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NOTRE DAME

F O O T B A L L

MEDIA DAY EDITION: AUGUST 9, 2002

NOTRE DAME (0-0)

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Aug. 31 | vs. Maryland* | 8:00 EDT |
| Sept. 7 | PURDUE | Noon EST |
| Sept. 14 | MICHIGAN | 1:30 EST |
| Sept. 21 | at Michigan State | TBA |
| Oct. 5 | STANFORD | 1:30 EST |
| Oct. 12 | PITTSBURGH | 1:30 EST |
| Oct. 19 | at Air Force | TBA |
| Oct. 26 | at Florida State | TBA |
| Nov. 2 | BOSTON COLLEGE | 2:30 EST |
| Nov. 9 | vs. Navy** | Noon EST |
| Nov. 23 | RUTGERS | 1:00 EST |
| Nov. 30 | at USC | 5:00 PST |

* Kickoff Classic XX (Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J.)

** Game to be played at Ravens Stadium (Baltimore, Md.)

PRESEASON RANKINGS

Here's where Notre Dame has been ranked in the preseason and final *Associated Press* polls since 1987:

| Year | Preseason | Final |
|------|-----------|-------|
| 1987 | 18 | 17 |
| 1988 | 13 | 1 |
| 1989 | 2 | 2 |
| 1990 | 2 | 6 |
| 1991 | 6 | 13 |
| 1992 | 3 | 4 |
| 1993 | 7 | 2 |
| 1994 | 2 | NR |
| 1995 | 9 | 11 |
| 1996 | 6 | 19 |
| 1997 | 11 | NR |
| 1998 | 22 | 22 |
| 1999 | 18 | NR |
| 2000 | NR | 16 |
| 2001 | 18 | NR |
| 2002 | NR | ? |

WELCOME TO NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY

The University of Notre Dame and its sports information department welcome you to the 2002 Notre Dame Football Media Day. All of the day's media activities will take place in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse, beginning at 11 a.m. EST with a buffet-style lunch. At 11:30 a.m., Notre Dame head coach **Tyrone Willingham** will address the media, followed by interviews with Irish players from noon-12:45 p.m. Please note this event is for media only and admission is by reservation.

FAN APPRECIATION DAY

The sixth annual Notre Dame Fan Appreciation Day is scheduled from 1:15-2 p.m. EST on the concourse at Notre Dame Stadium. Irish players and the Notre Dame coaching staff will be available to sign autographs during this time. The event is open to the public and admission is free. The public will be admitted to Notre Dame Stadium through Gates A (northeast corner), B (southeast corner) and C (south end of the Stadium) beginning at 1:15 p.m. Parking for the event will be located in the stadium lot south of Notre Dame Stadium.

PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 10-28

The Irish will conduct two-a-day practices at their preseason camp site at the intramural fields west of Hammes Bookstore on the Notre Dame campus for much of the next two weeks before holding their first fall scrimmage on Wednesday, August 21 at 4 p.m. Media may attend the first 20 minutes of each practice session, except where noted. The following is a practice schedule and media accessibility for preseason practice:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Saturday, Aug. 10 | 8:45-11 a.m., 4-5:50 p.m. | |
| Sunday, Aug. 11 | 4-6 p.m. | |
| Monday, Aug. 12 | 8:45-10:55 a.m., 4-5:55 p.m. | |
| Tuesday, Aug. 13 | 8:45-10:55 a.m., 4-5:55 p.m. | |
| Wednesday, Aug. 14 | 8:45-11 a.m., 4-5:50 p.m. | |
| Thursday, Aug. 15 | 9-11:30 a.m., 4-6 p.m. | (Morning session closed to media) |
| Friday, Aug. 16 | 9:30-11 a.m., 4-5:55 p.m. | |
| Saturday, Aug. 17 | 8:45-10:45 a.m., 4:30-6 p.m. | |
| Sunday, Aug. 18 | 5-6 p.m. | |
| Monday, Aug. 19 | 8:45-11 a.m., 4-5:55 p.m. | |
| Tuesday, Aug. 20 | 9-11:30 a.m., 4-6 p.m. | (Morning session closed to media) |
| Wednesday, Aug. 21 | 4-5:40 p.m. (Scrimmage) | (Closed - post-practice interviews only) |

