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NOTRE DAME

W O M E N ' S B A S K E T B A L L

2000-01 Irish Schedule/Results

November

5	Sun.	Ohio All-Stars (exh.)	W, 91-56
14	Tues.	Finnish Select (exh.)	W, 98-53
17	Fri.	at Valparaiso	7:35 p.m.
20	Mon.	Arizona	7:00 p.m.
22	Wed.	at Wisconsin #	7:35 p.m.
24	Fri.	vs. Georgia/Oklahoma #	12:30/3 p.m.
27	Mon.	Fordham	7:00 p.m.

December

3	Sun.	vs. North Caro. % (ESPN2)	1:30 p.m.
6	Wed.	Villanova *	7:00 p.m.
9	Sat.	Purdue	7:00 p.m.
18	Mon.	Western Michigan	7:00 p.m.
21	Thurs.	at Marquette	7:00 p.m.
28	Thurs.	at USC	7:00 p.m.
31	Sun.	Rice	1:00 p.m.

January

3	Wed.	at Virginia Tech *	7:00 p.m.
6	Sat.	Rutgers * (BETV)	12:00 p.m.
9	Tues.	at St. John's *	7:30 p.m.
13	Sat.	Virginia Tech * (BETV)	2:00 p.m.
15	Mon.	Connecticut * (ESPN)	2:00 p.m.
21	Sun.	at Seton Hall *	12:00 p.m.
24	Wed.	at West Virginia *	7:00 p.m.
31	Wed.	Providence *	7:00 p.m.

February

3	Sat.	at Boston Coll. * (BETV)	12:00 p.m.
7	Wed.	Pittsburgh *	7:00 p.m.
14	Wed.	at Syracuse *	7:00 p.m.
17	Sat.	at Rutgers *	7:30 p.m.
20	Tues.	Miami *	7:00 p.m.
24	Sat.	Georgetown *	1:00 p.m.
27	Tues.	at Pittsburgh *	7:00 p.m.

March

3-	Sat.-	at BIG EAST Championships
6	Tues.	(Storrs, Conn.)
16-	Fri.-	NCAA First and Second Rounds
19	Mon.	(campus sites)
24-	Sat.-	NCAA Regionals (Pittsburgh,
26	Mon.	Birmingham, Denver, Spokane)
30-	Fri.-	NCAA Final Four
1	Sun.	(St. Louis, Mo.)

* indicates BIG EAST Conference game.

Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge, Madison, Wis., championship game televised by ESPN

% Honda Elite Classic, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

BETV - BIG EAST Television

Bold indicates home game.

All times are local.

Game No. **1**

(#6 AP/#5 ESPN/USA Today) Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs. Valparaiso Crusaders

The Date and Time: Friday, Nov. 17, 2000, at 7:35 p.m. CST.

The Site: Athletics-Recreation Center (4,500) in Valparaiso, Ind.

Radio: All Notre Dame games are broadcast on WHLY-AM (1620 in South Bend) with Sean Stires (play by play). This live broadcast also is available through the Notre Dame athletic department web site at www.und.com.

Websites: Notre Dame (www.und.com), Valparaiso (www.valpo.edu/athletics).

TONIGHT'S GAME

The Notre Dame women's basketball team opens its 24th varsity season on Friday when it travels to nearby Valparaiso. The Irish return three starters from their 1999-2000 team that finished with a 27-5 record -- their seventh consecutive 20-win season -- and made their third appearance in the final 16 of the NCAA championships in the last four years. Notre Dame starts the season ranked sixth in Associated press poll and fifth in the ESPN/USA Today poll -- its highest rankings ever to begin a season -- after finishing last season with a final ranking of fifth in the Associated Press poll and ninth in the ESPN/USA Today poll.

Head coach **Muffet McGraw** is in her 14th year at Notre Dame with a 288-115 (.715) record and her 19th as a collegiate coach with a 376-156 (.707) mark. She has led the Irish to five straight NCAA tournament appearances and seven overall. McGraw was named a finalist for the Naismith Women's Basketball and AP coach-of-the-year awards last year.

