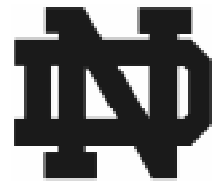


2001 Notre Dame Softball



University of Notre Dame Sports Information • April 4, 2001 • Contact: Alan Wasielewski, 219-631-7516, Fax: 219-631-7941

2001 Schedule			
February			
16-18 Fri.-Sun. at Holiday Inn Invitational (Tampa, Fla.)			
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
23-25 Fri.-Sun. at Lady Razorback Invitational (Fayetteville, Ark.)			
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
March			
2-4 Fri.-Sun. at Frost Tournament (Chattanooga, Tenn.)			
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, 2-0
15-18 Th.-Sun. Kia Klassic Tournament (Fullerton, Calif.)			
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
April			
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	12:00 p.m.
8	Sun.	*at Syracuse	11:00 a.m.
11	Wend.	Bowling Green	3:30 p.m.
12	Thurs.	Loyola (Chicago)	4:00 p.m.
14	Sat.	*Pittsburgh	11:00 a.m.
17	Tues.	at Indiana State	2:00 p.m.
19	Thurs.	at #8 DePaul	4:30 p.m.
21	Sat.	*at Virginia Tech	11:00 a.m.
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.
May			
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, Connecticut and Syracuse

What: Notre Dame's second weekend of BIG EAST Conference competition

Where: Storrs, Conn., and Syracuse, NY

When: #11 Notre Dame vs. Connecticut (DH), Saturday, April 7, 12 p.m.

#11 Notre Dame vs. Syracuse (DH), Sunday, April 8, 11 a.m.

Notre Dame continues its drive for the BIG EAST

regular season title: The 11th-ranked Notre Dame softball team (28-3) faces its first two BIG EAST doubleheaders on the road this weekend vs. Connecticut, Saturday, April 7, and Syracuse on Sunday, April 8.

Notre Dame is coming off five consecutive doubleheader sweeps of Valparaiso (6-0 and 4-0, March 28), Western Michigan (7-1 and 8-0, March 29), St. John's (8-0 and 1-0, March 31), Seton Hall (6-3 and 10-2, April 1) and Purdue (10-2 and 4-2, April 3).

Miller wins coach 500th Notre Dame game vs.

Seton Hall: Liz Miller enjoyed 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. She is now just eight wins away from 900 career victories (892-294).

Irish move up to highest-ever ranking in the USA

Today/NFCA Top 25: Notre Dame has moved up to its highest-ever ranking (#11) after an impressive run to third place in the Kia Klassic (March 15-18) and rattling off five 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 Chattanooga, 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 Klassic, 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.

Notre Dame posts best-ever start: Notre Dame's 28-3 (.903) record over its first 31 games is by far the best start to a season since the program began in 1989. The Irish also 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.

Irish among the NCAA statistical leaders: The NCAA has released its first Division I softball statistical rankings for the 2001 season, and Notre Dame appears prominently on the lists.

Freshman RHP Kristin Schmidt is 13th in the nation in ERA with a 0.55 mark as of April 2. The Irish, who feature six player hitting over .300 this season, are ranked seventh in the nation in team batting (.312). Notre Dame is also sixth in the nation in winning percentage (26-3, .887), 14th in team ERA (1.13) and 15th in scoring (4.87 runs per game). The Irish also entered the week with an eight-game winning streak (now 10 with the two victories at Purdue) which is currently the fifth-best in the nation.

Jen Sharron named BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week for the second time this season: Irish All-American LHP Jen Sharron was named Co-BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week on April 3, sharing the honor with Theresa Hornick from Villanova.

Sharron posted her first career no-hitter last week with a five-inning, 11 strikeout performance against conference opponent St. John's. In four appearances last week, Sharron compiled a 4-0 record with a 0.69 ERA and 44 strikeouts.

This is the second time Sharron, the three-time defending BIG EAST Pitcher of the Year, has received the Pitcher of the Week award (Feb. 26).

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 first on the team in batting average (.391) and leads the team with a whopping .678 slugging percentage. She has reached safely in 23 of 31 games this season and has 10 multi-hit performances to give her a .485 on-base percentage.

Streaking: As Notre Dame opened the 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 third-best in school history.

