

NOTRE DAME FENCING TEAMS CLOSE 2003 REGULAR SEASON WITH FOUR MORE WINS

Senior class members cap memorable regular-season careers; Debic finishes with 157-8 mark (43-1 in '03).

EAST LANSING, Mich. (2/22/03) – The Notre Dame men's and women's fencing teams wrapped up the 2003 regular season by each going 4-0 at the Michigan State Duals, with wins over Detroit, Michigan, Purdue and the host Spartans. The top-ranked Irish men posted the program's 19th unbeaten season (23-0) while extending the program's third-longest winning streak to 82 matches (dating back to early in the 2000 season), with the women finishing 21-2 for the season.

The Irish men posted 24-3 wins over Detroit and Purdue while besting MSU and Michigan by 22-5 counts. The Notre Dame women turned in a 26-1 win over Purdue, with 23-4 wins over MSU and Detroit and a 17-10 decision vs. Michigan.

The competition marked the final regular-season bouts for one of the most accomplished senior classes in Notre Dame fencing history, with those eight fencers combining for nearly 1,300 regular-season wins and an .852 winning pct. (1,282-222) – in addition to 15 combined All-America finishes in NCAA Tournament competition (with the '03 NAAs still to come). Those seniors include men's epeeist **Jan Viviani** (6-0 at MSU; 162-20 career), men's foilists **Ozren Debic** (1-0; 157-8) and **Forest Walton** (10-0; 115-28, year of eligibility left), men's sabres **Gabor Szelle** (8-0; 182-13) and **Matt Fabricant** (8-0; 151-21), women's epeeists **Anna Carnick** (2-1; 179-43) and **Meagan Call** (3-0; 168-52), and women's foilist **Liza Boutsikaris** (4-0; 168-37).

Szelle finished 6th all-time at Notre Dame in career men's regular-season wins (182) and winning percentage (.933, 182-13), Debic ended up 3rd in career win pct. (.952, 157-8) and Viviani climbed from 10th to 8th on the Irish all-time victory list (162, 3rd-best among epeeists). Debic and Viviani (.890, 162-20) also rank 1st for their respective weapons in career winning pct. On the women's side, Carnick finished 10th in women's fencing wins (179; 3rd among epeeists) while Call (38-9 in '03) and Boutsikaris (37-9 in '03) tied for 11th on the wins list (with 168).

Debic (43-1, .977) completed the 5th-best season winning pct. ever posted by any ND men's fencer (tops among foilists) while sophomore **Michal Sobieraj** (5-0 at MSU) wrapped up the 6th-best men's epee season pct. (.917, 44-4). Junior **Kerry Walton** (3-0 at MSU) finished the season at 43-5 (.896; 5th-best in ND women's epee history), pushing her career mark to 93-10. Sophomore foilists **Alicja Kryczalo** (79-5 career; 40-3 in '03) and **Andrea Ament** (69-8; 41-6) both wrapped up their 2003 regular seasons with 4-0 marks at MSU.

The fourth season of women's sabre competition saw junior **Maggie Jordan** set the ND record for women's sabre wins (56-6; 10-0 at MSU) while posting the program's 2nd-best season winning pct. in women's sabre (.903) – with her classmate **Destanie Milo** (.889, 40-5; 8-1 at MSU) completing the 3rd-best women's sabre season win pct.

The foil squads posted nearly-identical records in 2003 to rank atop the ND weapons, with Ament, Boutsikaris and Kryczalo leading a women's foil squad that posted a 173-34 overall record in '03 (.836) while Debic, Walton (45-9) and sophomore **Derek Snyder** (34-6; did not fence at MSU due to ankle injury) led a 172-35 men's foil unit (.831). Other weapon records included 166-41 in women's epee (.801), 165-42 in women's sabre (.797), 164-43 in men's sabre (.792) and 156-51 in men's epee (.754).

