



The Coaches

Jay Louderback has led the Irish to 13 consecutive national top-30 finishes, while helping his players earn 15 All-America honors and gain 20 invitations to the NCAA Singles Championship and 11 to the NCAA doubles tournament.

When Jay Louderback took over as women's tennis head coach at Notre Dame in the fall of 1989, he inherited a program that had competed on the Division I level for just four years and had never participated in the NCAA tournament or earned a national ranking. As he enters his 17th season at the helm, Louderback has turned Notre Dame into one of the premier women's tennis programs in the nation.

The Irish have finished in the national top 30 in each of the last 13 seasons and have earned 12 berths to the NCAA Championship in that span. Notre Dame has captured a dozen conference titles during Louderback's tenure and has reached the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament on five occasions. Its Courtney Tennis Center also served as host of the 1998 NCAA Championships, largely due to his efforts.

Louderback's players have enjoyed great success under his tutelage. Fifteen Irish competitors have earned All-America honors, and four have garnered national awards from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). In 16 years, 20 Notre Dame players have garnered invitations to the NCAA Singles Championship and 12 doubles squads have gained berths into the NCAA Doubles Championship.

Louderback's players also have dominated University awards, winning the Francis Patrick O'Connor Award, given to one male and one female athlete each year who best embody the true spirit of Notre Dame, on seven occasions – more than any other sport. Louderback has had five winners of the Byron V. Kanaley Award, the most prestigious honor awarded to Notre Dame student-athletes, the most for any sport in the time since the Wichita State graduate arrived.

Another feature of Louderback's leadership is academic excellence. Since the ITA began awarding the All-Academic Team award to squads maintaining a 3.20 GPA for the year, the Irish have earned the distinc-

CAREER RECORD:

486-324 (.600), 26 years

CAREER WOMEN'S RECORD:

441-291 (.602), 26 years

RECORD AT NOTRE DAME:

282-146 (.659), 16 years

HEAD COACHING EXPERIENCE:

Wichita State University, 1980-86
Iowa State University (women), 1987-89
Iowa State University (men), 1987-89
University of Notre Dame, 1990-present



Jay Louderback

Head Coach

17th Season

Wichita State '76



to only juniors and seniors being eligible), Notre Dame and the University of Evansville each had seven recipients, the most ever for one school in the 25-year history of the honor. He also has produced a pair of Academic All-Americans, and his squad posted a 3.552 combined

grade-point average in the spring of 2004, the highest mark on record (since 1992) for any Irish team in a semester. Louderback also has been decorated with eight conference coach-of-the-year awards, and four times he has been named Midwest Region Coach of the Year. Since 1996, the Irish have compiled a dominating 77-17 (.819) record against regional opponents.

tion nine times in 10 years. Only one Division I school, Western Michigan, has a better mark, as the Broncos have won the award all 10 years. In addition, Louderback's players have had a history of being named ITA Scholar-Athletes, which recognizes monogram winners who maintain a 3.50+ GPA for the year. In 2003, the first year the award was open to all classes (as opposed

grade-point average in the spring of 2004, the highest mark on record (since 1992) for any Irish team in a semester. Louderback also has been decorated with eight conference coach-of-the-year awards, and four times he has been named Midwest Region Coach of the Year. Since 1996, the Irish have compiled a dominating 77-17 (.819) record against regional opponents.

Irish Under Louderback

Year	W	L	Pct.	NCAA Finish	Final ITA Ranking	Conference Finish
1989-90	17	8	.692	-	-	MCC Champions
1990-91	16	9	.640	-	23	MCC Champions
1991-92	11	10	.524	-	-	MCC Champions
1992-93	18	8	.692	Round of 16	19	MCC Champions
1993-94	17	9	.654	Round of 16	15	MCC Champions
1994-95	14	10	.583	-	28	MCC Champions
1995-96	23	7	.767	Quarterfinals	6	BIG EAST Champions
1996-97	18	11	.621	Regional Semifinals	21	BIG EAST Champions
1997-98	20	10	.667	Regional Final	19	BIG EAST Runners-Up
1998-99	23	7	.767	Second Round	15	BIG EAST Champions
1999-2000	23	7	.767	Round of 16	13	BIG EAST Runners-Up
2000-01	25	5	.833	Round of 16	10	BIG EAST Champions
2001-02	14	14	.500	First Round	23	BIG EAST Runners-Up
2002-03	16	9	.640	Second Round	21	BIG EAST Champions
2003-04	12	12	.500	Second Round	27	BIG EAST Runners-Up
2004-05	15	10	.600	Second Round	24	BIG EAST Champions
Totals	282	146	.659	12 Appearances		12 Championships





