



Irish Outlook

Kevin Goldthwaite
will serve as a
team captain in
2004 along with
classmates
Chris Sawyer
and **Jack Stewart**.



Irish Look to Stay in the Spotlight

Clark's squad wants to remain among the nation's elite

The Notre Dame men's soccer team will enter the 2004 season in an unfamiliar role. The Irish have been one of the quick rising programs in the country since Bobby Clark arrived on campus four years ago, but Notre Dame took a giant leap forward in 2003.

A top ranking of #3 in the nation, three straight impressive shutout victories to claim the BIG EAST Championship and a run to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Championship placed the national spotlight firmly on the Irish program.

The 2004 Notre Dame team goals include staying in that spotlight while taking the next crucial developmental step.

"As you get higher (in the national rankings), it gets harder to take it further," head coach Bobby Clark says.

"If I go back to coming here, it was a lot easier to make progress. Now, it is a bit harder, but that is the challenge that we relish."

Before the breakout 2003 season, the Irish coaching staff came up with the team motto of 'Making History.' The motto proved prophetic, as the Irish enjoyed one of the greatest seasons in school history. The coaches quickly thought up a motto for the 2004 season - 'Staying in the Spotlight,' which leaves no doubt as to the team goal this year.

Looking at the Irish team depth chart on paper, that goal might prove difficult. The seven-member senior class that walked off campus in May of 2004 contained two MLS draft choices (Justin Detter, Kevin Richards), a World Cup qualifying player (Richards for the Bermudan National Team), an "A" league draftee (Chad Riley), five all-BIG EAST selections and a three-time team captain (Greg Martin).

Also among those five all-BIG EAST selections were 35 of Notre Dame's 38 goals scored in 2004.

Those outside the Notre Dame program might see replacing that offense as a daunting task, but Clark relishes the challenge for one important reason - it legitimizes the strength of his program.

"Great programs need to continue to reload," Clark says.

"If you have a good program you should be graduating great players every year. If

you are not, then you are not a very good team. Seniors are important and I think we will graduate another great group this season. I hope that will be the scenario every single year. We have to keep reloading and the young players will need to step up to the challenge every year."

Clark knows that the loss of players each year might get the most attention, but part of his vision for the future of Notre Dame soccer means that observers of the program will be having the same discussion before each season.

"We lost a fabulous senior class," Clark says.

"We lost goals, leadership and ability. At the same time, that is what good teams should be losing each year. You can build a great team or you can build a great program. If you are really building a great program, you reload every year."

The ammunition in Notre Dame's reloading project this season is a trio of players that Clark believes are the best at their position in collegiate soccer. Senior captain and goalkeeper Chris Sawyer, senior central defender Jack Stewart and senior leftback Kevin Goldthwaite are the immediate future of the Irish soccer program in '04.

Sawyer enjoyed one of the top seasons of any goalkeeper in the nation during the 2003 campaign as he earned All-America honors from *College Soccer News* and *Soccer Times*. Named the '03 BIG EAST Goalkeeper of the Year and Most



Kevin Goldwaite led Notre Dame in assists during the 2003 season and returns for a senior year as Notre Dame's attacking left back in '04.

Outstanding Defensive Player at the conference championship, Sawyer's most notable accomplishment from last season included three straight shutouts during the BIG EAST Championship - blanking Connecticut, Providence and St. John's to help Notre Dame claim its second BIG EAST Championship (and first since 1996).

"Chris Sawyer is going to build on last season," Clark says.

"He was named the best goalkeeper in one of the strongest conferences in the nation - that is a tremendous testament to his ability.

"Chris is a very good athlete and is adept at all the little parts of being a goalkeeper. His handling, kicking and footwork have all improved greatly. He is tough and brave, but very humble. It is terrific to have someone of that caliber as your last line of defense. You cannot say enough superlatives about Chris Sawyer."



The 2004 Notre Dame team goals include staying in the spotlight while taking the next crucial developmental step.

