

2003 Notre Dame Spring Outlook

It Starts Here! As Spring Practice Prepares Team For Fall

Irish return 13 starters and 37 letterwinners

It all starts here – with 13 returning starters and 37 lettermen on the scene – as Notre Dame this spring begins the process of building on a 2002 season in which the Irish impressively injected themselves back onto the national college football landscape.

They did it with eight straight victories that opened their defense-dominated '02 campaign (the best season-opening stretch since '93) and earned the Irish a number-four ranking in the Associated Press poll, and eventually a final 10-3 mark, number-17 final ranking and Gator Bowl appearance.

Now, in Tyrone Willingham's second season as Irish head coach (he was named national coach of the year by Home Depot/ESPN and the Maxwell Football Club in '02), Notre Dame aims for consecutive AP top 20 finishes for the first time since 1995-96. The Irish will do it against a demanding schedule that features three Bowl Championship Series teams from a year ago.

Expect defense again to be a standard-bearer, thanks to the return of eight regulars – led by the top three '02 tacklers in senior inside linebacker Courtney Watson (a Butkus Award finalist and first-team ESPN.com All-American in '02), hard-hitting senior free safety Glenn Earl and active senior inside linebacker Mike Goolsby, plus all-purpose senior cornerback and return specialist Vontez Duff, a solid Thorpe Award candidate for '03.

That group is back to see if the Irish can match or improve their defensive numbers



Senior linebacker Courtney Watson led the Irish with 90 tackles in 2002 and is a top candidate for the 2003 Butkus Award after being one of three finalists last year. (photo by Rico Casares)

from a year ago when Notre Dame ranked among the top 13 teams in the country in four major categories (ninth in scoring defense at 16.7, 10th in pass efficiency defense at 98.24 and in rushing defense at 95.2, 13th in total defense at 300.0).

"From a defensive standpoint, we've got to work in some new players and maintain the passion our defense played with last year. If we can do that, play with the same level of intensity we did a year ago, and get better in some critical areas, we'll be in good shape," Willingham says.

Four of the five offensive regulars back play skill positions – senior quarterback Carlyle Holiday (he's now started 21 games for the Irish), senior tailback Ryan Grant (he became Notre Dame's seventh 1,000-yard rusher in '02 with 1,085), senior wide receiver Omar Jenkins (his 37 receptions in '02 would have led the team in nine of the previous 14 seasons) and senior tight end Gary Godsey.

Arguably, the most notable Irish challenge for '03 will be rebuilding an offensive line that graduates four starters, including All-America center Jeff Faine. If Willingham and his staff can accomplish that, they'll have a leg up on upgrading the offensive production of the new system they instituted in '02.

How young will the offensive line be? A year ago this time, the returning offensive linemen as a group had started 79 games in their careers, including 32 by tackle Jordan Black. This year that number is only 21, led by Sean Milligan's 17.

"From an offensive perspective, we've got

to get deeper into our system in terms of knowledge, especially in terms of the passing game. That's going to be critical, for us to embrace and understand the spacing and timing we need to be successful throwing the football," says Willingham.

"As far as the running game, we need to become much more physical both up front and with our backfield and receiver play."

Special teams will feature senior kicker Nicholas Setta, who could take over punting duties as well in '03, plus all-star returner Duff, who brought back a punt, kickoff and interception for touchdowns last fall.

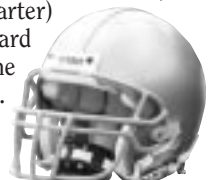
"This is a different situation this spring than it was a year ago. Our players should have a strong idea of what our system is about. This team should need less time to learn the system but may need more scrimmage time to get that spacing and timing down. We don't have to do as much with vocabulary either, so in a couple of areas we're light years ahead of where we were last spring," Willingham says.

The Irish can't discuss the coming season without addressing graduation losses.

On offense those losses include wide receiver Arnaz Battle (his 58 receptions in '02 marked the most by a Notre Dame player in 32 years), two-year fullback regular Tom Lopienski, plus the quartet of linemen – center Faine (he started 36 career games and was a Rimington Award finalist and Lombardi Award semifinalist), tackles Black (a four-year starter) and Brennan Curtin and guard Sean Mahan (he started the last 24 games in his career).



Senior Nicholas Setta needs only 15 field goals in 2003 to break John Carney's Notre Dame record for field goals made in a career. (photo by Rico Casares)



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Senior quarterback Carlyle Holiday ranks third in Notre Dame history for lowest interception percentage at .0194. He only has thrown 12 interceptions in 401 career passes. (photo by Bill Panzica)

Quarterbacks

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
* Dillingham, Pat	6-1	211	Jr.	69:01
** Holiday, Carlyle	6-3	221	Sr.	270:46
Krueger, Matt	5-10	177	Sr.	---
Olsen, Chris	6-4	220	So.	---
Revelle, Stan	5-11	183	Jr.	---

Fullbacks

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
Laux, Cole	5-10	229	Sr.	0:41
* Powers-Neal, R.	6-2	227	Jr.	69:54
Schiccatano, Nate	6-3	224	So.	---
Schmidt, Josh	6-1	220	Jr.	1:02

Running Backs

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
** Grant, Ryan	6-1	209	Jr.	204:41
Jenkins, Jeff	6-0	211	So.	---
Profeta, Mike	5-11	198	Sr.	1:29
* Wilson, Marcus	5-11	198	Jr.	46:01

On defense they featured unanimous All-American and Nagurski Award finalist Shane Walton (eight interceptions in '02) at cornerback, veteran Gerome Sapp (71 tackles, four interceptions in '02) at safety – and defensive end Ryan Roberts (45 starts and 20 sacks in his career). Also missing is standout four-year punter Joey Hildbold (career 40.25 average).

Notre Dame in '02 defeated as many teams that finished in the final AP poll (#9 Michigan, #13 Maryland, #19 Pittsburgh, #21 Florida State) as any team in the country. Seven of the first eight '03 Irish opponents played in bowl games a year ago (five of the seven were winners), highlighted by BCS participants Washington State (Rose Bowl), USC (won Orange Bowl) and Florida State (Sugar Bowl), all of

whom come to Notre Dame Stadium. Add to that list Michigan (won Outback Bowl), Purdue (won Sun Bowl), Pittsburgh (won Insight Bowl) and Boston College (won Motor City Bowl).

Those first eight opponents (also including Michigan State) combined for a 69-35 mark (.663) in '02 – and six of the eight won nine or more games. New names on the agenda in '03 include Washington State (first-ever meeting), BYU (first meeting since three games in 1992-94) and Syracuse (only previous meetings came in 1914, '61 and '63).

Willingham's staff remains intact from a year ago, including defensive coordinator Kent Baer, one of five finalists for the '02 Broyles Award as the top assistant coach in the country.

As spring football dawns in South Bend, it all starts here for Notre Dame as the Irish reload for 2003.

Here's a position-by-position look at Notre Dame fortunes for the coming season:

QUARTERBACK: Senior Carlyle Holiday (129 of 257 for 1,788, 10 TDs, 5 interceptions) boasts solid credentials that include nearly two full seasons as the Irish starter. He steadily grew into the new Irish offense a year ago, throwing only two interceptions in Notre Dame's first 11 outings combined. Among his credits from '02 included an ultra-efficient, 13-of-21 effort at Florida State for 185 yards and two scores, a career-high 272 passing yards against Navy and an Irish record-tying four TD passes versus Rutgers. He also finished as Notre Dame's third-leading ground-gainer (second in carries) with 92 attempts for 200 net yards (432 rushing yards gained, and 3 TDs – only Ryan Grant scored more often on the ground), distinguishing himself as one of the better all-around athletes on the Irish roster.

Experience behind Holiday a year ago was in short supply, but now includes junior Pat Dillingham (41 of 81 for 434, 1 TD, 7 interceptions), a former walk-on who earned a scholarship during the summer of '02 after he became the backup to Holiday. Dillingham led the Irish to a victory versus Stanford in his only '02 start and also played much of the way against North Carolina State in the Gator Bowl. Also in the mix this spring is sophomore-to-be Chris Olsen (did not play in '02).

RUNNING BACK: Junior Ryan Grant (261 for 1,085, 9 TDs) won his warrior's stripes in '02, thanks to a gutsy, season-long performance that produced the ninth 1,000-yard rushing season in Notre Dame history. A hard-working runner with deceptive speed, Grant returns as the first-teamer after four 100-yard efforts in '02, one of those a career-high 190 yards against then-unbeaten Air Force.

The only other returning letterwinner is junior Marcus Wilson (39 for 110 in '02), who will be complemented by sophomore Jeff Jenkins (DNP in '02).

FULLBACK: Losses are multiple here, thanks to the graduation of a trio of lettermen – two-season regular Tom Lopienski (20 for 48, 1 TD), veteran Mike McNair (6 for 25) and special-team standout Chris Yura (1 for 7, 160 special-team appearances).



Junior tailback Ryan Grant became only the seventh player in Notre Dame history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season when he finished with 1,085 in 2002. (photo by Rico Casares)



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Wide Receivers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
** Jenkins, Omar	6-1	205	Sr.	219:22
* McKnight, Rhema	6-2	207	So.	75:49
O'Hara, Mike	5-10	174	So.	1:44
* Rodamer, Ronnie	6-4	211	Sr.	37:38
Schomas, Nate	5-10	165	So.	3:18
* Shelton, Matt	5-11	177	Jr.	10:47
* Stovall, Maurice	6-5	221	So.	146:50
Woods, Rob	6-3	200	So.	---

Tight Ends

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
* Clark, Jared	6-4	242	Sr.	47:16
Fasano, Anthony	6-4	253	So.	---
Freeman, Marcus	6-4	242	So.	---
*** Godsey, Gary	6-6	250	Sr.	262:28
Nally, Patrick	6-3	243	Sr.	0:59
* Palmer, Billy	6-4	251	Sr.	12:48

Still, the fullback slot likely remains in good hands, with the springtime shift of junior Rashon Powers-Neal (77 for 333, 2 TDs) from running back to fullback. Powers-Neal ranked second in rushing yards (including a 108-yard effort against Stanford) for the Irish in '02 as Ryan Grant's top backup. He provides a nice combination of elusiveness, power and blocking ability.

Also in the mix is sophomore Nate Schiccitano (DNP in '02), who probably can play either running back spot.

WIDE RECEIVER: It won't be easy to replace the big-play production of Arnaz Battle (58 for 786, 5 TDs). The new Irish offense helped him catch more passes in a season than any Notre Dame player since Tom Gatewood grabbed 77 in 1970.

Next in line to take over that sort of role is dependable senior Omar Jenkins (37 for 633, 3 TDs), whose first season as a starter produced a noteworthy 17.1-yards-per-catch mark. His 166 receiving yards against Navy marked the most by an Irish player since Raghieb Ismail's 173 yards 12 years earlier against the Middies.

Jenkins and the Irish offense also should benefit from the maturation and development of sophomores Maurice Stovall (18 for 312, 3 TDs) and Rhema McKnight (9 for 91), the only two scholarship freshmen to see game action in 2002. Both the 6-5 Stovall and the athletic McKnight displayed flashes of their all-star potential as rookies, and they'll combine with the sure-handed Jenkins to provide Notre Dame with solid experience at the pass-catching spots.

Other letterwinners who will contend for playing time are senior Ronnie Rodamer (2 for 14) and junior Matt Shelton (1 for 18).

