

The foundation of a winning football program is often established by the adversity experienced by players who struggle and persevere before reaching their ultimate goal. In the third year of the Tyrone Willingham Era at Notre Dame, the Fighting Irish hope 14 returning starters and 45 returning lettermen provide a strong foundation for success as the team will try to rebound from a 5-7 season in 2003.

school records as a true freshman, tailback Ryan Grant returns to his starting job already having a 1,000-yard season on his resume (in 2002), five of the top six receivers return and four returning regulars are back on the offensive line.

It's an exciting time for the Notre Dame offense with Quinn poised to enhance his role as the leader of the unit, Grant ready to resume his role as the feature back (after sharing the role with Julius Jones in 2003), and Rhema McKnight (47 catches for 600 yards in 2003) returning for what could be a breakout season. But the return of so much proven experience across the board in the offensive line may be the most promising element of the offense's situation.

On defense, the Irish return four of the top five tacklers from last season, led by defensive end Justin Tuck who set a school record for quarterback sacks in a season with 13.5. Tuck is one of three returning regulars at end with Kyle Budinscak and Victor Abiamiri. A group of proven linebackers returns (seniors Derek Curry, Mike Goolsby, Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays) and will help along a talented defensive secondary anchored by veterans Quentin Burrell, Lionel Bolen, Dwight Ellick and Preston Jackson.

While the defense will miss standouts at defensive tackle, linebacker and in the secondary, the Fighting Irish are excited about the potential of this defense. This is a hungry group of players eager to make their mark as a stifling, opportunistic, physical unit.

The Irish special teams will be in a retooling mode this season, but that doesn't mean the unit will not be a strong one. Returning at placekicker and punter is D.J. Fitzpatrick, who handled both jobs last year after incumbent Nicholas Setta was lost for the season with an injury. Fitzpatrick filled in admirably, hitting 12 of 17 field goal attempts and providing a steady punter for the squad. While he will be expected to continue the kicking duties, newcomer Geoffrey Price has shown exciting potential at punter.

As always, Notre Dame will face one of the nation's toughest schedules. The 2004 slate includes eight bowl teams from 2003, including three that played on New Year's Day. The Irish will be tested from the start this season, beginning with a road test at Brigham Young and a home game against defending Big Ten champion Michigan, but will hope to build momentum with four of their first six games at home. A road test at always-tough Michigan State will follow the season opener, followed by home tilts with Washington, Purdue and Stanford before a clash with Navy at the Meadowlands. A tough game at Tennessee and a home test against Pittsburgh will precede the season-ending battle with defending national champion Southern California in Los Angeles.

The task facing Notre Dame in 2004 will be a tough one. But the Fighting Irish wouldn't have it any other way. It's what Notre Dame football has always been about - taking on the best.

If history is any indicator, this could be a year for Fighting Irish fans to savor. The last three even-numbered Notre Dame football seasons have produced nine or more wins and three postseason bowl appearances. While that's a promising trend, a renewed confidence and better cohesion on both sides of the football has Willingham expecting success this season.

Last season, the Irish struggled after a 10-win campaign in Willingham's inaugural season in 2002. Notre Dame battled gamely against a schedule rated the third most-difficult in the country by the NCAA, a slate that included eight teams that played in bowl games and three teams that participated in Bowl Championship Series games to end the year.

In its third season under Willingham, the challenge for the Fighting Irish will be to develop the confidence, toughness and mental discipline that champions are made of while recapturing the winning edge the team had during its 10-3 campaign in 2002. A strong corps of veteran returnees on both sides of the ball, particularly on the offensive and defensive lines, could be an indicator that this Notre Dame team has the foundation for a successful campaign.

Offensively, the Irish hope the return of eight starters from 2003 will lead to improved consistency and explosiveness. Quarterback Brady Quinn returns for his sophomore season entrenched as the starter after setting several





IRISH FOOTBALL BOASTS UNMATCHED RECORD OF SUCCESS, HISTORY AND TRADITION

On Wednesday, Nov. 23, 1887, Notre Dame played its first football game.

At the time, it didn't appear to be a particularly significant event. A group of University of Michigan students took the train to South Bend, toured the campus, defeated the Fighting Irish 8-0, were treated to lunch by their hosts and then took the train back to Ann Arbor.

It took five months for Notre Dame to score its first touchdown — by fullback Harry Jewett in a rematch with the Wolverines the following April.

It took just over a year before the Irish recorded their first victory — a 20-0 triumph over the Harvard School of Chicago in 1888.

It took seven years before Notre Dame had its first coach in the person of James L. Morrison in 1894.

It took 26 years until quarterback Gus Dorais became Notre Dame's initial first-team All-American in 1913 — an honor he gained by throwing passes to end Knute Rockne.

It took 37 years before Notre Dame captured its first widely-recognized national championship in 1924 when the Four Horsemen and Rockne — then in his seventh season as Irish head coach — finished 10-0 following a victory over Stanford in the Rose Bowl.

But it was on that Wednesday back in the fall of 1887 that a tradition began.

More than 11 decades later, that tradition continues to shine as brightly as ever.

The most successful program in college football over that century and beyond, Notre Dame football also ranks as the most visible in the country thanks to its national schedule and scope.

The Irish spirit began on that day back in 1887. But it didn't make headlines until 1913 when the Irish upset Army — popularizing the forward pass and

putting Notre Dame football on the map.