Notre Dame's three returning starters are among the nation's best players at their respective positions. Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** (16.2 ppg., 7.3 rpg.), regarded as the premier center in collegiate women's basketball, once again is a contender for national player-of-the-year honors. Fifth-year All-America candidate **Niele Ivey** (11.2 ppg., 6.1 apg.) is among the top 10 returning points guards in the country in terms of assists per game (6.1) last year. Sophomore and '99-'00 BIG EAST rookie-of-the-year **Alicia Ratay** (14.0 ppg., 5.0 rpg.) proved she already is one of the nations' top three-point shooters last year, finishing fourth in the nation in three-point field-goal percentage at .480 (73-152).

The Irish will look to replace forward Julie Henderson and guard Danielle Green with a number of talented returning players. Seniors **Kelley Siemon** (6.5 ppg., 5.0 rpg.) and **Meaghan Leahy** (2.4 ppg, 2.4 rpg.) bolster Notre Dame in the front court, while sophomore **Amanda Barksdale** (1.1 ppg, 1.2 rpg.) is expected to see more playing time this year. Junior **Erika Haney** (6.8 ppg., 3.7 rpg.) brings great athleticism and versatility to the lineup and is expected to take over one of the starting roles.

LAST IRISH GAME VS. VALPARAISO

Notre Dame 88, Valparaiso 63
December 29, 1999
Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN

Valparaiso (63)

Player	min	fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Campbell	13	0-2	2-2	0	0	4	2
Schober	25	2-7	1-2	6	2	5	6
Stricklett	27	0-1	6-8	1	1	4	6
Winter	36	2-4	5-6	3	3	2	9
Newcomer	27	1-4	0-0	1	1	1	2
Bradford	9	0-1	1-2	0	1	1	1
Lenschow	4	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0
Bigler	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Robinson	7	0-0	2-4	0	0	1	2
Nieuwveen	26	10-20	5-7	7	0	3	25
Gray	24	3-8	4-4	6	1	1	10
Team	200	18-49	26-35	31	10	22	63

Notre Dame (88)

Notre Dame	min	fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Haney	22	4-13	0-0	6	1	3	8
Henderson	19	1-2	2-2	5	0	5	4
Riley	17	4-11	7-7	8	1	4	15
Ratay	21	5-10	1-1	3	1	1	14
Ivey	29	5-11	1-2	2	8	0	13
Swanson	3	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	3
Green	20	4-12	3-3	8	2	1	11
Hernandez	13	2-3	1-3	4	2	2	5
Barksdale	7	0-0	2-4	3	0	3	2
Dunbar	17	0-0	3-4	1	3	5	3
Leahy	18	2-5	2-2	4	3	1	6
Siemon	14	2-2	0-0	1	1	3	4
Team	200	6-15	22-28	48	22	28	88

Valparaiso	25	38	--	63
Notre Dame	37	51	--	88

FG Pct: Notre Dame 42.8, Valparaiso 36.7. **3-PT FG Pct:** Notre Dame 40.0, Valparaiso 10.0. **FT Pct:** Notre Dame 78.6, Valparaiso 74.3. **3-PT FG:** ND 6 (Ratay 3), Valparaiso 1. **Turnovers:** Notre Dame 19, Valparaiso 19. **Blocked Shots:** Notre Dame 19, Valparaiso 23. **Steals:** Notre Dame 15 (Ivey 7), Valparaiso 9. **Attendance:** 2,215.



**ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL
(NOV. 15)**

<u>Rk.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Last Wk.</u>
1.	Connecticut * (42)	1-0	1
2.	Tennessee	0-0	2
3.	Duke	2-0	5
4.	Purdue *	2-0	4
5.	Georgia	0-1	3
6.	NOTRE DAME	0-0	6
7.	Rutgers *	0-0	8
8.	Louisiana Tech	2-0	9
9.	LSU	1-1	7
10.	Iowa State	0-0	1
11.	Penn State	1-0	13
12.	Stanford	0-0	11
13.	Virginia	2-0	15
14.	Oklahoma	0-0	14
15.	Texas Tech	0-0	16
16.	Wisconsin *	0-0	18
17.	Mississippi State	0-0	17
18.	Old Dominion	0-1	12
19.	North Carolina St.	0-0	19
20.	Vanderbilt	0-0	20
21.	SW Missouri St.	0-0	21
22.	North Carolina *	0-0	22
23.	Auburn	0-0	24
24.	Oregon	0-0	23
25.	Illinois	0-0	NR

