



Sports Information Office
University of Notre Dame
112 Joyce Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556
www.und.com
574-631-7516
574-631-7941 FAX

NOTRE DAME

F O O T B A L L

GAME DAY EDITION: SEPTEMBER 6, 2003

NOTRE DAME (0-0)

Sept. 6	WASHINGTON STATE	1:38 EST
Sept. 13	at Michigan	3:30 EDT
Sept. 20	MICHIGAN STATE	1:30 EST
Sept. 27	at Purdue	TBA
Oct. 11	at Pittsburgh	TBA
Oct. 18	USC	1:30 EST
Oct. 25	at Boston College	TBA
Nov. 1	FLORIDA STATE	2:30 EST
Nov. 8	NAVY	2:30 EST
Nov. 15	BYU	2:30 EST
Nov. 29	at Stanford	5:00 PST
Dec. 6	at Syracuse	1:00 EST

WASHINGTON STATE (1-0)

Aug. 30	vs. Idaho (at Seattle)	W, 25-0
Sept. 6	at Notre Dame	1:38 EST
Sept. 13	at Colorado	1:30 MDT
Sept. 20	NEW MEXICO	2:00 PDT
Sept. 27	at Oregon	12:30 PDT
Oct. 4	ARIZONA	2:00 PDT
Oct. 18	at Stanford	2:00 PDT
Oct. 25	OREGON STATE	2:00 PDT
Nov. 1	at USC	4:00 PST
Nov. 8	UCLA	4:00 PST
Nov. 15	ARIZONA STATE	2:00 PST
Nov. 22	at Washington	TBA

WEEKLY RANKINGS

Here's where Notre Dame has been ranked in the weekly polls during the 2003 season:

Week	AP	ESPN/USA Today	BCS
preseason	20	18
Aug. 26	no poll	18
Sept. 1	19	16

Game No. **1**

(#19 AP/#16 ESPN/USA Today) **Notre Dame Fighting Irish (0-0)**
vs. **Washington State Cougars (1-0)**

The Date and Time: Saturday, Sept. 6, 2003, at 1:38 p.m. EST.

The Site: Notre Dame Stadium (80,795/Natural Grass) in Notre Dame, Ind.

The Tickets: They're all sold -- with this being the 168th consecutive sellout at Notre Dame Stadium (the first 130 coming at the old 59,075 capacity). The Washington State game marks the 216th home sellout in the last 217 games (dating back to 1964) and the 151st sellout in the last 174 games involving Notre Dame, including the first 10 games of 1998, the first 11 in '99, the first five in '00, the first nine in '01 and all 13 in '02.

The TV Plans: NBC Sports national telecast with **Tom Hammond** (play-by-play), **Pat Haden** (analysis), **Lewis Johnson** (sideline), **Jim Bell** (producer) and **John Gonzalez** (director).

The Radio Plans: For the 36th consecutive season, all Notre Dame football games are broadcast on more than 200 stations in all 50 states nationwide by Westwood One with **Tony Roberts** (play-by-play), former Irish running back **Allen Pinkett** (analysis) and former Irish quarterback and 1956 Heisman Trophy winner **Paul Hornung** (pregame/halftime analysis). A live broadcast from the Notre Dame student station, WVFI, also is available through the Notre Dame athletic department web site at www.und.com. All Notre Dame football games are heard on WDND-AM (1620) and WNDV-FM (92.9) in South Bend with pre- and post-game analysis featuring **Sean Stires**, **Andy Budzinski**, **Shawn Lewallen**, **Jack Nolan** and **Larry Williams**. All Irish games also are carried live in the Chicago market on ESPN Radio 1000.

Real-Time Stats: Live in-game statistics are available for the Washington State game, via the Notre Dame (www.und.com) and Washington State (www.wsucougars.com) athletics web sites.

Web Sites: Notre Dame (www.und.com), Washington State (www.wsucougars.com).

IRISH KICK OFF 2003 SEASON SATURDAY AGAINST WASHINGTON STATE

The 115th season of Notre Dame football is set to begin Saturday at 1:38 p.m. (EST) when the Irish play host to Washington State at Notre Dame Stadium. The game will be televised nationally by NBC and it will mark the 168th consecutive sellout at Notre Dame Stadium, a streak that dates back to Thanksgiving Day of 1973.

The Irish are beginning their second season under head coach **Tyrone Willingham** following a remarkable 10-3 record last year that included a trip to the Toyota Gator Bowl on New Year's Day. Notre Dame has 38 monogram winners back from that squad, including 14 starters and currently is ranked in both of the major national polls (20th by Associated Press, 16th by ESPN/USA Today).

Among the returning players on this year's Irish roster are a pair of preseason first-team All-Americans in senior linebacker **Courtney Watson** and senior cornerback/kick returner **Vontez Duff**. Watson, who also was a Butkus Award finalist in 2002 and is a candidate for the honor again this season, led Notre Dame with 90 tackles last year despite missing three games due to injury. Meanwhile, Duff is widely regarded as one of the most explosive all-around players in college football after becoming the first player in school history to return a punt, kickoff and interception for a touchdown last season. Like Watson, Duff is a candidate for postseason honors, having been named to the '03 Jim Thorpe Award Watch List.

Washington State (1-0) kicked off its 2003 campaign last Saturday with a 25-0 shutout of Idaho in a game played at Seahawks Stadium in Seattle. WSU running back **Jonathan Smith** carried 16 times for 160 yards and two touchdowns, and kicker **Drew Dunning** booted four field goals as the Cougars won the debut game for new head coach **Bill Doba**. In the victory, Washington State rolled up 339 yards rushing, their highest output on the ground in 10 years, and finished the game with 466 yards of total offense.

The Cougars are one of three teams on this year's Irish schedule that reached the '02 Bowl Championship Series. WSU posted a 10-3 record last year and advanced to the Rose Bowl, where it lost to Oklahoma, 34-14. Saturday's game will be the Cougars' first-ever meeting with Notre Dame.



MEDIA INFORMATION

THE WILLINGHAM CONFERENCES

Tyrone Willingham's weekly teleconference-style press conferences will take place on Tuesday mornings prior to each Notre Dame game, with the next scheduled for Sept. 9. They are held at the WNDU-TV studios (on US 933/Business 31, west edge of campus) in South Bend. A light meal is served beginning at 10:30 a.m. (EST), and Coach Willingham will address the media from 11-11:30 a.m. (EST). At least one Irish player generally is available for interviews following Willingham's remarks. Out-of-town media can connect to the Willingham portion of the conference via phone to listen and ask questions — contact the Notre Dame sports information office at (574) 631-7516 for the access number. All teleconferences also are available on satellite (Galaxy 3-C, Transponder 4). Video highlights from the previous week's Notre Dame game are included at the end of each hour-long satellite feed (11:00 a.m.-noon EST). The teleconferences also are carried live on WDND-AM (ESPN Radio 1620) in South Bend, as well as the official Notre Dame athletics web site (www.und.com).

TUESDAY TRANSCRIPTIONS

Transcriptions of **Tyrone Willingham's** Tuesday press conferences are available from the Notre Dame sports information office, as well as the official Notre Dame athletics web site at www.und.com.

THE KEVIN WHITE RADIO SHOW

A weekly radio show featuring Notre Dame athletics director **Kevin White** will air at 7:00 p.m. (Central time) each Thursday on Chicago's ESPN Radio 1000 (1000 AM in Chicago, www.espnradio1000.com). Now in its fourth season, "The Kevin White Show" 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. The show is co-hosted by **Dave Wills**, who also hosts the Chicago White Sox pre- and post-game shows on ESPN Radio 1000.

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE STARTING OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player	Notes
WR	80	Omar Jenkins	Averaged more than 17 yards per catch in 2002
LT	70	Jim Molinaro	Made first three starts of career and played 124:37 last year
LG	73	Mark LeVoir	One of largest linemen (6-7, 320) on this year's roster
C	76	Bob Morton	Former second-team prep All-American; DNP in 2002
or	55	Zachary Giles	Played in one game in '02; two years experience in system
RG	65	Sean Milligan	Only returning starter on OL; 17 career starts (12 in 2002)
RT	74	Dan Stevenson	Saw action in 11 games last year; started at RT in Gator Bowl
TE	85	Billy Palmer	Has played in 14 career games (made first start at USC in '02)
WR	21	Maurice Stovall	Lanky sophomore caught 18 passes for 312 yds. as a rookie
QB	7	Carlyle Holiday	Third in ND history with .0194 INT pct. (5 INT in 401 attempts)
FB	16	Rashon Powers-Neal	Converted tailback; ran 77 times for 344 yards, 2 TD last year
RB	4	Ryan Grant	Doak Walker Award candidate; ran for 1,085 yds., 9 TD in '02

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE STARTING DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player	Notes
LE	44	Justin Tuck	Speedy pass rusher had five sacks, 10 tackles for loss in '02
DT	60	Darrell Campbell	Major force on nation's 10th-ranked rush defense last year
NG	77	Greg Pauly	Played in 12 games last year, making three starts (11 tackles)
RE	92	Kyle Budinscak	Begins second year as starter; two-time Academic All-District
ILB	33	Courtney Watson	Butkus Award candidate; led Irish in tackles (90) last year
ILB	39	Brandon Hoyte	Made three starts in '02 and was leading ND tackler in all three
OLB	49	Derek Curry	Second-year starter who will see time as both ILB and OLB
LCB	34	Vontez Duff	Preseason All-American and Thorpe Award candidate
FS	19	Glenn Earl	Thorpe Award candidate; second on team in tackles (81) in '02
SS	26	Garron Bible	Played in all 13 games last year (two starts) as dime back
RCB	9	Jason Beckstrom	Missed entire '02 season with torn biceps; has five career starts
or	24	Dwight Ellick	Former all-BIG EAST track star played in every game last yr.

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE SPECIALISTS

Pos.	No.	Player	Notes
PK/KO	13	Nicholas Setta	Has made 87 straight PAT kicks (second-best in ND history)
P	13	Nicholas Setta	First ND player to hold both kicking duties since '92 (Hentrich)
HLD	8	Matt Krueger	Walk-on senior quarterback is a South Bend native
or	19	D.J. Fitzpatrick	Also will serve as backup placekicker and punter
SNP	64	Casey Dunn	Walk-on offensive lineman earned snapping job in preseason
PR/KR	34	Vontez Duff	Ranked eighth in nation in KO return yds. last year (27.68)
	22	Julius Jones	Stands second on ND career kick return yards list (1,857)

THE INJURY UPDATE (as of Sept. 6)

Senior TE **Gary Godsey** Knee injury, out indefinitely
 Senior LB **Mike Goolsby** Shoulder injury, evaluated on week-to-week basis

NOTRE DAME-WASHINGTON STATE SERIES NOTES

- Notre Dame and Washington State will be playing one another for the first time ever Saturday afternoon at Notre Dame Stadium. WSU will be the 134th different opponent in 115 seasons of Irish football.
- For the second consecutive season, the Irish are opening up against a first-time opponent. Last year, Notre Dame blanked Maryland, 22-0 in East Rutherford, N.J., to win Kickoff Classic XX.
- The Cougars are the only Pac-10 Conference team the Irish have never faced. Notre Dame is 68-35-6 (.651) all-time against Pac-10 schools, including a 38-12-1 (.755) mark at Notre Dame Stadium. The Irish also have won their last six home games against Pac-10 teams, dating back to 1998.
- Washington State is one of three teams on this year's Irish schedule that played in Bowl Championship Series games last year — the Cougars fell to Oklahoma, 34-14 in the Rose Bowl. USC and Florida State are the other two '02 BCS qualifiers Notre Dame will face this season.
- The Irish are 4-0 all-time against teams from the state of Washington, with all four victories coming against WSU's archrival, the University of Washington. Notre Dame and UW last met in 1996 (a 54-20 Irish win at Notre Dame Stadium) and the teams are slated to resume their series next year in Seattle.



MEDIA POLICIES

INTERVIEW REQUESTS

Outside of the regular Tuesday teleconferences, the best time for interviews with head coach **Tyrone Willingham**, Irish players or other members of the coaching staff is after practice Tuesday-Thursday or by special appointment.

