

notre dame softball

20 consecutive winning seasons • 10 consecutive ncaa tournament appearances • 5 big east conference tournament titles

notre dame fighting irish

8-10 overall / 0-0 big east
[und.com • bigeast.org]

toledo rockets

1-10 overall / 0-0 mid-american
[utrockets.com • mac-sports.com]

melissa cook stadium
march 18 • 3:30 p.m. (et)
notre dame, ind.

video / audio / stats: und.com



2009 schedule / results

february

13 (fri.)	(1) at no. 1 alabama	1, 1-10 (5)
14 (sat.)	(1) vs. east carolina	w, 2-1
	(1) at no. 1 alabama	1, 0-10 (5)
15 (sun.)	(1) vs. wisconsin	1, 0-2
20 (fri.)	(2) vs. sacramento state	w, 4-1
	(2) at no. 5 stanford	1, 0-2
21 (sat.)	(2) at no. 5 stanford	1, 2-5
	(2) vs. sacramento state	w, 11-0

march

7 (sat.)	(3) vs. texas tech	w, 7-0
	(3) vs. uc santa barbara	w, 5-2
8 (sun.)	(3) vs. texas tech	w, 5-0
	(3) at unlv	1, 3-5
10 (tues.)	at no. 5 ucla	1, 1-3
12 (thurs.)	(4) vs. penn state	1, 0-1 (8)
	(4) vs. no. 9 oklahoma	w, 4-3
13 (fri.)	(4) vs. pacific	w, 7-3
14 (sat.)	(4) vs. no. 12 arizona	1, 1-10 (5)
15 (sun.)	(4) vs. no. 6 arizona state	1, 0-3
18 (wed.)	toledo (dh)	3:30 p.m.
22 (sun.)	st. john's* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
24 (tues.)	ball state	5:00 p.m.
25 (wed.)	western michigan	6:00 p.m.
28 (sat.)	at georgetown* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
29 (sun.)	at usf* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
31 (tues.)	iupui	6:00 p.m.

april

1 (wed.)	northern illinois	5:00 p.m.
4 (sat.)	pittsburgh* (dh)	12:00 p.m.
5 (sun.)	seton hall* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
8 (wed.)	depaul* (dh)	4:00 p.m.
9 (thurs.)	valparaiso (dh)	3:00 p.m.
11 (sat.)	at connecticut* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
14 (tues.)	at wisconsin (dh)	5:00 p.m.
18 (sat.)	at villanova* (dh)	12:00 p.m.
19 (sun.)	at rutgers* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
21 (tues.)	northwestern	6:00 p.m.
22 (wed.)	north dakota state (dh)	5:00 p.m.
26 (sun.)	syracuse* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
30 (thurs.)	at providence* (dh)	11:00 p.m.

may

3 (sun.)	louisville* (dh)	12:00 p.m.
7-9	big east tournament	tba
14 - june 9	ncaa tournament	tba

all times local to site
* big east conference contest
(1) bama bash – tuscaloosa, ala.
(2) nike invitational – palo alto, calif.
(3) unlv invitational – las vegas, nev.
(4) judi garman classic – fullerton, calif.

