

2001 Notre Dame Softball



University of Notre Dame Sports Information • April 18, 2001 • Contact: Alan Wasielewski, 219-631-7516, Fax: 219-631-7941

| 2001 Schedule | | | |
|---|----------|---|-------------------------|
| February | | | |
| 16-18 Fri.-Sun. at Holiday Inn Invitational (Tampa, Fla.) | | | |
| 16 | Fri. | vs. Maryland | W, 4-1 |
| 16 | Fri. | vs. South Florida | W, 5-3 |
| 17 | Sat. | vs. #4 Washington | W, 3-2 |
| 17 | Sat. | vs. Hofstra | W, 8-1 |
| 18 | Sun. | vs. #18 S.Carolina | W, 1-0 |
| 23-25 Fri.-Sun. at Lady Razorback Invitational (Fayetteville, Ark.) | | | |
| 23 | Fri. | vs. Texas Tech | W, 4-0 |
| 24 | Sat. | vs. Arkansas | W, 4-3 |
| 24 | Sat. | vs. Maine | W, 8-0 (5) |
| 25 | Sun. | vs. Arkansas | L, 0-2 |
| March | | | |
| 2-4 Fri.-Sun. at Frost Tournament (Chattanooga, Tenn.) | | | |
| 2 | Fri. | vs. Jacksonville St. | W, 4-1 |
| 2 | Fri. | vs. Tenn.-Chatt. | W, 5-3 |
| 3 | Sat. | vs. Alabama-Birm. | W, 9-1 (5) |
| 11 | Sun. | at #24 Cal St. North (Northridge, Calif.) | W, 5-1 |
| 13 | Tues. | at Long Beach State (Long Beach, Calif.) | W, 2-0 |
| 15-18 Th.-Sun. Kia Klassic Tournament (Fullerton, Calif.) | | | |
| 15 | Thurs. | vs. Utah State | W, 6-0 |
| 15 | Thurs. | vs. #7 Fresno State | W, 4-2 |
| 16 | Fri. | vs. #5 Oklahoma | L, 2-4 |
| 17 | Sat. | vs. Hawaii | W, 4-1 |
| 17 | Sat. | vs. #10 Arizona St. | W, 5-1 (9) |
| 18 | Sun. | vs. #9 Cal. St. Full. | L, 4-5 |
| 28 | Wend. | Valparaiso | W, 6-0, W, 4-0 |
| 29 | Thurs. | W. Michigan | W, 7-1, W, 8-0 |
| 31 | Sat. | *St. John's | W, 8-0, W, 1-0 |
| April | | | |
| 1 | Sun. | *Seton Hall | W, 6-3, W, 10-2 (5) |
| 3 | Tues. | at Purdue | W, 10-2 (6), W, 4-2 (8) |
| 7 | Sat. | *at Connecticut | W, 6-0, W, 1-0 |
| 8 | Sun. | *at Syracuse | W, 6-0, W, 6-0 |
| 12 | Thurs. | Loyola (Chicago) | W, 8-0, W, 6-0 |
| 14 | Sat. | *Pittsburgh | W, 2-0, W, 8-0 |
| 17 | Tues. | at Indiana State | Canceled |
| 19 | Thurs. | at #10 DePaul | 3:00 p.m. |
| 21 | Sat. | *at Virginia Tech | 11:00 a.m. |
| 24 | Tues. | at Illinois-Chicago | 5:30 p.m. |
| 25 | Wend. | Toledo | 4:00 p.m. |
| 28 | Sat. | *Boston College | 11:00 a.m. |
| 29 | Sun. | *Providence | 11:00 a.m. |
| May | | | |
| 2 | Wend. | Bowling Green | 3:30 p.m. |
| 4 | Fri. | *at Villanova | 12:00 p.m. |
| 5 | Sat. | *at Rutgers | 10:30 a.m. |
| 10-12 | Th.-Sat. | BIG EAST Championship | |
| 17-20 | Th.-Sat. | NCAA Regionals | |
| 24-28 | Th.-Mon. | College World Series | |

All home games (indicated in bold) played at Ivy Field.

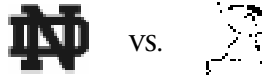
* - indicates BIG EAST Conference game

Who: Notre Dame and DePaul

What: Regular season matchup between two of the top teams in the nation

Where: Chicago, Ill., Wish Field

When: #11 Notre Dame vs. #10 DePaul (DH), Thursday, April 19, 3 p.m.



Notre Dame and DePaul renew their rivalry: The 11th-ranked Notre Dame softball team (36-3) heads to Chicago, Ill., on Thursday, April 19, for a double-header matchup with #10 DePaul (33-8-1). Two of the best teams in the Midwest will meet at 3 p.m. as the Irish put their nation-leading 18-game win streak on the line against the Blue Demons.

It will be the 33rd and 34th meeting between the two teams and the rivalry has heated up over the past few years. DePaul has won 21 of the 32 previous meetings.

DePaul was responsible for handing Notre Dame its first shutout loss of the season (1-0) last year in the NCAA regional tournament. The Irish and the Blue Demons also split their regular-season double-header at Ivy Field, Notre Dame winning 5-1 and DePaul taking the second game 4-3.

In 2001, Notre Dame has climbed to its highest ranking ever (11th), while DePaul utilized a 19-game winning streak (broken by Southern Mississippi last weekend) and a second place finish in the 2001 Kia Klassic to earn a #10 ranking in the most recent USA Today/NFCA Top 25 poll.

Miller earns her 900th career victory vs. Pittsburgh: Liz Miller enjoyed her 900th career victory on Saturday, April 14, when the Irish beat Pittsburgh in the second game of a doubleheader 8-0. The Irish head coach now boasts a career record of 900-294. Miller also claimed a victory in her 500th game as Notre Dame's head coach on April 1, 2001 vs. Seton Hall. The Irish defeated the Pirates 8-0 in five innings to earn Miller her 349th victory under the Golden Dome.

Irish extend their stay at the highest-ever ranking in the USA Today/NFCA Top 25: Notre Dame has remained at its highest-ever ranking (#11) for four weeks after an impressive run to third place in the Kia Klassic (March 15-18) and rattling off seven-straight doubleheader sweeps. Notre Dame finished third in the prestigious Kia Klassic, knocking off #7 Fresno State and #10 Arizona State during the competition.

Notre Dame entered the season ranked 19th in the preseason poll and moved to 14th in the Feb. 21st poll. The Irish then dropped a spot to 15th in the Feb. 28th poll, but moved back up to 14th for two weeks (March 7 and 14).

Notre Dame in the USA Today/NFCA Top 25 this season:

Preseason: 19 (0-0)

Irish defeat #4 Washington and #18 South Carolina while capturing the Holiday Inn Invitational in Tampa, Fla.

Feb. 21: 14 (5-0)

Irish give up two runs on a double in the sixth inning to drop first game of the season at Arkansas.

Feb. 28: 15 (8-1)

Irish lose three games off the schedule due to inclement weather but claim third tournament title of the season at the Morning News Invitational in Chattanooga, Tenn..

March 7: 14 (11-1)

Irish sweep a doubleheader at #24 Cal State Northridge.

March 14: 14 (13-1)

Irish finish third in the Kia Klassic, knocking off #7 Fresno State and #10 Arizona State while posting a 5-2 record during the week.

March 21: 12 (18-3)

Irish earn highest-ever ranking and face a week off before their home opener vs. Western Michigan (March 27).

March 28: 11 (18-3)

Irish continue to climb the poll after taking a week off after their Spring Break trip.

April 4: 11 (26-3)

Irish improve to 4-0 in the BIG EAST and sweep five consecutive doubleheaders.

April 11: 11 (32-3)

Irish extend doubleheader win streak to seven and push overall winning streak to 14.

April 18: 11 (36-3)

Irish continue shutout streak, blanking Loyola (Chicago) and Pittsburgh in two more doubleheader sweeps. Notre Dame boasts the top winning streak in the nation (18 games).

Notre Dame posts best-ever start: Notre Dame's 36-3 (.923) record over its first 39 games is by far the best start to a season since the program began in 1989. The .923 winning percentage is currently ranked second in the nation behind #1 UCLA's .933 (42-3) mark.

The Irish also started the season with an 11-1 record, besting the 8-4 starts in 1995 and 2000 seasons that were the previous best for a season.

Jarrah Myers becomes the third Irish player to earn BIG EAST Player of the Week accolades: Jarrah Myers (Carbondale, Kan.) was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week by the conference office on Monday, April 16.

