



Sports Information Office  
University of Notre Dame  
112 Joyce Center  
Notre Dame, IN 46556  
www.und.com  
574-631-7516  
574-631-7941 FAX

## 2003 University of Notre Dame Softball

Contact: Alan Wasielewski • Wasielewski.3@nd.edu • 574-631-7516

### 2003 Louisiana Classic

**Lafayette, La. • Feb. 28 - March 2 • Lady Cajun Park**

Notre Dame vs. Northwestern State, Friday, Feb. 28, 11:45 a.m.

Notre Dame at Louisiana-Lafayette, Friday, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.

Notre Dame vs. McNeese State, Saturday, March 1, 4:15 p.m.

Notre Dame at Louisiana-Lafayette, Saturday, March 1, 6:30 p.m.

Notre Dame vs. Northwestern State, Saturday, March 2, 11 a.m.

### 2003 SCHEDULE (3-4)

#### 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	11:45 a.m.
28	Fri.	vs. Louisiana-Lafayette	6:30 p.m.

#### MARCH

1	Sat.	vs. McNeese State	4:15 p.m.
1	Sat.	vs. Louisiana-Lafayette	6:30 p.m.
2	Sun.	vs. Northwestern State	11 a.m.
9	Sun.	at CS Northridge (DH)	12 p.m.

#### 2003 Kia Klassic (Fullerton, Calif.)

13	Thurs.	vs. Fresno State	3 p.m.
13	Thurs.	vs. #3 Nebraska	7 p.m.
14	Fri.	vs. #14 DePaul	11 a.m.
14	Fri.	Championship play	5 p.m.
23	Sun.	at W. Michigan (DH)	12 p.m.
<b>26</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Northwestern (DH)</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
29	Sat.	at Pittsburgh (DH)*	11 a.m.
30	Sun.	at Virginia Tech (DH)*	12 p.m.

#### APRIL

1	Tues.	at Purdue (DH)	2 p.m.
<b>3</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Loyola (Chicago) (DH)</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>
5	Sat.	at Providence (DH)*	11 a.m.
<b>11</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>St. John's (DH)*</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Seton Hall (DH)*</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>
15	Tues.	at #3 Nebraska (DH)	3 p.m.
<b>17</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>IPFW (DH)</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>
19	Sat.	at Syracuse (DH)*	11 a.m.
<b>23</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Valparaiso (DH)</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>
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 #14 DePaul (DH)	4 p.m.

#### MAY

<b>2</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Villanova (DH)*</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Rutgers (DH)*</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>

#### 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 face quick turn around to Louisiana this weekend:** It has been a tough start to the 2003 season for the Notre Dame softball team (3-4) and Mother Nature has not cooperated at its previous two tournament stops. The Irish have lost at least three games to inclement weather this season already.

Notre Dame is focused to make this weekend's visit to Louisiana-Lafayette for the Louisiana Classic a success (weather permitting). The team is eager to get more games in this season and is improving with each inning. Louisiana-Lafayette (6-1), Northwestern State (0-7) and McNeese State (0-7) join Notre Dame in the tournament field.

**Series history vs. Northwestern State and game preview:** 2002 Southland Conference winner Northwestern State and Notre Dame will be meeting for the first time. The Demons have appeared in three of the last five NCAA Championships and have been picked to contend for the conference title again in 2003. The team is 0-7 on the season.

Northwestern State is led on offense by Nicole Martin (.348 avg.), who has two triples and three RBI this season. Three pitchers have split the innings for the Demons this season, but Amanda Ortego has 22 strike outs in 19.1 IP. Northwestern State has faced Southern Mississippi (twice), LSU (twice) and SW Texas State (three times) so far this season.

**Series history vs. Louisiana-Lafayette and game preview:** The Irish and the Lady Cajuns will be meeting for the third and fourth time this weekend, with the last meeting occurring last year at the Aggie Invitational in College Station, Texas. ULL walked away with a 6-3 victory in that match up. Notre Dame won the first meeting between the two teams in 2000 at the Kia Klassic (4-2).

ULL is a hard-hitting squad, already putting up seven home runs this season. Their individual offensive leader is Danyelee Gomez, with two home runs, seven RBI and a .474 batting average. Brooke Mitchell has logged the most innings the Lady Cajuns this season, going 4-1 with a 0.25 ERA and 49 strike outs in 28.1 innings.

