



2001 Notre Dame Softball



University of Notre Dame Sports Information • April 27, 2001 • Contact: Alan Wasielewski, 219-631-7516, Fax: 219-631-7941

2001 Schedule

February

16-18 Fri.-Sun. at Holiday Inn Invitational (Tampa, Fla.)

16	Fri.	vs. Maryland	W, 4-1
16	Fri.	vs. South Florida	W, 5-3
17	Sat.	vs. #4 Washington	W, 3-2
17	Sat.	vs. Hofstra	W, 8-1
18	Sun.	vs. #18 S.Carolina	W, 1-0

23-25 Fri.-Sun. at Lady Razorback Invitational (Fayetteville, Ark.)

23	Fri.	vs. Texas Tech	W, 4-0
24	Sat.	vs. Arkansas	W, 4-3
24	Sat.	vs. Maine	W, 8-0 (5)
25	Sun.	vs. Arkansas	L, 0-2

March

2-4 Fri.-Sun. at Frost Tournament (Chattanooga, Tenn.)

2	Fri.	vs. Jacksonville St.	W, 4-1
2	Fri.	vs. Tenn.-Chatt.	W, 5-3
3	Sat.	vs. Alabama-Birm.	W, 9-1 (5)
11	Sun.	at #24 Cal St. North. (Northridge, Calif.)	W, 5-1
			W, 7-3
13	Tues.	at Long Beach State (Long Beach, Calif.)	W, 2-0

15-18 Th.-Sun. Kia Klassic Tournament (Fullerton, Calif.)

15	Thurs.	vs. Utah State	W, 6-0
15	Thurs.	vs. #7 Fresno State	W, 4-2
16	Fri.	vs. #5 Oklahoma	L, 2-4
17	Sat.	vs. Hawaii	W, 4-1
17	Sat.	vs. #10 Arizona St.	W, 5-1 (9)
18	Sun.	vs. #9 Cal. St. Full.	L, 4-5

28 **Wend.** Valparaiso W, 6-0, W, 4-0

29 **Thurs.** W. Michigan W, 7-1, W, 8-0

31 **Sat.** *St. John's W, 8-0, W, 1-0

April

1 **Sun.** *Seton Hall W, 6-3, W, 10-2 (5)

3 **Tues.** at Purdue W, 10-2 (6), W, 4-2 (8)

7 **Sat.** *at Connecticut W, 6-0, W, 1-0

8 **Sun.** *at Syracuse W, 6-0, W, 6-0

12 **Thurs.** Loyola (Chicago) W, 8-0, W, 6-0

14 **Sat.** *Pittsburgh W, 2-0, W, 8-0

17 **Tues.** at Indiana State Canceled

19 **Thurs.** at #10 DePaul W, 7-6, W, 5-1

21 **Sat.** *at Virginia Tech W, 5-0, W, 4-0

24 **Tues.** at Illinois-Chicago W, 8-0

25 **Wend.** Toledo W, 11-0, W, 1-0

28 **Sat.** *Boston College 11:00 a.m.

29 **Sun.** *Providence 11:00 a.m.

May

2 **Wend.** Bowling Green 3:30 p.m.

4 **Fri.** *at Villanova 12:00 p.m.

5 **Sat.** *at Rutgers 10:30 a.m.

10-12 **Th.-Sat.** BIG EAST Championship

17-20 **Th.-Sat.** NCAA Regionals

24-28 **Th.-Mon.** College World Series

All home games (indicated in bold) played at Ivy Field.
* - indicates BIG EAST Conference game

Who: Notre Dame, Boston College and Providence

What: Irish focus on last weekend of home field competition

Where: Notre Dame, Ind., Ivy Field

When: #9 Notre Dame vs. Boston College, Saturday, April 28, 11:00 a.m.
#9 Notre Dame vs. Providence, Sunday, April 29, 11:00 a.m.

Irish face last weekend of BIG EAST competition at Ivy Field this season:

The ninth-ranked Notre Dame softball team (43-3, 12-0 in the BIG EAST) will play two doubleheaders against BIG EAST competition this weekend. The Irish will face Boston College (25-21, 6-10) on Saturday at 11 a.m., then face Providence (21-23, 3-11) on senior day, Sunday at 11 a.m..

Rookie Kristin Schmidt tosses first career no-hitter in dominating fashion: Irish freshman righthander Kristin Schmidt threw her first career no-hitter in Notre Dame's 1-0 victory over Toledo in the second game against the Rockets on Wednesday, April 25. She took the mound in the second game and wielded her arsenal of pitches like a veteran, not a freshman making just her 21st collegiate start.

She would end up just one walk away from a perfect game, sitting down 15 Rocket batters, including the last nine she faced. Just how dominating was the performance? The scoreboard flashed three balls in a Toledo batter's count just twice - when Schmidt issued a 3-2 walk to Kalika Stavroulakis in the fourth and when Danielle D'Amore flied out on a 3-1 count in the third.

After Schmidt walked Stavroulakis, she would throw just three non-strike pitches the rest of the game and strike out the last nine batters of the game.

Streaking: Notre Dame has rattled off a school-record 25 straight victories since it returned from a Spring Break trip to California - 24 of those wins coming in 12 doubleheader sweeps.

All-time Notre Dame regular-season win streaks:
25: March 28, 2001 - Present
21: April 11, 1998 - Feb. 20, 1999
19: March 16, 1996 - April 11, 1996
16: May 22, 2000 - Feb. 25, 2001
13: April 16, 1990 - April 25, 1990

When Notre Dame opened the 2001 season with eight consecutive victories, the Irish stretched their regular-season win streak to 16 (dating back to May 22, 2000). That streak ranks as the fourth-best in school history.

Streaking II: Hand-in-hand with Notre Dame's 22 consecutive victories have been 11 consecutive doubleheader sweeps. Beginning with two victories vs. Valparaiso on March 28, the Irish have swept 12 consecutive twin bills. Combined with Notre Dame's first doubleheader sweep of the year on March 11 at #24 Cal State Northridge, the Irish have swept a school-record 13 doubleheaders in a row this season. That breaks the previous streak of eight straight doubleheader sweeps in 1996.

Streaking III: Where does the current Irish win streak rank in Notre Dame athletic history? Answer: The Irish have compiled one of the top winning streaks in Notre Dame team-oriented sports history.

The top winning streaks in Notre Dame history (team-oriented sports only):

- 26: Men's Soccer
Sept. 20, 1977 - Oct. 1, 1978
- 25: Softball
March 28, 2001 - Present
- 24: Women's Soccer
Oct. 19, 1995 - Oct. 21, 1996
- 23: Women's Basketball
Nov. 20, 2000 - Feb. 17, 2001
- 23: Football
Sept. 10, 1988 - Nov. 18, 1999
- 22: Men's Basketball
Dec. 23, 1908 - Feb. 9, 1909
- 21: Baseball
May 31, 1906 - May 21, 1907
- 20: Women's Basketball
Dec. 11, 1999 - Feb. 22, 2000

Miller earns her 900th career victory vs. Pittsburgh: Liz Miller enjoyed her 900th career victory on Saturday, April 14, when the Irish beat Pittsburgh in the second game of a doubleheader 8-0. The Irish head coach now boasts a career record of 907-294.

Miller also claimed a victory in her 500th game as Notre Dame's head coach on April 1, 2001 vs. Seton Hall. The Irish defeated the Pirates 8-0 in five innings to earn Miller her 349th victory under the Golden Dome.

Irish climb into top ten to earn highest-ever national ranking: After sweeping #10 DePaul and Virginia Tech last week, the Irish have earned their highest ever ranking with a ninth-place position in the USA Today/NFCA Top 25 (Notre Dame is tied with Arizona State for ninth place).

The team entered the season ranked 19th in the preseason poll and moved to 14th in the Feb. 21st poll. The Irish then dropped a spot to 15th in the Feb. 28th poll, but moved back up to 14th for two weeks (March 7 and 14). After a hard-fought third-place finish in the Kia Klassic (March 15-18), the Irish moved up to 11th and stayed at that position for three weeks.