probable irish starters

pos.	number - name	class	hometown / high school
p	8 - brittney bargar	sr.	corona, calif. / corona [1.47 era, 6-5, 15 app, 10 gs, 10 cg, 76.0 ip, 16 er, 54 k]
p	9 - jody valdivia	so.	anaheim hills, calif. / canyon [4.12 era, 2-5, 8 app, 8 gs, 37.1 ip, 22 er, 33 k]
c	27 - alexia clay	jr.	rochester, ind. / culver [14 gs, 2 h, 1 3b, 2 rbi, 2 hbp]
1b	10 - christine lux	jr.	glendale heights, ill. / glenbard west [single-season school record holder for home runs (15)]
2b	12 - katie fleury	so.	san jose, calif. / archbishop mitty [hit game-winning home run against east carolina (feb. 14)]
3b	21 - linda kohan	sr.	westminster, calif. / westminster [.255 ba, 12 h, 3 2b, 1 hr, 9 rbi]
ss	7 - sadie pitzenberger	so.	tomball, texas / tomball [.322 ba, 4 r, 19 h, 1 2b, 2 rbi]
of	13 - alexa maldonado	fr.	short hills, n.j. / millburn [18 gs, 7 r, 10 h, 2 2b, 2 3b]
of	23 - stephanie mola	sr.	naples, fla. / st. john neumann [13 gs, 24 ab, 4 h, 1 rbi]
of	24 - brianna jorgensborg	so.	thousand oaks, calif. / la reina [tripled in three consecutive games (march 7-8)]
dp	3 - heather johnson	jr.	los alamitos, calif. / mater dei [tied for team-high with 10 rbi, 2 2b]

one-hitters

* notre dame is 18-2 all-time in home openers, winning its last 11 consecutive ... the two losses came in 1992 and 1997 ... however, the irish have never opened the home portion of their schedule at melissa cook stadium ... the first game played there was a midseason contest against villanova on april 13 ... that 2008 matchup ended in a 4-1 win for the visiting wildcats.

* an 18-game road trip that included stops in four states (alabama, california, north carolina and nevada) and featured six ranked opponents comes to an end against toledo ... since starting the season at no. 1 alabama, notre dame has faced no. 5 stanford, no. 5 ucla, no. 9 oklahoma, no. 12 arizona and no. 6 arizona state.

* uc santa barbara (march 8) had two runners on base in its half of the seventh when tiffany wright flew out to alexa maldonado in center field, who started the first leg of a triple play by throwing to katie fleury at second who relayed the favor to christine lux at first to end the game in not-so-routine fashion ... it is the first known defensive triple play in notre dame history (research is ongoing).

* seven unanswered runs helped notre dame dig itself out of an early 3-0 deficit to post a 7-3 victory over pacific in the second day of the judi garman classic ... christine lux, katie fleury and beth northway each homered as notre dame recorded nine hits in the contest ... brittney bargar got the complete-game win with five strikeouts while giving up six hits, and the irish defense stood strong to help strand seven tigers on base.

* notre dame downed no. 9 oklahoma, 4-3, on the opening day of the judi garman classic hosted by cal state fullerton ... the irish sat on a 3-1 lead but committed three errors in the top of the seventh, though oklahoma saved its lone error for the bottom of the seventh to help give notre dame the win ... the victory was notre dame's first against a top-10 opponent since downing no. 5 tennessee in 2005.

* brianna jorgensborg was named the big east conference softball player of the week on march 9 ... jorgensborg put together one of the most prolific slugging stretches in notre dame history at the unlv invitational and finished the four-game invite with a 1.889 slugging pct. which came courtesy of three triples and two home runs in nine at-bats ... her .556 batting average led notre dame throughout the weekend ... jorgensborg tripled in three consecutive contests, becoming the first player to accomplish the feat in the 21-year history of the program ... she also had two home runs.

series history

overall: 10-0 / home: 7-0 / away: 2-0 / neutral: 1-0

	(date - site - result - score)	
4.23.98	a	w 7-2
4.23.98	a	w 7-1
3.27.99	h	w 9-0
3.27.99	h	w 10-0
(1) 3.26.00	n	w 12-1
4.25.01	h	w 11-0
4.25.01	h	w 1-0
4.19.06	h	w 5-0
3.29.07	h	w 4-1
4.2.08	h	w 2-1

(1) purdue invitational (west lafayette, ind.)

in the polls

usa today / nfca (march 17)

