



2003 NOTRE DAME VOLLEYBALL

Seven-Time BIG EAST Champions • 11 Consecutive NCAA Tournament Appearances

Notes Package #7 • Sept. 25, 2003 • Contact: Bo Rottenborn, Rottenborn.2@nd.edu

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NOTRE DAME VOLLEYBALL (8-2)

AUGUST

Four Points Sheraton Classic (Malibu, CA)

29	Fri.	vs. Arizona (10)	W, 3-1
30	Sat.	at Pepperdine (5)	L, 1-3
30	Sat.	vs. Eastern Washington	W, 3-1

SEPTEMBER

Longhorn Classic (Austin, TX)

5	Fri.	(21) vs. Houston	W, 3-2
6	Sat.	(21) at Texas	W, 3-0

9	Tue.	(15) Valparaiso	W, 3-0
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Shamrock Invitational (Notre Dame, IN)

12	Fri.	(15) Indiana	W, 3-1
13	Sat.	(15) Utah	W, 3-2
14	Sun.	(15) South Carolina	L, 1-3

17	Wed.	(18) Purdue	W, 3-1
26	Fri.	(17) Villanova	7:00
28	Sun.	(17) Georgetown	2:00

OCTOBER

4	Sat.	at St. John's	2:00
5	Sun.	at Connecticut	1:00
10	Fri.	Seton Hall	7:00
12	Sun.	Rutgers	2:00
21	Tue.	at North Carolina	7:00
23	Thur.	at Rhode Island	7:00
24	Fri.	at Boston College	7:30
29	Wed.	Illinois State	7:00

NOVEMBER

2	Sun.	Syracuse	2:00
7	Fri.	Virginia Tech	4:00
9	Sun.	Miami (Fla.)	6:00
11	Tue.	at Northern Iowa	7:00
15	Sat.	at West Virginia	11:00
16	Sun.	at Pittsburgh	2:00

BIG EAST Championship (Notre Dame, IN)

22	Sat.	Semifinals	TBA
23	Sun.	Final	TBA

29	Sat.	at Stanford	1:00
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DECEMBER

4-7	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds (campus sites)
11-14	NCAA Regionals (campus sites)
18	NCAA Semifinals (Dallas, TX)
20	NCAA Final (Dallas, TX)

Home matches in **bold** and held in Joyce Center. All times are local.

NOTE: Number in parentheses to left of opponent is Notre Dame AVCA national ranking at time of match; number to right of opponent is its AVCA national ranking at time of match.

#17 Notre Dame (8-2) vs. Villanova (3-9)

Friday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m. • Joyce Center

- The first 250 fans will receive an ND Chapstick Koozie, sponsored by Play it Again Sports

#17 Notre Dame (8-2) vs. Georgetown (4-9)

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2 p.m. • Joyce Center

- Post-match clinic for all Irish Spikers

- Big Top Day! Free face painting, balloon animals, and cotton candy

- Don't miss the YOUTH CIRCUS performance between games!

- FREE Krispy Kreme Doughnuts for all fans!

No. 17 IRISH OPEN BIG EAST PLAY THIS WEEKEND IN JOYCE CENTER: The 17th-ranked University of Notre Dame volleyball team (8-2) begins its quest for an eighth BIG EAST Conference title in nine seasons in the league this weekend. The Irish open conference play by taking on Villanova (3-9) on Friday at 7 p.m. (EST) before playing host to perennial power Georgetown (4-9) on Sunday at 2 p.m. (EST). Notre Dame holds a combined 23-1 all-time record against the teams.

LIVE STATS & AUDIO BROADCAST AVAILABLE ON www.und.com: Fans and media unable to attend Notre Dame home matches can follow the action via live statistics on the official Irish athletic website. Live stats can be accessed at <http://und.ocsn.com/livestats/w-volley>. Be advised, however, that statistics displayed are not official. In addition, a live internet audio broadcast of Sunday's match will be available to subscribers of College Sports Pass, via www.und.com. For other ways to follow the Irish, see "Keeping Up With ND Volleyball" on page 7 of this release.

SNAPSHOT OF THE IRISH: Notre Dame's women's volleyball program has experienced a wealth of success since the arrival of head coach **Debbie Brown** in 1991. In her 12+ seasons, Brown has guided Notre Dame to a winning record every year, compiling a 308-104 (.747) mark. The Irish have earned 11 consecutive berths to the NCAA Championship, including three trips to the round of 16 (1994, '95, and '97) and a '93 quarterfinal finish. Since joining the BIG EAST Conference in '95, Notre Dame has dominated the league, winning seven regular-season and seven tournament titles in eight years. Overall, the Irish are 87-4 in regular-season BIG EAST play and 16-1 in conference tournament action. Notre Dame is 49-0 in BIG EAST matches in the Joyce Center.

The 2003 Irish team returns 12 monogram winners and six starters from last year's squad that was 24-8 and earned the No. 16 seed in the NCAA Championship, playing host to first- and second-round play. The Irish also finished second in the nation in blocks per game (3.66) with all the players responsible for that number returning to the fold.

This year's squad features a new 6-2 rotation, with senior S **Kristen Kinder** (the '01 BIG EAST Setter of the Year) and sophomore S **Kelly Burrell** combining to orchestrate the attack. On the right side, junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis**, the '02 BIG EAST Championship Most Outstanding Player and a preseason all-conference selection, leads the Irish in kills after doing the same a year ago. Against Valparaiso on Sept. 9, Loomis set a school record for most kills in a match without an error (24). Senior OPP **Katie Neff** also returns for her second year as a major contributor, rotating in off the bench for front-row play. The middle is patrolled by a pair of sophomores named Lauren. MB **Lauren Kelbley**, the '02 BIG EAST and AVCA Northeast Region Rookie of the Year, and MB **Lauren Brewster**, who set the Notre Dame record for block assists (161) last year, return for the Irish after stepping in immediately as freshman starters. Kelbley was the tournament MVP of the Longhorn Classic, while Brewster, who copped the honor in the Shamrock Invitational, leads the BIG EAST in blocks (154/1.50). On the left side, OH **Jessica Kinder**, twin sister of Kristen, and OH **Meg Henican** provide a great deal of punch. Both are outstanding defensively, with Henican occasionally seeing time at libero and Kinder having set a school record for digs in a three-game match (28) last week vs. Valparaiso. L **Danielle Herndon**, the lone freshman on the Irish, is the starting libero.

2003 Notre Dame Volleyball Roster

No.	Name	Year	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown	Notes
1	Emily Loomis**	Jr.	OPP/OH	6-1	Fort Wayne, IN	Had 0 errors twice (24-0-42, Valpo; 15-0-37, Purdue)
2	Leah Nedderman**	Jr.	OH	5-10	Grapevine, TX	Ankle injury has sidelined her thus far
3	Kelly Burrell*	So.	S	5-11	Phoenix, AZ	Had career-high 12 digs at Texas
4	Meg Henican*	So.	OH	5-11	New Orleans, LA	Second on team in digs (127/3.17)
5	Jessica Kinder***	Sr.	OH	5-10	Fresno, CA	Set ND record for digs in 3-game match (28)
6	Lauren Kelbley*	So.	MB	6-1	Bascom, OH	Longhorn Classic MVP, BIG EAST POW (9/8)
7	Kelly Corbett**	Jr.	DS/MB	6-0	Mountain View, CA	Had 6 digs in one game vs. Valpo
8	Kristen Kinder***	Sr.	S	5-9	Fresno, CA	BIG EAST Setter of the Year in '01
9	Carolyn Cooper*	So.	MB/OPP	6-3	Houston, TX	Had career-high 6 kills vs. Valpo
10	Kim Fletcher***	Sr.	OPP/OH	6-0	St. Louis, MO	Made first start of season vs. E. Washington
11	Danielle Herndon	Fr.	L	5-9	Plant City, FL	Had season-high 20 digs vs. South Carolina
12	Lauren Brewster*	So.	MB	6-3	Brentwood, TN	Had 13 blocks in 2 of last 3 matches; Shamrock MVP
15	Katie Neff***	Sr.	OPP	6-4	St. Louis, MO	All-tournament selection in Shamrock (30 K, 14 B)
16	Lindsay Peterson	So.	DS	6-0	Mt. Carroll, IL	Played in two games as rookie in '02

LAST TIME ON THE COURT: Sophomore MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) posted a double-double, with 13 kills and 13 blocks, in helping Notre Dame to a four-game victory (30-23, 30-17, 29-31, 30-20) against Purdue (7-3) on Sept. 17 in the Joyce Center. The Irish hit with pinpoint accuracy most of the night, accumulating a .311 attack percentage on the match.

