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NOTRE DAME

F O O T B A L L

MEDIA DAY EDITION: AUGUST 15, 2003

NOTRE DAME (0-0)

Sept. 6	WASHINGTON STATE	1:30 EST
Sept. 13	at Michigan	3:30 EDT
Sept. 20	MICHIGAN STATE	1:30 EST
Sept. 27	at Purdue	TBA
Oct. 11	at Pittsburgh	TBA
Oct. 18	USC	1:30 EST
Oct. 25	at Boston College	TBA
Nov. 1	FLORIDA STATE	2:30 EST
Nov. 8	NAVY	2:30 EST
Nov. 15	BYU	2:30 EST
Nov. 29	at Stanford	5:00 PST
Dec. 6	at Syracuse	1:00 EST

PRESEASON RANKINGS

Here's where Notre Dame has been ranked in the preseason and final *Associated Press* polls since 1987:

Year	Preseason	Final
1987	18	17
1988	13	1
1989	2	2
1990	2	6
1991	6	13
1992	3	4
1993	7	2
1994	2	—
1995	9	11
1996	6	19
1997	11	—
1998	22	22
1999	18	—
2000	—	16
2001	18	—
2002	—	17
2003	TBA	??

WELCOME TO NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY

The University of Notre Dame and its sports information office welcome you to the 2003 Notre Dame Football Media Day. Associate athletics director **John Heisler**, associate sports information director **Lisa Mushett** and assistant sports information director **Chris Masters** will serve as the primary media contacts for Irish football this season. However, all members of the Notre Dame sports information staff will be on hand for Friday's Media Day and are happy to assist you in any way.

All of the day's media activities will take place in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse, beginning at 11 a.m. EST with a buffet-style lunch. At 11:30 a.m., Notre Dame head coach **Tyrone Willingham** will address the media, followed by interviews with Irish players from 12:15-1 p.m. Media who are not able to attend in person will be able to hear Coach Willingham's comments on a "listen-only" teleconference — contact the Notre Dame sports information office for the access number. Parking is available for the media off Juniper Road in the lot south of Notre Dame Stadium. Please note this event is for media only and admission is by reservation.

PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 15-30

Beginning on Aug. 11, the Irish have been conducting daily practices at the O'Neill Family Hall practice fields, their preseason camp site which is located west of Hammes Bookstore on the Notre Dame campus. The Irish will continue working at the O'Neill Family Hall site through Aug. 19 before returning to their regular practice facility, Cartier Field, for the remainder of the preseason. Media may attend the first 20 minutes of each practice session, and all interview requests must be directed to a member of the Notre Dame sports information staff by the end of the 20-minute media viewing period. The following is a tentative practice schedule and media accessibility for the preseason:

Friday, Aug. 15	4:15-6 p.m.	
Saturday, Aug. 16	8:45-11 a.m., 4-6 p.m.	(Interviews after morning session only)
Sunday, Aug. 17	4-6 p.m.	
Monday, Aug. 18	8:45-11 a.m., 4-6 p.m.	(Interviews after morning session only)
Tuesday, Aug. 19	4-6 p.m.	

* - Post-practice interviews are held in the team meeting room at O'Neill Family Hall unless otherwise directed.

All Remaining Sessions Held At Cartier Field, Located East Of Joyce Center

Wednesday, Aug. 20	7:30-9 p.m.	
Thursday, Aug. 21	10:15 a.m.-noon, 4:15-6 p.m.	(Interviews after morning session only)
Friday, Aug. 22	3-5 p.m.	
Saturday, Aug. 23	8:45-11:15 a.m., 4-6 p.m.	(Interviews after morning session only)
Sunday, Aug. 24	No practice	
Monday, Aug. 25	4-5:45 p.m.	
Tuesday, Aug. 26	4-6 p.m.	(First day of classes)
Wednesday, Aug. 27	4:45-6 p.m.	
Thursday, Aug. 28	4-6 p.m.	
Friday, Aug. 29	4:30-6:30 p.m.	
Saturday, Aug. 30	12:15-2 p.m.	

* - Beginning Aug. 20, post-practice interviews are held in the interview room at the north end of Notre Dame Stadium.

