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Irish Volleyball Guide Third In Nation

The 2003 Notre Dame Volleyball Guide was voted the third-best women's volleyball media guide among all NCAA Division I schools in judging coordinated by the College Sports Information Directors of America. It was the second time in four years that the Irish guide was among the top three nationally, as the 2000 media guide was second. Notre Dame also won USA Volleyball's Viggo O. Nelson National Collegiate Media Guide Award for the best women's guide in its category (based on school enrollment). Notre Dame had won the Nelson award on multiple times in the past, most recently in 2001.



Senior Emily Loomis (left) and junior Lauren Kelbley (right), who helped Notre Dame lead the nation in blocking last season, combine with junior Lauren Brewster to make the Irish one of just two teams in Division I to return three players that earned AVCA all-region accolades a year ago.

Volleyball Quick Facts

Notre Dame Quick Facts

Location	Notre Dame, IN 46556
Founded	1842
Enrollment	8,261 (undergraduate) 11,311 (total)
Nickname	Fighting Irish
Colors	Gold and Blue
Conference	BIG EAST
Home Court	Joyce Center (11,418)
President	Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C
Athletic Director	Kevin White
Sr. Assoc. A.D./Volleyball	Missy Conboy
Athletic Department Phone	(574) 631-6107

Volleyball Coaching Staff

Head Coach	Debbie Brown (Arizona State '82)
Office Phone/E-mail	(574) 631-6307/brown.19@nd.edu
Record at Notre Dame	323-109 (.748)/13 years
Career Record	440-192 (.632)/19 years
Assistant Coach	Robin Davis (N. Arizona '79)
Office Phone/E-mail	(574) 631-5985/rdavis@nd.edu
Assistant Coach	Louella Lovely (Cal Poly '97)
Office Phone/E-mail	(574) 631-5987/llovely@nd.edu
Volunteer Assistant Coach	Andrew Richardson

Sports Information

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Rottenborn's Home Phone	(574) 271-7608
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Rottenborn's E-mail	rottenborn.2@nd.edu
Sports Information Fax	(574) 631-7941
Joyce Center Press Row	(574) 631-5309
Irish Sports Hotline	(574) 631-3000
Website	www.und.com

Notre Dame Sports Hotline:

(574) 631-3000

Introduction

Media Information

The Notre Dame Sports Information Office always is interested in assisting members of the media in their coverage of Irish volleyball. Publicity and media information for Notre Dame volleyball is coordinated by assistant sports information director Bo Rottenborn.

Photographs, statistics, and feature ideas are available to the media by contacting Rottenborn at (574) 631-7516. Requests to interview student-athletes and coaches must be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Credentials for home matches can be obtained by contacting Rottenborn. Radio stations wishing to broadcast from the Joyce Center should inform the SID office two weeks in advance. Phone lines are available by calling Carolyn Rush of Notre Dame telecommunications at (574) 631-6014.

BIG EAST Web Information

The BIG EAST Conference maintains its presence on the World Wide Web at www.bigeast.org. The site contains current information on all facets of the BIG EAST Conference. For more information about BIG EAST volleyball, please contact Adam Porcelli in the BIG EAST communications office at aporcelli@bigeast.org.

Credits

The Notre Dame Volleyball Guide was written and edited by assistant sports information director Bo Rottenborn with editorial assistance from student assistant Cory Walton.

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Printing by Ave Maria Press in Notre Dame, Ind.



Print/Online Media

The Observer

(Heather Van Hoegarden)
www.ndsmcobserver.com
LaFortune Student Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556
(574) 631-7471
Fax (574) 631-6927

South Bend Tribune

(Bill Bilinski/Scott Davidson)
www.southbendtribune.com
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 235-6316
Fax (574) 235-6091

Notre Dame Scholastic

www.nd.edu/~scholast
LaFortune Student Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556
(574) 631-7569
Fax (574) 631-9648

Irish Sports Report

(Eric Hansen)
www.irishsports.com
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 235-6161
Fax (574) 239-2646

Blue & Gold Illustrated

(Lou Somogyi)
www.blueandgold.com
1605 North Home
Mishawaka, IN 46545
(574) 255-9800
Fax (574) 255-9700

Volleyball

(Mike Miazga)
www.volleyballmag.com
774 Marsh Street, Suite C
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 541-2294
Fax (805) 541-2438

RichKern.com

(Rich Kern)
www.richkern.com
2600 Cheshire No. Ct.
Lincoln, NE 68512
(402) 423-0428

Collegiate Volleyball Update

(Ray Dise/Landon Olson)
www.cvu.com
1204 Dillon Lake Bend
Leander, TX 78641-2187
(866) 201-0241
Fax (805) 541-2438

Associated Press

(Tom Coyne)
South Bend Tribune Building
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 288-1649
Fax (574) 236-1765

USA Today/USA Today Online

(Howard Kamen/Tom O'Toole)
www.usatoday.com
1000 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22229
1-800-872-3410 ext. 7103
Online Fax (703) 854-2030

Television

WNDU-TV - NBC

(Jeff Jeffers/Jack Nolan)
P.O. Box 1616
South Bend, IN 46634
(574) 631-1616/1239
Fax (574) 631-2916

WSBT-TV/Radio - CBS

(Charlie Adams/Greg Carroll)
300 West Jefferson
South Bend, IN 46601
(574) 472-8124
Fax (574) 288-6630

WSJV-TV - FOX

(Dean Huppert/Rick Schutt)
59096 County Road 7 South
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 679-4545 or 293-9227
Fax (574) 294-1324

College Sports Television

(Dave Seigerman)
Chelsea Piers, Pier 62
New York, NY 10011
(212) 342-8700
Fax (212) 342-8899

Radio

WHME TV/Radio

(Chuck Freeby)
61300 Ironwood Road
South Bend, IN 46625
(574) 291-8200
Online Fax (574) 291-9043

WVFI-AM Radio

University of Notre Dame
P.O. Box 532
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(574) 631-5379

WDND-ESPN Radio 1000

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www.bigeast.org
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Providence, RI 02903
(401) 272-9108
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College Sports Online

(Alan Wasielewski/Dan Kaufman)
www.collegesports.com
112 Joyce Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556
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(760) 431-8221 (Carlsbad, Calif.)

