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Credits

The 2004-05 Notre Dame women's basketball media guide was written and edited by assistant sports information director Chris Masters, with editorial assistance provided by Nicole Rapagnani and Cory Walton. Special thanks to Bernadette Cafarelli, Eric Wachter, Rachel Margolis and all opponent SIDs for their contributions to this guide.

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GAME DAY

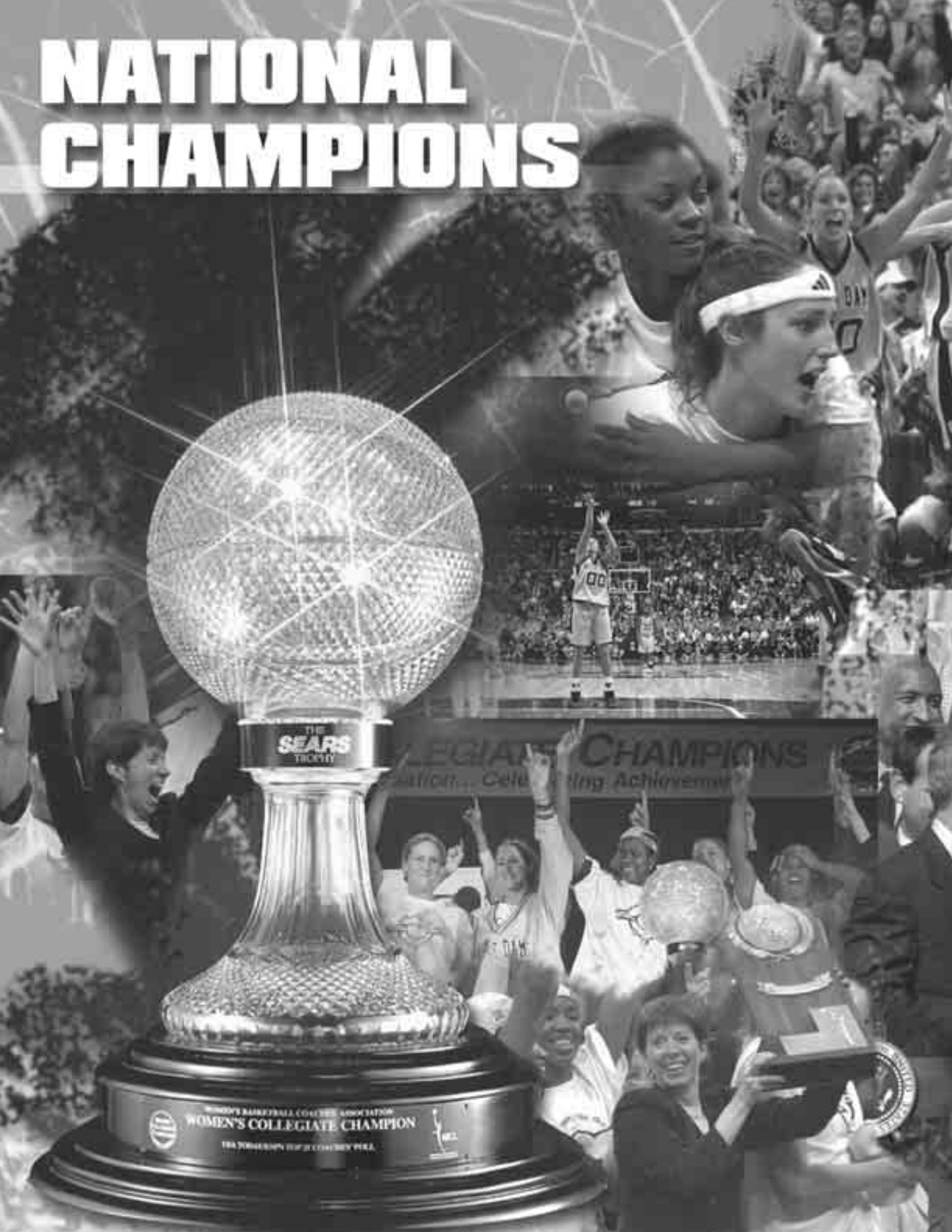
Extrem
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over @
Notre Dame





- The Joyce Center begins its 28th season of hosting exciting Irish women's basketball action in 2004-05.
- The Irish have compiled a 263-70 (.790) record since they began playing at the Joyce Center in 1977.
- Notre Dame had a school-record 51-game home winning streak from 1998-2002, and will take a 20-game Joyce Center winning streak into the 2004-05 season.
- Muffet McGraw has posted a 186-36 (.838) record at the Joyce Center.
- Notre Dame has had 26 winning seasons in 27 years at the Joyce Center.
- Notre Dame enters the 2004-05 campaign with an active streak of 51 consecutive home games with at least 5,000 fans or more in attendance.
- The Irish have ranked in the top 15 in the nation in attendance in each of the past four seasons, including a No. 7 ranking and a school-record 7,825 fans per game in 2001-02.
- Each of the 20 largest women's basketball crowds in school history have come during the Muffet McGraw era, with 19 of those games occurring in the past five seasons.
- Notre Dame has had 11 home games with at least 8,000 fans in attendance, highlighted by the first two sellout crowds (11,418) in school history in 2001.
- Every Irish game, home and away, is broadcast live on two commercial radio stations in South Bend (ESPN Radio 1580 AM and WNDV 1490 AM), with the broadcasts also available worldwide on Notre Dame's official athletics web site (www.und.com).
- Notre Dame appeared on television 12 times in 2003-04, including six nationally-televised games. The Irish are scheduled to play in at least six televised games during the 2004-05 regular season, including two each on ESPN2 and CSTV. For the third consecutive year, every game in the NCAA Tournament also will be broadcast live on either ESPN or ESPN2.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



THE
SEARS
TROPHY

COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS
Celebrating Achievement

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COLEGIATE ASSOCIATION
WOMEN'S COLLEGIATE CHAMPION
194 FOUNDATION OF THE DECEMBER YEAR



- Notre Dame won its first NCAA women's basketball title in 2001, defeating Purdue, 68-66, in St. Louis, Mo., on two free throws by Ruth Riley with 5.8 seconds remaining.
- Since joining the BIG EAST Conference in 1995-96, Notre Dame has appeared in the final ESPN/USA Today coaches poll eight times, including top 10 finishes in 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2001.
- The Irish have helped continue an unprecedented string of five consecutive national championships won by BIG EAST Conference schools.
- Notre Dame has won 23 national championship in team sports - 11 in football, six in fencing, two in men's tennis and one each in women's basketball, women's soccer, men's golf and men's cross country.

NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

1997 NCAA DIVISION I
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP
SEMIFINALIST



NCAA
FINAL FOUR

1997

WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL



NCAA
SWEET 16

1997 1998 2001 2003

WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL





- Notre Dame has made 11 NCAA Tournament appearances, qualifying for "The Big Dance" each of the past nine seasons.
- The Irish have advanced to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen on six occasions, all in the past eight years. Only four other schools in the country can make that claim.
- Notre Dame reached the NCAA Final Four for the first time in school history in 1997, defeating George Washington, 62-52 in the East Regional championship game to advance to college basketball's biggest stage.
- The Irish have posted 11 consecutive 20-win seasons, a streak only five other schools in the country can match.



