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Women's Tennis Quick Facts

Notre Dame Quick Facts

Location	Notre Dame, IN 46556
Founded	1842
Enrollment	8,380 (undergraduate), 11,311 (total)
Nickname	Fighting Irish
Colors	Gold and Blue
Conference	BIG EAST
Home Courts (Outdoor)	Courtney Tennis Center
Home Courts (Indoor)	Eck Tennis Pavilion
President	Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
Director of Athletics	Kevin White
Deputy A.D./Women's Tennis	Missy Conboy
Athletic Department Phone	(574) 631-6107

Coaching Staff

Head Coach	Jay Louderback (Wichita State '76)
Office Phone	(574) 631-5149
E-mail	louderback.1@nd.edu
Record at Notre Dame	282-146 (659)/16 years
Career Record	486-324 (600)/26 years
Assistant Coach	Michelle Dasso (Notre Dame '01)
Office Phone	(574) 631-3730
E-mail	dasso.2@nd.edu
Volunteer Asst. Coach	Liz Balanis (Wake Forest '94)
Coaches' Fax	(574) 631-8728
Eck Tennis Pavilion Phone	(574) 631-6929

Sports Information

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Rottenborn's Home Phone	(574) 271-7608
Rottenborn's Cell Phone	(574) 532-4154
Rottenborn's E-mail	rottenborn.2@nd.edu
Sports Information Fax	(574) 631-7941
Irish Sports Hotline	(574) 631-3000
Website	www.und.com

Notre Dame Sports Hotline:

(574) 631-3000

Irish Women's Tennis Guide Third In Nation

The 2004-05 Notre Dame Women's Tennis Guide was voted the third-best women's tennis media guide among all NCAA Division I schools in judging coordinated by the College Sports Information Directors of America, the best finish in program history and ND's second straight top-five result (fourth in 2003-04). It was ranked sixth among all tennis guides and has been second in the district four times in the last six years. The award-winning publication was written and edited by assistant sports information director Bo Rottenborn.

Introduction

Media Information

The Notre Dame Sports Information Office always is interested in assisting members of the media in their coverage of Irish tennis. Publicity and media information for Notre Dame tennis is coordinated by assistant sports information director Bo Rottenborn.

- **Statistics, Match Notes, Recaps, Releases** - See und.com.
- **Credentials, Photographs, Interview Requests, Feature Ideas, Questions** - Contact Rottenborn.
- **Live Statistics** - Available free for all home matches and selected road contests, via und.com.
- **Wireless Internet** - Available free to all visiting media and SIDs visiting the Eck Tennis Pavilion. See Rottenborn for details.
- **Television Footage** - Contact local stations (WHME, WSBT, WNDU, WSJV). See page 4 for contact information.

BIG EAST Conference

The BIG EAST Conference maintains its presence on the World Wide Web at www.bigeast.org. The site contains current information on all facets of the BIG EAST Conference. Please contact Rachel Engrissei in the BIG EAST media relations department (rengrissei@bigeast.org) for more information on BIG EAST tennis.

Credits

The Notre Dame Women's Tennis Guide was written and edited by assistant sports information director Bo Rottenborn with editorial assistance from student assistants Ryan Kiefer and Bryan Rycyna.

Graphic design and page layout by Cindy Lemcke of Ave Maria Press, Inc. Inside and outside cover designs by Dave Scholtes of Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Ind.