It flourished in the 1920s as Rockne's teams lost only 12 games over 13 seasons. And it featured the legendary exploits of halfback George Gipp and the famed Four Horsemen, made legends by sportswriter Grantland Rice while writing about the 1924 Notre Dame-Army game.

Nourished by alumni and subway alumni all over the country, that spirit was nurtured by a series of national titles won by Frank Leahy in the late 1940s. Five Heisman Trophy winners during a 14-year period did nothing to diminish it.

Ara Parseghian continued it with a pair of national crowns in 1966 and 1973, Dan Devine added one of his own in 1977 — and Lou Holtz claimed the latest in 1988.

As Notre Dame continues in its second hundred years of football, its program ranks atop the heap by almost any measurement:

.746 WINNING PERCENTAGE

Notre Dame boasts the highest winning percentage of any Division I college football team with its .746 mark and overall 796-257-42 record.

11 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Since the Associated Press poll began in 1936, Notre Dame has won eight national crowns (1943-46-47-49-66-73-77-88), one ahead of Oklahoma. The Irish also earned consensus national titles in 1924, 1929 and 1930 prior to the origination of the AP ratings, giving them 11 total consensus crowns. Overall, Notre Dame has had 21 different seasons in which it has been voted the national champion by at least one recognized selector.

7 HEISMAN TROPHY WINNERS

Seven Irish players have won the Heisman Trophy — Angelo Bertelli in 1943, John Lujack in 1947, Leon Hart in 1949, John Lattner in 1953, Paul Hornung in 1956, John Huarte in 1964 and Tim Brown in 1987. No other school boasts more Heisman winners.

177 ALL-AMERICANS

From quarterback Frank Carideo in 1929 to Shane Walton in 2002, Notre Dame has had 30 unanimous first-team All-Americans, more than any other school. The Irish have had 78 different consensus All-Americans — also a collegiate high — as designated by the NCAA, including Walton in 2002. Overall, Notre Dame has had 177 selections on All-America first teams, including Walton, linebacker Courtney Watson and center Jeff Faine in 2002.

40 COLLEGE AND 10 PRO HALL OF FAMERS

Forty Notre Dame players — more than any other school — have been elected to the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame. The latest is former Irish quarterback and NFL All-Pro Joe Theismann, enshrined in the NFF Hall of Fame in 2004.

Ten former Irish players have been voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, including one player in three of the last five years. Joe Montana was inducted in 2000, followed by Nick Buoniconti in 2001 and Dave Casper in 2002.



Frank Carideo

Knute Rockne



5 HALL OF FAME COACHES

Five Notre Dame coaches — Jesse Harper, Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy, Ara Parseghian and Dan Devine — have been elected to the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame. The career winning percentages of Rockne (.881, 105-12-5) and Leahy (.855, 87-11-9) remain the two highest in college football history.

25 BOWL GAMES

Notre Dame boasts a 13-12 record in bowl games, including wins over unbeaten opponents in 1973, 1977, and 1988 that earned national championships for the Irish. Notre Dame played in New Year's Day games in nine straight years from 1988-96, with five of the last eight (four of them Irish victories) against teams that ranked third or higher in the polls. Notre Dame's athletic policy did not permit bowl participation for many years, but since that position changed in 1969 Notre Dame has played in postseason contests in 24 of the last 34 seasons. In 10 of those bowl games, the Irish have faced teams that came in unbeaten or ranked atop the polls, as the Irish defeated Colorado in the 1990 Orange Bowl and the 1991 Orange Bowl and triumphed over Texas A&M in the 1993 Cotton Bowl.

99 PERCENT GRADUATION RATE

Notre Dame boasts an overall graduation rate of 99 percent among its football players, based on those who enter on scholarship and remain at least four years. The University has won the American Football Coaches Association Academic Achievement award six times in the last 23 years (most recently in 2001) for graduation rates of individual classes. Notre Dame has had 35 first-team Academic All-Americans, including center Tim Ruddy in 1992 and '93. Former Irish quarterback Joe Theismann earned election to the Verizon Academic All-America® Hall of Fame in 1990, former tight end Dave Casper won the same honor in 1993 and former kicker Bob Thomas was inducted in '96.

In addition, former Irish football great Alan Page was honored with the 2001 Dick Enberg Award, given to a person whose "commitments have furthered the meaning and reach of the Academic All-America programs and/or the student-athlete, while promoting the values of education and academics."

Sixteen Irish players have earned NCAA postgraduate scholarships, while 14 more have earned scholarships from the National Football Foundation.

173 CONSECUTIVE HOME SELLOUTS

Since 1966, every Notre Dame home football game but one has been a sellout in Notre Dame Stadium, with a 1973 Thanksgiving Day game with Air Force the only exception. Notre Dame's final home game in 2003 marked the 173rd consecutive sellout in Notre Dame Stadium — and the 221st in the last 222 home dates going back to 1964. Attendance numbers at Notre Dame Stadium are even more impressive since expansion and renovation to the stadium, which was completed for the 1997 season, put the capacity at 80,795.

NATIONAL SCHEDULE OF TOP-RANKED OPPONENTS

Notre Dame boasts a long tradition of playing highly-rated teams from all parts of the country. During the last 18 years alone, the Irish played the most difficult schedule in the nation three times according to NCAA statistics (four times overall since the NCAA began that statistic in 1977), including 1995. In 1999, Notre Dame became only the second school (Central Florida in 1998 was the other) in NCAA history to open the season with four nationally-ranked opponents. The NCAA also rated Notre Dame's schedule the most challenging nationally in the five-year period from 1986-90.

