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NOTRE DAME

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

2000-01 Schedule/Results (19-0, 8-0)

November

5	Sun.	Ohio All-Stars (exh.)	W, 91-56
14	Tues.	Finnish Select (exh.)	W, 98-53
17	Fri.	at Valparaiso	W, 71-46
20	Mon.	Arizona	W, 95-65
22	Wed.	at #19 Wisconsin #	W, 83-56
24	Fri.	vs. #6 Georgia # (ESPN)	W, 75-73
27	Mon.	Fordham	W, 89-44

December

3	Sun.	vs. North Caro. % (ESPN2)	W, 78-55
6	Wed.	Villanova *	W, 64-33
9	Sat.	#6 Purdue	W, 72-61
18	Mon.	Western Michigan	W, 84-54
21	Thurs.	at Marquette	W, 75-56
28	Thurs.	at USC	W, 70-61
31	Sun.	Rice	W, 80-40

January

3	Wed.	at Virginia Tech *	W, 75-64
6	Sat.	#9 Rutgers * (BETV)	W, 67-46
9	Tues.	at St. John's *	W, 84-49
13	Sat.	Virginia Tech * (BETV)	W, 75-55
15	Mon.	#1 Connecticut * (ESPN)	W, 92-76
21	Sun.	at Seton Hall *	W, 72-47
24	Wed.	at West Virginia *	W, 87-64
31	Wed.	Providence *	7:00 p.m.

February

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

March

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

* indicates BIG EAST Conference game.

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

% Honda Elite Classic, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

BETV - BIG EAST Television

Bold indicates home game.

All times are local.

Game No. **20**

(#1 AP/#1 ESPN/USA Today) **Notre Dame Fighting Irish (19-0, 8-0)**
vs. **Providence Friars (7-10, 1-6)**

The Date and Time: Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. EST.

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

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

Websites: Notre Dame (www.und.com), Providence (www.friars.com).

TONIGHT'S GAME

The top-ranked Notre Dame women's basketball team plays its first-ever home game as the No. 1 team when the Irish play host to Providence tonight at the Joyce Center. The Irish look to continue their best start ever as they enter the contest with an 19-0 record and 8-0 mark in the BIG EAST. After holding its previous highest-ever ranking of third for six consecutive weeks, Notre Dame climbed to the top rankings on Jan. 22, as the last remaining unbeaten team in the country following wins over Connecticut and Seton Hall. The Irish enter tonight's game after an off weekend following 72-47 win at West Virginia on Wed., Jan. 24.

Tonight's game will mark the eighth meeting between the teams and the first since Feb. 1, 2000, in a series that began in 1995-96 when Notre Dame joined the BIG EAST Conference. The Irish have won all seven of the previous games in series, including three games at the Joyce Center.

All five of Notre Dame's usual starters average double-figure scoring, and the Irish are led by three of the best players in the country at their respective positions. Senior All-America center and national player-of-the-year candidate **Ruth Riley** (17.9) leads the BIG EAST in scoring and was the only player in the top 20 of the NCAA statistical rankings for blocks (3rd at 3.00) and field-goal percentage (4th at .663) according to the most recent NCAA statistics. All-America candidate and fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** (13.0) stands 10th in the country in assists (7.32) and has scored or assisted on 42.0 percent of Notre Dame's 547 field goals. Sophomore shooting guard **Alicia Ratay** (14.2) leads the nation in three-point shooting (46-77, .597).

A large part of Notre Dame's success this season also is due to the play of its other two starters, junior **Ericka Haney** and senior **Kelley Siemon**, although Siemon sat out the Seton Hall and West Virginia games nursing her injured left hand. Haney (11.8) has posted game-high point totals with 17 points in two of the last four games (Va. Tech and Seton Hall). Siemon (10.5) stands second on the team in rebounding (6.9) and third in the BIG EAST in defensive rebounds. Playing with a broken left hand, Siemon scored 15 points and had eight rebounds vs. Connecticut.

The Irish enter the Providence game ranked No. 1 for the second consecutive week with a 19-0 record --

LAST IRISH GAME

Notre Dame 87, West Virginia 64
January 24, 2001
WVU Coliseum, Morgantown, WV

Notre Dame (87)

Player	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Haney	20	3-6	1-1	1-2	2	1	0	8
Leahy	23	2-6	0-0	0-0	5	0	0	4
Riley	31	11-14	0-0	6-8	6	2	3	28
Ratay	32	8-13	2-4	6-6	8	4	1	24
Ivey	29	4-11	2-6	0-0	6	9	2	10
Joyce	22	1-8	1-6	3-4	3	1	0	6
Dunbar	11	0-1	0-0	1-2	2	0	2	1
Severe	10	0-3	0-0	0-0	1	0	3	0
Barksdale	9	1-4	0-0	1-2	5	0	0	3
Hernandez	8	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	2	2	0
Swanson	5	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	3
Team					7		1	
Team	200	31-69	7-18	18-24	46	19	14	87

West Virginia (64)

Player	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Thomas	21	2-4	0-0	1-6	3	0	3	5
Batch	17	2-6	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	4
Horvath	29	1-5	0-1	0-0	9	1	1	2
Kudryavtseva	40	6-12	3-7	6-7	3	8	4	21
Bulger	39	7-19	1-6	3-5	5	2	1	18
Clark	24	5-11	2-5	0-0	1	1	2	12
Carson	12	1-1	0-0	0-0	3	0	1	2
Katanich	10	0-2	0-0	0-0	2	0	4	0
Whitehead	8	0-2	0-0	0-0	3	0	2	0
Team					6			
Total	200	24-62	6-19	10-18	37	13	21	64

Notre Dame 44 43 -- 87
West Virginia 23 41 -- 64

FG Pct: Notre Dame 44.9, West Virginia 38.7. **3-PT FG Pct:** Notre Dame 38.9, West Virginia 31.6. **FT Pct:** Notre Dame 75.0, West Virginia 55.6. **Turnovers:** Notre Dame 15, West Virginia 21. **Blocked Shots:** Notre Dame 6, West Virginia 4. **Steals:** Notre Dame 13, West Virginia 11. **Attendance:** 364

NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES



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ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL

(Jan. 29)

Rk.	Team	Record	Last Wk.
1.	NOTRE DAME (39)	19-0	1
2.	Connecticut *	17-1	2
3.	Tennessee	21-1	3
4.	Duke	20-1	4
5.	Georgia *	16-3	5
6.	Purdue *	18-3	6
7.	Louisiana Tech	17-4	8
8.	Iowa State	16-2	7
9.	Florida	17-2	10
10.	Oklahoma	15-4	12
11.	LSU	14-5	11
12.	Texas Tech	15-3	9
13.	SW Missouri State	14-3	13
14.	Rutgers *	13-5	14
15.	Xavier	17-2	18
16.	Penn State	14-6	19
17.	Clemson	15-5	15
18.	Utah	17-2	21
19.	Vanderbilt	15-5	16
20.	Baylor	15-3	NR
21.	Texas	15-6	17
22.	Oregon	12-5	21
23.	Colorado	14-4	25
24.	Villanova *	14-5	24
25.	Wisconsin *	12-7	NR

ESPN/USA TODAY POLL

(Jan. 29)

Rk.	Team	Record	Last Wk.
1.	NOTRE DAME (39)	19-0	1
2.	Connecticut *	17-1	2
3.	Tennessee (1)	21-1	3
4.	Duke	20-1	4
5.	Georgia *	18-3	5
6.	Purdue *	19-3	6
7.	Iowa State	16-2	7
8.	Louisiana Tech	17-4	9
9.	Texas Tech	15-3	8
10.	LSU	14-5	10
11.	Florida	17-2	11
12.	Oklahoma	15-4	13
13.	SW Missouri State	14-3	12
14.	Rutgers*	13-5	14
15.	Penn State	14-6	15
16.	Xavier	17-2	19
17.	Clemson	15-5	16
18.	Vanderbilt	15-5	17
19.	Utah	17-2	21
20.	Texas	15-6	18
21.	Oregon	12-5	20
22.	Baylor	15-3	NR
23.	Arizona *	14-5	25
24.	North Carolina State	11-8	22
25.	Virginia	14-8	24

* indicates 2000-01 Notre Dame opponents

their first 19-0 start in the history of the program, far surpassing the previous best start of 6-0 from 1998-99 team. The 19-game winning streak currently stands as the longest in the country and is one game short of the school record 20-game winning streak.