Notre Dame in the USA Today/NFCA

Top 25 this season:

Preseason: 19 (0-0)

Irish defeat #4 Washington and #18 South Carolina while capturing the Holiday Inn Invitational in Tampa, Fla.

Feb. 21: 14 (5-0)

2001 Notre Dame Softball Roster

No.	Name	Year	Pos.	Ht.	B/T	Birthdate	Hometown (High School)
2	***Melanie Alkire (C)	Sr.	SS/RHP	5-8	R/R	10-6-79	Union City, CA (James Logan)
4	***Danielle Klayman (C)	Sr.	OF	5-7	L/L	9-17-79	San Diego, CA (La Jolla)
5	**Kas Hoag	Jr.	UT/DP	5-5	L/R	6-13-80	Wallingford, CT (Lyman Hall)
7	Jessica Sharron	So.	RHP	5-8	R/R	10-12-81	Agoura Hills, CA (Thousand Oaks)
8	Kristin Schmidt	Fr.	RHP	5-9	R/R	4-3-82	Houston, TX (North Shore Senior)
9	***Jen Sharron (C)	Sr.	LHP	5-9	L/L	9-14-79	Agoura Hills, CA (Thousand Oaks)
10	*Alexis Madrid	So.	2B/SS	5-1	L/R	10-17-81	Temecula, CA (Temecula)
11	**Jenny Kriech	Jr.	OF	5-7	L/L	9-8-80	Indianapolis, IN (Perry Meridian)
15	Nicole deFau	Fr.	IF/OF	5-9	R/R	10-5-82	Southington, CT (Southington)
16	***Lizzy Lemire (C)	Sr.	OF	5-9	R/R	10-10-79	Irvine, CA (Woodbridge)
17	Sarah Kirkman	Sr.	OF/DP	5-11	R/R	11-2-78	Kokomo, IN (Northwestern)
18	*Andria Bledsoe	So.	3B/SS	5-7	R/R	8-4-81	Higley, AZ (Highland)
19	Chantal DeAlcuaz	Fr.	C	5-9	R/R	4-29-82	Modesto, CA (Central Catholic)
20	*Lisa Mattison	So.	1B/C/DP	5-10	R/R	4-26-81	Granger, IN (Penn)
22	**Jarrah Myers	Jr.	C	5-9	R/R	4-22-80	Carbondale, KS (Santa Fe Trail)
33	*Andrea Loman	So.	1B/3B	5-10	R/R	11-25-81	Riverside, CA (Poly)

* - indicates monograms won

(C) - indicates 2001 team captains

Head Coach: Liz Miller (Western Michigan, '69), 365-152 (.706) record at Notre Dame (Nine years)

Associate Head Coach: Deanna Gumpf (Nebraska '92)

Assistant Coach: Traci Conrad (Michigan '99)

Volunteer Assistant Coach: John Gumpf (Cal St. San Bernardino '97)

Trainer: Chantal Porter (Iowa State '94)

Team Managers: Maureen Guilfoyle, Sean Coary

Pronunciation Guide

Melanie *Alkire* Al-KYE-er
 Chantal *DeAlcuaz* Deh-All-quez
 Nicole *deFau* duh-FOE
 Andria Bledsoe An-DREE-a
 Kas *Hoag*..... HOE-g
 Jennifer *Kriech* Creek
 Lizzy *Lemire* Lah-MEER
 Andrea Loman An-DRAY-a

Notre Dame Softball Quick Facts

All-Time Record: 458-235-2
 Extra-Innings Record: 29-31-2
 Overall Winning Seasons: 12
 Overall Losing Seasons: 0
 2000 Record: 47-14
 Home: 14-4
 Away: 14-2
 Neutral: 19-8
 BIG EAST: 14-2 (1st)
 Starters Returning/Lost: 9/0
 Monogram Winners
 Returning/Lost: 11/3

Irish give up two runs on a double in the sixth inning to drop first game of the season at Arkansas.

Feb. 28: 15 (8-1)

Irish lose three games off the schedule due to inclement weather but claim third tournament title of the season at the Morning News Invitational in Chattanooga, Tenn..

March 7: 14 (11-1)

Irish sweep a doubleheader at #24 Cal State Northridge.

March 14: 14 (13-1)

Irish finish third in the Kia Classic, knocking off #7 Fresno State and #10 Arizona State while posting a 5-2 record during the week.

March 21: 12 (18-3)

Irish earn highest-ever ranking and face a week off before their home opener vs. Western Michigan (March 27).

March 28: 11 (18-3)

Irish continue to climb the poll after taking a week off after their Spring Break trip.

April 4: 11 (26-3)

Irish improve to 4-0 in the BIG EAST and sweep five consecutive doubleheaders.

April 11: 11 (32-3)

Irish extend doubleheader win streak to seven and push overall winning streak to 14.

April 18: 11 (36-3)

Irish continue shutout streak, blanking Loyola (Chicago) and Pittsburgh in two more doubleheader sweeps. Notre Dame boasts the top winning streak in the nation (18 games).

April 25: 9 (43-3)

Irish knock off sixth ranked team and earns eighth victory over a ranked team this season (a doubleheader sweep at #10 DePaul) and post 21st and 22nd consecutive victories and 11th-straight doubleheader sweep with 5-0 and 4-0 victories at Virginia Tech.

Notre Dame posts best-ever start: Notre Dame's 43-3 (.935) record over its first 46 games is by far the best start to a season since the program began in

1989. The team's .935 winning percentage entering has been ranked as the best in the country according to the NCAA.

Coach Miller's team is also 40 games over .500 for the first time in school history. The Irish were 36 games over the .500 mark (48-12) on May 5, 1996 and 35 games over .500 (47-12) on June 18, 2000.

The Irish started the season with an 11-1 record, besting the 8-4 starts in 1995 and 2000 seasons that were the previous best for a season.

Jarrah Myers becomes the third Irish player to earn BIG EAST Player of the Week accolades: Jarrah Myers (Carbondale, Kan.) was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week by the conference office on Monday, April 16.

Myers batted .455 in four games during the week of April 10-16, leading Notre Dame to a 4-0 record on the week with doubleheader sweeps of Loyola (Chicago) and BIG EAST Conference opponent Pittsburgh. Myers also helped guide the Notre Dame pitching staff through four more shut-out victories, as the Irish now have thrown a school-record eight consecutive shutouts.

Against Loyola, she had a two-for-four performance in the first game with an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. In the second game, she went one-for-three with her fifth home run of the season, a two-run shot in the fifth inning. Taking on Pittsburgh over the weekend, Myers went two-for-four in the doubleheader, including a triple in the first game.

She is the third Irish player to earn the weekly award this season (Jenny Kriech, Feb. 26, and Andrea Loman, March 19), while senior pitcher Jen Sharron has been named BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week three times this season and rookie RHP Kristin Schmidt earned the pitcher of the week award on March 5.

Irish among the NCAA statistical leaders: The NCAA has released its Division I softball statistical rankings for the 2001 season, and Notre Dame ap-

pears prominently on the lists.

Freshman RHP Kristin Schmidt is sixth in the nation in ERA with a 0.51 mark as of April 22. The Irish, who feature eight players hitting over .300 this season, are ranked fifth in the nation in team batting (.322). Notre Dame also is second in the nation in winning percentage (36-3, .923), ninth in team ERA (0.94) and 18th in scoring (5.16 runs per game). The Irish also entered the week with a 22-game winning streak, which was second in the nation behind UMass. Since the NCAA released its list, UMass has lost to Connecticut and the Irish have added three victories to their total for 25 straight wins - an NCAA best. Notre Dame also is first in the nation in winning percentage 40-3 (.930).

Other Irish players that appear on the NCAA statistical rankings include Jen Sharron (17th in victories with 21) and Jenny Kriech (46th in batting average with .393).

Eight players over .300: There is a reason why Notre Dame is ranked among the top-10 in the nation in team batting average (.324). Eight players on the Irish roster boast a current batting average above .300 - Jenny Kriech (.389), Jarrah Myers (.380), Andrea Loman (.354), Melanie Alkire (.345), Lizzy Lemire (.340), Danielle Klayman (.326), Alexis Madrid (.310), and Lisa Mattison (.302).

