

NOTRE DAME HISTORY



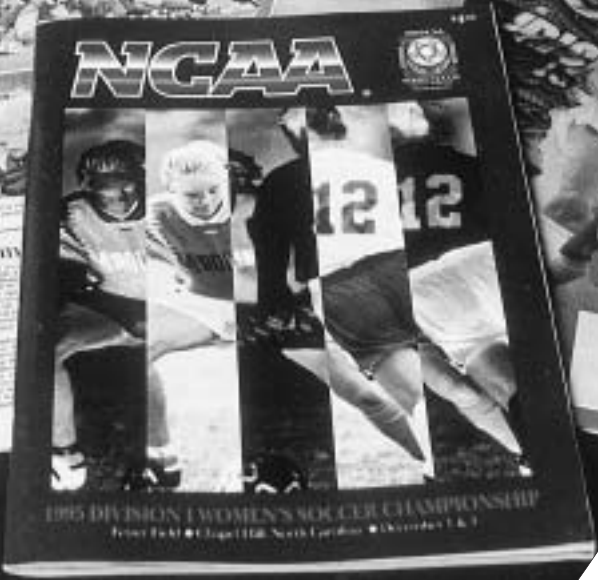
The 1995 women's soccer season included Notre Dame's first BIG EAST title (in any sport) and the first NCAA championship for the Irish women's soccer team - while the 2004 championship made Notre Dame the second Division I women's soccer program with multiple NCAA titles.

THE BIG EAST CONFERENCE



1995 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

IRISH 2



Notre Dame Women's Soccer Compiles Two Decades of Wide-Reaching Success

The Notre Dame women's soccer team will be celebrating the program's 20th season as a varsity program in 2007, with the past two decades firmly establishing the Irish as one of the nation's elite programs:

- Notre Dame in 2004 became the second Division I women's soccer program ever to win multiple NCAA titles. The Irish also own the second-most appearances in the NCAA title game (six) and have advanced to the NCAA College Cup final weekend eight times since 1994 (second-most in the nation over that span).

- The Irish own a 40-12-1 overall record in NCAA Tournament play, the second-best NCAA winning percentage (.764) in Division I.

- The 2007 Notre Dame seniors will enter their final season as the nation's winningest senior class, after helping lead the Irish to a 72-5-2 record (.924) spanning the 2004-06 seasons.

- Midfielders **Cindy Daws** (1996) and **Anne Makinen** (2000) combined to make Notre Dame the second women's team ever to produce multiple winners of the prestigious Hermann Trophy/Missouri Athletic Club Award. Forward **Kerri Hanks** then became the youngest player – male or female – ever to receive the M.A.C./Hermann awards (in 2006, as a sophomore), with Notre Dame again joining North Carolina as the only women's teams with three-plus different Hermann Trophy recipients.

- Notre Dame's total of 37 NSCAA All-Americans over the past 13 seasons ('94-'07) is second-most in the nation and includes three

rare four-year All-Americans: midfielders **Holly Manthei** and **Makinen** and defender **Jen Grubb**.

- The program's excellence extends to the classroom, as Notre Dame women's soccer players have combined for official CoSIDA Academic All-America honors 18 times over the past 12 years (no other team has more than 12 Academic All-Americans in that span). Three Irish players – **Jen Renola**, **Jenny Streiffer** and **Monica Gonzalez** – have coupled All-America and Academic All-America honors during their careers while **Vanessa Pruzinsky** and **Erika Bohn** are two of only six Division I players ever to be three-year Academic All-Americans. Pruzinsky became just the third chemical engineering major at Notre Dame (first since the early 1970s) ever to graduate with a 4.0 cumulative grade-point average. The women's soccer program's widespread academic excellence included some of the top semester GPAs in the entire Notre Dame athletics department during the 2006-07 school year (3.25 team GPA in the 2006 fall semester, 3.30 in the '07 spring term).

- Several Notre Dame players have filled leading roles with full national teams – including **Kate Sobrero Markgraf**, **Shannon Boxx** and **LaKeysia Beene** with the United States and three others with Team Canada (**Candace Chapman**, **Katie Thorlakson** and **Melissa Tancredi**), plus **Gonzalez** and **Monica Gerardo** as founding members of the Mexican National Team, current Mexico player **Becca Mendoza** and Scandinavian standouts **Makinen** (Finland) and **Gudrun Gunnarsdottir** (Iceland).

- The NCAA record book is populated by numerous Notre Dame players, most notably: **Manthei** (record total of 129 career assists), **Streiffer** (joins UNC alum Mia Hamm as only DI player to reach 70 career goals and 70 assists), **Thorlakson** (23G-24A in 2004, only Hamm has totaled more goals and more assists in the same season), **Hanks** (joined Hamm as only players ever to lead the nation in goals and assists in the same season) and **Renola** (third with 8,111 career minutes played; member of 11-player NCAA 25-year anniversary team).

Here's a closer look at yearly highlights for Notre Dame women's soccer's first 19 seasons:

1988

Sept. 1 – Head coach **Dennis Grace** leads Notre Dame to a 5-1 victory over IU-South Bend in the Notre Dame women's soccer program's first game, with **Mimi Suba** scoring the first goal in the program's history at 32:01.

Sept. 6 – **Susie Zilvitis** notches the program's first hat trick, in the first half of an 8-1 victory over St. Joseph's.

Sept. 18 – Notre Dame and goalkeeper **Karma Spencer** register the team's first shutout, 5-0 over Western Michigan.

1989

Oct. 10 – The Irish set a scoring record in a 17-0 win over Tri-State. **Margaret Jarc** – who later would serve as one of the team's assistant coaches – comes off the bench to net the hat trick as Notre Dame scores eight first-half goals.

1990

Sept. 2 – The Irish take the field for the first time under their second head coach, **Chris Petrucelli**. Notre Dame responds by registering a 5-1 win over Northeast Missouri, with **Zilvitis** and **Marianne Giolitto** each scoring twice.

Sept. 19 – Sporting a 3-2 record, the Irish make the program's first appearance in the Midwest region rankings (in the 10th spot).

