

University of Notre Dame Sports Information 112 Joyce Center; Notre Dame, IN 46556 Phone: 574-631-7516 Fax: 574-631-7941

2006 Schedule

February

17	lvs. Colorado State	9:00 a.m.
17	!vs. BYU	11:15 a.m.
18	lvs. #14/12 Oregon State	9:00 a.m.
18	lat UNLV	3:45 p.m.
19	lvs. CS Fullerton	9:15 a.m.
24	\$vs. Buffalo	2:00 p.m.
24	\$at Florida International	
25	\$vs. Memphis	10:00 p.m.
25	\$at Florida International	
26	\$Bracket Play	TBA
	rch	IDA
3	&vs. #17/17 Nebraska	3.00 n m
3	&at Tulsa	3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
3 4	&vs. Northern Iowa	11:00 p.m.
4 4	&vs. Kansas	
-		7:00 p.m.
5	&vs. Stephen F. Austin	11:00 a.m.
12	at Cal Poly SLO	12:00 p.m
15	+at CS Fullerton	7:00 p.m.
16	+vs. #22/23 Arizona State	4:00 p.m.
17	+vs. Florida State	1:30 p.m.
17	+Bracket Play	TBA
18	+Bracket Play	TBA
25	at Western Michigan	1:00 p.m.
29	Bowling Green	5:00 p.m.
<u>Ap</u>	<u>ril</u>	
1	*Connecticut	12.00 nm
T	connecticut	12:00 p.m.
2	*Providence	12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m.
-		-
2	*Providence	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
2 4	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
2 4 5	*Providence Eastern Michigan	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8 9	* Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19 22	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo *Villanova	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19 22 23	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo *Villanova *Rutgers	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19 22 23 25	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo *Villanova *Rutgers at Valparaiso	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19 22 23 25 26	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo *Villanova *Rutgers at Valparaiso Purdue	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19 22 23 25 26 29	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo *Villanova *Rutgers at Valparaiso Purdue *at South Florida	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19 22 23 25 26 29 30	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo *Villanova *Rutgers at Valparaiso Purdue *at South Florida *at Louisville	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
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2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19 22 33 25 26 29 30 Ma 2 6	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo *Villanova *Rutgers at Valparaiso Purdue *at South Florida *at Louisville ¥ Loyola-Chicago *at Seton Hall	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19 22 3 25 26 29 30 <u>Ma</u> 2 6 7	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo *Villanova *Rutgers at Valparaiso Purdue *at South Florida *at Louisville y Loyola-Chicago *at Seton Hall *at St. John's	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19 22 3 25 26 29 30 Ma 2 6 7 11	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo *Villanova *Rutgers at Valparaiso Purdue *at South Florida *at Louisville Y Loyola-Chicago *at Seton Hall *at St. John's BIG EAST Champ.	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 7BA
2 4 5 8 9 11 13 18 19 22 30 25 26 29 30 Ma 2 6 7 11 18	*Providence Eastern Michigan Akron *at Syracuse *at Pittsburgh Ball State *#21/21 DePaul at #12/14 Northwestern Toledo *Villanova *Rutgers at Valparaiso Purdue *at South Florida *at Louisville ¥ Loyola-Chicago *at Seton Hall *at St. John's BIG EAST Champ. NCAA Regionals	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. TBA TBA
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Invitational, & - Tulsa Invitational, + - Judi Garman Classic

2006 Notre Dame Softball

10 Consecutive BIG EAST Regular-Season Titles • Seven Consecutive NCAA Appearances

2006 UNLV Desert Classic • Las Vegas, NV • Feb. 17-19

Notre Dame vs. Colorado State (3-3), Friday, Feb. 17, 9:00 a.m. (SLC Field One) Notre Dame vs. BYU (4-1), Friday, Feb. 17, 11:15 a.m. (SLC Field One)
Notre Dame vs. Oregon State (3-2), Saturday, Feb. 18, 9:00 a.m. (Eller Media Stadium)
Notre Dame at UNLV (4-2), Saturday, Feb. 18, 3:45 p.m. (Eller Media Stadium)
Notre Dame vs. CS Fullerton (2-3), Sunday, Feb. 19, 9:15 a.m. (SLC Field Two)

2006 season begins In Vegas -

The 2006 University of Notre Dame softball season begins this weekend when the Irish take the field for the UNLV Desert Classic. The tournament games will be played at both UNLV's main venue, Eller Media Stadium, as well as satellite fields in the Las Vegas suburbs. Notre Dame begins its season in Las Vegas for the second time in three years, as the Irish also took part in the UNLV Classic in 2004. In that tournament, Notre Dame finished 4-1 with a victory over #8 Nebraska.