All Remaining Sessions Held At Practice Fields East Of Joyce Center

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Thursday, Aug. 22 | 4-5:45 p.m. (Scrimmage) | (Closed - post-practice interviews only) |
| Friday, Aug. 23 | 9:30-11 a.m., 4-5:35 p.m. | |
| Saturday, Aug. 24 | 9:30-11:10 a.m. | |
| Sunday, Aug. 25 | No practice | |
| Monday, Aug. 26 | 4-6:10 p.m. | |
| Tuesday, Aug. 27 | 4-6:20 p.m. | |
| Wednesday, Aug. 28 | 4-5:45 p.m. | |

HEAD COACH TYRONE WILLINGHAM

A veteran with 25 seasons of coaching experience at the collegiate and professional levels, **Tyrone Willingham** begins his first season as head football coach at the University of Notre Dame. He was introduced as the new Irish mentor on Jan. 1, 2002, following seven seasons as the head coach at Stanford University. He compiled a 44-36-1 (.549) record during his tenure at Stanford, guiding the Cardinal to four bowl games, including the Rose Bowl following the 1999 season. Willingham was a two-



MEDIA INFORMATION

THE WILLINGHAM CONFERENCES

Tyrone Willingham's weekly teleconference-style press conferences are available via satellite on Tuesday prior to each Notre Dame game, with the first slated for Aug. 27 (there are no conferences on open-date weeks). They are held at 10:45 a.m. EST at the WNDU Studios (on US 933/Business 31, west edge of campus) in South Bend. A light meal is served beginning at 10:45 a.m., and several Irish players generally are available for interviews between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. Coach Willingham then addresses the media beginning at 11:30 a.m. Out-of-town media can connect to the conference via phone to listen and ask questions by calling the sports information office at (574) 631-7516. All teleconference are available on satellite. Please contact the Sports Information Office for coordinates. Approximately five minutes of video highlights from the previous week's Notre Dame game are included at the end of each hour-long satellite feed.

TUESDAY TRANSCRIPTIONS

Exact transcriptions of **Tyrone Willingham's** Tuesday press conferences are available at the Notre Dame sports information department, through the Notre Dame web site at www.und.com.

KEVIN WHITE RADIO SHOW

A weekly half-hour talk show featuring Notre Dame athletics director **Kevin White** will air on Chicago's ESPN Radio 1000 (1000 AM in Chicago, www.espnradio1000.com). Set to kick off its third season, "The Kevin White Show" can be heard in 35 states. White will welcome to the show a series of guests and prominent figures associated with college athletics, including administrators, coaches and media members.

time Pacific-10 Conference Coach of the Year (1995 and 1999), the only Stanford coach to earn that award more than once, and he was a finalist for national coach-of-the-year honors in '95 and '99. Most recently in 2001, he piloted the Cardinal to a 9-3 record, a berth in the Seattle Bowl, and final regular-season rankings of ninth in the Bowl Championship Series poll and 11th in both the *Associated Press* and ESPN/*USA Today* polls. All told, Willingham spent 10 years at Stanford, initially serving as running backs coach from 1989-91. Between his stints with the Cardinal, Willingham coached in the professional ranks for three seasons (1992-94) with the Minnesota Vikings, helping his team win a pair of NFC Central Division championships and reach the playoffs all three years. Willingham began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at his alma mater, Michigan State, in 1977, before moving to Central Michigan as the defensive secondary coach for two years (1978-79). He returned to MSU from 1980-82, working with the secondary and special teams units, and also served at North Carolina State (1983-85) and Rice (1986-88).

THE 2002 CAPTAINS

For only the second time in the 114-year history of football at Notre Dame, the Irish will designate captains on a game-by-game basis this season. In 1946, legendary head coach **Frank Leahy** elected to choose captains for each game — the result was an 8-0-1 record and the fifth of Notre Dame's 11 national championships.

