



2003 NOTRE DAME VOLLEYBALL

Seven-Time BIG EAST Champions • 11 Consecutive NCAA Tournament Appearances

Notes Package • Nov. 10, 2003 • Contact: Bo Rottenborn, Rottenborn.2@nd.edu

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NOTRE DAME VOLLEYBALL (21-2, 9-0)

AUGUST

Four Points Sheraton Classic (Malibu, CA)

29	Fri.	vs. Arizona (10)	W, 3-1
30	Sat.	at Pepperdine (5)	L, 1-3
30	Sat.	vs. Eastern Washington	W, 3-1

SEPTEMBER

Longhorn Classic (Austin, TX)

5	Fri.	(21) vs. Houston	W, 3-2
6	Sat.	(21) at Texas	W, 3-0

9 Tue. (15) Valparaiso W, 3-0

Shamrock Invitational (Notre Dame, IN)

12	Fri.	(15) Indiana	W, 3-1
13	Sat.	(15) Utah	W, 3-2
14	Sun.	(15) South Carolina	L, 1-3

17 Wed. (18) Purdue W, 3-1

26 Fri. (17) Villanova W, 3-1

28 Sun. (17) Georgetown W, 3-0

OCTOBER

4 Sat. (17) at St. John's W, 3-0

5 Sun. (17) at Connecticut W, 3-1

10 Fri. (15) Seton Hall W, 3-0

12 Sun. (15) Rutgers W, 3-0

21 Tue. (14) at North Carolina W, 3-1

23 Thur. (14) at Rhode Island W, 3-0

24 Fri. (14) at Boston College W, 3-0

29 Wed. (14) Illinois State W, 3-0

NOVEMBER

2 Sun. (14) Syracuse W, 3-0

7 Fri. (12) Virginia Tech W, 3-2

9 Sun. (12) Miami (Fla.) W, 3-0

11 Tue. at Northern Iowa 7:00

15 Sat. at West Virginia 11:00

16 Sun. at Pittsburgh 2:00

BIG EAST Championship (Notre Dame, IN)

22 Sat. Semifinals 1:00/3:30

23 Sun. Final 2:00

29 Sat. at Stanford 1:00

DECEMBER

4-7 NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds (campus sites)

11-14 NCAA Regionals (campus sites)

18 NCAA Semifinals (Dallas, TX)

20 NCAA Final (Dallas, TX)

Home matches in **bold** and held in Joyce Center. All times are local.

NOTE: Number in parentheses to left of opponent is Notre Dame AVCA national ranking at time of match; number to right of opponent is its AVCA national ranking at time of match.

#12 Notre Dame (21-2) vs. #13 Northern Iowa (21-4)

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m. • West Gymnasium

No. 12 IRISH SET FOR SHOWDOWN AT No. 13 NORTHERN IOWA: The 12th-ranked University of Notre Dame volleyball team (21-2) will play its third match in five days, traveling to Cedar Falls, Iowa for a showdown with 13th-ranked Northern Iowa (21-4) on Tuesday at 7 p.m. (CST). It marks the first time since September of 1996 that the Irish are involved in a battle of two top-15 teams.

INTERNET AUDIO BROADCAST OF ND-UNI MATCH: Fans and media unable to attend Tuesday's match can follow it via a live internet audio broadcast, accessible via Northern Iowa's official athletic website, www.unipanthers.com. For other ways to follow the Irish, see "Keeping Up With ND Volleyball" on page 9 of this release.

SNAPSHOT OF THE IRISH: Notre Dame's women's volleyball program has experienced a wealth of success since the arrival of head coach **Debbie Brown** in 1991. In her 12+ seasons, Brown has guided Notre Dame to a winning record every year (and 20+ wins in every year but one), compiling a 321-106 (.752) mark. The Irish have earned 11 consecutive berths to the NCAA Championship, including a '93 quarterfinal finish and three trips to the round of 16 (1994, '95, and '97). Since joining the BIG EAST Conference in '95, Notre Dame has dominated the league, winning seven regular-season and seven tournament titles in eight years. Overall, the Irish are 97-4 in regular-season BIG EAST play and 16-1 in conference tournament action. Notre Dame is 56-0 in BIG EAST matches in the Joyce Center.

The 2003 Irish team returned 12 monogram winners and six starters from last year's squad that was 24-8 and earned the No. 16 seed in the NCAA Championship, playing host to first- and second-round play. The Irish also finished second in the nation in blocks per game (3.66) with all the players responsible for that number returning to the fold. This season Notre Dame leads the nation in blocking at 3.72 per game, with the second-best team in Division I, Cornell, at 3.45 heading into last week.

After playing the first 10 matches with a 6-2 rotation, the Irish have returned to their traditional 5-1 offense. Senior S **Kristen Kinder** (the '01 BIG EAST Setter of the Year) orchestrates the Notre Dame attack for the third consecutive season, having helped the Irish to a 67-17 (.798) record as a starter. On the right side, junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis**, the '02 BIG EAST Championship Most Outstanding Player and a preseason all-conference selection, leads the Irish in kills for the second straight season. She already has set two school records this year: most kills in a match without an error (24, 9/9 vs. Valparaiso) and consecutive matches with 10+ kills (21). The middle is patrolled by a pair of sophomores named Lauren having outstanding seasons. MB **Lauren Kelbley**, the '02 BIG EAST and AVCA Northeast Region Rookie of the Year, and MB **Lauren Brewster**, who set the Irish record for blocks assists (161) in a season in '02, return after stepping in immediately as freshman starters. They have combined to win five BIG EAST Player of the Week awards this season (Kelbley-two, Brewster-three), while Brewster leads the nation in individual blocking (1.76) and is tops on the team in hitting (.366). On the left side, OH **Jessica Kinder**, twin sister of Kristen, is one of the hardest hitters and also one of the top defensive players on the team. She set a school record for digs in a three-game match (28) on Sept. 9 vs. Valparaiso. A pair of seniors, OPP **Katie Neff** and OPP/OH **Kim Fletcher**, also have been strong presences on the front row at times. L/OH **Meg Henican** is now the starting libero after playing on the left side in the 6-2. DS/L **Danielle Herndon**, the lone freshman on the Irish, started the season at libero, but now is a back-row sub.

LAST TIME ON THE COURT: Notre Dame played one of its best matches of the season in sweeping rival Miami (30-26, 30-24, 30-22) Sunday evening in the Joyce Center for its 14th consecutive victory in a rematch of last year's BIG EAST Championship final. The

2003 Notre Dame Volleyball Roster

No.	Name	Year	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown	Notes
1	Emily Loomis**	Jr.	OPP/OH	6-1	Fort Wayne, IN	Team leader in kills; Set 2 school records this season
2	Leah Nedderman**	Jr.	OH	5-10	Grapevine, TX	Ankle injury has sidelined her thus far this season
3	Kelly Burrell*	So.	S	5-11	Phoenix, AZ	Played in 21 of 23 matches; averaging 3.18 assists & 1.13 digs
4	Meg Henican*	So.	L/OH	5-11	New Orleans, LA	Averaging 3.80 digs since becoming starting libero on 9/26
5	Jessica Kinder***	Sr.	OH	5-10	Fresno, CA	Ranks among top 5 on Irish in 7 categories; 1st in aces (0.36)
6	Lauren Kelbley*	So.	MB	6-1	Bascom, OH	Career hitting percentage (.343) is second on all-time Irish list
7	Kelly Corbett**	Jr.	DS/MB	6-0	Mountain View, CA	Played in 8 matches, including 7 of last 14; 6 digs vs. Valpo
8	Kristen Kinder***	Sr.	S	5-9	Fresno, CA	67-17 as starting setter; 3rd in ND history in career assists
9	Carolyn Cooper*	So.	MB/OPP	6-3	Houston, TX	Played in 15 matches, including 12 of last 14; 6 kills vs. Valpo
10	Kim Fletcher***	Sr.	OPP/OH	6-0	St. Louis, MO	Played in 13 matches, starting 5; 11 kills vs. Villanova
11	Danielle Herndon	Fr.	DS/L	5-9	Plant City, FL	3rd on team in dig avg.; season-high 20 digs vs. S. Carolina
12	Lauren Brewster*	So.	MB	6-3	Brentwood, TN	1st in NCAA in blocks; BIG EAST Player of Week 3 times in Oct.
15	Katie Neff***	Sr.	OPP	6-4	St. Louis, MO	3rd on team in block average, 4th in kills and points
16	Lindsay Peterson	So.	DS	6-0	Mt. Carroll, IL	Played vs. Villanova and Rutgers in only action of '03

match, which attracted 2,715 fans -- the most ever for a volleyball match in the Joyce Center not played before a football pep rally -- was televised nationally as part of College Sports Television's Sunday Night Spike match-of-the-week package. Senior co-captain **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) set the Irish to a .326 attack percentage in her final regular-season home game, accumulating 44 assists -- nearly 15 per game -- while helping Notre Dame to 58 kills, an average of 19.33 per frame. She also was an effective offensive weapon, adding six kills of her own on .455 hitting.

Five Irish hitters turned in attack percentages over .300. Sophomore MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.) led all players with 15 kills on .353 hitting, while classmate MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) posted the top hitting mark, .462, finishing seven kills. Seniors OH **Jessica Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) and OPP **Katie Neff** (St. Louis, Mo./Cor Jesu Academy) both hit well in their final regular-season match in the Joyce Center, each registering nine kills. Neff hit .333 with Kinder at .318.

Junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) had her second double-double in as many matches, with 12 kills and 10 digs. Sophomore L/OH **Meg Henican** (New Orleans, La./Isidore Newman H.S.) led the Irish defense with 15 digs, while Jessica Kinder just missed a double-double with nine digs.

IRISH MOVE UP TO 12TH IN NATIONAL RANKINGS: After not dropping a game in holding two teams to negative hitting percentages last week, Notre Dame jumped two spots to 12th in last week's *USA Today/AVCA* Division I Coaches Top 25. The two teams directly ahead of the Irish a week ago, Loyola Marymount and Northern Iowa, both suffered losses last week and fell behind Notre Dame. The ranking is the highest for Notre Dame since Sept. 30, 1996, when it was also 12th. The Irish were ranked 10th by *Volleyball* magazine, 12th by RichKern.com, and are 16th in the RKPI rankings, which are designed to emulate the NCAA's RPI rankings.

Three '03 Irish opponents were listed among the top 15 in last week's AVCA top 25. Pepperdine (L, 1-3) leads the way at fourth, while Stanford (Nov. 29, away) is eighth, and Northern Iowa (Nov. 11, away) is 13th. Arizona (W, 3-1) is receiving votes, but not listed in the top 25.

NOTRE DAME WINNING STREAK REACHES 14: The Irish have won 14 consecutive matches, dating back to a 3-1 loss at home to South Carolina in the Shamrock Invitational on Sept. 14. The winning streak is the second-longest in the 24-year history of Notre Dame varsity volleyball and the longest under 13-year head coach **Debbie Brown**. The longest winning streak in school history was 17 matches in 1986. Over the current streak, Notre Dame has won 42 of 48 games, surrendering one each to Purdue, Villanova, Connecticut, and North Carolina, as well as two to Virginia Tech.

