



NOTRE DAME

# 2017-18

ATHLETICS ANNUAL REPORT

FIGHTING IRISH

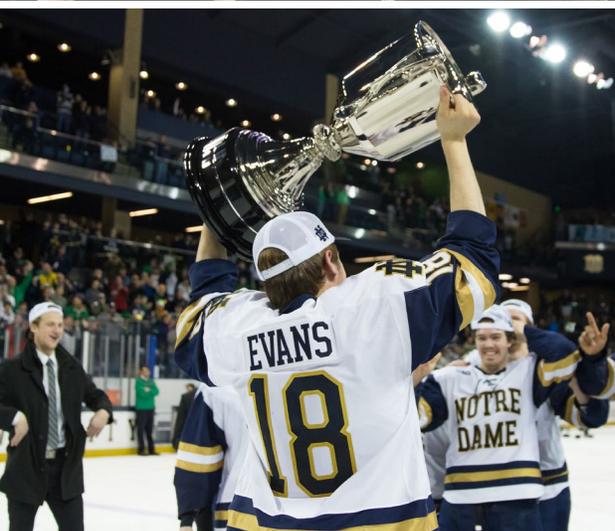


## NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | FENCING







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# “ THIS IS WHAT WE DO ”

—ARIKE OGUNBOWALE

A three-week period in late March and early April of 2018 marked one of the most remarkable stretches in University of Notre Dame athletics history.

First, the Irish fencing teams traveled to Penn State where they dominated the combined NCAA Fencing Championship for the second straight year, leading the competition from wire to wire.

The next weekend, the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season champion Notre Dame women’s basketball team journeyed to Columbus, Ohio, where the Irish knocked off unbeaten and top-rated Connecticut in overtime in the national semifinals, then came from 15 points down to beat Mississippi State in the title game. Both contests featured dramatic game-winning shots by Irish junior guard **Arike Ogunbowale**.

Then, the following weekend, the Big Ten Conference champion Irish hockey squad headed to St. Paul, Minnesota, where Notre Dame recorded its fifth straight one-goal win in defeating Michigan in the national semifinals—before falling 2-1 against Minnesota Duluth in the NCAA championship game.

The impact of those three performances was such that all three head coaches—**Gia Kvaratskhelia** in fencing, **Muffet McGraw** in women’s

basketball and **Jeff Jackson** in hockey—were named national coach of the year in their respective sports.

Meanwhile, Notre Dame student-athletes won another national title in the classroom—for the 11th straight year posting the best overall Graduation Success Rate figure (98) among Football Bowl Subdivision institutions. It marked the best overall academic performance by Irish athletes in a decade.

Irish programs across the board continued making meaningful impacts on campus, in Michiana and elsewhere in terms of community service.

And Notre Dame athletic facilities continued to expand—with the opening of the Campus Crossroads Project at Notre Dame Stadium, along with progress toward conclusion of the Harris Family Track Stadium, a new practice facility—the Rolfs Athletic Hall (formerly the Rolfs RecSports Center)—for men’s and women’s basketball and a new indoor practice facility for football.

It was left to Ogunbowale to put the Irish athletic year, the women’s basketball title—and maybe the Notre Dame athletic mantra—in perspective, in a live interview on ESPN:

“National champs, baby. This is what we do.”



# ACADEMICS



→ **Notre Dame's institutional research determined additional academic highlights based on the NCAA-issued GSR and federal figures:**

1. Eighteen of 22 Irish athletic programs analyzed posted GSR figures of 100 percent, and 10 produced federal rate 100 scores.
2. For the 12th time in 13 years, Notre Dame ranked No. 1 on a percentage basis in terms of number of GSR 100 scores, among all FBS schools.
3. Eighteen of Notre Dame's 22 men's and women's programs posted GSR numbers that ranked them best in the

nation within their sports—and 10 produced federal graduation rates that led all FBS institutions.

4. Federal Rate: Notre Dame graduated 96 percent of all women competing in varsity athletics to rank second among its peer institutions based on the federal calculations (behind Stanford at 97). Among men, Notre Dame's 92 percent federal rate tied with Stanford for first place. Notre Dame graduated 85 percent of its black student-athletes, ranking tied for third, and Irish football players graduated at a 90 percent rate to rank second behind Northwestern (92).

→ Notre Dame in November 2017 claimed a share of the national championship for graduating student-athletes in all sports—in the process posting the top NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) figure (98) for its student-athletes for the 11th straight year. The GSR number for all Notre Dame student-athletes rated the Irish first among the football-playing institutions in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A). The 2017 NCAA figures were based on entering classes from 2007 through 2010.

→ Twelve Notre Dame athletic teams earned 1,000 scores—more perfect scores than any other NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision school except one—in the annual set of Academic Progress Rate statistics issued in May 2018 by the NCAA. Notre Dame's number of perfect scores of 1,000 has ranked either first or second among all FBS programs for 13 straight years. Leaders in the 2018 data were Stanford (16), Notre Dame (12), and

Boston College and Northwestern (11 each). Five Notre Dame men's teams—baseball, cross country, fencing, soccer and tennis—registered perfect 1,000 scores. Seven Irish women's teams—basketball, golf, lacrosse, softball, swimming and diving, tennis and volleyball—also earned perfect scores.

→ Thirteen Notre Dame teams posted multi-year APR scores in the top 10 percent of all squads in their respective sports and received 2018 NCAA APR Public Recognition Awards: Men's sports (6): baseball, cross country, fencing, soccer, tennis, track and field; Women's sports (7): basketball, golf, lacrosse, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, volleyball.