American Volleyball Coaches Association

(Bill Kauffman/Linda Poncin)
www.avca.org
Suite B
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Colorado Springs, CO 80906
(719) 576-7777, ext. 105
Fax (719) 576-7778



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- Official source for the latest news
- Comprehensive coverage of every sport
- Live game audio & video programming
- Exclusive features
- Live game stats
- Wireless updates
- Games, outings and contests



COLLEGE SPORTS



Volleyball

Glossary

Lauren Brewster became the first Notre Dame player ever to lead the NCAA in a statistical category, as her 1.78 block average was tops in Division I in 2003.

She also helped the Irish claim their first-ever team statistical crown with a 3.72 block average that was 0.20 better than any other squad in the country.



Notre Dame Volleyball Timeline



Action from the first varsity season.

September 19, 1980

Volleyball, in its debut as Notre Dame's fifth women's varsity sport, loses match at Tri-State University

September 22, 1980

First varsity volleyball win: 12-15, 15-12, 15-11 at Purdue-Calumet

September 9, 1982

Notre Dame begins Division I competition with a 3-0 win over Indiana University-South Bend

October 23, 1982

First 20-win season clinched (final '82 record: 25-9)



Art Lambert

September 3, 1984

Art Lambert replaces Sandy Vanslager as Irish head coach

September 24, 1986

Notre Dame begins 17-match winning streak at North Carolina State, a stretch that remains the longest in school history

November 15, 1986

Irish win North Star Conference tournament title for first time with win over Rhode Island.

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS - Notre Dame ranks second all-time in the number of CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) Academic All-Americans produced since 1952. Entering the 2004-05 school year, 152 student-athletes at the University have earned Academic All-America recognition. In 1992, Jessica Fiebelkorn ('89-'92) became the first Irish volleyball player to earn Academic All-America honors. Jaimie Lee ('94-'97) became the second player so honored, in 1997.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - The Irish volleyball team has experienced unprecedented success in the classroom over the last four years, registering eight consecutive semesters with a 3.20+ team grade-point average, highlighted by a 3.448 in the spring 2002 semester, which stands as the highest mark on record (since 1992) by the Irish volleyball team. At the end of the 2002-03 academic year, the squad held a 3.417 cumulative GPA, while the most recent group ended 2003-04 carrying a 3.354 mark. Twice in the last three years, Notre Dame was honored with the AVCA Team Academic Award, which honors teams that have displayed excellence in the classroom by maintaining at least a 3.30 grade-point average during the school year.

ACADEMIC HONORS PROGRAM - Notre Dame's Academic Honors Program enters its eighth year in 2004-05 and pairs top student-athletes at the University who excel at the highest level in athletics and academics with faculty mentors within the student-athletes' academic areas of interest. Conducted under the auspices of the Notre Dame Student Development program and Academic Services for Student-Athletes, the program identifies high achievers and offers assistance in order that the students can achieve their fullest potential while attending the University. Two Irish volleyball players - Keara Coughlin ('03) and Kim Fletcher ('04) - took part in the honors program.

ALL-TIME GREAT - In May of 1995, USA Volleyball named Irish head coach Debbie Brown an "All-Time Great Volleyball Player," the highest honor given by the organization. As a result, her photo and records were added to the Volleyball Hall of Fame in Holyoke, Mass. Established in 1954, the All-Time Great designation honors players with Olympic or national teams, All-America honors, U.S. Open Championships, and overall dominance during an era. As an outside hitter at USC, Brown helped the Women of Troy to a 72-1 record and a pair of national championships (1976 and '77) before leaving to train full-time with the U.S. National Team. As a collegian, Brown was twice named a first-team All-American, while being honored with the Mikasa Award in both '76 and '77 as the nation's best all-around player. Brown then served as captain of the national team in the 1978 World Championships, leading the U.S. to a fifth-place finish, and was tabbed a captain

of the 1980 Olympic team that did not compete due to the United States boycott.

ATTENDANCE - Fan interest in the Irish volleyball program has exploded over the past couple of seasons, as crowds of more than 1,000 have taken in Notre Dame matches on 16 occasions since 2000. In 2003, the Notre Dame-Virginia Tech volleyball match, which ended with a thrilling five-game Irish victory, was played before a record crowd of 8,643. Last season also featured the largest-ever crowd for a match not played before a football pep rally, as 2,715 witnessed Notre Dame beat arch rival Miami in three games in a match televised live by College Sports Television (CSTV). After never previously doing so, the Irish have been among the top 25 in Division I in attendance in each of the last two seasons. In 2002, Notre Dame was 25th with an average of 1,064 fans per match before finishing 16th in '03 with an average of 1,543 per contest.

AVCA POLL - Since Debbie Brown took over the program in 1991, Notre Dame has made numerous appearances in the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) poll. Notre Dame's first ranking came in the preseason poll of 1992 and its highest was seventh on Oct. 10, 1995, after an eight-match winning streak. The highest final ranking was 12th, in 1994, when the Irish advanced to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament. Notre Dame has been ranked a total of 99 weeks in the AVCA/USA Today poll. In 2003, an upset of #10 Arizona in the season opener vaulted the Irish into the poll, and they were listed the remainder of the season, peaking at 12th before finishing 24th.

BENNETTE, ZANETTE - One of the first dominant Notre Dame volleyball players, Zanette Bennett came to Notre Dame as a member of the "Fab Four" recruiting class in 1985. Referring to her stellar volleyball play as a "pasttime" while studying to be a doctor, Bennett established numerous Irish career records in her time as an outside hitter and middle blocker. The first Irish player to register 1,000 career kills, she still ranks third all-time in that category (1,471), as well as second in matches with 20+ kills (16) and seventh in hitting percentage. Bennett still holds the Irish record for kills in a season with 548 in '87. She was a crowd favorite in the Joyce Center, as fans established the "Z Corner" in the tradition of baseball pitcher Dwight Gooden's "K Corner." Each time "Z," as her fans and the public address announcer called her, recorded a kill, the fans would hang signs emblazoned with the letter "Z" from the bleachers.



