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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 (3-0)

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)	3:00 p.m.
27	Mon.	Fordham	7:00 p.m.

December

3	Sun.	vs. North Caro. % (ESPN2)	1:30 p.m.
6	Wed.	Villanova *	7:00 p.m.
9	Sat.	Purdue	7:00 p.m.
18	Mon.	Western Michigan	7:00 p.m.
21	Thurs.	at Marquette	7:00 p.m.
28	Thurs.	at USC	7:00 p.m.
31	Sun.	Rice	1:00 p.m.

January

3	Wed.	at Virginia Tech *	7:00 p.m.
6	Sat.	Rutgers * (BETV)	12:00 p.m.
9	Tues.	at St. John's *	7:30 p.m.
13	Sat.	Virginia Tech * (BETV)	2:00 p.m.
15	Mon.	Connecticut * (ESPN)	2:00 p.m.
21	Sun.	at Seton Hall *	12:00 p.m.
24	Wed.	at West Virginia *	7:00 p.m.
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.

% Honda Elite Classic, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

BETV - BIG EAST Television

Bold indicates home game.

All times are local.

Game No. **4**

COACHES VS. CANCER CHALLENGE

(#5 AP/#5 ESPN/USA Today) **Notre Dame Fighting Irish (3-0)**
vs. (#6 AP/#6 ESPN/USA Today) **Georgia Bulldogs (2-1)**

The Date and Time: Friday, Nov. 24, 2000, at 3:00 p.m. CST.

The Site: Kolh Center (17,142) in Madison, Wis.

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.

Television: The championship game of the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge will be televised nationally by ESPN with Matt Devlin (play-by-play) and Doris Burke (color).

Websites: Notre Dame (www.und.com), Georgia (www.georgiadogs.com).

TONIGHT'S GAME

The fifth-ranked Notre Dame women's basketball team faces sixth-ranked Georgia in the championship game of the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge on Friday afternoon at the Kohl Center. The Irish defeated 19th-ranked and host Wisconsin 83-56 on Wednesday, while the Bulldogs defeated 12th-ranked Oklahoma 94-70 to reach the championship game.

The Irish enter the game with a 3-0 record following the win over Badgers, while the Bulldogs are 2-1. The teams have met twice times previously with Georgia winning both games.

Notre Dame has won its first three games by an average of 27.3 points and have outscored Valparaiso, Arizona and 19th-ranked Wisconsin by a combined 73 points in the first half. The hot shooting of sophomore **Alicia Ratay** (11-17 3PT), strong point guard play of **Niele Ivey** (28 assists, 11 steals, 9 turnovers) and dominating presence and shooting touch of All-America center **Ruth Riley** (13 blocks, 17-26 FG) have led the Irish to big early leads. Forwards **Kelley Siemon** (21 points vs. Wisconsin) and **Erica Haney** (14 points vs. Wisconsin) have given the Irish timely contributions.

Head coach **Muffet McGraw** is in her 14th year at Notre Dame with a 291-115 (.717) record and her 19th as a collegiate coach with a 379-156 (.708) mark. She has led the Irish 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.

Notre Dame's three returning starters are among the nation's best players at their respective positions. **Riley** (16.2 ppg., 7.3 rpg. in '99-'00), regarded as the premier center in collegiate women's basketball, once again is a contender for national player-of-the-year honors. Fifth-year All-America candidate **Ivey** (11.2 ppg., 6.1 apg.)

