



Season

in Review

In her final collegiate season, Alicia Salas established herself as one of the top players in the nation, peaking at 10th in the ITA national singles rankings and posting a 15-12 record against ranked opponents, while earning invitations to each leg of the collegiate grand slam.



Tough Schedule, Crunch-Time Woes Ruin Good Start for Irish*Notre Dame opens the 2003-04 campaign 7-1 before going .500*

A hot start to the 2003-04 season for the Notre Dame women's tennis team was ruined by a brutal second-half schedule and Irish struggles in tight matches. After winning seven of its first eight, Notre Dame finished the season with a 12-12 mark and the runner-up in the BIG EAST Championship, advancing to the second round of the NCAA tournament.

"The year was a little up and down," says Irish head coach Jay Louderback. "We did much better at the top of the lineup than I thought we would, and we struggled more at the bottom of the lineup, which I didn't think would happen. That was just a strange thing, because we were expecting the opposite. Overall, I was very happy with our doubles play, and it got better as the year went on. So I felt like it was a good year in a lot of ways, especially since it was a building year."

Heading into the spring, the top portion of the lineup was a question mark, with senior Caylan Leslie – Notre Dame's No. 1 player in 2002-03 – out for the year with a shoulder injury. But classmate Alicia Salas responded with an outstanding season, establishing herself as one of the top players in the country. She peaked at 10th in the ITA national rankings, qualified for all three legs of the collegiate grand slam, and posted 15 wins against ranked opponents.

The Nos. 2 and 3 spots were filled by a pair of impact rookies: twins Christian and Catrina Thompson. The former was the first Irish freshman since 1998 to play in the top two of the Irish singles lineup, and she finished 25-13 overall and 13-8 in dual-match action, making No. 2 the winningest singles slot in the Irish lineup. Catrina Thompson was solid at No. 3, finishing 12-10 in spring play and 20-15 overall.

"Both freshmen played high and did really well," says Louderback. "Alicia stepped in and had a great year at No. 1. I thought it was going to be tough, because we played so many good teams, but she was strong there."

The bottom portion of the lineup was a different story. Despite having back three starters from the previous season to fill the lower-half singles positions, Notre Dame was unable to get consistent victories, losing more times than winning at Nos. 4 and 5 and going just 11-9 at No. 6. Even with the season-ending shoulder injury suffered by Jennifer Smith, who had seen some time at No. 6 in '03, in the fall, the Irish had back sophomore Kristina Stastny, junior Sarah Jane Connelly, and sophomore Lauren Connelly, who had played either Nos. 4-6 or Nos. 3-5 through most of the previous year. But that trio struggled, going just 29-34 in dual action.



Twins Christian (left) and Catrina Thompson became the first all-freshman doubles team from any school since 1998 to get invited to the NCAA Doubles Championship, in which they advanced to the round of 16.

Notre Dame's doubles play was solid, as the Irish won the match's initial point 15 times in 24 contests. That effort was led by the Thompsons, who immediately stepped in to become the team's top pair and finished 22-17 on the season and 12-11 in dual action at No. 1. They also became the first all-rookie doubles team from any Division I school since 1998 to earn an invitation to the NCAA Doubles Championship. At the No. 2 position, Salas and Lauren Connelly were nearly unbeatable, going 18-5 in dual matches and 24-7 overall. Despite a bevy of talented doubles players, the Irish were just 12-11 at No. 3, with Stastny, Sarah Jane Connelly, and senior Emily Neighbours playing in that spot.

In the fall, the Irish took part in four tournaments as a team, while also registering a 4-3 exhibition victory against USC, which would be ranked as high as fifth during the season. The highlight of the first semester was Salas' play. After being listed 63rd in the preseason, she defeated eight ranked opponents, including four in qualifying and consolation action in the Riviera ITA All-American Championships. She topped S.C.'s 15th-ranked Luana Magnani in No. 1 in the exhibition match and then reached the title match of the ITA Midwest Championships to gain a spot in the second leg of the collegiate grand slam, the ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships.

The spring opened with a heartbreaking 4-3 road defeat against Michigan, in which the Wolverines rallied from one-set deficits for wins in a pair of matches. After that, the Irish were hot, winning seven in a row. One highlight of that stretch was a 4-3 upset of #14 Virginia Commonwealth that snapped winning streaks of 40 matches at home and 38 matches in the regular season for the Rams. Notre Dame also turned in a convincing 6-1 victory against #20 Brigham Young and beat #26 Indiana 5-2.

The month of March was a difficult one for the

Irish, as they won just once in six matches. They first had their winning streak snapped at home, losing all three three-set affairs in a 5-2 decision against #17 Illinois. Notre Dame then dropped matches against Duke, Tennessee, Wake Forest, and North Carolina.

The Irish won three straight to open April – including a 5-2 triumph over rival Miami – but that would be Notre Dame's final victory in a tight match. Three times in a 12-day span the Irish lost a third-set tiebreaker and ended up falling 4-3. Notre Dame first lost at William & Mary, then fell 5-2 against Texas before almost pulling off an upset against #9 Northwestern and then dropping another heartbreaker in the regular-season finale at Purdue.

For the eighth time in nine years, Notre Dame was the top seed in the BIG EAST Championship, and a win against Virginia Tech sent the Irish into the title match against host Miami for the ninth time in as many seasons. But the Hurricanes would prevail on their home courts

to claim the league crown.

Nonetheless, the Irish garnered an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament and headed to Northwestern for early-round play. Notre Dame dismissed Iowa in the first round, but then fell to the host Wildcats, which ended the dual match season.

A lot of the Irish late-season struggles were due to an extremely difficult schedule, in which half of the 24 contests were against teams that finished in the top 30 of the ITA national rankings. Only six matches came against squads that did not finish among the top 50, and just one was not in the final top 75. Fifteen of Notre Dame's matches were against squads that would eventually make the NCAA Championship.

The campaign was the last for Leslie, Neighbours, and Salas.

"This was a really good group," says Louderback. "Alicia had just an amazing year, playing No. 2 doubles and No. 1 singles for us, and she was one of five women selected for the ITA all-star team that went to China. Emily ended up playing at the end of the year in doubles and did a great job, which was great to see because she had been hurt by injuries her entire career. But she stuck with it, worked hard and earned a spot in the lineup; she was a great example for anyone not in the lineup. Caylan was great for us while she was healthy, but she had terrible luck with injuries, and we really missed her when she couldn't play. This was a group that really improved throughout their careers and ended up doing really well for us in their final years. They are also great people, and we are going to miss all of them."



SINGLES

Player	Open	Dual	Overall	Career	Region	In 3 Sets	Match TB
Lauren Connelly	5-5	10-11	15-16	37-31	5-7	1-3	0-1
Sarah Jane Connelly	7-5	7-12	14-17	61-44	7-5	1-5	0-1
Liz Donohue	5-5	1-1	6-6	13-12	2-2	3-2	
Caylan Leslie	0-2		0-2	50-28	0-1		
Emily Neighbours	10-4		10-4	28-13	2-1	2-0	2-0
Kelly Nelson	9-5		9-5	22-12	4-1	3-4	
Alicia Salas	12-6	12-11	24-17	95-42	13-4	3-4	1-1
Jennifer Smith				10-11			
Kristina Stastny	4-8	12-11	16-19	34-36	11-5	5-4	0-2
Catrina Thompson	8-5	12-10	20-15	20-15	10-5	3-3	1-2
Christian Thompson	12-5	13-8	25-13	25-13	14-6	5-4	1-1
Totals	72-50	67-64	139-114	395-257	68-37	26-29	5-8

Player	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Dual	Career Dual	Clinching Wins	With Match Tied 3-3
Lauren Connelly				10-11			10-11	24-21	1	
Sarah Jane Connelly					3-6	4-6	7-12	38-31		0-2
Liz Donohue						1-1	1-1	1-1		
Caylan Leslie								33-15		
Emily Neighbours								2-1		
Alicia Salas	12-11						12-11	52-25	2	
Jennifer Smith								5-4		
Kristina Stastny					6-9	6-2	12-11	23-23	2	
Catrina Thompson			12-10				12-10	12-10	4	
Christian Thompson		13-8					13-8	13-8	3	
Totals	12-11	13-8	12-10	10-11	9-15	11-9	67-64	203-138	12	0-2

