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NOTRE DAME

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2001-02 Irish Schedule/Results

November

6	Tues.	OGBM Legends (exh.)	W, 76-62
13	Tues.	Christian Brothers (exh.)	7 p.m.
18	Sun.	Valparaiso	1 p.m.
21	Wed.	at Colorado State	7 p.m.
24	Sat.	at Arizona (FSN)	5 p.m.
26	Mon.	Army	7 p.m.

December

2	Sun.	(1) vs. Michigan	3 p.m.
6	Thurs.	at Purdue	7 p.m.
9	Sun.	USC	1 p.m.
12	Wed.	Western Michigan	7 p.m.
22	Sat.	Marquette	1 p.m.
28	Fri.	at Rice	7 p.m.
31	Mon.	DePaul	1 p.m.

January

2	Wed.	at Miami*	7 p.m.
5	Sat.	Providence*	1 p.m.
9	Wed.	Seton Hall*	7 p.m.
12	Sat.	at Villanova* (BETV)	Noon
19	Sat.	at Providence*	2 p.m.
21	Mon.	(2) at Connecticut* (ESPN)	3 p.m.
26	Sat.	Virginia Tech* (BETV)	6 p.m.
29	Tues.	Syracuse*	7 p.m.

February

2	Sat.	at Seton Hall*	2 p.m.
5	Tues.	at Pittsburgh*	7 p.m.
10	Sun.	Boston College*	1 p.m.
13	Wed.	St. John's*	7 p.m.
16	Sat.	at Rutgers* (BETV)	8 p.m.
19	Wed.	West Virginia*	7 p.m.
23	Sat.	at Georgetown	4 p.m.
26	Tues.	Villanova*	7 p.m.

March

2-	Sat.-	at BIG EAST Championship
5	Tues.	(Piscataway, N.J.)
15-	Fri.-	NCAA First and Second Rounds
18	Mon.	(campus sites)
23-	Sat.-	NCAA Regionals (Raleigh;
25	Mon.	Milwaukee; Ames, Iowa; Boise)
29-	Fri.-	NCAA Final Four
31	Sun.	(San Antonio, Texas)

* indicates BIG EAST Conference game

(1) Women's College Basketball Showcase, Grand Rapids, Mich.

(2) Game to be played at Hartford Civic Center

(ESPN) Game to be televised live on ESPN

(FSN) Game to be televised live on Fox Sports Net

(BETV) Game to be televised as part of BIG EAST TV package

Bold indicates home game // All times local and subject to change

Upcoming Promotion: The first 1,500 fans through the doors for Sunday's season opener vs. Valparaiso (1 p.m. EST) at the Joyce Center will receive replica 2001 NCAA championship banners like the one which will be raised in a pregame ceremony.

Ex.

(#15 AP/#14 ESPN/USA Today) **Notre Dame Fighting Irish**
vs. **Christian Brothers Lady Buccaneers**

The Date and Time: Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. EST.

The Site: Joyce Center (11,418) in Notre Dame, Ind.

The Radio Plans: All Notre Dame games are broadcast live on WDND-AM (ESPN Radio 1620 in South Bend) with **Sean Stires** handling the play-by-play. During the regular season, these broadcasts also will be available through the Notre Dame athletics website at www.und.com.

Websites: Notre Dame (www.und.com), Christian Brothers (www.cbu.edu/Athletics)

IRISH WRAP UP EXHIBITION PLAY AGAINST DIVISION II CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

No. 15/14 Notre Dame will get one last chance to prepare for the 2001-02 season when it squares off with NCAA Division II entity Christian Brothers University in exhibition action Tuesday at 7 p.m. (EST) at the Joyce Center. The Irish also will be looking to continue an impressive run of success in preseason play — they have won their last 10 exhibition games and are 15-1 in preseason tilts since the 1993-94 campaign.

Notre Dame took the floor last Tuesday for the first time since winning the 2001 NCAA Championship and came away with a 76-62 exhibition victory over the Ohio Girls' Basketball Magazine Legends before a crowd of 6,993 fans at the Joyce Center. Junior guard **Alicia Ratay** tied for game-high honors with 20 points, while three Irish freshmen narrowly missed posting double-doubles in their first collegiate contests. Center **Teresa Borton** rang up 10 points and nine rebounds, while forward **Jacqueline Batteast** added eight points and a game-high 10 rebounds — both players also got the starting nod. Guard **Kelsey Wicks** came off the bench to score nine points and match Batteast with 10 rebounds for the Irish.

