

# THE CHARLIE WEIS ERA BEGINS AT NOTRE DAME

## Irish return 13 starters and 36 lettermen from '04 squad

The start of 2005 spring football practice marks the dawn of a new era in Notre Dame Football as new head coach **Charlie Weis** takes over the Irish program. A Notre Dame graduate (Class of 1978), Weis brings a reputation as one of football's brightest tacticians with him to the Irish.

After a 6-6 season, it's Weis's charge to (in his own words) "raise the expectations" of the football program and bring the Irish back to their previously accustomed spot among the elite. While he makes no promises of an immediate return to dominance, Weis fully expects to field a tough, smart team that will be fully prepared each Saturday.

Weis inherits an experienced team that returns 36 lettermen, 13 position starters and three starters in the kicking game. The Irish are particularly well-stocked with experience on the offensive side of the ball. Ten starters and 20 lettermen are back on offense while the defense returns three starters and 14 lettermen. The kicking game welcomes back kicker/punter **D.J. Fitzpatrick**.

Based on the returning experience, the offense would seem primed to be the standard bearer for the Irish in '05. While toughness and consistency in the running game will be focal points of spring preparation, a passing game that averaged 281 yards per game in '04 will only benefit from Weis's offensive expertise.

There's plenty of experience returning at every offensive position including tailback, where **Darius Walker** returns after splitting starting



Senior linebacker **Brandon Hoyte** is the most experienced player returning on the Irish defense in 2005. The fifth-year senior has played in 36 games, starting 16, in his career. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)

duties with **Ryan Grant** (the lone lost starter from '04).

Four of the five skill position starters return led by receivers **Maurice Stovall** and **Rhema McKnight**, tight end **Anthony Fasano** and full-back **Rashon Powers-Neal**.

The success of the offense will largely depend on the prowess of an experienced offensive line. All five starters from '04 return: LT **Ryan Harris**, LG **Bob Morton**, C **John Sullivan**, RG **Dan Stevenson** and RT **Mark LeVoi**.

How experienced is this offensive line? In terms of games started, this group has started 101 games in their careers, including 24 by LeVoi. A year ago the group had a total of only 42, led by LeVoi's 12.

Special teams will be a point of emphasis for the new coaching staff, particularly the return game. But the kicking end is well-stocked with experience. Fitzpatrick, who handled both the placement and punting duties in '04, returns for his final season. The Irish employed separate snappers for punts and kicks with **Scott Raridon** (placements) the lone returnee.

Defensively, the Irish have to deal with huge graduation losses. Only three regular starters return from the '04 unit that ranked fourth nationally against the rush (88.2 yards allowed per game) but was 116th in passing yards allowed. But there is experienced help on board, particularly along the front line.

Highlighting those defensive losses was the

departure of defensive end **Justin Tuck** (the '04 Irish most valuable player and ND's career sacks leader). Also missing will be end **Kyle Budinscak** (played in 44 games), tackle **Greg Pauly** (17 starts and 36 games played), linebacker **Mike Goolsby** (leading tackler in '04 who started 25 games) and linebacker **Derek Curry** (three-year starter who made 167 career tackles).

Returning for the Irish in '05 are three of the top 10 tacklers from last season in linebacker **Brandon Hoyte**, nose guard **Derek Landri** and safety **Tom Zbikowski**.

Notre Dame showed potential to compete with the nation's best in '04, defeating two teams ranked in the top 10 at gametime (Michigan and Tennessee) and owned victories over three teams that played in bowl games (Michigan, Tennessee and Navy).

Seven '05 Irish opponents played in bowl games a year ago (three of the seven were winners), highlighted by BCS participants Michigan (Rose Bowl), USC (won Orange Bowl), Pittsburgh (Fiesta Bowl) and Tennessee (won Cotton Bowl). Add to that list Purdue (Sun Bowl), Navy (won Emerald Bowl) and Syracuse (Champs Sports Bowl). Notre Dame's '05 opponents combined for a 78-53 mark (.595) in '04 – and five won eight or more games. Ten of 11 scheduled opponents for '05 were on the '04 slate.



Senior tight end **Anthony Fasano** could contend for national acclaim in 2005. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)



# 2005 Notre Dame Spring Outlook



Sophomore Darius Walker, who broke the Irish freshman rushing record in 2004, hopes to become the team's featured back in Charlie Weis's offense this season. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)

As spring football dawns in South Bend, the Weis Era starts here for Notre Dame as the Irish look to build a bright future.

Here's a position-by-position look at Notre Dame fortunes for the coming season:

**QUARTERBACK:** Junior **Brady Quinn** (191 of 353 for 2,586 yards, 17 TDs, 10 interceptions) has posted impressive numbers in nearly two full seasons as the Irish starter. He showed improvement across the board in '04, including his touchdowns-to-interceptions ratio (going from 9-to-15 in '03 to 17-to-10 in '04). Among his credits from '04 included a career-high 432-yard effort against Purdue and an Irish record-tying four TD passes versus Washington. He also finished as Notre Dame's second-leading single-season passer (only Jarious Jackson passed for more with 2,753 yards in 1999).

## Quarterbacks

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
Bragg, Darrin	6-2	185	So.	---
+ Mooney, Marty	6-2	210	Sr.	---
** Quinn, Brady	6-4	220	Jr.	250:53
+ Warren, J.J.	6-1	184	Jr.	---
Wolke, David	6-4	205	So.	2:00

Experience behind Quinn was tough to come by last year. Sophomores **Darrin Bragg** (did not play in '04) and **David Wolke** (played 2:00 in '04) will be looking for playing experience.

**RUNNING BACK:** Sophomore **Darius Walker** (185 for 786, 7 TDs) made a memorable debut in '04, splitting time with veteran starter **Ryan Grant** and posting the finest freshman rushing season in Notre Dame history. A deceptively fast runner with great

## Fullbacks

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
McConnell, Ashley	5-11	243	Jr.	---
*** Powers-Neal, Rashon	6-2	243	Sr.	119:37
* Schiccatano, Nate	6-2	242	Sr.	4:26

## Tailbacks

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
Hoskins, Justin	6-0	195	So.	2:40
Jenkins, Jeff	6-0	216	Sr.	6:50
* Thomas, Travis	6-0	212	Jr.	20:39
* Walker, Darius	5-11	200	So.	150:05

vision and quick feet, Walker returns as the probable starter after posting two 100-yard efforts in '04, one of those a 115-yard effort against Michigan in his debut for the Irish.

Three veterans return led by junior **Travis Thomas**, who will be complemented by senior **Jeff Jenkins** and sophomore **Justin Hoskins**.

**FULLBACK:** Experience is not a problem here, thanks to the return of fifth-year senior starter **Rashon Powers-Neal** (two receiving TDs in '04). The departure of veteran **Josh Schmidt** (played in 24 games, including 10 in '04) deprives the team of any veteran depth.

Powers-Neal provides a nice combination of elusiveness, power and blocking ability. And his prowess as a receiver out of the backfield has been a crucial component to the offense in recent years.

Also in the mix is senior **Nate Schiccatano** (played 4:26 in '04), who was the primary backup to Powers-Neal through much of last season.

**WIDE RECEIVER:** The Irish return the top four wideouts from a year ago, led by seniors **Rhema McKnight** (42 for 610, 3 TDs in '04) and **Maurice Stovall** (21 for 313, 1 TD in '04).

## Wide Receivers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
* Anastasio, Chase	6-1	202	Jr.	41:47
*** McKnight, Rhema	6-1	215	Sr.	218:46
+ O'Hara, Mike	5-10	174	So.	4:17
** Samardzija, Jeff	6-5	215	Jr.	175:37
*** Shelton, Matt	6-0	175	Sr.	159:51
*** Stovall, Maurice	6-5	227	Sr.	131:18
Vaughn, Chris	6-4	205	So.	9:11
+ Woods, Rob	6-2	205	Sr.	3:45

It will be interesting to see how Weis's new offense implements the talents of this deep, veteran group of pass catchers.

McKnight has led the Irish in receptions and yards the last two seasons, but he has yet to become the consistent big-play threat many envisioned when he arrived on the scene. Stovall (21 for 313, 1 TD in '04) has battled injuries and inconsistency, but has shown glimpses of great potential the last three seasons.

The primary big-play threat for the Irish in '04 came from senior **Matt Shelton** (20 for 515, 6 TDs in '04) who set a new Irish record for yards per catch in a season (25.8 ypc) last season. Shelton will miss the spring while recovering from knee surgery, but is expected back in the fall.

**Jeff Samardzija** (17 for 274 in '04) also returns. The lanky junior had a breakout game in the Insight Bowl versus Oregon State, making five



Senior receiver Rhema McKnight has led the Irish in receptions and receiving yards the last two seasons. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)



## 2005 Notre Dame Spring Outlook

grabs for 89 yards. Other returnees include sophomore **Chris Vaughn** (1 for 7 in '04) and junior **Chase Anastasio** (1 for 15 in '04).

### Tight Ends

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
* Carlson, John	6-5	248	Jr.	29:55
** Fasano, Anthony	6-4	256	Sr.	136:49
** Freeman, Marcus	6-2	248	Sr.	75:18

**TIGHT END:** The Irish figure to continue to expand the use of tight ends in the passing game in Weis's new offense and the chief beneficiary in '05 figures to be returning starter **Anthony Fasano** (27 for 367, 4 TDs in '04). The senior was second on the team in catches last season, including a 155-yard, two-TD effort against Purdue that earned him Mackey Award Tight End of the Week honors.

There's experience and talent behind Fasano led by senior **Marcus Freeman** (five for 50 in '04) and junior **John Carlson** (six for 31 in '04). Freeman played in eight games (starting four times) last season while Carlson played every game (starting twice) and was a special teams standout.

### Centers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
** Morton, Bob	6-4	300	Sr.	310:11+
* Sullivan, John	6-3	295	Jr.	367:24

+ playing time at guard in '04

**CENTER:** The return of junior starter **John Sullivan** (12 starts in '04 playing a team-leading 367:24) provides the Irish with a strong foundation up front. Sullivan matured in his first season of action as the full-time starter last year. His continued development will be a key to the success of the offense this season.

### Offensive Guards

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
Bonelli, James	6-4	290	Sr.	--
** Morton, Bob	6-4	300	Sr.	310:11
** Santucci, Dan	6-4	292	Sr.	80:51
*** Stevenson, Dan	6-5	293	Sr.	348:05

Guard **Bob Morton** could slide over to help. Morton, the starter at left guard in '04, started 11 games at center for the Irish in '03.

**OFFENSIVE GUARD:** The Irish have enough experience and depth at the guard spots to have four players who can contribute. Both starters return in fifth-year senior RG **Dan Stevenson**



The Notre Dame offensive line returns intact from '04 as all five starters return. The unit has a combined total of 101 career starts. Four starters have started more than 20 career games. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)

(12 starts in '04, 23 career starts) and senior LG **Bob Morton** (11 starts in '04, 22 career starts on the OL).

Both Stevenson and Morton have all-star potential. Stevenson settled in at guard in '04 after starting six games their in '03 while Morton successfully transitioned from center to start the entire regular season in '04.

Senior **Dan Santucci** (11 games, 1 start in '04) started at guard in the Insight Bowl and could challenge for the starting job this fall after impressive work as a reserve and in the starting role in the bowl game.

**OFFENSIVE TACKLE:** Both starters return at tackle as LT **Ryan Harris** and RT **Mark LeVoi** bring a combined 44 career starts between them.