As an outside hitter at USC, Debbie Brown led the Women of Troy to a 72-1 record and a pair of national championships, while she twice won the Mikasa Award as the nation's best all-around player.

BIG EAST - Notre Dame took a landmark step on July 1, 1995, when the Irish officially became a member of the BIG EAST Conference after previously competing in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference for volleyball and most of its



Olympic sports. Since becoming a conference member, Notre Dame has won a total of 57 league championships, more than any other school. In both 2002-03 and 2003-04, it captured nine BIG EAST titles, sums that stand as the most- ever by a school in an academic year. The Irish volleyball team has been particularly dominant, posting a 98-5 (.951) regular-season mark (including 56-0 at home) en route to eight titles. In BIG EAST tournament action, Notre Dame has a 17-2 (.895) record, highlighted by a trip to the final in each year and seven championships.



Since joining the BIG EAST Conference in 1995, Notre Dame has compiled a 115-7 (.943) record against league foes, winning eight regular-season championships, as well as seven tournament titles.

BIG EAST AWARDS - Since joining the BIG EAST Conference in 1995, Notre Dame has regularly earned recognition from the league. Head coach Debbie Brown has been tabbed the coach of the year four times, while Irish student-athletes were named player of the year six times in the first seven years of conference membership. In addition to a pair of setters of the year (an award given only three times) and a rookie of the year, Notre Dame also has had seven players earn tournament MVP accolades. In the nine-year span, Irish student-athletes have earned all-conference honors on 33 occasions, including 20 first-team accolades (which accounts for more than one-third of the first-team selections during the span). Additionally, Notre Dame gained seven selections to the all-rookie team before it was dissolved and has had one honorable mention all-conference honoree. The Irish have garnered 41 weekly honors, winning player of the week 33 times and rookie of the week on eight occasions. In 2003, Notre Dame featured the BIG EAST player of the week seven times in 12 weeks before taking up half of the six spots on the all-league first team and adding a second-team selection and Brown's fourth coach-of-the-year award.

BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIP - All nine years of membership in the league have seen Notre Dame advance to the title match of the BIG EAST Championship, with the Irish claiming titles all but twice. The Irish won their first four BIG EAST tournaments (1995-98) and then took three straight from 2000-02. Notre Dame holds a 17-2 (.895) record in the event, winning 51 of 69 games. The Irish have seen seven different players named the tournament MVP, while the Joyce Center has played host to the BIG EAST Championship three times (1995, 2000, and 2003).

BOYLAN, DENISE - Arguably the best setter in Notre Dame history, Boylan ended her career in 2000 first in career assist average (4,687 assists, 12.37 avg.) and went on to play professionally for the United States Pro Volleyball league's Minnesota Chill in 2002. Boylan became the first player ever to sweep the BIG EAST's player-of-the-year, setter-of-the-year, and championship most-outstanding-player awards, in 2000.

BROWN, DEBBIE - The current Irish head volleyball coach took over a program in 1991 that had managed just five winning seasons in 11 years of varsity volleyball and has led it to 13 consecutive winning seasons (12 with 20+ victories) and 12 NCAA tournament berths in a row. During the Brown era, Notre Dame has recorded a 323-109 (.748) record, including 159-23 (.874) in the Joyce Center. The Irish have won 12 regular-season conference championship as well as 11 tournament titles. Brown's playing resume is virtually unparalleled among Division I coaches, as she was a two-time winner of the Mikasa Award as the nation's top all-around player, as well as a captain of the 1980 United States Olympic team.

CAPTAINS - In the 25-year history of varsity Irish volleyball (including 2004), a total of 31 different student-athletes have served as Notre Dame team captains. Among the nine multiple-year captains were Mary Jo Hensler and Josie Maternowski, who led the Irish for three years from 1982-84. The seven two-time captains were Kathy Dages (1980-81), Kathleen Morin (1986-87), Alicia Turner (1991-92), Jenny Birkner (1995-96), Denise Boylan (1999-2000), Keara Coughlin (2001-02), and Kristen Kinder (2002-03). This year's captain, Meg Henican, joins Morin as the only Irish players ever to serve as solo captains as juniors. Notre Dame once had tri-captains, when Kinder, Coughlin, and Janie Alderete shared the duties in 2002.

CERTIFICATION - Notre Dame recently received unconditional recertification by the NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification, with the official notification coming in May 2004. Notre Dame previously was certified in 1997, during the first cycle of an NCAA process established in 1993 with the purpose of ensuring integrity in all collegiate athletics programs and assisting departments in improving their operations. The certification process centers on a self-study conducted by a committee that is led by each institution's chief executive officer and is composed of a broad cross-section of the University community. It includes a review of six components: governance and commitment to rules compliance, academic integrity, fiscal integrity, equity, welfare, and sportsmanship. Following the self-study, a 15-member panel composed of representatives from other Division I institutions reviews the material and makes its certification recommendation. The unconditional certification means that Notre Dame operates its athletics program in "substantial conformity with operating principles adopted by the Division I membership." In a written report, the certification committee noted that Notre Dame is "committed to the academic success of its student-athletes and demonstrates this by requiring three more core courses than what is required by the NCAA." It also stated that "student-athletes are quite satisfied with the quantity and quality of academic

Notre Dame Volleyball Timeline

September 19, 1987

Kathy Cunningham sets the school record for kills in a match with 33 against William and Mary

November 22, 1987

First 30-win season achieved in final match of the year, vs. Northern Illinois

December 3, 1988

Irish take part in NCAA Championship for the first time, upsetting #20 Penn State in the Joyce Center

August 8, 1990

Notre Dame begins Midwestern Collegiate Conference play against Saint Louis with 3-2 victory

August 31, 1991

Debbie Brown begins her career as head coach of the Fighting Irish



Debbie Brown

November 30, 1991

Notre Dame wins first of four consecutive MCC tournament titles

September 25, 1993

Irish earn the biggest upset in the program's history, knocking off third-ranked Nebraska 15-8, 15-7, 3-15, 15-10 in the Joyce Center

November 9, 1993

Notre Dame advances to the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament by defeating Minnesota on its home court in five games

September 16, 1995

Standing 8-0 with a win against USC and three tournament titles, Notre Dame rises to fifth in the *Volleyball* magazine poll and seventh in the AVCA rankings, marking the best-ever listing for the Irish in both

September 26, 1995

Irish defeat DePaul 15-2, 15-1, 15-2 in 40 minutes, the fastest match in school history



Notre Dame Volleyball Timeline

September 30, 1995

Notre Dame begins BIG EAST Conference competition by defeating Georgetown 3-0. The Irish will not lose a BIG EAST match until Oct. 9, 1998.

