



2001 Notre Dame Softball



University of Notre Dame Sports Information • April 24, 2001 • Contact: Alan Wasielewski, 219-631-7516, Fax: 219-631-7941

2001 Schedule			
<i>February</i>			
<i>16-18 Fri.-Sun. at Holiday Inn Invitational (Tampa, Fla.)</i>			
16	Fri.	vs. Maryland	W, 4-1
16	Fri.	vs. South Florida	W, 5-3
17	Sat.	vs. #4 Washington	W, 3-2
17	Sat.	vs. Hofstra	W, 8-1
18	Sun.	vs. #18 S.Carolina	W, 1-0
<i>23-25 Fri.-Sun. at Lady Razorback Invitational (Fayetteville, Ark.)</i>			
23	Fri.	vs. Texas Tech	W, 4-0
24	Sat.	vs. Arkansas	W, 4-3
24	Sat.	vs. Maine	W, 8-0 (5)
25	Sun.	vs. Arkansas	L, 0-2
<i>March</i>			
<i>2-4 Fri.-Sun. at Frost Tournament (Chattanooga, Tenn.)</i>			
2	Fri.	vs. Jacksonville St.	W, 4-1
2	Fri.	vs. Tenn.-Chatt.	W, 5-3
3	Sat.	vs. Alabama-Birm.	W, 9-1 (5)
11	Sun.	at #24 Cal St. North. (Northridge, Calif.)	W, 5-1
13	Tues.	at Long Beach State (Long Beach, Calif.)	W, 7-3
13	Tues.	at Long Beach State (Long Beach, Calif.)	W, 2-0
<i>15-18 Th.-Sun. Kia Klassic Tournament (Fullerton, Calif.)</i>			
15	Thurs.	vs. Utah State	W, 6-0
15	Thurs.	vs. #7 Fresno State	W, 4-2
16	Fri.	vs. #5 Oklahoma	L, 2-4
17	Sat.	vs. Hawaii	W, 4-1
17	Sat.	vs. #10 Arizona St.	W, 5-1 (9)
18	Sun.	vs. #9 Cal. St. Full.	L, 4-5
28	Wend.	Valparaiso	W, 6-0, W, 4-0
29	Thurs.	W. Michigan	W, 7-1, W, 8-0
31	Sat.	*St. John's	W, 8-0, W, 1-0
<i>April</i>			
1	Sun.	*Seton Hall	W, 6-3, W, 10-2 (5)
3	Tues.	at Purdue	W, 10-2 (6), W, 4-2 (8)
7	Sat.	*at Connecticut	W, 6-0, W, 1-0
8	Sun.	*at Syracuse	W, 6-0, W, 6-0
12	Thurs.	Loyola (Chicago)	W, 8-0, W, 6-0
14	Sat.	*Pittsburgh	W, 2-0, W, 8-0
17	Tues.	at Indiana State	Canceled
19	Thurs.	at #10 DePaul	W, 7-6, W, 5-1
21	Sat.	*at Virginia Tech	W, 5-0, W, 4-0
24	Tues.	at Illinois-Chicago	5:30 p.m.
25	Wend.	Toledo	4:00 p.m.
28	Sat.	*Boston College	11:00 a.m.
29	Sun.	*Providence	11:00 a.m.
<i>May</i>			
2	Wend.	Bowling Green	3:30 p.m.
4	Fri.	*at Villanova	12:00 p.m.
5	Sat.	*at Rutgers	10:30 a.m.
10-12	Th.-Sat.	BIG EAST Championship	
17-20	Th.-Sat.	NCAA Regionals	
24-28	Th.-Mon.	College World Series	

All home games (indicated in bold) played at Ivy Field.

* - indicates BIG EAST Conference game

Who: Notre Dame, Illinois-Chicago and Toledo

What: Irish face two non-conference matchups

Where: Chicago, Ill., on Tuesday, April 24, for a non-conference matchup against Illinois-Chicago before returning home for a doubleheader with Toledo on Tuesday, April 25, at 4 p.m.

When: #11 Notre Dame at Illinois-Chicago, Tuesday, April 24, 5:30 p.m.
#11 Notre Dame vs. Toledo, Wednesday, April 25, 4:00 p.m.

Irish head to Chicago before returning home for three twin bills: The 11th-ranked Notre Dame softball team (40-3, 12-0 in the BIG EAST) heads to Chicago, Ill., on Tuesday, April 24, for a non-conference matchup against Illinois-Chicago before returning home for a doubleheader with Toledo on Tuesday, April 25, at 4 p.m.

Notre Dame is off to its best start ever this season and own the nation's best winning streak (22 games) heading into competition this week. The Irish knocked off their sixth ranked team last week Thursday with a doubleheader sweep of #10 DePaul in Chicago. The Irish have reached the 40-win plateau the fastest of any previous year in the program's history and have their sights set on a school-record 49 victories in 2001.

It will be the 21st meeting between Illinois-Chicago and Notre Dame with the Irish holding a 13-7 advantage in the series. When Toledo and Notre Dame matchup on Wednesday, it will be the sixth and seventh meetings in the series with the Irish winning all five previous games.

Streaking: Notre Dame has rattled off a school-record 22 straight victories since it returned from a Spring Break trip to California - all 22 wins coming in 11 doubleheader sweeps.

All-time Notre Dame regular-season win streaks:
22: March 28, 2001 - Present
21: April 11, 1998 - Feb. 20, 1999
19: March 16, 1996 - April 11, 1996
16: May 22, 2000 - Feb. 25, 2001
13: April 16, 1990 - April 25, 1990

When Notre Dame opened the 2001 season with eight consecutive victories, the Irish stretched their regular-season win streak to 16 (dating back to May 22, 2000). That streak ranks as the fourth-best in school history.

Streaking II: Hand-in-hand with Notre Dame's 22 consecutive victories have been 11 consecutive doubleheader sweeps. Beginning with two victories vs. Valparaiso on March 28, the Irish have swept 11 consecutive twin bills. Combined with Notre Dame's first doubleheader sweep of the year on March 11 at #24 Cal State Northridge, the Irish have swept a school-record 12 doubleheaders in a row this season. That breaks the previous streak of eight straight doubleheader sweeps in 1996.

Streaking III: Where does the current Irish win streak rank in Notre Dame athletic history? Answer: The Irish have compiled one of the top winning streaks in Notre Dame team-oriented sports history.

The top winning streaks in Notre Dame history (team-oriented sports only):

- 26: Men's Soccer
Sept. 20, 1977 - Oct. 1, 1978
- 24: Women's Soccer
Oct. 19, 1995 - Oct. 21, 1996
- 23: Women's Basketball
Nov. 20, 2000 - Feb. 17, 2001
- 23: Football
Sept. 10, 1988 - Nov. 18, 1999
- 22: Men's Basketball
Dec. 23, 1908 - Feb. 9, 1909
- 22: Softball
March 28, 2001 - Present
- 21: Baseball
May 31, 1906 - May 21, 1907
- 20: Women's Basketball
Dec. 11, 1999 - Feb. 22, 2000

Miller earns her 900th career victory vs. Pittsburgh: Liz Miller enjoyed her 900th career victory on Saturday, April 14, when the Irish beat Pittsburgh in the second game of a doubleheader 8-0. The Irish head coach now boasts a career record of 904-294.

Miller also claimed a victory in her 500th game as Notre Dame's head coach on April 1, 2001 vs. Seton Hall. The Irish defeated the Pirates 8-0 in five innings to earn Miller her 349th victory under the Golden Dome.

Irish extend their stay at the highest-ever ranking in the USA Today/NFCA Top 25: Notre Dame has remained at its highest-ever ranking (#11) for four weeks after an impressive run to third place in the Kia Klassic (March 15-18) and rattling off seven-straight doubleheader sweeps. Notre Dame finished third in the prestigious Kia Klassic, knocking off #7 Fresno State and #10 Arizona State during the competition.