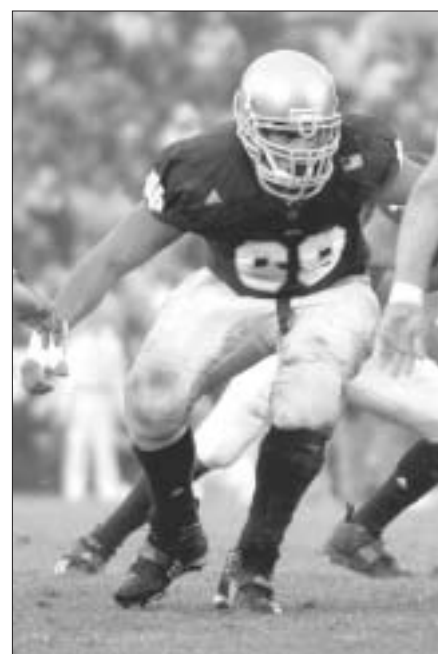
Senior LeVoi (24 career starts over last two seasons) provides the most experience with 32 career games played and more than 700 minutes logged the last two seasons. A freshman All-American in '03, junior Harris (20 career starts, 24 games played) continued to develop into a dominant college lineman in his second season and figures to emerge as a star this season.

A quartet of players appear likely to contribute at tackle led by sophomores **John Kadous** (did not play in '04) and **Chauncey Incarnato** (did not play in '04). Senior **Brian Mattes** (10 games in '04) also figures to be in the mix.

**DEFENSIVE END:** Gone from Notre Dame's defensive end ranks is veteran **Justin Tuck** (22 career starts, 47 tackles in '04), who set the

### Offensive Tackles

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
+ Bent, James	6-1	271	Sr.	--
Fitzgerald, David	6-4	285	Sr.	--
** Harris, Ryan	6-5	289	Jr.	362:45
Incarnato, Chauncey	6-6	280	So.	--
Kadous, John	6-7	310	So.	--
*** LeVoi, Mark	6-7	310	Sr.	365:30
* Mattes, Brian	6-5	292	Sr.	8:01



Junior tackle Ryan Harris anchors a veteran Irish offensive line. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)



# 2005 Notre Dame Spring Outlook



Junior Victor Abiamiri will be looked to for increased production and more consistent play this season as he expects to step into a starting role at defensive end. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)

## Defensive End

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
** Abiamiri, Victor	6-4	269	Jr.	193:37
Brown, Justin	6-4	225	So.	---
Frome, Chris	6-5	271	Sr.	27:05
* Leitko, Travis	6-6	275	Sr.	4:47
Nicolas, Brandon	6-5	275	So.	---
Stephenson, Dwight Jr.	6-2	245	Jr.	---
Talley, Ronald	6-4	245	So.	---

## Defensive Tackles

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
*** Beidatsch, Brian	6-2	295	Sr.	32:12
Chervanick, Dan	6-1	265	Sr.	0:14
** Landri, Derek	6-2	278	Sr.	241:01
* Laws, Trevor	6-0	285	Jr.	121:39

Irish career quarterback sacks record (24.5) in only three years of action, and **Kyle Budinscak** (34 career starts, 25 tackles and 5 sacks in '04).

But there is experience returning in junior **Victor Abiamiri** and senior **Chris Frome**. Abiamiri (played in 12 games, 15 tackles and 2 sacks in '04) has been a consistent pass rushing threat in a reserve role the last two seasons. Frome (played in 7 games, 7 tackles in '04) figures to get a major look during the spring.

Senior **Travis Leitko** (11 games, 5 tackles and a fumble recovery in '04) has been a special teams stalwart and could get a serious look at end this spring. There are three sopho-

mores – **Justin Brown**, **Brandon Nicolas** and **Ronald Talley** – who will contend for playing time after watching all of their rookie seasons from the sidelines.

**DEFENSIVE TACKLE/NOSE GUARD:** Notre Dame should be solid up the middle on defense in '05, thanks to the return of three experienced veterans – senior nose guard starter **Derek Landri** (40 tackles, 7 TFL, 4 PBU in '04), talented junior nose guard **Trevor Laws** (17 tackles, 1 sack, 2 TFL in '04), plus senior tackle **Brian Beidatsch** (8 games, 3 tackles in '04).

Landri may have been the team's most improved player in '04 when he emerged as a force, starting all 12 games and providing a push in the middle of the line. Laws has undeniable talent and ability. He will be looked to for a starting role at either tackle or nose guard after an inconsistent debut season in '04.

Beidatsch is the veteran of the group, a fifth-year player and three-time monogram winner who is a former end. His experience and versatility gives the team some much-needed depth in the middle.

**OUTSIDE LINEBACKER:** The Irish lose veteran three-year starter **Derek Curry** from the outside linebacker spot, opening up possibilities for several youngsters to shine. Junior **Mitchell Thomas** (11 games, 2 tackles, 1 TFL in '04) rose to backup status behind Curry last year. Fifth-year

## Outside Linebackers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
Banda, Abdel	6-2	215	So.	---
* Brockington, Joe	6-1	225	Jr.	3:30
Crum, Maurice Jr.	6-1	215	So.	---
*** Hoyte, Brandon	5-11	231	Sr.	199:15
Thomas, Mitchell	6-3	230	Jr.	1:54
* Salvador, Anthony	6-2	232	Sr.	7:24

senior **Brandon Hoyte** (74 tackles, 8 TFL, 3 sacks in '04) was second on the team in tackles last season and will be the unit's veteran leader this fall. Hoyte (20 career starts) could compete for national honors this season after emerging as one of the nation's hardest hitters last year.

Sophomore **Joe Brockington** (11 games, 3 tackles in '04) was the primary backup to Hoyte last year and could vie for a starting role opposite him in '05, or provide experienced help as a reserve. Senior **Anthony Salvador** adds depth after playing extensively on special teams. Two sophomores – **Abdel Banda** and **Maurice**

## Middle Linebackers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
* Borsetti, Nick	6-4	238	Jr.	2:50
*** Mays, Corey	6-1	243	Sr.	46:18

**Crum, Jr.** – will be looking to make their mark after not seeing action as freshmen in '04.

**MIDDLE LINEBACKER:** The departure of veteran **Mike Goolsby** forces the Irish to replace their leading tackler from '04, as well as the defense's emotional leader.

There are several candidates to replace Goolsby led by fifth-year senior **Corey Mays** (33 career games, 15 tackles, 1 sack in '04), a special teams stalwart to this point in his career. Mays has the skills and experience to handle the job and figures to play a prominent role this season.

Joining Mays in the middle will be veteran reserve **Nick Borsetti** (9 games, 7 tackles in '04). Borsetti was a special teams standout last season before a knee injury sidelined him. His return for the spring remains in question, but he figures to have a say in the middle before the '05 season is in the books.

**CORNERBACK:** The graduation of '04 starters **Dwight Ellick** and **Preston Jackson** leaves both starting jobs at cornerback open. One player (**Mike Richardson**) who has earned a monogram returns, along with another who played sparingly in '04 (**Ambrose Wooden**).



Richardson (12 games, 5 starts, 33 tackles in '04) started as a nickel back last season. He showed a nose for the ball with three forced fumbles and an interception last season.

Other candidates for a prominent role included junior Wooden (9 games, 5 tackles in '04) and a quartet of second-year men who didn't play as freshmen in '04 – **Tregg Duerson**,

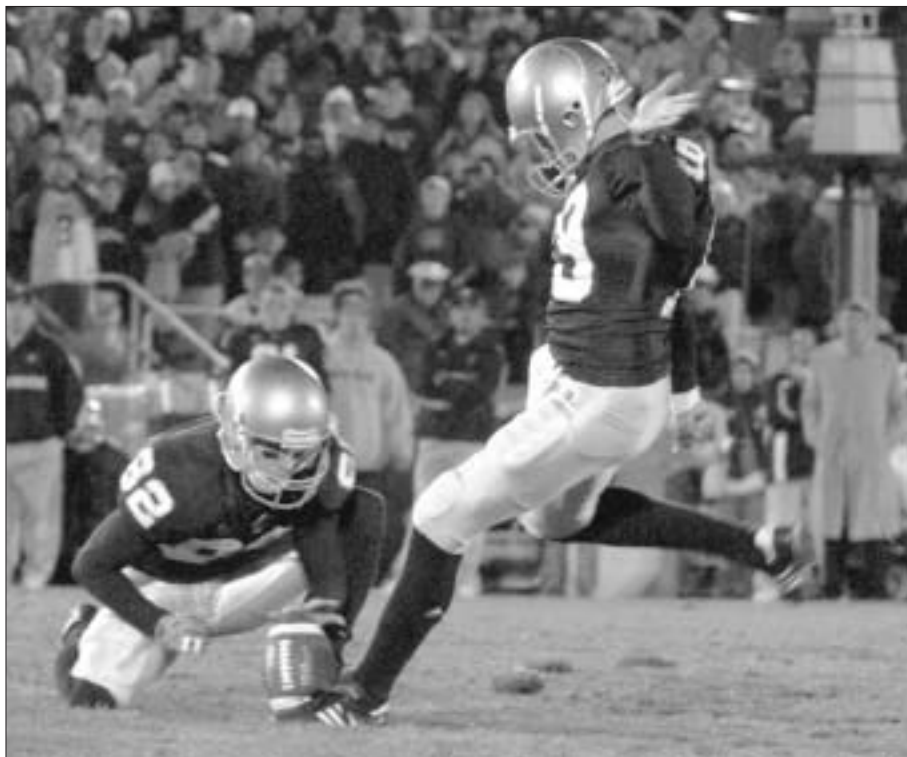
Cornerbacks				
Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
Duerson, Tregg	5-10	170	So.	---
Ferrine, Leo	6-0	180	So.	---
Jabbie, Junior	5-11	190	So.	---
Lambert, Terrail	5-10	190	So.	---
** Richardson, Mike	5-11	190	Sr.	133:21
Wooden, Ambrose	5-11	186	Jr.	6:52

**Leo Ferrine, Junior Jabbie** and the speedy **Terrail Lambert**.

**SAFETY:** The Irish lose one safety in the graduated **Quentin Burrell** (72 tackles, 3 PBU, 1 fumble recovery in '04) but return a potential star in junior **Tom Zbikowski** (70 tackles, 1 INT, 1 fumble recovery, 2 forced fumbles in '04). Zbikowski ranked fourth on the Irish roster in total tackles while developing a reputation as a ballhawk in the secondary.



Junior safety Tom Zbikowski showed play making ability in 2004, his first season as a starter. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)



Senior placekicker/punter D.J. Fitzpatrick capably filled both roles last season and hopes to handle placements, kickoffs and punts again this season. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)

Safeties				
Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	'04 Time
Carney, Jake	6-0	192	Sr.	---
** Ndukwe, Chinedum	6-2	223	Jr.	12:06
* Parish, Freddie IV	6-0	202	Jr.	26:27
Vernaglia, Anthony	6-4	220	So.	---
* Zbikowski, Tom	5-11	203	Jr.	330:35

There are several candidates for a prominent role at safety – junior **Chinedum Ndukwe** (9 games, 7 tackles in '04), and junior **Freddie Parish IV** (12 games, 18 tackles in '04) figure to be the main contenders from the ranks of the veterans. Second-year man **Anthony Vernaglia** will get a look this spring after not playing as a rookie in '04.

**KICKER/PUNTER:** Notre Dame returns plenty of experience at both punter and placekicker, spots that were manned primarily by **D.J. Fitzpatrick** in '04 who returns this season. Fitzpatrick was drastically improved as a punter last season, averaging 41.8 yards per attempt while placing 29 of 76 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line. He also was a consistent placekicker, making 11 of 15 attempts (73.3 percent) in his second season as the starter. Fitzpatrick already ranks eighth in Notre Dame history for field goals made with 23 (in 32 attempts). **Geoff Price** (44.5 avg. on 2 punts in '04) is a strong-legged veteran

Kickers/Punters				
Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	App.
Cardillo, Craig	6-0	169	Sr.	---
** Fitzpatrick, D.J.	6-1	195	Sr.	138 app.
Gioia, Carl	5-10	180	Jr.	24
Price, Geoff	6-3	194	Jr.	2
Renkes, Bobby	6-0	188	Jr.	21

Long/Short Snappers				
Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	App.
** Raridon, Scott (Kicks)	6-6	310	Sr.	45 app.

who could compete for the punting job. **Carl Gioia** and **Bobby Renkes** shared kickoff duties with Fitzpatrick in '04 while **Craig Cardillo** could step in, if needed.

