

The Coaching

Staff

**Head Coach
Dave Poulin
guided the 2003-04
Notre Dame
Fighting Irish
to their first-ever
NCAA Tournament
appearance.**

15 Irish

Dave Poulin begins his 10th season as head coach of the Notre Dame hockey program and is coming off his best season behind the Irish bench and the best year in the program's 37-year history.

The 2003-04 Irish won 20 games for the first time since the 1987-88 season and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time ever. Notre Dame finished the campaign with a 20-15-4 overall record and was ranked 12th in the nation to close the season.

The Irish tied for fourth place in the CCHA with a 14-11-3 record and advanced to Joe Louis Arena for the fourth time in the past five years (semifinals in 2000 and Super Six in 2002, 2003 and 2004). Only Michigan and Michigan State have made it in all five seasons since 2000.

Defense was the backbone of Poulin's '03-04 Irish as the team set school records for lowest goals-against average (2.48), save percentage (.922), penalty-killing success (.874) and shutouts in a season (6).

Just the third coach in the program's modern history (since 1968), the 1982 Notre Dame grad took over in the spring of 1995 and has worked since then to move Fighting Irish hockey among the elite programs in college hockey.

Recognized as one of the most successful players ever to play at Notre Dame, Poulin returned to his alma mater, just weeks after finishing his National Hockey League career with the Washington Capitals.

Success is something that has followed Poulin throughout his career from his days as a player at Notre Dame, to the NHL and now as coach of the Irish.

His recipe for success on and off the ice has been simple. Throughout his playing career, Poulin was always recognized for his incredible work ethic, his intelligence and his leadership skills.

Those are the characteristics that he instills in his players at Notre Dame as they work to improve their skills and talents; not only as hockey players, but also as student-athletes preparing for life after their hockey careers have ended.

During the 2003-04 season, the Irish achieved much of their success versus the top teams in the nation, going 5-1-1 versus teams ranked in the top five or better. Notre Dame defeated top-ranked Boston College, 1-0, in October at Chestnut Hill, Mass. The Irish then defeated third-ranked Maine, 1-0, on Dec. 28 at the Everblades Collegiate Hockey Classic in Estero, Fla., to go with a 3-1 win at fourth-ranked Wisconsin on Jan. 18 (the Irish also tied the Badgers, 2-2 in Madison, Wis.). They closed the regular season with a pair of home wins over fourth-ranked Michigan. Notre Dame's only loss to a top-five team came versus fourth-ranked Minnesota (5-2) in their first-ever NCAA regional appearance.

In their first-ever NCAA appearance in Grand Rapids, Mich., the Irish scored first and led 2-0 after one period before the Gophers rallied for the 5-2 win.



Dave Poulin

Head Coach

10th Season

Notre Dame '82

Head Coach Dave Poulin Has Irish Hockey Moving In The Right Direction

The highly respected Poulin, a four-year mono-graph winner and two-time team captain for the Irish, has distinguished himself at every level of the game including his 12 seasons in the NHL.

A finalist for CCHA coach of the year honors in 2004, Poulin has proven to be an outstanding recruiter. His freshman class of 2003-04 was rated second in the nation by the *Red Line Report* during the summer of 2003.

During Poulin's tenure, the Irish have had 13 players come to Notre Dame via USA Hockey's National Developmental Program with eight players going on to play for the U.S. Junior National team in the World Junior Championships between 1996-2003.

Nineteen of Poulin's players have been selected in the NHL Draft, including 15 that he and his staffs have recruited since returning to the Irish in 1995. Current freshman, Victor Oreskovich (Colorado, 2nd round), sophomore Wes O'Neill (New York Islanders, fourth round) and sophomore David Brown (Pittsburgh, eighth round) were selected in the June 2004 Entry Draft.

Four members of Notre Dame's first NCAA team (2003-04) inked NHL contracts following the season. Aaron Gill (San Jose), Rob Globke (Florida), Neil Komadoski (Ottawa) and Brett Lebda (Detroit) will all attend NHL training camps this fall.

Poulin recruits; Mark Eaton (Nashville) and Ben Simon (Nashville) saw action in the National Hockey League in 2003-04.

Over the course of 17 seasons on the college and professional level, Poulin played in 1,149 career games, helped his teams post 559 wins and a .543 winning percentage, and totaled 726 career points (294 goals, 432 assists). His most noteworthy former NHL coaches include Mike Keenan, Mike Milbury and Jim Schoenfeld.

In 1978-79, Poulin set the Notre Dame record for goals by a freshman (28) and equaled the record for points by a freshman (59), with both marks remaining unmatched. He stands tied for fifth on the Notre Dame career goals list (89), sixth in points (196) and seventh in assists (107). Poulin still shares the Notre Dame career records for game-winning goals (13) and hat tricks (8).