Notre Dame entered the season ranked 19th in the preseason poll and moved to 14th in the Feb. 21st poll. The Irish then dropped a spot to 15th in the Feb. 28th poll, but moved back up to 14th for two weeks (March 7 and 14).

Notre Dame in the USA Today/NFCA Top 25 this season:

Preseason: 19 (0-0)

Irish defeat #4 Washington and #18 South Carolina while capturing the Holiday Inn Invitational in Tampa, Fla.

Feb. 21: 14 (5-0)

Irish give up two runs on a double in the sixth inning to drop first game of the season at Arkansas.

Feb. 28: 15 (8-1)

Irish lose three games off the schedule due to inclement weather but claim third tournament title of the season at the Morning News Invitational in Chatta-

2001 Notre Dame Softball Roster

No.	Name	Year	Pos.	Ht.	B/T	Birthdate	Hometown (High School)
2	***Melanie Alkire (C)	Sr.	SS/RHP	5-8	R/R	10-6-79	Union City, CA (James Logan)
4	***Danielle Klayman (C)	Sr.	OF	5-7	L/L	9-17-79	San Diego, CA (La Jolla)
5	**Kas Hoag	Jr.	UT/DP	5-5	L/R	6-13-80	Wallingford, CT (Lyman Hall)
7	Jessica Sharron	So.	RHP	5-8	R/R	10-12-81	Agoura Hills, CA (Thousand Oaks)
8	Kristin Schmidt	Fr.	RHP	5-9	R/R	4-3-82	Houston, TX (North Shore Senior)
9	***Jen Sharron (C)	Sr.	LHP	5-9	L/L	9-14-79	Agoura Hills, CA (Thousand Oaks)
10	*Alexis Madrid	So.	2B/SS	5-1	L/R	10-17-81	Temecula, CA (Temecula)
11	**Jenny Kriech	Jr.	OF	5-7	L/L	9-8-80	Indianapolis, IN (Perry Meridian)
15	Nicole deFau	Fr.	IF/OF	5-9	R/R	10-5-82	Southington, CT (Southington)
16	***Lizzy Lemire (C)	Sr.	OF	5-9	R/R	10-10-79	Irvine, CA (Woodbridge)
17	Sarah Kirkman	Sr.	OF/DP	5-11	R/R	11-2-78	Kokomo, IN (Northwestern)
18	*Andria Bledsoe	So.	3B/SS	5-7	R/R	8-4-81	Higley, AZ (Highland)
19	Chantal DeAlcuaz	Fr.	C	5-9	R/R	4-29-82	Modesto, CA (Central Catholic)
20	*Lisa Mattison	So.	1B/C/DP	5-10	R/R	4-26-81	Granger, IN (Penn)
22	**Jarrah Myers	Jr.	C	5-9	R/R	4-22-80	Carbondale, KS (Santa Fe Trail)
33	*Andrea Loman	So.	1B/3B	5-10	R/R	11-25-81	Riverside, CA (Poly)

* - indicates monograms won

(C) - indicates 2001 team captains

Head Coach: Liz Miller (Western Michigan, '69), 364-152 (.705) record at Notre Dame (Nine years)

Associate Head Coach: Deanna Gumpf (Nebraska '92)

Assistant Coach: Traci Conrad (Michigan '99)

Volunteer Assistant Coach: John Gumpf (Cal St. San Bernardino '97)

Trainer: Chantal Porter (Iowa State '94)

Team Managers: Maureen Guilfoyle, Sean Coary

Pronunciation Guide

Melanie *Alkire* Al-KYE-er
 Chantal *DeAlcuaz* Deh-All-quez
 Nicole *deFau* duh-FOE
 Andria Bledsoe An-DREE-a
 Kas *Hoag*..... HOE-g
 Jennifer *Kriech* Creek
 Lizzy *Lemire* Lah-MEER
 Andrea Loman An-DRAY-a

Notre Dame Softball Quick Facts

All-Time Record: 458-235-2
 Extra-Innings Record: 29-31-2
 Overall Winning Seasons: 12
 Overall Losing Seasons: 0
 2000 Record: 47-14
 Home: 14-4
 Away: 14-2
 Neutral: 19-8
 BIG EAST: 14-2 (1st)
 Starters Returning/Lost: 9/0
 Monogram Winners
 Returning/Lost: 11/3

nooga, Tenn..

March 7: 14 (11-1)

Irish sweep a doubleheader at #24 Cal State Northridge.

March 14: 14 (13-1)

Irish finish third in the Kia Classic, knocking off #7 Fresno State and #10 Arizona State while posting a 5-2 record during the week.

March 21: 12 (18-3)

Irish earn highest-ever ranking and face a week off before their home opener vs. Western Michigan (March 27).

March 28: 11 (18-3)

Irish continue to climb the poll after taking a week off after their Spring Break trip.

April 4: 11 (26-3)

Irish improve to 4-0 in the BIG EAST and sweep five consecutive doubleheaders.

April 11: 11 (32-3)

Irish extend doubleheader win streak to seven and push overall winning streak to 14.

April 18: 11 (36-3)

Irish continue shutout streak, blanking Loyola (Chicago) and Pittsburgh in two more doubleheader sweeps. Notre Dame boasts the top winning streak in the nation (18 games).

April 25: ?? (??-?)

Irish knock off sixth ranked team and earns eighth victory over a ranked team this season (a doubleheader sweep at #10 DePaul) and post 21st and 22nd consecutive victories and 11th-straight doubleheader sweep with 5-0 and 4-0 victories at Virginia Tech. The new USA Today/NFCA poll will be released on Wednesday, April 25.

Notre Dame posts best-ever start: Notre Dame's 40-3 (.930) record over its first 43 games is by far the best start to a season since the program began in 1989. The team's .923 winning percentage entering last week's two doubleheaders was ranked second in the nation behind #1 UCLA's .933 (42-3) mark.

Coach Miller's team is also 37 games over .500

for the first time in school history. The Irish were 36 games over the .500 mark (48-12) on May 5, 1996 and 35 games over .500 (47-12) on June 18, 2000.

The Irish started the season with an 11-1 record, besting the 8-4 starts in 1995 and 2000 seasons that were the previous best for a season.

Jarrah Myers becomes the third Irish player to earn BIG EAST Player of the Week accolades: Jarrah Myers (Carbondale, Kan.) was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week by the conference office on Monday, April 16.

Myers batted .455 in four games during the week of April 10-16, leading Notre Dame to a 4-0 record on the week with doubleheader sweeps of Loyola (Chicago) and BIG EAST Conference opponent Pittsburgh. Myers also helped guide the Notre Dame pitching staff through four more shut-out victories, as the Irish now have thrown a school-record eight consecutive shutouts.

Against Loyola, she had a two-for-four performance in the first game with an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. In the second game, she went one-for-three with her fifth home run of the season, a two-run shot in the fifth inning. Taking on Pittsburgh over the weekend, Myers went two-for-four in the doubleheader, including a triple in the first game.

She is the third Irish player to earn the weekly award this season (Jenny Kriech, Feb. 26, and Andrea Loman, March 19), while senior pitcher Jen Sharron has been named BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week three times this season and rookie RHP Kristin Schmidt earned the pitcher of the week award on March 5.

Irish among the NCAA statistical leaders: (NOTE: The NCAA had not release the most recent statistical rankings at the time of this release) The NCAA has released its Division I softball statistical rankings for the 2001 season, and Notre Dame appears prominently on the lists.

Freshman RHP Kristin Schmidt is fourth in the

nation in ERA with a 0.51 mark as of April 16. The Irish, who feature six players hitting over .300 this season, are ranked fifth in the nation in team batting (.320). Notre Dame also is second in the nation in winning percentage (36-3, .923), ninth in team ERA (0.88) and 11th in scoring (5.15 runs per game). The Irish also entered the week with a 18-game winning streak which is currently the best in the nation.

Other Irish players that appear on the NCAA statistical rankings include Jen Sharron (47th in ERA with 1.06 and 17th in victories with 19) and Jenny Kriech (42nd in batting average with .392).