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), 352-152 (.698) record at Notre Dame (Eight 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

All-time Notre Dame regular-season win streaks:
 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

The Irish are also inching toward another impressive winning streak entering this weekend, as Notre Dame has swept five consecutive doubleheaders for 10 straight wins.

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 **Andrea Loman** added a solo shot against #4 Washington and Hawaii (March 17). **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 four, 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.

Lizzy Lemire joined the group with a three-run dinger in the sixth inning against Seton Hall, a home run that proved to be the game winner.

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 13-1 in 14 starts this season with a 0.84 ERA. She has struck out 123 (see strikeout note that follows) and pitched a complete-game three-hit shutout in Notre Dame's 8-0 five-inning victory over Maine. 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.

Irish pitching staff becomes K Crew: 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 4, the Irish have 248 strikeouts as a team - **Kristin Schmidt** has 123, **Jen Sharron** 120 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 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. Sharron reached 100 strikeouts in 115.1 innings last season and is on pace to reach the mark in her next start.

Kriech dominates competition over the first half of the season: No player on the Notre Dame roster has been more consistent than junior rightfielder **Jenny Kriech** in the first three weeks of the season.

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 34 hits in 31 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 doubleheader vs. Western Michigan with three RBI, four runs scored and three stolen bases.
- She is third on the team in hitting with runners

USA Today/NFCA Top 25 (as of March 28, 2001)			
School	Record	Points	LW
1. UCLA	37-1	672	1
2. Arizona	38-2	646	2
3. Alabama	34-1	609	4
4. Stanford	32-3-1	587	5
5. California	39-4	577	3
6. LSU	30-6	520	7
7. Oklahoma	29-7	504	6
8. DePaul	24-7-1	468	10
9. Arizona State	27-9	460	9
10. CS Fullerton	33-10	435	8
11. NOTRE DAME	26-3	400	11
12. Iowa	24-7	355	12
13. Fresno State	26-11	335	13
14. Washington	24-12	324	15
15. Nebraska	29-10	273	17
16. Oregon State	29-13-1	257	14
17. Florida State	34-6	250	16
18. Pacific	31-6	234	18
19. South Carolina	23-12-1	208	19
20. Baylor	29-11	120	21
21. Wisconsin	20-12	115	23
22. SW Texas State	28-7	94	22
23. Texas A&M	24-11	79	20
24. Louisiana-Lafayette	26-5	69	24
25. CS Northridge	30-6	41	NR

Others receiving votes: Florida Atlantic (38), Texas Tech (21), Massachusetts (16), Hawaii (8), South Florida (7), Virginia (6), North Carolina (2).

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.

in scoring positions (.379), has posted a batting average of .520 when she leads off an inning and has 11 two-out RBI.

Kriech is second on the team with a .380 batting average and also has 15 RBI and 24 runs scored so far in 2001. She has nine stolen bases and was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week on Feb. 26.

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 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 outscored 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 returnees: 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

Notre Dame Statistical Leaders (as of April 4, 2001)

<u>Batting Average (min. 20 at-bats)</u>	
Myers, J. ....	.391
Kriech, J. ....	.380
Alkire, M. ....	.361
<u>Runs</u>	
Kriech, J.	28
Myers, J.	24
Alkire, M.	19
<u>Hits</u>	
Kriech, J.	38
Myer, J.	34
Alkire, M.	35
<u>Doubles</u>	
Alkire, M.	9
Myers, J.	9
Bledsoe, A.	6
<u>Triples</u>	
Kriech, J.	3
Lemire, L.	2
Myers, J.	2
<u>Home Runs</u>	
Myers, J.	4
Loman, A.	2
<u>RBI</u>	
Myers, J.	26
Lemire, L.	19
Bledsoe, A.	17
<u>SLG %</u>	
Myers, J. ....	.678
Kriech, J. ....	.500
Loman, A. ....	.493
<u>Total Bases</u>	
Myers, J.	59
Kriech, J.	50
Alkire, M.	47
<u>On Base %</u>	
Myers, J. ....	.485
Kriech, J. ....	.461
Loman, A. ....	.424
<u>Stolen Bases</u>	
Kreich, J.	9
Myers, J.	6
Klayman, D.	5
<u>Fielding %</u>	
Schmidt, K.	1.000
Kriech, J.	1.000
<u>Assists</u>	
Alkire, M.	45
Madrid, A.	37
Bledsoe, A.	37
<u>Pitching</u>	
<u>ERA</u>	
Schmidt, K.	0.84
Sharron, Jen	1.70
<u>Strikeouts</u>	
Schmidt, K.	123
Sharron, Jen	120
<u>Shutouts</u>	
Sharron, Jen	5
Schmidt, K.	4

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 -
 April 16 -
 April 23 -
 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 -
 April 16 -
 April 23 -
 April 30 -
 May 7 -

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 win-

ners 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 892-294 (.752) 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 (Midwestern 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.