Myers batted .455 in four games last week, leading Notre Dame to a 4-0 record on the week with doubleheader sweeps of Loyola (Chicago) and BIG EAST Conference opponent Pittsburgh. Myers also helped guide the Notre Dame pitching staff through four more shut-out victories, as the Irish now have

2001 Notre Dame Softball Roster

| No. | Name | Year | Pos. | Ht. | B/T | Birthdate | Hometown (High School) |
|-----|-------------------------|------|---------|------|-----|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 | ***Melanie Alkire (C) | Sr. | SS/RHP | 5-8 | R/R | 10-6-79 | Union City, CA (James Logan) |
| 4 | ***Danielle Klayman (C) | Sr. | OF | 5-7 | L/L | 9-17-79 | San Diego, CA (La Jolla) |
| 5 | **Kas Hoag | Jr. | UT/DP | 5-5 | L/R | 6-13-80 | Wallingford, CT (Lyman Hall) |
| 7 | Jessica Sharron | So. | RHP | 5-8 | R/R | 10-12-81 | Agoura Hills, CA (Thousand Oaks) |
| 8 | Kristin Schmidt | Fr. | RHP | 5-9 | R/R | 4-3-82 | Houston, TX (North Shore Senior) |
| 9 | ***Jen Sharron (C) | Sr. | LHP | 5-9 | L/L | 9-14-79 | Agoura Hills, CA (Thousand Oaks) |
| 10 | *Alexis Madrid | So. | 2B/SS | 5-1 | L/R | 10-17-81 | Temecula, CA (Temecula) |
| 11 | **Jenny Kriech | Jr. | OF | 5-7 | L/L | 9-8-80 | Indianapolis, IN (Perry Meridian) |
| 15 | Nicole deFau | Fr. | IF/OF | 5-9 | R/R | 10-5-82 | Southington, CT (Southington) |
| 16 | ***Lizzy Lemire (C) | Sr. | OF | 5-9 | R/R | 10-10-79 | Irvine, CA (Woodbridge) |
| 17 | Sarah Kirkman | Sr. | OF/DP | 5-11 | R/R | 11-2-78 | Kokomo, IN (Northwestern) |
| 18 | *Andria Bledsoe | So. | 3B/SS | 5-7 | R/R | 8-4-81 | Higley, AZ (Highland) |
| 19 | Chantal DeAlcuaz | Fr. | C | 5-9 | R/R | 4-29-82 | Modesto, CA (Central Catholic) |
| 20 | *Lisa Mattison | So. | 1B/C/DP | 5-10 | R/R | 4-26-81 | Granger, IN (Penn) |
| 22 | **Jarrah Myers | Jr. | C | 5-9 | R/R | 4-22-80 | Carbondale, KS (Santa Fe Trail) |
| 33 | *Andrea Loman | So. | 1B/3B | 5-10 | R/R | 11-25-81 | Riverside, CA (Poly) |

* - indicates monograms won

(C) - indicates 2001 team captains

Head Coach: Liz Miller (Western Michigan, '69), 360-152 (.703) record at Notre Dame (Eight years)

Associate Head Coach: Deanna Gumpf (Nebraska '92)

Assistant Coach: Traci Conrad (Michigan '99)

Volunteer Assistant Coach: John Gumpf (Cal St. San Bernardino '97)

Trainer: Chantal Porter (Iowa State '94)

Team Managers: Maureen Guilfoyle, Sean Coary

Pronunciation Guide

Melanie *Alkire* Al-KYE-er
 Chantal *DeAlcuaz* Deh-All-queZ
 Nicole *deFau* duh-FOE
 Andria Bledsoe An-DREE-a
 Kas *Hoag*..... HOE-g
 Jennifer *Kriech* Creek
 Lizzy *Lemire* Lah-MEER
 Andrea Loman An-DRAY-a

Notre Dame Softball Quick Facts

All-Time Record: 458-235-2
 Extra-Innings Record: 29-31-2
 Overall Winning Seasons: 12
 Overall Losing Seasons: 0
 2000 Record: 47-14
 Home: 14-4
 Away: 14-2
 Neutral: 19-8
 BIG EAST: 14-2 (1st)
 Starters Returning/Lost: 9/0
 Monogram Winners
 Returning/Lost: 11/3

thrown a school-record eight consecutive shutouts.

Against Loyola, she had a two-for-four performance in the first game with an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. In the second game, she went one-for-three with her fifth home run of the season, a two-run shot in the fifth inning. Taking on Pittsburgh over the weekend, Myers went two-for-four in the doubleheader, including a triple in the first game.

In the most recent BIG EAST statistical rankings (April 16), Myers stands first in on-base percentage (.473), second in runs scored (30) and RBI (29), third in walks (17), total bases (73) and slugging percentage (.652) and fifth in batting average (.384) and triples (three).

She is the third Irish player to earn the weekly award this season (Jenny Kriech, Feb. 26, and Andrea Loman, March 19), while senior pitcher Jen Sharron has been named BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week three times this season and rookie RHP Kristin Schmidt earned the pitcher of the week award on March 5.

Irish among the NCAA statistical leaders: The NCAA has released its Division I softball statistical rankings for the 2001 season, and Notre Dame appears prominently on the lists.

Freshman RHP Kristin Schmidt is fourth in the nation in ERA with a 0.51 mark as of April 16. The Irish, who feature six players hitting over .300 this season, are ranked fifth in the nation in team batting (.320). Notre Dame also is second in the nation in winning percentage (36-3, .923), ninth in team ERA (0.88) and 11th in scoring (5.15 runs per game). The Irish also entered the week with a 18-game winning streak which is currently the best in the nation.

Other Irish players that appear on the NCAA statistical rankings include Jen Sharron (47th in ERA with 1.06 and 17th in victories with 19) and Jenny Kriech (42nd in batting average with .392).

Four Irish players set to try out of the USA Soft-

ball National Team: Four University of Notre Dame softball players have been selected by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) to participate in the USA Softball Women's National Team Camp, May 30-June 3 at the ARCO Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif.

Seniors **Jen Sharron (Agoura Hills, Calif.)**, **Melanie Alkire (Union City, Calif.)** and **Lizzy Lemire (Irvine, Calif.)** and sophomore **Andrea Loman (Riverside, Calif.)** have all been invited to the camp. USA Softball will select two 16-player teams out of the 51 athletes invited to represent the United States in international competitions such as the U.S. Cup in Honolulu, Hawaii, the Canada Cup in Vancouver and the Pan Am Qualifier in Maracay, Venezuela during the 2001 season.

The list of players invited to camp represent the best fast pitch softball talent in the nation. Notre Dame is tied for third on the list of schools with the most selected players behind Arizona (9) and UCLA (8).

Selections for the 2001 USA Softball Women's National Teams will be made following the USA Softball Women's National Team Camp. The two teams will then participate in the USA Softball Shootout, a four-city West Coast tour that will stop in Portland (June 8), Spokane (June 10), Sacramento (June 14) and Los Angeles (June 17) prior to leaving for the U.S. Cup in Hawaii.

Should any of the Irish players be selected for the national team, they will become members of the undisputed #1 softball team in the world. The USA Softball National Team won the first Olympic gold medal in the sport's history in 1996 and repeated the feat again in 2000. The USA team has won the past four consecutive World Championships, the past four consecutive Pan Am Games and the past two Olympic gold medals.

For more coverage of the USA Softball Women's National Team visit the team's official website at www.usasoftball.com.

Jen Sharron named BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week for the third time this season and second week in a row: Senior LHP **Jen Sharron** earned her second consecutive BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week award on Tuesday, April 10. It is the third weekly award of the season (Feb. 26, April 2, April 10) for the three-time BIG EAST Pitcher of the Year, and it comes on the heels of a dominating weekend against conference competition.

After leading Notre Dame to a non-conference win at Purdue (Tuesday, April 3), Sharron compiled 14 scoreless innings at Connecticut and Syracuse to help the Irish to an 8-0 start in conference play. Against the Huskies, Sharron gave up just one hit, striking out four and inducing 12 ground-ball outs. She was equally impressive against the Orangewomen on Sunday, posting her 15th complete game of the season and seventh shut out while giving up just five hits and striking out nine.

Sharron's impressive week is just a continuation of one of the best series of starts the All-American has posted in her career. In her last seven appearances, she is 7-0 with seven complete games and 64 strikeouts, allowing just 21 hits and three earned runs (0.46 ERA).

Sharron currently has a 1.06 ERA and 157 strikeouts in 132.2 innings pitched. She is the ace of a staff that boasts a 0.88 ERA, giving up just 33 earned runs in 39 games.

Myers is one tough out: Notre Dame cleanup hitter and catcher **Jarrah Myers** has been the toughest out in the Irish lineup this season. Myers is second on the team in batting average (.384) and leads the team with a whopping .652 slugging percentage. She has reached safely in 31 of 39 games this season and has 12 multi-hit performances to give her a BIG EAST-leading .473 on-base percentage.