SHAPING THE TOTAL PERSON





- Notre Dame placed 22nd on the 2003-04 WBCA Academic Top 25 Honor Roll with a 3.277 cumulative team grade-point average last year. The Irish were the only team on the list that also advanced to the 2004 NCAA Sweet Sixteen.
- Notre Dame placed nine of 12 players on the 2003-04 BIG EAST Conference Academic All-Star Team, including current players Jacqueline Batteast, Teresa Borton, Megan Duffy and Susie Powers.
- The Irish women's basketball team posted a 3.343 combined team GPA in the spring 2004 semester, the highest mark in the program's 28-year history. It marks the sixth consecutive semester, and seventh time in the past eight semesters, that the Irish have had a team GPA of 3.1 or better.
- Notre Dame offers a unique First Year of Studies program to freshmen, allowing them to take a variety of courses at the University and determine which course of study will best suit their needs for the future.
- In 2000, Notre Dame's Student Development Program was one of just four schools selected as having the top student development programs in the nation by the NCAA Division I-A Athletic Directors Association.
- The Irish women's basketball team has access to more than 12,000 square feet of strength training facilities, utilizing state-of-the-art Hammer Strength plate-loaded machines and the latest in speed, flexibility and agility training. Notre Dame also has a full-time sports nutritionist on staff to aid in nutrition education and have Irish student-athletes performing consistently at a high level.
- The health and well-being of Notre Dame's women's basketball team is a top priority. Notre Dame's athletic training staff has more than 150 years of combined experience and uses two facilities with the most modern medical technology and equipment in the nation. In addition to three regular University physicians, area orthopaedists are available to oversee specific orthopaedic needs for all Irish student-athletes.

Notre Dame Quick Facts

Location..... Notre Dame, Indiana
 Founded..... 1842
 Conference..... BIG EAST
 Enrollment..... 8,311
 Arena..... Joyce Center (11,418) - opened 1968
 Colors..... Gold and Blue
 Nickname..... Fighting Irish
 School Fight Song..... Notre Dame Victory March
 President..... Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C.
 Provost..... Nathan O. Hatch
 Executive Vice President..... John Affleck-Graves
 President-Elect..... Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
 NCAA Faculty Representative..... Fernand N. "Tex" Dutile

Athletic Department

phone: (574) 631-6107

fax: (574) 631-8231

113 Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Athletic Director Kevin White (St. Joseph's College '72)
 Deputy AD/Legal Affairs Missy Conboy (Notre Dame '82)
 Deputy AD/Administration..... Bernard Muir (Brown '90)
 Sr. Assoc. AD/Media Relations..... John Heisler (Missouri '77)
 Sr. Assoc. AD/External Affairs..... Bill Scholl (Notre Dame '79)
 Asst. AD/Monogram Club..... Jim Fraleigh (Notre Dame '88)
 Asst. AD/Joyce Center..... Brian Boulac (Notre Dame '63)
 Asst. AD/Stud. Development ..Jannifer Crittendon (Indiana '89)
 Asst. AD/Facilities..... Mike Danch (Notre Dame '67)
 Asst. AD/Compliance..... Mike Karwoski (Cent. Conn. St. '90)
 Asst. AD/Rules Education..... Liz Muir (North Carolina '91)
 Asst. AD/Business Operations..... Tom Nevala (Notre Dame '90)
 Asst. AD/Employee Services..... Jody Sadler (Notre Dame '93)
 Asst. AD/Game Management..... Tony Yelovich (Tampa '64)
 Student Development Coord. .. Eric Guerra (New Mexico St. '97)
 Systems Manager..... Shirley Hums (Indiana '73)
 Dir. of Community Relations .. Maureen McNamara (Illinois '84)

Women's Basketball Staff

phone: (574) 631-5420

113 Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Head Coach

Muffet McGraw (Saint Joseph's (Pa.) '77)
 Record at Notre Dame: 384-149 (.720) - 18th season
 Overall Record: 472-190 (.713) - 23rd season

Associate Coach

Carol Owens (Northern Illinois '90).....10th season

Assistant Coaches

Coquese Washington (Notre Dame '92).....Sixth season
 Jonathan Tsipis (North Carolina '96).....Second season

Coordinator of Basketball Operations

Heather Maxwell (Indianapolis '99).....Fourth season

Administrative Assistant..... Jeri Lucas
 Athletic Trainer..... Michael Miller
 Strength & Conditioning Coach..... Tony Rolinski
 Academic Counselor..... Peter D'Alonzo
 Equipment Manager.....Kathy Speybroeck
 Student Managers..... Caitlin Early, Kathleen Tallmadge

Notre Dame Sports Information

Mailing Address Sports Information Office
 113 Joyce Center, Second Floor
 Notre Dame, IN 46556

Phone..... (574) 631-7516
 Fax..... (574) 631-7941
 Press Row..... (574) 631-5309
 Sports Information Hotline..... (574) 631-3000
 Web Site..... www.und.com

Sr. Associate AD/Media Relations..... John Heisler (Missouri '77)
 e-mail: heisler.1@nd.edu

Sports Info. Director..... Bernadette Cafarelli (Notre Dame '83)
 e-mail: cafarelli.1@nd.edu

Associate SID..... Doug Walker (Texas A&M '89)
 e-mail: walker.85@nd.edu

Assistant SID..... Tim Connor (Ohio '82)
 e-mail: connor.21@nd.edu

Assistant SID..... Pete LaFleur (Notre Dame '90)
 e-mail: lafleur.4@nd.edu

Assistant SID (WBB)..... Chris Masters (Ohio Wesleyan '96)
 e-mail: masters.5@nd.edu

Assistant SID..... Alan Wasielewski (Notre Dame '00)
 e-mail: wasielewski.3@nd.edu

Assistant SID..... Bo Rottenborn (Notre Dame '03)
 e-mail: rottenborn.2@nd.edu

Sports Information Assistant..... Sean Carroll (Indiana '02)
 e-mail: carroll.64@nd.edu

Senior Administrative Assistant.....Susan McGonigal
 Senior Staff Assistant.....Carol Copley

Important Phone Numbers

SID Office Phone..... (574) 631-7516
 SID Fax..... (574) 631-7941
 Masters' Cell Phone..... (574) 532-4166
 Women's Basketball Office..... (574) 631-5420
 Athletic Ticket Office.....(574) 631-7356
 Basketball Press Row.....(574) 631-5309

Notre Dame Ticket Information

phone: (574) 631-7356

113 Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Season Ticket Prices

Individual.....\$58
 Full-Time Faculty/Staff.....\$48
 Fan Pack (4 tickets).....\$162
 Fan Pack - Faculty/Staff (4 tickets).....\$148
NOTE: includes tickets for Preseason WNIT first & second-round games only

Individual Game Ticket Prices

Adult.....\$8
 Youth/Senior.....\$5*
 * - students college age and under (with valid ID) and senior citizens 55 and over

Ticket Office Information

The Notre Dame Athletic Ticket Office, managed by director of ticketing Josh Berlo and associate director of ticketing Maja Hansen, is located on the second floor of the Joyce Center (entrance through Gate 1). Office hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST). Visa, MasterCard and American Express credit cards are accepted. On game days, tickets may be purchased at Gate 10 of the Joyce Center.



2004-05 NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE
NOVEMBER

3	Wed.	PREMIER SPORTS (exhibition)	Joyce Center	7 p.m.
6	Sat.	HOOSIER LADY STARS (exhibition)	Joyce Center	Noon
12	Fri.	(1) ILLINOIS STATE	Joyce Center	9 p.m.
14	Sun.	(1) Preseason WNIT - Second Round	Campus sites TBA	TBA
17	Wed.	(1) Preseason WNIT - Semifinal	Campus sites TBA	TBA
20	Sat.	(1) Preseason WNIT - Championship	Campus sites TBA	TBA
22	Mon.	COLORADO STATE	Joyce Center	7 p.m.
26	Fri.	at USC	Los Angeles, Calif.	7 p.m. PT
30	Tues.	at Valparaiso	Valparaiso, Ind.	7:05 p.m. CT

DECEMBER

2	Thurs.	MICHIGAN STATE (CSTV)	Joyce Center	7 p.m.
9	Thurs.	at Dayton	Dayton, Ohio	7 p.m.
11	Sat.	WASHINGTON	Joyce Center	Noon
19	Sun.	at Marquette	Milwaukee, Wis.	4 p.m. CT
30	Thurs.	at Northern Illinois	DeKalb, Ill.	7 p.m. CT

JANUARY

2	Sun.	SETON HALL*	Joyce Center	2 p.m.
5	Wed.	SYRACUSE*	Joyce Center	7 p.m.
9	Sun.	at Villanova* (BETV)	Villanova, Pa.	2 p.m.
12	Wed.	CONNECTICUT* (CSTV)	Joyce Center	8 p.m.
16	Sun.	(2) PURDUE (ESPN2)	Joyce Center	5 p.m.
19	Wed.	at Syracuse*	Syracuse, N.Y.	7 p.m.
23	Sun.	RUTGERS* (BETV)	Joyce Center	2 p.m.
26	Wed.	ST. JOHN'S*	Joyce Center	7 p.m.
30	Sun.	at Connecticut* (ESPN2)	Storrs, Conn.	7 p.m.

