

2000 UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME VOLLEYBALL

October 3, 2000

Contact: Alan Wasielewski (219) 631-7516

2000 NOTRE DAME SCHEDULE		
Shamrock Invitational (Notre Dame, Ind.)		
9/1	#15 BYU vs. Clemson	BYU, 3-0
9/1	Fairfield	W, 3-0
9/2	Clemson vs. Fairfield	Fair., 3-0
9/2	#15 BYU	W, 3-2
9/3	Clemson	W, 3-0
adidas Invitational (Notre Dame, Ind.)		
9/8	#16 Michigan St. vs. #3 UCLA	UCLA, 3-1
9/8	#4 Nebraska	L, 0-3
9/9	#4 Nebraska vs. #16 Michigan St.	Neb., 3-0
9/9	#3 UCLA	L, 0-3
9/10	#3 UCLA vs. #4 Nebraska	Neb., 3-2
9/10	#16 Michigan State	L, 2-3
9/12	at Valparaiso	W, 3-0
Lady Seminole Classic (Tallahassee, Fla.)		
9/15	vs. Florida A&M	W, 3-0
9/15	at Florida State	W, 3-1
9/16	vs. Samford	W, 3-0
9/21	#22 Loyola Mary. (LMU)	W, 3-1
Golden Dome Invitational (Notre Dame, Ind.)		
9/22	#7 Colo. St. vs. #22 LMU	CSU, 3-0
9/22	Wyoming	W, 3-0
9/23	#22 LMU vs. Wyoming	LMU, 3-0
9/23	#7 Colorado State	L, 0-3
9/29	Villanova*	W, 3-0
10/1	Georgetown*	W, 3-0
10/7	at West Virginia*	11:00 a.m.
10/8	at Pittsburgh*	2:00 p.m.
10/11	at Illinois State	7:00 p.m.
10/18	at Michigan	7:00 p.m.
10/20	Rutgers*	7:00 p.m.
10/22	Seton Hall*	2:00 p.m.
10/28	at St. John's*	2:00 p.m.
10/29	at Connecticut*	2:00 p.m.
11/3	Boston College*	7:00 p.m.
11/4	North Carolina	7:00 p.m.
11/5	Providence*	2:00 p.m.
11/7	St. Louis	7:00 p.m.
11/11	at Syracuse*	1:00 p.m.
BIG EAST Championship (Notre Dame, Ind.)		
11/18	Semifinals	1:00, 3:30 p.m.
11/19	Finals	2:00 p.m.
11/24	at #4 USC	6:00 p.m.
NCAA Championship (Semifinals/Finals in Richmond, Va.)		
11/30 - 12/16 2000 NCAA Volleyball Tournament		
Home matches in bold All times local to site		
* indicates BIG EAST Conference Matches		

WHO: University of Notre Dame, West Virginia University and University of Pittsburgh.

WHAT: The continuation of the 2000 BIG EAST volleyball schedule.

WHERE: The WVU Coliseum and Fitzgerald Fieldhouse.

WHEN: #20 Notre Dame vs. West Virginia, Saturday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m.

#20 Notre Dame vs. Pittsburgh, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2 p.m.

Irish Take to the Road for Two BIG EAST Matches: The Notre Dame Volleyball team (11-4) heads east for two 2000 BIG EAST conference road matches this weekend. The Irish boast a 4-0 record on the road this season, including capturing the Lady Seminole Classic title (Sept. 15-16) in Tallahassee, Fla.

Since Notre Dame joined the BIG EAST in 1995, it is 26-2 on the road in regular-season conference matches. One of the two losses was to West Virginia in 1998.

Scouting the Mountaineers: Notre Dame and West Virginia are meeting for the eighth time ... the Irish hold a 5-2 series advantage ... West Virginia is 5-9 (1-1 in BIG EAST) in 2000 ... Irish junior Kristy Kreher (Birmingham, Mich.) had 11 kills in the 1999 Mountaineer-Irish matchup in the Joyce Center ... Nikki Hardy leads the Mountaineer offense with 185 kills.

Scouting the Panthers: Pittsburgh and Notre Dame are meeting for the 16th time ... the Irish hold a 13-3 series advantage ... Notre Dame has won the last seven matches against the Panthers ... Pittsburgh is 15-5 in 2000 with a 1-1 BIG EAST conference record ... Irish opposite Kristy Kreher had 11 kills, eight digs and five blocks in the 1999 match vs. the Panthers.

Girton Named Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week for the Second Consecutive Week: For the second time in as many weeks, **Christi Girton (Muncie, Ind.)** was named Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week. She led the team in kills in both BIG EAST match victories last weekend. Against Villanova, **Girton** had eight kills on 10 attempts with one error (.700) in just two games against the Wildcats. She also led the Irish in kills with 16 against Georgetown, adding nine digs and four blocks. **Girton** ended up hitting .354 in the two matches this week with 24 total kills (4.8 per game).