Punt return specialist **Carlyle Holiday** graduated, leaving that job open for the '05 season. Junior **Chase Anastasio** (18.6-yard average in '04) handled most of the kickoff returns last year. Sophomore **Justin Hoskins** (9 return, 19.3-yard avg. in '04), senior **Maurice Stovall** and senior **Matt Shelton** have experience.

Long snapper **Casey Dunn** must be replaced in the punting game, but **Scott Raridon** returns to handle the snaps for field goals and conversion kicks after 50 flawless snaps at that position last season.



# 2005 Notre Dame Football Facts

## Coaching Staff

**Head Coach:** Charlie Weis (Notre Dame '78)

**Record at Notre Dame:** First Season

**Career Record:** First Season as a head coach

**Assistant Coaches:** David Cutcliffe (Alabama '76), assistant head coach (offense)/quarterbacks; Bill Lewis (East Stroudsburg State '63), assistant head coach (defense)/defensive backs; Rick Minter (Henderson State '77), defensive coordinator/linebackers; Mike Haywood (Notre Dame '86), offensive coordinator/running backs; Rob Ianello (Catholic University of America '87), receivers/recruiting coordinator; John Latina (Virginia Tech '79), offensive line; Jappy Oliver (Purdue '78), defensive line; Bernie Parmalee (Ball State '91), tight ends/special teams; Brian Polian (John Carroll '97), special teams coordinator/assistant defensive backs.

**Director of Football Operations:** Chad Klunder (Wartburg '95).

**Director of Football Personnel Development:** Ron Powlus (Notre Dame '97).

**Coordinator of Football Personnel Development:** David Peloquin (Notre Dame '03).

**Graduate Assistant Coach:** Jeff Burrows (Cincinnati '99), Shane Waldron (Tufts '02).

## 2005 Outlook

**Offense:** Multiple **Defense:** 4-3

**2004 Record:** Won 6, Lost 6 (Home 3-3, Away 2-2, Neutral 1-1)

**Lettermen Lost:** 23 overall: 12 offense, 10 defense, 1 specialist.

**Lettermen Returning:** 36 overall: 20 offense, 14 defense, 2 specialists.

**Starters Lost:** 10; **OFFENSE (1):** RB Ryan Grant. **DEFENSE (8):** DE Justin Tuck, DT Greg Pauly, DE Kyle Budinscak, LB Mike Goolsby, LB Derek Curry, CB Dwight Ellick, CB Preston Jackson, FS Quentin Burrell. **SPECIALISTS (1):** LS Casey Dunn.

**Starters Returning:** 15; **OFFENSE (10):** WR Maurice Stovall, LT Ryan Harris, LG Bob Morton, C John Sullivan, RG Dan Stevenson, RT Mark LeVoit, TE Anthony Fasano, WR Rhema McKnight, QB Brady Quinn, FB Rashon Powers-Neal. **DEFENSE (3):** NG Derek Landri, LB Brandon Hoyte, SS Tom Zbikowski. **SPECIALISTS (2):** K/P D.J. Fitzpatrick, SNP (FGs/PATs) Scott Raridon.

## Top Losses

- **DE Justin Tuck** (Team captain in '04 ... voted team's MVP in '04 ... two-year starter ... ND career quarterback sacks leader with 24 ... started 22 games, playing in 36 games in career.)
- **RB Ryan Grant** (Team captain in '04 ... three-year starter ... rushed for 2,022 yards in career – 11th in ND history.)
- **DE Kyle Budinscak** (Three-year starter ... played in 44 games in career ... made 15 sacks in career ... recorded 706:42 minutes in career ... winner of 2004 Knute Rockne Scholar-Athlete Award.)
- **DT Greg Pauly** (Played in 36 games in career, starting 17 ... made 69 career tackles with four sacks ... winner of the 2004 Moose Krause Lineman of the Year Award.)
- **MLB Mike Goolsby** (Team captain in '04 ... recorded team-high 97 tackles in '04 ... two-year starter ... played in 47 games in career ... started 25 games ... made 177 career tackles.)
- **OLB Derek Curry** (Three-year starter ... played in 48 career games, starting 35 ... made 167 tackles, 13 sacks and four interceptions in career ... winner of 2004 Nick Pietrosante Award.)
- **CB Dwight Ellick** (Played in 45 games in career, starting 18 ... recorded 73 career tackles, nine pass breakups and two interceptions in career.)
- **FS Quentin Burrell** (Third on the Irish in tackles with 72 total – 42 solos, three PBUs in '04, played in 44 games in his career, starting 21.)
- **CB Preston Jackson** (Eighth on the Irish in tackles in '04 with 41 ... played in 48 games in career, starting 18.)



Junior nose guard/defensive tackle Derek Landri emerged as a force in the middle for Notre Dame in 2004. (photo by Cheryl Ertelt)

## Top Returnees

- **QB Brady Quinn** (Started all 12 games in '04, finished 191-353 for 2,586 yards and 17 TDs with 10 INTs in '04 ... posted top totals of any sophomore QB in ND history in '04 ... already 5th on ND career passing yards list with 4,417 for career ... has started NDs last 21 games at QB.)
- **RB Darius Walker** (Set ND freshman rushing yards record in '04 with 786 yards ... started six games at RB ... scored seven rushing TDs to rank 2nd in ND freshman annals ... earned National Player of the Week from The Sporting News and Sporting News Radio for 115-yard, 3-touchdowns outing vs. Michigan.)
- **WR Rhema McKnight** (led Irish with 42 catches for 610 yards, 14.5 avg, three TDs in '04 ... has played in 36 games in career, 18 starts ... has led ND in catches last two seasons.)
- **K/P D.J. Fitzpatrick** (11-15 FGs, 34-35 PATs and averaged 41.8 yards on 76 punts in '04 ... led team in scoring in '04 with 67 points ... for career, 23-32 FGs and 51-13 PATs ... made 11 straight FGs made at one point in '03-'04.)
- **LT Ryan Harris** (Two-year monogram winner ... has started 20 games in career ... played 362:45 minutes in '04.)
- **WR Matt Shelton** (20 catches for 515 yards, 25.8 avg, six TDs in '04 ... set ND single-season record for yards per catch in '04.)
- **TE Anthony Fasano** (27 catches for 367 yards, 13.4 avg, four TDs in '04.)
- **NG Derek Landri** (Started 12 games; 40 tackles in '04 – 19 solo, 21 asst., seven tackles for loss, four deflections.)
- **ILB Brandon Hoyte** (37 career games, starting 17 ... second on team in tackles with 74 in '04 – 39 solos, 35 asst., three sacks, eight TFLs, three forced fumbles.)
- **SS Tom Zbikowski** (Fourth on Irish in '04 with 70 tackles – 37 solos, 2.5 TFLs, one interception, one fumble recovery, two forced fumbles ... National Defensive Player of the Week vs. Michigan State in '04.)



# 2005 Notre Dame Football Notes

## HEAD COACH CHARLIE WEIS

Charlie Weis was named the 28th head football coach in Notre Dame history on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004. A 1978 Notre Dame graduate, Weis takes the reins of the Irish program after a highly successful career as an assistant coach in the National Football League.



The owner of four Super Bowl champion rings as products of a stellar 15-season career as an NFL assistant, Weis is a widely-respected disciple of professional coaching standouts Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick. He comes to Notre Dame after excelling as offensive coordinator of the New England Patriots where he has played an integral role in New England's victories in three of the last four Super Bowls.

Weis is the first Notre Dame graduate to hold the football head coaching position at his alma mater since Hugh Devore (a '34 graduate) served as interim coach in 1963 and is the first Notre Dame graduate to serve as the Irish football coach on a full-fledged basis since Joe Kuharich (a '38 Notre Dame graduate who coached at Notre Dame from 1959 through '62).

A veteran of 26 seasons in coaching, Weis coached nine seasons with the Patriots, five as offensive coordinator. Weis helped produce four Super Bowl championships (New York Giants following 1990 season, Patriots following '01, '03 and '04 seasons), five conference titles and seven division titles. Weis has been a winner everywhere he has coached – and he has received widespread notice as one of the most creative and innovative offensive coordinators in football.

## '05 SPRING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

The University of Notre Dame will open spring football drills for 2005 on Tuesday, March 29. All practices will begin at 4:30 p.m., except where noted.

The complete schedule of 15 workout dates follows with spring practice concluding April 23 with the annual Blue-Gold game in Notre Dame Stadium.

Tuesday, March 29	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 30	4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 1	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 2	1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 6	4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 8	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 9	1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 12	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 13	4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 15	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 16	1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	4:30 p.m.
<b>Saturday, April 23 (Blue-Gold Game)</b>	<b>1:35 p.m.</b>

## NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL COACHES CLINIC

The University of Notre Dame football staff will conduct its annual spring coaches clinic April 15-16, 2005.

Registration at the Joyce Center on campus begins at 8:00 a.m. EST on April 15 with clinic sessions running from April 15-16.

The clinic fee is \$50 per person (\$55 after March 15 or at the door), \$40 per person for groups of five or more (\$55 after March 15 or at door) and \$20 per person for Saturday only. For a brochure, please visit or call the Notre Dame football office at (574) 631-7475.



New Irish head coach Charlie Weis takes over the Notre Dame program after a highly successful stint as an assistant coach in the National Football League. (photo courtesy New England Patriots)

## 2005 NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Kickoff times have been set for all Notre Dame home games in 2005. Here is the complete 2005 schedule:

Date	Opponent	Time	Television
Sept. 3	at Pittsburgh	TBA	ABC
Sept. 10	at Michigan	TBA	TBA
<b>Sept. 17</b>	<b>MICHIGAN STATE</b>	<b>1:30 p.m. EST</b>	<b>NBC</b>
Sept. 24	at Washington	TBA	TBA
Oct. 1	at Purdue	6 or 6:45 p.m. EST	ESPN or ESPN2
<b>Oct. 15</b>	<b>USC</b>	<b>2:30 p.m. EST</b>	<b>NBC</b>
<b>Oct. 22</b>	<b>BYU</b>	<b>1:30 p.m. EST</b>	<b>NBC</b>
<b>Nov. 5</b>	<b>TENNESSEE</b>	<b>2:30 p.m. EST</b>	<b>NBC</b>
<b>Nov. 12</b>	<b>NAVY</b>	<b>1 p.m. EST</b>	<b>NBC</b>
<b>Nov. 19</b>	<b>SYRACUSE</b>	<b>3 p.m. EST</b>	<b>NBC</b>
Nov. 26	at Stanford	TBA	TBA

## 2004 SEASON IN REVIEW

- Notre Dame completed a 6-6 season in 2004 playing a schedule that included eight teams that participated in postseason bowl games, including three that played in Bowl Championship Series contests (Notre Dame and Texas A&M were the only schools to do so).

- The season culminated with Notre Dame's first appearance in the Insight Bowl, a 38-21 loss to Oregon State. The game was the Irish's fourth to take place in the Phoenix/Tempe, AZ area, with the three prior games taking place in the Fiesta Bowl (1989 vs. West Virginia, 1994 vs. Colorado and 2000 vs. Oregon State).

- The 2004 Insight Bowl marked the 26th bowl game for the Irish (13-13) and the 14th in 18 years.

- With the Insight Bowl appearance, Notre Dame has played in 10 different bowl games over the years (Rose, Cotton, Orange, Sugar, Gator, Liberty, Aloha, Fiesta, Independence and Insight). The Irish have at least one win in seven of those 10 bowl games, only coming up short in the Aloha, Independence and Insight Bowls, where they have made just one appearance.

- Notre Dame finished the 2004 season with a slight improvement over 2003 (5-7 record). The Irish played seven games decided by eight points or less in 2004, going 4-3 in those games. Three of Notre Dame's five losses were by a total of seven points (by 3 at BYU, by 1 to Boston College and by 3 to Pittsburgh), including a pair of games in which the deciding score occurred in the game's final minute (BC and Pittsburgh).