In 2001, Notre Dame was the only school in the nation to play nine

teams who qualified for postseason bowl games. In 2003, the Irish faced three 2002 Bowl Championship Series (BCS) teams for the first time in school history and will do so again this season.

Thanks to its independent status, Notre Dame plays games against opponents from coast to coast. In the last 25 years alone, Notre Dame has played football games in 25 different states and three foreign countries. The Irish played Miami in the 1979 Mirage Bowl in Tokyo, Japan, then against Navy in 1996 in Dublin, Ireland, and finally, an alumni team of former Notre Dame greats traveled to Hamburg, Germany in July of 2000, defeating the Hamburg Blue Devils 14-10.

136 CONSECUTIVE TV GAMES & NATIONAL RADIO NETWORK WITH 300 STATIONS

Since 1952, Notre Dame has had a record 72 regular-season games televised nationally by ABC Sports and 30 more by CBS Sports, and is currently 13 seasons into a pact with NBC Sports that runs through the year 2005 and provides national television coverage of every Irish home game. ABC has televised another 38 Irish games regionally. A two-hour replay of each Notre Dame home game is distributed and syndicated nationally, and beginning in 1990 Irish games were also made available internationally via television. Irish games have been broadcast nationally on radio by more than 300 stations by Westwood One (formerly Mutual) for the last 36 years and those are also now available worldwide through the Notre Dame Internet site at www.und.com.

THE INTANGIBLES

The mystique over the years has included far more than facts and figures.

There's Notre Dame Stadium, designed by Rockne and home to Irish football teams since 1930 as well as to 80,795 fans on home Saturdays since the expansion was completed in 1997.

There are the well-known buildings and landmarks on campus that have become so much a part of the Notre Dame tradition — the Golden Dome atop the Administration Building and the mural of Christ on the Hesburgh Library overlooking Notre Dame Stadium.

There have been the legendary figures of authority in former president Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., former executive vice president Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C., and former athletic director and All-America player Edward W. "Moose" Krause (all of whom served the University for more than 30 years) and former president Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C. (a member of the NCAA Foundation). Also, current athletic director Kevin White has assumed an influential athletic leadership role nationally.

There's the "Notre Dame Victory March" and the leprechaun, the Irish Guard and the famed pep rallies. The ever-recognizable gold helmets and pants and the traditional blue jerseys, the long list of improbable upset victories — and all the other elements that have made Notre Dame football so special. But maybe the most prominent characteristic of Irish athletes and teams has been their indomitable spirit.

As former Irish quarterback Joe Theismann once said, "If you could find a way to bottle the Notre Dame spirit, you could light up the universe."



The Four Horsemen



All-America Halfback George Gipp



The Notre Dame TRADITION:



Notre Dame's 11 national championship rings

Notre Dame. Just the mention of the name evokes visions of legends.

Hall of Fame football coaches Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy, Ara Parseghian and Dan Devine. George Gipp, the Four Horsemen — and Outland Trophy winners George Connor and Bill Fischer.

Heisman Trophy winners Angelo Bertelli, Johnny Lujack, Leon Hart, Johnny Lattner, Paul Hornung and John Huarte.

They represent the golden years of Fighting Irish football.

In recent times, it has been comeback quarterback Joe Montana, Outland and Lombardi Award winner Ross Browner and rushing star Allen Pinkett.

Heisman winner Tim Brown, coach Lou Holtz, kick return sensation Raghib Ismail — and Lombardi winners Chris Zorich and Aaron Taylor.

Academic and Athletic All-Americans:

- Notre Dame has claimed 42 football Academic All-Americans, trailing only Nebraska (80). Overall, Notre Dame boasts 152 Academic All-Americans after the 2003-04 season, also second to Nebraska. In the last five years, Notre Dame has had 38 Academic All-America selections representing 11 different sports.
- Notre Dame has received nearly 900 All-America citations in school history.
- Notre Dame has received special mention or won the American Football Coaches Association Achievement Award every year since 1981, winning the award six times (most recently in 2001 with a perfect 100 percent graduation rate). Notre Dame is also the only school to have won the AFCA Award and the National Championship in the same year when it accomplished that feat in 1988.

It has been record-setters Rick Mirer, Jerome Bettis, Derrick Mayes, Ron Powlus, Atruy Denson, Jarious Jackson and Shane Walton who have added new chapters to Notre Dame's lengthy football history book.

No other university in the nation can boast as many tales of victory, valor and glory as Notre Dame. Its athletic history is laced with legendary lore of countless heroes who overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to lead the Irish on in the face of adversity. Notre Dame's penchant for pulling upsets and winning despite the odds endeared the school to sports fans from all walks of life across the country. Notre Dame became the nation's team — even today thousands of “subway alumni” are just as loyal Irish boosters as graduates of the University.

Perhaps the most significant fact about Notre Dame's athletic tradition is that it is an ongoing process. The special spirit and mystique



Heisman Trophies

that characterized Irish football teams under Knute Rockne still are evident in today's squads in every sport.

The history never fades at Notre Dame, the list of tales and heroes continues to grow.

Nestled among a handful of trees in the southeast corner of the Notre Dame campus is Notre Dame Stadium, the most famous college football arena in America and the football home to nearly all those Heisman Trophy winners and All-Americans.