Four Irish players set to try out of the USA Softball National Team: Four University of Notre Dame softball players have been selected by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) to participate in the USA Softball Women's National Team Camp, May 30-June 3 at the ARCO Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif.

Seniors **Jen Sharron (Agoura Hills, Calif.)**, **Melanie Alkire (Union City, Calif.)** and **Lizzy Lemire (Irvine, Calif.)** and sophomore **Andrea Loman (Riverside, Calif.)** have all been invited to the camp. USA Softball will select two 16-player teams out of the 51 athletes invited to represent the United States in international competitions such as

USA Today/NFCA Top 25 (as of April 25, 2001)			
School	Record	Points	LW
1. Arizona	46-4	669	2
2. UCLA	44-4	651	1
3. Stanford	42-6-1	616	3
4. California	45-8	582	4
5. LSU	42-8	557	5
6. Alabama	44-5	531	7
7. Oklahoma	37-7	519	6
8. CS Fullerton	41-11	474	9
9. NOTRE DAME	40-3	444	11
Arizona State	30-14	444	8
11. Nebraska	42-10	400	12t
12. DePaul	36-11-1	378	10
13. Washington	29-17	333	12t
14. Oregon State	35-16-1	302	16
15. Iowa	35-10	286	15
16. Fresno State	33-17	276	14
17. Florida State	47-7	247	17
18. Pacific	43-9	239	18
19. SW Texas State	39-8	164	19
20. Louisiana-Lafayette	36-7	139	21
21. Michigan	30-12-1	101	24
22. Massachusetts	31-9	93	23
23. Texas A&M	29-15	80	22
South Carolina	34-16-1	80	20
25. CS Northridge	26-20	28	25

Others receiving votes: Virginia (19), Texas Tech (16), New Mexico (13), Utah (13), Kansas (11), Florida Atlantic (10), Baylor (9), Villanova (9), Southern Mississippi (8), Hawaii (7), Illinois (7), North Carolina (5), South Florida (5), Tennessee-Chattanooga (2).

Bold indicates 2001 Notre Dame opponents.
Lw - ranking in the last poll

Notre Dame Sports Information

Publicity for Notre Dame softball is coordinated by sports information publicity assistant Alan Wasielewski.

Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available by contacting Wasielewski at (219) 631-7516 or via e-mail at Wasielewski.3@nd.edu.

Requests to interview student-athletes must be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Media may contact coach Liz Miller directly on weekdays at (219) 631-6167. Credentials for home games can be obtained by calling Wasielewski.

Statistics, results and weekly releases also are readily available on Notre Dame's official athletic site, www.und.com.

the U.S. Cup in Honolulu, Hawaii, the Canada Cup in Vancouver and the Pan Am Qualifier in Maracay, Venezuela during the 2001 season.

The list of players invited to camp represent the best fast pitch softball talent in the nation. Notre Dame is tied for third on the list of schools with the most selected players behind Arizona (9) and UCLA (8).

Selections for the 2001 USA Softball Women's National Teams will be made following the USA Softball Women's National Team Camp. The two teams will then participate in the USA Softball Shootout, a four-city West Coast tour that will stop in Portland (June 8), Spokane (June 10), Sacramento (June 14) and Los Angeles (June 17) prior to leaving for the U.S. Cup in Hawaii.

Should any of the Irish players be selected for the national team, they will become members of the undisputed #1 softball team in the world. The USA Softball National Team won the first Olympic gold medal in the sport's history in 1996 and repeated the feat again in 2000. The USA team has won the past four consecutive World Championships, the past four consecutive Pan Am Games and the past two Olympic gold medals.

For more coverage of the USA Softball Women's National Team visit the team's official website at www.usasoftball.com.

Jen Sharron named BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week for the third time this season and second week in a row: Senior LHP **Jen Sharron** earned her second consecutive BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week award on Tuesday, April 10. It is the third weekly award of the season (Feb. 26, April 2, April 10) for the three-time BIG EAST Pitcher of the Year, and it comes on the heels of a dominating weekend against conference competition.

After leading Notre Dame to a non-conference win at Purdue (Tuesday, April 3), Sharron compiled 14 scoreless innings at Connecticut and Syracuse to help the Irish to an 8-0 start in conference play. Against the Huskies, Sharron gave up just one hit, striking out four and inducing 12 ground-ball outs. She was equally impressive against the Orangewomen on Sunday, posting her 15th complete game of the season and seventh shut out while giving up just five hits and striking out nine.

Sharron's impressive week is just a continuation of one of the best series of starts the All-American has posted in her career. In her last seven appearances, she is 7-0 with seven complete games and 64 strikeouts, allowing just 21 hits and three earned runs (0.46 ERA).

Sharron currently has a 1.12 ERA and 176 strikeouts in 155.2 innings pitched. She is the ace of a staff that boasts a 0.88 ERA, giving up just 39 earned runs in 46 games.

Myers is one tough out: Notre Dame cleanup hitter and catcher **Jarrah Myers** has been the toughest out in the Irish lineup this season. Myers is second on the team in batting average (.361) and leads the team with a .607 slugging percentage. She has reached safely in 32 of 43 games this season and has 12 multi-hit performances to give her a .452 on-base percentage.

Hitting the long ball: Seven Irish players have blasted home runs this season. **Andria Bledsoe** hit her first career round-tripper against South Florida while **Jen Sharron** joined the home run club with a three-run shot in the fifth inning vs. Arkansas (Feb. 24). It was Sharron's third career home run. Notre Dame's top hitter so far in 2001, **Jenny Kriech**, hit her first home run of the year vs. Jacksonville State (March 9).

Jarrah Myers leads the team in round-trippers with six, blasting two in one game vs. #24 Cal State

Notre Dame Statistical Leaders (as of April 27, 2001)

Batting Average (min. 40 at-bats)

Kriech, J. ....	.389
Myers, J. ....	.380
Loman, A. ....	.354
Alkire, M. ....	.345

Runs

Kriech, J.	41
Myers, J.	33
Lemire, L.	31
Alkire, M.	31

Hits

Kriech, J.	58
Alkire, M.	51
Lemire, L.	49
Myers, J.	49

Doubles

Alkire, M.	12
Loman, A.	11
Myers, J.	9
Klayman, D.	9

Triples

Kriech, J.	6
Myers, J.	3
Lemire, L.	3
Klayman, D.	2

Home Runs

Myers, J.	6
Loman, A.	4
Alkire, M.	3
Lemire, L.	3

RBI

Myers, J.	34
Lemire, L.	34
Loman, A.	24
Bledsoe, A.	22

SLG %

Myers, J. ....	.636
Loman, A. ....	.575
Kriech, J. ....	.523

Total Bases

Myers, J.	82
Kriech, J.	78
Alkire, M.	72

On Base %

Myers, J. ....	.471
Kriech, J. ....	.456
Loman, A. ....	.424

Stolen Bases

Kriech, J.	15
Myers, J.	8
Lemire, L.	8
Madrid, A.	7

Fielding %

Schmidt, K.	1.000
Kriech, J.	1.000
Loman, A. ....	.991

Assists

Alkire, M.	61
Madrid, A.	53
Bledsoe, A.	48

Sacrifice Hits

Madrid, A.	8
Bledsoe, A.	6
Klayman, D.	5
Loman, A.	5

2001 BIG EAST Weekly Awards

Player of the Week:

Feb. 26 - **Jenny Kriech, Notre Dame**
 Mar. 5 - Carmen Farmer, Virginia Tech
 Mar. 12 - Keri Jacklets, Providence
 Mar. 19 - **Andrea Loman, Notre Dame**
 Mar. 26 - Keri Jacklets, Providence
 April 2 - Sara Carlson, Villanova
 April 9 - Sara Carlson, Villanova
 Vickie Lamb, Seton Hall
 April 16 - **Jarrah Myers, Notre Dame**
 April 23 - Sara Carlson, Villanova
 April 30 -
 May 7 -

Pitcher of the Week:

Feb. 26 - **Jen Sharron, Notre Dame**
 Mar. 5 - **Kristin Schmidt, Notre Dame**
 Clarisa Crowell, Virginia Tech
 Mar. 12 - Theresa Hornick, Villanova
 Mar. 19 - Christina Shanko, Seton Hall
 Mar. 26 - Catherine Gilliam, Virginia Tech
 April 2 - **Jen Sharron, Notre Dame**
 Theresa Hornick, Villanova
 April 9 - **Jen Sharron, Notre Dame**
 April 16 - Misty Beaver, Seton Hall
 April 23 - Courtney Fitzgerald, St. John's
 April 30 -
 May 7 -

Northridge and one against #9 Cal State Fullerton. Myers also hit a tape-measure shot (estimated at least 260 feet) vs. Valparaiso on March 28 and a two-run homer vs. Loyola (Chicago). She added her sixth home run against Toledo on April 25.

