



Athletics

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT





ON THE COVER
(from lower left)

Fencing national
championship

Lee Kiefer
4 NCAA individual titles

Anna Rohrer
4 ACC individual titles in
2016-17

ON THE BACK COVER
(from lower left)

Kanaley Award winners:
Perkovic (top left)
Olmsted (top right)
Robinson (bottom)
Kiefer (center)



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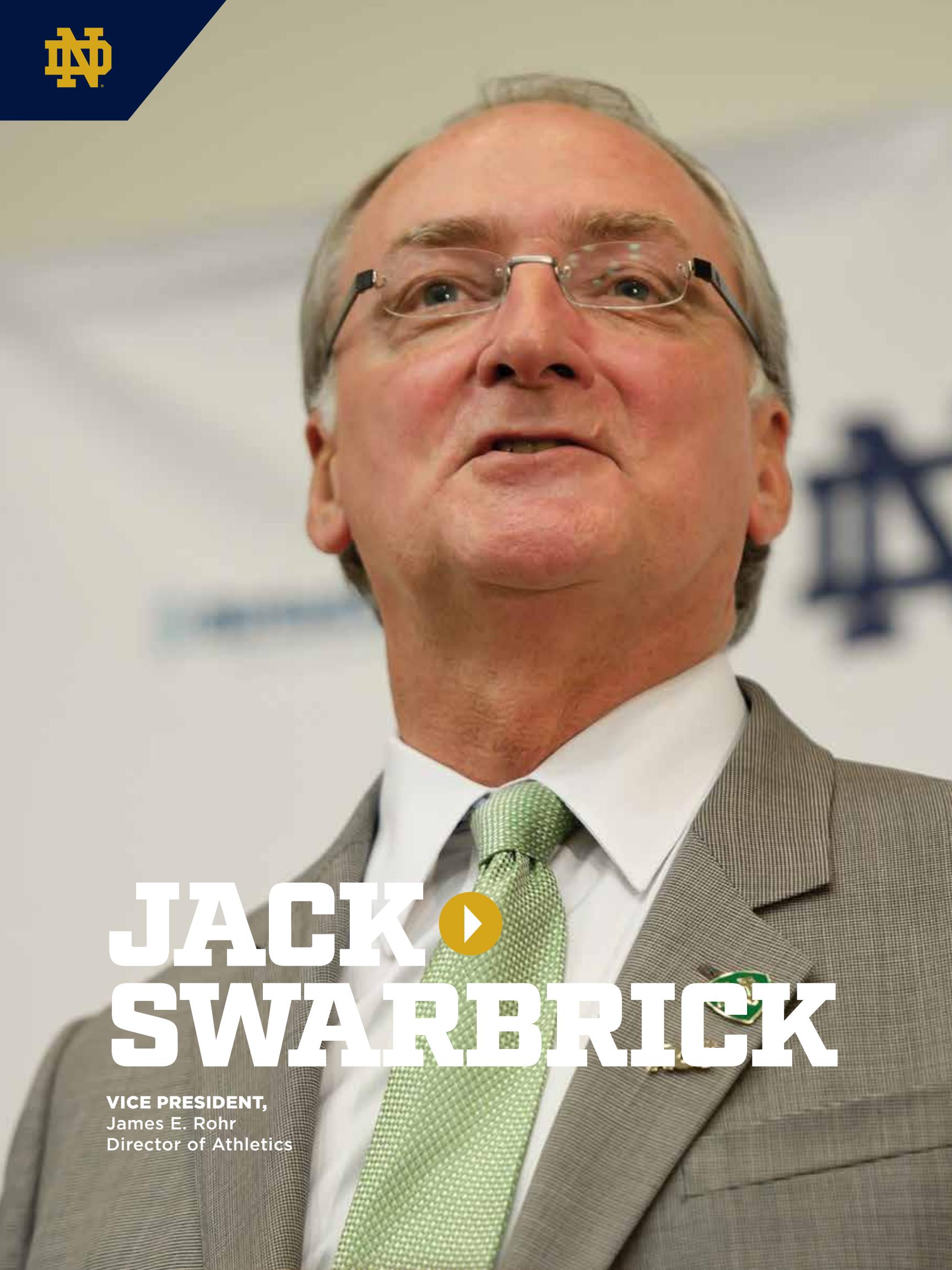
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A close-up, slightly upward-angle portrait of Jack Swarbrick. He is a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair and glasses, wearing a grey suit jacket, a white shirt, and a green patterned tie. He has a small green Notre Dame Fighting Irish pin on his left lapel. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a blue and white logo visible.

JACK SWARBRICK

VICE PRESIDENT,
James E. Rohr
Director of Athletics



Today, the common narrative that surrounds college athletics insists that the pursuits of excellence in academics and athletics are incompatible. This cynical view insists that today's student-athletes are not really students at all, but are instead a kind of semi-professional athlete whose only interest is honing their athletic skills.

At the University of Notre Dame, we reject that cynical view. We reject it not merely as a matter of philosophy, but more importantly as a matter of practice. To be more precise, the students who participate in varsity athletics at Notre Dame offer compelling evidence—every day and in every way—that elite level athletics can be fully integrated into the educational mission of a great university. Consider just a few of these examples from this past year:

→ Senior Lee Kiefer ([UND.com/Kiefer17](#)) led the way to Notre Dame's NCAA championship in fencing by winning her fourth NCAA individual title in foil and also achieving the No. 1 ranking in the world in her event.

→ Sophomore Anna Rohrer ([UND.com/Rohrer17](#)) captured four individual ACC titles in 2016–17—one in cross country, one in indoor track and field and two more in distance events outdoors.

These individual stories of success are the foundation of another year of team success at Notre Dame:

→ The fencing team won the combined men's and women's NCAA title, accomplishing that feat in extraordinary fashion in terms of margin of victory.

→ Jeff Jackson's hockey team advanced to the NCAA Frozen Four—and Muffet McGraw's women's basketball team won a fourth straight Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title and ACC Tournament crown on its way to an NCAA regional title-game appearance.

→ All of our Irish winter sports teams—in men's and women's basketball, hockey, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's indoor track and field, and fencing—either qualified for the NCAA bracket or otherwise scored points in the NCAA Championship. In fact, Notre Dame was the only team in the country to appear in NCAA brackets in both men's and women's basketball and hockey.

All of the success stories of the past year have at their foundation the instruction, encouragement and counsel provided by the remarkable educators who coach at Notre Dame. The contributions of these talented men and women were brought into focus as we marked the passing of Notre Dame coaching legend Ara Parseghian and celebrated the news that Muffet McGraw had been selected for induction to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. Both Ara and Muffet produced championship teams and All-Americans, but both would also be quick to tell us that their greatest achievements can be found in the impact they had on the lives of the young men and women they taught.

That is what the business of athletics is at the University of Notre Dame—great coach-educators changing the lives of talented student-athletes for the better. And that is what we will continue to do because “We Are ND!”

Jack Swarbrick
Vice President
James E. Rohr Director of Athletics

YEAR IN REVIEW

||||| 2016-17





ACADEMICS



Notre Dame wins 10th straight national title in graduation rates

Notre Dame in November claimed a share of the 2016 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 10th straight year. The GSR number for all Notre Dame student-athletes rated the Irish first (tied with Stanford) among the football-playing institutions in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A). The 2016 NCAA figures were based on entering classes from 2006 through 2009.

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

- ➡ Eighteen of 22 Irish athletic programs analyzed posted GSR figures of 100 percent, and 10 produced federal rate 100 scores.

- ➡ For the 11th time in 12 years, Notre Dame ranked No. 1 on a percentage basis in terms of number of GSR 100 scores, among all FBS schools.

- ➡ 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 11 produced federal graduation rates that led all FBS institutions.

Notre Dame research showed Irish student-athletes in 2016 ranked No. 1 in three of 10 sets of standings—ranking second in one other and third in two more. For the 10th year in a row, Notre Dame led the nation in GSR categories for all student-athletes (at 98) and female student-athletes (99). Notre Dame's GSR figure for male student-athletes (this year at 97) ranked first for the seventh time in eight years.

In addition to its No. 1 GSR ranking for all student-athletes (98), Notre Dame finished tied for first among female student-athletes at 99, tied for first among male student-

athletes at 97 percent (with Stanford) and tied for fourth among black student-athletes at 90 percent (behind Stanford at 95, Duke at 94 and Northwestern at 91). In football, Notre Dame ranked sixth at 93.

Notre Dame graduated 95 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 87 percent federal rate was third (behind Stanford at 93 and Northwestern at 90). Notre Dame graduated 78 percent of its black student-athletes, ranking tied for fourth based on the federal rate, and Irish football players graduated at a 79 percent rate to rank tied for seventh.

02 Notre Dame among national leaders in NCAA APR four-year numbers

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 by the NCAA.

Notre Dame's number of perfect scores of 1,000 has ranked either first or second among all FBS programs for 12 straight years. Leaders in the 2017 data were Stanford (14), Notre Dame (12) and Boston College (11).

Four Notre Dame men's teams—cross country, fencing, soccer and tennis—registered perfect 1,000 scores. Eight Irish women's teams—basketball, cross country, lacrosse, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and volleyball—also earned perfect scores. This marked the second year indoor and outdoor track and field were combined into one score.

Ten other Notre Dame teams produced scores of 988 or better: men's ice hockey (997), men's track and field (996), men's lacrosse (995), men's swimming and diving (994), baseball (994), men's golf (993), women's rowing (992), women's soccer (991), women's fencing (990) and women's golf (988).

Over 12 years' worth of APR numbers, the Irish men's cross country team has earned a 1,000 score every year. Notre Dame men's golf and men's track and field have each produced 11 perfect scores. Women's tennis, men's fencing, men's tennis, softball and women's cross country all have earned eight 1,000 scores—while women's fencing and women's swimming and diving have earned six each.

The NCAA also recognized teams that posted multiyear APR scores in the top 10 percent of all squads in their respective sports with public recognition awards. Notre Dame had 14 of its programs honored for the multiyear achievement (second most among all FBS schools)—men's cross country, men's fencing, men's lacrosse, men's soccer, men's tennis, men's track and field, women's basketball, women's cross country, women's lacrosse, softball, women's swimming and diving, women's tennis, women's track and field and volleyball.

03 Three claim NCAA postgraduate scholarships

Two Notre Dame graduate soccer players, **Evan Panken** and **Michael Shipp**, as well as former Irish football player and University student body president **Corey Robinson**, were all 2017 recipients of one of the NCAA's most prestigious honors—an NCAA postgraduate scholarship. The scholarships are one-time, nonrenewable educational grants of \$7,500.

Panken became the first Notre Dame men's soccer player to be recognized on the ACC All-Academic Team in each of his four seasons, adding to his All-ACC third-team performance in 2016. He graduated with a degree in pre-professional studies and Spanish from the College of Science in the spring of 2016. Panken will attend medical school at Northwestern University.

Shipp was a member of the Notre Dame defensive corps and played a key role in all nine Irish shutouts during the 2016 season. A 2015 CoSIDA Academic All-America first-team honoree, he graduated with a degree in pre-professional studies and Spanish from the College of Science in the spring of 2016 and will attend medical school at Georgetown.

Robinson graduated from the program of liberal studies, added a minor in sustainability and boasted a 3.836 cumulative grade-point average. A first-team Academic All-American in 2014, Robinson was a two-time Rhodes Scholar applicant and one-time finalist and served as a student assistant football coach for Notre Dame in 2016 after a three-year career as a wide receiver. He finished his career with 65 catches for 896 yards and seven touchdowns and then served as Notre Dame's student body president in 2016-17.

