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2003 University of Notre Dame Softball

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Notre Dame vs. Loyola, Doubleheader
Thursday, March 3, 4 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Ivy Field • Notre Dame, Ind.

2003 SCHEDULE (12-11)

FEBRUARY

USF/Wilson Tournament (Tampa, Fla.)

15	Sat.	at South Florida	L, 4-5
15	Sat.	vs. Kent State	W, 5-1
16	Sun.	vs. Jacksonville	W, 2-1
16	Sun.	vs. Hofstra	L, 4-7
17	Mon.	vs. Rhode Island	cancelled

2003 NFCA Leadoff Classic (Columbus, Ga.)

21	Fri.	vs. #4 California	L, 0-6
21	Fri.	vs. Illinois State	W, 1-0 (8)
22	Sat.	vs. #17 Alabama	L, 4-7

Louisiana Classic (Lafayette, La.)

28	Fri.	vs. Northwestern State	L, 2-3
28	Fri.	vs. Louisiana-Lafayette	W, 8-5 (9)

MARCH

1	Sat.	vs. McNeese State	W, 6-1
1	Sat.	vs. Louisiana-Lafayette	L, 3-5
2	Sun.	vs. Northwestern State	W, 12-7
9	Sun.	at CS Northridge (DH)	L, 4-5, W, 3-1

2003 Kia Klassic (Fullerton, Calif.)

13	Thurs.	vs. Fresno State	W, 3-1
13	Thurs.	vs. #4 Nebraska	L, 3-10
14	Fri.	vs. #13 DePaul	L, 2-11 (6)

23	Sun.	at W. Michigan (DH)	W, 8-5, W, 8-0
26	Wed.	#22 N'western (DH)	L, 2-4, L, 2-3
30	Sun.	at Virginia Tech (DH)*	ppd

APRIL

1	Tues.	at Purdue (DH)	W, 7-3, W, 7-1
3	Thurs.	Loyola (Chicago) (DH)	4 p.m.
5	Sat.	at Providence (DH)*	11 a.m.
9	Wed.	at Pittsburgh (DH)*	TBA
11	Fri.	St. John's (DH)*	4 p.m.
13	Sun.	Seton Hall (DH)*	11 a.m.
15	Tues.	at #7 Nebraska (DH)	3 p.m.
17	Thurs.	IPFW (DH)	4 p.m.
19	Sat.	at Syracuse (DH)*	11 a.m.
23	Wed.	Valparaiso (DH)	4 p.m.
24	Thurs.	at Illinois-Chicago	6 p.m.
26	Sat.	at Boston College (DH)*	11 a.m.
27	Sun.	at Connecticut (DH)*	11 a.m.
29	Tues.	at #10 DePaul (DH)	4 p.m.

MAY

2	Fri.	Villanova (DH)*	4 p.m.
4	Sun.	Rutgers (DH)*	11 a.m.

2003 BIG EAST Championship (Salem, Va.)

8	Thurs.	First Round	TBA
9	Fri.	Second Round	TBA
10	Sat.	Play continues	TBA
14	Wed.	NCAA Regionals	TBA
20	Tues.	College World Series	TBA

* - indicates BIG EAST Conference game

bold indicates home game • all home games played at Ivy Field on the east side of campus

Irish hope to even-up home record with a doubleheader against Loyola (Chicago) on Thursday: The University of Notre Dame softball team (12-11) is set for its second home doubleheader of the season when it takes on Loyola (Chicago) (15-9) Thursday at 4 p.m.

The Irish have been flirting with the .500 mark lately this season, sweeping a doubleheader at Western Michigan on March 23 to get to 10-9, then falling back to 10-11 when #22 Northwestern grabbed two hard-fought victories at Ivy Field last week. Notre Dame popped back above the .500 mark on Tuesday, when it swept Purdue 7-3 and 7-1.

Challenging weather conditions mean challenging April lies ahead for the team: It seems that the Irish cannot get a break from the weather this season, and it lost even more games last weekend in BIG EAST action. The first conference doubleheader of the year at Pittsburgh was rained out on March 29, then the Irish were snowed out the next day at Virginia Tech.

Notre Dame has already had a challenging road schedule this season, but the month of April will end up making or breaking the team's season. The Irish now have 30 games scheduled this month, including the make-up contests with Pittsburgh and Virginia Tech.

Make-up dates: Notre Dame has already set up its make-up date with Pittsburgh. The Irish will head to the Steel City on Wednesday, April 9, to face the Panthers in doubleheader action. Game times have not yet been announced.