IRISH HEAD COACH TYRONE WILLINGHAM

A veteran with 26 seasons of coaching experience at the collegiate and professional levels, **Tyrone Willingham** begins his second season as head football coach at the University of Notre Dame after serving as the leader at Stanford University for seven seasons. Willingham used his years of service in the coaching business to reverse the tides of the Irish program, leading Notre Dame to a 10-2 regular-season record in '02 and a trip to the 2003 Gator Bowl. He became the first Irish head coach ever to win 10 games in his first season, and he was named the ESPN/Home Depot College Coach of the Year, the



MEDIA INFORMATION

THE WILLINGHAM CONFERENCES

Tyrone Willingham's weekly teleconference-style press conferences will take place on Tuesday mornings prior to each Notre Dame game, with the first scheduled for Sept. 2. They are held at the WNDU-TV studios (on US 933/Business 31, west edge of campus) in South Bend. A light meal is served beginning at 10:30 a.m. (EST), and Coach Willingham will address the media from 11:05-11:35 a.m. (EST). At least one Irish player generally is available for interviews following Willingham's remarks. Out-of-town media can connect to the Willingham portion of the conference via phone to listen and ask questions — contact the Notre Dame sports information office at (574) 631-7516 for the access number. All teleconferences also are available on satellite (Galaxy 3-C, Transponder 4). Video highlights from the previous week's Notre Dame game are included at the end of each hour-long satellite feed (11 a.m.-noon). The teleconferences also are carried live on WDND-AM (ESPN Radio 1620) in South Bend.

TUESDAY TRANSCRIPTIONS

Transcriptions of **Tyrone Willingham's** Tuesday press conferences are available from the Notre Dame sports information office, as well as the Notre Dame athletics web site at www.und.com.

KEVIN WHITE RADIO SHOW

A weekly half-hour talk show featuring Notre Dame athletics director **Kevin White** will air on Chicago's ESPN Radio 1000 (1000 AM in Chicago, www.espnradio1000.com). Set to kick off its fourth season in September, "The Kevin White Show" can be heard in 35 states. White will welcome to the show a series of guests and prominent figures associated with college athletics, including administrators, coaches and media members.

Scripps College Coach of the Year, the Black Coaches Association Male Coach of the Year and the George Munger Award College Coach of the Year by the Maxwell Football Club of Philadelphia. In addition, he made history as the first college football coach ever to earn *The Sporting News* Sportsman of the Year award in 2002. In eight years as a college head coach, Willingham has compiled a solid 54-39-1 (.580) record and guided his charges to bowl games on five occasions.

Willingham was introduced as the new Irish mentor on Jan. 1, 2002, following seven seasons as the head coach at Stanford. He compiled a 44-36-1 (.549) record during his tenure at Stanford, guiding the Cardinal to four bowl games, including the Rose Bowl following the 1999 season. Willingham was a two-time Pacific-10 Conference Coach of the Year (1995 and 1999), the only Stanford coach to earn that award more than once, and he was a finalist for national coach-of-the-year honors in '95 and '99. All told, Willingham spent 10 years at Stanford, initially serving as running backs coach from 1989-91. Between his stints with the Cardinal, Willingham coached in the professional ranks for three seasons (1992-94) with the Minnesota Vikings, helping his team win a pair of NFC Central Division championships and reach the playoffs all three years. Willingham began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at his alma mater, Michigan State, in 1977, before moving to Central Michigan as the defensive secondary coach for two years (1978-79). He returned to MSU from 1980-82, working with the secondary and special teams units, and also served at North Carolina State (1983-85) and Rice (1986-88).

IRISH FOOTBALL CAPTAINS TO BE HONORED AT WASHINGTON STATE GAME

At halftime of Notre Dame's season opener vs. Washington State on Sept. 6, all former Irish football captains will be presented with a pin recognizing their leadership and service to the program. The pins were specially designed at the end of last season and the first recipients were last year's captains — **Arnaz Battle, Sean Mahan, Gerome Sapp** and **Shane Walton** — as well as the 2002 football banquet speaker, former Irish defensive end and 1984 captain **Mike Golic**. Continuing a tradition which began last season, Notre Dame will select its captains on a game-by-game basis in 2003.

THE 2003 SCHEDULE

Notre Dame's rugged 2002 regular-season schedule featured eight teams that advanced to bowl games and early indications are that the '03 Irish docket should be just as tough. Notre Dame opens the campaign with a home game against Bowl Championship Series qualifier Washington State on Sept. 6, followed by road games at preseason top 25 squads Michigan and Purdue (with a home date vs. Michigan State sandwiched in between). The Purdue contest kicks off a stretch of five consecutive games against bowl qualifiers for the Irish, highlighted by visits from BCS teams USC (Oct. 18) and Florida State (Nov. 1). This season, Notre Dame also will travel to three BIG EAST Conference schools — Pittsburgh, Boston College and Syracuse — as well as Pac-10 stalwart Stanford. Mid-November visits from Navy and BYU round out the arduous 2003 Irish schedule.