Part of the stadium's uniqueness has been that even after the recent expansion, the facility retains its same charm since Rockne designed it and watched his last team play there in 1930. Each of the Stadium's seats has been filled for all but one home game since 1966, and they are the same seats that were filled in the 1940s when the Irish went nearly eight full seasons without losing a game on their home field.

To meet the ever-growing demand for tickets — significantly more alumni ticket requests had been returned than filled in recent years — Notre Dame embarked on a \$50 million, 21-month expansion of its tradition-laden stadium, with the ground-breaking held just days after the conclusion of the 1995 season.

The fruits of that nearly two-year labor are many, with the most noticeable changes being: the capacity being expanded to 80,795; the inclusion of a four-level press box that measures nearly four times the square footage of the previous press box while providing seating for 330 on the media level alone and the installation of lights to each corner of the facility.

Beyond the view of most game day visitors are many of the improvements made to the Stadium's inner structure, which now houses spacious accommodations for the team locker-room, an athletic training area and complete equipment room. Care was taken to retain the traditional feeling of the locker area, where the familiar glazed bricks were reinstalled while the ceremonial entrance to the famed tunnel remains unchanged. The Irish players still walk down stairs and tap the “Play Like a Champion” sign before charging down the tunnel and onto the field.





Notre Dame Stadium Locker Room



1892 Team



Single-season total offense record holder Jarious Jackson

In its 74 years at Notre Dame Stadium, the football program has posted 25 seasons without a loss at home while piecing together a 28-game home winning streak in the 1940s and a 19-game unbeaten run at home from 1987-90. Notre Dame's final home game in 2003 marked the 173rd consecutive sellout in Notre Dame Stadium — and the 221st in the last 222 home dates. In addition to the home games, Notre Dame has played in front of a sellout crowd in 160 of its last 185 games.

While Notre Dame's game-day football arena is steeped in lore and tradition, its other athletic facilities rank among the most modern anywhere.

Since its opening in October 1987, the \$6 million Loftus Sports Center provides numerous Irish teams with an indoor practice facility second to none. The 600-by-200-foot building features Meyo Field, a full-size artificial turf practice field that provides an ideal indoor practice facility for the Notre Dame football program. The Loftus Center likewise includes the spacious Haggar Fitness Complex, where up to 100 student-athletes at one time can make use of nearly 40 state-of-the-art exercise machines and more than 40,000 pounds of free weights.



When Father Edward Sorin started his school in the northern Indiana wilderness, he had only \$300, three log buildings badly in need of repair and a vision of establishing a liberal arts school to meet the growing educational needs of the frontier. He dreamed of building a great university, and in 1842 he founded the University of Notre Dame.

Just as with the Notre Dame football program, the University itself has come a long way since its simple beginning — but few of its priorities have changed. Father Sorin's dream has become reality, as the quality education he envisioned remains the lifeblood of the University.





Notre Dame makes only one promise to potential student-athletes — that they will have the opportunity to partake of that ingrained academic heritage. When Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., became the University's president in 1952, he aimed at making Notre Dame the nation's leading Catholic university. When he retired in 1987, his dream had become a reality. Father Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C., led the University from 1987 to 2004, maintaining Notre Dame's preeminent stature. Father John. I. Jenkins, C.S.C., elected president in 2004, now leads the University into the front rank of American institutions of higher learning.

Notre Dame, which annually is ranked among the top 20 universities in the nation, graduates 95 percent of all students who enroll, a standard surpassed by only Harvard and Princeton.

That degree of success has been matched by Notre Dame student-athletes in general and the football program in particular. Since 1962, 913 of the 923 student-athletes who have been awarded football scholarships at Notre Dame and remained in school for four years have graduated for a remarkable 98.99 percent rate. No other institution playing at the Division I level can come close to that figure.

An education at Notre Dame involves far more than varied classroom experiences. Notre Dame's philosophy always has been to offer a chance to learn about the world as well as academic affairs.

Students who leave Notre Dame generally are passionately concerned as well as professionally competent.

"I knew what the Notre Dame football program was all about, but I came here more because of what it would do for me as a person and because I knew I would get my degree," said 1987 Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown, now an All-Pro wide receiver for the NFL's Oakland Raiders.

"I told a lot of people before my senior year that winning the Heisman Trophy would be nice. But, even if I did win it, my mother wouldn't be half as proud as she would be the day I received my degree. That's exactly the way it turned out."

When Brown received his degree in sociology from the College of Arts and Letters, he became part of the tradition rather than the exception.

The College Football Association (CFA) began presenting an annual Academic Achievement Award in 1981 to honor schools for their football graduation rates, and that award is now given by the American Football Coaches Association. Notre Dame has won the award six times (most recently in 2001, with a 100 percent figure) while earning special mention for its outstanding percentage every other year. In 1988, Notre Dame won the award with the first 100 percent rating in the history of the CFA awards while winning the national championship on the field.