Playing in front of Sawyer will the backbone of Notre Dame's vaunted defense, Jack Stewart and Kevin Goldthwaite. Stewart was set to move up to the midfield last year to take advantage of his numerous skills, but found himself in the central defense when injuries sidelined sophomore Dale Rellas and freshman Ryan Miller.

The shift back might have been the best thing for Stewart and the Irish defense. Notre Dame's defense was among the best in the country last year, allowing just 16 goals in 23 games. Eight of those 16 goals also occurred in two games, which means the Irish defense allowed one or fewer goals in 21 of 23 matches last season.

"Defense is where Stewart is going to play at the next level," Clark says.

"He is the best central defender in the nation. Jack is two-footed, very good in the

air and fast on the field. There is not a lot that Jack does not have. He has a lot of talent and we will leave him in the back, it is just a question of who will be beside him."

While the loss of Kevin Richards on the right side is a concern, Notre Dame welcomes back experience at the other central defender position and the left side, which is patrolled by Kevin Goldthwaite.

An attacking defenseman, Goldthwaite led the Irish in assists last season with nine and his lone goal of the year was a memorable one - giving Notre Dame a 1-0, overtime victory against eventual National Champion Indiana.

"Kevin is the best at what he does - moving forward and attacking," Clark says.

"He plays an important role in both our offense and defense."

Ben Crouse will serve as a highly capable back up to Goldthwaite this season.

Goldthwaite and Stewart are fully established in the Irish defensive backfield, but the other two defensive positions feature a mix of talented players and experienced veterans.

"Ryan Miller, who tore his ACL in the first week last year, is an obvious candidate to replace Kevin Richards (on the right side)," Clark says.

"He was playing a lot of minutes in those first two games before he was sidelined and will be given a good look at that position."

Miller will be competing against sophomore Jorge Schippers and incoming freshman John Cavanaugh. Schippers observed from the sidelines last season and has four years of eligibility ahead of him. Cavanaugh, who hails from nearby St. Joseph's High School in South Bend, Ind., was the area player of the year in 2003.

Alongside Stewart in the middle, junior Dale Rellas and senior Christopher High will get the most time. High filled in admirably late in the season last year and ended up as a key member of Notre Dame's late season suffocating defense. Rellas played every game on defense as a freshman before breaking a bone in his foot very early in '03. His return to the line up will strengthen an already strong defensive line.

Freshmen Andrew Benton, John Mousinho and Brian Sheehan also have the ability to

ND 2004 Season

Outlook



Junior Tony Megna will be a key component of Notre Dame's attack during the 2004 season.

play in the defense and provide the Irish coaching staff with a bevy of talented options.

Moving up to the midfield, the middle will be anchored by two returning veterans. Sophomore Greg Dalby began his rookie year in the central defense, then moved forward for the final half of the season. For a majority of that time, he was flanked by senior Luke Boughen.

"Greg Dalby will resume as one of our central midfielders," Clark says.

"He finished the season there and did very well. Luke Boughen should be able to partner with him in the midfield. That could be a very nice tandem."

Dalby missed the 2004 spring workouts due to an injury but is expected to be at full strength in the fall. Boughen has spent the last six months studying abroad in Brazil, reportedly playing soccer every day. John Stephens also is expected to push for minutes at central midfielder for the Irish. Stephens played in 13 games during the 2003 campaign, making three starts.

On the outside in the midfield, the Irish welcome back three experienced players in junior Jon Mark Thompson and sophomores Ian Etherington and Nate Norman.

"Jon Mark played in the center during the spring, but can play on the outside as well," Clark says.

"He has good experience and can give us some production on the outside. Nate



Senior Christopher High played a key role in Notre Dame's last-season defensive surge last year. The Irish posted three straight shutouts en route in the BIG EAST Championship.



Norman and Ian Etherington did a phenomenal job as freshmen last season. In the spring they were very exciting and both are talented young players. They are going to see a lot of minutes for us."