Last year's Notre Dame ledger was ranked 28th in the nation according to the final NCAA statistical reports, marking the 21st time in 26 seasons that the Irish have had their schedule ranked in the top 30 in the country. Notre Dame brilliantly navigated through its imposing 2002 schedule, defeating four ranked teams to tie Miami (Fla.) for top honors in that category.

BRAND-NEW OPPONENT ON THE SCHEDULE

Notre Dame and Washington State will be meeting for the first time ever when they square off in the 2003 season opener Sept. 6 at Notre Dame Stadium. The Cougars represent the 134th different opponent in Irish history, and the third in the last two seasons (following last year's premieres against ACC members Maryland and North Carolina State). During its 114-year history, Notre Dame has faced 63 of the other 115 teams currently competing at the NCAA Division I-A level.

FOR OPENERS

Notre Dame has compiled a record of 96-13-5 (.864) historically in its season-opening games, including winning 14 of their last 16 games (only losses coming to Northwestern in 1995 and at Nebraska in 2001). Last year, the Irish opened the **Tyrone Willingham** era in grand style, shutting out Maryland, 22-0 in Kickoff Classic XX at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. It was the first season-opening whitewash for Notre Dame since Sept. 22, 1973, when **Ara Parseghian's** charges blanked Northwestern, 44-0, before a capacity crowd at Notre Dame Stadium. Willingham also became the first Irish head coach in nearly half a century to begin his tenure at Notre Dame with a shutout win — **Terry Brennan** was the last to pull off such a feat, engineering a 21-0 win over fourth-ranked Texas in 1954.



One additional note: Notre Dame is 4-0 all-time when opening against a Pac-10 school, including a 41-8 victory over California in 1967, the last time the Irish debuted against a Pac-10 club.

THE SKINNY ON HOME OPENERS

Notre Dame has had tremendous success in home openers during its 114-year history, going 91-17-5 (.827) in its initial on-campus contest of the season (there were no home games in 1929 due to the construction of Notre Dame Stadium). Among Irish head coaches, **Jesse Harper** (1913-17) and **Terry Brennan** (1954-58) both won all five of their home openers, while **Knute Rockne** (1918-30) went 11-0-1 in his first home game of the season (only a 7-7 tie with Great Lakes in 1918 sullied his record). More recently, Notre Dame has won six of its last seven and 12 of its last 16 home openers, including a 24-17 conquest of Purdue to open the 2002 home slate.

IRISH PLAYERS RANK HIGH IN LINDY'S AND THE SPORTING NEWS IN 2003

Senior **Courtney Watson** was tabbed the fourth-best inside linebacker in the country by *Lindy's* and *The Sporting News*, while senior **Vontez Duff** was rated the seventh-best cornerback and ninth-best all-purpose player by *Lindy's*, and the nation's 10th best as both a cornerback and kick returner by *The Sporting News*. Senior nose guard **Cedric Hilliard** was ranked the sixth-best defensive tackle in the nation by *The Sporting News*, while senior free safety **Glenn Earl** placed 14th among free safeties by *The Sporting News* and 19th by *Lindy's*. Senior **Mike Goolsby** was rated 12th among the nation's inside linebackers by *Lindy's*, while junior **Ryan Grant** was 18th among running backs and senior **Darrell Campbell** was charted 19th among defensive linemen by the same publication.

SIX IRISH PLAYERS EARN 2003 PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA HONORS

Senior inside linebacker **Courtney Watson** was a preseason first-team All-America selection by *Street & Smith's* and *The Sporting News*. Meanwhile, senior cornerback/kick returner **Vontez Duff** was a preseason first-team All-American according to *Street & Smith's* and a second-team choice by *Athlon*. The latter publication also named senior nose guard **Cedric Hilliard** to its preseason All-America third team. Senior free safety **Glenn Earl**, junior running back **Ryan Grant** and senior kicker/punter **Nicholas Setta** all were awarded preseason honorable mention All-America status by *Street & Smith's*.

THREE NOTRE DAME POSITION UNITS LAUDED BY NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Athlon named the Irish linebacking corps the fourth-best unit in the country, while *The Sporting News* labelled them the ninth-best group in the land. In addition, *Athlon* selected the Notre Dame defensive line as the fifth-best unit in the nation.