October 13, 1995

Notre Dame records 106 kills at #25 Georgia Tech to set the school record for kills in a match, while the contest also sets the school record for the longest match (3:07)

December 13, 1997

Jaimie Lee sets school record for kills in a four-game match with 31 against Wisconsin in the NCAA tournament



One of Lee's 31 kills.

October 9, 1998

School-record 79-match conference winning streak stopped at UConn in five games

September 1, 1999

The new Sport Court playing surface debuts in the Joyce Center.

September 14, 2002

Notre Dame comes from behind to knock off #10 Pepperdine in the championship match of the Golden Dome Invitational

December 7, 2002

The NCAA tournament returns to the Joyce Center for the first time since 1996 as Notre Dame plays host to Michigan State, Charleston and George Mason

August 29, 2003

Notre Dame upsets #10 Arizona in four games in the season opener, beginning what would become a 21-2 start, highlighted by a 14-match winning streak



Irish freshmen Adrianna Stasiuk (left) and Ashley Tarutis, shown here at the 2004 Junior National Olympics, combined for six All-America honors as club players.

support service and attribute much of the success around graduation rates to this service." In the areas of gender and minority equity, the committee reported that Notre Dame has "affirmed and demonstrated its commitment to fair and equitable treatment" of both male and female student-athletes and minority student-athletes. Since the previous certification process, Notre Dame has improved its athletics program in numerous ways, including the construction of the James and Leah Rae Morse Center for Academic Services for Student-Athletes, the addition of two sports (rowing and lacrosse) for women, and the creation of 86 new grants-in-aid that, beginning in the fall of 2004, will make all sports fully-funded for the maximum amount of financial aid allowed by the NCAA. The University also has enhanced its Student Development (formerly Life Skills) Program, which was created just before the 1997 certification process to help student-athletes reach their full potential in all areas of their lives. In 2000, the Notre Dame Life Skills program received a Program of Excellence Award from the NCAA.

CHEERLEADERS - The Notre Dame cheerleaders, which consist of students from Notre Dame and neighboring Saint Mary's College, are a regular part of volleyball matches in the Joyce Center.

CLUB EXCELLENCE - Notre Dame has a long history of student-athletes who excelled in club volleyball before their time with the Irish. The latest class of freshmen epitomizes this fact, as the four Notre Dame rookies have combined to earn 11 All-America honors and win eight national championships in club action. Ellen Heintzman (Kentucky Indiana Volleyball Academy) earned AAU All-America mention for five straight years (1999-2003), while helping KIVA to national titles in 1999 and 2003. Adrianna Stasiuk (Sports Performance) played on six teams that won national championships, gaining All-America accolades four times, including being named AAU MVP in 2002. Ashley Tarutis (Golden West) was a first-team All-American in both of her final two years, helping her team to a bronze medal in 2004. Laura Bresnahan, playing for Lions Elite, took part in the Junior National Olympics five straight years, highlighted by a bronze medal in 2001.

COMMISSIONER'S TROPHY - The BIG EAST Conference Commissioner's Trophy, which was discontinued after 2002-03, was awarded to the school with the top across-the-board athletic performance in conference sports. Notre Dame won the men's Commissioner's Trophy in all eight years it was eligible, while also capturing the women's trophy seven straight times after being second in 1995-96. No other school has ever won as many BIG EAST Commissioner's Trophies in a row.

CONFERENCE DOMINANCE - Since it joined the North Star Conference in 1983, Notre Dame has had unprecedented success in league action in the NSC (1983-87), the Midwestern Collegiate Conference (1990-94), and the BIG EAST Conference. In 19 years of conference membership, Notre Dame has compiled a 155-18 (.896) record and won 14 regular-season championships and 13 tournament titles. Further, the Irish went just 4-7 in the North Star Conference in '83, giving them a 151-11 (.932) mark since '84, highlighted by a 79-match winning streak in regular-season and tournament play from 1990-98 that is the third-longest in Division I volleyball history. Upon becoming a BIG EAST member, the Irish won 41 in a row before falling for the first time to a conference team. Notre Dame has been particularly dominant at home, recording an 89-5 (.947) all-time mark in regular-season conference play in the Joyce Center. The Irish have currently won 72 in a row at home against league foes in regular-season play, a streak that covers the entire Debbie Brown era and dates back to 1991.

COVER GIRL - Former Notre Dame standout and current Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) tour player Angie (Harris) Akers was featured on the cover of the August '03 edition of Runner's World magazine. Akers, who graduated in 1998 as Angie Harris before marrying former Irish football player Jeremy Akers, had been a serious distance runner prior to joining the AVP in 2002. The Fort Wayne, Ind., native and 1994 graduate of Bishop Luers High School was named the AVP Rookie of the Year in 2002 and was 14th in the individual rankings as of Aug 1, 2004. After leaving Notre Dame, Akers was an avid runner for three years, finishing the



Current AVP tour player and 1998 Notre Dame graduate Angie (Harris) Akers was featured on the cover of the August '03 edition of Runner's World.



Boston Marathon with a time of 3 hours and 23 minutes. She then moved to Long Beach, Calif., to pursue a career in beach volleyball.