Jannon Roland led the OGBM Legends with 20 points, while former Xavier product Nicole Levandusky chipped in with 17 points. Former Duke All-American Georgia Schweitzer shot just 2-of-13 from the field, finishing with eight points and nine rebounds for OGBM.

Notre Dame struggled in the first half against the Legends, a team which included five current or former WNBA players among its ranks. After taking an early 15-12 lead five minutes into the game, the Irish watched as the Legends went on a 15-6 run and eventually opened up a 40-30 lead with 2:35 left in the first half. However, Wicks and Ratay buried three-point field goals to highlight a 10-0 run at the end of the half and pull Notre Dame even at the break.

After trading baskets on the first three possessions of the second half, the Irish used a 19-9 surge to grab a 66-54 lead with just under seven minutes to play. The Legends made one last charge, pulling within six (68-62) on Tomeka Patterson's bucket with 2:12 left. But, Borton and Batteast hit layups to spark an 8-0 game-ending run which gave the victory to Notre Dame.

LAST IRISH GAME

Notre Dame 76, Ohio Girls' Basketball Magazine 62
Nov. 6, 2001
Joyce Center (Notre Dame, Ind.)

OGBM Legends (62)

Player	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Heideman	17	3-5	0-0	2-2	7	0	5	8
Roland	38	7-19	2-6	4-7	3	1	2	20
Levandusky	30	5-17	5-14	2-2	4	1	3	17
Schweitzer	34	2-13	1-3	3-4	9	2	1	8
Sherry	16	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	3	2	0
Patterson	24	1-2	0-0	0-0	6	1	4	2
Chawansky	20	1-2	0-0	0-0	1	2	1	2
Jones	21	2-6	0-1	1-2	8	0	2	5
Team					4			
Total	200	21-65	8-24	12-17	43	10	20	62

Notre Dame (76)

Player	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Haney	17	2-11	0-0	2-2	7	0	1	6
Batteast	30	4-17	0-4	0-0	10	3	2	8
Borton	23	5-9	0-0	0-2	9	0	3	10
Severe	32	2-5	0-0	4-4	5	5	2	8
Ratay	34	7-14	4-7	2-2	8	1	0	20
Joyce	19	2-6	1-2	0-0	2	1	1	5
Krause	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Hernandez	7	2-4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	4
Wicks	21	2-7	2-5	3-4	10	2	2	9
Flechy	11	1-4	0-0	2-5	3	1	2	4
Bustamante	5	1-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	2
Team					5			
Team	200	28-79	7-19	13-19	60	14	13	76

OGBM Legends 40 22 -- 62

Notre Dame 40 36 -- 76

FG Pct: Notre Dame 35.4, OGBM Legends 32.3. **3-PT FG Pct:** Notre Dame 36.8, OGBM Legends 33.3. **FT Pct:** Notre Dame 68.4, OGBM Legends 70.6. **Turnovers:** Notre Dame 23, OGBM Legends 22. **Blocked Shots:** Notre Dame 2, OGBM Legends 3 (Jones 2). **Steals:** Notre Dame 9 (Severe, Ratay 3), OGBM Legends 14 (Sherry 5). **Attendance:** 6,993.



ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL
(preseason — Nov. 6)

Rk.	Team	'00-01 Record	Final Poll
1.	Connecticut * (31)	32-3	1
2.	Tennessee (5)	31-3	3
3.	Vanderbilt (6)	24-10	10
4.	Oklahoma (2)	28-6	7
5.	Duke (1)	30-4	5
6.	Louisiana Tech	31-5	6
7.	Texas Tech	25-7	13
8.	Iowa State	27-6	8
9.	Stanford	19-11	—
10.	North Carolina State	22-11	19
11.	Purdue *	31-7	9
12.	Colorado	22-9	20
13.	Florida	24-6	14
14.	Baylor	21-9	23
15.	NOTRE DAME	34-2	2
16.	Georgia	27-6	4
17.	Michigan *	19-12	—
18.	Old Dominion	21-9	—
19.	Washington	22-10	—
20.	George Washington	22-10	—
21.	Penn State	19-10	21
22.	Arizona State	20-11	—
23.	Maryland	17-12	—
24.	Colorado State *	25-7	—
25.	Utah	28-4	17

ESPN/USA TODAY POLL
(preseason — Nov. 5)