All interview requests must be coordinated through the Notre Dame sports information office by contacting either Lisa Mushett or Chris Masters. Interview requests must be made prior to the end of the daily 20-minute open practice period. **All player and coach interviews will take place after practice in the media interview room, located at the tunnel entrance (north end) of Notre Dame Stadium.**

Out-of-town media wishing to speak with Irish football personnel via telephone should contact Mushett or Masters at least 24 hours in advance.

MORE MEDIA NOTES

- The first 20 minutes of each practice session are routinely open to the media with some exceptions. Check with the Notre Dame sports information office (574-631-7516) for exact practice times and media availability.

- Media members wishing to obtain photos of Irish players or coaches should contact Lisa Mushett or Chris Masters in the Notre Dame sports information office for assistance.

RELEASES AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

Media members interested in receiving Notre Dame football releases via email should send requests to Chris Masters at masters.5@nd.edu. All weekly game notes are sent out in a PDF format that may be viewed using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

ATHLETICS WEB SITE (www.und.com)

Notre Dame's official athletic department web site can be found at www.und.com, with the extensive offerings including real-time statistics for all Notre Dame home football games and selected road contests.

- Notre Dame's publicity material on football, including updated game notes, depth charts, rosters and schedules, is available through www.und.com. Some elements are posted in a PDF format and will require Adobe Acrobat Reader to view them.

- Although this is the first-ever meeting between Notre Dame and Washington State, Irish head coach **Tyrone Willingham** has faced the Cougars seven times before (all during his tenure at Stanford), posting a 5-2 (.714) career mark against WSU.

- Washington State assistant coaches **Leon Burtnett** and **Ken Greene** both have experience matching up against Notre Dame, having done so during their respective careers at Purdue. Burtnett was the Boilermakers' defensive coordinator from 1977-81 and their head coach from 1982-86, logging an overall 4-6 (.400) record against the Irish. In fact, Burtnett's final game as head coach against Notre Dame in '86 (a 41-9 Irish win) also served as the first victory for **Lou Holtz** in South Bend. Meanwhile, Greene was the defensive secondary coach at Purdue from 2000-02, going 0-3 vs. Notre Dame.

IF NOTRE DAME WINS ...

- Notre Dame would register its 15th season-opening victory in the last 17 seasons.
- The Irish would lift their all-time record against the Pac-10 to 69-35-6 (.655) and move to 5-0 all-time against the Pac-10 in season openers.
- Notre Dame would win its home opener for the seventh time in the last eight years and the 13th time in the past 17 seasons.
- The Irish would pick up their seventh consecutive home victory over a Pac-10 opponent, a streak that dates back to 1998 (began with a 35-17 win over Stanford).
- Notre Dame head coach **Tyrone Willingham** would earn his fourth consecutive season-opening win (second with the Irish) and improve to 6-3 (.667) all-time in season openers as a collegiate head coach.
- Willingham would raise his career record against Washington State to 6-2 (.750).

IF WASHINGTON STATE WINS ...

- Notre Dame would lose its season opener for just the third time in the last 17 years. The Irish also would drop their home lidlifter for only the second time in the past nine seasons.
- The Cougars would be the first new regular-season opponent to defeat Notre Dame since Florida State handed the Irish a 19-13 loss on Oct. 10, 1981.
- Notre Dame would see its six-game home winning streak against Pac-10 teams come to an end, while WSU would be the first Pac-10 team to win at Notre Dame Stadium since USC claimed a 20-17 victory on Oct. 18, 1997.
- The Irish would lose consecutive regular-season games for the first time since Oct. 27-Nov. 3, 2001 (defeats by Boston College and Tennessee).

NOTRE DAME-WASHINGTON STATE CONNECTIONS

- Notre Dame offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach **Bill Diedrick** held a similar post at Washington State for two seasons (1989-90), coaching the top pick in the 1990 NFL Draft, QB Drew Bledsoe (selected by the New England Patriots, now with the Buffalo Bills).
- Irish offensive line coach **John McDonell** spent 12 seasons at Washington State (1989-2000), working with the Cougars' offensive line throughout his tenure and adding offensive coordinator duties from 1994-2000.
- Notre Dame running backs/special teams coach **Buzz Preston** mentored the running backs at WSU from 1994-97.
- Diedrick, McDonell and Preston all served on the same coaching staff with first-year Washington State head coach **Bill Doba**, who has been with the Cougars since 1989.
- Saturday's game marks a homecoming for Doba, who grew up in South Bend. He was the head coach at three area high schools (Goshen, Angola and Mishawaka) from 1962-76 before entering the college ranks. Doba was inducted into the Mishawaka Hall of Fame in 1986 and the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 2001.
- Longtime Washington State play-by-play voice **Bob Robertson** worked on the Irish football broadcasts for two years (1955-56).
- Notre Dame athletics director **Kevin White** and Washington State AD **Jim Sterk** have a history together. Sterk worked in three different roles under White at Maine (1987-90) and later served as associate AD and senior associate AD under White at Tulane (1991-95). While at Tulane, Sterk worked alongside another member of White's current administrative staff at Notre Dame, deputy athletics director **Sandy Barbour**.
- Notre Dame sophomore walk-on WR **Mike O'Hara** is a native of Bellevue, Wash., and graduated from Newport High School.



**NOTRE DAME vs.
PAC-10 TEAMS**

School	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
Arizona	2	1	0	1.000
Arizona State	2	0	0	1.000
California	4	0	0	1.000
Oregon	1	0	1	.750
Oregon State	0	1	0	.000
Stanford	11	6	0	.667
UCLA	2	0	0	1.000
USC	42	27	5	.601
Washington	4	0	0	1.000
Washington State	0	0	0	—
TOTALS	68	35	6	.651

CONFERENCE CALL

• This season marks the fifth consecutive campaign in which Notre Dame has faced teams from six different conferences. Here's a look at the conference breakdown for the 12 Irish opponents in 2003:

- ACC (1):** Florida State
- Big Ten (3):** Purdue, Michigan, Michigan State
- BIG EAST (3):** Pittsburgh, Boston Coll., Syracuse
- Pac-10 (3):** Stanford, USC, Washington State
- Mountain West (1):** BYU
- Independents (1):** Navy

• Notre Dame has had great overall success against the major conferences in the country, including the Pac-10, of which Washington State is a member.

Conference	Winning %
Western Athletic	.850
Atlantic Coast	.795
Mountain West	.793
BIG EAST	.713
Big Ten	.667
Big 12	.666
Pac-10	.651
SEC	.633

NOTRE DAME VS. THE PAC-10 CONFERENCE

- Notre Dame has won more than 65 percent of its games versus Pac-10 Conference opponents, with a winning series record versus each of the Pac-10 teams that the Irish have played and an overall mark of 68-35-6 (.651) in 109 games against Pac-10 schools — including the 1998, 2000 and 2002 wins over Stanford, the '98 and '99 wins over Arizona State and the '99, '00 and '01 wins over USC. Nearly 70 percent of those games (75) have come versus USC (42-27-5) while another 15 percent have come against Stanford (11-6-0).
- Notre Dame has played a handful of games vs. California (4-0), Washington (4-0), Arizona (2-1), Oregon (1-0-1) and UCLA (2-0). Notre Dame and Arizona State met for the first time in 1998, while the Irish met Oregon State for the first time in the 2001 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Notre Dame has never played Washington State on the gridiron, although they are scheduled to meet for the first time on Saturday.
- The Irish won at Washington in '95 (29-21) and beat the Huskies at Notre Dame Stadium in '96 (54-20), with the only other previous games in that series coming in '48 and '49. The most recent games vs. other Pac-10 teams are: a 16-13 home loss to Arizona in '82, a 41-8 home win over California in '67, a 13-13 tie at Oregon in '82 and a 24-0 home win over UCLA in '64.
- Notre Dame is 13-8-1 (.614) in its last 22 games vs. Pac-10 schools (4-4-1 vs. USC, 5-3 vs. Stanford, 2-0 vs. Washington, 2-0 vs. Arizona State, 0-1 vs. Oregon State), starting with a '92 victory over USC. The Irish also are 10-1 (.909) in their last 11 home games against Pac-10 squads, dating back to 1993.

BRAND-NEW OPPONENT ON THE SCHEDULE

Notre Dame and Washington State will be meeting for the first time ever when they square off Saturday at Notre Dame Stadium. The Cougars represent the 134th different opponent in Irish history, and the third in the last two seasons (following last year's premieres against ACC members Maryland and North Carolina State). During its 115-year history, Notre Dame has faced 63 of the other 117 teams currently competing at the NCAA Division I-A level.

FOR OPENERS

Notre Dame has compiled a record of 96-13-5 (.864) historically in its season-opening games, including winning 14 of their last 16 games (only losses coming to Northwestern in 1995 and at Nebraska in 2001). Last year, the Irish opened the **Tyrone Willingham** era in grand style, shutting out Maryland, 22-0 in Kickoff Classic XX at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. It was the first season-opening whitewash for Notre Dame since Sept. 22, 1973, when **Ara Parseghian's** charges blanked Northwestern, 44-0, before a capacity crowd at Notre Dame Stadium. Willingham also became the first Irish head coach in nearly half a century to begin his tenure at Notre Dame with a shutout win — **Terry Brennan** was the last to pull off such a feat, engineering a 21-0 win over fourth-ranked Texas in 1954.

One additional note: Notre Dame is 4-0 all-time when opening against a Pac-10 school, including a 41-8 victory over California in 1967, the last time the Irish debuted against a Pac-10 club.

THE SKINNY ON HOME OPENERS

Notre Dame has had tremendous success in home openers during its 115-year history, going 91-17-5 (.827) in its initial on-campus contest of the season (there were no home games in 1929 due to the construction of Notre Dame Stadium). Among Irish head coaches, **Jesse Harper** (1913-17) and **Terry Brennan** (1954-58) both won all five of their home openers, while **Knute Rockne** (1918-30) went 11-0-1 in his first home game of the season (only a 7-7 tie with Great Lakes in 1918 sullied his record). More recently, Notre Dame has won six of its last seven and 12 of its last 16 home openers, including a 24-17 conquest of Purdue to open the 2002 home slate.

FORMER IRISH FOOTBALL CAPTAINS TO BE HONORED AT WASHINGTON STATE GAME

At halftime of Notre Dame's season opener vs. Washington State on Saturday, a contingent of former Irish football captains will be honored for their leadership and service to the program. In presentations earlier on Saturday, the captains will receive pins specially designed at the end of last season (the first recipients were last year's captains — **Arnaz Battle**, **Sean Mahan**, **Gerome Sapp** and **Shane Walton** — as well as the 2002 football banquet speaker, former Irish defensive end and 1984 captain **Mike Golic**). Continuing a tradition which began last season, Notre Dame will select its captains on a game-by-game basis in 2003.

The former Irish captains who are scheduled to be represented at this weekend's festivities include (years as captain in parentheses): **Ken Adamson** ('59), **Lee Becton** ('94), **Ned Bolcar** ('88-89), **Nick Buoniconti** ('61), **Jim Carroll** ('64), **Phil Carter** ('81-82), **Dave Casper** ('73), **Lyron Cobbins** ('96),



John Dampeer ('72), Dave Duerson ('82), Al Ecuyer ('58), Terry Eurick ('77), Vagas Ferguson ('79), Tim Foley ('79), Tony Furjanic ('85), Tom Gatewood ('71), Bob Golic ('78), Mark Green ('88), Brian Hamilton ('94), Jerome Heavens ('78), Joe Johnson ('84), Tim Kelly ('70), Mike Kovaleski ('86), George Kunz ('68), Chuck Lanza ('87), Mike Larkin ('85), Bob Lehmann ('63), Ray Lemek ('55), Mike Lind ('62), Jim Lynch ('66), Greg Marx ('72), Derrick Mayes ('95), Jim Morse ('56), Jim Mutscheller ('51), Bob Olson ('68-69), Walt Patulski ('71), Allen Pinkett ('85), Frank Pomarico ('73), Myron Pottios ('60), Dick Prendergast ('57), Chuck Puntillo ('58), Tim Scannell ('85), John Scully ('80), Phil Sheridan ('65), Jim Stock ('75), Ed Sullivan ('57), Mike Townsend ('73), Larry Williams ('84) and Chris Zorich ('90).

