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2003 University of Notre Dame Softball

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2003 Kia Klassic

Fullerton, Calif. • Thursday, March 13 - Sunday, March 16
Notre Dame vs. Fresno State, Thursday, March 13, 3 p.m.
Notre Dame vs. #4 Nebraska, Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.
Notre Dame vs. #13 DePaul, Friday, March 14, 11 a.m.
Championship play begins Friday, March 14, 5 p.m.

2003 SCHEDULE (7-7)

FEBRUARY

USF/Wilson Tournament (Tampa, Fla.)

15	Sat.	at South Florida	L, 4-5
15	Sat.	vs. Kent State	W, 5-1
16	Sun.	vs. Jacksonville	W, 2-1
16	Sun.	vs. Hofstra	L, 4-7
17	Mon.	vs. Rhode Island	cancelled

2003 NFCA Leadoff Classic (Columbus, Ga.)

21	Fri.	vs. #4 California	L, 0-6
21	Fri.	vs. Illinois State	W, 1-0 (8)
22	Sat.	vs. #17 Alabama	L, 4-7

Louisiana Classic (Lafayette, La.)

28	Fri.	vs. Northwestern State	L, 2-3
28	Fri.	vs. Louisiana-Lafayette	W, 8-5 (9)

MARCH

1	Sat.	vs. McNeese State	W, 6-1
1	Sat.	vs. Louisiana-Lafayette	L, 3-5
2	Sun.	vs. Northwestern State	W, 12-7
9	Sun.	at CS Northridge (DH)	L, 4-5, W, 3-1

2003 Kia Klassic (Fullerton, Calif.)

13	Thurs.	vs. Fresno State	3 p.m.
13	Thurs.	vs. #4 Nebraska	7 p.m.
14	Fri.	vs. #13 DePaul	11 a.m.
14	Fri.	Championship play	5 p.m.
23	Sun.	at W. Michigan (DH)	12 p.m.
26	Wed.	#25 Northwestern (DH)	3 p.m.
29	Sat.	at Pittsburgh (DH)*	11 a.m.
30	Sun.	at Virginia Tech (DH)*	12 p.m.

APRIL

1	Tues.	at Purdue (DH)	2 p.m.
3	Thurs.	Loyola (Chicago) (DH)	4 p.m.
5	Sat.	at Providence (DH)*	11 a.m.
11	Fri.	St. John's (DH)*	4 p.m.
13	Sun.	Seton Hall (DH)*	11 a.m.
15	Tues.	at #4 Nebraska (DH)	3 p.m.
17	Thurs.	IPFW (DH)	4 p.m.
19	Sat.	at Syracuse (DH)*	11 a.m.
23	Wed.	Valparaiso (DH)	4 p.m.
24	Thurs.	at Illinois-Chicago	6 p.m.
26	Sat.	at Boston College (DH)*	11 a.m.
27	Sun.	at Connecticut (DH)*	11 a.m.
29	Tues.	at #13 DePaul (DH)	4 p.m.

MAY

2	Fri.	Villanova (DH)*	4 p.m.
4	Sun.	Rutgers (DH)*	11 a.m.

2003 BIG EAST Championship (Salem, Va.)

8	Thurs.	First Round	TBA
9	Fri.	Second Round	TBA
10	Sat.	Play continues	TBA
14	Wed.	NCAA Regionals	TBA
20	Tues.	College World Series	TBA

* - indicates BIG EAST Conference game

bold indicates home game • all home games played at Ivy Field on the east side of campus

Irish looking forward to Kia Klassic challenge: The University of Notre Dame softball team (7-7) completes its early season tournament schedule this weekend, entering the Kia Klassic for the fourth straight season. Hosted by Cal State Fullerton, the Kia Klassic is one of the premier tournaments in the nation, featuring UNLV, CS Northridge, #6 Oklahoma, #12 Arizona State, #4 Nebraska, Notre Dame, Fresno State, #13 DePaul, Hawai'i, #3 Texas, #8 CS Fullerton, #5 Washington, #1 Arizona, Louisiana-Lafayette, Long Beach State and #16 Florida State. The 16 teams are split into four different pools and each team will play each other. After pool play, the teams are designated for championship play. In championship play, a team is guaranteed at least two games.

Notre Dame has played well in the Kia Klassic over the last three years, posting a 9-8 (.529) overall record. The Irish have defeated #16 Louisiana-Lafayette ('00), #6 Oklahoma ('00) and #10 Arizona State ('01).