Providing extended depth in the midfield will be freshman Alex Yoshinaga and Kyle Dulworth.

Perhaps the most crucial position where players will need to step up is in the Irish attack. Justin Detter and Devon Prescod represented 26 goals from their attack position last year and the returning experienced players, junior Tony Megna and sophomore Justin McGeeney, have yet to post a single goal in their careers.

Roster Breakdown

By Position

Forward (7)...Joe Lapira, Kurt Martin, Justin McGeeney, Tony Megna, Brian Murphy, Nate Norman

Midfielders (14)...Luke Boughen, Greg Dalby, Kyle Dulworth, Ian Etherington, Nate Norman, John Stephens, Jon Mark Thompson, Alex Yoshinaga

Defenders (8)...Andrew Benton, Ben Crouse, Kevin Goldthwaite, Christopher High, Ryan Miller, Dale Rellas, Jorge Schippers, Jack Stewart,

Goalkeepers (3)...Chris Cahill, Justin Michaud, John Michaud, Chris Sawyer, Brian Sheehan

By Class

Seniors (6)...Luke Boughen, Kevin Goldthwaite, Christopher High, Chris Sawyer, Jack Stewart

Juniors (6)...Ben Crouse, Tony Megna, Justin Michaud, Dale Rellas, John Stephens, Jon Mark Thompson

Sophomores (7)...Chris Cahill, Ian Etherington, Greg Dalby, Justin McGeeney, Ryan Miller, Nate Norman, Jorge Schippers

Freshmen (8)...Andrew Benton, John Cavanaugh, Kyle Dulworth, Joe Lapira, Kurt Martin, John Mousinho, Brian Sheehan, Alex Yoshinaga

"We graduated a lot of goals with Prescod and Detter," Clark says.

"But that pair was lucky if they scored 10 goals combined the year before, so I think that someone will be able to step up this season. Prescod and Detter did it last year and someone will need to do it this year. I thought Megna and McGeeney showed the talent and ability to be a great tandem up front during the spring. Two strikers should look to get 10 goals each and I think that is what these two will be looking at."

Two freshmen will also get a chance to make their presence felt in the Irish attack.

"We have a couple of young boys, Joe Lapira and Kurt Martin," Clark says.

"They are both very talented and could get some significant minutes to spell McGeeney and Megna."

Also coming off the bench this year will be a battle at the back up goalkeeper position. Sawyer will see a majority of the action, but junior Justin Michaud and sophomore Chris Cahill will battle not only for the back up spot, but for the edge in the starting position which will be open next season.

"Michaud was the backup last season, but Cahill gave up the right to the challenge due to an injury," Clark says.

"They are both in a position to fight for the right to back up Sawyer. Both of them will be viewing this season as a chance to establish themselves as number two and put themselves in position when Sawyer graduates next year."

With all of the ingredients in place, Clark and his staff expect the Irish to maintain their position as one of the top teams in the Midwest, the BIG EAST Conference and the nation.

"I think the team has grown each year and it gets harder to grow," Clark says.

"There is still room to grow because we did not go as far as we wanted to last year. In men's soccer, if you are a top-20 team you have a good chance of winning a national championship. If you are a top-10 team you have a great chance. We all want to be number one, but we also want to be in contention every season. Number ones go up and down, but we always want a shot at it."

As a member of the BIG EAST, the Irish automatically will face one of the toughest schedules in the nation. Never one to duck competition, Clark will also face a number of non-conference challenges which include defending National Champion Indiana on national television (College



A starter as a freshman in 2002, Dale Rellas hopes to return to form in '04 after missing all but two games of the season last year.

Sports Television) in Bloomington on Sept. 15. The Irish also face non-conference foes Oregon State (Sept. 3), Boston University (Sept. 5), Michigan (Oct. 13) and Michigan State (Nov. 2). The BIG EAST schedule also features a serious challenge with games at St. John's (Oct. 16), at Seton Hall (Oct. 20) and at Rutgers (Oct. 23) within seven days of each other.

