



Sports Information Office  
University of Notre Dame  
112 Joyce Center  
Notre Dame, IN 46556  
www.und.com  
219-631-7516  
219-631-7941 FAX

# NOTRE DAME

W O M E N ' S B A S K E T B A L L

## 2000-01 Schedule/Results (33-2, 15-1)

### November

5	Sun.	Ohio All-Stars (exh.)	W, 91-56
14	Tues.	Finnish Select (exh.)	W, 98-53
17	Fri.	at Valparaiso	W, 71-46
20	Mon.	Arizona	W, 95-65
22	Wed.	at #19 Wisconsin #	W, 83-56
24	Fri.	vs. #6 Georgia # (ESPN)	W, 75-73
27	Mon.	Fordham	W, 89-44

### December

3	Sun.	vs. North Caro. % (ESPN2)	W, 78-55
6	Wed.	Villanova *	W, 64-33
9	Sat.	#6 Purdue	W, 72-61
18	Mon.	Western Michigan	W, 84-54
21	Thurs.	at Marquette	W, 75-56
28	Thurs.	at USC	W, 70-61
31	Sun.	Rice	W, 80-40

### January

3	Wed.	at Virginia Tech *	W, 75-64
6	Sat.	#9 Rutgers * (BETV)	W, 67-46
9	Tues.	at St. John's *	W, 84-49
13	Sat.	Virginia Tech * (BETV)	W, 75-55
15	Mon.	#1 Connecticut * (ESPN)	W, 92-76
21	Sun.	at Seton Hall *	W, 72-47
24	Wed.	at West Virginia *	W, 87-64
31	Wed.	Providence *	W, 64-44

### February

3	Sat.	at Boston Coll. * (BETV)	W, 81-65
7	Wed.	Pittsburgh *	W, 72-58
14	Wed.	at Syracuse *	W, 75-61
17	Sat.	at #11 Rutgers *	L, 53-54
20	Tues.	Miami *	W, 81-43
24	Sat.	Georgetown *	W, 65-53
27	Tues.	at Pittsburgh *	W, 82-63

### March

4	Sun.	vs. Georgetown ^	W, 89-33
5	Mon.	vs. Virginia Tech ^	W, 67-49
6	Tues.	at #2 Connecticut ^ (ESPN2)	L, 76-78
17	Sat.	Alcorn St. (NCAA first round)	W, 98-49
19	Sat.	Michigan (NCAA second round)	W, 88-54
		<i>NCAA Midwest Regional (Denver, Colo.)</i>	
24	Sat.	vs. #17 Utah (semifinals)	W, 69-54
26	Mon.	vs. #10 Vanderbilt (final)	W, 72-64
		<i>NCAA Final Four (St. Louis, Mo.)</i>	
30	Fri.	vs. #1 Connecticut	W, 90-75

\* indicates BIG EAST Conference game.

# Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge, Madison, Wis.,

% Honda Elite Classic, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

BETV - BIG EAST Television

^ BIG EAST Championship (Storrs, Conn.)

**Bold** indicates home game. All times are local.

Game No. **36**

## 2001 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship National Championship Game

Notre Dame *Fighting Irish* (33-2) vs. Purdue *Boilermakers* (31-6)

**The Date and Time:** Sunday, April 1, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. CST.

**The Site:** Savvis Center (20,000) in St. Louis, Mo.

**Television:** ESPN national telecast with Mike Patrick (play-by-play), Ann Meyers (analyst), Michele Tafoya (sideline), Pam Ward (sideline) and Tim Corrigan (producer).

**Radio:** All Notre Dame games are broadcast on WHLY-AM (1620 in South Bend) with Sean Stires (play by play). This live broadcast also is available through the Notre Dame athletic department web site at www.und.com.

**Websites:** Notre Dame (www.und.com), Purdue (www.purduesports.com).

### TONIGHT'S GAME

Seeded first in the Midwest Region of the NCAA tournament, the Notre Dame women's basketball team advanced to its first NCAA championship game with a 90-75 victory over East Regional champion and defending NCAA champion Connecticut on Friday in the NCAA national semifinals at the Savvis Center in St. Louis, Mo. The Irish will meet Mideast Regional champion Purdue for the second time this season in the championship game. The Irish defeated the Boilers 72-61 on Dec. 9, at the Joyce Center, and bring a seven-game winning streak vs. non-conference top-10 opponents in the championship game vs. eighth-ranked Purdue. A Notre Dame win would make the BIG EAST Conference the first to feature different member school win back-to-back NCAA titles.

Notre Dame shot a school and Final Four record 8-11 (.778) from three-point range, including 4-5 in the second half, and limited Connecticut to under 40-percent shooting for the third time this season with a Husky season-low shooting of 26-77 (.338) in its semifinal win. All five of Notre Dame's starters scored in double figures for the second time this season after the Irish starting five all reached double figures in the first win over the Huskies. Notre Dame overcame a Final Four record 16-point deficit with a 53-26 scoring advantage in the second half. Senior All-American and St. Louis native **Niele Ivey** led all scorers with 21 points -- her second 20-point game of the season and first since the third game of the season (22 at Wisconsin). Sophomore **Alicia Ratay** made 4-5 three pointers to set the NCAA record for single-season three-point percentage (80-144 for .556).

The Irish won a pair of games at the NCAA Midwest Regional on the strength of their defense and strong second-half performances from regional MVP **Ruth Riley**. Notre Dame held Utah to 36 percent shooting and limited Vanderbilt to 29 percent in the second half and 13 percent below its average. Two-time All-American Riley scored a BIG EAST season-high 32 points (22 of them in the second half) vs. Vanderbilt and

### LAST IRISH GAME

Notre Dame 90, Connecticut 75

March 30, 2001

NCAA Championship Semifinals  
Savvis Center (St. Louis, Mo.)

#### Connecticut (75)

Player	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Taurasi	31	1-15	0-11	2-3	3	4	5	4
Cash	25	2-4	0-0	4-8	10	2	2	8
Schumacher	31	5-13	0-1	2-3	17	4	3	12
Bird	38	7-21	4-11	0-0	4	4	4	18
Jones	18	1-2	0-0	5-8	5	2	5	7
Conlon	9	3-6	1-3	1-1	2	0	3	8
Valley	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Ralph	14	4-5	1-1	2-2	2	6	1	11
Johnson	21	2-9	1-4	3-3	2	1	4	8
Williams	26	5-7	0-0	0-0	6	0	2	10
Team					2			
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>26-77</b>	<b>6-30</b>	<b>17-26</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>75</b>

#### Notre Dame (90)

Player	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Haney	36	4-12	0-0	7-9	10	1	3	15
Siemon	35	5-12	0-0	1-2	4	6	4	11
Riley	32	6-13	0-0	6-10	7	0	4	18
Ratay	38	6-10	4-5	4-4	8	5	1	20
Ivey	33	5-9	3-5	8-8	4	3	3	21
Joyce	17	1-1	1-1	2-3	1	1	1	5
Hernandez	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Barksdale	8	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0
Team					8			
<b>Team</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-58</b>	<b>8-11</b>	<b>28-36</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>90</b>

Connecticut 49 26 -- 75

Notre Dame 37 53 -- 90

**FG Pct:** Notre Dame 46.6, Connecticut 33.8. **3-PT FG Pct:** Notre Dame 72.7, Connecticut 20.0. **FT Pct:** Notre Dame 77.8, Connecticut 65.4. **Turnovers:** Notre Dame 13, Connecticut 16. **Blocked Shots:** Notre Dame 5 (Riley 5), Connecticut 3. **Steals:** Notre Dame 10 (Ivey 5), Connecticut 8. **Attendance:** 20,551

# NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES



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## ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL

(March 11)

Rk.	Team	Record	Last Wk.
1.	Connecticut * (32)	28-2	2
2.	<b>NOTRE DAME (5)</b>	<b>28-2</b>	<b>1</b>
3.	Tennessee (3)	29-2	3
4.	Georgia *	26-5	4
5.	Duke	28-3	5
6.	Louisiana Tech	28-4	6
7.	Oklahoma	26-5	7
8.	Iowa State	25-5	13
9.	Purdue *	26-6	9
10.	Vanderbilt	21-9	10
11.	Rutgers *	22-7	8
12.	Xavier	28-2	12
13.	Texas Tech	23-6	11
14.	Florida	23-5	15
15.	SW Missouri State	25-5	16
16.	Iowa	20-9	17
17.	Utah	26-3	14
18.	LSU	19-10	18
19.	North Carolina State	20-10	18
20.	Colorado	21-8	20
21.	Penn State	19-9	21
22.	Clemson	20-9	23
23.	Baylor	21-8	24
24.	Wisconsin *	18-9	25
T25.	Arizona State	20-10	NR
T25.	Virginia Tech *	21-8	NR

## ESPN/USA TODAY POLL

(March 11)

Rk.	Team	Record	Last Wk.
1.	Connecticut * (24)	28-2	2
2.	<b>NOTRE DAME (10)</b>	<b>28-2</b>	<b>1</b>
3.	Tennessee (6)	29-2	3
4.	Georgia *	26-5	4
5.	Duke	28-3	5
6.	Louisiana Tech	28-4	6
7.	Oklahoma	26-5	7
8.	Purdue *	26-6	8
9.	Iowa State	25-5	10
10.	Rutgers *	22-7	9
11.	Xavier	28-2	11
12.	Texas Tech	23-6	12
13.	Vanderbilt	21-9	13
14.	Florida	23-5	14
15.	SW Missouri State	25-5	16
16.	Utah	26-3	15
17.	LSU	19-10	17
18.	North Carolina State	20-10	18
19.	Clemson	20-9	19
20.	Iowa	20-9	22
21.	Colorado	21-8	21
22.	Penn State	19-9	20
23.	Villanova *	21-8	24
24.	Texas	20-12	23
25.	Arizona State	20-10	NR

\* indicates 2000-01 Notre Dame opponents

scored 18 of her 24 points in the second half vs. Utah. Senior **Kelley Siemon** (11.0 pts., 6.5 rebounds) and **Ratay** (14.0 pts., 7.0 rebounds, 6-10 3PT) also were named to the all-tournament team.

Notre Dame enters the NCAA final with a 33-2 record and has recorded the second 30-win season in school history, surpassing the 1997 Final Four team (31-7, lost to Tenn.) for the most wins in a season by an Irish women's basketball team. Notre Dame entered the NCAA tournament after reaching its fourth BIG EAST championship game in six years in the conference. The Irish earned a share of their first BIG EAST regular-season with a 15-1 record.