- Notre Dame had a 3-4 record vs. bowl teams during the regular



## 2005 Notre Dame Football Notes

season, including a 1-2 record vs. BCS teams (win over Michigan; losses to Pittsburgh and USC). The seven Irish opponents in bowls: Michigan (lost to Texas in Rose), Purdue (lost to Arizona State in Sun), Navy (def. New Mexico in Emerald), Boston College (def. North Carolina in Continental Tire), Tennessee (def. Texas A&M in Cotton), Pittsburgh (lost to Utah in Fiesta), and USC (vs. Oklahoma in Orange).

• Notre Dame and Auburn were the nation's only teams in the 2004 regular season with multiple victories over opponents ranked in the nation's top 10 at game time. The Irish defeated Michigan (then ranked 7th on Sept. 11) and Tennessee (then ranked 9th on Nov. 6) and faced six teams in the final AP poll (USC, Michigan, Tennessee, Navy, Boston College and Pittsburgh), posting a 3-3 mark against those teams.

### FACING COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S BEST

Notre Dame's overall 2004 football schedule ranked seventh in difficulty, based on a combined 78-49 mark (.614) by Irish opponents in games vs. NCAA Division IA opponents, according to NCAA figures. Texas A&M led the list with a 86-42 mark (.672) by its opponents, followed by North Carolina and Arizona. Notre Dame's schedule included seven teams that participated in bowl games, including three participants in Bowl Championship Series games, and six teams that ended the season ranked in the nation's top 25 (including No. 1 USC) by Associated Press.

Here is a breakdown of Notre Dame's 2005 opponents:

Opponent	'04 Record	Bowl Game
Pittsburgh	8-4	Fiesta
Michigan	9-3	Rose
Michigan State	5-7	—
Washington	1-10	—
Purdue	7-5	Sun
USC	13-0	Orange
BYU	5-6	—
Tennessee	10-3	Cotton
Navy	10-2	Emerald
Syracuse	6-6	Champ Sports
Stanford	4-7	—

### IRISH RETURN 29 PLAYERS ON OFFENSE INCLUDING 10 STARTERS FROM '04 SQUAD

Notre Dame returns 29 players and 10 starters from an offense that produced one of the school's finest passing attacks in history in 2004, but will be looking to achieve more balance in '05. Returning offensive starters for the Irish in 2005 are QB **Brady Quinn**, FB **Rashon Powers-Neal**, TE **Anthony Fasano**, WR **Maurice Stovall**, WR **Rhema McKnight**, LT **Ryan Harris**, LG **Bobby Morton**, C **John Sullivan**, RG **Dan Stevenson**, and LG **Mark LeVoir**. The only spot where the designated '04 starter doesn't return this season is at tailback. But sophomore TB **Darius Walker** started six games there in '04 and led the team in rushing yards (freshman record 786) and touchdowns (seven – second-best by a freshman in ND history). Other items regarding the Irish offense:

• For the most part in 2004, success running the football led to success in the win column for Notre Dame. In the Irish's six victories, Notre Dame averaged 150.8 yards per game on the ground and 3.4 yards per rushing attempt (905 yards on 265 carries). In the Irish's six losses, Notre Dame averaged 104.0 yards per game via the rush and 3.2 yards per attempt (624 yards on 195 carries). Notre Dame's best rushing performance in a victory was a 204-yard effort against Navy. The worst Irish rushing performance in a victory was the 98-yard outing at Tennessee. The exception to this trend occurred in the loss at USC when the Irish rushed for 195 yards on 37 attempts (5.3 avg.), the most surrendered by the Trojans since UCLA gained 197 on Nov. 24, 2002.

• Notre Dame's passing totals were consistent throughout most of the 2004 season – at least in regards to the passing game's effect on the outcome. In the Irish's six victories, Notre Dame averaged 195.7 yards per game in the air and 7.4 yards per pass attempt. In the Irish's six losses, Notre Dame averaged 272.8 yards per game via the pass and 7.5 yards per attempt. Notre Dame's best passing performance in a victory was a 266-yard effort, four-touchdown against Washington. The worst Irish passing performance in a victory was the 118-yard outing at Tennessee.

• Notre Dame did not commit a turnover in the loss at USC, snap-



Veteran wide receiver Maurice Stovall returns for his fourth season of action with the Irish in 2005. (Photo by Lighthouse Imaging)

ping an amazing 41-game unbeaten streak (40-0-1) since 1985 for the Irish when they don't commit a turnover. Prior to the USC game, the last time a Notre Dame team lost a game without committing a turnover was in a 34-30 loss at Penn State on Nov. 12, 1983. Two of Notre Dame's six victories in 2004 were keynoted by errorless outings in the turnover department as the Irish collected wins over Navy (27-9) and Tennessee (17-13) while not losing the ball via a turnover.

• The Irish enter 2005 with an impressive streak of six consecutive games without losing a fumble. Overall, Notre Dame did not lose a fumble in seven of 12 games and lost more than one only once all season (two at Michigan State). Since a fumble lost against Stanford on Oct. 9, the Irish enter the 2005 season having gone 24 quarters and 184 rushing attempts without losing a fumble. Over that span, Notre Dame only fumbled twice, recovering both drops (vs. Navy and USC).

### IRISH DEFENSE RETURNS 3 STARTERS, 29 PLAYERS

Notre Dame returns 29 players and three starters from a defense that was tough to run on in '04 but struggle against the pass. Returning defensive starters for the Irish in 2005 are NG **Derek Landri**, LB **Brandon Hoyte**, and SS **Tom Zbikowski**. Overall, 11 players who earned monograms in '04 return on the defensive side. Other items regarding the Irish defense:

• Notre Dame's defense was excellent against the run in 2004. The Irish prevented every opponent from reaching its full-season average on the ground, holding all but two foes under 100 yards for the game. For the season, the Irish allowed 88.2 yards per game on the ground and yielded 2.7 yards per rushing attempt. The only player to rush for more than 100 yards against Notre Dame in 2004 was Navy full-back Kyle Eckel, who gained 102 yards on 22 carries on Oct. 16. Notre Dame's 20 yards allowed to Oregon State in the Insight Bowl set a new Irish bowl record for





# 2005 Notre Dame Football Notes

fewest rushing yards allowed.

- Only one (Pittsburgh) of the Irish's 12 opponents achieved its rushing average for 2004 against Notre Dame. Only three opponents managed to break the century mark in rushing yardage (Michigan State, Washington and Navy), and only one averaged more than 4.0 yards per attempt (Michigan State, 4.7 yards per rush). Navy's 216 yards (on 61 carries – a 3.5 avg.) was the only 200+-yard outing by an opponent. The chart below shows each opponent's season rushing average and its final NCAA statistical ranking in comparison to how effectively Notre Dame contained these rushing offenses:

Opponent	Avg. (NCAA rank)	Yards	
		vs. ND	Diff.
BYU	103.2 (102nd)	22	-81
Michigan	153.6 (61st)	56	-98
Michigan State	238.5 (10th)	165	-73
Washington	120.2 (90th)	112	-8
Purdue	125.3 (87th)	99	-26
Stanford	81.2 (114th)	67	-14
Navy	289.5 (3rd)	216	-73
Boston College	140.1 (74th)	62	-78
Tennessee	186.0 (24th)	58	-128
Pittsburgh	97.8 (105th)	98	—
USC	177.4 (33rd)	83	-94
Oregon State	70.7 (117th)	20	-51

- Notre Dame's defense against the rush was the team's most consistent area in 2004. The Irish allowed only 1,058 rushing yards (88.2 per game) and a key to that success was the defense's ability to prevent long rushing plays. Notre Dame did not allow a rushing play of more than 25 yards in 2004. Other than two 25-yard runs (by Boston College and Tennessee), the '04 Irish did not allow a run of more than 18 yards (by Michigan State and USC) in a game. Notre Dame allowed only six rushing touchdowns (the Irish gave up 19 rushing touchdowns in 2003) for an improvement of 13.

- One of the focal points of the Irish in 2005 will be improving their pass defense. The '04 Irish struggled against the pass, particularly in the season's final three games and in losses on the whole. In their six wins, the Irish allowed an average of 186.5 yards per game through the air and 5.7 yards per pass attempt. In the six losses, Notre Dame allowed an average of 272.8 yards per game and 7.4 yards per attempt. In the six wins, the Irish allowed only two passing touchdowns, but gave up 17 in the six losses. Opponents completed 49.5 pass attempts in Notre Dame wins and 65.3 percent in Irish losses.

## TURNOVER MARGIN

Notre Dame finished with a +5 turnover margin (+0.4/game), an improvement of +0.2 on the season. While gaining seven fewer turnovers from opponents than they did in '03, the Irish produced 10 fewer turnovers on offense in '04 than the '03 squad did. Altogether, Notre Dame recorded 21 takeaways, while giving the ball away 16 times. Those 21 takeaways led to 76 Irish points (6.3 ppg.), including three turnovers that were turned directly into scores by the defense.

## QUINN AMONG TOP IRISH PASSERS

- Quarterback **Brady Quinn** re-wrote virtually all of Notre Dame's sophomore passing marks in 2004, moving into fifth place on the Irish career passing yards list with 4,417 yards through two seasons. Quinn set new sophomore passing standards for yards (2,586), touchdowns (17), completions (191) and attempts (353).

- Quinn's 2,586 passing yards in '04 is the second-best single-season passing yardage total of any quarterback in school annals behind Jarious Jackson's 2,753 in 1999.

- Quinn passed for more than 200 yards seven times in '04 including a career-best performance against Purdue when he completed 26 of 46 passes for 432 yards and one touchdown. That outing was the highest individual passing yardage total in Notre Dame Stadium history and the second-highest in any game in school history (behind Joe Theismann's 526 yards at USC in 1970). Other notable facts about Quinn heading into the '05 season:

- Quinn's three-game stretch against Michigan State, Washington and Purdue is the second-best in Notre Dame history for most passing yards in three consecutive games. In that stretch he threw for 912 yards.

- Quinn spread his pass completions around in 2004, completing passes to 21

different receivers (the most since 1962), a breakdown of seven wide receivers, six running backs, four tight ends, two passes to himself (caught off of deflections vs. Washington and Purdue) and one to an offensive lineman (LT **Ryan Harris** on a tackle-eligible play in the Insight Bowl). For the second straight season, WR **Rhema McKnight** was Quinn's favorite target grabbing 42 passes for 610 yards and three touchdowns. Other top targets for Quinn were TE **Anthony Fasano** (27-367, 2 TDs), WR **Maurice Stovall** (21-313, 1 TD), WR **Matt Shelton** (20-515, 5 TDs) and WR **Jeff Samardzija** (17-274). Quinn tossed touchdown passes to six different players this season: McKnight, Shelton (five times), Fasano (twice), FB **Rashon Powers-Neal** (twice), Stovall and TE **Billy Palmer**.

## SHELTON GIVES IRISH VETERAN DEEP THREAT

Wide receiver **Matt Shelton** averaged 25.75 yards per reception in 2004, nabbing 20 catches for 515 yards and scoring six touchdowns. That average bettered a 25-year-old Notre Dame single-season record. The old mark of 25.6 yards per catch was set by Tony Hunter, who gained 690 yards on 27 receptions in 1979.

He had a career-best 128-yard outing against Pittsburgh and ranked fourth on the team with 20 catches for 515 yards (25.8 yards per catch) and six touchdowns. He nabbed a career-best four catches vs. Washington (for 74 yards and two touchdowns). One week earlier at Michigan State, Shelton snared three passes for 123 yards (41.0 average) and a touchdown, including gains of 53, 35 and 35 yards.

Shelton has averaged 38.0 yards on his seven career touchdown grabs (36 vs. Pittsburgh, 33 vs. Boston College, 27 and 24 vs. Washington, 35 at MSU, 46 vs. Michigan, 65 at Stanford in '03). Eleven of Shelton's 20 catches have measured at least 25 yards in length. The fifth-year man is expected to miss all of spring ball while recovering from knee surgery, but remains optimistic for a return to action this season.