Streaking: Notre Dame has rattled off 18 straight victories since it returned from a Spring Break trip to California - all 18 wins coming in nine doubleheader sweeps. The current streak is the third-best

USA Today/NFCA Top 25 (as of April 18, 2001)

| School | Record | Points | LW |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|----|
| 1. UCLA | 42-3 | 668 | 1 |
| 2. Arizona | 41-4 | 654 | 2 |
| 3. Stanford | 38-5-1 | 613 | 3 |
| 4. California | 44-6 | 580 | 4 |
| 5. LSU | 38-7 | 571 | 5 |
| 6. Oklahoma | 34-7 | 520 | 7 |
| 7. Alabama | 38-5 | 509 | 6 |
| 8. Arizona State | 30-11 | 484 | 8 |
| 9. CS Fullerton | 38-11 | 437 | 10 |
| 10. DePaul | 33-8-1 | 431 | 9 |
| 11. NOTRE DAME | 36-3 | 407 | 11 |
| 12. Nebraska | 37-10 | 347 | 14 |
| Washington | 27-16 | 347 | 13 |
| 14. Fresno State | 31-15 | 298 | 15 |
| 15. Iowa | 30-9 | 287 | 12 |
| 16. Oregon State | 32-15-1 | 279 | 16 |
| 17. Florida State | 42-7 | 246 | 17 |
| 18. Pacific | 38-9 | 240 | 18 |
| 19. SW Texas State | 36-8 | 158 | 20 |
| 20. South Carolina | 31-14-1 | 149 | 19 |
| 21. Louisiana-Lafayette | 31-6 | 134 | 24 |
| 22. Texas A&M | 28-12 | 71 | 22 |
| 23. Massachusetts | 23-9 | 59 | 25 |
| 24. Michigan | 27-11-1 | 53 | NR |
| 25. CS Northridge | 25-19 | 46 | NR |

Others receiving votes: Baylor (34), Wisconsin (24), Florida Atlantic (20), Hawaii (15), Southern Mississippi (14), Kansas (10), North Carolina (10), Texas Tech (8), Villanova (7), Virginia (7), Utah (6), Purdue (4), South Florida (4).

Bold indicates 2001 Notre Dame opponents.
Lw - ranking in the last poll

Notre Dame Sports Information

Publicity for Notre Dame softball is coordinated by sports information publicity assistant Alan Wasielewski.

Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available by contacting Wasielewski at (219) 631-7516 or via e-mail at Wasielewski.3@nd.edu.

Requests to interview student-athletes must be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Media may contact coach Liz Miller directly on weekdays at (219) 631-6167. Credentials for home games can be obtained by calling Wasielewski.

Statistics, results and weekly releases also are readily available on Notre Dame's official athletic site, www.und.com.

in school history.

All-time Notre Dame regular-season win streaks:
 21: April 11, 1998 – Feb. 20, 1999
 19: March 16, 1996 – April 11, 1996
 18: March 28, 2001 – Present
 16: May 22, 2000 – Feb. 25, 2001
 13: April 16, 1990 – April 25, 1990
 When Notre Dame opened the 2001 season with

eight consecutive victories, the Irish stretched their regular-season win streak to 16 (dating back to May 22, 2000). That streak ranks as the fourth-best in school history.

Streaking II: Hand-in-hand with Notre Dame's 18 consecutive victories have been nine consecutive doubleheader sweeps. Beginning with two victories vs. Valparaiso on March 28, the Irish have swept nine consecutive twin bills. Combined with Notre Dame's first doubleheader sweep of the year on March 11 at #24 Cal State Northridge, the Irish have swept a school-record 10 doubleheaders in a row this season. That breaks the previous streak of eight straight doubleheader sweeps in 1996.

Hitting the long ball: Seven Irish players have blasted home runs this season. **Andria Bledsoe** hit her first career round-tripper against South Florida while **Jen Sharron** joined the home run club with a three-run shot in the fifth inning vs. Arkansas (Feb. 24). It was Sharron's third career home run. Notre Dame's top hitter so far in 2001, **Jenny Kriech**, hit her first home run of the year vs. Jacksonville State (March 9).

Jarrah Myers leads the team in round-trippers with five, blasting two in one game vs. #24 Cal State Northridge and one against #9 Cal State Fullerton. Myers also hit a tape-measure shot (estimated at least 260 feet) vs. Valparaiso on March 28 and a two-run homer vs. Loyola (Chicago).

Andrea Loman has three solo shots against #4 Washington (Feb. 17) Hawaii (March 17) and Connecticut (April 7).

Lizzy Lemire joined the group with a three-run dinger in the sixth inning against Seton Hall (April 1) and a two-run homer at Syracuse (April 8) - the first home run of the year hit at Syracuse's Skytop Stadium.

Notre Dame's most prolific home run hitter of all-time, **Melanie Alkire** (see Alkire historical note), has 'touched them all' twice this season.

Unprecedented RBI production: As the Irish enter the final stretch of the 2001 season, the fifth-rated hitting team in the nation (.320) and 11th-rated scoring team in the nation (5.11 runs per game) could possibly see six players post 20 or more RBI this season.

That would break the previous team record of five players with 20 or more RBI, set in three different seasons ('95, '97 and '00). **Jarrah Myers** (29), **Lizzy Lemire** (27), **Andria Bledsoe** (21) and **Jenny Kriech** (20) have already hit the 20 RBI barrier this season. **Andrea Loman** (16) and **Melanie Alkire** (16) are on pace to pass the 20 mark, while **Dani Klayman** (12) also has the ability to reach 20 this season.

Rookie righthander Schmidt puts up veteran numbers: The success of freshman RHP **Kristin Schmidt** has put the Irish coaching staff in the enviable position of possessing two quality starting pitchers for the 2001 season.

Schmidt is 17-1 in 18 starts this season with a 0.51 ERA. She has struck out 153 (see strikeout note that follows) and pitched a complete-game three-hit shutout in Notre Dame's 8-0 five-inning victory over Maine. The freshman hurler has struck out 11 batters in five innings of work vs. Maine and Valparaiso.

The rookie stepped up her game to an even higher level at the Kia Klassic (March 15-18), shutting down some of the top offenses in the nation. Schmidt

Notre Dame Statistical Leaders (as of April 16, 2001)

Batting Average (min. 20 at-bats)

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Kriech, J. | .392 |
| Myers, J. | .384 |
| Loman, A. | .351 |

Runs

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Kriech, J. | 33 |
| Myers, J. | 30 |
| Lemire, L. | 26 |

Hits

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Kriech, J. | 49 |
| Myer, J. | 43 |
| Lemire, L. | 41 |
| Alkire, M. | 41 |

Doubles

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Alkire, M. | 11 |
| Myers, J. | 9 |
| Bledsoe, A. | 7 |

Triples

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Kriech, J. | 5 |
| Myers, J. | 3 |
| Lemire, L. | 2 |
| Klayman, D. | 2 |

Home Runs

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Myers, J. | 5 |
| Loman, A. | 3 |

RBI

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Myers, J. | 29 |
| Lemire, L. | 27 |
| Bledsoe, A. | 21 |

SLG %

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Myers, J. | .652 |
| Loman, A. | .543 |
| Kriech, J. | .536 |

Total Bases

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Myers, J. | 73 |
| Kriech, J. | 67 |
| Alkire, M. | 58 |

On Base %

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Myers, J. | .473 |
| Kriech, J. | .462 |
| Loman, A. | .431 |

Stolen Bases

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Kriech, J. | 12 |
| Myers, J. | 7 |
| Klayman, D. | 6 |
| Bledsoe, A. | 6 |

Fielding %

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Schmidt, K. | 1.000 |
| Kriech, J. | 1.000 |
| Loman, A. | .995 |

Assists

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Alkire, M. | 51 |
| Madrid, A. | 46 |
| Bledsoe, A. | 44 |

Pitching

ERA

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Schmidt, K. | 0.51 |
| Sharron, Jen | 1.06 |

Strikeouts

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Sharron, Jen | 157 |
| Schmidt, K. | 153 |

Shutouts

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Sharron, Jen | 9 |
| Schmidt, K. | 8 |

2001 BIG EAST Weekly Awards

Player of the Week:

Feb. 26 - **Jenny Kriech, Notre Dame**
 Mar. 5 - Carmen Farmer, Virginia Tech
 Mar. 12 - Keri Jacklets, Providence
 Mar. 19 - **Andrea Loman, Notre Dame**
 Mar. 26 - Keri Jacklets, Providence
 April 2 - Sara Carlson, Villanova
 April 9 - Sara Carlson, Villanova
 Vickie Lamb, Seton Hall
 April 16 - **Jarrah Myers, Notre Dame**
 April 23 -
 April 30 -
 May 7 -

Pitcher of the Week:

Feb. 26 - **Jen Sharron, Notre Dame**
 Mar. 5 - **Kristin Schmidt, Notre Dame**
 Clarisa Crowell, Villanova
 Mar. 12 - Theresa Hornick, Villanova
 Mar. 19 - Christina Shanko, Seton Hall
 Mar. 26 - Catherine Gilliam, Virginia Tech
 April 2 - **Jen Sharron, Notre Dame**
 Theresa Hornick, Villanova
 April 9 - **Jen Sharron, Notre Dame**
 April 16 - Misty Beaver, Seton Hall
 April 23 -
 April 30 -
 May 7 -

earned two victories with complete game performances vs. 10th-ranked Arizona State and a fourth shutout of Utah State.