Brewster made just one error, finishing with a team-best .429 hitting percentage. She also matched her career high with three aces for a total of 24 points. Her 13 blocks, of which three were of the solo variety, marked the second time in three matches she posted that total. Prior to this stretch, no Notre Dame player had been in on 13 blocks in a match since Molly Stark had 15 on October 2, 1993 in a four-game win vs. Western Michigan.

Also delivering outstanding offensive performances for the Irish were junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) and sophomore MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.). Loomis had a team-high 15 kills and no errors on 37 swings for a .405 percentage, while Kelbley registered 14 kills on .414 hitting.

Orchestrating Notre Dame's offense were senior S **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) and sophomore S **Kelly Burrell** (Phoenix, Ariz./Xavier Preparatory School). Kinder matched her season high with 35 assists.

The Irish also were superb at the net, notching 19 blocks, with seven different players getting into the act.

IRISH MOVE UP TO 17TH: After defeating Purdue 3-1 in its only action of the week, Notre Dame moved up one spot to 17th in this week's *USA Today/AVCA* Division I Coaches Top 25, released Monday. The Irish peaked this season at 15th on Sept. 8, which marked the highest listing for Notre Dame since Sept. 30, 1996, when it was 12th. Notre Dame is 16th in the RichKern.com rankings and is receiving votes in the *Volleyball Magazine* poll, which lists only 20 teams.

Four '03 Irish opponents are listed in this week's AVCA top 25, including three in the top 10. Stanford (Nov. 29, away) leads the way at fourth, while Pepperdine (L, 1-3) is seventh, Northern Iowa (Nov. 11, away) is 10th, and Arizona (W, 3-1) is 22nd. South Carolina (L, 1-3) and North Carolina (Oct. 21, away) received votes, but were not in the top 25.

CLASS OF THE CONFERENCE: Since Notre Dame joined the BIG EAST Conference in 1995, the Irish have experienced incredible success in league play. Overall, Notre Dame is 87-4 in conference regular-season matches and 16-1 in the BIG EAST Championship. In eight seasons, the Irish have won seven regular-season titles and seven tournament titles. Notre Dame is 49-0 at home in BIG EAST matches.

LONG LAYOFF: Notre Dame returns to the court after an eight-day layoff since its match against Purdue. The break is the longest of the 2003 season and last weekend's

USA Today/AVCA Division I Coaches Top 25 (Sept. 22)

Team	W-L	LW
1. USC (65)	10-0	1
2. Hawai'i	11-1	2
3. Florida	11-1	3
4. Stanford	8-2	4
5. Georgia Tech	11-0	5
6. Pepperdine	10-2	7
7. Nebraska	10-1	8
8. UCLA	8-2	9
9. Kansas State	12-2	10
10. Northern Iowa	9-2	6
11. California	10-0	12
12. Penn State	11-1	11
13. Washington	11-0	14
14. Michigan State	8-2	15
15. UC Santa Barbara	5-4	13
16. Santa Clara	8-4	17
17. NOTRE DAME	8-2	18
18. Minnesota	7-5	22
19. Louisville	6-3	19
20. Pacific	7-2	20
21. San Diego	8-3	21
22. Arizona	6-4	16
23. Wisconsin	8-3	24
24. Loyola Marymount	11-2	25
25. Texas A&M	8-3	NR

Other receiving points and listed on 2+ ballots: BYU 83, San Francisco 70, Missouri 50, Long Beach State 20, Southwest Missouri State 14, Colorado State 12, Florida A&M 12, Ohio 12, Northwestern 10, Cincinnati 9, Washington State 7, Ohio State 4, **South Carolina 4, North Carolina 3.**

bold indicates 2003 Notre Dame opponent.
() - first-place votes

Irish in the Weekly Rankings

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

Week	USA Today/ AVCA	Rich Kern.com	VB Mag
preseason ...	RV	25	RV
Sept. 2	21	18	RV
Sept. 8	15	13	RV
Sept. 15	18	15	RV
Sept. 22	17	16	RV

Note: *USA Today*/AVCA ranks 25 teams, RichKern.com ranks 30, and *Volleyball Magazine* ranks 20.

Notre Dame 2003 Match Highs

		Individual	
<u>Kills</u>	24	Loomis	vs. Valparaiso
4G	18	Loomis	vs. E. Washington
5G	22	Kelbley	vs. Houston
<u>Blocks</u>	13	Brewster	vs. Purdue
3G	6	Kelbley	at Texas
5G	13	Brewster	vs. Utah
<u>Digs</u>	28	J. Kinder	vs. Valparaiso
4G	20	Herndon	vs. South Carolina
5G	23	J. Kinder	vs. Utah
<u>TA</u>	47	Loomis	vs. Utah
4G	40	Loomis	vs. South Carolina
3G	42	Loomis	vs. Valparaiso
<u>Hit %</u>	.571	Loomis	vs. Valparaiso
4G	.522	Loomis	vs. #10 Arizona
5G	.476	Brewster	vs. Houston
<u>Ass.</u>	35	K. Kinder	vs. Valparaiso
4G	35	K. Kinder	vs. Purdue
5G	29	K. Kinder	vs. Utah
<u>Aces</u>	4	J. Kinder	vs. South Carolina
3G	2	Four players	
5G	3	Burrell	vs. Utah
<u>Points</u>	28.5	Kelbley	vs. Houston
3G	25.5	Loomis	vs. Valparaiso
4G	24.0	Brewster	vs. Purdue
		Team	
<u>Kills</u>	3G	62	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	67	vs. E. Washington
	5G	68	vs. Houston
<u>Blocks</u>	3G	11	at Texas
	4G	19	vs. Purdue
	5G	18.5	vs. Utah
<u>Digs</u>	3G	81	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	71	vs. South Carolina
	5G	80	vs. Utah
<u>TA</u>	3G	167	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	182	vs. South Carolina
	5G	189	vs. Utah
<u>Hit %</u>	3G	.257	at Texas & vs. Valpo
	4G	.324	vs. #10 Arizona
	5G	.257	vs. Houston
<u>Ass.</u>	3G	55	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	59	vs. E. Washington
	5G	57	vs. Houston
<u>Aces</u>	3G	7	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	10	vs. South Carolina
	5G	8	vs. Utah
<u>Points</u>	3G	76	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	87	vs. Purdue
	5G	89	vs. Houston

inaction marked the only off weekend for the Irish all year.

BLOCK PARTY: Once again, Notre Dame has one of the best blocking units in the nation. The Irish have 124.5 blocks in 10 matches this season, an average of 3.11 per game, which is good enough for eighth among Division I teams. Stanford is first at 3.61 blocks per game. Notre Dame leads the BIG EAST Conference, with second-place Connecticut averaging 2.55 blocks. Sophomore MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) leads the BIG EAST in blocks (154/1.50) and ranks 15th in the nation in the category. In 2002, the Irish finished second nationally to Nebraska with a school-record average of 3.83 blocks per game.

SCHOOL RECORD I -- JESS DIG IT: Last Tuesday vs. Valparaiso, Notre Dame senior co-captain OH **Jessica Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) set a Notre Dame record with 28 digs, the most ever by an Irish player in a three-game match. Her performance, which featured 10 digs in the first game, three in the second, and 15 in the final frame, bettered the previous record by three. **Tracey Shelton** scrambled for 25 digs in a three-game win over Butler on Oct. 25, 1989. Other than Shelton and Kinder, no other Irish players have ever had more than 21 digs in a straight-game match. Kinder's previous career high was 22 vs. Pepperdine last September in a five-game affair. She came into Tuesday having registered 40 digs over the first five matches of the season. Kinder's 28 were the most in any length match for an Irish player since October 25, 1993, when **Christy Peters** had 31 at Arizona State in a four-game contest.