Andrea Loman has three solo shots against #4 Washington (Feb. 17) Hawaii (March 17) and Connecticut (April 7) and also hammered a two-run blast at Virginia Tech (April 21).

Lizzy Lemire joined the group with a three-run

dinger in the sixth inning against Seton Hall (April 1) and a two-run homer at Syracuse (April 8) - the first home run of the year hit at Syracuse's Skytop Stadium.

Lemire also launched a walk-off grand slam in the bottom of the sixth to end Notre Dame's first game with Toledo on April 25. Lemire's four RBI gave the Irish an 11-0 victory.

Notre Dame's most prolific home run hitter of all-time, **Melanie Alkire** (see Alkire historical note), has 'touched them all' three times this season.

Unprecedented RBI production: As the Irish enter the final stretch of the 2001 season six players that have posted 20 or more RBI this season.

That breaks the school record of five players with 20 or more RBI, set in three different seasons ('95, '97 and '00). **Jarrah Myers** (34), **Lizzy Lemire** (34), **Andrea Loman** (24), **Andria Bledsoe** (22), **Jenny Kriech** (21), and **Melanie Alkire** (20) have already reached the 20 RBI barrier this season. **Dani Klayman** (15) also has the ability to become the seventh player reach 20 this season.

Rookie righthander Schmidt puts up veteran numbers: The success of freshman RHP **Kristin Schmidt** has put the Irish coaching staff in the enviable position of possessing two quality starting pitchers for the 2001 season.

Schmidt is 19-1 in 20 starts this season with a 0.51 ERA. She has struck out 169 (see strikeout note that follows) and the freshman hurler has struck out 11 batters in five innings of work vs. Maine and Valparaiso.

The rookie stepped up her game to an even higher level at the Kia Classic (March 15-18), shutting down some of the top offenses in the nation. Schmidt earned two victories with complete game performances vs. 10th-ranked Arizona State and a four-hit shutout of Utah State.

Against the Sun Devils, she pitched all nine innings of the extra-innings contest, surrendering just two hits (a lead-off bunt single, followed by a single in the bottom of the ninth that allowed the runner placed on second in the international tie breaker rule to score) in the game. At one point in the game, Schmidt retired 17 straight Sun Devil batters.

Against Utah State on March 15, Schmidt posted a career-best 13 strikeouts while allowing just four hits.

Schmidt also made an extended relief appearance vs. Oklahoma, taking over for starting pitcher Jen Sharron for the third out of the first inning. She had an immediate impact, striking out the first batter she faced in three pitches and eventually holding the potent Sooner offense to just three hits the rest of the way.

Returning home for two doubleheaders vs. Valparaiso and Western Michigan, Schmidt continued to be nearly unhittable. Working five innings vs. Valparaiso (March 28) Schmidt worked four perfect innings before giving up a single in the fifth inning. She ended with 11 K in five innings of work.

Entering the circle the next day vs. Valparaiso, Schmidt tossed her third shutout of the season, once again giving up just one hit and striking out nine.

The rookie tossed her sixth and seventh shut outs of the season in her first trip to Connecticut and Syracuse last weekend.

Taking the mound against DePaul on Thursday, April 19, Schmidt surrendered just three hits and one earned run against the 10th-ranked team in the nation. She continued her effectiveness against ranked teams this season - in four appearances against top-25 teams (at Cal State Northridge, vs. Oklahoma, vs. Arizona State and at DePaul) she has given up just one earned run, struck out 27 and allowed just 12 hits in 27.2 innings pitched for a 0.33 ERA.

The rookie's outstanding numbers just keep mounting, she is second in the BIG EAST in overall ERA (0.51 as of April 22) and is even better in conference competition, as opposing teams have not scored a run off of the righthander in BIG EAST play this season.

Schmidt continued her impressive rookie showing with her first career no-hitter against Toledo on April 25 in Notre Dame's 1-0 victory. She sat down a career-best 15 batters, including striking out the last nine she faced.

Irish pitching staff becomes K Krew: 200 strikeouts is a total some teams hope to achieve in an entire season. Notre Dame's pitching staff, though, is out

Notre Dame Softball Roster Breakdown

Starting Pitchers

Pos.	No.	Name	Year	Height	Bats/Throws	Birthdate	Hometown	Notes
LHP	9	Jen Sharron	Sr.	5-9	L/L	9-14-79	Agoura Hills, CA	One-hit, 6K in last appearance on Wednesday
RHP	8	Kristin Schmidt	Fr.	5-9	R/R	4-3-82	Houston, TX	First no-hitter, 15K vs. Toledo Wednesday

Probable Starters

C	22	Jarrah Myers	Jr.	5-9	R/R	4-22-80	Carbondale, KS	Leads the team in homers (6) and RBI (34)
1B	33	Andrea Loman	So.	5-10	R/R	11-25-81	Riverside, CA	Homered against Virginia Tech
2B	1	Alexis Madrid	So.	5-1	L/R	10-17-81	Temecula, CA	Had the game-winning RBI vs. Toledo (game 2)
SS	2	Melanie Alkire	Sr.	5-8	R/R	10-6-79	Union City, CA	ND's career leader in RBI (157) and HR (28)
3B	18	Andria Bledsoe	So.	5-9	R/R	8-4-81	Higley, AZ	Back in the lineup after injuring knee at Syracuse
LF	16	Lizzy Lemire	Sr.	5-9	R/R	10-10-79	Irvine, CA	Blasted walk-off grand slam vs. Toledo (game 1)
CF	11	Jenny Kriech	Jr.	5-7	L/L	9-8-80	Indianapolis, IN	Ranked 46th in the country in batting avg. (.393)
RF	4	Danielle Klayman	Sr.	5-7	L/L	9-17-79	San Diego, CA	Has 11 multi-hit games this season
DP	20	Lisa Mattison	So.	5-10	R/R	4-26-81	Granger, IN	Batting .302 after hitting over .400 last week

Off the Bench

DP	5	Kas Hoag	Jr.	5-5	L/R	6-13-80	Wallingford, CT	Two-for-three in second game vs. Syracuse
2B	15	Nicole deFau	Fr.	5-9	R/R	10-5-82	Southington, CT	Had an RBI single in first game vs. Purdue
C	19	Chantal DeAlcuaz	Fr.	5-9	R/R	4-29-82	Modesto, CA	Has relieved Myers at catcher three times this year
OF	17	Sarah Kirkman	Sr.	5-11	R/R	11-2-78	Kokomo, IN	Gives the Irish powerful bat on bench
RHP	7	Jessica Sharron	So.	5-8	R/R	10-12-81	Agoura Hills, CA	Five appearances, 5 K

2001 BIG EAST Standings		
Team	2001 BIG EAST record	Overall
1. Notre Dame	12-0	40-3
2. Villanova	11-1	34-4
3. Connecticut	8-4	23-18
4. Seton Hall	8-6	20-11
5. Virginia Tech	8-6	32-19
6. St. John's	6-8	28-25
7. Boston College	6-10	23-21
8. Rutgers	4-8	20-17
9. Syracuse	3-9	12-21
10. Pittsburgh	3-9	10-33
11. Providence	3-11	19-23