As a senior, Poulin was a finalist for the 1982 Hobey Baker national player-of-the-year award. That year, as the Irish captain, he led Notre Dame

to the championship of the Great Lakes Invitational, the last in-season tournament won by a Notre Dame hockey team.

Poulin also was the CCHA's fifth-leading scorer in '81-'82, with 59 points, while earning second team all-CCHA honors and leading the Irish to the CCHA title game, capping the best season in Notre Dame hockey history to that point.

Following graduation, Poulin played one season with the Rogle hockey club in Sweden, totaling 35 goals and 27 assists, before signing as a free agent late in the '82-'83 season with the Philadelphia Flyers. In his first game with the Flyers, he scored goals on each of his first two shots before a hometown crowd at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens.

Poulin returned in 1983-84 to post Flyers' rookie records with 31 goals and 45 assists and ranked second among NHL rookies with 76 points. A year later, he was named team captain and helped the Flyers reach the 1985 Stanley Cup finals, where they lost to an Edmonton Oiler squad laden with future Hall of Famers.

During his NHL career, Poulin played in 724 career NHL games while amassing 205 goals and 325 assists. He played six-plus seasons with Philadelphia (1983-90), three-plus years with the Boston Bruins (1990-93) and his final two campaigns with the Washington Capitals. Poulin helped lead three teams to the Stanley Cup finals (Philadelphia in '85 and '87, Boston in '90) while playing on six squads that reached the conference championship round. He played in three NHL All-Star games ('86, Rendezvous '87 vs. the Soviet Union and '88).

In 1987, Poulin won the Frank J. Selke Trophy, awarded to the forward who best excels at the defensive aspects of the game. In '93, he received the King Clancy Memorial Trophy, recognizing the player who best exemplifies leadership qualities on and off the ice and has made a noteworthy humanitarian contribution in his community.

Born Dec. 17, 1958, in Timmins, Ontario, Poulin received his marketing degree from Notre Dame in 1982. He and his wife Kim, a Saint Mary's College graduate, are parents of three daughters, 18-year-old twins Lindsay and Taylor - freshmen at Notre Dame, and 14-year-old Kylie.



Dave Poulin Coaching File

Year	Head Coach	Overall				CCHA			
		W	L	T	Pct.	W	L	T	Pct.
'95-'96	Notre Dame	9	23	4	.306	6	20	4	.267
'96-'97	Notre Dame	9	25	1	.271	6	20	1	.241
'97-'98	Notre Dame	18	19	4	.488	12	14	4	.467
'98-'99	Notre Dame	19	14	5	.566	15	11	4	.567
'99-'00	Notre Dame	16	18	8	.476	11	10	7	.518
'00-'01	Notre Dame	10	22	7	.346	7	15	6	.357
'01-'02	Notre Dame	16	17	5	.487	12	12	4	.500
'02-'03	Notre Dame	17	17	6	.500	13	12	3	.518
'03-'04	Notre Dame	20	15	4	.564	14	11	3	.554
9-Yr. Coaching Record		134	170	44	.448	96	125	36	.444

Poulin Draws Inspiration from Experience

Dave Poulin has developed a distinctive approach to guiding the Notre Dame hockey program, an approach that draws on his experiences as an undergraduate at Notre Dame and in the National Hockey League.

"Many athletes dream of coming back to their alma mater to coach," says Poulin. "I want to open people's eyes to the Notre Dame experience, which I believe has been the foundation of my success."

When speaking of the Notre Dame experience, Poulin highlights such concepts as preparation, life options, discipline, and dealing with pressures and uncertainty. But at the core of all those ideas is the simple concept of self growth.

"The ultimate role of a college coach is to try and teach kids about themselves and about the great things they are capable of doing," he says.

"The biggest thing I've tried to pass on is the ability to do more — to get yourself into areas you didn't think you could get into," says Poulin, who enjoyed a 12-year career in the NHL despite not being drafted. "It also is important as an athlete to know your limits and play within yourself. However, it's best to play at the upper limits. Everyone has limitations — it's how far you push the top end of them that makes you distinctly different ... and successful."

In conjunction with his perspective as a pro player, Poulin also has a keen appreciation for the totality of one's college experience.

"I want the hockey program here to be an encompassing program," says Poulin. "I want to develop the off-ice character of the players: mind strength, community awareness, a concern for the less fortunate."

"The Notre Dame student-athlete experience is all about preparing people for what they are going to do when they are done with college. If that's playing in the National Hockey League, great. If it's not, they are going to be prepared from a competitive standpoint, by learning from success and sometimes from failure. The reason that the University of Notre Dame has performed at such a high level for such a long time is simply because it prepares you for life."