Against the Sun Devils, she pitched all nine innings of the extra-innings contest, surrendering just two hits (a lead-off bunt single, followed by a single in the bottom of the ninth that allowed the runner placed on second in the international tie breaker rule to score) in the game. At one point in the game, Schmidt retired 17 straight Sun Devil batters.

Against Utah State on March 15, Schmidt posted a career-best 13 strikeouts while allowing just four hits.

Schmidt also made an extended relief appearance vs. Oklahoma, taking over for starting pitcher Jen Sharron for the third out of the first inning. She had an immediate impact, striking out the first batter she faced in three pitches and eventually holding the potent Sooner offense to just three hits the rest of the way.

Returning home for two doubleheaders vs. Valparaiso and Western Michigan, Schmidt continued to be nearly unhittable. Working five innings vs. Valparaiso (March 28) Schmidt worked four perfect innings before giving up a single in the fifth inning. She ended with 11 K in five innings of work.

Entering the circle the next day vs. Valparaiso, Schmidt tossed her third shutout of the season, once again giving up just one hit and striking out nine.

The rookie tossed her sixth and seventh shut outs of the season in her first trip to Connecticut and Syracuse last weekend. She currently leads the BIG EAST in ERA (0.51) and is ranked second in strikeouts (153) and fourth in the nation in ERA as well.

Irish pitching staff becomes K Krew: 200 strikeouts is a total some teams hope to achieve in an entire season. Notre Dame's pitching staff, though, is out to set a new precedent in Ks. As of April 18, the Irish have 315 strikeouts as a team - **Jen Sharron** has 157, **Kristin Schmidt** 135, and **Jessica Sharron** has five.

To put Schmidt and Jen Sharron's numbers in perspective, an Irish pitcher has posted over 200 strikeouts just four times in Notre Dame history - Sharron (246) last season and Terri Kobata (250, 315 and 213 from '93-'95) - and both current Irish aces are on pace to reach that mark this season.

They have both been red-hot lately as well. Jen Sharron sat down 14 Valparaiso batters on March 28, setting a personal record (and just three off the school record, held by Kobata). Sharron also fanned 24 batters in two starts against Loyola (Chicago) and Pittsburgh last weekend.

Sharron and Schmidt are on a break-neck pace in

the strikeout category. Schmidt has reached 100 K in the third-fewest innings pitched with 77.2 IP. Terri Kobata reached 100 strikeouts in 62 .1 innings in 1994 and 69 innings in 1995.

Kriech dominates competition over the first half of the season: No player on the Notre Dame roster has been more consistent than junior rightfielder **Jenny Kriech** in the first three months of the season.

She started off by splitting tournament MVP honors with teammate **Lizzy Lemire** at the Holiday Inn Invitational (Feb. 16-18) and earning a spot on the Morning News Invitational (Feb. 23-25) all-tournament team.

The Irish lead-off hitter has 45 hits in 35 games this season, including the following dramatic moments:

- A game-winning single up the middle against #4 Washington on Feb. 17.
- A game-tying single against Arkansas (Feb. 24) in the top of the fifth, setting the table for teammate Jen Sharron's game-winning home run and Kriech scoring the eventual game-winning run.
- A walk-off three-run triple in the bottom of the fifth against Maine (Feb. 24) that ended the game on collegiate softball's eight-run rule.
- She drove the first pitch of the third inning vs. Jacksonville State deep over the wall in right field for her first home run of the year and third of her career.
- Posted a five-for-eight performance in a doubleheader vs. Western Michigan with three RBI, four runs scored and three stolen bases.
- She is third on the team in hitting with runners in scoring positions (.379), has posted a batting average of .520 when she leads off an inning and has 11 two-out RBI.
- She rebounded from a one-for-seven performance at Connecticut to go six-for-eight with two RBI at Syracuse the next day.
- She ranks among the leaders in the BIG EAST Conference in several categories, including: third in batting (.391), first in hits (45), tied for first in triples (4), third in steals (11), first in runs scored (30), sixth in total bases (59), fourth in on-base percent-

Notre Dame Softball Roster Breakdown

Starting Pitchers

| Pos. | No. | Name | Year | Height | Bats/Throws | Birthdate | Hometown | Notes |
|------|-----|-----------------|------|--------|-------------|-----------|------------------|---|
| LHP | 9 | Jen Sharron | Sr. | 5-9 | L/L | 9-14-79 | Agoura Hills, CA | Three-time BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week |
| RHP | 8 | Kristin Schmidt | Fr. | 5-9 | R/R | 4-3-82 | Houston, TX | Fourth in the nation in ERA (0.51) |

Probable Starters

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|------------------|-----|------|-----|----------|------------------|---|
| C | 22 | Jarrah Myers | Jr. | 5-9 | R/R | 4-22-80 | Carbondale, KS | Leads the team in homers (5) and RBI (29) |
| 1B | 20 | Lisa Mattison | So. | 5-10 | R/R | 4-26-81 | Granger, IN | Batting .300 with a 2B and RBI as a starter |
| 2B | 1 | Alexis Madrid | So. | 5-1 | L/R | 10-17-81 | Temecula, CA | Batting avg. remained above .260 last 19 games |
| SS | 2 | Melanie Alkire | Sr. | 5-8 | R/R | 10-6-79 | Union City, CA | ND's career leader in RBI (153) and HR (27) |
| 3B | 33 | Andrea Loman | So. | 5-10 | R/R | 11-25-81 | Riverside, CA | Lifted bat. avg. from .300 to .351 in last 15 games |
| LF | 16 | Lizzy Lemire | Sr. | 5-9 | R/R | 10-10-79 | Irvine, CA | Bat. avg. jumped from .288 to .355 in 14 games |
| CF | 11 | Jenny Kriech | Jr. | 5-7 | L/L | 9-8-80 | Indianapolis, IN | Leads the team in stolen bases (12) |
| RF | 4 | Danielle Klayman | Sr. | 5-7 | L/L | 9-17-79 | San Diego, CA | Has 11 multi-hit games this season |
| DP | 5 | Kas Hoag | Jr. | 5-5 | L/R | 6-13-80 | Wallingford, CT | Two-for-three in second game vs. Syracuse |

Off the Bench

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----|------------------|-----|------|-----|----------|------------------|--|
| 3B | 18 | Andria Bledsoe | So. | 5-9 | R/R | 8-4-81 | Higley, AZ | Suffered knee injury at Syracuse, out indefinitely |
| 2B | 15 | Nicole deFau | Fr. | 5-9 | R/R | 10-5-82 | Southington, CT | Had an RBI single in first game vs. Purdue |
| C | 19 | Chantal DeAlcuaz | Fr. | 5-9 | R/R | 4-29-82 | Modesto, CA | Has relieved Myers at catcher twice this year |
| OF | 17 | Sarah Kirkman | Sr. | 5-11 | R/R | 11-2-78 | Kokomo, IN | Gives the Irish powerful bat on bench |
| RHP | 7 | Jessica Sharron | So. | 5-8 | R/R | 10-12-81 | Agoura Hills, CA | Five appearances, 5 K |

| 2001 BIG EAST Standings | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Team | 2001 BIG EAST record | Overall |
| 1. Notre Dame | 10-0 | 36-3 |
| 2. Villanova | 8-0 | 27-3 |
| 3. Seton Hall | 6-4 | 18-9 |
| 4. Virginia Tech | 6-4 | 29-17 |
| 5. Connecticut | 4-4 | 15-18 |
| 6. Boston College | 5-7 | 22-17 |
| 7. St. John's | 4-6 | 22-23 |
| 8. Rutgers | 3-5 | 17-14 |
| 9. Pittsburgh | 3-7 | 10-27 |
| 10. Providence | 2-8 | 17-17 |
| 11. Syracuse | 1-7 | 8-19 |

age (.462) and seventh in slugging percentage (.513).

Myers ties two school records: Junior all-BIG EAST catcher Jarrah Myers equalled two school records in the second game of a doubleheader vs. #24 Cal State Northridge on March 11, in Northridge, Calif.. She blasted two home runs in the game, matching the school record held by six different Irish players, including herself when she hit two home runs vs. Seton Hall on April 30, 2000.

Against CSUN, Myers launched a three-run shot down the leftfield line in the fifth inning and muscled a two-run homer over the rightfield fence in the seventh inning. Adding an RBI single in the first inning, she posted six RBI in the game, matching the school record held by teammate **Melanie Alkire** (vs. San Diego State, 3-12-00).