Oct. 28 – Notre Dame posts its first win over a ranked opponent, 4-0 versus 24th-ranked Xavier to conclude the season. The Irish finish 16-3-1, with losses to Duke, UNC-Greensboro and Creighton.

1991

Oct. 15 – The four-year-old Irish program earns its first national ranking (16th) thanks to a 10-0-2 start before finishing the season 15-2-3 with the national ranking of 16th in the ISAA coaches poll.

1992

Oct. 17 – Notre Dame loses to 6th-ranked SMU, 3-1, to fall to 8-5-1. All five Irish losses at that point had come versus top-20 teams.

Oct. 30 – Notre Dame clinches its second straight Midwestern Collegiate Conference title with a 2-1 win at Xavier.

1993

Sept. 19 – Notre Dame defeats 4th-ranked William & Mary 1-0 at Alumni Field, marking the highest-ranked opponent the Irish had beaten in the program's six-year history.

Sept. 29 – The Irish defeat Wright State to open the season 9-0 and win their 14th straight, dating back to 1992. Freshman standout **Daws** registers a point in her ninth straight game.

Nov. 6 – Notre Dame defeats Xavier 4-0 to win the inaugural MCC Tournament. The Irish finish



Mimi Suba scored the first goal in Notre Dame women's soccer history on Sept. 1, 1988, against Indiana University-South Bend.



Margaret Jarc was one of the early leaders of the Notre Dame soccer program and went on to serve as an assistant coach with the Irish.



Notre Dame beat Portland 1-0 in triple OT to win the 1995 NCAA title on Cindy Daws' free kick in the 126th minute, ending the longest title game in NCAA history.

the regular season ranked third nationally and make their first NCAA appearance.

Nov. 13 – Notre Dame drops a 2-1 decision to George Mason in Madison, Wis., in the first round of the NAAs. The Patriots eventually advance to the national title game.

1994

Sept. 11 – **Jodi Hartwig** scores with four minutes remaining in regulation to force a tie with 10th-ranked William & Mary, 2-2. Notre Dame falls behind 3-2 in the first overtime but scores twice in the second OT, as the 4-3 gamewinner is scored by **Michelle McCarthy** with 0:25 left.

Oct. 2 – The Irish end North Carolina's record-setting 92-game winning streak, 0-0 in St. Louis, as **Renola** faces 25 shots with a career-high 11 saves. The tie marks the third time that an Irish team had broken a long winning streak, joining the 1957 football team that ended Oklahoma's 44-game winning streak and the 1974 basketball team that stopped UCLA's 88-game streak.

Oct. 24 – Following a pair of Irish wins over Ohio State and Detroit, coupled with a North Carolina loss to Duke, Notre Dame is voted the nation's No. 1 team by both the ISAA coaches poll and *Soccer America*, marking the first time in over three seasons that a team other than UNC was in the top spot. Notre Dame also goes on to finish the regular season as the nation's top-ranked team.

Nov. 6 – Notre Dame claims its final MCC tournament title with a 5-1 win over Butler.

Nov. 12 – Goals by **Tiffany Thompson** and **Hartwig** break a 1-1 tie in the program's first NCAA tournament win, 3-1 over George Mason.

Nov. 18 – A **Sobrero** score off a **Manthei** corner kick is the only goal of the game, as Notre Dame beats host Portland 1-0 and advances to the NCAA championship game for the first time in the program's history.

Nov. 20 – The much-anticipated rematch of the scoreless tie in St. Louis ends up a 5-0 North Carolina victory, as the Tar Heels win their 12th NCAA championship with a four-goal second half.

1995 (also see pp. 96 and 98-99)

Sept. 2 – The Irish open with the first BIG EAST Conference game for any Notre Dame team. **McCarthy** and **Gerardo** both score twice and **Boxx** has three assists in a 7-0 win over Providence.

Oct. 15 – A rematch with the nine-time defending NCAA champ ends with another Tar Heels shutout of the Irish, in Houston. UNC doubles the Irish in shots, 16-8, in a 2-0 win ... but the teams would have yet another rematch in the NAAs seven weeks later.

Nov. 5 – Notre Dame claims the BIG EAST title with a 1-0 win over third-ranked Connecticut (at Rutgers). The Irish avenge an earlier 5-4 overtime loss to the Huskies on Oct. 6 (at Alumni Field), which had been Notre Dame's first home loss since October 4, 1992 (as of the 2006 season, that also remains the only home loss ever for the Irish versus a BIG EAST opponent). South Bend area native **Amy VanLaecke** scores the game's only goal, her second of the tournament, and is named tournament MVP.

Nov. 19 – The Irish begin their NCAA run with a 5-0 win over Wisconsin at Alumni Field, as **Boxx** scores the final three Notre Dame goals for a hat trick in her first NCAA game.

Nov. 26 – Notre Dame shuts out UConn for the second time in three weeks (2-0, at Alumni Field), with goals from **Julie Vogel** and **VanLaecke** helping send the Irish to the NCAA semifinals for the second consecutive year.

Dec. 1 – A Fetzer Field crowd of 7,212, then an NCAA record, is stunned as Notre Dame shocks the home team North Carolina, 1-0, to advance to the championship game. An own-goal scored by the Tar Heels is followed by 70 minutes of outstanding Irish defense, as UNC suffers its first NCAA loss since 1985 and only its second ever at home. Notre Dame's first win over North Carolina sends the Irish to the NCAA final for the second consecutive season.

Dec. 3 – Sister schools Notre Dame and Portland meet in the NAAs for the second straight year, battling into a third overtime before **Daws** slips a direct kick past the goalkeeper at 125:31, for a 1-0 win that ends the first overtime game ever in an NCAA final. The Irish punctuate their earlier upset of the Tar Heels by becoming only the third team to win the NCAA women's soccer title. **Renola** finishes the weekend having saved all 10 shots she faced in the two games.

Did You Know?

Notre Dame athletic teams have ended some of the most noteworthy winning streaks in college sports history, with the Irish halting Oklahoma's 47-game streak in football ('57), UCLA's 88-game streak in men's basketball ('74) and North Carolina's 92-game streak in women's soccer ('94; all three remain NCAA records).