Four Irish players set to try out of the USA Softball National Team: Four University of Notre Dame softball players have been selected by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) to participate in the USA Softball Women's National Team Camp, May 30-June 3 at the ARCO Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif.

Seniors **Jen Sharron (Agoura Hills, Calif.)**, **Melanie Alkire (Union City, Calif.)** and **Lizzy Lemire (Irvine, Calif.)** and sophomore **Andrea Loman (Riverside, Calif.)** have all been invited to the camp. USA Softball will select two 16-player teams out of the 51 athletes invited to represent the United States in international competitions such as the U.S. Cup in Honolulu, Hawaii, the Canada Cup in Vancouver and the Pan Am Qualifier in Maracay, Venezuela during the 2001 season.

The list of players invited to camp represent the best fast pitch softball talent in the nation. Notre Dame is tied for third on the list of schools with the most selected players behind Arizona (9) and UCLA (8).

Selections for the 2001 USA Softball Women's National Teams will be made following the USA Softball Women's National Team Camp. The two teams will then participate in the USA Softball Shootout, a four-city West Coast tour that will stop in Portland (June 8), Spokane (June 10), Sacramento

USA Today/NFCA Top 25 (as of April 18, 2001)			
School	Record	Points	LW
1. UCLA	42-3	668	1
2. Arizona	41-4	654	2
3. Stanford	38-5-1	613	3
4. California	44-6	580	4
5. LSU	38-7	571	5
6. Oklahoma	34-7	520	7
7. Alabama	38-5	509	6
8. Arizona State	30-11	484	8
9. CS Fullerton	38-11	437	10
10. DePaul	33-8-1	431	9
11. NOTRE DAME	36-3	407	11
12. Nebraska	37-10	347	14
Washington	27-16	347	13
14. Fresno State	31-15	298	15
15. Iowa	30-9	287	12
16. Oregon State	32-15-1	279	16
17. Florida State	42-7	246	17
18. Pacific	38-9	240	18
19. SW Texas State	36-8	158	20
20. South Carolina	31-14-1	149	19
21. Louisiana-Lafayette	31-6	134	24
22. Texas A&M	28-12	71	22
23. Massachusetts	23-9	59	25
24. Michigan	27-11-1	53	NR
25. CS Northridge	25-19	46	NR

Others receiving votes: Baylor (34), Wisconsin (24), Florida Atlantic (20), Hawaii (15), Southern Mississippi (14), Kansas (10), North Carolina (10), Texas Tech (8), Villanova (7), Virginia (7), Utah (6), Purdue (4), South Florida (4).

Bold indicates 2001 Notre Dame opponents.
Lw - ranking in the last poll

Notre Dame Sports Information

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

Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available by contacting Wasielewski at (219) 631-7516 or via e-mail at Wasielewski.3@nd.edu.

Requests to interview student-athletes must be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Media may contact coach Liz Miller directly on weekdays at (219) 631-6167. Credentials for home games can be obtained by calling Wasielewski.

Statistics, results and weekly releases also are readily available on Notre Dame's official athletic site, www.und.com.

(June 14) and Los Angeles (June 17) prior to leaving for the U.S. Cup in Hawaii.

Should any of the Irish players be selected for the national team, they will become members of the undisputed #1 softball team in the world. The USA Softball National Team won the first Olympic gold medal in the sport's history in 1996 and repeated the feat again in 2000. The USA team has won the

past four consecutive World Championships, the past four consecutive Pan Am Games and the past two Olympic gold medals.

For more coverage of the USA Softball Women's National Team visit the team's official website at www.usasoftball.com.

Jen Sharron named BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week for the third time this season and second week in a row: Senior LHP Jen Sharron earned her second consecutive BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week award on Tuesday, April 10. It is the third weekly award of the season (Feb. 26, April 2, April 10) for the three-time BIG EAST Pitcher of the Year, and it comes on the heels of a dominating weekend against conference competition.

After leading Notre Dame to a non-conference win at Purdue (Tuesday, April 3), Sharron compiled 14 scoreless innings at Connecticut and Syracuse to help the Irish to an 8-0 start in conference play. Against the Huskies, Sharron gave up just one hit, striking out four and inducing 12 ground-ball outs. She was equally impressive against the Orangewomen on Sunday, posting her 15th complete game of the season and seventh shut out while giving up just five hits and striking out nine.

Sharron's impressive week is just a continuation of one of the best series of starts the All-American has posted in her career. In her last seven appearances, she is 7-0 with seven complete games and 64 strikeouts, allowing just 21 hits and three earned runs (0.46 ERA).

Sharron currently has a 1.19 ERA and 168 strikeouts in 146.2 innings pitched. She is the ace of a staff that boasts a 0.94 ERA, giving up just 39 earned runs in 43 games.

Myers is one tough out: Notre Dame cleanup hitter and catcher Jarrah Myers has been the toughest out in the Irish lineup this season. Myers is second on the team in batting average (.361) and leads the team with a .607 slugging percentage. She has reached safely in 32 of 43 games this season and has 12 multi-hit performances to give her a .452 on-base percentage.

Hitting the long ball: Seven Irish players have blasted home runs this season. Andria Bledsoe hit her first career round-tripper against South Florida while Jen Sharron joined the home run club with a three-run shot in the fifth inning vs. Arkansas (Feb. 24). It was Sharron's third career home run. Notre Dame's top hitter so far in 2001, Jenny Kriech, hit her first home run of the year vs. Jacksonville State (March 9).

Jarrah Myers leads the team in round-trippers with five, blasting two in one game vs. #24 Cal State Northridge and one against #9 Cal State Fullerton. Myers also hit a tape-measure shot (estimated at least 260 feet) vs. Valparaiso on March 28 and a two-run homer vs. Loyola (Chicago).

Andrea Loman has three solo shots against #4 Washington (Feb. 17) Hawaii (March 17) and Connecticut (April 7) and also hammered a two-run blast at Virginia Tech (April 21).

Lizzy Lemire joined the group with a three-run dinger in the sixth inning against Seton Hall (April 1) and a two-run homer at Syracuse (April 8) - the first home run of the year hit at Syracuse's Skytop Stadium.

Notre Dame's most prolific home run hitter of

Notre Dame Statistical Leaders (as of April 24, 2001)

<u>Batting Average (min. 20 at-bats)</u>	
Kriech, J. ....	.393
Myers, J. ....	.361
Loman, A. ....	.358
<u>Runs</u>	
Kriech, J.	38
Myers, J.	30
Lemire, L.	28
Alkire, M.	28
<u>Hits</u>	
Kriech, J.	55
Alkire, M.	49
Lemire, L.	45
<u>Doubles</u>	
Alkire, M.	12
Loman, A.	10
Myers, J.	9
<u>Triples</u>	
Kriech, J.	6
Myers, J.	3
Lemire, L.	2
Klayman, D.	2
<u>Home Runs</u>	
Myers, J.	5
Loman, A.	4
Alkire, M.	3
<u>RBI</u>	
Myers, J.	31
Lemire, L.	27
Bledsoe, A.	21
Kriech, J.	21
<u>SLG %</u>	
Myers, J. ....	.607
Loman, A. ....	.585
Kriech, J. ....	.536
<u>Total Bases</u>	
Kriech, J.	75
Myers, J.	74
Alkire, M.	70
<u>On Base %</u>	
Kriech, J. ....	.459
Myers, J. ....	.452
Loman, A. ....	.431
<u>Stolen Bases</u>	
Kriech, J.	14
Myers, J.	7
Lemire, L.	7
Three tied with	6
<u>Fielding %</u>	
Schmidt, K.	1.000
Kriech, J.	1.000
Loman, A. ....	.991
<u>Assists</u>	
Alkire, M.	60
Madrid, A.	48
Bledsoe, A.	45
<u>Pitching</u>	
<u>ERA</u>	
Schmidt, K.	0.51
Sharron, Jen	1.19
<u>Strikeouts</u>	
Schmidt, K.	169
Sharron, Jen	168