BIG EAST Results and Schedule

April 19

Kent 6, Pittsburgh 2	
Kent 2, Pittsburgh 0	
Villanova 1, La Salle 0	
Villanova 1, La Salle 0	
Seton Hall at St. Joseph's	Canceled
St. John's 5, Marist 1	
St. John's 9, Marist 3	
Rutgers 4, Rider 0	
Rutgers 2, Rider 0	
Connecticut 5, Quinnipiac 4 (9)	
Connecticut 3, Quinnipiac 2	
Boston University 2, Boston College 1 (9)	
Syracuse 2, Siena 1 (8)	
Syracuse 1, Siena 0 (9)	

April 24

Villanova 5, Monmouth 1 (8)	
Villanova 1, Monmouth 0	
Providence 2, Seton Hall 0	
Providence 6, Seton Hall 0	
Boston College 3, Holy Cross 2	
Boston College 8, Holy Cross 0 (6)	
St. Peters vs. Seton Hall, ppd	
Penn State 7, Syracuse 2	
Syracuse 2, Penn State 1 (8)	
Virginia 4, Virginia Tech 2 (8)	
Virginia 3, Virginia Tech 1	

April 21

Syracuse 11, Providence 2	
Providence 1, Syracuse 0	
Villanova 3, Seton Hall 1 (8)	
Villanova 3, Seton Hall 2	
St. John's 2, Rutgers 0	
Rutgers 3, St. John's 1	
Connecticut 1, Boston College 0	
Connecticut 3, Boston College 2	
Virginia 8, Pittsburgh 2	
Virginia 2, Pittsburgh 0	

April 22

Boston College 2, Syracuse 0	
Syracuse 2, Boston College 0	
Virginia Tech 5, Pittsburgh 0	
Virginia Tech 2, Pittsburgh 1	
St. John's 1, Villanova 0	
Villanova 2, St. John's 1	
Seton Hall 8, Rutgers 0	
Seton Hall 5, Rutgers 1 (11)	

April 25

Rutgers 6, Hofstra 5	
Hofstra 3, Rutgers 1	
Connecticut 2, #22 Massachusetts 1	

April 26

Cornell at Syracuse (DH)	3 p.m.
Wagner at St. John's (DH)	3 p.m.
Connecticut at Boston University	3:30 p.m.

April 28

Providence at Pittsburgh (DH)	11 a.m.
Villanova at Syracuse (DH)	12 p.m.
Virginia Tech at Seton Hall (DH)	12 p.m.
Rutgers at Connecticut (DH)	12 p.m.
Long Island at St. John's (DH)	12 p.m.

April 29

Boston College at Pittsburgh (DH)	12 p.m.
Rutgers at Syracuse (DH)	12 p.m.
Virginia Tech at St. John's (DH)	12 p.m.
Villanova at Connecticut (DH)	12 p.m.

BIG EAST games in bold.

to set a new precedent in Ks. As of April 18, the Irish have 342 strikeouts as a team - **Jen Sharron** has 176, **Kristin Schmidt** 190, and **Jessica Sharron** has five.

To put Schmidt and Jen Sharron's numbers in perspective, an Irish pitcher has posted over 200 strikeouts just four times in Notre Dame history - Sharron (246) last season and Terri Kobata (250, 315 and 213 from '93-'95) - and both current Irish ace are on pace to reach that mark this season.

They have both been red-hot lately as well. Jen Sharron sat down 14 Valparaiso batters on March 28, setting a personal record (and just three off the school record, held by Kobata). Sharron also fanned 24 batters in two starts against Loyola (Chicago) and Pittsburgh. Schmidt posted her career-high for strikeouts (15) in her first career no-hitter against Toledo April 25.

Sharron and Schmidt are on a break-neck pace in the strikeout category. Schmidt has reached 100 K in the third-fewest innings pitched with 77.2 IP. Terri Kobata reached 100 strikeouts in 62.1 innings in 1994 and 69 innings in 1995.

Kriech dominates competition from the leadoff position: No player on the Notre Dame roster has been more consistent than junior rightfielder **Jenny Kriech** in the first three months of the season.

She started off by splitting tournament MVP honors with teammate **Lizzy Lemire** at the Holiday Inn Invitational (Feb. 16-18) and earning a spot on the Morning News Invitational (Feb. 23-25) all-tournament team.

The Irish lead-off hitter has 56 hits in 43 games this season, including the following dramatic moments:

- A game-winning single up the middle against #4 Washington on Feb. 17.
- A game-tying single against Arkansas (Feb. 24) in the top of the fifth, setting the table for teammate Jen Sharron's game-winning home run and Kriech scoring the eventual game-winning run.
- A walk-off three-run triple in the bottom of the fifth against Maine (Feb. 24) that ended the game on collegiate softball's eight-run rule.
- She drove the first pitch of the third inning vs. Jacksonville State deep over the wall in right field for her first home run of the year and third of her career.
- Posted a five-for-eight performance in a double-header vs. Western Michigan with three RBI, four runs scored and three stolen bases.
- She is third on the team in hitting with runners in scoring positions (.379), has posted a batting average of .520 when she leads off an inning and has

11 two-out RBI.

- She rebounded from a one-for-seven performance at Connecticut to go six-for-eight with two RBI at Syracuse the next day.

- She ranks among the leaders in the BIG EAST Conference in several categories, including: second in batting (.393), first in hits (55), tied for first in triples (6), third in steals (14), first in runs scored (38), fifth in total bases (75), first in on-base percentage (.459) and sixth in slugging percentage (.536).

Myers ties two school records: Junior all-BIG EAST catcher **Jarrah Myers** equalled two school records in the second game of a doubleheader vs. #24 Cal State Northridge on March 11, in Northridge, Calif. She blasted two home runs in the game, matching the school record held by six different Irish players, including herself when she hit two home runs vs. Seton Hall on April 30, 2000.

Against CSUN, Myers launched a three-run shot down the leftfield line in the fifth inning and muscled a two-run homer over the rightfield fence in the seventh inning. Adding an RBI single in the first inning, she posted six RBI in the game, matching the school record held by teammate **Melanie Alkire** (vs. San Diego State, 3-12-00).

Irish picked to repeat as BIG EAST champs: Notre Dame, which finished last season ranked 24th in the country, returns all nine starters from its 2000 BIG EAST Championship title team last year. Led by

captains **Melanie Alkire**, **Danielle Klayman**, **Lizzy Lemire** and **Jen Sharron**, the Irish have been picked to repeat as BIG EAST champions by a vote from the league's coaches.

The 2001 BIG EAST Coaches Preseason Poll:

1. Notre Dame, 100 pts.
2. Connecticut, 91 pts.
3. Seton Hall, 68 pts.
- Virginia Tech, 68 pts.
5. Boston College, 64 pts.
6. Villanova, 55 pts.
7. Syracuse, 50 pts.
8. St. John's, 43 pts.
9. Rutgers, 29 pts.
10. Pittsburgh, 25 pts.
11. Providence, 12 pts.

The Irish finished with a 14-2 record in BIG EAST competition last season and swept through the BIG EAST Championship in three games. Notre Dame out-scored Boston College (5-2) and Connecticut (5-0, 7-0) 17-2 to earn its third consecutive conference championship title.

All-Americans return: Seniors **Melanie Alkire** and **Jen Sharron** became Notre Dame's first All-Americans since 1996 by earning NFCA second-team All-American honors last year.

Katie Marten ('94-'97) earned NFCA third team honors in 1995 and 1996 while Terri Kobata ('93-'96) earned third team honors in 1995 and second team honors in 1996.

Alkire finished the 2000 season with 13 home runs, 64 RBI and 73 hits. She also posted a 7-1 pitching record (in 13 appearances) with a 2.30 ERA, including a six-hitter against sixth-ranked and 2000 National Champion Oklahoma on Mar. 18, 2000.

Sharron pitched 27 complete games last season, tossing 246 strikeouts and posting a 0.88 ERA. In her career, the Agoura Hills, Calif., native has pitched 574.2 innings with 504 strikeouts and a 1.26 ERA entering the 2001 season.