With the top field-goal percentage defense (.338) and the fourth-best shooting team in the country (.508), Notre Dame has won its 19 games by an average of 23 points and has outscored its opponents by an average of nearly 17 points in the first half. The Irish have shot better than 50 percent from the field in 11 of 19 games, better than 46 percent in 16 of 19 games and better than 40 percent in all 19 games. Notre Dame's defense has held its opponents to under 40 percent in 16 of 19 games -- including 12 games under 35 percent.

The hot shooting of **Ratay**, strong point guard play of **Ivey** (139 assists, 51 steals) and dominating defensive presence and shooting touch of **Riley** (56 blocks, 127-189 FG, .672) have led the Irish to big early leads. Forwards **Siemon** and **Haney** have given the Irish timely contributions. Notre Dame stands as the only team ranked among the top 10 NCAA leaders in both field-goal percentage and field-goal percentage defense according to the latest NCAA statistics.

Head coach **Muffet McGraw** is in her 14th year at Notre Dame with a 307-115 (.727) record and in her 19th as a collegiate coach with a 395-156 (.717) mark. She has led the Irish to the No. 1 ranking for the first time ever and to five straight NCAA tournament appearances and seven overall. McGraw was named a finalist for the Naismith Women's Basketball and AP coach-of-the-year awards last year.

IRISH LOOK TO MATCH WINNING STREAK

Notre Dame enters tonight's game with a 19-game winning streak, currently the longest active streak in the country. A win over the Friars would match the school-record 20-game winning streak set just last year -- after the previous 15-game mark stood for nine years. The 1999-2000 Irish won 20 consecutive games from Dec. 11-Feb. 26. A win tonight also would mark Notre Dame's third consecutive January (1999, 2000, 2001) without a loss -- a streak that currently stands at 25 and dates back to Jan. 31, 1998. **With a win tonight, the Irish would become the first team since both Stanford and Connecticut (1995-96 and 1996-97) and just the seventh in NCAA history to string together consecutive seasons with a pair of winning streaks of at least 20 games.**

NOTRE DAME-PROVIDENCE SERIES

Tonight's game marks the eighth meeting between the teams since the first matchup on Jan. 14, 1996 in the first season for the Irish in the BIG EAST. Notre Dame has won all seven of the meetings, including all three matchups at the Joyce Center, although the Friars are making their first visit since Jan. 1, 1999. **Ruth Riley** has turned into one of the top three single-game scoring performances in Irish history vs. the Friars. She scored 36 points vs. Providence on Jan. 10, 1999, and then set the Irish record most points in a game with 41 points just three weeks later on Jan. 30, 1999.

NOTRE DAME AT NO. 1

The Irish 92-76 win over previously top-ranked and undefeated Connecticut on Jan. 15, left Notre Dame as the only unbeaten team in the country -- positioning the Irish for their ascension to the No. 1 ranking in the Jan. 22 polls for the first time in the 24-year history of Notre Dame women's basketball. The Irish had been ranked third for six consecutive weeks, the highest-ever ranking for Notre Dame before taking over the top spot.

• Notre Dame becomes the 19th school to hold the No. 1 ranking in the 25-year history of the AP poll. Connecticut fell one spot to second, marking the first time in seven seasons one conference has held the top two spots.

LAST IRISH GAME VS. PROVIDENCE

Notre Dame 90, West Virginia 60
February 1, 2000
Alumni Hall, Providence, RI

Notre Dame (90)

Player	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Ratay	24	6-9	1-4	3-4	3	2	3	16
Henderson	17	1-6	0-0	1-2	6	2	1	3
Riley	11	4-6	0-0	0-0	1	0	3	8
Green	23	4-6	0-0	8-9	9	4	2	16
Ivey	24	1-5	0-2	2-2	2	7	2	4
Haney	21	3-4	0-0	3-4	6	0	4	9
Swanson	6	0-2	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	0
Hernandez	13	0-3	0-0	2-4	0	2	2	2
Barksdale	12	3-4	0-0	1-3	2	0	4	7
Dunbar	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Leahy	13	0-2	0-0	2-2	4	1	1	2
Siemon	28	10-12	0-0	3-6	7	3	0	23
Team	200	32-59	1-7	25-36	42	21	22	90

Providence (60)

Player	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Hinds	35	5-11	0-3	0-0	4	4	2	10
Gomboltz	25	0-7	0-2	0-0	3	2	4	0
Roberts	27	4-12	2-4	3-3	5	0	1	13
Vozab	28	1-4	0-0	3-5	1	3	3	5
Thomas	25	3-8	0-1	4-6	2	2	2	10
Shoop	15	0-4	0-0	5-6	1	0	3	5
Hawley-Stewart	16	2-4	0-2	5-6	6	0	4	9
Trippany	19	4-11	0-0	0-1	6	1	3	8
Williams	10	0-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	0	0
Team	200	19-63	2-12	20-27	37	13	23	60

Notre Dame	56	34	--	90
Providence	31	29	--	60

FG Pct: Notre Dame 54.2, Providence 30.2. 3-PT FG Pct: Notre Dame 14.3, Providence 16.7. FT Pct: Notre Dame 69.4, Providence 74.1. Turnovers: Notre Dame 20, Providence 25. Blocked Shots: Notre Dame 11 (Barksdale 7), Providence 1. Steals: Notre Dame 15 (Ivey 4), Providence 9. Attendance: 313

NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Other	Notes
44	Meaghan Leahy	F	6-4	Sr.	4.3	3.5	11 steals	Has started last two games for injured Kelley Siemon
3	Ericka Haney	G/F	6-1	Jr.	11.8	4.9	47.6 FG%	Game-high 17 points vs. Seton Hall (7-11 FG)
00	Ruth Riley	C	6-5	Sr.	17.9	7.0	67.2 FG%	Has missed just 25 shots in last 9 games vs. 71 FGs
22	Alicia Ratay	SG	5-11	So.	14.2	4.6	59.7 3PT%	Has made 46 of 77 three-pointers to lead nation in %
33	Niele Ivey	PG	5-8	Sr.	13.0	4.5	52.9 3PT%	Among the nation's top point guards with 7.32 APG

NOTRE DAME OFF THE BENCH

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Other	Notes
4	Le'Tania Severe	G	5-9	Fr.	1.4	1.9	9 GP	Sprained knee vs. St. John's, DNP vs. Va. Tech, Conn.
5	Jeneka Joyce	G	5-9	Fr.	4.9	1.3	10 3PT FG	Returned from injury vs. SJU to play 16 min vs. Conn.
11	Karen Swanson	G	5-7	So.	1.1	0.6	68 minutes	Walk-on has played in 14 of 19 games
23	Monique Hernandez	G	5-9	So.	3.2	1.3	10 assists	Provided spark vs. SHU with career-high 10 pts. (5-6)
31	Amanda Barksdale	F	6-3	So.	1.2	1.6	35 blocks	Second in BIG EAST, 14th in NCAA in blocks/gm (1.94)
41	Imani Dunbar	G	5-7	Sr.	1.3	0.9	19 assists	Has provided solid backup minutes (8.7) at point guard
50	Kelley Siemon	F	6-2	Sr.	10.5	6.9	53.4 FG%	Missed SHU and WV games nursing broken left hand

- The Irish women's basketball team becomes the second Notre Dame team to hold the No. 1 ranking in 2000-01. The Irish women's soccer squad took over the No. 1 ranking on Sept. 18, and held the top spot for 11 weeks, finishing the regular season unbeaten and ranked first with a 20-0-1 record.