TIGHT END: Everybody's back at tight end, headlined by multi-talented veteran



Senior Sean Milligan returns to the offensive line with the most experience of anyone in 2003, starting 17 games in his career. The remaining members of the offensive line have four career starts between them. (photo by Bill Panzica)

Centers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
Giles, Zach	6-3	287	Jr.	0:59
Jancha, Paul	6-1	245	So.	---
Morton, Bob	6-4	299	So.	---
Thompson, Jeff	6-4	287	Jr.	2:30

Offensive Guards

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
Bent, James	6-2	253	So.	---
Bonelli, James	6-6	282	So.	---
Dunn, Casey	6-4	255	Jr.	---
Fitzgerald, David	6-4	271	So.	---
Kowalski, David	6-2	240	Sr.	0:15
** Milligan, Sean	6-4	291	Sr.	266:27
Mitchell, Darin	6-3	280	Jr.	1:59

senior Gary Godsey (16 for 155), along with classmate Jared Clark (7 for 104), both former quarterbacks on the Irish roster. Also returning is junior Billy Palmer (1 for 4), whose blocking abilities won him a monogram in '02, not to mention plenty of playing time as Godsey's top backup.

Sophomores Anthony Fasano and Marcus Freeman (both DNP in '02) add even more depth to the tight end roster for '03

CENTER: There's a major void at center, with the departure of three-year starter Jeff Faine, who won first-team All-America honors from *The Sporting News* in '02.

With veteran Ryan Scarola also graduating, there's a bare minimum of experience at this key position.

Top contenders should be junior Zach Giles (he played in 1 game in '02) and sophomore Bob Morton (DNP in '02), along

Offensive Tackles

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
LeVoi, Mark	6-7	320	Jr.	10:05
Mattes, Brian	6-6	266	So.	---
* Molinaro, Jim	6-6	301	Sr.	28:36
Raridon, Scott	6-7	300	So.	---
Ryan, Jamie	6-5	290	So.	---
* Stevenson, Dan	6-5	297	Jr.	82:23

with junior converted defensive lineman Jeff Thompson (played 1 game in '02).

OFFENSIVE GUARD: The lone returning starter on the Notre Dame offensive line is senior Sean Milligan, who started 12 games in '02 at right guard and five others in '01 at the guard spot. He's far and away the most experienced player back at the center (he played more minutes in '02 than any other offensive player coming back except Holiday), guard and tackle positions combined, with two-season left guard starter Sean Mahan graduating.

Additional experience is limited at guard, with the only other scholarship returnees being junior Darin Mitchell (played in 1 game in '02) and sophomore James Bonelli (DNP in '02).

OFFENSIVE TACKLE: Both starters (four-season regular Jordan Black and two-year regular Brennan Curtin) from the '02 campaign are gone, making for a hefty rebuilding challenge for the Irish offensive line for 2003.

Senior Jim Molinaro (played in all 13 games in '02) provides the most experience after starting against Rutgers, USC and North Carolina State (in the Gator



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Senior defensive tackle Darrell Campbell has played in 32 games, starting 22, and has 62 tackles, including 17 for loss in his career. (photo by Bill Panzica)

Defensive End

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
* Beidatsch, Brian	6-4	283	Jr.	32:18
** Budinscak, Kyle	6-4	270	Sr.	251:40
* Collins, Jerome	6-4	250	Sr.	19:50
Frome, Chris	6-5	264	So.	---
Leitko, Travis	6-6	264	So.	---
Santucci, Dan	6-5	270	So.	---
Sapp, Jason	6-3	256	Sr.	6:48
* Tuck, Justin	6-5	246	Jr.	180:24

Defensive Tackles/Nose Guards

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
*** Campbell, Darrell	6-4	296	Sr.	298:27
** Hilliard, Cedric	6-2	295	Sr.	212:05
Landri, Derek	6-2	265	So.	---
* Pauly, Greg	6-6	291	Sr.	98:34

Bowl) a year ago. Junior Dan Stevenson won a monogram while playing in 10 games at guard in '02, then switched over to start at tackle in the Gator Bowl against North Carolina State.

Also competing will be junior Mark LeVoir (played in 4 games in '02 at tackle), plus sophomores Brain Mattes, Scott Raridon and Jamie Ryan, nine of whom played as rookies in '02.

DEFENSIVE END: Gone from Notre Dame's defensive end ranks is veteran Ryan Roberts (25 career starts, 42 tackles in '02), but there's no shortage of talent at these two slots. Senior Kyle Budinscak (20

tackles, 3 sacks, 6 TFL) returns as the starter at the opposite end slot, while junior Justin Tuck (44 tackles, 5 sacks, 10 TFL) emerged as a pass-rush specialist who ranks as the fifth-leading returning tackler though he started only one game a year ago.

Junior Brian Beidatsch (played in all 13 games, 2 tackles in '02) qualifies as the lone

Outside Linebackers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
* Collins, Jerome	6-4	256	Sr.	19:50
** Curry, Derek	6-3	228	Jr.	184:12

Inside Linebackers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
*** Goolsby, Mike	6-3	240	Sr.	249:03
* Hoyte, Brandon	6-0	225	Jr.	100:54
* Mays, Corey	6-1	246	Jr.	123 app.
Salvador, Anthony	6-2	195	So.	---
*** Watson, Courtney	6-1	232	Sr.	249:02

other letterwinner on the roster at end, and he'll have help from senior Jason Sapp (3 games played in '02). There are three sophomores – Chris Frome, Travis Leitko and Dan Santucci – who will contend for playing time after watching all of their rookie seasons from the sidelines.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE/NOSE GUARD: Notre Dame should be solid up the middle on defense in '03, thanks to the return of three experienced veterans – senior nose

guard regular Cedric Hilliard (31 tackles, 2 sacks, 5 TFL in '02), senior tackle starter Darrell Campbell (33 tackles, 6 sacks, 8 TFL), plus senior tackle Greg Pauly (11 tackles, 3 TFL).

Campbell is a two-season first-teamer, Hilliard might have been Notre Dame's most improved player a year ago – while Pauly played well enough to start three times in 2002.

Next in line is sophomore Derek Landri (DNP in '02), who did not see game action as a rookie.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER: Senior Derek Curry (34 tackles, 4 sacks, 7 TFL) proved he could handle a starting slot in '02 in his initial full-time look with the Irish defense – and he adds a nice dose of quickness and enthusiasm to the defensive mix. He's supported by senior Jerome Collins (played in 11 games in '02). They're the only two scholarship players back at that position.

INSIDE LINEBACKER: The Irish strength up the middle continues at the two inside linebacker positions in the person of two returning senior starters – Courtney Watson and Mike Goolsby.

Watson (90 tackles, 3 sacks, 10 TFL, 4 interceptions) played well enough in his second season in the starting lineup to pace the squad in overall tackles even after missing the first two games of the season with a viral infection. All that was good enough to win him first-team-All-America honors from ESPN.com and third-team notice from *The Sporting News* and Associated Press. Watson was one of three finalists for the Butkus Award as the top linebacker in the country in 2002.

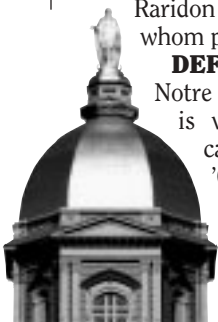
Not far behind was Goolsby (75 tackles, 4 sacks, 13 TFL) who in his first season as a regular ranked third on the team in tackles and paced the Irish in tackles for loss with 13.

Cornerbacks

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
*** Beckstrom, Jason	5-10	186	Sr.	---
* Campbell, Carlos	6-4	186	Jr.	79:42
** Ellick, Dwight	5-10	177	Jr.	5:40
*** Duff, Vontez	5-11	194	Sr.	347:53
** Jackson, Preston	5-9	177	Sr.	176:39
Richardson, Mike	6-1	188	So.	---

Safeties

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'02 Time
Bemenderfer, David	5-11	193	Sr.	---
** Bible, Garron	5-10	197	Sr.	109:19
* Bolen, Lionel	6-0	206	Jr.	8:12
* Burrell, Quentin	6-0	180	Jr.	0:41
Carney, Jake	6-0	190	So.	---
*** Earl, Glenn	6-1	204	Sr.	346:56



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Other letterwinners back to support that talented duo are junior Brandon Hoyte (57 tackles, 1 sack, 4 TFL), who rated sixth overall in tackles for Notre Dame though he started only the first two contests that Watson did not play and the Gator Bowl – and junior Corey Mays (4 tackles in 10 '02 appearances).

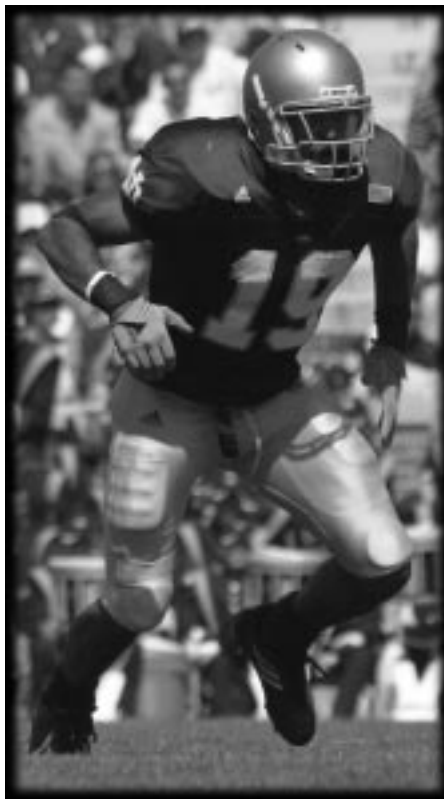
CORNERBACK: The Irish lose one star at cornerback with the graduation of consensus All-American Shane Walton, but the efforts of sidekick senior corner Vontez Duff (36 tackles, 1 interception, 6 passes broken up) proved him capable of the same sort of achievements.

An Associated Press third-team All-American himself, Duff will qualify as Notre Dame's top cover defensive back in '03. Add in his all-star return skills and he also qualifies as one of the top all-around athletes on the Irish roster as well as a Thorpe Award nominee. He played more minutes than anyone on the '02 roster.

Candidates to assume Walton's starting slot include senior Jason Beckstrom, a three-time letterwinner who sat out all of the '02 campaign with a torn bicep, along with senior Preston Jackson (26 tackles, 3 TFL, 141 special-team appearances in '02), converted junior wide receiver Carlos Campbell (4 catches for 38 in '02), junior



Senior Vontez Duff is one of the most exciting players in the college game on both offense and defense as he was a third-team All-American at the cornerback position and was ranked eighth in the nation in kick returns at almost 27 yards a runback. (photo by Cheryl Ertelt)



Senior Glenn Earl was second in '02 with 81 tackles, including 51 solos. He also is one of the hardest hitters in the country. (photo by Cheryl Ertelt)

Kickers/Punters

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	App.
Fitzpatrick, D.J.	6-1	192	Jr.	2 app.
*** Setta, Nicholas	5-11	184	Sr.	130 app.

Dwight Ellick (5 tackles, 138 special-team appearances) and sophomore Mike Richardson (DNP in '02).

SAFETY: Similar to the corner positions, the Irish lose one standout safety in the graduated Gerome Sapp (71 tackles, 3 TFL, 4 interceptions in '02) but return another blue-chipper in senior Glenn Earl (81 tackles, 4 TFL, 2 interceptions). Sapp ranked fourth on the Irish roster in total tackles, while Earl finished behind only Watson while developing a reputation as the hardest hitter in the secondary.

There are more than enough candidates to battle for Sapp's role – in senior Garron Bible (32 tackles, 1 sack, 1 TFL, 194 special-team appearances), juniors Lionel Bolen (played in 11 games in '02, making 88 special-team appearances) and Quentin Burrell (played in all 13 games in '02), plus sophomore Jake Carney (DNP in '02)

KICKER/PUNTER: Notre Dame will miss departed punter Joey Hildbold (38.9 average in '02), who handled those chores with aplomb the last four seasons. That means senior Nicholas Setta (29 of 42 on field goals in 2001-02 combined) could end up handling both the kicking and punting duties in 2003. Setta is a more than capable punter who has a current streak of 87 straight PATs and hit 14 of his 25 field goal attempts in '02 (including five in the opener vs. Maryland). At one point, Setta had hit at least one field goal in 16 straight games for the Irish. He needs 15 field goals in '03 to pass Irish career leader John Carney (51 in 1983-86).