The ND men's foilists have combined for an impressive 424 career wins in regular-season bouts (82 losses, .838) while the women's foil squad is 377-75 (.834) in career bouts. Call, Carnick and Walton have led a women's epee group that has racked up 456 combined wins in their careers (125 losses; .795) – with other career marks by weapon squads including 400-68 in men's sabre (.855), 345-90 in men's epee (.793) and 327-107 in women's sabre (.754).

Notre Dame next plays host to the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships, March 12 in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

OTHER RECORD BOOK UPDATES

* Debic (10th; 157-8) joined Szelle (48-5 in '03) and Viviani (44-6 in '03) in finishing among the ND career top-10 wins leaders while Fabricant (151-21; 49-4 in '03) moved up from 21st to 16th (6th among sabres) and Walton (115-28) moved from 52nd to 42nd.

* Szelle's 182 wins and .933 win pct. both rank 4th all-time among ND men's sabres while Viviani's .890 career winning pct. is 16th all-time among all ND weapons ... Fabricant finished 21st on the win pct. list (.878) ... Sobieraj (.933, 70-5) will head into the 2004 season tied with Szelle for 6th on the ND career win pct. list.

* Debic's .977 win pct. in '03 (423-1) trails only the three dominating seasons by sabre Mike Sullivan (41-0 in '78, 53-1 in '76, 47-1 in '77) and sabre Ed Baguer's 30-0 mark in '92 (min. 30 wins) ... Debic also owns three other top-eight ND men's foil season win pct.'s (42-2 in '01, 30-2 in '02, 42-3 in '01), with Yehuda Kovacs (.971; 34-1 in '87) owning the previous top foil win pct. season ... Debic's 157 wins rank behind only Jeremy Siek (191, '94-'97) in ND men's foil history.

* Viviani (162) moved past '77 grad. Tim Glass (160) into 3rd on the ND men's epee wins list, behind Brian Stone (183, '98) and Carl Jackson (174, '99).

* Only Anne Hoos ('98; 313) and Nicole Mustilli ('99; 304) own more women's epee wins in ND history than Carnick's 179, with Carnick's .848 season winning pct. (39-7) ranking 10th in women's epee history.

* Milo (.840, 126-24) now owns the 16th-best career regular-season winning pct. in ND women's fencing history ... the program's trio of talented second-year women's fencers – Kryczalo (3rd; .941, 79-5), Walton (8th; .903, 93-10) and Ament (9th; .896, 69-8) will head into 2004 ranked among the program's top-10 career leaders in winning pct. (they own a combined record of 241-23) ... only foilists Maria Panyi (.980, 146-3; '94-'95) and Sara Walsh (.970, 231-7; '96-'99) have posted a better win pct. than Kryczalo (among all women's weapons).

FINAL 2003 NOTRE DAME FENCING REGULAR-SEASON STATISTICS (as of Feb. 22)

Men's Epee	PREV.	MSU	DET	MICH	PUR	DAY	YEAR	CAREER
North Carey	22-16	1-0	3-0	1-1	1-0	6-1	28-17	28-17
Adam Harvey	7-4	0-1	1-0	1-0	2-0	4-1	11-5	20-10
Michael Macaulay	8-3	1-0	1-0	0-1	----	2-1	10-4	30-15
T.J. McNally	5-8	1-0	0-1	1-1	2-1	4-3	9-11	9-11
Nick Schumacher	7-4	1-0	1-0	1-0	----	3-0	10-4	26-12
Micha ³ Sobieraj	39-4	2-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	5-0	44-4 (.917)	70-5 (.933)
Jan Viviani	38-6	2-0	1-0	1-0	2-0	6-0	44-6 (.880)	162-20 (.890)
		8-1	8-1	6-3	8-1	30-6	156-51 (.754)	345-90 (.793)