Series history vs. Fresno State and game preview: Notre Dame and Fresno State will be meeting for the third time Thursday. The series is tied 1-1, with the Irish defeating the Bulldogs 4-2 in the 2001 Kia Klassic and Fresno getting a 3-2 victory at the '02 Klassic.

Fresno State is 5-12 this season, with six of its losses coming to ranked teams. The Bulldogs are paced on offense by Christina Clark (.281 BA, four HR, 10 RBI). Jamie Southern has seen the bulk of the pitching duties for the Bulldogs (66.1 IP) and has a 4-6 record, 0.63 ERA and 94 Ks.

Series history vs. Nebraska and game preview: Notre Dame and #4 Nebraska renew their spirited rivalry on Friday. Though the Irish have only won one of the previous six meetings, the meetings between the two teams since Deanna Gumpf ('92 Nebraska graduate) took over the Notre Dame program have been highly competitive.

The Irish and Huskers met twice last season. Notre Dame defeated fourth-ranked Nebraska 3-2 in Lincoln on April 23, on a three-run home run by Liz Hartmann in the top of the seventh inning.

Nebraska came back to get a measure of revenge in the NCAA Region VII tournament in Iowa City, Iowa. The Cornhuskers defeated Notre Dame 5-3 to advance to the Women's College World Series.

Lisa Wangler has been dominating at the plate for Nebraska this season. She is currently hitting .444 with 24 hits, 12 runs, five home runs and 23 RBI. The Cornhuskers also have two solid pitchers in Summer Tobias (6-1, 1.07 ERA, 39.1 IP) and Peaches James (8-1, 1.35 ERA, 62.0 IP).

The meeting on Thursday will be the first of three between Notre Dame and Nebraska this season. The Irish will return to Lincoln on April 15 for a doubleheader.

Series history vs. DePaul and game preview: One of the longest and most competitive series in Notre Dame softball history resumes on Friday when Notre Dame meets DePaul. The Blue Demons lead the all-time series 21-14-1, but Notre Dame has won the last four meetings. De Paul has been ranked in each of those last four meetings as well.

Similar to the match up with Nebraska, Friday's game with the Blue

2003 University of Notre Dame Softball Roster

No.	Name	Year	Pos.	Ht.	B/T	Hometown (High School)	Key Stats from '03
1	Steffany Stenglein*	So.	RHP	5-10	R/R	Huntington Beach, CA (Marina)	2-2, 32 Ks
4	Carrie Wisen*	So.	RHP	5-7	R/R	Fullerton, CA (Sonora)	two starts
7	Jessica Sharron*	Sr.	RHP	5-8	R/R	Agoura Hills, CA (Thousand Oaks)	11.0 IP, 1 save in '02
8	Liz Hartmann*	So.	OF	5-9	R/R	Novato, CA (San Marin)	three HRs
9	Chantal DeAlcuaz	Jr.	C	5-9	R/R	Modesto, CA (Central Catholic)	first career hit
10	Alexis Madrid***(c)	Sr.	2B	5-1	L/R	Temecula, CA (Temecula)	first 3B of season
14	Nicole deFau**	Jr.	IF/OF	5-9	R/R	Southington, CT (Southington)	.320, 1 HR, 1 RBI
16	Mallorie Lenn	Fr.	C	5-8	R/R	Garden Grove, CA (Pacifica)	five RBI, 1 2B
18	Andria Bledsoe*** (c)	Sr.	SS	5-7	R/R	Higley, AZ (Highland)	.512 slg. %
21	Megan Ciolli*	So.	OF	5-9	L/R	Terre Haute, IN (North Vigo)	15 hits, 3 RBI
22	Sara Schoonaert	Fr.	IF/OF	5-5	R/R	Houston, TX (Clear Lake)	1-4, four runs in '03
25	Lisa Mattison***	Sr.	1B/DP	5-10	R/R	Granger, IN (Penn)	two HR, six RBI
32	Heather Booth	Fr.	RHP	5-10	R/R	Riverside, CA (MLK)	36 Ks in 40.1 IP
33	Andrea Loman*** (c)	Sr.	3B	5-10	R/R	Riverside, CA (Poly)	.333, nine RBI, 2 HR
44	Kellie Middleton	Fr.	OF	5-6	R/R	Norcross, GA (Marist)	first career hit = HR
77	Meagan Ruthrauff	Fr.	IF/OF	5-10	R/R	La Mirada, CA (La Serna)	16 hits, six RBI