FEBRUARY

2	Wed.	BOSTON COLLEGE*	Joyce Center	7 p.m.
5	Sat.	at Pittsburgh*	Pittsburgh, Pa.	2 p.m.
9	Wed.	at Providence*	Providence, R.I.	7:30 p.m.
12	Sat.	GEORGETOWN*	Joyce Center	2 p.m.
15	Tues.	at Boston College*	Chestnut Hill, Mass.	7 p.m.
19	Sat.	at Rutgers*	Piscataway, N.J.	Noon
26	Sat.	WEST VIRGINIA*	Joyce Center	2 p.m.

MARCH

1	Tues.	at Seton Hall*	South Orange, N.J.	7 p.m.
5	Sat.	(3) BIG EAST First Round	Hartford, Conn.	TBA
6	Sun.	(3) BIG EAST Quarterfinals	Hartford, Conn.	TBA
7	Mon.	(3) BIG EAST Semifinals	Hartford, Conn.	6 & 8 p.m.
8	Tues.	(3) BIG EAST Championship (ESPN)	Hartford, Conn.	7 p.m.
19-22	Sat.-Tues.	NCAA First/Second Rounds (ESPN/ESPN2)	Campus sites TBA	TBA
26-29	Sat.-Tues.	NCAA Regionals (ESPN/ESPN2)		

(East - Philadelphia, Pa.; Mideast - Chattanooga, Tenn.; Midwest - Kansas City, Mo.; West - Tempe, Ariz.)

APRIL

3 & 5	Sun./Tues.	NCAA Final Four (ESPN)	Indianapolis, Ind.	
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(RCA Dome - Butler University/Horizon League, hosts)

* - indicates BIG EAST Conference game
 (1) Preseason Women's National Invitation Tournament (to be contested at campus sites)
 (2) BIG EAST/Big Ten Challenge (Notre Dame, Ind.)
 (3) BIG EAST Conference Championship (Hartford Civic Center — Hartford, Conn.)
 (ESPN/ESPN2) Games to be televised live on ESPN or ESPN2
 (CSTV) Games to be televised live on College Sports Television
 (BETV) Games to be televised as part of the BIG EAST Conference television package
 All home games listed in **BOLD CAPS** and played at Joyce Center (capacity 11,418)
 All times are local to site // Dates and times are subject to change



Covering The Irish

The Notre Dame Sports Information Office welcomes interest in the Notre Dame women's basketball program by the media and looks forward to serving members of the media during the upcoming season. We will make every effort to ensure your working experience is enjoyable. The following are some guidelines to help with your coverage of Notre Dame women's basketball:

Media Credentials: Credentials are only issued to accredited members of the working media. Admission will be granted to media members holding either a Notre Dame men's or women's basketball credential only. Spouses, children and guests are not permitted in the press row area. Work space on press row is limited and passes will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests for credentials should be faxed to Chris Masters, Assistant Sports Information Director, at (574) 631-7941, at least 24 hours prior to each game. Media passes will be left at the Joyce Center Media Will Call table, located inside Gate 1.

Photo Credentials: Photo passes will be issued by Chris Masters, Assistant Sports Information Director, to accredited members of the media and those individuals on special assignment. All requests must be made at least 24 hours prior to each game. Photographers are not allowed to shoot from in front of or behind team benches, the scorer's table or press row. Photographers wishing to use strobes must contact Chris Masters at least 72 hours prior to each game to obtain approval.

Radio Broadcasts: The radio rights to Notre Dame basketball games are owned by Notre Dame Sports Properties. Visiting radio stations planning to originate from the Joyce Center must contact Chris Masters, Assistant Sports Information Director, at least 72 hours prior to each game in order to obtain approval for the broadcast and proper credentials. One analog line and one ISDN line are available for use by visiting radio stations, with priority given to the flagship broadcast outlet. Additional broadcast lines should be ordered through University telecommunications manager Carolyn Rush at (574) 631-6014.

Telephones: A battery of telephones are available on press row for general use by visiting media. Members of the media should indicate their interest in the use of these phones upon submission of their credential requests to Chris Masters, Assistant Sports Information Director, who will handle their coordination.

Personal phones can be ordered at individual seats by contacting University telecommunications manager Carolyn Rush at (574) 631-6014. A fax machine, staffed by the Notre Dame Sports Information Office, is available for use by media members as well.

Please coordinate any particular filing needs through Chris Masters or another member of the Notre Dame Sports Information Office.

Press Row Services: Programs, media guides and flip cards will be available prior to the start of each game. Complete box scores and play-by-play sheets will be distributed to the media at halftime and at the end of the game. A bank of statistics monitors also is located on press row and will continually be updated throughout the game. Drinks and a light meal will be served approximately 90 minutes before tipoff.

Post-Game Press Conferences: Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw and players, along with the visiting head coach and players, will be available to the media following a 10-minute "cooling-off" period. Press conferences will be held in the Joyce Center auditorium, located adjacent to Gate 1 on the first floor of the arena. Media members should submit player requests for post-game interviews to Chris Masters no later than the four-minute mark of the second half.

In-Season Interview Policy: All requests for Notre Dame player or coach interviews must be made through Chris Masters, Assistant Sports Information Director, at (574) 631-8032. Please allow at least 24 hours notice. Interviews may also be done in person following practice. Since practice times vary, please contact the sports information office for an updated schedule. On game days, no interviews will be granted prior to competition.

Joyce Center: Notre Dame plays all of its home games at the Joyce Center on the University of Notre Dame campus. From the Indiana Toll Road (I-80/90), use exit 77 to South Bend. From the stoplight at the end of the off-ramp, turn right onto US 31/933, followed by an immediate left turn at the first stoplight (Douglas Road). Proceed east to the next stoplight and turn right on Juniper Road. The Joyce Center will be approximately one-half mile down Juniper Road on the left side (across from the football stadium).

All Irish Women's Basketball Games To Be Broadcast Live In South Bend

For the third consecutive year, all Notre Dame women's basketball games will be broadcast predominantly on two stations. The Irish will again be heard on WDND, South Bend's ESPN Radio (1580 AM), with most games also airing on WNDV-AM (1490).

The 2004-05 season is the fifth for Sean Stires as the play-by-play voice of Notre Dame women's basketball and baseball. A native of Salina, Kan., Stires has been behind the microphone to call the women's basketball team's 2001 national championship and 2003 and 2004 Sweet Sixteen runs, as well as the baseball team's College World Series berth in 2002 during his first four years in South Bend. In addition, he hosts the daily two-hour "Sean Stires Show" on ESPN Radio 1580 AM and serves as the co-host of the Official Notre Dame Football Coaches Radio Show, which airs each Monday evening throughout the football season.



Notre Dame Has Six Televised Games In 2004-05

The Notre Dame women's basketball team will receive significant exposure across the country this season, with at least six of its regular-season games scheduled to be televised on a national or regional basis during the 2004-05 campaign, including four of five Sundays in the month of January.