Poised to eclipse many of the Notre Dame career offensive records in her final season, **Alkire is second in career doubles (46), tied for first in home runs (26), first in RBI (150) and tied for second in walks (52).**

So far in 2001, Alkire has 35 hits, a .361 batting average, nine doubles and 13 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.

Sharron has a 15-2 record with a 1.70 ERA and 120 strikeouts so far this season.

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-graduate 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 (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

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	Co-BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week (Apr. 4)
RHP	8	Kristin Schmidt	Fr.	5-9	R/R	4-3-82	Houston, TX	13 wins, 0.84 ERA in her rookie season

Probable Starters

C	22	Jarrah Myers	Jr.	5-9	R/R	4-22-80	Carbondale, KS	Leads the team in homers (4) and RBI (26)
1B	33	Andrea Loman	So.	5-10	R/R	11-25-81	Riverside, CA	Lifted bat. avg. from .300 to .342 in last six games
2B	1	Alexis Madrid	So.	5-1	L/R	10-17-81	Temecula, CA	Batting 8-30 (.267) as #2 in the lineup
SS	2	Melanie Alkire	Sr.	5-8	R/R	10-6-79	Union City, CA	Has a hit in 17 of last 19 games
3B	18	Andria Bledsoe	So.	5-9	R/R	8-4-81	Higley, AZ	Third on the team with 17 RBI
LF	16	Lizzy Lemire	Sr.	5-9	R/R	10-10-79	Irvine, CA	Bat. avg. jumped from .288 to .340 in 11 games
CF	11	Jenny Kriech	Jr.	5-7	L/L	9-8-80	Indianapolis, IN	Leads the team in stolen bases (9)
RF	4	Danielle Klayman	Sr.	5-7	L/L	9-17-79	San Diego, CA	Has hit 9-23 in the #9 spot in the lineup
DP	5	Kas Hoag	Jr.	5-5	L/R	6-13-80	Wallingford, CT	Two-run single vs. Maine

Off the Bench

IF	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
1B	20	Lisa Mattison	So.	5-10	R/R	4-26-81	Granger, IN	Batting .231 as one of the key Irish subs
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	4-0	26-3
2. Villanova	4-0	17-3
3. Virginia Tech	5-1	23-13
4. Seton Hall	2-2	10-7
5. Rutgers	2-2	12-11
6. Syracuse	1-1	5-12
7. Providence	1-3	12-10
8. St. John's	1-3	14-19
9. Pittsburgh	1-3	5-22
10. Boston College	1-5	16-14
11. Connecticut	0-2	8-15

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 on its trip to California for Spring Break.

The Irish also have their traditional meeting with DePaul this season (Thursday, April 19). The Blue Demons are currently ranked eighth.

Notre Dame has posted a 6-2 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 Klassic (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 the its best start ever with an 18-3 record in 2001, had two players recognized by the BIG EAST Conference on Feb. 26.

BIG EAST Results and Schedule

March 31

Notre Dame 8, St. John's 0 (5)
 Notre Dame 1, St. John's 0
 Virginia Tech 3, Connecticut 2 (10)
 Virginia Tech 3, Connecticut 2
 Villanova 5, Providence 0
 Villanova 8, Providence 0
 Seton Hall 2, Pittsburgh 1
 Seton Hall 4, Pittsburgh 3
 Rutgers 1, Boston College 0
 Boston College 8, Rutgers 2
 Radford 3, Syracuse 2

April 1

St. John's 3, Pittsburgh 2
 Pittsburgh 4, St. John's 0
 Notre Dame 6, Seton Hall 3
 Notre Dame 10, Seton Hall 2 (5)
 Villanova 1, Boston College 0
 Villanova 6, Boston College 5
 Providence 1, Rutgers 0 (13)
 Rutgers 10, Providence 4
 Connecticut at Radford, cancelled

April 2

Virginia Tech 5, Syracuse 4
 Syracuse 2, Virginia Tech 0

April 5

Fairfield at Providence (DH) 2 p.m.
 Columbia at St. John's (DH) 2:30 p.m.
 Albany at Syracuse (DH) 3 p.m.
 Binghamton at Villanova (DH) 3 p.m.
 Boston College at Massachusetts 4 p.m.