* - indicates monograms won

(c) - 2003 team captain

Staff:

Head Coach: Deanna Gumpf (Nebraska '91)

(44-17, second year at Notre Dame)

Assistant Coach: Charmelle Green (Utah '92)

Assistant Coach: Kris Ganefff (Notre Dame '99)

Volunteer Assistant Coach: Bill Roggeman (Ball State '81)

Team Senior Manager: Nichole Boerson (Notre Dame '03)

Team Trainer: Chantal Porter (Iowa State '94)

Strength and Conditioning Coach: Heather Mason (Cincinnati '95)

Sports Information Director: Alan Wasielewski (Notre Dame '00)

Demons is the first of three between the two schools this season. Notre Dame will head to Chicago for a doubleheader with DePaul on April 29.

DePaul is 10-3 this season and ranked 13th in the nation. One of the best hitting teams in the nation, the Blue Demons have three hitters over .350, led by Sarah Martz (.415). Lindsay Chouinard is the staff ace, boasting a 6-2 record, 0.76 ERA and 46 Ks in 59.0 IP.

Mattison starting to step up her production: Senior first base Lisa Mattison has delivered for Notre Dame over the last three games. The Granger, Ind., native owns the game-winning hit in each of Notre Dame's last three victories. Her two-run double against CS Northridge on Sunday provided the winning margin in Notre Dame's 3-1 victory. She also hit a home run in the first game of the doubleheader. Mattison has five hits and six RBI over the last five Irish games.

Rookie DP Ruthrauff has been a steady offensive weapon: Freshman DP Meagan Ruthrauff has been among the offensive leaders for Notre Dame since she first stepped on the field this season. Ruthrauff is currently first on the team in batting average (.356) with 16 hits in 45 AB. She is tied with Andrea Loman for the team lead in doubles with five and has drove in six runs this season. She hit her first career home run at Louisiana-Lafayette on Feb. 28, kick-starting Notre Dame's eventual 8-5 come-from-behind victory.

Booth ends up two outs away from her first career no-hitter: Freshman righthander Heather Booth is off to a solid start in her first collegiate season, posting a 5-3 record this season with a 2.08 ERA and 36 Ks. She has thrown two complete games and Notre Dame's only shut out this season.

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Notre Dame team results this season, including game winning hit, game winning run and pitcher decisions. The latest national polls are also on page seven.



**NOTRE DAME
PROBABLE STARTERS**

C: Mallorie Lenn, Fr., R/R
1B: Lisa Mattison, Sr., R/R
2B: Alexis Madrid, Sr., L/R
SS: Andria Bledsoe, Sr., R/R
3B: Andrea Loman, Sr., R/R
OF: Megan Ciolli, So., L/R
OF: Kellie Middleton, Fr., R/R
OF: Liz Hartmann, So. R/R
or Nicole deFau, Jr., R/R
DP: Meagan Ruthrauff, Fr., R/R
P: Steffany Stenglein, So., R/R
or Carrie Wisen, So., R/R
or Heather Booth, Fr., R/R

**NOTRE DAME
SPORTS INFORMATION**

Publicity for Notre Dame softball is coordinated by sports information assistant Alan Wasielewski.

Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available by contacting Wasielewski at (574) 631-7516 or via e-mail at Wasielewski.3@nd.edu.

Requests to interview student-athletes and coaches must be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Credentials for home games can be obtained by calling Wasielewski.

Statistics, results and weekly releases (typically released on Wednesday of each week of the season) also are readily available on Notre Dame's official athletic site, www.und.com.

If you wish to be added to the Notre Dame softball weekly release distribution list, please send an e-mail to: Wasielewski.3@nd.edu

Against CS Northridge last Sunday, the rookie came two outs away from her first career no-hitter. With one out in the bottom of the seventh, Booth was finally touched for a double to right field. The run eventually scored after a wild pitch and a sacrifice fly, robbing Booth of her chance at a second shut out this season.

Madrid on a three-game hitting streak: Senior Alexis Madrid has raised her batting average over .120 points over the last three games, going six for nine with five runs scored and the team's only triple of the season. The Temecula, Calif., native has four multi-hit games this season.