The 26-1 regular-season record marked the best in Notre Dame history and has guaranteed the Irish of finishing the 2000-01 season with their best record in the 24-year history of the program. The fewest losses in a season came in the first year (13-4 in 1977-78), while last year's team sported the best season winning percentage (27-5 for .843). Notre Dame regained the No. 1 ranking on March 5, after being ranked second the previous two weeks. The Irish were ranked first for four weeks before its first loss on Feb. 17.

All five of Notre Dame's starters average in double-figure scoring, and the Irish are led by three of the best players in the country at their respective positions. Senior two-time All-America center, BIG EAST player-of-the-year and Naismith player-of-the-year **Ruth Riley** (18.4) leads the BIG EAST in scoring and was the only player in the top 20 of the NCAA statistical rankings for blocks (2nd at 3.0) and field-goal percentage (4th at .626) according to the most recent NCAA statistics. All-America fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** (12.1 ppg) stands 11th in the country in assists (6.9) and has scored or assisted on nearly 40 percent of Notre Dame's 985 field goals. Sophomore guard **Alicia Ratay** (13.2) leads the nation in three-point shooting (80-144, .556) and has made 24 of 35 (.688) since the start of the BIG EAST tournament.

A large part of Notre Dame's success this season also is due to the play of its other two starters, junior **Ericka Haney** and senior **Kelley Siemon**, who returned to the lineup against Boston College after missing the three previous games. Haney (10.9) has scored in double figures in 21 games this season and brings a great defensive presence to the Irish lineup. Siemon (11.3) stands second on the team and sixth in the BIG EAST in rebounding (7.1). Playing with a broken left hand, Siemon scored 15 points and had eight rebounds vs. Connecticut on Jan. 15. She had a career-high 15 rebounds to go along with 19 points vs. Rutgers.

Ranked among the top five both in field-goal percentage (fourth at .497) and field-goal percentage defense (third at .335) according to the latest NCAA statistics, Notre Dame has a scoring margin of 21.9 points – third best in the country – and has outscored its opponents by an average of 13 points in the first half. The Irish have shot better than 50 percent from the field in 18 of 35 games (including a season-best 63.5 percent at Pittsburgh), better than 46 percent in 28 of 35 games and at least 40 percent in all but two games. Notre Dame's defense has held its opponents to under 40 percent in 29 of 35 games – including 22 games under 35 percent and eight games under 30 percent.

The hot shooting of **Ratay**, strong point guard play of **Ivey** (243 assists, 88 steals) and dominating defensive presence and shooting touch of **Riley** (108 blocks; 236-377 FG, .626) have led the Irish to early leads. Forwards **Siemon** and **Haney** have given the Irish timely contributions. Notre Dame stands as one of two teams ranked among the top five NCAA leaders in both field-goal percentage and FG percentage defense according to the latest NCAA statistics.

The 2001 BIG EAST coach of the year and Women's Basketball Coaches Association national coach of the year, head coach **Muffet McGraw** is in her 14th year at Notre Dame with a 321-117 (.733) record and in her 19th as a collegiate coach with a 409-158 (.721) mark. She led the Irish to the No. 1

### LAST IRISH GAME VS. PURDUE

**Notre Dame 72, Purdue 61**  
December 9, 2000  
Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN

#### Purdue (61)

Name	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Crawford	10	1-4	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	2
Douglas	38	7-11	3-4	3-4	4	2	1	20
Cooper	32	5-6	0-0	1-4	8	0	5	11
Komara	28	4-9	0-1	1-1	2	2	2	9
Valek	13	0-4	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0
Parks	13	1-5	1-2	0-0	1	1	1	3
Hurns	30	4-6	0-0	1-6	3	2	2	9
Wright	23	2-4	0-0	3-4	5	3	1	7
Noon	8	0-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	2	0
Team					6			
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>24-52</b>	<b>4-7</b>	<b>9-19</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>61</b>

#### Notre Dame (72)

Name	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Haney	31	6-14	1-1	3-4	3	0	3	16
Siemon	38	2-4	0-0	3-8	10	2	3	7
Riley	31	5-9	0-0	5-6	7	1	4	15
Ratay	38	7-15	5-8	0-0	5	5	2	19
Ivey	34	3-9	1-3	0-0	5	4	3	7
Hernandez	11	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	4
Dunbar	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	1	0
Leahy	11	2-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	4
Team					6			
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-56</b>	<b>7-12</b>	<b>11-18</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>72</b>

Purdue	33	28	--	61
Notre Dame	34	38	--	72

**FG Pct:** Notre Dame 48.2, Purdue 46.2. **3-PT FG Pct:** Notre Dame 58.3, Purdue 57.1. **FT Pct:** Notre Dame 61.1, Purdue 47.4. **Turnovers:** Notre Dame 22, Purdue 26. **Blocked Shots:** Notre Dame 8 (Riley 5), Purdue 4. **Steals:** Notre Dame 13 (Ratay, Siemon 4), Purdue 12. **Attendance:** 7,330

# NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES

## NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP (NCAA tournament averages)

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Other	Notes
50	Kelley Siemon	F	6-2	Sr.	11.3 (12.4)	7.1 (6.4)	55.4 FG%	Matched season-high 5 assists, 16 pts. in win over Mich.
3	Ericka Haney	G/F	6-1	Jr.	10.9 (9.0)	5.7 (6.8)	46.8 FG%	Has scored in double figures in 21 of 35 games
00	Ruth Riley	C	6-5	Sr.	18.4 (22.2)	7.7 (8.2)	62.6 FG%	2,044 career points; needs 6 more reb. for 1,000
22	Alicia Ratay	SG	5-11	So.	13.2 (14.4)	5.2 (6.6)	55.6 3PT%	Has made 80 of 144 three-pointers to lead nation in %
33	Niele Ivey	PG	5-8	Sr.	12.1 (11.2)	4.1 (3.4)	6.9 APG	One of two Irish players with 200+ assists in a season

## NOTRE DAME OFF THE BENCH

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Other	Notes
4	Le'Tania Severe	G	5-9	Fr.	2.0	1.9	21 GP	Brings defensive and rebounding presence off the bench
5	Jeneka Joyce	G	5-9	Fr.	5.3	1.3	30 3PT FG	Career-high 14 pts. on 5-9 shooting vs. Michigan
11	Karen Swanson	G	5-7	So.	1.3	0.5	95 minutes	Walk-on has played in 23 of 35 games
23	Monique Hernandez	G	5-9	So.	2.6	1.1	17 assists	Returned from MCL sprain to play 23 min. in last 4 gms.
31	Amanda Barksdale	F	6-3	So.	1.4	2.2	56 blocks	1st double-double, career-best 10 pts., 11 reb. vs. ASU
41	Imani Dunbar	G	5-7	Sr.	1.4	0.7	22 assists	Career-high seven pts. vs. Georgetown in BE quarters
44	Meaghan Leahy	F	6-4	Sr.	3.2	2.9	15 steals	Has started five games in 00-01, four in place of Siemon

ranking for the first time ever earlier this season, to eight consecutive 20-win seasons, to six straight NCAA tournament appearances and to two Final Four appearances in eight overall NCAA berths.

### IRISH, RILEY IN THE SECOND HALF

After outscoring Vanderbilt and Utah by a combined 16 points, Notre Dame more than doubled up Connecticut in the second half of the NCAA semifinals by a 53-26 margin.

- Associated Press and Naismith player-of-the-year **Ruth Riley** has averaged 16.5 points and 5.0 rebounds in the second half of Notre Dame's last four NCAA victories and 18.3 points and 5.7 rebounds in the last three.

### CHAMPIONSHIP GAME NOTES

The NCAA championship game will mark the 13th meeting between Notre Dame and Purdue with the Boilermakers holding a 9-3 edge in the series. The teams have split the last six games, including a 72-61 Irish win over the sixth-ranked Boilers on Dec. 9 earlier this season.

- Notre Dame and Purdue have met twice previously in the NCAA tournament -- both times in Lubbock, Texas. The first Irish NCAA tournament victory came over the Boilers in the 1996 first round when 12th-seeded Notre Dame beat fifth-seeded and 15th-ranked Purdue 73-60.
- Notre Dame's senior class hopes for a better ending to its final season than its first season when the ninth-seeded Irish lost to fourth-seeded Purdue 70-65 in the 1998 NCAA Midwest Regional semifinals after beating top-seeded Texas Tech in the second round.
- The Irish will be playing for their first ever women's basketball national championship and Notre Dame's first since the women's soccer team won the 1995 NCAA title.
- The Notre Dame women's basketball team will be looking to win the fifth NCAA championship by an Irish women's team, joining the '95 women's soccer squad and the women's fencing team, which won the 1987 and 1988 NCAA titles and the combined men's and women's title in 1994.

### IRISH IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

Notre Dame earned an at-large bid into its sixth consecutive NCAA tournament and eighth overall. The Irish have compiled a 15-7 record in eight NCAA appearances, highlighted by Final Four appearances in 1997 and 2001. Notre Dame also reached the regional semifinals in 2000 and 1998. Here's how the Irish have fared in the NCAA tournament (complete boxscores and recaps can be found at the end of the notes section):

1992 – First Round	1998 – Regional Semifinalists
1994 – First Round	1999 – Second Round
1996 – Second Round	2000 – National Finalists
1997 – National Semifinalists	

## IRISH UNDER McGRAW

Yr.	Record	Pct.	Honors
'87-88	20-8	.714	No. Star Coach of the Yr.
'88-89	21-11	.656	MCC Champions, NWIT
'89-90	23-6	.793	MCC Champions
'90-91	23-9	.719	MCC Champions
'91-92	14-17	.451	NCAAs, MCC Champions
'92-93	15-12	.555	
'93-94	22-7	.786	NCAAs, MCC Champions
'94-95	21-10	.677	NWIT
'95-96	23-8	.742	NCAA Second Round
'96-97	31-7	.816	NCAA Final Four
'97-98	22-10	.688	NCAA Regional Semis
'98-99	26-5	.839	NCAA Second Round
'99-00	27-5	.844	NCAA Regional Semis
'00-01	33-2	.943	BIG EAST Co-Champions
<b>Total</b>	<b>321-117</b>	<b>.733</b>	<b>8 NCAA Appearances</b>

BIG EAST Conference (five-plus seasons, '96-'01)  
89-15 (.856)

Midwestern College Conference (six seasons, '89-95)  
87-15 (.853)

## KEVIN WHITE RADIO SHOW



A weekly half-hour talk show featuring first-year Notre Dame athletics director Kevin White debuted Aug. 27 on Chicago's ESPN Radio 1000. "The Kevin White Show" is scheduled to air from 11:00-11:30 p.m. for 30 consecutive Sundays on