SCHOOL RECORD II -- LETHAL LOOMIS: In the Sept. 9 Valparaiso match, junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) set a Notre Dame record for most kills in a match without an error (24), while falling just shy of the school record for kills in a three-game match. The previous mark for most kills without an error was 23, done by **Jaimie Lee** on September 8, 1995 at Indiana in a five-game victory. Just seven days after that match, **Angie Harris** had 25 kills in a three-game win against Colorado, setting the record for kills in a 3-0 decision. Loomis joined **Christy Peters** in the 24-kill club in three-game matches. Peters turned the trick in a straight-game defeat against Long Beach State in Chicago on September 11, 1993. Against Valpo, Loomis had 42 attack attempts for a .571 attack percentage.

IRISH AMONG THE BIG EAST LEADERS: A number of Irish players are among the BIG EAST Conference statistical leaders through three weeks of play. Sophomore MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) leads the league in blocks (1.50), while junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) is among the top 10 in three different categories: hitting percentage (7th, .333), kills (8th, 3.80), and points (7th, 4.40). Sophomore MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.) is listed among the leaders in both blocks (7th, 1.13) and hitting percentage (8th, .321).

In the team statistics, Notre Dame leads the conference in blocks, at 3.11 per game. The Irish are in the top five in four other categories: hitting percentage (5th, .231), opponent hitting percentage (5th, .177), assists (4th, 13.23), and kills (4th, 15.02).

PRESEASON BIG EAST FAVORITES: Once again Notre Dame is the favorite in the BIG EAST Conference. The Irish, who have captured seven regular-season and seven tournament crowns in their eight years in the league, garnered nine first-place votes and were chosen as the favorite in the preseason volleyball poll of conference head coaches. Miami gained four first-place votes and was picked second with 136 points. The teams will meet in the Joyce Center on November 9 in a match televised by College Sports Television (CSTV) in its *Sunday Night Spike* national match-of-the-week package.

Two Irish players, junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) and sophomore middle blocker **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.), were selected to the preseason all-BIG EAST team. Loomis was the Most Outstanding Player in the '02 BIG EAST Championship, while Kelbley was the conference rookie of the year.

2003 BIG EAST Standings

School	Conf.	%	(as of 9/25)		Preseason	Notre Dame vs.
			Overall	%		
St. John's	0-0	.000	15-3	.833	8th	A - Oct. 4
Seton Hall	0-0	.000	12-3	.800	11th	H - Oct. 10
Notre Dame	0-0	.000	8-2	.800	1st	-
Boston College	0-0	.000	10-3	.769	12th	A - Oct. 24
Pittsburgh	0-0	.000	9-3	.750	3rd	A - Nov. 16
Miami	0-0	.000	10-4	.714	2nd	H - Nov. 9
Syracuse	0-0	.000	8-6	.571	10th	H - Nov. 2
Connecticut	0-0	.000	7-6	.538	6th	A - Oct. 5
Rutgers	0-0	.000	6-7	.462	7th	H - Oct. 12
Virginia Tech	0-0	.000	6-8	.429	4th	H - Nov. 7
Georgetown	0-0	.000	4-9	.308	5th	H - Sept. 28
Villanova	0-0	.000	3-9	.250	9th	H - Sept. 26
West Virginia	0-0	.000	2-10	.166	13th	A - Nov. 15

YOU DIG ME?: After averaging just 11.80 digs per game through the first six matches, the lowest average in the BIG EAST Conference, Notre Dame's has defense exploded in its last five matches for last week for 352, including three contests with 70 or more, for an average of 17.6 per game. Against Valparaiso, Notre Dame had 81 in just three games. The performance was just seven shy of the school record for digs in a three-game match. On October 18, 1991, the Irish had 88 in a three-game win vs. Butler. The 81 digs marked the most by the Irish in any length match since they had 108 in five games against Illinois State on Nov. 14, 2001.

PACKING THEM IN: After opening the season with five consecutive road matches, Notre Dame has played its last five contests at home, averaging 822 fans. The Irish currently rank 25th in the nation in average attendance and first in the Northeast Region. Hawaii is first overall at 7,165 per match. Among Notre Dame's road opponents in the leaders are Stanford (Nov. 29) at eighth (1,880), Northern Iowa (Nov. 11) at 10th (1,721 avg.), and Texas (W, 3-0) at 20th (1,204).

Notre Dame's season-opening crowd of 828 vs. Valparaiso marked the best opening-night turnout for the Irish since 1,350 fans were at the 1997 opener vs. Louisville. It was a 30 percent hike from last season's first home match and continued a streak of increased attendance at Irish volleyball matches. Dating back to last season, 10 of the last 12 matches have featured crowds of at least 800. In 2002, Notre Dame averaged 1,064 fans per contest throughout the season, good for 25th in the nation.

HIGH AS A KITE: A number of Irish players have registered career highs already this season. Some of the more notable performances are highlighted below.

Sophomore MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) turned in three career bests against #5 Pepperdine on Aug. 30, with 17 kills on 29 attempts for a .483 attack percentage (her best in a four-game match). Brewster also matched her career-high of six digs against Texas and set a new best in hitting percentage in a five-game match with a .476 mark vs. Houston. More recently, she had a career-best 13 blocks vs. Utah.

Sophomore MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.) set career-high marks in kills twice already this season, most recently with 22 vs. Houston. She then had a career-high 45 attacks against Utah.

Senior OH **Jessica Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) set a pair of personal bests against Houston, dishing out 10 assists and hitting .368, her best career mark in a five-game match. In addition, she had a career-high 28 digs vs. Valparaiso, in setting an Irish record for digs in a three-game match. Against South Carolina, she matched her personal best with four service aces.

Sophomore S **Kelly Burrell** (Phoenix, Ariz./Xavier Preparatory School) had a career-best 12 digs vs. Texas and delivered three service aces vs. Utah after never having multiple aces previously in her career.

Senior OPP **Katie Neff** (St. Louis, Mo./Cor Jesu Academy) had a career-high nine blocks

BIG EAST Leaders

(as of 9/23)

INDIVIDUAL**Hitting Percentage**

1. Sara Albert, Georgetown	.390
7. Emily Loomis, Notre Dame	.333
8. Lauren Kelbley, Notre Dame	.321

Kills

1. Jackie Ahlers, St. John's	5.00
5. Kerri Sullivan, Villanova	4.10
8. Emily Loomis, Notre Dame	3.80

Assists

1. Lindsey Macke, Pittsburgh	14.05
6. Margaret Vernon, Georgetown	10.24

Aces

1. Katherine Whitney, Seton Hall	0.91
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Blocks

1. Lauren Brewster, Notre Dame	1.50
2. Katie Allen, Syracuse	1.43
7. Lauren Kelbley, Notre Dame	1.13

Digs

1. Megan McGrane, Pittsburgh	6.55
9. Julie Grauert, Georgetown	3.33

Points

1. Jackie Ahlers, St. John's	5.78
4. Kerri Sullivan, Villanova	4.76
7. Emily Loomis	4.40

TEAM**Hitting Percentage**

1. St. John's	.273
5. Notre Dame	.231
10. Georgetown	.190
11. Villanova	.177

Opponent Hitting Percentage

1. St. John's	.144
5. Notre Dame	.177
11. Villanova	.225
12. Georgetown	.231

Assists

1. Pittsburgh	15.73
4. Notre Dame	13.23
10. Villanova	12.55
13. Georgetown	11.51

Kills

1. Pittsburgh	17.02
4. Notre Dame	15.02
11. Villanova	13.83
13. Georgetown	12.57

Blocks

1. Notre Dame	3.11
2. Connecticut	2.55
12. Georgetown	1.71
13. Villanova	1.57

Aces

1. Seton Hall	2.57
8. Georgetown	1.69
9. Villanova	1.62
11. Notre Dame	1.58

Digs

1. Connecticut	19.00
5. Villanova	15.50
8. Notre Dame	14.70
13. Georgetown	12.55

Notre Dame listings in **bold**; this week's opponents' listings in *italics*.

vs. Utah and hit .375 against Indiana, her top career mark in a four-game match.