CSTV - In 2003, Notre Dame volleyball was featured in the inaugural year of programming on College Sports Television (CSTV). The Irish beat league rival Miami in front of a record crowd of 2,715 as part of the AVCA's Sunday Night Spikes series of weekly volleyball matches. Notre Dame volleyball will make its second live appearance on CSTV this season, as its match against host South Carolina in the Gamecock Invitational on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. (EDT) will be televised for a national audience. For more information about CSTV, see www.cstv.com.



Notre Dame was featured on College Sports Television's "Sunday Night Spikes" in 2003, as the Irish defeated BIG EAST rival Miami 3-0 in front of a national television audience.

EARLY BEGINNINGS - The Notre Dame women's volleyball program was born in 1977 as a club sport. It became the University's fifth women's varsity sport in 1980 and experienced a modest beginning at the Division II level. The Irish posted a 3-19 record in 1980 and a 14-22 mark in 1981 before moving up to Division I in 1982.

FOLLOWING THE IRISH - Fans unable to attend Irish volleyball matches in 2004 will once again have a variety of ways to follow the action. Notre Dame's official athletic website, www.und.com, remains the best place for official press releases, statistics, match previews and recaps, and other official information about Irish volleyball. In addition, the Notre Dame Sports Hotline - (574) 631-3000 - is the first medium updated with recaps of Irish matches. The Notre Dame website also features live-scoring for all home (and selected away) matches and, for the third consecutive season, will feature, in cooperation with College Sports Online, live internet audio broadcasts of six home matches. Lorne Oke, former head volleyball coach at nearby Bethel College, and Stephen Hinkel return as the voices of Irish volleyball. The audio broadcasts begin shortly before match time and feature post-match comments from Irish head coach Debbie Brown. Access to the live audio broadcasts are available by subscription to the College Sports Pass on www.und.com. Details are available on the website. The www.und.com live audio schedule:

Sept. 3, 7 p.m., vs. Nebraska
 Sept. 4, 7 p.m., vs. Nebraska
 Oct. 13, 7 p.m., vs. Illinois State
 Nov. 5, 7 p.m., vs. Connecticut
 Nov. 12, 4 p.m., vs. Pittsburgh
 Nov. 16, 7 p.m., vs. Northern Iowa

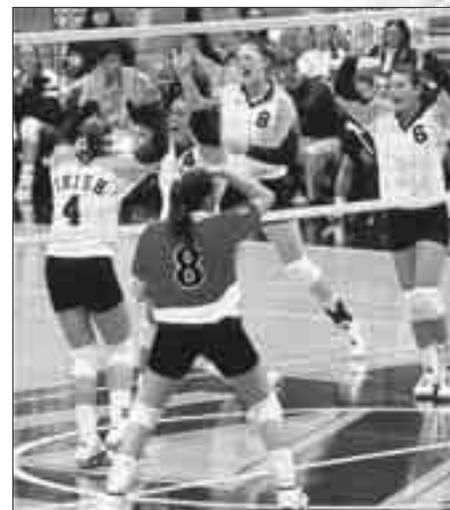
"FAB FOUR" - Nickname assigned to the recruiting class of 1985: Zanette Bennett, Maureen Shea, Mary Kay Waller and Whitney Shewman. Serving as the nucleus of the emerging Irish volleyball program, these four players led the team to its first NCAA tournament berth in 1988 and a school-record 17-match winning streak in 1986.

FAB 50 - Each year *Volleyball* magazine rates all senior high school volleyball players in the nation and creates its prestigious "Fab 50" list. Since 1989, Notre Dame has had numerous players who have earned "Fab 50" distinction including such greats as Marilyn Cragin, Jaimie Lee, and Mary Leffers. Five current Irish players - seniors Emily Loomis and Kelly Corbett, juniors Lauren Brewster and Meg Henican, and freshman Adrianna Stasiuk - were "Fab 50" honorees prior to coming to Notre Dame.

FIGHTING IRISH - Exactly where and how Notre Dame's athletic nickname, "Fighting Irish," came to origination never has been perfectly explained. One story suggests the moniker was born in 1899 with Notre Dame leading Northwestern 5-0 at halftime of a football game in Evanston, Ill., the Wildcat fans supposedly began to chant, "Kill the Fighting Irish, kill the Fighting Irish," as the second half opened. Another tale has the nickname originating at halftime of the Notre Dame-Michigan football game in 1909. With his team trailing, one Notre Dame player yelled to his teammates - who happened to have names like Dolan, Kelly, Glynn, Duffy, and Ryan - "What's the matter with you guys? You're all Irish and you're not fighting worth a lick." Notre Dame came back to win the game and press, after overhearing the remark, reported the game as a victory for the "Fighting Irish." The most generally accepted explanation is that the press coined the nickname as a characterization of Notre Dame athletic teams, their never-say-die fighting spirit and the Irish qualities of grit, determination and tenacity. The term likely began as an abusive expression tauntingly directed toward the athletes from the small, private, Catholic institution. Notre Dame alumnus Francis Wallace popularized it in his New York Daily News columns in the 1920s. The Notre Dame Scholastic, in a 1929 edition, printed its own version of the story: "The term 'Fighting Irish' has been applied to Notre Dame teams for years. It first attached itself years ago when the school, comparatively unknown, sent its athletic teams away to play in another city ... At that time the title 'Fighting Irish' held no glory or prestige ... The years passed swiftly and the school began to take a place in the sports world ... 'Fighting Irish' took on a new meaning. The unknown of a few years past has boldly taken a place among the leaders. The unkind appellation became symbolic of the struggle for supremacy of the field ... the term, while given in irony, has become our heritage ... So truly does it represent us that we unwilling to part with it." Notre Dame competed under the nickname

"Catholics" during the 1800s and became more widely known as the "Ramblers" during the early 1920s in the days of the Four Horsemen. University president Rev. Matthew Walsh, C.S.C., officially adopted "Fighting Irish" as the Notre Dame nickname in 1927.