## WALKER RETURNS TO BOLSTER RUNNING GAME

Running back **Darius Walker** produced the finest rushing performance by a freshman in Notre Dame history in 2004, breaking a 29-year-old school record in the process. His 43-yard effort against Oregon State in the Insight Bowl moved him atop Notre Dame's freshman rushing list, passing **Jerome Heavens** (756 yards in 1975).

Walker provided a consistent threat for the Irish running game by averaging 71.5



Senior receiver Matt Shelton was the Irish's big-play threat in '04 and hopes to return to action this fall after missing the spring with a knee injury. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)



## 2005 Notre Dame Football Notes

yards rushing per game (786 yards on 185 carries). He made a big splash in his home debut vs. Michigan, rushing 31 times for 115 yards and two touchdowns in a 28-20 Irish win. He followed up with another solid effort at Michigan State, rushing for 98 yards on 26 carries and posted his second 100-yard effort of the season with 112 yards and two touchdowns against Pittsburgh. His Michigan performance was good enough for *The Sporting News* and Sporting News Radio to name the Lawrenceville, Ga., native as its National Player of the Week, and for *Rivals.com* to tab him as the National Freshman of the Week for Sept. 11.

He was consistently productive in the red zone, producing seven touchdown rushes. That total ranks him second all-time in Notre Dame history for rushing touchdowns by a freshman. Only **Autry Denson's** eight rushing scores in 1995 ranks ahead of Walker's total.

### MCKNIGHT MOVING UP CAREER RECEIVING LISTS

Wide receiver **Rhema McKnight** is nearing the top of Notre Dame's career receiving lists for both receptions and receiving yards after his junior season. He enters the '05 season with a career total of 98 catches for 1,301 yards and six touchdowns. McKnight enters '05 needing 23 catches to break into the top six receivers in Notre Dame history (**Tony Hunter** is sixth with 120 catches from 1979-82). The Irish career receptions leader is **Tom Gatewood**, who caught 157 passes over three seasons from 1969-71. McKnight's 1,301 receiving yards ranks seventh in school history. Over the last two seasons, McKnight has made 89 catches, the most in a two-year span by an Irish receiver since **Derrick Mayes** caught 95 passes in 1994-95.

### FASANO AMONG NATION'S TOP TIGHT ENDS

With 45 catches over the last two seasons (including a 27-catch year in '04) junior tight end **Anthony Fasano** has been among the nation's most productive tight ends. His '04 totals (367 yards, four touchdowns) rank among the best ever by an Irish tight end. That production has Fasano positioned for early consideration for the '05 John Mackey Award, given annually to college football's top tight end. In fact, the Mackey Award honored Fasano with its national Tight End of the Week Award in '04 for his performance against Purdue on Oct. 4. Fasano had eight catches for 155 yards and two touchdowns against the Boilermakers.

### HOYTE WILL LEAD IRISH DEFENSE

Linebacker **Brandon Hoyte** will be the veteran returnee to the Irish defense in '05 as he returns for his final season of action at Notre Dame. Hoyte has played in 37 games in his career including 16 starts at inside linebacker. He was a catalyst for Notre Dame's physical play on defense in 2004, making several big hits and tackles for losses. Hoyte ended the season with 74 tackles to rank second on the team, and his knack for making big hits was a hallmark of his play in '04. Hoyte forced three fumbles, collected three quarterback sacks and made eight tackles for losses (46 yards). He posted a career-best 16 stops vs. Navy, the most by an Irish player since Courtney Watson had 18 tackles at Nebraska in 2001.

### FITZPATRICK LEADS IRISH SPECIAL TEAMS

The Irish should be in good shape in the kicking game on special teams in 2005 as PK **D.J. Fitzpatrick** is back to handle the placements while vying to return as the full-time punter. Fitzpatrick connected on 11 of 15 field goal attempts in '04 to raise his career total of field goals made to 23. His next successful field goal attempt will move him into a tie for seventh in Notre Dame history for field goals made in a career with **Harry Oliver** (24 from 1980-81). The Irish record for field goals made in a career is 51 by **John Carney** (1984-86).

Fitzpatrick ranked 40th nationally with a 41.8-yard punting average, a jump of five yards per kick from his '03 average (36.84) and a big factor in Notre Dame's ranking of 25th nationally in net punting. He had 17 punts of at least 50 yards, including a career-long 67-yarder vs. Boston College, dropped 29 punts inside the opposition's 20-yard line and helped the Irish hold opponents to only 8.2 yards per punt return. The former walk-on from Granger, IN, had career-best outings in consecutive games in '04, averaging 46.0 yards on seven attempts against Washington (including four punts of at least 50 yards and four punts downed inside the UW 20) and an impressive 49.3 yards on three punts against Purdue.

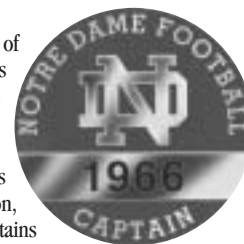
The long snapper position is in flux. **Scott Raridon** returns to handle snaps on placements but the loss of **Casey Dunn**, who handled all the snaps on punts in '04, means there could be a battle for the role as the Irish's primary snapper for kicks and punts.



Veteran tight end Anthony Fasano (shown here snaring a touchdown pass in the upset of Tennessee last season) should have plenty of opportunities to showcase his talents in the Irish's new offense. (Photo by Lighthouse Imaging)

### CAPTAINS

For only the fourth time in the 116-year history of football at Notre Dame, the Irish designated captains on a game-by-game basis in 2004. 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 consensus national championships. At the end of the season, Irish players named four players as honorary captains for the '04 season: LB **Mike Goolsby**, RB **Ryan Grant**, WR **Carlyle Holiday** and DE **Justin Tuck**.



### WHAT'S LEFT ON THE CUPBOARD FOR '05

A closer look at probable returnees to the Notre Dame roster from the 2004 season shows the Irish will be far from inexperienced on offense and in the kicking game, but will be looking to replace the bulk of their tacklers on the defensive side of the football. The details:

- **RUSHERS:** The Irish return players who accounted for 57.6 percent (881 of 1,529 yards gained) of the rushing yardage accumulated in '04 led by sophomore-to-be **Darius Walker** (team-leading 786 yards) at tailback. Returnees accounted for 71.9 percent of the rushing attempts in '04 (296 of 460 carries) and 64.7 percent of the Irish's rushing touchdowns (11 of 17).
- **PASSERS:** Starting quarterback **Brady Quinn** returns for a third season at the helm of the Notre Dame offense. He alone accounted for 98.8 percent (2,586 of 2,617 yards gained) of the passing yardage gained in '04. Primary backup **Pat**



## 2005 Notre Dame Football Notes

**Dillingham** graduated, leaving the Irish with virtually no experience at the backup positions ('04 freshman **David Wolke** played three snaps). Quinn had 97.5 percent of the pass attempts (353 of 362) and 97.9 percent (191 of 196) pass completions in '04 and 100 percent of the touchdowns thrown (17) and interceptions (10).

- **RECEIVERS:** The team's top seven receivers from '04 return including receptions and yardage leader WR **Rhema McKnight** (42 catches, 610 yards) and leading deep threat **Matt Shelton** (school-record 25.8 yards per catch). Overall, 15 players return of a school-record 21 players who caught passes in '04. Returnees accounted for 88.2 percent (172 of 195) catches, 91.8 percent (2,402 of 2,617) yards gained and 94.1 percent (16 of 17) receiving touchdowns in '04.

- **BLOCKERS:** Every offensive lineman that started a game in '04 is slated to return for the '05 season: LT **Ryan Harris**, LG **Bob Morton**, C **John Sullivan**, RG **Dan Stevenson** and RT **Mark LeVoi**. Harris, LeVoi, Stevenson and Sullivan started all 12 games in '04 at their respective positions while Morton started all 11 games in which he played (he missed the Insight Bowl with an injury – **Dan Santucci** started at LG). The primary group of '04 starters has accounted for a total of 101 career starts. Overall, the team returns offensive linemen who have a total of 106 career starts.

- **TACKLERS:** Defensive players that accounted for 34.8 percent (287 of 824) of the tackles made in '04 return. The Irish lose seven of the top 10 tacklers from '04 including leading stopper LB **Mike Goolsby** (97 tackles), leading sack man DE **Justin Tuck** (47 tackles, six sacks, 14 tackles for loss) and veteran linebacker **Derek Curry** (65 tackles). The top returning tackler is LB **Brandon Hoyte**, who was second on the team in '04 with 74 tackles.

- **PASS DEFENDERS:** Of the 39 pass breakups recorded in '04, the Irish lose players credited with 66.7 percent (26 of 39) of those plays including team leader CB **Dwight Ellick** (seven PBUs). Other prominent pass defenders who depart



Senior guard Dan Stevenson is among the team's most experience players, boasting 22 starts and 33 games of playing time over the last three seasons. (Photo by Lighthouse Imaging)

include CB **Preston Jackson** (six PBUs) and S **Quentin Burrell** (three PBUs). Only one player with an interception in '04 returns – S **Tom Zbikowski**. He accounted for one of 10 thefts in '04 (10 percent).

- **PASS RUSHERS:** The early departure of DE **Justin Tuck** (team-high six sacks in '04; ND-record 24.5 sacks in career) to the NFL deprives the '05 team of its most successful pass rusher. Players who accounted for 28.3 percent (8.5 of 30) of '04 sacks return. Leading returnees are LB **Brandon Hoyte** (three sacks), LB **Corey Mays** (two sacks) and DE **Victor Abiamiri** (two sacks).

- **RETURN MEN:** Plenty of experienced kickoff return men return as the Irish welcome back players who returned 40 of 41 kickoffs in '04. However, Notre Dame needs a new punt return man after the departure of **Carlyle Holiday**, who accounted for 29 of 33 (87.9 percent) of punt returns and 87.7 percent (314 of 358) of yardage in '04.

- **SCORING:** Players who scored 83.4 percent (241 of 289) of Notre Dame's points in '04 return led by placekicker **D.J. Fitzpatrick**, who scored a team-leading 67 points (11 field goals, 34 PATs).

- **KICKERS/PUNTERS:** Fitzpatrick's return gives ND its leading punter and placekicker from '04. Fitzpatrick accounted for 100 percent (67 of 67) of the Irish's kicking points and attempted 79 of the team's 81 punts. All three kickoff men (Fitzpatrick, **Carl Gioia**, **Bobby Renkes**) and both punters (Fitzpatrick and **Geoff Price**) are slated to return in '05.

### THE FINAL 2004 NCAA STATISTICS REPORT

Here are the final NCAA statistical rankings for Notre Dame (top 50 only):

Team Rankings	Notre Dame
Rushing Offense	127.4
Passing Offense	218.1
Total Offense	345.5
Scoring Offense	24.1
Rushing Defense	4th at 88.2
Passing Defense	281.2
Pass Efficiency Defense	138.36
Total Defense	369.4
Scoring Defense	46th at 24.1
Net Punting	25th at 37.6
Punt Returns	41st at 10.4
Kickoff Returns	18.7
Turnover Margin	32nd at 0.42 (+5 overall)
Individual Rankings	
Total Offense	Brady Quinn 50th at 215.2
Punting	D.J. Fitzpatrick 40th at 41.8
Punt Returns	Carlyle Holiday 42nd at 10.8

### MAKING THE GRADE

Recent years of Notre Dame football have produced some impressive semesters in the classroom for the Notre Dame football team. In fact, the Irish are coming off a 2004 fall semester in which the team's 105 members combined for a 2.862 grade-point average. That followed an '04 spring semester in which the team's 104 players combined for a 2.96 GPA that ranks as the program's best semester GPA on record (dating back to 1992).

The Notre Dame football program's top seven semester GPAs since '92 all have been posted during the past eight semesters (prior to the spring of '05), including the three consecutive semesters from fall of '02 to fall of '03 (2.84 in the fall of '02, 2.79 in the spring of '03 and 2.82 in the fall of '03). The football program's second-best semester GPA of the past 12 years came in the spring of 2002 (2.90), followed by the 2.862 of the fall of '04, a 2.80 in the spring of '01 and a 2.69 in the fall of '01.