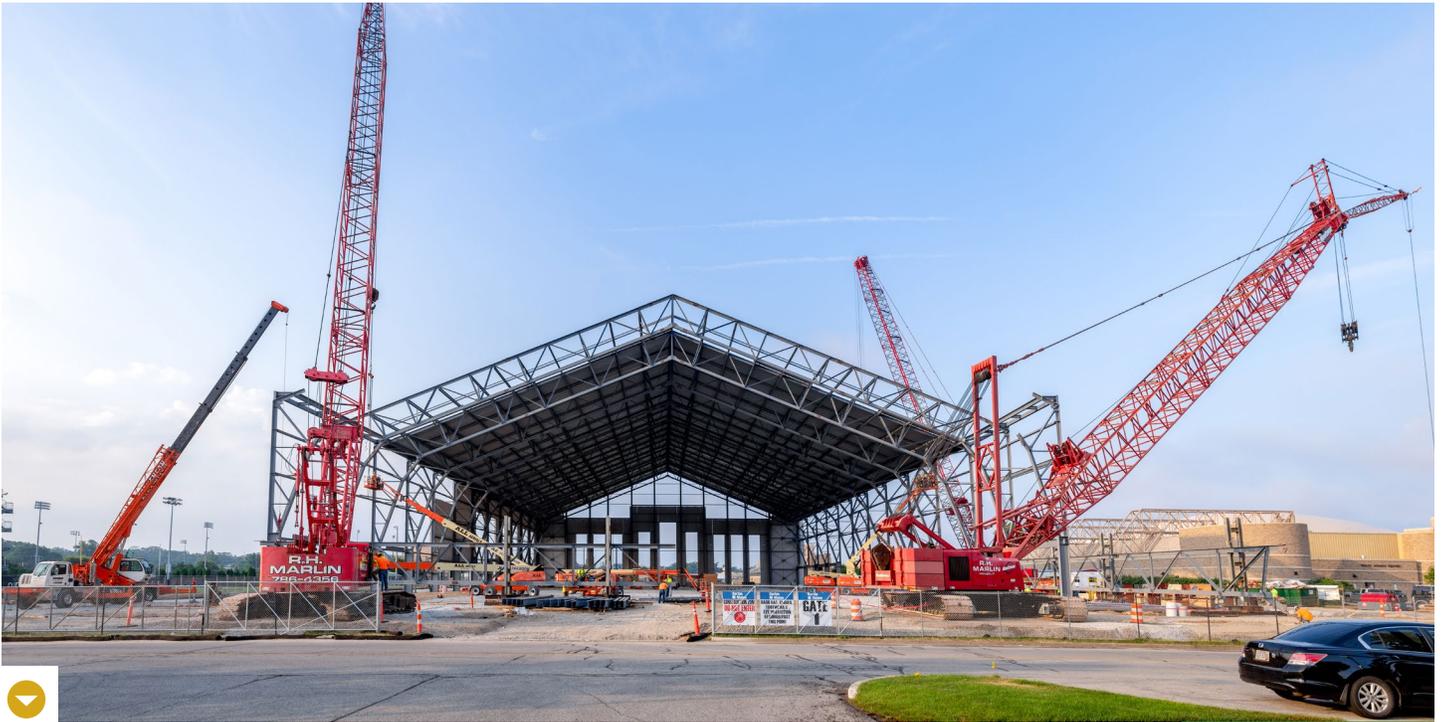
→ ACC post-graduate scholarships went to **Katie Uhler** and **Monica Flores** (women's soccer), **Greer Martini** (football) and **John Sexton** (men's lacrosse). Sexton was among individuals chosen as Weaver-James-Corrigan Honorary Award recipients

for student-athletes who plan to pursue professional careers in their chosen sports following graduation.

→ ACC Honor Roll: 434 Notre Dame student-athletes were honored—second most in the conference.

→ **Jessica Harris** earned first-team Academic All-America honors on the cross country/track and field team named by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

# ATHLETICS ADVANCEMENT



In 2017-18, Notre Dame athletics benefactors had the following incredible impact on Fighting Irish student-athletes and programs:

- ➔ **\$139.4M** in total athletics funds gifted (cash gifts and pledges), a **record year** for athletics philanthropy
- ➔ **\$83.3M** committed to fully fund the construction of two new practice facilities for men's and women's basketball, as well as football, men's soccer and women's soccer
- ➔ **\$6.1M** in donations to the Rockne Athletics Fund, including 12 new members of the Jesse Harper Council (gifts of \$50K or higher), providing expendable scholarship and financial support to all 26 varsity programs
- ➔ **\$198,000** in total funds raised for athletics teams on Notre Dame Day,

an 88 percent increase in giving from last year's totals

- ➔ **239** gifts from men's and women's track and field alumni in support of the new Harris Family Track and Field Stadium
- ➔ **177** gifts from men's and women's basketball alumni in support of the new basketball practice facility
- ➔ **57** student-athletes who participated in summer study-abroad programs in large part due to Rockne Athletics Fund support
- ➔ **35** student-athletes who received funding for summer internships and externships through benefactor-established endowments
- ➔ **4** new seven-figure endowed coaching position gifts (swimming and diving head coach, track and field

head coach, football offensive coordinator and football defensive coordinator)

- ➔ **3** new seven-figure endowed grant-in-aid gifts (to men's golf, men's basketball and football programs)
- ➔ **1st** endowment of its kind established to support academic, health and wellness needs of underprivileged student-athletes
- ➔ Donors impacted so many other areas including gifts to support special events, international travel, new equipment, nutritional needs, off-site training, networking opportunities and more

# COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

## ➔ Extra Yard for Teachers/

**Education:** The 2017 football season marked the third consecutive year of an increasingly successful partnership among the Notre Dame athletics department, College Football Playoff Foundation and Alliance for Catholic Education in the Extra Yard for Teachers initiative.

In 2017 this collaborative effort catalyzed 616 gifts that totaled **\$514,424**, representing a **29 percent** increase over the previous year's total. In addition, \$600 was directed to public school programs through the Donors Choose website. Those donations, coupled with a generous \$150,000 match by the CFPF, resulted in a grand total of \$665,024 raised for the campaign.

Each year Notre Dame has been ranked **No. 1 in dollars raised** among the 100 schools participating. In three years, more than \$1.6 million has been raised for the ACE program.