DUFF, EARL NAMED TO THORPE AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Senior cornerback **Vontez Duff** and senior free safety **Glenn Earl** have been named to the preseason watch list for the Jim Thorpe Award, which is awarded annually to the nation's top defensive back by the Jim Thorpe Association, based in Oklahoma City. Ten semifinalists for the award will be announced Nov. 3, with the three finalists selected on Nov. 24. The winner will be announced Dec. 9 at the ESPN College Football Awards Show with the official award presentation slated for Feb. 9, 2004, in Oklahoma City.

HOLIDAY TAPPED FOR O'BRIEN AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Senior quarterback **Carlyle Holiday** has earned a spot on the preseason watch list for the Davey O'Brien Award, which is presented annually to the nation's top quarterback by the Fort Worth Club in Fort Worth, Texas. In November, the semifinalists will be announced and the three finalists will be selected later in the month. The winner will be announced Dec. 9 at the ESPN College Football Awards Show with the official award presentation slated for February 2004 in Fort Worth.

TUCK EARNS PLACE ON HENDRICKS AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Junior defensive end **Justin Tuck** has been selected to the preseason watch list for the Ted Hendricks Award, which is given annually to the nation's top defensive end by the Ted Hendricks Foundation in Chicago. In November, the semifinalists will be announced and the three finalists will be selected later in the month. The winner will be announced Dec. 9 at the ESPN College Football Awards Show with the official award presentation slated for February 2004 in Chicago.

MEDIA POLICIES

WILLINGHAM INTERVIEWS

Outside his regular Tuesday teleconferences, the best time for **Tyrone Willingham** interviews is after practice Tuesday-Thursday or by special appointment. Please contact the Notre Dame sports information office to make specific arrangements.

THE NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL SHOW

The Notre Dame Football Show, featuring head coach **Tyrone Willingham**, is a half-hour, weekly television show syndicated nationally by Notre Dame Sports Properties and hosted by Jeff Jeffers. The show is carried by WNDU-TV in South Bend on the following Saturday (one hour before kickoff) and on Fox Sports Chicago.

MORE MEDIA NOTES

- The first 20 minutes of each practice session are open to the media. Check with the Notre Dame sports information office for exact times.
- All player interviews must be coordinated through the Notre Dame sports information office by contacting either Lisa Mushett or Chris Masters. Interview requests must be made prior to the end of the 20-minute open practice period. **All player and coach interviews will take place after practice at the tunnel entrance (north end) of Notre Dame Stadium once practice moves to Cartier Field, east of the Joyce Center.**
- Notre Dame's publicity material on football, including updated game notes, depth charts, rosters, schedules and player information are available through www.und.com. Contact the Notre Dame sports information office at 574-631-7516 for details.

RELEASES AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

Media members interested in receiving Notre Dame football releases via email should send requests to Assistant Sports Information Director Chris Masters at masters.5@nd.edu.

WEB SITE (www.und.com)

Notre Dame's official athletic department web site can be found at www.und.com, with the extensive offerings including real-time statistics for all Notre Dame home football games.



NOTRE DAME vs.
PAC-10 TEAMS

School	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
Arizona	2	1	0	1.000
Arizona State	2	0	0	1.000
California	4	0	0	1.000
Oregon	1	0	1	.750
Oregon State	0	1	0	.000
Stanford	11	6	0	.667
UCLA	2	0	0	1.000
USC	42	27	5	.601
Washington	4	0	0	1.000
Washington State	0	0	0	—
TOTALS	68	35	6	.651

CONFERENCE CALL

• This season marks the fifth consecutive campaign in which Notre Dame has faced teams from six different conferences. Here's a look at the conference breakdown for the 12 Irish opponents in 2003:

ACC (1): Florida State

Big Ten (3): Purdue, Michigan, Michigan State

BIG EAST (3): Pittsburgh, Boston Coll., Syracuse

Pac-10 (3): Stanford, USC, Washington State

Mountain West (1): BYU

Independents (1): Navy

• Notre Dame has had great overall success against the major conferences in the country, including the Pac-10, of which Washington State is a member.

Conference	Winning %
Western Athletic	.850
Atlantic Coast	.795
Mountain West	.793
BIG EAST	.713
Big Ten	.667
Big 12	.666
Pacific-10	.651
SEC	.633

FOUR PLAYERS NAMED TO 2003 STREET & SMITH'S AWARD WATCH LISTS

Street & Smith's tapped senior inside linebacker **Courtney Watson** for spots on its Butkus Award and Bednarik/Nagurski Award watch lists (as did *Lindy's*). The former honor recognizes the country's top linebacker, while the latter awards spotlight the nation's best overall defensive player. In addition, *Street & Smith's* placed senior cornerback **Vontez Duff** and senior free safety **Glenn Earl** on its watch list for the Thorpe Award (which goes to the top defensive back in the country), and the publication named senior kicker **Nicholas Setta** to its watch list for the Lou Groza Award (presented to the nation's top kicker).