Sophomore OH **Meg Henican** (New Orleans, La./Isidore Newman H.S.) had a big Shamrock Invitational, hitting career highs in each match. Against Indiana, she had five blocks. In the Utah match, she had 31 attack attempts and a .226 hitting percentage (her best in a five-game affair). After matching her career high in the final match of the Shamrock, Henican then set a new high mark with six assists vs. Purdue.

Junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) posted a career-best 24 kills vs. Valparaiso. Also in the Valpo match, junior DS/MB **Kelly Corbett** (Mountain View, Calif./St. Francis H.S.) had a career-high six digs and sophomore MB/OPP **Carolyn Cooper** (Houston, Texas/Lutheran South Academy) posted personal bests with six kills and two aces.

IRISH vs. WILDCATS: Villanova begins conference play after struggling in non-league action, posting a 3-9 mark to open the year. The Wildcats were swept in each of their initial four matches before posting 3-0 wins against Coppin State and Lafayette in the George Washington Tournament. Villanova then lost five straight before beating Maryland-Baltimore County in four games. The 'Cats also dropped 3-2 decisions against Pennsylvania and Manhattan in their own tournament over the weekend. Notre Dame and Villanova have played no common opponents.

In 2002, the Wildcats were 18-16 (7-6 BIG EAST) and finished tied for sixth in the BIG EAST Conference. The record was an 11-match improvement on 'Nova's '01 mark. The 'Cats return 11 letterwinners, including six starters, from that squad. Among them are junior MB Kerri Sullivan, who led Villanova in kills and blocks a year ago and is doing so again in '03. She ranks among the top five in the conference in both kills (4.10) and points (4.76). She also has the top hitting percentage on the team at .263. Junior MB Katie Lanting is the other main offensive threat, having hit 106 kills (2.65). The Wildcats run a 6-2, with junior DS/S Jennifer Badran-Grycan and senior S Jennifer Edwards handling the setting duties. The Wildcats are a strong defensive team, ranking fifth in the conference with 15.50 digs per game. Junior L Sam Hartwell leads the defensive effort with 109 (3.21) digs, while sophomore OH Celine Nguyen has 116 (2.97) and Badran-Grycan has 101 (2.73).

Allison Keeley is in her third season as the head coach of Villanova, having compiled a 25-33 (.431) record. She is in her ninth year as a head coach, having led the Southern Arkansas and Chaffey College (Calif.) programs for three years each.

The Irish and Wildcats will meet for the 12th time, with all but one meeting coming since Notre Dame joined the BIG EAST Conference in 1995. Notre Dame has won all 11 previous meetings, with eight coming in straight games. No team has played the Irish more times without a victory. There has been one five-game match, coming in the 1996 in the Joyce Center, with the Irish taking the final game 15-12. The teams have met twice in the BIG EAST Championship, including a 3-1, come-from-behind Irish victory in the 1997 league title match. Villanova is winless in each of its five previous trips to the Joyce Center.

In the 2002 meeting, Notre Dame won in four games in Villanova on Oct. 13. The Wildcats won the second game 30-28, despite hitting .062 in the frame. The Irish had four hitters notch a dozen or more kills, while also hitting better than .350. OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) led the way with 16 kills on .419 hitting, while MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.) had 13 kills with a .423 attack percentage. Both MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) and OPP **Katie Neff** (St. Louis, Mo./Cor Jesu Academy) had 12 kills, with Brewster posting a team-high .440 hitting mark. Kelbley led the team with seven blocks and Loomis registered a career-high 15 digs. Villanova was led by Sullivan, who had 13 kills on .273 hitting, while Lanting had 14 kills. Badran-Grycan had a double-double, with 26 assists and 11 digs.

IRISH vs. HOYAS: Georgetown will begin BIG EAST play with a 4-9 overall mark. The Hoyas will be at Syracuse on Friday before visiting the Joyce Center on Sunday afternoon. Georgetown opened the season with a four-game win against Fairfield before dropping the next six contests. The Hoyas then delivered wins over William & Mary and Coppin State in advancing to the final of the Georgetown Classic before losing to Wake Forest. Last week, Georgetown dropped a pair of matches before beating St. Peter's on Saturday.

A year ago, Georgetown was 17-13 (7-6 BIG EAST) and tied for sixth in the BIG EAST

2003 Notre Dame Statistical Leaders

Kills

Emily Loomis	152 (3.80)
Lauren Kelbley	129 (3.31)
Lauren Brewster	114 (3.17)

Hitting %

Emily Loomis333
Lauren Kelbley321
Lauren Brewster308

Assists

Kristen Kinder	287 (7.18)
Kelly Burrell	173 (4.32)
Jessica Kinder	25 (0.62)

Digs

Jessica Kinder	128 (3.20)
Meg Henican	127 (3.17)
Danielle Herndon	89 (2.70)

Blocks

Lauren Brewster	54 (1.50)
Lauren Kelbley	44 (1.13)
Katie Neff	40 (1.00)
Emily Loomis	40 (1.00)

Aces

Jessica Kinder	16 (0.40)
Lauren Kelbley	13 (0.33)
Meg Henican	12 (0.30)

Points

Emily Loomis	176.0
Lauren Kelbley	166.5
Lauren Brewster	154.0

Preseason Rankings

Here's where Notre Dame has been ranked in the preseason and final AVCA polls since 1993:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Final</u>
1993	19	17
1994	16	12
1995	12	14
1996	9	NR
1997	17	18
1998	16	NR
1999	NR	NR
2000	NR	21
2001	21	NR
2002	25	NR
2003	NR	???

Notre Dame in 2003...

(2002 totals in parentheses)

... at home: 4-1 (14-1)
... away: 1-1 (7-6)
... on neutral courts: 3-0 (3-1)
... in three games: 2-0 (13-4)
... in four games: 4-2 (9-1)
... in five games: 2-0 (1-2)
... vs. ranked opponents: 1-1 (1-2)
... vs. BIG EAST teams: 0-0 (11-2)
... vs. non-con. teams: 8-2 (10-5)
... at night: 5-0 (8-5)
... during the day: 3-2 (15-2)
... in tournament play: 6-2 (9-2)

2003 BIG EAST Awards**Preseason Player of the Year**

Valeria Tipiana, Miami

Preseason All-BIG EAST Team

Mallore James, Jr., S, Miami

Valeria Tipiana, Jr., OH, Miami

Lauren Kelbley, So., MB, Notre Dame**Emily Loomis, Jr., OPP/OH, Notre Dame**

Megan Miller, Jr., MH, Pittsburgh

Shayla Bush, Sr., OH, Rutgers

Players of the Week

Sept. 1

Emily Loomis, Jr., OPP/OH, Notre Dame

Sept. 8

Lauren Kelbley, So., MB, Notre Dame

Gini Ullery, Jr., OH, Pittsburgh

Sept. 15

Robin Lewullis, So., MH, Miami

Jackie Ahlers, So., MH/OH, St. John's

Sept. 22

Wendy Hatlestad, Sr., OH, Pittsburgh

Jackie Ahlers, So., MH/OH, St. John's

Rookies of the Week

Sept. 1

Katherine Whitney, OH, Seton Hall

Allie Kupec, MH, Virginia Tech

Sept. 8

Alison Shepp, MB, Boston College

Sept. 15

Jill Robinson, S, Miami

Sept. 22

Katherine Whitney, OH/RS, Seton Hall

NCAA Leaders

(as of 9/23)

INDIVIDUAL**Hitting Percentage**

1. Lauren Goehring, Kansas State491
28. Sara Albert, Georgetown390

Kills

1. Kim Willoughby, Hawaii	6.97
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Assists

1. Laura Lauder, Cincinnati	14.67
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Blocks

1. Jennifer Harvey, Stanford	1.83
15. Lauren Brewster, Notre Dame	1.50

Digs

1. Megan McGrane, Pittsburgh	6.55
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Aces

1. Stephanie Cisneros, Hampton	1.59
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TEAM**Hitting Percentage**

1. Washington351
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Kills

1. Hawaii	17.95
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Assists

1. Georgia Tech	16.54
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Aces

1. Hampton	4.23
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Blocks

1. Stanford	3.61
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8. Notre Dame	3.11
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Digs

1. Dartmouth	20.46
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Conference. Among the returnees from that team are junior MB Sara Albert, who led the league and was fifth in the nation in hitting percentage (.411) in '02. She also led the Hoyas in blocks and was named all-BIG EAST honorable mention. Albert is again hitting very well this season, leading the conference with a .390 mark, having hit 154 kills (3.14). Sophomore OH Ashley Lancaster leads the Hoyas in kills with 156 (3.18), while sophomore OH Rachel Nelson has 135 (2.76). Junior S Margaret Vernon is sixth in the BIG EAST in assists (502/10.24), while junior OH Julie Grauert is ninth in digs (163/3.33). Nelson also has 116 digs (2.37).

