



The Coaches

In 14 years leading the Notre Dame volleyball team, Debbie Brown, a former collegiate All-American and captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team, has led the Irish to 13 consecutive NCAA Championship berths, 13 regular-season conference titles, a dozen league tournament championships, and eight finishes in the national top 25.

Debbie Brown, formerly a two-time winner of the Mikasa Award as the best all-around collegiate player in the country as well as a co-captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team, has proven it is possible to make the transition from being one of the best volleyball players in the world to having an incredibly-successful coaching career. While her playing credentials are virtually unmatched among collegiate coaches across the country, Brown also has turned into one of the nation's elite mentors, leading her teams to 18 consecutive winning records, a dozen finishes in the top 25 of the AVCA national rankings, and 18 invitations to the NCAA Championship (in 20 years), including a current streak of 13 in a row.

Now in her 15th season at Notre Dame and 21st overall as a collegiate head coach, Brown has



Debbie Brown

Head Coach

15th Season

Arizona State '82



WHAT HER TEAMS HAVE DONE ...

- Compiled a 461-201 (.696) record, including 344-118 (.745) at Notre Dame
- Finished in the AVCA national top 25 on 12 occasions
- Earned 18 invitations to the NCAA Championship, including in each of the last 13 seasons
- Advanced to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament five times
- 1993 NCAA quarterfinalist
- 13 regular-season conference championships (9 BIG EAST, 4 Midwestern Collegiate)
- 12 conference tournament championships (8 BIG EAST, 4 Midwestern Collegiate)
- Won 20+ matches on 16 occasions
- Posted 18 consecutive winning seasons
- Registered a 134-6 (.957) mark at Notre Dame in regular-season action against conference teams, including a 76-1 (.987) record at home
- Compiled a 166-28 (.856) record in the Joyce Center, highlighted by 36- and 27-match winning streaks
- Won 42 team BIG EAST statistical championships since joining league in '95
- Ended in NCAA team statistical leaders 18 times (since official stats began in '94), including blocking crown in 2003
- Set Irish team school records in 55 different categories

WHAT COACHING AWARDS SHE HAS WON ...

- Recipient of NCAA Silver Anniversary Award in 2003
- Nine-time conference coach of the year (4 BIG EAST, 4 Midwestern Collegiate, 1 Pac-10)
- Three-time AVCA regional/district coach of the year
- Former president of the American Volleyball Coaches Association (1995-96)
- Former assistant coach for the United States National Team (1988-90)

WHAT HER NOTRE DAME PLAYERS HAVE DONE ...

- Earned All-America honors 11 times
- Earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors twice
- Named conference player of the year nine times (6 BIG EAST, 3 Midwestern Collegiate)
- Earned all-conference honors 49 times, including 30 first-team accolades
- Gained all-region/district honors from the AVCA on 41 occasions
- Tabbed conference tournament's most outstanding player 11 times
- Won 26 individual BIG EAST statistical championships since joining the league in '95
- Finished in NCAA individual statistical leaders 16 times (since official stats began in '94), including blocking crown for Lauren Brewster in 2003
- Gained three invitations to join the U.S. National Team program
- Participated in the U.S. Olympic Festival four times
- Set individual school records in 58 different categories
- Won the Byron V. Kanaley Award six times
- Gone on to play professionally in seven instances

compiled a 461-201 (.696) career record, including a 344-118 (.745) mark at Notre Dame. Her squads have reached the round of 16 in the NCAA Championship five times, highlighted by a trip to the 1993 quarterfinals. Thirteen regular-season conference championships and 12 league-tournament titles are among the other accomplishments of Brown-led teams, which have won 20 or more matches 16 times in the last 18 seasons.

In her time at Notre Dame, Brown has transformed the Irish from a program that had just five winning seasons in its first 11 years of varsity volleyball to one that has been ranked in the AVCA national top 25 in 12 of her 14 seasons. Notre Dame cracked the national top 10 in consecutive campaigns, peaking at an all-time best fifth in 1995 and sixth in '96 in the *Volleyball* magazine rankings.

She has helped Notre Dame to a variety of dominating performances, including a 134-6 (.957) record in regular-season action against conference teams (27-0 vs. Midwestern Collegiate Conference, 107-6 vs. BIG EAST Conference). That includes a 76-1 (.987) record at home and, at one point, a 79-match winning streak against conference foes (regular season and postseason), which ranks as the third-longest conference winning streak in Division I volleyball history (AIAW or

NCAA). A further measure of Notre Dame's success is that the longest losing streak for the Irish over the past 14 seasons was four, which occurred just once.