at the Division I level. Notre Dame shut out Alabama in the first round before falling to #2 Stanford to finish 18-8 and 19th in the nation. Wendy Crabtree and Lisa Tholen also became the first Irish team to earn a berth in the NCAA Doubles Championship.

In 1993-94, Notre Dame again earned a trip to the NCAA Championship and again fell to Stanford in the second round. Crabtree and Lisa Tholen advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Doubles Championship to become the first Irish All-Americans at the Division I level. Crabtree also earned singles All-America honors.

The 1994-95 season marked the last of seven consecutive Midwestern Collegiate Conference titles, including six under Louderback. Crabtree was a singles All-American for the second year in a row.

The 1996 Irish squad put together one of the best seasons in school history. Notre Dame won the BIG EAST title in its inaugural season in the league, advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals, compiled a 23-7 mark and finished with a No. 6 national ranking – the highest year-end listing in school history. After defeating BYU in the round of 16, Notre Dame again saw its season ended by Stanford. During the regular season, the Irish defeated No. 5 Texas, which still stands as the highest-ranked opponent to fall victim to Notre Dame.

Crabtree finished her career by becoming the first women's tennis player to earn Academic All-America honors. Freshman Jennifer Hall completed an outstanding season, winning the BIG EAST Championship Most-Outstanding-Player award in addition to being named the Penn National Player to Watch. Hall also became the first Irish player to advance to

the round of 16 of the NCAA Singles Championship, which assured her singles All-America honors. Following the season, Hall was selected for the USA Tennis Summer Collegiate Team.

After playing host to early-round NCAA action in 1997, the '98 season saw the NCAA Championships come to Notre Dame. Hall and Tiffany Gates, spurred on by a hometown crowd, advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Doubles Championship. Freshman Michelle Dasso stepped in for the Irish at No. 2 singles and finished with a 40-8 record, setting a new all-time mark for singles wins in a campaign.

Louderback's '99 Irish won the program's third BIG EAST championship and posted wins over ninth-ranked Wake Forest and No. 9 William & Mary. Notre Dame finished with a final national ranking of No. 15. Hall completed her career by breaking the 13-year-old school record for career singles wins and also added Academic All-America honors, as well as her third straight athletic All-America distinction. She again advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Doubles Championship, this time with Dasso, who was named to the USA Tennis Summer Collegiate Team.

The 2000 Irish delivered a second straight 23-7 season and advanced to the national

What his teams have done...

- 13 consecutive national top-30 finishes
- 12 NCAA Championship berths
- Five NCAA round-of-16 appearances
- 1996 NCAA quarterfinalist
- 15 conference championships (6 BIG EAST, 6 Midwestern Collegiate, 2 Gateway, 1 Missouri Valley)

What awards he has won...

- Eight-time conference coach of the year (5 BIG EAST, 3 Midwestern Collegiate)
- Five-time ITA Region Coach of the Year

What his Notre Dame players/coaches have done...

- Earned All-America honors 15 times
- Won four national ITA awards
- Earned 20 invitations to the NCAA Singles Championship
- Earned 12 invitations to the NCAA Doubles Championship
- Won the Byron V. Kanaley Award five times (most by any sport during that span)
- Won the Francis Patrick O'Connor Award seven times (more than any other sport)

In 26 years of coaching, Louderback holds a 486-324 (.600) record, including a 441-291 (.602) mark coaching women's tennis. At Notre Dame, he is 282-146 (.659), making him the winningest coach in program history.