Keep up with the Irish on the road -

Notre Dame softball family, friends and fans can keep up with the Irish two different ways this season. Live audio broadcasts of selected Notre Dame games will be available, including the team's matchup with #15/12 Oregon State and CS Fullerton this weekend (subscription to *Fighting Irish All-Access* required, see www.und.com and click on 'multimedia' for more information). In addition, the Notre Dame Sports Hotline (574-631-3000) will be updated as soon as possible after each game this season.

Once the Irish return home to Ivy Field in March, each contest will be available via live audio coverage in addition to Gametracker updates.

Overview of the Irish -

Due to roster turnover this season, Notre Dame head coach *Deanna Gumpf* (entering her fifth year with the Irish) will face her first season without 'proven' players at several key spots. Notre Dame graduated five players last year, four of which were every-day starters for the team. Notre Dame's early-season fortunes could be decided by the team's development at third base, leftfield, centerfield and in the pitching staff.

While those positions are uncertain at this point, the Irish are strong in all other facets of the game. Senior *Heather Booth* will lead the pitching staff and, after 640 innings pitched, 69 victories and 587 strikeouts during her career, the Riverside, Calif., native is poised for a stellar season. Booth will share the starting duties with hard-throwing freshman *Brittney Bargar*. Junior *Kenya Fuemmeler* is ready to see an increase in pitching time this season as well. Adding even more depth to the pitching staff will be freshman *Christine Farrell*. Farrell is returning from offseason surgery and is expected to be at full strength for the BIG EAST Conference season.

Three starting infielders return with all-BIG EAST selections *Sara Schoonaert* at shortstop (.237, 33 RBI, 16 SB - career numbers), *Katie Laing* (.308, 23 RBI, 17 2B) at second base and *Meagan Ruthrauff* (.303, 19 HR, 117 RBI) at first base. Junior *Carrisa Jaquish* (.223, 44 H, 19 RBI) and freshman *Linda Kohan* are battling for the starting third base spot in preseason camp.

The outfield will have a new look this season. Junior *Gessica Hufnagle*, once a catcher for the Irish, will patrol leftfield and give the Irish a potent arm and increased athleticism in the outfield. Freshman *Alexandra Kotcheff* is penciled in as the starter in centerfield and hopes to give the Irish speed on defense and a triple threat at the plate on offense. The returning starter will be in rightfield with junior *Stephanie Brown* (.318, 44 RBI, 22 SB), who made a successful move from second base to the outfield in '05. Sophomore *Sarah Smith*, sophomore *Brittany Glynn* and freshman *Stephanie Mola* will provide the Irish with depth in the outfield. Freshman *Beth Northway* is working her way back from offseason surgery

No.		Name	Year	Pos.	Ht.	B/T	Hometown	High School
1	*	Katie Laing	So.	2B/SS	5-4	R/R	Chandler, AZ	Corona del Sol
2	*	Brittany Glynn	So.	OF	5-3	R/R	Seymour, CT	St. Joseph
5	**	Kenya Fuemmeler	Jr.	P/UT	5-7	R/R	Salisbury, MO	Salisbury
8		Brittney Bargar	Fr.	Р	5-9	R/R	Corona, CA	Corona
11	**	Gessica Hufnagle	Jr.	C/OF	5-6	R/R	Middlebury, IN	Northridge
12		Erin Glasco	Fr.	С	5-7	L/R	Johnson City, IL	Johnston City
16	***	Mallorie Lenn	Sr.	C/1B	5-8	R/R	Garden Grove, CA	Pacifica
17		Alexandra Kotcheff	Fr.	OF	5-8	L/R	Los Angeles, CA	The Marlborough School
18		Christine Farrell	Fr.	Р	5-8	R/R	La Habra, CA	Sonora
21		Linda Kohan	Fr.	INF	5-6	R/R	Westminster, CA	Westminster
22	***	Sara Schoonaert	Sr.	SS/2B	5-3	R/R	Houston, TX	Clear Lake
23		Stephanie Mola	Fr.	OF	5-5	L/L	Naples, FL	St. John Neumann
24	**	Stephanie Brown	Jr.	OF	5-6	R/R	Chandler, AZ	Corona del Sol
27	**	Carissa Jaquish	Jr.	C/UT	5-6	R/R	Highland, CA	Redlands East Valley
32	***	Heather Booth	Sr.	Р	5-10	R/R	Riverside, CA	Martin Luther King
34	*	Sarah Smith	So.	OF	5-7	L/R	Oklahoma City, OK	Heritage Hall
77	***	Meagan Ruthrauff	Sr.	1B	5-10	R/R	La Mirada, CA	La Serna