In the Brown era, the Irish have had 29 different winning streaks of five matches or more, winning five in a row seven times, six straight four times, seven in a row three

USA Today/AVCA Division I Coaches Top 25 (Nov. 3)

Team	W-L	LW
1. USC (65)	20-0	1
2. Hawai'i	24-1	2
3. Florida	24-1	3
4. Pepperdine	19-2	5
5. Kansas State	22-3	7
6. UCLA	19-4	8
7. Georgia Tech	23-1	4
8. Stanford	17-5	9
9. California	19-3	6
10. Nebraska	20-3	11
11. Washington	15-7	10
12. NOTRE DAME	19-2	14
13. Northern Iowa	20-4	12
14. Santa Clara	16-8	15
15. Colorado State	20-4	16
16. Penn State	20-4	17
17. Loyola Marymount	22-4	13
18. San Diego	17-6	18
19. UC Santa Barbara	15-6	19
20. Minnesota	17-7	23
21. Texas A&M	17-5	21
22. Wisconsin	17-6	20
23. Louisville	15-4	22
24. Cincinnati	23-2	NR
25. Missouri	16-6	24

Other receiving points and listed on 2+ ballots: Southwest Missouri State 58, Maryland 45, Michigan State 44, Ohio 38, Florida A&M 35, Illinois 35, Arkansas 26, San Francisco 22, **Arizona 16**, Long Beach State 9.

bold indicates 2003 Notre Dame opponent.
() - first-place votes

Irish in the Weekly Rankings

Week	USA Today/	Rich	VB
	AVCA	Kern.com	Mag.
preseason	RV	25	RV
Sept. 2	21	18	RV
Sept. 8	15	13	RV
Sept. 15	18	15	RV
Sept. 22	17	16	RV
Sept. 29	17	16	RV
Oct. 6	15	14	RV
Oct. 13	15	14	16
Oct. 20	14	14	15
Oct. 27	14	12	13
Nov. 3	12	12	10

Note: AVCA ranks 25, RichKern.com ranks 30, Volleyball Magazine ranks 20.

Notre Dame 2003 Match Highs

Individual			
Kills	24	Loomis	vs. Valparaiso
4G	20	Brewster	at North Carolina
5G	22	Kelbley	vs. Houston
	22	Kelbley & Brewster	vs. Va. Tech
Blocks	13	Brewster	vs. Purdue
3G	11	Brewster	at Boston College
5G	13	Brewster	vs. Utah
Digs	28	J. Kinder	vs. Valparaiso
4G	24	J. Kinder	at North Carolina
5G	23	J. Kinder	vs. Utah
TA	48	Loomis	vs. Virginia Tech
3G	43	Loomis	vs. Syracuse
4G	43	Loomis	at Connecticut
Hit %	.706	Kelbley	vs. Georgetown
4G	.593	Brewster	at Connecticut
5G	.476	Brewster	vs. Houston
Asst.	68	K. Kinder	vs. Virginia Tech
3G	45	K. Kinder	at St. John's
4G	51	K. Kinder	vs. Villanova
Aces	4	J. Kinder	vs. South Carolina
3G	3	Brewster	vs. Georgetown
	3	J. Kinder	at Rhode Island
	3	Brewster	vs. Illinois State
5G	3	Burrell	vs. Utah
	3	Herndon	vs. Virginia Tech
Points	28.5	Kelbley	vs. Houston
3G	25.5	Loomis	vs. Valparaiso
4G	27.0	Brewster	at North Carolina
Team			
Kills	3G	62	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	67	vs. E. Washington
	5G	83	vs. Virginia Tech
Blocks	3G	19	at Boston College
	4G	20	vs. Villanova
	5G	18.5	vs. Utah
Digs	3G	81	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	88	at Connecticut
	5G	80	vs. Utah
TA	3G	167	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	182	vs. South Carolina
	5G	196	vs. Virginia Tech
Hit %	3G	.436	vs. Seton Hall
	4G	.324	vs. #10 Arizona
	5G	.291	vs. Virginia Tech
Asst.	3G	55	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	59	vs. E. Washington
	5G	79	vs. Virginia Tech
Aces	3G	7	vs. Valparaiso & Syracuse
	4G	10	vs. South Carolina
	5G	8	vs. Utah
Points	3G	76	vs. Valparaiso
	4G	93	vs. Villanova
	5G	100	vs. Virginia Tech

times, eight straight four times, nine in a row six times, 10 straight once, 11 in a row twice, and 12 straight once, and 14 in a row once.

Notre Dame is close to a few other school records. The Irish have won eight in a row away from home and six straight on opponents' home courts, with both just two shy of the school records.

IRISH, BREWSTER MAINTAIN NATIONAL LEAD IN BLOCKING: Notre Dame continued to hold a healthy lead nationally among Division I teams in blocking last week, while sophomore MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) remained the national leader in individual blocking this week, slightly extending her margin. Heading into the week, the Irish were averaging 3.84 blocks per game this season, with Cornell, the nation's second-best team, at 3.45. Brewster's average was 1.82, with Valparaiso's Liz Mikos second at 1.75.

The Irish had a pair of subpar blocking performances (11 blocks in five games vs. Virginia Tech; 10 blocks in three games vs. Miami) last weekend, which dropped their team average to 3.72. Brewster had six blocks vs. the Hokies and four against the 'Canes, which decreased her average to 1.76.

A year ago, Notre Dame finished second nationally in blocking with a school-record average of 3.66, while Brewster was fourth at 1.68.

IRISH OFF TO SECOND-BEST START IN SCHOOL HISTORY: Notre Dame's 21-2 record matches the best start through 23 matches in school history. The best two-loss start to a season came in 1994, when the Irish opened 32-2 before finishing 33-4 and falling in the round of 16 of the NCAA Championship.

KRISTEN KINDER NAMED BIG EAST PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Senior co-captain **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) was named the BIG EAST Conference Player of the Week on Monday after leading the Irish to a pair of victories last weekend. She set Notre Dame to a .305 hitting percentage in beating the only two teams to have downed the Irish in league play over the last five years, while averaging 14.00 assists per game and adding 13 kills on .333 hitting. On Friday vs. Virginia Tech, Kinder had a career-high 68 assists, the most for an Irish player since **Denise Boylan** had 86 on Oct. 12, 2000. In Sunday's match against Miami, Kinder had 44 assists (14.67 per game), while adding six kills on .455 hitting. It marked the second time Kinder had been honored as the league player of the week, also copping the distinction on Nov. 12, 2001.

TOP-15 BATTLE: Tuesday's match will mark the first time since Sept. 13, 1996 that Notre Dame has been involved in a match between teams both ranked among the top 15 in the AVCA poll. On that occasion, #5 Penn State rallied from a game-one loss for a 3-1 victory over #11 Notre Dame in the Mizuno USA Cup in Chicago.

The Irish will face a team ranked in the national top 25 for the third time this season. Notre Dame opened the season against #10 Arizona (W, 3-1) and #5 Pepperdine (L, 3-1), but has played 21 matches since then against unranked foes.

PACKING THEM IN: A crowd of 8,643 watched Notre Dame outlast Virginia Tech 3-2 on Friday, setting a new Joyce Center attendance record for volleyball by more than 5,000. It was the fourth-largest crowd for a collegiate volleyball match this season. The previous mark was 3,351 on Nov. 1, 2002 vs. Providence. Both matches were played immediately before Irish football pep rallies.

On Sunday, 2,715 packed the Joyce to watch the Irish beat Miami 3-0 in a match televised by College Sports Television. It was the largest volleyball crowd in the building for a match not played before a football pep rally.

For the weekend, a total of 11,358 watched Notre Dame volleyball, pushing the Irish season attendance to 21,302, a new all-time high. The Irish also are on pace to set a new average attendance mark, currently welcoming 1,639 fans per match. A year ago, Notre Dame averaged 1,064, which was the highest in the program's history to that point.

CHANCE AT STREAK BREAKING: Notre Dame will have a chance on Tuesday to

2003 BIG EAST Standings

(as of 11/10)

School	Conf.	%	Overall	%	Preseason	Notre Dame vs.
1. *Notre Dame	10-0	1.000	21-2	.913	1st	–
2. *Pittsburgh	9-1	.900	20-4	.833	3rd	A - Nov. 16
3. Miami	8-3	.727	21-8	.724	2nd	W, 3-0
4. Virginia Tech	7-4	.636	13-13	.500	4th	W, 3-2
5. St. John's	6-4	.600	24-8	.750	8th	W, 3-0
5. Villanova	6-4	.600	12-13	.480	9th	W, 3-1
7. Connecticut	4-6	.400	17-12	.586	6th	W, 3-1
8. Rutgers	4-7	.364	10-17	.370	7th	W, 3-0
9. Boston College	3-7	.300	17-10	.630	12th	W, 3-0
9. Syracuse	3-7	.300	16-14	.533	10th	W, 3-0
9. Georgetown	3-7	.300	9-17	.346	5th	W, 3-0
12. West Virginia	2-8	.200	6-19	.240	13th	A - Nov. 15
13. Seton Hall	2-9	.182	19-13	.594	11th	W, 3-0

* - clinched berth in BIG EAST Championship

break the second-longest home winning streak in NCAA history. Northern Iowa has won 68 consecutive matches in West Gymnasium, dating back to a loss to Illinois State on Oct. 31, 1997. It is the longest active home winning streak and is second only to an 87-match winning streak by Penn State from 1995-2000.

The Panthers are 152-5 (.968) at home since 1990 and 272-36 (.883) all-time in West Gymnasium. The only two teams to have won at Northern Iowa since 1992 are Illinois State (three times) and Iowa State (once).

UNI also had a 50-match home winning streak snapped in 1996. Notre Dame had its school-record 36-match home winning streak ended in last year's NCAA Championship.

OCTOBER FEST: Notre Dame posted a perfect 8-0 record in the month of October, marking the first-ever perfect record in a full month of play in the 24-year history of the program. The Irish, who took 24 of 26 games last month, have won 11 consecutive October matches, dating back to last year. Over the last four-plus years, Notre Dame is 34-5 (.872) in October.

Six times before have the Irish gone undefeated in a month featuring a limited schedule – never one with more than four matches in it. Notre Dame went unbeaten in August in 1987 (1-0), '91 (1-0), '96 (3-0), 2001 (1-0) and '02 (2-0), as well as posting an undefeated November (4-0) in 1982.

GOING THE DISTANCE: Notre Dame's win against Virginia Tech on Friday was its third in as many five-game matches this season. The Irish have never gone undefeated in five-game matches in a campaign, with their best mark a 5-1 record in 1992. Previously this season, Notre Dame had 3-2 wins over Houston (15-11 in the fifth) in the Longhorn Classic in Austin, Texas, and Utah (15-12 in the fifth) at home in the Shamrock Invitational.

Friday marked the first time ever that Notre Dame was stretched to five games in a home BIG EAST contest. The Irish are 56-0 at home against league foes since joining the conference in 1995.

CAREER NIGHTS: A number of Irish players posted career bests in Friday's 3-2 triumph against Virginia Tech. Senior co-captain S **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) had a career-high 68 assists in setting Notre Dame to a .291 attack percentage. Her assist total was one better than her performance against Pepperdine last season and marked the most assists for an Irish player since **Denise Boylan** had 86 in four games against Pittsburgh on Oct. 8, 2000.

The two most effective hitters on Friday, sophomores MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) and MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.), each had 22 kills. It was Brewster's top career total, besting a 20-kill performance at North Carolina last month, while it marked the second time Kelbley hit for 22 kills in her career (also against Houston on Sept. 5 of this season).

Junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) set her career high in digs for the second time this year. After posting 17 at Connecticut last month, she had

BIG EAST Leaders -- All Matches

(as of 11/2)

INDIVIDUAL**Hitting Percentage**

1. Megan Miller, Pittsburgh	.362
2. Lauren Brewster, Notre Dame	.359
5. <i>Frannie Savage, Miami</i>	<i>.331</i>
6. Lauren Kelbley, Notre Dame	.331
7. <i>Valeria Tipiana, Miami</i>	<i>.324</i>

Kills

1. Jackie Ahlers, St. John's	5.15
5. <i>Valeria Tipiana, Miami</i>	<i>4.03</i>
7. <i>Leyre Santaella Sante, Miami</i>	<i>3.96</i>

Assists

1. Lindsey Macke, Pittsburgh	13.18
8. <i>Jill Robinson, Miami</i>	<i>9.46</i>
9. Kristen Kinder, Notre Dame	9.30

Aces

1. Katherine Whitney, Seton Hall	0.68
8. <i>Leyre Santaella Sante, Miami</i>	<i>0.38</i>
10. Jessica Kinder, Notre Dame	0.37

Blocks

1. Lauren Brewster, Notre Dame	1.82
2. Lauren Kelbley, Notre Dame	1.33
5. Katie Neff, Notre Dame	1.13
6. <i>Robin Lewullis, Miami</i>	<i>1.10</i>
9. Emily Loomis, Notre Dame	1.09

Digs

1. Megan McGrane, Pittsburgh	5.36
4. <i>Jamie Grass, Miami</i>	<i>3.76</i>
8. Meg Hicanan, Notre Dame	3.53

Points

1. Jackie Ahlers, St. John's	5.87
4. Lauren Brewster, Notre Dame	4.85
7. <i>Valeria Tipiana, Miami</i>	<i>4.71</i>
8. <i>Leyre Santaella Sante, Miami</i>	<i>4.58</i>

TEAM**Hitting Percentage**

1. St. John's	.257
2. <i>Miami</i>	<i>.256</i>
4. Notre Dame	.254

Opponent Hitting Percentage

1. Notre Dame	.136
7. <i>Miami</i>	<i>.190</i>

Assists

1. Pittsburgh	15.24
2. <i>Miami</i>	<i>15.00</i>
5. Notre Dame	13.71

Kills

1. Pittsburgh	16.74
2. <i>Miami</i>	<i>16.42</i>
4. Notre Dame	15.49

Blocks

1. Notre Dame	3.84
4. <i>Miami</i>	<i>2.43</i>

Aces

1. Seton Hall	2.15
7. Notre Dame	1.66
10. <i>Miami</i>	<i>1.39</i>

Digs

1. Connecticut	18.09
5. Notre Dame	15.38
6. <i>Miami</i>	<i>15.34</i>

Notre Dame listings in **bold**; this week's opponents' listings in *italics*.

BIG EAST Leaders -- Conference Matches

(as of 10/27)

INDIVIDUAL**Hitting Percentage**

1. Lauren Brewster, Notre Dame	.403
3. <i>Frannie Savage, Miami</i>	.348
4. Lauren Kelbley, Notre Dame	.346
10. Emily Loomis, Notre Dame	.287

Kills

1. Jackie Ahlers, St. John's	5.20
5. <i>Leyre Santaella Sante, Miami</i>	4.37
9. Emily Loomis, Notre Dame	4.00

Assists

1. Shawn McDonald, Seton Hall	12.84
3. <i>Jill Robinson, Miami</i>	12.00
4. Kristen Kinder, Notre Dame	11.96

Aces

1. Basak Karamehmet, Georgetown	0.61
3. <i>Leyre Santaella Sante, Miami</i>	0.40
5. Lauren Brewster, Notre Dame	0.36
6. Kristen Kinder, Notre Dame	0.35
9. Jessica Kinder, Notre Dame	0.31

Blocks

1. Lauren Brewster, Notre Dame	2.16
2. Lauren Kelbley, Notre Dame	1.54
4. Emily Loomis, Notre Dame	1.35
5. Katie Neff, Notre Dame	1.23
6. <i>Robin Lewullis, Miami</i>	1.22
7. <i>Karla Johnson, Miami</i>	1.21
9. <i>Katie Esbrook, Miami</i>	1.18

Digs

1. Xaimara Coss, Connecticut	5.06
4. <i>Jamie Grass, Miami</i>	4.33
6. Meg Henican, Notre Dame	3.88

Points

1. Katherine Whitney, Seton Hall	5.86
5. Lauren Brewster, Notre Dame	5.32
6. <i>Leyre Santaella Sante, Miami</i>	5.03
7. Emily Loomis	5.00

TEAM**Hitting Percentage**

1. Notre Dame	.286
2. <i>Miami</i>	.245

Opponent Hitting Percentage

1. Notre Dame	.094
3. <i>Miami</i>	.174

Assists

1. <i>Miami</i>	15.47
3. Notre Dame	14.69

Kills

1. <i>Miami</i>	16.57
2. Notre Dame	16.23

Blocks

1. Notre Dame	4.71
2. <i>Miami</i>	2.80

Aces

1. Georgetown	1.90
2. Notre Dame	1.73
9. <i>Miami</i>	1.07

Digs

1. Connecticut	17.34
4. Notre Dame	16.04
5. <i>Miami</i>	15.87

Notre Dame listings in **bold**; this week's opponents' listings in *italics*.

18 vs. the Hokies on Friday.

NOTRE DAME DEFENSE REGISTERS A FIRST IN PROGRAM'S HISTORY: The Notre Dame defense held its opponents to identical -.008 hitting percentages in consecutive matches two weeks ago. It was the first time in the 24-year history of the program that Irish opponents registered more errors than kills in back-to-back matches. On Oct. 29, Illinois State had 31 kills and 32 errors on 132 attempts. Two days later, Syracuse notched 32 kills and 33 errors on 129 swings on Sunday. Once before, in 1995, Notre Dame held opponents to negative percentages twice in a three-match span.

On the season, the Irish are on pace to set a new school record for lowest opponent hitting average, holding foes to a .145 percentage. Notre Dame has seen the opposition hit .190 or better just six times in 23 matches. Irish opponents hit .070 or worse in four straight matches heading into last week, a combined percentage of .013. Irish foes have been under .090 on eight occasions in '03.

In BIG EAST play, Notre Dame came into last week allowing a .094 attack percentage, by far the best defensive effort in the league. Pittsburgh was second, surrendering a .167 hitting percentage to opponents.

CLASS OF THE CONFERENCE: Since Notre Dame joined the BIG EAST Conference in 1995, the Irish have experienced incredible success in league play. Overall, Notre Dame is 97-4 in conference regular-season matches and 16-1 in the BIG EAST Championship. In eight seasons, the Irish have won seven regular-season titles and seven tournament titles. Notre Dame is 56-0 at home in BIG EAST matches.

This season, the Irish are again alone atop the conference, having already clinched a berth in the four-team BIG EAST Championship (Nov. 22-23 in the Joyce Center). Pittsburgh (20-4, 9-1) is second, having clinched another spot in the league tournament. The final two berths are up for grabs, with Miami (21-8, 8-3), Virginia Tech (13-13, 7-4), St. John's (24-8, 6-4), and Villanova (12-13, 6-4) battling for them.

GOOD START: Notre Dame opened BIG EAST Conference play 10-0 for the eighth time in nine years since joining the league in 1995. The Irish have posted six undefeated conference seasons and also started last year 11-0 in BIG EAST matches (before finishing 11-2). The only year Notre Dame did not win at least its first 11 league matches was 1998, when the Irish lost at Connecticut in their third conference match of the year.

HOME, SWEET HOME: Playing in the Joyce Center has been a nightmare for opponents, especially since head coach **Debbie Brown** took over the Irish program in 1991. In that span, Notre Dame is 158-22 (.878) at home, including a school-record 36-match winning streak from 2000-02. In addition to holding a 56-0 all-time mark at home in BIG EAST matches, the Irish have had incredible success against unranked teams. In the Brown era, Notre Dame is 151-5 (.968) against unranked foes in the Joyce Center, with the losses coming to Santa Clara in 1993, Ball State in '96, Oral Roberts in '98, Michigan State in the '02 NCAA tournament, and South Carolina in '03. Each of the first three defeats came in five games. The loss to MSU snapped the 36-match overall home streak and a 52-match home winning streak against unranked teams.

TAKE 20: Notre Dame's win on Friday improved its record to 20-2, marking its fifth consecutive 20-win season and the 12th time in 13 years under head coach **Debbie Brown** that the Irish have won at least 20 matches. The lone exception was an 18-13 campaign in 1998. Overall, this is the 15th season with 20+ victories in 24 years of varsity volleyball at Notre Dame.

LOOMIS BREAKS A PAIR OF SCHOOL RECORDS: Junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) has broken a pair of Irish records this season. In the Sept. 9 Valparaiso match, she set a Notre Dame record for most kills in a match without an error (24), while also falling just shy of the school record for kills in a three-game match. The previous mark for most kills without an error was 23, done by **Jaimie Lee** on September 8, 1995 at Indiana in a five-game victory.

2003 BIG EAST Awards**Preseason Player of the Year**

Valeria Tipiana, Miami

Preseason All-BIG EAST Team

Mallorey James, Jr., S, Miami

Valeria Tipiana, Jr., OH, Miami

Lauren Kelbley, So., MB, Notre Dame**Emily Loomis, Jr., OPP/OH, Notre Dame**

Megan Miller, Jr., MH, Pittsburgh

Shayla Bush, Sr., OH, Rutgers

Players/Rookies of the WeekSept. 1**P-Emily Loomis, Jr., OPP/OH, ND**

R-Katherine Whitney, OH, Seton Hall

R-Allie Kupec, MH, Virginia Tech

Sept. 8**P-Lauren Kelbley, So., MB, Notre Dame**

P-Gini Ullery, Jr., OH, Pittsburgh

R-Alison Shepp, MB, Boston College

Sept. 15

P-Robin Lewullis, So., MH, Miami

P-Jackie Ahlers, So., MH/OH, St. John's

R-Jill Robinson, S, Miami

Sept. 22

P-Wendy Hatlestad, Sr., OH, Pittsburgh

P-Jackie Ahlers, So., MH/OH, St. John's

R-Katherine Whitney, OH/RS, Seton Hall

Sept. 29**P-Lauren Kelbley, So., MB, Notre Dame**

R-Jill Robinson, S, Miami

Oct. 6**P-Lauren Brewster, So., MB, Notre Dame**

P-Wendy Hatlestad, Sr., OH, Pittsburgh

R-Katherine Whitney, OH/RS, Seton Hall

Oct. 13**P-Lauren Brewster, So., MB, Notre Dame**

P-Megan Miller, Jr., MH, Pittsburgh

R-Franческа Savage, MB, Miami

Oct. 20

P-Jackie Ahlers, So., MH/OH, St. John's

R-Alison Shepp, MB/RS, Boston College

R-Erin McQuillin, MB, Syracuse

Oct. 27**P-Lauren Brewster, So., MB, ND**

P-Lindsey Macke, Jr., S, Pittsburgh

R-Katie Esbrook, MH, Virginia Tech

Nov. 3

P-Jenna Meyers, Sr., OH, Seton Hall

P-Melissa Markowski, So., S, Va. Tech

R-Colette Ramirez, RH, Virginia Tech

Nov. 10**P-Kristen Kinder, Sr., S, Notre Dame**

R-Jill Robinson, S, Miami

Loomis also set a new record for consecutive matches with 10 or more kills, with a 21-match streak including the final six contests of 2002 and each of the first 15 this year. It was snapped when she had seven kills against Rutgers on Oct. 12. The longest streak of that kind prior to Loomis' was a 17-match stretch by **Angie Harris** from Oct. 5 to Nov. 28 in 1997. Loomis' 15-match streak this season was the third-longest in a single season.