1996

Sept. 22 – Notre Dame's first trip to Storrs is a successful one as the Irish avenge one of their two 1995 defeats with a 2-1 win over 4th-ranked Connecticut.

Oct. 4 – Another highly-anticipated game with top-ranked UNC ends in a 2-1 overtime win for 2nd-ranked Notre Dame. Freshman sensation **Streiffer** becomes the first Notre Dame player to score against the Tar Heels after knocking in two goals, as the Irish become the only team to win in consecutive games against UNC while joining Connecticut as the only collegiate teams ever to defeat the Tar Heels twice (at any time).

Oct. 13 – Off to its best start in school history at 13-0-0 and riding a winning streak of 24 games, Notre Dame is brought back to earth as an inspired 9th-ranked Santa Clara team defeats the top-ranked Irish, 3-1. Despite the loss, Notre Dame remains atop the national polls.

Nov. 10 – Tournament MVP **Daws** leads the Irish to their second BIG EAST title to go along with the 1996 BIG EAST regular-season title, after a 4-3 title-game win over UConn at Alumni Field.

Dec. 6 – Three goals over a span of 14 minutes in the second half help Notre Dame rally from a 2-0 deficit for a 3-2 semifinal win over Portland, in Santa Clara, Calif. The Pilots stun the Irish with a goal 1:40 into the game and another at 29:42 – but Notre Dame strikes quickly in the second half with goals from **Boxx**, **VanLaecke** and **Gerardo**, against a team that had allowed just seven prior to the semifinals.

Dec. 8 – Making its third straight appearance in the NCAA final, Notre Dame faces North Carolina in another classic overtime battle. The Tar Heels outshoot the Irish 18-7 but **Renola** makes several remarkable saves. UNC's Debbie Keller ends Notre Dame's hopes for a second straight NCAA title, with her goal at 110:56.

Daws is honored after the season with the prestigious Hermann Trophy and M.A.C. Player of the Year Award, plus the Honda Broderick Cup (honoring her as the nation's top female collegiate athlete).

1997

Sept. 19 – Notre Dame welcomes North Carolina to Alumni Field for the first time and the teams play to a 2-2 tie, as the game is halted at 71:16 due to lightning. The evenly-played game sees each team take 11 shots. **Makinen** puts the Irish up early at 22:28 before the Tar Heels score at 52:15 and 62:38. Jenny Heft ties the game at 68:10, three minutes before lightning halted play.

Nov. 9 – The Irish take a 5-0 halftime lead and cruise to a 6-1 win over Connecticut to win their third BIG EAST title. **Makinen's** hat trick earns her most outstanding player honors.

Nov. 29 – Notre Dame caps the run to its fourth straight NCAA semifinal with an 8-0 home win over UCLA. The Irish outscore their first three NCAA opponents (Cincinnati, Nebraska and UCLA) by a score of 21-1.

Dec. 5 – The Irish outshoot UConn 28-6 but hit the post three times, the crossbar twice and have another shot saved off the line by a defender as the Huskies upset the Irish 2-1, at the NCAA semifinals in Greensboro, N.C. The first loss for Notre Dame in four NCAA semifinals sees Sarah Whalen scores on UConn's first shot (41:01) and again at 64:37 before **Streiffer's** diving header from **Manthei's** cross caps the scoring in the 77th minute.

1998

Sept. 13 - Second-ranked Notre Dame returns to Fetzler Field for the first time since winning the 1995 NCAA title and opens with a goal in the first minute against top-ranked North Carolina. The Tar Heels allow the Irish just two shots the rest of the game while winning 5-1 in front of 6,024, the largest crowd ever to watch a regular-season women's soccer game.

Oct. 18 - Two days after Connecticut snapped Notre Dame's NCAA-record 36-game conference win streak with a 1-1 tie in front of 2,508 fans at UConn's Morrone Stadium, another streak falls as unranked Seton Hall wins 3-2 in overtime - the first BIG EAST loss for the Irish since 1995 and their first loss to an unranked team in 183 games (dating back to a 2-0 defeat to Creighton on Oct. 6, 1990).

Nov. 8 - A triumphant return to Morrone Stadium sees the Irish blank the Huskies for their fourth BIG EAST title (1-0), in front of 2,333. **Makinen** scores in the 82nd minute to repeat as the championship's MVP.

Nov. 28 - The fifth-seeded Portland Pilots avenge five consecutive losses to the Irish, beating 4th-seeded and host Notre Dame 2-1 in the NCAA quarterfinals. **Jenny Heft** ties the game in the 73rd minute but the visitors advance, thanks to a goal in the 88th minute.

1999

Feb. 3 - **Waldrum** becomes the program's third head coach, after leading Baylor's 1998 team to the NCAA second round in only the third year of the program.

Sept. 3 - In the first game of the Waldrum era, the Irish lead top-ranked North Carolina 2-1 with under 3:00 remaining in the second half (thanks to a goal by **Mia Sarkesian**) - but the Tar Heels send the game to overtime on their way to a 3-2, double-OT win.

Nov. 7 - **Streiffer** is named the championship's most outstanding player as the Irish win their fifth BIG EAST title, 4-2, beating Connecticut in the final for the fifth straight year.

Nov. 28 - The longest game in Notre Dame women's soccer history results in an NCAA quarterfinal shootout at 4th-ranked Nebraska, after four OTs and 150 total minutes yielded a 1-1 tie. Unlikely hero **Kelly Lindsey** hits Notre Dame's kick in the first extra round, following each team making 3-of-5. **LaKeysia Beene** follows with a save to send the Irish to the NCAA semifinals for the fifth straight year.

Dec. 3 - Wearing green jerseys for the first time since 1995, the Irish overcome a 17-3 shot deficit to shut out top-ranked and undefeated Santa Clara in the College Cup semifinals (1-0), after an earlier 4-2 loss to the Broncos in the 1999 regular season. Freshman **Ali Lovelace** scores in the 75th minute, as Notre Dame knocks off the Broncos in their own backyard (San Jose) and advances to its fourth NCAA final in six years. **Beene** is the clear player of the game, with seven saves several other players in which she snuffed out prime SCU scoring chances.