The Irish will make their first national TV appearance of the season on Dec. 2 when they play host to Michigan State at 7 p.m. (ET) in a game that will shown around the country on College Sports Television (CSTV). It's the first of two games on the fledgling network for Notre Dame, which also will welcome Connecticut to the Joyce Center Jan. 12 for a 8 p.m. (ET) game on CSTV.

Notre Dame also has a pair of games slated for broadcast nationwide on ESPN2 this season. On Jan. 16, the Irish will face Purdue in the second BIG EAST/Big Ten Challenge, with tipoff from the Joyce Center scheduled for 5 p.m. (ET). Two weeks later on Jan. 30, Notre Dame is back on "The Deuce" as it pays a visit to Storrs, Conn., for a rematch with Connecticut at 7 p.m. (ET).

The Irish could return to the ESPN airwaves again in March, as that network televises the title game in the 2005 BIG EAST Championship. That contest tips off at 7 p.m. (ET) from the Hartford (Conn.) Civic Center. In addition, ESPN and ESPN2 will broadcast all 63 games in the 2005 NCAA Tournament, continuing their unprecedented coverage of NCAA women's basketball for the third consecutive year.

Besides its nationally-televised games, Notre Dame also will make two appearances on the BIG EAST women's basketball regular-



Veteran broadcaster Beth Mowins (left) and former Boston College head coach Margo Plotzke (right) are in their third season as the primary broadcast team on the BIG EAST women's basketball television package.

season television package in 2004-05. The Irish will play on the BIG EAST TV network two weeks apart in January, traveling to Villanova on Jan. 9 and playing host to Rutgers on Jan. 23. Both games will tip off at 2 p.m. (ET) and viewers should check their local listings for the appropriate broadcast outlet.

In addition to the regular-season package, both semifinal games at the 2005 BIG EAST Championship will air live from the Hartford (Conn.) Civic Center at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. (ET) on March 7.

Additional televised Notre Dame women's basketball games may be announced at a later date. Consult the official Irish athletics web site (www.und.com) for all the latest information.

The Muffet McGraw Show

Now in its eighth season, The Muffet McGraw Show, hosted by WHME sports director Chuck Freeby, will air at 6:30 p.m. (EST) on Saturdays in the South Bend viewing area beginning in early December. Taped at LeSea Broadcasting's flagship station, WHME-TV 46 in South Bend, the show will follow the Irish all season long to the conclusion of March Madness.

Produced once again this season by Andy Greathouse, the show also will air on WHT Satellite (Galaxy 6, Transponder 15) Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. (ET). In addition, LeSea's stations in Denver, Colo.; New Orleans, La.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Tulsa, Okla.; and Honolulu, Hawaii, may air the show in their areas.

In addition, The Muffet McGraw Show will air nationally on College Sports Television (CSTV) at selected times. Consult CSTV's web site (www.cstv.com) for the latest broadcast information.

During the season, Freeby and McGraw will take a look at highlights from the previous week's competition, discuss the weekly BIG EAST Conference awards and current league standings, and preview upcoming contests. A weekly player profile on members of the 2004-05 Irish also will be included in the half-hour show.

For more information on the show, contact Chuck Freeby or Andy Greathouse at (574) 291-8200.

2004-05 Notre Dame Women's Basketball On Television

Thursday, Dec. 2	Michigan State at Notre Dame	CSTV	7 p.m. (ET)
Sunday, Jan. 9	Notre Dame at Villanova	BETV*	2 p.m. (ET)
Wednesday, Jan. 12	Connecticut at Notre Dame	CSTV	8 p.m. (ET)
Sunday, Jan. 16	Purdue at Notre Dame	ESPN2	5 p.m. (ET)
Sunday, Jan. 23	Rutgers at Notre Dame	BETV*	2 p.m. (ET)
Sunday, Jan. 30	Notre Dame at Connecticut	ESPN2	7 p.m. (ET)
Monday, March 7	BIG EAST Semifinals	BETV*	6 & 8 p.m. (ET)
Tuesday, March 8	BIG EAST Final	ESPN	7 p.m. (ET)
Saturday, March 19	NCAA Tournament begins	ESPN/ESPN2	TBA

* - BIG EAST Television package (check local listings for availability)

Broadcast times and outlets are subject to change (check www.und.com for latest information)



Media Following the Irish**Print Media****South Bend Tribune**

(Forrest Miller)
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 235-6316
Fax (574) 235-6091

Associated Press

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

Elkhart Truth

(Ben Ford)
Communicana Building
P.O. Box 487
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 674-6337
Fax (574) 294-3895

Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette

(Phil Bloom)
600 West Main
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 461-8533
Fax (260) 461-8648

Fort Wayne News-Sentinel

(Reggie Hayes)
600 West Main
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 461-8533
Fax (260) 461-8648

Irish Sports Report

(Eric Hansen)
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 235-6161
Fax (574) 239-2646

Blue & Gold Illustrated

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

Irish Eyes Magazine

(Denise Skwarcan/Alan Tieuli)
21 Merriam Way
Upton, MA 01568
(508) 529-6781
Fax (508) 519-6553

Notre Dame Observer

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USA Today/USA Today Online

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fbemily@usatoday.com
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Arlington, VA 22229
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Fax (574) 631-2916

WSBT-TV (CBS)

(Charlie Adams/Greg Carroll)
300 West Jefferson
South Bend, IN 46601
(574) 233-3141
Fax (574) 288-6630

WSJV-TV (FOX)

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59096 County Road 7 South
Elkhart, IN 46514
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Fax (574) 294-1324

WHME-TV

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

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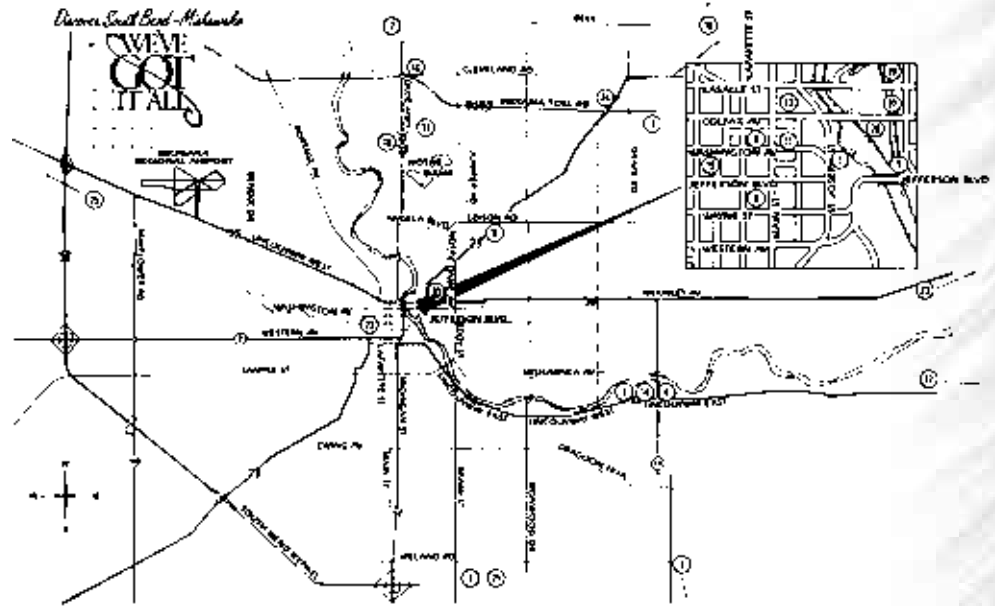
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United Limo (to/from O'Hare Airport)	574-254-5000