The Virginia Tech games will be played in April as well, though the exact date has not yet been determined.

These two doubleheaders are crucial for Notre Dame's ranking in the BIG EAST Conference. Due to the unusual scoring system developed a year ago and voted into reality by the league's coaches, a team ends up losing ground in the standings by not playing conference games. The Irish, who did not get to play their BIG EAST games last weekend due to inclement weather, will lose a possible four points if they cannot get the games in this season.

Notre Dame offense finds its groove against Purdue on Tuesday: The Irish will enter Thursday's match up with Loyola confident after a solid showing at Purdue on Tuesday. Notre Dame banged out 18 hits in two games against the Boilermakers, featuring a grand slam from Andria Bledsoe and solo home runs from Liz Hartmann and Kellie Middleton.

The Notre Dame offense is beginning to return back to form after struggling at times during the preseason. Andrea Loman leads the team in hitting (.364) and RBI (15), but Megan Ciolli (.329), Meagan Ruthrauff (.316) and Alexis Madrid (.300) are all hitting over .300. Bledsoe (.296) and Hartmann (.262) are also on the verge of reaching that .300 hitting mark.

Notre Dame vs. Loyola-Chicago series history and doubleheader preview: One of the oldest and longest series in Notre Dame softball history, the Irish and Ramblers will be meeting for the 33rd and 34th time on Thursday. Notre Dame leads the all-

2003 University of Notre Dame Softball Roster

No.	Name	Year	Pos.	Ht.	B/T	Hometown (High School)	Key Stats from '03
1	Steffany Stenglein*	So.	RHP	5-10	R/R	Huntington Beach, CA (Marina)	4-4, 3 CG
4	Carrie Wisen*	So.	RHP	5-7	R/R	Fullerton, CA (Sonora)	2.95 ERA, 1 SV
7	Jessica Sharron*	Sr.	RHP	5-8	R/R	Agoura Hills, CA (Thousand Oaks)	first '02 APP vs. Neb.
8	Liz Hartmann*	So.	OF	5-9	R/R	Novato, CA (San Marin)	team-high five HR
9	Chantal DeAlcuaz	Jr.	C	5-9	R/R	Modesto, CA (Central Catholic)	first career hit
10	Alexis Madrid***(c)	Sr.	2B	5-1	L/R	Temecula, CA (Temecula)	now hitting .300
14	Nicole deFau**	Jr.	IF/OF	5-9	R/R	Southington, CT (Southington)	one HR, one RBI
16	Mallorie Lenn	Fr.	C	5-8	R/R	Garden Grove, CA (Pacifica)	seven RBI, one 2B
18	Andria Bledsoe*** (c)	Sr.	SS	5-7	R/R	Higley, AZ (Highland)	team-high 15 runs
21	Megan Ciolli*	So.	OF	5-9	L/R	Terre Haute, IN (North Vigo)	25 hits, seven RBI
22	Sara Schoonaert	Fr.	IF/OF	5-5	R/R	Houston, TX (Clear Lake)	4-10, eight runs in '03
25	Lisa Mattison***	Sr.	1B/DP	5-10	R/R	Granger, IN (Penn)	two HR, 10 RBI
32	Heather Booth	Fr.	RHP	5-10	R/R	Riverside, CA (MLK)	59 Ks in 71.1 IP
33	Andrea Loman*** (c)	Sr.	3B	5-10	R/R	Riverside, CA (Poly)	.364, 15 RBI
44	Kellie Middleton	Fr.	OF	5-6	R/R	Norcross, GA (Marist)	first career hit = HR
77	Meagan Ruthrauff	Fr.	IF/OF	5-10	R/R	La Mirada, CA (La Serna)	24 hits, 10 RBI

* - indicates monograms won

(c) - 2003 team captain

Staff:

Head Coach: Deanna Gumpf (Nebraska '91)

(44-17, second year at Notre Dame)

Assistant Coach: Charmelle Green (Utah '92)

Assistant Coach: Kris Ganefff (Notre Dame '99)

Volunteer Assistant Coach: Bill Roggeman (Ball State '81)

Team Senior Manager: Nichole Boerson (Notre Dame '03)

Team Trainer: Chantal Porter (Iowa State '94)

Strength and Conditioning Coach: Heather Mason (Cincinnati '95)

Sports Information Director: Alan Wasielewski (Notre Dame '00)

time series 27-5 and has won the last four games in a row. Loyola's last victory came in 11 innings (3-2) in 1999. The teams have met every season since 1989, save for the 1999 season. The Irish are 14-4 at home against Loyola.

