



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Dear Notre Dame Football Fans:

Welcome to the Blue-Gold Spring Football Festival and the 75th annual Blue-Gold Game. On behalf of the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley (NDCSJV), thank you for your attendance; the net proceeds from today's event support our scholarship program for area students attending the University of Notre Dame. Today also marks the conclusion of spring practice and the opportunity for all of us to get an exciting preview of the 2004 Fighting Irish.

The primary mission of the NDCSJV is to raise scholarship funds for deserving students from our local community, the greater South Bend area, including north central Indiana and south-west lower Michigan. Over 50 area students currently receive scholarship assistance from the club totaling more than \$150,000 per year. During halftime of today's scrimmage, our incoming freshman scholarship recipients for 2004-05 will be announced. We welcome them and take great pride in assisting them as these dedicated young men and women start their education at the University of Notre Dame.

In addition to scholarship efforts for local students, our club also hosts several Summer Service Programs throughout Michiana. This program affords Notre Dame students the opportunity to live with local alumni and spend eight weeks providing volunteer work for nonprofit agencies in our area. This summer the NDCSJV will support students at 10 program sites, including the South Bend Center for the Homeless, St. Margaret's House and Child Abuse Protective Services.

The NDCSJV also sponsors a year-long fellowship, the Thomas Dooley Award, at the Chapin Street Health Clinic for a Notre Dame graduate who plans to enter the medical profession. Other annual events include the Football and Men's Basketball Banquets, the Rockne Mass and Breakfast, the Summer Service Golf Outing, and Universal Notre Dame Celebration. If you are interested in joining the club, please complete the membership form included in the program.

We sincerely thank Athletic Director Kevin White and Head Coach Tyrone Willingham, their staffs and players, for making this annual spring scrimmage possible. We also thank each of our advertisers for supporting this program and all of the area grade school and high school students attending and participating in today's activities. Enjoy the afternoon and go Irish!

Sincerely,



**Charles D. Lucy '72**  
President  
Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley

# 2004 SPRING CALENDAR/FESTIVAL UPDATE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>April</b>	<b>29</b> 4:15-6:15 p.m. PRACTICE #1	<b>30</b> 4:15-6:15 p.m. PRACTICE #2	<b>31</b> NO PRACTICE SCHEDULED	<b>1</b> 4:15-6:15 p.m. PRACTICE #3	<b>2</b> 4:30-6:30 p.m. PRACTICE #4	<b>3</b> 3:00-5:00 p.m. PRACTICE #5
<b>4</b> NO FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES	<b>5</b> 4:15-6:15 p.m. PRACTICE #6	<b>6</b> 4:15-6:15 p.m. PRACTICE #7	<b>7</b> NO PRACTICE SCHEDULED	<b>8</b> 4:15-6:15 p.m. PRACTICE #8	<b>9</b> NO FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES	<b>10</b> NO FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES
<b>11</b> NO FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES	<b>12</b> NO FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES	<b>13</b> 4:15-6:15 p.m. PRACTICE #9	<b>14</b> NO PRACTICE SCHEDULED	<b>15</b> NO PRACTICE SCHEDULED	<b>16</b> 4:30-6:30 p.m. PRACTICE #10	<b>17</b> 2:00-4:00 p.m. PRACTICE #11
<b>18</b> NO FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES	<b>19</b> 4:15-6:15 p.m. PRACTICE #12	<b>20</b> 4:15-6:15 p.m. PRACTICE #13	<b>21</b> NO PRACTICE SCHEDULED	<b>22</b> 4:15-6:15 p.m. PRACTICE #14	<b>23</b> NO PRACTICE SCHEDULED	<b>24</b> BLUE-GOLD GAME & ACTIVITIES
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>				

## 2004 BLUE-GOLD SPRING FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

It begins here! Spring football at Notre Dame always has been an opportunity for a sneak preview of the football season to come and the 2004 version of the Blue-Gold Spring Football Festival – presented by St. Joseph Regional Medical Center – promises to be even better than that. There are all kinds of activities connected with the 75th annual Blue-Gold Game (sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley) on Saturday, April 24, 2004, including several opportunities to be up close and personal with Irish coach Tyrone Willingham and his players.

