

# All About the Irish



*Notre Dame has enjoyed 28 seasons of collegiate volleyball competition highlighted by 19 academic and athletic All-Americans. With 591 all-time wins and 16 trips to the NCAA Tournament, Notre Dame has established itself as one of the premiere programs in the nation.*



# All About the Irish

## Notre Dame Volleyball Timeline

### September 19, 1980

Volleyball, in its debut as Notre Dame's fifth women's varsity sport, loses match at Tri-State University

### September 22, 1980

First varsity volleyball win (12-15, 15-12, 15-11) at Purdue-Calumet

### September 9, 1982

Notre Dame begins Division I competition with a 3-0 win over Indiana University-South Bend

### October 23, 1982

First 20-win season clinched; team finishes 25-9

### September 3, 1984

Art Lambert replaces Sandy Vanslager as Irish head coach



Art Lambert

### September 24, 1986

Notre Dame begins 17-match winning streak at North Carolina State, a stretch that remains the longest in school history

### November 15, 1986

Irish win North Star Conference tournament title for first time with win over Rhode Island

### September 19, 1987

Kathy Cunningham sets the school record for kills in a match with 33 against William and Mary

### November 22, 1987

First 30-win season achieved with victory over Northern Illinois in the final match of the year

### December 3, 1988

Irish take part in the NCAA Tournament for the first time, upsetting No. 20 Penn State in the Joyce Center

### August 8, 1990

Notre Dame begins Midwestern Collegiate Conference play against Saint Louis with a 3-2 victory

### August 31, 1991

Debbie Brown begins her career as head coach of the Fighting Irish

**ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS** – The University of Notre Dame ranks second all-time in the number of CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) Academic All-Americans produced in all sports since the distinction first debuted in 1952. Entering the 2008-09 school year, 201 student-athletes at the University have earned Academic All-America recognition. In 1992, Jessica Fiebelkorn (1989-92) became the first Irish volleyball player to earn Academic All-America honors. Jaimie Lee (1994-97) was the second player tagged with the honor (1997), while Lauren Brewster became the first Irish volleyball player to be both an athletic and academic All-American, gaining both accolades in 2005.

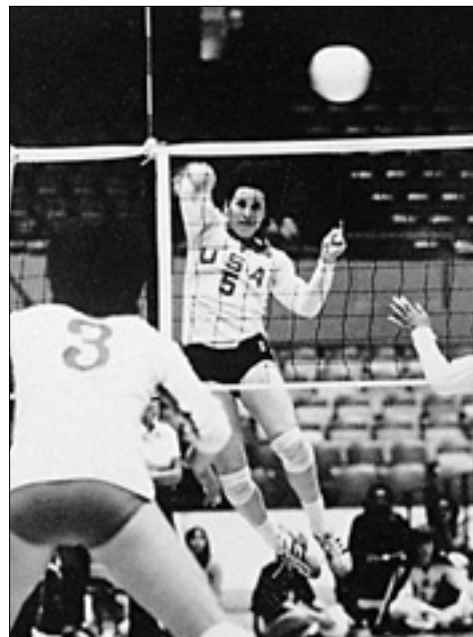
**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** – The Irish volleyball team has experienced unprecedented success in the classroom, registering 14 consecutive semesters with a 3.20+ team grade point average, highlighted by a 3.448 in the 2002 spring semester, which stands as the highest mark on record (since 1992) by the squad. Five times in the last six years (including 2007-08 when the team posted a program-best 3.443 GPA), Notre Dame has been honored with the AVCA Team Academic Award, which honors squads that have displayed excellence in the classroom by maintaining at least a 3.30 grade-point average during the school year.

**ACADEMIC HONORS PROGRAM** – Notre Dame's Academic Honors Program, which completed its first decade in 2006-07, pairs top student-athletes at the University who excel at the highest level in athletics and academics with faculty mentors within the student-athletes' academic areas of interest. Conducted under the auspices of the Notre Dame Student Development program and Academic Services for Student-Athletes, the program identifies high achievers and offers assistance in order that the students can achieve their fullest potential while attending the University. Four Irish volleyball players – Keara Coughlin ('03), Kim Fletcher ('04), Mallorie Croal and Justine Stremick – have taken part in the honors program.

**ALL-AMERICANS** – Notre Dame has been represented more than ever in the annual All-America awards over the past few seasons. The 2004 campaign saw middle blocker Lauren Brewster tabbed a third-team All-American by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) – marking the first time in program history that an Irish player was listed on one of those teams – and then moved up to the second team in 2005 (when she was a first-team selection by Collegiate Volleyball Update). She was also the first Tennessee native from any four-year school (Divisions I,

II, III, NAIA) to be named an AVCA All-American. In 2003, Brewster was joined by three of her teammates – setter Kristen Kinder, outside hitter Emily Loomis, and middle blocker Lauren Kelbley – in claiming honorable mention All-American honors. Kelbley, an outside hitter in her final two seasons, earned that honor again in 2004 then was joined on that list by Adrianna Stasiuk in 2005. Prior to Brewster, the only Notre Dame player to be named All-American was outside hitter Christy Peters, who earned third-team accolades from Volleyball Magazine in 1993 and 1994. Three others have been honorable-mention All-Americans: middle blocker Jessica Fiebelkorn (1992), outside hitter Jaimie Lee (1997), and setter Denise Boylan (2000).

**ALL-TIME GREAT** – In May of 1995, USA Volleyball named Irish head coach Debbie Brown an "All-Time Great Volleyball Player," the highest honor given by the organization. Her photo and records were 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 overall dominance during an era. As an outside hitter at USC, Brown helped the Women of Troy to a 72-1 record and a pair of national championships (1976 and 1977) before leaving to train full-time with the U.S. National Team. As a collegian, Brown was twice named a first-team All-American, while being honored with the Mikasa Award in both 1976 and 1977 as the nation's best all-around player. Brown then



*Current Irish head coach Debbie Brown's playing career is virtually unmatched among collegiate coaches, as she was twice honored with the Mikasa Award as the nation's top all-around player en route to leading USC to a 72-1 record and two national championships prior to joining the U.S. National Team as one of its co-coaches.*



served as captain of the national team in the 1978 World Championships, leading the U.S. to a fifth-place finish, and was tabbed a co-captain of the 1980 Olympic team that did not compete due to the United States boycott.

**APR** – The NCAA introduced the Academic Progress Rate (APR) in 2004 as its latest standard for measuring academic achievement by collegiate athletic programs. In 2007, all 26 athletics programs at Notre Dame exceeded the academic performance standard, with eight teams checking in with perfect scores of 1,000. The NCAA presented public recognition awards both to the top 10 percent of teams by school and to the top 10 percent of teams by sport – with those same 14 Notre Dame teams that earned 1,000 scores all honored in both categories. No other NCAA Division I-A institution had more programs honored in the by-institution category than Notre Dame with its 14 (Boston College also had 14 – with the Eagles sponsoring 28 programs compared to Notre Dame’s 26). The APR uses a series of formulas related to student-athlete retention and eligibility to measure the academic performance of all participants who receive grants-in-aid on every team at every NCAA Division I college and university. It replaced the annual graduation rates report that previously was issued by the NCAA. Programs that fail to earn an APR score of 925 or better are barred from replacing a scholarship athlete who leaves the institution while academically ineligible. Programs with chronically poor academic records based upon a rolling four-year rate ultimately will be barred from postseason competition, in addition to losing scholarships.