2006 University of Notre Dame Softball Numerical Roster

Head Coach: Deanna Gumpf (Nebraska '92, fifth season, 177-70)

Assistant Coaches: Kris Ganeff (Notre Dame '99), Lizzy Lemire (Notre Dame '01)

* - denotes monograms earned; (C) - denotes team captains

and her status for the '06 has not yet been determined.

Senior *Mallorie Lenn* (.260, 71 RBI) will return as the Irish catcher this season and is poised for a breakout season after getting through an offseason without an injury hiccup. She will be backed up by freshman *Erin Glasco* - and the non-starter of the two players is expected to be Notre Dame's top option at designated hitter.

Last to play challenge -

Notre Dame will hit the dirt for the first time this season on Thursday, while all five of its scheduled opponents have at least five games played this season already. The Irish have scheduled day for practice on Thursday, Feb. 16, to get acclimated to outdoor softball for the first time this season. It should be pointed out, however, that a very unusual and mild month of January in Northern Indiana has given the Irish a handful of practice days in the infield and outfield at Ivy Field.

Notre Dame in early-season tournaments -

Notre Dame began what is now the collegiate softball tradition of early-season tournament action in 1990 when it took part in a Chicago, Ill., tournament. Since that trip, Notre Dame has visited 30 different areas of the country and participated in several elite tournaments. Notre Dame's all-time record in early-season tournament action is 170-119 (.588) and its most frequent sites visited have been South Florida (seven times), Columbus, Ga. (six times), and CS Fullerton (four times). This season, Notre Dame will visit Las Vegas, Nev. (for the third time), Miami, Fla., Tulsa, Okla., and CS Fullerton once again.

Irish history at UNLV -

Notre Dame has taken part in two previous tournaments hosted by UNLV. In 2000, the Irish faced Portland State (W, 5-3), Southern Utah (W, 8-0), Oregon (L, 3-11), UC Santa Barbara (W, 3-0) and Utah (W, 2-1) during the UNLV Classic.

The team returned in 2004 and played well again, taking on Hawaii (W, 8-7), #2 California (L, 1-2), #8 Nebraksa (W, 6-4), UNLV (W, 3-1) and Portland State (W, 4-1).

Notre Dame Sports Information

Publicity for Notre Dame softball is coordinated by Assistant Sports Information Director Alan Wasielewski.

Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available by contacting Wasielewski at (574) 631-7516 or via email at Wasielewski.3@nd.edu.

Requests to interview student-athletes and coaches must be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance. C redentials for home games can be obtained by calling Wasielewski.

Statistics, results and weekly releases (typically released on Wednesday of each week of the season) also are readily available on Notre Dame's official athletic site, www.und.com.

If you wish to be added to the Notre Dame softball weekly release distribution list, please send an e-mail to: Wasielewski.3@nd.edu.