A limited number of special VIP credentials (\$40 for adults, \$25 for youths) entitle fans to a full day of activities with the Irish, including joining the squad for its 9:30 a.m. pre-game meal. A player or coach will be seated at each table for the brunch to be held in the Joyce Center field-house. Then, VIP fans can sit either in the gold chairback seats on the east side of the Stadium – or they can roam the east sidelines at field level for a closer view of the action.

### View From the Top (\$50 each)

There are a limited number of seats available (\$50 each) in the Notre Dame Stadium press box, where fans can have the same view as media covering Irish football. Fans seated in the press box receive a game program, as well as the same press box lunch fare served to the media (hot dogs, soup, popcorn, soft drinks). You can watch replays on the television monitors scattered throughout the press box – and you'll be kept updated on statistics throughout the contest.

### Entertainment All Day Long

A free-to-all interactive fan fest will take place beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Joyce Center south parking lot, with lots of attractions for all ages. For the fourth year, former Notre Dame football players will take part in a flag football game from noon-12:45 p.m., just before the Blue-Gold Game in the Stadium. All former Irish football players will be invited back for the weekend. In addition, all current Irish players and coaches will be available for autographs from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the north dome of the Joyce Center.

### Tickets

Tickets for the game itself, in advance, are \$8 for adults, \$6 for youths – \$10 for adults and \$8 for youths on gameday. Proceeds benefit the scholarship fund of the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley.

## 2004 Notre Dame Spring Football Outlook

The last three even-numbered Notre Dame football seasons have produced nine or more wins and three postseason bowl appearances (one Fiesta Bowl, two Gator Bowl).

The last three odd-numbered seasons, on the other hand, have produced a combined 15-20 record.

Third-year Irish coach Tyrone Willingham won't be disappointed if that form holds in 2004 – though he's far more convinced that an injection of renewed confidence, 14 returning starters (eight on offense, six on defense) and 45 returning letterwinners will dictate what happens to Notre Dame as it attempts a rebound from a 5-7 mark in '03.

After a 10-win campaign in Willingham's inaugural season in South Bend in '02, the Irish in '03 battled gamely against a schedule rated the third most-difficult in the country by the NCAA. Three of Notre Dame's losses last fall (Michigan, USC and Florida State) came against teams that played in Bowl Championship Series games to end the year.

"The first thing we've got to do as a football team is get our confidence back. We did not play with a great deal of confidence during the 2003 season, and we've got to have the confidence, the toughness and mental discipline that it takes to be a good football team," says Willingham.

"Beyond that, we'll break down the individual areas that were weak for us last year – the red zone, turnovers, first-down success, third-down efficiency. From a technical standpoint those are areas where we need work."

This time around, Notre Dame's challenging slate features eight opponents that won eight or



Sophomore quarterback Brady Quinn started nine games as a freshman last season, completing 157 passes, the third-most in school history and setting an Irish rookie record with 1,831 yards passing. (photo by Joe Raymond)

more games and played in bowl games following the '03 season, including Rose Bowl participants USC and Michigan (the others are Michigan State, Purdue, Navy, Boston College, Tennessee and Pittsburgh). The 2004 opponents combined for a .626 winning percentage (87-52 in '03) – compared to a .645 mark for the '03 foes.

The Irish will build their offense around a solid corps of eight returning regulars, a returning starter at quarterback in sophomore Brady Quinn, a 1,000-yard rusher from '02 in senior running back Ryan Grant (he added another 510 yards in '03), five of the top six pass receivers from '03 (led by junior Rhema McKnight with 47 grabs for 600 yards) and four returning regulars on the offensive line.

Notre Dame played in '03 with a completely new offensive front – especially after the injury loss of projected regulars Sean Milligan at guard and Gary Godsey at tight end – and transitioned to a rookie signalcaller early in the year. The Irish now are banking on a maturation of the troops on that side of the ball – plus a greater understanding of the system in year number three under Willingham.

The most noteworthy losses offensively include running back Julius Jones (he proved to be the most dangerous Irish performer in '03 with his 1,268 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns), top-rated offensive tackle Jim Molinaro and second-leading receiver Omar Jenkins.

"Offensively, this is an exciting time. We have a quarterback returning in Brady Quinn who has shown some skill, yet he's still a young quarterback and he needs to further develop those skills," Willingham says.