FORMER IRISH BASEBALL GREAT JIM GILLIS TO RECEIVE ALUMNI AWARD AT WSU GAME

Jim Gillis, a past president of the Notre Dame National Monogram Club and a three-year monogram winner in baseball for the Irish, will receive the Harvey G. Foster Award from the Notre Dame Alumni Association at Saturday's season-opening football game vs. Washington State. The Foster Award is presented each year to a Notre Dame graduate distinguished for athletic endeavors and community service.

Gillis, who went on to play Major League Baseball with the Philadelphia Phillies, has teamed with his wife, Jane, for the last 40 years to assist in fund raising for Providence St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank, Calif. They also established the Jim and Jane Gillis Grant-in-Aid Scholarship for Notre Dame baseball last January. In addition, Gillis is an active member of the Notre Dame Club of Los Angeles, received the club's Award of the Year in 1997, and was named a University Exemplar that same year.

SHUTOUTS A RARITY AGAINST NOTRE DAME

Beginning with the 1988 Cotton Bowl, Notre Dame has been shut out just once in its last 183 games (a 10-0 loss at USC in the '98 regular-season finale), including a current streak of 49 consecutive games without being blanked. During that time, the Irish defense has pitched 11 shutouts of its own, with eight of those whitewashes coming at Notre Dame Stadium (including a 42-0 win over Rutgers in the 2002 home finale).

RETURN TO SENDER

One of the hallmarks of Notre Dame's success last season was its ability to capitalize on an opponent's mistakes. In fact, the Irish wound up with nine returns (punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions) for touchdowns in 2002, which tied North Carolina State for second-most in the nation behind Kansas State's 12 returns for touchdowns.

Upon closer inspection, the return game has been a source of strength for Notre Dame over the past four seasons. The Irish have logged 23 returns for touchdowns in that time, a figure that ranks eighth in the country. Here's a look at the national leaders in touchdown returns since 1999 (research courtesy of the University of Colorado athletic media relations office — bowl games counted separately):

Team	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Bowls	Total
Miami (Fla.)	3	13	11	5	3	1	36
Kansas State	9	5	2	12	1	0	29
Virginia Tech	8	6	7	7	0	0	28
Colorado	5	4	7	7	0	4	27
Nebraska	6	7	5	6	1	3	27
Texas Tech	3	7	8	5	1	1	25
East Carolina	7	5	4	5	0	3	24
NOTRE DAME	4	6	4	9	0	0	23
Fresno State	5	5	3	5	0	2	20
North Carolina State	3	2	4	9	0	1	19
TCU	5	3	4	6	0	1	19

SETTA PULLING DOUBLE DUTY

Senior Nicholas Setta will begin the season as the starting placekicker and punter for the Irish, marking the first time a Notre Dame player regularly has filled both roles since Craig Hentrich turned the trick from 1989-92. Hentrich is now an all-pro punter with the NFL's Tennessee Titans.

Setta is starting his fourth season as the Irish placekicker, having twice been named to the Lou Groza Award Watch List. He also was selected as a preseason honorable mention All-American by *Street & Smith's* each of the last two seasons. This year, he has the opportunity to break several Notre

ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL

(Sept. 1)

Rk.	Team	Record	Last
1.	Oklahoma (30)	1-0	1
2.	Ohio State (25)	1-0	2
3.	Miami (Fla.) (2)	1-0	3
4.	USC (6)	1-0	8
5.	Michigan (2)	1-0	4
6.	Texas	1-0	5
7.	Kansas State	2-0	7
8.	Georgia	1-0	11
9.	Virginia Tech	1-0	9
10.	Pittsburgh	0-0	10
11.	Florida State	1-0	13
12.	Tennessee	1-0	12
13.	LSU	1-0	14
14.	North Carolina State	1-0	16
15.	Virginia	1-0	18
16.	Purdue	0-0	19
17.	Auburn	0-1	6
18.	Wisconsin	1-0	21
19.	NOTRE DAME	0-0	20
20.	Arizona State	0-0	22
21.	Florida	1-0	NR
22.	Washington	0-1	17
23.	Nebraska	1-0	NR
24.	Colorado	1-0	NR
25.	TCU	0-0	25

ESPN/USA TODAY POLL

(Sept. 1)

Rk.	Team	Record	Last
1.	Oklahoma (32)	1-0	1
2.	Ohio State (26)	1-0	2
3.	Miami (Fla.) (5)	1-0	3
4.	Texas	1-0	4
5.	USC	1-0	8
6.	Kansas State	2-0	5
7.	Michigan	1-0	7
8.	Georgia	1-0	9
9.	Virginia Tech	1-0	10
10.	Florida State	1-0	11
11.	North Carolina State	1-0	13
12.	Pittsburgh	0-0	12
13.	LSU	1-0	15
14.	Tennessee	1-0	16
15.	Virginia	1-0	17
16.	NOTRE DAME	0-0	18
17.	Wisconsin	1-0	20
18.	Florida	1-0	21
19.	Auburn	0-1	6
20.	Purdue	0-0	22
21.	Arizona State	0-0	23
22.	Colorado	1-0	NR
23.	Iowa	1-0	25
24.	Nebraska	1-0	NR
25.	Penn State	1-0	NR

Boldface indicates 2003 Notre Dame opponents



MEMORABLE SEASON OPENERS

The following games are among Notre Dame's more memorable season openers, based on ranked opponents and/or close finishes:

**Oct. 4, 1930
at Notre Dame 20, SMU 14**

Joe Savoldi—100-yd kick return; Marchy Schwartz—winning TD with 4:00 to play; 1st game in ND Stadium.

**Sept. 25, 1948
at Notre Dame 28, Purdue 27**

Irish win on Steve Oracko's field goal.

**Sept. 30, 1950
at #1 Notre Dame 14, #20 North Carolina 7**

Irish tie game on pass from Bob Williams to Jim Mutscheller with 2:40 to play.

**Sept. 27, 1952
#10 Notre Dame 7, at #12 Pennsylvania 7**

Irish escape with tie, despite lackluster offense.

**Sept. 26, 1953
#1 Notre Dame 28, at #6 Oklahoma 21**

Johnny Lattner intercepts late pass in end zone; Sooners go on to win next 47.

**Sept. 25, 1954
at #2 Notre Dame 20, #4 Texas 0**

Ralph Guglielmi: two passing TDs, one rushing TD, three INTs.

**Sept. 22, 1956
at SMU 19, #3 Notre Dame 13**

Mustangs score winning TD with 1:50 to play, spoiling Paul Hornung's comeback heroics.

**Sept. 28, 1963
#6 Wisconsin 14, at Notre Dame 9**

Badgers win on Ralph Kurek's one-yard TD run with 1:07 to play.

**Sept. 24, 1966
at #6 Notre Dame 26, #8 Purdue 14**

Terry Hanratty to Jim Seymour: 13 passes for 276 yards; Irish go on to national title.

Dame records, including career field goal attempts (Setta has 56, while John Carney holds the record of 69 from 1984-86), career field goal made (Setta has 37, while Carney is first with 51), and career points by kicking (Setta has 210, while Hentrich owns the top mark of 294). In addition, Setta has made 87 consecutive PAT kicks, the second-longest streak in school history behind Hentrich's run of 136 straight PAT conversions from 1989-92. Setta's last missed PAT kick came on Oct. 7, 2000 vs. Stanford.

While he has a wealth of experience as a placekicker, Setta comes into this season having only served as a backup punter behind two-time Ray Guy Award semifinalist Joey Hildbold. However, while filling in for the injured Hildbold against Boston College in 2000, Setta did punt four times for 160 yards (a 40-yard average), including a career-long 47-yard boot in a 28-16 Irish victory. Setta was one of 32 candidates named to the '03 Ray Guy Award preseason watch list.

SIX IRISH PLAYERS EARN PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA HONORS

Senior inside linebacker **Courtney Watson** was a preseason first-team All-America selection by *Street & Smith's* and *The Sporting News*. Meanwhile, senior cornerback/kick returner **Vontez Duff** was a preseason first-team All-American according to *Street & Smith's* and a second-team choice by *Athlon*. The latter publication also named senior nose guard **Cedric Hilliard** to its preseason All-America third team. Senior free safety **Glenn Earl**, junior running back **Ryan Grant** and senior kicker/punter **Nicholas Setta** all were awarded preseason honorable mention All-America status by *Street & Smith's*.

THREE NOTRE DAME POSITION UNITS LAUDED BY NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Athlon named the Irish linebacking corps the fourth-best unit in the country, while *The Sporting News* labelled them the ninth-best group in the land. In addition, *Athlon* selected the Notre Dame defensive line as the fifth-best unit in the nation.

WATSON NAMED TO WALTER CAMP PLAYER OF THE YEAR PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Senior inside linebacker **Courtney Watson** has been named to the preseason watch list for the Walter Camp Football Foundation Player of the Year, the nation's fourth-oldest individual accolade which is given annually by the Walter Camp Football Foundation. Through a vote of the 117 Division I-A head coach and sports information directors, the list will be cut to 10 semifinalists in early November, with the winner to be announced Dec. 11 at the ESPN/Home Depot College Football Awards Show. The official award presentation is slated for Feb. 14, 2004, at the Walter Camp Football Foundation national awards banquet, which will be held in New Haven, Conn., at the Yale University Commons.

WATSON, GOOLSBY NAMED TO BUTKUS AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Senior inside linebackers **Courtney Watson** and **Mike Goolsby** have been named to the preseason watch list for the Butkus Award, which is presented each year to the nation's top linebacker by the Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando. The list of 90 candidates will be pared down to 10 semifinalists on Oct. 16, with the three finalists chosen on Nov. 13. The winner will be unveiled Dec. 12 at a banquet in Orlando.

DUFF, EARL PICKED FOR THORPE AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Senior cornerback **Vontez Duff** and senior free safety **Glenn Earl** have been named to the preseason watch list for the Jim Thorpe Award, which is awarded annually to the nation's top defensive back by the Jim Thorpe Association, based in Oklahoma City. Ten semifinalists for the award will be announced Nov. 3, with the three finalists selected on Nov. 24. The winner will be announced Dec. 11 at the ESPN/Home Depot College Football Awards Show with the official award presentation slated for Feb. 9, 2004, in Oklahoma City.

HOLIDAY TAPPED FOR O'BRIEN AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Senior quarterback **Carllyle Holiday** has earned a spot on the preseason watch list for the Davey O'Brien Award, which is presented annually to the nation's top quarterback by the Fort Worth Club in Fort Worth, Texas. In November, the semifinalists will be announced and the three finalists will be selected later in the month. The winner will be announced Dec. 11 at the ESPN/Home Depot College Football Awards Show with the official award presentation slated for February 2004 in Fort Worth.

TUCK EARNS PLACE ON HENDRICKS AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Junior defensive end **Justin Tuck** has been selected to the preseason watch list for the Ted Hendricks Award, which is given annually to the nation's top defensive end by the Ted Hendricks Foundation in



Chicago. In November, the semifinalists will be announced and the three finalists will be selected later in the month. The winner will be announced Dec. 11 at the ESPN/Home Depot College Football Awards Show with the official award presentation set for February 2004 in Chicago.

SETTA APPEARS ON RAY GUY AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Senior punter/placekicker **Nicholas Setta** has been named to the preseason watch list for the Ray Guy Award, which is presented each year to the nation's top punter by the Greater Augusta (Ga.) Sports Council. Ten semifinalists will be announced in early November and the three finalists will be chosen later that month. The winner will be announced Dec. 11 at the ESPN/Home Depot College Football Awards Show and will receive his award live during the broadcast.