Irish picked to repeat as BIG EAST champs: Notre Dame, which finished last season ranked 24th in the country, returns all nine starters from its 2000 BIG EAST Championship title team last year. Led by captains **Melanie Alkire**, **Danielle Klayman**, **Lizzy Lemire** and **Jen Sharron**, the Irish have been picked to repeat as BIG EAST champions by a vote from the league's coaches.

The 2001 BIG EAST Coaches Preseason Poll:

1. Notre Dame, 100 pts.
2. Connecticut, 91 pts.
3. Seton Hall, 68 pts.
- Virginia Tech, 68 pts.
5. Boston College, 64 pts.
6. Villanova, 55 pts.
7. Syracuse, 50 pts.
8. St. John's, 43 pts.
9. Rutgers, 29 pts.
10. Pittsburgh, 25 pts.
11. Providence, 12 pts.

The Irish finished with a 14-2 record in BIG EAST competition last season and swept through the BIG EAST Championship in three games. Notre Dame out-scored Boston College (5-2) and Connecticut (5-0, 7-0) 17-2 to earn its third consecutive conference championship title.

All-Americans return: Seniors **Melanie Alkire** and **Jen Sharron** became Notre Dame's first All-Americans since 1996 by earning NFCA second-team All-American honors last year.

Katie Marten ('94-'97) earned NFCA third team honors in 1995 and 1996 while Terri Kobata ('93-'96) earned third team honors in 1995 and second team honors in 1996.

Alkire finished the 2000 season with 13 home runs, 64 RBI and 73 hits. She also posted a 7-1 pitching record (in 13 appearances) with a 2.30 ERA, including a six-hitter against sixth-ranked and 2000

| BIG EAST Results and Schedule | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|--|--|
| April 12 | | | | | |
| Seton Hall at Manhattan (DH) | Canceled | Villanova at Pennsylvania (DH) | 3:30 p.m. | | |
| Providence at Rhode Island (DH) | Postponed | -Virginia Tech vs. Tennessee | 7 p.m. | | |
| April 13 | | | | | |
| ^Virginia Tech 9, Radford 0 (5) | | ^East Carolina 2, Virginia Tech 0 | | | |
| April 14 | | | | | |
| Connecticut 4, Syracuse 0 | | April 18 | | | |
| Connecticut 3, Syracuse 1 | | Kent at Pittsburgh (DH) 2 p.m. | | | |
| Villanova 2, Rutgers 0 | | Villanova at LaSalle (DH) 2:30 p.m. | | | |
| Villanova 2, Rutgers 1 (8) | | Seton Hall at St. Joseph's (DH) 3 p.m. | | | |
| Seton Hall 2, St. John's 0 | | Marist at St. John's (DH) 3 p.m. | | | |
| St. John's 14, Seton Hall 5 | | Rutgers at Rider (DH) 3 p.m. | | | |
| Boston College 1, Providence 0 | | Quinnipiac at Connecticut (DH) 3 p.m. | | | |
| Boston College 3, Providence 1 | | Boston University at Boston College (DH) 3:30 p.m. | | | |
| ^Virginia Tech 7, East Carolina 6 (8) | | Siena at Syracuse (DH) 4 p.m. | | | |
| ^Virginia Tech 8, Radford 0 (5) | | April 21 | | | |
| ^ - Hudson-Hokie Classic (Blacksburg, Va.) | | | | | |
| All times local to site | | | | | |
| BIG EAST Conference games in bold. | | | | | |
| Syracuse at Providence (DH) 12 p.m. | | | | | |
| Seton Hall at Villanova (DH) 12 p.m. | | | | | |
| St. John's at Rutgers (DH) 12 p.m. | | | | | |
| Connecticut at Boston College (DH) 12 p.m. | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh at Virginia (DH) 2 p.m. | | | | | |
| April 22 | | | | | |
| Syracuse at Boston College (DH) 12 p.m. | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh at Virginia Tech (DH) 12 p.m. | | | | | |
| St. John's at Villanova (DH) 12 p.m. | | | | | |
| Seton Hall at Rutgers (DH) 12 p.m. | | | | | |
| Connecticut at Providence (DH) 12 p.m. | | | | | |
| ^ - Hudson-Hokie Classic (Blacksburg, Va.) | | | | | |
| All times local to site | | | | | |
| BIG EAST Conference games in bold. | | | | | |

National Champion Oklahoma on Mar. 18, 2000.

Sharron pitched 27 complete games last season, tossing 246 strikeouts and posting a 0.88 ERA. In her career, the Agoura Hills, Calif., native has pitched 574.2 innings with 504 strikeouts and a 1.26 ERA entering the 2001 season.

Talented and noteworthy returnees: The Irish are loaded with veteran players and talented underclassmen this season. Out of the nine starting players that return to the lineup this season, eight earned post-season accolades from the BIG EAST conference. **Jen Sharron** earned her third consecutive BIG EAST Pitcher-of-the-Year award and was picked by league coaches to repeat the honor once again in 2001.

Melanie Alkire won her second consecutive BIG EAST Player-of-the-Year award last season and placed an exclamation point on her conference season by earning the Most Outstanding Player award at the 2000 BIG EAST Championship.

Andrea Loman helped the Irish earn a sweep of the major player-of-the-year awards by becoming the second consecutive Notre Dame player to earn BIG EAST Rookie-of-the-Year accolades (**Jarrah Myers** earned the distinction in 1999).

Alkire, Loman, Myers and Sharron were joined on the all-BIG EAST first team by Danielle Klayman, Jenny Kriech and Lizzy Lemire. **Andria Bledsoe** rounded out the Notre Dame award winners with a second team all-BIG EAST selection and

a spot on the all-rookie team.

In keeping with the stellar league performance by her team, Irish head coach **Liz Miller** earned her second BIG EAST Coach-of-the-Year award. Miller previously won the award in 1996.

Miller is coaching in her 26th season: Notre Dame head coach Liz Miller is now in her ninth season with the Irish and 26th season as a collegiate head coach. She boasts a 900-294 (.754) record over the last 26 years, 17 of which she coached at Lake Michigan College before heading to the Golden Dome in 1993.

In each of her previous eight seasons with the Irish, Miller has led the team to a conference title (Midwestern Collegiate '93-'95, BIG EAST '96-present) and the team has advanced to the NCAA tournament five times.

While at Lake Michigan College, Miller's teams amassed 12 conference championships and 11 regional titles. From 1981-85 her team finished in the nation's top five each year.

Miller entered the season ranked 16th on the NCAA winningest active coaches list with a 341-152 (.692) record at Notre Dame.

Alkire among the national and Notre Dame historical leaders: Senior **Melanie Alkire** compiled one of the best offensive seasons ever for a Notre Dame softball player in 2000. Alkire led the team in most of the offensive categories, ranking first in batting average (.376), hits (73), doubles (15), home runs

(13), RBI (64), total bases (129), slugging percentage (.665) and on-base percentage (.421).

Her 64 RBI ranked fifth in the nation in 2000, while her 13 home run mark was ranked 34th.

Alkire's early season production has already put her atop the career home run list (27) and the career RBI list (153) and second in walks (54) and doubles (48).

So far in 2001, Alkire has 41 hits, a .336 batting average, 11 doubles and 16 RBI.

Sharron assaults the Irish record books: Senior lefthander **Jen Sharron** is coming off one of the most dominating seasons ever for a Notre Dame pitcher. After posting a 0.88 ERA and 246 strikeouts in 2000, she has positioned herself among the best to ever enter the pitching circle for the Fighting Irish.

Ranking in the top five in 12 career pitching categories, just a typical season from "9" will put her on top of many of the all-time charts. Sharron has averaged 191.4 inning pitched, 168 strike outs, 20.3 wins and 18 complete games in her first three years with the Irish. Over that same period of time, she has won three consecutive BIG EAST Pitcher-of-the-Year awards and is favored to win her fourth trophy this season.

She is currently first in all-time starts (103), first in wins (80), second in complete games (71), second in shutouts (33), first in innings pitched (707.1), third in winning percentage (90-27, .748), second in career ERA (1.22) and second in strikeouts (661).

Sharron has a 19-2 record with a 1.06 ERA and 157 strikeouts so far this season. Her ERA is currently (April 16) ranked 47th in the nation and her 19 victories are ranked 17th in the nation.

Sharron named a BIG EAST Scholar-Athlete: Standout Notre Dame softball pitcher **Jen Sharron** and Irish baseball pitcher **Mike Naumann** have been selected as the BIG EAST Conference Female and Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year, respectively, from the University of Notre Dame.