**ATTENDANCE** – Fan interest in the Irish volleyball program has exploded in the last decade, as crowds of more than 1,000 have taken in Notre Dame matches on 44 occasions since 2000. In 2003, the Notre Dame-Virginia Tech volleyball match, which ended with a thrilling five-game Irish victory, was played before a record crowd of 8,643. That season also featured the largest-ever crowd for a match not played before a football pep rally, as 2,715 witnessed Notre Dame beat Miami in three games in a nationally-televised match.

Just last season, Notre Dame averaged 1,216 fans per home contest and attracted the second-highest total (7,523) in program history during a BIG EAST battle with Cincinnati. In fact, four of the top 20 Joyce Center crowds passed through the turnstiles in 2007. Debbie Brown was honored for her 500th career win in front of 5,743 fans against Marquette in 2006. In 2005, ND set program records for total season attendance (24,783) and average attendance (1,549). After never previously doing so, the Irish have been among the top 30 in Division I in attendance in each of the last five seasons. The best finish was 16th in

2003 with an average of 1,543 per match, while Notre Dame was 25th in 2002 (1,064 average), 17th in 2004 (1,513), 20th in 2005 (1,549), 27th in 2006 (1,348) and 30th in 2007 (1,216).

**AVCA POLL HISTORY** – The 2005 campaign was noteworthy for the Irish as they not only achieved several program bests on the court, but made American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) poll history as well. Notre Dame reached an all-time high of fifth in the poll on Oct. 31, 2005, becoming the first school ever to crack the AVCA’s top five after being unranked in the preseason. Also that season, Notre Dame tied the AVCA record for largest poll-to-poll jump, moving 11 spots from 19th to eighth on Sept. 12 (BYU also moved up 11 spots in the final poll in 1996) and broke the AVCA record for the largest two-poll jump, rising more than 17 spots from the preseason until Sept. 12 (the previous AVCA record saw Oral Roberts move from unranked to 10th in the final two polls in 1995). The Irish also spent a program-record 11 polls in the top 10 of the AVCA listing in 2005.

Since Debbie Brown took over the program in 1991, Notre Dame has frequented the AVCA poll on countless occasions. Notre Dame’s first ranking came in the 1992 preseason poll, and the Irish have been ranked at some point in the AVCA poll in every season but two since then since then (unranked in 1999 and received votes in the first four polls of the 2007 season). Most recently the Irish were ranked No. 21 for the first two weeks of the 2006 campaign. In all, Notre Dame has been ranked in 137 polls since 1992. Only 19 schools have been ranked on more occasions than the Irish since the AVCA rankings debuted in 1982, and just 16 have been in more polls since the commencement of the 1992 campaign. The Irish have also enjoyed 19 weeks in the poll’s top 10.

**BENNETT, ZANETTE** – One of the first dominant Notre Dame volleyball players, Zanette Bennett came to Notre Dame as a member of the “Fab Four” recruiting class in 1985. Referring to her stellar volleyball play as a “past-time” while studying to be a doctor, Bennett established numerous Irish career records in her time as an outside hitter and middle blocker. The first Irish player to register 1,000 career kills, she still ranks fourth all-time in that category (1,471). Bennett still holds the Irish record for kills in a season with 548 set in 1987. She was a crowd favorite in the Joyce Center, as fans established the “Z Corner” similar to that of baseball pitcher Dwight Gooden’s “K Corner.” Each time “Z,” as her fans and the public-address announcer called her, recorded a kill, the fans would hang signs emblazoned with the letter “Z” from the bleachers.

## Notre Dame Volleyball Timeline

### November 30, 1991

Notre Dame wins first of four consecutive MCC tournament titles

### September 25, 1993

Irish earn the biggest upset in the program’s history, knocking off third-ranked Nebraska in the Joyce Center

### November 9, 1993

Notre Dame advances to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament – the deepest run in school history – by defeating Minnesota on its home court in five games

### September 16, 1995

Standing 8-0 with a win against USC and three tournament titles, Notre Dame rises to fifth in the Volleyball Magazine poll and seventh in the AVCA rankings, marking what was then the best-ever listing for the Irish in each of the polls

### September 26, 1995

Irish defeat DePaul (15-2, 15-1, 15-2) in 40 minutes, the fastest match in school history

### September 30, 1995

Notre Dame begins BIG EAST Conference competition by defeating Georgetown 3-0

### October 13, 1995

Notre Dame records 106 kills at No. 25 Georgia Tech to set the school record for kills in a match, while the contest also sets the school record for the longest match (3:07)

### December 13, 1997

Jaimie Lee sets school record for kills in a four-game match with 31 against Wisconsin in the NCAA Tournament



One of Lee’s 31 kills

### October 9, 1998

School-record 79-match conference winning streak stopped at UConn in five games

### September 1, 1999

The new Sport Court playing surface debuts in the Joyce Center

### September 14, 2002

Notre Dame comes from behind to knock off No. 10 Pepperdine in the championship match of the Golden Dome Invitational

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### August 29, 2003

Notre Dame upsets No. 10 Arizona in four games in the season opener, beginning what would become a 21-2 start, highlighted by a 14-match winning streak

### September 9-11, 2005

After knocking off No. 11 Texas the week before, Notre Dame upsets No. 8 USC and No. 6 Florida in the UTSA Dome Rally

### October 29, 2005

Notre Dame wins 3-1 over No. 6 Louisville in front of 2,597 in the first battle of top-10 volleyball teams in the Joyce Center; Notre Dame then moves up two spots to an all-time high of fifth in the AVCA poll

### December 1, 2006

Notre Dame competes in the NCAA Tournament for a school-record 15th consecutive time, falling at Wisconsin in the opening round

### August 26, 2007

The Irish host No. 7 Florida in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse – the first-ever volleyball match played in the north dome of Notre Dame's home facility

### October 14, 2007

Debbie Brown earns 400th win at Notre Dame with a 3-1 BIG EAST conference victory at Syracuse



Debbie Brown

### November 11, 2007

In a live televised match on ESPNU, Notre Dame hands No. 17 Louisville a 3-1 defeat on Senior Day at the Joyce Center to spoil the Cardinals' perfect regular-season league record

**BEST OF BOTH WORLDS** – Notre Dame was one of just three schools (also Stanford and Duke) to rank among the top 25 in both the 2007 U.S. News & World Report Rankings of National Universities and the 2007-08 U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup all-sports competition, which measures across-the-board athletic excellence.

**BIG EAST** – Notre Dame took a landmark step in July of 1995 when the Irish officially became a member of the BIG EAST Conference after previously competing in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference. Since becoming a conference member, Notre Dame has won a total of 100 league championships, more than any other school. The Irish have repeatedly broken the conference record for most championships by a single school in an academic year, most-recently raising that bar to 13 titles in 2005-06 (after winning eight in 2001-02; nine in 2002-03 and 2003-04; and 10 in 2004-05). The Irish volleyball team has been particularly dominant, posting a 139-16 (.897) regular-season mark en route to 10 titles. In BIG EAST tournament action, Notre Dame has a 25-4 (.862) record, highlighted by 12 trips to the final match and nine championships.