Overall, Notre Dame student-athletes have earned Academic All-America honors 152 times — second most in the nation — including a school-record 12 in 1996-97. The football program alone has produced 42 Academic All-Americans (also ranking second nationally), among them recent offensive lineman John Crowther (2002) and three members of the Verizon Academic All-America® Hall of Fame: Joe Theismann, Dave Casper and Bob Thomas. Additionally, 16 Irish football players have earned NCAA postgraduate scholarships while 14 more have earned scholar-

Graduation Rates:

- Notre Dame has claimed 23 team national championships, including one in women's basketball, one in cross country, six in fencing, one in golf, two in men's tennis, one in women's soccer and 11 in football.
- Notre Dame's graduation rate is 99 percent for student-athletes who exhaust their eligibility.
- Notre Dame's football graduation rate is 99.33 percent as only ten players (of those who remained four years) have not completed their degrees from 1962 to the present.
- Notre Dame ranks third in the nation in student-athlete graduation rates at 87 percent. Notre Dame trails only Northwestern (89 percent) and Duke (89), and is tied with Stanford (87).
- Notre Dame ranks fourth in overall university graduation rates at 94 percent, trailing only Harvard, Princeton and Yale.
- Notre Dame is sixth in the nation in African-American student-athlete graduation rates at 73 percent. Notre Dame graduates 80 percent of its African-American football players.



ships from the National Football Foundation.

The NCAA annually selects a Silver Anniversary team of former student-athletes who have achieved at the highest level in the 25 years since their graduation from college and Notre Dame's list of Silver Anniversary honorees includes football standouts Alan Page, Jim Lynch, Joe Theismann, Dave Casper, Bob Thomas and Ken MacAfee.

The list of those who have parlayed their Notre Dame experiences into successful careers both on and off the field keeps growing.

A number of factors contribute to Notre Dame's sterling record with its student-athletes. The University boasts an intimate campus with about 7,800 undergraduates and an attractive faculty-to-student ratio that promotes individual attention.

The First Year of Studies program provides students the opportunity to gain a wide-ranging liberal arts background before choosing a specific major. A progressive advising program — run not by the athletic department but by the University administration — enables the University to follow the academic progress of all student-athletes on a regular basis, with tutorial services available to provide additional needed assistance.

Although Notre Dame is a Catholic university, it welcomes members of every religion and minority group. A true education exists not solely in the classroom, but in everyday interactions. At Notre Dame, students experience college life with peers that hail from all 50 states and approximately 80 foreign countries.

Students are afforded opportunities to listen to and often interact with a wide variety of noted national and international figures that visit the campus to share their thoughts and talents. Those who have visited Notre Dame in recent years include President George W. Bush, Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and Arizona Senator John McCain just to name a few.

The University of Notre Dame's institutional mission is to attain the highest standards of excellence in teaching, scholarship and selected fields of research in a community of learning. Part of this community includes the University's highly successful intercollegiate athletics program, which is centered on many of the same goals that also are at the core of the University's mission.

The ideal Notre Dame experience includes wide-ranging extracurricular and interpersonal experiences that students accumulate during their four years on campus, and the foundation of these experiences lies in the concept of on-campus residential living — a fundamental part of daily Notre Dame life.

With no fraternities or sororities at Notre Dame, life revolves around the 27 residence



The Irish tour the White House.

The Notre Dame CAMPUS:

halls — with athletes spread out indiscriminately among them. There are older, more traditional dorms like Sorin and Morrissey Halls, as well as newer, contemporary structures like Keough and O'Neill Halls. Women comprise approximately half of the student body. Student-athletes live, eat and attend classes in the same dormitories, dining halls and classrooms as every other student at the University.

"Living in the dormitories with other students was a great experience for me," says Tony Rice, Notre Dame's quarterback for the 1988 national championship team.

"Being part of the football team at Notre Dame gave me a chance to



2004 Notre Dame Football



make many great life-long friends, but I made just as many in the dormitory.”

The camaraderie produced by the residence halls is key to life at Notre Dame. Almost all social, intramural athletic and other activities revolve around the dormitories — with most students

remaining in the same hall all four years.

The campus itself basically is closed to traffic, making it a serene setting of grass and sidewalks. Two lakes on the northwest edge add to the beautiful backdrop of the 1,250-acre grounds.

Intertwined with Notre Dame's basic concept of residentiality is the importance placed on balancing academic pursuits with sports and recreation — at all levels. All members of the Notre Dame community can take a cue from the school's president, Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C., a former Notre Dame basketball monogram winner who remains an avid fan of the sport, and who for years could routinely be found playing hoops on various campus courts.

The average incoming Notre Dame student owns an impressive list of high school accomplishments and the current median SAT score for incoming freshmen is 1360. Just as impressive is the fact that 71 percent of incoming students in the fall of 2003 earned at least one varsity letter while in high.

The by-product of such a well-rounded student body is a campus stocked with students who routinely make the transition from gifted student to gifted athlete. Not surprisingly, *Sports Illustrated* named Notre Dame as its No. 2 “jock school” in a 1997 study of the nation's student bodies and *The Sporting News* ranked Notre Dame fourth on its 2002 Report Card.



The Notre Dame EXPOSURE:

Thanks to its national image and schedule, its enviable history and tradition and its long list of exploits on the athletic fields, Notre Dame's sports programs receive more exposure and publicity than any others in the nation.



Notre Dame's television exposure is unmatched. The Irish currently are part of an NBC Sports contract to televise all Irish home football games through 2005 and Notre Dame has been part of 258 national football telecasts since 1952. Entering the 2004 season, Notre Dame has a streak of 136 consecutive games that have

been televised nationally or regionally by NBC, CBS, ABC or ESPN.