Overall, the Irish are 165-28 (.855) in the Joyce Center under Brown, including winning streaks of 36 and 27 matches. Against unranked teams at home, Notre Dame holds a 158-9 (.962) record in the Brown era.

Since becoming a member of the BIG EAST Conference in 1995, Notre Dame has opened league play 11-0 in all but one season (with 11+ matches on the league schedule), going on to win nine regular-season titles in 10 years to go along with eight tournament championships. The Irish have won 42 team BIG EAST statistical crowns, as well as 26 individual statistical championships. The league's player of the year has been from Notre Dame six times, while Irish student-athletes have garnered 35 all-conference accolades, including 21 first-team honors (which account for more than one-third of the spots on the all-BIG EAST first team during that span).

Brown has seen her Irish players gain All-America accolades on nine occasions, with current senior Lauren Brewster becoming the first Notre Dame player to be selected as an AVCA All-American, in 2004. Both of the last two sea-





sons have seen multiple Irish players earn All-America recognition from the AVCA, after that had never happened previously in program history.

Additionally, Brown has helped her players to twice be honored as CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, while they have won the conference player-of-the-year award nine times and been named the top player in the league tournament in 11 instances. In all, Brown-era Irish players have combined for 49 all-conference honors, including 30 first-team selections. Also, Notre Dame student-athletes have garnered all-region or all-district honors from the AVCA 41 times since Brown's arrival.

Under Brown's tutelage, Irish student-athletes also have earned three invitations to join the U.S. National Team program and have made four trips to the U.S. Olympic Festival.

Brown has made Notre Dame one of the popular choices for top recruits in the country. Since *Volleyball* magazine began compiling its "Fab 50" list, 20 of them have chosen to join the Irish program, putting Notre Dame in a 15th-place tie on the list of most all-time "Fab 50" players. In the six years that *Volleyball* has ranked incoming recruiting classes, the Irish have been mentioned four times, including coming in at fifth in 2002 (the '05 team's senior class) and ninth in '00.

Since the NCAA began keeping official national statistics in 1994, Brown's Irish teams have 18 times been mentioned in the final listings and individuals have appeared 16 times. Among the 20 combined top-15 finishes were Notre Dame's first two national statistical crowns,

which both came in 2003. The Irish led Division I with a team blocking average of 3.72 (second-best Cornell averaged just 3.52), while Brewster was tops in individual blocking with a 1.78 mark.

The Irish record books have been rewritten almost constantly since Brown stepped on campus, as all-time best marks in over 110 team and individual categories have been eclipsed. A testament to her recruiting and coaching prowess is the fact that nearly all of the top players in the Notre Dame career record book have played for Brown. That group includes 13 of the 16 players to have registered 1,000 career kills, all six who notched both 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs, the top six competitors on the career hitting-percentage list, five of the top six on both the assists and service aces lists, and each of the top 10 student-athletes in career digs.

Perhaps the top player in Irish volleyball history, Christy Peters, played at Notre Dame during Brown's first four seasons, being tabbed a third-team All-American in both 1993 and '94. She still stands as the program's career leader in both kills (1,683) and digs (1,640).

Among the other standouts coached by Brown were Jessica Fiebelkorn (1992), two-time BIG EAST Player-of-the-Year Jaimie Lee (1997), and Denise Boylan (2000), who all earned honorable mention All-America status. Lee and Boylan were invited to train with the United States national

The Debbie Brown File

<u>Year</u>	<u>Assistant Coach</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Conf. Final AVCA</u>		<u>Postseason</u>	<u>Honors</u>
					<u>Finish</u>	<u>Ranking</u>		
1980	Arizona State	24	17	.585	WCAA	—		
1981	Arizona State	13	16	.448	5th/WCAA	15	NCAA Championship (0-1)	
1982	Central Arizona							

<u>Year</u>	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Conf. Final AVCA</u>		<u>Postseason</u>	<u>Honors</u>
					<u>Finish</u>	<u>Ranking</u>		
1983	Arizona State	17	17	.500	6th/Pac-10	18	NCAA Championship rd. of 28 (0-1)	
1984	Arizona State	15	18	.454	7th/Pac-10	—		
1985	Arizona State	22	13	.629	4th/Pac-10	13	NCAA Championship rd. of 28 (0-1)	
1986	Arizona State	27	7	.794	3rd/Pac-10	12	NCAA Championship rd. of 16 (1-1)	Pac-10 Coach of the Year
1987	Arizona State	16	15	.516	6th/Pac-10	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (0-1)	
1988	Arizona State	20	13	.606	6th/Pac-10	14	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (0-1)	