Rk.	Team	'00-01 Record	Final Poll
1.	Connecticut * (25)	32-3	3
2.	Tennessee (7)	31-3	5
3.	Vanderbilt (5)	24-10	7
4.	Duke	30-4	8
5.	Oklahoma (1)	28-6	10
6.	Louisiana Tech (1)	31-5	6
7.	Texas Tech (1)	25-7	11
8.	Iowa State	27-6	12
9.	Purdue *	31-7	2
10.	Stanford	19-11	—
11.	North Carolina State	22-11	16
12.	Florida	24-6	18
13.	Colorado	22-9	23
14.	NOTRE DAME	34-2	1
15.	Georgia	27-6	13
16.	Baylor	21-9	—
17.	Washington	22-10	14
18.	Old Dominion	21-9	—
19.	Penn State	19-10	—
20.	Michigan *	19-12	—
21.	LSU	20-11	20
22.	George Washington	22-10	—
23.	Rutgers *	23-8	17
24.	Utah	28-4	15
25.	Colorado State *	25-7	—

* indicates 2001-02 Notre Dame opponents

SCOUTING THE IRISH

Notre Dame will look to write a new chapter in its rapidly-developing history as the Irish prepare to defend their first NCAA championship in 2001-02. Seven monogram winners, including two starters, return from last season's title-winning squad, giving head coach **Muffet McGraw** a broad foundation from which to build this year. In addition, the Irish welcome six talented freshmen to the fold, a group heralded as perhaps the finest recruiting class in school history and ranked as high as third by several national publications.

McGraw enters her 15th year at Notre Dame with a 322-117 (.733) record and has led the Irish to six straight NCAA Tournament appearances and eight overall. She was a near-unanimous choice as national coach of the year in 2000-01, winning top honors from the Atlanta Tipoff Club (Naismith Award), Associated Press, Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA), and Sports Illustrated for Women. She also was named the BIG EAST Coach of the Year, marking the third different conference to recognize McGraw as its top skipper since she took the reins at Notre Dame in 1987.

Both of Notre Dame's returning starters have already been honored by the BIG EAST coaches in their preseason balloting. Senior guard/forward **Ericka Haney** (11.0 ppg., 5.7 rpg.) was a second team preseason all-conference pick and brings explosive quickness and versatility to the Irish lineup, along with veteran leadership. As Notre Dame's only captain, she will be called upon to assume a greater mantle of responsibility in '01-02. Junior guard **Alicia Ratay** (12.9 ppg., 5.1 rpg.) was a first team preseason all-BIG EAST choice and is one of 30 finalists for the Naismith Award after setting an NCAA record for three-point percentage (.547) last season. She got off to a solid start last Tuesday against the OGBM Legends, hitting for a game-high 20 points, including four three-point field goals.

Joining Ratay in the backcourt will be sophomore **Le'Tania Severe** (1.9 ppg.), who was hampered by injuries last season, appearing in just 22 games, but has confidently taken control of the Irish offense in preseason workouts and will look to make great strides this season. Juniors **Monique Hernandez** (2.6 ppg.) and walk-on **Karen Swanson**, along with sophomore **Jeneka Joyce** (5.2 ppg.) will give McGraw tremendous flexibility in her guard rotation. Additionally, freshmen **Allison Bustamante**, **Jill Krause** and **Kelsey Wicks** provide the Irish with solid ballhandling and perimeter shooting depth. Wicks came off the bench to score nine points and grab a game-high 10 rebounds last Tuesday against the OGBM Legends.

A pair of freshmen (and former Parade All-Americans) are poised to make an immediate impact on the Notre Dame front line, as forward **Jacqueline Batteast** and center **Teresa Borton** both got the starting nod against the OGBM Legends and will start against Christian Brothers. Batteast was named the 2001-02 preseason BIG EAST Rookie of the Year and her combination of speed, athleticism and perimeter shooting ability already make her a valuable weapon in the Irish arsenal. At 6-3, Borton is a smooth and versatile post player with excellent mobility and a solid defensive presence. She nearly logged a double-double in her first outing, finishing with 10 points and nine rebounds against the OGBM Legends. Junior **Amanda Barksdale** (1.4 ppg., 1.7 bpg.) was one of the nation's top shot blockers last season, while freshman **Katy Flecky** was a two-time Miss Colorado Basketball and offers the Irish an extremely physical presence in the post.

SCOUTING CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

Christian Brothers University is located in Memphis, Tenn., and is a member of NCAA Division II Gulf South Conference. The Lady Buccaneers will be playing their second exhibition game of the 2001-02 season after falling to Memphis, 68-50, last Friday night on the UM campus. **Sarah Condra** tossed in a team-high 14 points and **Amonica Wiggins** recorded a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds for Christian Brothers against its crosstown rival.