Upon closer examination, the 2004 fall semester saw nine Irish football players post a Dean's List GPA (sliding scale, based on major) while 20 turned in



## 2005 Notre Dame Football Notes



The Irish enter 2005 with 79 consecutive sellouts at Notre Dame Stadium and 227 home sellouts in the last 228 games (dating back to 1964). (Photo by Lighthouse Imaging)

a semester GPA of 3.4-plus and almost half (43) had a GPA of 3.0 or better. In addition, fifth-year DE **Kyle Budinscak** received Academic All-District V honors in 2004, marking Budinscak's fourth selection to the prestigious squad.

The Irish also had two players, **Jake Carney** and **Rob Woods**, who recorded perfect 4.0 GPAs in the fall and one more with a 3.9 GPA or better (**John Carlson** – 3.933).

### GRADUATION RATES

The University of Notre Dame ranks second among Division I-A institutions in five major student-athlete graduate rate categories — overall, football, men, women and African-American — according to statistics released in late October by the NCAA.

The federally mandated 2004 NCAA Graduation Rates Report, the 14th such survey issued by the association, covers students who enrolled between 1994 and 1997 at Division I institutions, including 117 in Division I-A. The NCAA bases graduation rates on the raw percentage of student-athletes who entered an institution and graduated within six years. Students who leave or transfer, regardless of academic standing, are considered non-graduates.

Among student-athletes who completed all four years of athletic eligibility at Notre Dame, 99 percent earned their degrees. The national average was 84 percent.

Using the NCAA formula, Notre Dame graduated a four-year average of 87 percent of its student-athletes, second only to Duke University at 90 percent, and tied with Northwestern and Stanford Universities. The national average for Division I-A schools is 61 percent.

In August 2003, the NCAA presented an Academic Achievement Award to Notre Dame for its best-in-the-nation one-year graduation rate of 92 percent for all student-athletes who enrolled in 1996.

Notre Dame graduated 71 percent of its African-American student-athletes, ranking ninth nationally, and Irish football players graduated at a 77 percent rate, to rank eighth.

### IRISH REMAIN A FAN FAVORITE

Two recent surveys have determined that the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame remain America's most-followed college football program.

A recent survey by The Harris Poll® of a nationwide cross section of adults has confirmed what one survey earlier this year by ESPN — the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame are the most popular college football team in the nation among adults in the United States.

The 2004 survey, released Nov. 12, continues a long-standing trend. Notre Dame has been America's favorite college football team every year since

The Harris Poll® first started asking this question in 1997 (with the exception of 2000 and 2001 as Harris Interactive® did not poll on this topic during these years). They are followed by Ohio State, which for the first time unseats Florida State for the number two spot,

while Florida State, which has been second for the past seven years, drops precipitously out of the top 10.

Only a handful of teams in the top 10 are currently ranked in the top 25 in the *Associated Press* Poll, the *USA Today/ESPN* Coaches Poll or the BCS standings. Perhaps due to allegiance to alumni or a given state, college football appears to have a more stable fan base than professional football, despite the changing fortunes of a given team.

These are some of the results of an online survey conducted by Harris Interactive between October 20 and 25, 2004 among a nationwide cross section of 2,114 U.S. adults of whom 789 say they follow college football. While interest in college football was on the rise in the late 1990s, this year it holds steady as 35 percent of U.S. adults report following college football — virtually the same as the last two years. Its popularity is highest among men and southerners.

The top 10 teams in the survey were as follows: 1. Notre Dame, 2. Ohio State, 3. Michigan, 4. Texas, 5. Penn State, 6. LSU, 7. USC, 8. Wisconsin, 9. Tennessee, and 10. Maryland.

Notre Dame also ranked as the nation's favorite college football team in an ESPN Sports Poll of nearly 7,000 college sports fans ages 12 and older taken from January to December 2003, garnering 6.1 percent of the popular vote. Furthermore, the Irish were the only team to finish in the top 10 in all four regions of the country where the ESPN Sports Poll was conducted. Ohio State was the only other school to earn at least four percent of the vote, finishing at 5.3 percent.

### BIG CROWDS

Notre Dame enters the 2005 season having played in front of sellout crowds in 171 of its previous 196 games, including 35 of its last 37 games dating back to the end of the 2001 season (the '03 game at Stanford and the '04 game vs. Navy at the Meadowlands were not sellouts). At Michigan in 2003, the Irish and Wolverines attracted the largest crowd in NCAA history (111,726), marking the third time in the history of that series that an NCAA attendance record has been set. It also represented the sixth time in the last three seasons that Notre Dame has been a part of establishing a new stadium attendance record (at Nebraska and Texas A&M in 2001; at Air Force and Florida State, home vs. Boston College in 2002).

### NOTRE DAME ALUMS IN RARE NFL COMPANY

Notre Dame is the only school to boast three former players who have totaled 10,000-plus rushing or receiving yards in NFL history. Through the conclusion of the 2004 season, **Jerome Bettis** ranks fifth on the NFL's all-time rushing yards list and second among active rushers with 13,294 yards, while **Ricky Watters** retired with 10,643 yards (currently in 15th place). At the same time, **Tim Brown** ranks second on the NFL's all-time receiving yards list (14,934), trailing Seattle Seahawks wideout **Jerry Rice**.

Only one other Division I-A school — Syracuse (Jim Brown and Art Monk) — has produced both an NFL 10,000-yard rusher and receiver. Three others — Oklahoma State (Barry Sanders and Thurman Thomas), Pittsburgh (Tony Dorsett and Curtis Martin) and USC (Marcus Allen and O.J. Simpson) — have produced two 10,000-yard NFL rushers.

### 38 FORMER IRISH ON '04 NFL ROSTERS

Notre Dame had 38 of its former football players, including three rookies, listed on the opening-day rosters for National Football League teams in 2004. Miami (43) and Florida State (39) were the only schools with more NFL opening-day representatives, and Tennessee tied Notre Dame with 38.

The Irish have produced either the first-, second- or third-highest total in that category for 10 consecutive years (1995-2004). Notre Dame led all Division I schools for five years in a row from 1995-99.



## 2005 Notre Dame Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	DOB	Hometown	High School	HS Coach
2 *	Parish IV, Freddie	S	6-0	197	Jr.	5-29-84	Redondo Beach, Calif.	Long Beach Poly	Raul Lapa
3 *	Walker, Darius	RB	5-10	202	So.	10-21-85	Lawrenceville, Ga.	Buford	Dexter Wood
4	Vernaglia, Anthony	S	6-3	222	So.	9-20-85	Anaheim Hills, Calif.	Orange Lutheran	Jim Kunau
5 ***	McKnight, Rhema	WR	6-1	211	Sr.	3-6-84	La Palma, Calif.	Kennedy	Mitch Olson
7	Bragg, Darrin	QB	6-1	190	So.	3-16-86	San Jose, Calif.	Bellarmino Prep	Mike Janda
8	Jabbie, Junior	CB	5-10	188	So.	12-25-84	Parlin, N.J.	The Hun School	Dave Dudeck
8 +	Mooney, Marty	QB	6-2	202	Sr.	10-8-83	Cincinnati, Ohio	St. Xavier	Steve Rasso
9 *	Zbikowski, Tom	S	5-11	202	Jr.	5-22-85	Arlington Heights, Ill.	Buffalo Grove	Rich Roberts
10 **	Quinn, Brady	QB	6-4	228	Jr.	10-27-84	Dublin, Ohio	Coffman	Mark Crabtree
14	Wolke, David	QB	6-2	195	So.	4-16-85	Mount Juliet, Tenn.	Smyrna	Philip Shadowens
15	Ferrine, Leo	CB	6-0	181	So.	9-22-96	Springfield, N.J.	St. Peter's Prep	Rich Hansen
16 ***	Powers-Neal, Rashon	FB	6-2	240	Sr.	4-3-83	St. Paul, Minn.	Cretin-Derham Hall	Rich Kallok
17	Price, Geoff	P	6-3	195	Jr.	8-29-84	Hurst, Texas	Colleyville Heritage	Chris Cunningham
18 **	Ndukwe, Chinedum	S	6-2	225	Jr.	3-4-85	Powell, Ohio	Coffman	Mark Crabtree
19 **	Fitzpatrick, D.J.	K/P	6-1	204	Sr.	11-15-82	Granger, Ind.	Marian	Reggie Glon
20	Lambert, Terrail	CB	5-11	191	So.	12-1-85	Oxnard, Calif.	St. Bonaventure	Jon Mack
21 ***	Stovall, Maurice	WR	6-5	233	Sr.	2-21-85	Philadelphia, Pa.	Archbishop Carroll	Dan Bielli
22	Wooden, Ambrose	CB	5-11	192	Jr.	2-22-84	Baltimore, Md.	Gilman	Biff Possi
23 *	Anastasio, Chase	WR	6-1	207	Jr.	12-11-84	Burke, Va.	Robinson	Mark Bendorf
24	Duerson, Tregg	CB	5-10	179	So.	9-30-85	Highland Park, Ill.	Loyola	Carl Favaro
25	Schiccatano, Nate	FB	6-2	236	Sr.	9-3-82	Coal Township, Pa.	Southern Columbia	Jim Roth
26 +	Iams, Wade	DB	5-9	188	So.	11-8-85	Mishawaka, Ind.	Penn	Cory Yeoman
26 *	Thomas, Travis	RB	6-0	208	Jr.	12-3-84	Washington, Pa.	Washington	Guy Montecalvo
30 **	Richardson, Mike	CB	5-11	188	Sr.	2-18-84	Warner Robins, Ga.	Warner Robins	Richard Fendley
31	Carney, Jake	S	6-0	189	Sr.	4-28-83	Lexington, Ky.	Catholic	Bob Spire