6-Year ASU Totals				117	83	.585	5 NCAA Championship Appearances		
1991	Notre Dame	26	10	.722	1st/MCC	—	NIVC runner-up (4-2)	MCC Coach of the Year	
1992	Notre Dame	30	8	.789	1st/MCC	22	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (0-1)	AVCA Mid-east Reg. Coach of the Year	
1993	Notre Dame	27	8	.771	1st/MCC	17	NCAA Championship quarterfinals (2-1)	MCC Coach of the Year	
1994	Notre Dame	33	4	.892	1st/MCC	12	NCAA Championship rd. of 16 (1-1)	AVCA Mid-east Reg. Coach of the Year	
1995	Notre Dame	27	7	.794	1st/BIG EAST	14	NCAA Championship rd. of 16 (1-1)	MCC Coach of the Year	
1996	Notre Dame	22	12	.647	1st/BIG EAST	25	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (1-1)	BIG EAST Co-Coach of the Year	
1997	Notre Dame	25	9	.735	1st/BIG EAST	18	NCAA Championship rd. of 16 (2-1)	District 1 Coach of the Year	
1998	Notre Dame	18	13	.581	3rd/BIG EAST	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (1-1)		
1999	Notre Dame	20	9	.690	1st/BIG EAST	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 64 (0-1)		
2000	Notre Dame	26	7	.788	1st/BIG EAST	21	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (1-1)	BIG EAST Coach of the Year	
2001	Notre Dame	22	7	.759	1st/BIG EAST	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 64 (0-1)	BIG EAST Coach of the Year	
2002	Notre Dame	24	8	.750	1st/BIG EAST	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (1-1)		
2003	Notre Dame	23	7	.767	T-1st/BIG EAST	24	NCAA Championship rd. of 64 (0-1)	BIG EAST Co-Coach of the Year	
2004	Notre Dame	21	9	.705	1st/BIG EAST	—	NCAA Championship rd. of 32 (1-1)		

14-Year ND Totals	344	118	.745	13 Titles	13 Titles	13 Consecutive NCAA Appearances
Career 20-Year Totals	461	201	.696	13 Titles	18 NCAA Appearances	



program during the summer of 1998, while the former earned a spot on the 1997 World University Games team. Kristy Kreher (1998-2001) also was one of just 20 players named to the USA Junior National Team in 2000. Seven of Brown's former Irish players have gone on to play professionally. Lee and Angie (Harris) Akers are currently

The Brown Connection

Since joining the USA national program in 1978, Debbie Brown has been associated with several teammates, players and assistant coaches who remain active in college volleyball, including:

Marcie Bomhack

(Notre Dame player, 1998-2001)
Head coach: Loyola Chicago (2005-)

Laurie (Flachmeier) Corbelli

(USA national teammate)
Head coach: San Francisco (1986-89)
Head coach: Santa Clara (1990-92)
Head coach: Texas A&M (1993-)

Rita Buck-Crockett

(USA national teammate)
Head coach: Iowa (1998-2003)
Associate head coach: Florida State (2004-)

Diane (McCormick) French

(USA national teammate)
Technical coordinator: U.S. national team (2005-)

Debbie Green-Vargas

(USA national teammate)
Assistant coach: Long Beach State (1987-)

Steve Hendricks

(Notre Dame assistant, 1994-2001)
Assistant coach: San Francisco (2005-)

Tammy (Webb) Liebl

(Arizona State player, 1988-96)
Assistant coach: Univ. of San Diego (1999-)

Jim McLaughlin

(Notre Dame assistant, 1996)
Head men's coach: USC (1990-95)
Head coach: Kansas State (1997-2000)
Head coach: Washington (2001-)

Devin Scruggs

(Notre Dame assistant, 1993)
Head coach: Nevada (1997-)

Regina (Stahl) Mannix

(Arizona State player, 1984-87)
Head coach: Scottsdale C.C. (1994-)

Lisa Stuck

(Arizona State player, 1983)
Head coach: Mesa C.C. (1991-96)
Head coach: Glendale C.C. (1999-)

Sue Woodstra

(USA national teammate)
Head coach: Pittsburgh (1989-92)
Head coach: California (1996-98)
Head coach: Humboldt State (2001-)



The Brown family (from left): Ryan, Dennis, Connor, and Debbie.

active in the Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP), while 2004 graduate Jessica and Kristen Kinder also played briefly on the beach. Akers was the 2002 AVP Rookie of the Year, while Lee earned the same honor a year later. Also, three former Notre Dame competitors were active in the United States Professional Volleyball league in 2002; Boylan and Kreher were members of the Minnesota Chill and Molly Stark played for the St. Louis Quest.