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Airport Limo Michiana Regional Transportation Center	574-277-1095
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Amtrak 2702 W. Washington.....	800-872-7245
South Shore Line 33E US Hwy 12 Chesterton	800-356-2079
<i>The last remaining electric-powered commuter rail line in the country, running daily between South Bend and Chicago.</i>	

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Mishawaka Cab, Inc. 14463 Day Road	574-259-5554
Roseland Cab Co.	574-277-1095



Notre Dame's Women's Basketball Record in the Joyce Center

Year	W	L
1977-78	5	1
1978-79	5	0
1979-80	5	4
1980-81	6	7
1981-82	9	4
1982-83	11	2
1983-84	9	5
1984-85	11	1
1985-86	9	4
1986-87	7	6
1987-88	9	2
1988-89	10	1
1989-90	10	3
1990-91	11	2
1991-92	7	7
1992-93	8	5
1993-94	9	5
1994-95	9	2
1995-96	11	1
1996-97	11	1
1997-98	12	1
1998-99	12	1
1999-00	15	0
2000-01	15	0
2001-02	13	1
2002-03	9	4
2003-04	15	0

263 70
(.790)

Overtime Games at the Joyce Center

• **Record: 5-2**

December 8, 1979

Michigan 66, Notre Dame 60

February 25, 1982

Nebraska 89, Notre Dame 88 (2OT)

March 6, 1983

Notre Dame 68, Dayton 64

March 9, 1983

Notre Dame 63, Indiana 61

January 9, 1992

Notre Dame 76, Dayton 70 (2OT)

December 30, 1992

Notre Dame 78, Georgetown 72

March 21, 2004

Notre Dame 69, SMS 65 (NCAA)

Notre Dame's Joyce Center, in its 37th year of service to the University, serves as a multipurpose sports complex, a theatre and concert hall, a convention center and an office building. Under one of the \$8.6-million structure's two white domes is the south arena, home to both the men's and women's basketball teams.

The building was renamed in 1987 to honor Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C., Notre Dame's executive vice president from 1952 until his retirement in 1987. Formerly known as the ACC, the structure is now referred to as the Joyce Center.

Designed by Ellerbe Architects of St. Paul, Minn., the Joyce Center was conceived at the outset as a combination athletic-civic center, and \$1.8 million alone was contributed by persons in the Michiana area. The Center's distinctive domes, covered with a white vinyl roofing material stretched over steel ribbing, rise just east of Notre Dame's football stadium. The building is both wider and longer than the famous stadium and encloses more area than Houston's Astrodome. In all, the structure covers 10 acres of ground.

The south arena's design makes it capable of doubling as a basketball court and an 11,000-seat auditorium. Including bleacher seats, the arena holds 11,418 for basketball games. In recent seasons, the facility has been home to some of the largest women's basketball crowds in the country, including the first two sellouts in school history (vs. Connecticut on Jan. 15, 2001, and vs. Georgetown on Feb. 24, 2001).

In addition, 19 of the 20 largest crowds ever to attend an Irish women's basketball game have come within the past five seasons, and all during the tenure of head coach Muffet McGraw. Notre Dame has ranked among the top 15 in the nation in average attendance over the past four seasons, finishing 12th in 2003-04 with an average of 6,650 fans per game.

Such ardent fan support has helped the Irish build a daunting homecourt advantage. Notre Dame recently compiled a 51-game home winning streak from 1998-2002, the longest in school history and (at the time) the 10th-longest in NCAA history. The Irish also will take a 20-game home winning streak in the 2004-05 season.

The north arena is the home of Irish ice hockey and is also a multipurpose sports center. Virtually every sport at Notre Dame — varsity, club or intramural — can play or practice in either the fieldhouse, the arena, the five auxiliary gymnasiums or the several work areas provided throughout the spacious building.

In 1985, the Rolfs Aquatic Center opened on the east side of the Joyce Center. The 4.5-million-dollar facility houses a 50-meter Olympic-size pool (25 yards in width) and spectator seating for 400.

In addition to these areas, the Joyce Center also contains the administrative and business side of the increasingly complex collegiate sports operation. Ticket offices are lodged inside, along with offices for coaches and athletic administrators as well as sports information and media facilities.

Top 10 Women's Basketball Crowds at the Joyce Center

	Date	Opponent	Result	Attendance
1.	Jan. 15, 2001	Connecticut	W, 92-76	11,418 (capacity)
	Feb. 24, 2001	Georgetown	W, 65-53	11,418 (capacity)
3.	Feb. 10, 2002	Boston College	W, 60-44	9,676
4.	Mar. 19, 2001	Michigan (NCAA)	W, 88-54	9,597
5.	Jan. 4, 2003	Purdue	L, 54-71	9,483
6.	Jan. 26, 2002	Virginia Tech	W, 64-57	8,878
7.	Feb. 14, 2004	Providence	W, 81-51	8,760
8.	Jan. 13, 2004	Connecticut	W, 66-51	8,574
9.	Jan. 29, 2002	Syracuse	W, 71-46	8,571
10.	Mar. 17, 2001	Alcorn State (NCAA)	W, 98-49	8,553



The Notre Dame women's basketball locker room was renovated prior to the 1999-2000 season.





Part of the reason for Notre Dame's success at home has been its loyal and ever-growing fan base — the Irish have ranked in the top 15 in the nation in attendance for each of the past four seasons, including eighth-place finishes in 2001-02 (school-record 7,825 fans per game) and 2002-03 (7,132 fans per game).

Series Records in the Joyce Center

Alabama0-1	Fordham.....1-0	Michigan State.....2-3	South Carolina.....0-1
Alcorn State1-0	Georgetown9-0	Middle Tenn.1-0	South Dakota0-1
Arizona1-0	Geo. Washington..1-0	Minnesota0-1	South Florida1-0
Army1-0	Georgia0-1	Mount St. Joseph ..1-0	SMS1-0
Augustana.....1-0	Goshen2-0	Nebraska0-1	SMU1-0
Ball State1-0	Grace1-0	Northern Illinois .4-1	Stanford0-1
Boston College.....6-0	Illinois.....1-1	Northwestern1-0	Syracuse.....8-0
Boston University 0-1	Illinois-Chicago...4-1	Oakland1-0	Taylor2-0
Bowling Green1-0	Illinois State0-1	Old Dominion1-1	Temple2-0
Butler.....10-3	Indiana3-2	Penn State0-1	Tennessee0-6
Central Michigan 0-1	IPFW2-0	Pittsburgh6-0	TCU1-0
Cincinnati1-0	Iowa State1-0	Providence.....6-0	Toledo2-0
Clark1-0	Kent1-0	Purdue2-4	UCLA3-2
Cleveland State...3-0	La Salle2-2	Purdue-Calumet ..1-0	USC3-0
Colorado State1-0	LSU.....1-0	Rice1-0	Valparaiso8-0
Concordia1-0	Louisiana Tech.....0-1	Rutgers4-2	Vanderbilt1-0
Connecticut.....2-4	Louisville0-1	St. Ambrose4-0	Villanova6-1
Dayton10-3	Loyola (Ill.).....10-1	St. Francis (Ill.)1-1	Virginia Tech3-0
DePaul5-5	Loyola (Md.).....1-0	St. John's6-0	W. Michigan5-0
Detroit12-0	Marion1-1	St. Joseph's (Ind.) ..2-0	West Virginia6-0
Duke1-0	Marquette15-1	Saint Louis3-1	Wisconsin1-1
Duquesne.....1-0	Maryland0-2	Saint Mary's5-0	UW-Milwaukee1-0
East Carolina1-0	Miami (Fla.).....6-2	San Diego1-0	Wright State1-0
Eastern Michigan 1-0	Miami (Ohio).....1-2	San Francisco.....1-0	Xavier8-2
Evansville9-0	Michigan5-1	Seton Hall6-1	Total263-70 (.790)

These offices and facilities are located in a central complex that joins the two arenas and in general houses the people and machinery common to both. A spacious concourse also is contained in this core area, as is a tastefully appointed Monogram Room, surrounded by small meeting rooms. On the lower level of the concourse there are several thousand lockers, a faculty exercise room, a golf driving range, squash and handball courts and a central kitchen for catering and concessions.