2001 BIG EAST Weekly Awards

Player of the Week:

Feb. 26 - **Jenny Kriech, Notre Dame**
 Mar. 5 - Carmen Farmer, Virginia Tech
 Mar. 12 - Keri Jacklets, Providence
 Mar. 19 - **Andrea Loman, Notre Dame**
 Mar. 26 - Keri Jacklets, Providence
 April 2 - Sara Carlson, Villanova
 April 9 - Sara Carlson, Villanova
 Vickie Lamb, Seton Hall
 April 16 - **Jarrah Myers, Notre Dame**
 April 23 - Sara Carlson, Villanova
 April 30 -
 May 7 -

Pitcher of the Week:

Feb. 26 - **Jen Sharron, Notre Dame**
 Mar. 5 - **Kristin Schmidt, Notre Dame**
 Clarisa Crowell, Virginia Tech
 Mar. 12 - Theresa Hornick, Villanova
 Mar. 19 - Christina Shanko, Seton Hall
 Mar. 26 - Catherine Gilliam, Virginia Tech
 April 2 - **Jen Sharron, Notre Dame**
 Theresa Hornick, Villanova
 April 9 - **Jen Sharron, Notre Dame**
 April 16 - Misty Beaver, Seton Hall
 April 23 - Courtney Fitzgerald, St. John's
 April 30 -
 May 7 -

all-time, **Melanie Alkire** (see Alkire historical note), has 'touched them all' three times this season.

Unprecedented RBI production: As the Irish enter the final stretch of the 2001 season six players that have posted 20 or more RBI this season.

That breaks the school record of five players with 20 or more RBI, set in three different seasons ('95, '97 and '00). **Jarrah Myers** (31), **Lizzy Lemire** (27), **Andria Bledsoe** (21), **Jenny Kriech** (21), **Andrea Loman** (20) and **Melanie Alkire** (20) have already

reached the 20 RBI barrier this season. **Dani Klayman** (15) also has the ability to become the seventh player reach 20 this season.

Rookie righthander Schmidt puts up veteran numbers: The success of freshman RHP **Kristin Schmidt** has put the Irish coaching staff in the enviable position of possessing two quality starting pitchers for the 2001 season.

Schmidt is 19-1 in 20 starts this season with a 0.51 ERA. She has struck out 169 (see strikeout note that follows) and the freshman hurler has struck out 11 batters in five innings of work vs. Maine and Valparaiso.

The rookie stepped up her game to an even higher level at the Kia Classic (March 15-18), shutting down some of the top offenses in the nation. Schmidt earned two victories with complete game performances vs. 10th-ranked Arizona State and a four-hit shutout of Utah State.

Against the Sun Devils, she pitched all nine innings of the extra-innings contest, surrendering just two hits (a lead-off bunt single, followed by a single in the bottom of the ninth that allowed the runner placed on second in the international tie breaker rule to score) in the game. At one point in the game, Schmidt retired 17 straight Sun Devil batters.

Against Utah State on March 15, Schmidt posted a career-best 13 strikeouts while allowing just four hits.

Schmidt also made an extended relief appearance vs. Oklahoma, taking over for starting pitcher Jen Sharron for the third out of the first inning. She had an immediate impact, striking out the first batter she faced in three pitches and eventually holding the potent Sooner offense to just three hits the rest of the way.

Returning home for two doubleheaders vs. Valparaiso and Western Michigan, Schmidt continued to be nearly unhittable. Working five innings vs. Valparaiso (March 28) Schmidt worked four perfect innings before giving up a single in the fifth inning. She ended with 11 K in five innings of work.

Entering the circle the next day vs. Valparaiso, Schmidt tossed her third shutout of the season, once again giving up just one hit and striking out nine.

The rookie tossed her sixth and seventh shut outs of the season in her first trip to Connecticut and Syracuse last weekend.

Taking the mound against DePaul on Thursday, April 19, Schmidt surrendered just three hits and one earned run against the 10th-ranked team in the nation. She continued her effectiveness against ranked teams this season - in four appearances against top-25 teams (at Cal State Northridge, vs. Oklahoma, vs. Arizona State and at DePaul) she has given up just one earned run, struck out 27 and allowed just 12 hits in 27.2 innings pitched for a 0.33 ERA.

The rookie's outstanding numbers just keep mounting, she is second in the BIG EAST in overall ERA (0.51) and is even better in conference competition, as opposing teams have not scored a run off of the righthander in BIG EAST play this season.

Irish pitching staff becomes K Krew: 200 strikeouts is a total some teams hope to achieve in an entire season. Notre Dame's pitching staff, though, is out to set a new precedent in Ks. As of April 18, the Irish have 342 strikeouts as a team - **Jen Sharron** has 168, **Kristin Schmidt** 169, and **Jessica Sharron** has five.

To put Schmidt and Jen Sharron's numbers in perspective, an Irish pitcher has posted over 200 strikeouts just four times in Notre Dame history - Sharron (246) last season and Terri Kobata (250, 315 and 213 from '93-'95) - and both current Irish aces are on pace to reach that mark this season.

They have both been red-hot lately as well. Jen Sharron sat down 14 Valparaiso batters on March 28, setting a personal record (and just three off the school record, held by Kobata). Sharron also fanned 24 batters in two starts against Loyola (Chicago) and Pittsburgh last weekend.

Sharron and Schmidt are on a break-neck pace in the strikeout category. Schmidt has reached 100 K in the third-fewest innings pitched with 77.2 IP. Terri Kobata reached 100 strikeouts in 62 .1 innings in 1994 and 69 innings in 1995.

Kriech dominates competition from the leadoff position: No player on the Notre Dame roster has been more consistent than junior rightfielder **Jenny Kriech** in the first three months of the season.

Notre Dame Softball Roster Breakdown

Starting Pitchers

Pos.	No.	Name	Year	Height	Bats/Throws	Birthdate	Hometown	Notes
LHP	9	Jen Sharron	Sr.	5-9	L/L	9-14-79	Agoura Hills, CA	Three-time BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week
RHP	8	Kristin Schmidt	Fr.	5-9	R/R	4-3-82	Houston, TX	Has not given up a run in BIG EAST play

Probable Starters

C	22	Jarrah Myers	Jr.	5-9	R/R	4-22-80	Carbondale, KS	Leads the team in homers (5) and RBI (31)
1B	33	Andrea Loman	So.	5-10	R/R	11-25-81	Riverside, CA	Homered against Virginia Tech
2B	1	Alexis Madrid	So.	5-1	L/R	10-17-81	Temecula, CA	Posted a three-for-three, two RBI game vs. Va. Tech
SS	2	Melanie Alkire	Sr.	5-8	R/R	10-6-79	Union City, CA	ND's career leader in RBI (157) and HR (28)
3B	18	Andria Bledsoe	So.	5-9	R/R	8-4-81	Higley, AZ	Back in the lineup after injuring knee at Syracuse
LF	16	Lizzy Lemire	Sr.	5-9	R/R	10-10-79	Irvine, CA	Bat. avg. jumped from .288 to .355 in 14 games
CF	11	Jenny Kriech	Jr.	5-7	L/L	9-8-80	Indianapolis, IN	Batting average has now risen above .400
RF	4	Danielle Klayman	Sr.	5-7	L/L	9-17-79	San Diego, CA	Has 11 multi-hit games this season
DP	20	Lisa Mattison	So.	5-10	R/R	4-26-81	Granger, IN	Batting .286 after hitting over .400 last week

Off the Bench

DP	5	Kas Hoag	Jr.	5-5	L/R	6-13-80	Wallingford, CT	Two-for-three in second game vs. Syracuse
2B	15	Nicole deFau	Fr.	5-9	R/R	10-5-82	Southington, CT	Had an RBI single in first game vs. Purdue
C	19	Chantal DeAlcuaz	Fr.	5-9	R/R	4-29-82	Modesto, CA	Has relieved Myers at catcher twice this year
OF	17	Sarah Kirkman	Sr.	5-11	R/R	11-2-78	Kokomo, IN	Gives the Irish powerful bat on bench
RHP	7	Jessica Sharron	So.	5-8	R/R	10-12-81	Agoura Hills, CA	Five appearances, 5 K

2001 BIG EAST Standings		
Team	2001 BIG EAST record	Overall
1. Notre Dame	12-0	40-3
2. Villanova	11-1	34-4
3. Connecticut	8-4	23-18
4. Seton Hall	8-6	20-11
5. Virginia Tech	8-6	32-19
6. St. John's	6-8	28-25
7. Boston College	6-10	23-21
8. Rutgers	4-8	20-17
9. Syracuse	3-9	12-21
10. Pittsburgh	3-9	10-33
11. Providence	3-11	19-23

She started off by splitting tournament MVP honors with teammate Lizzy Lemire at the Holiday Inn Invitational (Feb. 16-18) and earning a spot on the Morning News Invitational (Feb. 23-25) all-tournament team.