Dec. 5 - North Carolina ends 5th-seeded Notre Dame's run in the title game (2-0), with the Tar Heels becoming the first team to beat the Irish twice in one season.

2000

Sept. 8 - The fourth-ranked Irish enjoy one of their widest victory margins ever against a high-ranked opponent, with coach Jerry Smith of 2nd-ranked Santa Clara praising midfield standout **Makinen** as "the best overall player in college soccer" (a status she later lives up to as the consensus 2000 national player of the year). **Meotis Erikson** and **Amy Warner** score for an early 2-1 lead and freshman **Amanda Guertin** adds a key breakthrough in the 74th minute while Makinen finishes with a goal and a pair of assists.

Sept. 17 - The Irish reclaim the nation's top ranking after holding on for a 1-0 win at Portland, with **Erikson's** 50th career goal coming on an sharply-struck 18-yard shot, via a cross from her classmate **Makinen**. Erikson - who also scored two days earlier in the 4-0 win over Washington- is named offensive MVP of the Portland Invitational while **Kerri Bakker** is the tournament's defensive MVP, after helping limit Portland to four shots on goal. The game marks just the 12th time since 1990 that the Pilots had suffered a loss at Merlo Field and is the eighth one-goal game in the eight-game Notre Dame-Portland series history.

Nov. 5 - Homestanding Notre Dame collects its sixth consecutive BIG EAST tournament title, besting league rival Connecticut (1-0) after earlier wins over Miami and Boston College (both 3-0). An early own goal provides the winning margin, with **Sarkesian** named the tournament MVP after playing a leading role in the pivotal midfield battle (she also had a goal and assist in the BC game).

Nov. 24 - The Irish advance to the NCAA semifinals for the sixth time in seven years, thanks to a thrilling overtime win over growing rival Santa Clara in the quarterfinals (2-1). **Lovelace** - who scored in the 1-0 win over SCU in the 1999 semifinals - again is a thorn in the Broncos' side, scoring in the 17th minute, while freshmen **Guertin** and **Randi Scheller** assist on **Erikson's** game-ending goal five minutes into OT. The game features 19 fouls by each team, with **Liz Wagner's** eight saves (many game-savers) making up for the loss of midfielder **Ashley Dryer**, who was injured midway through the first half.

One week later, **Warner's** 20th-minute goal gives the unbeaten Irish an early lead in the NCAA semifinals but 5th-ranked UNC ultimately advances with a 2-1 victory. The decisive goal in the 83rd minute means that the Irish trailed for a total of only 35 minutes all season, spanning parts of three games in the 25-game schedule (23-1-1).

Makinen later is honored with the 2000 Hermann Trophy and Missouri Athletic Club Player of the Year Award, combining with Daws to make Notre Dame the second women's soccer program to produce multiple national players of the year.



Notre Dame's top-ranked team scored first in 22 of 25 games during the 2000 season while trailing for a total of only 35 minutes.

2001

Sept. 2 - Notre Dame wins its annual Key Bank Classic, topping 25th-ranked Hartford (2-0) after besting 8th-ranked Penn State two days earlier (2-1). Freshman **Mary Boland's** diving header yields a 1-0 lead in the seventh minute of the PSU game, with **Guertin** adding the second Irish goal early in the second half. Reserve forward **Kelly Tulisiak** - who assisted on Guertin's goal - then opens the scoring in the 67th minute of the Hartford game, with Guertin's late goal providing the final margin.

Sept. 25 - Waldrum's 50th career win at Notre Dame qualifies as one of his most memorable, as the 4th-ranked Irish use precision execution to score in the 18th minute on a three-pass set play while limiting 3rd-ranked Nebraska to a pair of shots on goal. **Sarkesian** adds another big-game goal, started by **Scheller's** direct kick from 10 yards outside the box. The sequence sees Scheller send a pass into the box before **Guertin** flicks the ball into space on the right and **Melissa Tancredi** serves a low endline pass for Sarkesian's one-timer. Physical play yields 39 fouls (20 for the Irish) while the Huskers are caught offside 10 times.

Nov. 11 - Scheller's first career game-winning goal comes with 14 minutes left in the BIG EAST title game (at Rutgers), for a 2-1 win over West Virginia and the program's seventh consecutive BIG EAST crown. Tournament MVP **Guertin** - who scored in earlier BIG EAST tournament wins over St. John's (2-0) and Boston College (3-0) - sets up the gamewinner on one of her well-placed corner kicks, with headers from **Tancredi** and **Sarkesian** preceding Scheller's lunging volley.

Notre Dame goes on to be upset by Cincinnati in the second round of the NCAAs (3-2), despite holding a 15-9 edge in shots and 4-0 in corner kicks. It marks just the second home loss ever for the Irish in NCAA Tournament play (spanning 20 games).

2002

Sept. 15 – A furious rally sees Notre Dame score five times in the final 25 minutes, stunning 25th-ranked hosts at the Maryland Classic (5-2). It matches the fifth-highest goal total ever for the Irish versus a top-25 opponent. **Tancredi** – a forward who later in her career will become a two-time All-America defender with the Irish – shifts the momentum with her physical play and pair of header goals, en route to picking up the tournament's offensive MVP award.

Oct. 13 – The Irish begin their late push with a 3-1 victory over BIG EAST rival Connecticut at Alumni Field. **Dryer's** return from injury sparks the team while **Guertin's** pinpoint corner kicks lead to the final two Notre Dame goals.

Nov. 17 – Notre Dame avenges an earlier loss to Purdue (3-1), reversing the score in NCAA second-round action at Alumni Field. **Guertin's** calm presence produces the first goal and assists on another while the defense limits the Boilermakers to four shots on goal. The win sends 19th-ranked Notre Dame to the round-of-16 for the eighth time in nine seasons – but top-ranked Stanford uses a Marcia Wallis goal in the 81st minute to survive the upset bid, 1-0.