ESPN radio (1000 AM in Chicago, www.espnradio1000.com). The show also can be heard in 35 states. White will welcome to the show a series of guests and prominent figures associated with college athletics, including administrators, coaches and media members. **Niele Ivey and Ruth Riley were guests on the Sun., Jan. 14 show -- the first Irish student-athletes invited to serve as guests.**



**IRISH CAREER RECORDS**

**Scoring**

1. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	2,322
2. Katryna Gaiher (1993-97)	2,126
3. <b>Ruth Riley (1997- )</b>	<b>2,044</b>
4. Karen Robinson (1987-91)	1,590
5. Trena Keys (1982-86)	1,589
6. Sandy Botham (1984-88)	1,460
7. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	1,439
8. <b>Niele Ivey (1996- )</b>	<b>1,418</b>
9. Shari Matvey (1979-83)	1,373
10. Margaret Nowlin (1988-92)	1,298

**Field-Goal Percentage** *Min. 400 attempts*

1. <b>Ruth Riley (1997- )</b>	<b>.632 (768-1216)</b>
2. Katryna Gaiher (1993-97)	.610
3. Heidi Bunek (1985-89)	.604
4. Sandy Botham (1984-88)	.588
5. Krissi Davis (1987-91)	.579
6. Carrie Bates (1981-85)	.553
7. Shari Matvey (1979-83)	.533
8. Margaret Nowlin (1988-92)	.527
9. Rosanne Bohman (1993-97)	.525
10. Sara Liebscher (1987-91)	.521

**Three-Point Field Goals**

1. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	249
2. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	231
3. <b>Niele Ivey (1996- )</b>	<b>190</b>
4. <b>Alicia Ratay (1999- )</b>	<b>153</b>
5. Mollie Peirick (1994-98)	128
6. Lisa Kuhns (1985-86, 1987-90)	102
7. Sherri Orlosky (1990-94)	85
8. Coquese Washington (1989-93)	82
9. Kari Hutchinson (1994-98)	36
10. Sherisha Hills (1998-99)	31

**Three-Point Field Goals Att.**

1. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	650
2. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	628
3. <b>Niele Ivey (1996- )</b>	<b>465</b>
4. Mollie Peirick (1994-98)	342
5. <b>Alicia Ratay (1999- )</b>	<b>296</b>
6. Lisa Kuhns (1985-86, 1987-90)	262
7. Coquese Washington (1989-93)	231
8. Sherri Orlosky (1990-94)	216
9. Sherisha Hills (1998-99)	114
10. Kari Hutchinson (1994-98)	85

**Three-Point Field-Goal Pct.** *Min. 50 attempts*

1. <b>Alicia Ratay (1999- )</b>	<b>.517 (153-296)</b>
2. Kari Hutchinson (1994-98)	.424
3. <b>Niele Ivey (1996- )</b>	<b>.409 (190-465)</b>
4. Sherri Orlosky (1990-94)	.394
5. Lisa Kuhns (1985-86, 1987-90)	.389
6. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	.383
7. Mollie Peirick (1994-98)	.377
8. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	.368
Sara Liebscher (1987-91)	.368
10. Coquese Washington (1989-93)	.355

**McGRAW NAMED WBCA, NAISMITH NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR**

Irish head coach Muffet McGraw has been selected as both the Naismith Women's Coach of the Year and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Division I National Coach of the Year – both firsts for the 14th-year Irish head coach in her 19-year coaching career. McGraw and senior Naismith Women's Player-of-the-Year **Ruth Riley** will be honored at an April 7 banquet at the Atlanta Tipoff Club. McGraw and the WBCA winners from the other five divisions was presented to the WBCA membership at a banquet on Wed., March 28, in St. Louis in conjunction with the NCAA Final Four.

McGraw's 14th Notre Dame squad entered the season with high expectations with the return of senior All-American **Riley**, fifth-year point **Niele Ivey** and sophomore and 2000 BIG EAST rookie-of-the-year **Alicia Ratay**, and the Irish more than lived up to those expectations under McGraw's guidance. The Irish began the season with their highest preseason ranking ever at sixth and quickly began their climb to the top of the rankings. McGraw guided Notre Dame through an early-season schedule that featured a pair of top-10 opponents, including a victory over Georgia to win the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge and a home victory over Purdue. After an 11-0 record vs. its non-conference opponents, Notre Dame began its BIG EAST schedule with a 5-0 mark, including a 67-46 win over ninth-ranked Rutgers, to set a matchup with Connecticut in a game between the only undefeated teams in the country. In front of the first sellout crowd in school history, Notre Dame recorded its first win over Connecticut and a first over a top-ranked team with a 92-76 victory to take over the No. 1 ranking for the first time. The Irish winning streak improved to 23-0 to start the season before a 54-53 last minute loss at Rutgers. McGraw kept the team's focus as the squad had done all season long, and after three more BIG EAST victories, the Irish had clinched a share of their first BIG EAST regular-season title. A fourth trip to the BIG EAST tournament final in six years resulted in a last-second 78-76 loss at UConn. McGraw has led the Irish to their second Final Four appearance in five years and their second in overall NCAA appearances.

**NOTRE DAME-ST. LOUIS AND MISSOURI CONNECTIONS**

Fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** (Cor Jesu High School) is one of five all-time Notre Dame women's basketball players who have resided in the state of Missouri, with the others including her predecessor at point guard—**Mollie Peirick** (Eureka/St. Joseph Academy). The women's basketball program's other Missouri native is **Carrie Bates** (Kansas City/Hickman HS; 1982-85) while two others moved with their families to Missouri shortly before beginning their Notre Dame careers: current Notre Dame associate athletic director **Missy Conboy** attended high school in Leavenworth, Kansas, and overseas in Germany (her father was in the military) before settling for a couple of years in Columbia, Missouri, while starting her career at Notre Dame (1979-82); **Beth Morrison** (1985-87) joined the Irish program after moving to St. Louis, but she attended and graduated from St. Joseph (Mich.) High School (her family moved to St. Louis before her senior year of high school).

- Ivey is one of several noteworthy student-athletes on current Notre Dame teams who hail from St. Louis, with the others including University of St. Louis High School product **Joe Thaman** (currently the starting first baseman as a freshman on the ND baseball team), sophomore hockey center **Connor Dunlop** and freshman hockey defenseman **Neil Komadoski, Jr.** (their fathers Blake Dunlop and Neil Komadoski played for the St. Louis Blues, with the sons honing their craft as members of the St. Louis Junior Blues before attending Chaminade Prep and then training with the U.S. National Team Development Program in Ann Arbor, Mich.), and volleyball freshman middle blockers **Katie Neff** (Cor Jesu Academy) and **Kim Fletcher** (Nerinx Hall HS). Senior football offensive lineman **John Teasdale** (Kansas City/Rockhurst, HS) is the only current member of the Notre Dame football team from the state of Missouri (he is one of some 33 players from Missouri who have earned varsity monograms with the Notre Dame football program, including 11 from St. Louis).

- More than 110 of Notre Dame's all-time varsity monogram winners hail from the state of Missouri, including **Dick Rosenthal** (St. Louis/Bishop McBride HS), who played for the Irish basketball and baseball teams in the early 1950s before serving as Notre Dame athletic director from 1987-95 (he was a 1954 basketball All-American). Other Notre Dame student-athletes from St. Louis have included women's soccer forward **Michelle McCarthy** (Visitation Academy), who helped lead Notre Dame to the 1995 NCAA title, and baseball pitcher **Ed Reulbach** (Manual Training HS), who went on to play in the World Series with the 1907 and '08 Chicago Cubs, while brothers **Peter** and **William Heinbecker** played for the Notre Dame tennis team in the late 1950s/early 1960s (Bill was a member of the 1959 NCAA championship team). St. Louis native **Vince Fehlig** earned All-America honors as a member of the 1933 Notre Dame men's golf team while the many Missouri natives to play for the Irish men's soccer program have included twin brothers **Paul** and **Steve Lavigne** (St. Louis Uni. HS).



• Notre Dame sports information director **John Heisler** is a 1976 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism while former Irish defensive back **Todd Lyght** (1987-90) has spent his entire NFL career with the Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams.

### RILEY WINS NAISMITH AWARD

Senior All-America center **Riley Ruth** has been named the recipient of the Naismith Player of the Year award – a first for the Notre Dame women's basketball program. Riley was selected as one of 30 preseason candidates for the Naismith Women's College Player of the Year and one of the 15 finalists for the award. The two-time first-team Associated Press All-American becomes the second BIG EAST player to be named the Naismith Women's College of the Player Year, joining Connecticut's Rebecca Lobo, the 1995 recipient. Riley will be honored at an April 7 banquet at the Atlanta Tipoff Club.

### IVEY WINS FRANCES NAISMITH POMEROY AWARD

All-America point guard **Niele Ivey** has been named the recipient of the 18th annual Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award, presented by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to the nation's outstanding female collegian 5-foot-8 and under who has excelled athletically and academically. Ivey, the first Irish player to receive and first from the BIG EAST since UConn's Jennifer Rizzotti in 1996, will receive her award on Sun., April 1 at a luncheon at the Adams Mark Hotel. The Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award, named in honor of James Naismith's daughter-in-law, is presented to the player who best demonstrates leadership, character, loyalty, all-around basketball ability and excellence in the classroom.

### McGRAW VOTED BIG EAST COACH OF THE YEAR

For the third time in her 14 seasons at Notre Dame, head coach **Muffet McGraw** has been voted conference coach of the year – her third coaching honor by three different conferences. She was named the North Star Conference coach of the year in 1988 in her first year at Notre Dame and was MCC coach of the year in 1991. Her BIG EAST coach-of-the-year award marks her first since Notre Dame joined the conference in 1995-96.

### RILEY, IVEY NAMED AP ALL-AMERICANS

Senior center **Ruth Riley** has earned first-team All-America honors by the Associated Press for the second consecutive year, while fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** earns All-America honors for the first time in her career as a third team pick. Riley was the only unanimous selection, as all 39 voters placed her on their first-team ballots.

- Ivey becomes Notre Dame's first All-America point guard and the fifth Irish player to earn AP All-America honors but just the second to be named to one of the three teams (Beth Morgan and Kathryn Gaither were honorable mention picks in both 1996 and 1997 and **Alicia Ratay** in 2000).
- Notre Dame and Connecticut – with Svetlana Abrosimova on the second team and Sue Bird on the third team – stand as the only schools with more than one player voted to the 15-player three teams.

### RILEY VOTED VERIZON ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** has been voted the Verizon Women's Basketball Academic All-American of the Year from among the five first-team Verizon Academic All-Americans. The psychology major and Naismith Women's College Player of the Year boasts a 3.64 cumulative grade-point average and became the first Irish women's basketball player to earn first-team Academic All-America honors last year. Riley advanced to the national ballot as a first-team all-district selection, while sophomore **Alicia Ratay** was a second-team pick.