Girton had previously been named the Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week for her performance against Loyola Marymount, Wyoming and Colorado State, Sept. 21-23. In the three matches that week, **Girton** tallied 49 kills (5.44 per game), 34 digs (3.77 per game) and a .318 hitting percentage. She notched a career-high 23 kills in Notre Dame's upset win over #22 Loyola Marymount. In the Irish sweep of Wyoming, she played in only two games recording 10 kills and five digs. She also earned a spot on the Golden Dome Invitational All-Tournament

2000 NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL ROSTER

2	Denise Boylan***	Sr.	S	6-1	Lisle, IL	Benet Academy
3	Malinda Goralski**	Jr.	MB	6-1	Missouri City, TX	Clements
4	Kristy Kreher**	Jr.	OPP	6-1	Birmingham, MI	Marian
5	Jessica Kinder	Fr.	OH	5-10	Fresno, CA	Bullard
6	Marcie Bomhack**	Jr.	OH	6-0	Waukesha, WI	Catholic Memorial
7	Christi Girton***	Sr.	OH	6-3	Muncie, IN	Muncie Central
8	Kristen Kinder	Fr.	S	5-9	Fresno, CA	Bullard
9	Jo Jameyson***	Sr.	MB/OH	6-1	Alvin, TX	Alvin
10	Kim Fletcher	Fr.	MB	6-0	St. Louis, MO	Nerinx Hall
11	Keara Coughlin*	So.	DS/OH	5-8	Chicago, IL	Marian Catholic
12	Adrienne Shimmel***	Sr.	DS/OH	5-10	Mission Viejo, CA	Capistrano Valley
13	Christa Moen	Fr.	DS	5-4	San Antonio, TX	Oliver Wendell Holmes
14	Janie Alderete*	So.	DS	5-4	Santa Clara, CA	Archbishop Mitty
15	Katie Neff	Fr.	MB	6-4	St. Louis, MO	Cor Jesu Academy
16	Michelle Graham**	Sr.	S	5-8	Austin, TX	Austin

* - denotes monograms earned

Head Coach: Debbie Brown (Arizona State, '82, 10th season at Notre Dame)

Assistant Coaches: Steve Hendricks (Ball State, '90), Lindsay Rosenthal (Notre Dame, '98)

AVCA/USA Today
Top 25 Poll
October 2, 2000

Rk School ('00 record)	Points (1st)
1. Nebraska (13-0)	1488 (49)
2. Hawaii (12-0)	1444 (9)
3. Colorado State (16-1)	1365
4. USC (11-0)	1325 (2)
5. Minnesota (15-0)	1269
6. Pepperdine (11-2)	1179
7. Arizona (12-1)	1145
8. UCLA (10-4)	985
9. Florida (11-3)	974
10. Wisconsin (13-2)	844
11. Ohio State (14-0)	817
12. Penn State (12-4)	787
13. BYU (11-4)	766
14. Pacific (10-3)	753
15. UC Santa Barbara (9-4)	743
16. Utah (11-2)	638
17. Santa Clara (13-1)	575
18. Long Beach State (9-4)	536
19. Michigan State (10-3)	397
20. NOTRE DAME (11-4)	303
21. Stanford (7-6)	258
22. Loyola Marymount (12-3)	216
23. Texas A&M (8-4)	198
24. Texas Tech (15-1)	165
25. Utah State (12-3)	138

Others receiving 30 or more points: Missouri, North Carolina

Italics = 2000 Notre Dame opponents

Volleyball Magazine Poll
October 2, 2000

Rk School	2000 Record
1. USC	11-0
2. Hawaii	12-0
3. Nebraska	13-0
4. Colorado State	16-1
5. Minnesota	15-0
6. Arizona	12-1
7. Pepperdine	11-2
8. Ohio State	14-0
9. Wisconsin	13-2
10. Penn State	12-4
11. BYU	11-4
12. Pacific	10-3
13. Florida	11-3
14. UCLA	10-4
15. Long Beach State	9-4
16. UC Santa Barbara	9-4
17. Utah	11-2
18. Santa Clara	13-1
19. Stanford	7-6
20. Utah State	12-3

Others: Michigan State, Loyola Marymount, North Carolina, Michigan, NOTRE DAME

Italics = 2000 Notre Dame opponents

Team with her solid play.

Girton becomes the second Irish player to earn player of the week honors this season. **Denise Boylan** (Lisle, Ill.) was given the honor on Sept. 4.

Georgetown Recap: Notre Dame improved to 2-0 in the BIG EAST with a solid three-game victory (15-8, 15-6, 15-8) over Georgetown (10-6) at the Joyce Center Saturday, Oct. 1. The Irish controlled the match from the start and improved to 10-1 in the all-time series with the Hoyas.

Notre Dame featured some outstanding ball control and defense to negate the Hoya offensive plan. Georgetown was held to a .071 hitting percentage in the match, while the Irish combined for 14 team blocks. Senior setter **Denise Boylan** helped the Irish hit .275 in the match, as the Irish only committed 18 hitting errors on 138 attempts. Boylan totaled 41 assists, nine digs, four kills and two blocks in the match.