April 7

Pittsburgh at Syracuse (DH) 12 p.m.
Virginia Tech at Rutgers (DH) 12 p.m.
Boston College at St. John's (DH) 12 p.m.
Providence at Seton Hall (DH) 12 p.m.
Notre Dame at Connecticut (DH) 12 p.m.

April 8

Pittsburgh at Connecticut (DH) 11 a.m.
Notre Dame at Syracuse (DH) 12 p.m.
Virginia Tech at Villanova (DH) 12 p.m.
Providence at St. John's (DH) 12 p.m.
Boston College at Seton Hall (DH) 12 p.m.

BIG EAST Conference games in bold.

Junior **Jenny Kriech** 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 infield, 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 March 5):

- Dial (219) 631-3000
- Select any of the following subgroups:
 1. Upcoming schedule and recent results of ALL varsity sports currently in action.
 2. Upcoming football schedules for the 2001 - 2003 football seasons.
 3. Men's basketball information.
 4. Women's basketball information.
 5. Lacrosse information (then press 1 for men's lacrosse and 2 for women's lacrosse).
 6. Baseball and softball information (press 1 for baseball, 2 for softball).
 7. Swimming and diving and track and field information (press 1 for swimming and diving and 2 for track and field).
 8. Rowing and golf information (press 1 for rowing, 2 for golf).
 9. Fencing and tennis information (press 1 for fencing, 2 for tennis)

"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. Eventually, the page will be able 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.

Notre Dame team and individual game highs:

Team:

At bats:	33 vs. Hofstra (2-17-01)
Runs scored:	10 vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01)
.....	10 vs. Purdue (4-3-01)
Hits:	14 vs. Purdue (4-3-01)
RBI:	8 vs. Maine (2-24-01)
Doubles:	4 vs. South Carolina (2-19-01)
.....	4 vs. St. John's (3-31-01)
Triples	2 vs. Hofstra (2-17-01)
.....	2 vs. UAB (3-3-01)
Home Runs	2 vs. CS Northridge (3-11-01)
Total Bases	18 vs. St. John's (3-31-01)
Walks	7 vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01)
Strikeouts	8 vs. South Carolina (2-18-01)
Sac hits	4 vs. Chattanooga (3-2-01)
Sac flies	1 three times
Stolen Bases	5 vs. Valparaiso (3-28-01)
.....	5 vs. W. Michigan (3-29-01)
HBP	3 vs. CS Fullerton (3-18-01)
Caught stealing	2 four games

BIG EAST Statistical Leaders (as of April 2)