Irish infield catching the ball well: The Notre Dame team defense has been a strength over the last three years and it is no coincidence that those are the years Andrea Loman, Andria Bledsoe and Alexis Madrid have been in the line up. The senior trio, who are serving as team captains this season as well, have been among the team offensive leaders, but it is their defense that stands out.

The trio helped Notre Dame set a team record for fielding percentage last year and are on pace for similar results this season. Loman at third has committed just one error in 45 chances, while Bledsoe at short stop and Madrid at second base are perfect on defense. Fellow senior Lisa Mattison, in her second season starting at first, has been steady as well. Mattison has just two errors in 97 chances (.980).

Notre Dame's current team fielding percentage is .974 with 11 errors in 409 chances.

Bledsoe snaps out of slump with offensive explosion at the Louisiana Classic: Senior co-captain and short stop Andria Bledsoe was one of the main reasons Notre Dame returned from Louisiana with a 6-6 record two weeks ago. Bledsoe hinted at breaking out of her early-season slump against #17 Alabama on Feb. 23, going three for four at the plate with an RBI. She continued that hot hitting two weeks ago at the Louisiana Classic, as she was six for 14 (.429) with three home runs and four RBI. The Higley, Ariz., native also scored seven runs during the ULL tournament.

Bledsoe has raised her batting average from .111 just six games ago to a respectable .302 entering this weekend's tournament. She leads the team with 10 runs scored this season.

Hartmann continues late-inning heroics: Sophomore Liz Hartmann hammered a freshman school-record seven home runs last season, none more memorable than her three-run shot in the top of the seventh to down #4 Nebraska in Lincoln.

A text book clutch hitter, Hartmann rose to the occasion at last weekend's tournament in Lafayette, La. Entering the bottom of the seventh and down by one run, Hartmann led off with a solo home run to tie the game. The teams eventually entered extra innings and Hartmann ended the game in the bottom of the ninth with a three-run home run.

Hartmann eventually earned all-tournament honors while chalking up five hits, three home runs and five RBI during the five games.

Notre Dame single-game home run record has even more company: Notre Dame's original single-game home run record was set in 1990 when Sheri Quinn hit two home runs against Loyola-Chicago. Since that day on March 24, 1990, the feat has been matched 14 times. Andria Bledsoe and Liz Hartmann hit two home runs each in Notre Dame's game against Louisiana-Lafayette on Feb. 28. Hartmann was already a member of the record-holding club after hitting two bombs against Oakland in 2002.

In all, five current Notre Dame players are among the nine in school history who have hit two home runs in one game. Jarrah Myers (1999-2002) is the only Notre Dame player to hit two home runs in a game three times in her career - against Virginia Tech (4-30-02), Seton Hall (4-30-00) and CS Northridge (3-11-

01).

New national poll: USA Softball, in conjuncture with ESPN.com and the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) have formed a new national poll. See page seven of this notes package for both the ESPN/USA Softball poll and the *USA Today*/NFCA top 25.

Notre Dame head coach Deanna Gumpf in her second season: Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf led her team to a 44-17 record in 2002 – her first season as the program’s leader. A former assistant at Notre Dame and player at Nebraska (’92), Gumpf and her staff landed the BIG EAST Conference Coaching Staff of the Year award and shared the NFCA Midwest Region Coaching Staff of the Year award with Wisconsin last season.

Among Notre Dame’s many accomplishments in 2002, the Irish advanced to the final day of competition at the NCAA regionals for the second-consecutive season, won the BIG EAST regular-season and tournament titles and set school records for home runs (54) and fielding percentage (.971).

Irish team strength lies in veteran infield: There is no secret where the Notre Dame team strength lies this season. Three-year starters Andrea Loman (third base), Andria Bledsoe (short stop) and Alexis Madrid (second base) return to lead the team this season on offense, defense and as team tri-captains.

All three players have key roles in Notre Dame’s offensive numbers and defensive prowess. The Irish set a team record for fielding percentage in 2002 (.971) and committed just 50 errors on 1,678 chances. Notre Dame also hit a team-record 54 home runs in ‘02.

Loman excels on offense and defense and is widely regarded as one of the best third basemen in the country.

The Riverside, Calif., native led the team with a .377 average last season, putting up 12 home runs, 43 RBI and 66 hits. She ranks in the top five all-time in Notre Dame history for fielding percentage.