FOUR PLAYERS NAMED TO 2003 STREET & SMITH'S AWARD WATCH LISTS

Street & Smith's tapped senior inside linebacker **Courtney Watson** for spots on its Butkus Award and Bednarik/Nagurski Award watch lists (as did *Lindy's*). The former honor recognizes the country's top linebacker, while the latter awards spotlight the nation's best overall defensive player. In addition, *Street & Smith's* placed senior cornerback **Vontez Duff** and senior free safety **Glenn Earl** on its watch list for the Thorpe Award (which goes to the top defensive back in the country), and the publication named senior kicker **Nicholas Setta** to its watch list for the Lou Groza Award (presented to the nation's top kicker).

IRISH PLAYERS RANK HIGH IN LINDY'S AND THE SPORTING NEWS IN 2003

Senior **Courtney Watson** was tabbed the fourth-best inside linebacker in the country by *Lindy's* and *The Sporting News*, while senior **Vontez Duff** was rated the seventh-best cornerback and ninth-best all-purpose player by *Lindy's*, and the nation's 10th best as both a cornerback and kick returner by *The Sporting News*. Senior nose guard **Cedric Hilliard** was ranked the sixth-best defensive tackle in the nation by *The Sporting News*, while senior free safety **Glenn Earl** placed 14th among free safeties by *The Sporting News* and 19th by *Lindy's*. Senior **Mike Goolsby** was rated 12th among the nation's inside linebackers by *Lindy's*, while junior **Ryan Grant** was 18th among running backs and senior **Darrell Campbell** was charted 19th among defensive linemen by the same publication.

IRISH HEAD COACH TYRONE WILLINGHAM

A veteran with 26 seasons of coaching experience at the collegiate and professional levels, **Tyrone Willingham** is now in his second season as head football coach at the University of Notre Dame after serving as the leader at Stanford University for seven seasons. Willingham used his years of service in the coaching business to reverse the tides of the Irish program in '02, leading Notre Dame to a 10-2 regular-season record and a trip to the 2003 Toyota Gator Bowl. He became the first Irish head coach ever to win 10 games in his first season, and he was named the ESPN/Home Depot College Coach of the Year, the Scripps College Coach of the Year, the Black Coaches Association Male Coach of the Year and the George Munger Award College Coach of the Year by the Maxwell Football Club of Philadelphia. In addition, he made history in 2002 as the first college football coach ever to earn *The Sporting News* Sportsman of the Year award. In eight years as a college head coach, Willingham has compiled a solid 54-39-1 (.580) record and guided his charges to bowl games on five occasions.

Willingham was introduced as the new Irish mentor on Jan. 1, 2002, following seven seasons as the head coach at Stanford. He compiled a 44-36-1 (.549) record during his tenure at Stanford, guiding the Cardinal to four bowl games, including the Rose Bowl following the 1999 season. Willingham was a two-time Pacific-10 Conference Coach of the Year (1995 and 1999), the only Stanford coach to earn that award more than once, and he was a finalist for national coach-of-the-year honors in '95 and '99. All told, Willingham spent 10 years at Stanford, initially serving as running backs coach from 1989-91. Between his stints with the Cardinal, Willingham coached in the professional ranks for three seasons (1992-94) with the Minnesota Vikings, helping his team win a pair of NFC Central Division championships and reach the playoffs all three years. Willingham began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at his alma mater, Michigan State, in 1977, before moving to Central Michigan as the defensive secondary coach for two years (1978-79). He returned to MSU from 1980-82, working with the secondary and special teams units, and also served at North Carolina State (1983-85) and Rice (1986-88).

SCOUTING THE IRISH OFFENSE

Line -- The offensive line will be largely retooled for the Irish this season. Four of the five starters from

MEMORABLE SEASON OPENERS

(cont.)

Sept. 21, 1968
at #3 Notre Dame 45, #5 Oklahoma 21

Irish QBs Terry Hanratty and Joe Theismann direct Irish to 571 total yards.

Sept. 11, 1976
#9 Pittsburgh 31, at #11 Notre Dame 10

Tony Dorsett leads Pitt with 181 rushing yards; Panthers go on to win national title.

Sept. 10, 1977
#3 Notre Dame 19, at #7 Pittsburgh 9

Irish hold Pitt to 82 total yds; Rusty Lisch (106 pass. yds) and Jerome Heavens (94 rush. yds) lead offense; Irish go on to national title

Sept. 9, 1978
Missouri 3, at #5 Notre Dame 0

Tigers kick FG with 12:50 to play; Joe Montana goes 4-of-17 with two lost fumbles.

Sept. 6, 1980
at #11 Notre Dame 31, #9 Purdue 10

Phil Carter leads Irish with 142 rushing yards.

Sept. 6, 1997
at #11 Notre Dame 17, Georgia Tech 13

Irish win on Autry Denson's 1-yard run with 2:37 to play; first game in expanded stadium.

Sept. 5, 1998
at #22 Notre Dame 36, #5 Michigan 20

Autry Denson (163 rushing yards, 2 TDs) helps Irish total most rushing yards by a Michigan opponent since '87 (321).

Aug. 31, 2002
Notre Dame 22, #21 Maryland 0

Nicholas Setta kicks five FG, Irish defense pitches first season-opening shutout since '73 to win Kickoff Classic XX.



PRESEASON HONORS

DT Darrell Campbell

Lindy's, ranked 19th nationally among defensive linemen

CB Vontez Duff

Jim Thorpe Award Watch List
Street and Smith's preseason first-team All-American

Athlon preseason second-team All-American
 Chosen by *Street and Smith's* as a Jim Thorpe Award candidate

Lindy's, ranked seventh nationally among cornerbacks

Lindy's, ranked ninth nationally among all-purpose players

The Sporting News, ranked 10th nationally among cornerbacks

The Sporting News, ranked 10th nationally among kick returners

FS Glenn Earl

Jim Thorpe Award Watch List
Street and Smith's preseason honorable mention All-American

Chosen by *Street and Smith's* as a Jim Thorpe Award candidate

The Sporting News, ranked 14th nationally among free safeties

Lindy's, ranked 19th nationally among free safeties

RB Ryan Grant

Street and Smith's preseason honorable mention All-American

Lindy's, ranked 18th nationally among running backs

LB Mike Goolsby

Butkus Award Watch List
Lindy's, ranked 12th nationally among inside linebackers

last year were selected in the NFL Draft, taking with them more than 80 combined starts and nine combined seasons of starting experience. Senior **Sean Milligan** is the lone holdover on the offensive line and he is being called upon to anchor the rebuilt 2003 crew. Milligan is a three-year monogram winner who played in all 13 games last season, playing a total of 266:27. He has made 17 career starts, which more than quadruples the total number of starts (four) by the rest of the offensive line.

Junior **Mark LeVoir** has earned the starting nod at left guard after spending the past two seasons as a backup at both tackle positions. One of the largest linemen on the Irish roster this year (6-7, 320), LeVoir played in four games last season for a total of 10:09. Juniors **Jeff Thompson** and **Darin Mitchell** will serve as the primary understudies at the guard spot for Notre Dame.

While Milligan is the only regular starter back this season, both of this year's tackles saw significant playing time last year. Senior left tackle **Jim Molinaro** appeared in all 13 games last year (124:37) and started the final three games of the season, two at left tackle and one at right tackle. On the other side of the line, junior right tackle **Dan Stevenson** was thrust in the starting lineup for last year's Gator Bowl and played extremely well, cementing his position at that position in 2003. Stevenson played a total of 82:23 in 11 games last season, seeing time as both a reserve guard and tackle. A pair of sophomores, **Brian Mattes** and **Jamie Ryan**, are penciled in to be the backup tackles this year.

The battle to replace All-America center Jeff Faine has been a tight one throughout preseason camp, with sophomore **Bob Morton** and junior **Zachary Giles** both competing for the starting spot. Morton was a second-team high school All-American in 2001, but did not see action for the Irish last season. Giles served as a backup to Faine and Ryan Scarola last year, playing in one game.

Backs -- Senior **Carlyle Holiday** has been the starting quarterback for Notre Dame since the third week of the 2001 season and he shows no signs of turning over the reins in the near future. Last year was Holiday's first in the new West Coast offense employed by head coach **Tyrone Willingham** and offensive coordinator **Bill Diedrick**, and the veteran signal-caller thrived, setting a school record with 126 consecutive pass attempts without an interception. Last season, he completed 129-of-257 passes for 1,788 yards and 10 TD with only five interceptions, ranking ninth in school history for passes completed and sixth for pass attempts. In addition, he tied a school record last year with four touchdown passes in Notre Dame's 42-0 win over Rutgers. A 2003 Davey O'Brien Award candidate, Holiday has the third-lowest interception percentage in school history (.0194), having thrown just five picks in 401 career pass attempts.

For the second consecutive season, junior **Pat Dillingham** will serve as Holiday's primary backup. Dillingham appeared in seven games last season, completing 41-of-81 passes for 434 yards and one touchdown. He carved a place in Irish history last season at Michigan State, throwing the game-winning 60-yard TD pass to Arnaz Battle with 1:15 to play. Dillingham also made his first career start vs. Stanford, throwing for 129 yards in a 31-7 victory. Freshman **Brady Quinn** also could see significant playing time as the year progresses.

Junior **Ryan Grant** leads a veteran group of Irish running backs who were the main beneficiaries of Notre Dame's new offensive style last year. Grant became the seventh player in school history to rush for 1,000 yards in a single season, finishing with 1,085 yards and a team-high nine touchdowns. He posted four 100-yard games last year and three other 90-yard efforts, and rang up a career-high 190 yards on 30 carries in a win at Air Force. Junior **Marcus Wilson** (39-110 in 2002) and senior **Julius Jones** also will see plenty of action out of the backfield this season. Jones led the Irish in rushing in 2000 (657 yards) and added 718 yards on the ground in 2001 before sitting out last season.

Junior **Rashon Powers-Neal** will step into the starting lineup at fullback after serving as Grant's primary understudy at tailback last season. A bruising back who deftly complements the fluid styles of Grant, Wilson and Jones, Powers-Neal carried 77 times for 344 yards and two touchdowns last season. He also posted his first career 100-yard game with 108 yards on 13 carries against Stanford. Junior walk-on **Josh Schmidt** has been the surprise of this year's preseason camp, working his way into a position for playing time, along with sophomore **Nate Schiccatano**, who opened some eyes with 24 yards rushing and a touchdown in the '03 Blue-Gold Game.

Receivers -- Despite the loss of leading receiver Arnaz Battle (58-786, 5 TD), the Irish receiving corps should be well-stocked in 2003. Junior **Omar Jenkins** takes over as the leader of the unit after pulling in 37 balls for 633 yards and three touchdowns last season. Rangy sophomore **Maurice Stovall** will hold the other starting wideout position after snaring 18 passes for 312 yards and three touchdowns in his rookie campaign last year. Senior **Ronnie Rodamer** (2-14 in '02), junior **Matt Shelton** (1-18) and sophomore **Rhema McKnight** (9-91) all can stretch defenses vertically and will see significant time in Notre



PRESEASON HONORS

NG Cedric Hilliard

Athlon preseason third-team All-American
The Sporting News, ranked sixth nationally among defensive tackles

QB Carlyle Holiday

Davey O'Brien Award Watch List

K/P Nicholas Setta

Ray Guy Award Watch List
Street and Smith's preseason honorable mention All-American
 Chosen by *Street and Smith's* as a Lou Groza Award candidate

DE Justin Tuck

Ted Hendricks Award Watch List

LB Courtney Watson

Walter Camp Football Foundation Player of the Year Watch List
 Butkus Award Watch List
Street and Smith's preseason first-team All-American
The Sporting News preseason first-team All-American
 Chosen by *Street and Smith's* as a Butkus Award candidate
 Chosen by *Street and Smith's* as a Bednarik/Nagurski Award candidate
 Chosen by *Lindy's* as a Butkus Award candidate
 Chosen by *Lindy's* as a Bednarik/Nagurski Award candidate
The Sporting News, ranked fourth nationally among inside linebackers
Lindy's, ranked fourth nationally among inside linebackers

Dame's balanced offensive scheme. Freshmen receivers **Chinedum Ndukwe** and **Jeff Samardzija** also turned in strong preseason showings and could be heard from this season.