The Ramblers are 15-9 this season and 2-1 in Horizon League action. Catcher Susan Scott leads the offense this season with a .358 average, three home runs and 11 RBI. First base Allison Scanlin is hitting .352 with 12 RBI. In the pitching circle, Jenny Rice (2.60 ERA, 5-4) and Lindsey LaChiana (2.85 ERA, 5-3) should see action against Notre Dame.

Head Coach Jamie Gillies (Michigan '00) is in her first season at Loyola in 2003.

Hartmann continues her home run hitting in '03: Sophomore Liz Hartmann set the school record for home runs in a season by a freshman last year, belting eight balls out of the park. This season, Hartmann is beginning to hit her stride in early April. Against Purdue on Tuesday, she rocketed a first-pitch home run in game two and just missed another home run in her next at bat (a strong cross wind knocked the ball down to the top of the wall - Hartmann ended up with a stand-up double). The Novato, Calif., native has a team-high five home runs this season and 13 in her career - a total which puts her fifth on the all-time list.

Notre Dame team members chasing down career records this season: There are a number of Irish team members ascending the career record charts this season. The senior-captain trio of Alexis Madrid, Andria

IN THIS NOTES PACKAGE:

Page 1:

Complete Notre Dame season schedule with results and upcoming game schedules.

Page 2:

2003 Notre Dame softball roster, complete with height, position, bat/throw and hometowns.

Page 3:

Notre Dame probable starters and sports information details.

Page 4:

Notre Dame statistical leaders.

Page 5:

Notre Dame team and individual game highs.

Page 6:

BIG EAST information, including updated conference standings and a complete list of player and pitcher of the week awards.

Page 7:

Notre Dame team results this season, including game winning hit, game winning run and pitcher decisions.

Page 8:

The latest national polls are on page seven, including tracking Notre Dame's ranking each week.

**NOTRE DAME
PROBABLE STARTERS**

C: Mallorie Lenn, Fr., R/R
1B: Lisa Mattison, Sr., R/R
2B: Alexis Madrid, Sr., L/R
SS: Andria Bledsoe, Sr., R/R
3B: Andrea Loman, Sr., R/R
OF: Megan Ciolli, So., L/R
OF: Kellie Middleton, Fr., R/R
OF: Liz Hartmann, So. R/R
or Nicole deFau, Jr., R/R
DP: Meagan Ruthrauff, Fr., R/R
P: Steffany Stenglein, So., R/R
or Carrie Wisen, So., R/R
or Heather Booth, Fr., R/R

**NOTRE DAME
SPORTS INFORMATION**

Publicity for Notre Dame softball is coordinated by sports information assistant Alan Wasielewski.

Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available by contacting Wasielewski at (574) 631-7516 or via e-mail at Wasielewski.3@nd.edu.

Requests to interview student-athletes and coaches must be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Credentials for home games can be obtained by calling Wasielewski.

Statistics, results and weekly releases (typically released on Wednesday of each week of the season) also are readily available on Notre Dame's official athletic site, www.und.com.

If you wish to be added to the Notre Dame softball weekly release distribution list, please send an e-mail to: Wasielewski.3@nd.edu

Bledsoe and Andrea Loman are all approaching the career games played record. Madrid has appeared in 204 career games, Bledsoe 202 and Loman 201. Notre Dame has 34 games remaining on the regular-season schedule this year. Combined with any post season contests, and all three Irish players have a shot at the career games played record of 245, held by Jarrah Myers (1999-2002).

Loman, a top player on the Irish team in all her years with Notre Dame, is threatening a number of career marks. She is third in runs scored (138) behind Jenny Kriech (1999-2002) with 138. She is creeping up the most hits list with 189, needing a strong finish to get in the top five (243). Loman and Bledsoe are both about to appear on the top five in all-time doubles, as Loman has 37 and Bledsoe 34. In fifth-place is Lizzy Lemire with 43 and Melanie Alkire holds the all-time record with 49.

Loman, Bledsoe and Hartmann are all moving up the career home run record list:

1. Jarrah Myers (1999-2002), 36
 2. Melanie Alkire (1998-2001), 30
 3. Sara Hayes (1992-95), 26
 4. Andrea Loman, 25
 5. Meghan Murray (1994-97), 15
- Liz Hartmann, 13
Andria Bledsoe, 12

Loman is also within reach of the career walks record (needing just two more to break Jarrah Myers' career mark of 76) and stolen bases mark (Loman has 49, needing 10 more this season to break Katie Marten's record of 58 from 1994-97).