After guiding Notre Dame to a 17-8 record during his first year with the Irish in 1990, Louderback led the Irish to their first-ever national ranking the following season, finishing the year at 23rd after a 16-9 season. In individual action, Melissa Harris advanced to the second round of the NCAA Singles Championship, becoming the first player in school history to accomplish the feat.

The 1992-93 season saw the Irish earn their first berth to the NCAA Championship

Career Collegiate Victories, Active NCAA Division I Women's Tennis Coaches

Rank	Coach	School	Yrs.	Record
1.	Lin Loring	Indiana	31	670-232
2.	Jan Brogan	California	27	499-204
	Gualberto Escudero	Pepperdine	26	499-255
4.	Jay Louderback	Notre Dame	24	486-324





Jay Louderback with his daughter Bailey, a sophomore on the Irish.

site of the NCAA Championship for the first time since '96, finishing with a final ranking of 13th. On April 15, 2000, Louderback registered his 400th career win with a victory over Miami.

Louderback's teams continued their strong regular-season performances, as the 2001 squad posted a 20-win season for the fourth consecutive year, with a 25-5 record – the best mark for the Irish under Louderback and the best mark since beginning play at the Division I level in 1985-86. Ranked 10th in the final ITA poll, the Irish advanced to the NCAA round of 16 for the second consecutive year and were ranked as high as No. 5 during the regular season – the highest ranking in school history.

Four-time All-American Dasso, who joined Louderback's staff as an assistant coach prior to the 2003-04 season, became the first Irish player to be named the ITA National Senior Player of the Year and qualified for the NCAA singles tournament for the fourth time. She capped off the best season for an Irish women's tennis player when she reached at least the semifinals in three of the four ITA grand-slam events. She became the first Notre Dame player to reach a grand-slam final, at the now-defunct National Clay Court Championships and made it to the semifinals of the NCAA Singles Championship. Dasso teamed with

Becky Varnum in doubles at the 2001 NCAA Doubles Championship for the second consecutive year in her third straight doubles appearance.

After a top-25 season in '02, the Irish won another BIG EAST title in 2003 and finished 21st nationally. The '04 season saw Notre Dame knock off #14 VCU to snap the Rams' 38-match regular-season winning streak and 40-match home winning streak, while the Irish went on to finish 27th in the country.

The 2004-05 campaign was marked by the outstanding play of sophomore twins Catrina and Christian Thompson, who reached the title match of the Riviera/ITA All-American Championships and the semis of the ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships en route to being the first squad in Irish history to reach the national #1 ranking in doubles. The team earned another top-25 finish, as well.

Despite a loss in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Notre Dame's appearance in the '05 event assured that 19 consecutive classes, dating from 1990 through 2008, will have made at least one trip to the NCAA national event – a range of classes that includes every freshman since five-time BIG EAST coach-of-the-year Louderback arrived at Notre Dame.

In recognition of Louderback's effort and success, Notre Dame's Monogram Club bestowed upon him an honorary monogram in 1998. He joined an elite group of six current Notre Dame head coaches at that time to have been awarded an honorary monogram.

Prior to coming to Notre Dame, Louderback headed the men's and women's tennis programs at Iowa State for three

years. He led the men's squad to a 45-33 mark and the women's team to a 37-51 record from 1986-89. In his final season with the Cyclones, Louderback's men's team finished fourth in the Big Eight, Iowa State's highest conference finish in 25 years. The Cyclones' top player finished fifth in the regional voting for the NCAA tournament.

Louderback began his coaching career at his alma mater, taking the helm of the Wichita State women's program in just its fifth year of competition.

He guided the Shockers to a 122-94 record in seven years, including two Gateway Conference championships (1984 and 1986) and a Missouri Valley Conference title (1982). Five of his seven teams either won a conference championship or finished as runners-up. During his tenure, the Shockers won 14 or more matches each

season while 10 of his players qualified for postseason competition. Two of his players qualified for the NCAA Championships in both the 1983-84 and 1984-85 seasons.