04 2016-17 Academic All-Americans

Four Irish athletes won CoSIDA Academic All-America honors in 2016-17:

Drue Tranquill (football first team), junior, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 3.74, mechanical engineering

***Lee Kiefer** (women's fencing, at-large first team), senior, Versailles, Kentucky, 3.65, science/pre-professional

Jonathan Fitzgerald (men's fencing, at-large third team), junior, East Brunswick, New Jersey, 3.42, Arabic/peace studies

Jessica Harris (women's track and field/cross country third team), junior, Cockeysville, Maryland, 3.84, theology

* also a first-team selection in 2015

05 Four earn ACC postgraduate scholarships

Notre Dame senior women's fencing standout **Lee Kiefer**, senior women's soccer player **Kaleigh Olmsted** and former Irish football player **Corey Robinson** were among 54 student-athletes selected for the Weaver-James-Corrigan Awards, part of the Atlantic Coast Conference's postgraduate scholarship program. Irish senior men's lacrosse mid-fielder **Sergio Perkovic** was among nine individuals chosen as Weaver-James-Corrigan Honorary Award recipients.

The Weaver-James-Corrigan postgraduate scholarships are presented to selected student-athletes who intend to pursue a graduate degree following completion of their undergraduate requirements. Kiefer, Olmsted and Robinson received \$5,000 toward their graduate education and were honored because they performed with distinction both in the classroom and in their respective sport while demonstrating exemplary contact in the community.

The Weaver-James-Corrigan Honorary Award goes to those student-athletes who plan to pursue professional careers in their chosen sports following graduation. The Weaver-James-Corrigan Award is named in honor of the ACC's first three commissioners, the late Jim Weaver and Bob James and **Gene Corrigan**.

Corrigan served as director of athletics at Notre Dame from 1981-87).

With this year's four Notre Dame honorees, the Irish have produced 15 Weaver-James-Corrigan postgraduate scholarship recipients in four years as a conference member.



06 Adams wins Fulbright grant

Irish women's soccer goalkeeper **Kiley Adams**, a 2017 Notre Dame graduate, has spent her academic career working on research to improve people's lives. She will continue that initiative in 2017-18 as one of a record 38 University students and alumni to have been awarded grants by the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

Adams, a biological sciences major who joined the women's soccer program as a sophomore after playing two seasons with Notre Dame's club team, will study abroad in India next year. The Edgewood, Washington, native has previously received grants from Notre Dame to serve as an early intervention special educator in Vidya Saga in Chennai, India, during the summers of 2015 and 2016.

Adams is a fourth degree black belt in Tae-kwondo, is involved in several advanced research initiatives and has been an advocate for environmental issues, as well. She was a researcher and volunteer at the Multicare Good Samaritan Hospital Children's Therapy Unit from 2009-15, a TOPsoccer "buddy" coach for kids with spe-

cial needs from 2011-14, a NICU and pediatric therapy volunteer at the St. Joseph Regional Medical Center and a member of the Washington Trails Association, a hiking group that advocates for environmental issues. She was a Sorin Scholar and part of an elite research group funded by Notre Dame's Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE). She also worked as an undergraduate researcher in Notre Dame's Language Lab, conducting research on spoken language production and comprehension in adults.

→ The ACC annually names a scholar-athlete of the year in each of 27 sports—and Notre Dame had one of those selections in 2016-17:

* Men's Lacrosse—**Sergio Perkovic**

Notre Dame had 445 of its athletes named to the ACC Honor Roll for 2016-17, recognizing all student-athletes who achieved at least a 3.0 grade-point average for the entire academic year. Only Duke with 489 had more among ACC institutions.

ALUMNI UPDATES

→ **Bob Crable**, a two-time consensus All-America linebacker in football at Notre Dame and the most prolific tackler in Irish history, was named to the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame Class of 2017. With 46 former players and six former coaches selected, Notre Dame boasts more honorees than any other school in the country.

Crable will be inducted with the entire 2017 class Dec. 5, 2017, in New York City. The 2017 class also will be recognized at the National Hall of Fame Salute at the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl in Atlanta following the 2017 season. Crable will be honored during an on-campus salute at the Notre Dame home football game versus Temple in 2017.

A two-time Irish captain under head coaches **Dan Devine** (Crable played for him in 1978–79–80) and **Gerry Faust** (Crable played his senior season under him in 1981), Crable led the Irish in total tackles in three straight seasons—in 1979 with a Notre Dame single-season record 187, in 1980 with 154 and in 1981 with 167 (plus two interceptions). Crable joins fellow linebackers **Manti Te'o** (2010–11–12) and **Bob Olson** (1967–68–69) as the only Irish players to lead Notre Dame in tackles in three consecutive campaigns (tackle statistics go back through the 1956 season).

His season tackle totals in 1979 (187) and 1981 (167) remain the two best single-season marks in Notre Dame history. Crable was a mainstay of the 1980 Irish defense that ranked fourth in the country in total defense (213.2 yards allowed per game), fifth in scoring defense (10.1 points) and eighth in both rushing (109.8 yards) and passing defense (103.0 yards). Crable was perhaps best known for his field-goal block with six seconds remaining against Michigan in 1979 that preserved

a 12–10 Irish victory over the sixth-ranked Wolverines in Ann Arbor. He now works in commercial real estate with Capital Real Estate Partners in Cincinnati while also serving as president of the Crable Investment Group. He's also president of the Crable Foundation, which helps fund education opportunities for student-athletes of team sports to attend Catholic schools.

→ Notre Dame's Purcell Pavilion added three banners to the rafters in 2016–17—with **David Rivers** in men's basketball and **Niele Ivey** and **Beth Cunningham** (both current Irish assistant coaches) in women's basketball joining the Ring of Honor.

→ When the former Irish star hit his fifth home run of the 2017 season on April 22, it marked the eighth of **Trey Mancini**'s young MLB career with the Baltimore Orioles. According to STATS, LLC, with eight homers through his first 17 career games, Mancini tied the major league record for most all-time through 17 career games. He joined Toronto's Carlos Delgado (1993–94) and Colorado's Trevor Story (2016). He also tied the MLB mark with seven home runs in his first dozen games.

→ The Heisman Trophy Trust named former Notre Dame football All-American, College and Pro Football Hall of Famer and retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice **Alan Page** as the 11th Heisman Humanitarian Award winner. The award was given in recognition of Page's tireless efforts in assisting students of color in furthering their education. Not only does the Heisman Trust honor the most outstanding college football player each year, but it also provides for underprivileged and underserved youth communities throughout the nation. The Humanitarian Award was created as an

extension to the Heisman Trophy's greater outreach to athletes who are providing opportunities to those less fortunate. Page received his award at the 82nd Annual Heisman Memorial Trophy Gala Dec. 12, 2016, in New York City.

→ Justice Page added to his list of honors in June when Minneapolis' Ramsey Middle School was renamed Justice Page Middle School. Students had campaigned to remove the name of Alexander Ramsey, who had a résumé that included stints as the first governor of the Minnesota Territory and the state's second governor, from 1860 to 1863, a period that included the Dakota War in southern Minnesota.

→ The Atlantic Coast Conference each year names an ACC Legends Class to be honored at the ACC Men's Basketball Championship—and in 2017 the former Irish player feted was **Gary Brokaw**.

→ Former Irish hockey players **Bryan Rust** and **Ian Cole** both played key roles as the 2017 NHL Pittsburgh Penguins won the Stanley Cup for the second year in a row, this time defeating the Nashville Predators.

→ Former Irish basketball All-American **Pat Garrity** was named to the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame as part of its class of 2017.

→ Former Irish football captain and current Dallas Cowboys offensive guard **Zack Martin** earned All-Pro honors after the 2016 season for the second time in three years and was selected to the 2017 NFL Pro Bowl for the third straight year. Meanwhile, Minnesota Vikings safety **Harrison Smith** was chosen to the 2017 Pro Bowl first team, his second straight Pro Bowl selection.

→ Former Notre Dame women's soccer standout **Elizabeth Tucker** was one of five new

University Board of Trustees members elected in May, filling one of two spots designated for recent graduates. Tucker earned a bachelor's degree in accountancy from Notre Dame in 2014 and is a consultant for McKinsey & Company. She is one of the most decorated student-athletes in University history, capped by her selection in 2014 as NCAA Woman of the Year—the first from Notre Dame and the first women's soccer player from any university.

The Jacksonville, Florida, native helped the Fighting Irish to four consecutive NCAA Championship berths during her career (2010–13), including the 2010 national title and a spot in the 2012 NCAA quarterfinals. Tucker received the 2014 ACC Scholar-Athlete of the Year award and a 2014 NCAA Post-graduate Scholarship. She also was a first-team Capital One Academic All-America selection in 2012 and 2013, making her only the 15th Notre Dame student-athlete in school history to earn first-team Academic All-America honors twice.

→ Former Notre Dame and Pittsburgh Steeler standout running back **Jerome Bettis**, a Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinee in 2015, was inducted into the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame in September 2016. Bettis received the Gale Sayers Lifetime Achievement Award.

→ The Notre Dame men's soccer team in May held its alumni weekend to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the program gaining varsity status. The Notre Dame Monogram Club hosted a brunch for the 50 former players who returned for the weekend events, which included the program's annual awards banquet and an alumni game inside the Loftus Center. The weekend also featured the current squad posting a 5–0 victory over the Mexico under-

18 national team in front of a capacity crowd at Alumni Stadium.

► Former Irish football standouts **Dave Casper** and **Mike Golic** were named to the Mike Ditka Gridiron Greats Hall of Fame at a June event in Las Vegas benefitting the Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund and After the Impact Fund. The GGF's mission is to assist dire-need retired NFL players who were pioneers of the game and who have greatly contributed to the NFL's popular status. Services include medical assistance, transportation costs for medical evaluations and surgeries, dental assistance, housing assistance, financial assistance for utilities, medication and coordination of services for food and other day-to-day necessities. The mission of After the Impact Fund is to facilitate comprehensive treatment and provide a support network for military veterans, professional athletes and their families.

► Three former Notre Dame football all-stars—tight end **Mark Bavaro**, wide receiver/kick returner **Raghib Ismail** and offensive tackle **Aaron Taylor**—appeared on the 2018 National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly NCAA Division I-A) ballot. The ballot contained names of 75 players and six coaches vying for induction.

► For her years of selfless, dedicated service to Notre Dame and to those struggling with rare diseases, **Cindy Parseghian**, class of 1977, received the prestigious 2017 Sorin Award in June from the Notre Dame Alumni Association. Established in 1965, the Rev. Edward Frederick Sorin, C.S.C., Award is conferred on a Notre Dame graduate who has offered distinguished service to the University. Parseghian is president of the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation. She and her husband, Michael Parseghian (also class of 1977), started the foundation in 1994 to find a cure for Niemann-Pick Type C disease, a rare and fatal genetic disorder that claimed the lives of three of their four

children. As the foundation's president, Parseghian has helped raise more than \$45 million over two decades for research. In 2013, Parseghian was elected to Notre Dame's Board of Trustees. Parseghian received an honorary degree from Notre Dame in 2009.

► Former Irish women's tennis star **Quinn Gleason** checked off a major box within the first year of her professional tennis career in June, claiming her first professional title at the ITF Villa del Dique event in Argentina. A 2016 graduate, Gleason defeated three seeded opponents in five matches, including No. 1 seed Victoria Bosio of Argentina in the title match. After dropping the first set to Bosio in the championship match, Gleason came back to win 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-2.

► Former Notre Dame basketball standout **Monty Williams** received the inaugural Sager Strong Award June 26 at the NBA Awards in New York City. Now vice president of basketball operations for the San Antonio Spurs, Williams lost his wife Ingrid (also a Notre Dame graduate) in a car accident in February 2016 in Oklahoma City. The award is named after Craig Sager, longtime TNT/TBS sideline commentator who lost his battle to leukemia in December 2016.

► A three-time Irish tennis All-American from 2004–06, **Catrina Thompson** was named head women's tennis coach at the University of Minnesota in June 2017. Thompson, who owns the Notre Dame record for doubles wins at 104, had been an Irish assistant coach from 2014–17.