The Joyce Center has undergone a number of recent renovations beginning in 1994, including repainting and addition of new lighting and sound systems, a new artificial floor and new bleachers — all for the fieldhouse in the north dome. In addition, all concessions stands in the entire building have been reconfigured.

Recently, a new lighting system — including theatrical, event and house lighting components — was installed, the electrical capacity for events needs was enhanced and the arena ceiling and catwalks were repainted.



ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

Notre Dame ranks second all-time in the number of CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) Academic All-Americans produced since 1952. Entering the 2004-05 school year, 152 student-athletes at the University have earned Academic All-America recognition throughout the years. During the past five years, Notre Dame has had more Academic All-Americans - 38 - than any other university or college, including women's basketball center Ruth Riley who earned first-team Academic All-America honors for the third consecutive year in 2001. Maggie Lally, a four-year letterwinner with the women's basketball program from 1978-81, was Notre Dame's first female Academic All-American, earning second-team honors in both 1980 and 1981. Notre Dame women's basketball alumnae Shari Matvey and Mary Beth Schueth, also second-team honorees in 1981 and 1983, respectively, join Lally on the Academic All-America list. In 2000-01, Notre Dame had 11 Academic All-America selections, including an unprecedented six first-teamers.

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

In addition to becoming just the fifth Notre Dame student-athlete to be a three-year Academic All-American, Ruth Riley also joined football center Tim Ruddy (1993), women's soccer goalkeeper Jen Renola (1996-97 fall/winter "at-large" sports) and men's basketball forward Pat Garrity (1997) as the fourth Irish student-athlete to be named Academic All-American of the Year for a respective sport or program. Riley — an eight-time Dean's List student who graduated with a 3.64 GPA as a psychology and sociology major — then earned the highest honor in the nation, as the Academic All-American of the Year for all Division I sports (other finalists included Purdue quarterback Drew Brees and Duke men's basketball player Shane Battier). Riley recently completed her second season with the Detroit Shock of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and her fourth season in that league.

ALL-AMERICANS – Women's basketball standout Ruth Riley and men's basketball star Troy Murphy in 1999-2000 became only the third duo in history from the same school to earn first-team Associated Press All-America honors in the same year and the first to do it since Ray Allen, Jen Rizzotti and Kara Wolters of Connecticut in 1996. Jerry Stackhouse and Charlotte Smith of North Carolina also achieved the honors in 1995. Riley and Murphy then repeated as first team AP All-Americans in 2000-01.

ASSOCIATED PRESS ALL-AMERICANS – Six Notre Dame women's basketball players have earned Associated Press All-America honors. Beth Morgan and Katryna

Gaither, who finished their Irish careers first and second, respectively, on the Irish career scoring list, were the school's first two All-Americans as they copped honorable mention honors in both 1996 and 1997. As a sophomore, Ruth Riley was a third-team AP selection in 1999 and she then became the first-ever first-team AP All-American in Notre Dame history (in 2000, and again in 2001). Alicia Ratay was a two-time AP All-American, garnering honorable mention laurels in 2000 and 2002. Niele Ivey became the program's fifth AP All-American, earning third-team honors after her stellar 2000-01 season. The most recent honoree is senior forward Jacqueline Batteast, who picked up honorable mention recognition in 2003-04.

ATTENDANCE – Notre Dame has ranked in the top 15 in the nation in home attendance each of the past four seasons, averaging 6,376 in 2000-01, a school-record 7,825 in 2001-02, 7,132 fans in 2002-03 and 6,650 fans last year, the four highest single-season averages in the program's history. Of the 20 largest home crowds in Notre Dame women's basketball history, five came from the 2000-01 national championship season, highlighted by sellouts (11,418) for the historic Jan. 15 upset of then-No. 1 Connecticut and the final regular-season home game versus Georgetown (Feb. 24). All told, 19 of the 20 biggest Irish women's basketball crowds have come in the past five years, with all 20 taking place during the 17-year tenure of Muffet McGraw (1987-2004).

BIG EAST – Notre Dame took a landmark step on July 1, 1995, when the Irish officially became a member of the BIG EAST Conference. Notre Dame had been a member of the Midwestern Collegiate Conference for women's basketball and most of its Olympic sports for a number of years, and the Irish also have held various league affiliations in hockey and lacrosse. The entry into the BIG EAST, however, marked the first time that the Irish men's basketball program had any type of conference affiliation. The announcement of the BIG EAST's invitation to Notre Dame came on July 10, 1994. The BIG EAST currently sponsors championships in 20 sports. Since the 1995-96 school year, its first as a league member, the Irish have won 57 conference titles. In each of the past two years, Notre Dame has won an unprecedented nine conference championships, breaking its own record of eight league titles set in 2001-02.

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Frank McGuire Arena in Columbia, S.C., was the site of Notre Dame's NCAA East Regional championship in 1997. The Irish, the sixth seed in the East Region, defeated second-seeded and seventh-ranked Alabama in the regional semifinal behind 36 points from Beth Morgan, and then earned a spot in the '97 NCAA Final Four with a 62-52 win over fifth-seeded George Washington. Notre Dame became the lowest seed ever to win the East Regional.

CONFERENCE COMMAND – Notre Dame posted a 124-28 (.816) record in regular-season BIG EAST Conference games during its first nine seasons in the BIG EAST (1996-2004), including an 80-18 (.816) conference mark during the past six seasons. The Irish own an all-time record of 254-54 (.825) in regular-season conference games,

including 43-11 in five seasons of North Star Conference play (1983-88) and 87-15 in seven Midwestern Collegiate Conference seasons (1988-95).

DENVER – The Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., was the site of Notre Dame's NCAA Midwest Regional championship in 2001. The top-seeded Irish defeated fifth-seeded Utah in the regional semifinal before advancing to the 2001 Final Four with a 72-64 win over No. 3 seed Vanderbilt.

DETROIT SHOCK – Thanks to a pair of Notre Dame graduates, the WNBA's Detroit Shock went from "worst to first" in 2003, winning the league championship. Center Ruth Riley, who won an NCAA title with the Irish in 2001, started for Detroit during their championship run and was instrumental in the Shock's three-game series win in the WNBA Finals over the two-time champion Los Angeles Sparks. In fact, Riley poured in a career-high 27 points in the third and deciding game and was rewarded for her efforts by being named the Finals MVP. That made Riley the first women's basketball ever to be named the Most Valuable Player of the Finals at both the college and professional levels.

The other Notre Dame connection in Detroit's championship season was its head coach — 1979 ND graduate Bill Laimbeer. The former Irish standout was a two-time NBA champion with the legendary "Bad Boys" Detroit Pistons and assumed the head coaching duties with the WNBA's Shock midway through the 2002 season.

EIGHT-YEAR EXCELLENCE – Notre Dame has won 202 games during the past eight seasons (1996-97 to 2003-04), representing the ninth-most wins of any school in the country during that eight-year span. Here's where the Irish rank in terms of their wins over the past eight seasons:

TEAM	Total
1. Connecticut	271
2. Tennessee	257
3. Louisiana Tech	238
4. Duke	226
5. Old Dominion	215
6. Purdue	211
7. UC Santa Barbara	209
8. Texas Tech	203
9. Notre Dame	202

FINAL FOUR – Notre Dame's magical 1997 campaign culminated with the Irish earning a first-ever appearance in the NCAA Final Four. The event was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, and played at the 16,714-seat Riverfront Coliseum, with Xavier University serving as the host school. The other Final Four participants that year were eventual national champion Tennessee, Old Dominion and Stanford. The Irish lost their semifinal matchup to the Lady Vols, 80-66. Notre Dame returned to the Final Four in 2001, playing in front of sellout crowds (20,551) at the Savvis Center in St. Louis (with the Missouri Valley Conference serving as tournament host). The Irish staged the largest comeback in Final Four history (16 points) to post a convincing 90-75 win over BIG EAST rival Connecticut in the NCAA semifinals before beating Purdue in a thrilling championship game, 68-66.