Men's Foil	PREV.	MSU	DET	MICH	PUR	DAY	YEAR	CAREER
Matt Castellan	17-4	2-0	2-0	3-0	3-0	10-0	27-4	63-18
Ozren Debic	42-1	----	1-0	----	----	1-0	43-1 (.977)	157-8 (.952)
Sean Donovan	7-6	1-2	1-1	2-1	3-0	7-4	14-10	14-10
Jack Goetz	6-4	1-0	1-0	1-0	0-1	3-1	9-5	9-5
Derek Snyder	34-6	----	----	----	----	----	34-6 (.850)	66-13
Forest Walton	35-9	3-0	3-0	2-0	2-0	10-0	45-9 (.833)	115-28
		7-2	8-1	8-1	8-1	31-5	172-35 (.831)	424-82 (.838)

Men's Sabre	PREV.	MSU	DET	MICH	PUR	DAY	YEAR	CAREER
Brian Dosal	27-19	2-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	8-0	35-19	35-19
John Espinosa	8-3	0-1	1-0	0-1	1-0	2-2	10-5	10-5
Matt Fabricant	41-4	2-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	8-0	49-4 (.925)	151-21 (.878)
Brendan Prendergast	7-4	1-0	0-1	1-0	0-1	2-2	9-6	9-6
Alex Schumacher	10-3	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	3-1	13-4	13-4
Gabor Szelle	40-5	2-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	8-0	48-5 (.906)	182-13 (.933)
		7-2	8-1	8-1	8-1	31-5	164-43 (.792)	400-68 (.855)

Women's Epee	PREV.	MSU	DET	MICH	PUR	DAY	YEAR	CAREER
Natalie Bustamante	10-3	2-0	1-0	1-2	3-0	7-2	17-5	17-5
Meagan Call	35-9	1-0	2-0	----	----	3-0	38-9 (.809)	168-52 (.764)
Anna Carnick	37-6	1-0	1-1	----	----	2-1	39-7 (.848)	179-43 (.806)
Rebecca Chimahusky	10-3	1-2	1-0	2-1	3-0	7-3	17-6	17-6
Jocelyn Landgraf	7-6	0-1	1-0	1-2	3-0	5-3	12-9	12-9
Kerry Walton	40-5	1-0	2-0	----	----	3-0	43-5 (.896)	93-10 (.903)
		6-3	8-1	4-5	9-0	27-9	166-41 (.802)	486-125 (.795)

Women's Foil	PREV.	MSU	DET	MICH	PUR	DAY	YEAR	CAREER
Andrea Ament	37-6	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	4-0	41-6 (.872)	69-8 (.896)
Liza Boutsikaris	33-9	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	4-0	37-9 (.804)	168-37 (.820)
Elizabeth Emilian	11-3	2-0	2-0	1-1	2-0	7-1	18-4	19-7
Jill Inghram	11-5	1-1	0-2	2-0	1-1	4-4	15-9	20-15
Alicja Kryczka	36-3	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	4-0	40-3 (.930)	79-5 (.941)
Colleen Walsh	14-3	2-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	8-0	22-3	22-3
		8-1	7-2	8-1	8-1	31-5	173-34 (.836)	377-75 (.834)

Women's Sabre	PREV.	MSU	DET	MICH	PUR	DAY	YEAR	CAREER
Danielle Davis	31-17	3-0	2-0	2-1	2-0	9-1	40-18	47-25
Jessie Filkins	6-1	1-0	----	0-1	1-0	2-1	8-2	52-25
Maggie Jordan	46-6	2-0	3-0	2-0	3-0	10-0	56-6 (.885)	81-22 (.786)
Destanie Milo	32-4	2-0	3-0	1-1	2-0	8-1	40-5 (.889)	126-24 (.840)
Tiffany Muller	11-6	1-0	0-1	0-1	1-0	2-2	13-8	13-8
Natalie Tenner	8-3	----	----	----	----	----	8-3	8-3
		9-0	8-1	5-4	9-0	31-5	165-42 (.797)	327-107 (.754)