Senior Vontez Duff is back to provide a potentially spectacular return game. He ranked eighth nationally in kickoff returns in '02 with his 27.7 average and also averaged 9.6 on 40 punt returns. He returned both a punt and kickoff for a touchdown in '02.

Snapper John Crowther must be replaced for '03, as does '02 holder David Miller.



2003 Notre Dame Football Facts

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Tyrone Willingham (Michigan State '77)

Record at Notre Dame: Second Season

Record at Notre Dame: 10-3 (.769)

Career Record: 54-39-1, .580 (Eight seasons)

Assistant Coaches: Bill Diedrick (Eastern Washington '70), offensive coordinator/quarterbacks; Kent Baer (Utah State '73), defensive coordinator; Mike Denbrock (Grand Valley State '86), offensive line – tackles/tight ends; Greg Mattison (Wisconsin-LaCrosse '71), defensive line/recruiting coordinator; John McDonnell (Carroll College '81), offensive line – centers/guards; Trent Miles (Indiana State '87), receivers; Buzz Preston (Hawaii '82), running backs/special teams; Bob Simmons (Bowling Green '71), linebackers; Trent Walters (Indiana '65), secondary

Director of Football Operations: Erica Genise (Iowa '93)

Director of Football Personnel Development: TBA

Graduate Assistant Coaches: Chad Klunder, D.J. Durkin

2003 Outlook

Offense: Multiple **Defense:** 4-3

2002 Record: Won 10, Lost 3 (Home 5-1, Away 3-1, Neutral 2-1)

Lettermen Lost: 25 overall: 14 offense, 9 defense, 2 specialists

Lettermen Returning: 37 overall: 18 offense, 19 defense, 1 specialist

Starters Lost: 10; **OFFENSE (6):** LT Jordan Black, LG Sean Mahan, C Jeff Faine, RT Brennan Curtin, WR Arnaz Battle, FB Tom Lopienski **DEFENSE (3):** DE Ryan Roberts, SS Jerome Sapp, CB Shane Walton **SPECIALISTS (1):** P Joey Hildbold

Starters Returning: 14; **OFFENSE (5):** WR Omar Jenkins, RG Sean Milligan, TE Gary Godsey, QB Carlyle Holiday, RB Ryan Grant **DEFENSE (8):** DE Kyle Budinscak, DT Darrell Campbell, NG Cedric Hilliard, ILB Courtney Watson, ILB Mike Goolsby, OLB Derek Curry, CB Vontez Duff, FS Glenn Earl **SPECIALISTS (1):** PK Nicholas Setta

Top Losses

• **LT Brennan Curtin** (Two-year starter, played 489:19 minutes in career)

• **RT Jordan Black** (Four-year starter, played in 43 games in his career, played over 1,023 minutes in career, preseason honorable mention All-American by *Street & Smith's*, *Football News* All-Independent team as a junior.

• **C Jeff Faine** (First-Team All-American by *The Sporting News* and ESPN.com, runner-up for the Rimington Award, Lombardi Award semifinalist, played in 36 games in career, logged almost 1,000 minutes in three seasons, Nick Pietrosante Award winner.)

LG Sean Mahan (Team captain in '02, played in 41 games in career – starting last 24, recorded 306:20 minutes in '02 – second-most on the Irish roster)

• **WR/KR Arnaz Battle** (Team captain, recorded 58 catches in 2002 – third most in school history for 786 yards, led Irish in all-purpose yards with 1,135 in '02, became only the sixth player in Irish history to receive five monograms, Westwood One/State Farm Student-Athlete of the Year, Sportsman of the Year by the Independence Bowl Foundation)

• **FB Tom Lopienski** (Two-year starter, played in 45 career games, starting 28, rushed for 205 yards on 64 carries in career)

• **DE Ryan Roberts** (Saw action in 42 games in career, starting 25 ... recorded 89 career tackles - 49 solos, also had 20 sacks and 18 TFL in career, winner of 2002 Moose Krause Lineman of the Year)

• **SS Jerome Sapp** (Team captain, Thorpe Award candidate, fourth on the Irish in tackles with 71 total – 42 solos, four INTs, seven PBU in '02, played in 42 games in his career, starting 23)

• **CB Shane Walton** (Team captain, first consensus All-American in 10 years, Bronko Nagurski Award finalist, Notre Dame MVP, played in 43 games starting 34, 68 tackles in '02, seven INTs, 7 PBU)



Senior receiver Omar Jenkins has big-play capabilities as he pulled in 37 catches for 633 yards, an average of 17.1 yards a catch, in 2002. (photo by Rico Casares)

• **P Joey Hildbold** (Two-time Ray Guy Award semifinalist, finished fifth on career Notre Dame punting average list at 40.25, is second on career punts and yardage list in Irish history)

Top Returnees

• **RG Sean Milligan** (Two year monogram winner, played 266.27 minutes in '02)

• **QB Carlyle Holiday** (Started 11 of 12 games in '02, finished 129-257 for 1,788 yds and 10 TDs in '02, threw only five INTs, tied ND record for TD passes in game with four vs. Rutgers, set Notre Dame record for consecutive passes without an INT with 126, has a 14-7 career record as a starter)

• **RB Ryan Grant** (Became only seventh player in Irish history to rush for 1,000 yds, finishing with 1,085 in '02, 261 atts, 4.2 yds/carry, nine TDs in '02)

• **K Nicholas Setta** (15-17 FGs, 23-23 PATs in '01, was 14-25 FGs in '02, has made 87 consecutive PATs – second longest streak in ND history; made a FG in 16 consecutive regular-season games at one point, made five field goals vs. Maryland in '02 Kickoff Classic)

• **WR Omar Jenkins** (37 catches for 633 yds, 17.1 avg, three TDs in '02)

• **TE Gary Godsey** (16 catches for 155 yds, great blocker)

• **DE Kyle Budinscak** (Started 12 games in '02, 20 tackles, three sacks, two-time Academic All-District honoree)

• **DT Darrell Campbell** (Played in 32 games, starting 22; 62 career tackles – 33 solo, 29 asst.; 17 tackles for loss, and nine sacks)

• **NG Cedric Hilliard** (Started 10 games; 31 tackles in '02 - 19 solo, 12 asst., 5 tackles for loss, two sacks)

• **ILB Courtney Watson** (ESPN.com First-Team All-American, Butkus Award Finalist, led team in tackles with 90 in only 10 games in '02 – 51 solos, 39 asst., three sacks, four INTs)

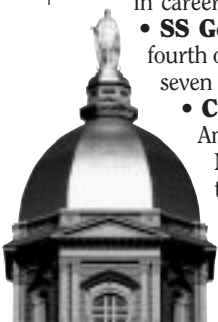
• **CB/KR Vontez Duff** (AP third-team All-American, was eighth in nation in KR at 26.7, Played in 35 games, starting 21; 36 tackles in '02 – 31 solo, five career INT; returned kick, punt and INT for TD in career)

• **FS Glenn Earl** (32 career games; second on Irish in '02 with 81 tackles – 51 solos, four TFL, one sack, two INTs, one of the hardest hitters in the game)

• **ILB Mike Goolsby** (Started all 13 games in '02, third on Irish in tackles with 75 – 48 solos, 13 TFL, four sacks, three PBU)

• **ILB Brandon Hoyte** (Played in 12 games, starting three in '02, finished sixth on Irish with 57 tackles in '02, 4 TFL)

• **OLB Derek Curry** (Started all 13 games in '02, had 34 tackles – 23 solos, seven TFL, four sacks)



2003 Spring Football Notes

SPRING FLING

The University of Notre Dame will open spring football drills for 2003 on Monday, March 31. All practices will begin at 4:00 p.m. and last approximately two hours, except where noted. The first 20 minutes of practice each day will be open for the media. Also, all interview requests for players and coaches must be made by the end of that 20-minute open session or before by calling Lisa Mushett at (574) 631-9471. Only requests made in advance will be granted at the end of practice each day. All interviews will take place in the media room located at the north end of Notre Dame Stadium.

Second-year Irish head coach Tyrone Willingham announced the complete schedule of 15 workout dates as follows with spring practice concluding April 26 with the annual Blue-Gold game in Notre Dame Stadium.



Monday, March 31
 Tuesday, April 1
 Thursday, April 3
 Friday, April 4
 Saturday, April 5 (3:00 p.m.)
 Tuesday, April 8
 Thursday, April 10
 Friday, April 11 (4:15 p.m.)
 Saturday, April 12 (2:00 p.m.)
 Monday, April 14 (4:45 p.m.)
 Tuesday, April 15
 Thursday, April 17
 Tuesday, April 22
 Thursday, April 24
 Saturday, April 26 (Blue-Gold Game)

NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL COACHING CLINIC

The University of Notre Dame football staff will conduct its annual spring clinic April 11-12, 2002.

Registration at the Joyce Center on campus begins at 8:00 a.m. EST on April 11 with clinic sessions running from April 11-12.

The clinic fee is \$50 each or \$60 after April 4 or at the door. For a brochure, please visit or call the Notre Dame football office at (574) 631-7475.

TIMES, PLACES AND SPACES

Kickoff times have been set for all Notre Dame home games in 2003. Here is the complete 2003 schedule:

Date	Opponent	Time	Television
Sept. 6	WASHINGTON STATE	1:30 p.m. EST	NBC
Sept. 13	at Michigan	TBA	TBA
Sept. 20	MICHIGAN STATE	1:30 p.m. EST	NBC
Sept. 27	at Purdue	TBA	TBA
Oct. 11	at Pittsburgh	TBA	TBA
Oct. 18	USC	1:30 p.m. EST	NBC
Oct. 25	at Boston College	TBA	TBA
Nov. 1	FLORIDA STATE	2:30 p.m. EST	NBC
Nov. 8	NAVY	2:30 p.m. EST	NBC
Nov. 15	BYU	2:30 p.m. EST	NBC
Nov. 29	at Stanford	TBA	TBA
Dec. 6	at Syracuse	1:00 p.m. EST	ABC



Head coach Tyrone Willingham was named *The Sporting News'* 2002 Sportsman of the Year becoming the first college football coach to win the honor. (photo courtesy of *The Sporting News*)

2002 SEASON IN REVIEW

- Notre Dame completed the 2002 season with a 10-3 record. Its 10 wins marked the most by an Irish club since 1993 (when they went 11-1 with a Cotton Bowl victory over Texas A&M). The 10 victories engineered by first-year head coach **Tyrone Willingham** also were the most ever for a rookie Irish mentor, topping the previous record of nine by **Ara Parseghian** in 1964.

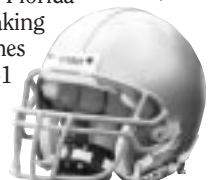
- Notre Dame was ranked 17th in the final Associated Press and *ESPN/USA Today* coaches polls. In addition, the Irish were ninth in the last Bowl Championship Series (BCS) standings at the end of the regular season. The No. 17 ranking marked the second time in three years the Irish finished among the top 17 teams in the final AP poll after starting the season unranked.

- With 10 victories in 2002, Notre Dame doubled its win total from the '01 season (5-6 record). It was the biggest one-season improvement in the victory column at Notre Dame since 1964, when Parseghian's first Irish team finished 9-1, compared to 2-7 in '63. The Irish also were 6-1 in games decided by eight points or less, tying the all-time Notre Dame record for wins in that category.

- Notre Dame had a 6-2 record vs. bowl teams in '02, including a 1-1 record vs. teams in the Bowl Championship Series (win over Florida State, loss to USC). The eight Irish opponents in bowls were: Maryland (defeated Tennessee in Peach), Purdue (defeated Washington in Sun), Michigan (defeated Florida in Outback), Pittsburgh (defeated Oregon State in Insight), Air Force (lost to Virginia Tech in San Francisco), Florida State (lost to Georgia in Sugar), Boston College (defeated Toledo in Motor City) and USC (defeated Iowa in Orange).