## ➔ Summer Camps and Camp Scholarship Program/Excellence:

During the 2018 summer camp season, 49 sessions were offered and more than **6,500 campers traveled to Notre Dame** to participate in the camp program. More than 400 counselors provided instruction.

The summer of 2018 marked the fourth year of the camp scholarship program. Ten camp scholarships were presented to local students. To date, 27 students representing five elementary schools have received scholarships to the Notre Dame camp of their choosing.

## ➔ Habitat for Humanity/Community:

The athletics department and Habitat for Humanity celebrated their fourth year of partnership. Irish teams and staff members rolled up their sleeves to provide a forever home for local Michiana families.

Each year former President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, in conjunction with Habitat, select one community in the world to build a number of houses with hundreds of volunteers. The community identified for this year's Carter Work Project was St. Joseph County, Indiana. Last spring, student-athletes, coaches and staff participated in the construction of multiple homes in the Carter Work Project neighborhood.

## ➔ Holy Cross Village/Tradition:

In the spring of 2018, Notre Dame athletics forged a partnership with Holy Cross Village. Athletics staff members and student-athletes assisted with a number of events including prom, a birthday block party and a guided tour of the Notre Dame campus.

## ➔ Mass Card, Cultivate Culinary and Sustainability/Faith:

More than 200 specially designed Mass cards have been distributed by Notre Dame athletics to support colleagues across the country as well as athletics employees experiencing tragedy, loss or a challenging time. One Mass per semester has been celebrated to honor those recipients.

In 2017, athletics partnered with Cultivate Culinary and Levy Res-

taurants in a robust sustainability effort. Throughout the football season, Cultivate Culinary rescued and delivered more than **7,000 pounds of food** from

Notre Dame Stadium and distributed it to numerous nonprofit organizations in St. Joseph County.

Since May 2018, more than 1,800 pounds of food that would otherwise have gone to waste have been rescued from the Guglielmino Athletics Complex. Members of the athletics staff and student-athletes from various varsity sports volunteered in processing over 1,000 meals for local nonprofit organizations.

Last football season the athletics department collaborated with the Office of Sustainability. Each home game was designated with a unique sustainability theme with a direct correlation to the newly renovated stadium. Sustainability staff members were showcased on the stadium video board, ribbon board, concourse monitors and social media.

➔ In addition to its signature initiatives, the athletics department participated in a number of projects in order to address immediate needs in local, national and international communities. Those partnerships and efforts included Harper Cancer Research



Institute, Hurricane Relief, Wild Boar Soccer Team, United Way, Fighting Irish Fighting Hunger, Lou's Lads' Bread of Life Food Drive and Vet Tix Foundation.

## ➔ Bringing the Community to

**Notre Dame:** Notre Dame's athletic facilities serve as venues not only for student-athletes, but also for local and national community partners, visiting international contingents and various professional teams. Maximizing facility usage is a critical component of the department's outreach strategy. Notre Dame's 19 athletics facility spaces played host to more than **250 non-varsity events** and more than 350,000 guests. These gatherings included graduations, athletic events, wedding receptions, Masses, seminars, career fairs and retreats.

## ➔ University Commencement:

Eight commencement ceremonies were held in the Compton Family Ice Arena, Joyce Center Fieldhouse, Purcell Pavilion and Notre Dame Stadium during 2018 graduation weekend. The athletics department hosted more than 5,000 graduates and more than 40,000 guests in those facilities.

# COMPLIANCE

➔ Notre Dame was instrumental in developing materials for the Lead1 Association of Athletic Directors in response to the NCAA membership's adoption of a student-athlete welfare time management plan. On campus, Notre Dame's compliance staff developed a policy for the creation and annual review of the student-athlete-driven time management plan and worked with colleagues from information technology and human resources to implement Teamworks, a department-wide system for calendaring, communication, interactive forms and travel planning. The info below bullets those points with data:

➔ Data from a Division I SAAC Time Commitments Survey, the 2015 NCAA GOALS study and an NCAA 2016 sport-specific time demands survey was used to develop new NCAA time management legislation with the goal to "enhance the student-athlete experience by providing better balance in the area of time demands."

➔ NCAA time demands survey included responses from 44,058 Division I student-athletes, 3,071 head coaches, 192 athletics directors, 219 SWAs, 179 faculty athletics representatives and 1,855 others (mainly compliance staff).

➔ Objectives of new legislation provide student-athletes more time and ability to pursue additional opportunities in college outside their sport by:

- Protecting an overnight window during which no required activities can occur
- Defining all required activities as RARA (required athletic-related activity) and prohibiting all RARA on days off

- Requiring all teams to create a time management plan to provide adequate notice to their student-athletes when scheduling expectations changed

### Notre Dame implementation of time management legislation:

- Created an institutional policy and supplemental resources (including a visual one-pager for Lead1 to distribute as best practices) to help educate relative to the new rules, navigate sport-specific challenges and ensure consistency when addressing time management issues
- Created a new position in compliance to focus on time management (many other institutions spread responsibility throughout the office, often causing confusion or inconsistencies)

- Purchased a department-wide license for Teamworks software (collaborative scheduling and messaging platform) to improve in the areas Notre Dame students voiced as most important in helping them to balance their lives outside of their sport: predictability, efficiency and transparency

### Teamworks at Notre Dame in 2017-18 featured:

- More than 1,400 users, 65 percent student-athletes, 35 percent other members of the athletic department
- Travel itineraries on which teams could make live changes and which were easily accessible from phones
- Increased awareness of demands on student-athletes by making schedules visible to all relevant parties (coaches previously didn't have a full appreciation for the big picture of commitments outside of

CARA, countable athletic-related activities)

- Increasing engagement from student-athletes and departments (the ticket office used it for communication on game days; the business office soon will be using it for travel procedures; student welfare and development was active in scheduling SAAC community service and promoting career events)

- Positive response from student-athletes, including designated team representatives, with lots of feedback from them saying they like having everything in one place

### ➔ Time management annual review notes included:

- 70 percent completion rate of end-of-year student-athlete survey via Teamworks
- Overall growth and progress in providing more advanced notice on schedules (predictability); students reported substantial improvement in this area and have appreciated knowing in advance so they can plan appropriately
- Teams report increased communication and collaboration between student-athletes and coaches; there has been good dialogue about scheduling and changes as needed, which has built trust and further encouraged buy-in

The Notre Dame compliance staff also participated in two internal audits (recruiting and equipment/awards with Notre Dame's audit and advisory services) and one external audit with The Compliance Group, revamped its continuing student-athlete eligibility process to include two sets of progress-toward-degree threshold assurances and moved all student assistance fund and textbook scholarship requests to an online application portal for student-athletes. That system permits sharing of real-time data with financial aid and reporting on individual or team requests.