Baker & Daniels is pleased to sponsor the  
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No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	DOB	Hometown	High School	HS Coach
31 +	Cedeno, A.J.	DB	5-11	189	Jr.	11-20-84	Pittsburg, Kan.	St. Mary's-Colgan	Chuck Smith
32	Jenkins, Jeff	RB	6-0	231	Sr.	2-22-84	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Huron	Paul Verska
32 +	Reynolds Jr., Alvin	DB	5-10	186	So.	9-12-85	Charlotte, N.C.	Country Day	Bob Wittman
33	Hoskins, Justin	RB	5-10	188	So.	2-27-85	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Creston	Sparky McEwen
35	McConnell, Ashley	FB	5-11	252	Jr.	10-20-84	Adairsville, Ga.	Adairsville	Johnny Gullede
36 +	Harris, Brandon	WR	6-0	197	Sr.	4-5-84	New Orleans, La.	Benjamin Franklin	Chris Fermio
37 +	Mitchell, Matt	CB	5-8	194	Sr.	4-23-84	Memphis, Tenn.	Christian Brothers	Pete Crodelli
39 ***	Hoyte, Brandon	LB	5-11	232	Sr.	9-26-83	Parlin, N.J.	Sayreville War Memorial	Trey Najjar
40	Crum Jr., Maurice	LB	6-0	221	So.	5-29-86	Riverview, Fla.	Tampa Bay Tech	John Colbert
43 **	Salvador, Anthony	LB	6-2	224	Sr.	5-4-84	Concord, Calif.	De La Salle	Bob Ladouceur
45	Gioia, Carl	K	5-10	173	Jr.	1-24-85	Valparaiso, Ind.	Valparaiso	Mark Hoffman
45 +	Whitney III, Rich	DB	6-2	213	Sr.	6-22-84	Warminster, Pa.	Kansas City (Mo.) Rockhurst	Tony Severino
46 ***	Mays, Corey	LB	6-1	242	Sr.	11-27-83	Chicago, Ill.	Morgan Park	Lexie Spurlock
47	Thomas, Mitchell	LB	6-3	221	Jr.	12-14-84	Opelika, Ala.	Smiths Station	Trey Holladay
50 **	Santucci, Dan	OG	6-4	293	Sr.	6-9-85	Chicago, Ill.	St. Patrick's	Dan Galante
52 *	Brockington, Joe	LB	6-1	219	Jr.	6-16-84	Palmyra, Pa.	Palmyra	Don Fureman, Jr.
53 +	Boland, Joe	LB	6-2	242	Sr.	10-21-83	Drexel Hill, Pa.	Monsignor Bonner	Mike Coyne
53 +	Hickey, Dan	SNP	6-3	224	Sr.	8-23-84	Garden City, N.Y.	Chaminade	Bill Basel
54 +	Fitzgerald, David	OT	6-4	294	Sr.	1-27-84	Godfrey, Ill.	Marquette Catholic	Maki Slaughter
56 *	Borseti, Nick	LB	6-4	230	Jr.	4-5-85	Saugus, Mass.	St. John's Prep	Jim O'Leary
57	Stephenson Jr., Dwight	DE	6-2	250	Jr.	9-11-84	Delray Beach, Fla.	Pope John Paul II	Dave Dunn
58	Banda, Abdel	LB	6-1	208	So.	11-14-86	Orange, N.J.	Delbarton	Brian Bowers
59 +	Bent, James	OT	6-1	260	Sr.	9-6-83	Mishawaka, Ind.	Mishawaka	Jim Aldrich
59 +	Chervanick, Dan	DT	6-1	258	Sr.	7-5-83	Leesport, Pa.	Holy Name	Rick Keeley
60 +	Cullen, Casey	LB	6-1	227	Jr.	10-15-84	Victoria, Texas	St. Joseph	John Mares
61 +	Jansen, J.J.	SNP	6-3	241	So.	1-20-86	Phoenix, Ariz.	Brophy Prep	Jeff Kearin
62 **	Raridon, Scott	OT	6-6	315	Sr.	6-2-84	Mason City, Iowa	Mason City	John Lee
66 **	Landri, Derek	DT	6-3	274	Sr.	9-21-83	Concord, Calif.	De La Salle	Bob Ladouceur
67	Kadous, John	OT	6-6	272	So.	11-16-85	Tucson, Ariz.	Salpointe Catholic	Dennis Bene
68 **	Harris, Ryan	OT	6-5	279	Jr.	3-11-85	St. Paul, Minn.	Cretin-Derham Hall	Rich Kallok
70	Incarnato, Chauncey	OT	6-5	275	So.	12-26-85	Dover, Ohio	Dover	Dan Ifft
71	Bonelli, James	OG	6-4	290	Sr.	5-6-84	Camarillo, Calif.	St. Bonaventure	Jon Mack
73 **	LeVoi, Mark	OT	6-7	325	Sr.	7-29-82	Eden Prairie, Minn.	Eden Prairie	Mike Grant
74 ***	Stevenson, Dan	OG	6-6	297	Sr.	10-4-82	Barrington, Ill.	Barrington	Al Kumrodt
75	Frome, Chris	DE	6-5	266	Sr.	1-2-84	Saugus, Calif.	Newhall Hart	Mike Herrington
76 **	Morton, Bob	OG	6-4	294	Sr.	9-19-84	McKinney, Texas	McKinney	Ron Poe
78 *	Sullivan, John	C	6-4	294	So.	8-8-85	Old Greenwich, Conn.	Greenwich	Rich Albonizio
79 *	Mattes, Brian	OT	6-6	284	Sr.	12-28-83	Larksville, Pa.	Wyoming Valley West	Ed Michaels
80	Vaughn, Chris	WR	6-4	221	So.	7-5-84	New Haven, Conn.	St. Thomas More	Timothy Riordan
81 +	Woods, Rob	WR	6-2	207	Sr.	12-15-83	Atlantic, Iowa	Atlantic	Gaylord Schelling
82 ***	Shelton, Matt	WR	6-0	160	Sr.	4-1-82	Collierville, Tenn.	Collierville	Paul Cox
83 **	Samardzija, Jeff	WR	6-5	216	Jr.	1-23-85	Valparaiso, Ind.	Valparaiso	Mark Hoffman
84 +	O'Hara, Michael	WR	5-10	180	Sr.	3-17-83	Bellevue, Wash.	Newport	Gary Taller
86 +	Gritzman, Tim	TE	6-3	250	So.	2-3-86	Lockport, Ill.	Lockport	Bret Kooi
87 **	Freeman, Marcus	TE	6-2	250	Sr.	10-24-83	St. Paul, Minn.	Cretin-Derham Hall	Rich Kallok
88 **	Fasano, Anthony	TE	6-4	260	Sr.	4-20-84	Verona, N.J.	Verona	Lou Racioppe
89 *	Carlson, John	TE	6-6	244	Jr.	5-12-84	Litchfield, Minn.	Litchfield	Jon Johnson
90 ***	Beidatsch, Brian	DT	6-3	294	Sr.	7-9-82	Milwaukee, Wis.	Marquette	Dick Basham
91 +	Cardillo, Craig	K	6-0	174	Sr.	11-1-83	Hauppauge, N.Y.	Happauge	Steve Atkinson
93	Nicolas, Brandon	DE	6-3	263	So.	4-6-86	Santa Ana, Calif.	Mater Dei	Bruce Rollinson
94	Brown, Justin	DE	6-3	243	So.	3-27-86	Clinton, Md.	Bishop McNamara	Bernard Joseph
95 **	Abiamiri, Victor	DE	6-4	262	Jr.	1-14-86	Randallstown, Md.	Gilman School	Biff Poggi
96 +	Renkes, Bobby	K	6-0	195	Jr.	8-12-84	Dallas, Texas	Lake Highlands	Gary Gayden
97 **	Leitko, Travis	DE	6-6	268	Sr.	8-9-83	The Woodlands, Texas	The Woodlands	Weldon Willig
98 *	Laws, Trevor	DT	6-1	290	Jr.	6-14-85	Burnsville, Minn.	Apple Valley	Mike Fritze
99	Talley, Ronald	DE	6-4	255	So.	2-21-86	Oak Park, Mich.	Renaissance	William Hill

\* indicates number of monograms won  
 + indicates non-scholarship (walk-on) player



# 2005 Notre Dame Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	DOB	Hometown	High School	HS Coach	
95 **	Abiamiri, Victor	DE	6-4	262	Jr.	1-14-86	Randallstown, Md.	Gilman School	Biff Poggi
23 *	Anastasio, Chase	WR	6-1	207	Jr.	12-11-84	Burke, Va.	Robinson	Mark Bendorf
58	Banda, Abdel	LB	6-1	208	So.	11-14-86	Orange, N.J.	Delbarton	Brian Bowers
90 ***	Beidatsch, Brian	DT	6-3	294	Sr.	7-9-82	Milwaukee, Wis.	Marquette	Dick Basham
59 +	Bent, James	OT	6-1	260	Sr.	9-6-83	Mishawaka, Ind.	Mishawaka	Jim Aldrich
53 +	Boland, Joe	LB	6-2	242	Sr.	10-21-83	Drexel Hill, Pa.	Monsignor Bonner	Mike Coyne
71	Bonelli, James	OG	6-4	290	Sr.	5-6-84	Camarillo, Calif.	St. Bonaventure	Jon Mack
56 *	Borseti, Nick	LB	6-4	230	Jr.	4-5-85	Saugus, Mass.	St. John's Prep	Jim O'Leary
7	Bragg, Darrin	QB	6-1	190	So.	3-16-86	San Jose, Calif.	Bellarmino Prep	Mike Janda
52 *	Brockington, Joe	LB	6-1	219	Jr.	6-16-84	Palmyra, Pa.	Palmyra	Don Fureman, Jr.
94	Brown, Justin	DE	6-3	243	So.	3-27-86	Clinton, Md.	Bishop McNamara	Bernard Joseph
91 +	Cardillo, Craig	K	6-0	174	Sr.	11-1-83	Happauge, N.Y.	Happauge	Steve Atkinson
89 *	Carlson, John	TE	6-6	244	Jr.	5-12-84	Litchfield, Minn.	Litchfield	Jon Johnson
31	Carney, Jake	S	6-0	189	Sr.	4-28-83	Lexington, Ky.	Catholic	Bob Sphire
31 +	Cedeno, A.J.	DB	5-11	189	Jr.	11-20-84	Pittsburg, Kan.	St. Mary's-Colgan	Chuck Smith
59 +	Chervanick, Dan	DT	6-1	258	Sr.	7-5-83	Leesport, Pa.	Holy Name	Rick Keeley
40	Crum Jr., Maurice	LB	6-0	221	So.	5-29-86	Riverview, Fla.	Tampa Bay Tech	John Colbert
60 +	Cullen, Casey	LB	6-1	227	Jr.	10-15-84	Victoria, Texas	St. Joseph	John Mares
24	Duerson, Tregg	CB	5-10	179	So.	9-30-85	Highland Park, Ill.	Loyola	Carl Favaro
88 **	Fasano, Anthony	TE	6-4	260	Sr.	4-20-84	Verona, N.J.	Verona	Lou Racioppe
15	Ferrine, Leo	CB	6-0	181	So.	9-22-96	Springfield, N.J.	St. Peter's Prep	Rich Hansen
54 +	Fitzgerald, David	OT	6-4	294	Sr.	1-27-84	Godfrey, Ill.	Marquette Catholic	Maki Slaughter
19 **	Fitzpatrick, D.J.	K/P	6-1	204	Sr.	11-15-82	Granger, Ind.	Marian	Reggie Glon
87 **	Freeman, Marcus	TE	6-2	250	Sr.	10-24-83	St. Paul, Minn.	Cretin-Derham Hall	Rick Kallok
75	Frome, Chris	DE	6-5	266	Sr.	1-2-84	Saugus, Calif.	Newhall Hart	Mike Herrington
45	Gioia, Carl	K	5-10	173	Jr.	1-24-85	Valparaiso, Ind.	Valparaiso	Mark Hoffman
86 +	Gritzman, Tim	TE	6-3	250	So.	2-3-86	Lockport, Ill.	Lockport	Bret Kooi
36 +	Harris, Brandon	WR	6-0	197	Sr.	4-5-84	New Orleans, La.	Benjamin Franklin	Chris Fernino
68 **	Harris, Ryan	OT	6-5	279	Jr.	3-11-85	St. Paul, Minn.	Cretin-Derham Hall	Rich Kallok
53 +	Hickey, Dan	SNP	6-3	224	Sr.	8-23-84	Garden City, N.Y.	Chaminade	Bill Basel
33	Hoskins, Justin	RB	5-10	188	So.	2-27-85	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Creston	Sparky McEwen
39 ***	Hoyte, Brandon	LB	5-11	232	Sr.	9-26-83	Parlin, N.J.	Sayreville War Memorial	George Najjar
26 +	Iams, Wade	DB	5-9	188	So.	11-8-85	Mishawaka, Ind.	Penn	Cory Yeoman
70	Incarnato, Chauncey	OT	6-5	275	So.	12-26-85	Dover, Ohio	Dover	Dan Ifft
8	Jabbie, Junior	CB	5-10	188	So.	12-25-84	Parlin, N.J.	The Hun School	Dave Dudeck
61 +	Jansen, J.J.	SNP	6-3	241	So.	1-20-86	Phoenix, Ariz.	Brophy Prep	Jeff Kearin
32	Jenkins, Jeff	RB	6-0	231	Sr.	2-22-84	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Huron	Paul Verska
67	Kadous, John	OT	6-6	272	So.	11-16-85	Tucson, Ariz.	Salpointe Catholic	Dennis Bene
20	Lambert, Terrail	CB	5-11	191	So.	12-1-85	Oxnard, Calif.	St. Bonaventure	Jon Mack
66 **	Landri, Derek	DT	6-3	274	Sr.	9-21-83	Concord, Calif.	De La Salle	Bob Ladouceur
98 *	Laws, Trevor	DT	6-1	290	Jr.	6-14-85	Burnsville, Minn.	Apple Valley	Mike Fritze
97 **	Leitko, Travis	DE	6-6	268	Sr.	8-9-83	The Woodlands, Texas	The Woodlands	Weldon Willig
73 **	LeVoir, Mark	OT	6-7	325	Sr.	7-29-82	Eden Prairie, Minn.	Eden Prairie	Mike Grant
79 *	Mattes, Brian	OT	6-6	284	Sr.	12-28-83	Larksville, Pa.	Wyoming Valley West	Ed Michaels
46 ***	Mays, Corey	LB	6-1	242	Sr.	11-27-83	Chicago, Ill.	Morgan Park	Lexie Spurlock
35	McConnell, Ashley	FB	5-11	252	Jr.	10-20-84	Adairsville, Ga.	Adairsville	Johnny Gullede
5 ***	McKnight, Rhema	WR	6-1	211	Sr.	3-6-84	La Palma, Calif.	Kennedy	Mitch Olson
37 +	Mitchell, Matt	CB	5-8	194	Sr.	4-23-84	Memphis, Tenn.	Christian Brothers	Pete Crodelli
8 +	Mooney, Marty	QB	6-2	202	Sr.	10-8-83	Cincinnati, Ohio	St. Xavier	Steve Rasso
76 **	Morton, Bob	OG	6-4	294	Sr.	9-19-84	McKinney, Texas	McKinney	Ron Poe
18 **	Ndukwe, Chinedum	S	6-2	225	Jr.	3-4-85	Powell, Ohio	Coffman	Mark Crabtree
93	Nicolas, Brandon	DE	6-3	263	So.	4-6-86	Santa Ana, Calif.	Mater Dei	Bruce Rollinson
84 +	O'Hara, Michael	WR	5-10	180	Sr.	3-17-83	Bellevue, Wash.	Newport	Gary Taller
2 *	Parish IV, Freddie	S	6-0	197	Jr.	5-29-84	Redondo Beach, Calif.	Long Beach Poly	Raul Lapa
16 ***	Powers-Neal, Rashon	FB	6-2	240	Sr.	4-3-83	St. Paul, Minn.	Cretin-Derham Hall	Rich Kallok
17	Price, Geoff	P	6-3	195	Jr.	8-29-84	Hurst, Texas	Colleyville Heritage	Chris Cunningham
10 **	Quinn, Brady	QB	6-4	228	Jr.	10-27-84	Dublin, Ohio	Coffman	Mark Crabtree
62 **	Raridon, Scott	OT	6-6	315	Sr.	6-2-84	Mason City, Iowa	Mason City	John Lee
96 +	Renkes, Bobby	K	6-0	195	Jr.	8-12-84	Dallas, Texas	Lake Highlands	Gary Gayden
32 +	Reynolds Jr., Alvin	DB	5-10	186	So.	9-12-85	Charlotte, N.C.	Country Day	Bob Wittman
30 **	Richardson, Mike	CB	5-11	188	Sr.	2-18-84	Warner Robins, Ga.	Warner Robins	Richard Fendley
43 **	Salvador, Anthony	LB	6-2	224	Sr.	5-4-84	Concord, Calif.	De La Salle	Bob Ladouceur