**BIG EAST AWARDS** – Since joining the BIG EAST Conference in 1995, Notre Dame has regularly earned some of the league's top honors. Head coach Debbie Brown has been tabbed coach of the year five times, making her the only coach in conference history to claim the honor more than twice. Irish student-athletes were named player of the year six times in the first seven years of conference membership. In addition to a pair of setter-of-the-year awards (which was only given out three times by the league) and a rookie of the year, Notre Dame has had nine players earn tournament MVP accolades (most recently Adrianna Stasiuk in 2005). In the 13-year span of league membership, Irish student-athletes

have earned all-conference honors on 46 occasions, including 26 first-team accolades. Through the first 12 seasons with the BIG EAST, Notre Dame players accounted for exactly one-third of the total first-team selections during that span. Additionally, Notre Dame gained seven selections to the all-rookie team before it was dissolved and has had two honorable mention all-conference picks. The Irish have garnered 51 weekly honors, winning player of the week 41 times and rookie of the week on 14 occasions. In 2005, Notre Dame had a conference record of five players earn all-league accolades, with Lauren Kelbley becoming just the third player in conference history to be listed on the all-BIG EAST teams on four occasions.

**BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIP** – All but one of the 13 years of membership in the league have seen Notre Dame advance to the title match of the BIG EAST Championship, with the Irish claiming titles all but four times. The Irish won their first four BIG EAST tournaments (1995-98) and then took three straight from 2000-02 before claiming the 2004 and 2005 crowns. Notre Dame holds a 25-4 (.862) record in the event, holding a 77-28 advantage in games won. The Irish have seen nine different players named the tournament MVP, while the Joyce Center has played host to the BIG EAST Championship three times (1995, 2000 and 2003).

**BOYLAN, DENISE** – Arguably the best setter in Notre Dame history, Boylan ended her career in 2000 sitting first in career assist average (12.37/gm), second in total assists (4,687) and went on to play professionally for the United States Pro Volleyball league's Minnesota Chill in 2002. Boylan became the first player to sweep the BIG EAST's player-of-the-year, setter-of-the-year and championship most-outstanding-player awards in 2000.

### BREWSTER, LAUREN –

One of the top players in program history, Brewster concluded her career in 2005 as a two-time AVCA All-American (after no previous Irish player ever had earned mention on an AVCA All-America team). She was a CoSIDA Academic All-American in her final season, making her the first student-athlete in program history to be both an athletic and academic All-American. Brewster was three times a first-team all-BIG EAST selection (just the sixth in conference history, and first since 1997) and the MVP



In 13 years as a conference member, Notre Dame has won 10 regular-season BIG EAST championships and has claimed the league tournament title on nine occasions.





Lauren Brewster, the 2003 NCAA blocking champion, became the first player in program history to be both an athletic and academic All-American, being named to the second team in both cases in 2005.

of the 2004 league tournament. A co-captain on the record-setting 2005 squad that was 30-4 and peaked at fifth in the AVCA poll, she graduated as the all-time Irish leader in career blocks (734). As a sophomore in 2003, she led NCAA Division I in blocking (1.78/gm) and helped the Irish take first in the team category (3.72/gm), with both of those crowns marking program firsts. Brewster was a member of the Irish coaching staff during the 2007 season.

**BROWN, DEBBIE** – The current Irish head volleyball coach took over a program in 1991 that had previously managed just five winning seasons in 12 years of varsity volleyball and has led the squad to 17 consecutive winning seasons (14 with 20+ victories) and 15 consecutive NCAA Tournament berths. During the Brown era, Notre Dame has recorded a 407-149 (.732) record, including 197-37 (.842) in the Joyce Center. Under Brown the Irish have won 14 regular-season conference championship as well as 13 tournament titles. Brown's playing resumé is virtually unparalleled among Division I coaches, as she was a two-time winner of the Mikasa Award as the nation's top all-around player, as well as a co-captain of the 1980 United States Olympic team.

**CAPTAINS** – In the 28-year history of varsity Irish volleyball, a total of 36 different student-athletes have served as Notre Dame team captains. Among the 11 multiple-year captains were Mary Jo Hensler and Josie Maternowski, who led the Irish for three years from 1982-84. The 10 two-time captains are Kathy Dages (1980-81), Kathleen Morin (1986-87), Alicia Turner (1991-92), Jenny Birkner (1995-96), Denise Boylan (1999-2000), Keara Coughlin (2001-02), Kristen Kinder (2002-03), Meg Henican (2004-05), Adrianna Stasiuk (2006-07) and Mallorie Croal (2007-08). Notre Dame once had tri-captains, when Kinder, Coughlin and Janie Alderete shared the duties in 2002.

**CHEERLEADERS** – The Notre Dame cheerleaders, which consist of students from Notre Dame and neighboring Saint Mary's College, are a regular part of volleyball matches in the Joyce Center along with the famed Leprechaun mascot.



(l-r) Mallorie Croal, Adrianna Stasiuk and Ashley Tarutis, shown here at the 2004 Junior National Olympics, combined for seven All-American honors as club players.

**CLUB EXCELLENCE** – Notre Dame has a long history of student-athletes who excelled in club volleyball before their time with the Irish. Adrianna Stasiuk (Sports Performance) played on six teams that won national championships, gaining All-America accolades four times including being named AAU MVP in 2002. Ashley Tarutis (Golden West) was a first-team All-American in both of her final two years, helping her team to a bronze medal in 2004. Christina Kaelin and Megan Fesl are also club All-Americans to play for Notre Dame.

**COMMISSIONER'S TROPHY** – The BIG EAST Conference Commissioner's Trophy, which was discontinued after 2002-03, was awarded to the school with the top across-the-board athletic performance in conference sports. Notre Dame won the men's Commissioner's Trophy in each of the eight years in which it was eligible, while also capturing the women's trophy seven straight times after being second in 1995-96. Both streaks stand as conference records.

**CONFERENCE DOMINANCE** – Since it joined the North Star Conference in 1983, Notre Dame had unprecedented success as a

**FAB 50** – Each year *Volleyball Magazine* rates all senior high school volleyball players in the nation with its prestigious "Fab 50" list. Since 1990, Notre Dame has had 26 players earn "Fab 50" distinction, putting the Irish in 15th-place on the list of all-time selections.