GOLD MEDAL – Former Notre Dame All-America center Ruth Riley celebrated her 25th birthday in style on Aug. 28, 2004, as she and her U.S. Olympic teammates defeated Australia, 74-63, to win the gold medal at the Athens Olympics. Riley became one of just six players in women's basketball history to win an NCAA, WNBA and Olympic title. She played in seven of Team USA's eight games during the 2004 Olympics, averaging 3.4 points and 2.4 rebounds per game. However, Riley wasn't Notre Dame's first gold medalist in women's basketball. Beth Morgan, Notre Dame's all-time leading scorer, was the first Irish women's basketball player to compete in the World University Games after being the first player named to a USA Women's basketball squad. In 1997, she played on the World University Games team which captured the gold medal in Italy.

GRADUATION RATES REPORT – In the 2003 NCAA Graduation Rates Report, Notre Dame tied for third behind Northwestern and Duke in the graduation rate of student-athletes who attended the University between 1993 and 1996. The 13th such survey conducted by the NCAA bases Division I graduation rates on the raw percentage of student-athletes who entered an institution and graduated within six years. Students who leave or transfer, regardless of academic standing, are considered nongraduates. Notre Dame had a student-athlete graduation rate of 87 percent for that time period while Northwestern and Duke tied at 89 percent and Stanford also had an 87 percent rate. Among women, Notre Dame's 92-percent graduation rate was bettered only by Northwestern (98%).

HARDWARE HAUL – Notre Dame's Ruth Riley collected plenty of awards to fill her trophy case, making her possibly the most-decorated student-athlete (in terms of number and variety of awards) in Notre Dame athletics history. Most notably, Riley was named the 2000-01 national player of the year by the Naismith Foundation and the Associated Press (among others) while also earning the nation's top academic award, as the Academic All-American of the Year for all Division I sports (as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America). She averaged 19 points and eight rebounds per game in 2000-01 before graduating with a 3.64 grade-point average as a psychology and sociology major.

Riley became just the fifth Notre Dame student-athlete – and the third in 33 years – to earn Academic All-America honors during three years and she is the only Notre Dame basketball player – men's or women's – to be a first team AP All-American and a first team Academic All-American. Her trophy haul also included a prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship and she became the first Notre Dame student-athlete to receive Notre Dame's Kanaley Award and Chris Zorich Award in the same year. The Kanaley Award recognizes senior student-athletes who have been most exemplary as students and leaders while the Zorich Award recognizes contributions to the University and the community.

Riley – who also received one of the NCAA's Today's prestigious Top VIII Awards in December 2001 – is one of 15 all-time Notre Dame student-

athletes to be named All-America and Academic All-America while also earning a postgraduate scholarship. She is one of six from that group to also help their teams win national championships while Riley and women's soccer goalkeeper Jen Renola ('95) are the only ND student-athletes ever to lead their teams to a national title while also earning All-America, Academic All-America, NCAA postgraduate scholarship and the Kanaley Award (Renola is ND's only other recipient of the NCAA Top Eight Award).

Riley also was named national player of the year by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association, *Sports Illustrated*, *Women's Basketball Journal* and *Basketball Times* while being recognized as the BIG EAST Conference Player of the Year, earning her third consecutive BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year honor and being named the BIG EAST Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. A consensus first team All-American, she also was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 2001 NCAA Midwest Regional and the 2001 NCAA Final Four.

HOME STATES – Notre Dame's 11-player women's basketball roster for the 2004-05 includes student-athletes from eight different states, stretching to various corners of the nation. The current roster includes two players each from California, Nevada and Ohio, with the other states represented by the 2004-05 Irish including Colorado, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington. During the 17-year tenure of Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw, players from 24 different states (including the 2003-04 newcomers) have played for the Irish women's basketball program – the above nine states plus Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming. The all-time Notre Dame women's basketball roster (including the current freshman class) contains 126 players that hail from 35 different states, the above 23 plus the following from the pre-McGraw era: Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Virginia. The most common home states on the Irish all-time women's basketball roster are Michigan (14), Indiana (13), Ohio (9), Illinois (8), Florida (7) and New Jersey (7).

HOME WINNING STREAK – Notre Dame put together a 51-game home winning streak from 1998-2002, the longest in school history and (at the time) the 10th-longest in NCAA annals. The Irish defeated three sixth-ranked teams during the streak, downing UCLA and Illinois in 1998-99, and defeating Purdue in 2000-01. The magical run finally came to an end in the final regular-season game of the 2001-02 season, when Villanova edged Notre Dame, 48-45. Undaunted, the Irish have built up a current 20-game winning streak (second-longest in Notre Dame history) that they will carry into the 2004-05 season.

JOYCE CENTER – Notre Dame's double-domed arena is home to the Notre Dame women's and men's basketball teams, hockey and a variety of other sports. It was named the Edmund P. Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center, by a vote

of the University's Board of Trustees on May 8, 1987, but now the facility is more commonly referred to as the Joyce Center. Father Joyce, Notre Dame's former executive vice president and chairman of the Faculty Board on Athletics, retired on May 31, 1987, following 35 years in that position. The Joyce Center, which houses Notre Dame's athletic offices, opened at the beginning of the 1968-69 men's basketball season. Every women's basketball home game has been played in the Joyce Center Arena.

MUFFET MCGRAW – Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw is the winningest coach in Irish basketball history. In her first 17 years at the helm of the Irish, McGraw's Irish teams have won more than 72 percent of their combined games (384-149, .720). McGraw is in her 23rd season as a head coach this year, compiling a 472-190 (.716) mark during her previous 22 seasons. She was named 2001 national coach of the year by several organizations, most notably the Naismith Foundation and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. In 2004-05, she can reach a pair of significant career milestones — she is 10 wins away from passing Digger Phelps for the most wins ever by a Notre Dame basketball coach (male or female), and she is 16 wins away from 400 in her Irish tenure.

NCAA LEADERS – Ruth Riley became the first Notre Dame women's basketball player to rank first in an NCAA statistical category, as she led the nation during the 1998-99 campaign in field-goal percentage. Riley connected on an Irish school-record 68.3 percent of her field-goal attempts in 1998-99 (198 of 290) before ranking fifth in the nation with a 61.5 FG pct. in 1999-2000 and fourth in 2000-01 (62.8 pct.). Riley finished with a 63.2 career field goal percentage, good for seventh in the NCAA record book. Riley also ranked third nationally in blocks per game as a sophomore (3.3/gm in 1998-99) before ranking fifth nationally as a junior (2.7 blocks/gm in 1999-2000) and second in 2000-01 (3.1/gm). Former Irish shooting guard Alicia Ratay graduated in 2003 with a .476 career shooting percentage from three-point range, which broke the old NCAA record (.467) set by 1993 Harvard graduate Erin Maher. Ratay ranked fourth nationally as a freshman with a 48.0 three-point pct. in 1999-2000 before leading the nation in 2000-01 (.547). As a team, the 1999-2000 Notre Dame squad ranked among the national Top 10 for field-goal percentage (second, at .501 pct.), three-point percentage (third, at .402) and field-goal percentage defense (sixth, at .355 pct.). The 2000-01 national championship Irish squad then led the nation in three-point percentage (.464) and field-goal percentage defense (.336) while ranking second in scoring margin (+21.4 ppg) and fifth in both fewest points allowed per game (55.8) and field-goal percentage (.497). In 2001-02, Notre Dame ranked second in blocked



shots (6.3 bpg.) and sixth in field-goal percentage defense (.349). In 2002-03, the Irish ranked 16th in the country in blocked shots (5.0 bpg.) and 25th in field goal percentage defense (.367).