Local Irish fans and those attending the Notre Dame - Michigan football weekend on campus will get a chance to see the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament on Sept. 10 and 12. The Irish will take on Evansville and CS Fullerton during the two-day event, with Indiana as the fourth team in the highly competitive tournament.

"You don't want an easy schedule," Clark says.

"You want a schedule that will prepare you for the postseason. If you have a weak schedule and some how get into the postseason, you will face good teams and not be ready for it. Looking through our schedule, it would be great to say we are going to go 18-0, but realistically you are going to take some bumps. That is

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No.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/High School
0	Justin Michaud	Jr.	GK	6-0	175	Austin, TX/St. Stephens Episcopal School
00	Chris Cahill	So.	GK	6-6	190	Louisville, KY/St. Francis DeSales
1	Chris Sawyer***	Sr.	GK	6-1	193	Highlands Ranch, CO/Highlands Ranch
2	Ryan Miller	So.	MF	5-11	160	Barrington, IL/Barrington
3	Kevin Goldthwaite***	Sr.	MF/D	6-1	173	Sacramento, CA /Christian Brothers
4	Joe Lapira	Fr.	F/MF	5-8	150	Lake Charles, LA/Saint Louis Catholic
5	Jorge Schippers	So.	D	5-10	160	Guatemala City, Guatemala
6	Greg Dalby*	So.	D	6-0	174	Poway, CA/Poway
7	Ian Etherington*	So.	F/MF	5-8	125	Temecula, CA/Chaparral
8	Luke Boughen***	Sr.	D/M	5-10	169	San Juan Capistrano, CA/Santa Margarita
9	Justin McGeeney*	So.	F/MF	5-8	165	Ames, IA/Ames
10	Jon Mark Thompson*	Jr.	MF	5-11	150	Cape Girardeau, MO/Cape Girardeau
11	Tony Megna*	Jr.	F	5-11	165	Middleton, WI/Middleton
12	John Mousinho	Fr.	MF/D	6-1	175	Buckinghamshire, England
13	Jack Stewart***	Sr.	MF	6-1	177	Torrance, CA /South Torrance
14	John Stephens**	Jr.	MF	5-8	155	Woodbridge, IL/Benet Academy
15	Kurt Martin	Fr.	F/MF	5-10	160	McAllen, TX/Memorial
16	Ben Crouse*	Jr.	D	5-11	165	Oak Park, CA/Oak Park
17	Christopher High**	Sr.	D	5-11	182	Camarillo, CA/Rio Mesa
18	Andrew Benton	Fr.	MF/D	6-1	180	Marietta, GA/Kell
19	Alex Yoshinaga	Fr.	MF	5-10	160	San Diego, CA/Granite Hills
20	Nate Norman	Fr.	F/MF	6-1	170	Rochester, MI/Rochester Adams
21	Kyle Dulworth	Fr.	MF	5-9	160	Fort Wayne, IN/Homestead
22	Dale Rellas*	So.	D	6-2	165	Plano, TX/Plano West Senior
23	John Cavanaugh	Fr.	D	5-10	156	Granger, IN/St. Joseph's
24	Brian Sheehan	Fr.	D	6-2	190	Denver, CO/Mullen
25	Brain Murphy	So.	F	6-0	175	Granger, IN/St. Joseph's

Head Coach: Bobby Clark (Jordanhill College '67)
Assistant Coaches: Brian Wiese (Dartmouth '95), Mike Avery (Westmont College '90)
Captains: Chris Sawyer, Jack Stewart, Kevin Goldwaite
Assistant Captains: Kevin Goldthwaite, Jack Stewart
 *denotes numbers of monograms won

Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Pos
18	Andrew Benton	MF/D
8	Luke Boughen**	D/M
00	Chris Cahill	GK
23	John Cavanaugh	D
16	Ben Crouse	D
6	Greg Dalby	D
21	Kyle Dulworth	MF
5	Ian Etherington	MF
3	Kevin Goldthwaite**	M/D
17	Christopher High*	D
4	Joe Lapira	F/MF
15	Kurt Martin	F/MF
18	Justin McGeeney	F/MF
11	Tony Megna	F
0	Justin Michaud	GK
2	Ryan Miller	MF
12	John Mousinho	MF/D
25	Brian Murphy	F
20	Nate Norman	F/MF
22	Dale Rellas*	D
21	Chad Riley***	MF
1	Chris Sawyer**	GK
24	Brian Sheehan	D
13	Jack Stewart**	D/MF
14	John Stephens*	MF
15	Jon Mark Thompson*	MF
19	Alex Yoshinaga	MF

*denotes number of monograms won

Pronunciation Guide

BoughenBOW-in
 Crouserhymes with mouse
 DalbyDOLL-bee
 Etherington.....ETH-er-ring-ton
 McGeeneymug-IN-knee
 Michaudmi-SHOWED

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part of team growth. I always say that how you handle those bumps is how you become a team."

The Irish return to the field Sept. 3 taking on Oregon State during a tournament at Indiana with one goal in the forefront of their minds. 'Staying in the Spotlight.' The '03 edition of the Fighting Irish followed their motto 'Making History,' and the '04 team will be challenged to do the same.

"Some years will be very special, but every year has to be special," Clark says.

"Our motto is, 'Staying in the Spotlight.' I love this stage of it. You need to find that little bit of improvement that is going to take the team a bit further. Can we step up? Can we stay in the spotlight? I think we can do it."



Senior Chris Sawyer, the 2004 team captain, ranks among the best goalkeepers in the nation.





Bobby Clark and his staff embraces the challenge of pushing the Irish program to even greater heights.

2004 Men's Soccer Schedule

August

23	Mon.	NORTHWESTERN (exhibition)	Alumni Field	7:00 p.m.
28	Sat.	Massachusetts (exhibition)		7:00 p.m.

September

3	Fri.	Oregon State		5:00 p.m.
5	Sun.	Boston University		12:00 p.m.

MIKE BERTICELLI MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

10	Fri.	EVANSVILLE	Alumni Field	7:30 p.m.
12	Sun.	CAL STATE FULLERTON	Alumni Field	1:30 p.m.
15	Wed.	Indiana		7:00 p.m.
18	Sat.	GEORGETOWN	Alumni Field	7:30 p.m.
23	Thu.	West Virginia		7:00 p.m.
26	Sun.	Villanova		12:00 p.m.

October

1	Fri.	BOSTON COLLEGE	Alumni Field	7:30 p.m.
3	Sun.	LOYOLA-CHICAGO	Alumni Field	3:30 p.m.
7	Thu.	PITTSBURGH	Alumni Field	7:00 p.m.
10	Sun.	SYRACUSE	Alumni Field	1:00 p.m.
13	Wed.	MICHIGAN	Alumni Field	7:00 p.m.
16	Sat.	St. John's		7:30 p.m.
20	Wed.	Seton Hall		3:00 p.m.
23	Sat.	Rutgers		7:00 p.m.
30	Sat.	CONNECTICUT	Alumni Field	7:30

November

6	Sat.	BIG EAST Quarterfinals		TBA
12	Fri.	BIG EAST Semifinal		TBA
14	Sun.	BIG EAST Finals		TBA
19	Fri.	NCAA First Round (Campus Sites)		TBA
24	Wed.	NCAA Second Round (Campus Sites)		TBA

December

! — adidas/IU Credit Union Classic (Bloomington, Ind.) * — BIG EAST Conference game

All times local to site

The Irish, shown here celebrating their victory over Indiana at Ivy Field last season, will head south to face the Hoosiers in a nationally-televised game (CSTV) on Sept. 15.