**Name / Position / Height / High School (State) / Club Team**

- 2008 – Megan Barnicle / MB / 6-0 / St. Francis (Ill.) / Sports Performance
- 2008 – Kristen Dealy / OH / 6-0 / Santa Barbara (Calif.) / Santa Barbara
- 2007 – Kellie Sciacca / MB / 6-1 / Lewis-Palmer (Colo.) / Colorado Juniors
- 2006 – Megan Fesl / OH/MB / 6-2 / John Hersey (Ill.) / Sports Performance
- 2006 – Christina Kaelin / OH / 6-0 / Assumption (Ky.) / KIVA
- 2006 – Kim Kristoff / MB / 6-2 / Brebeuf Jesuit (Ind.) / Team Indiana
- 2005 – Mallorie Croal / OH / 6-1 / Mater Dei (Calif.) / Golden West
- 2004 – Adrianna Stasiuk / OH / 5-1 / Maine South (Ill.) / Sports Performance
- 2002 – Lauren Brewster / MB / 6-2 / Brentwood (Tenn.) / Impact
- 2002 – Meg Henican / OH, 5-11 / Isidore Newman (La.) / Cajunland Juniors
- 2001 – Kelly Corbett / MB / 6-0 / St. Francis (Calif.) / City Beach
- 2001 – Emily Loomis / MB / 6-1 / Bishop Luers (Ind.) / Fort Wayne
- 2000 – Kim Fletcher / MB/OH / 6-0 / Nerinx Hall (Mo.) / St. Louis Elite

- 2000 – Kristen Kinder / S / 5-9 / Bullard (Calif.) / Fresno Red
- 1998 – Marcie Bomhack / OH / 6-1 / Catholic Memorial (Wis.) / Milwaukee Sting
- 1998 – Malinda Goralski / MB / 6-2 / Clements (Texas) / Club Texas
- 1997 – Denise Boylan / S / 6-2 / Benet (Ill.) / Sports Performance
- 1997 – Christi Girton / MB / 6-2 / Muncie Central (Ind.) / Asics Munciana
- 1997 – Jo Jameyson / MB / 6-0 / Alvin (Texas) / Houston Juniors
- 1996 – Mary Leffers / MB / 6-1 / Berkeley (Fla.) / Tampa Bay Juniors
- 1995 – Lindsay Treadwell / OH / 5-11 / Austin (Texas) / Austin Juniors
- 1994 – Angie Harris / OH / 6-0 / Bishop Luers (Ind.) / Asics Munciana
- 1994 – Jaimie Lee / MB / 5-10 / Ferris (Wash.) / Griffin
- 1994 – Carey May / S / 5-9 / Torrey Pines (Calif.) / San Diego
- 1991 – Christy Peters / OH / 5-11 / Torrey Pines (Calif.) / San Diego
- 1990 – Molly Stark / MB / 5-11 / Horizon (Ariz.) / Arizona Juniors

\*positions and heights are from high school senior season

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member of a league (NSC: 1983-87, Midwestern Collegiate Conference: 1990-94, and the BIG EAST Conference: 1995-present). In 23 years of conference membership, Notre Dame has compiled a 196-25 (.887) record and won 16 regular-season championships and 15 tournament titles. Further, the Irish went just 4-7 in the North Star Conference in 1983, giving them a 192-22 (.897) mark since 1984, highlighted by a 79-match winning streak in regular-season and tournament play from 1990-98 that is the third-longest in Division I volleyball history. Upon becoming a BIG EAST member, the Irish won 41-in-a-row before falling for the first time to a conference team.

**CSTV** – Notre Dame is one of just 10 schools to be featured in each of the first four seasons of College Sports Television's (CSTV) Sunday Night Spikes national match-of-the-week series. In 2003, Notre Dame was shown in the inaugural year of programming, taking down then-league rival Miami in front of a record crowd of 2,715. A year later, the Irish took on South Carolina in the title match of the Gamecock Invitational in Columbia, losing in four games. The 2005 campaign saw CSTV return to the Joyce Center to catch a Notre Dame upset of No. 11 Texas in a five-game thriller in the Shamrock Invitational and a five-game win at No. 7 Louisville in the BIG EAST Tournament finale. CSTV covered the 2007 conference opener at Pittsburgh. CSTV became CBS College Sports in 2008.

**DIRECTORS' CUP** – Notre Dame is one of just a dozen Division I schools to have finished in the top 25 in the Sports Academy Directors' Cup all-sports competition presented by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) in each of the last six years. In 2004 and 2005, outstanding fall campaigns (including points from the volleyball team's NCAA runs) put Notre Dame atop the standings heading into the winter. Notre Dame has ended up in the top 25 of the standings 10 times in the 14 years since the contest debuted in 1993-94.

**EARLY BEGINNINGS** – The Notre Dame women's volleyball program originated as a club sport in 1977. It became the University's fifth women's varsity sport in 1980 while experiencing a modest beginning at the Division II level. The Irish posted a 3-19 record in 1980 and a 14-22 mark in 1981 before making the jump to the Division I level in 1982.



*Notre Dame was featured on College Sports Television's "Sunday Night Spikes" in each of its first four years of existence. In the inaugural 2003 season of the series, the Irish defeated BIG EAST rival Miami 3-0 in front of a national television audience and 2,715 fans in the Joyce Center.*

**FOLLOWING THE IRISH** – Notre Dame's official athletic website, UND.com, remains the best place for official press releases, statistics, match previews, recaps, game notes, photos and other official information about Irish volleyball. The Notre Dame website also features live scoring for all home (and selected away) matches and, for the seventh consecutive season, will feature live internet audio broadcasts of all home matches. Live video will also be available free of charge for home events. Fans can enlist for the Irish ALERT text messaging service to receive up-to-the-minute scores and results on their cell phones and other mobile devices. To sign up for this service, visit the volleyball page at UND.com and follow the Irish ALERT link on the sidebar.

**"FAB FOUR"** – Nickname assigned to the recruiting class of 1985: Zanette Bennett, Maureen Shea, Mary Kay Waller and Whitney Shewman. Serving as the nucleus of the emerging Irish volleyball program, these four players led the team to its first NCAA Tournament berth in 1988 and a school-record 17-match winning streak in 1986.

**FIGHTING IRISH** – Exactly where and how Notre Dame's athletic nickname "Fighting Irish" came to origination never has been perfectly explained. One story suggests the moniker was born in 1899 with Notre Dame leading Northwestern 5-0 at halftime of a football game in Evanston, Ill. The Wildcat fans supposedly began to chant, "Kill the Fighting Irish, kill the Fighting Irish," as the second half opened. Another tale has the nickname originating at halftime of the Notre Dame-Michigan football game in 1909. With his team trailing, one Notre Dame player yelled to his teammates – who happened to have names like Dolan, Kelly, Glynn, Duffy and Ryan – "What's the matter with you guys? You're all Irish and you're not fighting worth a lick." Notre Dame came back to win the game and the press, after overhearing the remark, reported the game as a victory for the "Fighting Irish." The most generally accepted explanation is that the press coined the nickname as a characterization of all Notre Dame athletic teams, their never-say-die fighting spirit and the Irish qualities of grit, determination and tenacity. The term likely began as an abusive expression tauntingly directed toward the athletes from the small, private, Catholic institution. Notre Dame alumnus Francis Wallace popularized it in his New



*Volleyball legend Karch Kiraly (left) provided the color commentary with play-by-play analyst Krista Blunk (right) when ESPN televised Notre Dame's regular-season finale win over No. 17 Louisville in 2007.*



York Daily News columns in the 1920s. The Notre Dame Scholastic, in a 1929 edition, printed its own version of the story: "The term 'Fighting Irish' has been applied to Notre Dame teams for years. It first attached itself years ago when the school, comparatively unknown, sent its athletic teams away to play in another city ... At that time the title 'Fighting Irish' held no glory or prestige ... The years passed swiftly and the school began to take a place in the sports world ... 'Fighting Irish' took on a new meaning. The unknown of a few years past has boldly taken a place among the leaders. The unkind appellation became symbolic of the struggle for supremacy of the field ... the term, while given in irony, has become our heritage ... So truly does it represent us that we are unwilling to part with it." Notre Dame competed under the nickname "Catholics" during the 1800s and became more widely known as the "Ramblers" during the early 1920s in the days of the Four Horsemen. University president Rev. Matthew Walsh, C.S.C., officially adopted "Fighting Irish" as the Notre Dame nickname in 1927.