The 1980-81 Shockers set a school record with 21 wins, as the team earned its first postseason berth. The 21-win plateau was reached again the following season when Wichita State captured the MVC and Region IV championships.

Louderback was voted 1982 Region IV Coach of the Year for his team's outstanding accomplishments.

A native of Arkansas City, Kan., Louderback was an assistant tennis professional at the Riverside Tennis Center in Wichita, Kan., and head tennis professional at the Y Tennis Center in Battle Creek, Mich., before taking the coaching position at Wichita State.

Louderback, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Wichita State in 1976, won a Missouri Valley Conference title at No. 3 singles during his senior year. For his efforts that season, Louderback was voted most valuable player by his teammates.

In April, 2003, the Louderback family was honored by the USTA with the Tennis Family of the Year Award, presented to one family consisting of USTA members and volunteers who have excelled in advancing the USTA's mission to promote and grow the game of tennis both on and off the court.

He and his wife, Denise, have one daughter, Bailey, who is a sophomore on the Irish.

Year-By-Year Before Notre Dame

Year	School	W	L	Pct.
1980	Wichita State	18	12	.600
1981	Wichita State	21	13	.618
1982	Wichita State	21	10	.677
1983	Wichita State	17	18	.486
1984	Wichita State	18	13	.581
1985	Wichita State	15	16	.484
1986	Wichita State	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>.500</u>
7-Year Totals		122	94	.565
1987	Iowa St.-M	19	8	.704
	Iowa St.-W	18	17	.514
1988	Iowa St.-M	14	14	.500
	Iowa St.-W	9	19	.321
1989	Iowa St.-M	12	11	.522
	Iowa St.-W	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>.400</u>
3-Year Totals		82	84	.494





Michelle Dasso

Assistant Coach

Third Season

Notre Dame '01

tory when she graduated. Dasso was ranked in the top 30 in the year-end singles rankings throughout her career, while finishing in the top 20 in doubles three times.

The native of Long Grove, Ill., and 1997 Stevenson High School graduate was the most prolific Irish player ever in collegiate grand-slam events. As a senior in 2000-01, Dasso reached at least the quarterfinals of all four grand-slam tournaments in singles, highlighted by a runner-up finish in the last-ever National Clay Court Championships. She ended her career by reaching the semifinals of the NCAA Singles Championship, becoming the first Notre Dame player to advance past the round of 16.

Twice named the BIG EAST Championship Most Outstanding Player, Dasso helped the Irish to a 91-29 (.758) record in her years as a player at Notre Dame, winning a pair of conference titles and reaching the round of 16 in the NCAA Team Championship twice.

Playing No. 1 singles for three years after filling the No. 2 slot as a freshman, Dasso was 91-16 in singles in dual matches, never losing more than five contests in a season.

Dasso was the 2001 recipient of the Francis Patrick O'Connor Award, presented annually by the University to one male and one female student-athlete who best display the total embodiment of the true spirit of Notre Dame.

Dasso is single and resides in South Bend.

national rankings. She also qualified for all three collegiate grand-slam events. Additionally, freshman twins Catrina and Christian Thompson showed flashes of greatness, upsetting the #2 doubles team in the country and becoming the first all-rookie duo from any Division I school since 1998 to earn a bid to the NCAA Doubles Championship.

She helped the Thompsons make history in her second season, as they reached the title match of the season's first grand slam, the Riviera/ITA All-American Championships (ND's first-ever doubles final showing in a grand slam), and then advance to the semis of the ITA National

Intercollegiate Indoor Championships. The duo became the first in program history to ascend to the national #1 ranking in doubles, achieving that on Feb. 22, 2005.

In playing professionally for just under two years prior to returning to Notre Dame, Dasso was ranked as high as 483rd in the world in singles (March '03) and 388th in doubles (October '02) despite battling injuries.

A 2001 graduate and the only four-time All-American in the program's history, Dasso was named the ITA National Senior Player of the Year and is the Irish record-holder in nearly every statistical category, including career singles victories (140), career doubles victories (109), season singles victories (40), and combined single-season victories (74).