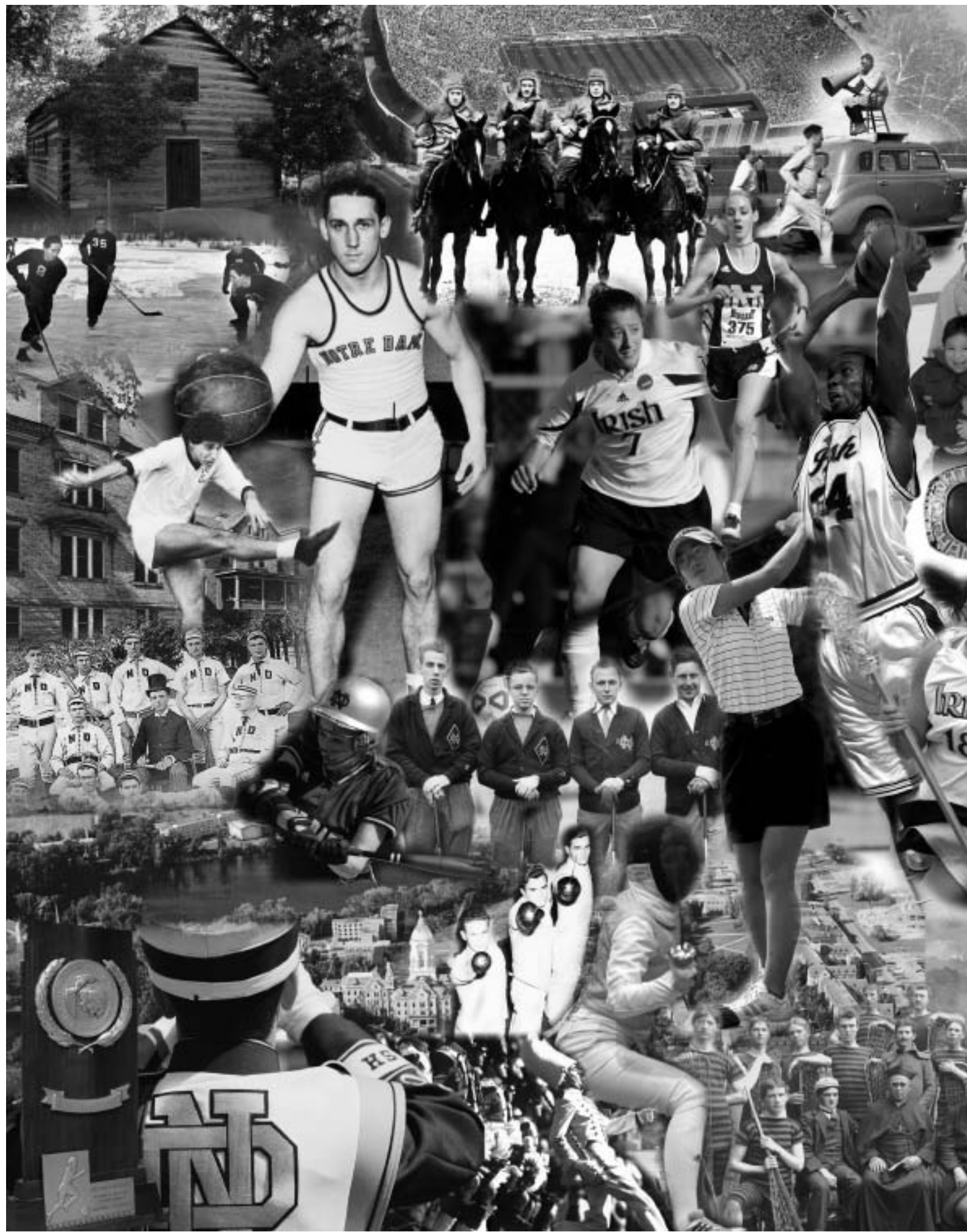
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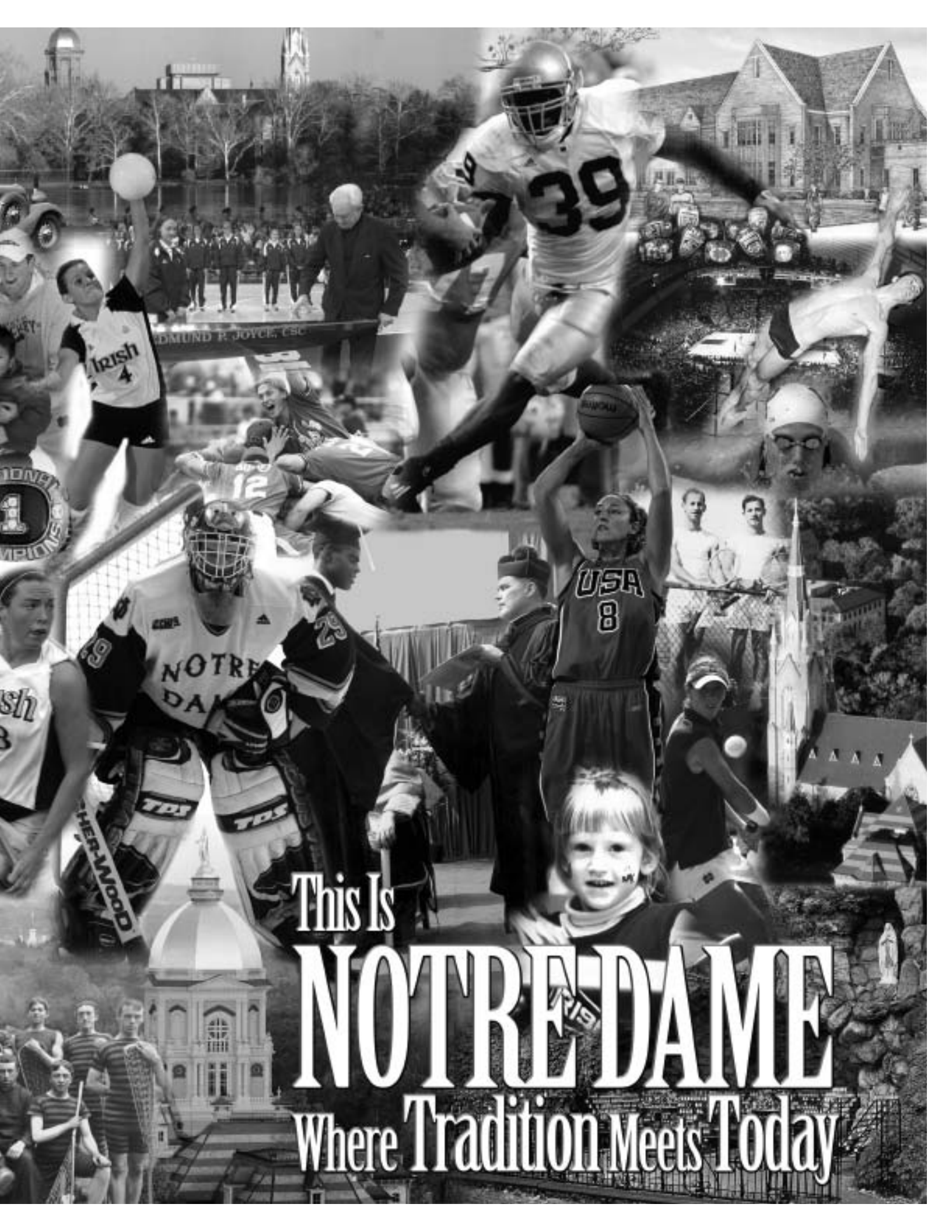
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The Notre Dame women's tennis team was honored for its accomplishments during the 2004-05 season - which included winning a sixth BIG EAST Conference championship and earning its 12th NCAA tournament bid in the last 13 years - at the Irish football game against Michigan State in front of a crowd of 80,795.