LAST IRISH GAME

Notre Dame 83, Wisconsin 56
November 22, 2000
Kohl Center, Madison, WI

Notre Dame (95)

Name	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Haney	30	4-9	0-1	6-10	3	1	2	14
Siemon	32	7-8	0-0	7-8	6	2	3	21
Riley	29	3-5	0-0	3-5	5	1	3	9
Ratay	37	1-6	0-2	6-6	5	1	1	8
Ivey	32	7-11	4-4	4-4	9	7	3	22
Joyce	17	2-5	2-5	0-0	0	1	1	6
Swanson	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Hernandez	5	0-1	0-0	1-3	0	1	0	1
Barksdale	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	0	2	2
Dunbar	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Leahy	15	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	1	2
Team					2			
Total	200	25-46	6-12	27-36	33	15	16	83

Wisconsin (56)

Name	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Sims	34	6-13	0-2	8-9	3	1	3	20
Stomski	31	5-11	0-0	0-0	5	2	4	10
N. Smith	26	3-4	1-1	2-4	7	3	4	9
Moore	32	3-12	0-4	1-4	6	2	5	7
Black	33	2-7	2-5	0-1	0	1	1	6
C. Smith	10	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	3	2	0
Heffe	7	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	2
Seeger	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Ashbaugh	22	1-4	0-0	0-0	3	0	3	2
Jirovec	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0
Team					1			
Total	200	21-54	3-12	11-18	27	12	24	56

Notre Dame 41 42 -- 83
Wisconsin 26 30 -- 56

FG Pct: Notre Dame 54.3, Wisconsin 38.9. **3-PT FG Pct:** Notre Dame 50.0, Wisconsin 25.0. **FT Pct:** Notre Dame 75.0, Wisconsin 61.1. **Turnovers:** Notre Dame 17, Wisconsin 22. **Blocked Shots:** Notre Dame 4, Wisconsin 3. **Steals:** Notre Dame 12 (Ivey 5), Wisconsin 57. **Attendance:** 6,943.

NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES



ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL

(Nov. 19)

Rk.	Team	Record	Last Wk.
1.	Connecticut * (40)	1-0	1
2.	Tennessee	1-0	2
3.	Duke	3-0	3
4.	Purdue *	3-0	4
5.	NOTRE DAME	1-0	6
6.	Georgia *	1-1	5
7.	Rutgers *	1-0	7
8.	Iowa State	0-0	10
9.	Penn State	2-0	11
10.	LSU	2-1	9
11.	Louisiana Tech	3-1	8
12.	Oklahoma	2-0	14
13.	Texas Tech	0-0	15
14.	Oregon	2-0	24
15.	Mississippi State	0-0	17
16.	Virginia	2-1	13
17.	SW Missouri St.	1-0	21
18.	Stanford	0-1	12
19.	Wisconsin *	1-1	16
20.	Auburn	0-0	23
21.	Illinois	1-0	25
22.	North Carolina St.	1-1	19
23.	Xavier	1-0	NR
24.	Boston College *	2-0	NR
25.	Vanderbilt	0-1	20

ESPN/USA TODAY POLL

(Nov. 19)

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

* indicates 2000-01 Notre Dame opponents

is among the top 10 returning point guards in the country in terms of assists per game (6.1) last year. Sophomore and '99-'00 BIG EAST rookie-of-the-year **Ratay** (14.0 ppg., 5.0 rpg.) proved she already is one of the nations' top three-point shooters last year, finishing fourth in the nation in three-point field-goal percentage at .480 (73-152).

Seniors **Siemon** (6.5 ppg., 5.0 rpg.) and **Meaghan Leahy** (2.4 ppg, 2.4 rpg.) bolster Notre Dame in the front court, while sophomore **Amanda Barksdale** (1.1 ppg, 1.2 rpg.) is expected to see more playing time this year. Junior **Haney** (6.8 ppg., 3.7 rpg.) brings great athleticism and versatility to the lineup and is expected to take over one of the starting roles.

Notre Dame's backcourt depth is strengthened by the return of senior **Imani Dunbar** (1.1 ppg., 1.9 rpg.) and sophomores **Monique Hernandez** (2.4 ppg.) and walk-on **Karen Swanson**. In addition to these veterans, freshmen **Jeneka Joyce** and **Le'Tania Severe**, both ranked among the top 40 prep standouts a year ago, give the Irish great outside shooting ability as well as speed and quickness to improve Notre Dame's transition game.