Li Liu is in her fifth season as the Georgetown head coach, having compiled a 78-40 (.661) record.

The Irish and Hoyas will meet for the 14th time, with all but two meetings coming since Notre Dame joined the league in 1995. Georgetown's only win was a three-game victory in the 1999 BIG EAST title match, marking the only Irish loss in conference tournament play. Six of the previous meetings have been 3-0 Notre Dame wins. Twice the teams have played five games, with the Irish winning 3-2 in '99 and in the 2001 BIG EAST final. Notre Dame is 4-0 against the Hoyas in the Joyce Center.

In 2002, the Irish won in straight games (30-26, 31-29, 30-21) on Oct. 12 in Washington, D.C. Notre Dame was led by MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.), who hit .611, with 13 kills and just two errors on 18 swings. OPP **Katie Neff** (St. Louis, Mo./Cor Jesu Academy) also had 13 kills on .409 hitting. Georgetown hit just .078 and was led by Lauren Warner, who had 11 kills.

HEAD COACH DEBBIE BROWN: Irish head coach **Debbie Brown** is in her 13th season at the helm of the Notre Dame program. She has led the Irish to a 308-104 (.747) mark, while holding a 425-187 (.694) overall record. Brown's Notre Dame teams have earned 11 consecutive NCAA tournament berths, advancing to the regional finals in 1993 and the regionals in '94, '95, and '97. An eight-time conference coach of the year (4 MCC, 3 BIG EAST, 1 Pac-10), she has coached four Irish players to All-America honors, while 20 have gained all-BIG EAST mention since 1995. The Irish also have claimed 11 regular-season conference titles (4 Midwestern Collegiate, 7 BIG EAST) and 11 league tournament crowns (4 MCC, 7 BIG EAST). The captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic volleyball team after winning a pair of national championships and earning All-America honors twice playing at USC, Brown graduated from Arizona State in 1982 and coached her alma mater from 1983-88, helping the Sun Devils to five NCAA tournaments.

LOOMIS, KELBLEY FIRST TWO BIG EAST PLAYERS OF WEEK: Sophomore MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.) was named a BIG EAST Co-Player of the Week Sept. 8 after her tournament-MVP performance in the Longhorn Classic. Kelbley followed teammate OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.), who was named the first conference player of the week of the season on Sept. 1.

In the Longhorn Classic, Kelbley slammed 30 kills, while making just five errors for a .446 attack percentage. In addition, she was in on a team-high 14 blocks. Against Houston, Kelbley registered a career-high 22 kills on .462 hitting to go along with eight blocks in helping the Irish to a come-from-behind 3-2 victory. She hit .412 vs. host Texas, while notching eight kills (with only one error) and six blocks.

Loomis led the Irish with 42 kills and 14 blocks in the opening weekend of play, while posting a .365 hitting percentage. Against #10 Arizona, she had 14 kills and only two errors for a .522 attack percentage. In the Eastern Washington match, she hit .412, registering 18 kills. Overall, she was responsible for 51 points.

The two-week stretch marked the first time since Nov. 5 & 12 of 2001 that Notre Dame grabbed the BIG EAST Player of the Week award in consecutive weeks, with **Kristy Kreher** and **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) earning shares of the award in back-to-back weeks. Since then, only one other school has accomplished the feat, with Pittsburgh's Megan Miller copping player-of-the-week honors in consecutive weeks a year ago (Sept. 23 & 30).

ALL-TOURNAMENT TWOSOME: Irish junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) and sophomore MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-

Loudon H.S.) made a habit of earning all-tournament honors early this year. The pair was named to the Four Points Sheraton Classic all-tournament team in the opening weekend, helping Notre Dame to a 2-1 record highlighted by an upset of #10 Arizona. In the second weekend, Loomis and Kelbley were named to the Longhorn Classic all-tournament team, with the latter being named the event's MVP.

In the first weekend, Loomis had 42 kills on .365 hitting and was in on 14 blocks. Kelbley slammed 39 kills on a .360 attack percentage. In the most recent tournament, Loomis had 29 kills with a .368 hitting percentage, while Kelbley hit 30 on .446 hitting to go along with 14 blocks.

IRISH DOMINATE SHAMROCK ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM: Three Notre Dame players earned all-tournament honors, which were based solely on the first two days of play, in the Shamrock Invitational. Sophomore MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) was named the event MVP after posting a career-high 13 blocks vs. Utah, while senior OPP **Katie Neff** (St. Louis, Mo./Cor Jesu Academy) and senior OH **Jessica Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) were named to the all-tournament team. Throughout the weekend, Brewster had 33 kills and 22 blocks (1.69), while accounting for a team-high 48.5 points. Neff registered 30 kills on .244 hitting, the top percentage on the team. She also had 14 blocks. Kinder led the Irish with 47 digs (3.62), while adding 17 kills, seven aces, five assists, and three blocks.

THE HARDER THEY FALL: Notre Dame's season-opening 3-1 victory over #10 Arizona in the Four Points Sheraton Classic gave the Irish a top-10 upset in each of the last two seasons. On September 14, 2002, Notre Dame outlasted 10th-ranked Pepperdine in the championship match of the Golden Dome Invitational in the Joyce Center. The win over the Wildcats was the eighth in the program's history over a top-10 opponent.

HAIL TO THE CHAMPIONS: Notre Dame's championship in the Longhorn Classic marked the fourth consecutive season the Irish have come away with at least one in-season tournament title, but was the first for Notre Dame outside the Joyce Center since the 2000 Lady Seminole Classic. The Irish won the Shamrock Invitational in each of the last three seasons and also were victorious in the '02 Golden Dome Invitational

FIVE IN A ROW (AGAIN): Notre Dame's victories in the Shamrock Invitational gave it a six-match winning streak heading into the loss to South Carolina. The win against Indiana gave the Irish a five-match streak, marking the 13th consecutive season (every year under head coach **Debbie Brown**) that Notre Dame put together at least one winning streak of five or more. The Irish had three in 2002, winning five straight in mid-September, seven in a row to end that month and begin October, and six in a row to end October and begin November.

START ME UP: By defeating Arizona, Notre Dame stayed perfect in season openers in the 13-year tenure of head coach **Debbie Brown**. Overall, Brown is 18-1 in season openers, including 5-1 at Arizona State, while the Irish are 19-5 all-time. This season marked just the third time in the Brown era that Notre Dame opened on the road and the first time since 1990 the Irish opened outside the state of Indiana.

The season opener also was the first time Notre Dame played a ranked opponent in the first match of the season. The win was the first-ever for Notre Dame over a nationally-ranked foe in the month of August. Overall, the Irish are 12-3 all-time in August.

In beating Valparaiso, Notre Dame continued its tremendous success in home openers, winning its first home match in each of the last 14 years, including all 13 under head coach **Debbie Brown**. The last time Notre Dame lost its home opener was 1989, when Western Michigan gained a five-game triumph in the Notre Dame Invitational. Overall, the Irish are 18-5 in home openers.

COMING ALL THE WAY BACK: Notre Dame's victory against Houston marked the first time the Irish lost the first two games before rallying for a win since Sept. 2, 2000. On that date, Notre Dame lost the opening games (15-5, 15-10) to #15 BYU before coming back with a trio of 15-10 game victories to pull the upset in the Joyce Center. It had been since Nov. 14, 1999 since the Irish overcame a 2-0 deficit for victory away from home. Georgetown took the first two games (15-1, 15-11) before Notre Dame ran off wins of 15-7, 15-6, and 17-15 to preserve an undefeated conference record in the regular-season finale.