The Irish lead-off hitter has 56 hits in 43 games this season, including the following dramatic moments:

- A game-winning single up the middle against #4 Washington on Feb. 17.
- A game-tying single against Arkansas (Feb. 24) in the top of the fifth, setting the table for teammate Jen Sharron's game-winning home run and Kriech scoring the eventual game-winning run.
- A walk-off three-run triple in the bottom of the fifth against Maine (Feb. 24) that ended the game on collegiate softball's eight-run rule.
- She drove the first pitch of the third inning vs. Jacksonville State deep over the wall in right field for her first home run of the year and third of her career.
- Posted a five-for-eight performance in a double-header vs. Western Michigan with three RBI, four runs scored and three stolen bases.

• She is third on the team in hitting with runners in scoring positions (.379), has posted a batting average of .520 when she leads off an inning and has 11 two-out RBI.

• She rebounded from a one-for-seven performance at Connecticut to go six-for-eight with two RBI at Syracuse the next day.

• She ranks among the leaders in the BIG EAST Conference in several categories, including: second in batting (.393), first in hits (55), tied for first in triples (6), third in steals (14), first in runs scored (38), fifth in total bases (75), first in on-base percentage (.459) and sixth in slugging percentage (.536).

Myers ties two school records: Junior all-BIG EAST catcher Jarrah Myers equalled two school records in the second game of a doubleheader vs. #24 Cal State Northridge on March 11, in Northridge, Calif. She blasted two home runs in the game, matching the school record held by six different Irish players, including herself when she hit two home runs vs. Seton Hall on April 30, 2000.

Against CSUN, Myers launched a three-run shot down the leftfield line in the fifth inning and muscled a two-run homer over the rightfield fence in the seventh inning. Adding an RBI single in the first inning, she posted six RBI in the game, matching the school record held by teammate Melanie Alkire (vs. San Diego State, 3-12-00).

Irish picked to repeat as BIG EAST champs: Notre

BIG EAST Results and Schedule

April 19
 Kent 6, Pittsburgh 2
 Kent 2, Pittsburgh 0
 Villanova 1, La Salle 0
 Villanova 1, La Salle 0
 Seton Hall at St. Joseph's Canceled
 St. John's 5, Marist 1
 St. John's 9, Marist 3
 Rutgers 4, Rider 0
 Rutgers 2, Rider 0
 Connecticut 5, Quinnipiac 4 (9)
 Connecticut 3, Quinnipiac 2
 Boston University 2, Boston College 1 (9)
 Syracuse 2, Siena 1 (8)
 Syracuse 1, Siena 0 (9)

April 21
 Syracuse 11, Providence 2
 Providence 1, Syracuse 0
 Villanova 3, Seton Hall 1 (8)
 Villanova 3, Seton Hall 2
 St. John's 2, Rutgers 0
 Rutgers 3, St. John's 1
 Connecticut 1, Boston College 0
 Connecticut 3, Boston College 2
 Virginia 8, Pittsburgh 2
 Virginia 2, Pittsburgh 0

April 22
 Boston College 2, Syracuse 0
 Syracuse 2, Boston College 0
 Virginia Tech 5, Pittsburgh 0
 Virginia Tech 2, Pittsburgh 1
 St. John's 1, Villanova 0
 Villanova 2, St. John's 1
 Seton Hall 8, Rutgers 0
 Seton Hall 5, Rutgers 1 (11)

April 22 Cont.
 Connecticut 7, Providence 3
 Connecticut 10, Providence 1 (5)

April 24
 Villanova at Monmouth (DH) 3 p.m.
 Providence at Sacred Heart (DH) 3 p.m.
 Boston College at Holy Cross (DH) 3 p.m.
 Seton Hall at St. Peter's (DH) 3 p.m.
 Penn State at Syracuse (DH) 4 p.m.
 Virginia Tech vs. Virginia (DH) 6 p.m.

April 25
 Rutgers at Hofstra (DH) 3 p.m.
 Massachusetts at Connecticut 4 p.m.

April 26
 Cornell at Syracuse (DH) 3 p.m.
 Wagner at St. John's (DH) 3 p.m.
 Connecticut at Boston University 3:30 p.m.

April 28
 Providence at Pittsburgh (DH) 11 a.m.
 Villanova at Syracuse (DH) 12 p.m.
 Virginia Tech at Seton Hall (DH) 12 p.m.
 Rutgers at Connecticut (DH) 12 p.m.
 Long Island at St. John's (DH) 12 p.m.

April 29
 Boston College at Pittsburgh (DH) 12 p.m.
 Rutgers at Syracuse (DH) 12 p.m.
 Virginia Tech at St. John's (DH) 12 p.m.
 Villanova at Connecticut (DH) 12 p.m.

BIG EAST games in bold.

Dame, which finished last season ranked 24th in the country, returns all nine starters from its 2000 BIG EAST Championship title team last year. Led by captains Melanie Alkire, Danielle Klayman, Lizzy Lemire and Jen Sharron, the Irish have been picked to repeat as BIG EAST champions by a vote from the league's coaches.

- The 2001 BIG EAST Coaches Preseason Poll:**
1. Notre Dame, 100 pts.
 2. Connecticut, 91 pts.
 3. Seton Hall, 68 pts.
 - Virginia Tech, 68 pts.
 5. Boston College, 64 pts.
 6. Villanova, 55 pts.
 7. Syracuse, 50 pts.
 8. St. John's, 43 pts.
 9. Rutgers, 29 pts.
 10. Pittsburgh, 25 pts.
 11. Providence, 12 pts.

The Irish finished with a 14-2 record in BIG EAST competition last season and swept through the BIG EAST Championship in three games. Notre Dame out-scored Boston College (5-2) and Connecticut (5-0, 7-0) 17-2 to earn its third consecutive conference championship title.

All-Americans return: Seniors Melanie Alkire and Jen Sharron became Notre Dame's first All-Americans since 1996 by earning NFCA second-team All-American honors last year.

Katie Marten ('94-'97) earned NFCA third team

honors in 1995 and 1996 while Terri Kobata ('93-'96) earned third team honors in 1995 and second team honors in 1996.

Alkire finished the 2000 season with 13 home runs, 64 RBI and 73 hits. She also posted a 7-1 pitching record (in 13 appearances) with a 2.30 ERA, including a six-hitter against sixth-ranked and 2000 National Champion Oklahoma on Mar. 18, 2000.

Sharron pitched 27 complete games last season, tossing 246 strikeouts and posting a 0.88 ERA. In her career, the Agoura Hills, Calif., native has pitched 574.2 innings with 504 strikeouts and a 1.26 ERA entering the 2001 season.

Talented and noteworthy returns: The Irish are loaded with veteran players and talented underclassmen this season. Out of the nine starting players that return to the lineup this season, eight earned postseason accolades from the BIG EAST conference. Jen Sharron earned her third consecutive BIG EAST Pitcher-of-the-Year award and was picked by league coaches to repeat the honor once again in 2001.