IRISH BEAT BADGERS TO REACH CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

With sophomore **Alicia Ratay** and senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** both held to single-digit scoring in the same game for the first time, seniors **Niele Ivey** and **Kelley Siemon** poured in a combined 43 points and junior **Ericka Haney** added 14 points to lead fifth-ranked Notre Dame to an 83-56 win over 19th-ranked Wisconsin on Wednesday. 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. Notre Dame shot better than 50 percent from the field for the third game this season (.543) and held its opponent to under 40 percent for the third straight game (.389). The Irish made 27 of 36 free throws (.750) and had 12 steals and four blocked shots.

DOUBLE-DOUBLE FOR DOUBLE "3"

Fifth-year point guard Niele Ivey entered the season with seven career double-doubles (four in '99-'00 and three in '98-'99) and had a pair of double-doubles in the first two games season. She scored 12 points and had 10 assists and five steals vs. Valparaiso in the season opener. Ivey then recorded 11 assists against just one turnover to go along with 14 points against Arizona. She was one rebound short of her third double-double vs. Wisconsin.

THE RILEY REPORT

National player-of-the-year candidate **Ruth Riley** has been at her dominating best in the lane through three games this season. In addition to her offense efficiency (17-26 FG, .654), Riley has blocked 13 shots, while committing just four personal fouls. The two-time BIG EAST defensive player of the year is averaging one block shot every six minutes she plays.

RATAY OFF TO FAST START

Sophomore Alicia Ratay had 11 three pointers in the first two games on just 15 attempts, a percentage of .733 that topped the Irish opponents' free-throw percentage (.639). 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 finished 8-10 FG, 5-6 3PT and 5-5 FT for 26 points.

LAST IRISH GAME VS. GEORGIA

Georgia 81, Notre Dame 75

December 21, 1992

Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN

Georgia (81)

Name	min	fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
C. Lowe	34	4-9	8-8	1	2	3	18
Jardim	29	6-7	1-6	4	3	4	13
Turner	30	5-9	3-4	9	2	4	13
Jones	30	8-13	0-0	3	2	2	16
Thompson	27	1-5	4-6	0	0	2	6
Robbins	13	0-3	2-3	1	3	2	2
Sanders	8	0-0	0-0	3	0	1	0
M. Lowe	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Wheeler	2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0
Reese	12	3-5	4-4	0	0	0	10
Hill	12	1-3	1-2	2	0	4	3
Team					4		
Total	200	28-55	23-33	27	12	22	81

Notre Dame (75)

Name	min	fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Knapp	19	5-6	0-0	5	1	3	10
Bowen	33	6-13	4-7	15	0	4	16
Washington	23	2-7	0-0	1	1	5	4
Orlosky	23	0-5	0-0	3	0	3	0
Fields	30	3-13	8-8	5	0	4	14
Gomez	13	1-1	1-2	2	0	1	3
Leary	28	1-7	6-7	2	2	5	8
Alexander	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Atchinson	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Jones	27	7-10	6-7	8	0	0	20
Team					5		
Total	200	25-62	25-31	46	4	25	75

Georgia 41 40 -- 81

Notre Dame 37 38 -- 75

FG Pct: Notre Dame 40.3, Georgia 50.9. **3-PT FG:** Notre Dame 0, Georgia 2. **3-PT FG Pct:** Notre Dame 0.0, Georgia 33.3. **FT Pct:** Notre Dame 80.6, Georgia 69.7. **Turnovers:** Notre Dame 25, Georgia 16. **Blocked Shots:** Notre Dame 1, Georgia 2. **Steals:** Notre Dame 5, Georgia 12. **Attendance:** 874.

NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Other	Notes
50	Kelley Siemon	F	6-2	Sr.	12.3	7.0	71.4 FG%	Two points short of career high with 21 vs. UW
3	Ericka Haney	G/F	6-1	Jr.	7.3	2.3	6 assists	Athletic player gives flexibility to the lineup
00	Ruth Riley	C	6-5	Sr.	13.0	6.3	13 blocks	Has blocked 13 shots while committing just 5 fouls
22	Alicia Ratay	SG	5-11	So.	18.0	4.3	11-17 3PT	Leading scoring in first two games (20 and 26)
33	Niele Ivey	PG	5-8	Sr.	16.0	4.3	9.3 APG	Two double-doubles in first two games

NOTRE DAME OFF THE BENCH

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Other	Notes
4	Le'Tania Severe	G	5-9	Fr.	--	--	--	Sidelined by stress fracture, expected back by Jan.
5	Jeneka Joyce	G	5-9	Fr.	6.7	0.3	6-14 3PT	Gives Irish another 3PT threat off the bench
11	Karen Swanson	G	5-7	So.	0.0	0.3	12 minutes	Walk-on player saw action in 23 games last year
23	Monique Hernandez	G	5-9	So.	2.7	0.7	40 minutes	Has started season strong as Ivey's backup
31	Amanda Barksdale	F	6-3	So.	1.3	2.0	5 blocks	Gives Irish another shot blocker in the middle
41	Imani Dunbar	G	5-7	Sr.	2.0	0.3	4 assists	Another key reserve with 21 min. in three games
44	Meaghan Leahy	F	6-4	Sr.	3.7	2.0	4 steals	Improved player has given quality minutes off bench

POLL POSITION

When the preseason women's and men's basketball polls were announced, the University of Notre Dame were the only Division I-A institution ranked among the top 20 teams in Associated Press standings in the sports of football, men's basketball and women's basketball. The Irish women's basketball team entered the season with its highest-ever preseason ranking at sixth in the AP (now fifth) and fifth in the ESPN/USA Today polls, while the men's team was ranked 15th in the preseason AP rankings (now 14th). Notre Dame currently stands 11th in football (8-2 record). It's the first time in Irish athletic history all three of those Notre Dame teams have been ranked in the top 20 in the same week.

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 in each of the last two seasons.

IRISH VS. TOP 10

Notre Dame has a 5-5 record vs. top 10 teams (including 3-0 vs. non-conference opponents) during the last two seasons. The Irish have wins over #6 UCLA, #6 Duke, #8 Rutgers, #9 Rutgers, #9 North Carolina and losses to #1 Connecticut (twice), #6 Connecticut, #8 Rutgers and #9 Rutgers. **The Irish have won four straight and seven of their nine games vs. top-10 non-conference opponents**, defeating #6 Texas Tech in '97-98, #8 Alabama, #8 North Carolina State and #6 Iowa in '96-97 and falling to Tennessee twice (ranked second and 10th) in '96-97.

SERIES RECORD VS. GEORGIA

The Irish and Bulldogs meet for third time Friday at the Kohl Center. Georgia handed visiting Notre Dame a 90-86 overtime loss on Dec. 8, 1991. The 20th-ranked Bulldogs won 90-86

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
Total	288-115	.715	7 NCAA Appearances

BIG EAST Conference (five seasons, '96-'00)
74-14 (.841)

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.



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

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. 14	6	no poll
Nov. 19	5	5

over the host Irish on Dec. 21, 1992. Current Irish coordinator of basketball operations and former standout Letitia Bowen played a team-high 33 minutes in the last meeting, scoring 16 points and collecting a game-high 15 rebounds. Current Bulldog administrative assistant Kim Thompson also played in that contest and chipped in six points.

24 AND COUNTING

Notre Dame extended its school-record home winning streak to 24 wins with its home-opening victory over Arizona. The streak was the sixth longest active streak in the country entering the season, behind Grambling (66), Kent (31), Texas Tech (30), Louisiana Tech (27) and Old Dominion (24).