Senior **Billy Palmer** will begin the season as the starting tight end while senior **Gary Godsey** is out indefinitely with a knee injury suffered in preseason. A sturdy blocker, Palmer was Godsey's main backup last season, appearing in all 13 games and making his first career start in a two-tight end formation at USC. Senior **Jared Clark**, a converted quarterback, adjusted well to his new position last season, catching seven passes for 104 yards, including a career-high four receptions vs. North Carolina State in the Gator Bowl. Sophomores **Anthony Fasano** and **Marcus Freeman** also will contend for playing time this season — Fasano sparkled in the '03 Blue-Gold Game, catching three passes for 63 yards.

SCOUTING THE IRISH DEFENSE

Line -- One of the strengths of this year's Irish squad will be its defensive line, where three starters are back in the fold. Senior defensive tackle **Darrell Campbell** (33 tackles, eight for loss, six sacks in '02) and senior nose guard **Cedric Hilliard** (21 tackles, five for loss two sacks in '02) were key factors in Notre Dame's 10th-ranked rushing defense last year. Both players weigh better than 290 pounds and provide a formidable obstacle for opponents in the middle of the line. Senior **Greg Pauly** will share time in the middle of the line this season, after showing tremendous improvement last year (11 tackles, three for loss). Junior **Brian Beidatsch** saw action in all 13 games last year (two tackles) and will be called upon even more in '03. Senior right end **Kyle Budinscak** is the other veteran returning on the Irish defensive line, beginning his second season as a starter. A two-time Academic All-District selection, Budinscak registered 20 tackles, including six for loss and three sacks last year. Junior end **Justin Tuck** (44 tackles, 10 for loss, five sacks in '02), a pass-rushing specialist with exceptional quickness, will move into the starting lineup this season in place of the departed Ryan Roberts, with highly-touted freshman **Victor Abiamiri** and sophomore **Travis Leitko** serving as the top understudies at the defensive end positions.

Linebackers -- All three starting linebackers return for the Irish this season, led by senior inside linebackers and Butkus Award candidates **Courtney Watson** and **Mike Goolsby**. Watson, a 2002 Butkus Award finalist, led the team with 90 tackles last year despite missing three games due to injury. Goolsby was third on the squad with 75 tackles last season, but currently is sidelined with a shoulder injury. Junior **Brandon Hoyte** will step in for Goolsby, after replacing Watson three times last year and leading the Irish in tackles in all three contests (including a career-high 10 tackles vs. North Carolina State in the Gator Bowl). Senior **Derek Curry** will man the outside linebacker post after rolling up 34 tackles (seven for loss, four sacks) last year. Junior **Corey Mays** (four tackles in '02) and senior **Jerome Collins** (one tackle in '02) are the main linebacker reserves.

Backs -- Even with the loss of unanimous All-America cornerback Shane Walton and strong safety Gerome Sapp to the NFL, the Irish secondary should be particularly sturdy in 2003. Senior cornerback **Vontez Duff** was a third-team All-American last year and started every game (36 tackles, 7 PBU, 1 INT) for the Irish, while hard-hitting senior free safety **Glenn Earl** tied for second on the team with 81 tackles last year. Both Duff and Earl are preseason candidates for the Jim Thorpe Award. Senior **Garron Bible** (32 tackles in '02) is expected to fill Sapp's role at strong safety, while the competition to replace Walton at the other cornerback position is up for grabs between senior **Jason Beckstrom** and junior **Dwight Ellick**. Beckstrom missed all of last season with a torn biceps, while Ellick, a former all-BIG EAST track standout, has played in 23 career games, mostly on special teams. The reserve secondary unit is headed by senior **Preston Jackson** at cornerback, and juniors **Quentin Burrell** and **Lionel Bolen** at safety.

SCOUTING THE IRISH KICKING GAME

Senior **Nicholas Setta** takes on the dual role of placekicker and punter in 2003, becoming the first person to hold down both positions for the Irish since Craig Hentrich from 1989-92. A two-time Lou Groza Award candidate, Setta begins his fourth season as Notre Dame's kicker this year, setting his sights on several school records. He has made 37 career field goals (14 shy of John Carney's mark) and is fourth on the Irish career points-by-kicking chart (210, record is 294 by Hentrich). In addition, Setta has made 87 consecutive PAT kicks, the second-longest streak in school history (136 by Hentrich from 1989-92). This season will mark Setta's first as the everyday punter following the departure of two-time Ray Guy Award semifinalist Joey Hildbold. Setta has four career punts to his credit, all against Boston College in 2000, with a 40-yard average.



INDIVIDUAL SINGLE-GAME BESTS

CAREER BESTS – TOTAL CARRIES

Ryan Grant	30 vs. Air Force, '02
Carlyle Holiday	22 vs. Boston College, '01
Julius Jones	27 vs. Air Force, '00
Rashon Powers-Neal	17 vs. Navy, '02
Marcus Wilson	10 vs. Air Force, '02

CAREER BESTS – RUSHING YARDS

Ryan Grant	190 vs. Air Force, '02
Carlyle Holiday	130 vs. West Virginia, '01
Julius Jones	146 vs. Navy, '99
Rashon Powers-Neal	108 vs. Stanford, '02
Marcus Wilson	44 vs. Air Force, '02

CAREER BESTS – PASS COMPLETIONS

Carlyle Holiday	17 vs. Maryland, '02
Pat Dillingham	19 vs. North Carolina State, '02

CAREER BESTS – PASS ATTEMPTS

Carlyle Holiday	32 vs. Boston College, '02
Pat Dillingham	37 vs. North Carolina State, '02

CAREER BESTS – PASSING YARDS

Carlyle Holiday	272 vs. Navy, '02
Pat Dillingham	166 vs. North Carolina State, '02

CAREER BESTS – RECEPTIONS

Jared Clark	4 vs. North Carolina State, '02
Gary Godsey	4 vs. Purdue, '02
Ryan Grant	3 at Florida State, '02
Omar Jenkins	5 vs. Maryland, '02
Julius Jones	3 at Boston College, '01
Rhema McKnight	2, four times (last: at USC, '02)
Ronnie Rodamer	1, three times (last: vs. NCSU, '02)
Matt Shelton	1 vs. Rutgers, '02
Maurice Stovall	3 vs. BC/N.C. State, '02

CAREER BESTS – RECEIVING YARDS

Jared Clark	41 vs. North Carolina State, '02
Gary Godsey	50 vs. Navy, '01
Ryan Grant	15 at Florida State, '02
Omar Jenkins	166 vs. Navy, '02
Julius Jones	49 vs. USC, '99
Rhema McKnight	37 vs. Boston College, '02
Ronnie Rodamer	9 vs. Navy, '02
Matt Shelton	18 vs. Rutgers, '02
Maurice Stovall	59 vs. Michigan State, '02

CAREER BESTS – TACKLES

Jason Beckstrom	5, three times (last: at Rutgers, '00)
Garron Bible	7 vs. Rutgers, '02
Lionel Bolen	3 vs. Rutgers, '02
Kyle Budinscak	5 vs. Purdue, '01
Quentin Burrell	2 vs. USC, '01
Darrell Campbell	5, three times (last: vs. Navy, '02)
Jerome Collins	1 vs. Maryland, '02
Derek Curry	5 vs. Michigan State, '02
Vontez Duff	6 vs. Purdue/USC, '02
Glenn Earl	12 vs. Purdue, '01
Dwight Ellick	2, three times (last: at MSU, '02)
Mike Goolsby	11 vs. Purdue, '02
Cedric Hilliard	7 vs. Air Force, '02
Brandon Hoyte	10 vs. North Carolina State, '02
Preston Jackson	7 vs. Rutgers, '02
Corey Mays	1, four times (last: at Florida State, '02)
Greg Pauly	3 vs. Air Force, '02
Jason Sapp	1 vs. Maryland/Rutgers, '02
Justin Tuck	9 vs. Navy, '02
Courtney Watson	18 vs. Nebraska, '01

Junior walk-on offensive lineman **Csey Dunn** will begin the season as the Irish long snapper, taking over for the departed John Crowther. Meanwhile, senior walk-on quarterback Matt Krueger and junior reserve kicker D.J. Fitzpatrick are battling to nail down the holder spot.

Seniors **Vontez Duff** and **Julius Jones** will make up a formidable kick return crew for Notre Dame. Duff ranked eighth in the nation in kickoff return yardage last year (27.68) and became the first player in school history to return a punt, kickoff and interception for a touchdown last season. Jones ranks second in school history in three career return categories — kick return yardage (1,857), kickoff returns (59) and kickoff returns yardage (1,435) and is closing in on 1987 Heisman Trophy winner (and school record holder) Tim Brown in all three departments.

NUMBER CHANGE

The Irish made one number change from the 2003 media guide rosters as junior fullback **Josh Schmidt** has changed from No. 26 to No. 12.

NOTRE DAME FEATURED PROMINENTLY ON TELEVISION THIS YEAR

In addition to continuing its streak of consecutive games played on one of the four major television networks (NBC, ABC, CBS or ESPN), Notre Dame will be spotlighted on the small screen in several other ways during the 2003 season. Here's a thumbnail look at each of the individual TV projects which are featuring the Irish this year:

- ESPN is filming "The Season: Notre Dame Football" in South Bend throughout the '03 campaign. Crews from the network are attending practice sessions, team meals and other team-related activities, as well as conducting regular interviews with Irish players and coaches. "The Season: Notre Dame Football" will air for 10 weeks, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. (EST).
- ESPN College GameDay is celebrating its 10th season of live remotes from college football's top games. In recognition of its first-ever road trip (a Nov. 13, 1993 journey to South Bend for the game between No. 1 Florida State and No. 2 Notre Dame) is airing weekly all-access features on the Irish which are adapted from its feature presentation, "The Season: Notre Dame Football." Former Irish flanker and two-time All-American **Raghib "Rocket" Ismail** will lend even more of a Notre Dame flavor to the College GameDay broadcasts this year as he joins their crew for regular contributions.
- College Sports Television (CSTV), the nation's new 24-hour cable channel devoted exclusively to college sports, highlights Irish athletics during a two-hour block on Sunday nights called "Notre Dame Primetime." The show, which will be co-hosted by former Irish split end **Derrick Mayes**, focuses on all 26 Notre Dame sports and the continuing growth of Irish athletics.
- Besides these features, Notre Dame is now in the 13th season of its unique relationship with NBC. All Irish home football games since 1991 have been televised on the network, with the current agreement slated to continue through 2005. **Tom Hammond** (play-by-play) and **Pat Haden** (analysis) are beginning their third full season broadcasting the action for NBC in '03.

2003 NOTRE DAME OPPONENT UPDATE

The following is a look at Notre Dame opponents' upcoming games. Since 1977, when the NCAA started rating strength of schedule, Notre Dame's schedule has been rated the most difficult five times (1978, 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1995) and has appeared in the top 25 a total of 19 times in the last 26 years.