### MORE NCAA NOTES

The Irish played 11 of their first 30 games vs. the other 63 teams in the NCAA field and compiled a 9-2 record against those teams. Notre Dame has posted wins vs. top-seeded Connecticut, second-seeded Georgia, third-seeded Purdue, fourth-seeded Rutgers, fifth-seeded Villanova, seventh-seeded Wisconsin and three wins vs. seventh-seeded Virginia Tech. The two Irish losses came at Rutgers and Connecticut by a combined three points.

- The Irish were one of a record five BIG EAST teams to receive bids into the 64-team field. No BIG EAST team earned a seeding lower than seventh and all five advanced to the second round.
- The BIG EAST grabbed two of the four No. 1 seeds – with Notre Dame leading the Midwest Regional and Connecticut seeded first in the East – and three of the 16 subregionals.

## IRISH CAREER RECORDS

### Free Throws

1. <b>Ruth Riley (1997-)</b>	<b>508</b>
2. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	447
3. Kathryn Gaither (1993-97)	328
4. Karen Robinson (1987-91)	307
5. Danielle Green (1995-00)	283
6. Sheila McMillen (1995-99)	282
7. Carey Poor (1992-96)	273
8. Sandy Botham (1984-88)	272
9. Krissi Davis (1987-91)	270
10. Mary Beth Schueth (1981-85)	259

### Rebounds

1. Letitia Bowen (1991-95)	999
2. <b>Ruth Riley (1997-)</b>	<b>994</b>
3. Kathryn Gaither (1993-97)	986
4. Mary Beth Schueth (1981-85)	853
5. Margaret Nowlin (1988-92)	824
6. Sandy Botham (1984-88)	774
7. Shari Matvey (1979-83)	742
8. Krissi Davis (1987-91)	730
9. Heidi Bunek (1985-89)	644
10. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	622

### Assists

1. Mary Gavin (1984-88)	778
2. <b>Niele Ivey (1996-)</b>	<b>723</b>
3. Mollie Peirick (1994-97)	651
4. Karen Robinson (1987-91)	579
5. Coquese Washington (1989-93)	554
6. Jeannine Augustin (1994-97)	387
7. Laura Dougherty (1981-85)	326
8. Sara Liebscher (1987-91)	312
9. Kara Leary (1990-94)	311
10. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	284

### Blocked Shots

1. <b>Ruth Riley (1997-)</b>	<b>363</b>
2. Kathryn Gaither (1993-97)	141
3. Shari Matvey (1979-83)	133
4. Trena Keys (1982-86)	124
5. Heidi Bunek (1985-89)	93
6. <b>Amanda Barksdale (1999-)</b>	<b>90</b>
7. Margaret Nowlin (1988-92)	83
8. Letitia Bowen (1991-95)	76
9. Mary Beth Schueth (1981-85)	68
10. Mollie Peirick (1994-97)	65

### Steals

1. <b>Niele Ivey (1996-)</b>	<b>342</b>
2. Coquese Washington (1989-93)	307
3. Mary Gavin (1984-88)	281
4. Karen Robinson (1987-91)	229
5. Krissi Davis (1987-91)	226
6. Kathryn Gaither (1993-97)	207
7. Jeannine Augustin (1994-97)	201
8. Beth Morgan (1993-97)	198
9. Mollie Peirick (1994-98)	189
10. Ruth Kaiser (1981-85)	187



**IRISH SEASON RECORDS**

**Field-Goal Percentage**

1. Ruth Riley	1998-99	198-290	.683
2. Sandy Botham	1985-86	172-269	.639
3. Katryna Gaither	1995-96	262-412	.633
<b>4. Ruth Riley</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>236-377</b>	<b>.626</b>
5. Katryna Gaither	1994-95	252-406	.621
6. Ruth Riley	1999-2000	193-314	.615

*Min. 3.5 made per game*

**Three Point Field Goals**

1. Sheila McMillen	1998-99	98
<b>2. Alicia Ratay</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>80</b>
3. Alicia Ratay	1999-2000	73
4. Beth Morgan	1995-96	71
5. Sheila McMillen	1997-98	68

**Three Point Field-Goal Percentage**

<b>1. Alicia Ratay</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>80-144</b>	<b>.556</b>
2. Alicia Ratay	1999-2000	73-152	.480
3. Sheila McMillen	1998-99	98-247	.397
4. Beth Morgan	1995-96	71-178	.399

*Min. 2.0 made per game*

**Free Throws**

<b>1. Ruth Riley</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>172</b>
2. Beth Morgan	1996-97	165
3. Ruth Riley	1999-2000	132
4. Katryna Gaither	1996-97	128
5. Ruth Riley	1998-99	118
6. Beth Morgan	1995-96	117

**Free Throws Attempted**

<b>1. Ruth Riley</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>223</b>
2. Beth Morgan	1996-97	204
3. Ruth Riley	1998-99	171
4. Ruth Riley	1999-2000	164
5. Katryna Gaither	1995-96	157
6. Danielle Green	1998-99	151

**Free Throw Percentage**

1. Sheila McMillen	1998-99	.871
2. Niele Ivey	1998-99	.870
3. Beth Morgan	1995-96	.854
4. Krissi Davis	1990-91	.849
5. Mollie Peirick	1997-98	.838

*Min. 2.0 made per game*

**Blocked Shots**

<b>1. Ruth Riley</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>106</b>
2. Ruth Riley	1998-99	101
3. Shari Matvey	1979-80	94
4. Ruth Riley	1999-2000	85
5. Ruth Riley	1997-98	71
<b>6. Amanda Barksdale</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>56</b>

**Steals**

1. Niele Ivey	1999-2000	98
2. Mary Gavin	1987-88	93
3. Jeannine Augustin	1996-97	92
4. Coq. Washington	1991-92	89
<b>5. Niele Ivey</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>88</b>

**IRISH PLAY INSIDE-OUTSIDE**

A large portion of Notre Dame's success this season is due to its potent inside-outside game. The Irish boast their best center ever in Naismith Player-of-the-Year **Ruth Riley** and the two best three-point shooters in school history in fifth-year **Niele Ivey** and sophomore **Alicia Ratay**.

- Riley reached the 2,000-point plateau in the win over Vanderbilt and is one of just three Notre Dame players ever to reach 2,000 points. She is set to leave Notre Dame with school records in field-goal percentage (.632), free throws made (508) and blocked shots (363).
- Among players with at least 40 three-point field goals, Ratay (147-286, .517) and Ivey (190-465, .409) boast the best three-point field-percentages in Irish history and stand third and fourth in all-time three-point field goals.

**RATAY HOLDS NCAA THREE-POINT RECORDS**

Sophomore Alicia Ratay, currently 80 of 144 for 55.6 percent, is on pace to shatter the NCAA single-season mark for three-point field-goal percentage (min. 80 made) set by Mary Just (87 of 174 for 50 percent) of Loyola (Ill.) in 1988. She also could set the NCAA sophomore record, held by Valparaiso's Sarah Lenschow (52.8 in 1998).

**RILEY APPROACHES REBOUND RECORD**

Senior All-American Ruth Riley (994) needs five rebounds to match the Irish career rebounds mark of 999 set by current director of basketball operations **Letitia Bowen** (1991-95). With six rebounds, Riley would become the first Irish player to reach 1,000 rebounds.

**THE RILEY REPORT**

Naismith women's college player-of-the-year **Ruth Riley** has been at her dominating best this season – making her presence felt on both ends of the court as the only player ranked among the top 20 NCAA leaders in both field-goal percentage and blocked shots. In addition to her offensive efficiency (236-377 FG, 62.6 percentage first in BIG EAST, fourth in NCAA), Riley leads the BIG EAST and is second in the country with 106 blocked shots (3.03/game), while committing just 84 personal fouls (2.40/game; just two games fouled out). The three-time BIG EAST defensive player of the year is averaging one blocked shot every 9.3 minutes she plays and just one foul every 11.8 minutes of action. **Riley had five blocks vs. St. John's to become just the 19th player in NCAA Division I history to break the 300 blocked-shot milestone. She enters the NCAA final with 363 blocked shots – seventh best in NCAA history.**

**SIEMON SHINES IN RETURN TO STARTING ROLE**

Playing with a broken left hand suffered two days earlier vs. Virginia Tech, senior **Kelley Siemon** sparked the Irish in their win over Connecticut by scoring 15 points and grabbing eight rebounds – her fourth-highest point total of the season. She had a season-high 21 points vs. Wisconsin – including 15 in the second half. She continued her strong play with a double-double in the championship game vs. Georgia (13 points and a game-high 11 rebounds). Siemon, a reserve last year after starting as a freshman and sophomore, was named to the BIG EAST all-tournament team as she led the Irish in scoring (14.2) in their three games.

The 2001 BIG EAST most improved player sat out the Marquette game – the first game in her career in which she did not play – with a knee injury before returning to the starting lineup vs. USC. She currently is averaging 11.3 points and 7.2 rebounds per game – the fifth-highest rebounding average in the BIG EAST – but missed the Seton Hall, West Virginia and Providence games due to her injured left hand. She recorded her second double-double of the season with a career-high 15 rebounds and a game-high 19 points against Rutgers. Siemon turned in a game-high 17-point performance vs. Pittsburgh when the Irish clinched a share of the BIG EAST regular-season title. **Siemon is averaging 13.2 points and 7.3 rebounds in the last 13 games after scoring just 11 points in her first two games back from her hand injury.**

**HANEY HELPING OUT**

While Notre Dame has been led by its three All-America caliber players in **Ruth Riley**, **Niele Ivey** and **Alicia Ratay**, junior forward **Ericka Haney** has proven to play a large role in Notre Dame's success this season. Among the team's most athletic and best defensive players, she enters the NCAA final averaging 10.9 points – markedly higher than her 6.8 average as a sophomore and 6.0 as a freshman. With Notre Dame's other starting forward **Kelley Siemon** out of the Marquette game lineup with



**2000-01 BIG EAST  
WEEKLY AWARDS**

**Player of the Week**

Nov. 20 ..... Rachel Byars, Boston College  
..... Beth Record, Syracuse

Nov. 27 ..... **Niele Ivey, Notre Dame**

Dec. 4 ..... LaTasha Thompson, St. John's  
..... Tere Williams, Virginia Tech

Dec. 11 ..... Arminda Moreno, Seton Hall  
..... Tasha Pointer, Rutgers

Dec. 18 ..... Brandi Barnes, Villanova

Dec. 25 ..... Bettina Love, Pittsburgh

Jan. 1 ..... **Ruth Riley, Notre Dame**

Jan. 8 ..... **Ruth Riley, Notre Dame**  
..... Brandi Barnes, Villanova

Jan. 15 ..... Dalia Clarke, Miami  
..... Tasha Pointer, Rutgers

Jan. 22 ..... **Ruth Riley, Notre Dame**

Jan. 29 ..... Tere Williams, Virginia Tech

Feb. 5 ..... Arminda Moreno, Seton Hall

Feb. 12 ..... **Ruth Riley, Notre Dame**

Feb. 19 ..... Katie Smrcka-Duffy, Georgetown  
..... Becky Gottstein, Boston College