<i>Team Batting Average</i>					<i>Runs Scored</i>				
Notre Dame .....				.312	Name	School	Games	Runs	R/G
Villanova .....				.284	Kriech, Jenny	ND	29	27	.93
Boston College .....				.279	Erbig, Alison	BC	29	22	.76
Seton Hall .....				.272	Farmer, Carmen	VT	36	21	.58
Virginia Tech .....				.257	Hurt, Tiffany	VT	36	21	.58
					Garofalo	VT	36	21	.58
<i>Team ERA</i>					<i>Doubles</i>				
Notre Dame				1.08	Names	School	Games	2B	2B/G
Providence				1.29	Raab, Ann	SJU	33	9	.27
Virginia Tech				1.31	Blair, Bronwyn	VT	36	8	.22
Villanova				1.57	Garofalo	VT	36	8	.22
Boston College				1.79	Alkire, Melanie	ND	29	8	.28
					Yanosy, Jessica	UC	23	7	.30
<i>Individual Batting Average</i>					<i>RBI</i>				
Name	School	AB	Hits	Avg.	Name	School	Games	RBI	RBI/G
Jackson, Kim	SHU	37	16	.432	Blumfield, Cara	BC	30	31	1.03
Jacklets, Kerri	PC	70	30	.429	Myers, Jarrah	ND	29	25	.86
Krueger, Lisa	VU	47	19	.404	Hurt, Tiffany	VT	35	24	.69
Kriech, Jenny	ND	93	37	.398	Garofalo	VT	36	22	.61
Blumfield, Cara	BC	88	35	.398	Jacklets, Kerri	PC	22	19	.86
<i>Individual Pitching</i>					<i>On Base Percentage</i>				
Name	School	Games	IP	ERA	Name	School	Games	AB	OB%
Schmidt, Kristin	ND	16	89.2	0.55	Jacklets, Kerri	PC	22	70	.500
Hornick, Theresa	VU	15	63.1	0.55	Kriech, Jenny	ND	29	93	.472
VanDusen, Cori	PC	11	58.2	0.72	Blumfield, Cara	BC	30	88	.466
Black, Leah	RU	13	97.2	0.86	Myers, Jarrah	ND	29	81	.463
Singley, Kari	VU	9	21.2	0.97	Jackson, Kim	SHU	13	37	.462
<i>Hits</i>					<i>Wins</i>				
Name	School	Games	Hits	Hits/G	Name	School	App.	Record	
Garofalo	VT	36	37	1.03	Sharron, Jen	ND	16	14-2	
Kriech, Jenny	ND	29	37	1.28	Schmidt, Kristin	ND	16	12-1	
Blumfield, Cara	BC	30	35	1.17	Dobbe, Ashles	VT	15	10-4	
Goodchild, Jacqui	BC	30	34	1.13	Hornick, Theresa	VU	15	9-0	
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	36	32	.89	Calabrese, Gina	SJU	16	8-8	
<i>Home Runs</i>					<i>Strikeouts</i>				
Name	School	Games	HR	HR/G	Name	School	App.	K	K/G
Hurt, Tiffany	VT	35	7	.20	Schmidt, Kristin	ND	16	117	9.20
Jacklets, Kerri	PC	22	6	.27	Sharron, Jen	ND	16	113	7.94
Blumfield, Cara	BC	30	6	.20	Black, Leah	RU	13	99	7.10
Broughton, Kelly	SJU	32	6	.19	Malandris, Tekae	BC	15	77	6.94
Vorhees, Amy	VT	33	5	.15	Hornick, Theresa	VU	15	75	8.29
<i>Triples</i>					<i>Innings Pitched</i>				
Name	School	Games	3B	3B/G	Name	School	App.	IP	IP/G
Jarratt, Summer	PC	30	4	.13	Fitzgerald, Courtney	SJU	18	113.2	6.31
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	36	4	.11	Calabrese, Gina	SJU	16	107.0	6.69
Kriech, Jenny	ND	29	3	.10	Sharron, Jen	ND	16	99.2	6.23
Lemire, Lizzy	ND	29	2	.07	Black, Leah	RU	13	97.2	7.51
Myers, Jarrah	ND	29	2	.07	Schmidt, Kristin	ND	16	89.0	5.56
<i>Stolen Bases</i>					<i>Team Fielding</i>				
Name	School	Games	SB	SB/G	Name	PO	A	E	%
Pasquerella, Jackie	VU	20	11	.55	Villanova	402	143	11	.980
Neer, Brittney	RU	22	10	.45	Virginia Tech	740	310	32	.970
Kriech, Jenny	ND	29	9	.31	Connecticut	472	237	23	.969
Flier, Robin	VU	20	7	.35	Notre Dame	582	162	27	.965
Johnston, Robin	PU	19	6	.32	Pittsburgh	530	226	29	.963

Runners left on	11 vs. CS Fullerton (3-18-01)	Innings pitched	9 - Schmidt (3-17-01)
Hit into DP	2 vs. Purdue (4-3-01)	Strikeouts	14 - Jen Sharron (3-28-01)
Strikeouts	14 vs. Valparaiso (3-28-01)	Hit batters	3 - Jen Sharron (3-18-01)
Individual:			
Runs	3 by three players		
Hits	3 seven times		
RBI	6 - Myers (3-11-01)		
Doubles	2 - Bledsoe (3-15-01)		
Home Runs	2 - Myers (3-11-01)		
Sac hits	2 by three players		
Sac flies	3 by three players		
Stolen Bases	3 - Kriech (3-29-01)		
HBP	2 - Hoag (3-18-01)		