2003

Aug. 29 – Notre Dame opens the season minus six injured players but responds with its second-highest scoring game of the Waldrum era while dispatching of perennial power Hartford, 9-1. Just two previous Irish teams had delivered a more dominating season opener. **Boland** (3G-1A) joins a select group who have posted hat tricks in the first game of a season and she later goes on to set an Irish record for most goals in the first three games of a season (6).

Sept. 21 and 23 – The Irish hold Stanford (0-0) and Santa Clara (2-1) to three combined shots on goal and three corner kicks while handing the Broncos their first-ever loss at the SCU Classic. **Thorlakson** assists on **Boland's** early goal and then knocks in a deflected Boland shot for the late gamewinner.

Oct. 3 and 17 – Notre Dame posts a pair of 2-0 wins at Alumni Field over BIG EAST contenders West Virginia and Connecticut. **Boland** (1:24) notches the team's quickest goal of the season while the defense limits WVU to a single shot on goal. Two weeks later, playing without Boland, the Irish defense again delivers as UConn manages only two shots on goal (none in the final 60:00).

Oct. 26 – Notre Dame wins 2-0 at Seton Hall for a 10-game shutout streak that ranks fifth in NCAA history (as does **Erika Bohn's** personal streak that eventual reaches 967 minutes). The Irish also extend their unbeaten start to 18-0-1, with the first 19 games including only one deficit spanning all of seven minutes.

Nov. 2 – **Guertin** extends her Notre Dame record with the fourth overtime goal of her career, as the Irish defeat Miami (2-1) in the BIG EAST quarterfinals for their 50th consecutive home win over a BIG EAST opponent.

After suffering its first loss ever in the BIG EAST Tournament during the next weekend (2-1 vs. Boston College, in the semifinals), the Irish endure more postseason heartache with a 1-0 loss to Michigan in the NCAA second round. The Wolverines convert their only shot on goal and earn only one corner kick in the 90 minutes while the Irish are unable to overcome injuries suffered by All-Americans **Warner** and **Tancredi**.

2004 (also see pp. 97 and 100-101)

Sept. 5 – **Thorlakson** racks up the most points (8; 3G-2A) ever by a Notre Dame player in a game versus a top-25 opponent, as the second-ranked Irish register a key early win over fourth-ranked Santa Clara (5-2). **Thorlakson** also becomes just the third Irish player to post a hat trick against a top-10 foe and ties her own Notre Dame record by scoring or assisting on each of the team's first five goals.

Sept. 17 – Reserve defender **Kate Tulisniak** picks a perfect time for the only point of her career, after intercepting a pass and providing the right endline cross on **Amanda Cinalli's** 84th-minute goal at Connecticut. That 1-0 win gives the Irish a 7-0 start that stretches to 15-0 before a scoreless tie with Rutgers on Oct. 22.

Oct. 31 – **Thorlakson** sets another Notre Dame record with 10 points in a game (4G-2A) while tying the Irish record for goals in a game, with each of them coming leftfooted. The 7-0 BIG EAST quarterfinal win over St. John's also sees **Thorlakson** top her own standard by factoring into each of her team's first six goals.

Nov. 7 – Notre Dame's perfect record in BIG EAST title games (7-0) ends at Connecticut, as the Huskies score twice in the final 17 minutes to snatch away the 2-1 win. But the Irish quickly turn the disappointment into motivation by outscoring their opponents 12-2 in the six ensuing NCAA Tournament wins (including a 2-0, third-round rematch with UConn).

Dec. 3 – Following four straight wins to start the NAAs – versus Eastern Illinois (4-0), Wisconsin (1-0, on **Jill Krivacek's** 90th-minute header of a **Thorlakson** corner kick), UConn (2-0) and Portland (3-1, pair of goals from **Cinalli**) – the Irish head to Cary, N.C., for a semifinal matchup with familiar foe Santa Clara. The only scoring in the evenly-matched and tension-packed game comes in the 73rd minute, as **Candace Chapman** (a converted defender) and **Thorlakson** work a classic give-and-go that starts with Chapman's long run down the center of the field. She then knocks home **Thorlakson's** return pass from the right side, sending the Irish to the NCAA title game for the fifth time.



(from left) Annie Scheffter, Jen Buczkowski, Katie Thorlakson and Erika Bohn all played key roles in the 2004 NCAA championship game.

Dec. 5 – Notre Dame joins UNC as the only repeat NCAA champions in D-I women's soccer history, after surviving a penalty-kick shootout with emerging force UCLA. A fluke own-goal gives the Bruins the lead early in the second half but the Irish battle back behind tournament MVPs **Thorlakson** (tying goal, on 74th-minute PK) and **Bohn**, who dives high and to her left to deny Kendall Billingsley's own penalty-kick try with 5:09 left in regulation. The shootout sees little-used reserve **Sarah Halpenny** convert on Notre Dame's second try while **Jen Buczkowski** and **Annie Scheffter** also find the net – but the teams still are tied after five kicks, sending the shootout to sudden-death. **Krivacek** then calmly deposits her low-right shot and **Bohn** guesses correctly to the same spot, stopping Lindsay Greco's try to give Notre Dame the national title in thrilling fashion.

Thorlakson completes one of the most dominant all-around seasons in women's soccer history (23G-24A) and is considered the favorite for the Hermann Trophy – but she stunningly is not even among the three finalists for the award. *Soccer America* does recognize **Thorlakson** as its 2004 national player of the year (an honor earned by **Makinen** in 1998 and 2000).

2005

Sept. 2 – Notre Dame lives up to its number-one ranking with an impressive early win over 11th-ranked Florida (4-1). **Thorlakson** has a pair of goals and an assist while newcomer **Hanks** – who missed the 2004 season due to the Under-19 World Championship – opens the scoring to keep up her torrid pace. One week earlier, **Hanks** had a seven-point game (3G-1A) in the opener versus New Hampshire and scored four goals against the home team at the Vermont Classic.

Oct. 14 – **Thorlakson** factors into three of the goals (1G-2A) as the Irish top 10th-ranked Connecticut, 4-0, for one of the program's most dominating wins ever versus a top-10 opponent.