Poulin's Notre Dame experience allowed many doors of opportunity to remain open.

"My Notre Dame experience gave me a lot of choices later in life," says Poulin, who had a promising brokerage career waiting in the wings prior to accepting the head coaching

position at Notre Dame. "My background put me in a position to have options in a business (pro hockey) where you don't get many choices. In effect, I chose to play hockey while knowing I could do other things — and that made playing hockey even more enjoyable. There's nothing more you can ask for than options."

Poulin also learned from trying to balance the demands of being a student-athlete.

"There are a lot of pressures involved with being a student-athlete," he says. "You come to realize that there's no exact pattern — you can never predict exactly what's going to happen. All you can do is prepare the best you can and adjust to what happens."

A defining trait of Poulin's years as coach of the Irish was a focus on discipline, something for which he was known as a player.

"To be successful in this business, you need discipline. A lot of my discipline was learned from the academic side of Notre Dame, and that carried over into what made me a disciplined player in the NHL. As a coach, there's a lot of different ways to instill that discipline — some of it is on the ice, some of it is not."

Poulin's many experiences — both on and off the ice — have included some tragic and stressful times, from the extremely premature birth of his twin daughters (now thriving 18-year-old Notre Dame freshmen), to the sudden death of a star teammate, to the trauma of a midseason trade.

"Everyone faces challenges and trying times, and facing them in the context of a hockey season just makes it a tougher test," says Poulin. "But in many ways you learn more from those times than from the big successes."

Early in his NHL career, Poulin played with what he calls great mentors, including eventual Hall-of-Famers Bobby Clarke, Darryl Sittler and Bill Barber. Fittingly enough, Poulin developed into just such a mentor years later. It was a role that ultimately led him into college coaching.

"I really enjoyed that role of being a mentor, of making a difference for others," says Poulin. "When I was with Boston, I went to see a lot of games at Boston University and Boston College. I still enjoyed watching college hockey and that clicked me back into the college mode."

"The opportunity here at Notre Dame was a perfect fit. I saw it as a way to stay in the game and work with an age group that I enjoyed, while passing on some of what I had learned."



What They've Said About Dave Poulin

"He exudes leadership because of his personality. He's got a personality that just won't quit. He's extremely mature beyond his years and very personable. ... I can't tell you how many letters I get from Philadelphia fans who want things to wear from Notre Dame to honor Dave."

— **Lefty Smith**

former Notre Dame hockey coach
January 8, 1984 and July 6, 1986

"From our first meeting, it was clear to me that Dave is a very intelligent individual with the characteristics of leadership to assume the responsibility of a high-profile team. You don't give responsibility to people you don't feel can handle it. He was fully equipped to do a great job."

— **Mike Keenan**

former head coach,
Philadelphia Flyers, 1988

"He is a classy individual off the ice who works like hell when he's playing. He's been the best-conditioned player ... and was able to take advantage of the opportunities presented him."

— **Bobby Clarke**

general manager,
Philadelphia Flyers, 1995



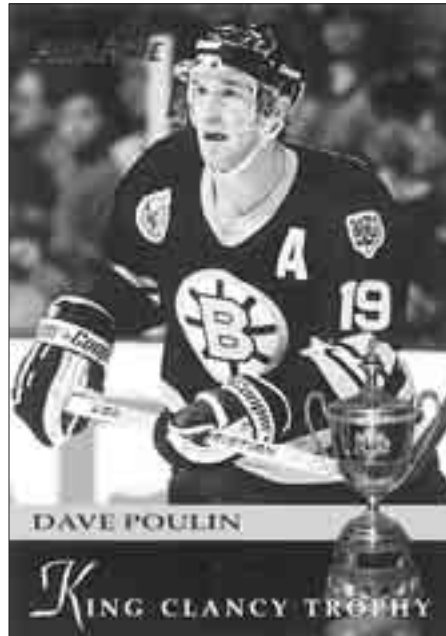
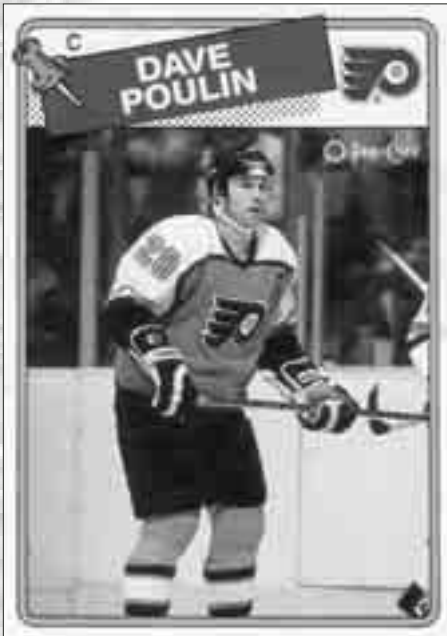
Dave Poulin Playing File