"We have a 1,000-yard rusher returning in

Ryan Grant. We have an offensive line that returns more people than we lost, and there could be some movement with our personnel there to give us a better chance to be successful. There's some youth in that line, and there's some game experience, too. In terms of receivers, we will miss a major guy in Omar Jenkins, but we've got some guys returning that have shown on occasion that they can be football players.

"Now what we have to do is be consistent and make sure that all that we do from an offensive standpoint caters to the young men we have on the field – and that they are playing the tough, hard-nosed style of Notre Dame football that we like."

On defense, Notre Dame will miss a half-dozen graduated veterans in two-time leading tackler and inside linebacker Courtney Watson (he led the Irish in '03 with 117 tackles and was an '02 Butkus Award finalist), down linemen Darrell Campbell (three-year starter at tackle) and Cedric Hilliard (71 tackles in '03 at nose guard), plus secondary veterans Vontez Duff (33 tackles and two interceptions in '03; third-team All-American in '02), Glenn Earl (169 career tackles) and Garron Bible (started eight times at strong safety in '03).

On the plus side, the Irish return four of their top five tacklers from the '03 season. Blue-chip returnees defensively include senior inside linebackers Brandon Hoyte (he ranks as Notre Dame's leading returning tackler with 74 in '03) and Mike Goolsby (he ranked third in tackles in '02 with 75 and paced squad that year in tackles for loss, then missed all of 2003 due to injury), defensive ends Justin Tuck (set Notre Dame single-season sack record in '03 with



Senior kicker/punter D.J. Fitzpatrick took over both kicking duties midway through last season and is Notre Dame's top returning scorer in 2004 (53 points). (photo by Joe Raymond)



Senior linebacker Brandon Hoyte is the top returning tackler for the Irish, having made 74 stops last season. He also is a two-time academic all-district selection, one of two on this year's Notre Dame roster. (photo by Bill Panzica)

13.5), Kyle Budinscak (started first eight games in '03) and Victor Abiamiri (started five times as rookie in '03) — along with returning secondary regulars Dwight Ellick (starter in six of last eight '03 contests) at cornerback and Quentin Burrell (led Irish in interceptions in '03 with four and added 58 tackles) at free safety.

"Defensively, we're losing some very good football players — names like Darrell Campbell, Cedric Hilliard, Courtney Watson, Glenn Earl, Vontez Duff. We have some men returning that are young and eager, and if they can gain that confidence and have that mental toughness, then we've got a chance to play some fine defense," Willingham says.

Notre Dame's kicking game will miss graduated Nicholas Setta (46 career field goals in 66 attempts; 40.9 punting average in '03) in a couple of areas. Back in both the punting and placekicking departments is D.J. Fitzpatrick, who filled in at both slots (hit 12 of 17 field goals; 44 punts for 36.8 average) when Setta missed the final seven games of '03 due to injury. A key goal will be to identify some new names in the kick return category — after Duff and Jones collaborated to handle 53 of the 77 combined punt and kickoff returns in '03.

Willingham's roster of assistants loses secondary coach Trent Walters (after two years with the Irish he joined the NFL Philadelphia Eagles in the same role) and adds Steven Wilks (he coached defensive backs at Bowling Green in '03) in that same assignment.

Here's a position-by-position breakdown of the Irish for 2004:

**Quarterbacks**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
* Quinn, Brady	6-4	220	So.	250:53
*** Holiday, Carlyle	6-3	221	Sr.	82:48
Dillingham, Pat	6-2	210	Sr.	2:04

**QUARTERBACK:** Sophomore Brady Quinn (157 of 332 for 1,831 yards, 9 TDs, 15 ints.) took over the starting quarterback job four games into his rookie campaign and displayed the sort of potential that gives him a chance to make a major name for himself in seasons to come.

His 59 attempts in his first start at Purdue marked the second-highest single-game total in Irish history — and he later completed 23 throws against Boston College for a career-best 350 yards and two TDs. Despite playing only a reserve role in the first three games, he still set a Notre Dame single-season record for pass attempts — and only Jarious Jackson in '99 (184) and Ron Powluis in '97 (182) completed more throws in a season than he did in '03.

Senior Pat Dillingham (played in one game in '03), a one-time walk-on who was awarded a scholarship prior to the '02 season, remains the top backup to Quinn — with Carlyle Holiday switching to wide receiver on a full-time basis. Dillingham made one start, played in seven games overall and threw for 434 yards in support of Holiday in '02.

