs. West Virginia					Schwer, L.	BC	4.34	
Digs:	Kristy Kreher	27		Attack:		Cella, A.	PC	4.09	
	vs. LMU			Kills:	955	844	Katinger, S.	PC	3.99
	Marcie Bomhack	25		Errors:	340	395	Hardy, N.	WVU	3.59
	vs. LMU			Total Attacks:	2267	2240	Mercein, K.	SJU	3.49
	Marcie Bomhack	19		Attack Percentage:	.271	.200			
	vs. Pittsburgh			Kills/Game:	16.5	13.2			
Blocks:	Kristy Kreher	8		Set:					
	vs. Pittsburgh			Assists:	873	766			
	Malinda Goralski	7		Assists/Game:	15.1	13.2			
	vs. BYU, Wyoming			Serve:					
	Jo Jameyson	7		Aces:	102	88			
	vs. LMU			Errors:	123	123			
	Kristy Kreher	7		Aces/Game:	1.5	1.8			
	vs. West Virginia			Blocks					
				Total Blocks:	156.0	147.0			
				Blocks Per Game:	2.7	2.5			

BIG EAST Team Leaders (All games as of Oct. 9)

Hitting Percentage:

Team	Games	
Notre Dame	58	.271
Pittsburgh	70	.249
St. John's	79	.242
Rutgers	60	.237
Connecticut	61	.224

Assists:

Notre Dame	58	15.05
Connecticut	61	14.34
Georgetown	64	13.83
Pittsburgh	70	13.71
St. John's	79	13.16

Blocks:

Rutgers	58	2.82
Connecticut	61	2.70
Notre Dame	58	2.69
Syracuse	79	2.61
Seton Hall	60	2.47

Opponent Hitting Percentage:

Rutgers	60	.138
St. John's	79	.146
Connecticut	61	.158
Georgetown	64	.178
Boston College	77	.178

Kills:

Notre Dame	58	16.47
Connecticut	61	16.23
Pittsburgh	70	15.96
Georgetown	64	15.41
St. John's	79	15.16

Service Aces:

Georgetown	64	2.31
Rutgers	60	2.10
Syracuse	79	2.09
Pittsburgh	70	1.83
St. John's	71	1.78

Digs:

West Virginia	60	17.10
Providence	81	16.93
Boston College	77	16.91
St. John's	79	15.95
Pittsburgh	70	14.76

Notre Dame Bio Updates:

Janie Alderete #14
Sophomore • DS • 5-3 • Santa Clara, Calif.

Has played in 47 of the team's 58 games played in 2000 ... had a career-high 15 digs in the first match of the year vs. Fairfield during the Shamrock Invitational ... had six digs vs. #16 Michigan State in the adidas Invitational ... had a career-best four aces at

Valparaiso in two games ... also had five digs versus the Crusaders ... tallied three aces versus Florida A&M in the Lady Seminole Classic in Tallahassee, Fla. ... named the "Best Defensive Specialist" in the Lady Seminole Classic Tournament ... had nine digs in the Irish win over #22 Loyola Marymount ... notched eight digs at Pittsburgh.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
47	73	1.55	13	0.28

Marcie Bomback #6
Junior • OH • 6-0 • Waukesha, Wis.

Starter at outside hitter for the Irish ... has played in 51 of the team's 58 games this season ... had 13 kills, eight digs and three blocks vs. Clemson ... had seven kills and five digs vs. #4 Nebraska ... posted a double-double with 13 kills and 15 digs vs. #16 Michigan State ... tallied five kills on nine attempts with no errors (.556 hitting percentage) at Valparaiso ... had a team-high 11 kills vs. Florida A&M in the first round of the Lady Seminole Classic volleyball tournament in Tallahassee, Fla. ... set a career-mark for aces in a match with five vs. the Rattlerettes ... totaled 13 kills at Florida State ... was named to the Lady Seminole Classic all-tournament team ... notched a double-double vs. Loyola Marymount with 13 kills and 25 digs ... the 25 digs is a career-best total ... also had six blocks against the Lions ... had six kills and five digs vs. #4 Colorado State ... had 10 digs, five kills and four blocks vs. Villanova ... notched a double-double with 12 kills and a team-high 12 digs against Georgetown ... scored 19 kills and 19 digs for third double-double of the year.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
51	148	2.90	16	0.31
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
30	144	2.82	.224	12

Denise Boylan #2
Senior • S • 6-1 • Lisle, Ill.