This Is
NOTRE DAME
Where Tradition Meets Today

Print Media

The Observer

(Ryan Kiefer)
www.ndsmcobserver.com
LaFortune Student Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556
(574) 631-7471
Fax (574) 631-6927

South Bend Tribune

(Bill Bilinski)
www.southbendtribune.com
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 235-6316
Fax (574) 235-6091

Notre Dame Scholastic

(Nicole Dornier)
www.nd.edu/~scholast
LaFortune Student Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556
(574) 631-7569
Fax (574) 631-9648

Irish Sports Report

(Bob Wieneke)
www.irishsports.com
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 235-6161
Fax (574) 239-2646

Blue & Gold Illustrated

(Lou Somogyi)
www.blueandgold.com
1605 North Home
Mishawaka, IN 46545
(574) 255-9800
Fax (574) 255-9700

College Tennis Online

www.collegetenisonline.com

College And Junior Tennis

(Marcia Frost)
www.collegeandjuniorstennis.com
100 Harbor Road
Port Washington, NY 11050
(516) 883-6601
Fax (516) 883-5241

Sports Illustrated On Campus

(John Walters)
www.sioncampus.com

Bob Larson Tennis

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czanone@aol.com
170 Spring Ridge Trace
Roswell, GA 30076
(770) 641-1231
Fax (770) 641-6679

Associated Press

(Tom Coyne)
South Bend Tribune Building
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 288-1649
Fax (574) 236-1765

USA Today/USA Today Online

www.usatoday.com
1000 Wilson Boulevard
22nd Floor
Arlington, VA 22229
1-800-872-3410 ext. 7103
Online Fax (703) 907-4465

Television

WHME TV/Radio

(Bob Nagle/Chuck Freeby)
61300 Ironwood Road
South Bend, IN 46625
(574) 291-8200
Fax (574) 291-9043

WNDU-TV - NBC

(Jim McAteer/Jeff Jeffers)
P.O. Box 1616
South Bend, IN 46634
(574) 631-1616/1239
Fax (574) 631-2916

WSBT-TV/Radio - CBS

(Todd Bella/Greg Carroll)
300 West Jefferson
South Bend, IN 46601
(574) 472-8124
Fax (574) 288-6630

WSJV-TV - FOX

(Dean Huppert/Allison Hayes)
59096 County Road 7 South
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 679-4545 or 293-9227
Fax (574) 294-1324

College Sports Television

Chelsea Piers, Pier 62
New York, NY 10011
(212) 342-8700
Fax (212) 342-8899

Radio

WDND-ESPN Radio 1000

(Sean Stires)
3371 Cleveland Rd. Ext.
Ste. 310
South Bend, IN 46628
(574) 273-9300
Fax (574) 273-9090

Radio Tennis

www.radiotennis.com
309 Calle De Andalucia
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
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WVFI-AM Radio

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P.O. Box 532
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BIG EAST Conference

(Rachel Engrissei)
www.bigeast.org
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(401) 272-9108
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CSTV Online

(Alan Wasielewski)
www.collegesports.com
112 Joyce Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556
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(760) 431-8221 (Carlsbad, Calif.)

Intercollegiate Tennis Association

(Casey Angle)
www.itatennis.com
PO Box 71
Princeton, NJ 08544
(609) 258-2935
Fax (609) 258-2935

United States Tennis Assoc.

www.usta.org
70 West Red Oak Lane
White Plains, NY 10604
(914) 696-7289
Fax (914) 696-7167



Seniors (from left)
Kristina Stastny,
Jennifer Smith,
Kelly Nelson,
Lauren Connelly,
and Liz Donohue



Sophomores Bailey Louderback (left)
and Brook Buck



Freshmen Katie Potts (left)
and Kelcy Tefft





ND Season

Preview

Senior captain Lauren Connelly has been a starter for the Irish in both singles and doubles throughout her career, and she is on pace to finish among the top five in Notre Dame history in both overall doubles victories (74-32 record entering 2005-06) and doubles wins in dual action (49-21).

Experience, Outstanding Doubles Play to be Irish Trademarks

Notre Dame returns six starters from last year's squad, has glut of doubles talent

The 30th varsity women's tennis team at the University of Notre Dame is exceptional in two ways: its experience and its doubles prowess. The Irish have back six of seven starters from last year's team, including five who have been regulars in both singles and doubles since their respective rookie campaigns. But even more notably, Notre Dame's roster has perhaps the greatest accumulation of doubles talent in the program's history, which dates back to 1976, the commencement of Irish women's athletics. Not only does Notre Dame feature a doubles team – junior twins Catrina and Christian Thompson – that is already the most-accomplished in program history, but Notre Dame has a roster that combined to claim a staggering total of 29 USTA Super National titles in doubles play in junior competition.