Melanie Alkire won her second consecutive BIG EAST Player-of-the-Year award last season and placed an exclamation point on her conference season by earning the Most Outstanding Player award at the 2000 BIG EAST Championship.

Andrea Loman helped the Irish earn a sweep of the major player-of-the-year awards by becoming the second consecutive Notre Dame player to earn BIG

EAST Rookie-of-the-Year accolades (Jarrah Myers earned the distinction in 1999).

Alkire, Loman, Myers and Sharron were joined on the all-BIG EAST first team by Danielle Klayman, Jenny Kriech and Lizzy Lemire. **Andria Bledsoe** rounded out the Notre Dame award winners with a second team all-BIG EAST selection and a spot on the all-rookie team.

In keeping with the stellar league performance by her team, Irish head coach **Liz Miller** earned her second BIG EAST Coach-of-the-Year award. Miller previously won the award in 1996.

Miller is coaching in her 26th season: Notre Dame head coach Liz Miller is now in her ninth season with the Irish and 26th season as a collegiate head coach. She boasts a 904-294 (.755) record over the last 26 years, 17 of which she coached at Lake Michigan College before heading to the Golden Dome in 1993.

In each of her previous eight seasons with the Irish, Miller has led the team to a conference title (Mid-western Collegiate '93-'95, BIG EAST '96-present) and the team has advanced to the NCAA tournament five times.

While at Lake Michigan College, Miller's teams amassed 12 conference championships and 11 regional titles. From 1981-85 her team finished in the nation's top five each year.

Miller entered the season ranked 16th on the NCAA winningest active coaches list with a 341-152 (.692) record at Notre Dame.

Alkire among the national and Notre Dame historical leaders: Senior **Melanie Alkire** compiled one of the best offensive seasons ever for a Notre Dame softball player in 2000. Alkire led the team in most of the offensive categories, ranking first in batting average (.376), hits (73), doubles (15), home runs (13), RBI (64), total bases (129), slugging percentage (.665) and on-base percentage (.421).

Her 64 RBI ranked fifth in the nation in 2000, while her 13 home run mark was ranked 34th.

Alkire's early season production has already put her atop the career home run list (28), RBI list (157) and doubles list (49). She is also second in walks (56).

So far in 2001, Alkire has 49 hits, a .355 batting average, 12 doubles and 20 RBI.

Sharron assaults the Irish record books: Senior lefthander **Jen Sharron** is coming off one of the most dominating seasons ever for a Notre Dame pitcher. After posting a 0.88 ERA and 246 strikeouts in 2000, she has positioned herself among the best to ever enter the pitching circle for the Fighting Irish.

Ranking in the top five in 12 career pitching categories, just a typical season from "#9" will put her on top of many of the all-time charts. Sharron has averaged 191.4 inning pitched, 168 strike outs, 20.3 wins and 18 complete games in her first three years with the Irish. Over that same period of time, she has won three consecutive BIG EAST Pitcher-of-the-Year awards and is favored to win her fourth trophy this season.

She is currently first in all-time starts (105), first in wins (82), second in complete games (73), second in shutouts (34), first in innings pitched (721.1), third in winning percentage (82-27, .752), second in career ERA (1.24) and second in strikeouts (672).

Sharron has a 21-2 record with a 1.19 ERA and 168 strikeouts so far this season.

BIG EAST Statistical Leaders (as of April 23)

Team Batting Average					Runs Scored				
Notre Dame				.322	Name	School	Games	Runs	R/G
Villanova				.285	Kriech, Jenny	ND	43	38	.88
Seton Hall				.274	Myers, Jarrah	ND	43	30	.70
Boston College				.268	Pasquerella, Jackie	VU	38	29	.76
Virginia Tech				.263	Blumfield, Cara	BC	44	28	.64
					Yanosy, Jessica	UC	41	28	.68
Team ERA					Doubles				
Notre Dame				0.94	Names	School	Games	2B	2B/G
Villanova				1.05	Blair, Bronwyn	VT	51	13	.25
Virginia Tech				1.32	Yanosy, Jessica	UC	41	13	.32
Providence				1.56	Alkire, Melanie	ND	43	12	.28
Boston College				1.76	Houghton, Kelly	SJU	52	11	.21
Individual Batting Average					Garofalo, Shanel	VT	51	11	.22
Name	School	AB	Hits	Avg.	RBI				
Carlson, Sara	VU	79	33	.418	Name	School	Games	RBI	RBI/G
Kriech, Jenny	ND	140	55	.393	Blumfield, Cara	BC	44	39	.89
Blumfield, Cara	BC	127	48	.378	Myers, Jarrah	ND	43	31	.72
Jacklets, Kerri	PC	132	49	.371	Houghton, Kelly	SJU	52	30	.58
Dubovik, Nicole	UC	127	46	.362	Garofalo, Shanel	VT	51	29	.57
Individual Pitching					Voorhees, Amy	VT	47	28	.60
Name	School	Games	IP	ERA	On Base Percentage				
Hornick, Theresa	VU	25	113.0	0.50	Name	School	Games	AB	OB%
Schmidt, Kristin	ND	23	138.0	0.51	Kriech, Jenny	ND	43	140	.459
Black, Leah	RU	19	143.2	0.88	Blumfield, Cara	BC	44	127	.456
Sharron, Jen	ND	23	146.2	1.19	Myers, Jarrah	ND	43	122	.452
Malandris, Tekae	BC	29	138.1	1.21	Loman, Andrea	ND	43	106	.431
Hits					Myhren, Tracy	SHU	24	6	.429
Name	School	Games	Hits	Hits/G	Wins				
Kriech, Jenny	ND	43	55	1.28	Name	School	App.	Record	
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	51	53	1.04	Sharron, Jen	ND	23	21-2	
Yanosy, Jessica	UC	41	52	1.27	Schmidt, Kristin	ND	23	19-1	
Garofalo, Shanel	VT	51	50	.98	Hornick, Theresa	VU	25	16-0	
Alkire, Melanie	ND	43	49	1.14	Fitzgerald, Courtney	SJU	31	16-11	
Home Runs					Stoller, Keri	VU	21	15-4	
Name	School	Games	HR	HR/G	Strikeouts				
Blumfield, Cara	BC	44	11	.25	Name	School	App.	K	K/G
Houghton, Kelly	SJU	52	8	.18	Schmidt, Kristin	ND	23	169	8.57
Jacklets, Kerri	PC	42	8	.19	Sharron, Jen	ND	23	168	8.02
Vorhees, Amy	VT	47	7	.15	Stoller, Keri	VU	21	166	10.19
Carlson, Sara	VU	28	7	.25	Black, Leah	RU	19	154	7.50
Triples					Malandris, Tekae	BC	29	141	7.13
Name	School	Games	3B	3B/G	Innings Pitched				
Kriech, Jenny	ND	43	6	.14	Name	School	App.	IP	IP/G
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	51	6	.12	Fitzgerald, Courtney	SJU	31	196.1	6.33
Jarratt, Summer	PC	44	4	.09	Calabrese, Gina	SJU	25	170.1	6.81
Blumfield, Cara	BC	44	4	.09	Sharron, Jen	ND	23	146.2	6.38
Myers, Jarrah	ND	43	3	.07	Black, Leah	RU	19	143.2	7.56
Stolen Bases					Schmidt, Kristin	ND	23	138.0	6.00
Name	School	Games	SB	SB/G	Team Fielding				
Neer, Brittny	RU	36	24	.67	Name	PO	A	E	%
Pasquerella, Jackie	VU	38	21	.55	Villanova	780	265	19	.982
Kriech, Jenny	ND	43	14	.33	Virginia Tech	1032	432	43	.971
Flier, Robin	VU	38	13	.34	Pittsburgh	862	387	41	.968
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	51	10	.20	Notre Dame	870	254	367	.968
					Connecticut	829	386	41	.967

Sharron named a BIG EAST Scholar-Athlete:

Standout Notre Dame softball pitcher **Jen Sharron** and Irish baseball pitcher Mike Naumann have been selected as the BIG EAST Conference Female and Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year, respectively, from the University of Notre Dame.