Sharron will receive \$2,000 toward graduate studies from the BIG EAST and Aeropostale, and becomes eligible for the overall female BIG EAST award based on nominees from each league member school. Aeropostale sponsors the league's post-graduate student-athlete scholarship program, awarding 31 scholarships to conference student-athletes.

A 3.272 student (on a 4.0 grade-point average scale) as a film, television and theater major in the College of Arts and Letters, Sharron twice has been a BIG EAST Academic All-Star and for two years has been part of the University's Academic Honors Program matching high-achieving student-athletes with faculty mentors.

In addition, Sharron is the softball team's representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC), participates with the STAR reading program, speaks to young people on the dangers of drug use as part of the Notre Dame Athletes Against Drugs program, has assisted with freshman orientation and participates in various activities with student-sponsored services events, primarily with Memorial Medical Center Pediatrics.

Irish placed at 19th in USA Today/NFCA Pre-season Top 25 poll: The Irish were ranked 19th in the USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) preseason poll that was released on Wednesday, Jan. 24. The 19th ranking marks the

BIG EAST Statistical Leaders (as of April 16)

| Team Batting Average | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Notre Dame | | | | .320 |
| Villanova | | | | .285 |
| Seton Hall | | | | .278 |
| Boston College | | | | .272 |
| Virginia Tech | | | | .262 |
| Team ERA | | | | |
| Notre Dame | | | | 0.88 |
| Virginia Tech | | | | 1.22 |
| Villanova | | | | 1.24 |
| Providence | | | | 1.30 |
| St. John's | | | | 1.78 |
| Individual Batting Average | | | | |
| Name | School | AB | Hits | Avg. |
| Carlson, Sara | VU | 60 | 21 | .417 |
| Jacklets, Kerri | PC | 108 | 44 | .407 |
| Blumfield, Cara | BC | 114 | 45 | .395 |
| Kriech, Jenny | ND | 125 | 49 | .392 |
| Myers, Jarrah | ND | 112 | 43 | .384 |
| Individual Pitching | | | | |
| Name | School | Games | IP | ERA |
| Schmidt, Kristin | ND | 21 | 124.0 | 0.51 |
| Hornick, Theresa | VU | 20 | 87.0 | 0.56 |
| Singley, Kari | VU | 11 | 32.0 | 0.88 |
| Black, Leah | RU | 16 | 118.2 | 0.88 |
| Sharron, Jen | ND | 21 | 132.2 | 1.06 |
| Hits | | | | |
| Name | School | Games | Hits | Hits/G |
| Kriech, Jenny | ND | 39 | 49 | 1.26 |
| Garofalo, Shanel | VT | 46 | 48 | 1.04 |
| Blumfield, Cara | BC | 39 | 45 | 1.15 |
| Blair, Bronwyn | VT | 46 | 44 | .96 |
| Jacklets, Kerri | PC | 34 | 44 | 1.29 |
| Home Runs | | | | |
| Name | School | Games | HR | HR/G |
| Blumfield, Cara | BC | 39 | 10 | .26 |
| Jacklets, Kerri | PC | 34 | 7 | .21 |
| Hurt, Tiffany | VT | 45 | 7 | .16 |
| Vorhees, Amy | VT | 42 | 6 | .14 |
| Houghton, Kelly | SJU | 44 | 6 | .14 |
| Triples | | | | |
| Name | School | Games | 3B | 3B/G |
| Kriech, Jenny | ND | 39 | 5 | .13 |
| Blair, Bronwyn | VT | 46 | 5 | .11 |
| Blumfield, Cara | BC | 39 | 4 | .10 |
| Jarratt, Summer | PC | 39 | 4 | .10 |
| Myers, Jarrah | ND | 39 | 3 | .08 |
| Stolen Bases | | | | |
| Name | School | Games | SB | SB/G |
| Pasquerella, Jackie | VU | 30 | 19 | .63 |
| Neer, Brittny | RU | 30 | 19 | .63 |
| Kriech, Jenny | ND | 39 | 12 | .31 |
| Flier, Robin | VU | 30 | 11 | .37 |
| Johnston, Robin | PU | 25 | 8 | .32 |
| Runs Scored | | | | |
| Name | School | Games | Runs | R/G |
| Kriech, Jenny | ND | 39 | 33 | .85 |
| Myers, Jarrah | ND | 39 | 30 | .77 |
| Pasquerella, Jackie | VU | 30 | 26 | .87 |
| Lemire, Lizzy | ND | 39 | 26 | .67 |
| Farmer, Carmen | VT | 44 | 26 | .59 |
| Doubles | | | | |
| Name | School | Games | 2B | 2B/G |
| Alkire, Melanie | ND | 39 | 11 | .28 |
| Houghton, Kelly | SJU | 44 | 11 | .25 |
| Yanosy, Jessica | UC | 33 | 11 | .33 |
| Garofalo, Shanel | VT | 46 | 11 | .24 |
| Four tied with 9 | | | | |
| RBI | | | | |
| Name | School | Games | RBI | RBI/G |
| Blumfield, Cara | BC | 39 | 38 | .97 |
| Myers, Jarrah | ND | 39 | 29 | .74 |
| Garofalo, Shanel | VT | 46 | 28 | .61 |
| Lemire, Lizzy | ND | 39 | 27 | .69 |
| Hurt, Tiffany | VT | 45 | 27 | .60 |
| On Base Percentage | | | | |
| Name | School | Games | AB | OB% |
| Myers, Jarrah | ND | 39 | 112 | .473 |
| Jacklets, Kerri | PC | 34 | 108 | .467 |
| Blumfield, Cara | BC | 39 | 114 | .462 |
| Kriech, Jenny | ND | 39 | 125 | .462 |
| Loman, Andrea | ND | 39 | 94 | .431 |
| Wins | | | | |
| Name | School | App. | Record | |
| Sharron, Jen | ND | 21 | 19-2 | |
| Schmidt, Kristin | ND | 21 | 17-1 | |
| Hornick, Theresa | VU | 20 | 13-0 | |
| Dobbe, Ashlee | VT | 21 | 12-6 | |
| Stoller, Keri | VU | 16 | 11-3 | |
| Strikeouts | | | | |
| Name | School | App. | K | K/G |
| Sharron, Jen | ND | 21 | 157 | 8.28 |
| Schmidt, Kristin | ND | 21 | 153 | 8.64 |
| Malandris, Tekae | BC | 24 | 125 | 7.59 |
| Stoller, Keri | VU | 16 | 123 | 10.25 |
| Beaver, Misty | SHU | 15 | 122 | 10.17 |
| Innings Pitched | | | | |
| Name | School | App. | IP | IP/G |
| Fitzgerald, Courtney | SJU | 26 | 165.2 | 6.37 |
| Calabrese, Gina | SJU | 21 | 147.0 | 7.00 |
| Sharron, Jen | ND | 21 | 132.2 | 6.32 |
| Schmidt, Kristin | ND | 21 | 124.0 | 5.90 |
| Dobbe, Ashlee | VT | 21 | 119.0 | 5.67 |
| Team Fielding | | | | |
| Name | PO | A | E | % |
| Villanova | 609 | 206 | 15 | .982 |
| Virginia Tech | 927 | 393 | 41 | .970 |
| Connecticut | 667 | 324 | 34 | .967 |
| Notre Dame | 786 | 225 | 35 | .967 |
| Pittsburgh | 748 | 339 | 39 | .965 |

highest the Irish have been placed in the preseason since 1994, when the team entered the season ranked 17th.

Notre Dame returns all nine starters from the 2000 squad that compiled a 47-14 record and won its second consecutive BIG EAST Championship title. Last year's team climbed to 17th in the NFCA poll last season, tying the school mark for the highest-ever national ranking. The Irish were ranked 24th in the final NFCA poll last season.

Irish boast a strong schedule this season: Notre 2001 Notre Dame Softball

Dame will face a number of ranked teams this season, as six opponents on the 2001 schedule appeared in the preseason top 25. Another five opponents received mention in the "others receiving votes" category in the poll. Notre Dame has already defeated #4 Washington and #18 South Carolina at the Holiday Inn Invitational (Feb. 16-18) in Tampa, Fla., and #7 Fresno State, #10 Arizona State and #24 Cal State Northridge on its trip to California for Spring Break.