► Former Irish distance star **Molly Huddle** in June won the 10,000-meter run at the USATF Outdoor Championships in Sacramento for the third straight year. That qualified her for the IAAF World Championships in August in London. Huddle has won six USATF titles in her career.

01 In memoriam

Former Notre Dame student-athletes and coaches who passed away in 2016–17 included:

► **Dick Erlenbaugh**, 1965 graduate, 1963–64 Irish men's basketball captain

► **Bill Fischer**, 1949 graduate, 1947 and 1948 consensus All-American in football, 1948 Outland Trophy winner, 1983 College Football Hall of Fame inductee, 1982 Notre Dame Monogram Club president

► **Ralph Guglielmi**, 1955 graduate, 1954 unanimous All-America quarterback, 2001 College Football Hall of Fame inductee

► **Tom Hawkins**, 1959 graduate, two-time Irish men's basketball All-American, Notre Dame career rebounding leader

► **Ara Parseghian**, Notre Dame head football coach 1964–74 (95-17-4 record), 1980 National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame inductee

► **Ailish Sheehan**, 2015 graduate, Notre Dame rower, 2017 World University Championship bronze medalist

► **Tom Suddes**, 1971 graduate, longtime Bengal Bouts coach and referee

02 2016–17 Irish draftees

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

RHP Peter Solomon:

4th round
Houston Astros (121st pick)

LHP Sean Guenther: 7th round
Miami Marlins (209th pick)

RHP Brad Bass: 7th round
Detroit Tigers (215th pick)

RHP Brandon Bielak:
11th round
Houston Astros (331st pick)

RHP Evy Ruibal: 16th round
Los Angeles Dodgers (490th pick)

C Ryan Lidge: 20th round
New York Yankees (602nd pick)

HOCKEY (JUNE 23)

National Hockey League

D Nick Leivermann: 7th round
Colorado Avalanche (187th pick)

D Matt Hellickson: 7th round
New Jersey Devils (214th pick)

F Anders Bjork:
5th round, 2014
Boston Bruins (signed in May 2017)

G Cal Petersen: 5th round,
2013 Buffalo Sabres (signed with Los Angeles in July 2017)

MEN'S LACROSSE

Major League Lacrosse

MF Sergio Perkovic: 1st round
Boston Cannons (2nd pick)

D Garrett Epple: 2nd round
Atlanta Blaze (18th pick)

WOMEN'S LACROSSE
United Women's Lacrosse League

A Cortney Fortunato
Long Island Sound

MF Casey Pearsall
Long Island Sound

MEN'S SOCCER
Major League Soccer

D Brandon Aubrey: 1st round
Toronto FC (21st pick)

ATHLETICS ADVANCEMENT



01 Shaping the future of men's lacrosse

When you consider Kevin Corrigan's 30-year tenure, it's not surprising to see the alumni, family and friends of Irish lacrosse acting as pioneers in their philanthropic support of the program. The program's standard of excellence has always extended beyond the playing field.

In 2015 Notre Dame launched an initiative designed not only to impact today, but also—even more importantly—firmly establish a bright future for Irish teams and student-athletes. Through this endeavor, Notre Dame athletics has received 56 endowments in the last three years. Thirty-three of those support endowed grants-in-aid, while 23 others fund opportunities

such as summer internships, study abroad experiences and sports performance initiatives.

Like the ceremonial bagpiper leading the team onto the field of competition, men's lacrosse is leading the way in its charge to create permanent and growing resources. It began with the endowment to create the Baumer Family Head Men's Lacrosse Coach in 2015. Consider the following support in the past year:

- ➔ An endowment was established to fund an assistant coach position.
- ➔ Kevin ('91) and Kathleen O'Connor created the O'Connor Family Scholarship, which will fully endow a grant-in-aid.
- ➔ An endowment was established by an anonymous alum, which will fully endow a grant-in-aid.

➔ A \$600,000 scholarship endowment was established by an alum in honor of former player and current academic adviser **Adam Sargent**.

➔ 209 gifts were made to men's lacrosse on ND Day totaling \$13,030, which led to the lacrosse program also receiving \$10,700 in ND Day challenge funds.

The impact of these gifts is substantial in helping Corrigan's program provide 12.6 scholarships. Endowment funds ensure these resources will continue to be in place forever, protecting the program from financial risk and making certain Notre Dame has what it needs to provide the nation's best student-athlete experience.

"Our gift to endow a lacrosse scholarship is an expression of our gratitude to Notre Dame and to Coach Corrigan for his exemplary and long-standing leadership of the men's lacrosse program. It is a privilege to give back and to help ensure that the program will have the necessary resources to always compete at the highest level while upholding the academic and spiritual values that make Notre Dame unique."

KEVIN AND KATHLEEN O'CONNOR



02 Rockne Heritage Fund AD Circle

The Athletics Director's Circle is the premier athletics annual giving level at Notre Dame. Gifts of \$25,000 or more to the AD Circle (part of the Rockne Heritage Fund), provide Notre Dame vice president and James E. Rohr athletics director Jack Swarbrick flexible funds to address new initiatives and critical budget needs. Members are privy to experiences that include elevated ticket and parking status for football, special weekends on campus and unique opportunities away from campus such as this year's VIP Experience at the PGA Championship.

In the past year membership in the AD Circle has grown to 72 benefactors. Their gifts have been a driving force in growing the Rockne Heritage Fund to more than \$4 million annually, a 120 percent increase from just three years ago.

03 FY17 progress toward top priorities

- ➔ Endowing Grants-in-Aid (Scholarships): **8** new endowed GIAs
- ➔ Endowing Coaches and Excellence: **8** new endowments for excellence and coaching positions
- ➔ Rockne Heritage Fund: **\$4.5 million** in funds raised to support scholarships and general budget (15.5 percent increase)

04 Did you know benefactors made possible...

- ➔ **24** laptops for underprivileged student-athletes to use
- ➔ **17** aid packages for unpaid internship opportunities
- ➔ **40** personal experiences (one for each student) participating in ND Christian Athletes
- ➔ **2** international travel experiences for teams
- ➔ **150** wearable GPS devices for training
- ➔ **2** Irish Invasion camps for Notre Dame Football to recruit top talent
- ➔ **2** medical devices, including a balance testing system for concussion protocol and a portable ultra-sound machine



05 Notre Dame Day

In its fourth year, the University's Notre Dame Day event has emerged as a tremendous asset for special projects of Irish teams. Most programs use the celebratory fundraising event to reach out to alumni, family and friends regarding needs such as funds

for international travel or new equipment. This year, athletics programs received 1,046 gifts totaling \$40,611. The donor voting provided athletics an additional \$56,898 from the \$1 million challenge fund. The top five programs ranked by donor participation were men's lacrosse, men's soccer, fencing, women's soccer and rowing.

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

The community commitment division in the department of athletics extends the Holy Cross mission and the impact of collegiate sport through service to and engagement of others. The three primary focuses include 1) **annual signature initiatives** aligned with the athletics department pillars of community, excellence, education, tradition and faith, 2) an emphasis on **collaborative initiatives** to advance other department and University outreach projects, and 3) a **facility outreach initiative**, which centers on maximizing use of Notre Dame athletic facilities for community engagement on multiple levels.

01 Signature initiatives

Excellence

Summer Camps

Notre Dame's sports camps continue to promote excellence in athletic performance by extending learning opportunities to youth across the country and in the Michiana community. The camp sessions in 2016 included 10,139 participants, 650 camp counselors, 18 sports and 56 individual sessions. In addition to bringing the community to campus, the camps poured \$1,486,546 back into the local economy.

Camp Scholarships

Camp scholarships—awarded for a third consecutive year—went to a record seven local South Bend elementary school students. Perley Fine Arts

Academy, Lincoln Primary Center, Harrison Primary Center and St. Adalbert Catholic School participated in the program. Each principal selected a student from his/her school who demonstrated academic excellence, a positive attitude, high moral character and excellent attendance. Each student was recognized in front of an assembly of peers, principal, teachers and parents. Irish student-athletes Kristin Baer (volleyball), Robert Whitacre (men's swimming), Alyssa Lanting, Reilly Lanigan, Molly Treble (women's swimming), Patrick Connolly, Mark Gormley, Mark Mishu and Nate Norman (men's soccer) presented the awards on behalf of Notre Dame athletics. The cheerleaders and leprechaun also participated in the celebration.



Education

Extra Yard for Teachers

2016 marked the second consecutive year Notre Dame athletics partnered with the College Football Playoff Foundation in the Extra Yard for Teachers initiative. Notre Dame was one of 74 schools that participated. It was a remarkable year as 726 gifts were received from 683 individual donors, raising \$399,476 directly benefiting the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program. In addition, Notre Dame raised \$1,600 for public school programs via the Donors Choose website. The generous \$100,000 match received from the College Football Playoff Foundation proved to be an added incentive for benefactors.

These donations, coupled with the match, resulted in a grand total of \$501,076 raised for the 2016 EYFT initiative. In an effort to promote and inspire a culture that fosters a desire to attend college (one of the four tenets of the initiative), a banner ceremony was conducted at St. Adalbert Catholic School in South Bend. The entire student body, faculty and staff participated—and Kate Markgraf, a Notre Dame Monogram winner, national champion soccer student-athlete and



Olympic gold medalist, served as keynote speaker. Paqui Kelly, wife of Irish head football coach Brian Kelly, also spoke to the students about her experience as an educator and a first-generation college graduate.

A total of \$941,591 has been raised in the first two years of engagement with the Extra Yard for Teachers initiative. In 2015 and 2016, a collaborative team effort earned Notre Dame athletics the No. 1 ranking among all 74 schools that participated.

Tradition

Gratitude Week

Notre Dame student-athletes celebrated the legacy of former University president Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., during Gratitude Week, sending 261 thank you cards, making 703 phone calls and video messages, thanking mentors, donors, former Monogram winners and other community members who have positively impacted their collective college experience.

Faith

Mass Cards

In order to provide support and prayers to intercollegiate athletics colleagues and Notre Dame athletics family members who have experienced difficult circumstances, loss or hardship, the office of community commitment created a special athletics department Mass card.

Since its inception a year ago, more than 100 Mass cards have been sent to athletics colleagues and members of the Notre Dame family. One Mass per semester has been designated to honor the recipients. University president Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.,

performed the opening athletics department Mass and **Rev. Paul Doyle, C.S.C.**, presided over the Ash Wednesday Mass.

Sustainability

Athletics is partnering with the University's Office of Sustainability to determine areas of opportunity going forward, examining current practices relative to sustainability in venues in line with Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si'" (Praise be to You). That collaboration will result in the rollout of exciting activations in Notre Dame Stadium in 2017. In addition, they have participated in the Green Ambassador and Green Office Certification Program.



Community

Habitat for Humanity

The 2016-17 Habitat for Humanity build was located on St. Peter Street in South Bend, just a few blocks from campus and around the corner from the inaugural build embarked on three years ago.

Three years, three families, three houses ... 600 volunteers comprised of student-athletes

from all 26 varsity teams, athletics staff members from seven divisions and alumni Monogram winners all rolled up their sleeves to build homes in Notre Dame's neighborhood for families in need. A house blessing took place on April 28 with athletics colleagues, family, friends, neighbors, **Rev. Mark Thesing, C.S.C.**, and **Rev. Jim Bracke, C.S.C.**

02

Collaborative initiatives

The athletics department also partnered with various department and campus entities to provide support to address immediate needs in South Bend and nearby communities. Those efforts capture the community impact the department, divisions, teams and coaches have had due to their contributions. Those partnerships and efforts include:

► FIGHTING IRISH FIGHTING FOR FLINT

Notre Dame athletics partnered with Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee counties to provide donations to Flint, Michigan, in order to aid in the water crisis.

► UNITED WAY

Athletics participated in the United Way drive that raised \$280,963.68 for St. Joseph County.

► FIGHTING IRISH FIGHTING HUNGER

Irish teams raised \$30,570, collected 500 pounds of food and provided 240,000 meals to Michiana families.