(Regular Season)

Year	Team	League	Record	GP	G	A	TP	P/M	Note
78-79	Notre Dame	WCHA	18-19-1	37	28	31	59	32	Notre Dame rookie of the year
79-80	Notre Dame	WCHA	18-20-1	24	19	24	43	46	
80-81	Notre Dame	WCHA	13-21-2	35	13	22	35	53	
81-82	Notre Dame	CCHA	23-15-2	39	29	30	59	44	Second team all-CCHA
Collegiate Totals			72-75-6	135	89	107	196	175	

(Regular Season)

Year	Team	League	Record	GP	G	A	TP	P/M	Postseason
82-83	Rogle	Sweden		32	35	27	62	64	
	Maine	AHL		16	7	9	16	2	
	Philadelphia	NHL	49-23-8	2	2	0	2	2	3 GP, 1 G, 3 A, 9 P/M
83-84	Philadelphia	NHL	44-26-10	73	31	45	76	47	2 GP, 2 P/M
84-85	Philadelphia	NHL	53-20-7	73	30	44	74	59	11 GP, 3 G, 5 A, 6 P/M
85-86	Philadelphia	NHL	53-23-4	79	27	42	69	49	5 GP, 2 G, 2 P/M
86-87	Philadelphia	NHL	46-26-8	75	25	45	70	53	15 GP, 3 G, 3 A, 14 P/M
87-88	Philadelphia	NHL	38-33-9	68	19	32	51	32	7 GP, 2 G, 6 A, 4 P/M
88-89	Philadelphia	NHL	36-36-8	69	18	17	35	49	19 GP, 6 G, 5 A, 16 P/M
89-90	Philadelphia	NHL	30-39-11	28	9	8	17	12	
	Boston	NHL	46-25-9	32	6	19	25	12	18 GP, 8 G, 5 A, 8 P/M
90-91	Boston	NHL	44-24-12	31	8	12	20	25	16 GP, 9 A, 20 P/M
91-92	Boston	NHL	36-32-12	18	4	4	8	18	15 GP, 3 G, 3 A, 22 P/M
92-93	Boston	NHL	51-26-7	84	16	33	49	62	4 GP, 1 G, 1 A, 10 P/M
93-94	Washington	NHL	39-35-10	63	6	19	25	52	11 GP, 2 G, 2 A, 19 P/M
94-95	Washington	NHL	22-18-8	29	4	5	9	10	2 GP
NHL Totals			487-386-123	724	205	325	530	482	129 GP, 31 G, 42 A, 132 P/M



Poulin on the Irish Record Charts

Career Ranking

- 1st (T) – Game-Winning Goals (13)
- 1st (T) – Career Hat Tricks (8)
- 5th (T) – Goals (89)
- 6th – Points (196)
- 7th – Assists (107)

Poulin's Playing Highlights

NHL All-Star

1986, 1987 (Rendezvous '87), 1988

Stanley Cup Finalist

Team Member
1985, 1987 and 1990

Frank K. Selke Trophy

(NHL's Best Defensive Forward) 1987

King Clancy Memorial Trophy

(NHL Player Who Best Exemplifies Leadership On and Off the Ice) 1993

Team Captain

Notre Dame, 1981-82
Philadelphia Flyers, 1984-90

Hobey Baker National College Player of the Year Finalist

1982



Notre Dame Hockey Coach Dave Poulin Has Enjoyed An Intriguing Journey Through the World of Competitive Hockey:

A Memorable First Pair

As a youth, Poulin first ventured onto the ice as a figure skater, spending seven years learning the more precise side of skating in his hometown of Mississauga, Ontario. In fact, Poulin's first youth hockey game was played in figure skates that had been painted black.

That early precision training came full circle years later for the player who often was cut from his youth hockey teams, as Poulin came to be known throughout the National Hockey League for his wide-reaching skating ability that included sheer speed, explosiveness, elusiveness and an uncanny ability to stop and turn on a dime.

The Recruiting "Battle"

Poulin essentially recruited himself to the University of Notre Dame, cashing in on the exposure that was being heaped on his star Dixie Beehives' teammate, Billy Shott. When Shott decided to attend Michigan State, he no longer needed the recruiting material that came flooding in from other schools. So Poulin filled out the questionnaire that was sent to Shott from Notre Dame and he sent it off, complete with a cover letter thanking the Irish for their "interest" in the unheralded player.

As things turned out, Notre Dame head coach Lefty Smith had the chance to see Poulin play and eventually offered him a scholarship, not knowing that the industrious newcomer would one day captain and coach the Irish squad. Poulin was not alone in his good fortune, as nine of his Beehives teammates also ended up with scholarships after being seen by coaches who were in town to look at Shott.