The Irish also have their traditional meeting with

Notre Dame Game Highs (Team as of April 18)

| <i>Team</i> | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| At bats: | 34 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01) |
| Runs scored: | 10 vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01) |
| | 10 vs. Purdue (4-3-01) |
| Hits: | 15 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01) |
| RBI: | 8 vs. Maine (2-24-01) |
| | 8 vs. St. John's (3-31-01) |
| Doubles: | 4 vs. South Carolina (2-18-01) |
| | 4 vs. St. John's (3-31-01) |
| Triples: | 2 vs. Hofstra (2-17-01) |
| | 2 vs. UAB (3-3-01) |
| Home Runs: .. | 2 vs. Cal St. Northridge (3-11-01) |
| Total Bases: | 20 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01) |
| Walks: | 7 vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01) |
| Strikeouts: | 8 vs. South Carolina (2-18-01) |
| Sac hits: | 4 vs. UT-Chattanooga (3-2-01) |
| Sac flies: | 1 three times |
| Stolen Bases: | 5 vs. Valparaiso (3-28-01) |
| | 5 vs. Western Michigan (3-29-01) |
| HBP: | 3 vs. Cal State Northridge (3-18-01) |
| Caught Stealing: | 2 five times |
| Runners LOB: .. | 11 vs. Cal St. Fullerton (3-18-01) |
| Hit into DP: | 2 vs. Purdue (4-3-01) |
| | 2 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01) |
| Fielding | |
| Putouts: | 27 vs. Arizona State (3-17-01) |
| Assists: | 10 five times |
| Errors: | 4 vs. Washington (2-17-01) |
| DPs turned | 1 six times |
| Pitching | |
| Innings | 9.0 vs. Arizona State (3-17-01) |
| Strikeouts | 14 vs. Valparaiso (3-28-01) |
| Wild pitches: | 1 three times |
| HBP: | 3 vs. Cal State Fullerton (3-18-01) |

DePaul this season (Thursday, April 19). The Blue Demons are currently ranked 10th.

Notre Dame has posted a 6-2 record against ranked teams this season in addition to its 5-3 record against ranked teams last season, with victories over #16 Louisiana Lafayette, #6 Oklahoma and #22 Illinois-Chicago three times.

Andrea Loman becomes second Irish player to earn BIG EAST Player of the Week accolades: Sophomore first base **Andrea Loman** was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week on March 19, for her performance during the Kia Klassic (March 15-18). In the nine games the Irish played over Spring Break, Loman increased her batting average from .214 to .333 by pounding out 12 hits, three RBI and one home run (vs. Hawaii).

Loman also fared well against Notre Dame's higher-ranked competition, including a three-for-three afternoon against #5 Oklahoma, a two-for-three game vs. #24 Cal State Northridge and a two-for-four contest vs. #9 Cal State Fullerton.

She is the second Irish player (Jenny Kriech, Feb. 26) to earn the award this season.

Notre Dame sweeps the first BIG EAST softball weekly awards announcement: The 12th-ranked University of Notre Dame softball team, off to the its best start ever with an 18-3 record in 2001, had two players recognized by the BIG EAST Conference on Feb. 26.

Junior **Jenny Kriech** was named the BIG EAST

Player of the Week after posting six hits in four games at the Morning News Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark., (Feb. 23-25). In an 8-0 victory over Maine on Saturday, Feb. 24, Kriech was three-for-three, including a game-ending three-run triple. She finished the tournament with a .545 batting average (six-for-11) and was named to the Morning News Invitational all-tournament team.

Senior All-American **Jen Sharron**, a three-time BIG EAST Pitcher of the Year, began the 2001 season in traditional style by capturing the first BIG EAST Pitcher-of-the-Week award. She allowed just one earned run in two starts during the second week-end of the season, including a one-hit shutout victory against Texas Tech on Friday. That 4-0 win over the Red Raiders included a seven-hour rain delay after the third inning. She joined Kriech and Irish catcher Jarrah Myers on the Morning News Invitational all-tournament team.

Sharron also did some damage at the plate. With the score tied at 1-1 in the bottom of the fifth against Arkansas on Feb. 24, Sharron launched a 0-2 pitch far over the centerfield fence to give her team a three-run lead. Notre Dame eventually won the game 4-3.

Three talented rookies join the Irish roster: **Liz Miller** and her staff welcomes three talented freshmen to the team this season. Catcher **Chantal DeAlcuaz**, IF/OF **Nicole deFau** and RHP **Kristin Schmidt** all possess the talent and drive to contribute immediately in the Notre Dame lineup.

Schmidt, a 2000 second-team All-American coming out of North Shore Senior High School, was secured a spot in the Irish rotation with an impressive performance during the fall exhibition season.

Providing her team some solid depth in the infield, deFau has shown the range and ability to be a steady backup to Alexis Madrid and may also see some time in the outfield. deFau joins junior Kas Hoag as the only two Notre Dame players with Connecticut state roots.

DeAlcuaz, who is the eighth Irish player on the 2001 roster from California (Modesto), will have the opportunity to backup and learn from one of the best catchers in the country, junior Jarrah Myers.

Preseason all-BIG EAST awards announced: The BIG EAST Conference has announced its choices for the preseason all-BIG EAST team (Jan. 4) and the Irish placed six players on the 13-member team of league standouts.

Senior shortstop **Melanie Alkire** was picked by the league coaches to earn her third consecutive BIG EAST Player of the Year award. Alkire was a unanimous first team all-BIG EAST selection in 2000 while leading the Irish in batting average (.376), hits (73), doubles (15), home runs (13), RBI (64), total bases (129), slugging percentage (.665) and on base percentage (.421). She boasts a .392 career batting average in conference games and was also named the Most Outstanding Player at the 2000 BIG EAST Championship.

Senior left-hander **Jen Sharron** earned the nod for the Preseason Pitcher of the Year award. She has won the conference's pitcher of the year award the previous three years, becoming the first Irish pitcher and first-ever freshman to earn the honor in 1998. Sharron went 6-2 in conference competition last season, posting a 0.92 ERA. Her 0.73 lifetime ERA in

Notre Dame Game Highs (Individual as of April 18)

| <i>Batting</i> | |
|------------------------|---|
| At bats: | 4, 55 times |
| Runs: | 3, Alkire vs. St. John's (3-31-01) |
| | 3, Kriech vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01) |
| | 3, Myers twice |
| Hits: | 4, Kriech vs. Syracuse (4-8-01) |
| RBI: | 6, Myers vs. CS Northridge (3-11-01) |
| Doubles: | 2, Bledsoe vs. Fresno State (3-15-01) |
| Triples: | 1, nine times |
| Home Runs: .. | 2, Myers vs. CS Northridge (3-11-01) |
| Total Bases: .. | 9, Myers vs. CS Northridge (3-11-01) |
| Walks: | 2, eight times |
| Strikeouts: ... | 3, Sharron, Jen. vs. South Carolina (2-18-01) |
| Sac hits: | 2, three times |
| Sac flies: | 1, four times |
| Stolen Bases: .. | 3, Kriech vs. W. Michigan (3-29-01) |
| HBP: | 2, Hoag vs. CS Fullerton (3-18-01) |
| Caught stealing: | 1, 20 times |
| Runners LOB: | 5, Bledsoe vs. UConn (4-7-01) |
| <i>Fielding</i> | |
| Putouts: | 14, Myers vs. Valpo (3-28-01) |
| Assists: | 4, eight times |
| Errors: | 2, Sharron, Jen. vs. Hawaii (3-17-01) |
| | 2, Bledsoe vs. W. Michigan (3-29-01) |
| <i>Pitching</i> | |
| Innings: .. | 9.0, Schmidt vs. Arizona St. (3-17-01) |
| Strikeouts: .. | 14, Sharron, Jen. vs. Valpo (3-28-01) |
| Wild pitches: | 1, three times |
| Hit batters: .. | 3, Sharron, Jen. vs. CS Fullerton (3-18-01) |

conference play ranks as fifth on the conference career charts.

Alkire and Sharron were joined on the 2001 pre-season all-BIG EAST team by teammates **Jarrah Myers**, **Jennifer Kriech**, **Lizzy Lemire**, and 2000 BIG EAST Rookie of the Year **Andrea Loman**.

Notre Dame launches 24-hour sports hotline: The Notre Dame athletic department has launched its varsity sports hotline, available by calling (219) 631-3000.

The hotline provides schedule and results information for all 26 Notre Dame varsity sports and serves as a supplement to the live coverage and game recaps already provided on the official athletic website at www.und.com.

The menu offerings for the 24-hour hotline will be adjusted on a seasonal basis, with schedule and result information from 21 different sports currently being added to the hotline.

Here is how the hotline is currently aligned (as of April 9):

- Dial (219) 631-3000
- Select any of the following subgroups:
 1. Upcoming schedule and recent results of ALL varsity sports currently in action (select cells 3-9 for more detailed information).
 2. Upcoming football schedules for the 2001 - 2003 football seasons.
 3. Baseball information.
 4. Softball information.
 5. Lacrosse information (then press 1 for men's lacrosse and 2 for women's lacrosse).
 6. Tennis information (press 1 for men's tennis, 2 for women's tennis).
 7. Men's and women's outdoor track and field

information.

8. Golf information (press 1 for men's golf, 2 for women's golf).

9. Women's rowing information.

"Live Stats" debuts on www.und.com: The University of Notre Dame sports information office is now able to display a live box score for all Notre Dame softball home games, updated after each play, on the official Notre Dame website: www.und.com. The page also has the ability to display play-by-play and statistics for each team while the game is being played.