**Running Backs**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
*** Grant, Ryan	6-1	211	Sr.	146:01
** Wilson, Marcus	5-11	201	Sr.	16:49
Jenkins, Jeff	6-0	215	Jr.	—
Thomas, Travis	6-0	208	So.	—

**RUNNING BACK:** The Irish must replace their most productive offensive threat from a year ago in Julius Jones (229 attempts for 1,268 yards, 10 TDs), but they'll do it with a 1,000-yard rusher from the previous season in senior Ryan Grant (143 for 510, 3 TDs in '03; 261 for 1,085, 9 TDs in '02).

Grant became Notre Dame's ninth 1,000-yard

rusher in '02 thanks to four 100-yard games — and still started the first five games in '03 at the running back slot. He's a tough, slashing style of runner who should be the anchor of the Irish running corps.

Additional experience comes from senior Marcus Wilson (14 for 29) who made 62 special-team appearances last fall while playing in 11 games — along with junior Jeff Jenkins (he played in three games in '03, making 12 special-team appearances), who has yet to carry the ball from scrimmage.

Another potential contributor who will have his chance to inject himself into the mix is highly-regarded Travis Thomas (DNP in '02).

**Fullbacks**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
** Powers-Neal, R.	6-2	237	Sr.	74:55
Schmidt, Josh	6-1	226	Sr.	72:58
Schiccatano, Nate	6-2	236	Jr.	5:11
McConnell, Ashley	5-11	238	So.	—

**FULLBACK:** The two players who shared the workload at fullback in '03 — seniors Rashon Powers-Neal (4 for 15; 7 catches for 50) and walk-on Josh Schmidt (13 catches for 125) — both return to the Irish roster.

Powers-Neal gives the Irish a mixture of skills and versatility at this slot, as he switched to fullback a year ago after ranking second in rushing



Senior tailback Ryan Grant became the seventh player in Notre Dame history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season when he finished with 1,085 in 2002. (photo by Rico Casares)



as a tailback in '02. Schmidt emerged in '03 as a solid receiver and blocker in complementing Jones and Grant.

A couple of other fullback options figure to be junior letterwinner Nate Schiccatano (1 for 2) who made 46 late-season special-team appearances a year ago - along with sophomore Ashley McConnell (DNP in '03).

**Wide Receivers**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
* McKnight, Rhema	6-1	208	Jr.	205:05
** Stovall, Maurice	6-5	224	Jr.	190:48
* Samardzija, Jeff	6-5	208	So.	35:32
** Shelton, Matt	5-11	177	Sr.	21:15
*** Holiday, Carlyle	6-3	221	Sr.	13:00+
Anastasio, Chase	6-1	202	So.	—

+ - approximate playing time at WR

**WIDE RECEIVER:** Notre Dame boasts a couple of talented wideouts in juniors Rhema McKnight (47 for 600, 3 TDs) and Maurice Stovall (22 for 421, 3 TDs) on a unit that could be bolstered significantly if former quarterback Carlyle Holiday can be as successful in a full-time switch to wide receiver as Arnaz Battle was in making the same position change a few years back.

McKnight, the top Irish name in the receiver department a year ago, boasts the elusiveness and game-breaking ability to continue his development into a top-drawer threat. Stovall, at 6-5, has all the physical tools to do the same thing if he can become a more dominant pass-catcher.

Holiday is a fifth-year player who caught only two passes in limited work as a receiver in '03 while still serving as the top backup at quarterback after Brady Quinn became the starter there. A gifted all-around athlete, Holiday should benefit from devoting all his time to the receiver position, in hopes of mirroring the sort of contributions one-time signalcaller Battle made in catching 58 throws for 786 yards in his full-time go-around as a wideout in '02.

There's depth at the receiver slots as well in speedy, two-time senior letterwinner Matt Shelton (3 for 80, 1 TD) and lanky, 6-4 sophomore Jeff Samardzija (7 for 53), who is trying his hand with the Irish baseball squad this spring as a pitcher.