**FINAL EIGHT** – Led by All-American Christy Peters, Molly Stark and Janelle Karlan, the 1993 Notre Dame volleyball team made its deepest-ever run in the NCAA Championship, reaching the final eight. The 17th-ranked Irish upset No. 8 Nebraska in three games in the opening round (after top-



The 1993 team celebrates its victory over Nebraska, which enabled the squad to continue its march to the NCAA quarterfinals, the deepest run ever for Notre Dame.

ping then-No. 3 Nebraska, 3-1, during the regular season). Stark, Peters, and Nicole Coates all notched double-digit kill matches, with Coates hitting a blazing .545. Notre Dame then traveled to Minneapolis, Minn., for a round-of-16 matchup against Minnesota. Facing the Golden Gophers in their home arena the Irish were put to the test, finally winning 15-13 in the fifth game of a thrilling match. Peters led Notre Dame with a stellar 26 kills and 21 digs. Coates, Stark, Jenny Birkner and Julie Harris also had double-digit kills in the win. The Irish faced a familiar foe

in the regional finals, as Penn State had knocked Notre Dame out of the NCAA Tournament in 1992. The seventh-ranked Nittany Lions duplicated the feat despite a 14-kill and 19-dig performance from Peters.

**GOLD AND BLUE** – The origin of Notre Dame's school colors can be traced back to the founding of the University in 1842. At that time, Notre Dame's original school colors were yellow and blue; yellow symbolized the light and blue the truth. However, sometime after the Dome and Statue of Mary atop the

**MEG HENICAN LOCKER ROOM** – The Irish volleyball team received a facility facelift with the opening of the Meg Henican Locker Room located in the Joyce Center in the summer of 2005. Among the highlights are 17 spacious wooden player lockers, team lounge with wrap-around couches, big-screen television, state-of-the-art audio and visual equipment. The locker room also features multiple dry-erase boards for strategy sessions and a team computer with a sound system that pumps music throughout the three areas. The facility is decorated with action photos and graphics on the lockers and walls, including a volleyball version of the famed "Play Like a Champion Today" sign. The locker room was made possible by the generosity of Marge and Joe Henican, whose daughter Meg (2002-05) was a standout libero for the Irish.



# All About the Irish

Main Building was gilded, gold and blue became the official colors of the University.

**GOLDEN DOME** – The Main Building, surmounted by a statue of Our Lady atop the world-famous Golden Dome, at one time comprised the entire University infrastructure, and in 1879 was rebuilt in five months after a devastating fire. Its gold leaf exterior is periodically replaced, most recently in 2005. The 12 Columbus murals in the main corridor were painted by Luigi Gregori, an Italian artist who spent 17 years at Notre Dame in the latter part of the 1800s. The building contains the primary administrative offices, including that of Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., who took over in June of 2005 as Notre Dame's 17th president. The exterior of the building was renovated and cleaned in 1996 and the interior of the building was renovated and reopened in August of 1999, after being closed the previous two academic years.

**GRADUATION RATES** – Notre Dame has consistently been near the top in virtually every category of the NCAA's annual student-athlete graduation-rates reports. In the 2005 edition, Notre Dame ranked first, graduating a four-year average of 90.4% of student-athletes. Notre Dame tied with Duke to be tops in graduation rate among women student-athletes (96%) and tied with Stanford for first in the male student-athlete category (87%).

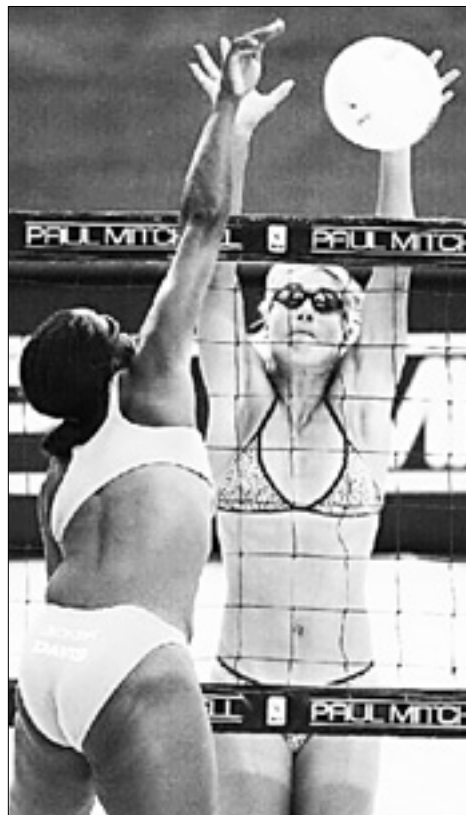
**HENICAN, MEG** – One of the top defensive players ever to wear a Notre Dame uniform and the first prolific Irish libero, Meg Henican concluded her career in 2005 holding 22 of the 25 Irish dig records, including every major mark: digs in a match (43), season (628), and career (1,783), and dig average in a season (5.06) and career (4.18). After coming to Notre Dame as a "Fab 50" outside hitter, she played primarily at the libero spot throughout her career, leading the Irish in digs on 69 occasions during her four years and posting double digits in that category a school-record 96 times (she had 20+ digs 29 times). She was an exceptional passer and serve receiver, and was instrumental in Notre Dame posting its three lowest opponent ace averages in her final three seasons (0.94 per game in 2003; 0.96 in 2004; 0.80 in 2005). As a senior, she took more than half of opposing serves while fielding a 97.4% reception percentage. Henican, a two-time captain who finished her career having played in an Irish-record 363 consecutive games, led Notre Dame to an outstanding 2005 season, which

featured a 30-4 record (5-1 vs. top-15 teams) and a No. 5 ranking in the AVCA polls.

**HOME COURT STREAKS** – In addition to posting some impressive conference winning streaks, Notre Dame has had a variety of dominating runs in the Joyce Center. The Irish have had five home winning streaks of 14 matches or more, highlighted by a school-record stretch of 36 straight home wins from 2000-02 and a 27-match streak from 1993-95. The Irish have had a winning home record in each of the 17 seasons under head coach Debbie Brown and won 74 in-a-row at home against conference foes during regular-season play from 1991-2004. Notre Dame also won 52 straight against unranked teams in the Joyce Center from 1998-2002.

**IRISH IN THE PROS** – Professional volleyball has been the next step for several Irish volleyball players who have played for current head coach Debbie Brown. Angie (Harris) Akers, a 1998 graduate, remains active on the Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) beach tour. The 2002 AVP Rookie of the Year, she finished among the top 20 individuals on tour in each of her first four seasons as a professional (2002 – 20th, 2003 – 17th, 2004 – 13th, 2005 – 14th). Another 1998 graduate, Jaimie Lee, was the 2003 AVP Rookie of the Year, and she finished 32nd in the individual standings in both 2003 and 2005 (and 19th and 18th in team standings, respectively). Twins Kristen and Jessica Kinder, who graduated in 2004, played in one AVP event shortly after leaving Notre Dame, and Lauren Brewster reached the semifinals of the 2005 CSTV Beach Nationals, which sent its champion straight to the AVP (2005 grad Lauren Kelbley also took part in the event). The United States Professional Volleyball (USPV) league staged its only season in 2002 with three former Irish players on its rosters: Molly Stark (1994), Denise Boylan (2000) and Kristy Kreher (2002). Stark, a seasoned veteran with eight professional seasons under her belt, played for the St. Louis Quest. Boylan and Kreher suited up for the Minnesota Chill.

