

notre dame softball

20 consecutive winning seasons • 10 consecutive ncaa tournament appearances • 5 big east conference tournament titles

notre dame fighting irish

10-10 overall / 0-0 big east
[und.com • bigeast.org]

st. john's red storm

8-9 overall / 0-1 big east
[redstormsports.com • bigeast.org]

melissa cook stadium

march 22 • 11:00 a.m. (et)
notre dame, ind.
video / audio / stats: und.com



probable irish starters

pos.	number - name	class	hometown / high school
p	8 - brittney bargar	sr.	corona, calif. / corona
		[1.38 era, 7-5, 16 app, 11 gs, 11 cg, 81.0 ip, 16 er, 58 k]	
p	9 - jody valdivia	so.	anaheim hills, calif. / canyon
		[3.80 era, 3-5, 9 app, 9 gs, 42.1 ip, 23 er, 42 k]	
c	27 - alexia clay	jr.	rochester, ind. / culver
		[16 gs, 3 h, 1 3b, 2 rbi, 2 hbp]	
1b	10 - christine lux	jr.	glendale heights, ill. / glenbard west
		[.288 ba, 9 r, 15 h, 4 hr, 16 rbi]	
2b	12 - katie fleury	so.	san jose, calif. / archbishop mitty
		[hit game-winning home run against east carolina (feb. 14)]	
3b	21 - linda kohan	sr.	westminster, calif. / westminster
		[.269 ba, 14 h, 4 2b, 1 hr, 11 rbi]	
ss	7 - sadie pitzenberger	so.	tomball, texas / tomball
		[leads team with .354 ba, 23 h, 9 r]	
of	13 - alexa maldonado	fr.	short hills, n.j. / millburn
		[.224 ba, 10 r, 11 h, 2 2b, 2 3b]	
of	23 - stephanie mola	sr.	naples, fla. / st. john neumann
		[13 gs, 24 ab, 4 h, 1 rbi]	
of	24 - brianna jorgensborg	so.	thousand oaks, calif. / la reina
		[tripled in three consecutive games (march 7-8)]	
dp	3 - heather johnson	jr.	los alamitos, calif. / mater dei
		[.309 ba, 14 rbi, 2 2b]	

one-hitters

• this will be the 27th matchup between the two programs, with notre dame winning each of the last 26 ... in fact, notre dame's 26-game win streak over the red storm matches the most against any opponent (the irish won 26 straight games against valparaiso and carry a 27-2 all-time record against the crusaders) ... with a career record of 299-146-1 (.672), head coach deanna gumpf is one win away reaching the 300-victory plateau.

• the opener will mark notre dame's 14th season as a member of the big east ... the irish have an all-time big east regular-season record of 206-39 (.841) along with 10 regular-season titles.

• notre dame was tabbed third among league members in the big east preseason poll ... the league's 13 head coaches voted in the poll, which named depaul as the preseason favorite after the blue demons won the 2008 tournament title ... st. john's was picked 10th.

• notes from wednesday's home opener against toledo (w, 15-0 / w, 9-1): notre dame is now 19-2 all-time in home openers, winning its last 12 consecutive ... the two losses came in 1992 and 1997 ... the irish posted the most runs in a home opener (15) and the most runs in a doubleheader (24) since 2003 ... first back-to-back five-inning wins since 2004 ... first five-inning home opener ... first home opener at melissa cook stadium ... the opener ended an 18-game road trip that included stops in four states (alabama, california, north carolina and nevada) and featured six ranked opponents ... sadie pitzenberger scored a career-high four runs in game one against toledo ... christine lux had five hits - including two home runs and two doubles - to pace the irish ... her 13 total bases yielded a single-day slugging average of 2.167 ... freshman dani miller had two doubles and one home run in her home debut.

• trailing by a 1-0 count in game two against toledo, the irish put up a nine-spot in the bottom of the fourth to secure the victory ... ironically, notre dame had scored a total of nine runs in the fourth inning of its last 19 games combined, doubling that output on wednesday ... the irish scored seven runs in a single inning against sacramento state (feb. 21) earlier this season ... last year, notre dame scored nine runs in one inning against charleston southern (march 14) only to score 10 - tying the school record - in the third frame during a rematch with the buccaneers one day later.

• notre dame stayed flawless against st. john's with a doubleheader sweep in 2008 ... the irish needed all of 12 innings in their 8-4 win to finish the twinbill, which was the largest margin of victory in program history in a game extending past the regulation 7.0 innings ... before that, the last time notre dame won a 12-inning contest was in 1994 when it defeated indiana on may 20 by a count of 3-1.