Connect to the link <http://und.fansonly.com/livestats/w-softbl/> for every home Notre Dame softball game and keep up with the action.

A look at the Blue Demons: DePaul enters a doubleheader on Wednesday, April 18, with a 33-8-1 record and ranked 10th in the nation. The Blue Demons boast a 13-1 record at Wish Field and a 11-1 record in Conference USA competition.

DePaul posted a 19-game win streak this season, which was the best in the nation before falling the C-USA opponent Southern Mississippi 3-0 last weekend.

Liz Bouck leads the team in hitting with a .382 average and is extremely active on the basepaths with 21 steals on 27 attempts. Shavaughne Desecki leads the team in RBI with 34 with three home runs and a .305 batting average.

The Blue Demons feature a two-pitcher rotation with both hurlers throwing every inning for the team this season. Lindsay Chouinard is 15-4 with a 0.58 ERA and 120 strikeouts and Sarah Martz has a 0.68 ERA, 18-4 record and 134 strikeouts.

The boxscore from the last meeting between the Blue Demons and the Irish in the 2000 NCAA Regional hosted by the University of Michigan follows:

Notre Dame vs. DePaul
May 19, 2000 at Ann Arbor, Mich. (Alumni Field)

| Notre Dame | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|---|---|-----|----|----|----|----|---|
| | AB | R | H | RBI | BB | SO | PO | A | |
| Kriech, lf | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eimen, dh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Alkire, ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| Loman, 1b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 1 | |
| Lemire, lf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| Myers, c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| Bledsoe, 3b | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Klayman, cf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Madrid, 2b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | |
| Hoag, ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Sharron, p | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Totals | 22 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 10 | |

| DePaul | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|---|-----|----|----|----|----|---|
| | AB | R | H | RBI | BB | SO | PO | A | |
| Bouck, L., ss | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Davis, lf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Desecki, rf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| Chouinard, dh | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Luna, 3b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | |
| Sircher, pr | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Bouck, T., 1b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | |
| Jakusz, cf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| Campbell, 2b | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | |
| Visin, pr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Allen, c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | |
| Ivey, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Totals | 17 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 21 | 7 | |

| Score by Innings: | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Notre Dame | 000 | 000 | 0-0-2-0 |
| DePaul | 000 | 010 | X-1-3-1 |

E - Bouck, L.
DP - Notre Dame 1, DePaul 1
LOB - Notre Dame 1, DePaul 3
SH - Davis, Desecki, Bouck, T.

| Notre Dame | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | AB | BF | |
| Sharron | 6.0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 17 | 22 | |
| DePaul | | | | | | | | | |
| Ivey | 7.0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 22 | 22 | |
| Win - Ivey (11-5) | Loss - Sharron (26-7) | Save - None | | | | | | | |
| Start: 6:00 pm | Time: 1:31 | Att.: 543 | | | | | | | |

BIG EAST Conference-Only Statistical Leaders (as of April 16)

Team Batting Average

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Notre Dame | .339 |
| Seton Hall | .274 |
| Villanova | .256 |
| Connecticut | .254 |
| Virginia Tech | .236 |

Team ERA

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Notre Dame | 0.22 |
| Villanova | 1.11 |
| Virginia Tech | 1.23 |
| Providence | 1.86 |
| Connecticut | 1.88 |

Individual Batting Average

| Name | School | AB | Hits | Avg. |
|-----------------|--------|----|------|------|
| Carlson, Sara | VU | 27 | 12 | .444 |
| Lamb, Vickie | SHU | 23 | 10 | .435 |
| Asbury, Jen | BC | 33 | 14 | .424 |
| Lemire, Lizzy | ND | 31 | 13 | .419 |
| Bledsoe, Andria | ND | 22 | 9 | .409 |

Individual Pitching

| Name | School | Games | IP | ERA |
|------------------|--------|-------|------|------|
| Schmidt, Kristin | ND | 5 | 31.1 | 0.00 |
| Haskins, Caryn | UC | 3 | 13.0 | 0.00 |
| Black, Leah | RU | 4 | 33.1 | 0.21 |
| Hornick, Theresa | VU | 6 | 34.2 | 0.40 |
| Sharron, Jen | ND | 5 | 33.0 | 0.42 |

Hits

| Name | School | Games | Hits | Hits/G |
|-------------------|--------|-------|------|--------|
| Asbury, Jen | BC | 12 | 14 | 1.17 |
| Lemire, Lizzy | ND | 10 | 13 | 1.30 |
| Kotynski, Marlena | SHU | 10 | 12 | 1.20 |
| Carlson, Sara | VU | 8 | 12 | 1.50 |
| Argeras, Alesha | SJU | 10 | 11 | 1.10 |

Home Runs

| Name | School | Games | HR | HR/G |
|---------------------|--------|-------|----|------|
| Smith, Mary Carroll | SHU | 10 | 3 | .30 |
| Blumfield, Cara | BC | 12 | 3 | .25 |
| Voorhees, Amy | VT | 10 | 3 | .30 |
| Asbury, Jen | BC | 12 | 3 | .25 |
| Carlson, Sara | VU | 8 | 3 | .38 |

Triples

| Name | School | Games | 3B | 3B/G |
|-------------------|--------|-------|----|------|
| Kriech, Jenny | ND | 10 | 3 | .30 |
| Six tied with one | | | | |

Stolen Bases

| Name | School | Games | SB | SB/G |
|---------------------|--------|-------|----|------|
| Pasquerella, Jackie | VU | 8 | 8 | 1.00 |
| Johnston, Robin | UP | 7 | 5 | .71 |
| Kriech, Jenny | ND | 10 | 4 | .40 |
| Lamb, Vickie | SHU | 10 | 4 | .40 |
| Neer, Brittney | RU | 8 | 3 | .38 |

Runs Scored

| Name | School | Games | Runs | R/G |
|---------------------|--------|-------|------|------|
| Alkire, Melanie | ND | 10 | 12 | 1.20 |
| Lemire, Lizzy | ND | 10 | 10 | 1.00 |
| Smith, Mary Carroll | SHU | 10 | 8 | .80 |
| Myers, Jarrah | ND | 10 | 8 | .80 |
| Kriech, Jenny | ND | 10 | 8 | .80 |

Doubles

| Name | School | Games | 2B | 2B/G |
|-------------------|--------|-------|----|------|
| Simjian, Mandy | UC | 8 | 4 | .50 |
| Yanosy, Jessica | UC | 8 | 4 | .50 |
| Lugo, Ricci | VU | 8 | 3 | .38 |
| Garboden, Heather | VU | 8 | 3 | .38 |
| Houghton, Kelly | SJU | 10 | 3 | .30 |

RBI

| Name | School | Games | RBI | RBI/G |
|----------------|--------|-------|-----|-------|
| Lemire, Lizzy | ND | 10 | 13 | 1.30 |
| Carlson, Sara | VU | 8 | 10 | 1.25 |
| Simjian, Mandy | UC | 8 | 9 | 1.12 |
| Loman, Andrea | ND | 10 | 9 | .90 |
| Lamb, Vickie | SHU | 10 | 8 | .80 |

Wins

| Name | School | App. | Record |
|------------------|--------|------|--------|
| Sharron, Jen | ND | 5 | 5-0 |
| Schmidt, Kristin | ND | 5 | 5-0 |
| Hornick, Theresa | VU | 6 | 5-0 |
| Dobbe, Ashlee | VT | 5 | 4-1 |
| Malandris, Tekae | BC | 9 | 4-4 |

Strikeouts

| Name | School | App. | K | K/G |
|------------------|--------|------|----|------|
| Malandris, Tekae | BC | 9 | 48 | 6.86 |
| Sharron, Jen | ND | 5 | 44 | 9.33 |
| Beaver, Misty | SHU | 7 | 44 | 9.06 |
| Hornick, Theresa | VU | 6 | 42 | 8.48 |
| Schmidt, Kristin | ND | 5 | 38 | 8.49 |

Shutouts

| Name | School | App. | SHO |
|------------------|--------|------|-----|
| Sharron, Jen | ND | 5 | 4 |
| Schmidt, Kristin | ND | 5 | 4 |
| Hornick, Theresa | VU | 6 | 2 |
| Bessolo, Gina | UP | 5 | 2 |

Opponent Batting Average

| Name | PO | G | Hits | B.Avg. |
|------------------|-----|---|------|--------|
| Schmidt, Kristin | ND | 5 | 9 | 0.88 |
| Sharron, Jen | ND | 5 | 15 | .128 |
| Beaver, Misty | SHU | 7 | 17 | .142 |
| Black, Leah | RU | 4 | 18 | .146 |
| Malandris, Tekae | BC | 9 | 26 | .151 |