**IRISH SPIKERS** – Irish fans under the age of 14 have the opportunity to join the Irish Spikers, an official club sponsored by the Notre Dame volleyball team. Spikers get to join the team on the court for match introductions, receive an official membership card and t-shirt, gain free admission to all regular-season home matches (with special seating for club members), participate in free volleyball clinics and take part in post-match autograph sessions. All clinics are held immediately after Notre Dame's home matches. A \$15 annual membership fee is required. Contact the Notre Dame Sports Promotions Department at 574.631.9910 for more information.



Angie (Harris) Akers, a 1998 Notre Dame graduate, was the Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) Rookie of the Year in 2002 and finished among the tour's top 20 players in her first four pro seasons.

**JOYCE CENTER** – Notre Dame's double-domed home for volleyball, basketball, hockey and other sports was named the Edmund P. Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center (now the Joyce Center) by vote of the Board of Trustees in May of 1987. Father Joyce, former executive vice president and chairman of the Faculty Board on Athletics, retired in 1987 following 35 years in that position. He passed away on May 2, 2004. Father Joyce was an active voice in the NCAA while pushing for higher standards and greater integrity in the intercollegiate arena. The Joyce Center, which houses Notre Dame's athletics offices, opened in the fall of 1968.

**KANALEY AWARD** – The Byron V. Kanaley Award is the most prestigious honor awarded to Notre Dame student-athletes. The award has been presented each year since 1927 to senior monogram winners who have been most exemplary as both students and leaders. Eight Irish volleyball players have earned the award: Terese Henken (1984), Alicia Turner (1993), Julie Harris (1994), Jaimie Lee (1998), Keara Coughlin (2003), Kristen Kinder (2004), Emily Loomis (2005) and Adrianna Stasiuk (2008).







Among the benefits offered to members of the Irish Spikers club is the chance to form a tunnel for the Irish during the starting lineup introductions at selected matches.

**LAMBERT, ART** – The second of four coaches to lead the Notre Dame volleyball program, Lambert headed the Irish team through its first taste of national prominence (1984-90). Lambert came to Notre Dame from Stanford and had an immediate impact on the Irish program. With a flair for recruiting and an emphasis on developing a national schedule, Lambert guided Notre Dame to its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 1988.

**LIBERO** – One year after the implementation of rally scoring, the 2002 season marked another major rule change for women's collegiate volleyball with the introduction of the libero position. A designated back row player that does not count toward the team's substitutions, the libero can freely replace any player that has rotated to the back row. Unlike substitutions that are administered by the referee, the libero replacement can enter the court anytime there is a dead ball. Since the libero is a defensive player, certain restrictions have been established on the player's offensive capability. A libero plays only in the back row and cannot attempt to block a shot. The libero – which could not serve before gaining that privilege in 2004 – cannot attack the ball above the net, nor can the libero set the ball with an overhead finger pass in the attack zone. With the introduction of the libero, a team's substitution total was dropped to 12. The player for whom was substituted for can

only replace the libero. Once on the bench, the libero must wait at least one point before re-entering. In the brief history of the position, 2006 graduate Meg Henican left her mark on the spot, wearing the libero jersey while breaking 22 of the 25 Notre Dame digs records.

**MIKASA AWARD** – Irish head coach Debbie Brown won the Mikasa Award as a collegian in 1976 and 1977. She earned the honor, which is presented to the nation's best all-around player, while helping USC to a combined 72-1 record and two national championships.

**MONOGRAM** – While other universities have letterwinners, Notre Dame student-athletes earn monograms and take their place in the Notre Dame Monogram Club. A first-year winner receives the monogram ND letters. The second year a jacket (or blanket) is awarded, followed by a third-year ring and fourth-year watch.

**MONOGRAM CLUB** – All former Notre Dame student-athletes who have earned monograms are eligible to become members of the Notre Dame Monogram Club, which provides scholarships and other support to current students and student-athletes. Various volleyball players have held leadership posts in the Monogram Club, including Julie (Pierson) Doyle (earned monograms in 1981 and '82), who became the organization's first-ever woman president in 2005. Katie Neff, a 2004 graduate, was elected to the Monogram Club board of directors in 2005 and will serve until 2009.

**NCAA BLOCKING CHAMPS** – After a series of near misses, Notre Dame claimed its first two NCAA statistical crowns in 2003 by leading all Division I teams in blocking (3.72/gm average with second-place Cornell coming in at 3.52), while sophomore Lauren Brewster was tops in individual blocking (1.78/gm). The Irish finished fifth in team blocking in 2001 and were second to Nebraska in 2002, while Brewster ended her rookie season fourth in the individual category. After the previous mark had stood since 1988, Notre Dame has broken the school record for season block average in 2002 and 2003. Additionally, no Irish team had ever featured four different players registering 100+ blocks in the same season, but Brewster, Katie Neff, Emily Loomis and Lauren Kelbley accomplished the feat in both 2002 and 2003. Each Irish player ranked among the top eight blockers in the BIG EAST Conference in the latter campaign.



Julie (Pierson) Doyle, who played for the Irish volleyball team from 1981-82, became the first woman president of the Notre Dame Monogram Club in 2005.

**NCAA TOURNAMENT** – The Irish have made 16 trips to the NCAA Division I Volleyball Championship, and are one of just seven schools to gain invitations in 15 consecutive tournaments from 1992-2006. They have advanced to the round of 16 on six occasions (1988, 1993-95, 1997 and 2005) highlighted by a trip to the national quarterfinals in 1993. This season's NCAA Tournament begins at campus sites Dec. 4-5, continues with regional action from Dec. 5-7, and concludes with the Final Four on Dec. 18 and 20 at the Quest Center in Omaha, Neb. The Joyce Center has played host to NCAA action on seven occasions, including the first two rounds in 2005.

**NORTHEAST REGION** – The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) has shifted Notre Dame into four different regions (or districts) over the past 20 years. After starting out in the North Central region, the Irish became a member of the Mideast Region (1992-94), then moved to District I (1995-99) before ending up in the Northeast Region in 2000. In all, Irish personnel have earned 53 all-region/district honors, including four coach-of-the-year accolades for Debbie Brown and 37 all-region team selections. Three Notre Dame players – Lauren Kelbley (the 2002 Northeast Region Rookie of the Year), Lauren Brewster, and Adrianna Stasiuk – earned all-Northeast Region honors in 2005. Kelbley was one of just two Division I players in the country to have been an all-region selection each year from 2002-05. Kellie Sciacca was tabbed the region's top freshman following the 2007 campaign.

# All About the Irish

**NOTRE DAME FAMILY** – For years this term has been used to describe all current and former Notre Dame students, employees and supporters in an attempt to capture the family-like atmosphere of the University.