DOUBLES

Player	Open	Dual	Overall	Career	Dual	Career Region	Tiebreakers
Lauren Connelly	8-3	18-5	26-8	47-20	33-12	12-4	1-0
Sarah Jane Connelly	5-6	11-9	16-15	56-46	36-28	9-6	1-1
Liz Donohue	5-4		5-4	11-8		1-2	
Caylan Leslie	1-1		1-1	27-10	14-5		
Emily Neighbours	4-3	5-6	9-9	23-17	5-8	4-3	0-1
Kelly Nelson	6-3		6-3	12-8		2-2	
Alicia Salas	6-2	18-5	24-7	83-38	54-25	12-3	1-0
Jennifer Smith				21-16	12-12		
Kristina Stastny	5-6	8-7	13-13	35-28	20-19	8-4	1-0
Catrina Thompson	9-5	12-11	21-16	21-16	12-11	11-6	1-4
Christian Thompson	9-5	12-11	21-16	21-16	12-11	11-6	1-4

Team	#1	#2	#3	Dual	Open	Overall	Career	Clinching Wins	As Last Match On-Court
L. Connelly/Neighbours					2-1	2-1	5-2		
L. Connelly/Salas		18-5		18-5	6-4	24-7	41-16	4	1-0
S.J. Connelly/Neighbours			4-4	4-4		4-4	4-4	2	0-1
S.J. Connelly/Stastny			7-5	7-5	5-6	12-11	17-14	4	
L. Donohue/Nelson					5-3	5-3	12-6		
L. Donohue/Neighbours					0-1	0-1	0-1		
Leslie/Neighbours					1-1	1-1	2-1		
Neighbours/Nelson					1-0	1-0	1-0		
Neighbours/Stastny			1-2	1-2		1-2	1-2	1	
Thompson/Thompson	12-11			12-11	10-6	22-17	22-17	4	1-4
Totals	12-11	18-5	12-11	42-27	30-22	72-49	105-65	15	2-5

ITA RANKINGS

Caylan Leslie
Preseason: 26
Fall: ID*

Alicia Salas

Preseason: 63
Fall: 14
Spring 1: 17
Spring 2: 13
Spring 3: 10
Spring 4: 11
Spring 5: 19
Spring 6: 23
Spring 7: 22
Final: 22

Catrina Thompson

Spring 2: 84
Spring 3: 92

Christian Thompson

Fall: 88

L. Connelly/Salas

Preseason: 36
Fall: 39

S.J. Connelly/Stastny

Preseason: 43

Thompson/Thompson

Spring 1: 42
Spring 2: 37
Spring 4: 57
Spring 5: 44
Spring 6: 50
Spring 7: 36
Final: 26

* - ID indicates insufficient data, which means individual was ranked in preseason but did not play in the fall and, thus, could not be listed in the Fall rankings.

Note: Freshmen and all-freshman doubles teams were not eligible for preseason rankings.

Final ITA Midwest Region Rankings

Team

- Northwestern
- Notre Dame**
- Indiana
- Illinois
- Michigan
- Ohio State
- Iowa
- Wisconsin
- Purdue
- Illinois State
- DePaul
- Eastern Michigan
- Michigan State
- Western Michigan
- Miami (Ohio)

Singles

- Alicia Salas 2nd
Christian Thompson 17th

Doubles

- Thompson/Thompson 3rd
L. Connelly/Salas 11th





Sarah Jane Connelly clinched the doubles point and then won in straight sets in singles in Notre Dame's near-upset of #11 Northwestern at the Courtney Tennis Center, a 4-3 affair that was decided by a third-set tiebreaker.

Notre Dame 4, USC 3 (Exhibition) October 17, 2003 -- Notre Dame, Ind. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: *#63 Alicia Salas (ND) d. #15 Luana Magnani (USC) 6-3, 7-6 (7-4)
- No. 2: #93 Carine Vermeulen (USC) d. Catrina Thompson (ND) 6-2, 6-2
- No. 3: Dianne Matias (USC) d. Lauren Connelly (ND) 7-6 (7-3), 6-4
- No. 4: Judy DeVera (USC) d. Kristina Stastny (ND) 6-0, 7-5
- No. 5: Christian Thompson (ND) d. Bernadette Baryani (USC) 6-2, 6-2
- No. 6: Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) d. Erica Sauer (USC) 7-6 (7-0), 6-3

Doubles

- No. 1: Magnani/Vermeulen (USC) d. Thompson/Thompson (ND) 8-5
- No. 2: *#36 L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Esmero/Matias (USC) 8-4
- No. 3: #43 S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) d. DeVera/Sauer (USC) 8-4

#34 Michigan 4, #21 Notre Dame 3 January 29, 2004 -- Ann Arbor, Mich. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #14 Alicia Salas (ND) d. #37 Elizabeth Exon (M) 6-2, 6-4
- No. 2: #92 Michelle DaCosta (M) d. #88 Christian Thompson (ND) 3-6, 6-0, 6-2
- No. 3: Kavitha Tipirneni (M) d. Catrina Thompson (ND) 6-3, 6-3
- No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) d. Chrissie Nolan (M) 6-4, 6-3
- No. 5: *Leanne Rutherford (M) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5
- No. 6: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Kara Delicata (M) 7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 7-5

Doubles

- No. 1: #47 DaCosta/Rutherford (M) d. Thompson/Thompson (ND) 8-6
- No. 2: #39 L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Exon/Tipirneni (M) 8-6
- No. 3: Kim Plaushines/Debra Streifler (M) d. S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) 8-5

#21 Notre Dame 5, #48 Ohio State 2 January 31, 2004 -- Notre Dame, Ind. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #14 Alicia Salas (ND) d. Lindsay Williams (OSU) 7-6 (9-7), 6-0
- No. 2: #88 Christian Thompson (ND) d. Erica Fisk (OSU) 6-2, 6-2
- No. 3: *Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Jackie Leskovar (OSU) 7-5, 6-4
- No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) d. Lindsey Adams (OSU) 6-3, 2-6, 6-2
- No. 5: Emily DeCamilla (OSU) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 6-4, 6-1
- No. 6: Kristin Messmer (OSU) d. Kristina Stastny (ND) 6-4, 3-6, 1-0 (10-7)

Doubles

- No. 1: Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. Fisk/Leskovar (OSU) 9-7
- No. 2: *#39 L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Meaghan Colville/Williams (OSU) 9-7
- No. 3: S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) d. Adams/Sonia Ruzimovsky (OSU) 8-2

#21 Notre Dame 7, #64 Wisconsin 0 February 1, 2004 -- Notre Dame, Ind. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #14 Alicia Salas (ND) d. Katie McGaffigan (W) 7-6 (7-3), 6-3
- No. 2: #88 Christian Thompson (ND) d. Shana McElroy (W) 7-5, 6-4
- No. 3: *Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Lindsay Martin (W) 6-3, 6-0
- No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) d. Teresa Gonzaga (W) 6-4, 6-2
- No. 5: Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) d. Kaylan Caiati (W) 6-0, 7-6 (9-7)
- No. 6: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Lexi Goldin (W) 6-0, 6-4

Doubles

- No. 1: Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. Martin/McGaffigan (W) 8-5
- No. 2: #39 L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Gonzaga/McElroy (W) 8-2
- No. 3: *S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) d. Caiati/Goldin (W) 8-5

#26 Notre Dame 4, #14 Virginia Commonwealth 3 February 13, 2004 -- Richmond, Va. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: Olga Borisova (VCU) d. #14 Alicia Salas (ND) 7-6 (7-3), 6-2
- No. 2: Silvia Urickova (VCU) d. #88 Christian Thompson (ND) 7-6 (7-3), 6-4
- No. 3: *Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Cristina Gago (VCU) 7-6 (7-4), 6-0
- No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) d. Camille Ripert (VCU) 6-0, 6-0
- No. 5: Cristina Arribas (VCU) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 6-4, 6-2
- No. 6: Kristina Stastny (ND) won by default