**Series history vs. McNeese State and game preview:** Notre Dame and McNeese State will be meeting for the first time this weekend. The Cowgirls compete in the Southland Conference and have a 0-7 record this season.

McNeese State's offensive star this year is Beth Jordan, hitting .350 with seven hits and two RBI. The pitching staff is anchored by Jessica Denham, who boasts a 1.33 ERA in five appearances.

**New national poll debuts this week:** 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 national polls.

**Freshman pitcher Heather Booth making her mark early in the season:** The winning pitcher in all three Irish victories this season, freshman Heather Booth has stepped up as a dependable starter for Notre Dame this season.

## 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)	opp. BA .227
4	Carrie Wisen*	So.	RHP	5-7	R/R	Fullerton, CA (Sonora)	three appearances
7	Jessica Sharron*	Sr.	RHP	5-8	R/R	Agoura Hills, CA (Thousand Oaks)	11.0 IP, 1 save in '02
8	Liz Hartmann*	So.	OF	5-9	R/R	Novato, CA (San Marin)	hit seven HR in '02
9	Chantal DeAlcuaz	Jr.	C	5-9	R/R	Modesto, CA (Central Catholic)	first career PO
10	Alexis Madrid***(c)	Sr.	2B	5-1	L/R	Temecula, CA (Temecula)	two SAC hits
14	Nicole deFau**	Jr.	IF/OF	5-9	R/R	Southington, CT (Southington)	three hits, two BB
16	Mallorie Lenn	Fr.	C	5-8	R/R	Garden Grove, CA (Pacifica)	three RBI in '03
18	Andria Bledsoe*** (c)	Sr.	SS	5-7	R/R	Higley, AZ (Highland)	perfect on defense
21	Megan Ciolli*	So.	OF	5-9	L/R	Terre Haute, IN (North Vigo)	seven hits, two 2B
22	Sara Schoonaert	Fr.	IF/OF	5-5	R/R	Houston, TX (Clear Lake)	scored two GW runs
25	Lisa Mattison***	Sr.	1B/DP	5-10	R/R	Granger, IN (Penn)	two doubles, five TB
32	Heather Booth	Fr.	RHP	5-10	R/R	Riverside, CA (MLK)	22 Ks in 19.1 IP
33	Andrea Loman*** (c)	Sr.	3B	5-10	R/R	Riverside, CA (Poly)	six hits, two SB
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)	ND RBI leader (four)

\* - 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)

Booth has appeared in five of Notre Dame's seven games this season and her first action - against South Florida in the first game of the year - ended up in a loss after she gave up a run over 1.1 innings.

The Riverside, Calif., native came right back in the next game, however, picking up a victory against Kent State with 5.0 IP, four hits and one run with three strike outs. She also won against Jacksonville and pitched a gem against Illinois State, going all eight innings of the extra-inning affair with two hits and eight strike outs.

So far, Booth has a 2.17 ERA with 22 strike outs in 19.1 IP.

**Ruthrauff pacing the Irish offense so far in 2003:** Freshman designated player/first base Meagan Ruthrauff has made a quick transition to the college game this season. The rookie from La Mirada, Calif., leads the team with nine hits (.429 avg.) and has steadily moved up the Irish batting order. She is tied for the team lead in RBI (four) and boasts a .524 slugging percentage with two doubles. She has seen limited time at first base in relief of starter Lisa Mattison.

**Weather wreaks havoc during the NFCA Leadoff Classic:** Typically one of the best tournaments in the nation with loads of talented teams competing against each other, the 2003 NFCA Leadoff Classic turned into a four-day weather delayed experience. Notre Dame spent four days in the Columbus, Ga., area and was only able to get in three games (the Irish were originally scheduled to play at least five games).

The Leadoff Classic was set up with 24 teams and six pools with four teams in each pool. Depending on your performance in the three games against your pool, teams would eventually be designated to a bracket to play at least two

### IN THIS NOTES PACKAGE:

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Complete Notre Dame season schedule with results, tournament line up for the weekend.

#### Page 2:

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

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Notre Dame probable starters and sports information details.