HEAD COACH TYRONE WILLINGHAM

A veteran with 25 seasons of coaching experience at the collegiate and professional levels, **Tyrone Willingham** completed his first season as head football coach at the University of Notre Dame with a 10-3 (.769) record with the Irish and a 54-39-1 (.580) mark overall. His 10 wins in 2002 were the most in Notre Dame history for a first-year Irish head coach, and he was the only the third Irish coach to start his debut season with eight consecutive victories (first since **Ara Parseghian** in 1964). Willingham also guided Notre Dame to wins over four ranked opponents (No. 7 Michigan, No. 11 Florida State, No. 18 Air Force and No. 21 Maryland) in '02, making him the first Irish head coach to win his first four games against ranked opponents (**Frank Leahy** went 3-0-1 against his first four ranked foes in 1941 and '42).



2003 Notre Dame Football Notes



Senior nose guard Cedric Hilliard, perhaps Notre Dame's most improved player in '02, is one of eight starters back on defense for the Irish in 2003.

For his efforts, Willingham was named the 2002 Home Depot National Coach of the Year, the Scripps College Coach of the Year and the winner of the '02 George Munger Award for College Coach of the Year, presented by the Maxwell Football Club. Willingham is just the fourth Notre Dame coach to win national honors, and the first since **Lou Holtz** in 1988. In addition, Willingham was the first college football coach ever to be named Sportsman of the Year by *The Sporting News*. He also coached three first-team All-Americans (**Jeff Faine, Shane Walton, Courtney Watson**) and presided over one of the largest turnarounds in Notre Dame history, a five-win improvement over a 5-6 mark in 2001.

TO BE THE BEST, YOU HAVE TO BEAT THE BEST

Notre Dame played the 28th toughest schedule in the nation in 2002, in which the Irish faced six teams that were ranked in both the final Associated Press and *ESPN/USA Today* polls (No. 4/4 USC, No. 9/9 Michigan, No. 12/11 North Carolina State, No. 13/13 Maryland, No. 19/18 Pittsburgh, No. 21/23 Florida State).

Notre Dame once again sees one of the hardest schedules in the nation in 2003 as it faces three Bowl Championship Series teams (Washington State, USC and Florida State) and seven teams that went to bowl games in 2002 (Washington State, Michigan, Purdue, Pittsburgh, USC, Boston College and Florida State). The Irish also face five teams that finished in the top 25 including Washington State, Michigan, Pittsburgh, USC and Florida State. Here is a breakdown of Notre Dame's 2003 opponents:

Opponent	'02 Record	Bowl Game
Washington State	10-2	Rose
Michigan	10-3	Outback
Michigan State	4-8	—
Purdue	7-6	Sun
Pittsburgh	9-4	Insight
USC	11-2	Orange
Boston College	9-4	Motor City
Florida State	9-5	Sugar
Navy	2-10	—
BYU	5-7	—
Stanford	2-9	—
Syracuse	4-8	—

POSITION CHANGES FOR 2003

A number of players have changed positions for the Irish during the offseason, most notably **Jeff Thompson** who has gone from defensive tackle to center. Others playing new positions include **Rashon Powers Neal**, who will share time between halfback and fullback, **Carlos Campbell** who has gone from receiver to cornerback and could possibly be a safety by fall practice, **Brian Mattes** who is now a member of the offensive line and **Nate Schiccato** who will share time between halfback and fullback.

NUMBER CHANGES FOR 2003

Eight players will be changing numbers for the 2003 season. FS/SS **Quentin Burrell** will now wear No. 8, CB **Dwight Ellick** will don No. 24, OL **Brian Mattes** will wear No. 79, **Patrick Nally** is in No. 88, FB/TB **Rashon Powers-Neal** will wear No. 16, FB **Mike Profeta** is in No. 38, LB **Anthony Salvador** will wear No. 43 and **Jeff Thompson** has changed to No. 72.

FRESHMAN NUMBERS FOR 2003

The following numbers have been assigned to the freshmen for the 2003 season: **Victor Abiamiri** (No. 95), **Chase Anastasio** (No. 23), **Nick Borsetti** (No. 56), **Joe Brockington** (No. 52), **John Carlson** (No. 89), **Isaiah Gardner** (No. 36), **Ryan Harris** (No. 68), **LaBrose Hedgmon** (No. 29), **Trevor Laws** (No. 98), **Ashley McConnell** (No. 35), **Chinedum Ndukwe** (No. 81), **Greg Olson** (No. 86), **Freddie Parish, Jr.** (No. 2), **Geoffrey Price** (No. 17), **Brady Quinn** (No. 10), **Jeff Samardzija** (No. 83), **Dwight Stephenson, Jr.** (No. 57), **John Sullivan** (No. 78), **Mitchell Thomas** (No. 47), **Travis Thomas** (No. 20), **Ambrose Wooden** (No. 42) and **Tom Zbikowski** (No. 28).

IRISH WELCOME BACK 19 PLAYERS ON DEFENSE INCLUDING EIGHT STARTERS

Notre Dame returns 19 players and eight starters from a defense that ranked in the top 50 in the nation in every defensive category and the top 15 in many of them in 2002. Returning starters for the Irish in 2003 are DE **Kyle Budinscak**, DT **Darrell Campbell**, NG **Cedric Hilliard**, OLB **Derek Curry**, ILB **Mike Goolsby**, ILB **Courtney Watson**, CB **Vontez Duff** and FS **Glenn Earl**.

Notre Dame finished the 2002 season ranked ninth in the nation in scoring defense (16.69), 10th in rushing defense (95.23) and pass efficiency defense (98.24), 13th in total defense (300.00) and 46th in passing defense at 204.77. The Irish also posted 37 sacks for 241 yards in 2002, 12 more than the previous season.

Other defensive notes from 2002 include:

- The Irish scored nine non-offensive (defense/special teams) touchdowns by six different defensive players — SS **Gerome Sapp** (fumble return), CB **Lionel Bolen** (special teams - fumble return) and CB **Vontez Duff** (interception return) scored against Purdue, while CB **Shane Walton** (interception return) and ILB **Courtney Watson** (interception return) scored against Stanford and LB **Carlos Pierre-Antoine** (blocked punt return) found the end zone at USC. Walton carded a second interception return for a touchdown vs. Rutgers, establishing the school record for interception returns for



2003 Notre Dame Football Notes

TDs in one season at five, and breaking the old record set by the 1966 club en route to the national championship. Walton also tied the school record with his second interception return for a score in 2002, a mark last achieved by **Allen Rossum** in 1995.

- Notre Dame's defensive acumen started with a stellar effort against Maryland in the Kickoff Classic, as the Irish held the defending ACC champion Terrapins to no points, eight first downs, 16 yards rushing and 133 yards of total offense. Maryland's offensive production was the lowest by an Irish opponent since Rutgers had six first downs, minus-6 yards rushing and 43 yards of total offense on Nov. 23, 1996. Notre Dame also had a field day with Rutgers in 2002 as the Irish held the Scarlet Knights to 14 yards rushing and 176 yards of total offense.

- Notre Dame shut out its opponents over the first five quarters of the 2002 season, its longest scoreless string on defense since Oct. 2-16, 1993, when it blanked Stanford (fourth quarter), Pittsburgh (all four quarters) and BYU (first quarter).

- Notre Dame recorded its second shutout of the season with a 42-0 whitewashing of Rutgers, marking the first time the Irish posted two shutouts in one season since 1996, when the Irish blanked Purdue (35-0) and Rutgers (62-0).

- Notre Dame's pass rush against Pittsburgh was its best in nearly six years, registering eight sacks against the Panthers. That was the most by the Irish since they collected nine sacks in a 62-0 win over Rutgers on Nov. 23, 1996.

- The Notre Dame defense limited the high-powered Air Force rushing offense to a meager 104 yards on 38 carries (2.7 yards per rush). Air Force wound up leading the nation in rushing for 2002, averaging 307.77 yards per game on the ground.

- In 13 contests (89 possessions), the Irish defense allowed just nine offensive touchdowns in the first half (one by Stanford, Florida State, Boston College and Navy, two by USC and three by North Carolina State).

RUSHING DEFENSE

Notre Dame's opponents found the going extremely difficult in 2002 when it came to running the football. The Irish defense ranked 10th in the nation in rushing defense (95.23 yards per game), despite facing seven opponents that were ranked in the top 50 in the nation in rushing offense when they played Notre Dame. In fact, only five of Notre Dame's 13 opponents managed to rush for more than 100 yards in '02, and only two adversaries (Navy and USC) topped the 150-yard mark. Furthermore, only one Irish opponent (USC) matched its season rushing average and only five (Purdue, Pittsburgh, Boston College, Navy and USC) were able to register even half of their seasonal rushing averages against Notre Dame. The chart below shows each opponent's season rushing average at the time it played Notre Dame, as well as its NCAA statistical ranking entering the game. The chart shows how effective the Irish were at blunting these high-powered rushing offenses:

Opponent	Season Avg. (NCAA rank)	Yards vs. ND	Difference
Maryland	220.73 (11th)*	16	-204.73
Purdue	273.0 (17th)	147	-126.0
Michigan	185.0 (44th)	91	-94.0
Michigan State	171.33 (48th)	53	-118.33
Stanford	187.33 (32nd)	61	-126.33
Pittsburgh	130.67 (not ranked)	89	-41.67
Air Force	339.17 (1st)	104	-235.17
Florida State	230.71 (15th)	93	-137.71
Boston College	149.14 (not ranked)	107	-42.14
Navy	282.50 (4th)	216	-66.50
Rutgers	59.89 (not ranked)	14	-45.89
USC	129.09 (not ranked)	185	+55.91
North Carolina State	150.38 (not ranked)	62	-88.38

* Maryland's final 2001 seasonal average and NCAA rank

COURTNEY WATSON LEADING CANDIDATE FOR BUTKUS AWARD

Senior All-America inside linebacker **Courtney Watson**, who led the Irish with 90 tackles in only 10 games in 2002, is once again a leading candidate for the 2003 Butkus Award given to the nation's best linebacker. A 2002 finalist and a first-team All-American by ESPN.com, Watson was the Irish leader among the linebacking crew last season and is poised to have another stellar year in 2003 after coming back from a knee injury that kept him out of the 2003 Gator Bowl. For his career, Watson has 177 tackles, including 24 for loss. He also has five sacks and five interceptions, including two for touchdowns. Watson is eyeing the Notre Dame record for career interceptions by a linebacker, which is nine set by **John Pergine** from 1965-67. Also, Watson has a chance to tie or break the Irish record for interception returns for touchdowns in a career which is three held by four people, most recently by 2002 consensus All-American **Shane Walton** who had three from 1999-2002.

TURNOVER MARGIN

Notre Dame posted to a 10-3 record in 2002, thanks in part to its ability to take care of the ball. The Irish finished with a +5 turnover margin (+0.38/game), which was good for 42nd in the nation in 2002. All together, Notre Dame recorded 33 takeaways, while giving the ball away 28 times. Those 33 takeaways led to 105 Irish points (8.1 ppg.), including six turnovers that were turned directly into scores by the defense and special teams.

OFFENSIVE NUMBERS

Although Notre Dame's offense did not rank among the nation's best in 2002, there were still some extremely positive things that occurred in 2002. The Irish averaged 139.38 yards a game rushing and 313.54 yards of total offense. Individually, QB **Carlyle Holiday** attempted 257 passes, which ranked as the sixth-highest single-season total in Irish history and his 129 completions were the ninth-best mark. RB **Ryan Grant** became the seventh player in Irish history to rush for over 1,000 yards in a single season (1,085 yards) and receiver **Arnaz Battle** posted the third-highest single-season reception total with 58 catches in 2002.