Doubles

- No. 1: Borisova/Urickova (VCU) d. Thompson/Thompson (ND) 8-6
- No. 2: *#39 L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Arribas/Gago (ND) 8-1
- No. 3: S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) won by default

#26 Notre Dame 6, Boston College 1 February 14, 2004 -- Blacksburg, Va. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #14 Alicia Salas (ND) d. Szilvia Szegedi (BC) 2-6, 6-4, 6-2
- No. 2: #88 Christian Thompson (ND) d. Nida Waseem (BC) 6-2, 7-5
- No. 3: Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Allison Ashley (BC) 6-3, 6-1
- No. 4: *Lauren Connelly (ND) d. Morgan Landes (BC) 6-3, 6-2
- No. 5: Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) d. Lindsay Nash (BC) 6-4, 6-2
- No. 6: Amy Molden (BC) d. Kristina Stastny (ND) 3-6, 6-4, 1-0 (10-6)

Doubles

- No. 1: Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. Emily Hellburg/Waseem (BC) 8-3
- No. 2: #39 L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Ashley/Szegedi (BC) 8-1
- No. 3: *S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) d. Landes/Nash (BC) 8-3

#26 Notre Dame 5, #69 Virginia Tech 2 February 15, 2004 -- Blacksburg, Va. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: Anat Elazari (VT) d. #14 Alicia Salas (ND) 2-6, 6-2, 1-0 (11-9)
- No. 2: *#88 Christian Thompson (ND) d. Ginger Lowdermilk (VT) 6-2, 6-4
- No. 3: Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Felice Lam (VT) 6-3, 6-2
- No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) d. Elissa Kinard (VT) 7-5, 6-2
- No. 5: Ashley James (VT) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 6-3, 3-6, 1-0 (10-8)
- No. 6: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Meredith Holmes (VT) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles

- No. 1: *Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. #37 Kinard/Lam (VT) 8-2
- No. 2: #39 L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Elazari/Lowdermilk (VT) 8-4
- No. 3: S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) d. James/Carolina Rodriguez (VT) 8-0

#26 Notre Dame 6, #20 BYU 1 February 20, 2004 -- Notre Dame, Ind. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #14 Alicia Salas (ND) d. #43 Barbora Zahnova (BYU) 6-3, 6-3
- No. 2: #88 Christian Thompson (ND) d. Sofia Holden (BYU) 6-3, 3-6, 1-0 (10-6)
- No. 3: Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Lauren Jones (BYU) 6-3, 6-4
- No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) d. Olga Boulytcheva (BYU) 6-1, 6-0
- No. 5: Rebecca Pike (BYU) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 6-4, 6-0
- No. 6: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Hadley Macfarlane (BYU) 6-2, 6-0

Doubles

- No. 1: *Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. Macfarlane/Zahnova (BYU) 8-5
- No. 2: #39 L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Holden/Jones 8-4
- No. 3: Rebecca Pike/Nicole Schneider (BYU) d. S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) 9-7

#20 Notre Dame 5, #26 Indiana 2 February 29, 2004 -- Notre Dame, Ind. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #17 Alicia Salas (ND) d. #30 Dora Vastag (IU) 6-0, 6-2
- No. 2: Linda Tran (IU) d. Christian Thompson (ND) 7-5, 4-6, 1-0 (10-8)
- No. 3: *Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Sarah Batty (IU) 6-3, 6-2
- No. 4: Laura McGaffigan (IU) d. Lauren Connelly (ND) 5-7, 6-4, 1-0 (10-8)
- No. 5: Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) d. Karie Schlukebir (IU) 7-5, 6-3
- No. 6: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Martina Grimm (IU) 6-3, 6-0

Doubles

- No. 1: #42 Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. #45 Schlukebir/Tran (IU) 8-4
- No. 2: #44 Batty/Grimm (IU) d. L. Connelly/Salas (ND) 8-6
- No. 3: *S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) d. McGaffigan/Vastag (IU) 8-6

#17 Illinois 5, #19 Notre Dame 2 March 4, 2004 -- Notre Dame, Ind. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #17 Alicia Salas (ND) d. #14 Jennifer McGaffigan (I) 6-2, 6-3
- No. 2: Tiffany Eklov (I) d. Christian Thompson (ND) 6-3, 2-6, 6-1
- No. 3: Isabel Jarosz (I) d. Catrina Thompson (ND) 6-3, 7-5
- No. 4: *Cynthia Goulet (I) d. Lauren Connelly (ND) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3
- No. 5: Brianna Knue (I) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3
- No. 6: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Emily Wang (I) 6-3, 6-1

Doubles

- No. 1: #7 Goulet/McGaffigan (I) d. #42 Thompson/Thompson (ND) 8-6
- No. 2: Eklov/Jarosz (I) d. L. Connelly/Salas (ND) 8-3
- No. 3: *Knue/Wang (I) d. S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) 8-6

* - indicates clinching victory; ! - indicates clinching victory in last match on-court

#6 Duke 6, #18 Notre Dame 1 March 10, 2004 -- Wialoa, Hawaii (Outdoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #13 Alicia Salas (ND) d. #5 Amanda Johnson (D) 2-6, 6-1, 6-3
- No. 2: *Jennifer Zika (D) d. Christian Thompson 6-3, 6-4
- No. 3: Tory Zawacki (D) d. #84 Catrina Thompson 7-5, 6-3
- No. 4: Julia Smith (D) d. Lauren Connelly (ND) 7-5, 6-2
- No. 5: Saras Arasu (D) d. Kristina Stastny (ND) 7-5, 7-5
- No. 6: Kristen Cargill (D) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 6-0, 6-4

Doubles

- No. 1: #37 Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. Smith/Zawacki (D) 8-6
- No. 2: *Arasu/Johnson (D) d. L. Connelly/Salas (ND) 8-4
- No. 3: Cargill/Zika (D) d. S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) 8-4

#36 Tennessee 6, #18 Notre Dame 1 March 13, 2004 -- Wialoa, Hawaii (Outdoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #13 Alicia Salas (ND) d. #24 Tammy Encina (T) 6-4, 4-6, 1-0 (10-7)
- No. 2: *#73 Sabita Maharaj (T) d. Christian Thompson (ND) 6-1, 6-3
- No. 3: Ashley Robards (T) d. #84 Catrina Thompson (ND) 4-6, 6-2, 1-0 (10-6)
- No. 4: Blakeley Griffith (T) d. Lauren Connelly (ND) 6-4, 6-2
- No. 5: Majen Immink (T) d. Kristina Stastny (ND) 7-5, 6-2
- No. 6: Victoria Jones (T) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 6-3, 6-1

Doubles

- No. 1: Encina/Melissa Schaub (T) d. #37 Thompson/Thompson (ND) 9-8 (7-5)
- No. 2: Maharaj/Robards (T) d. L. Connelly/Salas (ND) 8-3
- No. 3: S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) d. Immink/Breanna Kray (T) 9-8 (7-3)

#21 Notre Dame 6, #47 Iowa 1 March 18, 2004 -- Notre Dame, Ind. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #13 Alicia Salas (ND) d. Meg Racette (I) 6-4, 6-1
- No. 2: *Christian Thompson (ND) d. Hillary Mintz (I) 2-6, 6-2, 6-2
- No. 3: #84 Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Chelsea Glynn (I) 6-3, 7-6 (7-5)
- No. 4: Anastasia Zhukova (I) d. Lauren Connelly (ND) 7-5, 7-5
- No. 5: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Deni Alexandrova (I) 6-3, 6-2
- No. 6: Liz Donohue (ND) d. Hilary Tyler (I) 2-6, 6-1, 6-3

Doubles

- No. 1: Racette/Mintz (I) d. #37 Thompson/Thompson (ND) 9-8 (7-5)
- No. 2: L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Zhukova/Glynn (I) 8-2
- No. 3: *S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) d. Alexandrova/Tyler (I) 8-6