THE 2002 SCHEDULE

Once again, Notre Dame will face one of the nation's toughest schedules, as the Irish will face five teams that are ranked in the ESPN/*USA Today* preseason poll (No. 4 Florida State, No. 10 Michigan, No. 18 Michigan State, No. 19 USC and No. 20 Maryland). In addition, four other Notre Dame opponents are receiving votes in the preseason coaches' poll — Boston College, Purdue, Stanford and Pittsburgh. All nine foes appearing in the poll went to bowl games last season, highlighted by Maryland's Orange Bowl berth, Michigan's spot in the Citrus Bowl and Stanford's trip to the Seattle Bowl. All of this comes on the heels of the 2001 Irish schedule, which was ranked 22nd most difficult in the nation and featured nine opponents that appeared in bowl games — Notre Dame was the only school in the country to play nine bowl-bound teams last season.

THE 2002 KICKOFF CLASSIC

The Notre Dame football team will open the 2002 season against Maryland on Saturday, Aug. 31, at 8 p.m. EDT (7 p.m. EST in South Bend) in Kickoff Classic XX at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. ABC Sports will televise the game on a national basis.

This will mark the second appearance for Notre Dame in the Kickoff Classic. The defending national champion Irish defeated Virginia, 36-13, in the 1989 game. This year's contest will be the first meeting between Notre Dame and Maryland on the gridiron — and it will mark the debut of new Irish head coach **Tyrone Willingham**.

BRAND-NEW OPPONENT ON THE SCHEDULE

Notre Dame and Maryland will be meeting for the first time ever when they square off in Kickoff Classic XX Aug. 31 at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The Terrapins represent the 132nd different opponent in Irish history, and the first new adversary on the schedule since Nebraska in 2000. During its 113-year history, Notre Dame has faced 61 of the other 115 teams currently competing at the NCAA Division I-A level.

GETTING A JUMP ON THINGS

Notre Dame will be playing its season opener in the month of August for only the third time in school history when it faces Maryland Aug. 31 in Kickoff Classic XX at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The Irish are 2-0 all-time in the month of August — they defeated Virginia, 36-13, on Aug. 31, 1989, in Kickoff Classic VII, also at the New Jersey Meadowlands, and dispatched Kansas, 48-13, on Aug. 28, 1999, in the State of Indiana Eddie Robinson Classic at Notre Dame Stadium.

FOR OPENERS

Notre Dame has compiled a record of 95-13-5 (.863) historically in its season-opening games, including winning 13 of their last 15 games (only losses coming to Northwestern in 1995 and at Nebraska in 2001). The Aug. 31 game with Maryland marks the second consecutive season Notre Dame has opened away from home. The last time that happened was 18 years ago, when the Irish fell to Purdue 23-21 on



Sept. 8, 1984, at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, after defeating the Boilermakers, 52-6, in West Lafayette, Ind., a year earlier.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Notre Dame will be playing at Giants Stadium for first time since 1995, when the Irish downed Army, 28-27. It also will be Notre Dame's 10th visit to the East Rutherford, N.J., facility that is home to the NFL's New York Giants and Jets, as well as Major League Soccer's New York/New Jersey MetroStars (capacity 80,242). The Irish have never lost at the Meadowlands, thanks to five wins over Navy (1980, 1982, 1984, 1990 and 1992), three over Army (1977, 1983 and 1995) and one over Virginia (1989). Notre Dame is slated to return to Giants Stadium on Oct. 16, 2004, when it faces Navy in the continuation of the nation's longest intersectional rivalry.

FIRST-YEAR HEAD COACHES OPEN STRONG

When Notre Dame faces Maryland in its season opener Aug. 31, head coach **Tyrone Willingham** will be seeking to continue a long trend of success among Irish mentors. Dating back to Jesse Harper's first game as Notre Dame's head coach in 1913, Irish skippers are 10-2 in their debut contests. Only Elmer Layden in 1934 (7-6 loss to Texas) and Lou Holtz in 1986 (24-23 loss to Michigan) failed to win their first game at Notre Dame.

NOTRE DAME CLUB OF NEW JERSEY TO HOST PEP RALLY FESTIVAL AT KICKOFF CLASSIC

The Notre Dame Club of New Jersey has organized a pep rally festival for Irish fans prior to Notre Dame's battle with Maryland in Kickoff Classic XX on Aug. 31 at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J. The festivities get underway at 1 p.m. EDT at Paddock Park at the Meadowlands Racetrack. Irish-American troubadour Marty McKernan and the group Lenahan will provide the crowd with musical entertainment throughout the afternoon before the pep rally begins at 5:30 p.m. Members of the Notre Dame Alumni Pep Band, as well as cheerleaders and other guest speakers will address fans, before the band leads fans on a march into Giants Stadium at 7 p.m., prior to the 8 p.m. kickoff. Following the game, a Midnight Mass will be held under the stars at Racetrack Park.