**ESPN/USA TODAY POLL
(PRESEASON)**

<u>Rk.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Last Wk.</u>
1.	Connecticut * (39)	36-1	
2.	Tennessee (1)	33-4	
3.	Georgia	32-4	
4.	Duke	28-6	
5.	NOTRE DAME	27-5	
6.	Purdue *	23-8	
7.	Rutgers *	26-8	
8.	Louisiana Tech	31-3	
9.	LSU	25-7	
10.	Penn State	30-5	
11.	Iowa State	27-6	
12.	Old Dominion	29-5	
13.	Texas Tech	28-5	
14.	Stanford	21-9	
15.	Virginia	25-9	
16.	Mississippi State	24-8	
17.	Oklahoma	25-8	
18.	North Carolina St.	20-9	
19.	Vanderbilt	21-13	
20.	Auburn	22-8	
21.	SW Missouri St.	23-9	
22.	Boston College *	26-9	
23.	Wisconsin *	21-12	
24.	Illinois	23-10	
25.	North Carolina *	20-13	

* indicates 2000-01 Notre Dame opponents

Notre Dame's backcourt depth is strengthened by the return of senior **Imani Dunbar** (1.1 ppg., 1.9 apg.) and sophomores **Monique Hernandez** (2.4 ppg.) and walk-on **Karen Swanson**. In addition to these veterans, freshmen **Jeneka Joyce** and **Le'Tania Severe**, both ranked among the top 40 prep standouts a year ago, give the Irish great outside shooting ability as well as speed and quickness to improve Notre Dame's transition game.

IRISH DOWN PREMIER ALL-STARS IN FIRST PRESEASON GAME...

Six players scored in doubles figures, including all five starters, to pace the Irish to a 91-56 win over the Premier All-Stars in an exhibition game at the Joyce Center. Irish freshman **Jeneka Joyce** and All-Star Joni O'Connell led all scorers with 16 points. The Irish led 47-29 at halftime before opening the second half with a 22-9 run in the first seven minutes to build a 69-37 lead. The Premier All-Stars never got closer than 30 points in the loss. Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** fueled the Irish second-half spurt with 10 of her 12 points during the run. Seniors **Kelley Siemon** (14) and **Niele Ivey** (12), junior **Ericka Haney** (15) and sophomore **Alicia Ratay** (10) also added double-figure scoring. Lisa Cline chipped in 15 for the All-Stars. The Irish built a 22-8 lead at 12:55 of the first half before the All-Stars pulled within four points at 24-20. Notre Dame then eased away once again to take a 47-20 halftime advantage.

...AND DEFEAT TAPIOLAN HONKA IN SECOND EXHIBITION GAME

Notre Dame wrapped up its preseason exhibition schedule with a 98-53 win over the Finnish team Tapiolan Honka on Tuesday at the Joyce Center. Five players scored in double figures for Notre Dame, including 15 from senior **Meaghan Leahy** and 14 from freshman **Jeneka Joyce** -- both reserves. Sophomore **Alicia Ratay** led the Irish with 17 points. Jamika Jones, a member of the WNBA's Miami Sol, led all scorers with 22 points. Fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** helped the Irish build a 56-31 halftime lead with seven points, eight assists and nine rebounds in the first half. Joyce netted all 14 of her points in 14 minutes of action in the first half with four three-point shots and two free throws. Leahy poured in 10 points in the second half as the Irish pulled away from Tapiolan Honka.

POLL POSITION

The University of Notre Dame is the only Division I-A institution currently ranked among the top 20 teams in Associated Press standings in the sports of football, men's basketball and women's basketball. The Irish women's basketball team entered the season with its highest-ever preseason ranking at sixth in the AP and fifth in the ESPN/USA Today polls. Notre Dame currently stands 11th in football (7-2 record), while also rating 16th in men's basketball in the latest AP poll in those two sports. It's the first time in Irish athletic history all three of those Notre Dame teams have been ranked in the top 20 in the same week.