- The BIG EAST Conference becomes just the third conference -- joining the Atlantic Coast and South-eastern Conferences -- to boast a pair of No. 1 teams in the same season. Two top-ranked conference teams in the same year had happened in just four previous seasons with Auburn and Tennessee in both '87-88 and '88-89, Maryland and Virginia in '91-92 and Tennessee and Vanderbilt in '92-93. Tennessee and Vanderbilt were ranked first and second, respectively, on Nov. 16, 1993, the last time two conference teams were one-two in the AP poll.

- In addition to the Irish and Huskies holding the top two spots in women's basketball, Georgetown and St. John's were the first BIG EAST men's basketball teams to be ranked first and second. Fifteen years ago both were ranked first during the season and spent a large part of the 1984-85 season holding the top two spots in the polls.

- As has been tradition at Notre Dame since 1974, an eight-foot lighted numeral #1 sign -- designed to be lit anytime an Irish team is ranked first -- has been illuminated atop Grace Hall, a former men's residence hall.

- While the "#1" on the roof of Grace Hall represents an established tradition at Notre Dame, a new one started at the Joyce Center on Jan. 24. A five-by-seven-foot blue flag with a gold number sign and numeral one went up the far south flagpole in front of the Joyce Center at noon on Jan. 24 -- Notre Dame first game as the No. 1 women's basketball team. It flies just below a similar blue flag with the interlocking gold ND on it. The "#1" flag will be flown any time a Notre Dame varsity athletic team is ranked number one in the country.

THE RUTH IS ON FIRE...

Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** turned in a season-high 29 points and had 12 rebounds to pace the Irish in their win over Connecticut -- the fourth of five 20-point performance in seven games. She also had 28 points vs. West Virginia, 23 points against St. John's, 22 points vs. Rutgers and 27 points at Virginia Tech (Jan. 3). The BIG EAST's second leading scorer has averaged 22.3 points in Notre Dame's last seven victories and was selected as the BIG EAST player of the week for the third time in four weeks on Jan. 22. **Riley is the only BIG EAST player ranked among the top 10 in both conference scoring and rebounding.**

...WITH IVEY PROVIDING THE SPARK

All-America candidate and fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** has had a hand in nearly half of Notre Dame's 547 field goals this season. She stands third on the team with 91 field goals (but fourth in attempts at 171) and has assisted on 139 field goals (10th in the NCAA at 7.2 assists/game) to

IRISH UNDER McGRAW

Yr.	Record	Pct.	Honors
'87-88	20-8	.714	No. Star Coach of the Yr.
'88-89	21-11	.656	MCC Champions, NWIT
'89-90	23-6	.793	MCC Champions
'90-91	23-9	.719	MCC Champions
'91-92	14-17	.451	NCAAs, MCC Champions
'92-93	15-12	.555	
'93-94	22-7	.786	NCAAs, MCC Champions
'94-95	21-10	.677	NWIT
'95-96	23-8	.742	NCAA Second Round
'96-97	31-7	.816	NCAA Final Four
'97-98	22-10	.688	NCAA Regional Semis
'98-99	26-5	.839	NCAA Second Round
'99-00	27-5	.844	NCAA Regional Semis
'00-01	19-0	1.000	Coaches Vs. Cancer Champions
Total	307-115	.727	7 NCAA Appearances

BIG EAST Conference (five-plus seasons, '96-'00)
82-14 (.854)

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

KEVIN WHITE RADIO SHOW



A weekly half-hour talk show featuring first-year Notre Dame athletics director Kevin White debuted Aug. 27 on Chicago's ESPN Radio 1000. "The Kevin White Show" is scheduled to air from 11:00-11:30 p.m. for 30 consecutive Sundays on

ESPN radio (1000 AM in Chicago, www.espnradio1000.com). The show also can be heard in 35 states. White will welcome to the show a series of guests and prominent figures associated with college athletics, including administrators, coaches and media members. **Niele Ivey and Ruth Riley were guests on the Sun., Jan. 14 show -- the first Irish student-athletes invited to serve as guests.**



IRISH CAREER RECORDS

Scoring

1. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	2,322
2. Katryna Gaiher (1993-97)	2,126
3. Ruth Riley (1997-)	1,740
4. Karen Robinson (1987-91)	1,590
5. Trena Keys (1982-86)	1,589
6. Sandy Botham (1984-88)	1,460
7. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	1,439
8. Shari Matvey (1979-83)	1,373
9. Margaret Nowlin (1988-92)	1,298
10. Niele Ivey (1996-)	1,243

Field-Goal Percentage *Min. 400 attempts*

1. Ruth Riley (1997-)	.641 (659-1028)
2. Katryna Gaiher (1993-97)	.610
3. Heidi Bunek (1985-89)	.604
4. Sandy Botham (1984-88)	.588
5. Krissi Davis (1987-91)	.579
6. Carrie Bates (1981-85)	.553
7. Shari Matvey (1979-83)	.533
8. Margaret Nowlin (1988-92)	.527
9. Rosanne Bohman (1993-97)	.525
10. Sara Liebscher (1987-91)	.521

Three-Point Field Goals

1. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	249
2. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	231
3. Niele Ivey (1996-)	169
4. Mollie Peirick (1994-98)	128
5. Alicia Ratay (1999-)	119
6. Lisa Kuhns (1985-86, 1987-90)	102
7. Sherri Orlosky (1990-94)	85
8. Coquese Washington (1989-93)	82
9. Kari Hutchinson (1994-98)	36
10. Sherisha Hills (1998-99)	31

Three-Point Field Goals Att.

1. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	650
2. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	628
3. Niele Ivey (1996-)	408
4. Mollie Peirick (1994-98)	342
5. Lisa Kuhns (1985-86, 1987-90)	262
6. Coquese Washington (1989-93)	231
7. Alicia Ratay (1999-)	229
8. Sherri Orlosky (1990-94)	216
9. Sherisha Hills (1998-99)	114
10. Kari Hutchinson (1994-98)	85

Three-Point Field-Goal Pct. *Min. 50 attempts*

1. Alicia Ratay (1999-)	.520 (119-229)
2. Kari Hutchinson (1994-98)	.424
3. Niele Ivey (1996-)	.414 (169-408)
4. Sherri Orlosky (1990-94)	.394
5. Lisa Kuhns (1985-86, 1987-90)	.389
6. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	.383
7. Mollie Peirick (1994-98)	.377
8. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	.368
Sara Liebscher (1987-91)	.368
10. Coquese Washington (1989-93)	.355

account for 230 of the 547 Irish FGs (42.0 percent) this season. Of Ivey's 91 FGs, 36 have been three-point FGs (36-68 for 52.9) as she trails only sophomore teammate **Alicia Ratay** for the best three-point field-goal percentage in the country. She moved into Notre Dame's top-10 career scoring list during the Seton Hall game and currently has 1,243 points. **Ivey is the only Notre Dame player to score over 1,200 points and record over 600 assists. Ivey also has more than 300 steals and 400 rebounds in her Irish career.**

IRISH LEAD NCAA WITH RECORD-SETTING DEFENSIVE PACE

While Notre Dame has boasted one of the country's most potent offensive attacks over the past few seasons, the Irish defense remains on pace to break modern school records for fewest points allowed per game and the lowest opponent field-goal and three-point field-goal percentages. Notre Dame's defense has limited its opponents to 55.0 points per game on 33.8 FG percentage and 25.8 3PT FG percentage, currently better than the modern school records of 55.1 points per game in 1981-82, 35.5 FG percentage in 1999-2000 and 28.4 3PT FG percentage in 1996-97. Only three opponents have shot better than 40.0 percentage vs. the Irish -- Georgia (42.0), Purdue (46.2) and Virginia Tech in the first meeting (41.0).