Tickets for the event are \$25 per person if ordered by Aug. 15, and \$30 per person at the gate on game day, and prices include an all-you-can-eat buffet meal. Children 16-and-under will be admitted free. For more information on this event, or to purchase tickets, contact Larry Keary or Craig Lombardi with the Notre Dame Club of New Jersey at (201) 934-8844 or (973) 263-7224.

FORMER NOTRE DAME GRIDDER AUBREY LEWIS TO BE HONORED AT KICKOFF CLASSIC

Former Notre Dame HB **Aubrey Lewis**, who passed away on Dec. 10, 2001, will be honored at halftime of Kickoff Classic XX on Aug. 31 at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.. Lewis, a native of Montclair, N.J., was a three-year monogram winner for the Irish from 1955-57, leading the team in punt return average (9.2 yards per return) and interceptions (three for 39 yards) in 1956.

In his later years, Lewis served as a Trustee on the Board of the Sports Hall of Fame of New Jersey from 1992-2002, and was one of the original members of the Board. He was appointed Chairman of the Board of the Hall of Fame by Governor Christine Todd Whitman on March 31, 1998, a post he held until his passing last winter. The Hall of Fame was organized as a non-profit corporation of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority to recognize persons, teams and sporting events that have made significant and lasting contributions to the Garden State's sports history.

IRISH PLAYERS RANK HIGH IN LINDY'S AND THE SPORTING NEWS

Senior **Jeff Faine** was tabbed the fifth-best center in the country by *Lindy's* and *The Sporting News*, while senior **Gerome Sapp** was rated the fifth-best strong safety in the land by *The Sporting News*. Senior cornerback **Shane Walton** was ranked 12th in the nation by *The Sporting News*, while senior **Nicholas Setta** was placed fifth among kickers by *Lindy's* and 13th by *The Sporting News*. Senior **Courtney Watson** was rated 17th among the nation's middle linebackers by *The Sporting News*, while senior **Tom Lopienski** was charted 18th among fullbacks by the same publication.

JEFF FAINE EARNS PAIR OF PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA HONORS

Senior center **Jeff Faine** was a first-team preseason All-America selection by *Street & Smith's* and a second-team All-America choice by *Athlon*. Faine is seeking to become Notre Dame's first All-America center since Tim Ruddy in 1993.

MEDIA POLICIES

WILLINGHAM INTERVIEWS

Outside his regular Tuesday teleconferences, the best time for **Tyrone Willingham** interviews is after practice Tuesday-Thursday or by special appointment. Please contact the Notre Dame sports information office to make specific arrangements.

THE NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL SHOW

The Notre Dame Football Show, featuring head coach **Tyrone Willingham**, is a half-hour, weekly television show syndicated nationally by Host Communications and hosted by Jeff Jeffers. The show is carried by WNDU-TV in South Bend on the following Saturday (one hour before kickoff) and on Fox Sports Chicago.

MORE MEDIA NOTES

- The first 20 minutes of each practice session are open to the media. Check with the Notre Dame sports information office for exact times.
- All player interviews must be coordinated through the Notre Dame sports information office by contacting either John Heisler, Lisa Mushett or Chris Masters. Interview requests must be made prior to the end of the 20-minute open practice period. **All player and coach interviews will take place after practice at the tunnel entrance (north end) of Notre Dame Stadium once practice moves to Cartier Field, east of the Joyce Center.**
- Notre Dame's publicity material on football, including updated game notes, depth charts, rosters, schedules and player information are available through www.und.com. Contact the Notre Dame sports information office at 574-631-7516 for details.

RELEASES AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

Media members interested in receiving Notre Dame football releases via email should send requests to Assistant Sports Information Director Chris Masters at masters.5@nd.edu.

WEB SITE (www.und.com)

Notre Dame's official athletic department web site can be found at www.und.com, with the extensive offerings including real-time statistics for all Notre Dame home football games.