The latest edition of the Irish will be one of the most experienced ever. Notre Dame has five seniors on its 11-player roster, as well as seven student-athletes who have been regular starters at some point in the past. Among them are seniors Lauren Connelly and Kristina Stastny, who were starters for the Irish in both singles and doubles in each of the last three seasons. The Thompsons have played near the top of both of Notre Dame's lineups over the past two campaigns, and sophomore Brook Buck did the same in her rookie campaign. Senior Liz Donohue became a regular singles player for the Irish last spring, while fellow senior Jennifer Smith was a starter in singles and doubles during her rookie campaign before running into a shoulder injury that has limited her since then.

All of that adds up to great potential according to 17th-year head coach Jay Louderback: "I think we have a chance to make a big jump to get back into

the top 15, where we were for quite a while. We've had about three years that we've been ranked between 20th and 25th, and it's just been from losing some close matches. I think this year is our chance to make that jump. We have probably the strongest doubles teams we've ever had here. In singles, we have almost everyone back, in addition to two freshmen who are pushing everyone."

The Irish return all but one player from last year's team that finished 15-10 and ranked 24th in the nation. Notre Dame registered a pair of shutouts in winning its sixth BIG EAST Conference championship and reached the round of 32 in the NCAA tournament for the third consecutive season before losing at #6 Northwestern.

The season was defined, though, in a 16-day stretch in February, which featured four heartbreaking 4-3 losses to top-20 teams, including three in which ND was the first team to reach three points. ND was up 3-2 before losing at #17 Harvard, then took a 3-0 advantage in search of its first-ever victory against #5 Duke, but could not convert that. Two days later, it was #9 North Carolina who rallied from a 3-1 deficit, and #13 Texas finished off the stretch with another 4-3 defeat of the Irish.

"I felt we had a good year and played well at times," says Louderback, who has helped the Irish to 13 consecutive finishes among the national top 30. "Our problem was winning close matches. We just lost so many 4-3 matches – matches that we were ahead in. That happened early in the year, which I think set a little bit of a tone for the rest of the year. If we had pulled out a couple of those early matches, I think it would have made a big difference."

Notre Dame's luck would change later, as the Irish would play four more 4-3 affairs in another 16-day stretch leading into the postseason. Following a loss at Wisconsin, Stastny singlehandedly changed Notre Dame's fortunes – which had seen the Irish lose nine of their last 10 one-point affairs and six straight that came down to a single match with the score tied 3-3 – winning three-setters in the final match on court on consecutive days with the score tied 3-3 to give the Irish wins over #16 William and Mary and Indiana. Connelly came through in the next Irish match, winning in that situation at Illinois.

"By the end of the year we were playing better, and we won a couple of big 4-3s," says Louderback. "I thought we played well at the BIG EAST (Championship) and then had a good NCAAs. We



Junior Catrina Thompson – who made No. 1 singles and doubles the winningest positions for the Irish a season ago – was one of only three players in Division I to have registered victories against at least one of the top three seeds in both the NCAA singles and doubles tournaments in 2004-05.

had a chance to beat Northwestern in the second round."

Louderback sees the 2004-05 campaign as, most importantly, a learning experience for his current squad: "I think the big thing was that it is going to help us a lot for this year because of the experience we got. Our top three players are back. From playing in the top three last year, they now what it's going to be like to play in the top of the lineup, and I think that's going to help us this year."

The only player gone from that team is Sarah Jane Connelly, who was a four-year starter for the Irish who concluded her career playing No. 3 doubles and sharing time at No. 6 singles.