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

QB **Carlyle Holiday** etched his name into the Irish record books last season in a number of different categories. Besides his pass completions (129 is ninth all-time) and pass attempts (257 is sixth), Holiday posted the third-best lowest interception percentage in a season at .0194 (five INTs in 257 att.) and currently ranks third all-time in that stat with only 12 INTs in 401 career passes, a .0299 mark. **Matt LoVecchio** holds the all-time mark of .0257 (5 of 194) set in 2000-01.



Senior defensive end Kyle Budinscak helped Notre Dame rank 10th in the nation in rushing defense giving up only 95.23 yards a game in 2002. (photo by Cheryl Ertelt)



2003 Notre Dame Football Notes

Some other numbers for Holiday include:

- If Holiday matches the number of attempts he had in 2002 this season, he would rank fourth on the all-time Notre Dame list.
- Holiday became the eighth player in Irish history to set the Notre Dame record for touchdown passes in a game with four vs. Rutgers in 2002. The last time a Notre Dame player had four TD passes in a game was **Jarious Jackson** vs. Arizona State in 1999.
- Holiday set the all-time Notre Dame record for most consecutive passes without an interception at 126 breaking the old mark of 119 held by **Steve Beuerlein**.
- Holiday wound up 65 yards away from tracking down **Ron Powlus** (1,853 in 1995) for 10th place on the single-season yardage chart.
- Holiday also broke a school record in the win over Navy, averaging 12.95 yards per pass attempt to top the previous mark of 12.8 yards per attempt by **George Izo** vs. Pittsburgh in 1958.

SPREADING THE WEALTH

Notre Dame passers did a solid job of distributing the ball to several different receivers in 2002. In fact, 16 different players caught at least one pass, including QB **Carlyle Holiday**. The 16 pass catchers in '02 were the most for the Irish since 1996, when they also had 16 players catch passes. What's more, the Irish saw at least five players catch a pass in nine of 13 games in '02, including a season-high eight different receivers against Maryland, Stanford and Rutgers and seven different pass-catchers against Boston College and North Carolina State.

GRANT BACK FOR MORE

TB **Ryan Grant** joined a long line of stellar running backs in Notre Dame lore with his 68-yard effort vs. Rutgers that pushed him past the 1,000-yard mark. He rushed 261 times for 1,085 yards in 2002, becoming only the seventh player in school history to rush for 1,000 yards in a single season, and the first since **Autry Denson** in 1998 (1,176 yards). Grant's yardage total also was the 10th highest in school history. Denson and **Allen Pinkett** are the only Irish runners to crack the 1,000-yard mark three times in their careers — Pinkett did it from 1983-85, while Denson turned the trick from 1996-98. The other Notre Dame 1,000-yard rushers are **Al Hunter** (1976), **Vagas Ferguson** (1978-79), **Reggie Brooks** (1992) and **Lee Becton** (1993). Ferguson holds the single-season school record with 1,437 yards in 1979.

Grant posted four 100-yard games in 2002, and had three other games with at least 90 yards rushing. His best outing came at No. 18 Air Force, when he established new career highs with 30 carries for 190 yards and one touchdown. It was the 12th-highest single-game output in school history, and the most since **Tony Fisher** rolled up 196 yards on the ground on Nov. 11, 2000, against Boston College. Grant's 30 carries also were the most by an Irish back since **Autry Denson** toted the pigskin 31 times in a 1998 win over Purdue.

In addition, Grant had a nose for the end zone in 2002. He scored a team-high nine touchdowns, the most since Denson scored 15 times in 1998. Grant's two scores at Florida State also capped a string of six consecutive games in which the Irish tailback found the end zone. The last Notre Dame player to rush for touchdowns in six straight games in the same season was Denson, who scored in each of the first 10 games of 1998.

SPECIAL TEAMS STILL SPECIAL

The Irish should be special again on special teams in 2003 as PK **Nicholas Setta** is back and looks to assume the punting duties of two-time Ray Guy award semifinalist **Joey Hildbold**. Setta, a 2001 Lou Groza Award semifinalist and an '02 Groza Award candidate, ended this season having made 87 straight PAT attempts, the second-longest run in school history. He also set a Notre Dame record with at least one field goal in 16 consecutive games, a streak, which ended at

Michigan State. Setta established a Kickoff Classic record and tying the school mark with five field goals, including a Classic-record 51-yard boot, to earn game MVP honors. He ranks fourth in school history with 37 career field goals.

In the return game, **Vontez Duff** will give Notre Dame a potent special teams unit. Duff ranked eighth nationally in kickoff return yardage, averaging 27.68 yards per return, highlighted by his 92-yard runback for a score against Navy. Duff also was strong on punt runbacks with a 76-yard TD return vs. Maryland to his credit — he also had a 92-yard punt return for a score vs. Stanford called back by a penalty.

The long snapper position is wide open after the departure of three-year monogram winner and second-team Academic All-American **John Crowther**. Look for junior **Jeff Thompson**, senior **Gary Godsey** and sophomore **Paul Jancha** to get the most reps during the spring and fall at the long snapper position. Also, with the graduation of **David Miller** and Hildbold, the Irish will be looking for a new holder. Senior walk-on quarterback **Matt Krueger** has the most experience will try to claim the position in the spring.

THE SHOWSTOPPER VONTEZ DUFF

Senior All-America CB/KR **Vontez Duff** returns for his final season with the Irish in 2003. The native of Copperas Cove, Texas, who started playing defense when he arrived at Notre Dame, is the showstopper in both the Irish backfield and on special teams.

The showstopper lived up to his billing in 2002, as he became the only person in Irish history to score touchdowns via an interception, punt and kickoff return in the same season. He also was two yards away from returning a fumble for a touchdown against Florida State, which would have made him the only player in NCAA history to accomplish such a feat.

Also, Duff's touchdowns in three consecutive games (Purdue 2001, Maryland and Purdue 2002) earned him another place in Notre Dame history. No defensive player had ever recorded touchdowns, whether on defense or special teams, in three straight games prior to Duff's hat trick.

THE GREATEST EVER? DUFF HAS A CHANCE TO BE JUST THAT

Senior **Vontez Duff** has made his presence known in the Notre Dame record books in the return game putting himself in prime position to be the greatest kick returner in the history of Notre Dame football at season's end.

Duff, who finished eighth in the nation in kickoff return yardage at 27.68 per return in 2002, is fourth all-time in total kick return yards with 1,449 in his career. The all-time leader is **Tim Brown** with 2,089 yards.

Some other numbers for Duff:

- Duff ranks seventh on the all-time Notre Dame list for kickoff returns with 31 (Brown holds the record with 69).
- He finished fourth on the single-season kickoff return list with 526 yards in 2002.
- He ranks sixth all-time with 984 kickoff return yards (Brown is first with 1,613 yards).
- He broke the single-season record for total kick returns in a season with 59 (19 KR, 40 PR, 911 yds) in 2002, breaking the record of 57 set by Brown in 1987.
- He has 80 total returns in his career and is only 25 away from Brown's career record.
- He ranks sixth all-time in kick return yards per attempt with 18.11 (**Raghib "Rocket" Ismail** is first at 22.6).
- He also has returned three kicks for touchdowns in his career, tying him for fourth all-time with **Nick Rassas** and **Ricky Watters**. The all-time record is six set by **Allen Rossum** (1994-97), Brown (1984-87) and Ismail (1988-90).



2003 Notre Dame Football Notes

SETTA KICKING FOR THE RECORD BOOKS IN 2003

Senior PK **Nicholas Setta**, a 2001 Lou Groza Award semifinalist and '02 Groza Award candidate, has been one of Notre Dame's top offensive weapons over the last three seasons (2000-02), thanks to his accuracy from various distances. Setta got the '02 season going in a big way in Notre Dame's win over No. 21 Maryland at the Kickoff Classic. Setta set a Classic record by kicking five field goals, tying the school record set by **Craig Hentrich** against Miami (Fla.) in 1990. One of Setta's kicks came from 51 yards out, setting a new Kickoff Classic mark and personal high for the Lockport, Ill., native. Along with his one PAT, Setta scored 16 points on the night, good enough to earn him Kickoff Classic MVP honors and recognition as the *USATODAY.com* National Player of the Week.

Heading into the 2003 season Setta owns a streak of 87 consecutive made extra points, dating back to a win over Stanford in 2000. That streak is the second-longest in school history behind Hentrich, who converted 136 consecutive PAT from Sept. 30, 1989 to Sept. 26, 1992.

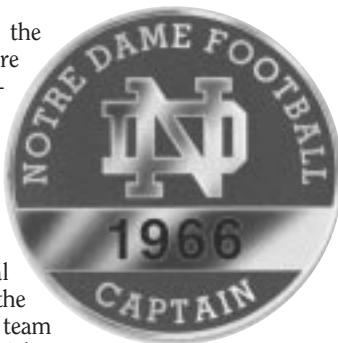
Some other numbers for Setta include:

- He ranks third all-time on the career field goal attempts list with 56. The record is 69 set **John Carney** from 1984-86
- He has made 37 field goals in his career and the all-time record is 51 by Carney.
- He set the Notre Dame record for consecutive games with a field goal at 16.
- He is the all-time career leader in extra point percentage at .990 (99-100)
- He ranks fourth on the all-time career points by kicking list with 210. Hentrich holds the record at 294.

CAPTAINS POLICIES

For only the second time in the 114-year history of football at Notre Dame, the Irish designated captains on a game-by-game basis in 2002. Back in 1946, legendary head coach **Frank Leahy** elected to choose captains for each game — the result was an 8-0-1 record and the fifth of Notre Dame's 11 consensus national championships. At the end of the 2002 campaign, the Irish football team then voted on season captain which were

Arnaz Battle, Sean Mahan, Gerome Sapp and Shane Walton. All four, as well as all previous Notre Dame captains, received a pin to commemorate their service to the team.



THE FINAL 2002 NCAA STATISTICS REPORT

Here are the final NCAA statistical rankings for Notre Dame (top 50 only):

Team Rankings	Notre Dame
Rushing Offense	139.38
Passing Offense	174.15
Total Offense	313.54
Scoring Offense	22.31
Rushing Defense	10th at 95.23
Passing Defense	46th at 204.77
Pass Efficiency Defense	10th at 98.24
Total Defense	13th at 300.00
Scoring Defense	9th at 16.69
Net Punting	44th at 35.20
Punt Returns	9.77
Kickoff Returns	15th at 23.08
Turnover Margin	42nd at 0.38 (+5 overall)

Individual Rankings

Individual Rankings	Notre Dame
Interceptions	Shane Walton 13th at 0.54 Courtney Watson 34th at 0.40 Gerome Sapp 46th at 0.36
Kickoff Returns	Vontez Duff 8th at 27.68
Field Goals	Nicholas Setta 48th at 1.08

MAKING THE GRADE

The Notre Dame football squad recently had three of the most successful semesters in the classroom in the history of the program, based on final grades from the 2001 fall semester the 2002 spring semester and the 2002 fall semester. In the fall of 2001, the Irish team finished with its second-highest combined grade-point average on record (2.685) since statistics were kept beginning in 1992. A total of 12 players earned Dean's List recognition and 38 players posted a "B" average or higher last fall. Then, in the spring of 2002, the Irish topped that mark with a record-setting 2.911 combined team GPA, with 13 players making the Dean's List and another 47 averaging a "B" or better. In the fall of 2002, the Irish had another good semester in the classroom posting a 2.835 GPA with eight players on the Dean's List and 27 with a 3.0 or better. The Irish also had two players, **Charles Hedman** and **Jason Halvorson**, who recorded perfect 4.0 GPAs in the fall and three others with a 3.9 GPA or better (**Tom Lopienski** – 3.965, **Rob Woods** – 3.983 and **Mike McNair** – 3.917)

GRADUATION RATES

The University of Notre Dame received a 2002 *USA Today*/NCAA Academic Achievement Award for graduating 90 percent of its freshmen student-athletes who enrolled in 1995.