Talented and noteworthy returnees: The Irish are loaded with veteran players and talented underclassmen this season. Out of the nine starting players that return to the lineup this season, eight earned postseason accolades from the BIG EAST conference. **Jen Sharron** earned her third consecutive BIG EAST Pitcher-of-the-Year award and was picked by league coaches to repeat the honor once again in 2001.

Melanie Alkire won her second consecutive BIG EAST Player-of-the-Year award last season and placed an exclamation point on her conference season by earning the Most Outstanding Player award at the 2000 BIG EAST Championship.

Andrea Loman helped the Irish earn a sweep of the major player-of-the-year awards by becoming the second consecutive Notre Dame player to earn BIG EAST Rookie-of-the-Year accolades (**Jarrah Myers** earned the distinction in 1999).

Alkire, Loman, Myers and Sharron were joined on the all-BIG EAST first team by Danielle Klayman, Jenny Kriech and Lizzy Lemire. **Andria Bledsoe** rounded out the Notre Dame award winners with a second team all-BIG EAST selection and a spot on the all-rookie team.

In keeping with the stellar league performance by her team, Irish head coach **Liz Miller** earned her second BIG EAST Coach-of-the-Year award. Miller previously won the award in 1996.

Miller is coaching in her 26th season: Notre Dame head coach Liz Miller is now in her ninth season with the Irish and 26th season as a collegiate head coach. She boasts a 907-294 (.755) record over the last 26 years, 17 of which she coached at Lake Michigan College before heading to the Golden Dome in 1993.

In each of her previous eight seasons with the Irish, Miller has led the team to a conference title (Midwestern Collegiate '93-'95, BIG EAST '96-present) and the team has advanced to the NCAA tournament five times.

While at Lake Michigan College, Miller's teams amassed 12 conference championships and 11 regional titles. From 1981-85 her team finished in the nation's top five each year.

Miller entered the season ranked 16th on the NCAA winningest active coaches list with a 341-152 (.692) record at Notre Dame.

Alkire among the national and Notre Dame historical leaders: Senior **Melanie Alkire** compiled one of the best offensive seasons ever for a Notre Dame softball player in 2000. Alkire led the team in most of the offensive categories, ranking first in batting average (.376), hits (73), doubles (15), home runs (13), RBI (64), total bases (129), slugging percentage (.665) and on-base percentage (.421).

Her 64 RBI ranked fifth in the nation in 2000, while her 13 home run mark was ranked 34th.

Alkire's early season production has already put

BIG EAST Statistical Leaders (as of April 23)

Team Batting Average

Notre Dame	.322
Villanova	.285
Seton Hall	.274
Boston College	.268
Virginia Tech	.263

Team ERA

Notre Dame	0.94
Villanova	1.05
Virginia Tech	1.32
Providence	1.56
Boston College	1.76

Individual Batting Average

Name	School	AB	Hits	Avg.
Carlson, Sara	VU	79	33	.418
Kriech, Jenny	ND	140	55	.393
Blumfield, Cara	BC	127	48	.378
Jacklets, Kerri	PC	132	49	.371
Dubovik, Nicole	UC	127	46	.362

Individual Pitching

Name	School	Games	IP	ERA
Hornick, Theresa	VU	25	113.0	0.50
Schmidt, Kristin	ND	23	138.0	0.51
Black, Leah	RU	19	143.2	0.88
Sharron, Jen	ND	23	146.2	1.19
Malandris, Tekae	BC	29	138.1	1.21

Hits

Name	School	Games	Hits	Hits/G
Kriech, Jenny	ND	43	55	1.28
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	51	53	1.04
Yanosy, Jessica	UC	41	52	1.27
Garofalo, Shanel	VT	51	50	.98
Alkire, Melanie	ND	43	49	1.14

Home Runs

Name	School	Games	HR	HR/G
Blumfield, Cara	BC	44	11	.25
Houghton, Kelly	SJU	52	8	.18
Jacklets, Kerri	PC	42	8	.19
Vorhees, Amy	VT	47	7	.15
Carlson, Sara	VU	28	7	.25

Triples

Name	School	Games	3B	3B/G
Kriech, Jenny	ND	43	6	.14
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	51	6	.12
Jarratt, Summer	PC	44	4	.09
Blumfield, Cara	BC	44	4	.09
Myers, Jarrah	ND	43	3	.07

Stolen Bases

Name	School	Games	SB	SB/G
Neer, Brittny	RU	36	24	.67
Pasquerella, Jackie	VU	38	21	.55
Kriech, Jenny	ND	43	14	.33
Flier, Robin	VU	38	13	.34
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	51	10	.20

Runs Scored

Name	School	Games	Runs	R/G
Kriech, Jenny	ND	43	38	.88
Myers, Jarrah	ND	43	30	.70
Pasquerella, Jackie	VU	38	29	.76
Blumfield, Cara	BC	44	28	.64
Yanosy, Jessica	UC	41	28	.68

Doubles

Name	School	Games	2B	2B/G
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	51	13	.25
Yanosy, Jessica	UC	41	13	.32
Alkire, Melanie	ND	43	12	.28
Houghton, Kelly	SJU	52	11	.21
Garofalo, Shanel	VT	51	11	.22

RBI

Name	School	Games	RBI	RBI/G
Blumfield, Cara	BC	44	39	.89
Myers, Jarrah	ND	43	31	.72
Houghton, Kelly	SJU	52	30	.58
Garofalo, Shanel	VT	51	29	.57
Voorhees, Amy	VT	47	28	.60

On Base Percentage

Name	School	Games	AB	OB%
Kriech, Jenny	ND	43	140	.459
Blumfield, Cara	BC	44	127	.456
Myers, Jarrah	ND	43	122	.452
Loman, Andrea	ND	43	106	.431
Myhren, Tracy	SHU	24	6	.429

Wins

Name	School	App.	Record
Sharron, Jen	ND	23	21-2
Schmidt, Kristin	ND	23	19-1
Hornick, Theresa	VU	25	16-0
Fitzgerald, Courtney	SJU	31	16-11
Stoller, Keri	VU	21	15-4

Strikeouts

Name	School	App.	K	K/G
Schmidt, Kristin	ND	23	169	8.57
Sharron, Jen	ND	23	168	8.02
Stoller, Keri	VU	21	166	10.19
Black, Leah	RU	19	154	7.50
Malandris, Tekae	BC	29	141	7.13

Innings Pitched

Name	School	App.	IP	IP/G
Fitzgerald, Courtney	SJU	31	196.1	6.33
Calabrese, Gina	SJU	25	170.1	6.81
Sharron, Jen	ND	23	146.2	6.38
Black, Leah	RU	19	143.2	7.56
Schmidt, Kristin	ND	23	138.0	6.00

Team Fielding

Name	PO	A	E	%
Villanova	780	265	19	.982
Virginia Tech	1032	432	43	.971
Pittsburgh	862	387	41	.968
Notre Dame	870	254	367	.968
Connecticut	829	386	41	.967

her atop the career home run list (28), RBI list (157) and doubles list (49). She is also second in walks (56).

So far in 2001, Alkire has 51 hits, a .345 batting average, 12 doubles and 20 RBI.

Sharron assaults the Irish record books: Senior lefthander **Jen Sharron** is coming off one of the most dominating seasons ever for a Notre Dame pitcher. After posting a 0.88 ERA and 246 strikeouts in 2000, she has positioned herself among the best to ever enter the pitching circle for the Fighting Irish.

Ranking in the top five in 12 career pitching categories, just a typical season from "#9" will put her on top of many of the all-time charts. Sharron has averaged 191.4 inning pitched, 168 strike outs, 20.3 wins and 18 complete games in her first three years with the Irish. Over that same period of time, she has won three consecutive BIG EAST Pitcher-of-the-Year awards and is favored to win her fourth trophy this season.