**Rookie of the Week**

Nov. 20 ..... Jenese Wilcox, Providence

Nov. 27 ..... Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown

Dec. 4 ..... Jenese Wilcox, Providence

Dec. 11 ..... Janelle McManus, Boston College

Dec. 18 ..... Amber Jacobs, Boston College

Dec. 25 ..... Kristin Quinn, Providence

Jan. 1 ..... Courtney Mix, Villanova

Jan. 8 ..... Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown

Jan. 15 ..... Chanivia Broussard, Miami

Jan. 22 ..... Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown

Jan. 29 ..... Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown

Feb. 5 ..... Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown  
..... Charelne Thomas, Seton Hall

Feb. 12 ..... Diana Taurasi, Connecticut  
..... Kristin Quinn, Providence

Feb. 19 ..... Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown

an injury, Haney turned in the best offensive performance of her career. She made her first 10 field goals before missing her final two and made one of two free throws to finish with a career-high and game-high 21 points. Against Seton Hall with Siemon out of the lineup again, Haney scored 15 first-half points on her way to a game-high 17 points. Haney came within one point of her third double-double of the season with nine points and a game-high 11 rebounds vs. Georgetown. Other strong offensive performances for Haney this season include double-doubles vs. Connecticut in the Final Four (15 points, 10 rebounds), Rice (18 points, 12 rebounds), North Carolina (14 points, 13 rebounds) and Rutgers (12 points, 10 rebounds), game-high 17 points vs. Va. Tech, 17 points vs. Providence, 16 points vs. sixth-ranked Purdue and Syracuse, 14 points and six rebounds vs. Alcorn State and 13 points and seven rebounds vs. UConn in the first meeting. She has scored in double figures in 21 games this season.

**RATAY TOPS NCAA THREE-POINT SHOOTER**

Sophomore **Alicia Ratay** has established herself as the best three-point shooter in the country with her 55.6 three-point shooting percentage – the highest percentage in the country. Ratay has connected on 80 of her 144 attempts and her 55.6 percentage is more than 20 percentage points higher than Irish opponents are hitting from the field (33.5) and is more than double their three-point shooting (24.7). Ratay had 11 three pointers in the first two games on just 15 attempts, a percentage of .733. In the season opener vs. Valparaiso, Ratay scored 20 points on 7-12 shooting (6-9 3PT) and nailed four three-pointers in a span of 3:47 late in the first half. She was a perfect 4-4 (3-3 3PT) in the first half of the Arizona game before finishing 8-10 FG, 5-6 3PT and 5-5 FT for 26 points. Ratay was 2-3 vs. Georgia, 3-3 vs. Fordham, 2-4 vs. North Carolina, 1-1 vs. Villanova, 5-8 vs. Purdue, 3-3 vs. Western Mich., 2-3 vs. Marquette, 1-1 vs. USC, 1-3 vs. Va. Tech, 2-3 vs. Rutgers, 3-7 vs. St. John's, 3-4 vs. Va. Tech, 2-4 vs. Conn., 3-6 vs. Seton Hall, 2-4 vs. West Va., 1-4 vs. Providence and Boston College, 1-3 vs. Pittsburgh, 2-6 vs. Miami, 2-5 vs. Georgetown and Pittsburgh, 4-5 vs. Georgetown after missing her first attempt, 1-2 vs. Va. Tech, 3-3 vs. Connecticut in the BIG EAST final, 3-4 vs. Alcorn State in the NCAA first round and 3-6 vs. Michigan in the NCAA second round. She made six of 10 three-point shots last week in Denver (3-6 vs. Utah, 3-4 vs. Vanderbilt) and was 4-5 vs. Connecticut in the NCAA semifinals.

**IRISH ON SAINT PATRICK'S DAY**

Notre Dame won on Saint Patrick's Day for the third time and for the second consecutive year. The Irish have a 3-1 record on March 17, losing at Texas Tech 82-67 in the 1996 NCAA second round, defeating host Texas 86-83 in the 1997 NCAA second round and beating San Diego 87-61 in the 2000 NCAA first round at the Joyce Center before also beating Alcorn State in the 2001 first round.

**38 AND COUNTING**

The Irish extended their home winning streak to a school-record 38 straight wins at the Joyce Center with the victory over Michigan in the NCAA second round. The streak currently is the second longest active streak in the country, behind Kent (43). The Irish have not lost at home in over two years since a loss to top-ranked Connecticut on Dec. 8, 1998. Notre Dame also has a 49-3 (.942) record in BIG EAST games at the Joyce Center, with Connecticut the only BIG EAST team to beat the Irish at home.

Notre Dame sports a four-year old, 23-game non-conference winning streak at the Joyce Center - a streak that includes wins over Purdue in 1997 and 2000 and victories over a pair of sixth-ranked teams (UCLA and Duke) and 25th-ranked Illinois in 1998-99. Notre Dame's last non-conference loss at the Joyce Center came over four years ago when 19th-ranked Wisconsin beat the Irish on Dec. 9, 1996. **Overall, the Irish are 63-2 (.969) at the Joyce Center in their last 65 home games, with the only losses coming to Connecticut.**

**IRISH CLAIM SHARE OF BIG EAST TITLE**

The win over Pittsburgh on Feb. 27 clinched a share of a first BIG EAST regular-season title for the Irish, who finished the 16-game conference schedule with a 15-1 record for the second consecutive year. Connecticut also shared the title with a 15-1 record. Other BIG EAST finishes for the Irish are: 15-3 in 1995-96 (second in BIG EAST 6 division), 17-1 in 1996-97 (second in BIG EAST 6 division), 12-6 in 1997-98 (tied for second in BIG EAST 6 division), 15-3 in 1998-99 (third) and 15-1 in 1999-2000 (second). Notre Dame won or shared five Midwestern Collegiate Conference regular-season crowns in its seven seasons in the MCC from 1988-1995.



**BIG EAST STANDINGS**

<u>Pl.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>BIG EAST</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1.	<b>NOTRE DAME</b>	<b>15-1</b>	<b>33-2</b>
	Connecticut	15-1	32-3
3.	Rutgers	13-3	22-7
4.	Virginia Tech	11-5	21-8
	Villanova	11-5	21-8
6.	Seton Hall	9-7	16-11
7.	Boston College	7-9	13-14
8.	Miami	6-10	13-14
	Georgetown	6-10	17-15
	Syracuse	6-10	12-14
11.	Providence	4-12	10-16
12.	West Virginia	3-13	5-22
	St. John's	3-13	8-19
	Pittsburgh	3-13	9-18

**WEEKLY RANKINGS**

Here's where Notre Dame has been ranked in the weekly polls during the 2000-01 season:

<u>Week</u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>ESPN/USA Today</u>
Preseason .....	6 .....	5
Nov. 13 .....	6 .....	--
Nov. 20 .....	5 .....	5
Nov. 27 .....	4 .....	4
Dec. 4 .....	4 .....	4
Dec. 11 .....	3 .....	3
Dec. 18 .....	3 .....	3
Dec. 25 .....	3 .....	3
Jan. 1 .....	3 .....	3
Jan. 8 .....	3 .....	3
Jan. 15 .....	3 .....	3
Jan. 22 .....	1 .....	1
Jan. 29 .....	1 .....	1
Feb. 5 .....	1 .....	1
Feb. 12 .....	1 .....	1
Feb. 19 .....	2 .....	2
Feb. 26 .....	2 .....	2
March 5 .....	1 .....	1

**BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIP REVIEW**

Notre Dame reached its fourth BIG EAST championship game in its six years in the conference and lost to Connecticut for the fourth time. The Irish reached the title game with a BIG EAST-record 89-33 win over Georgetown in the quarterfinals, as the 56-point margin of victory marked the most in a BIG EAST tournament game. First-team all-BIG EAST selection **Niele Ivey** led Notre Dame with 16 points and eight assists, while sophomore **Amanda Barksdale** grabbed a career-high nine rebounds.

In the semifinals vs. fourth-seeded Virginia Tech, top-seeded Notre Dame used a 26-3 run in the first half to pull away from the Hokies with a 30-9 lead. The Hokies, who lost to the Irish for the third time this season, pulled within 40-25 2:19 into the second half but Notre Dame scored 12 of the next 13 points to put the game away. Notre Dame's defense held Virginia Tech to 17.6 percent shooting in the first half and 26.6 percent in the game.

The championship matched not only the top two teams in the BIG EAST but the top two teams in the country as top-ranked and top-seeded Notre Dame met second-ranked and second-seeded Connecticut in Storrs., Conn., for the 2001 BIG EAST title. The Irish led 6-0 early in the game before the Huskies scored 12 straight for a 12-6 lead. The fast-paced first half would follow that pattern as Connecticut would build a six or seven point lead only to see Notre Dame pull within one or two points. The Huskies again built a seven-point lead 71-64 at 7:34 but the Irish managed their first tie of the second half at 73-73 with 3:51 remaining. The score would remain tied until a Connecticut three-pointer put the Huskies ahead 76-73 with 49 seconds left. A **Ruth Riley** bucket with 39 seconds left and a free throw with five seconds left tied the game before Connecticut drove the length of the floor for a buzzer-beating shot in the 78-76 final.

The Irish shot 51 percent from the field in the game and held the Huskies to 39 percent shooting but UConn took 24 more shots than Notre Dame thanks to 19 offensive rebounds and seven fewer turnovers. **Riley** finished with game-highs of nine rebounds and 23 points, her second 20-point game vs. the Huskies this season. **Riley, Siemon** and **Ratay** were named to the all-tournament team.

**RILEY SWEEPS BIG EAST AWARDS**

Senior All-American **Ruth Riley** became the first player in league history to win BIG EAST player-of-the-year and defensive player-of-the-year honors and also to win the BIG EAST/Aeropostale female scholar athlete-of-the-year and women's basketball scholar athlete-of-the-year awards. Riley was a unanimous selection for player of the year – the first for the Irish since joining the BIG EAST in 1995-96 and the program's first conference player of the year since Karen Robinson won Midwestern Collegiate Conference player-of-the-year honors in 1990 and 1991.