Four of her former Irish assistants have gone on to be head coaches: Devin Scruggs (Nevada), Steve Schlick (Cal Poly), Sue Woodstra (Pittsburgh, California, Humboldt State), and '05 AVCA National Coach of the Year Jim McLaughlin (Washington).

Brown also coached several premier players at Arizona State, including three-time Olympian Tammy (Webb) Liebl (1988-96) and All-Americans Christy Nore and Regina Stahl.

The Sun Devils were ranked among the top programs in the nation for six seasons, and in 1986, Brown led the Sun Devils to a 27-7 record and was named Pacific-10 Conference Coach of the Year. She compiled a 117-83 record en route to five NCAA-tournament berths while at Arizona State and - after being a consultant since 1986 - took a leave of absence in 1988 to serve as an assistant coach for the United States national team before accepting a full-time national team position in 1989.

Brown's duties centered on helping improve the national team's defense, and her efforts played a role in the U.S. bronze-medal finish at the 1990 World Championship in China. She also coached teams in the 1985 and '91 Olympic Festivals.

Since picking up the sport late in her high-school days, Brown has become one of the most respected and accomplished individuals in all of volleyball. She grew up in the Los Angeles suburb of El Segundo to become one of the nation's top players. She competed as a 17-year-old for the United States at the '74 World Championship in Mexico City

and a year later played on the adidas team that won the USVBA title.

After graduating from El Segundo High School, she captained the University of Southern California to a 72-1 two-year record and national titles in both 1976 and 1977, including a 38-0 run in '77 that until 1998 was the only unbeaten season in Division I women's volleyball history. That squad is still considered one of the all-time greats at any level of volleyball. Brown (then Debbie Landreth) twice was named a collegiate All-American and received the Mikasa Award as the "nation's best all-around player" in both 1976 and '77.

The 5-8 outside hitter left USC prior to her junior year, accepting an invitation to train full-time with the U.S. national team. She co-captained the U.S. to fifth place at the '78 World Championships. A year later, she and her teammates - including such all-time greats as Debbie Green, Flo Hymen, Sue Woodstra and Rita Crockett - qualified for the Olympics in Moscow and were considered serious medal contenders before the U.S. elected to boycott the games. Four of Brown's former USA teammates went on to become college head coaches while Debbie Green-Vargas is in her 19th season as an assistant at Long Beach State, and Diane (McCormick) French is the technical director for the U.S. national team.

After serving as co-captain of the '80 Olympic team, Brown completed her degree in physical education at Arizona State in 1982. She began her coaching career as an assistant under Dale Flickinger at ASU while she was still an undergraduate, filling that role from 1980-82 before serving in the same capacity at Central Arizona College during the '82 season. She returned to Arizona State as head coach in 1983.

As a result of all her time with the national team, Brown has played and coached in 22 countries. In honor of her work, Brown was selected as an Olympic Torchbearer for the 2002 Winter Olympic Torch Relay when it traveled through the Northern Indiana area (see story on page 37).

In May of 1995, USA Volleyball named Brown an "All-Time Great Volleyball Player," the highest honor given by the organization. Brown and fellow honoree Karch Kiraly, a three-time Olympic gold medalist and beach legend, were recognized at the U.S. Open Championships, in Springfield, Mass., and have had their photos and records added to the Volleyball Hall of Fame in Holyoke, Mass. Established in 1954, the "All-Time Great" designation honors players with Olympic or national teams, All-America honors, U.S. Open Championships, and

Consecutive NCAA Tournament Appearances

Stanford	24
Penn State	24
UC Santa Barbara	24
Pacific	24
Nebraska	23
Long Beach State	18
USC	14
Florida	14
NOTRE DAME	13





and was a member of its All-America selection committee.

In 2003, Brown was recognized for her outstanding career by the NCAA with the Silver Anniversary Award, which annually recognizes six distinguished student-athletes for accomplishments since concluding their collegiate playing days 25 years ago.

Brown played for the 1975, '85 and '86 USVBA national-championship teams. In 1992, she joined several of her former Olympic squad teammates to capture the USVBA senior division national title in Reno, Nev.

overall dominance during an era. Among the 51 previous winners were Hyman, Woodstra, Green, Crockett, and Laurel Brassey, all former teammates of Brown.