NOTRE DAME vs.
ACC TEAMS

| School | Won | Lost | Tied | Pct. |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Clemson | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 |
| Duke | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 |
| Florida State | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 |
| Georgia Tech | 26 | 5 | 1 | .826 |
| Maryland | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| North Carolina | 15 | 1 | 0 | .938 |
| North Carolina St. | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Virginia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Wake Forest | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| TOTALS | 46 | 11 | 1 | .802 |

IRISH VERSUS THE ACC

- Notre Dame owns an all-time record of 46-11-1 (.802) versus Atlantic Coast Conference teams, the second-best mark against a major Division I-A conference behind only the Western Athletic Conference.
- The Irish have played six of the nine current ACC members, owning a winning record against five of them. The majority of Notre Dame's 46 ACC wins have come at the expense of Georgia Tech (26) and North Carolina (15).

CONFERENCE CALL

- Notre Dame faced teams from eight different conferences/affiliations in 1998, teams from six different leagues/designations in 1999, 2000 and 2001, and is poised to battle squads from six more circuits in 2002 including:

ACC (2): Maryland, Florida State

Big Ten (3): Purdue, Michigan, Michigan State

BIG EAST (3): Pittsburgh, Boston Coll., Rutgers

Pac-10 (2): Stanford, USC

Mountain West (1): Air Force

Independents (1): Navy

- Notre Dame has had great overall success against the major conferences in the country.

| Conference | Winning % |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Western Athletic | .850 |
| Atlantic Coast | .802 |
| Mountain West | .786 |
| BIG EAST | .714 |
| Big 12 | .666 |
| Big 10 | .665 |
| Pacific-10 | .645 |
| SEC | .633 |

SIX EARN PRESEASON HONORABLE MENTION ALL-AMERICA HONORS

Street & Smith's cited six Irish players as preseason honorable mention All-America selections. Senior **Jordan Black** was listed among offensive linemen, senior **Shane Walton** and junior **Vontez Duff** among defensive backs, senior **Courtney Watson** among linebackers, senior **Joey Hildbold** among punters and senior **Nicholas Setta** among kickers.

JEFF FAINE NAMED TO OUTLAND TROPHY AND LOMBARDI AWARD WATCH LISTS

Senior center **Jeff Faine** has been named to the watch list for the Outland Trophy, which is awarded annually to the nation's top interior lineman by the Football Writers Association of America. In addition, for the second consecutive season, Faine has been named to the Rotary Lombardi Award watch list. The Lombardi Award is given annually to the nation's top lineman by the Rotary Club of Houston.

NICHOLAS SETTA NAMED TO LOU GROZA AWARD WATCH LIST

Senior kicker **Nicholas Setta** has been named to the Lou Groza Award watch list. The Groza Award is given annually to the nation's top placekicker by the Palm Beach County (Fla.) Sports Commission.

FAINE, SETTA NAMED TO STREET & SMITH'S AWARD WATCH LISTS

Street & Smith's tapped senior center **Jeff Faine** for a spot on its Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award watch lists. In addition, senior kicker **Nicholas Setta** earned a place on the publication's Lou Groza Award watch list.

TICKET UPDATE

Demand for tickets to two of Notre Dame's six home games in 2002 ranks among the top five in the history of Notre Dame Stadium. The Notre Dame ticket office received 55,482 ticket requests for the Nov. 2 game vs. Boston College, making it the third-highest requested Irish home game in history. In addition, the Sept. 14 Notre Dame-Michigan game garnered 50,883 requests, placing it fourth on the all-time list. That falls in line with the Wolverines' last visit to Notre Dame Stadium, which generated 47,233 requests, the eighth-highest total ever.

The Notre Dame Stadium record of 59,368 ticket requests was set last season when the Irish took on West Virginia on Oct. 13. Demand for that game was based on parents of current Notre Dame students being guaranteed four tickets for that contest — plus contributing alumni having the opportunity to apply for four tickets instead of the usual two, based on its designation as an alumni family game.

The Irish have posted 161 consecutive sellouts at Notre Dame Stadium and the 209 in their last 210 home games.