THE RILEY REPORT

National player-of-the-year candidate **Ruth Riley** has been at her dominating best this season -- making her presence felt on both ends of the court as the only player ranked among the top 20 NCAA leaders in both field-goal percentage and blocked shots. In addition to her offensive efficiency (127-189 FG, 67.2 percentage first in BIG EAST, fourth in NCAA), Riley leads the BIG EAST and is third in the country with 56 blocked shots (2.95/game), while committing just 46 personal fouls (2.42/game). The two-time BIG EAST defensive player of the year is averaging one blocked shot every 9.3 minutes she plays and just one foul every 11.3 minutes of action. **Riley had five blocks vs. St. John's to become just the 19th player in NCAA Division I history to break the 300 blocked-shot milestone. She enters the Providence with 313 blocked shots -- currently 15th best in NCAA history.**

32 AND COUNTING

The Irish extended their home winning streak to a school-record 32 straight wins at the Joyce Center with the victory over Connecticut. The streak currently is the third longest active streak in the country, behind Kent (40) and Texas Tech (38 wins, with the last loss coming to Notre Dame in the 1998 NCAA second round). The Irish have not lost at home in over two years since a loss to top-ranked UConn on Dec. 8, 1998. Notre Dame also has a 45-3 record in BIG EAST games at the Joyce Center, with Connecticut being the only BIG EAST team to beat the Irish at home.

CONFERENCE CALL

Notre Dame raced through its first 12 games, beating opponents from seven major conferences. The Irish have posted wins vs. the ACC (North Carolina), Atlantic 10 (Fordham), Big 10 (Purdue, Wisconsin), Conference USA (Marquette), Pacific-10 (Arizona, USC), SEC (Ga.) and Western Athletic (Rice).

NON-CONFERENCE SUCCESS

Life outside of the BIG EAST Conference has been good to Notre Dame over the past four years. The Irish sport a 45-9 (.833) overall record vs. non-conference teams in the last four-plus seasons and a 36-5 (.878) record in the regular season. The Irish finished the non-conference portion of their 2000-01 schedule with an 11-0 record -- their second unbeaten record vs. their non-conference regular-season opponents in the last three years after an 8-0 mark vs. non-BIG EAST teams during the 1998-99 regular season.

Notre Dame also has a four-year old, 21-game non-conference winning streak at the Joyce Center -- a streak that includes wins over Purdue in 1997 and 2000 and a pair of sixth-ranked teams (UCLA and Duke) and 25th-ranked Illinois in 1998-99. Notre Dame's last non-conference loss at the Joyce Center came over four years ago when 19th-ranked Wisconsin beat the Irish on Dec. 9, 1996.

McGRAW WINS 300TH AT NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame's win over Rice on Dec. 31, marked **Muffet McGraw's** 300th win at Notre Dame in her 14th season as head coach of the Irish. She has a 306-115 (.727) record at Notre Dame and a 394-156 career record (.716). Her 305 wins at Notre Dame equal 65 percent of the total wins in the 23-plus



seasons of varsity Irish women's basketball. McGraw also needs just six victories to reach the 400-win plateau in her 19-plus seasons as a head coach -- and to become the fourth BIG EAST coach and the third this season to reach 400 victories.

RECORD-SETTING DAY

Notre Dame's win over top-ranked Connecticut on Jan. 15, marked a number milestones for the Irish:

- The Irish posted their first win over Connecticut in 12 meetings.
- Notre Dame defeated a top-ranked team for the first time in 10 games, including its first in four games at the Joyce Center.
- The crowd of 11,418 marked the first Joyce Center sellout for a women's basketball game and the largest crowd in school history, surpassing the 8,134 fans at the 1992 Tennessee game.
- The victory extended Notre Dame's winning streak to 17 games -- the longest active streak in the country -- and pushed the home winning streak at the Joyce Center to 32 games -- the third longest active in the country.
- **Ruth Riley** went 13-13 from the free throw line for the best single-game performance in Irish history and the fifth-best in the country this season.
- The 46 free throws Notre Dame attempted tied the school record, while Connecticut's 33 three-point attempts stand as the most ever by an Irish opponent.

IVEY NEARS STEALS RECORD, CLIMBS ASSIST LEADERS

Fifth-year point guard and All-America candidate **Niele Ivey** has herself ready to break current Irish assistant coach **Coquese Washington's** school record for career steals. Ivey enters the Providence game with 305 steals in her career, just two from the record 307 steals by Washington from 1989-93. Ivey (619) recently moved ahead of Washington (554) for fourth place on the Irish career assist list and moved into third place with seven assists vs. Rutgers.

SEEING DOUBLE

Captains **Ruth Riley** (29 points, 12 rebounds) and **Niele Ivey** (14 points, 10 assists) each registered double-doubles vs. Connecticut -- the second game this season the two have had double-doubles in the same contest. Notre Dame has totalled 13 double-doubles in 17 games by six different players. Other double-double performances for the Irish this season include **Ruth Riley** (vs. Villanova, Marquette and St. John's), **Niele Ivey** (vs. Valparaiso, Arizona and Villanova), **Alicia Ratay** (vs. Va. Tech) **Erica Haney** (vs. North Carolina and Rice), **Kelley Siemon** (vs. Ga.) and **Meaghan Leahy** (vs. Fordham).

DOUBLE-DOUBLE FOR DOUBLE "3"

Fifth-year point guard and All-America candidate **Niele Ivey** entered the season with seven career double-doubles (four in '99-'00 and three in '98-'99) and has four in '00-'01. She had a pair of double-doubles in the first two games of the season and a third vs. Villanova. Ivey scored 12 points and had 10 assists and five steals vs. Valparaiso in the season opener and then recorded 11 assists against just one turnover to go along with 14 points against Arizona. She had 11 points, 10 assists, six steals and six rebounds vs. just four turnovers vs. Villanova. Ivey scored 14 points and had her fifth double-figure assist game vs. Connecticut against just five turnovers.

RATAY TOPS NCAA THREE-POINT SHOOTERS

Sophomore **Alicia Ratay** has established herself as the best three-point shooter in the country with her 59.7 three-point shooting percentage -- the highest percentage in the country. **Niele Ivey** had stood second in the country behind Ratay earlier in the season but does not meet the minimum requirements (2.0/game) to be included in the NCAA rankings. Ratay has connected on 46 of her 77 attempts and her 59.7 percentage is higher than Irish opponents are hitting from the field (33.8) and from three-point range (25.8). Ratay had 11 three pointers in the first two games on just 15 attempts, a percentage of .733. In the season opener vs. Valparaiso, Ratay scored 20 points on 7-12 shooting (6-9 3PT) and nailed four three-pointers in a span of 3:47 late in the first half. She was a perfect 4-4 (3-3 3PT) in the first half of the Arizona game before finishing 8-10 FG, 5-6 3PT and 5-5 FT for 26 points. Ratay was 2-3 vs. Georgia, 3-3 vs. Fordham, 2-4 vs. North Carolina, 1-1 vs. Villanova, 5-8 vs. Purdue, 3-3 vs. Western Michigan, 2-3 vs. Marquette, 1-1 vs. USC, 1-3 vs. Virginia Tech, 2-3 vs. Rutgers, 3-7 vs. St. John's, 3-4 vs. Virginia Tech, 2-4 vs. Connecticut, 3-6 vs. Seton Hall and 2-4 vs. West Virginia.