An All-American in singles and doubles in 1999 and 2001, Dasso was ranked as high as #2 nationally in singles and fifth in doubles, with '02 graduate Becky Varnum. Both listings, as well as her '01 year-end rankings of fifth (singles) and ninth (doubles) were tops in the program's his-



The most decorated women's tennis player in Notre Dame history, Michelle Dasso returned to her alma mater in the summer of 2003 to become an assistant coach on Jay Louderback's staff and is now in her third year in that role. Dasso's responsibilities include team travel arrangements, assisting with recruiting, and on-court coaching.

In her time on the Irish staff, Dasso has been able to parlay her extensive experience as a top collegiate player into an asset in helping Notre Dame players competing on an elite level. In 2003-04, Alicia Salas become one of the top singles players in the country, beating 15 nationally-ranked players and peaking at 10th in the

Head Coach Jay Louderback on Michelle Dasso . . .

"Michelle has done an unbelievable job for us, and each year she has gotten better. I think she is getting more comfortable with the coaching aspect, as opposed to her playing role both here and in pro tennis. She is still on the court a lot and is as good or better than anybody we have, which gives us someone else to play really tough matches against our top kids. She also has really improved off-court, both in getting strategies across to our kids and in the way she has taken charge of our strength and conditioning program. She is doing a great job."





Liz Balanis

**Volunteer Assistant Coach
Wake Forest '94**

Liz Balanis is in her third year as a volunteer assistant coach for Notre Dame after serving as the team's assistant coach for the seven previous seasons.

The 2000 Intercollegiate Tennis Association Midwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year, Balanis joined Jay Louderback's staff in January of 1998 and helped the Irish to a 121-52 (.699) record during her years as an assistant, including seven consecutive top-25 finishes.

A native of Trumbull, Conn., and graduate of St. Joseph High School, Balanis played tennis at Wake Forest, graduating in 1994 after reaching the semifinals of that year's NCAA Doubles Championship to become one of the first two All-Americans in school history. A four-year starter, she finished her career with an 87-56 singles record and 85-38 doubles record to rank among the Deacons' all-time top 10 lists in singles (10th) and doubles (fifth) victories.

In August of 2002, the former Liz Barker was married to current Notre Dame men's basketball assistant coach Rod Balanis. Their first child, Andrew, was born in May of 2005.



Jerry Beres

**Senior Manager
Notre Dame '06**

Jerry is in his second year with the women's tennis program, serving as the team's senior manager in 2005-06. A native of Mansfield, Ohio, and graduate of St. Peter's High School, Beres handles daily administrative duties concerning videotaping, team travel, equipment, and recruiting, as well as assisting with the program's day-to-day operation.

Prior to his involvement with the women's tennis program, Beres worked with the Irish football team, in 2004.

Born July 29, 1984, and the son of Tom and Kathy Beres, he is enrolled in the College of Engineering and will graduate in May '06 with a degree in mechanical engineering.



Missy Conboy

**Deputy Director of Athletics
Notre Dame '82**

Missy Conboy is in her second year as a deputy director of athletics and 19th year overall as a member of Notre Dame's athletics senior staff. Conboy oversees the legal affairs of the athletics department and has responsibility for the master plan for facilities, human resources, legal contracts, and is the liaison to the Athletic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. Conboy also administers five sports, including women's tennis.

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Conboy was a four-year member of the Notre Dame women's basketball team from 1979-82. She graduated with a degree in English and received her *juris doctor* from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1985.

She was married in 1991 to William Mountford, and the couple has three daughters - Darby, Delaney and Killian Rose Mountford.

Additional Women's Tennis Support Staff



Pat Holmes

Director of Academic Services



Kyle Barbour

Strength & Conditioning Assistant



Chantal Porter

Associate Athletic Trainer



Bo Rottenborn

Assistant Sports Information Director



Sue Molnar

Tennis Secretary/
Sr. Staff Assistant



Jerry Bartkowiak

Eck Desk Attendant



Mary Davis

Eck Desk Attendant



Chuck Shock

Eck Desk Attendant



Howard Thornton

Eck Desk Attendant