The Lady Buccaneers finished 10-16 last season, placing fourth in the nine-team GSC West Division. **Crystal Howard** led CBU in scoring and rebounding in 2000-01, averaging 14.8 points and 6.3 rebounds per game. However, the '01-02 preseason all-GSC pick did not play in the Lady Buccaneers' exhibition opener against Memphis. Condra averaged 11.5 ppg., and connected on a team-best 69 three-point field goals a year ago. In addition, Christian Brothers had two players named to the 2001-02 GSC Top Newcomers' List — freshman wing **Ashley Smith**, who tallied seven points, four steals and three assists at Memphis, and junior point guard **Tamara Twinn**, who, like Howard, did not play vs. UM.

Christian Brothers was picked to finish fifth in the GSC West, according to a preseason poll of the league's coaches. The Lady Buccaneers are piloted by fourth-year head coach **Todd Schaefer**.

JOYCE CENTER • NOTRE DAME, IND.

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG*	RPG*	Other*	Notes
21	Jacqueline Batteast	F	6-1	Fr.	—	—	—	'01-02 preseason BIG EAST Rookie of the Year
3	Ericka Haney	G/F	6-0	Sr.	11.0	5.7	1.6 apg	'01-02 preseason second team all-BIG EAST
12	Teresa Borton	C	6-3	Fr.	—	—	—	Near double-double (10p, 9r) vs. OGBM Legends
22	Alicia Ratay	G	6-0	Jr.	12.9	5.1	.547 3FG%	Team-high 20 pts. in exhibition opener vs. OGBM
4	Le'Tania Severe	G	5-8	So.	1.9	1.8	1.6 apg	Sophomore takes over point guard duties

OFF THE BENCH FOR THE IRISH

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG*	RPG*	Other*	Notes
5	Jeneka Joyce	G	5-9	So.	5.2	1.2	1.2 apg	Posted assist/TO ratio of better than 2:1 last year
10	Jill Krause	G	5-8	Fr.	—	—	—	Third-team all-state selection as prep senior
11	Karen Swanson	G	5-8	Jr.	1.2	0.5	.909 FT%	Third-year walk-on appeared in 23 games last yr.
23	Monique Hernandez	G	5-9	Jr.	2.6	1.1	0.7 apg	Averaged 11 minutes per game in '00-01
24	Kelsey Wicks	G	6-2	Fr.	—	—	—	Near double-double (9p, 10r) vs. OGBM Legends
31	Amanda Barksdale	C	6-3	Jr.	1.4	2.2	1.7 bpg	Shot-blocking specialist out two weeks (leg injury)
33	Katy Flecky	F	6-2	Fr.	—	—	—	Two-time Miss Colorado Basketball selection
44	Allison Bustamante	G	6-0	Fr.	—	—	—	Three-time all-state pick in high school

*final statistics from 2000-01 season for returning players only

THE STORY BEHIND TUESDAY'S GAME

Tuesday's exhibition game between Notre Dame and Christian Brothers is the product of a lengthy friendship between Irish assistant coach **Kevin McGuff** and Lady Buccaneer head coach **Todd Schaefer**. The pair became acquainted in the mid-1990s, when McGuff was an assistant coach at Miami (Ohio) and Schaefer was a student assistant at Thomas More College in Crestview Hills, Ky. Since then, they have stayed in contact through their various national recruiting trips. Then, in the wake of a recent NCAA rule change which allows Division I teams to play schools from lower divisions in exhibition games, McGuff and Schaefer reached an arrangement this summer to have Christian Brothers square off with the Irish in what can certainly be termed a "friendly" preseason matchup.

EXHIBITION EXCELLENCE FOR IRISH

Notre Dame has been nearly unbeatable in exhibition games over the last eight-plus seasons. Since the 1993-94 campaign, the Irish are 15-1 (.938) in these preseason tilts and own an active 10-game exhibition winning streak. During that time, Notre Dame has outscored its preseason opponents by a average count of 89-66. The last squad to defeat the Irish in exhibition play was the Lithuanian National Team, which edged Notre Dame, 94-89 in 1996-97. But the Irish were not fazed by that loss — they went on to reach their first-ever NCAA Final Four that year. Here's a look at how Notre Dame has fared in exhibition games since 1993-94:

2001-02	W, 76-62 vs. Ohio Girls' Basketball Magazine Legends
2000-01	W, 98-53 vs. Finnish Select Team
	W, 91-56 vs. Ohio All-Stars
1999-2000	W, 76-51 vs. EOS Malbas
	W, 94-85 vs. Premier All-Stars
1998-99	W, 88-37 vs. Estonia
	W, 111-82 vs. Visby-Sweden
1997-98	W, 66-34 vs. Slavyanka (Russia)
	W, 103-92 (3OT) vs. Brisbane (Australia) Blazers
1996-97	W, 74-54 vs. Dutch National Team
	L, 89-94 vs. Lithuanian National Team
1995-96	W, 90-83 (OT) vs. Hoosier All-Stars
	W, 93-85 vs. Sopron-Hungary
1994-95	W, 80-63 vs. Athletes in Action
	W, 84-65 vs. Australian Institute for Sport
1993-94	W, 109-59 vs. BK Strakonice

'01-02 PRESEASON HONORS

Jacqueline Batteast (Fr., South Bend, Ind.)