Brown earned USVBA All-America honors eight times and won the USVBA's Kilgore Sportsmanship Award in 1983. A six-time USVBA first-team All-American, Brown was a member of the USVBA Board of Directors and the U.S. Olympic Committee's Athletes Advisory Council. She served a two-year term (1995-96) as president of the American Volleyball Coaches Association

As a recognition of Brown's effort and success, Notre Dame's Monogram Club bestowed upon her an honorary monogram at the annual Monogram Club banquet in 1999.

Brown has been actively involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Young Life, serving as a motivational speaker and coach at national banquets and camps. She also has volunteered for Rebuilding Together, a home-rehabilitation program in South Bend.

Brown and her husband of 24 years, Dennis, have two sons, Connor and Ryan.

Playing Highlights

USA Volleyball All-Time Great

Inducted in 1995

United States Olympic Team

Co-Captain

1980

World Championship Participant

1974

1978 (5th place)

Mikasa Award

(Nation's Best All-Around Player)

1976

1977

AIAW National Champion and

First Team All-American

USC, 1976 (34-1 record)

USC, 1977 (38-0 record)

USVBA All-American

1975-1977

1981-1982

1985-1988

USVBA Sportsmanship Award

1983



Debbie Brown's Olympic career reached another milestone on Jan. 4, 2002, when she participated in the Winter Olympic Torch Relay, carrying the flaming torch .02 miles in South Bend.

A co-captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team that missed out on the Moscow games due to the United States boycott, Brown also served as an assistant coach for the U.S. national team during its 1988 Olympic effort.

In frigid temperatures she stepped off the torch runners' bus just a few steps from the Joyce Center, where she has coached the Fighting Irish volleyball team for 15 seasons. She was handed the torch by local news personality Maureen McFadden and took off down Eddy Street toward downtown South Bend (where the torch was housed for 30 minutes at the Century Center before continuing on its path to Salt Lake City for the opening ceremony).

While a junior at USC in 1978, Brown accepted an invitation to train full-time with the U.S. national team. She captained the squad to a



fifth-place finish at the '78 World Championship, before earning a spot on the '80 Olympic team. In May of 1995, Brown was named an "All-Time Great Volleyball Player" by USA Volleyball.

Even though she missed out on competition during the 1980 boycott, Brown still remembers her national-team experience fondly: "Nothing is going to make up for the disappointment of 1980. I am happy, though, that I occasionally can still be

connected to the Games. I never ever felt like I wasted four years of my life. That was a special time."

Brown was chosen as a torchbearer due to her embodiment of the inspirational spirit of the Olympics, shown by serving and motivating the community.



Assistant

Coach

A former head coach and 16-year veteran of the college game, Robin Davis is in his fifth season as an assistant coach at the University of Notre Dame. In addition to assisting in all aspects of the Irish program, he works closely with Notre Dame's middle and outside blockers and has been instrumental in building the Irish into one of the top blocking teams in the country.

Notre Dame, which has compiled a 90-31 (.744) record during the span, has led the BIG EAST and finished among the top five in the NCAA Division I blocking leaders in each of the seasons since Davis' arrival, after the program had never previously cracked the national top 10. The 2003 squad led the nation in blocking (3.72 per game) and broke the school record for the second year in a row (after the previous mark had stood since 1988). Additionally, then-sophomore Lauren Brewster was tops in Division I in individual blocking (1.78) in '03 after finishing fourth as a rookie. Those marked the first two NCAA statistical crowns in Notre Dame history.

Davis has been instrumental in the development of Brewster, as well as two of her classmates, Lauren Kelbley and Carolyn Cooper. (He also was instrumental in recruiting the team's current seniors, which were ranked as the fifth-best class in the country by *Volleyball* magazine upon arriving.) In 2004, Brewster became the first Notre Dame player ever to be named an AVCA All-American and has been a first-team all-BIG EAST pick in both of the last two seasons. The '04 BIG EAST tournament MVP, Brewster ranks



Robin Davis

Assistant Coach

Fifth Season

Northern Arizona '79



players led the league in individual blocking in every campaign, while four players ranked among the BIG EAST's top eight blockers in 2003.

Other highlights for the Irish in the Davis era have included four regular-season BIG EAST titles and a trio of league-tournament championships, as well as four NCAA-tournament berths. All four squads were ranked in the AVCA national top 25, with the '03 team climbing to 12th, the highest ranking for Notre Dame since 1996. That group also put together a 14-match winning streak en route to opening the season with a 21-2 record.