BIG EAST Preseason Player of the Year ... Notre Dame team co-captain and starting setter ... has played in 51 of the team's 58 games this season ... has played a large part in the Irish hitting .260 as a team ... had 37 assists, 10 digs, three blocks and two aces in the first match of the year vs. Fairfield during the Shamrock Invitational ... tallied 50 assists, 10 digs and three blocks in the Irish upset of 15th-ranked BYU ... set Notre Dame to a .421 hitting percentage in the fifth game of the BYU match ... helped the Irish post a .408 (season-high) hitting percentage in the Clemson match ... named the 2000 Shamrock Invitational Most Valuable Player ... named BIG EAST Player of the Week on Sept. 4, for her performance over the course of the Shamrock Invitational ... had a season-high 11 digs versus #4 Nebraska ... tallied six kills, 66 assists, six digs, three blocks and

two aces vs. #16 Michigan State ... named to the adidas Invitational all-tournament team ... had 51 assists, nine digs and three blocks at Florida State ... named to the Lady Seminole Classic all-tournament team, the third all-tournament selection on the year ... set the Notre Dame record for assists in a four-game match with 84 against #22 Loyola Marymount ... combined with freshman setter Kristen Kinder to lead Notre Dame to a .400 hitting percentage in the match against Wyoming ... totaled 41 assists, nine digs, four kills and two blocks vs. Georgetown ... helped the Irish post a .722 hitting percentage (13-0-18) in the first game at West Virginia ... Irish ended up hitting .420 in that match ... broke her own school record with a career-high 86 assists in the four-game match victory at Pittsburgh ... Irish hit .350 over the two-game West Virginia and Pittsburgh match swing ... BIG EAST player of the week?

2000 Statistics

Games played	Assists	Assists/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
51	670	13.14	14	0.27
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Digs
32	53	1.04	.311	100

Keara Coughlin #11
Sophomore • DS • 5-8 • Chicago, Ill.

Has played in 51 of the team's 58 games in 2000 ... one of the team's best defensive specialists ... had three digs and two aces in the first match of the year vs. Fairfield ... tallied a eight digs against #3 UCLA ... notched seven digs and an ace vs. #16 Michigan State ... totaled six digs, two kills and two aces vs. Florida A&M ... had six digs at Florida State ... had a season-high nine digs to along with two aces vs. #22 Loyola Marymount ... tallied seven digs against #4 Colorado State ... had a career-high four aces at West Virginia ... notched nine digs at Pittsburgh.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
51	75	1.50	14	0.28

Kim Fletcher #10
Freshman • MB • 6-0 • St. Louis, Mo.

Used to spell both Malinda Goralski and Jo Jameyson off the bench ... provides a spark with some powerful and accurate hitting ... recorded her first career kill and block in the Fairfield match ... had three kills and a block in the upset of #15 BYU ... had two kills, four blocks and three kills vs. Clemson ... notched three kills, four digs and two blocks against #3 UCLA ... totaled five kills and four blocks against #16 Michigan State ... posted seven kills against Samford ... had six kills and two blocks vs. Wyoming ... had a career-high five blocks at West Virginia ... played a major role in the Irish victory at Pittsburgh with a career-best eight kills (8-1-11) for a .636 hitting percentage ... has scored a kill in 15 of 16 career matches.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
33	23	0.70	5	0.15
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
22	49	1.48	.274	4

Christi Girton #7
Senior • OH • 6-3 • Muncie, Ind.