"We'll miss her a lot," says Louderback of Connelly, whose younger sister is in this year's senior class. "She was very solid in singles and doubles for us. But even more than that, off the court she was a great leader. She just did a great job for us. She was the type of leader you want as a senior, and she wanted nothing but the best for the team. I can't say enough about what a great job she did as a team captain last year."

TEAM INFORMATION

2004-05 Record: 15-10

2004-05 Final ITA National Ranking: 24th

2005 BIG EAST Championship:

2-0, champion
Notre Dame 4, St. John's 0
Notre Dame 4, Syracuse 0

2005 NCAA Championship:

1-1, second round
Notre Dame 4, Iowa 1
Northwestern 4, Notre Dame 0

All-Americans Returning:

Catrina Thompson (Jr.) – Doubles
Christian Thompson (Jr.) – Doubles

Starters Returning:

Catrina Thompson (Jr.)
Brook Buck (So.)
Christian Thompson (Jr.)
Lauren Connelly (Sr.)
Kristina Stastny (Sr.)
Liz Donohue (Sr.)

Monogram Winners Returning/Lost: 9/1

2005-06 Team Captain:

Lauren Connelly



In addition to experience, what makes this current Notre Dame team exceptional is its incredible talent – and depth – in doubles. Any discussion of Irish doubles begins with the Thompson twins, who turned in the best season ever by a Notre Dame duo in 2004-05 and were tabbed All-Americans (the first Irish sisters ever to be All-Americans in any sport). They were ranked among the top 10 all season, ascending to the #1 spot – an Irish first – early in the spring. The sisters went 6-3 in the ITA grand slams, becoming the first ND team ever to reach a title match (losing in the Riviera/ITA All-American Championships – an event that they would win in the fall of 2005). They were 28-7 overall, including 19-4 in dual-match action at No. 1, 8-2 against top-15 teams, and 4-1 vs. higher-ranked squads. They came to Notre Dame as the top-ranked 18-and-under girls' doubles team in the country – having paired to win a total of six USTA Super National titles, coming on every surface – and have continued their superlatives.

"They are probably the best doubles team we've ever had," says Louderback of the twins. "We've had a couple other individual players that would be right there with them as doubles competitors, but never at the same time. The big thing is they complement each other very well. Christian is very consistent, makes a lot of balls, returns well, and keeps them out of trouble. Catrina finishes. She hits a big ball, has a big serve, and can finish a point at any time. Good doubles teams usually have someone that can keep you in matches and someone who can finish, and that's how they are. Watching them play, I'm amazed at times at how they know exactly what each other is doing, which is from playing together for so long."

More than just boasting arguably the top doubles team in college tennis, Notre Dame has several other accomplished doubles players. In fact, the ITA regional rankings released at the end of the fall portion of the 2005-06 campaign listed all three Irish doubles teams among the top five in the Midwest Region. Buck – who set a Notre Dame freshman record for doubles victories (27) last season – will be reunited with her former partner, freshman Kelcy Tefft. That duo combined to win five USTA Super National titles in juniors action (Tefft also claimed two championships with other partners).

At No. 3, the Irish figure to have a pair of seniors who have both been nationally-ranked during their college careers. Stastny won three Super National gold balls in the juniors and played No. 1 doubles for the Irish in 2002-03, the year before the arrival of the Thompsons. Connelly also has a Super National doubles championship to her credit, and she has been a prolific collegiate doubles player. She concluded her freshman season at No. 1 doubles, upsetting a pair of top-15 squads in the NCAA's and enters her final campaign with a 74-32 career mark, including 49-21 in dual action. Connelly is on pace to finish among the Irish all-time top five in both overall doubles victories and dual doubles wins. Notre Dame – which won the doubles point in 19 of 25 (.760) matches last season – also has another player with a Super National gold ball: Smith – who played No. 3 doubles as a freshman before her injury.

"As good as our doubles was last year, I think this year it will definitely be better," says Louderback. "I think our doubles will be our strength, even though our singles is also a lot better this year."