Bledsoe is among the Irish leaders on offense and defense as well. The Higley, Ariz., native drove in 43 runs last year on 56 hits. She also hit a career-best seven home runs and was steady on defense, compiling a .970 fielding percentage.

Madrid dropped from hitting over .300 in 2001 to a .225 clip last season. She did steal 10 bases (third-best on the team) and contributed 95 assists on defense. One of the best sacrifice bunters and hitters on the Irish team, Madrid has already posted two sacrifice hits this season.

Notre Dame’s infield also features two-time first-team all-BIG EAST selection Lisa Mattison at first base. Mattison hit .325 in ‘02 with 27 RBI and four home runs.

Two Irish players on player-of-the-year watch list: The ASA has announced its initial watch list for the second annual USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Award.

Notre Dame’s Andrea Loman and Megan Ciolli were among the 40 players on the watch list.

The award, which is considered the Heisman Trophy in women’s collegiate softball and is the only national player of the year award, is designed to recognize outstanding athletic achievement by female collegiate softball players across the country.

The initial watch list is comprised of 40 players that represent 23 college and 11 different collegiate conference. Even if a player doesn’t appear on the initial watch list, they are still eligible for the award. The first 25 finalists will be announced on May 13th, then down to 10 on April 29th and three on May 13th. The winner will be announced at the 2003 Women’s College World Series in Oklahoma City.

California girls: Just a quick glance at the 2003 Notre Dame softball roster

NOTRE DAME STATISTICAL LEADERS

<u>Batting Average</u>	
Meagan Ruthrauff356
Andrea Loman333
Nicole deFau320
<u>Hits</u>	
Meagan Ruthrauff	16
Andrea Loman	15
Megan Ciolli	15
<u>Doubles</u>	
Andrea Loman	5
Meagan Ruthrauff	5
Megan Ciolli	3
<u>Triples</u>	
Alexis Madrid	1
<u>Home Runs</u>	
Andria Bledsoe	3
Liz Hartmann	3
Andrea Loman	2
Lisa Mattison	2
<u>RBI</u>	
Andrea Loman	9
Meagan Ruthrauff	6
three with	5
<u>Slugging Percentage</u>	
Andrea Loman578
Meagan Ruthrauff533
Andria Bledsoe512
<u>On Base Percentage</u>	
Andria Bledsoe400
Nicole deFau393
Meagan Ruthrauff383
<u>Stolen Bases</u>	
Andrea Loman	4
Kellie Middleton	3
Alexis Madrid	2
Megan Ciolli	2
PITCHING	
<u>ERA</u>	
Heather Booth	2.08
Carrie Wisen	2.76
Steffany Stenglein	4.02
<u>Strikeouts</u>	
Heather Booth	36
Steffany Stenglein	32
Carrie Wisen	8
<u>Complete Games</u>	
Steffany Stenglein	3
Heather Booth	2
<u>Appearances</u>	
Heather Booth	10
Steffany Stenglein	8
Carrie Wisen	6

NOTRE DAME TEAM GAME HIGHS

Runs

12 vs. NW State, 3-2-03

Hits

12 vs. CS Northridge, 3-9-03

RBI

9 vs. NW State, 3-2-03

Doubles

3 vs. NW State, 2-28-03

Home Runs

5 vs. La.-Lafayette, 2-28-03

Total Bases

25 vs. La.-Lafayette, 2-28-03

Stolen Bases

4 vs. NW State, 3-2-03

Innings Pitched

9.2 vs. CS Northridge, 3-9-03

Strikeouts

10 vs. Jacksonville, 2-16-03

10 vs. #17 Alabama, 2-23-03

INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Runs

3 - Bledsoe vs. ULL (2-28-03)

3 - Ciolli vs. NW State (3-2-03)

Hits

3 - Bledsoe vs. #17 Alabama (2-23-03)

3 - deFau vs. NW State (2-28-03)

3 - Bledsoe vs. ULL (3-1-03)

RBI

4 - Hartmann vs. ULL (2-28-03)

Doubles

2 - Loman vs. NW State (2-28-03)

Home Runs

2 - Bledsoe vs. ULL (2-28-03)

2 - Hartmann vs. ULL (2-28-03)

Total Bases

8 - Bledsoe vs. ULL (2-28-03)

8 - Hartmann vs. ULL (2-28-03)

Walks

2 - Lenn vs. Hofstra (2-16-03)

Stolen Bases

1 - 14 times

Innings Pitched

8.0 - Booth vs. Illinois St. (2-22-03)

Strikeouts

9 - Stenglein vs. #17 Alabama (2-23-03)

can beg the question; is the Notre Dame campus located on the west coast?