Oct. 23 – **Alexandra Hardy's** goal in the 63rd minute cuts Notre Dame's lead to 2-1 and briefly gives upset-minded Georgetown hope, in the regular-season finale. But the game quickly gets out of hand minutes later, as **Brittany Bock**, **Thorlakson** and **Annie Scheffter** all score in a span of 51 seconds to suddenly give the Irish a 5-1 cushion. The flurry ranks as the quickest three-goal stretch in the history of Division I women's soccer.

Nov. 21 – Notre Dame returns to the BIG EAST title game and leaves no doubt this time around, running away from Connecticut to secure the program's eighth BIG EAST Tournament title. Five different Irish players find the net at Marquette's Valley Field, highlighted by the 24th score of the season from **Hanks** (breaking the ND record for goals by a freshman). **Thorlakson** – who totals 2G-5A in the three wins – is named the tournament's offensive MVP while midfield enforcer **Krivacek** takes home the defensive MVP award.

Nov. 25 – Notre Dame and Portland meet in a rematch of the 2004 NCAA quarterfinals and the home team again claims victory (by the same score, 3-1). The eventual national champion Pilots advance after the win over the fifth-ranked Irish, with top-ranked Portland scoring twice in the first 20 minutes for an early cushion that thrills the overflow crowd of 4,892.

Note: see pp. 64-65 and 69-73 for 2006 recap.

Notre Dame's 1995 Dream Season Ends With National Championship



Notre Dame's 1995 NCAA championship team, which included six players who would earn All-America honors during their Irish careers (see pp. 109-113):

(sitting, from left) Ingrid Soens, Stacia Masters, Nicole Hinostrro, Emily Loman, Jen Renola, Laura Vanderberg, Rosella Guerrero and Michelle McCarthy; (kneeling, from left) Amy VanLaecke, Holly Manthei, Christy Peters, Ashley Scharff, Kamie Page, Cindy Daws, Shannon Boxx and Margo Tufts; (standing, from left) Ragen Coyne, Monica Gerardo, Julie Metro, Kate Fisher, Kate Sobrero, Julie Vogel, Megan Middendorf, Jean McGregor and Julie Maund.

The 1995 Notre Dame women's soccer season was described by national coach of the year Chris Petrucelli as a season that "ended the way we all had dreamed about." With wins over perennial power North Carolina in the NCAA semifinals and Portland in the title game (both 1-0), Notre Dame had become just the third school ever to win an NCAA women's soccer title (dating back to 1982).

The season's dream began with Notre Dame putting the opposition to sleep, as the Irish outscored their opponents 36-0 on their way to an 8-0 record. The women's soccer squad participated in the first BIG EAST competition for any Notre Dame team, defeating Providence in the opener – followed by a win over St. John's and three shutouts of Big Ten foes Indiana, No. 13 Wisconsin and No. 19 Michigan State.

Notre Dame moved to 6-0 with a 1-0 win over No. 3 Stanford (on a rare goal by sophomore midfielder Holly Manthei, who went on to become the NCAA all-time assist leader), followed by BIG EAST wins over Rutgers and Seton Hall that pushed the season shot advantage to 19-2-4.

Sophomore midfielder Julie's Maund's goal at the 88:17 mark averted a loss at Cincinnati (the game ended in a 2-2 tie) while an 82nd-minute goal from senior forward Rosella Guerrero set up an overtime gamewinner from junior midfielder Cindy Daws, in a 2-1 game with Ohio State.

A 2-2-2 stretch continued in the BIG EAST showdown with Connecticut, as freshman forward Monica Gerardo's goal in the 82nd minute forced overtime (3-3) – with the Huskies winning 5-4 under the old "non-sudden-death" format. The loss was Notre Dame's first at home

since Oct. 4, 1992, and ended a 29-game conference winning streak for the Irish.

Another Gerardo goal produced a 1-0 win over No. 7 Santa Clara, with the grueling six-game stretch concluding in Houston against No. 11 Duke (2-2) and No. 1 North Carolina (0-2). Yet another late goal (by junior forward Amy VanLaecke, at 89:26) saved the day versus Duke.

"At that point, we had lost our focus on defending," said Petrucelli. "We got so carried away in trying to score goals that we forgot there was another part of the game. We needed to put a lot of work into our team defense."

After the loss to UNC, the Irish defense – led by junior goalkeeper Jen Renola – yielded just three goals in the final 11 games, including shutouts in all six postseason games.

The next big test for the refocused Irish was a rematch against Connecticut in the BIG EAST title game, with the newcomer Notre Dame blanking the reigning BIG EAST power 1-0 (on an early VanLaecke goal).

"The win over UConn helped our confidence and made us believe," said Petrucelli. "We were able to refocus and commit to everything needed to win. We had talked about winning, but we were not doing everything that it took."

The Irish defense continued its postseason shutout streak, led by Renola and the starting defender formation of sophomore Kate Sobrero, junior Kate Fisher and senior Ashley Scharff.

The Irish were seeded No. 4 in the NCAA tournament, using four first-half goals and a hat trick from freshman midfielder Shannon Boxx for a 5-0 win over Wisconsin in the second round. Notre Dame then knocked off UConn in the third round (2-0), with goals from senior defender Julie Vogel and VanLaecke.

Playing on its home field in the semifinals, UNC carried a 10-year, 31-game NCAA tournament win streak into its game vs. Notre Dame.

The Irish came out sharp and loose, pressuring from the start. That pressure led to the only goal, in the 20th minute, when UNC's Cindy Parlow headed a cross out of the goal area. Daws then headed it back toward the goal and Parlow's attempt to redirect the ball sent it into her own net for the 1-0 score.

A stunned crowd of 7,212, at that time the largest ever to attend a collegiate women's soccer game, watched as the Irish defense shut down the potent Tar Heel offense.

Returning to the title game, Notre Dame encountered 125 scoreless minutes before Daws surprised Portland goalkeeper Erin Fahey, after senior forward Michelle McCarthy had been fouled outside the top of the box. Daws quickly sent the direct kick into the back of the net – ending the exhausting game and completing Notre Dame's dreamlike run to the 1995 national title.