Notre Dame will once again take on a difficult schedule, as the 2005-06 slate features nine teams that finished last season among the top 20 in the ITA rankings, including seven that reached the final 16 of the NCAA tournament. In all, 19 of the 23 teams on Notre Dame's schedule ended last year ranked among the top 55, while 16 earned bids to the NCAA's.



Sophomore Brook Buck broke the Notre Dame freshman record for doubles victories and also was nationally-ranked in singles throughout the spring portion of her rookie campaign.

"We have a tough schedule, just as we always do," says Louderback. "But I think this year it is going to be good for us. We have a couple of tough stretches, like our spring break trip when we play Duke in Orlando and then are at Texas and Texas A&M. Plus, the BIG EAST has a new look, with five more teams joining the conference. I think three or four of the new teams are going to be among the top five in the BIG EAST, so it will be interesting to see them for the first time."

Leading the Irish against that schedule will be Connelly, who takes over the captain's mantle from her sister. They are the first sister duo in program history to both be team captains. But she will share the leadership duties with her four classmates: Stastny, Donohue, Smith, and Kelly Nelson.

"They're a lot alike in that sense," says Louderback of the Connellys' leadership skills. "Lauren's played a lot of different spots in our lineup and has a lot of the same attributes that Sarah Jame had. Lauren has started off the year doing a great job. It's a little different this year, and it's a little tougher for Lauren because we have five seniors. But all of the seniors have done a good job of being leaders. It's a good group of seniors, and they've been very good off the court."

Catrina Thompson was voted team MVP in 2004-05, and she was responsible for the fact that the top spots in both lineups produced more Irish victories than any other positions a season ago (17-8 in singles, 21-4 in doubles). She earned her first trip to the NCAA singles tournament and will enter this season at a career-high of 27th in the national rankings.

"Catrina has gotten to where she still hits the ball big, but now she's doing it more consistently and making fewer errors," says Louderback. "Her

serve has turned into a huge weapon, her forehand has always been big, and she's worked hard on getting into the net more because she volleys well. When she's aggressive and coming into the net, she's very good."

Buck made an immediate impact last year, filling the No. 2 spot in singles and going 23-12 overall (13-9 dual). She will enter her second season ranked a career-high 54th.

"Brook has a lot of speed, can cover the whole court and has a very big backhand," says Louderback. "She's worked hard on getting her forehands a little more consistent. She is not afraid to come into the net, which is good."

Christian Thompson played No. 2 singles in her first season and then filled the No. 3 position a year ago, despite being bothered most of the spring by knee tendonitis.

"Christian has made a good jump from a year ago," says Louderback. "She struggled with a knee injury last year, but she has worked hard. She's now hitting a bigger ball, her forehand's definitely got a little more pace on it, and she's volleying with more

pace. Her key now is for her serve to improve where she can get free points with it."

The other three returning starters are all seniors. Connelly has filled the No. 4 slot the past two seasons and is a battle-tested player in singles, having played 11 career three-set matches with the dual-match outcome still undetermined. Stastny – who has played in the bottom half of the Irish singles lineup throughout her career – is Notre Dame's top clutch player, holding an 8-5 mark in that situation. Liz Donohue shared time last season at No. 6 and will again challenge for time this season.

Notre Dame also features two talented freshmen who figure to challenge for playing time: Tefft and Katie Potts. Tefft was ranked as high as eighth in the USTA national 18-and-under singles rankings and won the Oklahoma state singles title in her only season of prep tennis. Potts is a two-time Wisconsin state singles champion and was selected the 2004-05 Girls' Tennis Player of the Year by The National High School Coaches Association.

"Both freshmen are very athletic," says Louderback. "They both played basketball in high school, and Katie also played soccer. So neither one has put her full time into tennis. This is the first year they will do that, and I think we'll see a big jump for both of them."

In addition to the injury-plagued Smith, Notre Dame will welcome back senior Kelly Nelson, who missed all of 2004-05 with a medial condition but bounced back to have a strong fall in '05. Sophomore Bailey Louderback – the daughter of ND's head coach – also will continue her development, especially in doubles.





