

NOTRE DAME

2008-09 MEN'S BASKETBALL

2008-09 Schedule

OCTOBER

31 BRIAR CLIFF (EXH) 9 p.m.

NOVEMBER

9 STONEHILL COLLEGE (EXH) 2 p.m.

16 USC UPSTATE 7:30 p.m.

21 at Loyola Marymount 10 p.m.

EA Sports Maui Invitational Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii

24 vs. Indiana (ESPN2) 5:30 p.m.

25 Texas (ESPN) 1:30 p.m.

25 St. Joseph's (ESPN2) 7 p.m.

26 Alabama/Chaminade/
North Carolina/Oregon (ESPN/ESPN2/ESPNU) TBA

30 FURMAN 2 p.m.

DECEMBER

The Hartford Hall of Fame Showcase Indianapolis, Ind.

6 vs. Ohio State (ESPNU) 4 p.m.

13 BOSTON UNIVERSITY 7 p.m.

20 DELAWARE STATE 7 p.m.

22 SAVANNAH STATE 7 p.m.

31 at DePaul* (ESPN2) 8 p.m.

JANUARY

3 at St. John's* (ESPNU) 2 p.m.

5 GEORGETOWN* (ESPN) 7 p.m.

10 SETON HALL* (BEN-L) 2 p.m.

12 at Louisville* (ESPN) 7 p.m.

17 at Syracuse* (ESPN) Noon

24 CONNECTICUT* (ESPN) 7 p.m.

26 MARQUETTE* (ESPN) 7 p.m.

31 at Pittsburgh* (ESPN) Noon

FEBRUARY

4 at Cincinnati* (ESPN360) 7:30 p.m.

7 at UCLA (CBS) 1 p.m.

12 LOUISVILLE* (ESPN/ESPN2) 7 p.m.

15 SOUTH FLORIDA* (BEN-L) 2 p.m.

18 at West Virginia* (BEN-L) 7 p.m.

21 at Providence* (BEN-GW) Noon

25 RUTGERS* (ESPNU) 7 p.m.

28 at Connecticut* (CBS) 4 p.m.

MARCH

2 VILLANOVA* (ESPN) 7 p.m.

6 ST. JOHN'S* (BEN-L) 7 p.m.

BIG EAST Championship New York, N.Y.

10-14 TBA TBA

NCAA Championships

19-22 First and Second Rounds (TBA) TBA

26-29 Regionals (TBA) TBA

APRIL

4 NCAA Final Four (Detroit, Mich) TBA

6 NCAA Finals (Detroit, Mich.) TBA

() - indicates Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today



VS.



25-8, 14-4 (07-08)

22-12, 12-7 (07-08)

FRIDAY, OCT. 31, 2008 · 9:00 P.M.

JOYCE CENTER · NOTRE DAME, IND.

TV: None

RADIO: Jack Nolan Nolan (play-by-play analyst)
LaPhonso Ellis (color analyst)

Notre Dame Sports Properties originates the Notre Dame Radio Network which includes: Sirius Satellite WLS 890 AM in Chicago, Ill (Chicago and Midwest); WSBT 960 AM in South Bend, Ind.; XL950 AM in Indianapolis, Ind.; WEFM95.9 FM in Michigan City and Gary, Ind.; WSPM 89.1 FM in Greencastle and Indianapolis, Ind.; ESPN 1480 AM (WRSW) in Warsaw, Ind.; WAMW 107.9 FM/1580 AM in Washington, Ind.; WLUV 1520 AM in Rockford and DeKalb, Ill. and Janesville, Wis.; WVIL 101.3 FM in Jacksonville, Ill.; WDMN 1520 AM in Toledo, Ohio; WSSP 1250 AM in Milwaukee, Wis., and WJLS 560 AM in Beckley, W. Va., Sirius Satellite Radio Channel 159 and www.und.com.

REAL-TIME STATS: Live in-game statistics are available for all home games, via the Notre Dame athletic website (www.und.com).

Notre Dame vs. Briar Cliff

• Notre Dame plays the first of two exhibition games this evening when it plays host to Briar Cliff on Halloween Evening. The Chargers were 22-12 and 12-7 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC). The Irish are coming off a 25-8 campaign (the third most wins in school history) and a 14-4 mark in BIG EAST play as they tied for second in the final regular-season standings. Notre Dame advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament and made its second straight appearance and fifth in the last eight years.