A Fortuitous Start in the NHL

Fate also landed Poulin in the National Hockey League. After not being drafted, he was set to take a position with Proctor and Gamble. But then Ted Sator followed up on a tip from Michigan State coach Ron Mason and offered Poulin a spot on his Division I Rogle team in Sweden. Poulin rolled up 62 points in 32 games and Sator, a scout for the Philadelphia Flyers, recommended Poulin to Flyers management. Days later, Poulin had an amateur tryout and went on to total 16 points in 16 games for the American Hockey League's Maine Mariners. With two games left in the regular season, he was called up to the Flyers and scored on the first two shots of his NHL career, in front of hometown fans at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens. The Flyers kept Poulin for the playoffs and he played the next 12 seasons in the world's top hockey league.

Personality Traits

A common thread in Poulin's career was a defining sense of leadership. He served as team captain in 15 of his 27 seasons in organized hockey, including two years at Notre Dame and six with the Philadelphia Flyers. In 1993, he received the NHL's King Clancy Award, recognizing the player who best exemplifies leadership qualities on and off the ice.

Poulin also was noted for tireless defensive play and earned the Frank J. Selke Award in 1987 as the NHL forward who best excels at the defensive aspects of the game. He additionally was known for his intense conditioning, a penchant for scoring in short-handed and late-game situations, and his articulate insights.

Poulin At A Glance

Family

- Wife Kim, married in 1982
- Twin daughters Lindsay and Taylor, born Oct. 2, 1986
- Daughter Kylie, born Aug. 9, 1990

NHL Playing Experience

- Philadelphia Flyers (1982-90)
- Boston Bruins (1990-93)
- Washington Capitals (1993-95)

NHL Playing Honors

- King Clancy Trophy (1993)
- NHL All-Star Game (1986, 1988)
- Frank Selke Trophy (1987)
- Three-time all-star ('85-'86, '86-'87, '87-'88)

Collegiate Playing Honors

- Hobey Baker finalist ('81-'82)
- Second team all-CCHA ('81-'82)
- CCHA all-Tournament ('81-'82)
- Notre Dame team MVP ('81-'82)
- Great Lakes Invit. MVP ('81-'82)
- CCHA runner-up team ('81-'82)
- Notre Dame rookie of year ('78-'79)

International Experience

- Rogle Club of Sweden (1982-83)



Dave Poulin (center, back row) played with three future National Hockey League players on Notre Dame's 1979-80 squad: Jim Brown (sixth from left, middle row), Jeff Brownschidle (sixth from right, middle row) and Greg Meredith (third from right, front row).



Andy Slaggert, a two-time hockey monogram winner for the Irish, begins his 12th season as an assistant coach with the Notre Dame hockey program, providing a valuable link to recent Irish hockey history.

Slaggert is one of just three individuals to be involved with the Notre Dame hockey program for 14-plus seasons (see chart below) and holds the unique distinction of having played for the first two coaches of the modern era of Notre Dame – Lefty Smith and Ric Schafer – while also serving as an assistant for Schafer and current head coach Dave Poulin.

Slaggert, who serves as Poulin’s top assistant, works with the Irish forwards on a group and individual basis. He also coordinates the program’s highly successful recruiting plan which includes on-and-off campus recruiting and the observation and evaluation of prospective student-athletes.

“The strength of a quality Division I program lies in its recruiting and Andy has done a great job in expanding our recruiting to a truly international level as our recruiting coordinator. It’s a difficult job being an assistant coach and balancing all aspects of the job. You really wear two hats — one as a coach and the other as a recruiter — and Andy has really developed as a top assistant in both areas,” says head coach Dave Poulin.

During Slaggert’s 11 previous seasons as an assistant, he has been involved in the recruiting of 17 players who were selected in the National Hockey League Draft including, four current players — Mike Walsh, David Brown, Wes O’Neill and Victor Oreskovich.

The Irish have also had 13 players from the U.S. National Team Development Program matriculate to Notre Dame, with eight playing for the U.S. Junior National Team in the World Junior Championships.

The energetic and hard-working assistant has been highly involved with coaching on the national level since 1997.

This past summer, Slaggert reached his highest level, when he was named head coach of the U.S. Under-17 select team that went on to finish second at the Five Nations Tournament in Halle, Germany in late August. The previous year (2003), the veteran assistant got his first taste of coaching with USA Hockey at the international level when he served as an assistant coach on the U.S. Under-18 Select team that captured the gold medal at the Under-18 World Cup held in the Czech Republic.