**Tight Ends**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
* Palmer, Billy	6-3	257	Sr.	173:14
* Fasano, Anthony	6-4	249	Jr.	102:07
** Clark, Jared	6-4	244	Sr.	95:54
* Freeman, Marcus	6-2	245	Jr.	5:45
** Collins, Jerome	6-4	255	Sr.	33:26+
Carlson, John	6-5	240	So.	—

+ - playing time at OLB



Junior wide receiver Rhema McKnight caught a team-high 47 passes for 600 yards and three touchdowns last season and will lead an experienced Irish receiving unit in 2004. (photo by Joe Raymond)

**TIGHT END:** The Irish boast lots of options at tight end, thanks in particular to the return of the trio of fifth-year veterans and two-time letterwinners Billy Palmer (1 for 13) and Jared Clark (15 for 142) along with sophomore Anthony Fasano (18 for 169, 2 TDs).

Palmer earned the starting nod in nine contests in '03, ranking as a two-time letterwinner and a top-flight blocker. Clark (he started twice in '03), a former quarterback like Carlyle Holiday, adds plenty of all-around athletic ability. Fasano earned a pair of starting assignment and gradually developed into the best pass-catching threat of the group.

Other potential contributors are junior letterman Marcus Freeman (he made 165 special-team appearances in '03), sophomore John Carlson (DNP in '03), who played with the Irish basketball squad once football ended - and fifth-year veteran Jerome Collins (he has earned letters each of the last two years as a reserve outside linebacker, playing in all 12 games in '03 and making 142 special-team appearances).

**Centers**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
* Morton, Bob	6-4	298	Jr.	265:54
* Giles, Zachary	6-3	285	Sr.	60:55
Sullivan, John	6-3	288	So.	—

**CENTER:** The center position appears in good hands, based on the return of junior returning starter Bob Morton, senior letterwinner Zach Giles and talented sophomore John Sullivan.

Morton started 11 times in '03 and should evolve more into a leadership role up front with a full year's experience in the lineup now on his resume. Giles made one start and six appearances overall last fall after heading into fall camp neck and neck with Morton for the first-team slot. Sullivan, a former *Parade* prep All-American, didn't play at all as a rookie but has a bright future somewhere in the offensive line mix.

**Offensive Guards**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
* LeVoir, Mark	6-7	317	Sr.	311:40
** Stevenson, Dan	6-5	293	Sr.	207:13
* Ryan, Jamie	6-5	307	Jr.	121:40
* Mitchell, Darin	6-3	287	Sr.	45:23
Thompson, Jeff	6-4	294	Sr.	5:51
Bonelli, James	6-4	272	Jr.	2:26
Santucci, Dan	6-4	289	Jr.	1:13+

+ - playing time at DT

**OFFENSIVE GUARD:** Both starters from '03 return in seniors Mark LeVoir (he played more minutes than anyone else on offense in '03 while starting all 12 games at left guard) and Dan Stevenson (he started the first four weeks at right tackle, then opened in six of the last eight contests at left guard). Those two are far and away the most experienced of the returnees at either guard position.

There are two other lettermen battling for playing time in senior Darin Mitchell (he played in seven games in '03, starting at right guard vs. Michigan State) and junior Jamie Ryan (he



Senior defensive end Justin Tuck was a pass-rushing menace last season, setting a school record and ranking sixth in the nation with 13.5 sacks. (photo by Bill Panzica)

earned three starts at right guard, playing in nine games overall. Senior Jeff Thompson (one game appearance in '03) is yet another candidate

**Offensive Tackles**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
* Harris, Ryan	6-5	285	So.	215:05
* Ryan, Jamie	6-5	307	Jr.	121:40
Mattes, Brian	6-5	285	Jr.	8:41
* Raridon, Scott	6-6	300	Jr.	6:18

**OFFENSIVE TACKLE:** The right tackle slot appears in good hands for years to come with sophomore Ryan Harris returning. He started the last eight games at that position for the Irish as a rookie – and it probably was no accident that running back Julius Jones averaged 139.5 yards per game during that stretch. Harris earned freshman All-America honors in '03 and figures to be an all-star stalwart for the Irish in coming seasons.

The left tackle job ranks as the lone vacancy on the offensive line (that's where graduated Jim Molinaro played as anchor of '03 line). Junior Brian Mattes (he played on the defensive line as a rookie, then shifted to defense a year ago) should have a solid chance to emerge as the frontrunner there after playing in nine games last fall's Molinaro's top backup.