IRISH CAREER RECORDS

Free Throws

1. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	447
2. Ruth Riley (1997-)	422
3. Katryna Gaither (1993-97)	328
4. Karen Robinson (1987-91)	307
5. Danielle Green (1995-00)	283
6. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	282
7. Carey Poor (1992-96)	273
8. Sandy Botham (1984-88)	272
9. Krissi Davis (1987-91)	270
10. Mary Beth Schueth (1981-85)	259

Rebounds

1. Letitia Bowen (1991-95)	999
2. Katryna Gaither (1993-97)	986
3. Ruth Riley (1997-)	859
4. Mary Beth Schueth (1981-85)	853
5. Margaret Nowlin (1988-92)	824
6. Sandy Botham (1984-88)	774
7. Shari Matvey (1979-83)	742
8. Krissi Davis (1987-91)	730
9. Heidi Bunek (1985-89)	644
10. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	622

Assists

1. Mary Gavin (1984-88)	778
2. Mollie Peirick (1994-97)	651
3. Niele Ivey (1996-)	619
4. Karen Robinson (1987-91)	579
5. Coquese Washington (1989-93)	554
6. Jeannine Augustin (1994-97)	387
7. Laura Dougherty (1981-85)	326
8. Sara Liebscher (1987-91)	312
9. Kara Leary (1990-94)	311
10. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	284

Blocked Shots

1. Ruth Riley (1997-)	313
2. Katryna Gaither (1993-97)	141
3. Shari Matvey (1979-83)	133
4. Trena Keys (1982-86)	124
5. Heidi Bunek (1985-89)	93
6. Margaret Nowlin (1988-92)	83
7. Letitia Bowen (1991-95)	76
8. Mary Beth Schueth (1981-85)	68
9. Mollie Peirick (1994-97)	65
10. Diana Braendly (1995-99)	54

Steals

1. Coquese Washington (1989-93)	307
2. Niele Ivey (1996-)	305
3. Mary Gavin (1984-88)	281
4. Karen Robinson (1987-91)	229
5. Krissi Davis (1987-91)	226
6. Katryna Gaither (1993-97)	207
7. Jeannine Augustin (1994-97)	201
8. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	198
9. Mollie Peirick (1994-98)	189
10. Ruth Kaiser (1981-85)	187



**BIG EAST STANDINGS
(JAN. 29)**

Pl.	Team	BIG EAST	Overall
1.	NOTRE DAME	8-0	19-0
2.	Connecticut	7-1	17-1
3.	Rutgers	6-2	13-5
	Seton Hall	6-2	13-6
5.	Villanova	5-3	14-5
6.	Virginia Tech	4-3	13-5
7.	Georgetown	4-4	12-7
8.	Syracuse	3-4	9-8
9.	West Virginia	2-5	4-14
	Miami	2-5	9-9
11.	Boston College	2-6	8-11
	Pittsburgh	2-6	8-11
13.	Providence	1-6	7-10
	St. John's	1-6	6-12

WEEKLY RANKINGS

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

Week	AP	ESPN/USA Today
Preseason	6	5
Nov. 13	6	--
Nov. 20	5	5
Nov. 27	4	4
Dec. 4	4	4
Dec. 11	3	3
Dec. 18	3	3
Dec. 25	3	3
Jan. 1	3	3
Jan. 8	3	3
Jan. 15	3	3
Jan. 22	1	1
Jan. 29	1	1

IRISH VS. TOP 10

Following the victory over top-ranked Connecticut, the Irish improved to 4-0 this season vs. top-10 opponents. Notre Dame has a 9-5 record vs. all top 10 teams (including 5-0 vs. non-conference opponents) since the start of the 1998-99 season. The Irish have won six straight games vs. top-10 non-conference opponents (#6 Purdue on Dec. 9, #6 Georgia on Nov. 24, #9 North Carolina in '99-'00, #6 UCLA and #6 Duke in '98-99, #6 Texas Tech in '97-98) and nine of their last 11 (also beating #8 Alabama, #8 North Carolina State and #6 Iowa in '96-97 and falling to Tennessee twice (ranked second and 10th in '96-97).

IRISH VS. UNRANKED OPPONENTS

In addition to its success vs. top-10 teams, Notre Dame has won 53 consecutive games vs. unranked opponents, including a 24-0 mark last year. The last unranked team to defeat the Irish was Boston College on Dec. 30, 1998 (Notre Dame beat a ranked Eagle team later in the season).

SIEMON CONTINUES STRONG START

Playing with a broken left hand suffered two days earlier vs. Virginia Tech, senior **Kelley Siemon** sparked the Irish in their win over Connecticut by scoring 15 points and grabbing eight rebounds -- her third-highest point total of the season. She had a season-high 21 points vs. Wisconsin -- including 15 in the second half. She continued her strong play with a double-double in the championship game vs. Georgia (13 points and a game-high 11 rebounds). Siemon had her fourth consecutive double-figure scoring vs. Fordham with 14 points. She also had 10 rebounds to go along with seven points vs. Purdue and 16 points against Western Michigan. She sat out the Marquette game -- the first game in her career in which she did not play -- with a knee injury before returning to the starting lineup vs. USC. She currently is averaging 10.5 points and 6.2 rebounds per game -- the seventh-highest rebounding average in the BIG EAST -- but missed the Seton Hall and West Virginia games due to her injured left hand.

HANEY HELPING OUT

While Notre Dame has been led by its three All-America caliber players in **Ruth Riley**, **Niele Ivey** and **Alicia Ratay**, junior forward **Ericka Haney** has proven to play a large role in Notre Dame's successful start to the season. Among the team's most athletic and best defensive players, she enters tonight's game averaging 11.8 points -- markedly higher than her 6.8 average as a sophomore and 6.0 as a freshman. With Notre Dame's other starting forward **Kelley Siemon** out of the Marquette game lineup with an injury, Haney turned in the best offensive performance of her career. She made her first 10 field goals before missing her final two and made one of two free throws to finish with a career-high and game-high 21 points. Against Seton Hall with Siemon out of the lineup again, Haney scored 15 first-half points on her way to a game-high 17 points. Other strong offensive performances for Haney this season include double-doubles vs. Rice (18 points, 12 rebounds) and North Carolina (14 points, 13 rebounds) game-high 17 points vs. Virginia Tech, 16 points vs. sixth-ranked Purdue and 13 points and seven rebounds vs. Connecticut. She has scored in double figures in 13 of the last 16 games.

POLL POSITION

The week of Dec. 3 began with the University of Notre Dame as the only Division I-A institution ranked among the top 10 teams in Associated Press standings in the sports of football, men's basketball and women's basketball. Notre Dame stood 10th in the final regular-season football poll (9-2 record), the first time since 1995 the Irish have finished the regular season ranked in the top 10. The Irish men's basketball team also broke into the top 10 that week for the first time since 1986. The Irish women's basketball team had its highest-ever ranking at fourth in the AP before moving up to third following the win over Purdue. It marked the first time in Irish athletic history all three of those Notre Dame teams have been ranked in the top 10 in the same week.

IVEY NAMED COACHES VS. CANCER MVP, BIG EAST PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** was named the MVP of the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge as she helped the Irish win the event with her strong play. She totaled 41 points on 14-21 shooting (7-9 3PT, 6-6 FT) in 71 minutes of action along with 13 rebounds, 11 assists and eight steals vs. just 10 assists. Ivey recorded game-high scoring vs. both Wisconsin (22) and Georgia (19). She was named BIG EAST player of the week (Nov. 27) for her efforts for the fourth time in her career.