2009 schedule / results

february

13 (fri.)	(1) at no. 1 alabama	1, 1-10 (5)
14 (sat.)	(1) vs. east carolina	w, 2-1
	(1) at no. 1 alabama	1, 0-10 (5)
15 (sun.)	(1) vs. wisconsin	1, 0-2
20 (fri.)	(2) vs. sacramento state	w, 4-1
	(2) at no. 5 stanford	1, 0-2
21 (sat.)	(2) at no. 5 stanford	1, 2-5
	(2) vs. sacramento state	w, 11-0

march

7 (sat.)	(3) vs. texas tech	w, 7-0
	(3) vs. uc santa barbara	w, 5-2
8 (sun.)	(3) vs. texas tech	w, 5-0
	(3) at unlv	1, 3-5
10 (tues.)	at no. 5 ucla	1, 1-3
12 (thurs.)	(4) vs. penn state	1, 0-1 (8)
	(4) vs. no. 9 oklahoma	w, 4-3
13 (fri.)	(4) vs. pacific	w, 7-3
14 (sat.)	(4) vs. no. 12 arizona	1, 1-10 (5)
15 (sun.)	(4) vs. no. 6 arizona state	1, 0-3
18 (wed.)	toledo	w, 15-0 (5)
	toledo	w, 9-1 (5)
22 (sun.)	st. john's* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
24 (tues.)	ball state	5:00 p.m.
25 (wed.)	western michigan (dh)	5:00 p.m.
28 (sat.)	at georgetown* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
29 (sun.)	at usf* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
31 (tues.)	iupui	6:00 p.m.

april

1 (wed.)	northern illinois	5:00 p.m.
4 (sat.)	pittsburgh* (dh)	12:00 p.m.
5 (sun.)	seton hall* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
8 (wed.)	depaul* (dh)	4:00 p.m.
9 (thurs.)	valparaiso (dh)	3:00 p.m.
11 (sat.)	at connecticut* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
14 (tues.)	at wisconsin (dh)	5:00 p.m.
18 (sat.)	at villanova* (dh)	12:00 p.m.
19 (sun.)	at rutgers* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
21 (tues.)	northwestern	6:00 p.m.
22 (wed.)	north dakota state (dh)	5:00 p.m.
26 (sun.)	syracuse* (dh)	11:00 a.m.
30 (thurs.)	at providence* (dh)	11:00 p.m.

may

3 (sun.)	louisville* (dh)	12:00 p.m.
7-9	big east tournament	tba
14 - june 9	ncaa tournament	tba

all times local to site

* big east conference contest

- (1) bama bash - tuscaloosa, ala.
- (2) nike invitational - palo alto, calif.
- (3) unlv invitational - las vegas, nev.
- (4) judi garman classic - fullerton, calif.



in the polls

usa today / nfca (march 17)

1.florida
2.alabama
3.washington
4.stanford
5.ucla
- t6.arizona state
- t6.tennessee
8.michigan
9.georgia
10.california
11.oklahoma
12.arizona
13.missouri
14.northwestern
15.louisville
16.louisiana-lafayette
17.ohio state
18.north carolina
19.texas a&m
20.southern illinois
21.lsu
22.florida state
23.umass
24.depaul
25.fresno state

rv: cal poly, iowa, unlv, illinois, nevada, baylor, mississippi state, houston, san diego state, south florida, kentucky, tula, long beach state, oklahoma state, south carolina, cal state fullerton, texas, nebraska, georgia tech

espn / usa softball (march 17)

1.florida
2.alabama
3.washington
4.stanford
5.ucla
6.tennessee
7.california
8.michigan
9.georgia
10.oklahoma
11.arizona state
12.northwestern
13.missouri
14.ohio state
15.arizona
16.louisville
17.massachusetts
18.north carolina
19.louisiana-lafayette
20.lsu
21.depaul
22.florida state
23.texas a&m
24.southern illinois
25.fresno state

rv: iowa, nevada, cal poly, florida gulf coast, georgia tech, oklahoma state, auburn, baylor, texas, south florida, kentucky, nebraska, cal state fullerton

all about the irish

- with one of the most experienced teams in head coach deanna gumpf's tenure at notre dame, the 2009 edition of the irish softball team could be poised to make a deep run into the postseason. the irish return all of their firepower from the circle in senior brittney bargar and sophomore jody valdivia. bargar was a dominating force as a junior in 2008 with 30 wins and 244 strikeouts in 291.1 innings of work. her 1.47 era was among the lowest in the nation while the righty also had a pair of no-hitters. bargar totaled eight shutouts and combined for one more with valdivia. valdivia was impressive in her first year with the irish and showed flashes of brilliance with a tremendous repertoire of pitches. her 8-7 record and 3.13 era in 2008 may be deceiving, as she averaged 1.18 strikeouts/inning – including 14 in one game against eastern michigan – and wowed the coaching staff perhaps more than any irish player this past fall.

- on the latter half of the battery, junior alexia clay is primed to return to the field after spending her sophomore season as a redshirt. the transfer from tennessee and indiana native was among the top freshmen in the nation in 2007 while leading the lady volunteers to the women's college world series. clay carries a big stick to the plate and could emerge as one of notre dame's most dominant sluggers. she'll share time behind the plate with freshman kristina wright, a 5-9 natural signal caller with sharp softball instincts and athleticism to spare. notre dame utilized three catchers in 2008 – erin marrone, shannon kelly and sadie pitzenberger – but each of those have made the shift to other positions from which they can better benefit the team.