BIG EAST PLAYER OF THE WEEK DOMINANCE: Notre Dame has dominated the BIG EAST Player of the Week award this season, gaining at least a share of it seven times in 11 weeks (while being idle once). Junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) won the initial honor of the season, on Sept. 1. Sophomore MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.) was named a BIG EAST Co-Player of the Week Sept. 8 after her tournament-MVP performance in the Longhorn Classic and won the honor again on Sept. 29.

Sophomore MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) dominated the award in the month of October, winning it three times and missing out only on an idle week for the Irish. She gained the distinction Oct. 6, 13, and 27. Brewster is just the third Irish player ever to be named BIG EAST player of the week three times in a season. She joins **Mary Leffers** (1999) and **Kristy Kreher** (2001) in that group. She and St. John's sophomore Jackie Ahlers are the only two players to win the award three times this season.

Most recently, senior co-captain **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) won the award on Nov. 10.

JESSICA KINDER DIGS HER WAY TO SCHOOL RECORD: On Sept. 9 vs. Valparaiso, Notre Dame senior co-captain OH **Jessica Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) set a Notre Dame record with 28 digs, the most ever by an Irish player in a three-game match. Her performance, which featured 10 digs in the first game, three in the second, and 15 in the final frame, bettered the previous record by three. **Tracey Shelton** scrambled for 25 digs in a three-game win over Butler on Oct. 25, 1989. Kinder's 28 were the most in any length match for an Irish player since October 25, 1993, when **Christy Peters** had 31 at Arizona State in a four-game contest.

IRISH JUST MISS THREE SCHOOL BLOCKING RECORDS vs. B.C.: Notre Dame, the nation's leader in the category, had one of its best blocking performances of the season against Boston College on Oct. 24, challenging a trio of school records. The Irish finished with 19 total blocks, just one shy of the high for a three-game match, set in 1998 at St. John's. Sophomore MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.), who leads the nation in individual blocking, barely missed a pair of individual three-game match records. Her 11 blocks were just two shy of the program-best 13 by **Mary Kay Waller** in 1988 vs. Miami of Ohio. Brewster's four solo blocks were one under the record of five, done three times, most recently by Waller in the '88 Miami match.

REWRITING THE RECORD BOOKS: The 2003 season has produced a number of individual and team performances that rank among the best in the 24-year history of the Irish program.

On the team front, Notre Dame is currently on pace to break six school season records: winning percentage (.913; record is .892 in '94), record on opponent's court (6-1, .857; record is 11-2, .846 in '94), record in five-game matches (3-0, 1.000; record is 5-1, .833 in '92), block average (3.72; record is 3.66 in '02), low opponent hitting percentage (.145; record is .151 in '86), and low opponent ace average (0.93; record is 1.11 in '96). The Irish also currently rank fourth all-time in low opponent block average (1.90; record is 1.53 in '86) and sixth in service ace-to-error ratio (0.670; record is 1.03 in '96).

Individually, a number of players are on pace to etch their names among the all-time leaders. Sophomore MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) is averaging 1.76 blocks per game, which currently ranks as the third-best season blocking average in history, just behind **Mary Kay Waller's** school record of 1.79 in 1988. Brewster's hitting percentage of .366 ranks as the sixth-best mark in a season, while sophomore MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.) is ninth at .332. Two Irish players are posting dig numbers that are among the best eight defensive seasons ever. Sopho-

more L/OH **Meg Henican** (New Orleans, La./Isidore Newman H.S.) is averaging 3.55 per game, currently ranking fifth, while senior co-captain OH **Jessica Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) is at 3.31, which is eighth. Kinder's ace average of 0.36 is 12th all-time. Additionally, four Irish players -- Henican, Jessica Kinder, senior co-captain S **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.), and junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) -- have played in all 84 games this season. Only six players in history have played in every game in a season.

A number of Irish players also are moving up the all-time career lists in various categories. Kristen Kinder is third in assists (3,363) and fourth in assist average (10.78). Jessica Kinder ranks third in ace average (0.372), fourth in total service aces (115), and 10th in dig average (2.39). Fellow senior OPP/OH **Kim Fletcher** (St. Louis, Mo./Nerinx Hall H.S.) is 11th in hitting percentage (.269), while classmate OPP **Katie Neff** (St. Louis, Mo./Cor Jesu Academy) is 10th in block average (0.98). Loomis is among the leaders in five categories: percentage of games played (3rd, .952), matches with 20+ kills (7th, 6), matches with 10+ kills (9th, 52), block average (12th, 0.87), and hitting percentage (13th, .261). Brewster and Kelbley have reached minimums in three categories to qualify for the career leaders and figure to move into others as they play more matches. Brewster's career block average of 1.72 currently is tops all-time, ahead of Waller's school record of 1.68. Kelbley is fourth at 1.15. In hitting percentage, they rank second and third all-time, with Kelbley at .343 and Brewster at .329. **Malinda Goralski** ('01) holds the Irish record at .361. Kelbley is second in percentage of games played (.953), while Brewster is sixth (.927).

IRISH AMONG THE BIG EAST LEADERS: A number of Irish players were among the BIG EAST Conference statistical leaders heading into last week. Sophomore MB **Lauren Brewster** (Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood H.S.) led the league, and the nation, in blocks (1.82) and was second in hitting percentage (.359), and fourth in points (4.85). Sophomore MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.) was second to Brewster in blocks (1.33) and sixth in hitting percentage (.331). Senior S **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) was ninth in assists (9.30), while senior OPP **Katie Neff** (St. Louis, Mo./Cor Jesu Academy) was fifth in blocks (1.13) and junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) was ninth (1.09). Sophomore OH **Meg Henican** (New Orleans, La./Isidore Newman H.S.) was eighth in digs (3.53) and senior OH **Jessica Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) was 10th in aces (0.37).

In the team statistics, Notre Dame led the conference, and the nation, in blocks (3.84) and was tops in the league in opponent hitting percentage (.136). The Irish were in the top five in four other categories: hitting percentage (4th, .254), kills (4th, 15.49), assists (5th, 13.75), and digs (5th, 15.38).

Notre Dame was dominating in the leaders counting only conference matches. The Irish were first in three of the seven categories and among the top four in the others. Notre Dame led the BIG EAST in hitting percentage (.286), opponent hitting percentage (.094), and blocks (4.71), holding sizeable leads in each category. Miami was second in blocks (2.80) and hitting percentage (.245), while Pittsburgh was second in opponent hitting (.167). The Irish were second in kills (16.23) and aces (1.73), third in assists (14.69), and fifth in digs (16.04).

In the individual leaders in conference matches, Brewster was first in blocks (2.16) and hitting percentage (.403) and fifth in points (5.32) and aces (0.36). Loomis was among the leaders in four categories: blocks (4th, 1.35), points (7th, 5.00), kills (9th, 4.00), and hitting percentage (10th, .287). Kelbley was second to Brewster in blocks (1.54) and fourth in hitting percentage (.346), while Kristen Kinder was fourth in assists (11.96) and sixth in aces (0.35). Neff was fifth in blocks (1.23), giving the Irish four of the top five spots, while Henican was sixth in digs (3.88) and Jessica Kinder was ninth in aces (0.31).

PRESEASON BIG EAST FAVORITES: Once again Notre Dame was the favorite in the BIG EAST Conference. The Irish, who have captured seven regular-season and seven tournament crowns in their eight years in the league, garnered nine first-place votes and were chosen as the favorite in the preseason volleyball poll of conference head coaches. Miami gained four first-place votes and was picked second with 136 points. The teams will meet in the Joyce Center on Nov. 9 in a match televised by College Sports Television (CSTV) in its *Sunday Night Spike* national match-of-the-week package.

2003 Notre Dame Statistical Leaders

Kills	
Emily Loomis	307 (3.65)
Lauren Kelbley	285 (3.43)
Lauren Brewster	275 (3.48)
Hitting %	
Lauren Brewster366
Lauren Kelbley332
Emily Loomis279
Assists	
Kristen Kinder	819 (9.75)
Kelly Burrell	197 (3.18)
Jessica Kinder	50 (0.60)
Digs	
Meg Henican	298 (3.55)
Jessica Kinder	278 (3.31)
Kristen Kinder	179 (2.13)
Blocks	
Lauren Brewster	139 (1.76)
Lauren Kelbley	107 (1.29)
Emily Loomis	90 (1.07)
Aces	
Jessica Kinder	30 (0.36)
Lauren Kelbley	23 (0.28)
Lauren Brewster	22 (0.28)
Points	
Lauren Brewster	379 (4.80)
Emily Loomis	370 (4.46)
Lauren Kelbley	370 (4.40)
Games Played	
Meg Henican	84
Jessica Kinder	84
Kristen Kinder	84
Emily Loomis	84

Irish Double-Doubles

Lauren Brewster -- Season: 2, Career: 5	
13 kills, 13 blocks	vs. Purdue
20 kills, 10 blocks	at North Carolina
Kelly Burrell -- Season: 1, Career: 2	
20 assists, 12 digs	at Texas
Kim Fletcher -- Season: 0, Career: 1	
Meg Henican -- Season: 1, Career: 2	
11 kills, 14 digs	vs. Utah
Jessica Kinder -- Season: 1, Career: 8	
10 kills, 10 digs	vs. Virginia Tech
Kristen Kinder -- Season: 7, Career: 25	
29 assists, 14 digs	vs. Utah
29 assists, 10 digs	vs. South Carolina
35 assists, 13 digs	vs. Purdue
39 assists, 10 digs	vs. Georgetown
46 assists, 10 digs	at Connecticut
29 assists, 12 digs	vs. Illinois State
24 assists, 10 digs	vs. Syracuse
Emily Loomis -- Season: 4, Career: 12	
17 kills, 11 digs	vs. Villanova
12 kills, 17 digs	at UConn
16 kills, 18 digs	vs. Virginia Tech
12 kills, 10 digs	vs. Miami

Notre Dame in 2003...