Notre Dame single-game home run record has even more company: Notre Dame's original single-game home run record was set in 1990 when Sheri Quinn hit two home runs against Loyola-Chicago. Since that day on March 24, 1990, the feat has been matched 14 times. Andria Bledsoe and Liz Hartmann hit two home runs each in Notre Dame's game against Louisiana-Lafayette on Feb. 28. Hartmann was already a member of the record-holding club after hitting two bombs against Oakland in 2002.

In all, five current Notre Dame players are among the nine in school history who have hit two home runs in one game. Jarrah Myers (1999-2002) is the only Notre Dame player to hit two home runs in a game three times in her career - against Virginia Tech (4-30-02), Seton Hall (4-30-00) and CS Northridge (3-11-01).

Bledsoe enjoys first career grand slam: Even as senior short stop Andria Bledsoe closes in on the top five all-time in career home runs, she has never hit one with the bases loaded until Tuesday's doubleheader at Purdue. Bledsoe liked the second pitch she saw in her second at bat on Tuesday, blasting a bases loaded grand slam for her fourth home run of the season. The Higley, Ariz., native had hit a grand slam in the fall exhibition season of 2001.

Middleton proves her prowess against Purdue: Freshman Kellie Middleton has been struggling at the plate early this season, but when she makes contact, the ball can go a long way. Middleton blasted her second home run of the season against Purdue on Tuesday, but the build up to that at bat might mean more than the homer itself.

In her previous at bat in game two, Middleton continually fought off pitch after pitch, eventually seeing 16 pitches in the plate appearance. She drew a walk, stole second and immediately stole third base when

Purdue failed to cover (her fourth and fifth thefts of the season). Her next time in the batter's box, Middleton launched her home run. She currently has two home runs, five RBI and three walks this year.

Hottest hitter on the team? Alexis Madrid: Senior second base Alexis Madrid has seen her batting average skyrocket over the last 10 games. Beginning with a two for two performance against Northwestern State, she has raised her average from a pedestrian .226 mark to .300 entering Thursday's games. Madrid has put up 12 hits in the last 10 games, along with a double, triple and two RBI.

New national poll: USA Softball, in conjuncture with ESPN.com and the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) have formed a new national poll. See page seven of this notes package for both the ESPN/USA Softball poll and the *USA Today*/NFCA top 25.

Notre Dame head coach Deanna Gumpf in her second season: Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf led her team to a 44-17 record in 2002 – her first season as the program's leader. A former assistant at Notre Dame and player at Nebraska ('92), Gumpf and her staff landed the BIG EAST Conference Coaching Staff of the Year award and shared the NFCA Midwest Region Coaching Staff of the Year award with Wisconsin last season.

Among Notre Dame's many accomplishments in 2002, the Irish advanced to the final day of competition at the NCAA regionals for the second-consecutive season, won the BIG EAST regular-season and tournament titles and set school records for home runs (54) and fielding percentage (.971).

Two Irish players on player-of-the-year watch list: The ASA has announced its initial watch list for the second annual USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Award.

Notre Dame's Andrea Loman and Megan Ciolli were among the 40 players on the watch list.

The award, which is considered the Heisman Trophy in women's collegiate softball and is the only national player of the year award, is designed to recognize outstanding athletic achievement by female collegiate softball players across the country.

The initial watch list is comprised of 40 players that represent 23 college and 11 different collegiate conference. Even if a player doesn't appear on the initial watch list, they are still eligible for the award. The first 25 finalists will be announced on April 13th, then down to 10 on April 29th and three on May 13th. The winner will be announced at the 2003 Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City.

California girls: Just a quick glance at the 2003 Notre Dame softball roster can beg the question; is the Notre Dame campus located on the west coast?

In all, 10 Irish players call California home – that is over 50% of the roster. Add in head coach Deanna Gumpf (La Palma) and the Notre Dame softball team has a distinctive Golden State flavor.

The California girls: Steffany Stenglein (Huntington Beach), Carrie Wisen (Fullerton), Jessica Sharron (Agoura Hills), Liz Hartmann (Novato), Chantal DeAlcuaz (Modesto), Alexis Madrid (Temecula), Mallorie Lenn (Garden Grove), Heather Booth (Riverside), Andrea Loman (Riverside) and Meagan Ruthrauff (La Mirada).