* Notre Dame will play its final tuneup before the start of the 2008-09 campaign when it plays host to Stonehill on November 9 at 2:00 p.m. The regular season begins in earnest one week later on November 16 when the Irish take on USC Upstate.

2007-08 Rewind

• Notre Dame returned to the NCAA tournament for the second consecutive year and fifth time in eight seasons under head coach Mike Brey.



2008-09 BIG EAST Preseason Awards

2008-09 BIG EAST Preseason Player of the Year

Luke Harangody, Notre Dame

2008-09 BIG EAST Preseason Co-Rookies of the Year

Greg Monroe, Georgetown

Samardo Samuels, Louisville

2008-09 Preseason All-BIG EAST Team

*Luke Harangody, Notre Dame (Player of the Year), F, Jr.

Deonta Vaughn, Cincinnati, G, Jr.

A.J. Price, Connecticut, G, Sr.

Hasheem Thabeet, Connecticut, C, Jr.

DaJuan Summers, Georgetown, F, Jr.

Terrence Williams, Louisville, F, Sr.

Jerel McNeal, Marquette, G, Sr.

Kyle McAlarney, Notre Dame, G, Sr.

*Sam Young, Pittsburgh, F, Jr.

Jonny Flynn, Syracuse, G, So.

Scottie Reynolds, Villanova, G, Jr.

* - unanimous selection

2008-09 Preseason BIG EAST Honorable Mention

Jeff Adrien, Connecticut, F, Sr.

Earl Clark, Louisville, G/F, Jr.

Dominic James, Marquette, G, Sr.

The Irish enjoyed its first 25-win campaign under Brey while putting together a banner year in the BIG EAST by finishing with a school record 14 wins en route to a final 14-4 mark. Notre Dame has put together five campaigns of 10 or more wins in BIG EAST regular-season play. The Irish earned a No. 5 in the East Region and defeated No. 12 seed George Washington (68-50) and then lost to No. 4 seed Washington (61-41). Notre Dame closed out the regular season by winning 11 of its final 13 regular-season games. During Brey's tenure, the Irish have posted five 20-win seasons.

Who's Back

- Notre Dame loses just one starter off of last year's team, forward **Rob Kurz**. **Kurz**, a two-time captain, was the third-leading as he averaged 12.5 ppg. and finished as the second-leading rebounder at 7.1 rpg.

- 2008 BIG EAST Player of the Year **Luke Harangody** returns after putting together becoming the surprise player nationally during the 2007-08 campaign. The junior forward was a consensus second team All-American and averaged 20.4 points and 10.6 rebounds in 33 rebounds. He became just the second player in BIG EAST Conference history to lead the conference in both scoring and rebounding as he netted 23.3 points and grabbed 11.3 boards. Selected as the Preseason BIG EAST Player of the Year, he was named a preseason first-team All-American by nearly every publication.

- Senior guard **Kyle McAlarney**, who joined Harangody on the all-BIG EAST first team last season, is one of four returning seniors on the Irish squad. McAlarney was the second-leading scorer as he averaged 15.1 points and set the Notre Dame single-season three-point record with 108. He will return as one of the nation's top three-point threats after shooting 44.1 percent from behind the three-point stripe.

- **Zach Hillesland** became a starter in the Irish lineup 17 games into last season and averaged career bests of 6.1 points and 5.2 rebounds. Classmate **Ryan Ayers** started the first 16 games of the '07-'08 campaign and also averaged personal highs of 7.8 points and 3.2 rebounds.