(2002 totals in parentheses)	
... at home:	11-1 (14-1)
... away:	6-1 (7-6)
... on neutral courts:	3-0 (3-1)
... in three games:	11-0 (13-4)
... in four games:	7-2 (9-1)
... in five games:	2-0 (1-2)
... vs. ranked opponents:	1-1 (1-2)
... vs. BIG EAST teams:	10-0 (11-2)
... vs. non-con. teams:	11-2 (10-5)
... at night:	13-0 (8-5)
... during the day:	7-2 (15-2)
... in tournament play:	6-2 (9-2)

Irish Record Book

INDIVIDUAL -- CAREER

Hitting Percentage (min. 900 attempts)

1. Malinda Goralski ('01) 361 (731-167-1562)
2. **Lauren Kelbley** **.343 (567-134-1263)**
3. **Lauren Brewster** **.329 (490-147-1043)**
11. **Kim Fletcher** **.269 (426-166-965)**
13. **Emily Loomis** **.261 (904-320-2241)**

Pct. of Games Played

1. Jenny Birkner ('96)965 (473/490)
2. **Lauren Kelbley** **.953 (182/191)**
3. **Emily Loomis** **.952 (280/294)**
6. **Lauren Brewster** **.927 (177/191)**

Kill Average (min. 650 kills)

1. Angie Harris ('97) 3.97 (1577 K, 397 G)
6. **Emily Loomis** **3.23 (904 K, 280 G)**

Double-Digit Kill Matches

1. Angie Harris ('97) 88
9. **Emily Loomis** **52**

20+ Kill Matches

1. Christy Peters ('94) 19
7. **Emily Loomis** **6**

Assists

1. Janelle Karlan ('93) 5,197
3. **Kristen Kinder** **3,363**

Assist Average

1. Denise Boylan ('00) 12.37 (4687 A, 379 G)
4. **Kristen Kinder** **10.78 (3363 A, 312 G)**

Service Aces

1. Angie Harris ('97) 239
4. **Jessica Kinder** **115**

Ace Average (min. 50 aces)

1. Angie Harris ('97)602 (239 SA, 397 G)
3. **Jessica Kinder** **.372 (115 SA, 309 G)**

Dig Average (min. 500 digs)

1. Christy Peters ('94) 3.72 (1640 D, 441 G)
10. **Jessica Kinder** **2.39 (740 D, 309 G)**

Block Average (min. 200 blocks)

1. **Lauren Brewster** **1.72 (304 TB, 177 G)**
2. Mary Kay Waller ('88) 1.68 (699 TB, 415 G)
4. **Lauren Kelbley** **1.15 (209 TB, 182 G)**
10. **Katie Neff** **0.98 (214 TB, 219 G)**
12. **Emily Loomis** **0.87 (244 TB, 280 G)**

INDIVIDUAL -- SEASON

Hitting Percentage (min. 250 attempts)

1. Mary Kay Waller (1986)395 (316-64-638)
6. **Lauren Brewster (2003)** ... **.366 (275-71-557)**
9. **Lauren Kelbley (2003)** **.332 (285-78-623)**

Pct. of Games Played

1. Six tied at 1.000
1. **Jessica Kinder, Kristen Kinder** .. **1.000 (84/84)**
1. **Emily Loomis, Meg Henican** .. **1.000 (84/84)**

Consecutive Matches With 10+ Kills

1. Angie Harris 17 (10/5-11/28/97)
3. **Emily Loomis (2003)** **15 (8/29-10/10/03)**
4. **Lauren Kelbley (2003)** **13 (9/9-10/23/03)**

Ace Average (min. 20 aces)

1. Angie Harris (1996) 0.68 (38 SA, 57 G)
12. **Jessica Kinder (2003)** **0.36 (30 SA, 84 G)**

Dig Average (min. 200 digs)

1. Christy Peters (1993) 4.10 (500 D, 122 G)
5. **Meg Henican (2003)** **3.55 (298 D, 84 G)**
8. **Jessica Kinder (2003)** **3.31 (278 D, 84 G)**

Block Average (min. 80 games played)

1. Mary Kay Waller (1988) .. 1.79 (206 B, 115 G)
3. **Lauren Brewster (2003)** .. **1.76 (139 B, 79 G)**

Two Irish players, junior OPP/OH **Emily Loomis** (Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers H.S.) and sophomore MB **Lauren Kelbley** (Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon H.S.), were selected to the preseason all-BIG EAST team. Loomis was the Most Outstanding Player in the '02 BIG EAST Championship, while Kelbley was the conference rookie of the year.

IRISH-PANTHERS SERIES: Northern Iowa and Notre Dame will meet for just the second time. In the only previous meeting, the 16th-ranked Panthers prevailed 26-30, 30-14, 30-16, 30-23 on Oct. 17, 2001 at Bettendorf High School in Bettendorf, Iowa.

HEAD COACH DEBBIE BROWN: Irish head coach **Debbie Brown** is in her 13th season at the helm of the Notre Dame program. She has led the Irish to a 321-106 (.752) mark, while holding a 438-189 (.699) overall record. Brown's Notre Dame teams have earned 11 consecutive NCAA tournament berths, advancing to the quarterfinals in 1993 and the round of 16 in '94, '95, and '97. Her squads have won 20 or more matches 12 times. An eight-time conference coach of the year (4 MCC, 3 BIG EAST, 1 Pac-10), she has coached four Irish players to All-America honors, while 20 have gained all-BIG EAST mention since 1995. The Irish also have claimed 11 regular-season conference titles (4 Midwestern Collegiate, 7 BIG EAST) and 11 league tournament crowns (4 MCC, 7 BIG EAST). The captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic volleyball team after winning a pair of national championships and earning All-America honors twice playing at USC, Brown graduated from Arizona State in 1982 and coached her alma mater from 1983-88, helping the Sun Devils to five NCAA tournaments.

TALL TEAM: Only six teams in the nation have a taller average height than Notre Dame's '03 squad. The 14 Irish players have an average height of 6-0, which is bettered only by Illinois, Pacific, Pepperdine, Saint Louis, USC, and Texas. In addition, only eight players in Division I are taller than senior OPP **Katie Neff's** (St. Louis, Mo./Cor Jesu Academy) 6-4 frame.

THE HARDER THEY FALL: Notre Dame's season-opening 3-1 victory over #10 Arizona in the Four Points Sheraton Classic gave the Irish a top-10 upset in each of the last two seasons. On September 14, 2002, Notre Dame outlasted 10th-ranked Pepperdine in the championship match of the Golden Dome Invitational in the Joyce Center. The win over the Wildcats was the eighth in the program's history over a top-10 opponent.

HAIL TO THE CHAMPIONS: Notre Dame's championship in the Longhorn Classic marked the fourth consecutive season the Irish have come away with at least one in-season tournament title, but was the first for Notre Dame outside the Joyce Center since the 2000 Lady Seminole Classic. The Irish won the Shamrock Invitational in each of the last three seasons and also were victorious in the '02 Golden Dome Invitational

AMAZING ACADEMICS: For the second year in a row, Notre Dame earned an American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award. The Irish, which had a team grade-point average of 3.348 during the 2002-03 year, were one of just four Division I teams to earn the Team Academic Award and also win at least one match in the '02 NCAA Championship. The award honors teams that display excellence in the classroom by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team GPA. Other than the Irish, only Kansas State, Nebraska, and Northern Iowa gained the Team Academic Award and advanced at least to the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Leading the way academically for the Irish were a trio of veterans. Senior **Kim Fletcher** (St. Louis, Mo./Nerinx Hall H.S.) earned a 4.000 GPA in both semesters of the most recent academic year, while classmate **Kristen Kinder** (Fresno, Calif./Bullard H.S.) duplicated the feat in the fall and '03 graduate **Keara Coughlin** posted a perfect GPA in her final semester. As a team, the Irish had a 3.438 GPA in the spring, the second-highest among Notre Dame's 26 varsity squads.

"NOTRE DAME PRIMETIME" AIRING ON CSTV & WHME-TV: Among the new fall programming for College Sports Television (CSTV) is "Notre Dame Primetime," a weekly one-hour show dedicated entirely to Notre Dame athletics. It airs on Sundays at 8:30 p.m. (EDT) and can now be seen in the South Bend area on Mondays at 7 p.m. (EST) on WHME-TV. A

number of Irish volleyball personalities already have been featured on "Notre Dame Primetime," including head coach **Debbie Brown**, OPP/OH **Emily Loomis**, OH **Jessica Kinder**, and MB **Lauren Brewster**. CSTV is currently available nationwide to more than 15 million cable and satellite homes. To find out where CSTV is available in your area, log on to www.CSTV.com, or call your local cable or satellite operator.

KEEPING UP WITH ND VOLLEYBALL: For the fastest results of Notre Dame volleyball matches, call the Notre Dame Sports Hotline at (574) 631-3000 and choose #5 and #1. The hotline provides schedules and result information for all 26 varsity sports and serves as a supplement to the match recaps and weekly releases provided on the official athletic website, www.und.com. The hotline is the first medium updated with results of each Notre Dame volleyball match.

Once again, www.und.com will be the best place for in-depth coverage of Irish volleyball. Live scoring of all home matches, as well as live internet broadcasts of eight contests available to College Sports Pass subscribers supplement the match previews and recaps.

In addition, media members and fans may be added to the sports information e-mail release list by contacting sports information assistant Bo Rottenborn at Rottenborn.2@nd.edu. All requests for story ideas, interview access, match credentials, and further information on Irish volleyball should similarly be directed to Rottenborn. Credential and interview requests should be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Irish Record Book

TEAM -- SEASON

Winning Percentage

1. **2003** **.913 (21-2)**
2. 1994892 (33-4)

Record on Opponent's Court

1. **2003** **.857 (6-1)**
2. 1994846 (11-2)

Record in 5-Game Matches

1. **2003** **1.000 (3-0)**
2. 1992833 (5-1)

Service Ace-to-Error Ratio

1. 1996 1.03
6. **2003** **0.670**

Block Average

1. **2003** **3.72**
2. 2002 3.66

Low Opponent Hitting Percentage

1. **2003** **.145**
2. 1986151

Low Opponent Ace Average

1. **2003** **0.93**
2. 1996 1.11

Low Opponent Block Average

1. 1986 1.53
3. **2003** **1.90**

Consecutive Wins

1. Oct. 24-Nov. 21, 1986 17
2. **Sept. 17-present, 2003** **14**

Consecutive Road Wins

1. Oct. 11-Nov. 19, 1986 10
1. Sept. 8-Oct. 10, 1995 10
- Aug. 30-present, 2003** **8**

Consecutive Wins On Opponent Court

1. Nov. 2-Sept. 26, 1991 8
- Sept. 6-present, 2003** **6**

Best Start (two losses)

1. 1994 32-2
2. **2003** **21-2**

NCAA Leaders

(as of 10/26)

INDIVIDUAL

Hitting Percentage

1. Emily Adams, USC 479

Kills

1. Kim Willoughby, Hawaii 6.57

Assists

1. Kele Eveland, Georgia Tech 15.00

Blocks

1. **Lauren Brewster, Notre Dame** **1.82**
2. Liz Mikos, Valparaiso 1.75

Digs

1. Sarah Gascon, Southeastern La. 6.77

Aces

1. Stephanie Cisneros, Hampton 1.41

TEAM

Hitting Percentage

1. USC 359

Kills

1. Georgia Tech 18.23

Assists

1. Georgia Tech 16.93

Aces

1. Hampton 3.52

Blocks

1. **Notre Dame** **3.84**
2. Cornell 3.45

Digs

1. Southeastern Louisiana 21.34

The last time...