Preseason all-BIG EAST team member ... starter at outside hitter for the Irish ... has played in 52 of the team's 58 games this season ... posted double-digit kills in 10 of the 17 Irish matches this season ... second on the team in kills with 209 ... began the season vs. Fairfield with 14 kills, eight digs and four blocks ... had 18 kills and eight digs in the Irish upset of #15 BYU ... scored six kills and two blocks in the deciding fifth game of the BYU match ... named to the 2000 Shamrock Invitational all-tournament team ... had a double-double with 19 kills and 16 digs against #16 Michigan State ... added five blocks against the Spartans ... one of four Irish players with double-digit kills (10) at Florida State ... had 23 kills vs. #22 Loyola Marymount ... also had 17 digs vs. the Lions ... had 10 kills in two games vs. Wyoming ... tallied a double-double against #4 Colorado State with 16 kills and 12 digs ... named to the 2000 Golden Dome Invitational all-tournament team ... named Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week on Sept. 25, for her performance vs. LMU, Wyoming and Colorado State ... had eight kills on 10 attempts with one error (.700) vs. Villanova ... notched a team-high 16 kills with nine digs and four blocks vs. Georgetown ... named Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week on Oct. 2, for her performance vs. Villanova and Georgetown ... had a career-best kills performance at Pittsburgh with 30 total ... also had 15 digs against the Panthers.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
52	126	2.42	9	0.17
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
27	209	4.02	.270	12

Malinda Goralski #3
Junior • MB • 6-1 • Missouri City, Texas

Starter for the Irish at middle blocker ... has improved each week of the season and leads the team in hitting percentage with a .369 mark ... also leads the team in blocks with 64 ... had a career-high ten digs in the first match of the year vs. Fairfield ... notched seven blocks in the Irish upset of #15 BYU ... posted a career-high 15 kills vs. #16 Michigan State ... had eight kills and four blocks at Valparaiso ... notched 10 kills and six blocks at Florida State ... named to the Lady Seminole Classic all-tournament team ... tied her career-high with 15 kills against #22 Loyola

Marymount ... had 10 kills on 12 attempts with no errors vs. Wyoming ... also had seven blocks against the Cowgirls ... had nine kills vs. #4 Colorado State ... named to the 2000 Golden Dome Invitational all-tournament team ... added nine kills and six blocks vs. Georgetown ... had eight blocks at West Virginia and Pittsburgh ... her kill and block production in 2000 surpasses her previous two years combined.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Blocks	Blocks/Game	Assists	Assists/Game
53	64	1.21	7	0.13
Aces	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Solo Blocks
0	138	2.60	.369	10

Michelle Graham #16
Senior • DS/S • 5-8 • Austin, Texas

Backup setter who has been used as a defensive specialist this season ... has played in seven games ... has three assists and two aces in 2000.

Jo Jameyson #9
Senior • MB/OPP • 6-1 • Alvin, Texas

Provides depth behind Malinda Goralski at MB and is also used at opposite ... second on the team in blocks with 39 ... notched six kills and four blocks in the first match of the year vs. Fairfield ... had five blocks against Clemson ... posted six kills and three digs against #4 Nebraska ... tallied five kills and four blocks versus #16 Michigan State ... had season highs with 11 kills and seven blocks against #22 Loyola Marymount ... totaled four blocks vs. Villanova and followed up with six against Georgetown ... totaled five kills at Pittsburgh.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Blocks	Blocks/Game	Assists	Assists/Game
42	39	0.93	8	0.19
Aces	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Solo Blocks
0	61	1.45	.239	3

Jessica Kinder #5
Freshman • OH • 5-10 • Fresno, Calif.

One of five talented freshman on the roster that have received significant playing time ... has played in 38 of the team's 58 games this season ... possesses a powerful jump-serve that head coach Debbie Brown uses as a weapon off the bench ... fifth on the team in aces with 11 ... recorded her first career kill on her first attempt in the Fairfield match ... gave the Irish a huge spark off the bench in the upset of #15 BYU with two kills, three aces, a career-high eight digs and a block ... had three aces, three digs and a block against #4 Nebraska ... had a career-high four kills vs. #3 UCLA ... posted three kills, three digs and two aces vs. Samford ... had five digs vs. Wyoming ... notched a career-high seven kills to go along with seven digs vs. Villanova ... notched three kills and six digs at West Virginia.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
38	50	1.32	11	0.29
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
6	26	0.68	.076	5

Kristen Kinder #8
Freshman • S • 5-9 • Fresno, Calif.