2000 Notie Dame Softball • ONLV Desert	Classic Noles • Feb. 15, 2000 • Contact: Alan Was	sielewsi			
2006 USA Today/NFCA Top 25	Overall in tournament action in Las				
Feb. 14, 2006	Vegas, the Irish are 8-2 (.800). The team				
Rnk Team Record Pts. Pvs.	also made a brief stop in Las Vegas to				
1. Michigan (18) $0-0$ $\overline{661}$ $\overline{1}$	begin its 2002 Spring Break trip. Notre	<u>RnkT</u>			
2. UCLA (7) 5-0 653 2	Dame defeated Oregon 9-3, but lost to	1. N			
3. Arizona (2) 6-0 612 5	UNLV 2-1 to push its all-time win-loss	2. U			
4. Tennessee 3-0 600 3	record in Las Vegas to 9-3 (.750).	3. A			
5. Texas 4-1 572 4	Notre Dame series history vs. week-	4. T			
6. Alabama 5-0 529 6	end opponents -	5. T			
7. Stanford 4-1 505 7	Notre Dame vs. Colorado State - 2-1,	6. C			
8. California 4-0 496 8	Neutral 2-1 - last meeting: CSU 7, ND 0	7. S			
9. Texas A&M 3-2 390 9	('97 NIT)	8. A			
10. Oklahoma 4-1 375 12	Notre Dame vs. BYU - first meeting	9. T			
11. Washington 4-1 365 13	Notre Dame vs. Oregon State - 1-3,	10. C			
12. Northwestern 3-2 343 16	Neutral 1-3 - last meeting: ND 2, OSU 0	11. V			
13. Georgia 3-1 300 10	('05 NCAA Reg.)	12. C			
14. Oregon State 3-2 272 15	Notre Dame vs. UNLV - 1-1, Away 1-	6			
15. Baylor 2-2 261 11	1 - last meeting: ND 3, UNLV 1	14. N			
16. LaLafayette 5-0 249 18	Notre Dame vs.CS Fullerton - 2-3,	15. Io			
17. Nebraska 4-1 224 21	Away 1-1, Neutral 1-1 - last meeting:	16. B			
18. Oregon 4-1 219 22	ND 5, CSUF 4 (8 innings at the '04	17. N			
19. Iowa 4-1 204 24	NFCA Leadoff Classic)	18. N			
20. Auburn 4-1 154 17	New BIG EAST Conference	19. L			
21. DePaul 3-1 144 14	unveiled in 2006 -	20. A			
22. Arizona State 7-0 118 NR	The BIG EAST Conference expansion,	21. E			
23. Missouri 2-1 105 23	which officially took place this fall, has	22. F			
24. North Carolina 4-1 69 NR	garnered most of its attention in men's basketball. The conference has quickly	23. A			
25. Fresno State 2-3 66 20	transformed into the top men's basket-	24. C			
25. LSU 4-0 66 NR	ball league in the country, but the effect	25. L			
<u>Others receiving votes:</u> Louisville (49), Florida (39),	that expansion will have on softball				
Louisville (49), Florida (39), Mississippi State (27), BYU (19),	cannot be overlooked. The BIG EAST	Other			
Kentucky (18), Georgia Tech (13), CS	welcomes three traditional softball	BYU			
Fullerton (12), Florida State (9),	powers into the conference this season	Illino			
Hofstra (7), Sam Houston State (7),	with the addition of DePaul, Louisville	Carol			
Long Beach State (6), San Diego State	and South Florida. All three of the new	Fulle			
(6), NOTRE DAME (4), Southern	teams will compete to end Notre	Pacif Nortl			
Illinois (4), Central Michigan (3).	Dame's regular-season conference title	(2) ar			
	streak which stands at 10 years entering	(2) ai			
Notre Dame in the USA	the '06 campaign.	bold			
Today/NFCA Top 25	Combined with an already solid con-	Colu			
, I	ference lineup, the BIG EAST is now	Not			
Preseason: ORV (30th)	arguably the top softball league east of	1100			
Feb. 14: ORV (39th)	the Mississippi River. With a new				
	league alignment, the BIG EAST	Prese			
	Championship - scheduled to be played	Feb. 1			
	in South Bend, Ind., beginning May 11 -				
	will feature a new schedule. The top				
	eight teams from the league standings				
	will take part in a single-elimination,				
	three-day tournament to determine the				
	league's automatic berth in the NCAA				
	Championship.				
	1	1			

06 ESPN.com/USA Softball Poll

	Poll							
	Feb. 14, 2006							
Rnl	<u> «Team</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Pts.</u>					
1.	Michigan (17)	0-0	495					
2.	UCLA(3)	5-0	480					
3.	Arizona	6-0	454					
4.	Tennessee	3-0	447					
5.	Texas	4-1	420					
6.	California	4-0	387					
7.	Stanford	4-1	369					
8.	Alabama	5-0	368					
9.	Texas A&M	3-2	331					
10.	Oklahoma	4-1	281					
11.	Washington	4-1	272					
12.	Oregon State	3-2	246					
	Georgia	2-2	246					
14.	Northwestern	3-2	231					
15.	Iowa	4-1	208					
16.	Baylor	2-2	181					
17.	Nebraska	4-1	169					
18.	Missouri	2-1	155					
19.	LaLafayette	5-0	135					
20.		4-1	108					
21.	DePaul	3-2	97					
22.	Fresno State	2-3	68					
23.	Arizona State	7-0	67					
24.	Oregon	4-1	61					
25.		4-0	46					

ers receiving votes:

J (29), Georgia Tech (23), Southern ois (22), Louisville (21), North olina (21), Virginia Tech (16), CS lerton (10), NOTRE DAME (10), ific (9), UNLV (6), Florida (5), th Carolina State (3), Florida State and Hofstra (1).

d indicates 2006 opponents

otre Dame in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Top 25

eason: ORV (30th) 14: ORV (t-32nd)

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2006 BIG EAST Conference Standings (as of Feb. 14, 2006)										
BIG EAST OVERALL (Final)										
<u>Team</u>	W-L	Pts.	<u>H</u>	<u>A</u>	W-L-T	Pct.	<u>H</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>ND outcome vs. opponent</u>
Louisville					3-0	1.000	0-0	0-0	3-0	April 30
DePaul					3-1	.750	0-0	0-0	3-1	April 13
South Florida					1-3	.250	0-0	0-0	1-3	April 29
Pittsburgh					1-4	.200	0-0	0-0	1-4	April 9
Connecticut					0-0					April 1
NOTRE DAME					0-0					-
Providence					0-0					April 2
Rutgers					0-0					April 23
Seton Hall					0-0					May 6
St. John's					0-0					May 7
Syracuse					0-0					April 8
Villanova					0-0					April 22
The top eight teams qualify for the 2006 BIG EAST Championship in South Bend, Ind.										

2006 BIG EAST Weekly Awardwinners

Player of the Week

Pitcher of the Week

Awards begin on Feb. 20, 2006

Irish captains -

Notre Dame will feature four captains this season for just the second time in the program's history. The senior class of *Heather Booth, Mallorie Lenn, Meagan Ruthrauff* and *Sara Schoonaert* will provide leadership both on and off the field for the team in 2006. The only other team to feature four captains was Notre Dame's most successful team ever - the 2001 squad. Current Irish assistant coach *Lizzy Lemire* shared the captaincy that season with Melanie Alkire, Danielle Klayman and Jennifer Sharron. The Irish finished 54-7 in '01 and earned a number-one seed in the NCAA Championship.

Booth to continue climb up Notre Dame career charts -

Senior co-captain *Heather Booth*, a front-line starter for the Irish since she walked on campus four years ago, will continue her climb up the Irish career pitching charts this season. The single-season record holder for complete games (30 in '04), Booth's current all-time statistical ranking include seventh in appearances (115), fourth in starts (96), fourth in wins (69), fourth in complete games (61), fourth in shutouts (21), fourth in innings pitched (640.0), fifth in winning percentage (.718, 69-75), fifth in ERA (1.63) and fourth in strikeouts (587).

See page five of this notes package for a complete listing of Notre Dame's current players on several different all-time statistical rankings.

Season schedule will be a challenge -

The 2006 season will prove a challenge for the Irish, as the team will face several teams ranked in the top 25, or just out of the national rankings.

According to the latest rankings, the Irish will face (NFCA rankings first, followed by USA Softball) #14/12 Oregon State, #17/17 Nebraska, #21/21 DePaul #12/14 Northwestern and #22/23 Arizona State. In addition, Notre Dame will face Louisville, CS Fullerton, Florida State, UNLV and South Flordia - all teams who have received at least one vote in the preseason national rankings.

Notre Dame knocked off four ranked teams durng the 2005 season. The Irish defeated #21 South Florida and #19 Florida on their first weekend of action (Feb. 12-13), then knocked off #5/6 Tennessee last weekend at the Palm Springs Classic. Notre Dame also defeated #15 Northwestern with a four-run rally in the bottom of the seventh on Tuesday, April 26, 2005.

Under head coach Deanna Gumpf, the Irish have knocked off at least three ranked teams in three of four seasons (#25 South Florida, #4 Nebraska, #15 Oregon State in `02; #8 Nebraska, #14 Nebraska, #18 Nebraska in `04). The Irish have defeated a total of 13 ranked teams during Gumpf's tenure. The most ranked wins for the Irish came in 2001, when the team defeated eight teams ranked in the national top 25.

New coaching staff, new Gumpf Family addition -

Notre Dame will unveil its new coaching staff in a unique way this season. Lizzy Lemire, a 2001 Notre Dame graduate, has joined the staff and Kris Ganeff (Notre Dame '99) moves up into the first assistant role. The change came about with the decision of former Irish assistant coach Charmelle Green to take a job in Notre Dame's Student-Athlete Development Program.