Team

- ... Notre Dame won 5 in a row – 2003, won 14 straight from 9/17-present
- ... Notre Dame won 10 in a row - 2003, won 14 straight from 9/17-present
- ... Notre Dame won 15 in a row - 1986, won 17 straight from 10/24-11/21
- ... Notre Dame lost 5 in a row - 1990, lost 7 straight from 10/23-11/3
- ... Notre Dame lost 10 in a row - 1983, lost 10 straight from 9/2-9/8
- ... Notre Dame lost the first game in a win – 9/26/03, vs. Villanova
- ... Notre Dame lost the first 2 games in a win – 9/5/03, vs. Houston (@ Austin, TX)
- ... Notre Dame won the first game in a loss – 8/30/03, at #5 Pepperdine
- ... Notre Dame won the first 2 games in a loss – 9/18/02, at Purdue
- ... Notre Dame lost at home in a BIG EAST match - Never
- ... Notre Dame beat a ranked opponent - 8/29/03, vs. #10 Arizona (3-1)
- ... Notre Dame beat a top-10 opponent - 8/29/03, vs. #10 Arizona (3-1)
- ... Notre Dame beat a top-5 opponent - 9/25/93, vs. #3 Nebraska (3-1)

Kills

- ... 5 Notre Dame players had 10+ kills - 9/14/02, vs. Pepperdine (W, 3-2), Emily Loomis (22), Katie Neff (21), Lauren Brewster (14), Jessica Kinder (13), & Lauren Kelbley (12)
- ... 3 Notre Dame players had 15+ kills - 11/7/03, vs. Virginia Tech (W, 3-2), Lauren Kelbley (22), Lauren Brewster (22), Emily Loomis (16)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 20+ kills – 11/7/03, vs. Virginia Tech (W, 3-2), Lauren Kelbley (22), Lauren Brewster (22)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 20+ kills with 0 errors -- 9/9/03, vs. Valparaiso (W, 3-0), Emily Loomis (24)
- ... 2 Notre Dame players had 20+ kills - 11/7/03, vs. Virginia Tech (W, 3-2), Lauren Kelbley (22), Lauren Brewster (22)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 25+ kills – 10/29/00, at Connecticut (W, 3-2), Christi Girton (31)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 30+ kills – 10/29/00, at Connecticut (W, 3-2), Christi Girton (31)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 20+ kills and 20+ digs - 9/21/00, vs. Loyola Marymount (W, 3-1), Kristy Kreher (32 kills, 27 digs)

Digs

- ... 5 Notre Dame players had 10+ digs - 10/4/03, at Connecticut (W, 3-1), Meg Henican (20), Jessica Kinder (19), Emily Loomis (17), Danielle Herndon (14), Kristen Kinder (10)
- ... 3 Notre Dame players had 15+ digs - 10/4/03, at Connecticut (W, 3-1), Meg Henican (20), Jessica Kinder (19), Emily Loomis (17)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 20+ digs – 10/21/03, at North Carolina (W, 3-1), Jessica Kinder (24)
- ... 2 Notre Dame players had 20+ digs - 12/7/02, vs. Charleston (W, 3-1/NCAA), Meg Henican (23) & Jessica Kinder (21)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 25+ digs - 9/9/03, vs. Valparaiso (W, 3-0), Jessica Kinder (28)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 30+ digs - 10/25/93, at Arizona State (L, 1-3), Christy Peters (31)
- ... a Notre Dame player had 35+ digs - 9/18/92, at Purdue (W, 3-1), Jessica Fiebelkorn (35)
- ... Notre Dame had 100+ digs - 11/14/01, vs. Illinois State (W, 3-2), 108

Blocks

- ... a Notre Dame player had 10+ blocks - 10/24/03, at Boston College (W, 3-0), Lauren Brewster (11)
- ... Notre Dame had 20+ blocks - 9/26/03, vs. Villanova (W, 3-1), 20

Aces

- ... a Notre Dame player had 5+ aces - 10/12/01, at Kentucky (W, 3-2), Kristen Kinder (5)
- ... Notre Dame had 10+ aces - 9/13/03, vs. South Carolina (L, 1-3)

Hitting Percentage

- ... a Notre Dame player hit over .500 (min. 4 attacks/game) - 10/24/03, vs. Illinois St. (W, 3-0), Lauren Brewster (11-0-21, .524)
- ... a Notre Dame player hit over .600 (min. 4 attacks/game) - 10/10/03, vs. Seton Hall (W, 3-0), Lauren Brewster (13-0-19, .684)
- ... a Notre Dame player hit over .700 (min. 4 attacks/game) - 9/28/03, vs. Georgetown (W, 3-0), Lauren Kelbley (12-0-17, .706)
- ... Notre Dame hit over .400 as a team - 10/10/03, vs. Seton Hall (W, 3-0), .436
- ... Notre Dame hit over .500 as a team - 11/13/99, vs. Villanova (W, 3-0), .510
- ... Notre Dame held an opponent under .100 team hitting - 11/2/03, vs. Syracuse (W, 3-0), -.008
- ... Notre Dame held an opponent under .000 team hitting - 11/2/03, vs. Syracuse (W, 3-0), -.008
- ... Notre Dame hit less than .200 - 11/2/03, vs. Syracuse (W, 3-0), .171
- ... Notre Dame hit less than .100 - 10/17/01, vs. Northern Iowa (L, 1-3), .037
- ... Notre Dame hit less than .200 & won - 11/2/03, vs. Syracuse (W, 3-0), .171

Assists

- ... a Notre Dame player had 60+ assists – 11/7/03, vs. Virginia Tech (W, 3-2), Kristen Kinder (68)

Notre Dame 2003 Bio Updates

(not updated after Miami match)

#1 Emily Loomis

Jr. • OPP/OH • 6-1 • Ft. Wayne, Ind.

All-BIG EAST Candidate

Season Highs

Kills: 24 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9

Digs: 18 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7

Blocks: 7 vs. Villanova, 9-26

Points: 25.5 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9

Assists: 4 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7

Aces: 3 vs. Villanova, 9-26

AT: 48 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7

Hitting %:

3G - .571 (24-0-42) vs. Valparaiso, 9-9

4G - .522 (14-2-23) vs. #10 Arizona, 8-29

5G - .333 (13-2-33) vs. Houston, 9-5

Career Highs

Kills: 24 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9-03

Digs: 18 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7-03

Blocks: 9 vs. UW-Milwaukee, 8-30-02

Assists: 4 vs. Charleston '02 & Va. Tech '03

Aces: 3 vs. Michigan '02 & Villanova '03

AT: 64 vs. #10 Pepperdine, 9-14-02

Hitting %:

3G - .636 (14-0-22) vs. BC, 11-3-02

4G - .522 (14-2-23) vs. #10 Arizona, 8-29-03

5G - .471 (21-5-34) at Purdue, 9-18-02

Preseason all-BIG EAST selection has positioned herself as a candidate for postseason all-conference honors ... has started all 21 matches at opposite ... leads team in kills (295/3.64) and is second in points (355.5/4.38) ... has set two Notre Dame records this season: consecutive matches with 10+ kills (21) and most kills in a match without an error (24) ... the former included the last six matches of 2002 and the initial 15 of this season ... latter Irish record came on .571 hitting in three games vs. Valparaiso ... previous record was 23 by Jaimie Lee in 1995 ... missed ND record for kills in a three-game match by one ... a major reason Notre Dame leads the nation in blocking ... also important in Irish defense that is on pace to set school records for block average (3.73 in '03, record is 3.66) and lowest opponent hitting percentage (.142 in '03, record is .151) ... heading into week, was listed ninth in conference as one of four Irish players averaging over 1.00 block per game (83/1.09) ... in BIG EAST matches, ranked among the league leaders in blocks (4th, 1.35),

points (7th, 5.00), kills (9th, 4.00), and hitting percentage (10th, .287) ... named first '03 BIG EAST Player of the Week on Sept. 1 (12 GP, 42 K, .365, 14 B, 4 BS, 3 D, 51 pts.) after helping Irish to upset of #10 Arizona ... earned mention on all-tournament teams for Four Points Sheraton Classic (see above stats) and Longhorn Classic (8 GP, 29 K, .368, 7 B, 5 D, 33 pts.) ... led Irish in kills on nine occasions ... has had 10+ kills in 19 matches this season and 51 in her career ... hit .400 or better in seven of the first 13 matches of the season ... also led team in points eight times, hitting percentage five times, blocks and aces three times each, and digs once ... in season opener, hit .522 (14-2-23) in helping Irish to upset of #10 Arizona ... had 18 kills on .412 hitting (18-4-34) vs. Eastern Washington ... hit .400 (16-2-35) in three-game win over Texas ... had 15 kills and no errors on .405 hitting vs. Purdue ... notched first double-double of season vs. Villanova (17 kills, 11 digs) ... had 16 kills on .500 hitting vs. St. John's ... posted second double-double at UConn, with 12 kills and career-high 17 digs ... had 11 kills (.333), eight digs, and six blocks at Boston College ... slammed 19 kills in just three games vs. Syracuse, adding eight digs, six blocks, and 22 points ... had team-leading and career-high 18 digs vs. Virginia Tech, to go along with 16 kills ... has had three or more blocks in 18 matches ... averaging 2.49 digs (102 digs, 41 games) since becoming a full-time back-row player in the 5-1 on Sept. 26 ... also has eight aces in that span (0.20) after serving sparingly in the 6-2 ... has 11 career double-doubles ... the only player in Notre Dame athletic history to earn all-conference honors in two distinctly different sports (excluding cross country and track and field) ... recorded the top vertical reach measurement in Irish volleyball history as a freshman and earned all-BIG EAST honors at the '02 conference indoor and outdoor track and field meets in the high jump (league champion at outdoor meet) ... ranks among the Irish career leaders in percentage of games played (2nd, .952), kill average (6th, 3.22), 20+ kill matches (7th, 6), 10+ kill matches (9th, 51), block average (12th, 0.87), and hitting percentage (13th, .261)

#2 Leah Nedderman

Jr. • OH • 5-10 • Grapevine, Texas

Career Highs

Kills: 14 vs. Providence, 11-1-02

Digs: 3 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

Blocks: 2 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

Assists: 1 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

Aces: 1 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

AT: 33 vs. Providence, 11-1-02

Hitting %:

3G - .242 (14-6-33) vs. Prov., 11-1-02

4G - NA

5G - NA

Nedderman missed all of fall practice with an ankle injury, which has continued to sideline her.

#3 Kelly Burrell

So. • S • 5-11 • Phoenix, Ariz.

Season Highs

Kills: 1 vs. Houston, Texas, and Syracuse

Digs: 12 at Texas, 9-6

Points: 3.0 vs. Utah, 9-13

Assists: 23 vs. South Carolina, 9-14

Aces: 3 vs. Utah, 9-13

AT: 1 on nine occasions

Career Highs

Kills: 3 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

Digs: 12 at Texas, 9-6-03

Blocks: 5 vs. Connecticut, 9-27-02

Assists: 39 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02

Aces: 3 vs. Utah, 9-13-03

AT: 6 three times

Burrell was an integral part of Notre Dame's 6-2 rotation, which was utilized in the first 10 matches ... has been a key reserve at times since then, playing in all but one match at setter ... second on team in assists (197/3.18) ... helped team hit .324 in upsetting #10 Arizona in season opener ... had 20 assists to go with team-leading and career-high 12 digs vs. Texas ... double-double was second of her career ... set Irish to .311 attack percentage in four-game win against Purdue ... did not play at Boston College ... led team in service aces vs. Pepperdine and Utah.

#4 Meg Henican

So. • OH • 5-11 • New Orleans, La.