2000-01 BIG EAST WEEKLY AWARDS

Player of the Week

Nov. 20 Rachel Byars, Boston College
 Beth Record, Syracuse

Nov. 27 **Niele Ivey, Notre Dame**

Dec. 4 LaTasha Thompson, St. John's
 Tere Williams, Virginia Tech

Dec. 11 Arminda Morenom Seton Hall
 Tasha Pointer, Rutgers

Dec. 18 Brandi Barnes, Villanova

Dec. 25 Bettina Love, Pittsburgh

Jan. 1 **Ruth Riley, Notre Dame**

Jan. 8 **Ruth Riley, Notre Dame**
 Brandi Barnes, Villanova

Jan. 15 Dalia Clarke, Miami
 Tasha Pointer, Rutgers

Jan. 22 **Ruth Riley, Notre Dame**

Jan. 29 Tere Williams, Virginia Tech

Rookie of the Week

Nov. 20 Jenese Wilcox, Providence

Nov. 27 Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown

Dec. 4 Jenese Wilcox, Providence

Dec. 11 Janelle McManus, Boston College

Dec. 18 Amber Jacobs, Boston College

Dec. 25 Kristin Quinn, Providence

Jan. 1 Courtney Mix, Villanova

Jan. 8 Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown

Jan. 15 Chanivia Broussard, Miami

Jan. 22 Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown

Jan. 29 Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown

HEAD COACH MCGRAW INKS FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT

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

COACHES VS. CANCER RECAP

Seniors **Ruth Riley** and **Niele Ivey** both scored a game-high 19 points and were named to the all-tournament team to the Irish to a 75-73 win over sixth-ranked Georgia in the championship game of the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge on Nov. 24. The Bulldogs erased an early 11-point deficit before taking their first lead four minutes into the second half. Georgia built a six-point lead with 9:29 before Ivey ignited a 11-0 run in a span of 2:21 for a 68-65 Irish lead. The Bulldogs scored six straight to lead 71-70 before **Alicia Ratay** gave Notre Dame a 72-70 lead. After a pair of Ivey free throws and a Georgia basket, **Kelley Siemon** made one of two free throws for the 75-73 final after the Bulldogs missed a desperation three pointer as time expired.

In the first game of the event vs. host Wisconsin, **Ratay** and **Riley** both were held to single-digit scoring in the same game for the first time, and **Ivey** and **Siemon** poured in a combined 43 points. Junior **Ericka Haney** added 14 points to lead fifth-ranked Notre Dame to an 83-56 win. The Irish built a 41-26 halftime lead on the strength of 17 first-half points from Ivey and pulled away from the Badgers with the help of 15 second-half points from Siemon.

RILEY, RATAY NAMED NAISMITH CANDIDATES

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

EVERYBODY'S ALL-AMERICAN

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

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

OTHER IRISH HONORS

In addition to Riley's accolades, senior point guard **Niele Ivey** has been named by Beth Mowins of ESPN.com one of the top five point guards in the country, while Mowins also has rated the Irish backcourt as one of best in the country. Sophomore guard **Alicia Ratay** has been named preseason All-America by *Women's Basketball Journal* as a sixth-team pick. She is one of only three sophomores on the six-team, 30-player list. Freshman **Jeneka Joyce** has been listed as one of the top freshmen according to *Athlon Sports*.



BIG EAST COACHES' PRESEASON POLL

1.	Connecticut (13)	169
2.	Rutgers (1)	152
3.	NOTRE DAME	150
4.	Boston College	129
T5.	Georgetown	100
T5.	Virginia Tech	100
7.	Villanova	94
8.	Pittsburgh	92
9.	Miami	88
10.	Syracuse	53
11.	St. John's	49
12.	Providence	44
13.	Seton Hall	39
14.	West Virginia	15

2000-01 Preseason Player of the Year

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

2000-01 Preseason Rookie of the Year

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

Preseason All-BIG EAST First Team

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

Sue Bird, Connecticut, G, Jr.

Tasha Pointer, Rutgers, G, Sr.

*Shea Ralph, Connecticut, G, Sr.

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

Preseason All-BIG EAST Second Team

Becky Gottstein, Boston College, F, Jr.

Niele Ivey, Notre Dame, G, Sr.

Alicia Ratay, Notre Dame, G, So.

Katie Smrcka-Duffy, Georgetown, G, Sr.

Tammy Sutton-Brown, Rutgers, C, Sr.

* - unanimous selection

NCAA AND BIG EAST LEADERS

Here's where Irish players and the team stand in the latest NCAA national statistics (as of Jan. 16) and BIG EAST statistics in BIG EAST games and all games (as of Jan. 22).

Team Rankings	NCAA	Conference Games	All Games
Scoring Offense	21st at 78.2	2nd at 77.0	2nd at 78.3
Scoring Defense	2nd at 54.9	1st at 54.2	1st at 55.0
Scoring Margin	3rd at +23.2	2nd at +22.8	2nd at +23.3
Free Throw Percentage	11th at .635	8th at .664	
Field Goal Percentage	4th at .510	1st at .516	2nd at .508
Field Goal Percentage Defense ...	1st at .337	1st at .334	1st at .338
Three-Point FG Percentage	1st at .541	1st at .468	1st at .519
Three-Point FG Defense	not kept	2nd at .254	3rd at .258
Rebounding	4th at 40.1	6th at 39.8	
Rebounding Defense	not kept	5th at 34.5	6th at 35.1
Rebounding Margin	4th at +5.6	3rd at +4.7	
Blocked Shots	not kept	1st at 6.88	1st at 6.47
Assists	not kept	2nd at 19.25	2nd at 18.68
Steals	not kept	T7th at 8.25	5th at 9.68
Turnover Margin	not kept	T3rd at 2.00	5th at +2.47
Assist/Turnover Ratio	not kept	2nd at 1.25	3rd at 1.12
Won-Lost Percentage	1st at 1.000		

Individual Rankings

Scoring	Riley, 1st at 21.2	Riley, 1st at 17.9
.....	Ratay, 14th at 13.1	Ratay, 8th at 14.2
.....	Ivey, 13th at 13.0	
Rebounding	Riley, 5th at 7.6	Riley, 6th at 7.0
.....	Siemon, 16th at 6.7	Siemon, 7th at 6.9
Field Goal Percentage	Riley, 4th at .659	Riley, 1st at .733
.....	Riley, 1st at .672	
Assists	Ivey, 10th at 7.2	Ivey, 2nd at 7.75
.....	Ivey, 2nd at 7.32	
Assist/Turnover	Ivey, 2nd at 2.95	Ivey, 5th at 2.07
.....	Riley, T4th at 2.00	
Steals	Ivey, T12th at 2.00	Ivey, 3rd at 2.68
Free-Throw Percentage	Ratay, 3rd at .870	Riley, 6th at .782
.....	Riley, 11th at .759	
Three-Point FG Percentage ...	Ratay, 1st at .612	Ratay, 1st at .597
.....	Ivey, 2nd at .557	
Three-Point FG Made	Ratay, 13th at 3.0	Ratay, T5th at 2.12
.....	Ratay, 2nd at 2.42	
.....	Ivey, 13th at 1.62	Ivey, 9th at 1.89
Blocks	Riley, 3rd at 3.1	Riley, 1st at 3.38
.....	Riley, 1st at 2.95	
.....	Barksdale, 14th at 2.1	Barksdale, T6th at 1.57
.....	Barksdale, 2nd at 2.06	
Defensive Rebounds	not kept	Riley, T4th at 5.38
.....	Riley, 3rd at 5.06	
.....	Ratay, T4th at 5.38	Riley, 5th at 4.89
.....	Siemon, T14th at 4.50	Ratay, 15th at 4.00

In overall games, **Ruth Riley's** 29 points vs. Connecticut stands as the second-highest point total in overall and BIG EAST games, while her 11 field goals vs. both Virginia Tech and St. John's are tied for third in overall and BIG EAST games. Riley's 13-13 free-throw performance vs. Connecticut is tops



**IRISH TACKLE
TOUGH SCHEDULE**

An ESPN nationally-televised home game against defending NCAA and BIG EAST champion Connecticut and nine games against teams from the 2000 NCAA women's basketball championship highlighted the 2000-01 Irish schedule. The 27-game slate features 13 home games and appearances in two national tournaments. In addition to the Jan. 15, contest against Connecticut, the Irish welcomed 2000 Final Four participant Rutgers, 1999 NCAA champion Purdue and Pacific-10 power Arizona to the Joyce Center. Notre Dame traveled to Wisconsin on Nov. 22 and 24, for the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge, defeating the host Badgers in the opening round and NCAA tournament team Georgia in the championship game (televised by ESPN). The Irish played on ESPN2 when they traveled to Orlando to take on North Carolina at Honda Elite Classic.