Andy Slaggert has spent the last two summers coaching on the international level with USA Hockey. Selected to coach the Under-17 Select team at the 2004 Five Nations Tournament, Slaggert’s squad finished second. In 2003, he served as an assistant on the gold-medal winning U.S. team that won the Under-18 World Cup.



Andy Slaggert

Assistant Coach

12th Season

Notre Dame '89

During the summers of 2002 and 2003, the native of Saginaw, Mich., served as head coach at the United States Select 15 tournament held at St. Cloud State.

Since 1997, Slaggert has been involved in coaching Michigan Select teams. During the summer of 2000, he coached the Michigan Select 15 Junior Olympic Festival Team. In 1998, he served as a head coach at the Michigan State

Select 16 Festival helping evaluate players who were competing for a chance to play in the national tournament. In June, he served as the head coach for the Michigan Select 16 Team that skated to the bronze medal at the National Select 16 Festival in Ann Arbor, Mich.

In the summer of 1997, Slaggert served as an assistant coach for Team Michigan at the United States Select 15 Festival. Earlier in the summer of '97, he had served as a head coach and evaluator at the Michigan State Bantam Camp in Big Rapids, Mich.

Slaggert also was the primary moving force behind the Notre Dame hockey program’s PowerPlay Run/Walk to benefit the fight against cancer. The first three events – held on the Sunday after the first Notre Dame home football game – drew increasing numbers to the point where the hockey program now is playing a charity intrasquad scrimmage to raise funds for the fight against cancer.

The 36-year-old Slaggert received his bachelor of arts degree from Notre Dame in 1989. He then went on to earn his master’s degree in physical education from Ohio University in 1991.

A right wing for the Irish from 1986-89, Slaggert totaled seven goals and six assists over 55 games during his three-year Notre Dame career.

Slaggert’s first venture into coaching came in 1989, as player-assistant coach with the Wurzburg ESV team in the German professional league. He moved on in the same capacity with the Amerisport International European Hockey Tour and returned to Notre Dame in 1992.

Slaggert and his wife Tara were married in the summer of 1996. The couple resides in South Bend with their sons, Graham (5) and Landon (2).



Andy Slaggert is in his 12th season as an assistant coach at Notre Dame. During August of 2004, he serves as head coach of the U.S. Under-17 Select Team that finished second at the Five Nations Tournament in Halle, Germany.

Most Combined Notre Dame Hockey Seasons

Name	Seasons	Years
Lefty Smith, head coach	19	1968-87
Ric Schafer player ('70-'74), assistant coach ('75-'80), head coach ('87-'95)	17	1975-80
Andy Slaggert player ('86-'89), assistant coach ('93-present)	14	1986-89, 1993-present
Tom Carroll, assistant coach	14	1985-89
Dave Poulin player ('78-'82), head coach ('95-present)	13	1978-82, 1995-present





Layne LeBel

Assistant Coach

Second Season

Michigan Tech '94



Layne LeBel begins his second season as an assistant coach with the Notre Dame hockey program.

The 32-year old LeBel joined the Irish coaching staff in late August of 2003 after spending two seasons with the United States Hockey League's Green Bay Gamblers.

In his first season at Notre Dame LeBel contributed to the success of a talented defensive corps that helped the Irish set school records for lowest goals-against average (2.48), save percentage (.922) and shutouts in a season (6).

During his time in Green Bay, LeBel had the opportunity to work with several players who moved on to play at Notre Dame. The three, all defensemen, includes sophomores Noah Babin and Wes O'Neill and freshman Dan VeNard. "Layne was a great addition to our staff last season," said head coach Dave Poulin. "He had a strong impact on the success of our defense."

A native of Val Marie, Saskatchewan, LeBel's duties with the Irish include working with the defense (a group that will include four freshmen for the 2004-05 season) and assisting with recruiting and game preparations.

As an assistant in Green Bay, the Gamblers won the Eastern Division title in 2000-01. Prior to his stint in Green Bay, LeBel was the head coach for the Wisconsin Midget AAA hockey club.

A 1994 graduate of Michigan Tech University, LeBel, a defenseman, was a four-year regular with the Huskies and is sixth all-time among Michigan Tech defensemen in scoring with 25 goals and 68 assists for 93 points in 149 career games. He also had 71 penalties for 156 minutes during his career.

A two-time finalist for the WCHA defensive player of the year, LeBel was an honorable mention all-WCHA selection and a WCHA all-academic selection following the 1992-93 season. That year, he also was awarded Michigan Tech's Harold Meese Sportsmanship Award. He was a key member of the 1994 Michigan Tech team that orchestrated one of the biggest upsets in college hockey when the 10th-place Huskies upset top-ranked Colorado College in the first round of the WCHA playoffs.