BIG EAST Libero of the Year Candidate

Season Highs

Kills: 11 vs. Utah, 9-13

Digs: 20 at Connecticut, 10-5
 Blocks: 5 vs. Indiana, 9-12
 Points: 14.5 vs. Utah, 9-13
 Assists: 6 vs. Purdue & Syracuse
 Aces: 2 on five occasions
 AT: 31 vs. Utah, 9-13
 Hitting %:
 3G - .231 (3-0-13) vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 4G - .182 (8-4-22) vs. Purdue, 9-17
 5G - .226 (11-4-31) vs. Utah, 9-13-03

Career Highs

Kills: 13 vs. Providence, 11-1-02
 Digs: 23 vs. Charleston, 12-7-02
 Blocks: 5 vs. Indiana, 9-13-03
 Assists: 6 vs. Purdue '03 & Syracuse '03
 Aces: 3 vs. Connecticut, 9-27-02
 AT: 31 vs. Utah, 9-13-03
 Hitting %:
 3G - .409 (13-4-22) vs. Prov., 11-1-02
 4G - .158 (7-4-19) vs. #10 Arizona, 8-29-03
 5G - .226 (11-4-31) vs. Utah, 9-13-03

One of the top all-around players on the team, Henican is a candidate for BIG EAST Conference Libero of the Year ... has been libero in each of last 12 matches after beginning season as starting outside hitter ... has played in all 81 games ... averaging 3.80 digs since becoming starting libero on Sept. 26 ... leads team (283/3.49) and ranked eighth in BIG EAST in digs heading into the week ... in league matches only, ranked sixth (101/3.88) ... her dig average currently ranks as the sixth-best season mark in Irish history ... fourth on team in assists (46/0.57) ... a major reason Notre Dame is on pace to set new school records for fewest service aces allowed per game (0.96 in '03, record is 1.11) and lowest opponent hitting percentage (.142 in '03, record is .151) ... key to the unit that was holding BIG EAST opponents to a .094 hitting percentage heading into the week, by far the best mark in the league, with Pittsburgh second, allowing .167 ... has led Irish in digs 14 times ... has had 10 or more digs in 19 of 22 matches, including 12+ on 16 occasions ... had second career double-double vs. Utah, with 11 kills and 14 digs ... had season-high 20 digs at Connecticut, her second career match with 20+ digs ... had 19 digs vs. North Carolina ... against Illinois State, registered 15 digs in first two games before finishing with 17 in the three-game match ... at outside hitter, averaged 1.39 kills, 0.53 assists, 0.33 aces, 3.25 digs, and 0.58 blocks.

#5 Jessica Kinder

Sr. • OH • 5-10 • Fresno, Calif.

Season Highs

Kills: 10 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7
 Digs: 28 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
 Blocks: 6 at Connecticut, 10-5
 Points: 14.0 at Connecticut, 10-5
 Assists: 10 vs. Houston, 9-5
 Aces: 4 vs. South Carolina, 9-14
 AT: 27 vs. Purdue, 9-17
 Hitting %:
 3G - .500 (6-1-10) vs. Rutgers, 10-12
 4G - .294 (7-2-17) at North Carolina, 10-21
 5G - .368 (8-1-19) vs. Houston, 9-5

Career Highs

Kills: 15 at Purdue '02 & vs. UConn '02
 Digs: 28 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9-03
 Blocks: 6 at Connecticut, 10-5-03
 Assists: 10 vs. Houston, 9-5-03
 Aces: 4 on four occasions
 AT: 37 at Purdue, 9-18-02
 Hitting %:
 3G - .522 (14-2-23) vs. Loyola, 9-14-02
 4G - .391 (14-5-23) vs. WVU, 10-27-02
 5G - .368 (8-1-19) vs. Houston, 9-5-03

Jessica Kinder provides a boost in all facets of Irish game, ranking among top five on team in seven categories ... serves as co-captain with twin sister Kristen, leading Irish to one of most successful seasons in history ... has started all 22 matches at outside hitter and played in all 81 games ... leads team in service aces (29/0.36) and was 10th in BIG EAST heading into the week ... ranked ninth in league matches only (8/0.31) ... second on Irish in digs (269/3.32), third in assists (49/0.60), and fifth in kills (130/1.60), points (177/2.19), blocks (33/0.41), and hitting percentage (.189) ... set Notre Dame record for digs in a three-game match vs. Valparaiso (28) with 10 in the first game, three in the second and 15 in the third ... previous record was 25 by Tracey Shelton in 1989 and no player other than Shelton and Kinder has had more than 21 digs in a three-game match ... named to Shamrock Invitational all-tournament team, notching a team-high 47 digs (3.62), while adding 17 kills, seven aces, five assists, and three blocks ... a major reason Notre Dame is on pace to set new school records for fewest service aces allowed per game (0.96 in '03,

record is 1.11) and lowest opponent hitting percentage (.142 in '03, record is .151) ... key to the unit that was holding BIG EAST opponents to a .094 hitting percentage heading into the week, by far the best mark in the league, with Pittsburgh second, allowing .167 ... has had 10+ digs on 14 occasions, including three matches of 20 or more ... led Irish in digs six times ... has had a service ace in 16 of 22 matches, leading team in category nine times ... had 23 digs, six kills, three blocks, and two aces vs. Utah ... registered 19 digs, eight kills, six blocks, two assists, and two aces vs. UConn ... turned in 24 digs and seven kills at North Carolina ... had identical lines of eight kills and one error on 19 attempts (.368) vs. Houston and St. John's ... had six kills on .500 hitting vs. Rutgers ... had nine kills vs. Villanova and Illinois State, hitting .412 vs. Redbirds ... had seventh career double-double vs. Virginia Tech, with season-high 10 kills and 10 digs ... in Irish career record book, ranks third in ace average (0.373), fourth in aces (114), and 10th in dig average (2.39) ... her season averages in both digs and aces rank among the top 12 all-time Notre Dame marks (digs-3.32, 8th; aces-0.36, 12th).

#6 Lauren Kelbley

So. • MB • 6-1 • Bascom, Ohio
 All-BIG EAST Candidate

Season Highs

Kills: 22 vs. Houston & Virginia Tech
 Digs: 5 at Connecticut, 10-5
 Blocks: 9 vs. Villanova, 9-26
 Points: 28.5 vs. Houston, 9-5
 Assists: 1 on five occasions
 Aces: 3 vs. E. Washington & Indiana
 AT: 45 vs. Utah & Virginia Tech
 Hitting %:
 3G - .706 (12-0-17) vs. Georgetown, 9-28
 4G - .424 (16-2-33) vs. #10 Arizona, 8-29
 5G - .462 (22-4-39) vs. Houston, 9-5

Career Highs

Kills: 22 vs. Houston '03 & Virginia Tech '03
 Digs: 5 at Connecticut, 10-5-03
 Blocks: 12 vs. St. John's, 9-29-02
 Assists: 1 on 15 occasions
 Aces: 4 vs. Saint Louis, 9-7-02
 AT: 45 vs. Utah '03 & Virginia Tech '03
 Hitting %:
 3G - .706 (12-0-17) vs. Georgetown, 9-28-03
 4G - .462 (15-3-26) at ISU, 10-29-02

5G - .481 (13-0-27) at Miami, 11-15-02

2003 Preseason all-BIG EAST selection has positioned herself as a candidate for postseason all-conference honors ... has started all 22 matches at middle blocker ... second on team in blocks (103/1.29), hitting percentage (.331), kills (270/3.38), point average (353/4.41), and service aces (21/0.28) ... second to teammate Lauren Brewster in BIG EAST blocking leaders and ranks sixth in attack percentage ... in league matches only, was listed second in blocks (40/1.54) and fourth in hitting (.346) heading into the week ... has reached a number of minimums needed to qualify for various career Irish leaders this season, ranking among top four on three Irish career lists: hitting percentage (2nd, .343), block average (4th, 1.15), and percentage of games played (3rd, .952) ... a major reason Notre Dame leads the nation in blocking ... also important in Irish defense that is on pace to set school records for block average (3.73 in '03, record is 3.66) and lowest opponent hitting percentage (.142 in '03, record is .151) ... one of four Irish players averaging over 1.00 block per game ... her hitting percentage currently ranks as the ninth-best season mark in school history ... two-time BIG EAST Player of the Week honored on 9/8 after hitting .446 in Longhorn Classic and on 9/29 after hitting .478 with 26 kills and 12 blocks in opening weekend of league play ... Longhorn Classic MVP (8 GP, 30 K, .446, 14 B, 40.5 pts.) ... named to all-tournament teams in Four Points Sheraton Classic (12 GP, 39 K, .360, 12 B, 4 SA, 5 D, 49.5 pts.) and Longhorn Classic ... led Irish in blocks nine times, kills on six occasions, aces and points five times each, and hitting percentage three times ... has hit over .300 in 16 of 22 matches this season, including 10 matches of .400+ hitting ... had 10+ kills in 13 consecutive matches (9/9-10/23), the fourth-longest streak in school history ... has had 10 or more kills in 19 of 22 matches overall ... has had three or more blocks on 17 occasions ... has had 9.5 or more points in every match ... had 16 kills on .424 hitting to go along with six blocks and four digs in helping Irish to season-opening upset of #10 Arizona ... had career-high 22 kills on .462 hitting vs. Houston to go along with eight blocks and two aces for 28.5 points ... hit .524 vs. Valparaiso, converting 11 kills on 21 tries with no errors ... barely missed double-double vs. Villanova, with 14 kills and nine blocks ... had career-high .706 hitting percentage (12-0-17) vs. Georgetown ... registered 15 kills, six blocks, and five digs vs. UConn ... had 11 kills on .529 hitting vs. Seton Hall ... posted

eight blocks vs. Syracuse ... matched career high with 22 kills vs. Virginia Tech, on .333 hitting for 25.5 points.

#7 Kelly Corbett

Jr. • MB/DS • 6-0 • Mountain View, Calif.

Season Highs

Digs: 6 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
Aces: 1 vs. Villanova & Rutgers
Points: 1.0 vs. Villanova & Rutgers

Career Highs

Kills: 5 twice
Digs: 6 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
Blocks: 6 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02
Assists: 2 vs. Providence, 11-1-02
Aces: 3 vs. Providence, 11-1-02
AT: 11 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02
Hitting %:
3G - .500 (5-0-10) vs. Prov., 11-1-02
4G - NA
5G - NA

Corbett has seen action at libero and defensive specialist, appearing in eight matches this season, including seven of the last 13 ... notched career-high six digs in one game vs. Valparaiso ... saw conference action against Villanova, Georgetown, Seton Hall, and Rutgers, registering three digs vs. the Pirates ... saw action in two games vs. Wildcats ... also played against Purdue, Rhode Island, and Illinois State.

#8 Kristen Kinder

Sr. • S • 5-9 • Fresno, Calif.

All-BIG EAST Candidate

Season Highs

Kills: 7 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7
Digs: 14 vs. Utah, 9-13
Blocks: 5 at North Carolina, 10-21
Points: 8.0 vs. St. John's & Virginia Tech
Assists: 68 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7
Aces: 2 on seven occasions
AT: 19 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7
Hitting %:
3G - .667 (5-1-6) vs. Seton Hall, 10-10
4G - .400 (2-0-5) vs. Purdue, 9-17
5G - .263 (7-2-19) vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7

Career Highs

Kills: 8 at Miami (Fla.), 11-15-02
Digs: 17 vs. Illinois State, 11-14-01

Blocks: 6 twice
Assists: 68 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7-03
Aces: 4 vs. Syracuse, 9-22-01
AT: 20 vs. Miami (Fla.), 11-15-02
Hitting %:
3G - .750 (6-0-8) at Valpo, 9-10-02
4G - .417 (6-1-12) vs. Pitt., 10-25-02
5G - .350 (8-1-20) at Miami, 11-15-02

Third-year starter Kristen Kinder has positioned herself as a candidate for all-BIG EAST honors ... started all 22 matches at setter and played in all 81 games ... serves as second-year co-captain along with twin sister Jessica, leading Irish to one of most successful seasons in history ... combined with Kelly Burrell in 6-2 rotation for first 10 matches before becoming full-time setter in 5-1 ... has led Irish to 66-17 (.793) record as starting setter ... in Irish record book, ranks third in career assists (3,319) and fourth in assist average (10.74) ... leads team in assists (775/9.57) and ranked ninth in BIG EAST heading into the week, due largely to splitting time in first 10 matches ... in league matches only, was listed fourth in assists (311/11.96) and sixth in aces (9/0.35) ... among team leaders, had Irish first in hitting percentage (.286), second in kills (16.23), and third in assists (14.69) ... ranks fourth on team in aces (18/0.22) and digs (175/2.16) ... in addition to leading team in assists in all 22 matches, also has been tops in aces three times ... since taking over as full-time setter, has Irish hitting .281, with 16.07 kills and 14.51 assists per game with 12-0 record after Notre Dame was 8-2 with .231 attack percentage and 15.02 kills and 13.23 assists per game in the 6-2 ... has set Irish to hitting percentages over .250 eight times in 12 matches in the 5-1, including four marks over .350 ... important in Irish defense that is on pace to set school record for lowest opponent hitting percentage (.142 in '03, record is .151) ... helped Notre Dame to .324 hitting percentage in upsetting #10 Arizona ... had season-high 14 digs vs. Utah ... set Irish to .311 attack percentage vs. Purdue ... helped team to .350+ hitting marks four times in five-match stretch: vs. Georgetown (.358), St. John's (.369), Seton Hall (.436), and Rutgers (.352) ... the mark against the Pirates was the best for Notre Dame since 2001 ... had five kills on .667 hitting herself in that match ... took part in season-high five blocks vs. North Carolina ... had five kills on .625 hitting vs. Syracuse to go along with 10 digs

... posted career-high 68 assists in helping Irish to .291 hitting percentage in five-game win over Virginia Tech ... leads Irish with seven doubles this season ... has 25 in her career ... has had 10 or more digs seven times.