#33 Wake Forest 7, #23 Notre Dame 0
March 27, 2004 -- Raleigh-Durham, N.C. (Outdoor)

Singles

- No. 1: Ashlee Davis (WF) def. #10 Alicia Salas (ND) 6-3, 6-1
No. 2: #22 Karin Coetzee (WF) def. Christian Thompson (ND) 6-0, 6-3
No. 3: Katie Martzolf (WF) def. Catrina Thompson (ND) 6-7 (8-6), 7-6 (7-4), 1-0 (11-9)
No. 4: *Liz Proctor (WF) def. Lauren Connelly (ND) 7-5, 7-6 (7-2)
No. 5: Danielle Schwartz (WF) def. Kristina Stastny (ND) 5-7, 6-2, 6-3
No. 6: Aimee Smith (WF) def. Liz Donohue (ND) 6-4, 7-5

Doubles

- No. 1: !Martzolf/Davis (WF) def. Thompson/Thompson (ND) 8-6
No. 2: L. Connelly/Salas (ND) def. Schwartz/Smith (WF) 8-2
No. 3: Coetzee/Proctor (WF) def. S.J. Connelly/Stastny (ND) 8-1

#9 North Carolina 5, #23 Notre Dame 0
March 28, 2004 -- Chapel Hill, N.C. (Outdoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #29 Aniela Mojzis (UNC) def. #10 Alicia Salas (ND) 6-4, 6-1
No. 2: Christian Thompson (ND) led Lee Bairos (UNC) 6-1, 4-6, 3-2, abandoned
No. 3: Catrina Thompson (ND) led Kendall Cline (UNC) 7-6 (7-4), 3-3, abandoned
No. 4: *Sara Anundsen (UNC) def. Lauren Connelly (ND) 6-2, 6-3
No. 5: Kendrick Bunn (UNC) def. Kristina Stastny (ND) 6-1, 6-2
No. 6: Jenna Long (UNC) def. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2

Doubles

- No. 1: #23 Mojzis/Cline (UNC) def. Thompson/Thompson (ND) 8-4
No. 2: Bairos/Bunn (UNC) def. L. Connelly/Salas (ND) 8-6
No. 3: *Anundsen/Long (UNC) def. Neighbours/Stastny (ND) 8-3

#27 Notre Dame 7, Marquette 0
April 3, 2004 -- Notre Dame, Ind. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #10 Alicia Salas (ND) d. Veronica Garcia Briseno (M) 6-4, 6-1
No. 2: *Christian Thompson (ND) d. Genevieve Charron (M) 6-0, 6-0
No. 3: #92 Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Callan Smith (M) 6-0, 6-0
No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) d. Annabelle Espinosa (M) 6-0, 6-3
No. 5: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Dominika Dabrowski (M) 6-1, 6-4
No. 6: Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) d. Andrea Bukacek (M) 6-1, 6-0

Doubles

- No. 1: Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. Garcia Briseno/Smith (M) 8-6
No. 2: L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Charron/Espinosa (M) 8-4
No. 3: *Emily Neighbours/Stastny (ND) d. Bukacek/Dabrowski (M) 8-3

#27 Notre Dame 5, #18 Miami 2
April 4, 2004 -- Notre Dame, Ind. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #4 Megan Bradley (M) d. #10 Alicia Salas (ND) 6-3, 1-6, 6-2
No. 2: Christian Thompson (ND) d. Melissa Applebaum (M) 1-6, 7-5, 6-3
No. 3: Mari Toro (M) d. #92 Catrina Thompson (ND) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5)
No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) d. Staci Stevens (M) 6-3, 6-2
No. 5: *Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Audrey Banada (M) 1-6, 6-4, 6-4
No. 6: Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) d. Sihem Bennacer (M) 6-3, 6-0

Doubles

- No. 1: !Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. #22 Applebaum/Bradley (M) 8-6
No. 2: L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Stevens/Sara Robbins (M) 8-6
No. 3: Banada/Toro (M) d. Emily Neighbours/Stastny (ND) 8-1

#43 William & Mary 4, #23 Notre Dame 3
April 10, 2004 -- Williamsburg, Va. (Outdoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #25 Megan Muth (W&M) d. #11 Alicia Salas (ND) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2
No. 2: Christian Thompson (ND) d. #109 Lena Sherbakov (W&M) 6-4, 6-0
No. 3: Amy Wei (W&M) d. Catrina Thompson (ND) 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (7-3)
No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) d. Emily Mowery (W&M) 6-0, 7-5
No. 5: Lingda Yang (W&M) d. Kristina Stastny (ND) 6-2, 6-1
No. 6: !Kristen Dunbar (W&M) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 7-5, 5-7, 6-3

Doubles

- No. 1: #24 Muth/Wei (W&M) d. #57 Thompson/Thompson (ND) 8-2
No. 2: L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Sherbakov/Yang (W&M) 8-3
No. 3: *S.J. Connelly/Emily Neighbours (ND) d. Alex de Guzman/Mowery (W&M) 8-2

#14 Texas 5, #23 Notre Dame 2
April 12, 2004 -- Austin, Tex. (Outdoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #18 Petra Dizdar (T) d. #11 Alicia Salas (ND) 7-6, 6-4
No. 2: Christian Thompson (ND) d. Katie Ruckert (T) 6-4, 4-6, 6-0
No. 3: Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Mia Marovic (T) 5-7, 6-1, 6-2
No. 4: Kendra Strohm (T) d. Lauren Connelly (ND) 6-4, 6-3
No. 5: Kelly Baritot (T) d. Kristina Stastny (ND) 6-1, 3-6, 6-1
No. 6: Ristine Olson (T) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 6-1, 6-0

Doubles

- No. 1: *Ruckert/Strohm (T) d. #57 Thompson/Thompson (ND) 8-3
No. 2: L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Dizdar/Marovic (T) 9-7
No. 3: Baritot/Olson (T) d. S.J. Connelly/Emily Neighbours (ND) 8-3

#11 Northwestern 4, #24 Notre Dame 3
April 15, 2004 -- Notre Dame Ind. (Outdoor/Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #3 Cristelle Grier (N) d. #11 Alicia Salas (ND) 6-3, 6-2
No. 2: #55 Jessica Rush (N) d. Christian Thompson (ND) 7-5, 6-4
No. 3: Alexis Prousis (N) d. Catrina Thompson (ND) 6-2, 6-1
No. 4: *Jamie Peisel (N) d. Lauren Connelly (ND) 7-6 (7-2), 4-6, 7-6 (7-4)
No. 5: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Andrea Yung (N) 6-7, 7-5, 7-5
No. 6: Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) d. Connie Chiang (N) 6-1, 6-2

Doubles

- No. 1: #57 Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. #2 Grier/Rush (N) 9-8 (7-5)
No. 2: L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Peisel/Prousis (N) 8-5
No. 3: *S.J. Connelly/Emily Neighbours (ND) d. Ruth Barnes/Yung (N) 9-7

#61 Purdue 4, #27 Notre Dame 3
April 21, 2004 -- Lafayette, Ind. (Indoor)

Singles

- No. 1: Hala Sufi (P) d. #19 Alicia Salas (ND) 6-2, 0-6, 6-0
No. 2: Christian Thompson (ND) d. Gretchen Haynor (P) 6-2, 6-0
No. 3: Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Amy Walgenbach (P) 6-2, 6-1
No. 4: Alyssa Rodriguez (P) d. Lauren Connelly (ND) 6-2, 6-3
No. 5: Shawna Zuccarini (P) d. Kristina Stastny (ND) 6-3, 6-4
No. 6: !Melissa Woods (P) d. Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (7-1)

Doubles

- No. 1: #44 Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. Haynor/Woods (P) 8-2
No. 2: !L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Zuccarini/Sufi (P) 9-8 (7-4)
No. 3: Lara Burgarello/Rodriguez (P) d. S.J. Connelly/Emily Neighbours (ND) 8-6