► HARPER CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Athletics established a partnership with Harper Cancer Research Institute and collaborated on a number of initiatives including Coaches vs. Cancer, Month of Hope, ND and USC Partners for a Cure and potential summer internships

for student-athletes. Lou's Lads Athletics partnered with Bread of Life/Lou's Lads Food Drive supporting the Northern Indiana Food Bank and helped collect over 1,800 items of food.

► STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES AND TEAMS

Notre Dame's 26 varsity teams participated in 102 community outreach activities, with 724 student-athletes performing 9,964.5 hours of service. The Irish softball team ranked first in community outreach, logging more hours than any other varsity program.

► ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS, STAFF MEMBERS

The Notre Dame Monogram Club helped collect 37,000 pounds of food for 1,500 San Antonio families during the 2016 Shamrock Series weekend in San Antonio. Over the last two years, 47 Monogram Board members volunteered six hours in the Habitat for Humanity home build sponsored by the athletics department.

► FIGHTING IRISH MEDIA recorded more than 317,000 views of community-related stories on [und.com](#).

► THE NOTRE DAME TICKET OFFICE provided 1,445 tickets to various Irish home athletics events through the Vet Tix Foundation.

► STUDENT WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT hosted multiple seminars, First Year Orientation and team workshops including 1,700 student-athletes.

03 Maximizing access to facility spaces

Athletic Spaces

During the course of the 2016-17 academic year, more than 1.3 million guests visited 24 Notre Dame athletics facilities. They participated in everything from youth, club and varsity competitions, summer camps, and the ND-Shanghai Lixin Fencing Friendship Program, to coaches clinics, urban adventure games, planet and the poor conferences, engineering teaching and mentoring workshops, Masses, residence hall dances, banquets, wedding receptions, career fairs, luncheons, commencements and many other special events.

Commencement

Ten commencement ceremonies were held in the Compton Family Ice Arena, Joyce Center Fieldhouse, Purcell Pavilion, Rolfs Sports Recreation Center and Notre Dame Stadium over graduation weekend in 2017. The athletics department played host to more than 5,500 graduates and 39,000 guests in those five facility spaces.

COMPLIANCE



01 Notre Dame continues leadership role in national LEAD1 organization

Notre Dame vice president and James E. Rohr director of athletics **Jack Swarbrick** continued to chair the Division 1A Athletic Directors Association in 2016-17. During the previous year, the association named former Maryland and professional basketball standout, U.S. Congressman and Rhodes scholar **Tom McMillen** as executive director and moved its headquarters from Dallas, Texas, to Washington, D.C. During 2016-17, under Swarbrick's continued leadership, the association embarked on a comprehensive branding review and, as a result, changed its name to LEAD1. To assist the athletic director members of LEAD1 (who represent the 129 NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision schools), the association continues to provide increased resources in the areas of advocacy, legislative services and education, business analytics and professional training. To that end, Swarbrick loaned Notre Dame senior associate athletics director **Jill Bodensteiner** to LEAD1 for a two-month stint at headquarters in Washington, D.C., during the summer of 2017. Bodensteiner's work included the creation of a comprehensive, five-year summary of issues facing intercollegiate athletics that will serve as a strategic plan for LEAD1 and the creation of content for a September 2017 annual convention that will include LEAD1 members and several members of the United States Congress.

02 Time management leads the NCAA legislative agenda

In January 2017, the 65 NCAA Division I institutions that are members of the five autonomy conferences (including Notre Dame as a member of the ACC) adopted comprehensive legislation to better manage time spent by student-athletes related to athletics participation. The time management package, effective, Aug. 1, 2017, increased the number of days off for all student-athletes (to a minimum of one day per week in season, two days per week out of season and 21 additional days throughout the academic year) and redefine a "day off" to include not just direct athletics events, such as practice and competition, but anything required and related to athletics. Swarbrick and Bodensteiner again demonstrated the potential of LEAD1 to add value to its members with the creation of comprehensive educational materials in the area of time management. The materials were created by the 20-plus members of the LEAD1 Time Management Working Group, spearheaded by Bodensteiner and Notre Dame assistant athletics director **Claire Leatherwood Slebonick**, and were ultimately provided to all LEAD1 members to assist in implementation of the complex legislation.

In addition to the time management legislation, NCAA Division I members adopted comprehensive football legislation designed to benefit football student-athletes and prospective student-athletes, primarily in the area of recruiting. The new legislation creates an early signing period in December (to complement the February signing period), mitigates the practice of hiring individuals associated with prospects as a means of attracting the prospect, limits the number of prospective student-athletes who can sign at an institution in any given year to 25, makes permissible official visits in April of a prospect's junior year and increased to 10 the number of countable assistant coaches each institution may employ.

The sport of lacrosse also took significant steps to improve recruiting. The NCAA Division I members adopted new legislation designed to delay the verbal commitments of prospective student-athletes in men's and women's lacrosse. Lacrosse, like many other sports, has developed a culture where prospects routinely commit to a university as freshmen in high school. The new legislation, which prohibits contact between coaches and lacrosse prospects prior to September 1 of the prospect's junior year in high school, could serve as a test case for similar legislation in other sports if it effectively eliminates "early recruiting."

FACILITIES

01 Notre Dame Stadium: even more an icon after all these years

Irish football facility continues tradition of campus integration

When the Knute Rockne-designed Notre Dame Stadium opened for business in the autumn of 1930, it was described as “a monument to sportsmanship, a tribute to fighting youth, and an amphitheater devoted to modern athletics.”

Eighty-seven years later, the newest version of the University’s home for football qualifies as all that and a whole lot more.

Long considered one of the most iconic athletic facilities in the world, Notre Dame Stadium in 2017 takes on a new role—not only as a centerpiece of the University’s campus and physical plant but also as one of the most effective combinations and commitments to athletics, academics and student life anywhere in major college sports. The stadium location now becomes a day-to-day destination for University students, faculty and staff—representing a perfect melding of old and new.

“The towering spire of the Church (the Basilica of the Sacred Heart) above the new wall, high as it is, carries with the cross at its top the higher purpose of Notre Dame to the surrounding campus. The golden Dome, surmounted by the figure of Our Lady, loses nothing through the ... new structure, but rather seems to include it in the embracing gesture of the holy hands No one can come to the new Stadium without absorbing ... this other, this deeper, Notre Dame.”

That quotation came from an editorial in the October 1930 Notre Dame Alumnus magazine—yet it couldn’t be more true today.

For nine decades Notre Dame Stadium has been home to national championship football teams, Heisman Trophy winners and All-Americans—and, in recent



years, to the University’s Commencement ceremony. Exactly 20 years ago, in 1997, it added 20,000 new seats to its resume. Now, in 2017, the stadium location includes three new structures on the east, west and south sides, as well as extensive renovations on the north end and major game day improvements for fans throughout the venue. Those upgrades include wider seats in the lower bowl, upgraded concession and restroom facilities, a 1930s Art Deco look to the main concourse, plus new displays at Gate C honoring Irish football award winners.

Duncan Student Center on the west side includes Hagerty Family Café, Hiller Midfield Commons, Innovation Lounge and several other new restaurants on the first floor; Grojean Family Loft, a student media center and climbing wall on the second floor; the Tripp and Sheila Smith Center for Recreational Sports on the third and fourth level; and the Meruelo Family Career Center on the fifth floor. Dahnke Ballroom is on the seventh level and Rasmus Family Club is on level eight. The ninth floor includes various football game management and University hospitality booths—while NBC Sports works from a new broadcast position on the seventh floor.

Corbett Family Hall on the east side includes the Rex and Alice Martin Digital Media Center and Notre Dame Studios on the first floor, Department of Anthropology facilities on the second floor and Depart-

ment of Psychology offices and classrooms on the third, fourth and fifth levels. Downes Club hospitality space is on the seventh and eighth floors—and the ninth level includes a press box and radio booths that opened in 2016, as well as additional hospitality areas.

O’Neill Hall on the south end is the home to the Department of Music and Notre Dame Sacred Music. It includes LaBar Family Performance and Rehearsal Halls on the first floor, Michuda Family Visiting Artist Rehearsal Hall as well as a lecture hall and music library on the third level and music departmental offices and practice rooms on the fourth and fifth levels. South Club hospitality space is on the fourth level.

The north end features a renovated Notre Dame locker room and Schiavarelli Lounge dedicated to game day recruiting, plus a new visiting team locker room and post-game media areas. The traditional tunnel entrance for the Irish squad has been redone to include additional brickwork—and there’s a new visiting team field entrance at the northeast corner of the field.

At the top of O’Neill Hall on the south end is a new Diamond Vision high-definition video board which is more than 54 feet high and more than 95 feet wide, with more than 4.7 million physical pixels.

Dedications were slated for Duncan Student Center Sept. 1, Corbett Family Hall Sept. 8 and O’Neill Hall Oct. 27.

01 New facilities



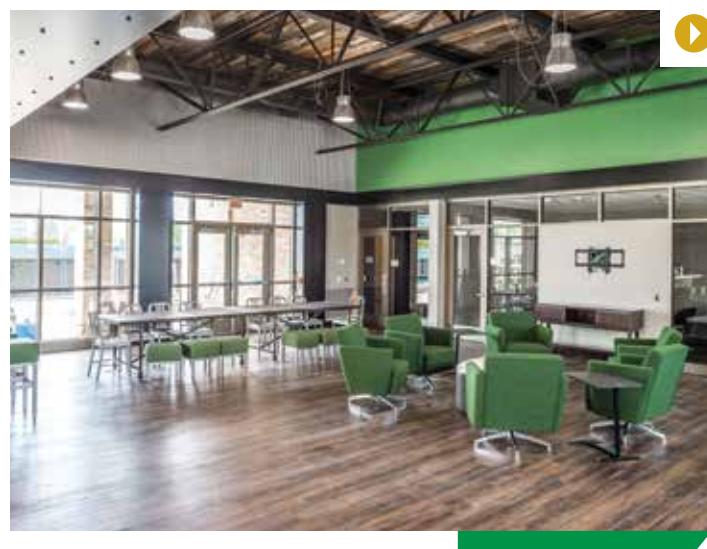
McConnell Family Boathouse

The McConnell Family Boathouse was dedicated on Sept. 9, 2016.



Harris Family Track & Field Stadium

Phase one of the Harris Family Track and Field Stadium was completed in 2017; phase two is now funded and will commence in the coming years.



Murphy Family Team Room

The Murphy Family Team Room was completed in June 2017.

HONORS AND AWARDS



01 Major ACC awards

The Atlantic Coast Conference presents a series of major awards to top performers in each of 27 sports—and in 2016–17 eight of those awards went to these individuals from Notre Dame:

Brianna Turner
Women's Basketball
Defensive Player of the Year

Anna Rohrer
Women's Cross Country
Performer of the Year

Axel Kiefer

Men's Fencing
Fencer of the Year in Foil

Ariel Simmons

Men's Fencing
Fencer of the Year in Epee

Lee Kiefer

Women's Fencing
Fencer of the Year in Foil

Francesca Russo

Women's Fencing
Fencer of the Year in Saber

Gia Kvaratskhelia

Women's Fencing
Coach of the Year

Jon Gallagher

Men's Soccer
Offensive Player of the Year

02 O.S.C.A.R.S.

Irish student-athletes, coaches and administrators gathered to celebrate their successes on the field, in the classroom and in the community the night after spring semester classes ended at the 16th annual O.S.C.A.R.S. (Outstanding Student-Athletes Celebrating Achievement & Recognition Showcase) at Purcell Pavilion. Here's a look at the 2016–17 Notre Dame O.S.C.A.R.S. award recipients:

BYRON V. KANALEY AWARD

Perhaps the most prestigious honor awarded to Notre Dame student-athletes, the Byron V. Kanaley Award has been presented since 1926 at commencement exercises. It goes to the senior monogram athletes who have been most exemplary as students and leaders, as selected by the Faculty Board of Athletics. The awards are named in honor of a 1904 Notre Dame graduate who was a member of the

Fighting Irish baseball team as an undergraduate.