With Harris the lone returning letterman returning at either tackle position, others in the picture include juniors Scott Raridon (he saw

action in 11 games in '03, mostly via special teams) and James Bonelli (one game appearance in '03).

**Defensive End**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
** Tuck, Justin	6-5	239	Sr.	225:22
* Abiamiri, Victor	6-4	265	So.	189:46
*** Budinscak, Kyle	6-4	270	Sr.	154:55
* Leitko, Travis	6-6	267	Jr.	31:55
Frome, Chris	6-5	268	So.	4:30

**DEFENSIVE END:** The Irish are as strong at defensive end as probably any area of the roster, thanks to the return of senior sack record-setter Justin Tuck (73 tackles, 19 TFL, 13.5 sacks, 3 forced fumbles), fifth-year veteran Kyle Budinscak (17 tackles, 4 TFL, 3 sacks, 1 fumble recovery), plus potential-laden sophomore Victor Abiamiri (22 tackles, 4 TFL, 1 sack).

Tuck's 13.5 sacks in '03 set the single-season standard in the Notre Dame record book, as he has developed into a top-flight all-around defender (only Brandon Hoyte with 74 made more tackles in '03 among returnees for '04) as well as a potent rusher off the edge. Budinscak contributes a healthy shot of moxie, while also twice earning all-academic honors. Abiamiri made six starts as a rookie in '03 and displayed some of the same sort of first-year abilities eventual all-star Anthony Weaver showed when he

broke into the Irish lineup in his '98 rookie campaign.

That trio will have help from two-time letter-winner Brian Beidatsch (5 tackles in 10 games played in '03), along with junior letterman Travis Leitko (12 tackles, 1.5 TFL, 1 sack, 1 forced fumble in 10 '03 games) and classmate Chris Frome (played 5 games in '03 with 36 special-team appearances).

**Defensive Tackles/Nose Guards**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
** Pauly, Greg	6-6	295	Sr.	130:28
* Landri, Derek	6-2	281	Jr.	73:45
* Beidatsch, Brian	6-2	297	Sr.	42:53
Laws, Trevor	6-0	289	So.	—

**DEFENSIVE TACKLE:** There are a couple of major holes to fill up the middle of the Notre Dame defense, with the departure of stalwarts Darrell Campbell (a three-year starter there; 25 tackles in '03) at tackle and Cedric Hilliard (27 tackles, 1.5 TFL in '03) at nose guard.

However, the Irish aren't devoid of experience at those two spots, with fifth-year tackle Greg Pauly (20 tackles, 6.5 TFL, 3 sacks in '03; started vs. Pittsburgh and USC among 11 games played) qualifying as the veteran of the group. He'll have an opportunity to come into his own as a full-time contributor in 2004.

Battling for the nose guard job will be letter-winning junior Derek Landri (13 tackles, 4 TFL, 1 fumble recovery; started vs. Washington State among 10 games played in '03) and sophomore Trevor Laws (DNP in '03 as a rookie).

**Inside Linebackers**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
*** Goolsby, Mike	6-4	248	Sr.	—
** Hoyte, Brandon	5-11	230	Sr.	206:52
Borsetti, Nick	6-4	236	So.	—
Stephenson, Dwight, Jr.	6-2	236	So.	—

**INSIDE LINEBACKER:** Notre Dame must replace two-time leading tackler Courtney Watson (team-leading 117 tackles, 15 TFL, 3.5 sacks, 2 ints. in '03) from the mix at inside linebacker – but the Irish will do it with a proven performer in fifth-year veteran and potential all-star Mike Goolsby. Watson and Goolsby played side by side inside in '02 (with Goolsby ranking third overall in tackles and tops in tackles for loss), then Goolsby (75 tackles, 4 sacks, 13 TFL in '02) sat out all of '03 after breaking his collarbone in the '03 Gator Bowl.

Goolsby figures to pair in '04 with yet another experienced hand in senior returning regular Brandon Hoyte (74 tackles, 7.5 TFL, 2 sacks, 1



fumble recovery), who played next to Watson inside in '03 in Goolsby's absence. Hoyte qualifies as the leading returning Irish tackler for the 2004 season.

The lone other experienced hand back inside is senior Corey Mays. Waiting to get their feet wet are sophomores Joe Brockington, Dwight Stephenson and Nick Borsetti, none of whom played as rookies in '03.