2003 BLUE-GOLD GAME

It's a rite of spring at Notre Dame, a game that marks the end of spring practice. The 74th annual Blue-Gold Game took place on April 26, 2003, with the Blue defeating the Gold, 17-14, before 20,346 fans at Notre Dame Stadium. The Blue team forced three second-half turnovers and cashed all three in for points, leading to its victory. Sophomore QB **Chris Olsen** completed 11-of-25 passes for 146 yards and added a four-yard touchdown run to secure Offensive Player-of-the-Game honors. Senior WR **Omar Jenkins** caught four passes for 68 yards and sophomore TE **Anthony Fasano** added three catches for 63 yards in the contest.

On defense, junior DE **Justin Tuck** rang up three sacks and was named the Defensive Player of the Game. Senior ILB **Courtney Watson** and senior CB **Jason Beckstrom** each chalked up a game-high six tackles, with Watson adding a sack to his ledger.

TICKET UPDATE

Demand for tickets to two of Notre Dame's six home games in 2003 ranks among the top five in the history of Notre Dame Stadium. The Notre Dame ticket office received 54,244 ticket requests for the Oct. 18 game vs. USC, making it the fourth-highest requested Irish home game in history. In addition, the Nov. 1 Notre Dame-Florida State game garnered 51,051 requests, placing it fifth on the all-time list. In fact, Notre Dame set a record by refunding \$5.1 million to lottery losers in the University's ticket distribution for contributing alumni. That total easily exceeded last year's mark of \$2.1 million and out-distanced the old refund record of \$3.8 million in 2001.

The Notre Dame Stadium record of 59,368 ticket requests was set in '01 when the Irish took on West Virginia. Demand for that game was based on parents of current Notre Dame students being guaranteed four tickets for that contest — plus contributing alumni having the opportunity to apply for four tickets instead of the usual two, based on its designation as an alumni family game.

The Irish have posted 167 consecutive sellouts at Notre Dame Stadium and the 215 in their last 216 home games.

Here are the top 10 games in terms of alumni ticket demand at Notre Dame Stadium:

1. West Virginia	2001	59,368
2. USC	1997	57,048
3. Boston College	2002	55,482
4. USC	2003	54,244
5. Florida State	2003	51,051
6. Michigan	2002	50,883
7. Michigan State	2001	48,404
8. Nebraska	2000	47,865
9. Michigan State	1997	47,681
10. Michigan	1998	47,233

BIG CROWDS

Notre Dame has played in front of sellout crowds in 150 of its previous 173 games, including all 13 games last season. In addition, the Irish attracted stadium record crowds three times in 2002 — the Air Force contest brought in a Falcon Stadium-record crowd of 56,409 (nearly 4,000 more than its listed capacity), while the Florida State game resulted in a Doak Campbell Stadium-record gathering of 84,106 (more than 2,000 above its listed capacity). Then, with the addition of 140 field seats against Boston College, the Irish and Eagles set a Notre Dame Stadium attendance record of 80,935. All told, Notre Dame has helped set a new stadium attendance record at an opponents' facility five times in the last two seasons (also Nebraska and Texas A&M in '01).



NOTRE DAME ON THE SMALL SCREEN

With the Washington State game slated to be televised nationally by NBC, the Irish will extend their streak of appearances on one of four major networks (NBC, ABC, CBS or ESPN) to 125 straight games. That's a streak that spans 10 full seasons (1993-2002), and it will continue at least through the Michigan State game (Michigan State on NBC, Michigan on ABC). The last time the Irish didn't appear on one of those four networks was more than a decade ago (Oct. 31, 1992), when Notre Dame downed Navy, 38-7, at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. That game was shown locally in the South Bend area on WNDU-TV. Here's a breakdown of the networks on which the Irish have played during this impressive streak:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GAMES</u>	<u>NBC</u>	<u>ABC</u>	<u>CBS</u>	<u>ESPN</u>
1992	4	3	1	—	—
1993	12	7	4	—	1
1994	12	7	5	—	—
1995	12	6	4	1	1
1996	11	6	2	2	1
1997	13	6	3	2	2
1998	12	7	3	2	—
1999	12	7	3	1	1
2000	12	6	3	3	—
2001	11	6	4	—	1
2002	13	7	4	1	1
2003	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	125	69	36	12	8