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. She finished with 12 points vs. Valparaiso, 14 vs. Arizona and 22 vs. Wisconsin to bring her career total to 1044 -- 16th most points in Irish history.

RILEY, RATAY NAMED NAISMITH CANDIDATES

Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** and sophomore guard **Alicia Ratay** are among the 30 preseason 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*.

IRISH FACE 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 highlight 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 will welcome 2000 Final Four participant Rutgers, 1999 NCAA



RECENT IRISH REGULAR SEASON TOURNAMENTS

Seattle Times Classic

12-30-86 Oklahoma 57, Notre Dame 54
12-31-86 Montana 50, Notre Dame 48

Phoenix Classic

12-4-87 Wis.-Green Bay 69, Notre Dame 65
12-5-87 Notre Dame 81, Brigham Young 69

Wildcat Tournament

12-28-87 Notre Dame 75, Fairfield 62
12-29-87 Villanova 56, Notre Dame 55

**Investor's Women's Classic
(Richmond, VA)**

12-2-88 Georgetown 70, Notre Dame 60
12-3-88 Notre Dame 85, Arizona 81 (ot)

St. Joseph's Invitational

12-29-88 James Madison 65, Notre Dame 49
12-30-88 Notre Dame 61, Youngstown State 50

**Rotary Classic
(Orlando, FL)**

11-24-89 Notre Dame 113, Liberty 35
11-25-89 Notre Dame 81, Central Florida 61

Hawk Classic

12-28-90 Notre Dame 71, Louisiana Tech 66
12-29-90 Notre Dame 72, St. Joseph's 53

Brown PowerBar Tournament

12-4-93 Notre Dame 77, Wisconsin 55
12-8-93 Notre Dame 58, Brown 54

**UCI/Newport Beach Marriott Classic
(Irvine, CA)**

12-2-94 Notre Dame 72, UC-Irvine 71
12-3-94 Alabama 105, Notre Dame 87

Seattle Times Husky Classic

12-27-94 Colorado 91, Notre Dame 70
12-28-94 Miami (OH) 79, Notre Dame 76

**Kona Women's Basketball Classic
(Kailua-Kona, HI)**

12-1-95 Penn State 86, Notre Dame 77
12-2-95 Notre Dame 80, Washington 67
12-3-95 Texas A&M 88, Notre Dame 84 (OT)

**Comfort Inn Downtown Classic
(Atlanta, GA)**

11-29-96 Notre Dame 95, Ohio 82
11-30-96 Notre Dame 76, Georgia Tech 69

champion Purdue and Pacific-10 power Arizona to the Joyce Center. Notre Dame will travel to Wisconsin on Nov. 22 and 24, for the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge, facing the host Badgers in the opening round and NCAA tournament team Georgia in the championship game (televised by ESPN). The Irish will play on ESPN2 when they travel 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 round out the non-conference schedule.

NOTRE DAME AMONG RECENTS 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

EXCITEMENT BUILDS AS SEASON-TICKET SALES DOUBLE

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 2,500 for the upcoming 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. Irish women's basketball season tickets remain on sale and can be purchased by contacting the Notre Dame ticket office at 219-631-7356.

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 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.

PRIOR TO THE COACHES VS. CANCER CHALLENGE

The Irish won a pair of preseason exhibition games before opening the season with two wins in advance of the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge. Following is a recap of those games:

Notre Dame 95, Arizona 65

Four of fifth-ranked Notre Dame's five starters reached double figures in scoring by halftime as the Irish build a 57-29 lead over visiting Arizona on Monday at the Joyce Center -- just two points short of the school record for most points in a half. **Alicia Ratay** had 15 first-half points, and Ivey's first three point FG gave the Irish a 31-12 lead just 8:38 into the game. Notre Dame's starters averaged just five minutes in the second half, and the Irish bench