# FACILITIES

➔ The past decade represents the most dynamic 10-year span in history in terms of Notre Dame athletic facility improvements:

- 2008**  
**LaBar Practice Complex**  
Football
- Melissa Cook Stadium**  
Softball
- 2009**  
**Purcell Pavilion**  
Basketball and Volleyball
- Outdoor track relocation**  
Cross Country, Track and Field
- 2010**  
**Alumni Stadium**  
Soccer
- Arlotta Stadium**  
Lacrosse
- 2011**  
**Compton Family Ice Arena**  
Hockey
- 2012**  
**Castellan Family Fencing Center**  
Fencing
- 2013**  
**McConnell Family Boathouse**  
Rowing
- 2014**  
**Notre Dame Stadium grass turf converted to synthetic turf**
- 2017**  
**Murphy Family Team Room**  
Baseball
- Campus Crossroads/ Notre Dame Stadium**  
Football
- 2018**  
**Rolfs Athletic Hall**  
Basketball
- Harris Family Track Stadium**  
Cross Country, Track and Field

The Campus Crossroads Project included additions and changes to Notre Dame Stadium. It began with the conversion of the natural grass playing field to synthetic turf in 2014 and ended with the completion of the surrounding buildings, concourse and bowl improvements—and the renovation of the north end.

**The shared University spaces include:**

- ➔ O'Neill Hall (south end), which houses the music department, music library, two performance spaces and Foley's. It also holds up the large video board that faces the playing field.
- ➔ Duncan Hall (west side), the largest of the three structures, which is home to the Duncan Student Center, the Smith Center for Recreational Sports and the Center for Career Development. The Dahnke Ballroom and the Rasmus Family Club are used as premium hospitality space on football game days and as event spaces throughout the year. Game management space and seating for University leadership share the ninth floor, along with five suites for single game/corporate sales.
- ➔ Corbett Hall (east side), which houses the Martin Digital Media Center, the anthropology and psychology departments, classrooms, and lab and office space. The Downes Club and Hank Family Forum provide premium hospitality on game days, and the press box and corporate club space share the ninth floor.

**Improvements to the stadium include:**

- ➔ A renovated Notre Dame locker room, blending tradition and technology.
- ➔ A renovated visitors' locker room and a new field entrance for the visiting team.
- ➔ An expanded Schivarelli Lounge for recruiting, team functions and various athletic department and football events.

**Here are athletic facility improvements made in 2017-18:**

- ➔ A new indoor practice facility, complete with a full football field, is being constructed, and a second outdoor turf field has been added. The indoor facility will be completed by July 2019.
- ➔ The Rolfs Athletic Hall (formerly the Rolfs RecSports Center) is currently being renovated to accommodate the men's and women's basketball programs. The basketball practice facility features an inner lobby for greeting visitors, identical practice courts, video/

film rooms, team rooms, practice locker rooms, coaches' office suites and conference rooms for each program. Identical practice space will allow both programs to practice simultaneously and include full replicas of the court in Purcell Pavilion and side baskets for additional drills. Adjacent to the courts on the lower level is a basketball performance center, with shared strength and conditioning space, a Gatorade nutrition area and an athletic training area with two in-ground hydrotherapy tubs.

- ➔ The baseball team room was a project funded by former baseball student-athlete **John Murphy**. The Eck Baseball Stadium was built in 1991 and had been slightly renovated through the years. The baseball team room provided much-needed team space to this facility.
- ➔ The second phase of the Harris Family Track and Field Stadium is near completion and will provide spectator seating, restrooms and concessions and a video scoreboard.



# HONORS AND AWARDS

➔ **Nick Itkin** (fencing, men's foil) won an NCAA individual championship in 2017-18, while an NCAA individual runner-up honor went to **Sabrina Massialas** (fencing, women's foil).

➔ **Arike Ogunbowale** (women's basketball) was selected as the most outstanding performer in the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship. She and her teammates earned an ESPY for the 2017-18 Play of the Year.

➔ **Muffet McGraw** (women's basketball), **Gia Kvaratskhelia** (fencing) and **Jeff Jackson** (hockey) all were chosen national coaches of the year in their respective sports. McGraw and Kvaratskhelia led their 2017-18 Irish teams to NCAA titles, while Jackson's 2017-18 Irish hockey team finished as the NCAA runner-up.

➔ **Cale Morris** (hockey) received the Mike Richter Award (national goaltender of the year) and also was named Big Ten Conference Player of the Year, Big Ten Goaltender of the Year and the Big Ten Tournament Most Outstanding Player.

➔ **Amanda Sirico** (women's fencing) was named the Atlantic Coast Conference Fencer of the Year in epee.

➔ **John Sexton** (men's lacrosse) received the USILA William C. Schmeisser Award (national defensive player of the year) and also was named ACC Defensive Player of the Year.