In all, 10 Irish players call California home – that is over 50% of the roster. Add in head coach Deanna Gumpf (La Palma) and the Notre Dame softball team has a distinctive Golden State flavor.

The California girls: Steffany Stenglein (Huntington Beach), Carrie Wisen (Fullerton), Jessica Sharron (Agoura Hills), Liz Hartmann (Novato), Chantal DeAlcuaz (Modesto), Alexis Madrid (Temecula), Mallorie Lenn (Garden Grove), Heather Booth (Riverside), Andrea Loman (Riverside) and Meagan Ruthrauff (La Mirada).

Notre Dame preseason favorite to win the BIG EAST Conference: The BIG EAST Conference has released its 2002 preseason softball poll and the University of Notre Dame softball team ended up as the top choice, as voted on by the league's coaches, to win the 2003 league championship. The Irish received 99 points in the conference's preseason release, ahead of Syracuse in second place (85) and Villanova (75) in third. Notre Dame received nine first-place votes, while Villanova and Virginia Tech each received one.

2002 BIG EAST

Preseason Softball Poll

Rank, team, (first place votes), points, '02 record

1. Notre Dame (9), 99 pts., 44-17
2. Syracuse, 85 pts., 25-21
3. Villanova (1), 75 pts., 45-15
4. Virginia Tech (1), 71 pts., 42-18
5. Seton Hall, 69 pts., 29-17
6. Boston College, 63 pts., 26-26
7. St. John's, 36 pts., 23-30-1
8. Rutgers, 35 pts., 22-25
9. Connecticut, 31 pts., 5-15
10. Pittsburgh, 30 pts., 21-33
11. Providence, 11 pts., 5-15

Mallorie Lenn wins gold medal with the U.S. Junior National team: Freshman Mallorie Lenn landed a spot on the U.S. Junior National team that eventually won the First Junior Women's Pan American Championship in Hermosillo, Mexico.

Lenn, from Garden Grove, Calif., was one of the starting catchers on the U.S. team that did not surrender a single run during the tournament. The team was potent on offense as well, dispatching Netherlands Antilles 21-0, Guatemala 20-0 and Jamaica 20-0.

The U.S.'s main competition in the tournament was Canada, and in the first match up during round-robin play Lenn provided the game-winning RBI in her team's 1-0 victory. Lenn also served as the catcher for the gold-medal game against Canada (a 2-0 U.S. victory).

The victory provided the USA with a berth in the 2003 International Softball Federation Junior Women's World Championships in Nanjin, China, during the summer of 2003.

All-Time Record: Entering the 2003 season, Notre Dame softball has posted 556 wins in 14 seasons (almost 40 wins per season). The Irish have won 67% of their games and have never posted a losing season.

Road Warriors: February isn't the best time to play softball in Northern Indiana, so the Notre Dame softball team hits the road exclusively during the first two months of the season to take on some of the best teams in the nation. In just the last five years, Notre Dame has visited Arizona, Georgia, California, Texas, Florida, Arkansas, Tennessee, Nevada, Hawaii and Oklahoma in early-season tournament action. This year, the Irish have already visited Tampa, Fla., for the USF/Wilson Tournament and Columbus, Ga., for the NFCA Leadoff Classic and Lafayette, Louisiana for the Louisiana Classic. This weekend's destina-

2003 BIG EAST Conference Standings (through March 9)



Team	BIG EAST			OVERALL									vs. ND
	W-L	Pts.	H	A	N	W-L-T	Pct.	H	A	N	Streak		
Rutgers	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	4-3-0	.571	0-0	1-0	3-3	Lost 1	May 4	
Notre Dame	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	7-7-0	.500	0-0	2-3	5-4	Won 1	-	
Seton Hall	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-2-0	.500	0-0	0-1	2-1	Lost 1	April 13	
St. John's	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	9-11-0	.450	0-0	1-5	8-6	Won 1	April 11	
Boston College	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6-11-0	.353	0-0	1-3	5-8	Lost 1	April 26	
Connecticut	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	3-6-0	.333	0-0	0-3	3-3	Won 2	April 27	
Virginia Tech	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	3-10-0	.231	0-0	0-1	3-9	Lost 9	March 30	
Pittsburgh	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	4-13-0	.235	0-0	1-2	3-11	Lost 10	March 29	
Syracuse	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-6-0	.125	0-0	0-3	2-3	Lost 5	April 19	
Providence	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-3-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-3	Lost 3	April 5	
Villanova	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-4-0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-4	Lost 4	May 2	

Note: As voted by the head softball coaches, the BIG EAST softball standings will now be determined by a 2/1 points system. Two points will be awarded for a conference win, one point for a tie and no points for a loss. Conference competition begins the weekend of March 23-24.

tion will be Southern California for Spring Break and the 2003 Kia Klassic.