Opponent (Ranking*)	'03 Record	'02 Record	Sept. 6	Sept. 13
Washington State	1-0	10-3	at Notre Dame	at Colorado
Michigan (5/7)	1-0	10-3	Houston	Notre Dame
Michigan State	1-0	4-8	Rutgers	Louisiana Tech
Purdue (16/20)	0-0	7-6	Bowling Green	at Wake Forest
Pittsburgh (10/12)	0-0	9-4	Kent State	Ball State
USC (4/5)	1-0	11-2	BYU	Hawaii
Boston College	0-1	9-4	at Penn State	Connecticut
Florida State (11/10)	1-0	9-5	Maryland	Georgia Tech
Navy	1-0	2-10	at TCU	Idle
BYU	1-0	5-7	at USC	at New Mexico
Stanford	0-0	2-9	San Jose State	Idle
Syracuse	0-0	4-8	at North Carolina	Louisville

* - current Associated Press poll ranking listed first, followed by ESPN/USA Today poll ranking

Notre Dame Opponents' Combined Record in 2002: 82-69 (.543); Record in 2003: 7-1 (.875)



**TEAM
SINGLE-GAME BESTS**

NOTRE DAME BESTS – 2002 SEASON

Rushing Yards	335 vs. Air Force
Passing Yards	288 vs. Rutgers
Total Yards	478 vs. Rutgers
First Downs	23 vs. North Carolina State
Low Rush Yds. Allowed	14 vs. Rutgers
Low Pass Yds. Allowed	52 vs. Navy
Low Total Yds. Allowed	133 vs. Maryland
Fewest 1st Downs Allowed	8 vs. Maryland
Sacks	8 vs. Pittsburgh
Turnovers Forced	4 vs. Purdue, Michigan, FSU
Points (Game)	42 vs. Rutgers
Points (Half)	28 (2nd) vs. Stanford/Rutgers
Points (Quarter)	28 (3rd) vs. Rutgers
Victory Margin	42 (42-0) vs. Rutgers

NOTRE DAME BESTS – 1990-present

Rushing Yards	458 vs. Purdue, '92
Passing Yards	338 vs. Pittsburgh, '99
Total Yards	650 in two games
First Downs	34 vs. Michigan State, '91
Low Rush Yds. Allowed	(-6) vs. Rutgers, '96
Low Pass Yds. Allowed	12 vs. Army, '98
Low Total Yds. Allowed	43 vs. Rutgers, '96
Fewest 1st Downs Allowed	5 in two games
Points (Game)	62 vs. Rutgers, '96
Points (Half)	42 (2nd) vs. Navy, '90
Points (Qtr)	40 (2nd) vs. Pittsburgh, '96
Victory Margin	62 (62-0) vs. Rutgers, '96

PRESEASON RANKINGS

Here's where Notre Dame has been ranked in the pre-season and final *Associated Press* polls since 1987:

Year	Preseason	Final
1987	18	17
1988	13	1
1989	2	2
1990	2	6
1991	6	13
1992	3	4
1993	7	2
1994	2	NR
1995	9	11
1996	6	19
1997	11	NR
1998	22	22
1999	18	NR
2000	NR	16
2001	18	NR
2002	NR	17
2003	20	??

THE 2003 SCHEDULE

Last year, Notre Dame's rugged regular-season schedule featured eight teams that advanced to bowl games and indications are that the '03 Irish docket should be just as tough. Notre Dame opens the campaign with a home game against Bowl Championship Series qualifier Washington State on Saturday, followed by road games at Top 25 squads Michigan and Purdue (with a home date vs. Michigan State sandwiched in between). The Purdue contest kicks off a stretch of five consecutive games against bowl qualifiers for the Irish, highlighted by visits from BCS teams USC (Oct. 18) and Florida State (Nov. 1). This season, Notre Dame also will travel to three BIG EAST Conference schools — Pittsburgh, Boston College and Syracuse — as well as Pac-10 stalwart Stanford. Mid-November visits from Navy and BYU round out the arduous 2003 Irish schedule.

Last year's Notre Dame ledger was ranked 28th in the nation according to the final NCAA statistical reports, marking the 21st time in 26 seasons that the Irish have had their schedule ranked in the top 30 in the country. Notre Dame brilliantly navigated through its imposing 2002 schedule, defeating four ranked teams to tie Miami (Fla.) for top honors in that category.

NOTRE DAME ON THE SMALL SCREEN

With the Washington State game slated to be televised nationally by NBC, the Irish will extend their streak of appearances on one of four major networks (NBC, ABC, CBS or ESPN) to 125 straight games. That's a streak that spans 10 full seasons (1993-2002), and it will continue at least through the Michigan State game (Michigan on ABC, Michigan State on NBC). The last time the Irish didn't appear on one of those four networks was more than a decade ago (Oct. 31, 1992), when Notre Dame downed Navy, 38-7, at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. That game was shown locally in the South Bend area on WNDU-TV. Here's a breakdown of the networks on which the Irish have played during this impressive streak:

YEAR	GAMES	NBC	ABC	CBS	ESPN
1992	4	3	1	—	—
1993	12	7	4	—	1
1994	12	7	5	—	—
1995	12	6	4	1	1
1996	11	6	2	2	1
1997	13	6	3	2	2
1998	12	7	3	2	—
1999	12	7	3	1	1
2000	12	6	3	3	—
2001	11	6	4	—	1
2002	13	7	4	1	1
2003	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	125	69	36	12	8

BIG CROWDS

Notre Dame has played in front of sellout crowds in 150 of its previous 173 games, including all 13 games last season. In addition, the Irish attracted stadium record crowds three times in 2002 — the Air Force contest brought in a Falcon Stadium-record crowd of 56,409 (nearly 4,000 more than its listed capacity), while the Florida State game resulted in a Doak Campbell Stadium-record gathering of 84,106 (more than 2,000 above its listed capacity). Then, with the addition of 140 field seats against Boston College, the Irish and Eagles set a Notre Dame Stadium attendance record of 80,935. All told, Notre Dame has helped set a new stadium attendance record at an opponents' facility five times in the last two seasons (also Nebraska and Texas A&M in '01).

TICKET UPDATE

Demand for tickets to two of Notre Dame's six home games in 2003 ranks among the top five in the history of Notre Dame Stadium. The Notre Dame ticket office received 54,244 ticket requests for the Oct. 18 game vs. USC, making it the fourth-highest requested Irish home game in history. In addition, the Nov. 1 Notre Dame-Florida State game garnered 51,051 requests, placing it fifth on the all-time list. In fact, Notre Dame set a record by refunding \$5.1 million to lottery losers in the University's ticket distribution for contributing alumni. That total easily exceeded last year's mark of \$2.1 million and outdistanced the old refund record of \$3.8 million in 2001.

The Notre Dame Stadium record of 59,368 ticket requests was set in '01 when the Irish took on West



NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL SHOWS ON RADIO/TV

INSIDE NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL

"Inside Notre Dame Football," featuring head coach **Tyrone Willingham**, is a half-hour, weekly television show syndicated nationally by Notre Dame Sports Properties and hosted by **Jeff Jeffers**. The show is carried by WNDU-TV in South Bend on Saturdays (normally one hour before kickoff, although this week's broadcast will air 90 minutes before game time) and on Fox Sports Chicago (3:30 p.m. Central on Tuesdays). The show also will be archived on the official Notre Dame athletics web site (www.und.com).

THE OFFICIAL NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL COACHES RADIO SHOW

"The Official Notre Dame Football Coaches Radio Show," presented by Boling Laser Center, is a half-hour, weekly radio program which is broadcast Tuesdays at 8 p.m. (EST) on U93 (92.9 FM) in South Bend. The show, which is hosted by U93 sports director **Sean Stires** and former Irish football captain and NFL standout **Larry Williams**, originates from Logan's Roadhouse in Mishawaka (4225 N. Main Street) and will feature a live or taped segment with Irish head coach **Tyrone Willingham**, a live appearance by a Notre Dame player, plus other features involving the Irish staff and program.

This program is a cooperative venture of Notre Dame Sports Properties, the Notre Dame athletics department, plus U93 and its parent company, Artistic Media Partners. The show is slated to air for 10 weeks during the football season (Sept. 2, 9, 16 and 23; Oct. 14, 21 and 28; Nov. 4 and 18; and Dec. 2), and it will be broadcast live on the official Notre Dame athletics web site (www.und.com).

THE OFFICIAL NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL POST-GAME RADIO SHOW

"The Official Notre Dame Football Postgame Radio Show," presented by Taco Bell, airs on U93 (92.9 FM) in South Bend and the official Notre Dame athletics web site (www.und.com) immediately following the conclusion of Westwood One's broadcasts of Notre Dame football games. The 90-minute show is co-hosted by U93 sports director Sean Stires, Jack Nolan and former Irish football captain and NFL standout Larry Williams. After home games, the show originates outside Gate 3 of the Joyce Center (directly across Juniper Road from Notre Dame Stadium). Following road games, the show comes from the Sports Page in Granger (50827 Princess Way). The home broadcasts feature live feeds from the Notre Dame postgame interview room, as well as on-site visit from an Irish assistant coach.

This program is a cooperative venture of Notre Dame Sports Properties, the Notre Dame athletics department, plus U93 and its parent company, Artistic Media Partners.

Virginia. Demand for that game was based on parents of current Notre Dame students being guaranteed four tickets for that contest — plus contributing alumni having the opportunity to apply for four tickets instead of the usual two, based on its designation as an alumni family game.

The Irish have posted 167 consecutive sellouts at Notre Dame Stadium and the 215 in their last 216 home games.

Here are the top 10 games in terms of alumni ticket demand at Notre Dame Stadium:

1. West Virginia	2001	59,368
2. USC	1997	57,048
3. Boston College	2002	55,482
4. USC	2003	54,244
5. Florida State	2003	51,051
6. Michigan	2002	50,883
7. Michigan State	2001	48,404
8. Nebraska	2000	47,865
9. Michigan State	1997	47,681
10. Michigan	1998	47,233

THE 2003 NFL DRAFT

Seven former Irish players were selected in the 2003 NFL Draft, the most of any school in the country with the exception of Florida and Ohio State (eight each). Leading the way was center **Jeff Faine**, who was chosen in the first round (21st overall) by the Cleveland Browns. Notre Dame now has had 58 opening-round selections, which ranks second only to USC (62) in the 67-year history of the NFL Draft.

Joining Faine in Notre Dame's '03 draft class were: OT **Jordan Black** (fifth round by the Kansas City Chiefs), OG **Sean Mahan** (fifth round by the Tampa Buccaneers), CB **Shane Walton** (fifth round by the St. Louis Rams), SS **Gerome Sapp** (sixth round by the Baltimore Ravens), WR **Arnaz Battle** (sixth round by the San Francisco 49ers) and OT **Brennan Curtin** (sixth round by the Green Bay Packers).

JOE THEISMANN NAMED TO 2003 COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS

Former Notre Dame All-America quarterback **Joe Theismann** is one of 11 former college players and two coaches named March 24 to the National Football Foundation's 2003 College Football Hall of Fame Division I-A class by Jon F. Hanson, chairman of the National Football Foundation.

The 2003 College Football Hall of Fame class will be inducted at the 46th Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 9, 2003, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. The players and coaches will be officially enshrined at the Hall of Fame in South Bend in August 2004.

Theismann launched an attack on the Irish passing record books, setting 19 school marks while leading the team to its first bowl appearance in 45 years in 1969 and a 10-1 record capped by a Cotton Bowl victory in 1970 over top-rated and unbeaten Texas.

A first-team All-America selection as a senior by Associated Press, Theismann was the runner-up in the Heisman Trophy voting in 1970. A participant in the 1970 Hula Bowl, Theismann set school records for passing yards in a game (526), yards in a season (2,429) and touchdowns in a season (16) among others. He ranked second in the nation in total offense as a senior at 291.3 yards per game — and that year he helped the Irish as a team average 510.5 total yards per game and 252.7 passing yards per game, two marks that remain all-time Notre Dame bests.

In three seasons, Theismann led the Fighting Irish to a 20-3-2 record while completing 290 passes on 509 attempts for 4,411 yards, a mark that still ranks fifth in school history. Honored for his classroom prowess, he earned Academic All-America® honors in 1970 and was later named to the GTE Academic All-America® Hall of Fame.

Following graduation, Theismann embarked on a 15-year professional career, his final 12 years in the NFL as a member of the Washington Redskins. Upon retirement, he became a highly successful businessman as well as a prominent television sports analyst for ESPN. Theismann continues to support such charitable interests as the United Way, March of Dimes, American Heart Association, Cystic Fibrosis, Special Olympics, Boy Scouts of America and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Originally from South River, N.J., Theismann becomes the 40th Notre Dame player to be chosen for the Hall of Fame since inductions began in 1951. Five former Irish coaches also have been selected. No other school has produced more than those 45 enshrinees, the most recent being Ralph Guglielmi in 2001. Theismann also becomes the eighth Notre Dame quarterback selected to the Hall of Fame, joining Frank Carideo in 1954, Harry Stuhldreher in 1958, John Lujack in 1960, Angelo Bertelli in 1972, Paul Hornung in 1985, Bob Williams in 1988 and Guglielmi in 2001.