The unusual twist to the story is that Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf will miss Lemire's official debut with the team. Gumpf is expecting her second child in the third week of February and will not make the first three weekend trips of the season with the team. She will rejoin the team full-time on the road for its Spring Break trip to Southern California.

While Gumpf is away from the team on the road, Ganeff will coach third base and Lemire will man the first base coaching box. To aid in the pitching staff's development during Gumpf's pregnancy, former Irish assistant coach Dawn Austin returned to the team as a volunteer assistant coach this season.

Ruthrauff approaching career walks record -

Senior 1B Meagan Ruthrauff, Notre Dame's cleanup hitter the last three seasons, is not only a potent RBI producer (117 in three years, ninth on the all-time Notre Dame list), but she also has outstanding plate discipline.

Entering the 2006 season, Ruthrauff needs just eight walks to break Andrea Loman's (2000-03) career record of 87.

Irish Players on the All-Time Charts

Most Doubles

- 1. Melanie Alkire (1998-01)......49
- 3. Jenny Kriech (1999-02)45
- Sara Hayes (1992-95)44
- 6. Lizzy Lemire (1998-01)43
- 7. Andria Bledsoe (2000-03)......40

- 10. Jarrah Myers (1999-02)35

11. Meagan Ruthrauff (2003-current)34

Most Home Runs

- 3. Melanie Alkire (1998-01)......30
- 4. Liz Hartmann (2002-05)27
- 5. Sara Hayes (1992-95)26
- 6. Meagan Ruthrauff (2003-current)19
- 7. Meghan Murray (1994-97).....15
- 8. Andria Bledsoe (2000-03).....14
- 9. Mallorie Lenn (2003-current)13 Megan Ciolli (2002-05)13

Most RBI

- 1. Jarrah Myers (1999-02)174 2. Melanie Alkire (1998-01)167 3. Andrea Loman (2000-03).....148

- 6. Meghan Murray (1994-97)129
- 7. Lizzy Lemire (1998-01)126
- 8. Andria Bledsoe (2000-03).....125
- 9. Meagan Ruthrauff (2003-current) ...117
- 10. Megan Ciolli (2002-05)101

Most Walks

- 2. Meagan Ruthrauff (2003-current)80
- 3. Jarrah Myers (1999-02)76

Most Putouts

- 1. Jarrah Myers (1999-02)1,337
- 2. Stephanie Pinter (1991-94)1,177
- 3. Kris McCleary (1996-99)1,040
- 5. Mallorie Lenn (2003-current)931
- 6. Amy Folsom (1989-92)826 7. Lisa Mattison (2000-03)......768
- 8. Meagan Ruthrauff (2003-current) .. 664
- 9. Kelly Rowe (1995-98)655

Most Pitching Appearances

- 2. Jennifer Sharron (1998-01)134 3. Angela Bessolo (1996-99)125
- 4. Missy Linn (1989-92).....122
- 5. Kelly Nichols (1995-98).....116
- Staci Alford (1990-93).....116
- 7. Heather Booth (2003-current)115

Most Games Started

- 2. Jennifer Sharron (1998-01)117
- 3. Missy Linn (1989-92)97
- 4. Heather Booth (2003-current)96
- 5. Terri Kobata (1993-96)94

Most Wins

4. Heather Booth (2003-current)69 5. Missy Linn (1989-92)63

Most Complete Games

1.	Jennifer S	Sharron	(1998-01)	76
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- 3. Terri Kobata (1993-96)65
- 4. Heather Booth (2003-current)61
- 5. Steffany Stenglein (2002-05)54

Most Shutouts

1.	Terri Kobata (1993-96)	42
2.	Jennifer Sharron (1998-01)	38
3.	Missy Linn (1989-92)	29
4	Heather Pooth (2002 gurmont)	01

Most Innings Pitched

- 1. Jennifer Sharron (1998-01)772.1
- 2. Steffany Stenglein (2002-05)......744.0
- 4. Heather Booth (2003-current)640.0
- 5. Terri Kobata (1993-96)630.0

Most Strikeouts

- 1. Terri Kobata (1993-96)......907
- 2. Steffany Stenglein (2002-05)790
- 4. Heather Booth (2003-current)587
- 5. Angela Bessolo (1996-99)445

Heather Booth (2003-current)21 5. Steffany Stenglein (2002-05)20