**OLYMPIC TORCH RUN** – Irish head coach Debbie Brown took part in the Winter Olympic Torch Relay, carrying the flaming torch .02 miles in South Bend on Jan 4, 2002. A co-captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic volleyball 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. Brown was chosen as a torchbearer due to her embodiment of the inspirational spirit of the Olympics, shown by serving and motivating the community.

**PERFECTION** – Even as the Irish volleyball team strives for perfection on the court, a number of Notre Dame players have achieved it in the classroom over the last several years. Three 2004 graduates – Kim Fletcher, Kristen Kinder, and Katie Neff – combined for seven 4.00 grade point average semesters during their careers, while 2003 graduate Keara Coughlin posted a 4.000 in the fall of her final year. Fletcher finished her collegiate days with four consecutive 4.00 GPAs, while Kinder notched two perfect semesters during her time at Notre Dame. Leah Nedderman turned in a 4.00 in her final collegiate semester before graduating in 2005, and Justine Stremick accomplished the feat in the spring of 2008.

**PETERS, CHRISTY** – One of the top volleyball players ever to don a Notre Dame uniform, Peters became the first Irish All-American in 1993 then repeated the feat in 1994 with another third-team selection. Peters – the only player in program history to register 1,500 kills and 1,500 digs – still ranks first in the Irish career record books in a number of categories including kills (1,683), matches with team-high kills (70), 20-plus kill matches (19), double-doubles (64), digs (1,640) and dig average (3.72) by a non-libero.

**PRE-PEP RALLY PERFORMANCES** – Over the past eight seasons, the Notre Dame volleyball program has developed a tradition of playing before the highly-attended football pep rallies held in the Joyce Center on Friday evenings before home games. Notre Dame is one of few schools in the country to host football pep rallies for every home game, and

the Irish volleyball team has played before various record-setting crowds just hours before the event, giving it virtually unparalleled exposure. Most recently, 7,523 fans witnessed an Irish win over Cincinnati in 2007. During the 2000 season, Notre Dame played host to Nebraska in volleyball prior to the pep rally in anticipation of the meeting between the two schools on the gridiron. Over 3,000 fans jammed the Joyce Center for the volleyball match and then remained in their seats for the football pep rally. In 2002, Notre Dame entertained Providence before the football pep rally for Notre Dame's game with Boston College and drew 3,351 fans. A 2003 match that pitted conference foes Notre Dame and Virginia Tech prior to the Navy pep rally ended in a five-game decision that favored the Irish. In fact, current Notre Dame assistant coach Greg Smith was the Hokies' head coach at the time while shouldering the defeat in front of a school-record crowd of 8,643. In 2004, a showdown between the two defending BIG EAST co-champions featured Notre Dame and Pittsburgh, as the Irish picked up the win in three games before a crowd of 4,773. Notre Dame and Pittsburgh battled each other in football on the following day. The Irish dominated South Florida in the first-ever meeting between the two schools in front of a crowd of 5,541 in 2005.



Christy Peters

**RULE CHANGES** – Beginning in 2008, the NCAA has deemed that the term “game” will be changed to “set”. Furthermore, the number of points required to win sets one through four is now 25. The intention of this rule change is to increase fan and player focus and fan excitement. The number of points required to win the fifth set remains at 15. Collegiate women's volleyball transitioned to rally scoring in the 2001 season. Instead of side-out rules and games played to 15 points, this format awards a point each time the ball touches the ground and games were originally played to 30 points. The maximum number of substitutions for each team is now 12 per set.

**SISTERS** – Notre Dame has had two sets of sisters play on its volleyball team. Maureen (1980-82) and Kathleen (1984-86) Morin were the first, helping to shape the program in its infancy. More recently, twins Jessica and Kristen Kinder played for the Irish from 2000-03, serving as co-captains in 2003. They became just the third set of twin sisters to earn monograms in the same sport at Notre Dame. Megan Fesl battled her sister, Annie (a setter at Cincinnati), twice during the 2007 season with the Irish coming out on top of each contest. Rich Fesl, Megan and Annie's father, sang the national anthem before the home contest between the Irish and Bearcats that season.

**STASIUK, ADRIANNA** – One of the best all-around and versatile players in Irish history, Adrianna Stasiuk was named an honorable mention All-American in 2005, the same season in which she won the BIG EAST Conference Tournament Most Outstanding Player. She was one of two players in Irish history to be named CVU.com's National Player of the Week, picking up the honor in 2005 just one week after teammate Lauren Brewster earned the title. With a powerful jump serve and explosive power around the net, Stasiuk was a three-time all-league choice and was twice named to the all-district academic team. She became only the seventh Notre Dame player ever to register 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs in a career but was the first to ever pace the team in each the seven major statistical categories when she did so in 2007: attacks (1,012), kills (361), kills/gm (3.28), aces (33), aces/gm (.300), digs (3.77), digs/gm (3.43), points (425.5), receptions (1,146), and receiving percentage (.976). Her 62 career double-doubles ranks second all-time and she is third all-time in digs (with the second-highest total of any non-libero).

**TV STARS** – Notre Dame volleyball is in the midst of a stretch of unparalleled television exposure. After having been televised



only sporadically during the 80's and 90's, the Irish have appeared in 19 televised matches over the past five campaigns and are one of just 10 schools to be featured in College Sports Television's (CSTV) Sunday Night Spikes national match-of-the-week series in each of its three years of existence. Notre Dame beat then league-rival Miami in three games in front of a crowd of 2,715 in the Joyce Center late in 2003 CSTV's initial year of broadcasting college volleyball. The Irish were then televised three times in just over a month in 2004, dropping road matches against South Carolina (CSTV), Michigan (Comcast) and Brigham Young (BYU Television). The 2005 campaign continued this trend, as the Irish were televised a record four times, beating No. 11 Texas (CSTV) and Cincinnati (ESPNU) in the regular season, then prevailing at No. 7 Louisville in the final of the BIG EAST tournament (CSTV) and falling in five games to eventual NCAA semi-finalist Tennessee (Comcast) to end the regular season. On Senior Day in 2007, the final home contest for Adrianna Stasiuk and Ashley Tarutis, Notre Dame downed No. 17 Louisville on ESPNU to spoil the Cardinals' perfect regular-season record.

**TWO-SPORT STANDOUT** – Emily Loomis (2001-04) holds the distinction of being the only Notre Dame student-athlete to earn all-BIG EAST or All-America honors in two distinctly different sports. As a volleyball player, she was a four-year starter and



Emily Loomis (2001-04) is the only Notre Dame student-athlete ever to earn All-America honors in two distinctly different sports. She was a track and field All-America in 2006, finishing eighth in the NCAA meet, after being honorable mention AVCA All-America in volleyball in 2003.

three-time all-league honoree (first team in 2002, second team in 2003, honorable mention in 2004), while being honorable mention All-America in 2003. As a high jumper for the Irish track and field team, she was an All-American in 2006 after tying for eighth in the NCAA meet, as well as a four-time all-BIG EAST selection and the 2003 outdoor high jump champion.

**VANSLAGER, SANDY** – The first of four coaches to lead the Notre Dame volleyball program, Vanslager administered the transition from club to varsity status and the jump from Division II to Division I during her tenure (1980-83). Vanslager's best season came in the Notre Dame's first year as a Division I affiliate, when the Irish won 15 of their final 17 matches to finish 25-9 in 1982.