HEAD COACH MCGRAW INKS FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT

Muffet McGraw is in her 14th season with the Irish and 19th as a collegiate coach. She recently signed a five-year contract to continue as coach of the Fighting Irish women's basketball program through the 2004-05 season. McGraw has guided Notre Dame to five consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and seven of the last nine. The last four years have comprised the most successful period in the history of the program, thanks to a combined 106-26 record. The Irish followed up their 1997 NCAA Final Four appearance and 31-7 record with an NCAA Sweet 16 appearance in '98. Then came 26-5 and 27-5 marks the last two years that represent the top two seasons ever at Notre Dame in terms of winning percentage. Prior to coming to Notre Dame, she spent five seasons at Lehigh where she compiled an 88-41 record for a .683 winning percentage. McGraw has been named a finalist for the Naismith Women's Basketball coach-of-the-year award in each of the last two seasons.

SERIES RECORD VS. VALPARAISO

The Irish have won all 13 of their previous meetings with the Crusaders, including an 88-63 win last season at the Joyce Center. Valparaiso's Marlous Nieuwveen led all scorers with 25 points in that game, while Ruth Riley led five Irish players in double figures with 15. Notre Dame owns a 4-0 record in games played at Valparaiso. Notre Dame's first-ever varsity women's basketball game was played against Valparaiso -- a 48-41 Irish victory on Dec. 3, 1977.

NOTRE DAME IN SEASON OPENERS

Notre Dame brings a 15-8 record in 23 previous season-opening games into the Valparaiso game.

NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP (1999-2000 statistics)

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Other	Notes
50	Kelley Siemon	F	6-2	Sr.	6.5	5.0	52.6 FG%	Returns to starting role after serving as key reserve
3	Ericka Haney	G/F	6-1	Jr.	6.8	3.7	24 steals	Versatile, athletic player takes over starting pos.
00	Ruth Riley	C	6-5	Sr.	16.2	7.3	85 blocks	First-team Associated Press All-American last year
22	Alicia Ratay	SG	5-11	So.	14.0	5.0	48.0% 3PT	Only player to start all 32 games in 1999-2000
33	Niele Ivey	PG	5-8	Sr.	11.2	3.5	6.1 APG	Among top 10 returning PG in assists per game

NOTRE DAME OFF THE BENCH

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Other	Notes
4	Le'Tania Severe	G	5-9	Fr.	--	--	--	Sideline by stress fracture, expected back by Jan.
5	Jeneka Joyce	G	5-9	Fr.	--	--	--	30 points in two exhibitions games off the bench
11	Karen Swanson	G	5-7	So.	0.9	0.4	21 pts.	Walk-on player saw action in 23 games
23	Monique Hernandez	G	5-9	So.	2.4	1.0	16 assists	Backup guard average 10 minutes per game
31	Amanda Barksdale	F	6-3	So.	1.1	1.2	34 blocks	Blocked one shot every 4.3 minutes
41	Imani Dunbar	G	5-7	Sr.	1.1	1.4	9.6 MIN/GM	Played in 26 games with 5 starting appearances
44	Meaghan Leahy	F	6-4	Sr.	2.4	2.4	51.1 FG%	Nearly doubled career totals for min., pts., reb.

The Irish have won their last five season openers since an overtime loss at Seton Hall in 1994 and six of their last seven. Notre Dame has a 10-3 record under Muffet McGraw in its first games of the season with the only losses coming to third-ranked Penn State in 1991, at Marquette in 1992 and the SHU loss in 1994.

IVEY NEARS 1,000-POINT PLATEAU

The fourth point by fifth-year **Niele Ivey** this season will mark the 1,000th of her career, joining the list of 16 other Irish players (including **Ruth Riley** with 1,400) who have scored at least 1,000 points.