➔ The 17th Annual O.S.C.A.R.S. (Outstanding Students Celebrating Awards and Recognitions Showcase) were hosted by **Rob Whitacre** (men's swim-

## 2017-18 Irish Draftees



**Baseball**  
Major League Baseball

**Matt Vierling**  
Philadelphia Phillies  
5th round (137th pick)

**Nick Podkul**  
Toronto Blue Jays  
7th round (206th pick)

**Cole Daily**  
Washington Nationals  
22nd round (671st pick)



**Women's Basketball**

**Lili Thompson**  
Harlem Globetrotters



**Football**  
National Football League

**Quenton Nelson**  
Indianapolis Colts  
1st round (6th pick)

**Mike McGlinchey**  
San Francisco 49ers  
1st round (9th pick)

**Durham Smythe**  
Miami Dolphins  
4th round (123rd pick)

**Equanimeous St. Brown**  
Green Bay Packers  
6th round (207th pick)



**Hockey**  
National Hockey League

**Jake Pivonka**  
New York Islanders  
4th round (103rd pick)

**Spencer Stastney**  
Nashville Predators  
5th round (131st pick)

**Jake Evans**  
Montreal Canadiens  
7th round, 2014 (signed April 2018)

**Andrew Oglevie**  
Buffalo Sabres  
(signed April 2018)

**Jordan Gross**  
Arizona Coyotes  
(signed April 2018)

**Dennis Gilbert**  
Chicago Blackhawks  
3rd round, 2015  
(signed April 2018)

**Bo Brauer**  
South Carolina Stingrays ECHL  
(signed June 2018)

**Luke Ripley**  
Greenville Swamp Rabbits ECHL  
(signed August 2018)

**Justin Wade**  
Cleveland Monsters AHL  
(signed October 2018)

**Dawson Cook**  
Florida Everblades ECHL  
(signed September 2018)



**Men's Lacrosse**  
Major League Lacrosse

**John Sexton**  
Dallas Rattlers  
2nd round (18th pick)

**Carlson Milikin**  
Ohio Machine  
4th round (36th pick)



**Men's Soccer**  
Major League Soccer

**Jon Gallagher**  
Atlanta United FC  
1st round (14th pick)



**Women's Soccer**  
National Women's Soccer League

**Sandra Yu**  
Portland Thorns FC  
1st round (8th pick)

ming) and **Bo Brauer** (hockey) and highlighted the many talents and accomplishments of Notre Dame student-athletes, including an event program

designed by **Caroline Doyle** (women's lacrosse), skits and performances by **Regina O'Brien** (fencing), **Dennis Gilbert** (hockey), **Jenn Groth**

(rowing) and **Danielle Patterson** (women's basketball) and an award-winning team video produced by **Joe Coumos** (men's diving).

➔ The Byron V. Kanaley Award went to the senior monogram athletes who have been most exemplary as students and leaders: **Sandra Yu** (women's soccer), **Jonah Shainberg** (fencing), **Allison Miller** (women's tennis), **Jessica Harris** (cross country/track and field), **Natalie Johnson** (volleyball) and **Matthew Habrowski** (men's soccer), as chosen by the Faculty Board on Athletics.

➔ The Francis Patrick O'Connor Award, presented to student-athletes who display the true spirit of Notre Dame as exemplified by their contributions and inspirations to their respective teams, went to **Bo Brauer** (hockey), **Jessica Harris** (cross country/track and field), **Caroline Holt** (volleyball), **Kathryn Westbeld** (women's basketball) and **Mikey Wynne** (men's lacrosse).

➔ The Community Champion Award, recognizing the contributions of Notre Dame student-athletes to the University community and the community at large, went to **Allison Bartoszewicz** (track and field), **Kyle Dedrick** (men's soccer), **Kelly Hart** (cross country/track and field), **Shannon Hendricks** (women's soccer) and **Collin Stoecker** (baseball).

➔ The Top Gun Award went to **Katie Uhler** (women's soccer), the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade-point average.

# MARKETING AND TICKETING

The Notre Dame athletics department will partner with Legends and JMI Sports—two of the leading athletics marketing and hospitality companies in the country—to oversee sales, marketing, hospitality, media rights and branding services on a local and national level for Irish athletics. Through this unique partnership, Notre Dame is determined to become an innovative leader in the packaging and presentation of its game-day hospitality experience and multimedia rights, as well as its corporate sponsorship plans.

The University, through this 12-year agreement, will seek to create and implement unique programs and partnerships with an elite group of companies and brands—delivering unprecedented levels of engagement, first-class hospitality experiences and recognition, while also preserving traditions Notre Dame holds dear.

JMI Sports brings extensive multimedia expertise to the partnership with current representation of premier collegiate brands. Already a partner with Notre Dame since 2013, Legends was an integral part of executing the Campus Crossroads Project, developing capital gift and annual donation pricing models, packaging and marketing strategy, while also executing sales campaigns for new premium seating inventory.

Recognizing the uniqueness of their agreement with Notre Dame, Legends and JMI Sports will dedicate stand-alone national, regional and local sales and marketing staff resources to the partnership while tapping

into the highly experienced branding, hospitality and experiential marketing teams at both companies.

The new partnership will include Notre Dame's national football radio rights, which previously had been a stand-alone agreement for many years with the Mutual Broadcasting System, Westwood One and most recently with ISP and then IMG College.

Notre Dame previously had been handling most of its athletic corporate sponsorships and marketing rights through Notre Dame Sports Properties, created in 2003.

JMI Sports is a full-service collegiate marketing firm as well as a highly regarded project manager for the development of collegiate and professional sports facilities. JMI Sports adds Notre Dame to a list of signature partnerships, including Clemson University, the University of Kentucky and the University of Georgia (with IMG College) as well as the Ivy League, the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. JMI Sports was founded in 2006.

Legends is led by industry veterans with an unparalleled amount of collective experience in global planning, global sales and hospitality, activating across professional sports, collegiate, attractions, entertainment, international and conventions. Legends is the architect of premium sports and entertainment guest experiences—serving a list of clients that includes Yankee Stadium, AT&T Stadium, nearly 40 Live Nation

venues, One World Observatory, FC Barcelona, Atletico Madrid, Twickenham Stadium, Wimbledon Tennis Championships, Tottenham Hotspur, Golden 1 Center, Manchester City FC, Los Angeles Angels, Los Angeles Rams, Atlanta Falcons, NFL, University of Southern California, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Super Bowl 50 and Indianapolis 500.