FUTURE IRISH FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

PAUL HORNUNG TO BE SUBJECT OF CELEBRITY ROAST

Former Notre Dame and NFL star **Paul Hornung** will be the focus of the annual Life Treatment Centers celebrity roast on Sept. 18 at the Joyce Center. Numerous members of the Notre Dame and NFL communities will offer a night of humor and entertainment at the expense of the 1956 Heisman Trophy winner, who was nicknamed "The Golden Boy." The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. (EST) with a reception, followed by dinner and the roast at 6:30 p.m. (EST). All proceeds from this event will benefit Life Treatment Centers, a non-profit substance abuse treatment agency which treats hundreds of persons in the Michiana area who suffer from alcohol and drug addiction problems.

For more information on "Roastin' The Golden Boy," call (574) 233-5433 (extension 215), or visit the Life Treatment Centers web site at www.lifetreatmentcenters.org.

IRISH FOOTBALL NAMED ONE OF NATION'S TOP 10 MOST POWERFUL PROGRAMS

As part of its 2003 college football preview, *SI.com* developed its list of the top 10 most powerful programs in the nation and Notre Dame was listed second behind only Miami (Fla.). According to the website, "college football's most recognizable program saw a return to glory under **Lou Holtz**, which included landing its own TV deal with NBC, and after a few down years appears to be headed in the right direction under **Tyrone Willingham**."

MAKING THE GRADE

The Notre Dame football squad recently has had four of the most successful semesters in the classroom in the history of the program, based on final grades from the past four semesters (2001-03). In the fall of 2001, the Irish team finished (at the time) with its second-highest combined grade-point average on record (2.685) since statistics were kept beginning in 1992. A total of 12 players earned Dean's List recognition and 38 players posted a "B" average or higher last fall. Then, in the spring of 2002, the Irish topped that mark with a record-setting 2.911 combined team GPA, with 13 players making the Dean's List and another 47 averaging a "B" or better. In the fall of '02, the Irish logged a 2.835 team GPA, followed by a 2.79 average in the spring of '03. Eight players made the Dean's List in both of the last two semesters, while 43 players had a "B" or better during the fall of 2002, and 50 more reached that mark in the spring of 2003.

NOTRE DAME EXCELS IN THE CLASSROOM AS WELL AS ON THE FIELD

The Notre Dame football team has earned American Football Coaches Association Academic Achievement Award special mention honors announced in August. To earn the award, a team must have a graduation rate of over 70 percent. Duke won the 2003 overall award with a perfect 100 percent graduation rate.

Notre Dame has been recognized 22 of 23 years the award has been presented, the most of any school in the nation. Notre Dame has won the overall award six times with the most recent coming in 2001 as the Irish posted a perfect 100 percent graduation rate, becoming (at the time) the eighth school in history to graduate everyone in the class during the reporting period. Notre Dame also won the overall award in 1982, 1983, 1984, 1988 and 1991. In 1988, Notre Dame became the only school to win the Academic Achievement Award and the National Championship in the same year.

FORMER IRISH GREAT DAVE DUERSON HEADS UP NATIONAL MONOGRAM CLUB

Former Notre Dame football All-American **Dave Duerson** is still extremely involved with the University in a number of capacities. A former team captain, Duerson was named to the Notre Dame Board of Trustees in 2001, and was the winner of the 2001 Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., Award from the Notre Dame Alumni Association. The Sorin Award is presented annually to a graduate who has embodied "the values of Our Lady's University" in his service to the community. In 2002, Duerson founded his own company, Duerson Foods, after serving as president of Fair Oaks Farms, Inc., a Wisconsin-based international meat supplier that in 1999 was ranked 64th among Black Enterprise 100 companies. In addition, Duerson was a member of the advisory council for the University's Mendoza College of Business and currently is president of the Notre Dame National Monogram Club, a post he will hold through June 2005. He also is a member of the athletic department's student development mentoring program.

"THE SHIRT" NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2003 SEASON

For the 14th consecutive year, Notre Dame Student Activities and Government are sponsoring a T-shirt that benefits scholarship funds, student groups and service projects. Already, the initial run of 50,000 shirts has sold out, easily topping last year's early sellout of 44,000. In 2002, a record-setting total of

2004

- Sept. 11 MICHIGAN
- Sept. 18 at Michigan State
- Sept. 25 WASHINGTON
- Oct. 2 PURDUE
- Oct. 9 STANFORD
- Oct. 16 vs. Navy
(at East Rutherford, N.J.)
- Oct. 23 BOSTON COLLEGE
- Oct. 30 at BYU
- Nov. 6 at Tennessee
- Nov. 13 PITTSBURGH
- Nov. 27 at USC

2005

- Sept. 10 at Michigan
- Sept. 17 MICHIGAN STATE
- Sept. 24 at Washington
- Oct. 1 at Purdue
- Oct. 8 at Pittsburgh
- Oct. 15 USC
- Oct. 22 BYU
- Nov. 5 TENNESSEE
- Nov. 12 NAVY
- Nov. 19 SYRACUSE
- Nov. 26 at Stanford

2006

- Sept. 2 at Georgia Tech
- Sept. 9 PENN STATE
- Sept. 16 MICHIGAN
- Sept. 23 at Michigan State
- Sept. 30 PURDUE
- Oct. 7 STANFORD
- Oct. 21 UCLA
- Oct. 28 at Navy (site TBA)
- Nov. 4 NORTH CAROLINA
- Nov. 11 at Air Force
- Nov. 25 at USC



GRADUATION RATES

The University of Notre Dame compiled the nation's highest overall graduation rate for Division I-A student-athletes to take top honors in the 2003 *USA Today*/NCAA Academic Achievement Awards announced Sept. 2.

Ninety-two percent of the Fighting Irish student-athletes who enrolled in 1996 earned a degree from the University, three percentage points higher than second-place Tulsa University. Duke and Wisconsin finished third at 88 percent, followed by Northwestern, 87; Boston College, 86; Stanford, 84; Western Michigan, 83; Michigan, 82; and Syracuse, Rice and Utah State, 81.

In addition to the overall rate, Academic Achievement Awards are presented to the institutions with the best student-athlete graduation rates in comparison to the overall student body and to those that show the most improvement from the previous year.

Now in their third year, the awards include a \$20,000 prize for the top institutions in each category. They are based on federally compiled figures submitted by NCAA member institutions.

The NCAA bases graduation rates on the raw percentage of student-athletes who entered an institution and graduated within six years. Students who leave or transfer, regardless of academic standing, are considered non-graduates. Notre Dame's graduation rate for student-athletes who complete all four years of athletic eligibility is 99 percent.

IN OTHER IRISH SPORTS ACTION THIS WEEKEND ...

The fifth-ranked Irish women's soccer team is opening its home schedule this weekend with the Notre Dame Classic, playing host to Oklahoma Sunday at 1 p.m. (EST) at Alumni Field in the tournament finale. Meanwhile, the No. 4 Notre Dame men's soccer team will play its home opener Saturday at 7:30 p.m. (EST) against 13th-ranked St. John's, also at Alumni Field. The Irish volleyball team is on the road in Austin Texas, this weekend, taking on Texas Saturday at 7 p.m. (CDT) in the Longhorn Classic.

130,000 shirts were sold, with that initial run of 44,000 selling out within six weeks of its debut (at the time, it was one of the earliest sellouts in the history of the project). As a result, Irish head coach **Tyrone Willingham** began labelling the Shirt-clad crowd as the "sea of green."

Over the past 13 years, the venture has more than \$2 million in net profit for worthy causes and serves the dual purpose of promoting spirit and raising funds. Some of the proceeds supported students and employees who have incurred catastrophic accidents, while others benefitted endowment funds and additional monies were given to support service projects for student organizations on campus.

In a rare break from tradition, "The Shirt 2003" once again is green and features this year's motto, "Here Come The Irish." The short-sleeve shirt is traditionally worn by Notre Dame students and fans at the first home game of each football season. The cost of this year's shirt is \$15 and it is available on campus to the University community and the general public at the Hammes Bookstore, Irish Express, the information desk at the LaFortune Student Center, the Varsity Shop at the Joyce Center and the Alumni Association at the Eck Center. Orders also may be placed by telephone (1-800-647-4641) or on-line through the official Notre Dame athletics web site (www.und.com).

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR 2003 FOOTBALL KICKOFF LUNCHEONS

Tickets are now on sale for the 2003 Notre Dame Kickoff Luncheons held the Friday prior to each Irish home football game. The luncheons feature Notre Dame head coach **Tyrone Willingham**, Irish players and assistant coaches, plus special guests and other attractions.

Tickets are \$18 each, with a handling fee of \$3 (payment may be made with one check for more than one luncheon). There are 10 seats per table — and if you wish to sit as a group at the same table with other guests, please return all reservations in one envelope.

Checks should be made payable to "University of Notre Dame" and mailed to: Athletics Business Office, 112 Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Telephone and credit card reservations are not accepted. A printed reservation form also is available on Notre Dame's athletics web site at www.und.com.

The luncheons are held in the Joyce Center fieldhouse (north dome) on the Notre Dame campus, with a noon (EST) start. Be aware that advance reservations are required for tickets, and tickets are not routinely available at the door.

Remaining luncheon dates are Sept. 19 (Michigan State), Oct. 17 (USC), Oct. 31 (Florida State), Nov.7 (Navy) and Nov. 14 (BYU).

PEP RALLIES

All 2003 pep rallies will be held in the Joyce Center Arena (south dome) on Fridays before Saturday home games, beginning at 6 p.m. (EST). The Irish squad enters the arena at 6:30 p.m.

"NOTRE DAME EXPERIENCE" RETURNS FOR 2003 SEASON

For years, the Joyce Center Fieldhouse has been the "pregame meeting place" for several thousand Notre Dame alumni. In an effort to add to this tradition, the Notre Dame Athletics Department is providing an interactive fan experience for each of the 2003 home football games. For the second consecutive season, the "Notre Dame Experience" will combine the Notre Dame Alumni Association Hospitality Center with interactive inflatables, photo booths, autograph sessions, Notre Dame football trivia and stage activities. Gates open three hours prior to kickoff and will stay open until one hour after the game. Admission is free for all "Notre Dame Experience" events.

ORDER THE 2003 NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL PREVIEW MAGAZINE TODAY

This season marks the 10th edition of the Notre Dame Football Preview Magazine — an official publication by the University of Notre Dame athletic department. The 1994, '95, '96, '97 and '98 and 2000 editions were voted best in the nation in the special publications competition sponsored by the College Sports Information Directors of America. The preview magazine, published by Ave Maria Press, numbers nearly 100 pages, including game action shots of returning Irish players and coaches, position-by-position breakdowns and a feature on head coach **Tyrone Willingham**. It's a collectors item perfect for autographs — with an emphasis on outstanding color photography unavailable in any other publication. The yearbook is priced at \$8 (plus \$4 for postage and handling) and can be ordered by calling 1-800-647-4641.

PAIR OF BOOKS FEATURING NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL NOW ON SALE

The rich history of Irish football will be the focus of two books that recently went on sale to the general public. The first is entitled "Return To Glory" and it was written by **Alan Grant**, a senior writer for ESPN



The Magazine and a former defensive back at Stanford who played for current Notre Dame head coach Tyrone Willingham. Grant received unique behind-the-scenes access to the Irish throughout last season and his book details Notre Dame's remarkable 10-3 campaign in 2002, including its eight-game winning streak to begin Willingham's tenure. "Return To Glory" is now available nationwide, including the Hammes Bookstore on the Notre Dame campus and Grant will be on 10 a.m.-noon (EST) Saturday to sign copies of his book.

Also new in bookstores this month is a coffee table book by *The Sporting News* called "Fighting Irish," a 224-page work that spotlights the unparalleled history and pageantry of the Notre Dame football program through a variety of photographs and essays. A special section is devoted to the '02 season and the foreword to the book was written by former Irish quarterback and 2003 College Football Hall of Fame inductee **Joe Theismann**. In addition to appearing in bookstores across the country, it also is available at the Hammes Bookstore, as well as online through *The Sporting News* web site (www.tsn.com).