Riley also was named to the all-BIG EAST first team for the third consecutive year, while fifth-year **Niele Ivey** was voted to the first team for the first time after earning third-team honors in 1999 and second team in 2000. Senior **Kelley Siemon** was voted the BIG EAST most improved player and was an honorable mention all-BIG EAST pick. Sophomore **Alicia Ratay**, the 2000 BIG EAST rookie of the year, was named to the third team – the only sophomore voted to the first, second or third all-BIG EAST teams.

**SENIOR SUCCESS**

Notre Dame's senior class of **Imani Dunbar, Niele Ivey, Meaghan Leahy, Ruth Riley** and **Kelley Siemon** wrapped up the first back-to-back undefeated seasons at the Joyce Center with the second-round win over Michigan. The Irish were 15-0 at the Joyce Center this year and were 15-0 last year – including a pair of wins in the NCAA tournament. The only other undefeated season at the Joyce Center came in 1978-79 (5-0). This group of seniors will leave Notre Dame with the best four-year winning percentage in school history with a current record of 108-22 (.831), topping the .797 winning percentage (106-27) of the class of 2000.

Among the other accomplishments of this group are:

- A first-ever share of the BIG EAST regular-season title
- A first-ever win over a top-ranked team
- The first No. 1 and No. 2 rankings in the program's history this season
- A school-record 23-game winning streak
- A school-record 36-game active home winning streak
- A record of 54-2 (.964) at the Joyce Center with the only losses coming to Connecticut
- A 22-0 Joyce Center record vs. non-conference opponents
- A school-record 12-game road winning streak





### BIG EAST AWARDS

**2000-01 Player of the Year**

**Ruth Riley, Sr., C, 6-5, Notre Dame**

**2000-01 Coach of the Year**

**Muffett McGraw, Notre Dame**

**2000-01 Defensive Player of the Year**

**Ruth Riley, Sr., C, 6-5, Notre Dame**

**2000-01 Most Improved Player**

**Kelley Siemon, Sr., F, 6-2, Notre Dame**

**2000-01 Scholar-Athlete of the Year**

**Ruth Riley, Sr., C, 6-5, Notre Dame**

**2000-01 Preseason Rookie of the Year**

**Rebekkah Brunson, F, 6-2, Georgetown**

**All-BIG EAST First Team**

Svetlana Abrosimova, Connecticut, G/F, Sr.  
Sue Bird, Connecticut, G, Jr.

**Niele Ivey, Notre Dame, G, Sr.**

Tasha Pointer, Rutgers, G, Sr.

**\*Ruth Riley, Notre Dame, C, Sr.**

**All-BIG EAST Second Team**

Swin Cash, Connecticut, F, Jr.  
Becky Gottstein, Boston College, F, Jr.  
Shea Ralph, Connecticut, G, Sr.  
Katie Smrcka-Duffy, Georgetown, G, Sr.  
Tere Williams, Virginia Tech, F, Sr.

**All-BIG EAST Third Team**

Brandi Barnes, Villanova, C, Sr.  
Arminda Moreno, Seton Hall, G, Sr.  
**Alicia Ratay, Notre Dame, G, So.**  
Beth Record, Syracuse, G/F, Sr.  
Tammy Sutton-Brown, Rutgers, C, Sr.

**Honorable Mention All-BIG EAST**

Dayalyn Cunningham, Rutgers, F, Jr.  
Trish Juhline, Villanova, So., G

**Kelley Siemon, Notre Dame, Sr., F**

**BIG EAST All-Rookie Team**

Chanivia Broussard, Miami, F  
\*Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown, F  
Kate Bulger, West Virginia, G  
Amber Jacobs, Boston College, G  
\*Diana Taurasi, Connecticut, G

\* - unanimous selection

**NCAA GAMES AT THE JOYCE CENTER**

The Midwest subregional marked the third time NCAA tournament games were held at the Joyce Center. Notre Dame's second NCAA appearance in 1994 saw the seventh-seeded Irish play host to 10th-seeded Minnesota, with the Gophers winning that first round game 81-76. Notre Dame played host to its first subregional in 2000 when the second-seeded Irish welcomed 15th-seeded San Diego, seventh-seeded George Washington and 10th-seeded UCLA. Notre Dame defeated San Diego 87-61 in the first round and George Washington 95-60 in the second round.

**IRISH VS. TOP 10**

Following the victory over top-ranked Connecticut on Jan. 15, the Irish improved to 4-0 this season vs. top-10 opponents, fell to 4-1 after losing to the second-ranked Huskies in the BIG EAST final, then moved to 5-1 after the win over 10th-ranked Vanderbilt, and improved to 6-1 with the NCAA semifinal victory over top-ranked Connecticut. Notre Dame has an 11-6 record vs. all top 10 teams (including 6-0 vs. non-conference opponents) since the start of the 1998-99 season. The Irish have won seven straight games vs. top-10 non-conference opponents (#10 Vanderbilt on March 26, #6 Purdue on Dec. 9, #6 Georgia on Nov. 24, #9 North Carolina in '99-'00, #6 UCLA and #6 Duke in '98-99, #6 Texas Tech in '97-98) and nine of their last 11 (also beating #8 Alabama, #8 North Carolina State and #6 Iowa in '96-97 and falling to Tennessee twice (ranked second and 10th in '96-97).

**RILEY, IVEY LEAVE MARK ON BIG EAST RECORD BOOK**

Notre Dame seniors **Ruth Riley** and **Niele Ivey** closed their BIG EAST regular-season careers with their names well-represented in the conference record book. Riley played in all 68 BIG EAST games her four years (18 in '97-98 and '98-99 and 16 in '99-'00 and '00-01), while Ivey missed just one game.

- Riley finished in the top 10 in the record book in six categories. She owns the best field-goal percentage in conference history with a 64.6 percentage (419-649), and her 419 field goals are tied for 13th best. Riley finished second to Connecticut's Rebecca Lobo (227 from 1991-95) in blocked shots with 193 and ranks fourth in free throws attempted (397) and made (297). Her 1,135 points are the eighth most while her 544 rebounds place her 10th in BIG EAST history.
- Ivey recorded 394 assists in her 67 BIG EAST games – fourth best in the 19 seasons of BIG EAST women's basketball. Her 167 steals also stand as eighth best in league history.

**IVEY FINALIST FOR LIEBERMAN-CLINE AWARD**

Irish fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** has been named one of four finalists for the Conesco Nancy Lieberman-Cline Step Up Award, which honors the nation's top collegiate point guard in NCAA Division I women's basketball. The award is a national project of the Rotary Club of Detroit and is presented to the player whose floor leadership, play-making and ball handling skills best personified Lieberman-Cline during her career. Associated Press sportswriters from across the country nominated the 10 finalists and will choose the eventual winner, who will be honored at a noon on April 7, in a luncheon at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center.

- Ivey was joined on the initial list of 10 finalists by two other BIG EAST players — Connecticut's Sue Bird, the inaugural winner last year, and Rutgers' Tasha Pointer.

**RILEY, MCGRAW HONORED BY SI FOR WOMEN**

The March/April edition of *Sports Illustrated For Women* has honored senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** and head coach **Muffet McGraw** as its player of the year and coach of the year. The magazine also named Riley to its All-America first team.

**THE RUTH IS ON FIRE...**

Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** matched her season-high performance of 29 points vs. Connecticut when she also scored 29 points vs. Pittsburgh. The 2001 BIG EAST player of the year has posted 20-plus points in 15 of the last 25 games, including NCAA games vs. Michigan (21), Utah (24) and Vanderbilt (32). She also scored 23 points vs. Connecticut in the BIG EAST final, had 21 points vs. Georgetown, 20 points vs. Miami, 24 points vs. Boston College and Syracuse, 28 points vs. West Virginia, 23 points vs. St. John's, 22 points vs. Rutgers and 27 points at Va. Tech (Jan. 3). The BIG EAST's leading scorer was selected as the BIG EAST player of the week for the fourth time this season on Feb. 12. **Riley ranks among the BIG EAST top four in both conference scoring (first at 18.4) and rebounding (fourth at 7.7).**



**TOP JOYCE CENTER CROWDS**

<u>Rk.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Atten.</u>
<b>T1.</b>	1/15/01	<b>#1 Connecticut</b>	<b>W, 92-76</b>	<b>c11,418</b>
<b>T1.</b>	2/24/01	<b>Georgetown</b>	<b>W, 65-53</b>	<b>c11,418</b>
<b>3.</b>	3/19/01	<b>Michigan (NCAA)</b>	<b>W, 88-54</b>	<b>9,597</b>
<b>4.</b>	3/17/01	<b>Alcorn St. (NCAA)</b>	<b>W, 98-49</b>	<b>8,553</b>
<b>5.</b>	1/12/92	<b>#2 Tennessee</b>	<b>L, 82-85</b>	<b>8,134</b>
<b>6.</b>	2/12/00	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>W, 94-51</b>	<b>7,530</b>
<b>7.</b>	12/9/00	<b>#6 Purdue</b>	<b>W, 72-61</b>	<b>7,330</b>
<b>8.</b>	2/7/01	<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>W, 72-58</b>	<b>7,025</b>
<b>9.</b>	1/7/94	<b>#1 Tennessee</b>	<b>L, 70-105</b>	<b>6,886</b>
<b>10.</b>	2/20/01	<b>Miami</b>	<b>W, 81-43</b>	<b>6,533</b>
<b>11.</b>	1/18/96	<b>#3 Connecticut</b>	<b>L, 64-87</b>	<b>6,501</b>
<b>12.</b>	1/23/99	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>W, 99-60</b>	<b>6,384</b>
<b>13.</b>	1/31/01	<b>Providence</b>	<b>W, 64-44</b>	<b>6,131</b>
<b>14.</b>	1/13/01	<b>Virginia Tech</b>	<b>W, 75-55</b>	<b>5,873</b>
<b>15.</b>	3/19/00	<b>G. Wash. (NCAA)</b>	<b>W, 95-60</b>	<b>5,521</b>
<b>16.</b>	2/6/99	<b>Seton Hall</b>	<b>W, 77-49</b>	<b>5,231</b>
<b>17.</b>	1/6/01	<b>#9 Rutgers</b>	<b>W, 67-46</b>	<b>5,227</b>
<b>18.</b>	3/17/00	<b>San Diego (NCAA)</b>	<b>W, 87-61</b>	<b>5,195</b>
<b>19.</b>	12/8/98	<b>#1 Connecticut</b>	<b>L, 81-106</b>	<b>5,102</b>
<b>20.</b>	1/24/98	<b>Providence</b>	<b>W, 109-60</b>	<b>5,056</b>

**Bold** indicates games played this season.

**IVEY A BIG EAST ALL-STAR**

All-American Niele Ivey spent part of her 2000 summer with the BIG EAST Women's Basketball All-Stars, averaging 11.8 points and 3.7 rebounds on the six-game competitive tour of Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. in June. The All-Stars, led by West Virginia head coach Alexis Basil, went 5-1 on the tour with wins over Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria. Ivey scored in double figures in four of the six contests and registered a personal tour-high 17 points in the squad's first meeting with Simon Fraser. She scored a team-high 16 points in the All-Stars' final game.