A two-hour replay of each Notre Dame home game also is distributed and syndicated nationally, and beginning in 1990, Irish games also were made available internationally via television. In addition, all Irish home games are broadcast globally on the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, in conjunction with NBC, to American troops stationed in 177 countries and aboard U.S. Navy ships-at-sea.

Notre Dame has enjoyed the benefits of being affiliated with a national radio network for all its football games since 1968, via the Westwood One Radio Network. More than 300 stations around the country carry the Irish on radio each week, creating the largest college football radio network in the nation. That broadcast is also available worldwide through Notre Dame's website at www.und.com.

Notre Dame's popularity with the media at large was evidenced by the 821 credentials — most ever issued at Notre Dame Stadium — distributed for the 2000 Notre Dame-Nebraska contest.

Several Notre Dame games have been among television's highest-rated regular season college broadcasts, with the exciting ties against USC in 1968 and Michigan State in 1966 drawing the two highest ratings ever. Since deregulation in 1984, Notre Dame's epic 31-24 upset of then-No. 1 Florida State on Nov. 13, 1993, has received the highest rating of any regular-season broadcast.

The love affair with Notre Dame football has extended to the silver screen, with Pat O'Brien and Ronald Reagan playing the respective lead roles of Knute Rockne and George Gipp in the 1940 movie "Knute Rockne All-American." More than 50 years later, all fans who love to cheer for the underdog were treated with the movie "Rudy," the real-life story of a determined 1970s Notre Dame walk-on football player, Daniel "Rudy" Ruettinger.

Notre Dame football has received further stamps of approval in recent years from all segments of society — including the U.S. Postal Service, which dedicated stamps to Rockne in 1988 and to Notre Dame's famed 1920s Four Horsemen backfield in 1998.

On the information highway, Notre Dame maintains an athletic department website at www.und.com, which averaged more than 4.2 million hits per month in 2003-04, among the most of any school in the nation. "Real-time" statistics are available via the website for home events in a number of Notre Dame sports, including football — as are live radio broadcasts of games in football, men's and women's basketball, hockey and baseball. The Notre Dame football portion of the site includes contents of the team's media guide, press releases, audio clips and photos.



Media Facts:

- Notre Dame is the only team, professional or college, to have all of its games broadcast nationally on the radio — they are on the Westwood One Radio Network.
- Notre Dame is the only college to have all of its home games televised nationally — NBC.
- Notre Dame has appeared on national television more times than any other school (258).
- Notre Dame's website www.und.com is among the top university websites in the country, averaging over 4.2 million hits per month in 2003-04.
- Notre Dame football has been featured on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* 32 times. Notre Dame graduate Joe Montana appeared on the cover 13 times during his NFL career.
- Notre Dame has been involved in the three highest-rated television broadcasts of all time, as well as five of the top six and six of the top 12. Notre Dame also has the top two rated broadcasts in ESPN history.

The Notre Dame NEXT STEP:

The overwhelming majority of Notre Dame student-athletes meet with success following their days as an undergraduate. This is particularly true for the Irish football program, whose graduates have moved on to storied careers in such fields as professional football, business, medicine and law.

The most visible link to past Notre Dame heroes is any current National Football League roster, as over 50 former Irish players were listed on the NFL teams' 2003 training camp rosters. Such a preponderance of Notre Dame alumni in the NFL has become a standard expectation. In fact, Notre Dame led the NFL in alumni on its rosters in 1995, '96, '97, '98, '99, and 2003. All told, 57 Notre Dame players — including center Jeff Faine in 2003 — have been selected in the first round of the NFL draft, second-most by any school.

A total of 48 former Notre Dame players have helped their NFL teams reach the Super Bowl, with that list including some of the most successful and respected players in professional football history: Mark Bavaro, Rocky Bleier, Nick Buoniconti, Dave Casper, Dave Duerson, Bob Kuechenberg, Joe Montana, Alan Page, Tom Thayer and Joe Theismann. Other former Irish greats who have logged Super Bowl service include such current standout players as Tim Brown, Marc Edwards, David Givens, Luke Petitgout and Bryant Young.

Notre Dame is one of five schools that have produced two Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks — Joe Theismann and Joe Montana — while nine former Irish players are enshrined in the Professional Football Hall of Fame: Curly Lambeau, George Trafton, Wayne Millner, George Connor, Paul Hornung, Page, Montana, Buoniconti and Casper.

In addition to distinguishing themselves on the NFL playing field, former Notre Dame greats such as John Carney, Lake Dawson, Jim Flanigan (he was the NFL Man of the Year in 2001), Jerome Bettis (2002 NFL's Man of the Year) and Chris Zorich have been recognized by the NFL for contributions to their communities and local charities. Many, such as Bettis, Andy Heck, Todd Lyght, Paul Hornung, Flanigan, John Lujack and Young, have used their success in the NFL as a way to give back to Notre Dame in the form of endowed scholarships for students from particular parts of the country.

Despite the limelight enjoyed by the current group of Notre Dame players in professional football, nearly 2,000 other former Irish players have gone on to make their mark in other walks of life. Page, for example, now serves as a supreme court justice in the state of Minnesota, while Ken MacAfee is an oral surgeon and teaches at Harvard Medical School. Page and MacAfee are just two of many success stories enjoyed by former Notre Dame gridiron stars — and non-stars.

A common thread throughout the experience of all Notre Dame graduates is their discovery of the University's national — and international — following and support. And if a student, as an undergrad, doesn't come to appreciate the national nature of Notre Dame as an institution, he or she certainly will after graduation.