She is currently first in all-time starts (106), first in wins (83), second in complete games (74), second in shutouts (35), first in innings pitched

Notre Dame Game Highs (Team as of April 27)

<i>Team</i>	
At bats:	34 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01)
Runs scored:	10 vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01)
.....	10 vs. Purdue (4-3-01)
Hits:	15 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01)
RBI:	8 vs. Maine (2-24-01)
.....	8 vs. St. John's (3-31-01)
Doubles:	5 at DePaul (4-19-01)
Triples:	2 vs. Hofstra (2-17-01)
.....	2 vs. UAB (3-3-01)
Home Runs: ..	2 vs. Cal St. Northridge (3-11-01)
Total Bases:	20 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01)
Walks:	7 vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01)
Strikeouts:	8 vs. South Carolina (2-18-01)
Sac hits:	4 vs. UT-Chattanooga (3-2-01)
Sac flies:	3 vs. DePaul (4-19-01)
Stolen Bases:	5 vs. Valparaiso (3-28-01)
.....	5 vs. Western Michigan (3-29-01)
HBP:	3 vs. Cal State Northridge (3-18-01)
Caught Stealing:	2 five times
Runners LOB: ..	11 vs. Cal St. Fullerton (3-18-01)
Hit into DP:	2 vs. Purdue (4-3-01)
.....	2 vs. Syracuse (4-8-01)
Fielding	
Putouts:	27 vs. Arizona State (3-17-01)
Assists:	13 vs. DePaul (4-19-01)
Errors:	4 vs. Washington (2-17-01)
DPs turned	1 six times
Pitching	
Innings	9.0 vs. Arizona State (3-17-01)
Strikeouts:	14 vs. Valparaiso (3-28-01)
Wild pitches:	1 four times
HBP:	3 vs. Cal State Fullerton (3-18-01)

(730.1), **third in winning percentage** (83-27, .755), **second in career ERA** (1.24) and **second in strikeouts** (678).

Sharron has a 22-2 record with a 1.12 ERA and 176 strikeouts so far this season.

Sharron named a BIG EAST Scholar-Athlete: Standout Notre Dame softball pitcher **Jen Sharron** and Irish baseball pitcher Mike Naumann have been selected as the BIG EAST Conference Female and Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year, respectively, from the University of Notre Dame.

Sharron will receive \$2,000 toward graduate studies from the BIG EAST and Aeropostale, and becomes eligible for the overall female BIG EAST award based on nominees from each league member school. Aeropostale sponsors the league's post-graduate student-athlete scholarship program, awarding 31 scholarships to conference student-athletes.

A 3.272 student (on a 4.0 grade-point average scale) as a film, television and theater major in the College of Arts and Letters, Sharron twice has been a BIG EAST Academic All-Star and for two years has been part of the University's Academic Honors Program matching high-achieving student-athletes with faculty mentors.

In addition, Sharron is the softball team's representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC), participates with the STAR reading program, speaks to young people on the dangers of drug use as part of the Notre Dame Athletes Against Drugs

program, has assisted with freshman orientation and participates in various activities with student-sponsored services events, primarily with Memorial Medical Center Pediatrics.

Irish placed at 19th in USA Today/NFCA Pre-season Top 25 poll: The Irish were ranked 19th in the USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) preseason poll that was released on Wednesday, Jan. 24. The 19th ranking marks the highest the Irish have been placed in the preseason since 1994, when the team entered the season ranked 17th.

Notre Dame returns all nine starters from the 2000 squad that compiled a 47-14 record and won its second consecutive BIG EAST Championship title. Last year's team climbed to 17th in the NFCA poll last season, tying the school mark for the highest-ever national ranking. The Irish were ranked 24th in the final NFCA poll last season.

Irish boast a strong schedule this season: Notre Dame will face a number of ranked teams this season, as six opponents on the 2001 schedule appeared in the preseason top 25. Another five opponents received mention in the 'others receiving votes' category in the poll. Notre Dame has already defeated #4 Washington and #18 South Carolina at the Holiday Inn Invitational (Feb. 16-18) in Tampa, Fla., and #7 Fresno State, #10 Arizona State and #24 Cal State Northridge twice on its trip to California for Spring Break and knocked off #10 DePaul in Chicago on April 19.

Notre Dame has posted a 7-2 record against ranked teams this season in addition to its 5-3 record against ranked teams last season, with victories over #16 Louisiana Lafayette, #6 Oklahoma and #22 Illinois-Chicago three times.

Andrea Loman becomes second Irish player to earn BIG EAST Player of the Week accolades: Sophomore first base **Andrea Loman** was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week on March 19, for her performance during the Kia Klassic (March 15-18). In the nine games the Irish played over Spring Break, Loman increased her batting average from .214 to .333 by pounding out 12 hits, three RBI and one home run (vs. Hawaii).

Loman also fared well against Notre Dame's higher-ranked competition, including a three-for-three afternoon against #5 Oklahoma, a two-for-three game vs. #24 Cal State Northridge and a two-for-four contest vs. #9 Cal State Fullerton.

She is the second Irish player (Jenny Kriech, Feb. 26) to earn the award this season.

Notre Dame sweeps the first BIG EAST softball weekly awards announcement: The 12th-ranked University of Notre Dame softball team, off to the its best start ever with an 18-3 record in 2001, had two players recognized by the BIG EAST Conference on Feb. 26.

Junior **Jenny Kreich** was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week after posting six hits in four games at the Morning News Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark., (Feb. 23-25). In an 8-0 victory over Maine on Saturday, Feb. 24, Kriech was three-for-three, including a game-ending three-run triple. She finished the tournament with a .545 batting average (six-for-11) and was named to the Morning News Invitational all-tournament team.

Senior All-American **Jen Sharron**, a three-time

Notre Dame Game Highs (Individual as of April 27)

<i>Batting</i>	
At bats:	4, 78 times
Runs:	3, Alkire vs. St. John's (3-31-01)
.....	3, Kriech vs. Seton Hall (4-1-01)
.....	3, Myers twice
Hits:	4, Kriech vs. Syracuse (4-8-01)
RBI:	6, Myers vs. CS Northridge (3-11-01)
Doubles:	2, Bledsoe vs. Fresno State (3-15-01)
Triples:	1, nine times
Home Runs: ..	2, Myers vs. CS Northridge (3-11-01)
Total Bases: ..	9, Myers vs. CS Northridge (3-11-01)
Walks:	2, eight times
Strikeouts: ...	3, Sharron, Jen. vs. South Carolina (2-18-01)
Sac hits:	2, three times
Sac flies:	2, Myers vs. DePaul (4/19/01)
Stolen Bases: ..	3, Kriech vs. W. Michigan (3-29-01)
HBP:	2, Hoag vs. CS Fullerton (3-18-01)
Caught stealing:	1, 20 times
Runners LOB:	5, Bledsoe vs. UConn (4-7-01)
Fielding	
Putouts:	14, Myers vs. Valpo (3-28-01)
Assists:	5, Sharron, Jen., vs. DePaul (4-19-01)
Errors:	2, Sharron, Jen. vs. Hawaii (3-17-01)
.....	2, Bledsoe vs. W. Michigan (3-29-01)
Pitching	
Innings: ..	9.0, Schmidt vs. Arizona St. (3-17-01)
Strikeouts: ..	14, Sharron, Jen. vs. Valpo (3-28-01)
Wild pitches:	1, four times
Hit batters: ..	3, Sharron, Jen. vs. CS Fullerton (3-18-01)

BIG EAST Pitcher of the Year, began the 2001 season in traditional style by capturing the first BIG EAST Pitcher-of-the-Week award. She allowed just one earned run in two starts during the second week-end of the season, including a one-hit shutout victory against Texas Tech on Friday. That 4-0 win over the Red Raiders included a seven-hour rain delay after the third inning. She joined Kriech and Irish catcher Jarrah Myers on the Morning News Invitational all-tournament team.

Sharron also did some damage at the plate. With the score tied at 1-1 in the bottom of the fifth against Arkansas on Feb. 24, Sharron launched a 0-2 pitch far over the centerfield fence to give her team a three-run lead. Notre Dame eventually won the game 4-3.