Three Irish hitters benefited from Boylan's steady play. Senior **Christi Girton** had 16 kills while junior **Marcie Bomhack** (Waukesha, Wis.) had 12 kills and classmate **Kristy Kreher** (Birmingham, Mich.) had 11. Bomhack and Kreher also notched double-doubles in the match with 12 and 10 digs, respectively.

Notre Dame's middle blockers also played a large part in the victory. Senior **Jo Jameyson** (Alvin, Texas) and **Malinda Goralski** (Missouri City, Texas) combined for 12 blocks and 13 kills in the match.

The Hoyas were led by Yulia Vtyurina with seven kills and 12 digs.

Villanova Recap: Notre Dame won its BIG EAST opener in three games (15-5, 15-2, 15-9) over Villanova Friday, Sept. 29, at the Joyce Center. The Irish enjoyed a .351 hitting percentage in the match as the whole roster contributed to the victory.

Senior **Christi Girton** led the way with eight kills on 10 attempts while playing game one and portions of game two. Junior **Kristy Kreher** contributed seven kills in the match while freshman **Jessica Kinder** (Fresno, Calif.) had a career-high seven kills as well.

Notre Dame easily controlled the match as setter **Denise Boylan** led the team to hitting percentages of .435 and .640 in the first two games. Freshman **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno, Calif.) finished off the setting duties in the final game and totaled 16 assists and five digs.

Junior **Marcie Bomhack** and **Malinda Goralski** had five kills in the match and senior **Adrienne Shimmel** (Mission Viejo, Calif.) had four kills and eight digs. **Shimmel** and **Jessica Kinder** were instrumental in helping the Irish come back from a 6-2 deficit in the third game to seal the match victory.

Head Coach Debbie Brown: Now entering

her 10th season as head coach, **Debbie Brown** has led the Notre Dame volleyball team to victory in nearly 75 percent of its matches, going 239-84 (.739) since she joined the program in 1991. That success came after six years as head coach at Arizona State (1983-88), giving her a 355-167 record over 15 seasons.

Brown has coached teams that have qualified for the NCAA tournament 13 times and have won nine conference championships. The Irish have won four of five regular-season conference titles since they began BIG EAST play in 1995 and also have won four of five BIG EAST tournament titles. An NCAA berth at the end of the 2000 season would give **Brown** her 14th consecutive post-season coaching opportunity.

Milestone: With her 16-kill effort against Georgetown on Oct. 1, senior **Christi Girton** surpassed the 1,000-kill plateau for her career. Girton currently has 1,012 career kills. She becomes the 11th Irish player to surpass 1,000 kills in a career.

Boylan Earns Player of the Week Honors: Senior setter **Denise Boylan** was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week on Monday, Sept. 4, for her performance during the Shamrock Invitational (Sept. 1-3). She led the team to three victories, including a come-from-behind upset over #15 BYU. **Boylan's** statistics over the course of the Shamrock tournament: 136 assists (12.36 apg), 27 digs, 10 blocks, 10 kills and five aces.

Twenty Years in the Making: The Notre Dame volleyball team is celebrating its first 20 years of varsity status this season. One of the university's first varsity sports for women founded in 1980, the volleyball program is one of the most successful in school history. Of the 595 matches the Irish have played, they have been victorious in 415 of them for an impressive .700 winning percentage.

Preseason Honors: Notre Dame senior setter **Denise Boylan** was chosen as the BIG EAST preseason player of the year on Aug. 8. Boylan earned first-team all-BIG EAST honors in 1999 after leading the Irish with 1,132 assists and 35 aces. Her career marks of 3,291 assists and 11.84 assist per game average are both second in school history.

Boylan was joined on the preseason all-BIG EAST team by fellow senior **Christi Girton**. **Girton** had previously earned second team all-BIG EAST accolades after the 1998 and 1999 seasons. She led the team in kills (333) and digs (201) last season and ranks 10th on the career hitting percentage list with a .254 mark.

Top Hitters Return: Even after the loss of Mary Leffers, the top career percentage hitter in school history, Notre Dame boasts two of its top all-time ball strikers on its 2000 roster.

Kristy Kreher put together one of the best

Probable Notre Dame Starters

Setter

Denise Boylan, Sr. 6-1 (Lisle, Ill.)

Outside Hitters

Marcie Bomhack, Jr., 6-0
(Waukesha, Wis.)

Christi Girton, Sr., 6-3
(Muncie, Ind.)

Opposite

Kristy Kreher, Jr., 6-1
(Birmingham, Mich.)

Middle Blockers

Jo Jameyson, Sr., 6-1
(Alvin, Texas)

Malinda Goralski, Jr., 6-1
(Missouri City, Texas)

Defensive Specialists

Janie Alderete, So., 5-4
(Santa Clara, Calif.)

Keara Coughlin, So., 5-7
(Chicago, Ill.)