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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. The latest national polls are also on page seven.



**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](http://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](mailto:Wasielewski.3@nd.edu)

more games.

Notre Dame arrived in Columbus Thursday evening and worked in a short practice Friday morning. The rain moved in about two hours before Notre Dame's first scheduled game against #4 California. All the games on Friday were pushed back to Saturday.

Attempting to get back on track, the tournament organizers determined that each team would play three games on Saturday to complete the pool games. Originally, the Irish were to play at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.

A wicked thunderstorm ripped through the Columbus area early Saturday morning, however, and pushed the start times for Saturday back to 2 p.m. A coaches meeting was held and it was determined that the participating teams would finish up pool play before calling an end to the tournament.

Notre Dame finally got on the field to compete at about 5 p.m. on Saturday against California. After the 6-0 loss to the Bears, Notre Dame stayed on the same field to take on Illinois State. Defense and the two opposing pitchers dominated the game and both teams would manage just two hits a piece before it started raining again. The teams sat through one 25-minute rain delay before the tournament organizers decided to send the teams home and start over again on Sunday at 10 a.m. The Notre Dame - Illinois State game was suspended in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Notre Dame came back the next morning to defeat Illinois State in eight innings. They eventually played #17 Alabama later in the day before heading back to South Bend.

**What happened to quick softball games?** Collegiate softball is an ever-evolving sport and it has become increasingly apparent that the games are more contested than ever, and are becoming longer than ever. The Irish have not played a game this season under two hours and the match ups at the NFCA Leadoff Classic finished in 2:15 (vs. California), 2:30 (vs. Illinois State) and 2:28 (vs. Alabama).

**Middleton steps in as the starting centerfielder:** Freshman Kellie Middleton started every game last weekend in center field for the Irish. Middleton, one of the best all-around athletes on the team, has fared well in her limited defensive chances this year. In fact, the Norcross, Ga., native threw out a runner attempting to score from third in her first career defensive chance during the USF/Wilson Tournament in Tampa, Fla, two weeks ago.

Middleton's first career hit was a memorable occurrence as well. She hit a three-run home run against Hofstra and, combined with an RBI ground out against Alabama last weekend, is tied for the team lead in RBI with four.

She is almost an automatic threat to steal, as the rookie is 3-3 in base stealing attempts this season.

**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).

**Irish team strength lies in veteran infield:** There is no secret where the Notre Dame team strength lies this season. Three-year starters Andrea Loman (third base), Andria Bledsoe (short stop) and Alexis Madrid (second base) return to lead the team this season on offense, defense and as team tri-captains.

All three players have key roles in Notre Dame's offensive numbers and de-

fensive prowess. The Irish set a team record for fielding percentage in 2002 (.971) and committed just 50 errors on 1,678 chances. Notre Dame also hit a team-record 54 home runs in '02.

Loman excels on offense and defense and is widely regarded as one of the best third basemen in the country.

The Riverside, Calif., native led the team with a .377 average last season, putting up 12 home runs, 43 RBI and 66 hits. She ranks in the top five all-time in Notre Dame history for fielding percentage.

Bledsoe is among the Irish leaders on offense and defense as well. The Higley, Ariz., native drove in 43 runs last year on 56 hits. She also hit a career-best seven home runs and was steady on defense, compiling a .970 fielding percentage.

Madrid dropped from hitting over .300 in 2001 to a .225 clip last season. She did steal 10 bases (third-best on the team) and contributed 95 assists on defense. One of the best sacrifice bunters and hitters on the Irish team, Madrid has already posted two sacrifice hits this season.

Notre Dame's infield also features two-time first-team all-BIG EAST selection Lisa Mattison at first base. Mattison hit .325 in '02 with 27 RBI and four home runs.