Now in their second year, the awards were presented in September 2002 to the 10 institutions with the highest overall graduation rates for scholarship student-athletes who began college in the 1995-96 academic year. Rice University was first at 91 percent, one point better than Notre Dame, Stanford and Duke.

The awards were announced in conjunction with the release of the 2002 NCAA Graduation Rate Report. The 12th such survey issued by the NCAA, the report covers student-athletes who enrolled between 1992 and 1995 at Division I institutions, including 115 in Division I-A.

The NCAA bases graduation rates on the raw percentage of student-athletes who entered an institution and graduated within six years. Students who leave or transfer, regardless of academic standing, are considered non-graduates. In addition to one-year rates, the NCAA provides a four-year average to better measure graduation rates over time at each institution.

As it has since the NCAA survey began, Notre Dame ranked among the top 10 in five major student-athlete graduation rate areas — overall, football, men, women and African-Americans.

BUDINCSAK AND HOYTE AIM FOR ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA HONORS IN 2003

LE **Kyle Budinscak** and **ILB Brandon Hoyte** are hoping to garner Academic All-America honors in 2003 after being named to the Verizon Academic All-District V football team, in 2002. Budinscak earned first-team honors, while Hoyte was a member of the second-team. To be eligible, a player must be a starter or significant contributor, at least a sophomore academically, play in 75 percent of the team's contests and have a 3.2 grade-point average or higher. It was the second time Budinscak won the award, while it was the first-such distinction for Hoyte.



2003 Notre Dame Football Notes

Budinscak, from Bridgewater, N.J., recorded 20 tackles on the season, including six for loss and three sacks. He also was a key component on an Irish defense that as a unit was ranked 13th in the nation and ninth nationally in scoring defense giving up only 16.69 points a game. Enrolled in the Mendoza College of Business and majoring in finance, Budinscak has a 3.526 grade-point average and has been on the Dean's List four of five semesters.

Hoyte, from Parlin, N.J., started three games in '02 in place of an ill **Courtney Watson**, who was a Butkus Award finalist. In those three games, Hoyte was Notre Dame's leading tackler with 27 stops, including a career-high 10 tackles vs. North Carolina State in the Gator Bowl. He primarily served in a back-up role to Watson and placed sixth on the team with 57 tackles, including four for loss with one sack. A pre-professional major in the College of Arts and Letters, Hoyte has a 3.353 grade-point average.

IRISH REMAIN A FAN FAVORITE

The Harris Poll, in conjunction with the *Wall Street Journal*, asked a sample of college sports fans from Aug. 26-Sept. 3, 2002, to name their favorite college football team, and for the fourth consecutive poll, Notre Dame was tapped the fans' favorite team. The Irish also pulled in top billing in 1997, 1998 and 1999. They were followed in the latest poll by Florida State, Ohio State, Penn State and Nebraska.

NOTRE DAME STADIUM TERMED NATION'S BEST

Legendary Notre Dame Stadium, now in its 72nd season of existence, was designated as the nation's top college football stadium, according to an article written by **Wendell Barnhouse** of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* during the 2002 season.

Barnhouse also listed Notre Dame Stadium as having the third-best game atmosphere of any college facility in the country, trailing only Texas A&M's Kyle Field and Florida's Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

NOTRE DAME ON THE SMALL SCREEN

With all 13 games in 2002 televised by the major networks, the Irish extended their streak of appearances on NBC, ABC, CBS or ESPN to 124 straight games. That's a streak that includes 10 full seasons (1993-2002), and it will continue at least through the first game of the 2003 campaign vs. Washington State, a contest that will be broadcast on NBC. The last time the Irish didn't appear on one of those four networks was more than 10 years ago (Oct. 31, 1992), when Notre Dame downed Navy, 38-7, at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. That game was shown locally in the South Bend area on WNDU-TV. Here's a breakdown of the networks on which the Irish have played during this impressive streak:

YEAR	GAMES	NBC	ABC	CBS	ESPN
1992	4	3	1	—	—
1993	12	7	4	—	1
1994	12	7	5	—	—
1995	12	6	4	1	1
1996	11	6	2	2	1
1997	13	6	3	2	2
1998	12	7	3	2	—
1999	12	7	3	1	1
2000	12	6	3	3	—
2001	11	6	4	—	1
2002	13	7	4	1	1
Totals	124	68	36	12	8

BIG CROWDS

Notre Dame now has played in front of sellout crowds in 150 of its previous 173 games, including all 13 games in 2002. In addition, the Irish attracted stadium record crowds in three games in '02 — the Air Force contest brought in a Falcon Stadium-record crowd of 56,409 (nearly 4,000 more than its listed capacity), while the Florida State game resulted in a Doak Campbell Stadium-record gathering of 84,106 (more than 2,000 above its listed capacity). Then, with the addition of 140 field seats against Boston College, the Irish and Eagles set a Notre Dame Stadium attendance record of 80,935. All told, Notre Dame has helped set

FIGHTING IRISH PASS

The University of Notre Dame, a member of Official College Sports Network (OCSN), and RealNetworks®, Inc (Nasdaq: RNWK), the global leader in Internet media delivery, have partnered just in time for the 2002 college football season. Notre Dame, along with more than 45 top colleges and universities, will bring exciting, multi-media content including live audio broadcasts of the best in college football, basketball, baseball and other sports to college sports fans across the Internet via a new subscription-only service called College Sports Pass.

This exciting college package will kick off the fall sports season by providing live audio coverage of brand-name football games to fans everywhere via the Internet. College Sports Pass will feature Notre Dame, along with defending national champion and pre-season No. 1 Miami, nationally-ranked Washington, Michigan State, Illinois, Arizona and more than 40 others.

Irish fans will also be treated to audio and/or video from press conferences, weekly coach's shows, highlight shows, live statistics breakdowns, league standings and other relevant programming as individually offered by school. For just \$6.95 per month, subscribers will be treated to the highest bandwidth live broadcast yet available.

To sign up for the subscription, Notre Dame fans can go directly to the Fighting Irish official athletic site (www.und.com), www.realone.com, or directly to their RealOne Player. A full list of participating colleges may be found at: www.collegesports.com.

The action doesn't end with the football season, either. Member schools will provide subscribers with any sport that is covered by their media networks — whether it's basketball, baseball or any other sport broadcast via OCSN.

ND WEBSITE UND.COM TOPS IN THE NATION

Notre Dame's success on the gridiron in 2002 resulted in success on the school's athletics website (www.und.com). The site, run by the Official College Sports Network (OCSN), attracted more than five million page views during the month of September, tops among the 130 college websites in the OCSN family. In addition, the website tallied more orders for its online store than any other OCSN institution, including Miami and Oklahoma. More than 3,200 orders were processed and approximately \$95,000 in sales were registered, with the best-selling item being "The Shirt" — the kelly green T-shirt with the slogan "Return to Glory," which has been wildly popular among Irish fans in '02.



2003 Notre Dame Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	DOB	Hometown	High School	HS Coach
1 *	Clark, Jared	TE	6-4	242	Sr.	10-31-81	Sarasota, FL	Cardinal Mooney	Mike Dowling
4 **	Grant, Ryan	RB	6-1	209	Jr.	12-9-82	Nyack, NY	Don Bosco Prep	Grege Tool
5 *	McKnight, Rhema	WR	6-2	207	So.	3-6-84	La Palma, CA	Kennedy	Mitch Olson
6 *	Campbell, Carlos	CB	5-11	186	Jr.	11-18-82	Hampton, VA	Hampton	Mike Smith
7 **	Holiday, Carlyle	QB	6-3	221	Sr.	10-4-81	San Antonio, TX	Roosevelt	Glenn Hill
8 *	Burrell, Quentin	FS/SS	6-0	180	So.	11-26-82	Decatur, GA	Southwest Dekalb	Bob Smithith
8 +	Krueger, Matt	QB	5-10	177	Sr.	5-23-82	South Bend, IN	Marian	Reggie Glon
9 ***	Beckstrom, Jason	CB	5-10	186	Sr.	4-10-81	Tulsa, OK	Jenks	Allan Trimble
9 *	Dillingham, Pat	QB	6-1	211	Jr.	8-16-83	Portola Valley, CA	St. Francis	Mike Mitchell
11 *	Wilson, Marcus	RB	5-11	198	Jr.	9-25-83	Staten Island, NY	Poly Prep	Deno Mangiero
12	Olsen, Chris	QB	6-4	220	So.	4-4-83	Wayne, NJ	Wayne Hills	Chris Olsen
13 ***	Setta, Nicholas	K/P	5-11	184	Sr.	5-6-81	Lockport, IL	Lockport Township	Brad Kooi
14 ***	Godsey, Gary	TE	6-6	250	Sr.	3-16-81	Tampa, FL	Jesuit	Dominick Ciao
15 **	Jackson, Preston	CB	5-9	177	Sr.	9-7-81	Tampa, FL	Tampa Hillsborough	Earl Garcia
16 *	Powers-Neal, Rashon	FB	6-2	227	Jr.	4-3-83	St. Paul, MN	Cretin-Derham Hall	Rich Kallok
16 +	Revelle, Stan	QB	5-11	183	Jr.	9-9-82	Poplar Bluff, Mo.	Poplar Bluff	Mark Barrouse
18 *	Rodamer, Ronnie	WR	6-4	211	Sr.	7-24-82	Morgantown, WV	Morgantown	Mike McNew
19 ***	Earl, Glenn	FS	6-1	204	Sr.	6-10-81	Lisle, IL	Naperville North	Larry McKeon
19 +	Fitzpatrick, D.J.	K/P	6-1	192	Jr.	11-15-82	Granger, IN	Marion	Reggie Glon
21 *	Stovall, Maurice	WR	6-5	221	So.	2-21-85	Philadelphia, PA	Archbishop Carroll	Dan Bielli
24 **	Ellick, Dwight	CB	5-10	177	Jr.	9-30-82	Tampa, FL	Wharton	Richard Wood
25	Schiccatano, Nate	FB	6-3	224	So.	9-3-82	Coal Township, PA	Southern Columbia	Jim Roth
26 **	Bible, Garron	SS	5-10	197	Sr.	12-22-81	Kingwood, TX	Kingwood	Ken Herring
26 +	Schmidt, Josh	FB	6-1	220	Jr.	11-30-82	Germantown, TN	Briar Crest Christian	Hugh Freeze
27 *	Bolen, Lionel	SS	6-0	206	Jr.	7-18-83	Westhampton, NJ	Rancocas Valley	Jim DiCicco
28 +	Laux, Cole	FB	5-10	229	Sr.	4-11-82	Mishawaka, IN	Marian	Reggie Glon
30	Richardson, Mike	CB	6-1	188	So.	2-18-84	Warner Robins, GA	Warner Robins	Richard Fendley
31	Carney, Jake	FS	6-0	190	So.	4-28-83	Lexington, KY	Catholic	Bob Sphire
32	Jenkins, Jeff	RB	6-0	211	So.	2-22-84	Ann Arbor, MI	Huron	Paul Verska
33 ***	Watson, Courtney	ILB	6-1	234	Sr.	9-18-80	Sarasota, FL	Riverview	John Sprague
34 ***	Duff, Vontez	CB	5-11	194	Sr.	3-8-82	Copperas Cove, TX	Copperas Cove	Jack Welch
38 +	Profeta, Mike	RB	5-11	198	Sr.	12-2-81	Cranberry Township, PA	Seneca Valley	Mike Buchert
39 *	Hoyte, Brandon	ILB	6-0	228	Jr.	9-26-83	Parlin, NJ	Sayreville War Memorial	George Najjar
39 +	Bemenderfer, David	SS	5-11	193	Sr.	6-26-81	Mishawaka, IN	Penn	Chris Geesman
40 +	Schomas, Nate	WR	5-10	165	So.	12-21-81	Wheaton, IL	Wheaton-Warrenville South	John Thorne
41 ***	Goolsby, Mike	ILB	6-3	243	Sr.	9-10-82	Joliet, IL	Catholic	Dan Sharp
43 +	Salvador, Anthony	ILB	6-2	220	So.	5-4-84	Concord, CA	De La Salle	Bob Ladouceur
44 *	Tuck, Justin	DE	6-5	246	Jr.	3-29-83	Kellyton, AL	Central Coosa County	Keith Bullard
46 *	Mays, Corey	ILB	6-1	238	Jr.	11-27-83	Chicago, IL	Morgan Park	Lexie Spurlock
48 *	Collins, Jerome	OLB/DE	6-4	250	Sr.	8-18-82	Warrenville, IL	Wheaton-Warrenville South	John Thorne
49 **	Curry, Derek	OLB	6-3	241	Sr.	9-5-81	Sealy, TX	Sealy	T.J. Mills
50 **	Hilliard, Cedric	NG	6-2	295	Sr.	11-19-80	Arlington, TX	Lamar	Eddy Peach
51	Ryan, Jamie	OT	6-5	290	So.	6-19-84	Tamaqua, PA	Marian Catholic	Stan Dakosty
54 +	Fitzgerald, David	OL	6-4	271	So.	1-27-84	Godfrey, IL	Marquette Catholic	Mike Slaughter
55	Giles, Zachary	C	6-3	287	Jr.	8-27-82	Marshfield, MA	Marshfield	Lou Silva
58 +	Jancha, Paul	SN	6-1	245	So.	12-10-83	St. Joseph, MI	St. Joseph	Ike Muhlenkamp
59 +	Bent, James	OL	6-2	253	So.	9-6-83	Mishawaka, IN	Mishawaka	Jim Aldrich
60 ***	Campbell, Darrell	DT	6-4	296	Sr.	7-6-81	South Holland, IL	Thronwood	Terry Kennedy
62	Raridon, Scott	OT	6-7	300	So.	6-2-84	Mason City, IA	Mason City	John Lee