Notre Dame Sports Information

Publicity for Notre Dame volleyball is coordinated by sports information assistant Alan Wasielewski. Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available to the media by contacting Wasielewski at (219) 631-3397. Requests to interview student-athletes should be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Media may contact head coach Debbie Brown directly on weekdays at (219) 631-6307. Credentials for home games can be obtained by calling Wasielewski.

Come Join the Fun at the Joyce Center

The Notre Dame Promotions Department is supporting a number of new and exciting promotional events at the Notre Dame volleyball games in 2000.

The Irish will play host to Beach Volleyball Night on Friday, Oct. 20, when Notre Dame meets conference foe Rutgers. Fans are encouraged to dress for the beach and be ready to party. The first 250 fans will receive a free sun visor.

There will also be a Dad-Daughter Day when the Irish meet Seton Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22. Daughters 16-and-under receive free admission when accompanied by their father to the match. There will be a series of giveaways throughout the afternoon.

hitting percentage seasons ever in 1999, recording 272 kills on 592 attempts with only 85 errors (.316 percentage). **Kreher** has moved up the career charts as well, ranking second in hitting percentage with a .294 mark entering the 2000 season. In 15 matches this season, she has a .310 percentage (190 kills, 65 errors on 403 attempts).

Senior **Christi Girton** also had an impressive 1999 season with 333 kills and just 111 errors for a .302 mark, which is tied for the 10th-best season mark in Irish history. **Girton** boasts a .256 percentage in 2000 (174 kills, 69 errors on 410 attempts).

Home Court Advantage To Be Tested: The Irish continued their traditional success at home in 1999 with a 10-2 Joyce Center record. Notre Dame is 165-64 all-time in the Joyce Center and the Debbie Brown era (1991-current) is even better. Since 1991, Notre Dame has won 113 of 133 home matches for a stellar .849 winning percentage.

These numbers are being challenged in 2000 as the Irish have played #1 Nebraska, #4 Colorado State, #7 UCLA, #15 BYU #17 Michigan State and #22 Loyola Marymount in the first four weeks of the 2000 season. Notre Dame also will play host the 2000 BIG EAST volleyball championship Nov. 18-19.

A Highly-Rated Group of Freshmen: The class of 2004 that features **Kim Fletcher** (St. Louis, Mo.), **Jessica Kinder**, **Kristen Kinder**, **Katie Neff** (St. Louis, Mo.) and **Christa Moen** (San Antonio, Texas) was ranked the ninth-best recruiting class in the nation by *Volleyball Magazine*. **Fletcher** and **Kristen Kinder** were members of *Volleyball Magazine's* "Fab 50" list of the top senior high school volleyball players in the country.

Freshmen Contribute Early in the Season:

The 2000 freshmen class has made some significant contributions in the first seven matches of the year. OH **Jessica Kinder** and MB **Kim Fletcher** have been in and out of the rotation for the Irish in the first three weeks of the season. **Fletcher** has played in 28 of the 51 games this season, scoring 40 kills, 19 digs and 15 blocks. **Jessica Kinder** has come off the bench with an effective jump-serve to score 11 aces and also has 23 kills and 44 digs.

MB **Katie Neff** and S **Kristen Kinder** were in the starting lineup of the third game versus Valparaiso and Villanova. **Kristen Kinder** set the Irish to a .409 hitting percentage in the decisive game against Valparaiso and added three kills. **Neff** had two kills and a block in the game versus the Crusaders. **Kristen Kinder** also saw action in the Florida A&M match, playing two games and totalling four kills, 15 assists, three aces and nine digs.

Freshman DS **Christa Moen** has seen action in 17 games this season, tallying 19 digs.

2000 BIG EAST Standings (Sept. 25)

Standings	'00 Overall	BE
1. Rutgers	13-3	2-0
2. Notre Dame	11-4	2-0
3. St. John's	16-4	1-1
4. Pittsburgh	13-5	1-1
5. Providence	13-6	1-1
6. Syracuse	12-6	1-1
7. Connecticut	10-6	1-1
8. Georgetown	10-6	1-1
9. West Virginia	5-9	1-1
10. Boston College	4-11	1-1
11. Seton Hall	6-10	0-2
12. Villanova	6-11	0-2

2000 Preseason All-BIG EAST Team

Denise Boylan, Notre Dame
Christi Girton, Notre Dame
 Dama Fiume, Syracuse
 Kiran Gill, Georgetown
 Sarah Katinger, Providence
 Yulia Vtyurina, Georgetown

Preseason Player of the Year Denise Boylan, Notre Dame



A Record Number of Home Matches?: The Irish have 17 home matches scheduled in 2000. If Notre Dame qualifies for the BIG EAST tournament (the top four teams in the conference will make up the tournament field) it will have an opportunity to play the most home matches in the program's history. Notre Dame played 18 home matches in 1992 and 1996.

Freshmen Connections: Four of the five Notre Dame freshmen enjoy two different bonds. **Jessica** and **Kristen Kinder** will be the first pair of twins to take the court for the Irish. Classmates **Katie Neff** and **Kim Fletcher** are both from the St. Louis, Mo., area and played on the same club team, the St. Louis Elite.