**Outside Linebackers**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
*** Curry, Derek	6-3	234	Sr.	258:58
** Mays, Corey	6-1	244	Sr.	47:16
* Salvador, Anthony	6-2	229	Jr.	5:19
Brockington, Joe	6-1	226	So.	—

**OUTSIDE LINEBACKER:** Two-year starter Derek Curry returns at outside linebacker to provide a solid dose of savvy and experience — and he'll join with Hoyte and Goolsby inside to provide a top-flight linebacking trio for the Irish in 2004.

With Jerome Collins moving to tight end for his final season, sophomore Mitchell Thomas (DNP in '03) is projected as the top backup outside.

**CORNERBACK:** Back in the fold at corner is one returning regular in senior speedster Dwight Ellick, plus a part-time starter in fifth-



Senior outside linebacker Derek Curry has started all but one game in the last two seasons and his veteran presence will be an anchor for the Irish defense in '04. (photo by Bill Panzica)

**Cornerbacks**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
*** Ellick, Dwight	5-10	183	Sr.	178:19
*** Jackson, Preston	5-9	176	Sr.	172:51
* Richardson, Mike	5-11	188	So.	32:38
** Campbell, Carlos	5-11	197	Sr.	12:33
* Ndukwe, Chinedum	6-2	219	So.	13:17+
Wooden, Ambrose	5-11	188	So.	—
Gardner, Isaiah	5-11	192	So.	—

+ - playing time at WR

year returnee Preston Jackson. Those two are the sole names with any appreciable experience on the '04 roster.

There are plenty of other candidates for duty at corner, including senior Carlos Campbell, junior Mike Richardson and sophomores Isaiah Gardner, Labrose Hedgmon and converted wide receiver Ambrose Wooden (none of those three played as rookies in '03).

**Safeties**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'03 Time
** Burrell, Quentin	6-0	187	Sr.	265:35
** Bolen, Lionel	6-0	206	Sr.	49:16
* Parish, Freddie IV	6-0	201	So.	27:16
Carney, Jake	6-0	186	Jr.	—
Zbikowski, Tom	5-11	202	So.	—
Hedgemon, LaBrose	5-9	183	So.	—



Senior free safety Quentin Burrell picked up some valuable experience last year, finishing fifth on the team with 58 tackles while starting the final nine games in place of an injured Glenn Earl. (photo by Joe Raymond)

**SAFETY:** Senior free safety Quentin Burrell qualifies as one of the anchors of the Irish secondary based on his experience, while senior Lionel Bolen stands as the top name on the depth chart at strong safety.

Others in the mix are junior Jake Carney and sophomore Tom Zbikowski (DNP in '03) at free safety, along with up-and-coming sophomores Freddie Parish and Chinedum Ndukwe (switches to safety this spring from wide receiver).

**Kickers/Punters**

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	App.
* Fitzpatrick, D.J.	6-1	195	Sr.	142 app.
Gioia, Carl	5-10	180	So.	—
Price, Geoffrey	6-3	194	So.	—

**KICKING GAME:** With combination placekicker/punter Nicholas Setta lost to injury the last half of the '03 campaign, the Irish filled the bill with another combo kicker in senior D.J. Fitzpatrick, who does return for the '04 season.

There are no other scholarship placekickers on the Note Dame roster, while sophomore Geoff Price (DNP in '03 as a rookie) could challenge for the punting assignment.





# 2004 Notre Dame Football Facts

## Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Tyrone Willingham (Michigan State '77)  
 Record at Notre Dame: 15-10 (.600) (Two seasons)  
 Career Record: 59-46-1, .556 (Nine seasons)  
 Assistant Coaches: Bill Diedrick (Eastern Washington '70), offensive coordinator/quarterbacks; Kent Baer (Utah State '73), defensive coordinator; Mike Denbrock (Grand Valley State '86), offensive line – tackles/tight ends; Greg Mattison (Wisconsin-LaCrosse '71), defensive line/recruiting coordinator; John McDonnell (Carroll College '81), offensive line – centers/guards; Trent Miles (Indiana State '87), receivers; Buzz Preston (Hawaii '82), running backs/special teams; Bob Simmons (Bowling Green '71), linebackers; Steven Wilks (Appalachian State '92), secondary  
 Director of Football Operations: Erica Genise (Iowa '93)  
 Director of Football Personnel Development: Jimmy Gonzalez  
 Graduate Assistant Coaches: Chad Klunder, D.J. Durkin