Here are the top 10 games in terms of alumni ticket demand at Notre Dame Stadium:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. West Virginia | 2001 | 59,368 |
| 2. USC | 1997 | 57,048 |
| 3. Boston College | 2002 | 55,482 |
| 4. Michigan | 2002 | 50,883 |
| 5. Michigan State | 2001 | 48,404 |
| 6. Nebraska | 2000 | 47,865 |
| 7. Michigan State | 1997 | 47,681 |
| 8. Michigan | 1998 | 47,233 |
| 9. USC | 2001 | 47,127 |
| 10. USC | 1999 | 46,658 |

BIG CROWDS

Heading into the 2002 season, Notre Dame has played in front of capacity crowds in 137 of the previous 160 games. Last year, not only were 10 of the games designated sellouts (only Stanford was not), eight of Notre Dame's 11 games came in front of stadium-record crowds. The Irish played before 78,118 fans at Nebraska, welcomed Notre Dame Stadium-record crowds of 80,795 for the Michigan State, Pittsburgh, West Virginia, USC, Tennessee and Navy games, and took the field before 87,206 fans at Texas A&M, setting a Kyle Field, Big XII Conference and state of Texas record in the process.

NOTRE DAME ON THE SMALL SCREEN

With all 11 of Notre Dame's 2001 games shown on television, the Irish have been on one of four major networks (NBC, ABC, CBS or ESPN) in 111 straight games. That's a streak that includes nine full seasons (1993-2001), and it will continue into the first three games of 2002, all of which are slated to



be televised as well. The last time the Irish didn't appear on one of those four networks was Oct. 31, 1992, when Notre Dame downed Navy, 38-7, at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. That game was only shown locally in the South Bend area on WNDU-TV. Here's a breakdown of the networks on which the Irish have played during this impressive streak:

| YEAR | GAMES | NBC | ABC | CBS | ESPN |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1992 | 4 | 3 | 1 | -- | -- |
| 1993 | 12 | 7 | 4 | -- | 1 |
| 1994 | 12 | 7 | 5 | -- | -- |
| 1995 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| 1996 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 1997 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 1998 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 2 | -- |
| 1999 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 2000 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | -- |
| 2001 | 11 | 6 | 4 | -- | 1 |
| Totals | 111 | 61 | 32 | 11 | 7 |

2002 BLUE-GOLD GAME

It's a rite of spring at Notre Dame, a game that marks the end of spring practice. The 73rd annual Blue-Gold Game took place on April 27, 2002, with the Gold defeating the Blue, 3-0, in rainy conditions before 17,025 fans at Notre Dame Stadium. Senior kicker **Nicholas Setta** booted a 37-yard field goal midway through the third quarter to provide the only points of the contest, which was played in 12-minute quarters with a running clock. Sophomore TB **Ryan Grant** was named the Offensive Player of the Game after rushing seven times for 45 yards for the Blue squad. Senior SS **Gerome Sapp** was selected the Defensive Player of the Game after registering five solo tackles and an interception for the Gold side. Other standout performers included senior WR **Arnaz Battle**, who caught five passes for 73 yards, and senior NG **Cedric Hilliard**, who collected five solo tackles.

WILLINGHAM NAMED HEAD COACH FOR 2003 EAST-WEST SHRINE GAME

Notre Dame mentor **Tyrone Willingham** has been named a head coach for the 78th East-West Shrine Game, to be played Saturday, Jan. 11, 2003, at Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco.

Willingham will pilot the East squad, while Washington State skipper Mike Price will lead the West team. Both men previously served as assistant coaches at the Shrine Game -- Willingham worked with the West squad in 1998, while Price was a West assistant in 1996.

The Shrine Game showcases the talents of many of the nation's top college senior players, while raising funds for thousands of children who receive medical care, at no cost, from the 22 Shriners' Hospitals for Children throughout North America. In the recently-completed NFL draft, 33 players from the 2002 Shrine Game were selected, including the third overall pick, Joey Harrington of Oregon.

DAVE CASPER ENTERS PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Former Notre Dame tight end **Dave Casper** — who starred for 11 seasons in the National Football League with the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders (1974-80, 1984), Houston Oilers (1980-83) and Minnesota Vikings (1983) — became the ninth Irish player to be inducted into the National Professional Football Hall of Fame, as a member of the class of 2002. He is the third former Notre Dame player in the last three years to be enshrined in Canton, Ohio.

Curly Lambeau, who lettered for the Irish in 1918, was a charter member of the Hall in 1963 as a founder, player and coach for the Green Bay Packers from 1919-49.