"Robin has done an incredible job in the areas of training and blocking. He gets the credit for us being one of the top blocking teams in the country and for Lauren Brewster's development. He also provides great feedback to me regarding our team; he is very perceptive and knows what they need from us as a coaching staff. He brings a tremendous amount of experience and wisdom and decision-making. The experiences he had as a head coach have been really helpful to our staff."

- Head Coach Debbie Brown

among the top three in the Irish career record book in five categories, including hitting percentage (2nd, .316) and block average (2nd, 1.66). She also is on pace to break the school record for career blocks, and her seven career BIG EAST statistical titles (blocking in overall and league play all three seasons, plus conference hitting percentage in 2003) are the most-ever for an Irish student-athlete. Kelbley, who was a middle blocker during the first half of her career before moving to outside hitter, has been tabbed honorable-mention All-America in each of the last two seasons after being the rookie of the year for both the BIG EAST Conference and the AVCA's Northeast Region in 2002. Kelbley is one of just two Division I players to have been an all-region selection in each of the last three campaigns, and she is the only ND player to rank among the top five all-time in career kill average (5th, 3.27) and hitting percentage (5th, .293). She also ranks

eighth in block average (1.04). Cooper worked her way into a starting role in 2004 and has seen the Irish go 17-2 in her starts, while she averages 1.38 blocks per game in those matches.

In his four years, Davis has helped Brewster, Kelbley, and 2001 graduate Malinda Goralski account for three of the top eight individual seasons by Irish players in hitting percentage and four of the top nine in blocking. Brewster set a Notre Dame freshman record for both blocks (175) and block average (1.68) in '02, while her 161 block assists were the most-ever for an Irish player in a season.

In Davis' first season, Goralski led the BIG EAST Conference in blocking (1.66) and finished sixth in Division I, while the team's average of 3.42 was good for fifth nationally and the top mark by a Notre Dame squad since 1988. The average was 0.49 higher than Notre Dame's mark in 2000. Goralski, the BIG EAST Player of the Year, also was second in the conference with a .379 hitting percentage that was the second-highest by an Irish player in school history.

In 2002, the Irish broke the 14-year-old school record with a block average of 3.66 that was bettered by only one Division I team, Nebraska. That season also saw Brewster, Kelbley, Emily Loomis, and Katie Neff each finish with 100+ blocks on the season, a feat they would duplicate in '03 after it had never been done before in Irish history.

In the 121 matches over the last four seasons, Notre Dame has been outblocked by its opponent on just 18 occasions and is averaging 3.54 blocks per game. The Irish have led the BIG EAST in both overall blocking and blocks in conference matches each season. Additionally, Notre Dame

players led the league in individual blocking in every campaign, while four players ranked among the BIG EAST's top eight blockers in 2003.

Other highlights for the Irish in the Davis era have included four regular-season BIG EAST titles and a trio of league-tournament championships, as well as four NCAA-tournament berths. All four squads were ranked in the AVCA national top 25, with the '03 team climbing to 12th, the highest ranking for Notre Dame since 1996. That group also put together a 14-match winning streak en route to opening the season with a 21-2 record.

Before moving east to join the Irish staff, Davis was an assistant coach at his alma mater, Northern Arizona, after enjoying 10 highly-successful years as head coach at Biola (Calif.) University. Davis spent two seasons at Northern Arizona, helping it qualify for the NCAA tournament in 1999 for the first time in school history. NAU also captured a share of the Big Sky Conference title in 2000, another program first. Davis served as NAU's recruiting coordinator and was heavily involved in on-court coaching, focusing on the middle blockers and helping with advance scouting, as well.

Davis led Biola to the NAIA national semifinals twice, including a loss in the title match in 1997. His Biola squads posted 20 wins six times, advanced to the regional semifinals seven times, and captured two league titles. In '97, Biola earned the national sportsmanship award. Davis left Biola as the winningest coach in the history of the school, accruing 221 wins and a .734 winning percentage.

A 1979 graduate of Northern Arizona with a degree in physical education, Davis also served as athletics director and assistant principal at Brethren Christian High School in Cypress, Calif., spending nine years coaching volleyball, basketball, and baseball. As a player, Davis was a member of the NAU men's volleyball club team while in college and spent time on the USVBA indoor tour (1979-85), the beach volleyball circuit (1982-87), and the AVP tour (1986-87). When he left California six years ago, Davis held a AAA rating as an open beach player.