FINAL EIGHT - Led by All-American OH Christy Peters, MB Molly Stark and S Janelle Karlan, the 1993 Notre Dame volleyball team made its deepest-ever run in the NCAA Championship, reaching the final eight. The 17th-ranked Irish upset #8 Nebraska in three games in the opening round (after topping then-#3 Nebraska 3-1 during the regular season). Stark, Peters, and Nicole Coates all notched double-digit kill matches, with Coates hitting a blazing .545 (14-2-22). Notre Dame then traveled to Minneapolis, Minn., for a round-of-16 matchup against Minnesota. Facing the Golden Gophers in their home arena, the Irish were put to the test, finally winning 15-13 in the fifth game of a thrilling match. Peters led Notre Dame with a stellar performance of 26 kills and 21 digs. Coates, Stark, Jenny Birkner, and Julie Harris also had double-digit kills in the win. The Irish faced a familiar foe in the regional finals, as Penn State had knocked Notre Dame out of the NCAA tournament in 1992. The seventh-ranked Nittany Lions duplicated the feat despite a 14-kill and 19-dig performance from Peters.



The 1993 team celebrates their victory over Nebraska which enabled the squad to continue its march to the NCAA quarterfinal.

GOLD AND BLUE - The origin of Notre Dame's school colors can be traced back to the founding of the University in 1842. At that time, Notre Dame's original school colors were yellow and blue; yellow symbolized the light and blue the truth. However, sometime after the Dome and Statue of Mary atop the Main Building was gilded, gold and blue became the official colors of the University.



GOLDEN DOME - The Administration Building, surmounted by a statue of Our Lady atop the world-famous Golden Dome (actually gold leaf periodically replaced), at one time comprised the entire University infrastructure and in 1879 was rebuilt in five months after a devastating fire. The 12 Columbus murals in the main corridor were painted by Luigi Gregori, an Italian artist who spent 17 years at Notre Dame in the latter part of the 1800s. The building contains the primary administrative offices, including that of Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C., who took over in June of 1987 as Notre Dame's 16th president. The exterior of the building was renovated and cleaned in 1996 and the interior of the building was renovated and reopened in August of 1999, after being closed the previous two academic years.

HOME COURT STREAKS - In addition to posting some impressive conference winning streaks (see "Conference Dominance" note), Notre Dame has had a variety of dominant streaks in the Joyce Center. The Irish have had five home winning streaks of 14 or more, highlighted by a school-record stretch of 36 straight home wins from 2000-02 and a 27-match streak from 1993-95. The Irish have had a winning home record in each of the 13 seasons under head coach Debbie Brown and have currently won 72 in a row at home against conference foes during the regular season, including a 56-0 mark in BIG EAST matches. Notre Dame also won 52 straight against unranked teams in the Joyce Center from 1998-2002.

IRISH IN THE PROS - Professional volleyball has been the next step for seven Irish volleyball players who have played for current head coach Debbie Brown. The Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) has recently seen four former Notre Dame players compete. Angie (Harris) Akers and Jaimie Lee, who both graduated in 1998, are regulars on the beach tour, combining to win its rookie-of-the-year award in 2002 and '03, respectively. Akers has been ranked among the top 15 players on the AVP circuit. Twins Kristen and Jessica Kinder, who graduated in 2004, played in one AVP event shortly after leaving Notre Dame. The United States Professional Volleyball league began play in 2002 with three former Irish players on its rosters: Molly Stark ('94), Denise Boylan ('00) and Kristy Kreher ('02). Stark, who was the most veteran player on all the USPV rosters with eight professional seasons under her belt, played for the St. Louis Quest. Boylan and Kreher suited up for the Minnesota Chill. The USPV suspended operations following that season.

IRISH SPIKERS - Kids under the age of 14 have the opportunity to join the Irish Spikers, an official club sponsored by the Notre Dame volleyball team. Spikers get the opportunity to join the team on the court for match introductions,



Members of the Irish Spikers club meet the team after each home match and receive autographs from Notre Dame players.

receive official membership card and t-shirt, gain free admission to all regular-season home matches (with special prime seating for club members), participate in three free volleyball clinics and take part in post-match autograph sessions. The 2004 Irish Spikers clinics are set for Oct. 24, Nov. 7, and Nov. 14. All clinics are held immediately following Notre Dame's home matches on those dates. A \$15 annual membership fee is required. Contact the University of Notre Dame Sports Promotions Department at 574-631-8393 for more information.

JOYCE CENTER - Notre Dame's double-domed home for volleyball, basketball, hockey and other sports was named the Edmund P. Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center (now the Joyce Center) by vote of the Board of Trustees on May 8, 1987. Father Joyce, former executive vice president and chairman of the Faculty Board on Athletics, retired May 31, 1987, following 35 years in that position (he passed away on May 2, 2004). He was an active voice in the NCAA while pushing for higher standards and greater integrity in the intercollegiate arena. The Joyce Center, which houses Notre Dame's athletics offices, opened in the fall of 1968.

KANALEY AWARD - The Byron V. Kanaley Award is the most prestigious honor awarded to Notre Dame student-athletes. The award has been presented each year since 1927 to senior monogram winners who have been most exemplary as both students and leaders. Six Irish volleyball players have earned the award: Terese Henken (1984), Alicia Turner (1993), Julie Harris (1994), Jaimie Lee (1998), Keara Coughlin (2003), and Kristen Kinder (2004).

LAMBERT, ART - The second of three coaches to lead the Notre Dame volleyball program, Lambert coached the Irish team through its first taste of national prominence (1984-90). Lambert came to Notre Dame from Stanford, and he would have an immediate impact on the Irish program. With a flair for recruiting and an improving national schedule, Lambert guided Notre Dame

to its first NCAA tournament appearance in 1988.

LIBERO - One year after the implementation of rally scoring, the 2002 season marked another major rule change for women's collegiate volleyball with the introduction the libero position. A designated back-row player that does not count toward the team's substitutions, the libero can freely replace any player that has rotated to the back row. Unlike substitutions that are administered by the referee, the libero replacement can enter the court anytime there is a dead ball. Since the libero is a defensive player, certain restrictions have been established on the player's offensive capability. A libero plays only in the back row and cannot serve or attempt to block a shot. The libero cannot attack the ball above the net, nor can the libero set the ball with an overhead finger pass in the attack zone. With the introduction of the libero, a team's substitution total was dropped to 12. The libero can only be replaced by the player she entered the game for. Once on the bench, the libero must wait at least one point before re-entering.