Neff and **Fletcher** will get a chance to play hometown St. Louis University when the Billikens visit the Joyce Center Nov. 7. The **Kinders**, who call Fresno, Calif., home, will

BIG EAST Weekly Honors

Players of the Week:

Sept. 4:	<i>Denise Boylan, Notre Dame</i>
Sept. 11:	Dana Fiume, Syracuse
Sept. 18:	Dana Fiume, Syracuse Kiran Gill, Georgetown
Sept. 25:	<i>Christi Girton, Notre Dame</i> Dana Fiume, Syracuse
Oct. 2:	<i>Christi Girton, Notre Dame</i> Sarah Katinger, Providence

Notre Dame Statistical Leaders

Kills:	Kristy Kreher	190
	Christi Girton	174
	Malinda Goralski	123
Attack Attempts:	Christi Girton	410
	Kristy Kreher	403
	Marcie Bomhack	362
Hitting Percentage:	Malinda Goralski	.371 (123 kills, 31 errors, 248 att.)
	Kristy Kreher	.310 (190, 65, 403)
	Denise Boylan	.315 (49, 14, 111)
Assists per game:	Denise Boylan	12.58
	Kristen Kinder	7.10
	Kristy Kreher	0.80
Aces:	Marcie Bomhack	14
	Denise Boylan	14
	Janie Alderete	12
Digs:	Marcie Bomhack	126
	Kristy Kreher	120
	Christi Girton	110
Blocks:	Malinda Goralski	56
	Jo Jameyson	38
	Denise Boylan	30

get to return to the west coast when the Irish travel to USC Nov. 24.

California Dreaming: When the Irish travel to Los Angeles, Calif., for their final regular season match up versus USC, a number of players will get a chance to play in their home state. The Golden State is home to four players on the 2000 roster: Senior **Adrienne Shimmel** (Mission Viejo), sophomore **Janie Alderete** (Santa Clara) and freshmen **Jessica** and **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno).

Texas Representation: Texas also boasts four players on the 2000 Irish roster. Seniors **Jo Jameyson** (Alvin) and **Michelle Graham** (Austin), junior **Malinda Goralski** (Missouri City) and freshman **Christa Moen** (San Antonio) will compete with California for state bragging rights in the Irish locker room. Assistant coach **Lindsay Rosenthal** (Austin) also hails from the Lone Star State.

Shimmel Off the Bench: Senior OH **Adrienne Shimmel** has provided the Irish quite a boost off the bench this season. She set career-highs in kills (six), attack attempts (16) and blocks (three) in the Irish victory over Samford.

Shimmel's 16 kills on the season has her poised to eclipse her career total of 17 entering the 2000 campaign.

Toughest Schedule? Notre Dame has faced one of the toughest schedules in the nation this year. According to the AVCA/USA Today Sept. 25, rankings, the Irish have faced two of the top five teams in the nation (#1 Nebraska and #3 Colorado State in the month of September. The Irish will also meet current-#4 USC on Nov. 24, in Los Angeles.

Eight teams in the top 25 appear on the Notre Dame schedule this season. The Irish have knocked off #15 BYU (now ranked 13th) and #22 Loyola Marymount.

Notre Dame In BIG EAST Competition: Since Notre Dame joined the BIG EAST Conference in 1995, it has won four regular-season conference titles in volleyball. Until Georgetown knocked the Irish off in the BIG EAST Tournament in 1999, Notre Dame had compiled a 10-0 record in the BIG EAST Tournament and won four titles. Current Irish OH **Marcie Bomhack** was named MVP of the BIG EAST Tournament in 1998.

Goralski Patrols the Net: The loss of 1999 BIG EAST Player of the Year **Mary Leffers** to graduation has been eased by the steady play of junior **Malinda Goralski**. Through 15 matches in 2000, Goralski has nearly surpassed her career totals over the last two years:

1998-99:	Kills	Blocks	Hitting Percentage	Games Played
	110	77	.271	91

2000:

Kills	Blocks	Hitting Percentage	Games Played
123	56	.371	48

The Missouri, Texas native had a career-high 15 kills in the five-game loss to #16 Michigan State on September 10. She matched that number of kills in the Irish upset of #22 Loyola Marymount.

Goralski, who leads the BIG EAST in hitting percentage with a .371 mark, followed her performance against LMU with a 10-kill match against Wyoming. She totaled those 10 kills on 12 attempts without committing an error for an amazing .833 hitting percentage. She also leads the team in blocks this season with 56.

AVCA Poll History: Since **Debbie Brown** took over the program in 1991, Notre Dame has made numerous appearances in the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) poll. Notre Dame's first ranking came in the preseason poll of 1992. Notre Dame's highest ranking was seventh on Oct. 10, 1995, after an Irish eight-match win streak. The highest final ranking was 12th in 1994, when the Irish advanced to the final 16 teams in the NCAA tournament. Notre Dame is currently ranked 20th in the poll, the highest the Irish have climbed since they placed 16th in the 1998 preseason poll.