RILEY, RATAY NAMED NAISMITH CANDIDATES

Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** and sophomore guard **Alicia Ratay** are among the 30 preseason candidates listed for the 2000-01 Naismith College Basketball Player of the Year Award presented by the Atlanta Tipoff Club. Riley was one of 15 finalists for the Naismith Award a year ago. The women's Naismith Award was first presented in 1983 and honors the outstanding college basketball player in the United States. The award program was founded by the Atlanta Tipoff Club, an organization dedicated to recognizing the achievements of student-athletes in basketball. The candidates were selected by a vote of the Board of Selectors comprised of leading basketball coaches, journalists and basketball analysts.

EVERYBODY'S ALL-AMERICAN

Senior center **Ruth Riley** became Notre Dame's first AP first-team All-American in 2000 and is a preseason favorite to win All-America honors for the third time in her career (she also was second-team AP pick in 1999). She has been named to the preseason All-America teams in a variety of national publications. Here is a list of some of Riley's preseason honors:

<i>Sports Illustrated For Women</i>	First Team
<i>Women's Basketball Journal</i>	First Team
<i>Lindy's All-American</i>	First Team
<i>Athlon Sports</i>	Second Team
<i>ESPN Magazine</i>	Preseason "PTPer"
<i>Street & Smith</i>	High Honorable Mention
Beth Mowins, ESPN.com	Among Top Five Centers In Country

OTHER IRISH HONORS

In addition to Riley's accolades, senior point guard **Niele Ivey** has been named by Beth Mowins of ESPN.com one of the top five point guards in the country, while Mowins also has rated the Irish backcourt as one of best in the country. Sophomore guard **Alicia Ratay** has been named preseason

IRISH UNDER McGRAW

Yr.	Record	Pct.	Honors
'87-88	..... 20-8	..... .714	..... No. Star Coach of the Yr.
'88-89	..... 21-11	..... .656	..... MCC Champions, NWIT
'89-90	..... 23-6	..... .793	..... MCC Champions
'90-91	..... 23-9	..... .719	..... MCC Champions
'91-92	..... 14-17	..... .451	..... NCAAs, MCC Champions
'92-93	..... 15-12	..... .555	
'93-94	..... 22-7	..... .786	..... NCAAs, MCC Champions
'94-95	..... 21-10	..... .677	..... NWIT
'95-96	..... 23-8	..... .742	..... NCAA Second Round
'96-97	..... 31-7	..... .816	..... NCAA Final Four
'97-98	..... 22-10	..... .688	..... NCAA Regional Semis
'98-99	..... 26-5	..... .839	..... NCAA Second Round
'99-00	..... 27-5	..... .844	..... NCAA Regional Semis
Total	288-115	.715	7 NCAA Appearances

BIG EAST Conference (five seasons, '96-'00)
74-14 (.841)

Midwestern College Conference (six seasons, '89-95)
87-15 (.853)

KEVIN WHITE RADIO SHOW



A weekly half-hour talk show featuring first-year Notre Dame athletics director Kevin White debuted Aug. 27 on Chicago's ESPN Radio 1000. "The Kevin White Show" is scheduled to air from 11:00-11:30 p.m. for 30 consecutive Sundays on ESPN radio (1000 AM in Chicago, www.espnradio1000.com). The show also can be heard in 35 states. White will welcome 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 (13) 169
- 2. Rutgers (1) 152
- 3. **NOTRE DAME 150**
- 4. Boston College 129
- T5. Georgetown 100
- T5. Virginia Tech 100
- 7. Villanova 94
- 8. Pittsburgh 92
- 9. Miami 88
- 10. Syracuse 53
- 11. St. John's 49
- 12. Providence 44
- 13. Seton Hall 39
- 14. West Virginia 15

2000-01 Preseason Player of the Year

Shea Ralph, Sr., G/F, 6-0, Connecticut

2000-01 Preseason Rookie of the Year

Diana Taurasi, Fr., G, 5-11, Connecticut

Preseason All-BIG EAST First Team

*Svetlana Abrosimova, Connecticut, G/F, Sr.

Sue Bird, Connecticut, G, Jr.

Tasha Pointer, Rutgers, G, Sr.

*Shea Ralph, Connecticut, G, Sr.