The 16-game BIG EAST schedule features two games against conference newcomer Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh and Rutgers and one each with Villanova, St. John's, Connecticut, Seton Hall, West Virginia, Providence, Boston College, Syracuse, Miami and Georgetown. First-ever meetings with Fordham and Rice, the first game against USC in 15 years and a trip to Marquette rounded out the schedule against the non-conference opponents -- against whom the Irish finished 12-0.

in overall and BIG EAST games and her 11-13 shooting effort (.846) vs. St. John's marks the best in a BIG EAST game. **Alicia Ratay's** six three pointers vs. Valparaiso in the season opener are tied for the most by a BIG EAST player in a single game this season. Ratay also has the second best three-point shooting game by a BIG EAST player with her 5-6 (.833) vs. Arizona. **Meaghan Leahy's** 12 free throws vs. Fordham are tied for second most in the league. **Niele Ivey's** six steals vs. both North Carolina and Villanova are tied for third most in a single game. **Amanda Barksdale's** six blocks vs. Fordham and **Riley's** six vs. Virginia Tech are the two best blocks games.

As a team, the Irish also shot 62.3 percent (38-61) vs. Arizona for the best shooting game of the season by a BIG EAST team. Their 38 field goals in that game are tied for second most of the season. The Irish shot .750 (6-8) from three-point range vs. Marquette for the best three-point shooting percentage in a game. Notre Dame's 31 assists vs. Arizona are second most in a single game by a BIG EAST team, and its 13 blocks vs. St. John's are the most in a game.

IVEY REACHES 1,000-POINT PLATEAU

Fifth-year PG **Niele Ivey** scored five points in the first four minutes against Valparaiso to surpass the 1,000-point milestone in her career. She joined the list of 16 other Irish players (including **Ruth Riley**) who have scored at least 1,000 points. Ivey scored 15 points in five games as a freshman in 1996-97 before a knee injury ended her season. She then scored 254 points in '97-98, 369 in '98-99 and 358 in '99-'00 to reach 996 points entering the season.

EXCITEMENT, SEASON-TICKET SALES AT ALL-TIME HIGH

Season-ticket sales for the 2000-01 Irish home season have more than doubled from a year ago, going from 940 in 1999-2000 to more than 2,700 for the season. Notre Dame's average home attendance has jumped from a per-game figure of 1,747 in 1996-97 (the year the Irish played in the NCAA Final Four in Cincinnati) to 1,914 in 1997-98, then 2,996 in 1998-99 and finally to a 3,392 total in 1999-2000 to rank 26th nationally. Notre Dame is averaging 5,153 fans through its nine home games this season. Irish women's basketball tickets remain on sale and can be purchased by contacting the Notre Dame ticket office at 219-631-7356. Fans are encourage to purchase single-game tickets in advance to avoid waiting in line on gameday.

NOTRE DAME AMONG RECENT WINS LEADERS

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

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

NOTRE DAME IN OPENERS

Notre Dame improved to 16-8 in its 24 season-opening games and have won their last six openers after the Valparaiso victory. Notre Dame has an 11-3 record under Muffet McGraw in its first games of the season with the only losses coming to third-ranked Penn State in 1991, at Marquette in 1992 and the SHU loss in 1994.

IVEY AMONG BIG EAST ALL-STARS

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

Notre Dame Women's Basketball Biography Updates

31 Amanda Barksdale Center, Sophomore, 6-3, Friendswood, TX (Clearbrook)

Scored four points and blocked four shots in 20 minutes against Arizona ... had a career-high 6 blocks against Fordham to go along with four points ... four blocks in 13 minutes of action vs. St. John's ... second on team and in the BIG EAST and 14th in the country in blocks with 35 on the season ... saw action in every game except one (Purdue) ... averaging 8.0 minutes per game.

Season Highs

4 points vs. Fordham, Arizona, St. John's
5 rebounds vs. West Virginia, 1-24-01
6 blocks vs. Fordham, 11/27/00

Career Highs

8 vs. Georgetown, 1/29/00
8 rebounds vs. Georgetown, 1/29/00
7 blocks vs. Providence, 2/1/00

41 Imani Dunbar Guard, Senior, 5-7, San Angelo, TX (San Angelo Central)

Averaging 8.7 minutes in 18 appearances this year ... played key minutes in second half of win against Purdue game when Niele Ivey went down with cramps ... recorded season highs in playing time (17 minutes) and assists (4) against Fordham ... shot a perfect 4-4 from the free throw line against Rice ... scored career-high six points in 15 minutes against Arizona ... scored first career three-pointer at buzzer vs. Connecticut.

Season Highs

6 points vs. Arizona, 11/20/00
4 rebounds vs. Western Michigan, 12/18/00
4 assists vs. Fordham, 11/27/00

Career Highs

6 points vs. Arizona, 11/20/00
5 rebounds vs. USC, 12/27/99 and West Va., 1/5/00
8 assists vs. USC, 12/27/99

3 Ericka Haney Guard/Forward, Junior, 6-1, Toledo, OH (Central Catholic)

Became the fourth Irish player this season to record a double-double in the game against North Carolina, scoring 14 points and hauling in 13 rebounds ... dished off career-high five assists vs. Georgia coupled with eight points and six rebounds ... scored the first three-pointer of her career less than two minutes into the game against Purdue ... netted 16 points in that contest ... led the Irish in scoring vs. Marquette with a career-high 21 points after making her first 10 field goals and then finishing 10-12 ... scored 16 of her 18 points against Rice in the first half on her way to her second double-double of the season (12 rebounds) ... scored game-high 17 points vs. Virginia Tech and Seton Hall ... has finished in double figures in points in 13 of last 17 games this season ... has started all 19 games this season.

Season Highs

21 points vs. Marquette, 12/21/00
13 rebounds vs. North Carolina, 12/3/00
5 assists vs. Georgia, 11/24/00

Career Highs

21 points vs. Marquette, 12/21/00
14 rebounds vs. North Carolina, 12/4/99
5 assists vs. Georgia, 11/24/00

23 Monique Hernandez Guard, Sophomore, 5-9, Rio Rancho, NM (Cibola)

Played season-high 25 minutes vs. Seton Hall and scored career-high 10 points ... grabbed a career high five rebounds in BIG EAST opener against Villanova ... sparked Irish in 70-61 win at USC with career-high eight points ... played in every game except Fordham and first Virginia Tech game ... played in 15 minutes in back-to-back games vs. St. John's and Virginia Tech ... averaging 3.2 points in 13.5 minutes of playing time.

Season Highs

10 points vs. Seton Hall, 1/21/00
5 rebounds vs. Villanova, 12/6/00
3 assists vs. Western Michigan, 12/18/00

Career Highs

10 points vs. Seton Hall, 1/21/00
5 rebounds vs. Villanova, 12/6/00
3 assists vs. Western Michigan, 12/18/00

33 Niele Ivey Guard, Fifth-Year, 5-8, St. Louis, MO (Cor Jesu)

Became 17th Irish player to score 1,000 career points vs. Valparaiso ... started off season by recording consecutive double-doubles with 12 points and 10 assists vs. Valparaiso and 14 points and a season-high 11 assists vs. Arizona ... was one rebound short of third consecutive double-double against Wisconsin ... led the Irish in scoring vs. Wisconsin with 22 points, shooting 4-4 from three-point range and 4-4 from the free throw line on her way to winning MVP of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic ... third double-double of the season came against Villanova with 11 points and 10 assists to go along with 6 steals ... notched her fourth double-double vs. Connecticut with 14 points and 10 assists ... scored 14 points to complement eight assists and four steals against Fordham ... named BIG EAST player of the week for the fourth time in her career on Nov. 27 ... went 6-6 in the first half against North Carolina ... scored eight points and dished off 10 assists in win vs. Western Michigan ... moved into fourth place on the Irish career assists list with assists vs. Marquette ... had eight assists vs. no turnovers vs. Virginia Tech ... ranks 10th in the NCAA in assists, averaging 7.32 assists per game ... third in BIG EAST in steals with 2.68 per game ... second in nation in three-point accuracy at 52.9 percent, behind teammate Alicia Ratay ... has scored in double figures in all but four games this season (Purdue, Western Michigan, USC, St. John's) ... has dished off 10 or more assists five times this season ... has started all 19 games.