KEEPING UP WITH ND VOLLEYBALL: For the fastest results of Notre Dame volleyball matches, call the Notre Dame Sports Hotline at (574) 631-3000 and choose #5 and #1. The hotline provides schedules and result information for varsity sports and serves as a supplement to the match recaps and weekly releases provided on the official athletic website at www.und.com. The hotline is the first medium updated with results of each Notre Dame volleyball match.

Once again, www.und.com will be the best place for in-depth coverage of Irish volleyball. Live scoring of all home matches, as well as live internet broadcasts of eight contests available to College Sports Pass subscribers supplement the regular match previews and recaps. All three Shamrock Invitational matches (Sept. 12-14), as well as both BIG EAST Championship contests (Nov. 22-23) and the conference tilts with Georgetown (Sept. 28), Virginia Tech (Nov. 7), and Miami (Nov. 9) will feature live broadcasts.

In addition, media members and fans may be added to the sports information e-mail release list by contacting sports information assistant Bo Rottenborn at Rottenborn.2@nd.edu. All requests for story ideas, interview access, match credentials, and further information on Irish volleyball should similarly be directed to Rottenborn. Credential and interview requests should be made at least 24 hours in advance.

The last time...

Team

- ... Notre Dame won 5 in a row – 2003, won 6 straight from 8/30-9/13
- ... Notre Dame won 10 in a row - 2000, won 11 straight from 10/20-11/19
- ... Notre Dame won 15 in a row - 1986, won 17 straight from 10/24-11/21
- ... Notre Dame lost 5 in a row - 1990, lost 7 straight from 10/23-11/3
- ... Notre Dame lost 10 in a row - 1983, lost 10 straight from 9/2-9/8
- ... Notre Dame lost the first game in a win – 9/5/03, vs. Houston (@ Austin, TX)
- ... Notre Dame lost the first 2 games in a win – 9/5/03, vs. Houston (@ Austin, TX)
- ... Notre Dame won the first game in a loss – 8/30/03, at #5 Pepperdine
- ... Notre Dame won the first 2 games in a loss – 9/18/02, at Purdue
- ... Notre Dame lost at home in a BIG EAST match - Never
- ... Notre Dame beat a ranked opponent - 8/29/03, vs. #10 Arizona (3-1)
- ... Notre Dame beat a top-10 opponent - 8/29/03, vs. #10 Arizona (3-1)
- ... Notre Dame beat a top-5 opponent - 9/25/93, vs. #3 Nebraska (3-1)

Kills

- ... 5 Notre Dame players had 10+ kills - 9/14/02, vs. Pepperdine (W, 3-2), Emily Loomis (22), Katie Neff (21), Lauren Brewster (14), Jessica Kinder (13), & Lauren Kelbley (12)
- ... 3 Notre Dame players had 15+ kills - 11/24/02, vs. Miami (W, 3-1/BIG EAST), Emily Loomis (21), Lauren Kelbley (15), & Lauren Brewster (15)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 20+ kills – 9/9/03, vs. Valparaiso (W, 3-0), Emily Loomis (24)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 20+ kills with 0 errors -- 9/9/03, vs. Valparaiso (W, 3-0), Emily Loomis (24)
- ... 2 Notre Dame players had 20+ kills - 9/14/02, vs. Pepperdine (W, 3-2), Emily Loomis (22) & Katie Neff (21)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 25+ kills – 10/29/00, at Connecticut (W, 3-2), Christi Girton (31)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 30+ kills – 10/29/00, at Connecticut (W, 3-2), Christi Girton (31)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 20+ kills and 20+ digs - 9/21/00, vs. Loyola Marymount (W, 3-1), Kristy Kreher (32 kills, 27 digs)

Digs

- ... 5 Notre Dame players had 10+ digs - 10/25/02, vs. Pittsburgh (W, 3-1), Emily Loomis (13), Keara Coughlin (13), Kristen Kinder (12), Janie Alderete (11), & Jessica Kinder (10)
- ... 2 Notre Dame players had 15+ digs - 9/14/03, vs. South Carolina (L, 1-3), Danielle Herndon (20) & Meg Henican (17)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 20+ digs – 9/14/03, vs. South Carolina (L, 1-3), Danielle Herndon (20)
- ... 2 Notre Dame players had 20+ digs - 12/7/02, vs. Charleston (W, 3-1/NCAA), Meg Henican (23) & Jessica Kinder (21)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 25+ digs - 9/9/03, vs. Valparaiso (W, 3-0), Jessica Kinder (28)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 30+ digs - 10/25/93, at Arizona State (L, 1-3), Christy Peters (31)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 35+ digs - 9/18/92, at Purdue (W, 3-1), Jessica Fiebelkorn (35)
- ... Notre Dame had 100+ digs - 11/14/01, vs. Illinois State (W, 3-2), 108

Blocks

- ... a Notre Dame player had 10+ blocks - 9/17/03, vs. Purdue (W, 3-1), Lauren Brewster (13)
- ... Notre Dame had 20+ blocks - 10/27/02, vs. West Virginia (3-1), 20.5

Aces

- ... a Notre Dame player had 5+ aces - 10/12/01, at Kentucky (W, 3-2), Kristen Kinder (5)
- ... Notre Dame had 10+ aces - 9/13/03, vs. South Carolina (L, 1-3)

Hitting Percentage

- ... a Notre Dame player hit over .500 (min. 4 attacks/game) - 9/9/03, vs. Valparaiso (W, 3-0), Emily Loomis (.571)
- ... a Notre Dame player hit over .600 (min. 4 attacks/game) - 11/17/02, at Va. Tech (L, 0-3), Lauren Kelbley (.609)
- ... a Notre Dame player hit over .700 (min. 4 attacks/game) - 11/4/01, at Pittsburgh (W, 3-0), Kristy Kreher (.765)
- ... Notre Dame hit over .400 as a team - 10/5/02, at Rutgers (W, 3-0), .418
- ... Notre Dame hit over .500 as a team - 11/13/99, vs. Villanova (W, 3-0), .510
- ... Notre Dame held an opponent under .100 team hitting - 9/12/03, vs. Indiana (W, 3-1), .085
- ... Notre Dame held an opponent under .000 team hitting - 11/9/01, vs. St. John's (W, 3-0), -.101
- ... Notre Dame hit less than .200 - 9/14/03, vs. South Carolina (L, 1-3), .165
- ... Notre Dame hit less than .100 - 10/17/01, vs. Northern Iowa (L, 1-3), .037
- ... Notre Dame hit less than .200 & won - 9/13/03, vs. Utah (3-2), .138

Assists

- ... a Notre Dame player had 60+ assists – 9/18/02, at Purdue (L, 2-3), Kristen Kinder (60)

Notre Dame 2003 Bio Updates

#1 Emily Loomis

Jr. • OPP/OH • 6-1 • Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Season Highs

Kills: 24 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9

Digs: 7 vs. Purdue, 9-17

Blocks: 6 vs. Purdue, 9-17

Points: 25.5 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9

Assists: 3 vs. Purdue, 9-17

AT: 47 vs. Utah, 9-13

Hitting %:

3G - .571 (24-0-42) vs. Valparaiso, 9-9

4G - .522 (14-2-23) vs. #10 Arizona, 8-29

5G - .333 (13-2-33) vs. Houston, 9-5

Career Highs

Kills: 24 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9-03

Digs: 15 at Villanova, 10-13-02

Blocks: 9 vs. UW-Milwaukee, 8-30-02

Assists: 4 vs. Charleston, 12-7-02

Aces: 3 vs. Michigan, 9-21-02

AT: 64 vs. #10 Pepperdine, 9-14-02

Hitting %:

3G - .636 (14-0-22) vs. BC, 11-3-02

4G - .522 (14-2-23) vs. #10 Arizona, 8-29-03

5G - .471 (21-5-34) at Purdue, 9-18-02

Preseason All-BIG EAST selection ... named first '03 BIG EAST Player of the Week on Sept. 1 (12 GP, 42 K, .365, 14 B, 4 BS, 3 D, 51 pts.) after helping Irish to upset of #10 Arizona ... earned mention on all-tournament teams for Four Points Sheraton Classic (see above stats) and Longhorn Classic (8 GP, 29 K, .368, 7 B, 5 D, 33 pts.) ... set school record for most kills without an error, with 24 on .571 hitting in three games vs. Valparaiso ... previous record was 23 by Jaimie Lee in 1995 ... missed ND record for kills in a straight-game match by one ... performance was the sixth time in her career she registered 20+ kills, a total matched by only nine other players in Irish history ... has had 10+ kills in 16 consecutive matches, dating back to last season ... has hit .400 or better in five of 10 matches this season ... in season opener, hit .522 (14-2-23) in helping Irish to upset of #10 Arizona ... had 18 kills on .412 hitting (18-4-34) vs. Eastern Washington ... hit .400 (16-2-35) in three-game win over Texas ... had 15 kills and no errors on .405 hitting vs. Purdue ... started all 10 matches in 2003 at opposite ... the only player in Notre Dame athletic history to earn all-conference honors in two distinctly different

sports (excluding cross country and track and field) ... recorded the top vertical reach measurement in Irish volleyball history as a freshman and earned all-BIG EAST honors at the '02 conference indoor and outdoor track and field meets in the high jump.

#2 Leah Nedderman

Jr. • OH • 5-10 • Grapevine, Texas

Career Highs

Kills: 14 vs. Providence, 11-1-02

Digs: 3 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

Blocks: 2 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

Assists: 1 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

Aces: 1 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

AT: 33 vs. Providence, 11-1-02

Hitting %:

3G - .242 (14-6-33) vs. Prov., 11-1-02

4G - NA

5G - NA

Nedderman missed all of fall practice with an ankle injury, which continues to sideline her.

#3 Kelly Burrell

So. • S • 5-11 • Phoenix, Ariz.

Season Highs

Kills: 1 vs. Houston & Texas

Digs: 12 at Texas, 9-6

Points: 3.0 vs. Utah, 9-13

Assists: 23 vs. South Carolina, 9-14

Aces: 3 vs. Utah, 9-13

AT: 1 on seven occasions

Career Highs

Kills: 3 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

Digs: 12 at Texas, 9-6-03

Blocks: 5 vs. Connecticut, 9-27-02

Assists: 39 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

Aces: 3 vs. Utah, 9-13-03

AT: 6 three times

Burrell is an integral part of Notre Dame's new 6-2 offense ... helped team hit .324 in upsetting #10 Arizona in season opener ... led team with career-high 12 digs vs. Texas ... set Irish to .311 attack percentage in four-game win against Purdue ... has come off the bench in all 10 matches.

#4 Meg Henican

So. • OH • 5-11 • New Orleans, La.

Season Highs

Kills: 11 vs. Utah, 9-13

Digs: 17 vs. South Carolina, 9-14

Blocks: 5 vs. Indiana, 9-12

Points: 14.5 vs. Utah, 9-13

Assists: 6 vs. Purdue, 9-17

Aces: 2 on five occasions

AT: 31 vs. Utah, 9-13

Hitting %:

3G - .231 (3-0-13) vs. Valparaiso, 9-9

4G - .182 (8-4-22) vs. Purdue, 9-17

5G - .226 (11-4-31) vs. Utah, 9-13-03

Career Highs

Kills: 13 vs. Providence, 11-1-02

Digs: 23 vs. Charleston, 12-7-02

Blocks: 5 vs. Indiana, 9-13-03

Assists: 6 vs. Purdue, 9-17-03

Aces: 3 vs. Connecticut, 9-27-02

AT: 31 vs. Utah, 9-13-03

Hitting %:

3G - .409 (13-4-22) vs. Prov., 11-1-02

4G - .158 (7-4-19) vs. #10 Ariz., 8-29-03

5G - .226 (11-4-31) vs. Utah, 9-13-03

Henican is one of the top all-around players for the Irish ... started nine matches this season at outside hitter and played libero vs. Eastern Washington ... has had nine or more digs in every match in 2003 ... had double-double vs. Utah, with 11 kills and 14 digs.

#5 Jessica Kinder

Sr. • OH • 5-10 • Fresno, Calif.

Season Highs

Kills: 8 vs. Houston & Purdue

Digs: 28 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9

Blocks: 4 vs. Purdue, 9-17

Points: 11.0 vs. Houston, 9-5

Assists: 10 vs. Houston, 9-5

Aces: 4 vs. South Carolina, 9-14

AT: 27 vs. Purdue, 9-17

Hitting %:

3G - .111 (5-3-18) at Texas, 9-6

4G - .250 (6-2-16) vs. #10 Arizona, 8-29

5G - .368 (8-1-19) vs. Houston, 9-5

Career Highs

Kills: 15 at Purdue, 9-18-02

15 vs. UConn, 11-23-02

Digs: 28 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9-03

Blocks: 5 vs. Miami, 11-24-02
 Assists: 10 vs. Houston, 9-5-03
 Aces: 4 on four occasions
 AT: 37 at Purdue, 9-18-02
 Hitting %:
 3G - .522 (14-2-23) vs. Loyola, 9-14-02
 4G - .391 (14-5-23) vs. WVU, 10-27-02
 5G - .368 (8-1-19) vs. Houston, 9-5-03

Jessica Kinder has started all 10 matches at outside hitter ... set Notre Dame record for digs in a three-game match vs. Valparaiso (28) with 10 in the first game, three in the second and 15 in the third ... previous record was 25 by Tracey Shelton in 1989 and no player other than Shelton and Kinder have had more than 21 digs in a three-game match ... named to Shamrock Invitational all-tournament team, notching a team-high 47 digs (3.62), while adding 17 kills, seven aces, five assists, and three blocks ... has had eight or more digs in all but one match this season ... her jump serve leads the Irish in aces ... had best hitting match of season vs. Houston (8-1-19, .368).

#6 Lauren Kelbley

So. • MB • 6-1 • Bascom, Ohio

Season Highs

Kills: 22 vs. Houston, 9-5
 Digs: 4 vs. #10 Arizona, 8-29
 Blocks: 8 vs. Houston, 9-5
 Points: 28.5 vs. Houston, 9-5
 Assists: 1 on three occasions
 Aces: 3 vs. E. Washington & Indiana
 AT: 45 vs. Utah, 9-13
 Hitting %:
 3G - .524 (11-0-21) vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 4G - .424 (16-2-33) vs. #10 Arizona, 8-29
 5G - .462 (22-4-39) vs. Houston, 9-5

Career Highs

Kills: 22 vs. Houston, 9-5-03
 Digs: 4 on five occasions
 Blocks: 12 vs. St. John's, 9-29-02
 Assists: 1 on 13 occasions
 Aces: 4 vs. Saint Louis, 9-7-02
 AT: 45 vs. Utah, 9-13-03
 Hitting %:
 3G - .643 (10-1-14) at Syracuse, 11-9-02
 4G - .462 (15-3-26) at ISU, 10-29-02
 5G - .481 (13-0-27) at Miami, 11-15-02

2003 Preseason All-BIG EAST selection ...

Longhorn Classic MVP (8GP, 30 K, .446, 14 B, 40.5 pts.) ... BIG EAST Co-Player of the Week (9/8) after hitting .446 in Longhorn Classic ... named to all-tournament teams in Four Points Sheraton Classic (12 GP, 39 K, .360, 12 B, 4 SA, 5 D, 49.5 pts.) and Longhorn Classic (see above stats) ... has hit over .300 in eight of 10 matches this season, including five matches of .400+ hitting ... had career-high 22 kills on .462 hitting vs. Houston ... hit .524 vs. Valparaiso, converting 11 kills on 21 tries with no errors ... has started all 10 matches at middle blocker.

#7 Kelly Corbett

Jr. • MB/DS • 6-0 • Mountain View, Calif.