MIKASA AWARD - Irish head coach Debbie Brown won the Mikasa Award in both of her seasons playing collegiate volleyball, 1976 and '77. She earned the honor, which is presented to the nation's best all-around player, while helping USC to a combined 72-1 record and two national championships.

MONOGRAM - While other universities have letterwinners, Notre Dame student-athletes earn monograms and take their place in the Notre Dame Monogram Club. A first-year monogram winner receives the monogram ND letters themselves. The second year a jacket (or blanket) is awarded, followed by a third-year ring and fourth-year watch.

MONOGRAM CLUB - All former Notre Dame student-athletes who have earned monograms become members of the Notre Dame Monogram Club, which provides scholarships and other support to current students and stu-



Julia (Pierson) Doyle, who played for the Irish volleyball team in 1981 and '82, currently serves as the first vice-president of the Notre Dame Monogram Club, and she will become the organization's first woman president in June 2005.





The Irish men's swimming and diving team is a strong supporter of Notre Dame volleyball. Members of the squad traditionally wear 31 articles of clothing to the matches and remove one each time the Irish score a point. When ND reaches 30 points (and wins the game), the swimmers and divers run around the Joyce Center cheering and doing pushups in only their swim trunks.

dent-athletes (see page 119 for more information). Various volleyball players have held leadership posts in the Monogram Club, including Julia (Pierson) Doyle (earned monograms in 1981 and '82), who is currently the organization's first vice-president and will become its first woman president in June 2005.

NCAA BLOCKING CHAMPS - After a series of recent near-misses, Notre Dame claimed its first two NCAA statistical crowns in 2003, leading all Division I teams in blocking (3.72 average with second-place Cornell coming in at 3.52), while sophomore Lauren Brewster was tops in individual blocking (1.78 average). The Irish finished fifth in team blocking in 2001 and were second to Nebraska in '02, while Brewster ended her rookie season fourth in the individual category. After the previous mark had stood since 1988, Notre Dame has broken the school record for season block average in both of the last two seasons. Additionally, no Irish team had ever featured four different players registering 100+ blocks in the same season, but Brewster, Katie Neff, Emily Loomis, and Lauren Kelbley accomplished the feat in both 2002 and '03. They all ranked among the top eight blockers in the BIG EAST Conference in 2003.

NCAA TOURNAMENT - The Irish have made 13 trips to the NCAA Division I Volleyball Championship, including being one of just nine schools to gain invitations to each of the last 12. They have advanced to the round of 16 on five occasions (1988, '93-95, '97), highlighted by a trip to the national quarterfinals in 1993. This year's NCAA tournament begins at campus sites Dec. 2-5, continues with the regionals from Dec. 10-11, and concludes with the Final Four Dec. 16 and 18 in Long Beach, Calif.

NIVC - The National Invitational Volleyball Championship, which was discontinued in 1996, served as the initial postseason opportunity for Debbie Brown's first Irish team in 1991. Notre Dame would finish as runner-up in the event, compiling a 4-2 record that included five-game

wins over California and Miami (Ohio) before eventually losing the championship match to Kentucky.

NORTHEAST REGION - The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) has shifted Notre Dame into four different regions (or districts) over the past 20 years. After being in the North Central region, the Irish became a member of the Mideast Region (1992-'94), then moved to District I (1995-'99) before ending up in the Northeast Region in 2000. In all, Irish personnel have earned 45 all-region/district honors, including three coach-of-the-year accolades for Brown and 32 all-region team selections. A quartet of Notre Dame players - Kristen Kinder, Emily Loomis, Lauren Kelbley (the 2002 Northeast Region Rookie of the Year), and Lauren Brewster - earned all-Northeast Region honors in 2003.

NOTRE DAME FAMILY - For years this term has been used to describe all current and former Notre Dame students, employees, and supporters, in an attempt to capture the family-like atmosphere of the University.

OLYMPIC TORCH RUN - On Jan. 4, 2002, Irish head coach Debbie Brown took part in the Winter Olympic Torch Relay, carrying the flaming torch .02 miles in South Bend. A captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic volleyball team that missed out on the Moscow games due to the United States boycott, Brown also served as an assistant coach for the U.S. National Team during its 1988 Olympic effort. Brown was chosen as a torchbearer due to her embodiment of the inspirational spirit of the Olympics, shown by serving and motivating the community.

PERFECTION - Even as the Irish volleyball team strives for perfection on the court, a number of Notre Dame players have achieved it in the classroom over the last few years. Three 2004 graduates - Kim Fletcher, Kristen Kinder, and Katie Neff - combined for seven 4.000

semesters during their careers, while 2003 graduate Keara Coughlin posted a 4.000 in the fall of her final year. Fletcher finished her collegiate days with four consecutive 4.000 GPAs, while Kinder notched two perfect semesters during her time at Notre Dame.

PRE-PEP RALLY PERFORMANCES -

Over the past four seasons, the Notre Dame volleyball program has developed a tradition of playing before the highly-attended football pep rallies, held in the Joyce Center on Friday evenings before home games. Notre Dame is one of few schools in the country to host football pep rallies for every home game, and the Irish volleyball team has played before various record-setting crowds just hours before the event, giving it virtually unparalleled exposure. During the 2000 season, Notre Dame played host to Nebraska in volleyball just hours before the pep rally in anticipation of the schools' meeting on the gridiron. Over 3,000 fans jammed the Joyce Center for the volleyball match, then remained in their seats for the football pep rally. In 2002, Notre Dame entertained Providence before the football pep rally for Notre Dame's game with Boston College and drew 3,351 fans. The '03 match, which was a showdown with BIG EAST rival Virginia Tech prior to the Navy pep rally, was the most thrilling yet, as it extended to five games before the Irish prevailed (15-13 in the fifth). A school-record crowd of 8,643 witnessed the final game. Notre Dame will look to pack the Joyce Center again this season in a match featuring the BIG EAST co-champions from a year ago, when it takes on rival Pittsburgh on Nov. 12 at 4 p.m. (EST) before the pep rally for the matchup between the schools in football. Fans attending the volleyball match will be allowed to remain in their seats for the pep rally, which begins at 6 p.m.