NOTRE DAME TO BE FEATURED PROMINENTLY ON TELEVISION THIS YEAR

In addition to continuing its streak of consecutive games played on one of the four major television networks (NBC, ABC, CBS or ESPN), Notre Dame will be spotlighted on the small screen in several other ways during the 2003 season. Here's a thumbnail look at each of the individual TV projects which are featuring the Irish this year:

- ESPN is filming "The Season: Notre Dame Football" in South Bend throughout the '03 campaign. Crews from the network are attending practice sessions, team meals and other team-related activities, as well as conducting regular interviews with Irish players and coaches. "The Season: Notre Dame Football" will air for 10 weeks, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 9.
- ESPN College GameDay is celebrating its 10th season of live remotes from college football's top games. In recognition of its first-ever road trip (a Nov. 13, 1993 journey to South Bend for the game between No. 1 Florida State and No. 2 Notre Dame) will air weekly all-access features on the Irish which are adapted from its feature presentation, "The Season: Notre Dame Football." Former Irish flanker and two-time All-American **Raghib "Rocket" Ismail** will lend even more of a Notre Dame flavor to the College GameDay broadcasts this year as he joins their crew for regular contributions.
- College Sports Television (CSTV), the nation's new 24-hour cable channel devoted exclusively to college sports, will highlight Irish athletics during a two-hour block on Sunday nights called "Notre Dame Primetime." The show, which will be co-hosted by former Irish split end **Derrick Mayes**, focuses on all 26 Notre Dame sports and the continuing growth of Irish athletics.
- Besides these features, Notre Dame is beginning the 13th season of its unique relationship with NBC. All Irish home football games since 1991 have been televised on the network, with the current agreement slated to continue through 2005. **Tom Hammond** (play-by-play) and **Pat Haden** (analysis) are set to begin their third full season broadcasting the action for NBC in '03.

THE 2003 NFL DRAFT

Seven former Irish players were selected in the 2003 NFL Draft, the most of any school in the country with the exception of Florida and Ohio State (eight each). Leading the way was center **Jeff Faine**, who was chosen in the first round (21st overall) by the Cleveland Browns. Notre Dame now has had 58 opening-round selections, a figure that ranks second only to USC (62) in the 67-year history of the NFL Draft.

Joining Faine in Notre Dame's '03 draft class were: OT **Jordan Black** (fifth round by the Kansas City Chiefs), OG **Sean Mahan** (fifth round by the Tampa Buccaneers), CB **Shane Walton** (fifth round by the

FUTURE IRISH FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

2004

- Sept. 11** **MICHIGAN**
- Sept. 18 at Michigan State
- Sept. 25** **WASHINGTON**
- Oct. 2** **PURDUE**
- Oct. 9** **STANFORD**
- Oct. 16 vs. Navy
(at East Rutherford, N.J.)
- Oct. 23** **BOSTON COLLEGE**
- Oct. 30 at BYU
- Nov. 6 at Tennessee
- Nov. 13** **PITTSBURGH**
- Nov. 27 at USC

2005

- Sept. 10 at Michigan
- Sept. 17** **MICHIGAN STATE**
- Sept. 24 at Washington
- Oct. 1 at Purdue
- Oct. 8 at Pittsburgh
- Oct. 15** **USC**
- Oct. 22** **BYU**
- Nov. 5** **TENNESSEE**
- Nov. 12** **NAVY**
- Nov. 19** **SYRACUSE**
- Nov. 26 at Stanford

2006

- Sept. 2 at Georgia Tech
- Sept. 9** **PENN STATE**
- Sept. 16** **MICHIGAN**
- Sept. 23 at Michigan State
- Sept. 30** **PURDUE**
- Oct. 7** **STANFORD**
- Oct. 21** **UCLA**
- Oct. 28 at Navy (site TBA)
- Nov. 4** **NORTH CAROLINA**
- Nov. 11 at Air Force
- Nov. 25 at USC



NACDA DIRECTORS' CUP

The University of Notre Dame finished tied for 13th place in the 2002-03 Division I NACDA Directors' Cup all-sports competition (formerly known as Sears Directors' Cup) sponsored by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

The 13th-place finish matches Notre Dame's final standing from 2001-02 - and stands behind only three previous 11th-place finishes for the Irish.

Notre Dame had stood in third place following the end of the 2002 fall sports seasons. That marked the highest ranking for Notre Dame since the Irish were third in the '96-'97 final fall standings.

The Irish were fifth following the final winter standings. Notre Dame's previous highest standing at the end of the winter seasons was 10th in '96-'97 (the Irish ended up 14th overall that year).