➔ Notre Dame's home sellout streak in football increased to 263 games through the end of the 2017 season.

➔ The Notre Dame ticketing operation was recognized by its ticketing service provider Paciolan as the Innovative Team of the Year. That came in great part due to implementation of a 3D seat selection process for season-ticket members and lottery fans. Paciolan is the ticketing software primarily used by the majority of colleges.



# MEDIA

Fighting Irish Media earned three Emmys and three other “best in the nation” awards in 2017-18 for a combination of video production and publications.

One Emmy awarded in 2017 went to FIM for “Jess Harris: Into Focus” in the category of “outstanding achievement for sports programming: feature segment.”

Two other Emmys went to producer **Jodain Massad** for “outstanding crafts achievement off-air: directing” and for “outstanding crafts achievement off-air: writing—program (non-news).”

All three Emmys came from the Chicago/Midwest chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Notre Dame’s football signing day show in February 2018 was selected as the top event in the “outstanding live non-game production” category of the Sports Video Group College Sports Media Awards.

## FIM ALSO RECEIVED FOUR OTHER SVG NOMINATIONS IN THE COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS COMPETITIONS:

→ For the Notre Dame-Ball State men’s basketball game in December 2017 in the “outstanding live game production” category

→ For FIM’s Echoes 2017: Notre Dame Football Awards Show in the “outstanding live non-game production” category

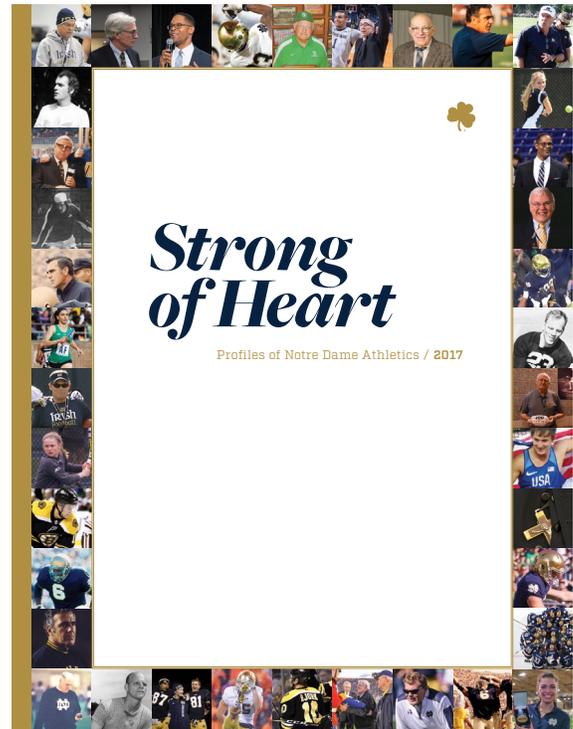
→ For FIM’s Into Focus and Onward Notre Dame video series in the “outstanding program series” category

## THREE NOTRE DAME PUBLICATIONS EARNED NATIONAL AWARDS FROM THE COLLEGE SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTORS OF AMERICA IN JUNE 2018:

→ The 2017-18 version of “Strong of Heart” was voted “best in the nation” in the special events program division (edited by **John Heisler**). It’s the second time that annual publication has received the top honor.

→ The 2017-18 Notre Dame men’s basketball game program was named “best in the nation” (produced by **Alan Wasielewski**, **Robby Hamman** and **Tim O’Connor**).

→ The 2017 Notre Dame football game program series was rated “second in the nation” (produced by **Joanne Norell**, **John Heisler** and **Scott Tingwald**).



# MENDELSON FUND

Since 2006, the Mendelson Fund for Athletic Excellence each year provides incremental, non-budgeted funding to Notre Dame Olympic sports programs for the development of their student-athletes' performance.

These are projects funded in 2017-18 by the Mendelson endowment:

**SWIMMING AND DIVING** ..... \$11,285

Swim Pro camera and Diving Scout system

**VOLLEYBALL** ..... \$19,484

Team room audio-visual upgrades

**WOMEN'S GOLF** ..... \$20,154

SAM Putt/University PPP custom putting system



# MONOGRAM CLUB

➔ **At the Monogram Club's annual meeting in October, Terri Vitale (tennis '94, '95) officially began her presidential term.**

The Monogram Club also welcomed three new directors: **Ryan Harris** (football '07), **Ruth Riley** (basketball '01, '16) and **Takashi Yoshii** (tennis '10).

➔ The Monogram Club presented its highest honor, the Edward "Moose" Krause Distinguished Service Award, to **Lt. Gen. Bryan Fenton** (manager '87).

➔ **Roger Valdiserri** (honorary '54) and **Bobby Clark** (honorary) were recipients of the Monogram Club's Jesse Harper Award for their unparalleled commitment to the Notre Dame Athletics Department and University.

➔ The Monogram Club bestowed honorary monograms upon **Jill Bodensteiner** ('91, '08), **Patrick McCartan** ('56, '59), **Joseph I. O'Neill III** ('67) and **Rev. Mark Thesing**, C.S.C. ('81, '85, '92).

➔ The club partnered with several Notre Dame programs, including football, softball, men's golf, men's soccer and men's basketball, in playing host to team reunions.

➔ The Monogram Club played host to 40th anniversary celebrations for the 1977 national championship football team and the 1977-78 men's basketball NCAA Final Four team.

➔ The club held regional events in more than 10 cities across the United States—including receptions in Columbus, Ohio,



Lt. Gen. Bryan Fenton (second from left) received the Monogram Club Moose Krause Award from Executive Director Brant Ust (left), President Kevin O'Connor and First Vice President Terri Vitale (right).

for the women's basketball NCAA Final Four and in St. Paul, Minnesota, for the NCAA Frozen Four.

➔ In addition to its on-campus programming, the Monogram Career Network held summer events in Chicago, New York and Detroit. These receptions brought together monogram alumni and current student-athletes interning in and around those respective cities.