2000 BIG EAST Tournament: The 2000 BIG EAST Volleyball Tournament will be played at the Joyce Center for the first time since 1995. The semifinals are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18, with the championship to be played on Sunday, Nov. 19. The Irish boast a .909 winning percentage (10-1) in tournament play since they joined the league in 1995 and have captured four tournament titles.

Dominance: In the past decade, only three BIG EAST schools have claimed the volleyball tournament crown. Pittsburgh dominated the late '80s and early '90s with seven straight titles, while Notre Dame won the next four, led by tournament MVPs **Angie Harris** ('95), **Lindsay Treadwell** ('96), **Jaimie Lee** ('97) and **Marcie Bomhack** ('98). Providence ('83, '85, '87) and Georgetown ('99) are the only other schools to have won a BIG EAST championship.

New Format: The BIG EAST Conference has a new four-team format after experimenting with an expanded three-day, six-team field in 1999. The tournament will include the top four teams according to the final regular-season standings.

The semi-finals are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18 at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. The championship match is slated for 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19.

BIG EAST Team Leaders (All games as of Oct. 2)

Hitting Percentage:

Team	Games	
<i>Notre Dame</i>	51	.260
Rutgers	52	.247
Pittsburgh	61	.242
St. John's	71	.233
Syracuse	67	.225

Assists:

<i>Notre Dame</i>	51	14.51
Connecticut	54	14.44
Georgetown	56	13.89
Providence	68	13.24
Pittsburgh	61	13.13

Blocks:

Rutgers	52	2.78
Syracuse	67	2.67
Connecticut	54	2.65
<i>Notre Dame</i>	51	2.61
Seton Hall	50	2.58

Opponent Hitting Percentage:

Rutgers	52	.130
St. John's	71	.137
Pittsburgh	61	.160
Providence	68	.163
Connecticut	54	.165

Kills:

Connecticut	54	16.22
<i>Notre Dame</i>	51	16.02
Georgetown	56	15.52
Pittsburgh	61	15.49
St. John's	59	14.59

Service Aces:

Georgetown	56	2.36
Syracuse	67	2.27
Rutgers	52	2.06
St. John's	71	1.86
Seton Hall	50	1.82

Digs:

Boston College	64	17.77
Providence	68	17.18
West Virginia	53	16.98
St. John's	71	15.39
Pittsburgh	61	14.84

Notre Dame Bio Updates:

Janie Alderete #14
Sophomore • DS • 5-3 • Santa Clara, Calif.

Has played in 42 of the team's 51 games played in 2000 ... had a career-high 15 digs in the first match of the year vs. Fairfield during the Shamrock Invitational ... had six digs vs. #16 Michigan State in the adidas Invitational ... had a career-best four aces at

Valparaiso in two games ... also had five digs versus the Crusaders ... tallied three aces versus Florida A&M in the Lady Seminole Classic in Tallahassee, Fla. ... named the "Best Defensive Specialist" in the Lady Seminole Classic Tournament ... had nine digs in the Irish win over #22 Loyola Marymount.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
42	64	1.52	12	0.29

Marcie Bombach #6
Junior • OH • 6-0 • Waukesha, Wis.

Starter at outside hitter for the Irish ... has played in 45 of the team's 51 games this season ... had 13 kills, eight digs and three blocks vs. Clemson ... had seven kills and five digs vs. #4 Nebraska ... posted a double-double with 13 kills and 15 digs vs. #16 Michigan State ... tallied five kills on nine attempts with no errors (.556 hitting percentage) at Valparaiso ... had a team-high 11 kills vs. Florida A&M in the first round of the Lady Seminole Classic volleyball tournament in Tallahassee, Fla. ... set a career-mark for aces in a match with five vs. the Rattlerettes ... totaled 13 kills at Florida State ... was named to the Lady Seminole Classic all-tournament team ... notched a double-double vs. Loyola Marymount with 13 kills and 25 digs ... the 25 digs is a career-best total ... also had six blocks against the Lions ... had six kills and five digs vs. #4 Colorado State ... had 10 digs, five kills and four blocks vs. Villanova ... notched a double-double with 12 kills and a team-high 12 digs against Georgetown.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
45	126	2.80	14	0.31
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
28	120	2.67	.204	11

Denise Boylan #2
Senior • S • 6-1 • Lisle, Ill.