TONIGHT'S PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP

2007-08 Statistics

No.	Player	Pos	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	PPG.	RPG	Notes
40	Luke Zeller	F/C	6-11	245	Sr.	4.5	2.2	Played in all 33 games and scored in double figures in four contests
42	Ryan Ayers	G	6-7	210	Sr.	7.8	3.2	Played in 33 games and shot 45.1 percent from three-point range
44	Luke Harangody	F	6-8	255	Jr.	20.4	10.6	2008 BIG EAST Player of the Year; 2nd Team Consensus All-American
2	Tory Jackson	G	5-11	193	Jr.	8.0	5.1	Led the BIG EAST Conference in assists (5.8)
23	Kyle McAlarney	G	6-0	195	Sr.	15.1	2.1	'08 First Team All-BIG EAST; set ND single-season three-point record (108)

OFF THE BENCH

2007-08 Statistics

No.	Player	Pos	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	PPG.	RPG	Notes
1	Tyrone Nash	G/F	6-8	228	So.	1.0	1.3	Played in 15 games
5	Tom Kopko	G	6-2	184	So.	1.0	0.4	Second-year walk-on
20	Jonathan Peoples	G	6-3	215	Jr.	3.3	1.6	Played in all 33 games and averaged 11.5 minutes
21	Tim Abromaitis	F	6-8	232	So.	1.7	1.0	Saw action in 12 contests
33	Zach Hillesland	F	6-9	228	Sr.	5.7	4.6	Will miss exhibition game because of plantar fasciitis
34	Carleton Scott	F	6-7	217	So.	--	--	DNP in 2007-08; added 17 pounds since last season
41	Tim Andree	F	6-8	213	Jr.	1.2	0.8	Second-year walk-on; Father Tim played basketball at ND (1979-83)



Along with McAlarney, he will one of the team's top three-point shooters after hitting on a career-best 45.1 percent of his shots a year ago. **Luke Zeller** round out the senior class and can play both inside and along the perimeter. He averaged 4.5 points 2.2 rebounds.

- **Tory Jackson** will team with McAlarney to form one of the nation's top backcourt tandems. Jackson averaged 8.0 points and 5.1 rebounds and led the BIG EAST Conference in assists with 5.8 per game. He also led the Irish in steals with 58 for an average of 1.8 per game. Classmate **Jonathan Peoples** is likely to see improve on his 11.5 minutes of playing time a year ago. Peoples played in all 33 games and averaged 3.3 points.

- Sophomores **Tim Abromaitis**, **Tyrone Nash** and **Carleton Scott** will look for playing time off the bench. Abromaitis played in 12 games and averaged 1.7, while Nash saw action in 15 contests and averaged 1.0 points and 1.3 rebounds. Scott did not play last season, but will contribute at both ends of the floor as a scorer and rebounder.

- Notre Dame led the nation in assists (18.4 per game) and led the BIG EAST in scoring at 79.0 points per game.

Irish Debut At No. In ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll

- Notre Dame is ranked ninth in ESPN/USA Today Preseason Coaches' Poll that was released on October 30. It was the highest pre-season ranking ever for the Irish in the preseason coaches' poll. Prior to this season, it's highest ranking ever was 17th in 2000-01 in the poll which began in 1991-92. The last time the Irish started the season ranked was in preseason coaches poll was in 2004-05 (21st). The BIG EAST led all conference with seven teams ranked in the top 25 — Connecticut (2nd), Louisville (3rd), Pittsburgh (6th), Marquette (17th), Georgetown (18th) and Villanova (25th).

Nine Straight Postseason Appearances

- Notre Dame's appearance in last year's NCAA tournament field marked the fifth NCAA berth for the Irish in seven years. Since 2000, Notre Dame has appeared in either the NCAA or NIT tournaments each of the last nine years — the longest postseason stretch in school history.

Five 20-Win Seasons Under His Belt

- With its 25-8 record last season, Notre Dame reached the 20-win mark for the fifth time in eight seasons and second consecutive year under head coach Mike Brey. Notre Dame's 20-win campaigns under Brey have been in 2000-01 (20-10), 2001-02 (22-11), 2002-03 (24-10) and 24-8 (2006-07). In the 103-year history of the program, Notre Dame teams have won 20 or more games on 32 occasions.

Tough Schedule

- Notre Dame's 2008-09 schedule may rank as the toughest in school history. The Irish are slated to play No. 2 Connecticut and No. 3 Louisville twice during the BIG EAST regular season and will face No. 6 Pittsburgh on the road and No. 17 Marquette, No. 18 Georgetown and No. 25 Villanova at home. The Irish are also slated to take on No. 4 UCLA in Los Angeles in early February. Two other potential top-10 foes Notre Dame could face at the Maui Invitational at No. 1 North Carolina and No. 8 Texas.