Sharron will receive \$2,000 toward graduate studies from the BIG EAST and Aeropostale, and becomes eligible for the overall female BIG EAST award based on nominees from each league member school. Aeropostale sponsors the league's post-gradu-

ate student-athlete scholarship program, awarding 31 scholarships to conference student-athletes.

A 3.272 student (on a 4.0 grade-point average scale) as a film, television and theater major in the College of Arts and Letters, Sharron twice has been a BIG EAST Academic All-Star and for two years has been part of the University's Academic Honors Program matching high-achieving student-athletes with faculty mentors.

In addition, Sharron is the softball team's representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Council

Notre Dame Game Highs (Team as of April 24)

<i>Team</i>	
At bats:	34 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01)
Runs scored:	10 vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01)
.....	10 vs. Purdue (4-3-01)
Hits:	15 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01)
RBI:	8 vs. Maine (2-24-01)
.....	8 vs. St. John's (3-31-01)
Doubles:	5 at DePaul (4-19-01)
Triples:	2 vs. Hofstra (2-17-01)
.....	2 vs. UAB (3-3-01)
Home Runs: ..	2 vs. Cal St. Northridge (3-11-01)
Total Bases:	20 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01)
Walks:	7 vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01)
Strikeouts:	8 vs. South Carolina (2-18-01)
Sac hits:	4 vs. UT-Chattanooga (3-2-01)
Sac flies:	3 vs. DePaul (4-19-01)
Stolen Bases:	5 vs. Valparaiso (3-28-01)
.....	5 vs. Western Michigan (3-29-01)
HBP:	3 vs. Cal State Northridge (3-18-01)
Caught Stealing:	2 five times
Runners LOB: ..	11 vs. Cal St. Fullerton (3-18-01)
Hit into DP:	2 vs. Purdue (4-3-01)
.....	2 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01)
Fielding	
Putouts:	27 vs. Arizona State (3-17-01)
Assists:	13 vs. DePaul (4-19-01)
Errors:	4 vs. Washington (2-17-01)
DPs turned	1 six times
Pitching	
Innings	9.0 vs. Arizona State (3-17-01)
Strikeouts:	14 vs. Valparaiso (3-28-01)
Wild pitches:	1 four times
HBP:	3 vs. Cal State Fullerton (3-18-01)

(SAAC), participates with the STAR reading program, speaks to young people on the dangers of drug use as part of the Notre Dame Athletes Against Drugs program, has assisted with freshman orientation and participates in various activities with student-sponsored services events, primarily with Memorial Medical Center Pediatrics.

Irish placed at 19th in USA Today/NFCA Pre-season Top 25 poll: The Irish were ranked 19th in the USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) preseason poll that was released on Wednesday, Jan. 24. The 19th ranking marks the highest the Irish have been placed in the preseason since 1994, when the team entered the season ranked 17th.

Notre Dame returns all nine starters from the 2000 squad that compiled a 47-14 record and won its second consecutive BIG EAST Championship title. Last year's team climbed to 17th in the NFCA poll last season, tying the school mark for the highest-ever national ranking. The Irish were ranked 24th in the final NFCA poll last season.

Irish boast a strong schedule this season: Notre Dame will face a number of ranked teams this season, as six opponents on the 2001 schedule appeared in the preseason top 25. Another five opponents received mention in the 'others receiving votes' category in the poll. Notre Dame has already defeated #4 Washington and #18 South Carolina at the Holiday Inn Invitational (Feb. 16-18) in Tampa, Fla.,

and #7 Fresno State, #10 Arizona State and #24 Cal State Northridge twice on its trip to California for Spring Break and knocked off #10 DePaul in Chicago on April 19.

Notre Dame has posted a 7-2 record against ranked teams this season in addition to its 5-3 record against ranked teams last season, with victories over #16 Louisiana Lafayette, #6 Oklahoma and #22 Illinois-Chicago three times.

Andrea Loman becomes second Irish player to earn BIG EAST Player of the Week accolades: Sophomore first base **Andrea Loman** was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week on March 19, for her performance during the Kia Classic (March 15-18). In the nine games the Irish played over Spring Break, Loman increased her batting average from .214 to .333 by pounding out 12 hits, three RBI and one home run (vs. Hawaii).

Loman also fared well against Notre Dame's higher-ranked competition, including a three-for-three afternoon against #5 Oklahoma, a two-for-three game vs. #24 Cal State Northridge and a two-for-four contest vs. #9 Cal State Fullerton.

She is the second Irish player (Jenny Kriech, Feb. 26) to earn the award this season.

Notre Dame sweeps the first BIG EAST softball weekly awards announcement: The 12th-ranked University of Notre Dame softball team, off to its best start ever with an 18-3 record in 2001, had two players recognized by the BIG EAST Conference on Feb. 26.

Junior **Jenny Kreich** was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week after posting six hits in four games at the Morning News Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark., (Feb. 23-25). In an 8-0 victory over Maine on Saturday, Feb. 24, Kriech was three-for-three, including a game-ending three-run triple. She finished the tournament with a .545 batting average (six-for-11) and was named to the Morning News Invitational all-tournament team.

Senior All-American **Jen Sharron**, a three-time BIG EAST Pitcher of the Year, began the 2001 season in traditional style by capturing the first BIG EAST Pitcher-of-the-Week award. She allowed just one earned run in two starts during the second week-end of the season, including a one-hit shutout victory against Texas Tech on Friday. That 4-0 win over the Red Raiders included a seven-hour rain delay after the third inning. She joined Kriech and Irish catcher Jarrah Myers on the Morning News Invitational all-tournament team.

Sharron also did some damage at the plate. With the score tied at 1-1 in the bottom of the fifth against Arkansas on Feb. 24, Sharron launched a 0-2 pitch far over the centerfield fence to give her team a three-run lead. Notre Dame eventually won the game 4-3.

Three talented rookies join the Irish roster: **Liz Miller** and her staff welcomes three talented freshmen to the team this season. Catcher **Chantal DeAlcuaz**, IF/OF **Nicole deFau** and RHP **Kristin Schmidt** all possess the talent and drive to contribute immediately in the Notre Dame lineup.

Schmidt, a 2000 second-team All-American coming out of North Shore Senior High School, has secured a spot in the Irish rotation with an impressive performance during the fall exhibition season.

Providing her team some solid depth in the in-

Notre Dame Game Highs (Individual as of April 24)

<i>Batting</i>	
At bats:	4, 78 times
Runs:	3, Alkire vs. St. John's (3-31-01)
.....	3, Kriech vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01)
.....	3, Myers twice
Hits:	4, Kriech vs. Syracuse (4-8-01)
RBI:	6, Myers vs. CS Northridge (3-11-01)
Doubles:	2, Bledsoe vs. Fresno State (3-15-01)
Triples:	1, nine times
Home Runs: ..	2, Myers vs. CS Northridge (3-11-01)
Total Bases: ..	9, Myers vs. CS Northridge (3-11-01)
Walks:	2, eight times
Strikeouts: ...	3, Sharron, Jen. vs. South Carolina (2-18-01)
Sac hits:	2, three times
Sac flies:	2, Myers vs. DePaul (4/19/01)
Stolen Bases: ..	3, Kriech vs. W. Michigan (3-29-01)
HBP:	2, Hoag vs. CS Fullerton (3-18-01)
Caught stealing:	1, 20 times
Runners LOB:	5, Bledsoe vs. UConn (4-7-01)
Fielding	
Putouts:	14, Myers vs. Valpo (3-28-01)
Assists:	5, Sharron, Jen., vs. DePaul (4-19-01)
Errors:	2, Sharron, Jen. vs. Hawaii (3-17-01)
.....	2, Bledsoe vs. W. Michigan (3-29-01)
Pitching	
Innings: ..	9.0, Schmidt vs. Arizona St. (3-17-01)
Strikeouts: ..	14, Sharron, Jen. vs. Valpo (3-28-01)
Wild pitches:	1, four times
Hit batters: ..	3, Sharron, Jen. vs. CS Fullerton (3-18-01)

field, deFau has shown the range and ability to be a steady backup to Alexis Madrid and may also see some time in the outfield. deFau joins junior Kas Hoag as the only two Notre Dame players with Connecticut state roots.