"The thing that came out of this season was that we found out how much character our team really had," said Petrucelli. "Instead of packing it in, we fought back."

1995 Notre Dame Statistics

Player	GP/GS	G	A	Pts	GW/G
Monica Gerardo (Fr, F)	25/24	20	11	51	3
Michelle McCarthy (Sr, F)	25/25	17	12	46	4
Holly Manthei (So, M)	25/25	6	21	33	1
Amy VanLaecke (Jr, F)	25/16	12	4	28	6
Shannon Boxx (Fr, M)	25/21	7	10	24	1
Cindy Daws (Jr, M)	21/18	7	8	22	2
Rosella Guerrero (Sr, F)	25/14	8	5	21	1
Julie Maund (So, M)	22/1	4	2	10	0
Ragen Coyne (Sr, M)	22/17	1	8	10	0
Julie Vogel (Sr, D)	19/9	4	1	9	2
Kate Fisher (Jr, D)	25/24	1	6	8	0
Kate Sobrero (So, D)	25/25	0	6	6	0
Stacia Masters (Jr, M)	22/10	0	5	5	0
Jean McGregor (So, M)	20/0	1	1	3	0
Megan Middendorf (Jr, D)	6/0	1	1	3	0
Ashley Scharff (Sr, D)	22/21	0	2	2	0
Christy Peters (Sr, M)	7/1	0	1	1	0
Laura Vanderberg (Fr, M)	17/0	0	1	1	0
Kamie Page (So, D)	7/0	0	1	1	0
Margo Tufts (Fr, M)	6/0	0	0	0	0
Nicole Hinostrro (So, M)	5/0	0	0	0	0
Ingrid Soens (So, M)	6/0	0	0	0	0
Team	25	90	105	285	20
Opponents	25	15	11	41	2
Goalkeeper	GP/GS	GA/SV	GAA	ShO	W-L-T
Jen Renola (Jr)	25/25	15/68	0.59	13 (5)	21-2-2
Emily Loman (So)	6/0	0/2	0.00	0 (5)	0-0-0

Note: Renola played 2,285 minutes (Loman 122)

Notre Dame Caps Dominating 2004 Season By Capturing Program's Second NCAA Title



Notre Dame Women's Soccer – 2004 NCAA Champions

(sitting, from left) Susan Pinnick, Molly Iarocci, Annie Scheffer, Kim Lorenzen, Ashley Jones and Katie Thorlakson (kneeling, from left) Miranda Ford, Maggie Manning, Amber McMillin, Lizzie Reed, Jenny Walz, Claire Gallerano, Jen Buczkowski, Jannica Tjeder, Sarah Halpenny and Candace Chapman; (standing, from left) senior manager Tony Marquis, volunteer assistant coach Ben Waldrum, Melissa Tancredi, Mary Boland, Amanda Cinalli, Jill Krivacek, Lauren Karas, Erika Bohn, Nikki Westfall, Christie Shaner, Gudrun Gunnarsdottir, Kate Tulisiak, head coach Randy Waldrum, assistant coach Dawn Greathouse and athletic trainer Jaime Scollon. Not pictured: Becky Tweneboah, Kelly Simon and assistant coach Alvin Alexander.

A four-month quest for the 2004 national title saw the Notre Dame women's soccer team navigate its way through the season with a nearly perfect record. The odyssey began Aug. 10, with an eight-day training trip in the soccer-crazed nation of Brazil. On the final night of the team's stay, head coach Randy Waldrum reflected on the trip.

"I don't think they want to leave," said Waldrum on that final night at the Vitoria Hotel, a dorm-like atmosphere for the Irish players.

"I already can tell this is a group who truly enjoy being together," predicted the veteran of 22 previous seasons as a college coach. "They want to achieve great success for one another. That's a great starting point for any team."

Fast forward to Cary, N.C. – 117 days after the departure for Brazil – as Notre Dame faced UCLA in the NCAA final. It marked the end of a season filled with individual feats and team domination, as the Irish made a strong case for being the nation's top all-around program.

Notre Dame, the second D-I women's soccer team to win multiple titles, spent six weeks as the No. 1-ranked team and finished with a team-record victory total (25-1-1) that had been bested by just three teams in NCAA history.

Three All-Americans – fifth-year central defender Melissa Tancredi, junior forward Katie Thorlakson and sophomore midfielder Jen Buczkowski – led a talented starting 11 that included another first team all-BIG EAST player (Freshman All-America forward Amanda Cinalli) and three named third team all-BIG EAST: senior forward Candace Chapman, sophomore midfielder Jill Krivacek and sophomore left back Christie Shaner.

Junior midfielder Annie Scheffer helped in dominating the possession while the stout back line also included senior central defender Gudrun Gunnarsdottir and sophomore right back Kim Lorenzen. Junior goalkeeper Erika Bohn – who joined Scheffer as 2004 Academic All-Americans – rarely was tested but she stopped three total PKs in the title game.

The eventual national champs rose above injuries to Randi Scheller, Mary Boland and Susan Pinnick (among others) that totaled 109 games –

plus the absence of another top offensive player, Kerri Hanks (Under-19 World Championship). Boland was lost early with a broken leg but Thorlakson responded with an historic season (23 goals-24 assists) while Chapman (12G) also picked up the slack after shifting from right back to forward. Cinalli added 10 goals, as the first Irish freshman with double-digit goals since 2000.

Notre Dame's pressing style led to the Irish totaling nearly as many goals (70) as opponent shots on goal (71) while allowing just 1.8 corner kicks/gm. The Irish led the nation in shutouts (16) and ranked fifth in goals-against avg. (0.51).

Thorlakson and Tancredi were among the final-15 candidates for the Hermann Trophy and stood out as the nation's most dominant players at their positions. Thorlakson earned several player-of-the-year honors in a season that included: 3G-2A in the first half of the opener vs. Baylor; 3G-2A in the second half of the 5-2 win over #4 Santa Clara (ND record for points vs. top-25 team); an 11-game point streak to end the season; ND records for points in a game (4G-2A, vs. St. John's) and in one postseason (27); 70 total points (two shy of the ND record); and scoring/assisting on 24 of the final 28 goals. Former UNC great Mia Hamm remains the only player ever to total more goals and more assists in a season than Thorlakson.