Loman among the best at her position: Already known as one of the best in the Midwest prior to the 2002 season, senior Andrea Loman finally earned national acclaim for her spectacular play at the end of Notre Dame's '02 campaign. Loman earned third-team NFCA/Louisville Slugger All-American accolades in addition to being named the BIG EAST Championship Most Outstanding Player.

Loman is currently batting .333 (15 hits in 45 AB) with two home runs and nine RBI. She also has stolen four bases this season.

Loman excels both offensively and defensively for Notre Dame, driving in runs and taking away many players ability to drop a bunt down the third-base line. Loman's .962 fielding percentage for the '02 season is impressive by itself (219 chances) but six of her eight errors were committed after she broke a finger on her throwing hand in a doubleheader at Seton Hall. Her career fielding percentage stands at .981 entering the 2003 season.

Not just a power hitter, Loman is able to hit for average (.377 in '02) and steal bases when she gets on (a team-high 16 stolen bases last season).

Irish will not back down from the best in the country: In what has become an annual tradition for the Notre Dame softball team, the Irish will spend the first two month of the season crisscrossing the country and taking on the best teams in the nation.

Notre Dame began the year on Feb. 15, 16 and 17 at the USF/Wilson Tournament in Tampa, Fla., facing traditional power South Florida and several NCAA east regional teams, including Hofstra and Rhode Island. South Florida has recently debuted in the national top 25 at #24.

Last weekend Notre Dame was at the challenging NFCA Leadoff Classic taking on defending national champion #4 California, Illinois State and #17 Alabama. The Irish head west for the 2003 Kia Klassic in Fullerton, Calif. next weekend. Notre Dame will face Fresno State, #4 Nebraska and #13 DePaul at the Kia this year.

Notre Dame's regular-season schedule also features the Cornhuskers and Blue Demons in April.

2003 BIG EAST Weekly Awards

Player(s) of the Week

Feb. 16 - Lisa Fischer, Boston College

Feb. 24 - Rachel Park, Syracuse

Mar. 3 - Andrea Loman, Notre Dame

Mar 3 - Mandy Schettini, UConn

Mar 10 - none

Pitcher(s) of the Week

Feb. 16 - Rachel Pacheco, Va. Tech

Feb. 24 - Christina Shanko, SHU

Feb. 24 - Tara DiMaggio, Syracuse

Mar. 3 - none

Mar. 10 - Courtney Fitzgerald, SJU

2003 Game Results - Winning RBI/Hit - Winning Run

Date	Opposing Team	Score	Outcome	R/H/E - R/H/E	Pitcher of Record	GW H/RBI	GW Run
2-15-03	at South Florida	4-5	L	4/9/2 - 5/6/0	Booth (L, 0-1)	-	-
2-15-03	vs. Kent State	5-1	W	5/7/2 - 1/6/1	Booth (W, 1-1)	Ruthrauff	Schoonaert
2-16-03	vs. Jacksonville	2-1	W	2/5/0 - 1/5/0	Booth (W, 2-1)	Lenn	Schoonaert
2-16-03	vs. Hofstra	4-7	L	4/6/2 - 7/5/0	Stenglein (L, 0-1)	-	-
2-22-03	vs. #4 California	0-6	L	0/3/2 - 6/4/0	Stenglein (L, 0-2)	-	-
2-22-03	vs. Illinois State	1-0 (8)	W	1/4/0 - 0/2/1	Booth (W, 3-1)	Cioli	Hartmann
2-23-03	vs. #17 Alabama	4-7	L	4/10/1 - 7/12/3	Booth (L, 3-2)	-	-
2-28-03	vs. NW State	2-3	L	2/8/0 - 3/8/1	Wisn (L, 0-1)	-	-
2-28-03	at La.-Lafayette	8-5 (9)	W	8/8/2 - 5/7/3	Booth (W, 4-2)	Hartmann	Bledsoe
3-1-03	vs. McNeese State	6-1	W	6/8/0 - 1/3/1	Stenglein (W, 1-2)	Mattison	Bledsoe
3-1-03	at La.-Lafayette	3-5	L	3/11/1 - 5/9/0	Booth (L, 4-3)	-	-
3-2-03	vs. NW State	12-7	W	12/10/0 - 7/6/3	Stenglein (W, 2-2)	Mattison	Loman
3-9-03	at CS Northridge	4-5 (10)	L	4/12/0 - 5/10/3	Wisn (L, 0-2)	-	-
3-9-03	at CS Northridge	3-1	W	3/5/0 - 1/1/0	Booth (W, 5-3)	Mattison	Bledsoe