BIG EAST Rookie of the Year
Freshman All-America (WBB News Service)
Top 21 New Players of Impact (Women's College Hoops.com)

Ericka Haney (Sr., Toledo, Ohio)

All-BIG EAST Second Team

Alicia Ratay (Jr., Lake Zurich, Ill.)

Naismith Award Watch List
All-BIG EAST First Team

KEVIN WHITE RADIO SHOW

A weekly half-hour show featuring Notre Dame athletics director **Kevin White** began Sept. 9 on Chicago's ESPN Radio 1000. "The Kevin White Show" is scheduled to air from 10:00-10:30 p.m. central time for 30 consecutive Sundays on ESPN radio (1000 AM in Chicago, www.espnradio1000.com). The show also can be heard in 35 states. White welcomes to the show a series of guests and prominent figures associated with college athletics, including administrators, coaches and media members.



BIG EAST COACHES' PRESEASON POLL

1. Connecticut (11)	167
2. NOTRE DAME (2)	155
3. Rutgers	143
4. Boston College	125
5. Villanova (1)	112
6. Virginia Tech	111
7. Georgetown	102
8. Miami	86
9. Seton Hall	75
10. Syracuse	59
11. Providence	56
12. Pittsburgh	41
13. St. John's	23
14. West Virginia	19

2001-02 Preseason Player of the Year

Sue Bird, Sr., G, 5-9, Connecticut

2001-02 Preseason Rookie of the Year

Jacqueline Batteast, Fr., F, 6-1, Notre Dame

Preseason All-BIG EAST First Team

*Sue Bird, Connecticut, G, Sr.
 Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown, F, So.
 Swin Cash, Connecticut, F, Sr.
 Becky Gottstein, Boston College, F, Sr.
 Trish Juhline, Villanova, G, Jr.
Alicia Ratay, Notre Dame, G, Jr.

Preseason All-BIG EAST Second Team

Chanivia Broussard, Miami, F, So.
 Davalyn Cunningham, Rutgers, F, Sr.
Ericka Haney, Notre Dame, G/F, Sr.
 Asjha Jones, Connecticut, F, Sr.
 Diana Taurasi, Connecticut, G, So.

* - unanimous selection

IRISH INJURY REPORT (as of Nov. 13)

Out

Junior C **Amanda Barksdale** Out two weeks (stress reaction - right leg)

KILLER B'S IN THE IRISH LINEUP

For the second consecutive game, Notre Dame will have a decidedly youthful look in its starting lineup, as freshmen **Jacqueline Batteast** and **Teresa Borton** get the nod at forward and center, respectively. In their first collegiate action last Tuesday night against the OGBM Legends, both players nearly posted double-doubles — Batteast finished with eight points and a game-high 10 rebounds, while Borton carded 10 points and nine rebounds.

Batteast, a 6-1 native of South Bend, was a consensus All-American as a senior at Washington High School after averaging 26.0 ppg., 16.0 rpg. and 4.4 bpg. She also has been chosen as the 2001-02 BIG EAST Conference Rookie of the Year. Borton joined Batteast as a Parade All-America selection last season at West Valley High School in Yakima, Wash., where the 6-3 post player rang up 17.9 ppg. while leading her school to the Class 3A state title.

NOTRE DAME TO RAISE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP BANNER AT VALPARAISO GAME

Prior to its season opener against Valparaiso this Sunday, Notre Dame will recognize its 2001 NCAA championship team and raise the national title banner to the rafters at the Joyce Center. It will hang alongside the Irish 1997 NCAA Final Four banner earned by the Irish, symbolic of Notre Dame's first national championship in women's basketball. Among those expected to attend the pregame ceremonies is 2001 national player of the year **Ruth Riley**, who is now a member of the WNBA's Miami Sol.