➔ **Alex Kerschner** (baseball '18) and **Katie Uhler** (soccer '18) were the 2018 recipients of the Monogram Club's postgraduate scholarship. They both received \$5,000 for their postgraduate studies.

➔ The Monogram Club and the football program welcomed back several monogram winners for the Notre Dame Football Alumni Appreciation Weekend. The festivities took place over Blue-Gold weekend and featured social events, along with a panel discussion to educate attendees on how to remain engaged with the Monogram Club and football program.

➔ Through the Brennan-Boland-Riehle Scholarship Fund, the club in 2017-18 issued \$396,076 to 43 Notre Dame students who are children of active members.

➔ The Monogram Club presented 211 first-time monogram winners with their jackets at the fall and spring monogram jacket ceremonies. **Allen Greene** (baseball '99), athletics director at Auburn University, was the featured alumni speaker at the fall ceremony, while **Derrick Mayes** (football '96), social media training professional, addressed the honorees at the spring event.

# STUDENT WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Rosenthal Leadership Academy:

This program, named after former Notre Dame director of athletics Dick Rosenthal, is designed to develop and enhance strong leadership on Notre Dame athletic teams by providing targeted emerging and existing leaders with progressive programming. The 2017-18 Rosenthal Leadership Academy included 97 participants across all 26 Irish varsity programs.

## Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC):

Sixty athletes across all sports worked to enrich the overall student-athlete experience by contributing in areas of community, camaraderie, career, communication and character. SAAC chief operating officers included **Nate Richartz** (track and field), **Katie Uhler** (women's soccer) and **Reilly Kearney** (rowing).

## Notre Dame Christian Athletes (NDCA):

Forty Notre Dame student-athletes, representing all 26 teams, attended weekly meetings to provide a place of refuge to inspire spiritual growth and community. NDCA adopted a family for the Christmas season, made cards for children in the oncology unit at Beacon Hospital and spearheaded the One Shirt One Body initiative that encourages teams to donate issued gear to underserved intermediate schools.

## Summer Bridge and First-Year Orientation:

First-year student-athletes were given the opportunity to network with each other in a social setting and receive tips for success from upperclassmen, athletic department staff and campus partners on how to successfully transition into collegiate life.

**Value-Based Decision Making:** Student-athletes from all 26 sports were trained on forming healthy relationships, resolving conflict and managing stress.

## Career Development:

A committee of female professionals in the athletic department coordinated with **espnW to bring the espnW Campus Conversations** event to Notre Dame. The discussion—led by ESPN columnist and radio personality Sarah Spain and senior vice president of espnW and women's initiatives Laura Gentile—was designed to inspire, educate and support female student-athletes. A panel of former Notre Dame student-athletes—**Jes Christian** (track and field '14), **Jill Krivacek** (women's soccer '07) and **Kaila Turner** (women's basketball '13)—discussed experiences as female student-athletes and their transition into the professional world.

Student Welfare and Development partnered with the Monogram Club and Center for Career Development to provide career focused programming

which included networking events following the fall and winter career fair and **Life After ND Lunches** featuring notable alumni **Lt. Gen. Bryan Fenton** (manager '87), **Melissa Knecht** (softball '92), members of the Monogram Club board of directors and Notre Dame athletics senior leadership.

**The Pass It On** program provided an opportunity for student-athletes to teach leadership and personal skills to 40 third- and fourth-graders at Perley Primary Fine Arts Academy. Twenty-three student-athletes from nine sports taught kid-friendly lessons such as “Keeping Your Cool” and “Team Over Me.”



**Fighting Irish Fight for Life** partnered 18 Irish teams with 13 patients (ages 4-16) from Beacon Children's Hospital. The program kicked off with the National Letter of Intent Signing Party where children were made official members of their respective partner teams.

The annual **Pediatric Christmas Party** saw approximately 200 student-athletes from all 26 teams with 75 families from Beacon Children's Hospital and Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center. Heritage Hall was set up with various activities run by student-athletes.

**The Athletes For Athletes** event celebrated athletes of all skill levels and paired student-athletes with members of the South Bend community who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Notre Dame partnered with Special Olympics Notre Dame, Special Olympics Michiana and Logan Center of South Bend to put on the event.

# NACDA CUP: RANKINGS

## 2017-18 Notre Dame Competitive Summary

➔ **Most successful competitive season since joining ACC in 2013-14**

➔ **16 teams qualified for postseason**

➔ **10 teams finished season ranked in top 25 poll**

➔ **4 conference championships**

ACC Men's Lacrosse Tournament (wins over Duke and Virginia)

ACC women's basketball regular season (tied with Louisville with 15-1 records)

Big Ten hockey regular season (17-6-1 record)

Big Ten Men's Hockey Tournament (wins over Penn State and Ohio State)

➔ **2 NCAA championships**

women's basketball  
fencing

➔ **1 NCAA runner-up finish**

hockey

➔ **Notre Dame has won six NCAA titles in the last 10 years—the most in any 10-year period in school history**

➔ **Notre Dame finished in 22nd place in the final standings of the 2017-18 Learfield Sports Division I Directors' Cup all-sports competition sponsored by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.**

➔ **Fall NCAA competition earned the Irish 205 points:**

**66** from its final No. 11 ranking in the USA Today football poll

**64** from Notre Dame's NCAA Women's Soccer Championship round-of-16 appearance

**50** from a second-round appearance in the NCAA Men's Soccer Championship

**25** from a first-round appearance in the NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship

➔ **Winter sports at Notre Dame produced 423.5 points:**

**100** each from national titles in the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship and the NCAA Fencing Championship

**90** from a national runner-up appearance in the NCAA Men's Ice Hockey Championship

**49.5** from a 23rd-place finish in the NCAA Men's Swimming and Diving Championship

**43.5** from a 28th-place finish in the NCAA Men's Indoor Track and Field Championship

**24** from a 41st-place finish in the NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championship

**16.5** from a 54th-place finish in the NCAA Women's Indoor Track and Field Championship

➔ **Irish spring sports produced 175.5 points:**

**50** each from Notre Dame's second-round appearance in the NCAA Men's Tennis Championship and from a regional finalist slot in the NCAA Softball Championship