Season Highs

22 points vs. Wisconsin, 11/22/00
9 rebounds vs. Rice, 12/31/00
11 assists vs. Arizona, 11/20/00

Career Highs

25 points vs. UCLA, 11/14/98
9 rebounds vs. Rice, 12/31/00 and Bost. Coll., 2/5/00
13 assists vs. North Carolina, 12/4/99

5 Jeneka Joyce Guard, Freshman, 5-9, Topeka, KS (Washburn Rural)

Started off her career with 11 points in 19 minutes against Valparaiso ... played 57 minutes in first four games of season without a turnover ... missed 10 games before playing five minutes vs. St. John's ... then did not play vs. Virginia Tech in next game ... returned to action to play key role in win over Connecticut with eight points in 16 minutes.

Season and Career Highs

11 points vs. Valparaiso, 11/17/00
3 rebounds vs. Seton Hall, 1/21/01
4 assists vs. Arizona, 11/20/00

44 Meaghan Leahy Forward, Senior, 6-4, Wilbraham, MA (Suffield (CT) Acad.)

Had her first career double-double against Fordham, posting career highs of 16 points and 14 rebounds ... shot 12-14 from the charity stripe in that contest ... earned first start of the season against Western Michigan (Dec. 18), scoring 6 points and grabbing 5 rebounds ... started in place of injured Kelley Siemon vs. Marquette, Seton Hall and West Virginia.

Season Highs

16 points vs. Fordham, 11/27/00
14 rebounds vs. Fordham, 11/27/00
2 assists vs. Marq., 12/21/00 and West. Mich., 12/18/00

Career Highs

16 points vs. Fordham, 11/27/00
14 rebounds vs. Fordham, 11/27/00
4 assists vs. Michigan State, 12/11/99

NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES

22 Alicia Ratay Guard, Sophomore, 5-11, Lake Zurich, IL (Lake Zurich)

Leads the nation in three-point shooting percentage (59.7%) ... made a season-high six three-point field goals season opener (Valparaiso) while leading the Irish in scoring with 20 points ... led scoring attack vs. Arizona with 26 points after shooting 80% from the field and 100% from the free throw line ... went 4-4 from three-point range against Arizona in the first half ... scored with 1:39 left in the game vs. Georgia to put the Irish up for good, followed by a key steal with 1:18 left that sealed the game ... perfect from behind the three-point arch in two games this season (Western Michigan and Fordham) ... led the Irish in scoring against Purdue with 19 points ... last two three-pointers in that game sparked a 14-5 run that put the Irish up by 11 at the end of the game ... spending more time on the court than any teammate, averaging 32.5 minutes per game ... had first double-double of season with game-highs of 17 points and 10 rebounds vs. Virginia Tech (Jan. 13) ... poured in 24 points vs. West Virginia, second-highest point total of season ... leads team with 86.7 free-throw shooting percentage ... led the team in scoring in five of first 10 games ... has started all 19 games.

Season Highs

26 points vs. Arizona, 11/20/00
10 rebounds vs. Virginia Tech, 1/13/01
5 assists vs. three teams

Career Highs

32 points vs. North Carolina, 12/4/99
12 rebounds vs. St. John's, 2/12/00
7 assists vs. Butler, 12/1/99

00 Ruth Riley Center, Senior, 6-5, Macy, IN (North Miami)

Named BIG EAST Player of the Week on Jan. 8 for the second consecutive week after averaging 24.5 points and 6.0 rebounds per game as the Irish went 2-0 on the week ... won weekly honor again on Jan. 21 for third time in four weeks after 29-point, 12-rebound performance vs. Connecticut ... opened the season with 13 points, seven rebounds and five blocks against Valparaiso ... recorded first double-double of the season in BIG EAST opener against Villanova, scoring 14 points and hauling in 10 rebounds in addition to four assists ... scored nine of those points in 11 minutes to open the second half ... scored 15 points, grabbed seven rebounds and blocked five shots in win over sixth-ranked Purdue ... grabbed 10 rebounds and scored 18 points to record her second double-double of the season against Marquette ... perfect from the free throw line against Georgia (7-7), Marquette (6-6), Virginia Tech (5-5) and Rice (4-4) and Connecticut (13-13) ... scored 27 points in 37 minutes against Virginia Tech in first of three straight 20-point games (22 vs. Rutgers, 23 vs. St. John's) ... paced Irish to win over Connecticut with season-highs of 29 points and 12 rebounds ... recorded school-record free-throw performance vs. Huskies by making all 13 attempts ... scored game-high 28 points vs. West Virginia on 11-14 shooting ... only player in BIG EAST to rank in the top ten for scoring (17.9 ppg) and rebounding (7.0 rpg) ... scored in double figures in all but two games this season (Wisconsin and Fordham) ... has started all 19 games this season.

Season Highs

29 points vs. Connecticut, 1/15/01
12 rebounds vs. Connecticut, 1/15/01
4 assists vs. Villanova, 12/6/00, Connecticut, 1/15/01
6 blocks vs. Virginia Tech, 1/3/01

Career Highs

41 points vs. Providence, 1/30/98
18 rebounds vs. Duke, 11/21/98
5 assists vs. Pittsburgh, 1/18/00
8 blocks vs. Duke, 11/21/98

4 Le'Tania Severe Guard, Freshman, 5-9, Ft. Lauderdale, FL (Ft. Lauderdale)

Started the season on the bench after surgery to repair a stress fracture in her right leg ... made her Irish debut against Western Michigan, scoring 2 points and grabbing 3 rebounds in 13 minutes of action ... played in seven games after her return before missing Virginia Tech (Jan. 13) with sprained left knee ... saw season-high 18 minutes of playing time against Marquette ... scored season-high seven points in 16 minutes vs. Rice ... averaging 9.7 minutes per game.

Season and Career Highs

7 points vs. Rice, 12/31/00
3 rebounds vs. three teams
1 assist vs. three teams

50 Kelley Siemon Forward, Senior, 6-2, Edina, MN (Edina)

Scored all six points vs. Valparaiso in a span of 53 seconds ... was second in scoring vs. Wisconsin with 21 points on 7-8 shooting from the field and 7-8 from the free throw line ... had a double-double against Georgia in the Coaches Against Cancer Classic (13 points, 11 rebounds) championship game ... made one of two free throws with 6.1 seconds remaining vs. Georgia to seal the victory ... sat out first game of her 104-game career on Dec. 21 at Marquette due to a sprained knee ... neared her second double-double of the season by one rebound vs. Rutgers (11 points, 9 rebounds) ... played despite broken hand vs. Connecticut and scored 15 points and had eight rebounds and season-high five assists ... sat out Seton Hall and West Virginia games nursing her injured left hand ... started 14 of 15 games.

Season Highs

21 points vs. Wisconsin, 11/22/00
11 rebounds vs. Georgia, 11/24/00
5 assists three times

Career Highs

23 points vs. Providence, 2/1/00
14 rebounds vs. BC, 2/5/00, G. Wash., 3/19/00
6 assists vs. West Virginia, 2/20/99

11 Karen Swanson Guard, Sophomore, 5-7, Westlake, OH (Westlake)

Played a career-high 11 minutes against Fordham ... scored four points in that game coupled with a career-high three rebounds ... has seen action in 14 of 19 games.

Season Highs

5 points vs. Rice, 12/31/00
3 rebounds vs. Fordham, 11/27/00
1 assist vs. Villanova, 12/6/00

Career Highs

5 points vs. Rice, 12/31/00
3 rebounds vs. Fordham, 11/27/00
1 assist vs. Villanova, 12/6/00