Early highlights included Scheffer's 82nd-minute PK to beat Stanford (1-0) and a 2-1 win at Arizona State, as the Irish overcame an early deficit and 100-degree heat. Cinalli's 84th-minute goal later produced a 1-0 win at UConn and the Irish pulled away at West Virginia (3-1) – before Buczkowski scored in the final minute at Georgetown (2-1) and volleyed in a cross from Ashley Jones to beat Boston College (1-0).

Krivacek headed in a Thorlakson corner kick to defeat Wisconsin in the final regulation minute of that NCAA second-round game (1-0), followed by a 2-0 win over UConn and the 3-1 quarterfinal with Portland (two goals by Cinalli, one by Thorlakson). Thorlakson and Chapman then worked a classic give-and-go in the 73rd minute, as the Irish edged Santa Clara in the semifinals (1-0).

Bohn needed to make just five saves in the first five NCAA games but she stopped six shots in the title game, with the only UCLA score coming on an own-goal early in the second half. Thorlakson tied the game on a 73rd-minute PK and Bohn then saved a PK late in regulation. The first five shootout rounds saw UCLA miss twice (one saved by Bohn) while little-used senior Sarah Halpenny preceded Buczkowski and Scheffer in making their shots. Krivacek then converted in sudden-death PKs, Bohn dove to her left for yet another save – and the Irish were the 2004 national champions.

2004 Notre Dame Statistics

Player	GP/GS	G	A	Pts	GWG
Katie Thorlakson (Jr, F)	27/26	23	24	70	8
Candace Chapman (Sr, F)	27/16	12	8	32	2
Jen Buczkowski (So, M)	27/25	8	11	27	4
Amanda Cinalli (Fr, F)	27/24	10	5	25	4
Annie Scheffer (Jr, M)	27/22	4	7	15	2
Kim Lorenzen (So, D)	27/21	3	4	10	1
Melissa Tancredi (Sr, D)	27/27	2	2	6	1
Ashley Jones (Fr, M)	27/6	1	4	6	0
Maggie Manning (Jr, F)	13/0	2	1	5	1
Jannica Tjeder (Fr, F)	22/8	1	3	5	0
Christie Shaner (Fr, D)	27/23	2	0	4	0
Lizzie Reed (So, M/F)	27/10	1	2	4	0
Jill Krivacek (So, M)	27/23	1	2	4	1
Jenny Walz (Jr, D/M)	15/6	0	1	1	0
Kate Tulisiak (Sr, D)	16/5	0	1	1	0
Sarah Halpenny (Sr, M)	5/0	0	1	1	0
Molly Iarocci (So, F)	10/0	0	1	1	0
Mary Boland (Sr, F)	4/3	0	0	0	0
Claire Gallerano (So, M)	13/1	0	0	0	0
Gudrun Gunnarsdottir (Sr, D)	24/24	0	0	0	0
Amber McMillin (Jr, F)	5/0	0	0	0	0
Miranda Ford (Jr, D)	6/0	0	0	0	0
Team	27	70	77	217	24
Opponents	27	14	11	39	1
Goalkeeper	GP/GS	GA/SV	GAA	ShO	W-L-T
Nikki Westfall (So)	6/0	0/2	0.00	0 (6)	0-0-0
Erika Bohn (Jr) (1A)	25/22	9/39	0.41	9 (7)	21-1-1
Lauren Karas (Fr)	8/5	5/11	1.24	0 (3)	4-0-0

Note: Bohn played 1,988 minutes (Karas 365; Westfall 128)

**NOTRE
DAME**



**THE NEW
CHAMPS**



**NOTRE DAME
PORTLAND**

**FIGHTING IRISH
CROWNED NATIONAL
CHAMPIONS**



Irish conquer women's soccer

UNIVERSITY	EVENT	TIME OF DAY	PERFORMANCE
PORTLAND	NOTRE DAME	4:58	0:00
LN	COMP	PL	PERFORMANCE
0	5	1	
SHOTS	SAVES	SHOTS	
17	8 6	19	
IRWIN BELK TRACK FETZER FIELD			



**Daws kicks
Irish women to
soccer title**



**N.D. Women
Capture First
NCAA Title**

**TIME 1
0**

CHAMPIONS!



**Irish win
NCAA title
in sudden death**



Fighting Irish Crowned National Champions



**Irish blank all
opponents in
NCAA tourney**



Notre Dame Women's Soccer – 2004 National

The Notre Dame women's soccer team won the 2004 NCAA title at SAS Stadium in Cary, N.C., besting Santa Clara in the semifinals (1-0) and UCLA in the 1-1 title game that extended to a penalty-kick shootout. Candace Chapman (#8) and Katie Thorlakson (#7) worked a textbook give-and-go play for the 73rd-minute goal vs. SCU (sequence depicted on the left). The key moments from the decisive PK shootout vs. UCLA are shown on the far right and include (from top to bottom) converted kicks by Sarah Halpenny, Jen Buczkowski, Annie Schefter and Jill Krivacek – plus a pair of saves by Erika Bohn (UCLA was wide on an earlier try, as the Irish won 4-3 in six kicks).

Forwards Candace Chapman (#8), Katie Thorlakson (#7) and Amanda Cinalli (#5) combined to score 45 goals in 2004.

Midfielders Jill Krivacek (#24), Annie Schefter (#11) and Jen Buczkowski (#9) led Notre Dame's season-long possession domination.

The Irish held coach Randy Waldrum to his promise by shaving his head after the triumphant return to campus, with Mary Boland the first off the bus carrying the trophy (Melissa Tancredi also soaked in the glory, far right).

The stout back line of Kim Lorenzen (#4), Melissa Tancredi (#17), Gudrun Gunnarsdottir (#2) and Christie Shaner (#18)