THE FINAL 2002 NCAA STATISTICS REPORT

The final NCAA statistical rankings for Notre Dame and Washington State in 2002 (top 50 only):

Team Rankings	Notre Dame	Washington State
Rushing Offense	139.38	129.23
Passing Offense	174.15	13th at 292.69
Total Offense	313.54	16th at 421.92
Scoring Offense	22.31	17th at 33.15
Rushing Defense	10th at 95.23	8th at 87.23
Pass Defense	46th at 204.77	255.23
Pass Efficiency Defense	10th at 98.24	40th at 115.08
Total Defense	13th at 300.00	40th at 342.46
Scoring Defense	9th at 16.69	37th at 22.77
Net Punting	44th at 35.20	40th at 35.30
Punt Returns	9.77	40th at 11.26
Kickoff Returns	15th at 23.08	18.98
Turnover Margin	42nd at 0.38 (+5 overall)	(-0.31) (-4 overall)
Individual Rankings	Notre Dame*	Washington State*
Interceptions	Courtney Watson 34th at 0.40	Jason David 2nd at 0.70
Punting		Kyle Basler 42nd at 41.06
Kickoff Returns	Vontez Duff 8th at 27.68	
Field Goals	Nicholas Setta 48th at 1.08	Drew Dunning 7th at 1.69
Scoring		Drew Dunning 20th at 8.69
Passes Defended**		Jason David 13th at 1.70

* - only returning players are listed
 ** - NCAA defensive statistics are calculated on a per-game basis

NEXT WEEK: MICHIGAN

Notre Dame hits the road for the first time this season as it pays a visit to No. 5/7 Michigan on Sept. 13 for a 3:30 p.m. EDT (2:30 p.m. EST in South Bend) contest that will be televised nationally on ABC. The Wolverines won their season opener last weekend, 45-7 over Central Michigan, and are slated to welcome Houston to town on Saturday. Last year, the Irish edged Michigan, 25-23, at Notre Dame Stadium, in a battle of college football's two winningest programs. Notre Dame will be seeking to break a two-game losing streak at Michigan Stadium, having not won in Ann Arbor since 1993 (a 27-23 victory).

40 FORMER IRISH ON '03 NFL OPENING-DAY ROSTERS

Notre Dame has 40 of its former football players, including seven rookies, participating in the opening of National Football League play in 2003, according to figures released by the league based on opening-day active rosters. All told, the Fighting Irish are represented on 26 of the 31 NFL teams. Here are the former Notre Dame players now active in the pros (R indicates rookie):

- Atlanta:** DB/KR Allen Rossum
- Baltimore:** SS Gerome Sapp (R), DE Anthony Weaver (R)
- Chicago:** CB Brock Williams, OT Mike Gandy, LB Bobbie Howard
- Cincinnati:** DB Jeff Burris, DT Oliver Gibson
- Cleveland:** C Jeff Faine (R)
- Dallas:** OL Kurt Vollers
- Denver:** LB Bert Berry, QB Steve Beuerlein
- Detroit:** TE John Owens
- Green Bay:** OL Brennan Curtin (R), RB Tony Fisher
- Houston:** TE Jabari Holloway
- Indianapolis:** P Hunter Smith
- Jacksonville:** FB Marc Edwards
- Kansas City:** OL Jordan Black (R)
- Miami:** C Tim Ruddy, FS Shawn Wooden
- Minnesota:** OG Mike Rosenthal
- New England:** WR David Givens
- New Orleans:** K John Carney, DB Deveron Harper
- New York Giants:** DT Lance Legree, OT Luke Petitgout
- Oakland:** WR Tim Brown, QB Rick Mirer
- Philadelphia:** DT Paul Grasmanis, LB Tyreo Harrison, DB Bobby Taylor
- Pittsburgh:** RB Jerome Bettis
- San Francisco:** WR Arnaz Battle (R), DT Bryant Young
- St. Louis:** DB Shane Walton (R)
- Tampa Bay:** OG Sean Mahan (R)
- Tennessee:** LB Rocky Boiman, P Craig Hentrich
- Washington:** DL Renaldo Wynn

Other former Fighting Irish players affiliated with NFL teams include WR Javin Hunter (Baltimore Ravens injured reserve) and FB Tom Lopienski (rookie - Indianapolis Colts practice squad).

NOTRE DAME vs. WASHINGTON STATE
Notre Dame Stadium • Notre Dame, Ind.
September 6, 2003
Official Dress List (102 players)

1	Clark, Jared, TE	49	Curry, Derek, OLB
2	Parish, Freddie Jr., DB	50	Hilliard, Cedric, NG
4	Grant, Ryan, RB	51	Ryan, Jamie, OT
5	McKnight, Rhema, WR	52	Brockington, Joe, LB
6	Campbell, Carlos, CB	55	Giles, Zachary, C
7	Holiday, Carlyle, QB	56	Borseti, Nick, LB
8	Burrell, Quentin, FS/SS	57	Stephenson, Dwight Jr., LB
8+^	Krueger, Matt, QB	58+	Jancha, Paul, SNP
9	Beckstrom, Jason, CB	59+	Bent, James, OL
9^	Dillingham, Pat, QB	60	Campbell, Darrell, DT
10	Quinn, Brady, QB	62	Raridon, Scott, OT/SNP
11	Wilson, Marcus, RB	64+	Dunn, Casey, OL/SNP
12+	Schmidt, Josh, FB	65	Milligan, Sean, OG
13	Setta, Nicholas, K/P	66	Landri, Derek, NG
14*	Godsey, Gary, TE	68	Harris, Ryan, OL
15	Jackson, Preston, CB	69	Mitchell, Darin, OG
16	Powers-Neal, Rashon, FB	70	Molinaro, Jim, OT
16+^	Revelle, Stan, QB	71	Bonelli, James, OG/OT
17	Price, Geoffrey, P	71+^	Kowalski, David, OG
18	Rodamer, Ronnie, WR	72	Thompson, Jeff, C
19	Earl, Glenn, FS	73	LeVoir, Mark, OG
19+^	Fitzpatrick, D.J., K/P	74	Stevenson, Dan, OT
20	Thomas, Travis, RB	75	Frome, Chris, DE
21	Stovall, Maurice, WR	76	Morton, Bob, C
22	Jones, Julius, RB	77	Pauly, Greg, DT
23	Anastacio, Chase, WR	78	Sullivan, John, C
24	Ellick, Dwight, CB	79	Mattes, Brian, OL
25	Schiccatano, Nate, RB	80	Jenkins, Omar, WR
26	Bible, Garron, SS	81	Ndukwe, Chinedum, WR
27	Bolen, Lionel, SS	82	Shelton, Matt, WR
28	Zbikowski, Tom, DB	83	Samardzija, Jeff, WR
28+	Laux, Cole, FB	84+	O'Hara, Mike, WR
29	Hedgmon, LaBrose, DB	84+^	Woods, Rob, WR
30	Richardson, Mike, CB	85	Palmer, Billy, TE
31	Carney, Jake, FS	87	Freeman, Marcus, TE
32	Jenkins, Jeff, RB	88	Fasano, Anthony, TE
33	Watson, Courtney, ILB	88+^	Nally, Patrick, TE
34	Duff, Vontez, CB	89	Carlson, John, TE
35	McConnell, Ashley, FB	90	Beidatsch, Brian, DE
36	Gardner, Isaiah, DB/RB	91+	Cardillo, Craig, K
37+	Hyde, Robert, RB	92	Budinscak, Kyle, DE
37+^	Mitchell, Matt, CB	93	Santucci, Dan, DE
38+	Profeta, Mike, RB	95	Abiamiri, Victor, DE
39	Hoyte, Brandon, ILB	96+	Hasbrook, Matt, DL
39+^	Bemenderfer, David, SS	96+^	Renkes, Bobby, K/P
40+	Schomas, Nate, WR	97	Leitko, Travis, DE
41*	Goolsby, Mike, ILB	98	Laws, Trevor, DL
42	Wooden, Ambrose, WR	99	Sapp, Jason, DE
43	Salvador, Anthony, ILB		
44	Tuck, Justin, DE		
45+	Gioia, Carl, K/P		
46	Mays, Corey, LB		
47	Thomas, Mitchell, LB		
48	Collins, Jerome, OLB/DE		

+ - Indicates non-scholarship player

^ - Indicates duplicate number

* - Indicates injured player

Notre Dame Depth Chart

Notre Dame vs. Washington State • Sept. 6, 2003 • Notre Dame Stadium

Notre Dame Offense

WR	80	OMAR JENKINS	6-1	205	Sr.
	5	Rhema McKnight	6-2	207	So.
LT	70	JIM MOLINARO	6-6	301	Sr.
	79	Brian Mattes	6-6	266	So.
LG	73	MARK LeVOIR	6-7	320	Jr.
	69	Darin Mitchell	6-3	280	Jr.
C	76	BOB MORTON	6-4	299	So.
	or 55	ZACHARY GILES	6-3	287	Jr.
RG	65	SEAN MILLIGAN	6-4	291	Sr.
	72	Jeff Thompson	6-4	287	Jr.
RT	74	DAN STEVENSON	6-5	297	Jr.
	51	Jamie Ryan	6-5	290	So.
TE	85	BILLY PALMER	6-4	251	Sr.
	1	Jared Clark	6-4	242	Sr.
WR	21	MAURICE STOVALL	6-5	221	So.
	18	Ronnie Rodamer	6-4	211	Sr.
QB	7	CARLYLE HOLIDAY	6-3	221	Sr.
	9	Pat Dillingham	6-1	211	Jr.
	or 10	Brady Quinn	6-4	211	Fr.
FB	16	RASHON POWERS-NEAL	6-2	227	Jr.
	26	Josh Schmidt	6-1	220	Jr.
	or 25	Nate Schiccatano	6-3	224	So.
RB	4	RYAN GRANT	6-1	209	Jr.
	11	Marcus Wilson	5-11	199	Jr.
	or 22	Julius Jones	5-10	205	Sr.

Notre Dame Defense

LE	44	JUSTIN TUCK	6-5	246	Jr.
	95	Victor Abiamiri	6-5	245	Fr.
DT	60	DARRELL CAMPBELL	6-4	296	Sr.
	90	Brian Beidatsch	6-4	283	Jr.
NG	77	GREG PAULY	6-6	291	Sr.
	50	Cedric Hilliard	6-2	295	Sr.
	or 66	Derek Landri	6-2	265	So.
RE	92	KYLE BUDINCAK	6-4	270	Sr.
	97	Travis Leitko	6-6	264	So.
ILB	39	BRANDON HOYTE	6-0	225	Jr.
	46	Corey Mays	6-1	246	Jr.
ILB	33	COURTNEY WATSON	6-1	232	Sr.
	46	Corey Mays	6-1	246	Jr.
OLB	49	DEREK CURRY	6-3	228	Sr.
	48	Jerome Collins	6-4	256	Sr.
LCB	34	VONTEZ DUFF	5-11	194	Sr.
	15	Preston Jackson	5-9	177	Sr.
FS	19	GLENN EARL	6-1	204	Sr.
	8	Quentin Burrell	6-0	180	Jr.
SS	26	GARRON BIBLE	5-10	197	Sr.
	27	Lionel Bolen	6-0	206	Jr.
RCB	9	JASON BECKSTROM	5-10	186	Sr.
	or 24	DWIGHT ELLICK	5-10	177	Jr.

Notre Dame Specialists

KO	13	NICHOLAS SETTA	5-11	184	Sr.
	19	D.J. Fitzpatrick	6-1	192	Jr.
PK	13	NICHOLAS SETTA	5-11	184	Sr.
	19	D.J. Fitzpatrick	6-1	192	Jr.
P	13	NICHOLAS SETTA	5-11	184	Sr.
	19	D.J. Fitzpatrick	6-1	192	Jr.
HLD	8	MATT KRUEGER	5-10	177	Sr.
	or 19	D.J. FITZPATRICK	6-1	192	Jr.
SNP	64	CASEY DUNN	6-4	255	Jr.
	62	Scott Raridon	6-7	300	So.
	14	Gary Godsey	6-6	250	Sr.
PR/KR	34	VONTEZ DUFF	5-11	194	Sr.
	22	Julius Jones	5-10	205	Sr.