Notre Dame preseason favorite to win the BIG EAST Conference: The BIG EAST Conference has released its 2002 preseason softball poll and the University of Notre Dame softball team ended up as the top choice, as voted on by the league's coaches, to win the 2003 league

NOTRE DAME STATISTICAL LEADERS

<u>Batting Average</u>	
Andrea Loman364
Megan Ciolli329
Meagan Ruthrauff316
<u>Hits</u>	
Megan Ciolli	25
Meagan Ruthrauff	24
Andrea Loman	24
<u>Doubles</u>	
Meagan Ruthrauff	7
Andrea Loman	5
Megan Ciolli	4
Lisa Mattison	4
<u>Triples</u>	
Alexis Madrid	1
Megan Ciolli	1
<u>Home Runs</u>	
Liz Hartmann	5
Andria Bledsoe	4
Andrea Loman	3
<u>RBI</u>	
Andrea Loman	15
Andria Bledsoe	12
Liz Hartmann	11
<u>Slugging Percentage</u>	
Andrea Loman576
Liz Hartmann538
Andria Bledsoe465
<u>On Base Percentage</u>	
Andrea Loman419
Megan Ciolli386
Andria Bledsoe375
<u>Stolen Bases</u>	
Andrea Loman	7
Megan Ciolli	6
Kellie Middleton	5
PITCHING	
<u>ERA</u>	
Heather Booth	2.36
Carrie Wisen	2.95
Steffany Stenglein	4.54
<u>Strikeouts</u>	
Heather Booth	59
Steffany Stenglein	47
Carrie Wisen	13
<u>Complete Games</u>	
Heather Booth	4
Steffany Stenglein	3
<u>Appearances</u>	
Heather Booth	15
Steffany Stenglein	12
Carrie Wisen	11
Jessica Sharron	2

NOTRE DAME TEAM GAME HIGHS

Runs

12 vs. NW State, 3-2-03

Hits

14 vs. Western Michigan, 3-23-03

RBI

9 vs. NW State, 3-2-03

Doubles

3 vs. NW State, 2-28-03

3 vs. Purdue, 4-1-03

Home Runs

5 vs. La.-Lafayette, 2-28-03

Total Bases

25 vs. La.-Lafayette, 2-28-03

Stolen Bases

4 vs. NW State, 3-2-03

4 vs. Western Michigan, 3-23-03

Innings Pitched

9.2 vs. CS Northridge, 3-9-03

Strikeouts

10 vs. Jacksonville, 2-16-03

10 vs. #17 Alabama, 2-23-03

INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Runs

3 - Bledsoe vs. ULL (2-28-03)

3 - Ciolli vs. NW State (3-2-03)

Hits

3 - six times

RBI

4 - Hartmann vs. ULL (2-28-03)

4 - Bledsoe vs. Purdue (4-1-03)

Doubles

2 - Loman vs. NW State (2-28-03)

Home Runs

2 - Bledsoe vs. ULL (2-28-03)

2 - Hartmann vs. ULL (2-28-03)

Total Bases

8 - Bledsoe vs. ULL (2-28-03)

8 - Hartmann vs. ULL (2-28-03)

Walks

2 - Lenn vs. Hofstra (2-16-03)

Stolen Bases

2 - Bledsoe vs. W. Michigan (3-23-03)

2 - Middleton vs. Purdue (4-1-03)

Innings Pitched

8.0 - Booth vs. Illinois St. (2-22-03)

Strikeouts

9 - Stenglein vs. #17 Alabama (2-23-03)

championship. The Irish received 99 points in the conference's pre-season release, ahead of Syracuse in second place (85) and Villanova (75) in third. Notre Dame received nine first-place votes, while Villanova and Virginia Tech each received one.

2002 BIG EAST

Preseason Softball Poll

Rank, team, (first place votes), points, '02 record

1. Notre Dame (9), 99 pts., 44-17
2. Syracuse, 85 pts., 25-21
3. Villanova (1), 75 pts., 45-15
4. Virginia Tech (1), 71 pts., 42-18
5. Seton Hall, 69 pts., 29-17
6. Boston College, 63 pts., 26-26
7. St. John's, 36 pts., 23-30-1
8. Rutgers, 35 pts., 22-25
9. Connecticut, 31 pts., 5-15
10. Pittsburgh, 30 pts., 21-33
11. Providence, 11 pts., 5-15

Mallorie Lenn wins gold medal with the U.S. Junior National team:

Freshman Mallorie Lenn landed a spot on the U.S. Junior National team that eventually won the First Junior Women's Pan American Championship in Hermosillo, Mexico.