[1] #28 Notre Dame 4, [4] #71 Virginia Tech 0
BIG EAST Championship Semifinals
April 30, 2004 -- Coral Gables, Fla. (Outdoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #109 Anat Elazari (VT) led #23 Alicia Salas (ND) 6-1, 1-6, 2-1, abandoned
No. 2: Christian Thompson (ND) d. Carolyn Kramer (VT) 6-1, 6-1
No. 3: Felice Lam (VT) led Catrina Thompson (ND) 6-3, 4-1, abandoned
No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) led Ashley James (VT) 6-4, 5-2, abandoned
No. 5: *Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Carolina Rodriguez (VT) 6-2, 6-2
No. 6: Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) d. Meredith Holmes (VT) 6-2, 6-2

Doubles

- No. 1: #50 Thompson/Thompson (ND) d. Elissa Kinard/Lam (VT) 8-4
No. 2: L. Connelly/Salas (ND) vs. Elazari/James (VT) 5-5, abandoned
No. 3: S.J. Connelly/Emily Neighbours (ND) d. Kramer/Rodriguez (VT) 8-2

[2] #26 Miami 4, [1] #28 Notre Dame 0
BIG EAST Championship Final
May 1, 2004 -- Coral Gables, Fla. (Outdoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #4 Megan Bradley (M) d. #23 Alicia Salas (ND) 6-0, 6-1
No. 2: Christian Thompson (ND) led Melissa Applebaum (M) 2-6, 7-5, 2-1, abandoned
No. 3: *Mari Toro (M) d. Catrina Thompson (ND) 6-4, 7-5
No. 4: Lauren Connelly (ND) led Staci Stevens (M) 7-5, 4-5, abandoned
No. 5: Audrey Banada (M) d. Kristina Stastny (ND) 6-1, 6-3
No. 6: Sara Robbins (M) led Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 4-6, 7-5, 2-0, abandoned

Doubles

- No. 1: !#36 Applebaum/Bradley (M) d. #50 Thompson/Thompson (ND) 8-6
No. 2: L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Robbins/Stevens (M) 8-6
No. 3: Banada/Toro (M) d. S.J. Connelly/Emily Neighbours (ND) 8-6



Kristina Stastny won in three sets to clinch Notre Dame's 5-2 victory over conference rival #18 Miami.

[17-32] #29 Notre Dame 4, [33-48] #38 Iowa 1
NCAA Championship First Round
May 15, 2004 -- Evanston, Ill. (Outdoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #22 Alicia Salas (ND) d. #110 Meg Racette (I) 7-6 (7-4), 6-4
No. 2: Christian Thompson (ND) d. Hillary Mintz (I) 6-3, 6-4
No. 3: Catrina Thompson (ND) d. Chelsea Glynn (I) 6-4, 6-0
No. 4: Anastasia Zhukova (I) led Lauren Connelly (ND) 6-3, 5-5, abandoned
No. 5: Deni Alexandrova (I) d. Kristina Stastny (ND) 6-2, 6-2
No. 6: Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) led Hilary Tyler (I) 3-6, 6-4, 3-2, abandoned
Doubles
No. 1: #36 Thompson/Thompson (ND) led #60 Mintz/Racette (I) 6-4, abandoned
No. 2: *L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Alexandrova/Zhukova (I) 8-5
No. 3: S.J. Connelly/Emily Neighbours (ND) d. Glynn/Tyler (I) 8-3

[10] #9 Northwestern 4, [17-32] #29 Notre Dame 1
NCAA Championship Second Round
May 16, 2004 -- Evanston, Ill. (Outdoor)

Singles

- No. 1: #3 Cristelle Grier (NU) d. #22 Alicia Salas (ND) 6-1, 6-1
No. 2: Christian Thompson (ND) led #44 Jessica Rush (NU) 6-2, 3-6, 2-1, aban.
No. 3: Alexis Prousis (NU) d. Catrina Thompson (ND) 7-5, 6-1
No. 4: *Jamie Peisel (NU) d. Lauren Connelly (ND) 6-3, 7-5
No. 5: Kristina Stastny (ND) d. Andrea Yung (NU) 6-3, 6-2
No. 6: Connie Chiang (NU) led Sarah Jane Connelly (ND) 7-5, 4-3, aban.

Doubles

- No. 1: #3 Grier/Rush (NU) d. #36 Thompson/Thompson (ND) 9-7
No. 2: L. Connelly/Salas (ND) d. Peisel/Prousis (NU) 8-3
No. 3: !Ruth Barnes/Yung (NU) d. S.J. Connelly/Emily Neighbours (ND) 9-8 (7-5)

* denotes clinching win; ! denotes clinching win in final match on-court

Note: Numbers preceding teams and players are IIA national rankings at time of match; numbers in brackets are team's tournament seeding.





Caylan Leslie

Class of 2004 • 5-4

*Newport Beach, CA
Corona del Mar H.S.*

Major: Design & Computer Applications

Brilliant and powerful player struggled with injuries throughout most of her career ... after rookie campaign, was completely healthy for just one semester during her final three years ... established herself as one of the most dangerous players in the country while she was healthy, going 9-5 at No. 1 in 2002-03 ... suffered season-ending injury in first tournament of her senior campaign ... served as team co-captain in final season ... hits big off both sides ... crafty player adept at creating angles to set up winners ... was listed as high as 26th in ITA national singles rankings ... earned monograms in freshman and junior seasons.

AS A SENIOR: Suffered season-ending shoulder injury in first tournament of 2003-04 season ... ranked 26th in the ITA preseason national rankings ... in the "adi" flight of the adidas invitational, lost to #59 Jennifer Magley of Florida and was down 5-3 in the first set against #42 Jessica Rush when she was forced to retire due to injury ... played



doubles with Emily Neighbours in the tournament, beating a Louisville pair before falling to a Florida squad in the round of 16.

AS A JUNIOR: Rebounded from shoulder injury to become one of the most dangerous players in collegiate tennis in 2002-03 ... posted 17-11 singles record, including 9-5 after moving into the No. 1 position ... gained berth in NCAA Singles Championship ... finished season ranked 40th in singles after peaking at 33rd ... was second, behind Northwestern's Cristelle Grier, in Midwest Region rankings ... reg-

istered nine wins over ranked opponents, highlighted by upsets of #15 Amanda Johnson of Duke and #26 Candice Fuchs of William & Mary ... earned BIG EAST all-tournament honors in singles and was named team MVP ... returned from 14-month absence from competitive tennis with a pair of wins over ranked players in the Collegiate Tennis Kickoff Classic ... beat #60 Tina Hojnik of Georgia in three sets in first match back ... started the dual-match season at No. 2, dropping three of first four matches before starting an eight-match winning streak ... moved to No. 1 for first time in career on March 1, winning five of first six matches in that spot ... had victories in 4-3 wins over BYU and Iowa ... also registered wins vs. Tennessee, Kentucky, Wake Forest, Texas, Illinois, and Miami ... entered postseason having won 14 of last 17 matches ... was 14-1 when winning the first set ... finished

with 8-5 doubles record in limited action ... played all but one doubles match with Jennifer Smith at No. 3 ... the pair was 8-4, including a five-match winning streak ... provided clinching doubles win in 4-3 victory against Iowa ... won in BIG EAST final, setting up 4-3 Irish triumph over Miami ... also had victories against Kentucky, Wake Forest, Texas, and William & Mary ... were undefeated in five home matches ... also played with Alicia Salas at No. 2 vs. Virginia Tech.