BIG EAST Preseason Player of the Year ... Notre Dame team co-captain and starting setter ... has played in 45 of the team's 51 games this season ... has played a large part in the Irish hitting .260 as a team ... had 37 assists, 10 digs, three blocks and two aces in the first match of the year vs. Fairfield during the Shamrock Invitational ... tallied 50 assists, 10 digs and three blocks in the Irish upset of 15th-ranked BYU ... set Notre Dame to a .421 hitting percentage in the fifth game of the BYU match ... helped the Irish post a .408 (season-high) hitting percentage in the Clemson match ... named the 2000 Shamrock Invitational Most Valuable Player ... named BIG EAST Player of the Week on Sept. 4, for her performance over the course of the Shamrock Invitational ... had a season-high 11 digs versus #4 Nebraska ... tallied six kills, 66 assists, six digs, three blocks and two aces vs. #16 Michigan State ... named to the adidas Invitational all-tournament team ... had 51

assists, nine digs and three blocks at Florida State ... named to the Lady Seminole Classic all-tournament team, the third all-tournament selection on the year ... set the Notre Dame record for assists in a four-game match with 84 against #22 Loyola Marymount ... combined with freshman setter Kristen Kinder to lead Notre Dame to a .400 hitting percentage in the match against Wyoming ... totaled 41 assists, nine digs, four kills and two blocks vs. Georgetown.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Assists	Assists/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
45	566	12.58	14	0.31
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Digs
30	49	1.09	.315	86

Keara Coughlin #11
Sophomore • DS • 5-8 • Chicago, Ill.

Has played in 43 of the team's 51 games in 2000 ... one of the team's best defensive specialists ... had three digs and two aces in the first match of the year vs. Fairfield ... tallied a eight digs against #3 UCLA ... notched seven digs and an ace vs. #16 Michigan State ... totaled six digs, two kills and two aces vs. Florida A&M ... had six digs at Florida State ... had a season-high nine digs to along with two aces vs. #22 Loyola Marymount ... tallied seven digs against #4 Colorado State.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
43	64	1.49	10	0.23

Kim Fletcher #10
Freshman • MB • 6-0 • St. Louis, Mo.

Used to spell both Malinda Goralski and Jo Jameyson off the bench ... provides a spark with some powerful and accurate hitting ... recorded her first career kill and block in the Fairfield match ... had three kills and a block in the upset of #15 BYU ... had two kills, four blocks and three kills vs. Clemson ... notched three kills, four digs and two blocks against #3 UCLA ... totaled five kills and four blocks against #16 Michigan State ... posted a career-high seven kills against Samford ... had six kills and two blocks vs. Wyoming ... has scored a kill in 13 of 14 career matches.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
28	19	0.68	3	0.11
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
15	40	1.43	.240	4

Christi Girton #7
Senior • OH • 6-3 • Muncie, Ind.

Preseason all-BIG EAST team member ... starter at outside hitter for the Irish ... has played in 41 of the team's 45 games this season ... posted double-digit

kills in nine of the 15 Irish matches this season ...second on the team in kills with 174 ... began the season vs. Fairfield with 14 kills, eight digs and four blocks ... had 18 kills and eight digs in the Irish upset of #15 BYU ... scored six kills and two blocks in the deciding fifth game of the BYU match ... named to the 2000 Shamrock Invitational all-tournament team ... had a double-double with 19 kills and 16 digs against #16 Michigan State ... added five blocks against the Spartans ... one of four Irish players with double-digit kills (10) at Florida State ... had a career-high 23 kills vs. #22 Loyola Marymount ... also had 17 digs vs. the Lions ... had 10 kills in two games vs. Wyoming ... tallied a double-double against #4 Colorado State with 16 kills and 12 digs ... named to the 2000 Golden Dome Invitational all-tournament team ... named Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week on Sept. 25, for her performance vs. LMU, Wyoming and Colorado State ... had eight kills on 10 attempts with one error (.700) vs. Villanova ... notched a team-high 16 kills with nine digs and four blocks vs. Georgetown ... named Co-BIG EAST Player of the Week on Oct. 2, for her performance vs. Villanova and Georgetown.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
46	110	2.39	8	0.17
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
27	174	3.78	.256	12

Malinda Goralski #3

Junior • MB • 6-1 • Missouri City, Texas

Starter for the Irish at middle blocker ... has improved each week of the season and leads the team in hitting percentage with a .371 mark ... has played the most games of any player on the Irish roster this season (48) ... also leads the team in blocks with 56 ... had a career-high ten digs in the first match of the year vs. Fairfield ... notched seven blocks in the Irish upset of #15 BYU ... posted a career-high 15 kills vs. #16 Michigan State ... had eight kills and four blocks at Valparaiso ... notched 10 kills and six blocks at Florida State ... named to the Lady Seminole Classic all-tournament team ... tied her career-high with 15 kills against #22 Loyola Marymount ... had 10 kills on 12 attempts with no errors vs. Wyoming ... also had seven blocks against the Cowgirls ... had nine kills vs. #4 Colorado State ... named to the 2000 Golden Dome Invitational all-tournament team ... added nine kills and six blocks vs. Georgetown ... her kill and block production in 2000 surpasses her previous two years combined.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Blocks	Blocks/Game	Assists	Assists/Game
48	56	1.17	6	0.13
Aces	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Solo Blocks
0	123	2.56	.371	9

Michelle Graham #16

Senior • DS/S • 5-8 • Austin, Texas

Backup setter who has been used as a defensive specialist this season ... has played in six games ... has three assists and two aces in 2000.