- a wealth of players will be competing for show time in the infield. four all-big east performers in sophomore katie fleury, juniors christine lux and heather johnson along with senior linda kohan should carry most of the load. pitzenberger will make the switch to the middle infield, sharing the shortstop and second base positions with fleury. they will fill the void left by graduated senior katie laing, who cemented herself as one of the most proficient fielders in irish history with the program's career assists record. at the corners will be a rotation consisting of kohan, johnson and lux. the trio combined for 22 home runs and 81 rbi in 2008 – despite johnson playing in only 11 games before her season ended with a knee injury – and each of the three state a legit argument to provide power at the plate for the irish. freshmen kasey o'connor and dani miller displayed their skills this past fall and could possibly work their way into the lineup before all is said and done.

- the outfield loses and all-nfca mideast region player in sarah smith and her 60 hits in 2008, but returns sophomore brianna jorgensborg who saw action in each of the team's 61 contests last season. senior stephanie mola returns to the grass from a wrist injury and will join jorgensborg, an all-big east choice in 2008. marrone and senior beth northway will combat for a spot in the field along with freshman alexa maldonado.

- northway, marrone, pitzenberger and senior christine farrell are among several players that should anticipate seeing action at a number of positions when called upon.

notre dame roster

no.	name	year	position	b / t	hometown / high school
3	heather johnson	jr.	infield	r / r	los alamitos, calif. / mater dei
5	shannon kelly	so.	pitcher / utility	r / r	pembroke pines, fla. / hollywood christian
6	kasey o'connor	fr.	infield	r / r	yorktown, n.y. / yorktown
7	sadie pitzenberger	so.	infield / outfield	l / r	tomball, texas / tomball
8	brittney bargar	sr.	pitcher	r / r	corona, calif. / corona
9	jody valdivia	so.	pitcher	r / r	anaheim hills, calif. / canyon
10	christine lux	jr.	infield	l / r	glendale heights, ill. / glenbard west
12	katie fleury	so.	infield	r / r	san jose, calif. / archbishop mitty
13	alexa maldonado	fr.	outfield	l / l	short hills, n.j. / millburn
14	beth northway	sr.	outfield	r / r	kentwood, mich. / east kentwood
17	dani miller	fr.	infield	r / r	huntington beach, calif. / edison
18	christine farrell	sr.	utility	r / r	la habra, calif. / sonora
19	erin marrone	so.	infield / outfield	r / r	alexandria, va. / bishop o'connell
21	linda kohan	sr.	infield	r / r	westminster, calif. / westminster
23	stephanie mola	sr.	outfield	l / l	naples, fla. / st. john neumann
24	brianna jorgensborg	so.	outfield	r / r	thousand oaks, calif. / la reina
27	alexia clay	jr.	catcher	r / r	rochester, ind. / culver academy
35	kristina wright	fr.	catcher	r / r	ramona, calif. / ramona

head coach: deanna gumpf (8th season / nebraska '92)

assistant coaches: kris ganef (8th season / notre dame '99), lizzy lemire (4th season / notre dame '01)

volunteer assistant: dawn austin (4th season / penn state '93)

athletic trainer: nicole alexander (1st season / florida '05)

student managers: bridget cullen (notre dame '09) / john whitty (notre dame '10)

st. john's roster

no.	name	year	position	b / t	hometown / high school
1	shauntaine harris	jr.	outfield	l / l	moreno valley, calif. / canyon springs
2	kat lawrence	so.	pitcher	r / r	rohrert park, calif. / analy
4	shannan valentin	fr.	outfield	l / r	westchester, calif. / st. bernard's
7	roxy struble	sr.	first base	r / r	chino, calif. / don lugo
8	rachel paragag	fr.	second base	r / r	west covina, calif. / bishop amat memorial
9	alyssa clark	sr.	outfield	r / r	santa ana, calif. / mater dei
10	chelsea durning	so.	outfield	l / l	chino hills, calif. / ruben s. ayala
11	julia sanchez	fr.	infield	l / r	fairfield, calif. / fairfield
12	meghan gwynn	fr.	infield	r / r	brentwood, n.y. / brentwood
13	melissa pilley	sr.	outfield	l / l	phoenix, ariz. / north canyon
16	jenna berger	fr.	infield	r / r	long beach, calif. / long beach poly
17	linzee sumrall	so.	pitcher	r / r	denham springs, la. / denham springs
19	kacee cox	so.	infield	r / r	simi valley, calif. / royal
21	stacia dopudja	jr.	infield	r / r	rancho santa margarita, calif. / s.e. missouri
22	laura guzman	fr.	infield	r / r	flushing, n.y. / mary louis academy
26	kristi cady	fr.	outfield	r / r	hamilton, n.j. / steinert
29	erin harris	rs-fr.	infield / outfield	r / r	tustin, calif. / mater dei

head coach: amy kvilhaug

assistant coaches: laura taylor / andy russo