Career High ITA National Rankings: 26th (singles)
Career-High Singles Win: #15 Amanda Johnson (Duke), 6-2, 7-5; 2/21/03

AWARDS & HONORS
NCAA Singles Championship Qualifier (2003)
BIG EAST All-Tournament Team (Singles: 2003)
Team MVP (2002-03)
Co-Captain (2003-04)



Career Record								
Year	Singles			Year	Doubles			
	Dual	Open	Overall		Dual	Open	Overall	
2000-01	18-7	12-5	30-12	2000-01	6-0	7-3	13-3	
2001-02	0-0	3-3	3-3	2001-02	0-0	5-1	5-1	
2002-03	15-8	2-3	17-11	2002-03	8-5	0-0	8-5	
2003-04	0-0	0-2	0-2	2003-04	0-0	1-1	1-1	
Career	33-15	17-13	50-28	Career	14-5	13-5	27-10	

AS A SOPHOMORE: Missed entire spring dual-match season after suffering shoulder injury in late fall action ... played at No. 2 singles and No. 3 doubles in fall exhibition dual match against USC ... after falling to All-American Megan Bradley of UCLA in first round, advanced to consol-

ation final of adidas Invitational before losing in third-set tiebreaker to UCLA's Lauren Fisher ... earned No. 7 seed in singles at Omni Hotels Region IV Championships, but could not compete due to injury ... posted 5-1 doubles mark, playing all but one match with Nina

Vaughan ... the pair advanced to the quarter-finals of adidas Invitational before falling to the All-America team of Petya Marinova and Sara Walker of UCLA ... with Vaughan, picked up a win at No. 3 doubles in fall exhibition match against USC ... won all three doubles matches in Eck Classic, including one with Emily Neighbours.

AS A FRESHMAN:

Became seventh player in program's history to win 30 or more singles matches as a freshman ... played mostly No. 4 singles ... among 17 wins at the position were dual-match victories against Wake Forest, North Carolina, Oklahoma State, Pepperdine, Kentucky, and Miami ... was 16th in final regional singles rankings ... won four clinching singles matches ... began fall season with six straight wins ... one of four Irish players to reach quarter-finals of ITA Midwest Championships ... won Maryland Invitational in first collegiate event ... went 3-0 at Colorado Invitational ... compiled 13-3 doubles record with four different partners ...

began fall paired with Lindsey Green and had 5-2 record ... went 2-0 with Nina Vaughan at Colorado Invitational ... also won No. 3 doubles matches vs. Kansas State, BYU, and Kansas with Vaughan ... 2-1 record with Alicia Salas included wins at No. 3 against Illinois State and West Virginia ... won only match with Katie Cunha, at No. 3 vs. Virginia Tech ... sixth-highest ranked freshman in preseason ITA rankings, at 83rd.

IN NON-COLLEGIATE ACTION:

Played a number of pro tournaments in the summer of '03 ... won 2001 ITA summer circuit singles event at Indiana and reached final at Notre Dame tournament ... advanced to singles semifinals before losing match tiebreaker to teammate Nina Vaughan at '00 summer circuit event at Notre Dame ... reached final in doubles with Katie Cunha before falling to teammates Michelle Dasso and Becky Varnum.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL

DATA: Entered college after being ranked as high as 11th in United States Tennis Association national 18s rankings ... also ranked 15th nationally in doubles ... reached singles quarterfinals and doubles round of 16 of '99 National 18s Clay Court Championships ... played high school tennis as freshman and sophomore before concentrating on junior tournaments ... named team MVP as a sophomore and went undefeated in Pacific Coast League play ... named '99 Orange County Community Tennis Association Player of the Year ... two-time winner of Southern California Sportsmanship award ... from same high school as former teammate Nina Vaughan and former Irish men's tennis standout Jakub Pietrowski ... born July 1, 1982, in Newport Beach, Calif. ... named to Dean's list in fall 2001 and fall '03 semesters ... tabbed a BIG EAST Academic All-Star in 2002-03 ... graduated from the College of Arts and Letters in May 2004 with a degree in design and computer applications.



Outstanding all-around player turned into one of the top singles players in the nation, peaking at 10th in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association national rankings in her final season ... ITA Midwest Region Senior Player of the Year, as well as the national winner of the ITA Cissie Leary Sportsmanship Award ... qualified for NCAA Singles Championship in 2003 and '04 ... one of most improved players on team ... named to BIG EAST Conference all-tournament team in singles in each of last two seasons (the inaugural years of the distinction), while copping doubles honors in '03 ... twice voted team MVP by her teammates (2001-02 and 2003-04) ... boasts exceptional control and added power to her groundstrokes ... adept at using opponent's power ... versatile player who can adjust her game to match her opponent ... can take balls out of the air and is very athletic ... one of 10 players (five women) selected by ITA for the American Express Collegiate All-Star Team that traveled to China in June 2004 to play two exhibition matches ... recipient of Byron V. Kanaley Award, the most prestigious honor awarded to Notre Dame student-athletes who have been exemplary as both students and leaders ... two-time winner of Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley Rockne Student-Athlete Award as top student on team ... served as team co-captain in 2004-05, along with Caylan Leslie ... was listed in every set of national singles rankings from the end of the 2001-02 season until end of career (20 consecutive sets) ... finished with 95-42 (.693) career singles record and stands 10th on Irish career singles victories list ... was 84-38 (.689) in doubles (13th in wins) ... ranked seventh in career doubles dual wins (54-25 record) ... also was 10th in combined victories (178-80) and ninth in combined dual wins (106-50) ... was 52-24 in singles dual action, including 16-16 at No. 1 and a winning record at every other position ... owns a share of Irish record for singles dual-match wins in a season (24-3 in 2002-03) ... in singles, was 39-9 (.813) at home, 47-15 (.758) against Midwest Region opponents, 84-5 (.944) when winning the first set, and 14-8 (.636) in three-set matches ... went 22-23 vs. ranked opponents ... also rallied to win 11 times after losing first set ... in doubles, was 36-12 (.750) at home and 41-14 (.745) against regional teams ... posted 4-1 record in doubles in NCAA tournament action ... CoSIDA Academic All-America nominee finished with 3.624 cumulative GPA as preprofessional studies/anthropology major ... four-year monogram winner.

Career High ITA National Rankings: 10th (singles), 36th (doubles)
Career-High Singles Win: #5 Amanda Johnson (Duke), 2-6, 6-1, 6-3; 3/10/04
Career-High Doubles Win: #3 Sarah Riske/Aleke Tsoubanos (Vanderbilt), 8-4; 5/10/03

AWARDS & HONORS

ITA National Cissie Leary Sportsmanship Award (2004)
 NCAA Doubles Championship Qualifier (2003, 2004)
 ITA Midwest Region Senior Player of the Year (2004)
 Three-Time BIG EAST All-Tournament Team (Singles: 2003, 2004; Doubles: 2003)
 ITA Midwest Region Cissie Leary Sportsmanship Award (2004)
 ITA Collegiate All-Star Team (2004)
 Two-Time Team MVP (2001-02, 2003-04)
 Byron V. Kanaley Award (2004)
 Two-Time Knute Rockne Student-Athlete Award (2003, 2004)
 Two-Time ITA Scholar Athlete (2003, 2004)



Alicia Salas

Class of 2004 • 5-9

Englewood, CO
 Cherry Creek H.S.