***Ruth Riley, Notre Dame, C, Sr.**

Preseason All-BIG EAST Second Team

Becky Gottstein, Boston College, F, Jr.

Niele Ivey, Notre Dame, G, Sr.

Alicia Ratay, Notre Dame, G, So.

Katie Smrcka-Duffy, Georgetown, G, Sr.

Tammy Sutton-Brown, Rutgers, C, Sr.

* - unanimous selection

WEEKLY RANKINGS

Here's where Notre Dame has been ranked in the weekly polls during the 2000-01 season:

<u>Week</u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>ESPN/USA Today</u>
Preseason	6	5
Nov. 14	6	--

All-America by *Women's Basketball Journal* as a sixth-team pick. She is one of only three sophomores on the six-team, 30-player list. Freshman **Jeneka Joyce** has been listed as one of the top freshmen according to *Athlon Sports*.

NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame has won 106 games in its last four seasons, the sixth most wins of any school in the country. Here's where the Irish rank in terms of their wins over the last four seasons:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>'96-'97</u>	<u>'97-'98</u>	<u>'98-'99</u>	<u>'99-'00</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tennessee	29	39	31	30	129
2. Connecticut	33	34	29	36	134
3. Louisiana Tech	31	31	30	30	122
4. Old Dominion	34	29	28	29	120
5. UC Santa Barbara	24	27	26	30	107
6. Notre Dame	31	22	26	27	106

IRISH FACE TOUGH SCHEDULE

An ESPN nationally-televised home game against defending NCAA and BIG EAST champion Connecticut and nine games against teams from the 2000 NCAA women's basketball championship highlight the 2000-01 Irish schedule. The 27-game slate features 13 homes games and appearances in two national tournaments. In addition to the Jan. 15, contest against Connecticut, the Irish will welcome 2000 Final Four participant Rutgers, 1999 NCAA champion Purdue and Pacific-10 power Arizona to the Joyce Center. Notre Dame will travel to Wisconsin on Nov. 22 and 24, for the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge, facing the host Badgers in the opening round and NCAA tournament teams Georgia or Oklahoma in the championship or consolation game (the championship will be shown on ESPN). The Irish will play on ESPN2 when they travel to Orlando to take on North Carolina at Honda Elite Classic. The 16-game BIG EAST schedule features two games against conference newcomer Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh and Rutgers and one each with Villanova, St. John's, Connecticut, Seton Hall, West Virginia, Providence, Boston College, Syracuse, Miami and Georgetown. First-ever meetings with Fordham and Rice, the first game against USC in 15 years and a trip to Marquette round out the non-conference schedule.

EXCITEMENT BUILDS AS SEASON-TICKET SALES DOUBLE

Season-ticket sales for the 2000-01 Irish home season have more than doubled from a year ago, going from 940 in 1999-2000 to more than 2,500 for the upcoming season. Notre Dame's average home attendance has jumped from a per-game figure of 1,747 in 1996-97 (the year the Irish played in the NCAA Final Four in Cincinnati) to 1,914 in 1997-98, then 2,996 in 1998-99 and finally to a 3,392 total in 1999-2000 to rank 26th nationally. Irish women's basketball season tickets remain on sale and can be purchased by contacting the Notre Dame ticket office at 219-631-7356.

IVEY AMONG BIG EAST ALL-STARS

Niele Ivey spent part of her summer with the BIG EAST Women's Basketball All-Stars, averaging 11.8 points and 3.7 rebounds on the six-game competitive tour of Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. in June. The All-Stars, led by West Virginia head coach Alexis Basil, went 5-1 on the tour with wins over Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria. Ivey scored in double figures in four of the six contests and registered a personal tour-high 17 points in the squad's first meeting with Simon Fraser. She scored a team-high 16 points in the All-Stars' final game.

23 AND COUNTING

Notre Dame will look for its school-record 24th consecutive home victory when it welcomes Arizona to the Joyce Center for its home opener on Mon., Nov. 20. The streak currently is the sixth longest active streak in the country, behind Grambling (66), Kent (31), Texas Tech (30), Louisiana Tech (27) and Old Dominion (24).