Lee Kiefer
Fencing | Senior
Versailles, Kentucky
Kiefer made Notre Dame, collegiate, and American fencing history in 2017, becoming the first Irish student-athlete to win four individual national championships in the same event and just the third four-time champion in collegiate fencing history. On the national level, she became the first American women's foilist to earn a No. 1 world ranking by the International Fencing Federation. On top of her individual success, she helped lead the Irish fencing squads to the ninth national championship in program history in 2017. As a junior in 2015, she was named a first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American and the ACC Scholar-Athlete of the Year (repeating that honor in 2017).

Kaleigh Olmsted

Women's Soccer | Senior
The Woodlands, Texas

A three-year starter for the Irish, Olmsted capped her solid Notre Dame career with a four-goal, five-assist 2016 campaign and was named to the All-ACC first team, ACC All-Tournament Team and All-ACC Academic Team. A captain in 2016, Olmsted made her presence felt beyond the pitch as a two-time participant in Notre Dame's Rosenthal Leadership Academy and a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council. Olmsted was active in the community, working on her own fundraiser (called NoBody is Perfect) benefitting the National Eating Disorders Association.

Sergio Perkovic

Men's Lacrosse | Senior
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Perkovic in 2017 became the seventh player in program history to reach the 100-goal milestone and finished with the

most ever by a Notre Dame mid-fielder. He was a Tewaaraton Award nominee, Senior CLASS Award finalist, three-time first-team All-American, three-time All-ACC selection and a 2017 Weaver-James-Corigan Award recipient. Perkovic was one of the Irish team captains in 2017.

Monica Robinson

Women's Tennis | Senior
Valley Center, California
Robinson won 134 combined singles and doubles matches in her four years at Notre Dame, including a 73-48 record in singles. She ranked as high as 10th nationally in doubles, qualifying for the 2015 NCAA Doubles Championship while being named to the All-ACC third team that same season. In 2017, she was honored as an All-ACC second-team selection. Robinson was also a Rosenthal Leadership Academy participant and held a tri-captain spots in 2016-17.

YEAR IN REVIEW

FRANCIS PATRICK O'CONNOR AWARD

Notre Dame in 1993 began presenting the annual Francis Patrick O'Connor Award, named in honor of a former Notre Dame wrestler who died in 1973 following his freshman year at Notre Dame. The award is presented, upon nomination by their head coaches, to the student-athletes who best display the total embodiment of the true spirit of Notre Dame as exemplified by their contributions and inspiration to their teams.

Lindsay Allen

Women's Basketball | Senior
Mitchellville, Maryland

Allen set both Notre Dame and ACC records as a senior for single-season (282) and career (841) assists. She guided the Irish to a fourth-consecutive ACC regular-season title and a fourth straight ACC Championship crown, earning MVP honors at the ACC Championship with her event-record 33 assists. The three-time Nancy Lieberman Award finalist did not miss a start in her 149-game Irish career, during which time she led the team to a 139-10 record.

Eva Niklinska

Fencing | Senior
Granger, Indiana

Niklinska was a four-year starter and Monogram recipient as an epeeist on the Notre Dame women's fencing squad. With plans to head to medical school in 2017, she assembled a 4.00 cumulative GPA to go along with myriad research credits. She also has national and international volunteer experience to her credit, most notably her Handwritten Hearts organization, which she founded in 2011 to deliver handwritten letters and season gifts to patients in the oncology and renal wards at the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka, Indiana.

Cal Petersen

Hockey | Junior
Waterloo, Iowa

As a junior captain in 2016-17, Petersen led the Irish to their third NCAA Frozen Four

appearance in program history. One of five finalists for the 2017 Mike Richter Award, Petersen was selected to the NCAA Northeast Regional all-tournament team after posting wins over Minnesota and UMass Lowell. He finished the season with a 23-12-5 record to go with a 2.22 goals-against average, a .926 save percentage and six shutouts (tied for most in the country).

Monica Robinson

Women's Tennis | Senior
Valley Center, California

Robinson was a four-year starter for the Irish, working her way up the lineup until reaching the top singles and doubles spots in 2017. She served as a vice president of Pangborn Hall, was a Dream Team member with Madison Elementary School and was active with Fighting Irish Fight for Life. She also self-published her own children's book for her Spanish minor.

Steve Vasturia

Men's Basketball | Senior
Medford, New Jersey

Vasturia capped his career with the Irish as one of just two Notre Dame men's basketball players to score 1,400 points, dish out 300 assists and shoot 85 percent from the free-throw line, joining Chris Thomas. In 2016-17, he set the program single-season record for free-throw percentage (.91-100, .910) and finished second on the career free-throw percentage list (.853). In 2017 he was named to the ACC Championship all-tournament team (which he also made in 2015) and was an All-ACC honorable mention pick and a Jerry West Award finalist.

Karley Wester

Softball | Senior
Huntington Beach, California

Wester finished her senior campaign as arguably the most accomplished player to ever suit up for Notre Dame. A two-time National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-American (2014 and 2016), USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year finalist (2015 and 2016) and the 2014 ACC Fresh-

man of the Year and NFCA National Freshman of the Year Top 3 finalist, Wester was just the eighth two-time captain in Irish softball history (serving as the sixth solo captain in 2017).

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

This award was established to recognize the contributions of Notre Dame student-athletes to the University community and the community at-large, in terms of embodying the spirit of leadership, commitment and selflessness.

Kiley Adams

Women's Soccer | Senior
Edgewood, Washington

Adams joined the Irish as a sophomore goalkeeper after playing two seasons with the Notre Dame women's soccer club team. She was involved in several advanced research initiatives and was an advocate for environmental issues. She was a researcher and volunteer at the Multicare Good Samaritan Hospital Children's Therapy Unit from 2009-15, a TOPsoccer "buddy" coach for kids with special needs from 2011-14, an early intervention special educator at Vidya Saga in Chennai, India, during the summers of 2015 and 2016, a NICU and pediatric therapy volunteer at the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center and a member of the Washington Trails Association, a hiking group that advocates for environmental issues.

Anders Bjork

Hockey | Junior
Mequon, Wisconsin

Bjork posted a career-high 52 points on 21 goals and 31 assists in 2016-17. While also spending a great deal of time volunteering at nearby Perley Fine Arts Academy on a weekly basis, he became the second player in NCAA hockey history to be a Hobey Baker Top 10 finalist and a Hockey Humanitarian Award finalist in the same season. He had six game-winning goals in 2016-17, tied for fifth in the country. He was named the NCAA Northeast Regional Most Outstanding Player. Skating in 115 career games, Bjork scored

40 goals and added 69 assists for 109 points, ranking tied for 42nd on Notre Dame's career points list.

Dana Bouquet

Softball | Senior
Santa Maria, California

Bouquet was a three-time ACC Academic Honor Roll recipient and was a pivotal member of Irish softball's sweep of the Trophy Award during her four-year Irish career. In addition to all Notre Dame softball's community service initiatives, including the annual Strikeout Cancer event that helped raise in excess of \$200,000 to directly benefit pediatric cancer patients, Bouquet traveled to the Dominican Republic over her 2016 fall break for a service trip at a local school and orphanage.

Jane Fennelly

Women's Tennis | Senior
Rathmines, Ireland

Fennelly was a solid contributor to the Irish lineup after arriving on campus, most notably in doubles where she amassed a 47-37 record. To her credit are many hours volunteering with Fighting Irish Fight for Life, Habitat for Humanity, This Counts, South Bend Center for the Homeless, Dream Team, Perley Fine Arts Academy, Bingo Night at Creekside Village Nursing Home, Notre Dame tennis clinics and the Growth Learning Center. She is a public relations manager for Love Your Melon, a non-profit that sells apparel to raise money for cancer research.

Tyler Newsome

Football | Junior
Carrollton, Georgia

A two-year Monogram winner and starting punter, Newsome ranks second in school history with a career average of 44.0 yards per punt. He captured the Irish Around the Bend Award at the 2016 Echoes, an award given to the Irish football player who best serves the community. Newsome received the ACC's Top Six for Service Award in 2016, presented annually to six student-athletes from each conference institution who show outstanding dedication

to community service and outreach programs. He has volunteered with these football community events: Football 101, Roofsit 2016, Lift for Life, Chicago Backpack Donation, Football Service Friday, Make-A-Wish, Food Bank of Northern Indiana, Halloween Party, Saint Mary's Kids Christmas, Shop-With-A-Player and South Bend Center for the Homeless.

TROPHY AWARD

The Trophy Award was established in 2006 to recognize the team that has demonstrated a commitment to community through its unparalleled service to Notre Dame, as well as South Bend and surrounding communities. The Trophy Award is sponsored by the Notre Dame

Monogram Club and the Notre Dame Alumni Association.

Softball

This marked the sixth time in seven years the Notre Dame softball team claimed the Trophy Award, including five straight academic years dating back to 2013. Irish softball has become a mainstay for this honor due to the program's ever-growing Strikeout Cancer initiative held each April. Through proceeds from the annual Strikeout Cancer series and trivia night, Notre Dame softball has raised more than \$200,000 to directly benefit pediatric cancer patients since 2011.

TOP GUN AWARD

The Top Gun Award is given annually to the Notre Dame graduating senior student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average.

Eva Niklinska

Fencing | Senior
Granger, Indiana

Niklinska has assembled a 4.00 cumulative GPA to go along with myriad research credits. She also has national and international volunteer experience to her credit, most notably her own HandwrittenHearts organization, which she founded in 2011 to deliver handwritten letters and season gifts to patients in the oncology and renal wards at the

Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka, Indiana.

CHUCK LINSTER AWARD

The Chuck Linster Award is given annually to a senior member of Notre Dame's cheerleading, student manager or student athletic trainers programs who has the highest grade-point average.

Daniel Brndjar

Men's Basketball Manager

Senior

Allentown, Pennsylvania

A four-year manager for men's basketball, Brndjar posted a 3.971 cumulative GPA with a double major in theology and applied computational math and statistics.

03 McGraw joins Naismith Hall of Fame

A sterling coaching resume that includes 853 wins, a national championship and three consensus national coach of the year honors received its capstone in April as Notre Dame's Karen and Kevin Keyes Family head women's basketball coach **Muffet McGraw** was named a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame's Class of 2017.

Compiling a career record of 853-227 (.771), McGraw is the sixth-winningest female coach in women's basketball history and 10th overall. Her 765 wins at Notre Dame alone make her one of just four female coaches to win 750 games at the same school. She is the winningest single-sport coach in Notre Dame athletic history.

A 2011 inductee in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, McGraw's tenure is highlighted by the 2001 national championship, seven Final Fours, 15 Sweet 16s and 24 NCAA Championship berths (including an active run of 22 in a row). Notre Dame's run of five consecutive Final Four trips from 2011-15 ties for the second longest streak in women's college basketball history.

She is one of just six college coaches (men's or women's) to win 800 games, appear in seven



Final Fours and five national championship games, standing among the elite ranks of Pat Summitt, Geno Auriemma, Dean Smith, Mike Krzyzewski and Roy Williams.

McGraw is the first Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee from the Irish women's program and the seventh from the school overall. Among the six on the men's side is former Notre Dame director of athletics **Edward "Moose" Krause** who elevated the women's program to varsity status in 1977.

Hall of Fame induction weekend is set for Sept. 7-8, 2017, in Springfield, Massachusetts.

04 Team GPA award

This award is presented annually to the Notre Dame varsity athletics program that registers the highest combined grade-point average during each of the preceding two semesters, as well as overall during that two-semester span.

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer program led the athletic department with the highest average GPA over the last two semesters, posting a cumulative 3.496 mark.