Notre Dame was the only school in the country to make postseason appearances in all six of those fall sports during the 2002 season. Notre Dame and Texas were the only schools in the country to play in football bowl games and also advance to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen in both men's and women's basketball.

Stanford (1420.5 points) won the competition thanks to its NCAA championship in men's cross country and its second-place finishes in volleyball, women's cross country, men's soccer, women's tennis and baseball.

The standings include results from NCAA fall competition in volleyball, field hockey, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer and football - plus winter competition in fencing, men's and women's swimming, wrestling, skiing and men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's basketball, men's ice hockey and men's and women's gymnastics - and spring competition in men's and women's tennis, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's golf, softball, baseball, women's rowing, and men's and women's outdoor track and field.

In previous years in which the Directors' Cup competition has been held, Notre Dame finished 11th in 1993-94, 30th in 1994-95, 11th in 1995-96, 14th in 1996-97, tied for 31st in 1997-98, 25th in 1998-99, 21st in 1999-00, 11th in 2000-01 and 13th in 2001-02.

Here are the final '02-03 standings: 1. Stanford 1420.5, 2. Texas 1094, 3. Ohio State 1074.8, 4. Michigan 1034.3, 5. Penn State 993, 6. UCLA 943.75, 7. Florida 935.75, 8. North Carolina 933.5, 9. California 884.75, 10. Arizona State 860.75, 11. Minnesota 845, 12. Auburn 822.75, **13. Notre Dame and USC 822.5**, 15. Georgia 784.75.

St. Louis Rams), SS **Gerome Sapp** (sixth round by the Baltimore Ravens), WR **Arnaz Battle** (sixth round by the San Francisco 49ers) and OT **Brennan Curtin** (sixth round by the Green Bay Packers).

THEISMANN NAMED TO 2003 COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS

Former Notre Dame All-America quarterback **Joe Theismann** is one of 11 former college players and two coaches named March 24 to the National Football Foundation's 2003 College Football Hall of Fame Division I-A class by Jon F. Hanson, chairman of the National Football Foundation.

The 2003 College Football Hall of Fame class will be inducted at the 46th Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 9, 2003, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. The players and coaches will be officially enshrined at the Hall of Fame in South Bend in August 2004.

Theismann launched an attack on the Irish passing record books, setting 19 school marks while leading the team to its first bowl appearance in 45 years in 1969 and a 10-1 record capped by a Cotton Bowl victory in 1970 over top-rated and unbeaten Texas.

A first-team All-America selection as a senior by Associated Press, Theismann was the runner-up in the Heisman Trophy voting in 1970. A participant in the 1970 Hula Bowl, Theismann set school records for passing yards in a game (526), yards in a season (2,429) and touchdowns in a season (16) among others. He ranked second in the nation in total offense as a senior at 291.3 yards per game — and that year he helped the Irish as a team average 510.5 total yards per game and 252.7 passing yards per game, two marks that remain all-time Notre Dame bests.

In three seasons, Theismann led the Fighting Irish to a 20-3-2 record while completing 290 passes on 509 attempts for 4,411 yards, a mark that still ranks fifth in school history. Honored for his classroom prowess, he earned Academic All-America® honors in 1970 and was later named to the GTE Academic All-America® Hall of Fame.

Following graduation, Theismann embarked on a 15-year professional career, his final 12 years in the NFL as a member of the Washington Redskins. Upon retirement, he became a highly successful businessman as well as a prominent television sports analyst for ESPN. Theismann continues to support such charitable interests as the United Way, March of Dimes, American Heart Association, Cystic Fibrosis, Special Olympics, Boy Scouts of America and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Originally from South River, N.J., Theismann becomes the 40th Notre Dame player to be chosen for the Hall of Fame since inductions began in 1951. Five former Irish coaches also have been selected. No other school has produced more than those 45 enshrinees, the most recent being Ralph Guglielmi in 2001. Theismann also becomes the eighth Notre Dame quarterback selected to the Hall of Fame, joining Frank Carideo in 1954, Harry Stuhldreher in 1958, John Lujack in 1960, Angelo Bertelli in 1972, Paul Hornung in 1985, Bob Williams in 1988 and Guglielmi in 2001.

IRISH FOOTBALL NAMED ONE OF NATION'S TOP 10 MOST POWERFUL PROGRAMS

As part of its 2003 college football preview, *SI.com* developed its list of the top 10 most powerful programs in the nation and Notre Dame was listed second behind only Miami (Fla.). According to the website, "college football's most recognizable program saw a return to glory under **Lou Holtz**, which included landing its own TV deal with NBC, and after a few down years appears to be headed in the right direction under **Tyrone Willingham**."