Louella Lovely

Assistant Coach

Third Season

Cal Poly '97

The 1996 season found Lovely at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, where she was team captain under former Notre Dame assistant coach Steve Schlick. She excelled both on and off the court for the Mustangs, being named the Big West Conference Scholar Athlete of the Year in 1998 and copping the Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sport Scholar Awards in both 1997 and '98. She capped her stellar academic career with an NCAA Ethnic Minority Postgraduate Scholarship in 1999.

"Louella has done a great job with our setters. She also has been invaluable in providing feedback to me in terms of practices and what we need to do to get the most out of everyone. Plus, she has been effective at team building, getting everyone into a good frame of mind, and seems to have a very good understanding of our players. She has been a real asset to our coaching efforts."

- Head Coach Debbie Brown



of the campaign before switching to a 5-1. Notre Dame's .288 hitting percentage in conference matches was by far the best in the BIG EAST (Miami was next at .245), while its 16.26 kills and 14.79 assists per game were second to the Hurricanes. The Irish finished 47th in Division I in overall team hitting percentage (.251), while Kinder was a first-team all-BIG EAST selection and the first Notre Dame setter ever named honorable mention All-America by the AVCA.

Her second season provided a new challenge, as Lovely was the mentor to rookie Ashley Tarutis, who handled the majority of the setting duties, with Burrell also contributing. Notre Dame again was tops in hitting in conference action (.254) and hit over .300 in six matches despite having setters that entered the season with just two career starts between them. Tarutis nearly made history in her first career start, as the Irish came just shy of their biggest victory (in terms of national rankings) in program history, falling in five games against #2 Nebraska.

Over her two seasons, Lovely has helped Notre Dame average

15.41 kills and 13.93 assists per game, to go with a .239 attack percentage.

During the summer of 2005, Lovely was one of three coaches at the U.S. Junior A2 Team camp, which was developed to expand top-level coaching to players who are not on one of the U.S. national teams, but have the potential to earn spots in the future. The program ran for a week at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and included some of the top American players born since 1986.

A 1997 graduate of Cal Poly, Lovely began her playing career at the Air Force Academy in 1993 before moving to California-Berkeley in 1995. She garnered AVCA all-region honors in 1993 and '94 as a setter for the Falcons, also earning AVCA All-America accolades in '94.

A former All-America setter, Louella Lovely is in her third year as an assistant coach for the Notre Dame volleyball team. Her duties include assisting in all aspects of the program with an emphasis on coaching the Irish setters.

Over the past two seasons, Lovely has helped the Irish compile a 44-16 (.733) record, winning a pair of BIG EAST regular-season titles and one league-tournament crown and appearing in the NCAA tournament twice.

After joining the staff in the spring of 2003, Lovely helped the Irish to one of their most successful seasons in recent years, as Notre Dame used a 14-match winning streak to open 21-2 and rocket to 12th in the national rankings. Among the keys to the '03 success were Irish setters Kristen Kinder and Kelly Burrell, who ran a 6-2 offense for the first part

Lovely utilized that scholarship at California, where she earned a master's degree in Language and Literacy, Society and Culture: Athletes and Academic Achievement.

Born April 25, 1974, in Kingsport, Tenn., Lovely also worked as an assistant coach at California in 1998 before moving to Deutsche Bank Securities in 1999. She also coached 18-and-under players for the Golden Bear Volleyball Club from '99 until she accepted the position at Notre Dame.

Megan McGuire
Student Manager

Megan McGuire is in her second year as a student manager for the Notre Dame volleyball team. A graduate of Maine South High School in Park Ridge, Ill., McGuire is responsible for making travel arrangements and handling finances and equipment distribution for the team.

This marks McGuire's second stint as a volleyball manager, as she filled the position for four years for the Maine South girls' team, which featured current Irish sophomore Adrianna Stasiuk. Since enrolling at Notre Dame, she has been active in the Kiwanis-sponsored service organization Circle K and has been involved with dorm, Lewis Hall.

Born Nov. 30, 1984, McGuire is a junior enrolled in the College of Arts & Letters as a political science major. She is the daughter of Patricia ('73) and Michael ('74) McGuire, who are both graduates of Notre Dame.





**Lindsay Peterson
Student Manager
Notre Dame '06**

Lindsay Peterson is in her second year as a student manager after being a walk-on defensive specialist for the Irish during the first half of her collegiate career. A graduate of Mount Carroll High School in Mount Carroll, Ill., Peterson is responsible for setting up video equipment and recording statistics with the digital video system during matches for the third consecutive year after first taking over the role in addition to her playing duties in 2003.