Three Irish Teams in Brackets

Notre Dame was the only institution to earn spots in the 2017 NCAA Championship brackets for men's basketball, women's basketball and men's ice hockey. That marked the sixth time all three Irish teams have made NCAA brackets in the same year. It also happened in 2007, 2008 (the hockey team advanced to the NCAA title game), 2011 (hockey advanced to the Frozen Four and women's basketball played in the NCAA title game), 2013 (the women's basketball squad played in the NCAA national semifinals) and 2016 (the men's basketball squad advanced to an NCAA regional final).

MARKETING

01 Notre Dame introduces new pricing model for football tickets

Notre Dame is implementing tiered pricing for home game football tickets beginning with the 2017 season, creating greater access and affordability for many fans, while increasing prices for the most desirable seats. The University historically had charged the same price for all tickets to football games, with fans in the end zone paying the same as those on the 50-yard line. The new structure, which offers eight price points for publicly available seats ranging from \$45 to \$250 depending on location and the opponent, is commonly used in college and professional athletics as well as at venues for plays, concerts and other performances.

An annual gift to the University per ticket to gain access to season tickets varies by seat location. The pricing changes are revenue neutral, meaning income derived from ticket sales in the stadium bowl in 2017 and 2018 will be the same as it was in 2016.

Upgrades to seating and other new amenities within the stadium will result in an improved fan experience for those attending home football games. The enhancements to the stadium include:

- ➡ Replacement of wooden bench seats in the lower bowl with galvanized steel clad in dark blue vinyl and a widening from 16 to 18 inches to match those in the upper bowl.
- ➡ Wi-Fi throughout the stadium.



➡ Significantly improved cell service.

➡ Fully renovated and historically themed concourses celebrating the original Notre Dame Stadium, as well as new way-finding signage and decorative lighting.

➡ A 96-by-54-feet HD video board for live game action, replays, celebratory moments in Notre Dame's history and information about various University initiatives and achievements (there will be no advertising).

➡ Nearly 150 video monitors placed at various locations throughout the concourses, including on concession stand façades.

➡ Renovated restrooms on the upper and lower concourses.

➡ Ribbon boards 3 3/4-feet high running the length of Corbett Family Hall on the east side of the stadium and Duncan Student Center on the west for game information, including clock, score, down and distance.

➡ Renovated concession-stand exteriors with new portable stands and a refreshed concession menu.

➡ A new audio system with concert-quality sound.

In addition, a tunnel has been added to the northeast corner of the lower bowl for visiting teams, and, to improve player and spectator safety, seating for the Notre Dame Marching Band has been relocated from the field to the student section. All other field seating also has been removed.

The enhancements to the stadium led to an examination of the University's overall ticket pricing structure for all fans in order to both broaden access to Notre Dame football—especially for young alumni and families—and to place the appropriate value on stadium seating based on bowl location.

The new model offers eight bench seat price points—four in the lower bowl and four in the upper—with many fans in the end zones and corners seeing a reduction in the cost of season tickets and fans on the sidelines seeing an increase. As has been the practice for several years, tickets are priced at three levels based on the opponent.

Season ticket members receive several new benefits,

including free parking in White Field, free entry to all general admission sporting events, Blue-Gold Game tickets and merchandise discounts. Access to purchase away, bowl and Shamrock Series game tickets will continue. Season tickets for 2017 include seven games (there is no Shamrock Series game) but are priced for six games. There will be no increase in ticket prices for the 2018 season. The student season ticket price for 2017 decreased by \$5.



02 Notre Dame and Vivid join ranks

Notre Dame and Chicago-based Vivid Seats, a nationally recognized technology and industry leader in the secondary ticketing space, have formed a partnership that offers Irish fans cutting-edge technology solutions when buying and selling tickets for all Irish athletic events.

Under the partnership, Vivid Seats became the official ticket marketplace of the Fighting Irish. In this capacity, Vivid Seats leverages its leadership in facilitating secondary ticket transactions on behalf of Irish fans everywhere. For the first time, Notre Dame fans now have a safe and secure destination to buy and sell their tickets on the secondary market.

Expanding beyond the traditional secondary ticketing partnership, Notre Dame and Vivid Seats collaborated in 2017 to launch the Notre Dame Ticket Exchange powered by Vivid Seats, a uniquely Notre Dame marketplace that serves as the hub for Irish fans to buy and sell tickets. The Notre Dame Ticket Exchange utilizes Vivid Seats' best-in-class e-commerce technology to accurately and efficiently process the hundreds of thousands of transactions expected through the platform.

Every confirmed transaction is covered by Vivid Seats and Notre Dame with a 100 percent buyer guarantee that assures an on-time delivery of authentic tickets to fans or their money back. Notre Dame fans receive VIP customer service, 365 days per year and can access the marketplace at und.com/ticketexchange, by visiting vividseats.com or by calling the Vivid Seats' concierge line at 844-224-5240.

Among a number of innovative features coming with the creation of the Notre Dame Ticket Exchange are blended primary and secondary ticket listings so Irish fans can choose from the full universe of locations and prices that are available. Fans still know when they are buying a ticket from Notre Dame or another fan, and they won't need to search multiple sites. Additionally, Notre Dame season ticket holders and participants in the Notre Dame football ticket lottery receive special access, incentives and rewards for utilizing the Notre Dame Ticket Exchange.

The creation of the Notre Dame Ticket Exchange was part of a much larger technology transformation in the Notre Dame ticket office. A renewed focus on the fan experience led to dramatic enhancements in the season ticket renewal and football ticket lottery application processes for the 2017 season. Additionally, Notre Dame is undertaking an ambitious mobile initiative that aims to deliver all ticket management functionality, which includes buying, selling, transferring and donating your tickets, in a native mobile application.

03 Big Ten hockey up next

Notre Dame's first season playing hockey in the Big Ten Conference will feature Irish home games in 2017-18 at the Compton Family Ice Arena against Michigan (Jan. 7, Feb. 16), Michigan State (Feb. 23-24), Minnesota (Nov. 24-25), Ohio State (Feb. 9-10), Penn State (Nov. 10-11) and Wisconsin (Jan. 19). All three rounds of the Big Ten Men's Hockey Tournament will be held at campus sites (higher seeded teams are hosts), with best-of-three quarterfinals March 2-4, single-elimination semifinals March 10 and the title game March 17.

04 250th straight sellout at Notre Dame Stadium

Two dates in Notre Dame football history qualified as relatively unremarkable in most respects:

➡ On Nov. 14, 1964—late in Ara Parseghian's first year as Irish head coach—top-ranked and unbeaten Notre Dame sold out its 34-7 victory over Michigan State at Notre Dame Stadium. The official attendance that afternoon came in at 59,265—back in the days when Notre Dame still used turnstile counts to track spectator numbers. (That policy changed two years later in 1966 when the University began using 59,075 as the consistent sold-out figure.) Yet that figure was hardly a surprise considering the Spartans routinely played to capacity audiences at Notre Dame Stadium (and before that at Cartier Field).

➡ Nearly a decade later, on Sept. 26, 1974, Purdue took advantage of two early Irish turnovers at Notre Dame Stadium, built a 24-0 lead before the first period was over and held on to defeat the defending national champion Irish 31-20. The attendance figure came in at the customary 59,075.

What's noteworthy about those two contests? They serve as

bookends of sorts for Notre Dame's remarkable string of home sellouts that reached 250 in a row (and a just-as-amazing 298 of 299) in 2016 against Nevada.

The 1964 game marked the first of nearly 50 sellouts in succession at Notre Dame Stadium. The huge success during the Parseghian era seriously began the conversation suggesting Irish home football tickets were going to be hard to find. The lone blip came in the final home game of the 1973 national championship season. The contest against Air Force, originally set for a Saturday, was moved to Thanksgiving Day at the request of ABC Sports. That meant the game was not included as part of the student season-ticket package—and the end result was that "only" 57,236 fans (about 2,000 short of capacity) showed up to see the Irish thrash the Falcons 48-15. So that first home game of 1974 against Purdue qualified as the beginning of the current streak that hit the 250 mark against Temple. In its own way, it counts as one of the more remarkable streaks in Irish athletic history.

05 Notre Dame/ACC football games for 2026–37 official

Notre Dame football games against Atlantic Coast Conference opponents from the 2026 season through the 2037 campaign are now official. Notre Dame and the ACC in May announced 60 additional games (30 home, 30 away) between the Irish and ACC programs—with Notre Dame slated to continue to play five contests per season versus league members.

The 30 home dates at Notre Dame Stadium feature two games each against 12 teams and three each against Florida State and Miami. The 30 road games include two each against a dozen opponents and three each at Clemson and Louisville. The 12-year slate includes two Labor Day Monday night road contests—Aug. 30, 2031, at Clemson and Sept. 1, 2036, at Virginia Tech. Here is the complete schedule (other dates to be announced later):

2026

1. at North Carolina
2. VIRGINIA
3. LOUISVILLE
4. at Florida State
5. SYRACUSE

2032

1. FLORIDA STATE
2. at Georgia Tech
3. LOUISVILLE
4. at Miami
5. WAKE FOREST

2027

1. GEORGIA TECH
2. at Wake Forest
3. at Duke
4. VIRGINIA TECH
5. at Clemson

2033

1. at Duke
2. PITTSBURGH
3. at Boston College
4. VIRGINIA TECH
5. at Louisville

2028

1. BOSTON COLLEGE
2. at Pittsburgh
3. MIAMI
4. at Virginia Tech
5. CLEMSON

2034

1. SYRACUSE
2. at Pittsburgh
3. at Miami
4. CLEMSON
5. VIRGINIA

2029

1. WAKE FOREST
2. at North Carolina State
3. at Syracuse
4. GEORGIA TECH
5. at Florida State

2035

1. at Virginia
2. BOSTON COLLEGE
3. at Louisville
4. DUKE
5. at North Carolina State

2030

1. at Boston College
2. NORTH CAROLINA
3. at Louisville
4. FLORIDA STATE
5. DUKE

2036

1. Sept. 1 at Virginia Tech (Labor Day Monday night)
2. PITTSBURGH
3. FLORIDA STATE
4. at Georgia Tech
5. NORTH CAROLINA

2031

1. Aug. 30 at Clemson (Labor Day Monday night)
2. MIAMI
3. at Virginia
4. at North Carolina
5. NORTH CAROLINA STATE

2037

1. at Clemson
2. NORTH CAROLINA STATE
3. at Syracuse
4. MIAMI
5. at Wake Forest



Here is a grid that shows when each ACC team plays Notre Dame:

Opponent	at Notre Dame Stadium	at ACC Site
Boston College	2028, 2035	2030, 2033
Clemson	2028, 2034	2027, 2031 (Labor Day), 2037
Duke	2030, 2035	2027, 2033
Florida State	2030, 2032, 2036	2026, 2029
Georgia Tech	2027, 2029	2032, 2036
Louisville	2026, 2032	2030, 2033, 2035
Miami	2028, 2031, 2037	2032, 2034
North Carolina	2030, 2036	2026, 2031
North Carolina State	2031, 2037	2029, 2035
Pittsburgh	2033, 2036	2028, 2034
Syracuse	2026, 2034	2029, 2037
Virginia	2026, 2034	2031, 2035
Virginia Tech	2027, 2033	2028, 2036 (Labor Day)
Wake Forest	2029, 2032	2027, 2037

06 Notre Dame announces 2018 and 2019 schedules

Notre Dame's 2018 and 2019 football schedules are now official:

2018	Date	Opponent	2019	Date	Opponent
Sept. 1		MICHIGAN	Sept. 2		at Louisville
Sept. 8		BALL STATE	Sept. 7		Bye Week
Sept. 15		VANDERBILT	Sept. 14		NEW MEXICO
Sept. 22		at Wake Forest	Sept. 21		at Georgia
Sept. 29		STANFORD	Sept. 28		VIRGINIA
Oct. 6		at Virginia Tech	Oct. 5		BOWLING GREEN
Oct. 13		PITTSBURGH	Oct. 12		USC
Oct. 20		Bye Week	Oct. 19		Bye Week
Oct. 27		Navy (San Diego)	Oct. 26		at Michigan
Nov. 3		at Northwestern	Nov. 2		VIRGINIA TECH
Nov. 10		FLORIDA STATE	Nov. 9		at Duke
Nov. 17		SYRACUSE	Nov. 16		NAVY
Nov. 24		at USC	Nov. 23		BOSTON COLLEGE
			Nov. 30		at Stanford

One home game in either 2018 or 2019 may be relocated to an off-campus site as part of Notre Dame's Shamrock Series scheduling initiative.