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR 2003 FOOTBALL KICKOFF LUNCHEONS

Tickets are now on sale for the 2003 Notre Dame Kickoff Luncheons held the Friday prior to each Irish home football game. The luncheons feature Notre Dame head coach **Tyrone Willingham**, Irish players and assistant coaches, plus special guests and other attractions.

Tickets are \$18 each, with a handling fee of \$3 (payment may be made with one check for more than one luncheon). There are 10 seats per table — and if you wish to sit as a group at the same table with other guests, please return all reservations in one envelope.

Checks should be made payable to "University of Notre Dame" and mailed to: Athletics Business Office, 112 Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Telephone and credit card reservations are not accepted. You also can access a printed reservation form on Notre Dame's athletic web site at www.und.com.



The luncheons are held in the Joyce Center fieldhouse (north dome) on the University of Notre Dame campus, with a noon (EST) start. Be aware that advance reservations are required for tickets, and tickets are not routinely available at the door.

Luncheon dates are Sept. 5 (Washington State), Sept. 19 (Michigan State), Oct. 17 (USC), Oct. 31 (Florida State), Nov.7 (Navy) and Nov. 14 (BYU).

ORDER THE 2003 NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL PREVIEW MAGAZINE TODAY

This season marks the 10th edition of the Notre Dame Football Preview Magazine —an official publication by the University of Notre Dame athletic department. The 1994, '95, '96, '97 and '98 and 2000 editions were voted best in the nation in the special publications competition sponsored by the College Sports Information Directors of America. The preview magazine, published by Ave Maria Press, numbers nearly 100 pages, including game action shots of returning Irish players and coaches, position-by-position breakdowns and a feature on head coach **Tyrone Willingham**. It's a collectors item perfect for autographs — with an emphasis on outstanding color photography unavailable in any other publication. The yearbook is priced at \$8 (plus \$4 for postage and handling) and can be ordered by calling 1-800-647-4641.

THE FINAL 2002 NCAA STATISTICS REPORT

The final NCAA statistical rankings for Notre Dame in 2002 (top 50 only):

Team Rankings	Notre Dame
Rushing Defense	10th at 95.23
Passing Defense	46th at 204.77
Pass Efficiency Defense	10th at 98.24
Total Defense	13th at 300.00
Scoring Defense	9th at 16.69
Net Punting	44th at 35.20
Kickoff Returns	15th at 23.08
Turnover Margin	42nd at 0.38 (+5 overall)
Individual Rankings	Notre Dame
Interceptions	Shane Walton (13th at 0.54) Courtney Watson (34th at 0.40) Gerome Sapp (46th at 0.36)
Kickoff Returns	Vontez Duff (8th at 27.68)
Field Goals	Nicholas Setta (48th at 1.08)

GRADUATION RATES

The University of Notre Dame received a 2002 *USA Today*/NCAA Academic Achievement Award for graduating 90 percent of its freshmen student-athletes who enrolled in 1995.

Now in their second year, the awards were presented in September to the 10 institutions with the highest overall graduation rates for scholarship student-athletes who began college in the 1995-96 academic year. Rice University was first at 91 percent, one point better than Notre Dame, Stanford and Duke.

The awards were announced in conjunction with the release of the 2002 NCAA Graduation Rate Report. The 12th such survey issued by the NCAA, the report covers student-athletes who enrolled between 1992 and 1995 at Division I institutions, including 115 in Division I-A.

The NCAA bases graduation rates on the raw percentage of student-athletes who entered an institution and graduated within six years. Students who leave or transfer, regardless of academic standing, are considered non-graduates. In addition to one-year rates, the NCAA provides a four-year average to better measure graduation rates over time at each institution.

As it has since the NCAA survey began, Notre Dame ranked among the top 10 in five major student-athlete graduation rate areas -- overall, football, men, women and African-Americans.

All Student-Athletes

1. Northwestern 90%
2. Duke 89
- Stanford 89
4. **Notre Dame** **85**

Football Student-Athletes

1. Northwestern 85%
2. Duke 84
3. Rice 83
10. **Notre Dame** **74**

Male Student-Athletes

1. Duke 87%
2. Stanford 86
3. Northwestern 84
4. **Notre Dame** **82**
- Rice 82

Female Student-Athletes

1. Northwestern 99%
2. Stanford 94
3. Vanderbilt 93
4. **Notre Dame** **92**

African-American Student-Athletes

1. Rice 83%
- Stanford 83
- Vanderbilt 83
4. Northwestern 82
5. Duke 81
6. **Notre Dame** **73**