The other seven former Notre Dame players in the Pro Football Hall of Fame include: 1964 inductee **George Trafton** (C, Chicago Bears 1920-22), 1968 inductee **Wayne Millner** (E, Boston and Washington Redskins, 1936-41, 1945), 1975 inductee **George Connor** (T/LB, Chicago, 1948-55), 1986 inductee **Paul Hornung** (QB, Green Bay 1957-62, 1964-66), 1988 inductee **Alan Page** (DT, Minnesota 1967-78, Chicago 1978-81), 2000 inductee **Joe Montana** (QB, San Francisco 1979-92, Kansas City 1993-94) and 2001 inductee **Nick Buoniconti** (LB, Boston Patriots 1962-68, Miami 1969-74, 1976).

The 2002 induction ceremonies were held in Canton on Aug. 3, with the event moved from the steps of the Hall to adjacent Fawcett Stadium, where a stadium-record crowd of 17,700 looked on. Casper was presented into the Hall by his former coach with the Raiders, John Madden. Others inducted into the 2002 Hall of Fame class were George Allen (posthumous), Dan Hampton, Jim Kelly and John Stallworth.

FUTURE IRISH FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

2003

- Sept. 6** WASHINGTON STATE
- Sept. 13 at Michigan
- Sept. 20** MICHIGAN STATE
- Sept. 27 at Purdue
- Oct. 11 at Pittsburgh
- Oct. 18** USC
- Oct. 25 at Boston College
- Nov. 1** FLORIDA STATE
- Nov. 8** NAVY
- Nov. 15** BYU
- Nov. 22 at Syracuse
- Nov. 29 at Stanford

2004

- Sept. 11** MICHIGAN
- Sept. 18 at Michigan State
- Sept. 25** WASHINGTON
- Oct. 2** PURDUE
- Oct. 9** STANFORD
- Oct. 16 vs. Navy
(at East Rutherford, N.J.)
- Oct. 23** BOSTON COLLEGE
- Oct. 30 at BYU
- Nov. 6 at Tennessee
- Nov. 13** PITTSBURGH
- Nov. 27 at USC

2005

- Sept. 10 at Michigan
- Sept. 17** MICHIGAN STATE
- Sept. 24 at Washington
- Oct. 1 at Purdue
- Oct. 8 at Pittsburgh
- Oct. 15** USC
- Oct. 22** BYU
- Nov. 5** TENNESSEE
- Nov. 12** NAVY
- Nov. 19** SYRACUSE
- Nov. 26 at Stanford



SEARS DIRECTORS' CUP

The University of Notre Dame achieved its seventh top-25 finish in the nine-year history of the Sears Directors' Cup all-sports competition, finishing 13th in the final standings for 2001-02.

Notre Dame scored 335 spring points thanks to NCAA appearances in baseball (60 points based on its College World Series appearance), women's lacrosse (40 points based on quarterfinal appearance), men's tennis (50 points based on final 16 appearance), women's tennis (20 points based on first-round play), softball (50 points from regional runnerup finish), men's outdoor track (58.5 from 24th-place finish) and women's outdoor track (56.5 from 27th-place finish).

The final standings include NCAA spring sports results in men's and women's tennis, men's and women's golf, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's outdoor track and field, women's water polo, women's rowing, baseball, softball and men's volleyball.

Notre Dame earned 300.5 winter points from a 21st-place finish in men's indoor track (62.5 points), a 34th-place finish in women's indoor track (49 points), NCAA second-round appearances in men's and women's basketball (30 points each), its 19th-place NCAA finish in women's swimming (49) and its third-place finish in fencing (80).

Fall NCAA competition earned the Irish 171 points based on their sixth-place finish in men's cross country (68 points), their 19th-place finish in women's cross country (33), their advancement to the second round of the NCAAs in women's soccer (30) and their first-round NCAA participation in both volleyball and men's soccer (20 each).

Notre Dame and Stanford were the only schools to score in each of five traditional fall Olympic sports — men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball. Those two schools also were the two highest-ranked private institutions in the final standings.