Notre Dame's wide-ranging Alumni Association features more

Former Irish defensive end Grant Irons formed a friendship with investment wizard Warren Buffett during his time at Notre Dame.



than 170,000 alumni divided into approximately 240 alumni clubs located in all 50 states and over 20 foreign countries. Notre Dame's alumni are interested in University athletics but also have a deep commitment to community service and continuing education.

The Alumni Association also has set up a network at the local level to help match graduates with professional opportunities, proving once again that long after the roar of the Notre Dame crowd has faded and the graduation exercises have concluded, Notre Dame is still there to help.

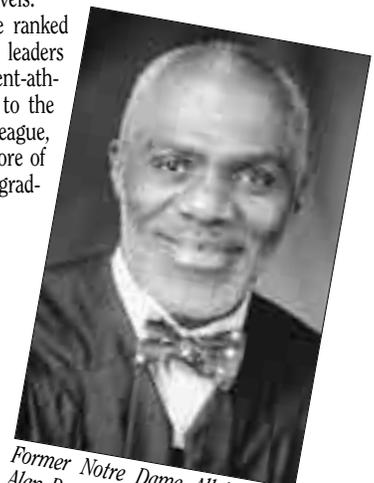
Several former football players currently serve their alma mater through the Notre Dame National Monogram Club. Among the club's current directors are former gridiron stars Jim Carroll (1964 captain and immediate past president) and Dave Duerson (1982 captain and president).

The Notre Dame athletic department also provides unique programs to student-athletes through the growing Student Development Program, which was one of four schools to earn a program of excellence award from the NCAA Division I-A Athletic Directors Association. Created in 1996, the Student Development Program provides all Notre Dame student-athletes with assistance in personal development, community service and career development. Specific offerings include workshops and advising in the areas of public speaking, resume writing, job interview training and dealing with the challenges of being a prospective professional athlete. Student Development also sponsors mentoring dinners, where current student-athletes can visit with alumni from various segments of the business world. Debuting in 1999-2000 was a required, semester-by-semester schedule of Student Development programs for all student-athletes.

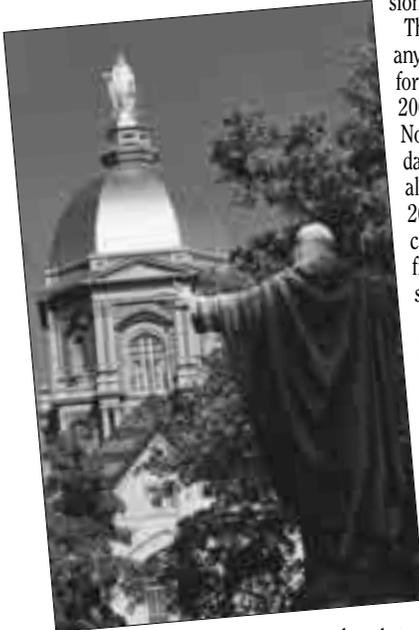
The University of Notre Dame's tradition is far more than tales of gridiron glory. It's a special story woven through the years by an extraordinary spirit and intangible mystique that continues to shine as brightly as the Golden Dome on a sunny afternoon.

Notre Dame's tradition is its future as well as its past. Its historically underdog spirit combined with the University's ongoing philosophy of combining the pursuit of both academic and athletic excellence makes Notre Dame an institution bent on achievement at all levels.

While Notre Dame ranked among the all-time leaders in sending its student-athletes in football on to the National Football League, its has seen even more of them go on to post-graduate studies.



Former Notre Dame All-American Alan Page is now a Supreme Court Justice in the state of Minnesota.



Irish standout Chris Zorich graduated from Notre Dame Law School in May 2002.

Notre Dame Community Service



Community service has long been a part of the tradition of the Notre Dame family and members of the Irish football family, both past and present, are deeply involved.

Current Notre Dame players and coaches regularly make appearances to groups of all kinds. The Notre Dame Student Development office has helped develop programs to enable players to be active in the community — including Notre Dame STARS, a program where student-athletes visit schools and hospitals to read books to young people, and Notre Dame Athletes Against Drugs. Former linebacker Courtney Watson was one of 11 Division 1-A players named to the 2003 Good Works Team, selected by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA). The team honors athletes who show exceptional dedication to community service. Watson was responsible for creating and developing the football team's community service initiative entitled "Tackle the Arts". The program connects Irish football players with children in the community for scholastic purposes.

Former defensive lineman and team captain Grant Irons was named to the 1999 Good Works Team. Irons was the president of the Notre Dame's Student-Athlete Advisory Council, a community speaker for Athletes Against Drugs and was involved in the Captains' Council Christmas Party for children from a local pediatric oncology unit.

Former Irish fullback Marc Edwards (now with the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars) received the 1997 Jason Patrick Niland Memorial Award, given annually by the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of St. Joseph County, Ind. Other Notre Dame players take part in activities at the Center for the Homeless in South Bend, have been involved in Christmas in April, a program in which homes in South Bend receive needed maintenance at no cost, and helped start an event in 2002 called Tackle the Arts where kids and adults can learn more about reading, poetry, creative writing, art, drawing and music.