Major: Preprofessional Studies & Anthropology
 Final GPA: 3.64

AS A SENIOR: Became one of the top singles players in the nation, peaking at 10th in ITA national rankings ... national winner of the ITA/Cissie Leary Sportsmanship Award for displaying inspiring dedication and commitment to her team, which has enhanced her team's performance and exemplified the spirit of college tennis ... named ITA Midwest Region Senior Player of the Year ... CoSIDA Academic All-America nominee ... qualified for NCAA Singles Championship for second straight year (but withdrew due to injury), capping a season in which she participated in all three grand slam events, becoming just the fourth Irish player to participate in every leg of the grand slam in a season ... earned spot on BIG EAST Championship all-tournament team in singles ... finished season ranked 22nd and with a 24-17 record, including 15-12 against ranked opponents ... posted six wins against top-30 players ... was unbeaten in six matches against ranked players (all in top 50) from Jan. 29-March 27 ... runner-up in ITA Midwest Championships in the fall led to her being ranked second in the region heading into the spring ... ended season ranked #2 in region, as well ... combined with Lauren Connelly to be virtually automatic win at No. 2 doubles, finishing the season 24-7, including 18-5 in dual action and a nine-match winning streak to end the spring ... ranked as high as 36th nationally in doubles, including fifth in the region (finished 11th) ... ended career with 41-16 record playing with Connelly ... finished 12-11 at No. 1 ... all but one of her defeats came to players in the national rankings ... opened spring with 10-2 mark at No. 1 ... faced five consecutive top-45 players from Feb. 20-March 13 and was victorious in every contest ... top win was against #5 Amanda Johnson of Duke in three sets ... other top ranked wins throughout the season included against #14 Jennifer McGaffigan of Illinois, #15 Luana Magnani of USC, #24 Tammy Encina of Tennessee, #29 Dianne Hollands of Arizona, #30 Dora Vastag of Indiana, #33 Alix Lacelarie of Clemson, #37 Elizabeth Exon of Michigan (twice), #39 Megan Muth of William & Mary, #42 Jessica Rush of Northwestern, and #43 Barbora Zahnova of BYU ... provided lone Irish points in matches vs. Duke and Tennessee ... clinched Notre Dame victories against #20 BYU and vs. Iowa in the first round of the NCAA tournament ... finished dual-match season with just two wins in 12 matches (one was abandoned) ... seven of nine losses during that span were to top-30 players ... posted 12-6 record in fall play, with all but five matches against ranked players ... defeated three ranked players to qualify for main draw of Riviera/ITA All-American Championships ... fell in first round, but then registered a win over Hollands in consolation play ... did not lose more than three games in a set in winning five matches to advance to the final of the ITA Midwest Championships, where she lost to Northwestern's Cristelle Grier ... that result gained



her an invitation to the 32-player ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships, where she lost in the first round to Florida's Alexis Gordon, who would go on to be #1 in the nation ... reached quarterfinals of "adi" flight of season-opening adidas Invitational before losing in three sets to Gordon ... topped Magnani in straight sets to clinch Notre Dame's 4-3 exhibition win over USC, which would be ranked as high as fifth during the season ... was 13-4 against regional opponents, with three losses coming to Grier ... was 8-2 at home and 22-2 when winning the first set ... paired with Connelly to be nearly unbeatable at No. 2 doubles ... started spring with seven consecutive wins, then lost four in a row, but followed up with 11 wins in final 12 matches ... after 8-6 loss at North Carolina on March 28, did not lose the rest of the season ... had four clinching wins ... clinched doubles point in 4-3 upset of #14 VCU that snapped the Rams' 40-match home winning streak and 38-match regular-season winning streak ... won tiebreaker in final match on court to win doubles point vs. Purdue ... clinched doubles point against Iowa in first round of NCAA tournament ... other top wins came against Michigan, #20 BYU, Wake Forest, #18/26 Miami (twice), William & Mary, #14 Texas and



Career Record								
Year	Singles			Year	Doubles			
	Dual	Open	Overall		Dual	Open	Overall	
2000-01	3-0	13-4	16-4	2000-01	3-3	8-5	11-8	
2001-02	24-3	7-3	31-6	2001-02	19-9	7-3	26-12	
2002-03	13-11	11-4	24-15	2002-03	14-8	8-3	22-11	
2003-04	12-11	12-6	24-17	2003-04	18-5	6-2	24-7	
Career	52-25	43-17	95-42	Career	54-25	29-13	83-38	

#11/9 Northwestern (twice) ... posted 12-3 mark against regional foes ... had 6-2 record in fall play ... reached quarterfinals of Midwest Championships before losing to #28 Schlukebir/Tran of Indiana ... advanced to semifinals of adidas Invitational before falling to #2 Magley/Reyes of Florida ... clinched doubles point in 4-3 exhibition win against USC ... recipient of Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley Rockne Student-Athlete Award for second consecutive season.

AS A JUNIOR: Moved to the top of the lineup and excelled in 2002-03 ... started the spring at No. 1 singles, where she played nine matches before playing No. 2 the remainder of the season, registering a 9-5 record ... was 24-15 overall ... ranked as high as 65th in singles before finishing 98th ... was named to BIG EAST Championship all-tournament team in both singles and doubles ... ranked sixth in final Midwest Region rankings ... 12 of 15 losses overall and 10 of 11 in spring action came to ranked opponents ... hampered by a shoulder injury late in the season, which greatly affected her serve ... occupying the slot for the first time in her career, won first two matches at No. 1 ... had three-set win in 4-3 Irish victory against BYU ... took first set, but fell in three to Megan Muth of William & Mary in 4-3 Tribe victory ... notable dual-match victories included vs. Texas and Illinois ... won seven of last eight matches at No. 2 ... rallied from down a service break in the third set for a key 7-5, 4-6, 7-5 upset of #54 Melissa Applebaum of Miami in BIG EAST final to give Notre Dame a 3-2

lead ... was 11-4 in fall play, highlighted by runner-up finish in OSU/Prince Cup and blue flight championship in Eck Classic ... posted upsets against Ohio State's #69 Erica Fisk and Northwestern's Cristelle Grier, who finished the season as the top-ranked player in the Midwest Region ... was 22-2 when winning the first set ... won four of five three-set matches ... in doubles, finished 22-11, including 14-8 in dual matches, playing mostly No. 2 ... played with Lauren Connelly in all but one dual match, filling the No. 2 slot during the regular season before moving up to No. 1 in the postseason ... the pair was 17-9 together, including 14-7 in the spring, and was 59th in the final national rankings ... listed 11th in Midwest Region ... ended the season on a high note, upsetting a pair of top-15 teams in the NCAA team tournament ... downed Missouri's #15 Juric/Sevikova in the first round before upsetting #3 Riske/Tsoubanos of Vanderbilt ... posted 5-1 record as final match on court with the doubles point still undecided, winning against Wisconsin, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio State, and Missouri ... also had wins vs. Wake Forest, Texas, Arizona State, William & Mary, and Illinois ... did not lose in a midseason month-long span, winning seven in a row ... the pair was 3-2 in fall play, winning one match in the Midwest Championships and finishing fifth in the Eck Classic ... played with Caylan Leslie at No. 2 vs. Virginia Tech ... teamed with Kristina Stastny in first two fall tournaments, winning five of six matches, including the "das" flight championship in the adidas Invitational ... also reached quarterfinals of OSU/Prince Cup ... recipient of Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley Rockne Student-Athlete Award.

AS A SOPHOMORE: Was nearly unbeatable in middle of Irish lineup in 2002 after not being a regular in '01 ... tied Notre Dame record for singles dual-match wins in a season with a 24-3 mark, playing mostly at No. 4 ... led team in both singles and doubles wins, registering 57 combined victories and earning team MVP honors ... compiled 31-6 overall singles record ... won 27 of her final 30 matches ... was 3-0 in spring against ranked opponents, including back-to-back wins over #81 Katie Martzolf of Wake Forest and 64th-ranked Saras Arasu of Duke ... also knocked off 77th-ranked Agnes Wiski of Tennessee ... put together 14-match winning streak, which included first 10 matches of spring ... had 10-match winning streak snapped in NCAA first round ... earned first career national ranking in February and peaked at #123 in April ... advanced to round of 16 in Omni Hotels Region IV Championships ... started spring with eight wins at No. 5 before moving to No. 4 spot on Feb. 16 ... won at No. 3 against Air Force ... provided victories in 4-3 wins against Illinois and Miami ... notched lone Irish points in four matches ... surrendered five or fewer games on 15 occasions ... won 25 matches in straight sets ... was 16-1 in the Eck Tennis Pavilion ... 26-1 when winning the first set ... playing with five different partners, was 26-12

overall in doubles, including 19-9 in dual matches, mostly at No. 3 ... from mid-February to the end of the season, played with Sarah Jane Connelly at No. 3, putting together a 14-6 mark ... won 10 of first 11 matches together ... in last month of season, clinched doubles point in last match on court vs. #19 Northwestern, #14 William & Mary, and Miami (BIG EAST final) ... helped Irish win doubles point in 4-3 regular-season victories over Illinois and Miami ... with Nina Vaughan, won first three matches of spring at No. 3, clinching doubles point in first two matches and upsetting 27th-ranked Kentucky team ... defeated Bernadette Bayani and Melissa Esmero of USC in USTA/ITA National Team Indoor Championships ... paired with Becky Varnum for a win at No. 2 against Northern Iowa ... teamed with Emily Neighbours during most of fall season for a 5-3 record ... the pair lost in first round of Region IV Championships before winning a pair of consolation matches ... paired with Lindsey Green for a win in the Eck Classic ... was 14-2 in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

AS A FRESHMAN: Showed great potential in fall 2000, finishing with 11-3 singles mark ... reached final at Maryland Invitational in first collegiate event ... filled in with wins at No. 5 vs. Illinois State and No. 6 vs. Western Michigan and West Virginia ... compiled 11-8 doubles mark with five different partners ... reached third round of ITA Midwest Championships with Lindsey Green ... won at No. 2 doubles against Purdue with Kimberly Guy ... paired with Caylan Leslie for No. 3 doubles wins vs. Illinois State and West Virginia ... reached Eck Classic Flight A final with Nina Vaughan.