Season Highs

Digs: 6 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9

Career Highs

Kills: 5 twice
 Digs: 6 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 Blocks: 6 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02
 Assists: 2 vs. Providence, 11-1-02
 Aces: 3 vs. Providence, 11-1-02
 AT: 11 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02
 Hitting %:
 3G - .500 (5-0-10) vs. Prov., 11-1-02
 4G - NA
 5G - NA

Corbett saw first action of season as Irish libero in second game vs. Valparaiso ... notched career-high six digs in that frame ... also played libero in third game vs. Purdue.

#8 Kristen Kinder

Sr. • S • 5-9 • Fresno, Calif.

Season Highs

Kills: 2 vs. Purdue, 9-17
 Digs: 14 vs. Utah, 9-13
 Points: 2.0 on four occasions
 Assists: 35 vs. Valparaiso & Purdue
 Aces: 2 at Texas & vs. South Carolina
 AT: 5 vs. Purdue, 9-17

Career Highs

Kills: 8 at Miami (Fla.), 11-15-02
 Digs: 17 vs. Illinois State, 11-14-01
 Blocks: 6 twice
 Assists: 67 vs. #10 Pepperdine, 9-14-02
 Aces: 4 vs. Syracuse, 9-22-01

AT: 20 vs. Miami (Fla.), 11-15-02
 Hitting %:
 3G - .750 (6-0-8) at Valpo, 9-10-02
 4G - .417 (6-1-12) vs. Pitt., 10-25-02
 5G - .350 (8-1-20) at Miami, 11-15-02

Kristen Kinder has started all 10 matches at setter in 2003 ... combines with Kelly Burrell in new 6-2 rotation to orchestrate Irish offense ... helped Notre Dame to .324 hitting percentage in up-setting #10 Arizona ... set Irish to .311 attack percentage vs. Purdue.

#9 Carolyn Cooper

So. • MB • 6-3 • Houston, Texas

Season Highs

Kills: 6 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 Digs: 1 on three occasions
 Blocks: 3 vs. Houston, 9-5
 Points: 8.5 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 Assists: 1 vs. Houston, 9-5
 Aces: 2 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 AT: 17 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 Hitting %:
 3G - .294 (6-1-17) vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 4G - NA
 5G - NA

Career Highs

Kills: 6 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9-03
 Digs: 5 vs. West Virginia, 10-27-02
 Blocks: 9 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02
 Assists: 3 at Valparaiso, 9-10-02
 Aces: 2 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9-03
 AT: 17 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9-03
 Hitting %:
 3G - .571 (4-0-7) vs. Loyola, 9-14-02
 4G - NA
 5G - NA

Cooper made her first career start vs. Houston in the Longhorn Classic, playing in her home state for the first time as a collegiate player ... she also was used at middle blocker in two games against Eastern Washington, Valparaiso, and Purdue ... registered career-high six kills vs. Crusaders.

#10 Kim Fletcher

Sr. • OPP/OH • 6-0 • St. Louis, Mo.

Season Highs

Kills: 4 vs. E. Washington, 8-30
 Digs: 7 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 Blocks: 1 at #5 Pepperdine, 8-30
 Points: 4.0 vs. E. Washington, 8-30
 Assists: 2 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 AT: 18 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9

Career Highs

Kills: 16 vs. Michigan State, 11-30-01
 Digs: 10 vs. Idaho, 9-1-01
 Blocks: 10 vs. G'town, 11-18-01
 Assists: 3 vs. Idaho, 9-1-01
 Aces: 2 on three occasions
 AT: 31 vs. #20 Mich. State, 11-30-01
 Hitting %:
 3G - .684 (13-0-19) vs. Texas St., 8-31-01
 4G - .455 (14-4-22) at UConn, 10-7-01
 5G - .471 (10-2-17) vs. G'town, 11-18-01

Fletcher came off the bench to play two games against #5 Pepperdine and then started at outside hitter vs. Eastern Washington ... she also played in game three vs. Valparaiso.

#11 Danielle Herndon

Fr. • L • 5-9 • Plant City, Fla.

Season Highs

Digs: 20 vs. South Carolina, 9-14
 Assists: 2 vs. #10 Arizona, 8-29
 AT: 2 vs. #10 Arizona & #5 Pepperdine

Herndon, the lone freshman on the Irish team, has been the team's starting libero in nine of 10 matches in 2003 ... had 42 digs (3.23) in Shamrock Invitational ... registered season-high 20 digs vs. South Carolina ... has had nine or more digs in each of last four matches.

#12 Lauren Brewster

So. • MB • 6-3 • Brentwood, Tenn.

Season Highs

Kills: 17 at #5 Pepperdine, 8-30
 Digs: 6 at Texas, 9-6
 Blocks: 13 vs. Utah & Purdue
 Points: 24.0 vs. Purdue, 9-17
 Assists: 2 vs. Utah, 9-13
 Aces: 3 vs. Purdue, 9-17
 AT: 35 vs. South Carolina, 9-14
 Hitting % -
 3G - .318 (11-4-22) at Texas, 9-6
 4G - .483 (17-3-29) vs. #5 Pepp., 8-30
 5G - .476 (13-3-21) vs. Houston, 9-5

Career Highs -

Kills: 17 at #5 Pepperdine, 8-30-03
 Digs: 6 on two occasions
 Blocks: 13 vs. Utah, 9-13-03 & Purdue, 9-17-03
 Assists: 2 on two occasions
 Aces: 3 vs. St. John's, 9-29-02 & Purdue, 9-17-03
 AT: 35 vs. South Carolina, 9-14-03
 Hitting % -
 3G - .556 (10-0-18) vs. UW-Mil., 8-30-02
 4G - .483 (17-3-29) vs. #5 Pepp., 8-30-03
 5G - .476 (13-3-21) vs. Houston, 9-5-03

Brewster leads the BIG EAST Conference in blocks (54/1.50) and ranks 15th in the nation ... was named the tournament MVP of the Shamrock Invitational, delivering 33 kills and 22 blocks (1.69), while accounting for a team-high 48.5 points ... has been in on career-high 13 blocks in two of last three matches (Utah and Purdue) ... prior to that stretch, no Notre Dame player had been in on 13 blocks in a match since Molly Stark had 15 on October 2, 1993 in a four-game win vs. Western Michigan ... has hit .300 or better in six of 10 matches ... had a career-high 17 kills vs. #5 Pepperdine ... has started nine matches at middle blocker for Notre Dame ... missed the first two games vs. Houston with the flu before slamming 13 kills on .476 hitting in the final three ... set Notre Dame record for block assists in a season (161) as a freshman.

#15 Katie Neff

Sr. • OPP • 6-4 • St. Louis, Mo.

Season Highs

Kills: 15 vs. E. Washington, 8-30
 Digs: 2 vs. #10 Arizona & Indiana
 Blocks: 9 vs. Utah, 9-13
 Points: 16.0 vs. E. Washington, 8-30
 Assists: 1 on three occasions
 AT: 38 vs. E. Washington, 8-30
 Hitting % -
 3G - .192 (9-4-26) at Texas, 9-6
 4G - .375 (11-2-24) vs. Indiana, 9-12
 5G - .261 (9-3-23) vs. Utah, 9-13

Career Highs

Kills: 21 vs. #10 Pepperdine, 9-14-02
 Digs: 4 at Miami, 11-15-02
 Blocks: 9 vs. Utah, 9-13-03
 Assists: 5 vs. UConn, 11-23-02
 Aces: 2 vs. UConn, 11-23-02
 AT: 44 vs. #10 Pepperdine, 9-14-02
 Hitting % -

3G - .529 (11-2-17) vs. STL, 9-7-02
 4G - .375 (11-2-24) vs. Indiana, 9-12
 5G - .409 (21-3-44) vs. Pepp., 9-14-02

Neff was named to the Shamrock Invitational all-tournament team registering 30 kills and 14 blocks, while posting the highest Irish hitting percentage (.244) ... had career-high nine blocks vs. Utah ... has come off the bench at opposite in all 10 matches in 2003.

#16 Lindsay Peterson

So. • OH • 6-0 • Mt. Carroll, Ill.

Career Highs

Kills: 1 vs. Providence, 11-1-02
 Digs: 1 vs. Providence, 11-1-02

Walk-on member of the Irish has not seen action in 2003.