BIG EAST Teams Well Represented in 2008-09 Preseason Polls ...

USA Today/ESPN

Coaches' Poll

2. Connecticut
3. Louisville
6. Pittsburgh
- 9. NOTRE DAME**
17. Marquette
18. Georgetown
25. Villanova

Blue Ribbon

2. Pittsburgh
- 3. NOTRE DAME**
5. Connecticut
7. Louisville
18. Marquette
20. Syracuse
22. Villanova

Dick Vitale

2. Louisville
3. Connecticut
- 6. NOTRE DAME**
10. Pittsburgh
12. Marquette
15. Georgetown
16. Villanova
25. Syracuse

CBS Sportsline

2. Louisville
3. Connecticut
- 5. NOTRE DAME**
8. Pittsburgh
14. Marquette
15. Georgetown
16. Villanova

Sporting News

2. Connecticut
3. Louisville
9. Pittsburgh
- 12. NOTRE DAME**
18. Marquette

Lindy's

2. Connecticut
3. Pittsburgh
6. Louisville
- 9. NOTRE DAME**
17. Marquette
19. Villanova
22. Georgetown

Athlon Sports

2. Connecticut
3. Louisville
- 5. NOTRE DAME**
7. Pittsburgh
17. Marquette
21. Georgetown
25. Syracuse

ESPN.com

2. Connecticut
3. Louisville
6. Pittsburgh
- 11. NOTRE DAME**
19. Marquette

Rivals.com

2. Connecticut
3. Pittsburgh
- 5. NOTRE DAME**
8. Louisville
11. Georgetown
17. Villanova
20. Marquette
24. West Virginia

Watch the Irish on UND.com ...

UND.com, the official web site of the University of Notre Dame athletics department, will feature a free broadcast for all Notre Dame non-conference home games during the 2008-09 season. The live streaming feed will feature the official radio play-by-play call from Jack Nolan and LaPhonso Ellis. Here is the list of games that will be carried by und.com ...

Oct. 31	Briar Cliff (exhibition)	9:00 p.m. (ET)
Nov. 9	Stonehill (exhibition)	2:00 p.m. (ET)
Nov. 16	USC Upstate	7:30 p.m. (ET)
Nov. 30	Furman	2:00 p.m. (ET)
Dec. 2	South Dakota	7:30 p.m. (ET)
Dec. 13	Boston University	7:00 p.m. (ET)
Dec. 20	Delaware State	7:00 p.m. (ET)
Dec. 22	Savannah State	7:00 p.m. (ET)

2008-09 BIG EAST Preseason Coaches' Poll

	Pts.
1. Connecticut (9)	214
2. Louisville (3)	105
3. Pittsburgh (3)	200
4. Notre Dame (1)	195
5. Villanova	153
6. Marquette	146
7. Georgetown	141
8. Syracuse	139
9. West Virginia	121
10. Providence	99
11. Cincinnati	91
12. Rutgers	53
13. Seton Hall	50
14. St. John's	44
15. DePaul	43
16. South Florida	26

BIG EAST Turnaround

• Under head coach Mike Brey's tenure, Notre Dame has had only one losing season. That season was in 2005-06 when the Irish finished 6-10 after beginning the BIG EAST campaign with a 1-8 record. Since that 1-8 start, Notre Dame has gone 30-11 (.732) over the last 41 regular-season games.

Now That's Something To Talk About

• Notre Dame's current record-setting 37-game home win streak spans three seasons — the final two games played during the 2005-06 campaign, the entire 2006-07 season (18 games) and 17 games in 2007-08. Here's a look at the dominance of the Irish during its present win streak:

	<u>Notre Dame</u>	<u>Opponents</u>
FG Percentage	1047-2184 (.479)	906-2298 (.394)
3-FG Percentage	324-820 (.395)	244-740 (.330)
Points/Avg.	3,104 (83.9 ppg.)	2,413 (65.2 ppg.)
Margin of Victory	+691 points (+18.7)	

Notes: Notre Dame has shot .500 or better in **15** of **37** games

Notre Dame opponents have shot .500 or better in **3** of **37** games

26 wins by 10-plus points

13 wins by 20-plus points

9 wins by 30-plus points

5 wins by 40-plus points

1 win by 50-plus points

One Shy Of The All-Time Record

• Notre Dame's 37-game streak at the Joyce Center is one shy of tying the school's all-time home court win streak of 38 games set from Dec. 11, 1943 until Feb. 9, 1948 in the Fieldhouse. The Irish have not lost at home since suffering an 80-72 setback to Marquette on February 25, 2006.