**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 May 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 championship. The Irish received 99 points in the conference's preseason 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

**NOTRE DAME STATISTICAL LEADERS**

<u>Batting Average</u>	
Meagan Ruthrauff .....	.429
Megan Ciolli .....	.304
Andrea Loman .....	.273
<u>Hits</u>	
Meagan Ruthrauff .....	9
Megan Ciolli .....	7
Andrea Loman .....	6
<u>Doubles</u>	
Meagan Ruthrauff .....	2
Lisa Mattison .....	2
Megan Ciolli .....	2
<u>Triples</u>	
none	
<u>Home Runs</u>	
Andrea Loman .....	1
Kellie Middleton .....	1
<u>RBI</u>	
Meagan Ruthrauff .....	4
Kellie Middleton .....	4
Mallorie Lenn .....	3
<u>Slugging Percentage</u>	
Meagan Ruthrauff .....	.524
Andrea Loman .....	.455
Megan Ciolli .....	.391
<u>On Base Percentage</u>	
Meagan Ruthrauff .....	.455
Mallorie Lenn .....	.429
Megan Ciolli .....	.333
<u>Stolen Bases</u>	
Kellie Middleton .....	3
Andrea Loman .....	2
two with .....	1
<b>PITCHING</b>	
<u>ERA</u>	
Carrie Wisen .....	0.00
Heather Booth .....	2.17
Steffany Stenglein .....	3.60
<u>Strikeouts</u>	
Heather Booth .....	22
Steffany Stenglein .....	19
Carrie Wisen .....	3
<u>Innings Pitched</u>	
Steffany Stenglein .....	23.1
Heather Booth .....	19.1
Carrie Wisen .....	4.2

### NOTRE DAME TEAM GAME HIGHS

#### Runs

5 vs. Kent State, 2-15-03

#### Hits

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

#### RBI

4 twice, most recent vs. Kent State

#### Doubles

2 twice, most recent vs. Illinois State

#### Home Runs

1 twice, most recent vs. Hofstra

#### Total Bases

11 three times, most recent vs. Ala.

#### Stolen Bases

3 vs. South Florida, 2-15-03

#### Innings Pitched

8.0 vs. Illinois State

#### Strikeouts

10 vs. Jacksonville, 2-16-03

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

### INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

#### Runs

2 - Madrid vs. USF (2-15-03)

2 - Loman vs. Kent State (2-15-03)

#### Hits

3 - Bledsoe vs. #17 Alabama (2-23-03)

#### RBI

3 - Ruthrauff vs. KSU (2-15-03)

3 - Middleton vs. Hofstra (2-16-03)

#### Doubles

1 - eight times

#### Home Runs

1 - Loman vs. Kent State (2-15-03)

1 - Middleton vs. Hofstra (2-16-03)

#### Total Bases

4 - Loman vs. Kent State (2-15-03)

4 - Middleton vs. Hofstra (2-16-03)

#### Walks

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

#### Stolen Bases

1 - seven times

#### Innings Pitched

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

#### Strikeouts

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

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, is this weekend's destination for a tournament hosted by the Lady Cajuns and the Irish will head to Southern California for Spring Break and the 2003 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 .273 (six hits in 22 AB) with one home run and two RBI. She also has stolen two bases this season.

Loman excels both offensively and defensively for Notre Dame, driving 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 doubleheader 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

**2003 BIG EAST Conference Standings  
(through Feb. 16)**



Team	BIG EAST			OVERALL									vs. ND
	W-L	Pts.	H	A	N	W-L-T	Pct.	H	A	N	Streak		
Virginia Tech	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	3-1-0	.750	0-0	0-1	3-0	Won 1	March 30	
Rutgers	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	4-3-0	.571	0-0	1-0	3-3	Lost 1	May 4	
Pittsburgh	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	4-4-0	.500	0-0	1-1	3-3	Lost 1	March 29	
St. John's	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	4-4-0	.500	0-0	0-1	4-3	Won 2	April 11	
Seton Hall	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-2-0	.500	0-0	0-1	2-1	Lost 1	April 13	
<b>Notre Dame</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>3-4-0</b>	<b>.428</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>3-3</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	-	
Syracuse	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-3-0	.400	0-0	0-2	2-1	Lost 2	April 19	
Boston College	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	3-5-0	.375	0-0	0-1	1-2	Lost 2	April 26	
Connecticut	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-4-0	.200	0-0	0-2	1-2	Won 1	April 27	
Providence	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	-	April 5	
Villanova	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-3-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-3	Lost 3	May 2	

**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.

become an annual tradition for the Notre Dame softball team, the Irish will spend 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.