The Notre Dame volleyball class of 2004 (from left, Kristen Kinder, Jessica Kinder, Kim Fletcher, and Katie Neff, with head coach Debbie Brown) may go down as, academically, the top group in the program's history. They combined for a 3.669 grade-point average and made the Dean's List 26 times, highlighted by seven 4.000 semesters.



PETERS, CHRISTY - Arguably considered the top volleyball player ever to don a Notre Dame uniform, Peters became the second Irish student-athlete to earn All-America honors in 1993, then repeated the feat in 1994 with another third-team selection. Peters still ranks first in the Irish career record books in a number of categories, including kills (1,683), matches with team-high kills (70), 20-plus kill matches (19), double-double matches (64), digs (1,640) and dig average (3.72).



RALLY SCORING - Collegiate women's volleyball changed to rally scoring for the 2001 season. Instead of side-out rules and games played to 15 points, this format awards a point each time the ball touches the ground and games are played to 30 (with the deciding fifth game, if necessary, played to 15 points).

SISTERS - Notre Dame has had two sets of sisters play on its volleyball team. Maureen (1980-82) and Kathleen (1984-86) Morin were the first, helping to shape the program in its infancy. More recently, twins Jessica and Kristen Kinder played for the Irish from 2000-03, serving as co-captains as seniors. They became just the third set of twin sisters to earn monograms in the same sport at Notre Dame.



Emily Loomis is the only Notre Dame student-athlete ever to earn all-BIG EAST honors in two distinctly different sports. She has been twice honored in volleyball, while gaining mention four times in the high jump, an event in which she claimed the league title in the 2003 outdoor meet.

TWO-SPORT STANDOUT - Current junior Emily Loomis holds the distinction of being the only Notre Dame student-athlete to earn all-BIG EAST honors in two distinctly different sports. Twice an all-league honoree in volleyball (2002-first team; 2003-second team), she also is a four-time all-BIG EAST selection in the high jump for the Irish track and field team. The highlight came at the 2003 BIG EAST Outdoor Track and Field Championships, when she finished first in the high jump. She also earned all-league honors at that year's indoor meet and in both the indoor and outdoor events in 2002. Loomis did not participate in track and field during the 2004 season. Prior to her time at Notre Dame, she enjoyed one of the most noteworthy prep careers in Indiana high school history, finishing as a finalist for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award and earning all-state honors in three different sports (volleyball, track and field, and basketball).

VANSLAGER, SANDY - The first of three coaches to lead the Notre Dame volleyball program, Vanslager administered the switch from club to varsity status and Division II to Division I in her tenure (1980-83). Vanslager's best season came in the Notre Dame's first year in Division I, when the Irish won 15 of their last 17 matches to finish 25-9.

VICTORY MARCH - The most recognizable collegiate fight song in the nation, the "Notre Dame Victory March" was written in the early 1900s by two brothers who were University of Notre Dame graduates. Michael Shea, a 1905 graduate, composed the music while his brother, John Shea, who earned degrees in 1906 and 1908, provided the corresponding lyrics. The song was copyrighted in 1908 and a piano version, complete with lyrics, was published that year. Michael, who became a priest in Ossining, N.Y., collaborated on the project with John, who lived in Holyoke, Mass., the song's public debut came in the winter of 1908 when Michael played it on the organ of the Second Congregational Church in Holyoke. The "Notre Dame Victory March" later was presented by the Shea brothers to the University and it first appeared under

the copyright of the University of Notre Dame in 1928. The copyright for the beginning of the song still is in effect. The more well-known second verse, which begins with the words "Cheer, cheer for Old Notre Dame," now is in the public domain in the United States (for both the music and lyrics) - but the second verse remains protected in all territories outside of the country. Notre Dame's fight song first was performed at Notre Dame on Easter Sunday, 1909, in the rotunda of the Administration Building. The Notre Dame band performed the Victory March as part of its traditional Easter morning concert. It was first heard at a Notre Dame athletic event 10 years later. In 1969, as college football celebrated its centennial, the "Notre Dame Victory March" was honored as the "greatest of all fight songs." Michael Shea was pastor of St. Augustine's Church in Ossining until his death in 1938. John Shea, a baseball monogram winner at Notre Dame, became a Massachusetts state senator and lived in Holyoke until his death in 1965.

The original lyrics (below), written when all athletes at Notre Dame were male, refer to "sons," but in recognition of the fact that the Victory March is now played for athletic teams composed of men and women, many modify the words accordingly. The "Victory March" earned a number-one ranking in ratings compiled in 1998 in a book, "College Fight Songs: An Annotated Anthology." The "Victory March" was also the No. 1-ranked fight song in a survey in 1990 by Bill Studwell, a librarian at Northern Illinois University.

*Rally sons of Notre Dame:
Sing her glory and sound her fame,
Raise her Gold and Blue
And cheer with voices true:
Rah, rah, for Notre Dame*

*We will fight in ev-ry game,
Strong of heart and true to her name
We will ne'er forget her
And will cheer her ever
Loyal to Notre Dame*

*Cheer, cheer for old Notre Dame,
Wake up the echoes cheering her name,
Send a volley cheer on high,
Shake down the thunder from the sky.
What though the odds be great or small
Old Notre Dame will win over all,
While her loyal sons are marching
Onward to victory.*

WEB SITE - Notre Dame athletics maintains its presence in cyberspace with its own Internet site, www.und.com, operated in conjunction with College Sports Online in Carlsbad, Calif. The site features media guide material, frequent press releases, match and statistical information, links to live broadcasts and live "in-match" statistics, and pictures of all 26 of Notre Dame's varsity teams. During the 2003-04 academic year, und.com averaged better than four million page views, ranking as CSO's most popular college website. In addition, in Sept. 2002, the site became the first in CSO history to attract more than five million page views in a single month - and the site saw a 49% increase in traffic from the 2002-03 academic year.