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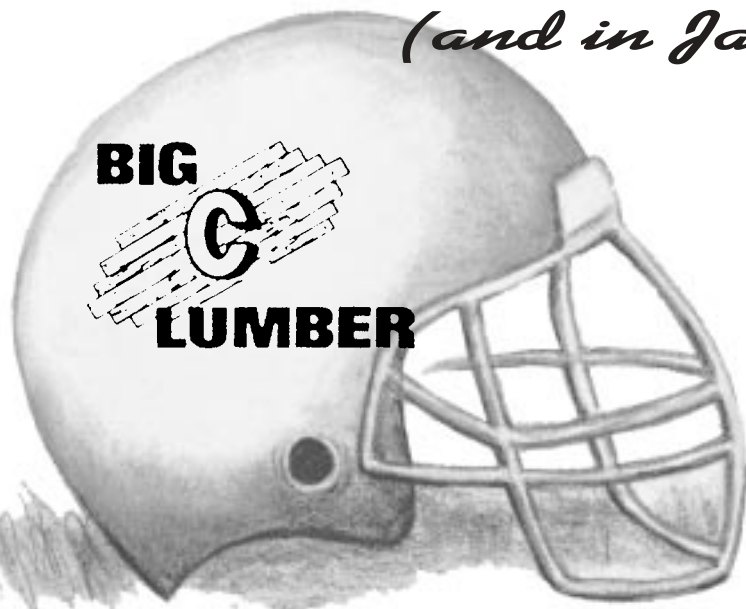
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2003 Notre Dame Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	DOB	Hometown	High School	HS Coach
64 +	Dunn, Casey	OT/OG	6-4	255	Jr.	7-10-83	Miami, FL	Gulliver Prep	Steve Howey
65 **	Milligan, Sean	OG	6-4	291	Sr.	2-18-81	Norcross, GA	Norcross	Ron Green
66	Landri, Derek	NG	6-2	265	So.	9-21-83	Concord, CA	De La Salle	Bob Ladoucer
69	Mitchell, Darin	OG	6-3	280	Jr.	1-20-83	Jonesboro, GA	Lovejoy	C.W. Campbell
70 *	Molinaro, Jim	OT	6-6	301	Sr.	4-27-81	Bethlehem, PA	Catholic	Bob Stem
71	Bonelli, James	OG/OT	6-6	282	So.	5-6-84	Camarillo, CA	St. Bonaventure	Jon Mack
71 +	Kowalski, David	OG	6-2	240	Sr.	9-5-82	Chicago, IL	De La Salle	Jim Granan
72	Thompson, Jeff	C	6-4	287	Jr.	9-18-82	Granger, IN	Penn	Chris Geesman
73	LeVoi, Mark	OT	6-7	320	Jr.	7-29-82	Eden Prairie, MN	Eden Prairie	Mike Grant
74 *	Stevenson, Dan	OG	6-5	297	Jr.	10-4-82	Barrington, IL	Barrington	Al Kumrodt
75	Frome, Chris	DE	6-5	264	So.	1-2-84	Saugus, CA	Newhall Hart	Mike Herrington
76	Morton, Bob	C	6-4	299	So.	9-19-84	McKinney, TX	McKinney	Ron Poe
77 *	Pauly, Greg	DT	6-6	291	Sr.	3-23-82	Waukesha, WI	South	Dave Rusch
79	Mattes, Brian	OL	6-6	266	So.	12-28-83	Larksville, PA	Wyoming Valley West	Ed Michaels
80 **	Jenkins, Omar	WR	6-1	205	Sr.	5-8-81	Dallas, TX	Jesuit	Bob Wonderlick
82 *	Shelton, Matt	WR	5-11	177	Jr.	4-1-82	Collierville, TN	Collierville	Paul Cox
84 +	O'Hara, Mike	WR	5-10	174	So.	3/17/83	Bellevue, WA	Newport	Gary Taller
84 +	Woods, Rob	WR	6-3	200	So.	12/15/83	Atlantic, IA	Atlantic	Gaylord Schelling
85 *	Palmer, Billy	TE	6-4	251	Sr.	1-27-81	Wyntree Heathrow, FL	Lake Highland Prep	Tim Borcky
87	Freeman, Marcus	TE	6-4	242	So.	10-24-83	St. Paul, MN	Cretin-Derham Hall	Rick Kallok
88	Fasano, Anthony	TE	6-4	253	So.	4-20-84	Verona, NJ	Verona	Lou Racioppe
88 +	Nally, Patrick	TE	6-3	243	Sr.	9-17-81	Tulsa, OK	Bishop Kelley	Greg Mason
90 *	Beidatsch, Brian	DE	6-4	283	Jr.	7-9-82	Milwaukee, WI	Marquette	Dick Basham
92 **	Budinscak, Kyle	DE	6-4	270	Sr.	8-20-82	Bridgewater, NJ	Raritan	Kirk Hamrah
93	Santucci, Dan	DE	6-5	270	So.	6-9-85	Chicago, IL	St. Patrick's	Dan Galante
97	Leitko, Travis	DE	6-6	264	So.	8-9-83	The Woodlands, TX	The Woodlands	Weldon Willig
99	Sapp, Jason	DE	6-3	256	Sr.	6-11-82	Bridgeport, CT	Notre Dame	Jeff Bevino

Good Luck Irish in '03 (and in January of 2004!)



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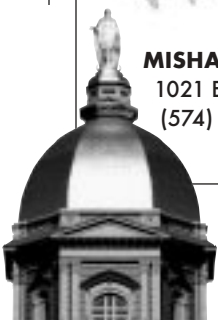
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2003 Notre Dame Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	DOB	Hometown	High School	HS Coach
9	Beckstrom, Jason	CB	5-10	186	Sr.	4-10-81	Tulsa, OK	Jenks	Allan Trimble
90	Beidatsch, Brian	DE	6-4	283	Jr.	7-9-82	Milwaukee, WI	Marquette	Dick Basham
39	Bemenderfer, David	SS	5-11	193	Sr.	6-26-81	Mishawaka, IN	Penn	Chris Geesman
59	Bent, James	OL	6-2	253	So.	9-6-83	Mishawaka, IN	Mishawaka	Jim Aldrich
26	Bible, Garron	SS	5-10	197	Sr.	12-22-81	Kingwood, TX	Kingwood	Ken Herring
27	Bolen, Lionel	SS	6-0	206	Jr.	7-18-83	Westhampton, NJ	Rancocas Valley	Jim DiCicco
71	Bonelli, James	OG/OT	6-6	282	So.	5-6-84	Camarillo, CA	St. Bonaventure	Jon Mack
92	Budinscak, Kyle	DE	6-4	270	Sr.	8-20-82	Bridgewater, NJ	Raritan	Kirk Hamrah
8	Burrell, Quentin	FS/SS	6-0	180	Jr.	11-26-82	Decatur, GA	Southwest Dekalb	Bob Smithith
6	Campbell, Carlos	CB	5-11	186	Jr.	11-18-82	Hampton, VA	Hampton	Mike Smith
60	Campbell, Darrell	DT	6-4	296	Sr.	7-6-81	South Holland, IL	Thronwood	Terry Kennedy
31	Carney, Jake	FS	6-0	190	So.	4-28-83	Lexington, KY	Catholic	Bob Sphire
1	Clark, Jared	TE	6-4	242	Sr.	10-31-81	Sarasota, FL	Cardinal Mooney	Mike Dowling
48	Collins, Jerome	OLB/DE	6-4	250	Sr.	8-18-82	Warrenville, IL	Wheaton-Warrenville South	John Thorne
49	Curry, Derek	OLB	6-3	241	Sr.	9-5-81	Sealy, TX	Sealy	T.J. Mills
9	Dillingham, Pat	QB	6-1	211	Jr.	8-16-83	Portola Valley, CA	St. Francis	Mike Mitchell
34	Duff, Vontez	CB	5-11	194	Sr.	3-8-82	Copperas Cove, TX	Copperas Cove	Jack Welch
64	Dunn, Casey	OT/OG	6-4	255	Jr.	7-10-83	Miami, FL	Gulliver Prep	Steve Howey
19	Earl, Glenn	FS	6-1	204	Sr.	6-10-81	Lisle, IL	Naperville North	Larry McKeon
24	Ellick, Dwight	CB	5-10	177	Jr.	9-30-82	Tampa, FL	Wharton	Richard Wood
88	Fasano, Anthony	TE	6-4	253	So.	4-20-84	Verona, NJ	Verona	Lou Racioppe
54	Fitzgerald, David	OL	6-4	271	So.	1-27-84	Godfrey, IL	Marquette Catholic	Mike Slaughter
19	Fitzpatrick, D.J.	K/P	6-1	192	Jr.	11-15-82	Granger, IN	Marion	Reggie Glon
87	Freeman, Marcus	TE	6-4	242	So.	10-24-83	St. Paul, MN	Cretin-Derham Hall	Rick Kallok
75	Frome, Chris	DE	6-5	264	So.	1-2-84	Saugus, CA	Newhall Hart	Mike Herrington
55	Giles, Zachary	C	6-3	287	Jr.	8-27-82	Marshfield, MA	Marshfield	Lou Silva
14	Godsey, Gary	TE	6-6	250	Sr.	3-16-81	Tampa, FL	Jesuit	Dominick Cio
41	Goolsby, Mike	ILB	6-3	243	Sr.	9-10-82	Joliet, IL	Catholic	Dan Sharp
4	Grant, Ryan	RB	6-1	209	Jr.	12-9-82	Nyack, NY	Don Bosco Prep	Grege Tool
50	Hilliard, Cedric	NG	6-2	295	Sr.	11-19-80	Arlington, TX	Lamar	Eddy Peach
7	Holiday, Carlyle	QB	6-3	221	Sr.	10-4-81	San Antonio, TX	Roosevelt	Glenn Hill
39	Hoyte, Brandon	ILB	6-0	228	Jr.	9-26-83	Parlin, NJ	Sayreville War Memorial	George Najjar
15	Jackson, Preston	CB	5-9	177	Sr.	9-7-81	Tampa, FL	Tampa Hillsborough	Earl Garcia
58	Janča, Paul	SN	6-1	245	So.	12-10-83	St. Joseph, MI	St. Joseph	Ike Muhlenkamp
32	Jenkins, Jeff	RB	6-0	211	So.	2-22-84	Ann Arbor, MI	Huron	Paul Verska
80	Jenkins, Omar	WR	6-1	205	Sr.	5-8-81	Dallas, TX	Jesuit	Bob Wonderlick
71	Kowalski, David	OG	6-2	240	Sr.	9-5-82	Chicago, IL	De La Salle	Jim Granan
8	Krueger, Matt	QB	5-10	177	Sr.	5-23-82	South Bend, IN	Marian	Reggie Glon
66	Landri, Derek	NG	6-2	265	So.	9-21-83	Concord, CA	De La Salle	Bob Ladoucer
28	Laux, Cole	FB	5-10	229	Sr.	4-11-82	Mishawaka, IN	Marian	Reggie Glon
97	Leitko, Travis	DE	6-6	264	So.	8-9-83	The Woodlands, TX	The Woodlands	Weldon Willig
73	LeVoi, Mark	OT	6-7	320	Jr.	7-29-82	Eden Prairie, MN	Eden Prairie	Mike Grant
79	Mattes, Brian	OL	6-6	266	So.	12-28-83	Larksville, PA	Wyoming Valley West	Ed Michaels
46	Mays, Corey	ILB	6-1	238	Jr.	11-27-83	Chicago, IL	Morgan Park	Lexie Spurlock
5	McKnight, Rhema	WR	6-2	207	So.	3-6-84	La Palma, CA	Kennedy	Mitch Olson
65	Milligan, Sean	OG	6-4	291	Sr.	2-18-81	Norcross, GA	Norcross	Ron Green
69	Mitchell, Darin	OG	6-3	280	Jr.	1-20-83	Jonesboro, GA	Lovejoy	C.W. Campbell
70	Molinaro, Jim	OT	6-6	301	Sr.	4-27-81	Bethlehem, PA	Catholic	Bob Stem
76	Morton, Bob	C	6-4	299	So.	9-19-84	McKinney, TX	McKinney	Ron Poe