07 Attendance notes

► Irish teams in women's basketball and men's lacrosse ranked in the top 10 nationally in 2016-17 in average attendance. Football ranked in the top 15. Men's soccer and hockey stood in the top 20. Women's soccer and women's lacrosse finished in the top 30.

► Notre Dame teams in football, hockey, and men's and women's basketball all averaged at least 90 percent of capacity in terms of attendance.

► Irish teams in hockey, men's lacrosse and women's basketball all rated in the top 10 in percent of capacity, with football in the top 12.

MEDIA

01 Fighting Irish Media wins for Signing Day show

Fighting Irish Media in June was honored for its 2017 football signing day show at the ninth annual College Sports Media Awards at the Sports Video Group College Sports Summit in Atlanta. FIM returned to the CSMA stage for its seven-hour live production of Notre Dame Football Signing Day (in the Outstanding Live Non-Game Production Category, Collegiate Athletics Division) after winning its first trophy in 2016. CSMA winners and finalists are selected by a blue-ribbon panel of industry peers and celebrate the best in college sports video production.

02 NBC accounts for \$100 million for Notre Dame financial aid

Notre Dame's two-and-a-half-decade relationship with NBC Sports to televise Irish home football games has resulted in more than \$100 million being allocated from contract revenues to University financial aid. Athletics has contributed in excess of \$4 million per year of revenue from the NBC Sports agreement to the University's financial aid program. NBC began televising Notre Dame home games in 1991, and the 2015-16 school year pushed the overall figure past the \$100 million mark for the first time in terms of actual undergraduate scholarship dollars dispensed. There have been 6,899 students who have benefited from scholarship awards owing to the NBC relationship—with \$103,323,144 in actual aid received over 25 years. The University also has used NBC contract revenue to endow doctoral fellowships in the Graduate School and for MBA scholarships in the Mendoza College of Business. The Notre Dame-NBC partnership and resulting financial aid contributions were recognized during the 2016 Notre Dame-Michigan State football game at Notre Dame Stadium.

03 Fighting Irish Media wins Emmy

Fighting Irish Media added to its collection of award hardware in 2016, picking up a pair of statuettes at the 58th Annual Chicago/Midwest Regional Emmy Awards presented by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

FIM earned awards for Outstanding Achievement for Sports Programs-Program Series for "Onward Notre Dame: Mutual Respect"—which traced the history of the Notre Dame-Navy football series—as well as for Outstanding Crafts Achievement Off-Air: Writer-Short Form, awarded to former FIM producer **Javi Zubizarreta**.

"Onward Notre Dame" is a documentary series developed by FIM that chronicles the rich stories of Notre Dame football, past and present. The first show premiered in 2012, a production of NFL Films, and was recently redesigned when FIM took over production in 2015.

Zubizarreta, a 2011 Notre Dame alumnus who earned his bachelor's degree in film, television and theatre, was awarded the Emmy for his work on the Notre Dame Football Primers during the 2015 season. The videos evolved over the season, becoming a quick hit on the themes and relevance of the week's game.

04 CoSIDA writing awards

Notre Dame senior associate athletics director and Fighting Irish Media executive editor **John Heisler** received a best-in-the-nation plaque for his story "Counsell, Murphy Continue Their Three-Decade 'Conversation'"—an in-depth look at former Irish baseball captain and current Milwaukee Brewers manager **Craig Counsell** and his former Notre Dame head coach **Pat Murphy**, now the Brewers' bench coach. The story was rated No. 1 in the nation in the story-with-video category of the CoSIDA Writing Contest.

Another print piece authored by Heisler—"Anatomy of a Victory," based on spending game day on the football sidelines and in the locker room at the 2016 Notre Dame-Syracuse football game—was named best in the district in the event coverage category.

06 Fighting Irish Media: By the numbers in 2016-17

- ➡ Total video views on all platforms increased 28.15 percent from the previous year (2015-16). On-demand viewing improved 30.06 percent.
- ➡ Social media impressions increased 23.95 percent.
- ➡ Notre Dame is the first university with two team Twitter accounts of 500,000 or more followers (football and men's basketball).
- ➡ Notre Dame has the third-highest YouTube subscriber base among university athletic departments.
- ➡ Notre Dame is the second school with four Twitter accounts of 100,000 or more followers (football and men's basketball and the Brian Kelly and Fighting Irish accounts).
- ➡ Notre Dame has 17 Twitters accounts in the top 25 in their respective categories.
- ➡ Notre Dame is one of six schools with a top-25 social media account in Twitter, Facebook, Vine, Instagram, YouTube and Pinterest.
- ➡ Unique visitors to UND.com increased 33.73 percent compared to a year ago. Unique visitors to WatchND.tv increased 66.8 percent.
- ➡ Time listened/viewed (hours) improved 36.54 percent in terms of live digital audio and WatchND live events (men's and women's basketball, hockey and volleyball games).
- ➡ Men's basketball produced 1,896,142 Facebook views, 82 percent from one video featuring Irish guard **Matt Farrell**. Men's basketball also merited 2,510,291 Twitter views, 73 percent from that same Farrell video.

05 Four top-rated Irish events

Notre Dame qualified as the only school in the country to have multiple football and men's basketball games rank among the top 50 most-watched sporting events in 2016 outside of the National Football League and the 2016 Summer Olympic Games, according to figures compiled by Sports Media Watch.

Notre Dame had four events rank among the top 50—two football games and two men's basketball contests. Of those 50 events, 16 were college football games and seven were men's college basketball contests.

Alabama led all institutions with five appearances (all football), while Ohio State had four (all football). The only programs with more than Notre Dame's two men's basketball appearances were Villanova and North Carolina (three each).

Here are the Irish events that made the top 50:

29th: Notre Dame vs. Texas	6.4 rating	10.95 million viewers	ABC	(2016 Irish regular-season football opener on Sunday night)
35th: Notre Dame vs. North Carolina	5.8 rating	10.11 million viewers	TBS	(2016 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Elite Eight game)
38th: Notre Dame vs. Ohio State	5.6 rating	9.76 million viewers	ESPN	(2016 Fiesta Bowl)
50th: Notre Dame vs. S.F. Austin	5.4 rating	8.39 million viewers	CBS	(2016 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship second round game)

06 Irish-Longhorn rating

Notre Dame-Texas on ABC (10,945,000 viewers on Sept. 4) ranked as the third most-watched game on television of the 2016 college football regular season. ESPN streamed its four most-watched regular-season games in 2017 and Notre Dame-Texas (194,000 on Sept. 4) rated fourth.



MENDELSON FUND

For a decade, the Mendelson Fund for Athletics Excellence has provided incremental dollars and non-budgeted funding for Notre Dame's Olympic sports programs. The fund generates annual income to assist Irish coaches in supporting the development of their athletes and ultimately increasing the visibility of their programs. The fund's market value stands at more than **\$2.9 million**. These were projects approved in 2016-17:

MENDELSON FUND

OCTOBER 2016 APPROVED ITEMS

MEN'S TENNIS.....\$7,272

Norma Tec PULSE Recovery (2)

Provides intermittent pneumatic compression recovery

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING\$23,675

Fusion Smart Speed Timing System

To be used for both women's and men's teams

SPORTS PERFORMANCE\$25,000

2 x FD4000 unilateral force plate systems with associated ForeDecks propriety software

Technology system used to monitor and assess force-velocity metrics central to athletic performance.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE.....\$11,110

Fiber cable for camera project

Fiber cable

MEN'S SOCCER.....\$7,365

Hawk Grips/Stim Machine

Hawk Grips-soft tissue mobilization; stim machine-deep tissue repair

MENDELSON FUND

MAY 2017 APPROVED ITEMS

SPORTS MEDICINE.....\$37,170

PULSE Recovery Package Standard*

PULSE Full Body Recovery Package Standard*

PULSE Lower Body Recovery Package Standard*

PULSE Recovery Package Short*

PULSE Leg & Arm Recovery Package Standard*

PULSE Short Boot Set*

PULSE Recovery Package Tall

PULSE Carry Case

NormaTec Zero Gravity Chair

*Equipment to aid in the athletic recovery for student-athletes providing efficient and effective steps in their recovery process.

BASEBALL\$24,000

Trackman including installation and extended lease

Provides volumes of data on pitchers and hitters.

VOLLEYBALL\$725

Vertec

Tests the height of players' jumps

MEN'S LACROSSE.....\$9,262

Insight Replay Video System

Provides coaching staff with immediate replays of practices and games providing instant feedback to players.

MEN'S SOCCER\$5,364

MacBook Pro Computers (2) and Apple Care

Upgraded computers will be used for video processing and editing.

MONOGRAM CLUB

01 100th anniversary celebration

The Notre Dame Monogram Club's 100th anniversary celebration culminated Oct. 28-29 during the Notre Dame-Miami football weekend. The club welcomed back its membership to take part in a variety of activities and events on and around campus.

Friday evening featured the club's official 100th anniversary celebration reception at Notre Dame Stadium. The club welcomed hundreds of members and guests to the marquee event, which took place inside a transformed and enhanced Knute Rockne Gate at the North Tunnel. The festive atmosphere set the tone for the weekend and provided a unique fellowship opportunity for many individuals who have been key figures in the club's rich history.

On Saturday morning, members of the Monogram Club board of directors took part in service opportunities at the Food Bank of Northern Indiana and the Habitat for Humanity house build that was sponsored by Notre Dame athletics.

Later that day members gathered at the club's pregame reception inside the Monogram Room. **Justice Alan Page** (1967/football), the Monogram Club's Edward "Moose" Krause Distinguished Service Award recipient, was the featured speaker. Club membership then ventured to Notre Dame Stadium to form the tunnel the current Irish team ran through prior to its victory over the Hurricanes.

Following the game, the club held its annual Mass and meeting inside the Monogram Room. At the annual meeting, the club officially welcomed its three new directors: **Jes Christian** (2014/track & field), **Jeff Faine** (2003/football) and **Jennette Rauch** (2005/athletic trainer). The Monogram Club was honored to have Notre Dame president emeritus and club member **Rev. Edward A. "Monk" Malloy, C.S.C.** (1963, '67, '69/basketball) celebrate the Mass along with Monogram Club chaplain **Rev. Mark Thesing, C.S.C.** (1981, '85, '92).

02 Inaugural Jesse Harper Award presented to Jim Gibbons

In honor of its 100th anniversary, the Monogram Club established the Jesse Harper Award and its first recipient was **Jim Gibbons** (1953/baseball, basketball), a longtime member of the University community. The award recognizes Monogram Club members who have demonstrated a committed involvement with the Notre Dame athletics department and University throughout their professional lives. Gibbons was presented the award in November.



03 Justice Alan Page receives Moose Krause Award

During the 100th anniversary celebration weekend, the Monogram Club presented its highest honor, the Edward "Moose" Krause Distinguished Service Award, to **Justice Alan Page**. The presentation took place during a luncheon inside Club Naimoli, and Page also was honored on the field during the football team's showdown with Miami. Page, a member of both the College Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame, was selected as the award's recipient for his work on the Minnesota Supreme Court and in establishing the Page Education Foundation.

04 Stayer Center partnership

As a way to increase the impact of the Monogram Career Network, the Monogram Club developed a partnership with the Stayer Center for Executive Education at the Mendoza College of Business. This unique relationship provides active Monogram Club members with a discounted rate for non-degree professional development programs delivered both on campus

and online. The programs can benefit Monogram winners seeking to develop skills and knowledge for their current careers, as well as those transitioning to a new profession, whether from another industry or following a professional sports/Olympics career.