## 2004 Outlook

Offense: Multiple Defense: 4-3  
 2003 Record: Won 5, Lost 7 (Home 3-3, Away 2-4)  
 Lettermen Lost: 19 overall: 9 offense, 9 defense, 1 specialists  
 Lettermen Returning: 47 overall: 26 offense, 20 defense, 1 specialist  
 Starters Lost: 9; OFFENSE (3): LT Jim Molinaro, RB Julius Jones, WR Omar Jenkins; DEFENSE (5): DT Darrell Campbell, NG Cedric Hilliard, ILB Courtney Watson, CB Vontez Duff, SS Garron Bible; SPECIALISTS (1): PK/P Nicholas Setta  
 Starters Returning: 15; OFFENSE (8): LG Mark LeVoir, C Bob Morton, RG Dan Stevenson, RT Ryan Harris, TE Billy Palmer, WR Rhema McKnight, QB Brady Quinn, FB Rashon Powers-Neal; DEFENSE (6): DE Kyle Budinscak, DE Justin Tuck, LB Derek Curry, LB Brandon Hoyte, FS Quentin Burrell, CB Dwight Ellick; SPECIALISTS (1): PK/P D.J. Fitzpatrick

## Top Losses

- DT Darrell Campbell (Three-year starter on the Irish defensive line, posted 25 tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss and three sacks in '03)
- CB/KR Vontez Duff (Two-year starter at cornerback, finished third on the all-time career kick return list with 1,955 yards, had 33 tackles and two interceptions in '03)
- FS Glenn Earl (Two-year hard-hitting starter for the Irish at strong and free safety, finished career with 169 tackles and four interceptions)
- NG Cedric Hilliard (Two-year starter, registered 27 tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, forced two fumbles and recovered another in '03)
- WR Omar Jenkins (36 catches, 344 yards in '03, finished 18th on the all-time career receiving list, team captain)
- RB Julius Jones (Team MVP in '03, rushed for 1,268 yards in '03, scored 10 touchdowns in '03 and 26 in his career, finished in fourth place on the all-time career rushing list)
- LT Jim Molinaro (Started all 12 games in '03, second on team in minutes played with 309:07, team captain, earned Guardian of the Year Award)
- PK/P Nicholas Setta (holds Notre Dame record by going 16 consecutive games with a field goal, converted 92 consecutive extra point kicks to end his career, 9-of-10 in field goals in '03 before season-ending injury)
- ILB Courtney Watson ('02 Butkus Award finalist led team in tackles in '02 and '03, compiled 117 tackles, 15 tackles for a loss, 3.5 sacks and two interceptions in '03, '02 first-team All-American)

## Top Returnees

- DE Kyle Budinscak (Started eight games before sidelined with an injury in '03, has six sacks and 10 tackles for a loss in his career, three-time academic all-district selection)



- FS Quentin Burrell (Moved into the starting line up in '03, eventually starting nine contests, fifth on the team in tackles with 58, led team with four interceptions)
- OLB Derek Curry (Fourth on the team with 66 tackles in '03, started all 12 games at OLB in '03, has 14.5 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks in career)
- PK/P D.J. Fitzpatrick (Replaced injured Nicholas Setta at midseason and finished second on team in scoring, converted 12-of-17 field goals and 17-of-18 PAT kicks)
- RB Ryan Grant (Rushed for 1,085 yards in '02, boasts 13 career rushing touchdowns and 18 starts)
- ILB Brandon Hoyte (Finished second on the team in tackles for '03 with 74, has made 11 starts over the last two years, two-time academic all-district pick)
- WR Rhema McKnight (Led '03 team with 47 receptions for 600 yards, scored three touchdowns)
- QB Brady Quinn (Started nine games as a true freshman in '03, set Notre Dame freshman record with 1,831 yards and added nine touchdown passes)
- DE Justin Tuck (Set Notre Dame single-season record and ranked sixth in nation with 13.5 sacks in '03, boasts 18.5 sacks and 29 tackles for a loss in career, All-America candidate in '04)



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