Three talented rookies join the Irish roster: **Liz Miller** and her staff welcomes three talented freshmen to the team this season. Catcher **Chantal DeAlcuaz**, IF/OF **Nicole deFau** and RHP **Kristin Schmidt** all possess the talent and drive to contribute immediately in the Notre Dame lineup.

Schmidt, a 2000 second-team All-American coming out of North Shore Senior High School, has secured a spot in the Irish rotation with an impressive performance during the fall exhibition season.

Providing her team some solid depth in the infield, deFau has shown the range and ability to be a steady backup to Alexis Madrid and may also see some time in the outfield. deFau joins junior Kas Hoag as the only two Notre Dame players with Connecticut state roots.

DeAlcuaz, who is the eighth Irish player on the 2001 roster from California (Modesto), will have the opportunity to backup and learn from one of the

best catchers in the country, junior Jarrah Myers.

Preseason all-BIG EAST awards announced: The BIG EAST Conference has announced its choices for the preseason all-BIG EAST team (Jan. 4) and the Irish placed six players on the 13-member team of league standouts.

Senior shortstop **Melanie Alkire** was picked by the league coaches to earn her third consecutive BIG EAST Player of the Year award. Alkire was a unanimous first team all-BIG EAST selection in 2000 while leading the Irish in batting average (.376), hits (73), doubles (15), home runs (13), RBI (64), total bases (129), slugging percentage (.665) and on base percentage (.421). She boasts a .392 career batting average in conference games and was also named the Most Outstanding Player at the 2000 BIG EAST Championship.

Senior left-hander **Jen Sharron** earned the nod for the Preseason Pitcher of the Year award. She has won the conference's pitcher of the year award the previous three years, becoming the first Irish pitcher and first-ever freshman to earn the honor in 1998. Sharron went 6-2 in conference competition last season, posting a 0.92 ERA. Her 0.73 lifetime ERA in conference play ranks as fifth on the conference career charts.

Alkire and Sharron were joined on the 2001 preseason all-BIG EAST team by teammates **Jarrah Myers**, **Jennifer Kriech**, **Lizzy Lemire**, and 2000 BIG EAST Rookie of the Year **Andrea Loman**.

Notre Dame launches 24-hour sports hotline: The Notre Dame athletic department has launched its varsity sports hotline, available by calling (219) 631-3000.

The hotline provides schedule and results information for all 26 Notre Dame varsity sports and serves as a supplement to the live coverage and game recaps already provided on the official athletic website at www.und.com.

The menu offerings for the 24-hour hotline will be adjusted on a seasonal basis, with schedule and result information from 21 different sports currently being added to the hotline.

Here is how the hotline is currently aligned (as of April 9):

- Dial (219) 631-3000
- Select any of the following subgroups:
 1. Upcoming schedule and recent results of ALL varsity sports currently in action (select cells 3-9 for more detailed information).
 2. Upcoming football schedules for the 2001 - 2003 football seasons.
 3. Baseball information.
 4. Softball information.
 5. Lacrosse information (then press 1 for men's lacrosse and 2 for women's lacrosse).
 6. Tennis information (press 1 for men's tennis, 2 for women's tennis).
 7. Men's and women's outdoor track and field information.
 8. Golf information (press 1 for men's golf, 2 for women's golf).
 9. Women's rowing information.

"Live Stats" debuts on www.und.com: The University of Notre Dame sports information office is now able to display a live box score for all Notre Dame softball home games, updated after each play, on the official Notre Dame website: www.und.com. The page also has the ability to display play-by-play and statistics for each team while the game is being played.

Connect to the link <http://und.fansonly.com/livestats/w-softbl/> for every home Notre Dame softball game and keep up with the action.

BIG EAST Conference-Only Statistical Leaders (as of April 23)

<i>Team Batting Average</i>					<i>Runs Scored</i>				
Notre Dame	.....			.342	Name	School	Games	Runs	R/G
Connecticut	.....			.277	Alkire, Melanie	ND	12	13	1.08
Seton Hall	.....			.267	Lemire, Lizzy	ND	12	12	1.00
Villanova	.....			.258	Richards, McKenzie	SHU	14	11	.79
Boston College	.....			.228	Carlson, Sarah	VU	12	10	.80
					Kriech, Jenny	ND	12	10	.83
<i>Team ERA</i>					<i>Doubles</i>				
Notre Dame	.....			0.18	Names	School	Games	2B	2B/G
Villanova	.....			0.98	Simjian, Mandy	UC	12	4	.33
Virginia Tech	.....			1.53	Yanosy, Jessica	UC	12	4	.33
Connecticut	.....			1.71	Voorhees, Amy	VT	14	4	.29
Rutgers	.....			1.92	Garboden, Heather	VU	12	4	.33
<i>Individual Batting Average</i>					<i>RBI</i>				
Name	School	AB	Hits	Avg.	Name	School	Games	RBI	RBI/G
Carlson, Sara	VU	39	17	.436	Carlson, Sara	VU	12	14	1.17
Dubovik, Nicole	UC	34	14	.412	Simjian, Mandy	UC	12	13	1.08
Lemire, Lizzy	ND	39	16	.410	Lemire, Lizzy	ND	12	13	1.09
Kriech, Jenny	ND	38	14	.368	Loman, Andrea	ND	12	12	1.00
Loman, Andrea	ND	30	11	.367	Voorhees, Amy	VT	14	11	.79
<i>Individual Pitching</i>					<i>Wins</i>				
Name	School	Games	IP	ERA	Name	School	App.	Record	
Schmidt, Kristin	ND	6	38.1	0.00	Sharron, Jen	ND	6	6-0	
Haskins, Caryn	UC	4	17.0	0.00	Schmidt, Kristin	ND	6	6-0	
Sharron, Jen	ND	6	40.0	0.35	Hornick, Theresa	VU	9	6-0	
Melandris, Takae	BC	13	67.0	0.42	Stoller, Keri	VU	8	5-1	
Hornick, Theresa	VU	9	47.2	0.44	Dobbe, Ashlee	VT	7	5-2	
<i>Hits</i>					<i>Strikeouts</i>				
Name	School	Games	Hits	Hits/G	Name	School	App.	K	K/G
Richards, McKenzie	SHU	14	18	1.29	Malandris, Tekae	BC	13	59	6.16
Carlson, Sara	VU	12	17	1.42	Sharron, Jen	ND	6	54	9.45
Smith, Mary Carroll	SHU	14	16	1.14	Black, Leah	RU	6	54	7.36
Kotynski, Marlena	SHU	14	16	1.14	Beaver, Misty	SHU	10	53	7.52
Asbury, Jen	BC	16	16	1.00	Stoller, Keri	VU	8	52	9.50
<i>Home Runs</i>					<i>Shutouts</i>				
Name	School	Games	HR	HR/G	Name	School	App.	SHO	
Carlson, Sara	VU	12	5	.42	Sharron, Jen	ND	6	5	
Blumfield, Cara	BC	16	4	.25	Schmidt, Kristin	ND	6	5	
Voorhees, Amy	VT	14	4	.29	Fitzgerald, Courtney	SJU	9	3	
Smith, Mary Carroll	SHU	14	4	.29	Bessolo, Gina	UP	6	2	
Asbury, Jen	BC	16	3	.29	Beaver, Misty	SHU	10	2	
<i>Triples</i>					<i>Opponent Batting Average</i>				
Name	School	Games	3B	3B/G	Name	PO	G	Hits	B.Avg.
Kriech, Jenny	ND	12	4	.33	Schmidt, Kristin	ND	6	12	.095
11 tied with one					Sharron, Jen	ND	6	17	.122
<i>Stolen Bases</i>					Malandris, Tekae	BC	13	36	.155
Name	School	Games	SB	SB/G	Stoller, Keri	VU	8	21	.159
Pasquerella, Jackie	VU	12	8	.67	Beaver, Misty	SHU	10	28	.161
Neer, Brittney	RU	12	6	.50					
Johnston, Robin	UP	8	5	.62					
Lemire, Lizzy	ND	12	5	.42					
Blair, Bronwyn	VT	14	4	.29					