Jim Flanigan, formerly of the San Francisco 49ers and the 2001 NFL Man of the Year, established the Flanigan Foundation in 1997 to raise awareness of children's literacy. The foundation includes: Mission 99 (Flanigan's uniform number), an initiative in which Flanigan - along with 10 matching sponsors - donates 99 books every week of the season to children's programs; The Great American Book Drive, a spring trip that includes stops at libraries and bookstores in cities between Chicago and Washington, D.C.; and a children's radio program on WMAQ radio in Chicago (with Flanigan as the host). Flanigan was appointed head of Illinois' new Reading Education Partnership Council by Joseph Spagnolo, state superintendent of education. The council's mission is to unify reading improvement and coordinate community-based grants. Flanigan was one of three pro athletes cited in the 1999 USA Today Weekend "Most Caring Athletes" awards.

Former Notre Dame fullback Jerome Bettis, the 2002 NFL Man of the Year with the Pittsburgh Steelers, established The Bus



Stops Here Foundation. The foundation, named after Bettis' nickname, "The Bus," strives to build community goodwill through the support of projects that bring opportunity to seriously troubled and abused children, strengthen the bond of families and improve the overall quality of life. Bettis and Flanigan were among 12 players who appeared on "NFL Players Week" in 1998 on the popular television game show, Wheel of Fortune (with all winnings going to the players' foundations).

Former Notre Dame star and former Chicago Bears and Washington Redskins player Chris Zorich and his Chris Zorich Foundation has sponsored the Family Food Program, which provides meals five times annually to needy families in the Chicago-area; Chris Zorich and Friends, which introduces underprivileged young people to cultural events; and Love Grows Here, a program that delivers Mother's Day flowers to homeless shelters. As an additional part of his foundation, Zorich has fed more than 110 families in the past eight Thanksgivings and personally delivered food baskets to families on Chicago's south side, the neighborhood where Zorich was raised. Zorich was named as one of USA Today Weekend's 1995 Most Caring.

Top 20 Moments in ND History



1

Notre Dame's 1988 football team claimed a unanimous number-one ranking following that season, thanks to a 12-0 record and a victory over third-rated West Virginia in the Fiesta Bowl. Eleven years later, that same Irish team earned yet another number-one finish. Notre Dame's 31-30 triumph over top-rated Miami in 1988 was voted the greatest moment in the last century of Irish football as part of the Century of Greatness program that ran throughout the 1999 Notre Dame season.

That midseason victory in 1988 over the 'Canes ended up atop the list – and was followed, in order, by the Irish comeback to defeat Houston in the 1979 Cotton Bowl (second), Notre Dame's 1993 win against top-rated Florida State (third), the Irish win over Army in 1928 in the "Win One for the Gipper" game (fourth) and Notre Dame's 1977 win over USC that featured a switch to green jerseys (fifth).



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The vote totals resulted from balloting at area Meijer stores and on Notre Dame's athletic web site (www.und.com) throughout August – and from ballots distributed at Notre Dame's 1999 season-opening football game against Kansas. The Century of Greatness program was a joint promotional effort of the University of Notre Dame, Host Communications and University Netcasting, with Meijer and Coca-Cola as the title sponsors. Coca-Cola distributed a series of trading cards throughout the season in 12-packs sold at area Meijer stores.

The top 20 moments were featured in a special 24-page insert in the 1999 Notre Dame-Boston College game program. In addition, there were special halftime ceremonies at that game recognizing the final vote totals. Also, Host Communications produced a 45-minute video highlighting the top 20 moments. It's available at area Meijer stores, the Notre Dame Bookstore and other outlets.



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The final rankings of the top 20 moments:

1. 1988 – Notre Dame defeats top-ranked Miami 31-30 (final play pictured at left)
2. 1979 – Montana throws TD as time expires in Cotton Bowl win over Houston
3. 1993 – Irish defeat top-rated Florida State 31-24
4. 1928 – Notre Dame defeats Army 12-6 behind Rockne's "Gipper" speech
5. 1977 – Irish don green jerseys, defeat fifth-rated USC 49-19 (pictured at left)
6. 1935 – Notre Dame knocks off Ohio State in "Game of the Century" (pictured at left)
7. 1989 – Raghieb Ismail returns two kickoffs for TDs as Irish beat #2 Michigan
8. 1924 – Grantland Rice christens Four Horsemen after 13-7 win over Army
9. 1966 – Irish and Michigan State end epic matchup in 10-10 ties
10. 1973 – Notre Dame prevails 24-23 in Sugar Bowl game against #1 Alabama
11. 1957 – Notre Dame's 7-0 win ends Oklahoma's record 47-game win streak
12. 1987 – Tim Brown returns two punts for TDs as Irish beat Michigan State
13. 1992 – Mirer throws for two-point conversion to beat Penn State in the snow (game action pictured at left)
14. 1913 – Rockne and Dorais popularize forward pass in 35-13 Irish win at Army
15. 1946 – Notre Dame and Army battle to 0-0 tie at Yankee Stadium (Johnny Lujack's game-saving tackle pictured at left)
16. 1978 – Irish knock off top-rated Texas in Cotton Bowl to claim #1 spot
17. 1989 – Defeat of #3 West Virginia 34-21 in Fiesta Bowl to clinch national title
18. 1975 – Notre Dame holds off #1 Alabama in Orange Bowl in Ara's last game
19. 1980 – Oliver's 51-yard field goal as time expires beats Michigan
20. 1992 – Bettis' second-half runs enable Irish to beat Florida in Sugar Bowl



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