POLL POSITION

Notre Dame is ranked 14th in the ESPN/USA Today preseason Top 25 poll, marking the 57th consecutive week in which the Irish have appeared in the coaches' poll, extending a school-record streak which dates back to the beginning of the 1998-99 season. This string has been highlighted by a six-week stay atop the rankings last season and a year-end finish at No. 1. Notre Dame also was ranked 15th in the Associated Press preseason Top 25 poll, the 54th consecutive week in which the Irish have appeared in the media poll.

RATAY NAMED NAISMITH CANDIDATE FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Notre Dame junior guard **Alicia Ratay** has been selected as a preseason candidate for the 2001-02 Naismith College Basketball Player of the Year Award. It marks the second time in as many seasons that Ratay has been named to the 30-player preseason Naismith watch list.

Ratay averaged 12.9 points and 5.1 rebounds per game last season, and set an NCAA record for three-point percentage (54.7 percent) on the way to third-team all-BIG EAST Conference honors — she was the only sophomore to make any of the three all-league squads. Ratay also is a former BIG EAST Rookie of the Year and was named an honorable mention All-American by the Associated Press in 2000. She will be looking to follow in the footsteps of her former teammate, **Ruth Riley**, who won the 2000-01 Naismith Award, becoming the first Notre Dame women's basketball player to be so recognized.

The Naismith Awards, in their 34th year, are given in honor of the inventor of the game of basketball — Dr. James Naismith. The awards program was founded by the Atlanta Tipoff Club, an organization dedicated to recognizing the achievements of student-athletes in basketball. The Awards, including Men's and Women's College Player of the Year, Men's and Women's Coach of the Year, Male and Female Prep Player of the Year and Men's and Women's Official of the Year, are determined by a vote of the Naismith Board of Selectors. In addition, the Board of Selectors, comprised of a select group of leading basketball coaches, journalists and administrators, honors a Men's and Women's Outstanding Contributor to Basketball. The 2001-02 Naismith Award will be presented April 5, 2002 in Atlanta.

NOTRE DAME PICKED SECOND IN BIG EAST PRESEASON BALLOTING

Fresh off a share of their first-ever BIG EAST championship last season, the Irish have been picked to finish second in 2001-02 according to a preseason poll of the league's coaches which was released at BIG EAST Media Day on Oct. 25. Notre Dame claimed two first-place votes and 155 points overall, trailing only Connecticut (11 first-place votes, 167 points). Rutgers, Boston College and Villanova round out the top five, with VU picking up the remaining first-place vote.

Individually, junior guard **Alicia Ratay** was a first team preseason all-BIG EAST selection after



earning third-team honors last year. The Lake Zurich, Ill., native set an NCAA record for three-point percentage last season (.547) and is the top returning scorer for the Irish in 2001-02 after charting 12.9 points per game a year ago.

Senior guard/forward **Ericka Haney** also was recognized by the conference coaches, earning second team preseason all-BIG EAST laurels. She joins Ratay as one of two starters back from last year's NCAA championship squad and averaged 11 ppg. and 5.7 rpg. during the '00-01 campaign.

In addition, freshman forward **Jacqueline Batteast** was chosen as the preseason BIG EAST Rookie of the Year. It's the latest in a series of early-season honors for the South Bend, Ind., product, who also has been named a first team freshman All-American by the Women's Basketball News Service and has been tabbed as one of the Top 21 "New Players of Impact" by Women's College Hoops.com.

OH CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN

For only the fourth time in school history, Notre Dame will have one captain this season — senior guard/forward **Ericka Haney**. She is the first solo captain for the Irish since Sheila McMillen in 1998-99 and the second in head coach **Muffet McGraw's** 15-year tenure.

IRISH HAIL FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

The 13 players on this season's Notre Dame roster hail from 10 different states, including two each from Florida, Illinois and Ohio. Other states represented on the Irish roster include Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. The all-time Notre Dame women's basketball roster features players from 34 different states, including 23 during the 15-year tenure of head coach **Muffet McGraw**. Ironically, the most common home state on the Irish all-time roster — Michigan (14) — is not represented on this season's roster.

FUN WITH NUMBERS

This season, Notre Dame fans will see a pair of jersey numbers on the floor that haven't made an appearance in quite some time. Freshman guard **Kelsey Wicks** has chosen to wear No. 24, becoming the first Irish player since **Andrea Alexander** (1990-94) to sport those digits. In addition, freshman forward **Jacqueline Batteast** is wearing No. 21 this season, a number which has not been modeled by an Irish player since All-American **Beth Morgan** wore the same jersey from 1993-97. Prior to Morgan, the last Notre Dame player to wear No. 21 was current Irish assistant coach **Coquese Washington**, who had the number from 1989-93.