IVEY, RILEY CLIMB IRISH CAREER SCORING LIST

1. Beth Moran (1993-97)	2,322
2. Katryna Gaither (1993-97)	2,126
3. Karen Robinson (1987-91)	1,590
4. Trena Keys (1982-86)	1,589
5. Sandy Botham (1984-88)	1,460
T6. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	1,439
T6. Ruth Riley (1997-2000)	1,439
8. Shari Matvey (1979-83)	1,373
9. Margaret Nowlin (1988-92)	1,298
10. Mary Beth Schueth (1981-85)	1,233
11. Letitica Bowen (1991-95)	1,205
12. Heidi Bunek (1985-89)	1,202
13. Krissi Davis (1987-91)	1,194
14. Danielle Green (1995-2000)	1,106
15. Carrie Bates (1981-85)	1,060
16. Niele Ivey (1996-2000)	1,044
17. Mollie Peirick (1994-98)	1,034

allowed the Wildcats to get no closer than 25 points. Notre Dame shot .623 from the field, while the Irish defense held Arizona to .328 shooting, had 13 steals and blocked nine shots. Notre Dame finished with 31 assists to 17 turnovers.

Notre Dame 71, Valparaiso 46

The sixth-ranked Irish drained nine of 11 three pointers and used six steals and three blocked shots in the first half alone to build a 47-17 halftime lead on the way to their sixth consecutive season-opening win with a 71-46 victory at Valparaiso. Four players scored in double figures for the Irish, including a game-high 20 by sophomore **Alicia Ratay**. Fifth-year guard **Niele Ivey** had 12 points and 10 assists, while senior center **Ruth Riley** chipped in 13 points. Leading 7-4 nearly five minutes into the game, the Irish exploded for 40 points in the final 15:25 of the first half (a rate of 2.6 points per minute) to build their 30-point halftime advantage. Notre Dame made eight three-point shots during its run, including four by Ratay in a span of 3:47. Notre Dame's bench took over in the second half and played 52 minutes. Valparaiso twice pulled within 23 points but could not cut into the lead any further. The Irish improved to 14-0 all-time vs. the Crusaders and to 11-3 under Muffet McGraw in season openers.

Notre Dame 98, Tapiolan Honka 53

Notre Dame wrapped up its preseason exhibition schedule with a 98-53 win over the Finnish team Tapiolan Honka on Tuesday at the Joyce Center. Five players scored in double figures for Notre Dame, including 15 from senior **Meaghan Leahy** and 14 from freshman **Jeneka Joyce** -- both reserves. Sophomore **Alicia Ratay** led the Irish with 17 points. Jamika Jones, a member of the WNBA's Miami Sol, led all scorers with 22 points. Fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** helped the Irish build a 56-31 halftime lead with seven points, eight assists and nine rebounds in the first half. Joyce netted all 14 of her points in 14 minutes of action in the first half with four three-point shots and two free throws. Leahy poured in 10 points in the second half as the Irish pulled away from Tapiolan Honka.

Notre Dame 91, Premier All-Stars 56

Six players scored in doubles figures, including all five starters, to pace the Irish to a 91-56 win over the Premier All-Stars in an exhibition game at the Joyce Center. Irish freshman **Jeneka Joyce** and All-Star Joni O'Connell led all scorers with 16 points. The Irish led 47-29 at halftime before opening the second half with a 22-9 run in the first seven minutes to build a 69-37 lead. The Premier All-Stars never got closer than 30 points in the loss. Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** fueled the Irish second-half spurt with 10 of her 12 points during the run. Seniors **Kelley Siemon** (14) and **Niele Ivey** (12), junior **Ericka Haney** (15) and sophomore **Alicia Ratay** (10) also added double-figure scoring. Lisa Cline chipped in 15 for the All-Stars. The Irish built a 22-8 lead at 12:55 of the first half before the All-Stars pulled within four points at 24-20. Notre Dame then eased away once again to take a 47-20 half-time advantage.