Home Cookin'

• Notre Dame's 17-0 record at home in 2007-08 marked just the fourth time since the opening of the Joyce Center in 1968-69 that an Irish team finished undefeated at home during the regular season. In 2006-07, the Irish were 18-0 which marked the most wins ever for a Notre Dame team in a single season. In addition to this year's team and the 2006-07 squad, only two other Notre Dame squads ever completed a season undefeated at home — the 1973-74 and 1985-86 squads both finished their campaigns with identical 15-0 records. The Irish have been the only BIG EAST team to finish undefeated at home each of the last two seasons. Dating back to the 2005-06 campaign, Notre Dame has won 37 consecutive games at the Joyce Center — an active streak that is second among all Division I teams and is the longest during Mike Brey's tenure.



- Notre Dame's current streak dates back to the final two games of the 2005-06 campaign as Irish defeated DePaul (66-61) in the regular-season finale and Vanderbilt (79-69) in the first round of the NIT. Notre Dame's last loss at home was an 80-72 setback to Marquette on February 25, 2006.

Current NCAA Division I Home Court Win Streaks:

1. BYU	47
2. NOTRE DAME	37
3. Tennessee	32
4. Kansas	25
5. Georgetown	22

BIG EAST Win Streak

- Notre Dame's 18-game BIG EAST homecourt win streak is its longest since the Irish joined the conference in 1995-96 and is the second-longest in conference history.

20 - Pittsburgh (6 games in 2003-04, 8 games in 2002-03 and 6 games in 2001-02)

18 - Notre Dame (1 game in 2005-06, 8 games in 2006-07 and 9 games in 2007-08)

***The only team that the Irish have not played at home during the streak is Georgetown. Notre Dame will face the Hoyas on January 5.**

Joyce Center Streakin'

- Notre Dame broke the Joyce Center home win streak mark on December 8 with its 108-62 win over Northern Illinois. Here's a look at the Joyce Center streaks:

37 - Began with a 66-61 win over DePaul on 3/4/06 (current streak)

24 - Began with a 94-68 win over Xavier on 2/3/73 and ended with a 94-84 loss to Indiana on 12/11/74

22 - Began with an 88-68 win over Pittsburgh on 1/26/77 and ended with a 69-68 overtime loss to DePaul on 2/12/78

16 - Began with a 92-70 win over Fairfield on 12/9/82 and ended with a 51-47 loss to UCLA on 12/3/83

16 - Began with an 89-76 win over West Virginia on 2/20/02 and ended with a 87-79 loss to Connecticut on 2/24/03.

Three New Faces On The Irish Bench

- **Anthony Solomon** is back on the Irish sidelines this season as an assistant coach. He first was a member of Mike Brey's staff in 2000-03 before leaving to become the head coach at St. Bonaventure University (2003-07) and then serving as an assistant at Dayton during the past 2007-08 season.

- **Ben Hansbrough** and **Scott Martin** transferred to Notre Dame in June 2008 and will not be eligible to play during the 2008-09 campaign due to NCAA transfer rules. Hansbrough played two seasons at Mississippi State where he saw action in 65 contests and made 28 starts from 2006-08. He averaged 8.8 points, 3.3 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 28.2 minutes per game during his two-year stint. Martin played just one year (2007-08) at Purdue and was the fourth-leading scorer for the Boilermakers as he averaged 8.5 points and 3.8 rebounds.

Success In The Classroom

- The basketball team was one of six Notre Dame teams to earn the 2007-08 BIG EAST Team Academic Excellence award which recognized the highest collective grade averages in each conference sport. The Irish have earned a 3.097 cumulative grade point average and has produced a GPA of 3.0 or better in seven of the last nine semesters and the team cumulative GPA has been above 3.0 for the last eight semesters.