**...WITH IVEY PROVIDING THE SPARK**

All-America fifth-year point guard **Niele Ivey** has had a hand in nearly half of Notre Dame's 985 field goals this season. The 2001 first-team all-BIG EAST selection stands fifth on the team with 144 field goals and has assisted on 243 field goals (11th in the NCAA at 6.9 assists/game) to account for 387 of the 985 Irish FGs (39 percent) this season. Of Ivey's 144 FGs, 57 have been three-point FGs (57-125 for 45.6 percent). Also the school recordholder for career steals, Ivey moved into Notre Dame's top-10 career scoring list during the Seton Hall game and currently has 1,418 points. **Ivey is the only Notre Dame player ever to score over 1,400 points and record over 700 assists. She also has more than 300 steals and 400 rebounds in her Irish career.**

**20-WIN SEASONS**

Notre Dame's win over Providence on Jan. 31, brought its record to 20-0 – marking the eighth consecutive year the Irish have had a 20-win season and the 12th in 14 seasons under head coach **Muffet McGraw**. The 2000-01 Irish have been the quickest to 20 wins in terms of both the number of games needed to reach 20 wins and the calendar date (Jan. 31).

**IRISH ON RECORD-SETTING DEFENSIVE PACE**

While Notre Dame has boasted one of the country's most potent offensive attacks over the past few seasons, the Irish defense remains on pace to break modern school records for fewest points allowed per game and the lowest opponent field-goal and three-point field-goal percentages. Notre Dame's defense has limited its opponents to 55.5 points per game (fourth in the country) on 33.5 FG percentage (first in the country) and 24.7 three-point FG percentage, all better than or close to the modern school records of 55.1 points per game in 1981-82, 35.5 FG percentage in 1999-2000 and 28.4 three-point FG percentage in 1996-97. Notre Dame's opponents have shot better than 40 percent in only six of 35 games this season – Georgia (42.0), Purdue (46.2), Virginia Tech (41.0 on Jan. 3), Boston College (44.6), Syracuse (43.1) and Vanderbilt (41.7).

**NOTRE DAME AT NO. 1**

The 92-76 Irish win over previously top-ranked and undefeated Connecticut on Jan. 15, left Notre Dame as the only unbeaten team in the country – positioning the Irish for their ascension to the No. 1 ranking in the Jan. 22 polls for the first time in the 24-year history of Notre Dame women's basketball. The Irish had been ranked third for six consecutive weeks, the highest-ever ranking for Notre Dame before taking over the top spot.

- Notre Dame became the 19th school to hold the No. 1 ranking in the 25-year history of the AP poll. UConn fell one spot to second, the first time in seven seasons one conference held the top two spots.
- The Irish women's basketball team became the second Notre Dame team to hold the No. 1 ranking in 2000-01. The Irish women's soccer squad took over the No. 1 ranking on Sept. 18, and held the top spot for 11 weeks, finishing the regular season unbeaten and ranked first with a 20-0-1 record.
- The BIG EAST Conference became just the third conference – joining the Atlantic Coast and South-eastern Conferences – to boast a pair of No. 1 teams in the same season. Two top-ranked conference teams in the same year had happened in just four previous seasons with Auburn and Tennessee in both '87-88 and '88-89, Maryland and Virginia in '91-92 and Tennessee and Vanderbilt in '92-93. Tennessee and Vanderbilt were ranked first and second, respectively, on Nov. 16, 1993, the last time two conference teams were one-two in the AP poll.
- In addition to the Irish and Huskies holding the top two spots in women's basketball, Georgetown and St. John's were the first BIG EAST men's basketball teams to be ranked first and second. Fifteen years ago both were ranked first during the season and spent a large part of the 1984-85 season holding the top two spots in the polls.

**IRISH WELCOME RECORD CROWDS TO JOYCE CENTER**

The Georgetown sellout marked the second this season and second all-time for a women's basketball game at the 11,418-seat Joyce Center. Notre Dame defeated top-ranked Connecticut in front of its first sellout crowd on Jan. 15, 2001. The Irish drew 95,635 fans to their 15 home games, an average of 6,376 that stands 10th best in the country. Nine of the top 15 and seven of the top 10 crowds in Irish women's basketball history have flocked to the Joyce Center this season.

**IVEY SETS STEALS RECORD**

All-American **Niele Ivey** had four steals against Providence to bring her career total to 309, breaking



### IRISH TACKLE TOUGH SCHEDULE

- An ESPN nationally-televvised home game against defending NCAA and BIG EAST champion Connecticut and nine games against teams from the 2000 NCAA women's basketball championship highlighted the 2000-01 Irish schedule.
- The 27-game slate featured 13 home games and appearances in two national tournaments.
- In addition to the Jan. 15, contest against Connecticut, the Irish welcomed 2000 Final Four participant Rutgers, 1999 NCAA champion Purdue and Pacific-10 power Arizona to the Joyce Center. Notre Dame traveled to Wisconsin on Nov. 22 and 24, for the Coaches Vs. Cancer Challenge, defeating the host Badgers in the opening round and NCAA tournament team Georgia in the championship game (televised by ESPN). The Irish played on ESPN2 when they traveled to Orlando to take on North Carolina at Honda Elite Classic.
- The 16-game BIG EAST schedule featured two games against conference newcomer Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh and Rutgers and one each with Villanova, St. John's, Connecticut, Seton Hall, West Virginia, Providence, Boston College, Syracuse, Miami and Georgetown. First-ever meetings with Fordham and Rice, the first game against USC in 15 years and a trip to Marquette rounded out the schedule against the non-conference opponents – against whom the Irish finished 11-0.

current Irish assistant coach **Coquese Washington's** Notre Dame career steals record of 307. She enters the NCAA semifinals with 337 career steals. Ivey (723) moved ahead of Washington (554) for fourth place on the Irish career assist list and moved into third place with seven assists vs. Rutgers on Jan. 6. Ivey surpassed fellow Missouri native Mollie Peirick's 651 assists from 1994-97 for second place on the all-time Irish assist list with six assists vs. Miami. **With two assists vs. Virginia Tech in the BIG EAST semifinals which brought her season assist total to 200, Ivey joined Molly Gavin (1984-88) as the only Irish players to reach the 200-assist mark in a single season** (Gavin had 200-plus assists in each of her final three seasons, Ivey now has 240).

#### **IRISH SET SCHOOL WINNING STREAKS**

Notre Dame's victory over Boston College marked its 21st straight win, breaking the school record for consecutive wins – a record that grew to 23 wins before the first loss. The win over Providence on Jan. 31, matched the school-record 20-game winning streak set just last year – after the previous 15-game mark stood for nine years. The '99-'00 Irish won 20 straight games from Dec. 11-Feb. 26.

- The 23-game winning streak stands tied for 23rd on the all-time NCAA Division I list of longest winning streaks.
- The Boston College victory also marked Notre Dame's 11th consecutive road win, breaking the previous school record of 10 straight wins away from the Joyce Center set during the 1993-94 season. The win over Syracuse marked the 12th straight road victory.
- The Providence win marked Notre Dame's third consecutive January (1999, 2000, 2001) without a loss – a streak that stands at 25 and dates back to Jan. 31, 1998.
- **Notre Dame has become the first team since both Stanford and Connecticut (1995-96 and 1996-97) and just the seventh in NCAA history to string together consecutive seasons with a pair of winning streaks of at least 20 games.**

#### **RECORD-SETTING DAY**

Notre Dame's win over top-ranked Connecticut on Jan. 15, marked a number milestones for the Irish:

- The Irish posted their first win over Connecticut in 12 meetings.
- Notre Dame beat a top-ranked team for the first time in 10 tries, the first in four at the Joyce Center.
- The crowd of 11,418 marked the first Joyce Center sellout for a women's basketball game and the largest crowd in school history, surpassing the 8,134 fans at the 1992 Tennessee game.
- **Ruth Riley** went 13-13 from the free throw line for the best single-game performance in Irish history and the sixth-best in the country this season.
- The 46 free throws Notre Dame attempted tied the school record, while Connecticut's 33 three-point attempts stand as the most ever by an Irish opponent.

#### **IRISH FACE RARE DEFICIT**

When Georgetown held a four-point lead with 12:48 left in the game, Notre Dame found itself trailing in the second half for just the third time all season before also trailing vs. Connecticut in the BIG EAST final. Georgia and Rutgers also held leads on the Irish in the second half, with Notre Dame holding on to defeat Georgia. **Overall in its 35 games this season, Notre Dame has led for 1187 of 1400 minutes (84.8 percent), has been behind for 155 minutes (11.1 percent) and has been tied for 58 minutes (4.1 percent).**

#### **RILEY SETS FREE THROW RECORD, RATAY ON RECORD PACE**

Senior All-America center **Ruth Riley** made eight free throws vs. Syracuse to break the Notre Dame record for career free throws made, while sophomore guard **Alicia Ratay** remains on pace to break another Notre Dame free throw record. Riley has made 508 free throws in her career on 673 attempts (also a school record), surpassing the school record 447 free throws made by Beth Morgan from 1993-97 on 549 attempts. Ratay currently sports an 89.0 free-throw percentage (65-73), better than the single-season record 87.1 free-throw percentage set by Sheila McMillen in 1998-99.

#### **McGRAW WINS 300TH AT NOTRE DAME, 400TH CAREER WIN**

Notre Dame's win over Rice on Dec. 31, marked **Muffet McGraw's** 300th win at Notre Dame in her 14th season as head coach of the Irish, while the win over Miami on Feb. 20, marked the 400th win in her coaching career. She has a 321-117 (.733) record at Notre Dame and an overall mark of 409-158 (.721). Her 321 wins at Notre Dame equal more than 65 percent of the total wins in the 23-plus seasons of varsity Irish women's basketball.



**POLL POSITION**

- The week of Dec. 3 began with the University of Notre Dame as the only Division I-A institution ranked among the top 10 teams in Associated Press standings in the sports of football, men's basketball and women's basketball.
- Notre Dame stood **10th** in the final regular-season **football** poll (9-2 record), the first time since 1995 the Irish have finished the regular season ranked in the top 10.
- The Irish **men's basketball** team also broke into the top 10 that week for the first time since 1986.
- The Irish **women's basketball** team had its highest-ever ranking at fourth in the AP before moving up to third following the win over Purdue.
- It marked the first time in Irish athletic history all three of those Notre Dame teams have been ranked in the top 10 in the same week.