NOTRE DAME AMONG RECENT WINS LEADERS

Notre Dame has won 140 games in its last five-plus seasons, the fifth-most wins of any school in the country. Here's where the Irish rank in terms of their wins over the last five-plus seasons:

TEAM	'96-'97	'97-'98	'98-'99	'99-'00	'00-'01	'01-'02	Total
1. Connecticut	33	34	29	36	32	2	166
2. Tennessee	29	39	31	33	31	--	163
3. Louisiana Tech	31	31	30	31	31	--	154
4. Old Dominion	34	29	28	29	21	--	141
5. Notre Dame	31	22	26	27	34	--	140

NOW THAT'S A HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

Notre Dame will be looking to extend some impressive streaks in 2001-02. The Irish have won a school-record 38 consecutive games at home, the second-longest active streak in the nation behind Kent State's 43-game run. In fact, the Irish have not lost at home in nearly three years, dating back to a loss to top-ranked Connecticut on Dec. 8, 1998. Notre Dame also has a 49-3 (.942) record in BIG EAST games at the Joyce Center, with Connecticut the only league team to solve the Irish at home.

Notre Dame also sports a four-year, 23-game non-conference winning streak at the Joyce Center — a streak that includes victories over a trio of sixth-ranked teams (UCLA and Duke in 1998-99 and Purdue in 2000-01), as well as 25th-ranked Illinois in '98-99. Notre Dame's last non-conference loss at the Joyce Center came way back on Dec. 9, 1996, when 19th-ranked Wisconsin toppled the Irish, 81-69. Overall, the Irish are 63-2 (.969) at the Joyce Center in their last 65 home games, with the only losses coming to Connecticut.

Since its inaugural season in 1977-78, Notre Dame has played all of its games at the Joyce Center.

IRISH MEDIA POLICIES

McGRAW INTERVIEWS

The best time for **Muffet McGraw** interviews is Monday morning or by special appointment. Please contact the Notre Dame SID office at 219-631-7516 to make specific arrangements.

THE MUFFET McGRAW SHOW

Muffet McGraw's half-hour, weekly television show is produced by LeSea Broadcasting and hosted by **Bob Nagle**. The show, which will kick off its fifth season in December, is carried by WHME-TV 46 in the South Bend market and will air at 6:30 p.m. EST on Saturdays through the end of the basketball season.

MORE MEDIA NOTES

- Irish practice sessions are generally open to the media, although the coaching staff may choose to close certain practices. Contact Chris Masters in the Notre Dame SID office for exact practice times and availability.
- All player interviews must be coordinated through the Notre Dame SID office by contacting Chris Masters. All player and coach interviews should be scheduled in advance — no interviews will be conducted on game days.
- Following games, Notre Dame head coach **Muffet McGraw** and selected players will speak with the media in the football auditorium at the Joyce Center. The visiting coach and selected players may appear in the auditorium after the Notre Dame press conference. Media members should submit interview requests to Notre Dame SID staffers no later than four minutes before the end of the game. The Irish locker room is closed after every game, home and away.

RELEASES AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

Media members interested in receiving Notre Dame women's basketball game notes and press releases via email should send requests to Assistant Sports Information Director Chris Masters at masters.5@nd.edu.

WEB SITE (www.und.com)

Notre Dame's official athletic department web site can be found at www.und.com, with the extensive offerings including live audio and real-time statistics for all Notre Dame home women's basketball games.



TOP JOYCE CENTER CROWDS

<u>Rk.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Atten.</u>
T1.	1/15/01	#1 Connecticut	W, 92-76	11,418*
T1.	2/24/01	Georgetown	W, 65-53	11,418*
3.	3/19/01	Michigan (NCAA)	W, 88-54	9,597
4.	3/17/01	Alcorn St. (NCAA)	W, 98-49	8,553
5.	1/12/92	#2 Tennessee	L, 82-85	8,134
6.	2/12/00	St. John's	W, 94-51	7,530
7.	12/9/00	#6 Purdue	W, 72-61	7,330
8.	2/7/01	Pittsburgh	W, 72-58	7,025
9.	1/7/94	#1 Tennessee	L, 70-105	6,886
10.	2/20/01	Miami	W, 81-43	6,533
11.	1/18/96	#3 Connecticut	L, 64-87	6,501
12.	1/23/99	St. John's	W, 99-60	6,384
13.	1/31/01	Providence	W, 64-44	6,131
14.	1/13/01	Virginia Tech	W, 75-55	5,873
15.	3/19/00	G. Wash. (NCAA)	W, 95-60	5,521
16.	2/6/99	Seton Hall	W, 77-49	5,231
17.	1/6/01	#9 Rutgers	W, 67-46	5,227
18.	3/17/00	San Diego (NCAA)	W, 87-61	5,195
19.	12/8/98	#1 Connecticut	L, 81-106	5,102
20.	1/24/98	Providence	W, 109-60	5,056