The 2005-06 Notre Dame women's tennis team (front row, from left) Bailey Louderback, Kristina Stastny, Kelcy Tefft, Catrina Thompson, and Christian Thompson. (back row, from left) Head coach Jay Louderback, Brook Buck, Lauren Connelly, Katie Potts, Jennifer Smith, Kelly Nelson, Liz Donohue, assistant coach Michelle Dasso, and senior manager Jerry Beres.

2005-06 Notre Dame Women's Tennis Roster

Alphabetical					
No.	Player	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/High School	
7	Brook Buck*	5-7	So.	Yukon, OK/Oklahoma Christian School	
4	Lauren Connelly*** (c)	5-9	Sr.	Oklahoma City, OK/Bishop McGuinness H.S.	
8	Liz Donohue***	5-8	Sr.	Sioux Falls, SD/O'Gorman H.S.	
5	Bailey Louderback* £	5-6	So.	South Bend, IN/Penn H.S.	
6	Kelly Nelson**	5-7	Sr.	St. Petersburg, FL/Shorecrest Preparatory School	
9	Katie Potts	5-10	Fr.	Brookfield, WI/Divine Savior Holy Angels H.S.	
84	Jennifer Smith**	5-9	Sr.	Charlotte, NC/South Mecklenburg H.S.	
26	Kristina Stastny*** £	5-6	Sr.	St. Louis, MO/St. Joseph's Academy	
23	Kelcy Tefft	5-6	Fr.	Enid, OK/Chisholm H.S.	
13	Catrina Thompson**	5-5	Jr.	Las Vegas, NV/Bishop Gorman H.S.	
31	Christian Thompson**	5-6	Jr.	Las Vegas, NV/Bishop Gorman H.S.	

Head Coach: #20 Jay Louderback (17th season, Wichita State '76)
Assistant Coach: #14 Michelle Dasso (3rd season, Notre Dame '01)
Volunteer Assistant Coach: #15 Liz Balamis (10th season, Wake Forest '94)
Senior Manager: #44 Jerry Beres (2nd season, Notre Dame '06)

Numerical					
No.	Player	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/High School	
4	Lauren Connelly*** (c)	5-9	Sr.	Oklahoma City, OK/Bishop McGuinness H.S.	
5	Bailey Louderback* £	5-6	So.	South Bend, IN/Penn H.S.	
6	Kelly Nelson**	5-7	Sr.	St. Petersburg, FL/Shorecrest Preparatory School	
7	Brook Buck*	5-7	So.	Yukon, OK/Oklahoma Christian School	
8	Liz Donohue***	5-8	Sr.	Sioux Falls, SD/O'Gorman H.S.	
9	Katie Potts	5-10	Fr.	Brookfield, WI/Divine Savior Holy Angels H.S.	
13	Catrina Thompson**	5-5	Jr.	Las Vegas, NV/Bishop Gorman H.S.	
23	Kelcy Tefft	5-6	Fr.	Enid, OK/Chisholm H.S.	
26	Kristina Stastny*** £	5-6	Sr.	St. Louis, MO/St. Joseph's Academy	
31	Christian Thompson**	5-6	Jr.	Las Vegas, NV/Bishop Gorman H.S.	
84	Jennifer Smith**	5-9	Sr.	Charlotte, NC/South Mecklenburg H.S.	

* - denotes monograms earned
 c - denotes captain
 £ - indicates left-handed player

ROSTER BREAKDOWN

Seniors (5): Connelly, Donohue, Nelson, Smith, Stastny
Juniors (2): Thompson, Thompson
Sophomores (2): Buck, Louderback
Freshmen (2): Potts, Tefft

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Balamis buh-LAWN-iss
 Beres beers
 Dasso DASS-o
 Stastny STASS-nee
 Kelcy Tefft KELL-see teft