1.florida
2.alabama
3.washington
4.stanford
5.ucla
- t6.arizona state
- t6.tennessee
8.michigan
9.georgia
10.california
11.oklahoma
12.arizona
13.missouri
14.northwestern
15.louisville
16.louisiana-lafayette
17.ohio state
18.north carolina
19.texas a&m
20.southern illinois
21.lsu
22.florida state
23.umass
24.depaul
25.fresno state

rv: cal poly, iowa, unlv, illinois, nevada, baylor, mississippi state, houston, san diego state, south florida, kentucky, tula, long beach state, oklahoma state, south carolina, cal state fullerton, texas, nebraska, georgia tech

espn / usa softball (march 17)

1.florida
2.alabama
3.washington
4.stanford
5.ucla
6.tennessee
7.california
8.michigan
9.georgia
10.oklahoma
11.arizona state
12.northwestern
13.missouri
14.ohio state
15.arizona
16.louisville
17.massachusetts
18.north carolina
19.louisiana-lafayette
20.lsu
21.depaul
22.florida state
23.texas a&m
24.southern illinois
25.fresno state

rv: iowa, nevada, cal poly, florida gulf coast, georgia tech, oklahoma state, auburn, baylor, texas, south florida, kentucky, nebraska, cal state fullerton

all about the irish

- with one of the most experienced teams in head coach deanna gumpf's tenure at notre dame, the 2009 edition of the irish softball team could be poised to make a deep run into the postseason. the irish return all of their firepower from the circle in senior brittney bargar and sophomore jody valdivia. bargar was a dominating force as a junior in 2008 with 30 wins and 244 strikeouts in 291.1 innings of work. her 1.47 era was among the lowest in the nation while the righty also had a pair of no-hitters. bargar totaled eight shutouts and combined for one more with valdivia. valdivia was impressive in her first year with the irish and showed flashes of brilliance with a tremendous repertoire of pitches. her 8-7 record and 3.13 era in 2008 may be deceiving, as she averaged 1.18 strikeouts/inning – including 14 in one game against eastern michigan – and wowed the coaching staff perhaps more than any irish player this past fall.

- on the latter half of the battery, junior alexia clay is primed to return to the field after spending her sophomore season as a redshirt. the transfer from tennessee and indiana native was among the top freshmen in the nation in 2007 while leading the lady volunteers to the women's college world series. clay carries a big stick to the plate and could emerge as one of notre dame's most dominant sluggers. she'll share time behind the plate with freshman kristina wright, a 5-9 natural signal caller with sharp softball instincts and athleticism to spare. notre dame utilized three catchers in 2008 – erin marrone, shannon kelly and sadie pitzenberger – but each of those have made the shift to other positions from which they can better benefit the team.

- a wealth of players will be competing for show time in the infield. four all-big east performers in sophomore katie fleury, juniors christine lux and heather johnson along with senior linda kohan should carry most of the load. pitzenberger will make the switch to the middle infield, sharing the shortstop and second base positions with fleury. they will fill the void left by graduated senior katie laing, who cemented herself as one of the most proficient fielders in irish history with the program's career assists record. at the corners will be a rotation consisting of kohan, johnson and lux. the trio combined for 22 home runs and 81 rbi in 2008 – despite johnson playing in only 11 games before her season ended with a knee injury – and each of the three state a legit argument to provide power at the plate for the irish. freshmen kasey o'connor and dani miller displayed their skills this past fall and could possibly work their way into the lineup before all is said and done.

- the outfield loses and all-nfca mideast region player in sarah smith and her 60 hits in 2008, but returns sophomore brianna jorgensborg who saw action in each of the team's 61 contests last season. senior stephanie mola returns to the grass from a wrist injury and will join jorgensborg, an all-big east choice in 2008. marrone and senior beth northway will combat for a spot in the field along with freshman alexa maldonado.