**VICTORY MARCH** – The most recognizable collegiate fight song in the nation, the "Notre Dame Victory March" was written in the early 1900s by two brothers who were University of Notre Dame graduates. Michael Shea, a 1905 graduate, composed the music while his brother, John Shea, who earned degrees in 1906 and 1908, provided the corresponding lyrics. The song was copyrighted in 1908 and a piano version, complete with lyrics, was published that year. Michael, who became a priest in Ossining, N.Y., collaborated on the project with John, who lived in Holyoke, Mass., the song's public debut came in the winter of 1908 when Michael played it on the organ of the Second Congregational Church in Holyoke. The "Notre Dame Victory March" was later presented by the Shea brothers to the University, and it first appeared under the copyright of the University of Notre Dame in 1928. The copyright for the beginning of the song is still in effect. The more well-known second verse, which begins with the words "Cheer, cheer for Old Notre Dame," is now in the public domain in the United States (for both the music and lyrics) – but the second verse remains protected in all territories outside of the country. Notre Dame's fight song first was performed at Notre Dame on Easter Sunday in 1909 in the rotunda of the Main Building. The Notre Dame band performed the Victory March as part of its traditional Easter morning concert. It was first heard at a Notre Dame athletic event 10 years later. In 1969, as college football celebrated its centennial anniversary, the "Notre Dame Victory March" was honored as the "greatest of all fight

songs." Michael Shea was pastor of St. Augustine's Church in Ossining until his death in 1938. John Shea, a baseball monogram winner at Notre Dame, became a Massachusetts state senator and lived in Holyoke until his death in 1965.

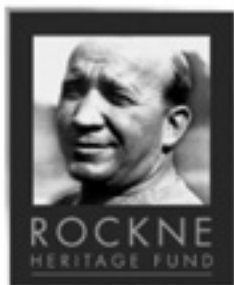
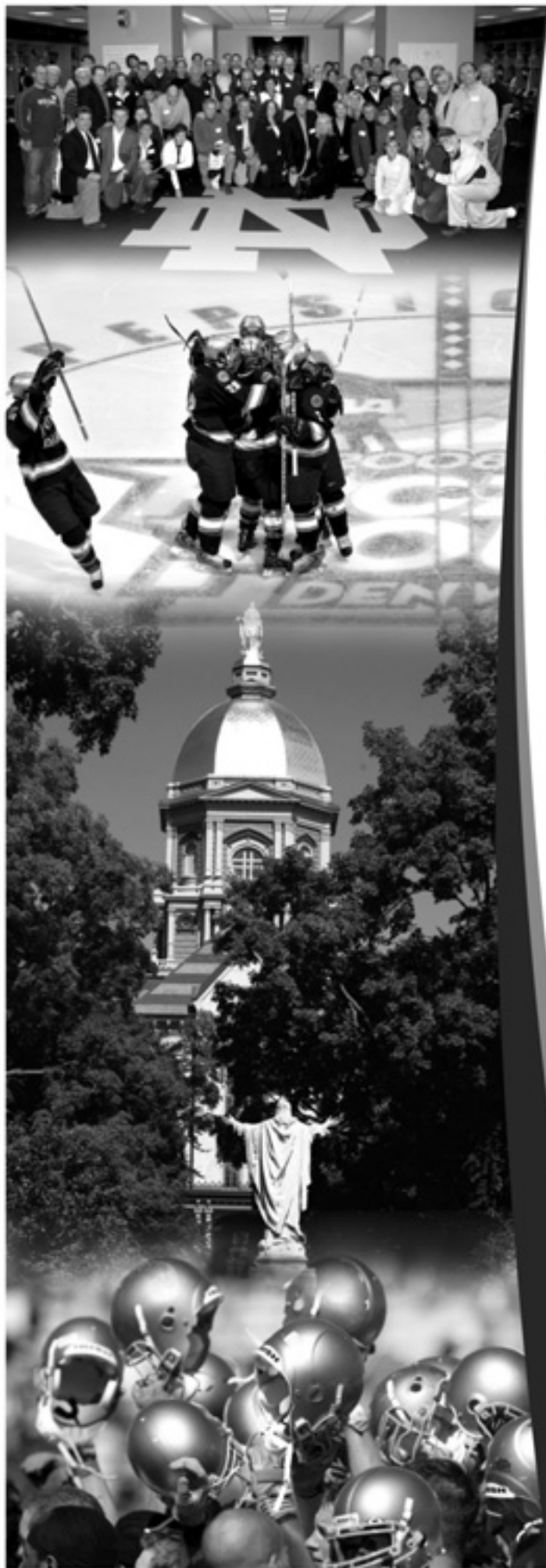
The original lyrics (below), written when all athletes at Notre Dame were male, refer to "sons," but in recognition of the fact that the Victory March is now played for athletic teams composed of men and women, many modify the words accordingly. The "Victory March" earned a number-one ranking in ratings compiled a 1998 book titled, "College Fight Songs: An Annotated Anthology." The "Victory March" was also the No. 1-ranked fight song in a survey in 1990 by Bill Studwell, a librarian at Northern Illinois University.

Rally sons of Notre Dame:  
Sing her glory and sound her fame,  
Raise her Gold and Blue  
And cheer with voices true:  
Rah, rah, for Notre Dame

We will fight in ev-ry game,  
Strong of heart and true to her name  
We will ne'er forget her  
And will cheer her ever  
Loyal to Notre Dame

Cheer, cheer for old Notre Dame,  
Wake up the echoes cheering her name,  
Send a volley cheer on high,  
Shake down the thunder from the sky.  
What though the odds be great or small  
Old Notre Dame will win over all,  
While her loyal sons are marching  
Onward to victory.

**WEB SITE** – Notre Dame athletics maintains its presence in cyberspace with its own Internet site, UND.com, operated in conjunction with CBS College Sports based in Carlsbad, Calif. The site features media guide material, frequent press releases, match and statistical information, links to live broadcasts and live "in-match" statistics, and pictures of all 26 of Notre Dame's varsity teams. In September of 2002, the site became the first in CBS College Sports history to attract more than five million page views in a month. It then plowed over six million hits in November 2003 and hit the seven million mark in a month for the first time in September 2004. From July 2006-June 2007, over 48.6 million visitors browsed UND.com, an average of over four million per month. A record 7.9 million visitors hit UND.com in September of 2006, the highest mark in the site's history.



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Our work has just begun. Athletics grants-in-aid are one of the largest items in the department of athletics operating budget, accounting for roughly \$14 million annually. The ultimate goal is to finance all budgetary needs through benefaction. We are confident that we will be successful because we have something special — the Notre Dame family; the Rockne Heritage Fund family.

### Director's Circle

Members donating to the Rockne Heritage Fund at the \$1,500, \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000 levels, receive a corresponding benefits package.

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### How to Make a Gift

- Send a check payable to the Rockne Heritage Fund; P.O. Box 519; Notre Dame, IN 46556.
- Make a gift online: [supporting.nd.edu](http://supporting.nd.edu) and include "Rockne Heritage Fund" in the comments section.
- Specify if your employer has a matching gift program.
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