Lenn, from Garden Grove, Calif., was one of the starting catchers on the U.S. team that did not surrender a single run during the tournament. The team was potent on offense as well, dispatching Netherlands Antilles 21-0, Guatemala 20-0 and Jamaica 20-0.

The U.S.'s main competition in the tournament was Canada, and in the first match up during round-robin play Lenn provided the game-winning RBI in her team's 1-0 victory. Lenn also served as the catcher for the gold-medal game against Canada (a 2-0 U.S. victory).

The victory provided the USA with a berth in the 2003 International Softball Federation Junior Women's World Championships in Nanjin, China, during the summer of 2003.

All-Time Record: Entering the 2003 season, Notre Dame softball has posted 556 wins in 14 seasons (almost 40 wins per season). The Irish have won 67% of their games and have never posted a losing season.

Road Warriors: February isn't the best time to play softball in Northern Indiana, so the Notre Dame softball team hits the road exclusively during the first two months of the season to take on some of the best teams in the nation. In just the last five years, Notre Dame has visited Arizona, Georgia, California, Texas, Florida, Arkansas, Tennessee, Nevada, Hawaii and Oklahoma in early-season tournament action. This year, the Irish have already visited Tampa, Fla., for the USF/Wilson Tournament and Columbus, Ga., for the NFCA Leadoff Classic, Lafayette, Louisiana for the Louisiana Classic and Fullerton, Calif., for the Kia Klassic.

Loman among the best at her position: Already known as one of the best in the Midwest prior to the 2002 season, senior Andrea Loman finally earned national acclaim for her spectacular play at the end of Notre Dame's '02 campaign. Loman earned third-team NFCA/Louisville Slugger All-American accolades in addition to being named the BIG EAST Championship Most Outstanding Player.

Loman is currently batting .364 (24 hits in 66 AB) with three home runs and 15 RBI. She also has stolen seven bases this season.

Loman excels both offensively and defensively for Notre Dame, driv-

**2003 BIG EAST Conference Standings
(through March 31)**



Team	BIG EAST				OVERALL						
	W-L	Pts.	H	A	W-L-T	Pct.	H	A	N	Streak	vs. ND
Seton Hall	3-0	6	0-0	3-0	16-5-0	.762	2-0	6-2	8-3	Won 6	April 13 - home
Pittsburgh	2-0	4	2-0	0-0	16-14-0	.533	8-0	3-2	5-12	Won 11	April 9 - away
Boston College	2-0	4	0-0	0-0	12-12-0	.500	3-0	2-4	7-8	Won 1	April 26 - away
Villanova	2-1	4	2-1	0-0	8-7-0	.533	6-3	0-0	2-4	Won 2	May 2 - home
Virginia Tech	1-1	2	1-1	0-0	12-16-0	.428	7-2	1-2	4-12	Won 1	TBA - away
Rutgers	1-3	2	1-3	0-0	13-10-0	.565	5-3	3-2	5-5	Lost 1	May 4 - home
St. John's	1-3	2	0-0	1-3	14-16-0	.466	4-0	2-8	8-8	Lost 3	April 11 - home
Syracuse	1-3	2	0-0	1-3	7-15	.318	0-1	1-7	6-7	Lost 3	April 19 - away
Notre Dame	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	10-11-0	.476	0-2	4-3	6-6	Lost 2	-
Connecticut	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	10-12-1	.454	2-0	3-4	5-8-1	Won 5	April 27 - away
Providence	0-2	0	0-0	0-2	8-7-0	.533	1-1	0-2	7-4	Lost 2	April 5 - away

Note: As voted by the head softball coaches, the BIG EAST softball standings will now be determined by a 2/1 points system. Two points will be awarded for a conference win, one point for a tie and no points for a loss. Conference competition begins the weekend of March 23-24.

ing in runs and taking away many players ability to drop a bunt down the third-base line. Loman's .962 fielding percentage for the '02 season is impressive by itself (219 chances) but six of her eight errors were committed after she broke a finger on her throwing hand in a double-header at Seton Hall. Her career fielding percentage stands at .981 entering the 2003 season.

Not just a power hitter, Loman is able to hit for average (.377 in '02) and steal bases when she gets on (a team-high 16 stolen bases last season).