- northway, marrone, pitzenberger and senior christine farrell are among several players that should anticipate seeing action at a number of positions when called upon.

notre dame roster

no.	name	year	position	b / t	hometown / high school
3	heather johnson	jr.	infield	r / r	los Alamitos, Calif. / Mater Dei
5	shannon kelly	so.	pitcher / utility	r / r	Pembroke Pines, Fla. / Hollywood Christian
6	kasey o'connor	fr.	infield	r / r	Yorktown, N.Y. / Yorktown
7	sadie pitzenberger	so.	infield / outfield	l / r	Tomball, Texas / Tomball
8	brittney bargar	sr.	pitcher	r / r	Corona, Calif. / Corona
9	jody valdivia	so.	pitcher	r / r	Anaheim Hills, Calif. / Canyon
10	christine lux	jr.	infield	l / r	Glendale Heights, Ill. / Glenbard West
12	katie fleury	so.	infield	r / r	San Jose, Calif. / Archbishop Mitty
13	alexa maldonado	fr.	outfield	l / l	Short Hills, N.J. / Millburn
14	beth northway	sr.	outfield	r / r	Kentwood, Mich. / East Kentwood
17	dani miller	fr.	infield	r / r	Huntington Beach, Calif. / Edison
18	christine farrell	sr.	utility	r / r	La Habra, Calif. / Sonora
19	erin marrone	so.	infield / outfield	r / r	Alexandria, Va. / Bishop O'Connell
21	linda kohan	sr.	infield	r / r	Westminster, Calif. / Westminster
23	stephanie mola	sr.	outfield	l / l	Naples, Fla. / St. John Neumann
24	brianna jorgensborg	so.	outfield	r / r	Thousand Oaks, Calif. / La Reina
27	alexia clay	jr.	catcher	r / r	Rochester, Ind. / Culver Academy
35	kristina wright	fr.	catcher	r / r	Ramona, Calif. / Ramona

head coach: deanna gumpf (8th season / nebraska '92)

assistant coaches: kris ganef (8th season / notre dame '99), lizzy lemire (4th season / notre dame '01)

volunteer assistant: dawn austin (4th season / penn state '93)

athletic trainer: nicole alexander (1st season / florida '05)

student managers: bridget cullen (notre dame '09) / john whitty (notre dame '10)

toledo roster

no.	name	year	position	b / t	hometown / high school
1	sam toy	so.	outfield	l / r	El Dorado Hills, Calif. / Oak Ridge
2	kate ricchio	so.	outfield	r / r	Racine, Wis. / Case
3	lacey levier	jr.	utility	r / r	San Dimas, Calif. / Diamond Bar
4	hannah rockhold	jr.	pitcher	r / r	Lima, Ohio / Bath
5	melissa rons	fr.	utility	l / r	Vestaburg, Mich. / Vestaburg
7	whitney erickson	jr.	infield	r / r	Danville, Calif. / Monte Vista
8	andrea wabol	sr.	outfield	r / r	Homer Glen, Ill. / Lockport Township
9	trisha rons	so.	pitcher	r / r	Vestaburg, Mich. / Vestaburg
10	shana szypka	so.	pitcher	r / r	Genoa, Ohio / Genoa Area
11	brooke gates	fr.	pitcher	r / r	Sylvania, Ohio / Southview
12	brie ford	sr.	infield	s / r	Bloomington, Ill. / Bloomington
13	whitney young	so.	pitcher	r / r	Granby, Colo. / Middle Park
14	jillian spink	fr.	outfield	r / r	El Dorado Hills, Calif. / Oak Ridge
15	mica sanchez	jr.	outfield	r / r	Riverdale, Calif. / Riverdale
17	keri gallagher	so.	first / third base	r / r	Grosse Pointe, Mich. / Grosse Pointe North
18	alison hess	sr.	catcher / first base	r / r	Omaha, Neb. / Central
19	jill barnett	fr.	catcher	r / r	Mount Vernon, Wash. / Mount Vernon
22	kattie palmer	fr.	outfield	r / r	Toledo, Ohio / Bowsher
23	kelly hmieł	so.	third base	r / r	York, Pa. / Central York

head coach: jo ann gordon (6th season / toledo '90)

assistant coaches: kelly collins / sunny jones