DeAlcuaz, who is the eighth Irish player on the 2001 roster from California (Modesto), will have the opportunity to backup and learn from one of the best catchers in the country, junior Jarrah Myers.

Preseason all-BIG EAST awards announced: The BIG EAST Conference has announced its choices for the preseason all-BIG EAST team (Jan. 4) and the Irish placed six players on the 13-member team of league standouts.

Senior shortstop **Melanie Alkire** was picked by the league coaches to earn her third consecutive BIG EAST Player of the Year award. Alkire was a unanimous first team all-BIG EAST selection in 2000 while leading the Irish in batting average (.376), hits (73), doubles (15), home runs (13), RBI (64), total bases (129), slugging percentage (.665) and on base percentage (.421). She boasts a .392 career batting average in conference games and was also named the Most Outstanding Player at the 2000 BIG EAST Championship.

Senior left-hander **Jen Sharron** earned the nod for the Preseason Pitcher of the Year award. She has won the conference's pitcher of the year award the previous three years, becoming the first Irish pitcher and first-ever freshman to earn the honor in 1998. Sharron went 6-2 in conference competition last season, posting a 0.92 ERA. Her 0.73 lifetime ERA in conference play ranks as fifth on the conference career charts.

Alkire and Sharron were joined on the 2001 pre-

season all-BIG EAST team by teammates **Jarrah Myers, Jennifer Kriech, Lizzy Lemire**, and 2000 BIG EAST Rookie of the Year **Andrea Loman**.

Notre Dame launches 24-hour sports hotline: The Notre Dame athletic department has launched its varsity sports hotline, available by calling (219) 631-3000.

The hotline provides schedule and results information for all 26 Notre Dame varsity sports and serves as a supplement to the live coverage and game recaps already provided on the official athletic website at www.und.com.

The menu offerings for the 24-hour hotline will be adjusted on a seasonal basis, with schedule and result information from 21 different sports currently being added to the hotline.

Here is how the hotline is currently aligned (as of April 9):

- Dial (219) 631-3000
- Select any of the following subgroups:
 1. Upcoming schedule and recent results of ALL varsity sports currently in action (select cells 3-9 for more detailed information).
 2. Upcoming football schedules for the 2001 - 2003 football seasons.
 3. Baseball information.
 4. Softball information.
 5. Lacrosse information (then press 1 for men's lacrosse and 2 for women's lacrosse).
 6. Tennis information (press 1 for men's tennis, 2 for women's tennis).
 7. Men's and women's outdoor track and field information.
 8. Golf information (press 1 for men's golf, 2 for women's golf).
 9. Women's rowing information.

"Live Stats" debuts on www.und.com: The University of Notre Dame sports information office is now able to display a live box score for all Notre Dame softball home games, updated after each play, on the official Notre Dame website: www.und.com. The page also has the ability to display play-by-play and statistics for each team while the game is being played.

Connect to the link <http://und.fansonly.com/livestats/w-softbl/> for every home Notre Dame softball game and keep up with the action.

BIG EAST Conference-Only Statistical Leaders (as of April 23)

<i>Team Batting Average</i>					<i>Runs Scored</i>				
Notre Dame	.....			.342	Name	School	Games	Runs	R/G
Connecticut	.....			.277	Alkire, Melanie	ND	12	13	1.08
Seton Hall	.....			.267	Lemire, Lizzy	ND	12	12	1.00
Villanova	.....			.258	Richards, McKenzie	SHU	14	11	.79
Boston College	.....			.228	Carlson, Sarah	VU	12	10	.80
<i>Team ERA</i>					Kriech, Jenny	ND	12	10	.83
Notre Dame	.....			0.18	<i>Doubles</i>				
Villanova	.....			0.98	Names	School	Games	2B	2B/G
Virginia Tech	.....			1.53	Simjian, Mandy	UC	12	4	.33
Connecticut	.....			1.71	Yanosy, Jessica	UC	12	4	.33
Rutgers	.....			1.92	Voorhees, Amy	VT	14	4	.29
<i>Individual Batting Average</i>					Garboden, Heather	VU	12	4	.33
Name	School	AB	Hits	Avg.	<i>RBI</i>				
Carlson, Sara	VU	39	17	.436	Name	School	Games	RBI	RBI/G
Dubovik, Nicole	UC	34	14	.412	Carlson, Sara	VU	12	14	1.17
Lemire, Lizzy	ND	39	16	.410	Simjian, Mandy	UC	12	13	1.08
Kriech, Jenny	ND	38	14	.368	Lemire, Lizzy	ND	12	13	1.09
Loman, Andrea	ND	30	11	.367	Loman, Andrea	ND	12	12	1.00
<i>Individual Pitching</i>					Voorhees, Amy	VT	14	11	.79
Name	School	Games	IP	ERA	<i>Wins</i>				
Schmidt, Kristin	ND	6	38.1	0.00	Name	School	App.	Record	
Haskins, Caryn	UC	4	17.0	0.00	Sharron, Jen	ND	6	6-0	
Sharron, Jen	ND	6	40.0	0.35	Schmidt, Kristin	ND	6	6-0	
Melandris, Takae	BC	13	67.0	0.42	Hornick, Theresa	VU	9	6-0	
Hornick, Theresa	VU	9	47.2	0.44	Stoller, Keri	VU	8	5-1	
<i>Hits</i>					Dobbe, Ashlee	VT	7	5-2	
Name	School	Games	Hits	Hits/G	<i>Strikeouts</i>				
Richards, McKenzie	SHU	14	18	1.29	Name	School	App.	K	K/G
Carlson, Sara	VU	12	17	1.42	Malandris, Tekae	BC	13	59	6.16
Smith, Mary Carroll	SHU	14	16	1.14	Sharron, Jen	ND	6	54	9.45
Kotynski, Marlena	SHU	14	16	1.14	Black, Leah	RU	6	54	7.36
Asbury, Jen	BC	16	16	1.00	Beaver, Misty	SHU	10	53	7.52
<i>Home Runs</i>					Stoller, Keri	VU	8	52	9.50
Name	School	Games	HR	HR/G	<i>Shutouts</i>				
Carlson, Sara	VU	12	5	.42	Name	School	App.	SHO	
Blumfield, Cara	BC	16	4	.25	Sharron, Jen	ND	6	5	
Voorhees, Amy	VT	14	4	.29	Schmidt, Kristin	ND	6	5	
Smith, Mary Carroll	SHU	14	4	.29	Fitzgerald, Courtney	SJU	9	3	
Asbury, Jen	BC	16	3	.29	Bessolo, Gina	UP	6	2	
<i>Triples</i>					Beaver, Misty	SHU	10	2	
Name	School	Games	3B	3B/G	<i>Opponent Batting Average</i>				
Kriech, Jenny	ND	12	4	.33	Name	PO	G	Hits	B.Avg.
11 tied with one					Schmidt, Kristin	ND	6	12	.095
<i>Stolen Bases</i>					Sharron, Jen	ND	6	17	.122
Name	School	Games	SB	SB/G	Malandris, Tekae	BC	13	36	.155
Pasquerella, Jackie	VU	12	8	.67	Stoller, Keri	VU	8	21	.159
Neer, Brittny	RU	12	6	.50	Beaver, Misty	SHU	10	28	.161
Johnston, Robin	UP	8	5	.62					
Lemire, Lizzy	ND	12	5	.42					
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	14	4	.29					