As a two-year member of the Irish, Peterson saw action in four matches and five games, recording a kill and a dig and earning a monogram in 2003. She also was named a BIG EAST Academic All-Star as a sophomore. Prior to Notre Dame, Peterson played for the Illinois Juniors Volleyball Club and was a three-sport (volleyball, basketball, and track and field) standout for Mount Carroll.

Born Oct. 8, 1983, Peterson is enrolled in the College of Arts and Letters as a pre-professional studies/English major. She is the daughter of Ann and Dan Peterson.

**Chantal Porter
Associate Athletic Trainer
Iowa State '94**

Chantal Porter is in her 10th year with the Irish athletic training staff, serving as an associate athletic trainer, and her ninth working with volleyball.

Porter oversees the Irish women's Olympic sports, as well as the administration of the Joyce Center training room. She also is responsible for the Irish softball and women's tennis teams and has worked with the men's tennis and men's swimming and diving teams at Notre Dame.



A 1994 graduate of Iowa State University, she received a bachelor's degree in health and human performance. Porter was responsible for football, wrestling, and women's gymnastics while at ISU.

Following graduation, Porter enrolled at Old Dominion, earning a master's of science in education in 1996. At ODU, Porter served as a graduate assistant athletic trainer, working primarily with the women's lacrosse, women's basketball, and baseball teams. She also worked for the United States Tennis Association, traveling on its satellite tours.

A native of Altoona, Iowa, Porter was born on March 19, 1971.

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

Missy Conboy is in her 11th year as the Irish volleyball team's sport administrator and her second as a deputy director of athletics at Notre Dame following one year as a senior associate athletics director, 11 as an associate athletic director, and five years as an assistant athletic director. Conboy oversees the business and legal affairs of the athletic department and has responsibility for business operations, human resources, transportation, equipment operations, student managers, event management and legal contracts, and serves as a liaison to the Faculty Board on Athletics. Conboy also serves as sport administrator for five teams.

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.



**Mike Joseph
Strength & Conditioning Coach
Fairmont State '99**

Mike Joseph is in his third season as the strength and conditioning coach for the Irish volleyball team. He is involved with all facets of Notre Dame's strength and conditioning program and also works with the baseball and track and field teams.

Prior to his arrival at Notre Dame, the Fairmont, W. Va., native served for two years as an assistant strength and conditioning coach and nutritional consultant at Eastern Michigan University, including working with the Broncos volleyball team, after being a graduate assistant at West Virginia.

Joseph earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in biology in 1999 from Fairmont State College, where he was a standout football player. He also received a master's degree in athletic coaching with an emphasis in sport movement and development from West Virginia in 2001. He owns his Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) and Strength and Conditioning Coach (SCCC) certifications.



**Mary Ann Spence
Assistant Director of
Academic Services
Indiana '58**

Mary Ann Spence is in her 15th year in Notre Dame's Academic Services Office and sixth serving as the academic counselor for the Irish volleyball team. Spence began her career at Notre Dame teaching first-year composition and still occasionally



returns to the classroom to teach.

The Office of Academic Services for Student Athletes has been in place for over three decades. The role of the office is to monitor the progress of Notre Dame student-athletes and provide them with academic support, beginning with the recruiting stage and extending through graduation. In addition to volleyball, Spence works closely with men's and women's soccer, men's track and field, and the fifth-year football players.

Spence graduated from Indiana University in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in business. She returned to school at Indiana University-South Bend to earn her master's degree in education in 1988.

**Bo Rottenborn
Assistant Sports
Information Director
Notre Dame '03**

Bo Rottenborn is in his seventh year in the Notre Dame sports information office and third working with the Irish volleyball team. He is in his second year as an assistant sports information director after serving previously as the sports information assistant for one year following four years as a student assistant. He serves as the primary contact for three sports (also men's and women's tennis), as well as an archivist/publicist for the Notre Dame Monogram Club.

Rottenborn has seen all 11 of the media guides he has written and edited over the past two years judged to be among the top six in the nation in their respective sports, including three first-place finishes.

A native of Salem, Ohio, Rottenborn graduated *summa cum laude* from Notre Dame in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in history and political science. A board member for the South Bend Kiwanis Club, he was formerly the president of Notre Dame's Circle K, a Kiwanis-sponsored service organization.

Born July 6, 1980, Rottenborn was a National Merit Scholar at Salem High School, where he earned six varsity letters and graduated as a valedictorian in 1999.