**denotes capacity crowd*

HANEY SHINES AS A BIG EAST ALL-STAR

For the second time in as many years, Notre Dame sent a player with the BIG EAST Women's Basketball All-Star Team, as guard/forward **Erica Haney** joined the squad for its six-game swing of Germany this summer. Haney followed in the footsteps of **Niele Ivey**, who helped lead the BIG EAST All-Stars to a 5-1 record during a junket through Canada in the summer of 2000.

Haney helped the BIG EAST, which was led by Syracuse head coach **Marianna Freeman**, to an unbeaten 6-0 record during its tour, scoring a team-high 18 points in a 103-57 win over Ludwigsburg/Malmsheim in the final game of the trip.

Haney finished with a team-high 13.0 points per game and collected 4.5 rebounds per game during her European vacation. She also scored in double figures in five of the All-Stars' six wins.

The Irish own a 226-65 mark for a .777 winning percentage since that first season. Last year, the Irish were a perfect 15-0 for the second year in a row. The 15 victories are a school record for home wins in a season and the first time Notre Dame teams have been undefeated at home during the regular season. During the last five-plus seasons, **Muffet McGraw's** squad is 76-4 (.950) at the Joyce Center.

SEASON TICKET SALES REACH ALL-TIME HIGH FOR IRISH

Attendance at Notre Dame women's basketball games in 2000-01 increased nearly 88 percent compared to the previous season — and indications suggest another significant jump is in order for the 2001-02 campaign. Coming off the 2001 NCAA championship, there already have been more than 6,700 season tickets sold to the general public and University faculty and staff for the '01-'02 women's basketball season. That's compared to 2,700 a year ago and 940 in 1999-2000 — a jump of nearly 150 percent over last season, and a whopping 700 percent rise in just two years.

The sale of season tickets for the '01-02 campaign actually began midway through Notre Dame's 2001 championship season. All seats are reserved for Irish women's games for the first time this season — all seating in previous years had been general admission.

The Irish ranked 10th nationally in attendance last year at 6,376 fans per game, compared to 3,392 in 1999-2000. Notre Dame also recorded the first two women's basketball sellouts in school history, as 11,418 fans packed the Joyce Center for victories over top-ranked Connecticut and Georgetown.

NOTRE DAME FACES TOUGH SCHEDULE IN 2001-02

Notre Dame will play 10 teams which reached the postseason as part of a rugged schedule this year. The Irish will battle seven NCAA Tournament squads, including four (Connecticut - 1/1, Purdue - 11/9, Michigan - 17/20 and Colorado State - 24/25) which were ranked in the Top 25 in both the Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today preseason polls. In addition, 10 Irish opponents are receiving votes in one or both of the major preseason rankings.

IRISH ON THE SMALL SCREEN

Notre Dame will get a good deal of face time in 2001-02, playing on television six times, including nationally-televised contests against Connecticut (Jan. 21 on ESPN) and Arizona (Nov. 24 on Fox Sports Net). In addition, Notre Dame will appear three times as part of the BIG EAST regular-season television package, playing host to Virginia Tech (Jan. 26) and traveling to Villanova (Jan. 12) and Rutgers (Feb. 16). All three of those games will be telecast live on Fox Sports Chicago as part of the league's TV deal. The BIG EAST tournament semifinals on March 4 also will be aired on the BIG EAST TV package, while the conference championship game on March 5 will be broadcast live on ESPN2.

Additionally, the rematch of the 2001 NCAA championship game between Notre Dame and Purdue on Dec. 6 from West Lafayette, Ind., will be televised live by LeSea Broadcasting's flagship station, WHME-TV 46 in South Bend. Other LeSea stations may choose to carry the broadcast as well.

KRAUSE FEATURED IN "CONFESSIONS OF A FRESHMAN"

Freshman guard **Jill Krause** will give fans an inside look at the 2001-02 Irish women's basketball team through regular diary entries on the Notre Dame athletic website, www.und.com. Entitled "Confessions of a Freshman," the Glenview, Ill., native will trace the journey for a first-year player on the defending NCAA championship squad. Her diary entries may be accessed either from the front page or the women's basketball page on the Notre Dame website.