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No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	DOB	Hometown	High School	HS Coach
88 +	Nally, Patrick	TE	6-3	243	Jr.	9-17-81	Tulsa, OK	Bishop Kelley	Greg Mason
84 +	O'Hara, Mike	WR	5-10	174	So.	3/17/83	Bellevue, WA	Newport	Gary Taller
12	Olsen, Chris	QB	6-4	220	So.	4-4-83	Wayne, NJ	Wayne Hills	Chris Olsen
85 *	Palmer, Billy	TE	6-4	251	Sr.	1-27-81	Wyntree Heathrow, FL	Lake Highland Prep	Tim Borcky
77 *	Pauly, Greg	DT	6-6	291	Sr.	3-23-82	Waukesha, WI	South	Dave Rusch
16 *	Powers-Neal, Rashon	FB	6-2	227	Jr.	4-3-83	St. Paul, MN	Cretin-Derham Hall	Rich Kallok
38 +	Profeta, Mike	RB	5-11	198	Sr.	12-2-81	Cranberry Township, PA	Seneca Valley	Mike Buchert
62	Raridon, Scott	OT	6-7	300	So.	6-2-84	Mason City, IA	Mason City	John Lee
16 +	Revelle, Stan	QB	5-11	183	Jr.	9-9-82	Poplar Bluff, Mo.	Poplar Bluff	Mark Barrouse
30	Richardson, Mike	CB	6-1	188	So.	2-18-84	Warner Robins, GA	Warner Robins	Richard Fendley
18 *	Rodamer, Ronnie	WR	6-4	211	Sr.	7-24-82	Morgantown, WV	Morgantown	Glen McNew
51	Ryan, Jamie	OT	6-5	290	So.	6-19-84	Tamaqua, PA	Marian Catholic	Stan Dakosty
43 +	Salvador, Anthony	ILB	6-2	220	So.	5-4-84	Concord, CA	De La Salle	Bob Ladoucer
93	Santucci, Dan	DE	6-5	270	So.	6-9-85	Chicago, IL	St. Patrick's	Dan Galante
99	Sapp, Jason	DE	6-3	256	Sr.	6-11-82	Bridgeport, CT	Notre Dame	Jeff Bevino
25	Schiccatano, Nate	FB	6-3	224	So.	9-3-82	Coal Township, PA	Southern Columbia	Jim Roth
26 +	Schmidt, Josh	FB	6-1	220	So.	11-30-82	Germantown, TN	Briar Crest Christian	Hugh Freeze
40 +	Schomas, Nate	WR	5-10	165	So.	12-21-81	Wheaton, IL	Wheaton-Warrenville South	John Thorne
13 ***	Setta, Nicholas	K/P	5-11	184	Sr.	5-6-81	Lockport, IL	Lockport Township	Brad Kooi
82 *	Shelton, Matt	WR	5-11	177	Jr.	4-1-82	Collierville, TN	Collierville	Paul Cox
74 *	Stevenson, Dan	OG/OT	6-5	297	Jr.	10-4-82	Barrington, IL	Barrington	Al Kumrodt
21 *	Stovall, Maurice	WR	6-5	221	So.	2-21-85	Philadelphia, PA	Archbishop Carroll	Dan Bielli
72	Thompson, Jeff	OL	6-4	287	Jr.	9-18-82	Granger, IN	Penn	Chris Geesman
44 *	Tuck, Justin	DE	6-5	246	Jr.	3-29-83	Kellyton, AL	Central Coosa County	Keith Bullard
33 ***	Watson, Courtney	ILB	6-1	234	Sr.	9-18-80	Sarasota, FL	Riverview	John Sprague
11 *	Wilson, Marcus	RB	5-11	198	Jr.	9-25-83	Staten Island, NY	Poly Prep	Deno Mangiero
84 +	Woods, Rob	WR	6-3	200	So.	12/15/83	Atlantic, IA	Atlantic	Gaylord Schelling

* indicates monograms won

+ indicates non-scholarship member of squad



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How the 2003 Irish Were Built

Offense

Freshmen (12)

WR Chase Anastasio
 TE John Carlson
 OL Ryan Harris
 FB Ashley McConnell
 WR Chinedum Ndukwe
 TE Greg Olsen
 P Geoffrey Price
 QB Brady Quinn
 WR Jeff Samardzija
 C John Sullivan
 RB Travis Thomas
 WR Ambrose Wooden

Sophomores (12)

OL James Bonelli
 TE Anthony Fasano
 TE Marcus Freeman
 RB Jeff Jenkins
 *WR Rhema McKnight
 OT Brian Mattes
 C Bob Morton
 QB Chris Olsen
 OG Scott Raridon
 OT Jamie Ryan
 RB/FB Nate Schiccatano
 *WR Maurice Stovall

Juniors (10)

*QB Pat Dillingham
 C Zachary Giles
 *RB **RYAN GRANT**
 OT Mark LeVoi
 OG Darin Mitchell
 *TB/FB Rashon Powers-Neal
 WR Matt Shelton
 *OT Dan Stevenson
 C Jeff Thompson
 *RB Marcus Wilson

Seniors (9)

*TE Jared Clark
 ***TE **GARY GODSEY**
 QB **CARLYLE HOLIDAY
 WR **OMAR JENKINS
 OG **SEAN MILLIGAN
 *OT Jim Molinaro
 *TE Billy Palmer
 *WR Ronnie Rodamer
 ***K/P **NICHOLAS SETTA**

Defense

Freshmen (10)

DL Victor Abiamiri
 LB Nick Borseti
 LB Joe Brockington
 DB Isaiah Gardner
 DB LaBrose Hedgmon
 DL Trevor Laws
 DB Freddie Parish, Jr.
 LB Dwight Stephenson, Jr.
 LB Mitchell Thomas
 DB Tom Zbikowski

Sophomores (6)

FS Jake Carney
 DE Chris Frome
 NG Derek Landri
 DE Travis Leitko
 CB Mike Richardson
 DE Dan Santucci

Juniors (8)

*DE Brian Beidatsch
 *SS Lionel Bolen
 *SS/FS Quentin Burrell
 *CB Carlos Campbell
 **CB Dwight Ellick
 *ILB Brandon Hoyte
 *ILB Corey Mays
 *DE Justin Tuck

Seniors (14)

***CB Jason Beckstrom
 **SS Garron Bible
 DE **KYLE BUDINCAK
 ***DT **DARRELL CAMPBELL**
 *OLB/DE Jerome Collins
 OLB **DEREK CURRY
 ***CB **VONTEZ DUFF**
 ***FS **GLENN EARL**
 ILB **MIKE GOOLSBY
 NG **CEDRIC HILLIARD
 **CB Preston Jackson
 *DT Greg Pauly
 DE Jason Sapp
 ***ILB **COURTNEY WATSON**

* Indicates monograms won

BOLD CAPS indicates returning starters

The '03 Irish by Class

Class	Offense	Defense	Total
Freshman	12	10	22
Sophomore	12 (2 letterman)	6	18 (2 lettermen)
Junior	10 (5 lettermen)	8 (8 lettermen)	18 (13 lettermen)
Senior	9 (9 lettermen)	14 (13 lettermen)	23 (22 lettermen)
Total	43 (16 lettermen)	38 (21 lettermen)	81 (37 lettermen)



2003 Breakdown

Lettermen Lost (25) — Lettermen Returning (37)

Offense

Lost	(16 lost, 24 returning)	Returning
** Bernard Akatu	WR	**OMAR JENKINS * Maurice Stovall * Ronnie Rodamer * Jim Molinaro (5)
*** JORDAN BLACK	LT	
**** SEAN MAHAN	LG	
** Ryan Gillis		
*** JEFF FAINE	C	
**** Ryan Scarola		
*** John Crowther (long snapper)		
	RG	** SEAN MILLIGAN (5)
** BRENNAN CURTIN	RT	* Dan Stevenson
	TE	*** GARY GODSEY (5) * Billy Palmer * Jared Clark
**** ARNAZ BATTLE	WR	* Carlos Campbell (Now a CB) * Rhema McKnight * Matt Shelton
* Dan Novakov	QB	** CARLYLE HOLIDAY * Pat Dillingham
**** TOM LOPIENSKI	FB	
** Mike McNair		
**** Chris Yura		
** Tim O'Neill	TB	** RYAN GRANT * Marcus Wilson * Rashon Powers-Neal (moved to FB)
**** JOEY HILDBOLD (P)	K/P	*** NICHOLAS SETTA (5)
** David Miller (Holder)		

Defense

Lost	(10 lost, 19 returning)	Returning
	LE	** KYLE BUDINCAK * Brian Beidsatsch
	DT	*** DARRELL CAMPBELL (5) * Greg Pauly
* Jason Halvorson	NG	* CEDRIC HILLIARD (5)
**** RYAN ROBERTS	RE	* Justin Tuck
* Charles Hedman	OLB	** DEREK CURRY * Jerome Collins
*** Carlos Pierre-Antoine	ILB	*** MIKE GOOLSBY * Corey Mays
** Patrick Ryan		
* Ed O'Connell		
	ILB	*** COURTNEY WATSON (5) * Brandon Hoyte
	LCB	*** VONTEZ DUFF * Preston Jackson
**** SHANE WALTON	RCB	** Dwight Ellick
**** GEROME SAPP	SS	** Garron Bible * Lionel Bolen
*** Chad DeBolt		
	FS	*** GLENN EARL (5) * Quentin Burrell

2002 Starters in ALL CAPS; Returning Starters in **BOLD CAPS**; walkons in *italics*.