**27** from a regional appearance and 45th-place overall finish in the NCAA Women's Golf Championship

**25** from a first-round appearance in the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championship

**23.5** from a 46th-place tie in the NCAA Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championship

➔ **Stanford (1,442 points) won the competition, followed by UCLA (1,326), Florida (1,216), USC (1,147) and Texas (1,143.25). Atlantic Coast Conference institutions held 12 of the top 63 spots in the standings.**

## Notre Dame Directors' Cup History

|                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>11th</b> , 1993-94        | <b>22nd</b> , 2006-07 |
| <b>30th</b> , 1994-95        | <b>21st</b> , 2007-08 |
| <b>11th</b> , 1995-96        | <b>21st</b> , 2008-09 |
| <b>14th</b> , 1996-97        | <b>27th</b> , 2009-10 |
| <b>31st (tied)</b> , 1997-98 | <b>18th</b> , 2010-11 |
| <b>25th</b> , 1998-99        | <b>17th</b> , 2011-12 |
| <b>21st</b> , 1999-2000      | <b>9th</b> , 2012-13  |
| <b>11th</b> , 2000-01        | <b>3rd</b> , 2013-14  |
| <b>13th</b> , 2001-02        | <b>10th</b> , 2014-15 |
| <b>13th (tied)</b> , 2002-03 | <b>17th</b> , 2015-16 |
| <b>19th</b> , 2003-04        | <b>23rd</b> , 2016-17 |
| <b>16th</b> , 2004-05        | <b>22nd</b> , 2017-18 |
| <b>6th</b> , 2005-06         |                       |

## By the Rankings

**Here's where Notre Dame teams in 2017-18 finished in the final polls (top 50):**

|                                               |                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> , women's basketball (USA Today)   | <b>18th</b> , women's soccer (NSCAA)                   |
| <b>2nd</b> , women's fencing (fencing360.com) | <b>19th</b> , men's swimming and diving (CSCAA)        |
| <b>2nd</b> , hockey (USA Today)               | <b>19th</b> , women's swimming and diving (CSCAA)      |
| <b>3rd</b> , men's fencing (fencing360.com)   | <b>26th</b> , men's tennis (ITA)                       |
| <b>9th</b> , men's lacrosse (Inside Lacrosse) | <b>33rd</b> , women's indoor track and field (USTFCCA) |
| <b>11th</b> , football (USA Today)            |                                                        |
| <b>18th</b> , men's soccer (NSCAA)            |                                                        |

# SPORTS SUMMARIES

## FOOTBALL

**10-3**  
Overton Citrus Bowl champion

## MEN'S SOCCER

**11-7-2**  
3-3-2 (4th place) in ACC

ACC Championship semifinals  
NCAA Championship second round

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

**10-7-5**  
5-3-2 (tie for 5th) in ACC

ACC Championship quarterfinals  
NCAA Championship round of 16

## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

7th in ACC Championship

## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

6th in ACC Championship

## VOLLEYBALL

**22-10**  
12-8 (tie for 5th) in ACC

NCAA first round

## MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

**9-2**  
2-2 in ACC

3rd in ACC Championship  
25th in NCAA Championship

## WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

**10-1**  
3-1 in ACC

7th in ACC Championship  
44th in NCAA Championship

## MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

9th in ACC Championship  
28th in NCAA Championship

## WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

10th in ACC Championship  
54th in NCAA Championship

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

**21-15**  
8-10 (tie for 10th) in ACC

ACC Championship quarterfinals  
NIT second round

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**35-3**  
15-1 (tie for 1st) in ACC

ACC Championship runner-up  
NCAA champion

## HOCKEY

**28-10-2**  
17-1-1 (1st) in Big Ten

Big Ten Tournament champion  
NCAA Championship runner-up

## MEN'S FENCING

**19-7**  
2nd in ACC Championship  
NCAA champion

## WOMEN'S FENCING

**29-2**  
2nd in ACC Championship  
NCAA champion

## BASEBALL

**24-30**  
12-18 (6th) in ACC Atlantic

0-2 in ACC Championship

## SOFTBALL

**34-23**  
13-10 (tie for 2nd) in ACC

ACC Championship semifinals  
NCAA Championship regional runner-up

## MEN'S TENNIS

**19-14**  
7-5 (tie for 4th) in ACC

ACC Championship semifinals  
NCAA Championship second round

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

**11-15**  
2-12 (14th) in ACC

ACC Championship first round

## MEN'S LACROSSE

9-6  
1-3 (tie for 3rd) in ACC

ACC champion  
NCAA Championship first round

## WOMEN'S LACROSSE

10-9  
3-4 (5th) in ACC

ACC Championship semifinals

## MEN'S GOLF

6th in ACC Championship

## WOMEN'S GOLF

10th in ACC Championship  
tie for 46th in NCAA Championship  
12th in NCAA Madison Regional

## MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

12th in ACC Championship

## WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

9th in ACC Championship  
tie for 47th in NCAA Championship

## ROWING

4th in ACC Championship

## Five New Head Coaches Join Irish for 2018-19



**MEN'S SOCCER**  
**Chad Riley**

former Notre Dame player and assistant coach, former head coach at Dartmouth



**WOMEN'S SOCCER**  
**Nate Norman**

former Notre Dame player, promoted from the 2017-18 Irish women's soccer staff



**WOMEN'S TENNIS**  
**Alison Silverio**

former Georgia Tech player, former head coach at Oregon



**TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY**  
**Matt Sparks**

promoted from the 2017-18 Irish track and field/cross country staff



**VOLLEYBALL**  
**Mike Johnson**

promoted from the 2017-18 Irish volleyball staff, former head coach at Xavier







Department of Athletics

(574) 631-6107

Athletics Business Office

(574) 631-8112

Media Relations

(574) 631-7516