**ATTENDANCE, SEASON  
TICKET SALES AT ALL-  
TIME HIGH**

Season-ticket sales for the 2000-01 Irish home season more than doubled from a year ago, going from 940 in 1999-2000 to more than 2,700 for this season. ND's average home attendance jumped from a per-game figure of 1,747 in '96-'97 (the year the Irish played in the NCAA Final Four) to 1,914 in '97-'98, then 2,996 in '98-'99 and finally to a 3,392 total in 1999-2000 to rank 26th nationally. Notre Dame averaged 6,376 fans in 15 regular-season home games this season (10th best nationally).

**SEEING DOUBLE**

Junior **Ericka Haney** had a team-high 10 rebounds and scored 15 points against Connecticut in the NCAA semifinals for her fourth double-double of the season. Notre Dame has totalled 22 double-doubles in 35 games by seven different players. Other double-double performances for the Irish this season include nine by **Ruth Riley** (vs. Villanova, Marquette, St. John's, Connecticut, Providence, Boston College, Pittsburgh, Syracuse and vs. Utah in the NCAAs—with 24 pts, 14 rbs,) four by **Niele Ivey** (vs. Valparaiso, Arizona, Villanova and Connecticut), one from **Alicia Ratay** (vs. Va. Tech), three by **Ericka Haney** (vs. North Carolina, Rice and Rutgers), two from **Kelley Siemon** (vs. Georgia and Rutgers), **Meaghan Leahy** (vs. Fordham) and **Amanda Barksdale** (vs. Alcorn State).

**DOUBLE-DOUBLE FOR DOUBLE "3"**

Fifth-year point guard and third-team Associated Press All-American **Niele Ivey** entered the season with seven career double-doubles (four in '99-'00 and three in '98-'99) and has four in '00-01. She had a pair of double-doubles in the first two games of the season and a third vs. Villanova. Ivey scored 12 points and had 10 assists and five steals vs. Valparaiso in the season opener and then recorded 11 assists against just one turnover to go along with 14 points against Arizona. She had 11 points, 10 assists, six steals and six rebounds vs. just four turnovers vs. Villanova. Ivey then scored 14 points and had her fifth double-figure assist game vs. Connecticut against just five turnovers.

**NOTRE DAME AMONG RECENT WINS LEADERS**

Notre Dame has won 139 games in its last four-plus seasons, the fifth most wins of any school in the country. Here's where the Irish rank in terms of their wins over the last four-plus seasons:

<b>TEAM</b>	<b>'96-'97</b>	<b>'97-'98</b>	<b>'98-'99</b>	<b>'99-'00</b>	<b>'00-01</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Connecticut	33	34	29	36	32	164
2. Tennessee	29	39	31	33	31	163
3. Louisiana Tech	31	31	30	31	31	154
4. Old Dominion	34	29	28	29	21	141
5. <b>Notre Dame</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>139</b>

**IRISH VS. UNRANKED OPPONENTS**

In addition to its success vs. top-10 teams, Notre Dame has won 64 consecutive games vs. unranked opponents, including a 24-0 mark last year. The last unranked team to defeat the Irish was Boston College on Dec. 30, 1998 (Notre Dame beat a ranked Eagle team later that season).

**NCAA AND BIG EAST LEADERS**

Here's where Irish players and the team stood in the latest NCAA national statistics (as of March 13) and BIG EAST statistics in BIG EAST games and all games (as of March 27). The numbers in the far right column indicate updated 34-game statistics.

<b>Team Rankings</b>	<b>NCAA</b>	<b>Conference Games</b>	<b>All Games</b>
Scoring Offense	24th at 76.4	2nd at 74.3	2nd at 77.1
Scoring Defense	4th at 54.9	2nd at 54.7	2nd at 54.9
Scoring Margin	2nd at +21.6	2nd at +19.6	2nd at +22.1
Free Throw Percentage		11th at .648	7th at .673
Field Goal Percentage	5th at .495	2nd at .491	2nd at .498
Field Goal Pct. Defense	1st at .336	2nd at .337	1st at .334
Three-Point FG Pct.	1st at .467	1st at .398	1st at .466
Three-Point FG Defense	not kept	2nd at .258	2nd at .249
Rebounding		2nd at 41.3	2nd at 41.4
Rebounding Defense	not kept	4th at 34.2	5th at 34.4
Rebounding Margin	T16th at +6.5	2nd at +7.1	2nd at +7.0
Blocked Shots	not kept	1st at 6.56	1st at 6.24
Assists	not kept	2nd at 18.06	2nd at 18.18
Steals	not kept	T7th at 8.00	6th at 8.38
Turnover Margin	not kept	T6th at +0.88	6th at +1.00
Assist/Turnover Ratio	not kept	3rd at 1.17	3rd at 1.15
Won-Lost Percentage		2nd at .933	

# NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES



### MCGRAW INKS FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT

Muffet McGraw is in her 14th season with the Irish and 19th as a collegiate coach. She recently signed a five-year contract to continue as coach of the Fighting Irish women's basketball program through the 2004-05 season. McGraw has guided Notre Dame to five consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and seven of the last nine. The Irish followed up their 1997 NCAA Final Four appearance and 31-7 record with an NCAA Sweet 16 appearance in '98. Then came 26-5 and 27-5 marks the last two years (1998-99, 1999-2000) that represented the top two seasons ever at Notre Dame in terms of winning percentage (before the current 32-2 season). Prior to coming to Notre Dame, she spent five seasons at Lehigh where she compiled an 88-41 record for a .683 winning percentage. McGraw has been named the 2001 Naismith Women's Basketball coach-of the year and also was a finalist for the award last year.

<b>Individual Rankings</b> .....	<b>NCAA</b> .....	<b>Conference Games</b> .....	<b>All Games</b>
Scoring .....	Riley, 57th at 17.8 .....	Riley, 1st at 20.6 .....	Riley, 1st at 18.4
.....	.....	.....	Ratay, 13th at 13.0
.....	.....	.....	Ivey, 18th at 11.8
Rebounding .....	Riley, 3rd at 8.2 .....	Riley, 4th at 7.7	
.....	Siemon, 8th at 7.2 .....	Siemon, 6th at 7.2	
.....	Ratay, 17th at 6.1		
Field Goal Pct. ....	Riley, 4th at .627 .....	Riley, 1st at .644 .....	Riley, 1st at .632
Assists .....	Ivey, 10th at 7.0 .....	Ivey, 2nd at 7.06 .....	Ivey, 2nd at 7.06
Assist/Turnover .....	Ivey, 2nd at 2.83 .....	Ivey, 3rd at 2.33	
.....	Siemon, 15th at 1.11		
Steals .....	Ivey, T5th at 2.25 .....	Ivey, 2nd at 2.44	
Free-Throw Percentage .....	Riley, 12th at .737 .....	Riley, 10th at .779	
Three-Point FG Pct. ....	Ratay, 1st at .538 .....	Ratay, 1st at .547	
Three-Point FG Made .....	Ratay, 9th at 1.69 .....	Ratay, 2nd at 2.24	
.....	Ivey, 14th at 1.59		
Blocks .....	Riley, 2nd at 3.1 .....	Riley, 1st at 3.56 .....	Riley, 1st at 2.97
.....	Barksdale, T9th at 1.00 ..	Barksdale, 2nd at 1.75	
Defensive Rebounds .....	not kept .....	Riley, 4th at 5.44 .....	Riley, 3rd at 5.21
.....	.....	Ratay, 7th at 5.12 .....	Siemon, 4th at 5.17
.....	.....	Siemon, 10th at 4.69 .....	Ratay, 11th at 4.24

In overall games, **Ruth Riley's** 32-point performance is tied for best and her 13-13 free-throw performance vs. Connecticut is tops in overall and BIG EAST games. **Alicia Ratay's** six three pointers vs. Valparaiso in the season opener are tied for the most by a BIG EAST player in a single game this season. Ratay has the second best three-point shooting game by a BIG EAST player with her 5-6 (.833) vs. Arizona. **Meaghan Leahy's** 12 free throws vs. Fordham are tied for second most in the league. **Niele Ivey's** six steals vs. both North Carolina and Villanova are tied for fourth most in a single game. **Riley's** seven blocks vs. Pittsburgh are the most in overall and BIG EAST games, while **Amanda Barksdale's** six blocks vs. Fordham and Georgetown and **Riley's** six vs. Virginia Tech are the BIG EAST's second best blocks games. As a team, the Irish shot 63.5 percent (33-52) vs. Pittsburgh for the second-best shooting game of the season by a BIG EAST team. The Irish shot .750 (6-8) from three-point range vs. Marquette for the best three-point shooting percentage. The 31 assists vs. Arizona stand tied for the BIG EAST's second-most in all games this season.

## IRISH CAREER STATISTICS IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

Player	G-GS	Min-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	FTM-FTA	Pct.	Reb.	RPG	PF-FO	A	APG	Pts	PPG	Hi	3FG-FGA	Pct.
Barksdale	8-0	60- 7.5	8-14	.571	7-9	.778	21	2.6	8-0	2	0.3	23	2.9	10	0-0	--
Dunbar	9-0	29-3.2	2-6	.333	7-12	.583	3	0.3	6-0	2	0.2	11	1.2	4	0-1	.000
Haney	10-5	231-23.1	32-65	.492	11-19	.579	53	5.3	19-0	14	1.4	75	7.5	15	0-0	--
Hernandez	8-0	51-6.4	6-10	.600	3-9	.333	5	0.6	5-0	4	0.5	15	1.9	5	0-0	--
Ivey	11-11	349-31.7	36-85	.423	38-46	.826	35	3.2	22-0	52	4.7	128	11.1	23	18-39	.462
Joyce	5-0	81-16.2	8-22	.364	2-3	.667	4	0.8	2-0	7	1.4	24	4.8	14	6-15	.400
Leahy	7-0	23-3.3	2-4	.500	4-5	.800	12	1.7	2-0	5	0.7	8	1.1	2	0-0	--
Ratay	8-8	251-31.4	28-58	.483	16-21	.762	44	5.5	10-0	19	2.4	89	11.1	20	18-29	.621
Riley	13-13	325-25.0	95-141	.674	64-78	.821	101	7.8	38-2	16	1.2	248	19.1	32	0-0	--
Severe	3-0	30-10.0	2-4	.500	2-3	.667	5	1.7	2-0	1	0.3	6	2.0	4	0-0	--
Siemon	13-10	338-26.0	52-97	.536	23-41	.561	89	6.8	37-2	24	1.8	127	9.8	16	0-0	--
Swanson	6-0	15-2.5	5-6	.833	3-3	1.000	1	0.2	2-0	0	--	13	2.2	4	0-1	.000