Last weekend Notre Dame was at the challenging NFCA Leadoff Classic taking on defending national champion #4 California, Illinois State and #17 Alabama. The Irish head to the Bayou the this weekend for a tournament at Louisiana-Lafayette before going west to the 2003 Kia Klassic in Fullerton, Calif. in two weeks. Notre Dame will face Fresno State, #3 Nebraska and #14 DePaul at the Kia this year.

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

**Looking for Notre Dame livestats?** Live statistics will be available for all Notre Dame home games this season. An effort is being launched to do some of Notre Dame's preseason away games, but it will be dependent on phone line availability at the various fields/complexes/stadiums. No live statistics will be available for this weekend's tournament. Fans can call 574-631-3000 for the Notre Dame sports information hotline, which will be updated as soon as possible after the games this weekend.

**2003 BIG EAST  
Weekly Awards**

**Player(s) of the Week**

Feb. 16 - Lisa Fischer, Boston College  
Feb. 24 - Rachel Park, Syracuse

**Pitcher(s) of the Week**

Feb. 16 - Rachel Pacheco, Va. Tech  
Feb. 24 - Christina Shanko, SHU  
Feb. 24 - Tara DiMaggio, Syracuse

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)	Cioli	Hartmann
2-23-03	vs. #17 Alabama	4-7	L	4/10/1 - 7/12/3	Stenglein (L, 0-3)	-	-

**2003 USA TODAY/NFCA  
TOP 25 (2-25-03)**

School	2003 Record	Pts.	LW
1. UCLA (19)	14-1	523	1
2. Arizona	17-2	489	2
3. <b>Nebraska</b>	12-1	484	3
4. Washington	12-0-1	455	5
5. Texas (2)	16-0	454	6
6. <b>California</b>	12-3	425	4
7. CS Fullerton	12-5	389	7
8. LSU	11-4	373	9
9. Oklahoma	7-3	345	10
10. Arizona State	14-3	307	14
11. Stanford	12-3	294	12
12. Georgia	18-1	285	13
13. <b>DePaul</b>	6-2	278	8
14. <b>Alabama</b>	13-5	246	17
15. Florida State	11-5	225	11
16. South Carolina	9-5	207	16
17. Oregon State	13-5	170	18
18. Massachusetts	5-3	167	25
19. Michigan	3-5	143	15
20. Ohio State	5-4	129	21
21. Texas A&M	12-6	88	19
22. <b>South Florida</b>	16-4	66	NR
23. Oregon	12-5	50	25
24. Minnesota	8-1-1	45	NR
25. Baylor	15-7	32	NR

Others receiving votes: Pacific 30, NOTRE DAME 29, **Fresno State** 16, Southern Illinois 15, Florida 15, Georgia Tech 13, **Louisiana-Lafayette** 8, Kansas 8. Three other teams (totaling 10 points) received votes but were only listed on one ballot.

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

Preseason: 17  
February 18: 23  
February 25: also receiving votes

**2003 ESPN.COM/USA SOFTBALL  
TOP 25 (2-25-03)**

School	2003 Record	Pts.	LW
1. UCLA (15)	14-1	446	
2. Texas (3)	16-0	413	
3. <b>Nebraska</b>	12-1	408	
4. Arizona	17-2	405	
5. Washington	12-0-1	393	
6. <b>California</b>	12-3	337	
7. CS Fullerton	12-5	311	
8. LSU	11-4	304	
9. Arizona State	14-3	287	
10. Stanford	12-3	271	
11. Oklahoma	7-3	269	
12. Georgia	18-1	255	
13. <b>Alabama</b>	13-5	228	
14. <b>DePaul</b>	6-2	221	
15. Florida State	11-5	205	
16. South Carolina	9-5	175	
17. Oregon State	13-5	164	
18. Massachusetts	5-3	138	
19. Ohio State	5-4	92	
20. Texas A&M	12-6	84	
21. Michigan	3-5	75	
22. Oregon	12-5	67	
23. Oklahoma State	9-3	60	
24. <b>South Florida</b>	16-4	38	
25. Pacific	6-6	30	

Others receiving votes: Minnesota 24, Florida 21, Kansas 20, **Fresno State** 17, Baylor 16, Georgia Tech 13, UC Santa Barbara 12, Illinois 8, Southern Illinois 7.

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.