Irish will not back down from the best in the country: In what has become an annual tradition for the Notre Dame softball team, the Irish spent the first two month of the season crisscrossing the country and taking on the best teams in the nation.

Notre Dame began the year on Feb. 15, 16 and 17 at the USF/Wilson Tournament in Tampa, Fla., facing traditional power South Florida and several NCAA east regional teams, including Hofstra and Rhode Island. South Florida has recently debuted in the national top 25 at #24.

Three weeks ago Notre Dame was at the challenging NFCA Leadoff Classic taking on defending national champion #4 California, Illinois State and #17 Alabama. The Irish also went to the west coast for the 2003 Kia Klassic in Fullerton, Calif. Notre Dame faced Fresno State, #4 Nebraska and #13 DePaul at the Kia this year.

Notre Dame's regular-season schedule also features the Cornhuskers and Blue Demons in April.

**2003 BIG EAST
Weekly Awards**

Player(s) of the Week

- Feb. 16 - Lisa Fischer, Boston College
- Feb. 24 - Rachel Park, Syracuse
- Mar. 3 - Andrea Loman, Notre Dame**
- Mar. 3 - Mandy Schettini, UConn
- Mar. 10 - none
- Mar. 17 - Laura Taylor, Seton Hall
- Mar. 24 - Cara Blumfield, BC
Kelly Hulpa, Pittsburgh
- April 1 - Cara Blumfield, BC
Laura Taylor, Seton Hall

Pitcher(s) of the Week

- Feb. 16 - Rachel Pacheco, Va. Tech
- Feb. 24 - Christina Shanko, SHU
- Feb. 24 - Tara DiMaggio, Syracuse
- Mar. 3 - none
- Mar. 10 - Courtney Fitzgerald, SJU
- Mar. 17 - Christina Shanko, SHU
- Mar. 24 - Nikki Gasti, Pittsburgh
- April 1 - Kim Ryan, Boston College
Theresa Hornick, Villanova

2003 Game Results - Winning RBI/Hit - Winning Run

Date	Opposing Team	Score	Outcome	R/H/E - R/H/E	Pitcher of Record	GW H/RBI	GW Run
2-15-03	at South Florida	4-5	L	4/9/2 - 5/6/0	Booth (L, 0-1)	-	-
2-15-03	vs. Kent State	5-1	W	5/7/2 - 1/6/1	Booth (W, 1-1)	Ruthrauff	Schoonaert
2-16-03	vs. Jacksonville	2-1	W	2/5/0 - 1/5/0	Booth (W, 2-1)	Lenn	Schoonaert
2-16-03	vs. Hofstra	4-7	L	4/6/2 - 7/5/0	Stenglein (L, 0-1)	-	-
2-22-03	vs. #4 California	0-6	L	0/3/2 - 6/4/0	Stenglein (L, 0-2)	-	-
2-22-03	vs. Illinois State	1-0 (8)	W	1/4/0 - 0/2/1	Booth (W, 3-1)	Ciolti	Hartmann
2-23-03	vs. #17 Alabama	4-7	L	4/10/1 - 7/12/3	Booth (L, 3-2)	-	-
2-28-03	vs. NW State	2-3	L	2/8/0 - 3/8/1	Wisen (L, 0-1)	-	-
2-28-03	at La.-Lafayette	8-5 (9)	W	8/8/2 - 5/7/3	Booth (W, 4-2)	Hartmann	Bledsoe
3-1-03	vs. McNeese State	6-1	W	6/8/0 - 1/3/1	Stenglein (W, 1-2)	Mattison	Bledsoe
3-1-03	at La.-Lafayette	3-5	L	3/11/1 - 5/9/0	Booth (L, 4-3)	-	-
3-2-03	vs. NW State	12-7	W	12/10/0 - 7/6/3	Stenglein (W, 2-2)	Mattison	Loman
3-9-03	at CS Northridge	4-5 (10)	L	4/12/0 - 5/10/3	Wisen (L, 0-2)	-	-
3-9-03	at CS Northridge	3-1	W	3/5/0 - 1/1/0	Booth (W, 5-3)	Mattison	Bledsoe
3-13-03	vs. Fresno State	3-1	W	3/6/0 - 1/2/0	Booth (W, 6-3)	Ruthrauff	deFau
3-13-03	vs. #3 Nebraska	3-10	L	3/9/2 - 10/14/1	Stenglein (L, 2-3)	-	-
3-14-03	vs. #14 DePaul	2-11	L	2/5/2 - 11/9/2	Booth (L, 6-4)	-	-
3-23-03	at Western Mich.	8-5	W	8/11/0 - 5/7/2	Stenglein (W, 3-3)	Loman	Ciolti
3-23-03	at Western Mich.	8-0	W	8/14/0 - 0/4/3	Booth (W, 7-4)	Loman	Ciolti
3-26-03	#22 Northwestern	2-4	L	2/4/0 - 4/5/1	Stenglein (L, 3-4)	-	-
3-26-03	#22 Northwestern	2-3	L	2/5/1 - 3/9/1	Booth (L, 7-5)	-	-
4-1-03	at Purdue	7-3	W	7/7/2 - 3/7/2	Stenglein (W, 4-4)	Hartmann	Schoonaert
4-1-03	at Purdue	7-1	W	7/11/1 - 1/6/0	Booth (W, 8-5)	Bledsoe	Loman