Following graduation, LeBel played one season in the Central Hockey League for the Memphis Riverkings, finishing seventh in scoring with 13 goals and 27 assists for 40 points in 45 games. He then moved on to Germany for five seasons with Duisburg EV and Regensburg EV in the German Division I and II leagues.

LeBel and his wife, Molly, reside in Granger with their new son Mason, who was born in June.

Layne LeBel begins his second season as an assistant on the Notre Dame coaching staff. He will work with three players - defensemen Noah Babin, Wes O'Neill and Dan VeNard - who he previously coached with the Green Bay Gamblers.

All-Time Notre Dame Assistant Hockey Coaches

Name	Seasons	Years
Tim McNeill	6	1968-75
Kevin Hoene	3	1972-75
Ric Schafer	5	1975-80
Terry Fairholm	3	1980-83
Len Moher	3	1980-83
Jeff Perry	1	1981-82
Tom Carroll	14	1985-99
Scott Gosselin	4	1988-92
Jim Johnson	1	1992-93
Andy Slaggert	11	1993-Present
John Micheletto	4	1999-Present
Layne LeBel	2	2003-Present



Craig Brown begins his fifth season as the volunteer goaltender coach with the Notre Dame hockey staff.

Brown brings a wealth of playing experience to the position of tutoring Notre Dame's goaltending trio — senior Morgan Cey, junior Rory Walsh and sophomore David Brown — after spending four successful seasons at Western Michigan and five years in professional hockey.

"Craig has done a great job working with our goaltenders over the past four seasons. He has developed an outstanding rapport with our goaltenders and has done an outstanding job developing their skills," says 10th-year Notre Dame head coach Dave Poulin.

"Craig played for many years at a high level and is able to pass on that experience to our goalies. He also has the added perspective of spending four years in the CCHA, so he has familiarity with many of the rinks and appreciates the weekly challenge involved with playing in this league," adds Poulin.

Brown was a regular in the nets at Western Michigan for four seasons (1990-94) and was named to the all-CCHA honorable mention team as a sophomore in 1991-92. He still owns Bronco records for save percentage in a season (.907 in '93-'94, good for sixth in the nation) and a career (.899) while also owning both WMU goals-



Craig Brown

Volunteer Assistant Coach

Fifth Season

Western Michigan '01

against-average records (2.86 in '93-'94-which ranked seventh nationally – plus a 3.33 GAA for his career).

Brown's freshman season in 1990-91 saw him post a 17-13-2 record while contributing four assists (most ever by a WMU goaltender). He was named WMU rookie of the year after helping that '90-'91 squad reach the CCHA semi-finals and closed his career in 1993-94 by posting a 14-5-2 record on a Western Michigan team that advanced to the NCAA Tournament before finishing with a 24-13-3 team record.

Brown – who was Western's top goaltender three of his four seasons – currently ranks third in the Broncos record book for career victories (53-36-10). A seven-time Dean's List student, he was named to the CCHA's prestigious first-team All-Academic squad for 1993-94. He received his degree in physical education and

teaching from Western Michigan in 2001.

A ninth-round NHL entry draft selection by the Los Angeles Kings (in 1991), Brown spent his five-year professional hockey career in the East Coast Hockey League, as a member of the Pensacola Ice Pilots and the Nashville Knights from 1994-99. His career honors included team rookie of the year and MVP, plus ECHL-leading totals in victories and minutes played for 1994-95. Brown also was selected to serve as a player-assistant coach in 1997 and led Pensacola to the 1998 ECHL Championship Finals.

Born Feb. 29, 1972, Brown is a native of Scarborough, Ontario, and played with the Wexford Raiders of the Toronto Metro Junior B League.

Brown resides in Mishawaka with his wife Deanna, their son Carson (6) and daughter Brenna (4).



Dave Gilbert

Equipment Manager

Seventh Season

Lake Superior State '96

Dave Gilbert is in his seventh season as equipment manager at Notre Dame — but he's no stranger to the Central Collegiate Hockey Association, having spent the previous seven years at Lake Superior State in various capacities with the Lakers' program.

One of the premier equipment specialists in college hockey, Gilbert also works with the men's soccer program in addition

to his primary duties with hockey. His year-long responsibilities involve overseeing the equipment and travel needs of the Irish hockey program.

Gilbert served as a walk-on goaltender on Lake Superior State's 1991-92 team that captured the NCAA title, with Gilbert backing up two eventual professional hockey goaltenders – Darrin Madeley and Blaine Lacher – during that championship season.

During his final four years as an undergraduate, Gilbert served the Lakers hockey program as a student equipment manager.

In that capacity, he was associated with the NCAA runner-up squad in 1992-93, the NCAA championship team of '93-'94, and two other teams that reached the NCAA quarterfinals ('94-'95 and '95-'96).