IN NON-COLLEGIATE ACTION: Teamed with Lauren Connelly to win doubles title in '03 ITA summer circuit event at Notre Dame ... reached quarterfinals in singles before losing in match tiebreaker ... reached quarterfinals at 2000 ITA summer circuit event at Notre Dame before falling to teammate Lindsey Green ... reached doubles semifinals with Nina Vaughan before losing to eventual champions Michelle Dasso and Becky Varnum.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: Four-time Colorado state singles champion at Cherry Creek High School ... first to win four 5A state titles after former Irish teammate Becky Varnum ('02) won four at 4A ... went undefeated as a junior and senior ... concluded high school career with 78-2 record ... four-time MVP on four-time state championship team ... captained team as a senior ... from same area of Colorado as men's tennis player Brent D'Amico and '03 graduate Jake Cram ... member of National Honor Society ... born June 29, 1982, in Denver, Colo. ... compiled 3.624 cumulative grade-point average ... was named to Dean's list on six occasions ... a member of Notre Dame's Academic Honors Program for Student-Athletes ... four-time BIG EAST Academic All-Star ... named an ITA Scholar-Athlete in 2003 and '04 ... graduated in May 2004 from the College of Arts and Letters with a degree in preprofessional studies and anthropology.



Head Coach Jay Louderback on Alicia Salas ...

"Alicia had just an amazing year. She played No. 2 doubles and No. 1 singles for us and was selected as one of five people to make the ITA Collegiate All-Star Team that went to China. The only disappointment was that she finished ranked 22nd, which was two away from being an All-American. Probably one more big win in the spring would have pushed her there. I felt bad that she didn't make All-America, but she did an unbelievable job for us."



Talented player finally overcame injuries and became a starter in the Irish doubles lineup by the end of her final season ... was on the edge of both lineups throughout her career, but continually was slowed by injuries and illness ... one of the best ball-strikers on the team ... has solid shots throughout her game ... hits the ball hard, volleys well, and has a big serve ... also has a good overhead and moves well ... finished career with .682 winning percentage in singles (28-13) ... earned monograms in each of final three seasons.

AS A SENIOR: In first relatively injury-free season, became a contributor in Irish doubles lineup ... posted 9-9 overall record, including 5-6 in dual-match play ... moved into lineup for first time on March 28 and played rest of the season at No. 3 ... first played three matches with Kristina Stasny, winning against Marquette to clinch the doubles point ... then paired with Sarah Jane Connelly for the remainder of the season, going 4-4 ... clinched doubles point against William & Mary and #11 Northwestern ... also won in BIG EAST semifinals against Virginia Tech and NCAA first round vs. Iowa ... doubles point came down to a tiebreaker (lost 7-5) in their match in NCAA second round vs. #9 Northwestern ... played with four other partners in fall, going 4-3 ... paired with Caylan Leslie to reach the round of 16 in the season-opening adidas Invitational ... with Lauren Connelly, finished third in the white flight of the Kentucky Fall Classic ... in the Illinois Midwest Blast, won once with Kelly Nelson and lost with Liz Donohue ... posted 10-4 record in singles action, all in the fall ... won a match in qualifying draw of the ITA Midwest Championships ... was victorious at No. 9 in exhibition match against USC ... was 3-1 in Kentucky Fall Classic and 2-2 in adidas Invitational ... was unbeaten in three matches in the Midwest Blast ... notched 8-0 record when winning the opening set.

AS A JUNIOR: Saw action in fall '02 in two tournaments before struggling with various injuries ... was 3-4 in singles, highlighted by a quarterfinal appearance in the "das" flight of the adidas Invitational ... played with Lauren Connelly in OSU/Prince Cup, winning three consolation matches after losing in the first round ... played one match with Kelly Nelson in adidas Invitational.

Head Coach Jay Louderback on Emily Neighbours ...

"Emily ended up playing in doubles for us at the end of the season last year. She did a great job and had a couple of big wins for us. She just hung around for four years and never gave up. She went through a lot of injuries and sickness, and every time she'd get to playing well, she would get sick or hurt. For her to stick with it and not give up and to keep practicing hard all year long was a great example for everyone. She just worked hard, stayed positive, and had a great attitude, and she earned a spot in the lineup. It was great to see her go out like that. She was a great example for anyone that's not in the lineup."



Emily Neighbours

Class of 2004 • 5-8

Indianapolis, IN
Park Tudor School

Major: Marketing

AS A SOPHOMORE: Saw limited playing time in 2001-02 after battling sickness at beginning of spring ... played No. 6 singles vs. Air Force and Texas, registering a win against the Falcons ... also teamed with Becky Varnum at No. 1 doubles vs. Air Force ... posted 3-3 singles mark in fall play, participating in Bulldog Invitational and Eck Classic ... teamed with Alicia Salas during most of fall season for a 5-3 record ... the pair lost in first round of Region IV Championships before winning a pair of consolation matches.

AS A FRESHMAN: Began her collegiate career with four wins to claim her singles flight at Maryland Invitational ... lost her only match of season in three sets in Eck Classic before winning three consolation matches and three matches at Colorado Invitational to finish fall season with 10-1 record ... victorious in only dual-match singles appearance with three-set win at No. 6 singles vs. Illinois State ... compiled 5-2 doubles record with three different partners ... lost in only dual-match doubles appearance, with Alicia Salas at No. 3 against Western Michigan.

IN NON-COLLEGIATE ACTION: Won three consolation singles matches in ITA summer circuit event at Notre Dame in '03 ... reached quarterfinals at '00 ITA summer circuit event at Notre Dame before falling to teammate Nina Vaughan.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: Ranked in top 75 nationally in USA 18s despite not playing tennis until age 13 ... three-year tennis letterwinner at Park Tudor School ... won team's clinching match in state championship final as a sophomore ... did not play high school tennis as a senior when she traveled to national tournaments ... biggest tennis influence during her development came from her former coach and professional player Todd Witsken, who died of brain cancer after coaching Neighbours for three years ... first Irish women's tennis player from Indianapolis area



since Holy Lord (1993-96) ... comes from a long line of Notre Dame graduates, including two grandparents, numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins and brother David, a '99 graduate ... member of National Honor Society ... born Nov. 11, 1981, in Indianapolis, Ind. ... named an ITA Scholar-Athlete in 2004 ... tabbed a BIG EAST Academic All-Star in her final two seasons ... named to Dean's list in fall 2003 semester ... served as the team's representative to the Student-Athlete Advisory Council ... graduated from the Mendoza College of Business in May 2004 with a degree in marketing.

Career Record								
Singles				Doubles				
Year	Dual	Open	Overall	Year	Dual	Open	Overall	
2000-01	1-0	10-1	11-1	2000-01	0-1	5-1	5-2	
2001-02	1-1	3-3	4-4	2001-02	0-1	6-3	6-4	
2002-03	0-0	3-4	3-4	2002-03	0-0	3-2	3-2	
2003-04	0-0	10-4	10-4	2003-04	5-6	4-3	9-9	
Career	2-1	26-12	28-13	Career	5-8	18-9	23-17	