**2003 USA TODAY/NFCA
TOP 25 (3-4-03)**

School	2003 Record	Pts.	LW
1. UCLA (16)	26-2	496	1
2. Arizona (4)	26-2	484	2
3. Nebraska	14-2	439	3
4. Texas	22-2	431	5
5. Washington	23-2-1	430	4
6. Oklahoma	18-3	409	6
7. California	19-6	374	8
8. LSU	18-6	354	7
9. CS Fullerton	16-7	322	9
10. Georgia	24-3	319	10
11. Stanford	21-6	305	12
12. Arizona State	22-7	288	11
13. DePaul	10-3	274	13
14. Michigan	11-6	236	14
15. South Carolina	16-6	216	15
16. Florida State	18-7	185	16
17. Oregon State	19-9	159	17
18. Ohio State	10-6	148	18
19. Alabama	18-9	127	20
20. Texas A&M	19-8	114	19
21. South Florida	24-7	77	22
22. Oregon	16-6	68	23
23. Oklahoma State	17-6	53	NR
24. Massachusetts	7-7	38	21
25. Kansas	14-4	36	NR

Others receiving votes: Minnesota 28, Southern Illinois 14, Florida 14, **Louisiana-Lafayette** 13, Illinois 12, Baylor 11, **Northwestern** 8, Mississippi State 7, Pacific 7, NOTRE DAME 4.

Notre Dame 2003 opponents in **bold**.

**2003 ESPN.COM/USA SOFTBALL
TOP 25 (3-11-03)**

School	2003 Record	Pts.	LW
1. Arizona (10)	26-2	438	2
UCLA (8)	26-2	438	1
3. Texas	22-2	409	5
4. Nebraska	14-2	382	3
5. Washington	23-2-1	380	4
6. Oklahoma	18-3	365	6
7. California	19-6	329	9
8. CS Fullerton	16-7	314	8
9. LSU	18-6	301	7
10. Stanford	21-7	277	12
11. Georgia	24-3	276	11
12. Arizona State	21-7	274	10
13. DePaul	10-3	216	15
14. South Carolina	16-6	215	13
15. Michigan	11-6	181	18
16. Florida State	18-7	160	14
17. Oregon State	19-9	139	17
18. Alabama	18-9	130	20
19. Texas A&M	18-8	115	19
20. Ohio State	10-6	104	21
21. Oklahoma State	17-6	101	24
22. Oregon	16-6	91	23
23. Massachusetts	7-7	59	16
24. South Florida	24-7	46	22
25. Northwestern	13-6	36	NR

Others receiving votes: Kansas 23, Minnesota 15, Florida 13, **Louisiana-Lafayette** 9, Mississippi State 4, UC Santa Barbara 3, Iowa 2, Illinois 1, Penn State 1.

Notre Dame 2003 opponents in **bold**.

Softball fans have a new national poll to track: The Amateur Softball Association (ASA), the national governing body of softball in the United States, has announced its first ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll.

The ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll is voted on by NCAA Division I coaches representing 15 different ASA regions and 12 different collegiate conferences. The poll is also voted on by selected softball media members.

The USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division I Top 25 is voted on by 21 NCAA Division I coaches representing all regions.

Notre Dame in the 2003
USA Today/NFCA Top 25:

Preseason: 17
February 18: 23
February 25: also receiving votes
March 4: not ranked
March 11: also receiving votes

Notre Dame in the 2003 ESPN.com/
USA Softball Top 25:

February 25: also receiving votes
March 4: not ranked
March 11: not ranked