Jo Jameyson #9

Senior • MB/OPP • 6-1 • Alvin, Texas

Provides depth behind Malinda Goralski at MB and is also used at opposite ... second on the team in blocks with 38 ... notched six kills and four blocks in the first match of the year vs. Fairfield ... had five blocks against Clemson ... posted six kills and three digs against #4 Nebraska ... tallied five kills and four blocks versus #16 Michigan State ... had season highs with 11 kills and seven blocks against #22 Loyola Marymount ... totaled four blocks vs. Villanova and followed up with six against Georgetown.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Blocks	Blocks/Game	Assists	Assists/Game
38	38	1.00	6	0.16
Aces	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Solo Blocks
0	55	1.45	.232	3

Jessica Kinder #5

Freshman • OH • 5-10 • Fresno, Calif.

One of five talented freshman on the roster that have received significant playing time ... has played in 35 of the team's 51 games this season ... possesses a powerful jump-serve that head coach Debbie Brown uses as a weapon off the bench ... fourth on the team in aces with 11 ... has scored an ace in 50% of the matches she has appeared in (7 of 14) ... recorded her first career kill on her first attempt in the Fairfield match ... gave the Irish a huge spark off the bench in the upset of #15 BYU with two kills, three aces, a career-high eight digs and a block ... had three aces, three digs and a block against #4 Nebraska ... had a career-high four kills vs. #3 UCLA ... posted three kills, three digs and two aces vs. Samford ... had five digs vs. Wyoming ... notched a career-high seven kills to go along with seven digs vs. Villanova.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
36	44	1.26	11	0.31
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
5	23	0.66	.049	5

Kristen Kinder #8

Freshman • S • 5-9 • Fresno, Calif.

The future for the Irish at the setter position ... has received some playing time behind senior setter Denise Boylan ... has played in nine games this season ... saw her first collegiate action against Clemson and tallied six assists and a dig ... had three kills and five assists in one game at Valparaiso ... posted two kills, 13 assists and five digs vs. Florida A&M ... best

match of the young season came vs. Samford ... posted four kills, 15 assists, three aces and nine digs against the Bulldogs ... totaled a career-high 16 assists vs. Wyoming, including setting the Irish to a .286 hitting percentage in the match ... played in one and a half games vs. Villanova, matching her career-best with 16 assists while adding five digs and two kills.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Assists	Assists/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
9	71	7.10	3	0.30

Kristy Kreber #4

Junior • OPP • 6-1 • Birmingham, Mich.

The top offensive performer for the Irish so far in 2000 ... leads the team in kills (190) ... scored double-digit kills in eight of the team's 15 matches on the year ... in 10 matches this season, she has posted a hitting percentage better than .320, including two matches where she posted a .429 mark ... has three 20-plus kill matches against ranked teams (23 vs. #15 BYU, 21 vs. #16 Michigan State, 32 vs. #22 Loyola Marymount) ... began the season with 11 kills and nine digs vs. Fairfield ... notched first double-double of the season in Notre Dame's upset of #15 BYU (23 kills, 17 digs) ... led the team in kills with 16 vs. Clemson ... had 15 kills and nine digs against #3 UCLA ... had second 20-plus kill match of the vs. #16 Michigan State (21) ... scored 19 kills at Florida State to earn the Lady Seminole Classic Most Valuable Player award ... had a great match vs. #22 Loyola Marymount with 32 kills and 27 digs - both career-high numbers ... the 32 kills also set a school record for the most kills in a four-game match ... had nine kills and nine digs vs. #4 Colorado State ... notched a double-double against Georgetown with 11 kills and 10 digs, while adding five blocks.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
46	120	2.67	9	0.20
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
23	190	4.13	.310	37

Christa Moen #13

Freshman • DS • 5-4 • San Antonio, Texas

Provides quality depth for the Irish at the defensive specialist position ... has played in 17 games this season ... saw her first collegiate action off the bench in the upset of #15 BYU, tallying six digs and an ace ... had four digs and an ace vs. Clemson ... scored her first career kill against Samford.

Katie Neff #15

Freshman • MB • 6-4 • St. Louis, Mo.

Tallest player on the Irish roster ... has seen limited playing time behind Malinda Goralski and Jo Jameyson ... saw her first collegiate action against

Clemson, recording a kill ... had two kills on four attempts and one block at Valparaiso ... posted a kill and a block against Samford ... had career-highs with three kills and three blocks against Wyoming.

Adrienne Shimmel #12
Senior • OH • 5-10 • Mission Viejo, Calif.

Has provided some energy off the bench for the Irish in 2000 ... has played in eight games this season ... first action of the season came vs. Clemson where she scored three kills ... had a career-high six kills against Samford ... also had three blocks vs. the Bulldogs ... notched four kills against Wyoming ... had four kills and a season-high eight digs vs. Villanova.

2000 Statistics

Games played	Digs	Digs/Game	Aces	Aces/Game
8	19	2.11	0	0.00
Blocks	Kills	Kills/Game	Hit. Per.	Assists
4	20	2.22	.148	3