**2003 USA Today/NFCA
Top 25 (4-1-03)**

School	2003 Record	Pts.	LW
1. UCLA (22)	31-2	550	1
2. Arizona	34-3	528	3
3. Washington	32-4-1	496	2
4. Oklahoma	30-5	474	4
5. Texas	27-6	470	5
6. Nebraska	24-8	440	6
7. California	29-9	416	7
8. Georgia	36-5	385	9
9. CS Fullerton	22-12	379	8
10. DePaul	21-4	351	10
11. LSU	27-11	318	11
12. Arizona State	26-9	313	13
13. Stanford	26-11	291	12
14. South Carolina	24-8	248	15
15. Michigan	19-8	234	14
16. Florida State	26-9	210	17
17. Oklahoma State	27-6	205	18
18. Alabama	26-13	165	16
19. Texas A&M	26-12	146	20
20. Ohio State	17-10	116	21
21. Oregon	17-9	107	19
22. South Florida	39-10	100	23
23. Kansas	21-9	50	24
24. Florida	27-10	45	t-25
25. La.-Lafayette	18-5	39	t-25

Others receiving votes: Oregon State 26, Illinois 11, Iowa 10, Mississippi State 10, SW Texas State 7, Southern Illinois 6.

Notre Dame 2003 opponents in **bold**.

**2003 ESPN.com/USA Softball
Top 25 (4-1-03)**

School	2003 Record	Pts.
1. UCLA (18)	31-2	450 1
2. Arizona	34-3	431 2
3. Oklahoma	30-5	392 4
4. Washington	32-4-1	383 3
5. Texas	27-6	374 5
6. California	29-9	365 6
7. Nebraska	24-8	342 7
8. CS Fullerton	22-12	312 8
9. Georgia	36-5	302 11
10. DePaul	21-4	296 t-9
11. Stanford	26-11	276 t-9
12. Arizona State	26-9	257 14
13. LSU	27-11	225 12
14. South Carolina	24-8	221 13
15. Oklahoma State	27-6	204 16
16. Florida State	26-9	172 17
17. Michigan	19-8	167 15
18. Alabama	26-13	116 18
19. Texas A&M	23-11	113 20
20. Oregon	17-9	86 19
21. Iowa	25-6	74 NR
22. South Florida	39-10	71 23
23. Ohio State	17-10	63 24
24. Oregon State	22-16	42 21
25. Massachusetts	15-10	33 25

Others receiving votes: **Louisiana-Lafayette** (28), Florida (13), **Northwestern** (13), Missouri (9), Kansas (8), Southern Illinois (5), Illinois (4).

Notre Dame 2003 opponents in **bold**.

Softball fans have a new national poll to track: The Amateur Softball Association (ASA), the national governing body of softball in the United States, has announced its first ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll.

The ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll is voted on by NCAA Division I coaches representing 15 different ASA regions and 12 different collegiate conferences. The poll is also voted on by selected softball media members.

The USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division I Top 25 is voted on by 21 NCAA Division I coaches representing all regions.

Notre Dame in the 2003
USA Today/NFCA Top 25:

Preseason: 17
February 18: 23
February 25: also receiving votes
March 4: not ranked
March 11: also receiving votes
March 18: not ranked
March 25: not ranked
April 1: not ranked

Notre Dame in the 2003 ESPN.com/
USA Softball Top 25:

February 25: also receiving votes
March 4: not ranked
March 11: not ranked
March 18: not ranked
March 25: not ranked
April 1: not ranked