NCAA TOURNAMENT – In March 2000, for the second time in school history, Notre Dame played host to the first and second rounds of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament, at the Joyce Center. Notre Dame, George Washington, UCLA and San Diego all visited the Joyce Center, with the Irish advancing to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen and a matchup against Texas Tech. More than 10,600 fans watched the Irish games during the two-day tournament in 2000 while big crowds likewise showed up for the 2001 NCAA first and second-round at the Joyce Center. More than 18,000 fans were in attendance for Irish wins over Alcorn State and Michigan. Three year later in 2004, NCAA Tournament action returned to Joyce Center, with Notre Dame defeating Southwest Missouri State and Middle Tennessee before a combined total of nearly 13,000 fans. The Irish now are 6-1 (.857) all-time when playing at home in the NCAA Tournament.

NO. 1 SIGN RETURNS – September 13, 2004 brought a familiar look to the night sky on the northeast corner of the Notre Dame campus, as the traditional, lighted numeral one was placed atop Grace Hall, in honor of the Irish women's soccer team's ascension to the number-one ranking. It came nearly four years after the same Irish women's soccer squad led an unprecedented four Notre Dame teams to No. 1 rankings in 2000-01, including women's basketball, men's fencing and baseball. The eight-foot sign, for years under the auspices of Grace Hall (a men's residence hall from 1969-96), had not appeared since it last was lit in honor of the '95 NCAA championship won by the women's soccer team. The sign, built by Father Bob Malone and a group of seminarians, originally went up at Moreau Seminary (located at the north end of St. Joseph's Lake) in January of 1974, following Notre Dame's 1973 national championship football season. Designed to be lit any time a Notre Dame team was ranked number one, it later moved to Howard Hall (at the center of campus, near the old Notre Dame Bookstore) before finally shifting to the roof of Grace Hall. The sign was proudly displayed during the end of the 1988 football season (when the Irish captured the national title) and returned during parts of the 1989, '90 and '93 football campaigns.

O'CONNOR (FRANCIS PATRICK) AWARD – Sheila McMillen, a 1999 graduate and two-year captain of the women's basketball team, was awarded the Francis Patrick O'Connor Award in '99. One of the major awards annually presented by the Notre Dame Athletic Department, it is presented to one male and one female student-athlete who best display the total

embodiment of the true spirit of Notre Dame, as exemplified by their contributions and inspiration to their respective teams. The award has been presented since 1993 and is named in honor of Pat O'Connor, a former student-athlete at the University who died in 1973 following his freshman year. O'Connor was the son of William "Bucky" O'Connor who played guard on Notre Dame football team in the 1940s. McMillen was the first-ever recipient of the award from the women's basketball program.

THE PIT – Notre Dame's auxiliary practice facility in the Joyce Center is affectionately referred to as "The Pit." Irish teams (men's and women's basketball and volleyball) frequently practice in the gym, in addition to the main floor of the Joyce Center. "The Pit" has been renovated in recent years and now features a new floor, scoreboards, lighting and fresh paint.

RECRUITING REWARDS – Notre Dame has reaped the benefits of some of the top recruiting classes in the country over the past eight years, according to the *Blue Star Index*. During that time (1997-98 to present), the Irish have attracted top 20 classes each season. This year's group of four (Charel Allen, Melissa D'Amico, Tulyah Gaines and Amanda Tsipis) was rated the 14th-best incoming class in the nation. Notre Dame's stellar recruiting efforts are coordinated by associate coach Carol Owens.

THREE-POINT FLURRY – Former Irish shooting guard Alicia Ratay turned in a memorable long-distance shooting performance versus Rutgers as a freshman, lifting the Irish to a 78-74 overtime win on Feb. 19, 2000, at RU's Louis Brown Athletic Center. Ratay set a BIG EAST record for three-point field goals and three-point percentage in that game, connecting on all seven of her shots from beyond the arc en route to a 26-point game. Adding to that impressive efficiency was the fact that two of her three-pointers came in the final 17 seconds of regulation – after the Irish had trailed 65-59 – sending the game into overtime. Her three-pointer with 0:17 left forged a 65-62 game and Rutgers misfired from the line on a one-and-one chance before Ratay delivered again with just four ticks on the clock, draining a shot from the top of the key with the Rutgers defense closing in. The three-pointers were Ratay's only shots from the floor during the entire game and she also made five of six free throws, including two with 22 seconds left in overtime as the Irish rallied to the win after earlier squandering a 19-point lead.

In a near repeat performance on the same floor more than two years later, Ratay scored 29 points, including 17 in the final 3:52 of Notre Dame's 84-79 loss to Syracuse in the 2002 BIG EAST Championship quarterfinals. Ratay also scored nine points in just 18 seconds, sandwiching a pair of treys around an old-fashioned three-point play. However, after making five consecutive shots, including four straight three-pointers, Ratay missed from long range with 0:06 left and the Irish trailing by two, allowing the Orangewomen to pull out the win.

TOP ASSISTANT – The publication *Women's Basketball Journal* recognized Notre Dame's Carol Owens as one of the top five assistant coaches in the country in 2001. Owens, a former standout at Northern Illinois University, is in her 10th season with the Irish women's basketball program, and her third as associate coach. Owens works closely with the Notre Dame post players and coordinated the program's nationally-ranked recruiting and scouting efforts. She also assists with the day-to-day operations of the office and the planning of practices.

TWENTY-WIN SEASONS – The Notre Dame women's basketball program has posted 20-plus wins in each of the past 11 seasons and in 15 of 17 seasons during the tenure of head coach Muffet McGraw. The Irish are one of only six teams in the nation that can boast of an active streak of that length (joining Connecticut, Louisiana Tech, Old Dominion, Tennessee and Texas Tech in that elite club). Notre Dame kept its streak intact in 2003-04, posting a 21-11 record.

TWO THOUSAND CLUB – Beth Morgan and Katryna Gaither, who led the Irish to the 1997 NCAA Final Four, proved to be the most prolific scoring combination in Notre Dame and NCAA history, as the duo combined for 4,448 points and 1,608 rebounds from 1993-97. They are the first two players from the same team in NCAA history to each score more than 2,000 career points. Morgan finished as the school's all-time leading scorer with 2,322 points while Gaither ended her career second on the scoring (2,126) chart and third on the rebounding (986) list. They were joined in 2001 by Ruth Riley (2,072 points and 1,006 rebounds), who became the first player to have 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in her career.

WHITE HOUSE VISIT – As part of the spoils for winning the 2001 NCAA championship, the Notre Dame women's basketball team was invited to the White House on April 23, 2001, to meet President George W. Bush. The Irish were joined by the Duke men's basketball team, which also claimed the '01 NCAA title. Head coach Muffet McGraw and captains Ruth Riley and Niele Ivey also presented President Bush with his very own personalized Irish jersey.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (WNBA) – Three members of Notre Dame's NCAA championship team were selected in the 2001 WNBA Draft, the first Irish players ever selected by the league. Ruth Riley was a first-round pick (fifth overall) by the Miami Sol, while Niele Ivey went in the second round to the Indiana Fever and Kelley Siemon was a third-round choice of the Los Angeles Sparks. When the Miami franchise folded in December 2002, Riley was the No. 1 overall pick in the WNBA Dispersal Draft, going to the Detroit Shock, whom she promptly led to the '03 league championship. In 2004, current Notre Dame assistant coach Coquese Washington retired after six seasons in the league, including her final two as a teammate of Ivey's with the Indiana Fever.