#9 Carolyn Cooper

So. • MB • 6-3 • Houston, Texas

Season Highs

Kills: 6 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
Digs: 1 on four occasions
Blocks: 4 vs. Villanova, 9-26
Points: 8.5 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
Assists: 1 vs. Houston, 9-5
Aces: 2 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
AT: 17 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
Hitting %:
3G - .294 (6-1-17) vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
4G - NA
5G - NA

Career Highs

Kills: 6 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9-03
Digs: 5 vs. West Virginia, 10-27-02
Blocks: 9 vs. Loyola, 9-14-02
Assists: 3 at Valparaiso, 9-10-02
Aces: 2 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9-03
AT: 17 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9-03
Hitting %:
3G - .571 (4-0-7) vs. Loyola, 9-14-02
4G - NA
5G - NA

Cooper has seen action off the bench at middle blocker in 15 matches, including 12 of the last 13 ... part of Notre Dame front line that leads the nation in blocking ... also important in Irish defense that is on pace to set school records for block average (3.73 in '03, record is 3.66) and lowest opponent hitting percentage (.142 in '03, record is .151) ... made her first career start vs. Houston in the Longhorn Classic, playing in her home state for the first time as a collegiate player ... registered career-high six kills vs. Valparaiso ... had season-high four blocks vs. Villanova.

#10 Kim Fletcher

Sr. • OPP/OH • 6-0 • St. Louis, Mo.

Season Highs

Kills: 11 vs. Villanova, 9-26
Digs: 7 vs. Valparaiso, 9-9
Blocks: 3 vs. Villanova & Rhode Island

Points: 13.0 vs. Villanova, 9-26
Assists: 2 vs. Valparaiso & Georgetown
AT: 32 vs. Villanova, 9-26
Hitting %:
3G - .286 (7-1-21) at Rhode Island, 10-23
4G - NA
5G - NA

Career Highs

Kills: 16 vs. Michigan State, 11-30-01
Digs: 10 vs. Idaho, 9-1-01
Blocks: 10 vs. G'town, 11-18-01
Assists: 3 vs. Idaho, 9-1-01
Aces: 2 on three occasions
AT: 32 vs. Villanova, 9-26-03
Hitting %:
3G - .684 (13-0-19) vs. Texas St., 8-31-01
4G - .455 (14-4-22) at UConn, 10-7-01
5G - .471 (10-2-17) vs. G'town, 11-18-01

Fletcher has seen front-row action in 12 matches this season, starting five times ... started at outside hitter vs. Eastern Washington and at opposite vs. Villanova, Georgetown, Rhode Island, and Boston College ... had 11 kills on career-high 32 attempts, as well as four digs and three blocks vs. Wildcats ... had seven kills and six digs vs. Rams ... her .269 career hitting percentage ranks 11th among all-time Irish players.

#11 Danielle Herndon

Fr. • L • 5-9 • Plant City, Fla.

Season Highs

Digs: 20 vs. South Carolina, 9-14
Assists: 2 vs. #10 Arizona & Virginia Tech
Aces: 3 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7
AT: 3 at North Carolina, 10-21

Herndon, the lone freshman on the Irish team, has seen back-row action in every match this season ... was starting libero in nine of first 10 matches before becoming defensive specialist ... ranks third on team in dig average (161/2.27) ... a major reason Notre Dame is on pace to set new school records for fewest service aces allowed per game (0.96 in '03, record is 1.11) and lowest opponent hitting percentage (.142 in '03, record is .151) ... key to the unit that was holding BIG EAST opponents to a .094 hitting percentage heading into the week, by far the best mark in the league, with Pittsburgh second, allowing .167 ... led Irish with season-high 20 digs vs. South Carolina ... had 42 digs (3.23) in Shamrock Invitational ... led team with three aces vs. Virginia Tech ... has had 10 or

more digs on seven occasions ... is averaging 0.24 aces (9 SA, 38 G) since moving out of the libero position.

#12 Lauren Brewster

So. • MB • 6-3 • Brentwood, Tenn.

All-BIG EAST Candidate

Season Highs

Kills: 22 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7
Digs: 6 at Texas, 9-6
Blocks: 13 vs. Utah & Purdue
Points: 27 at North Carolina, 10-21
Assists: 2 on three occasions
Aces: 3 on three occasions
AT: 42 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7
Hitting % -
3G - .684 (13-0-19) vs. Seton Hall, 10-10
4G - .593 (17-1-27) at UConn, 10-5
5G - .476 (13-3-21) vs. Houston, 9-5

Career Highs -

Kills: 22 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7-03
Digs: 6 on two occasions
Blocks: 13 vs. Utah '03 & Purdue '03
Assists: 2 on four occasions
Aces: 3 on four occasions
AT: 42 vs. Virginia Tech, 11-7-03
Hitting % -
3G - .684 (13-0-19) vs. Seton Hall, 10-10-03
4G - .593 (17-1-27) at UConn, 10-5-03
5G - .476 (13-3-21) vs. Houston, 9-5-03

Brewster has started 21 of 22 matches at middle blocker and has positioned herself as a candidate for all-BIG EAST honors ... headed into the week as the nation's leader in blocking and is the major reason Notre Dame leads all Division I teams in the category ... leads team in blocking (135/1.78), attack percentage (.364), and points (370/4.87) and is second in kill average (268/3.53) and third in service aces (22/0.29) ... headed into the week leading BIG EAST in blocking and second in hitting percentage and fourth in points ... in league matches only, ranked first in blocks (54/2.16) and hitting percentage (.403) and fifth in points (133/5.32) and service aces (9/0.36) ... season block average currently ranks as third-best all-time Irish mark ... her hitting percentage currently ranks as the sixth-best season mark in Notre Dame history ... her career block average of 1.72 is the best in Irish history ... her .327 career hitting mark

is third-best, while she ranks sixth in percentage of games played (.926) ... important in Irish defense that is on pace to set school records for block average (3.73 in '03, record is 3.66) and lowest opponent hitting percentage (.142 in '03, record is .151) ... honored as BIG EAST Player of the Week three times in October, missing out only on an idle week for the Irish ... earned award on 10/6 (24 K, .457, 15 B, 35.5 pts. in 7 GP), 10/13 (29 K, .614, 13 B, 38 pts. in 6 GP), and 10/27 (36 K, .371, 27 B, 55 pts. in 10 GP) ... tournament MVP of the Shamrock Invitational, delivering 33 kills and 22 blocks (1.69), while accounting for a team-high 48.5 points ... after not doing so at all last season, has led Irish in kills nine times ... has been team leader in hitting percentage 11 times, including seven matches in a row (10/5-10/29), hitting over .350 in each ... has led Irish in blocks 12 times, points 10 times, and aces four times ... has hit over .300 in 15 matches, including 10 marks over .400 ... has had four or more blocks in 19 of 22 matches ... registered 9.5 or more points in every match ... was in on career-high 13 blocks twice in three-match stretch (vs. Utah and Purdue) ... prior to that, no Notre Dame player had been in on 13 blocks in a match since Molly Stark had 15 on October 2, 1993 ... had then-career-high 17 kills vs. #5 Pepperdine ... missed the first two games vs. Houston with the flu before slamming 13 kills on .476 hitting in the final three ... had 13 kills on .429 hitting to go along with 13 blocks vs. Purdue, in registering first double-double of season ... had 16 kills on .464 hitting vs. Georgetown ... matched then-career high vs. UConn, with 17 kills on .593 attack percentage ... hit career-high .684 (13-0-19) vs. Seton Hall ... posted 16 kills on .560 hitting vs. Rutgers ... had then-career-high 20 kills on .361 hitting and 10 blocks against North Carolina ... had 11 blocks at Boston College ... hit .524 with 11 kills and no errors vs. Illinois State ... posted career-high 22 kills on .429 hitting for 25.5 points vs. Virginia Tech ... has five career double-doubles ... set Notre Dame record for block assists in a season (161) as a freshman.

#15 Katie Neff

Sr. • OPP • 6-4 • St. Louis, Mo.

Season Highs

Kills: 15 vs. E. Washington, 8-30
Digs: 2 on four occasions
Blocks: 9 vs. Utah, 9-13
Points: 16.0 vs. E. Washington, 8-30
Assists: 2 on three occasions
Aces: 1 vs. Villanova, 9-26

AT: 38 vs. E. Washington, 8-30

Hitting % -

3G - .375 (9-3-16) vs. Georgetown, 9-28

4G - .375 (11-2-24) vs. Indiana, 9-12

5G - .261 (9-3-23) vs. Utah, 9-13

Career Highs

Kills: 21 vs. #10 Pepperdine, 9-14-02

Digs: 4 at Miami, 11-15-02

Blocks: 9 vs. Utah, 9-13-03

Assists: 5 vs. UConn, 11-23-02

Aces: 2 vs. UConn, 11-23-02

AT: 44 vs. #10 Pepperdine, 9-14-02

Hitting % -

3G - .529 (11-2-17) vs. STL, 9-7-02

4G - .375 (11-2-24) vs. Indiana, 9-12

5G - .409 (21-3-44) vs. Pepp., 9-14-02

Neff has played in every match this season at opposite, starting eight times ... a major reason Notre Dame leads the nation in blocking ... also important in Irish defense that is on pace to set school records for block average (3.73 in '03, record is 3.66) and lowest opponent hitting percentage (.142 in '03, record is .151) ... one of four Irish players averaging over 1.00 block per game ... ranks third on team in block average (82/1.09) and fourth in kills (137/1.83) and points (186.5/2.48) ... named to the Shamrock Invitational all-tournament team, registering 30 kills and 14 blocks and posting the highest Irish hitting percentage (.244) ... has had four or more blocks 12 times ... had season-high 15 kills on .368 hitting vs. Eastern Washington ... posted 11 kills on .375 hitting vs. Indiana ... led Irish in hitting percentage in consecutive matches vs. Hoosiers and Utah ... had 10 kills vs. South Carolina and St. John's ... had career-high nine blocks vs. Utah ... shared team lead in blocks vs. Georgetown.

#16 Lindsay Peterson

So. • DS • 6-0 • Mt. Carroll, Ill.

Career Highs

Kills: 1 vs. Providence, 11-1-02

Digs: 1 vs. Providence, 11-1-02

Has seen action at defensive specialist vs. Villanova and Rutgers this season.