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No.	Name Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	DOB	Hometown	High School	HS Coach	
83 **	Samardzija, Jeff	WR	6-5	216	Jr.	1-23-85	Valparaiso, Ind.	Valparaiso	Mark Hoffman
50 **	Santucci, Dan	OG	6-4	293	Sr.	6-9-85	Chicago, Ill.	St. Patrick's	Dan Galante
25	Schiccatano, Nate	FB	6-2	236	Sr.	9-3-82	Coal Township, Pa.	Southern Columbia	Jim Roth
82 ***	Shelton, Matt	WR	6-0	160	Sr.	4-1-82	Collierville, Tenn.	Collierville	Paul Cox
57	Stephenson Jr., Dwight	DE	6-2	250	Jr.	9-11-84	Delray Beach, Fla.	Pope John Paul II	Dave Dunn
74 ***	Stevenson, Dan	OG	6-6	297	Sr.	10-4-82	Barrington, Ill.	Barrington	Al Kumrod
21 ***	Stovall, Maurice	WR	6-5	233	Sr.	2-21-85	Philadelphia, Pa.	Archbishop Carroll	Dan Bielli
78 *	Sullivan, John	C	6-4	294	So.	8-8-85	Old Greenwich, Conn.	Greenwich	Rich Albonizio
99	Talley, Ronald	DE	6-4	255	So.	2-21-86	Oak Park, Mich.	Renaissance	William Hill
47	Thomas, Mitchell	LB	6-3	221	Jr.	12-14-84	Opelika, Ala.	Smiths Station	Trey Holladay
26 *	Thomas, Travis	RB	6-0	208	Jr.	12-3-84	Washington, Pa.	Washington	Guy Montecalvo
80	Vaughn, Chris	WR	6-4	221	So.	7-5-84	New Haven, Conn.	St. Thomas More	Timothy Riordan
4	Vernaglia, Anthony	S	6-3	222	So.	9-20-85	Anaheim Hills, Calif.	Orange Lutheran	Jim Kunau
3 *	Walker, Darius	RB	5-10	202	So.	10-21-85	Lawrenceville, Ga.	Buford	Dexter Wood
45 +	Whitney III, Rich	DB	6-2	213	Sr.	6-22-84	Warminster, Pa.	Kansas City (Mo.) Rockhurst	Tony Severino
14	Wolke, David	QB	6-2	195	So.	4-16-85	Mount Juliet, Tenn.	Smyrna	Philip Shadownes
22	Wooden, Ambrose	CB	5-11	192	Jr.	2-22-84	Baltimore, Md.	Gilman	Biff Possi
81 +	Woods, Rob	WR	6-2	207	Sr.	12-15-83	Atlantic, Iowa	Atlantic	Gaylord Schelling
9 *	Zbikowski, Tom	S	5-11	202	Jr.	5-22-85	Arlington Heights, Ill.	Buffalo Grove	Rich Roberts

\* indicates number of monograms won

+ indicates non-scholarship (walk-on) player



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# How the 2005 Irish Were Built

## OFFENSE (36)

### Freshmen (7)

OL Paul Duncan  
WR David Grimes  
TE Joey Hiben  
WR D.J. Hord  
FB Asaph Schwapp  
QB Evan Sharpley  
OL Michael Turkovich

### Sophomores (7)

QB Darrin Bragg  
RB Justin Hoskins  
OL Chauncey Incarnato  
OL John Kadous  
WR Chris Vaughn  
\*RB Darius Walker  
QB David Wolke

### Juniors (8)

\*WR Chase Anastasio  
\*TE John Carlson  
\*\*OT **RYAN HARRIS**  
FB Ashley McConnell  
\*\*QB **BRADY QUINN**  
\*\*WR Jeff Samardzija  
\*C **JOHN SULLIVAN**  
\*RB Travis Thomas

### Seniors (14)

OL James Bonelli  
\*\*TE **ANTHONY FASANO**  
\*\*TE Marcus Freeman  
RB Jeff Jenkins  
\*\*\*OT **MARK LeVOIR**  
\*\*\*WR **RHEMA McKNIGHT**  
\*OL Brian Mattes  
\*\*OG **BOBBY MORTON**  
\*\*\*FB **RASHON POWERS-NEAL**  
\*\*OG Dan Santucci  
\*FB Nate Schiccatano  
\*\*\*WR Matt Shelton  
\*\*\*OG **DAN STEVENSON**  
\*\*\*WR **MAURICE STOVALL**

## DEFENSE (37)

### Freshmen (8)

DB David Bruton  
DL Derrell Hand  
DB Ray Herring  
DL Pat Kuntz  
DB Kyle McCarthy  
LB Steve Quinn  
LB Scott Smith  
LB Kevin Washington

### Sophomores (10)

LB Abdel Banda  
DE Justin Brown  
LB Maurice Crum, Jr.  
DB Tregg Duerson  
DB Leo Ferrine  
DB Junior Jabbie  
DB Terrail Lambert  
DL Brandon Nicolas  
DE Ronald Talley  
DB Anthony Vernaglia

### Juniors (10)

\*\*DE Victor Abiamiri  
\*LB Nick Borseti  
\*LB Joe Brockington  
\*DL Trevor Laws  
\*\*S Chinedum Ndukwe  
\*DB Freddie Parish IV  
LB Dwight Stephenson, Jr.  
LB Mitchell Thomas  
CB Ambrose Wooden  
\*S **TOM ZBIKOWSKI**

### Seniors (9)

\*\*\*DE Brian Beidatsch  
FS Jake Carney  
DE Chris Frome  
\*\*\*LB **BRANDON HOYTE**  
\*\*NG **DEREK LANDRI**  
\*\*DE Travis Leitko  
\*\*\*LB Corey Mays  
\*\*CB Mike Richardson  
\*LB Anthony Salvador

## SPECIALISTS (5)

### Freshmen (0)

### Sophomores (0)

### Juniors (3)

K Carl Gioia  
P Geoff Price  
K Bobby Renkes

### Seniors (2)

\*\*K/P **D.J. FITZPATRICK**  
\*\*LS (K) **SCOTT RARIDON**

\* - indicates monograms won

**BOLD CAPS** indicates returning starters

## THE '05 IRISH BY CLASS

Class	Offense	Defense	Specialists	Total
Freshman	7	8	0	15
Sophomore	7 (1 letterman)	10 (0 lettermen)	0	17 (1 letterman)
Junior	8 (7 lettermen)	10 (7 lettermen)	3 (0 lettermen)	21 (14 lettermen)
Senior	14 (12 lettermen)	9 (7 lettermen)	2 (2 lettermen)	25 (21 lettermen)
<b>Total</b>	<b>36 (20 lettermen)</b>	<b>37 (14 lettermen)</b>	<b>5 (2 lettermen)</b>	<b>78 (36 lettermen)</b>



# 2005 Lettermen Breakdown

Lettermen Lost (23) — Lettermen Returning (36)

## Offense

Lost	(12 lost, 20 returning)	Returning
*** Carlyle Holiday	WR	*** <b>MAURICE STOVALL</b> ** Jeff Samardzija * Chase Anastasio
	LT	** <b>RYAN HARRIS</b> * Brian Mattes
* Darin Mitchell	LG	** <b>BOB MORTON</b> ** Dan Santucci
* Zach Giles	C	* <b>JOHN SULLIVAN</b>
* Jamie Ryan	RG	*** <b>DAN STEVENSON (5)</b>
* Jeff Thompson		
	RT	*** <b>MARK LeVOIR (5)</b>
*** Billy Palmer	TE	** <b>ANTHONY FASANO</b> ** Marcus Freeman * John Carlson
*** Jerome Collins		
** Jared Clark		
	WR	*** <b>RHEMA MCKNIGHT</b> *** Matt Shelton (5)
* Pat Dillingham	QB	** <b>BRADY QUINN</b>
** Josh Schmidt	FB	*** <b>RASHON POWERS-NEAL (5)</b> * Nate Schiccatano
**** RYAN GRANT	RB	* Darius Walker
*** Marcus Wilson		* Travis Thomas

## Defense

Lost	(10 lost, 14 returning)	Returning
*** JUSTIN TUCK	LE	
	NG	** <b>DEREK LANDRI</b> * Trevor Laws
*** GREG PAULY	DT	*** Brian Beidatsch (5)
*** KYLE BUDINSCAK	RE	** Victor Abiamiri ** Travis Leitko
*** DEREK CURRY	OLB	* Anthony Salvador
**** MIKE GOOLSBY	MLB	*** Corey Mays (5) * Nick Borseti
	OLB	*** <b>BRANDON HOYTE (5)</b> * Joe Brockington
*** PRESTON JACKSON	LCB	** Mike Richardson
** Carlos Campbell		
*** DWIGHT ELICK	RCB	
** Lionel Bolen	SS	* <b>TOM ZBIKOWSKI</b> * Freddie Parish IV
** QUENTIN BURRELL	FS	* Chinedum Ndukwe

## Specialists

Lost	(1 lost, 2 returning)	Returning
	K/P	** <b>D.J. FITZPATRICK (5)</b>
	S-SNP	** <b>SCOTT RARIDON</b>
** CASEY DUNN	L-SNP	

2004 STARTERS IN ALL CAPS

RETURNING STARTERS IN **BOLD CAPS**

walk-ons in *italics*

(5) — eligible for fifth year