The future for the Irish at the setter position ... has received some playing time behind senior setter Denise Boylan ... has played in 11 games this season ... saw her first collegiate action against Clemson and tallied six assists and a dig ... had three kills and five assists in one game at Valparaiso ... posted two kills, 13 assists and five digs vs. Florida A&M ... best match of the young season came vs. Samford ... posted four kills, 15 assists, three aces and nine digs against the Bulldogs ... totaled a career-high 16 assists vs. Wyoming, including setting the Irish to a .286 hitting percentage in the match ... played in one and a half games vs. Villanova, matching her career-best with 16 assists while adding five digs and two kills ... had 13 assists, five digs and one block in one game at West Virginia.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Assists	Assists/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
11	84	7.64	3	0.27

Kristy Kreher #4
Junior • OPP • 6-1 • Birmingham, Mich.

The top offensive performer for the Irish so far in 2000 ... leads the team in kills (224) ... scored double-digit kills in 10 of the team's 17 matches on the year ... in 11 matches this season, she has posted a hitting percentage better than .320, including two matches where she posted a .429 mark ... has four 20-plus kill matches against ranked teams (23 vs. #15 BYU, 21 vs. #16 Michigan State, 32 vs. #22 Loyola Marymount, 22 at Pittsburgh) ... began the season with 11 kills and nine digs vs. Fairfield ... notched first double-double of the season in Notre Dame's upset of #15 BYU (23 kills, 17 digs) ... led the team in kills with 16 vs. Clemson ... had 15 kills and nine digs against #3 UCLA ... had second 20-plus kill match of the vs. #16 Michigan State (21) ... scored 19 kills at Florida State to earn the Lady Seminole Classic Most Valuable Player award ... had a great match vs. #22 Loyola Marymount with 32 kills and 27 digs - both career-high numbers ... the 32 kills also set a school record for the most kills in a four-game match ... had nine kills and nine digs vs. #4 Colorado State ... notched a double-double against Georgetown with 11 kills and 10 digs, while adding five blocks ... led the team with 12 kills on .579 hitting (12-1-19) in the victory at West Virginia ... also had seven blocks against the Mountaineers ... followed up the WVU match the next day with 22 kills, 10 digs, and eight blocks at Pittsburgh ... the eight blocks against the Panthers ties a career-high.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
53	133	2.51	11	0.21
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
38	224	4.23	.320	44

Christa Moen #13

Freshman • DS • 5-4 • San Antonio, Texas

Provides quality depth for the Irish at the defensive specialist position ... has played in 19 games this season ... saw her first collegiate action off the bench in the upset of #15 BYU, tallying six digs and an ace ... had four digs and an ace vs. Clemson ... scored her first career kill against Samford ... had three digs and an ace at West Virginia.

Katie Neff #15

Freshman • MB • 6-4 • St. Louis, Mo.

Tallest player on the Irish roster ... has seen limited playing time behind Malinda Gorlaski and Jo Jameyson ... saw her first collegiate action against Clemson, recording a kill ... had two kills on four attempts and one block at Valparaiso ... posted a kill and a block against Samford ... had career-high three kills and three blocks against Wyoming ... tallied a career-best four blocks (and three kills) at West Virginia.

Adrienne Shimmel #12

Senior • OH • 5-10 • Mission Viejo, Calif.

Has provided some energy off the bench for the Irish in 2000 ... has played in 11 games this season ... first action of the season came vs. Clemson where she scored three kills ... had a career-high six kills against Samford ... also had three blocks vs. the Bulldogs ... notched four kills against Wyoming ... had four kills and a season-high eight digs vs. Villanova .. posted four kills, nine digs and a block at West Virginia.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
11	28	2.55	0	0.00
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
5	24	2.18	.167	3