Gilbert graduated from Lake Superior State in May of '96, with a degree in exercise science, but remained at the school for the next two years as the head equipment manager for the school's 11 varsity sports.

During his time with the Lakers hockey program, Gilbert was associated with several individuals who remain active in hockey at other levels. Gilbert served under head equipment manager Paul Boyer at Lake Superior State in '92-'93, with Boyer now holding the position of head equipment manager for the Detroit Red Wings.

Longtime Lakers head hockey coach Jeff Jackson has served as USA Hockey's national coach and is currently an assistant with the New York Islanders, while former Lakers assistant Paul Pooley currently directs the Providence College Friars' hockey program.

A native of Marquette, Mich., Gilbert, and his wife Heather have one son, Dolan (3) and a daughter, Halle (2). They reside in South Bend.





Kevin Ricks

Assistant Athletic Trainer

Second Season

Western Illinois '99

Kevin Ricks begins his fourth season as an athletic trainer at Notre Dame and his second with the Irish hockey program. In his first two years at Notre Dame, Ricks worked with the women's soccer team, women's rowing, women's swimming and and diving and the men's and women's track programs.

A 1999 graduate of Western Illinois University, where he received his degree in athletic training, Ricks spent two years at the University of Mississippi as a graduate assistant while earning his Masters degree in exercise science with an emphasis on biomechanics. At Mississippi, Ricks served as the head athletic trainer for the men's and women's track-and-field teams. He also was the first assistant to the head football athletic trainer.

Ricks also served as a student assistant trainer at the St. Louis Rams training camp (in Macomb, Ill.) and Rams preseason football games during the summer of 1998 - in addition to serving as a high school football athletic trainer in northern Mississippi in the fall of 2000.

While at Western Illinois, Ricks worked with the football, soccer, baseball, softball and tennis teams as a student athletic trainer. He also volunteered during the 1997-98 Prairie State Games, an amateur showcase of non-traditional sports held in Edwardsville, Ill.

The Peoria, Ill., native spent the summer of 1998 volunteering in Edwardsville as a student athletic trainer at the National Junior College Division II track-and-field championships and the U.S. Open Grand Prix of Track and Field. He completed 500 internship hours in 1999, with clinic duties at Chicago's Athletico Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy department.

Kevin and his wife, Cheryl, reside in South Bend.



Tony Rolinski

Strength and Conditioning Coach

Second Season

Penn State '91

Tony Rolinski begins his fourth season as the assistant director of strength and conditioning at Notre Dame after three years as an assistant strength coach. The 2004-05 season marks his second with the Notre Dame hockey program. He also serves as the strength and conditioning coach for the Irish men's and women's basketball programs.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Rolinski joined the Notre Dame staff in 1998 after spending one year (1997-98) at Duquesne University, where he implemented the strength and conditioning programs for 20 varsity sports.

The 35-year old Rolinski is a 1991 graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in health education and a minor in exercise science.

From 1994-96, while earning his Master's degree in exercise physiology at the University of Pittsburgh, he served as an intern on the Panther football program staff where he assisted with all aspects of the strength and conditioning program.

Following his stint at Pittsburgh, Rolinski served as the head strength and conditioning coach at North Hills High School in Pittsburgh (1996-97).

He also has earned certifications from the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association (SCCC) and the National Strength and Conditioning Association (CSCSC).

Born December 10, 1968, Rolinski and his wife, Julie, have two daughters, Alexis and Jaclyn, and two sons, Jake and Jared.



Kevin Anderson

*Video Coordinator/
Hockey Operations Intern*

Second Season

St. Cloud State '03

Kevin Anderson begins his second season at Notre Dame as the video coordinator and hockey operations intern.

A native of Anoka, Minn., Anderson graduated from St. Cloud State University in May of 2003 with a bachelor's degree in recreation and sports management.

At St. Cloud State, he worked with the Huskies' hockey program for two seasons. As a junior, he worked with coach Craig Dahl's staff as an undergraduate assistant coach. In his senior year, he took over the duties as the team's video coordinator.

As video coordinator, he teamed with St. Cloud State assistant coach Brad Willner and Minnesota Hockey Camps, to create, design, manage and implement a video editing system that allowed the St. Cloud coaching staff and players to focus on the technical and tactical aspects of the game.

During the offseason, Anderson works with the Minnesota Hockey Camps in Brainerd, Minn., training and developing young hockey players.

Working with Chuck Grillo at the Minnesota Hockey camps, he was inspired to learn about using video as a way to enhance team performance and provide an opportunity for hockey players to use it in their development.

In the summer of 2003, Anderson was able to implement video technology at Minnesota Hockey Camps as a tool for teaching and developing the players who attended the camp.

Anderson is single and resides in South Bend.



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