Due to a change in the scoring structure for 2001-02, Notre Dame for the first time this year earned points from both indoor and outdoor track for men and women. The previous format called for schools to receive only the higher point total from either indoor or outdoor track. Irish coach Joe Piane's cross country and track teams combined to earn 327.5 of Notre Dame's 806.5 total points this year — 33 points from women's cross country, 49 from women's indoor track, 56.5 from women's outdoor track, 68 from men's cross country, 62.5 from men's indoor track and 58.5 from men's outdoor track.

In previous years in which the Sears Directors' Cup competition has been held, Notre Dame finished 11th in 1993-94, 30th in 1994-95, 11th in 1995-96, 14th in 1996-97, tied for 31st in 1997-98, 25th in 1998-99, 21st in 1999-2000 — and 11th again in 2000-01.

BETTIS NAMED 2002 NFL MAN OF THE YEAR

Former Notre Dame All-American and current Pittsburgh Steelers running back **Jerome Bettis** was named the winner of the 2002 NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year Award in recognition of his playing excellence and off-the-field community service. It marked the second consecutive year a former Notre Dame player won the award, following Jim Flanigan in 2001. Previous winners from Notre Dame are Joe Theismann (1982) and Dave Duerson (1987).

THE 2002 NFL DRAFT

Six former Irish players were selected in the 2002 NFL entry draft, while five other players signed free agent contracts. Anthony Weaver (second round, Baltimore Ravens) was the first Notre Dame player chosen. Rocky Boiman (fourth round, Tennessee Titans) was next, followed by John Owens (fifth round, Detroit Lions), Tyreo Harrison (sixth round, Philadelphia Eagles), Javin Hunter (sixth round, Baltimore Ravens) and David Givens (seventh round, New England Patriots). Tony Fisher (Green Bay Packers), Grant Irons (Buffalo Bills), Ron Israel (Washington Redskins), Jason Murray (Cincinnati Bengals) and Kurt Vollers (Indianapolis Colts) all signed free agent deals.

MAKING THE GRADE

The Notre Dame football squad had two of its most successful semesters in the classroom in the history of the program, based on final grades from the 2001 fall semester and the 2002 spring semester. In the fall of 2001, the Irish team finished with its second-highest combined grade-point average on record (2.685) since statistics were kept beginning in 1992. A total of 12 players earned Dean's List recognition and 38 players posted a "B" average or higher last fall. Then, in the spring of 2002, the Irish topped that mark with a record-setting 2.911 combined team GPA, with 13 players making the Dean's List and another 47 averaging a "B" or better.

ORDER YOUR MEDIA GUIDES AND FOOTBALL PREVIEW MAGAZINES TODAY

This season marks the ninth edition of the Notre Dame Football Preview Magazine — an official publication by the University of Notre Dame athletic department. The 1994, '95, '96, '97 and '98 and 2000 editions were voted best in the nation in the special publications competition sponsored by the College Sports Information Directors of America. The preview magazine, published by Host Communications, numbers nearly 100 pages, including game action shots of returning Irish players and coaches, position-by-position breakdowns and a feature on new head coach **Tyrone Willingham**. It's a collectors item perfect for autographs — with an emphasis on outstanding color photography unavailable in any other publication. The yearbook is priced at \$8 (plus \$4 for postage and handling) and can be ordered by calling 1-800-313-4678 or by writing to: Notre Dame Programs, 904 N. Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505.

THE 2001 NCAA STATISTICS REPORT

The final NCAA statistical rankings for Notre Dame in 2001 (top 50 for team ranks):

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Team Rankings | Notre Dame |
| Rushing Offense | 30th at 188.18 |
| Rushing Defense | 39th at 132.27 |
| Passing Defense | 10th at 172.64 |
| Pass Efficiency Defense | 38th at 113.66 |
| Total Defense | 14th at 304.91 |
| Scoring Defense | 22nd at 19.55 |
| Net Punting | 39th at 36.40 |
| Punt Returns | 49th at 10.07 |
| Kickoff Returns | 13th at 24.28 |
| Turnover Margin | 36th at 0.27 (+3 overall) |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Individual Rankings | Notre Dame |
| Punting | Joey Hildbold (35th at 42.23) |
| Field Goals | Nicholas Setta (17th at 1.36) |
| Punt Returns | Julius Jones (39th at 10.67) |
| All-Purpose Runners | Julius Jones (32nd at 124.73) |