05 Scholarships

The Monogram Club awarded its postgraduate scholarships to **Eva Niklinska** (fencing) and **Evan Panken** (soccer). During their outstanding Notre Dame careers Niklinska and Panken each won a national championship, were Dean's List students and contributed mightily to the community. This marked the ninth year the Monogram Club awarded a postgraduate scholarship—a nonrenewable grant of \$5,000 to attend graduate school—to one male and one female monogram winner. Since the scholarship's inception, the Monogram Club has awarded \$90,000 to the recipients.

The Monogram Club's Brennan-Boland-Riehle Scholarship Fund continued to provide financial assistance to Notre Dame students who are the sons and daughters of monogram winners. Since its inception in 1980, the scholarship has issued over \$5 million to more than 300 Notre Dame students.

06 Honorary monograms

The Monogram Club awarded honorary monograms to **Rev. John Conley, C.S.C.** (1973, 1977), **Joe Mendelson**, **Tony Rolinski** and **Martin Stone**.

- ➡ Conley is the Notre Dame hockey team chaplain and has served as rector of Siegfried Hall for 20 years.
- ➡ Mendelson established the Joseph T. Mendelson Endowment for Athletics Excellence, which provides funding so that Notre Dame's Olympic sport programs can enhance their high-performance technology capabilities.
- ➡ Rolinski has been a member of the Notre Dame strength and conditioning staff since 1998 and currently works directly with the men's basketball and hockey programs.
- ➡ Stone is the only head coach in the 19-year history of the Irish rowing program.

08 Celebrating success

The Monogram Club continued its tradition of recognizing success of current Irish teams by bestowing conference championship rings, team MVP awards and postseason gifts. The club annually allocates more than \$72,000 for those items.

The Monogram Club also recognized one of Notre Dame's most storied teams. The club and the Notre Dame athletics department welcomed back the 1966 national championship football team for its 50th reunion celebration, which took place the weekend of the Notre Dame-Michigan State home football game in September.

07 The Club around the country

The Monogram Club hosted a variety of receptions and Monogram Career Networking events throughout the United States. Stops included New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta, San Antonio, Indianapolis and Austin, Texas.

Additionally, through the Monogram Club's team hosting program, Notre Dame teams were able to take advantage of unique cultural opportunities while traveling for competition. Some excursions in 2016-17 included trips to the Georgia Aquarium for the swimming and diving and track & field teams while they were competing in Atlanta—and the cheerleading squad visited Disneyland while in California for the football team's game against USC.

SPORT PERFORMANCE

One of Notre Dame's primary objectives is to support and improve athletic performance through the application of science, medicine and technology. Central to this is a philosophy that aims to create systems and structures to maximize the impact of technical expertise, environments, technology and service delivery on an athlete's ability to optimize performance. Sport performance staff members are empowered to gain insights through athlete monitoring and profiling that allow implementation of valuable interventions. Here are details of key 2016-17 initiatives:

- ➡ Establishment of the Mastrovich Fund for Sports Science as the first of its kind at the University, facilitating research and academic initiatives between the College of Science and Notre Dame athletics that utilize scientific expertise to understand and improve the performance and well-being of Irish student-athletes. The annual funding is being utilized to launch sports performance analytics research projects between the Department of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics (ACMS) in the College of Science and the sports performance team in athletics. Working closely with **Alan Huebner** (assistant teaching professor and director of undergraduate studies in ACMS) and **Jordan Webb** (head of sport science/strength and conditioning coach in athletics), undergraduate students in the College of Science are applying data analytics to the massive data sets generated by sport performance technology to identify opportunities to enhance the performance, health and well-being of Notre Dame student-athletes. Two College of Science undergraduate students began their research fellowships in June 2017.
- ➡ Partnering with Australian Catholic University and securing two exercise science students to serve as interns with Notre Dame's strength and conditioning team.
- ➡ Continuing the valuable partnership with the Under Armour Athlete Performance Team on product innovation testing and performance technology exploration.
- ➡ Adding DARI as the newest technology central to our sports science portfolio. DARI, a markerless motion capture system used to generate "movement blueprints" for every athlete, was completed during the academic year. These reports accurately direct efforts for each individual to minimize injury and enhance performance.
- ➡ Establishment of the Class of 1966 Pete Duranko Fund for Student-Athlete Safety in the fall of 2015. That enabled **Dr. Matt Leiszler**, football team physician, and **Rob Hunt**, director of athletic training and rehabilitation, to make use of these elements:
 - C3Logix concussion baseline and evaluation platform, neuro-cognitive assessment of concussion.
 - EyeSync eye movement tracking device for concussion evaluation.
 - Portable wireless electroencephalogram (EEG) device—used primarily in conjunction with transcranial magnetic stimulation, while also exploring potential research possibilities with faculty on campus.
- ➡ CoachMePlus, an app-based platform now providing the sports performance staff with the opportunity to centralize collected data. The system enables athletes to report data on a daily or scheduled basis as well as provides the opportunity to visualize and report that information to sports performance team members, coaches and athletes.
- ➡ Wellness questionnaire data (the majority of Irish teams, including football, now collect and assess), enables understanding of what is impacting athletes on a day-to-day basis, how they are coping with stress and how they are recovering and adapting to training on a day-to-day/week-to-week basis.
- ➡ RPE (Rating of Perceived Exertion) data collected across four sports. RPE is the athlete rating for each session completed, whether it be practice, games (competition), strength and conditioning or rehab sessions. With this information, training loads are developed for given sessions based on the athletes' perception of the difficulty of the session.
- ➡ Five teams acquired the latest heart rate monitoring technology to monitor athletes' internal load, or response to training, and inform staff about physiological demands placed on athletes. The goal is to understand what it costs an athlete to perform a specific effort.
- ➡ Strength and conditioning staff use of Catapult (GPS) provided objective external load data. Used across seven teams, including football, it provides an understanding of each sport and the physical demands required of it, then links those details to practice plans. The aim is to assist coaches in planning practice sessions, to ensure optimal performance in games, and to enable appropriate levels of training stress for athletes. Catapult also monitors physical performance to understand if an athlete may become overtrained or is undertraining. It assists in return-to-play protocols, ensuring athletes are where they need to be prior to returning from injury, and it makes interventions to decrease the risk of injury.
- ➡ Force plate assessments provided profiles of athletes as it pertains to their physical abilities, trainability and fatigue. The long-term goal is to be able to profile athletes on the plate to understand how they compare to previous or current athletes, how a training intervention has impacted their physical qualities, and how fatigue is impacting their ability to perform. Through partnerships with the NHL's Buffalo Sabres and ongoing conversations with departments on campus (including computer engineering), algorithms will assist in providing additional usable information in these areas. Strength and conditioning coach **Geoff Puls** partnered on a successful grant application with Duda Family Professor of



Engineering **Patrick Flynn** to explore bespoke force-plate applications within the weight room setting.

► Fusionetics provided specific interventions for each athlete based on screenings in which the created intervention is designed to help create symmetry for athletes and enable them to move “better” and more efficiently.

► About 150 undergraduate student members from a variety of majors joined the Sports Analytics Club, advised by **Scott Nestler**, an associate teaching professor in the Mendoza College of Business. A select group of these students will be working alongside staff from a variety of sports to help undertake data analytics and data mining that will serve to inform coaches and support staff.



STUDENT WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

01 Excellence

► 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 2016-17 version of the Rosenthal Leadership Academy included 121 participants across all 26 Irish varsity programs. Teams, during their offseason, participated in an overnight retreat and four workshops. Targeted growth areas included self-awareness, empathy and perspective taking, skill-building and commitment to institutional and team goals.

► STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAAC)

Seventy-eight athletes across all sports enriched the overall athletic experience by contributing in the areas of community, camaraderie, career, communication and character. SAAC president **Karley Wester** (softball), vice president **Mikey Wynne** (men's lacrosse) and **Drue Tranquill** (football) participated in the ACC SAAC meetings in Greensboro, North Carolina, as Notre Dame delegates.

During the 2016-17 academic year, SAAC was involved in the following initiatives:

► SAAC representatives spearheaded an initiative regarding student-athlete mental health and achieving optimal performance through a petition drive, resulting in the creation of two counseling and sport psychologist positions to address student-athlete mental wellness and performance enhancement/mental conditioning support.

► SAAC representatives contributed to the development of new NCAA legislation surrounding student-athlete time demands. In conjunction with the office of compliance, SAAC representatives' voices were heard at the national level,



influencing the legislative changes happening on Aug. 1, 2017.

► Camaraderie-building events designed to help foster a sense of community and support across and among sport teams featured costumed kickball on Halloween at Melissa Cook Stadium, a Putt-Putt golf night at Warren Golf Course sponsored by the Notre Dame golf teams and the continuation of the IrishOn3 initiative.

► PERFORMANCE ORIENTATION DAY

During Performance Orientation Day, student-athletes participated in a values-based, decision-making seminar followed by the Welcome Back BBQ. Student-athletes from all 26 teams attended the BBQ.

► OUTSTANDING STUDENTS CELEBRATING AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS SHOWCASE (O.S.C.A.R.S.)

The 16th Annual O.S.C.A.R.S. were hosted by men's soccer student-athletes **Andrew Cupero** and **Chris Hubbard** and showcased the many talents and accomplishments of Notre Dame student-athletes

including a program designed by **Brianna Turner** (women's basketball). The evening's highlights included the following awards:

► **Byron V. Kanaley Award:** Awarded to the senior monogram athletes who have been most exemplary as students and leaders. **Lee Kiefer** (women's fencing), **Kaleigh Olmsted** (women's soccer), **Sergio Perkovic** (men's lacrosse) and **Monica Robinson** (women's tennis) were chosen by the Faculty Board on Athletics as the 2016-17 recipients.

► **Francis Patrick O'Connor Award:** Presented to one male and one female Notre Dame student-athlete who display the true spirit of Notre Dame as exemplified by their contributions and inspirations to their respective teams. The 2016-17 recipients were **Lindsay Allen** (women's basketball), **Eva Niklinska** (women's fencing), **Cal Petersen** (hockey), **Monica Robinson** (women's tennis), **Steve Vasturia** (men's basketball) and **Karley Wester** (softball).

→ **Community Champion Award:** Recognizes the contributions of Notre Dame student-athletes to the University community and the community at large. **Kiley Adams** (women's soccer), **Anders Bjork** (hockey), **Dana Bouquet** (softball), **Jane Fennelly** (women's tennis) and **Tyler Newsome** (football) earned the award for their time and service to others.

→ **Top Gun:** Awarded to a graduating senior with the highest cumulative GPA and who has competed on an intercollegiate team for at least three years. **Eva Niklinska** was the graduating senior with the highest cumulative GPA.



02 Education

→ **POSITIVE TRANSITION SEMINARS**

Positive Transition Seminars provided teams and athletes with opportunities to promote social connectedness, purposeful goal-setting and time management. In 2016–17, the offices of student welfare and development conducted 23 seminars across varsity sports.

→ **STUDY-ABROAD PROGRAMS**

Notre Dame has expanded the number of short-term study abroad programs that were piloted initially in 2015. This expansion has enabled and increased the number of Irish athletes participating in 2017. This year 53 Notre Dame student-athletes participated in study abroad programs all over the world, including in Brazil, China, Ireland, Greece, Japan, Israel, England, Italy, South Africa and Spain.

03 Faith

→ **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 provided a platform for student-athletes to give their testimony of experiences and growth as Notre Dame Christian athletes. This opportunity aids in their development of articulating ideas and leading others on their journeys of faith. This year NDCA designed a T-shirt, hosted a gratitude-themed Thanksgiving dinner and began to outline a prayer book for student-athletes made by student-athletes.



ND Student Welfare (@NotreDameSWO) · 21 Nov 2016
Thankful for this NDCA Thanksgiving with these incredible student-athletes #workhard #prayhard pic.twitter.com/IECj7ggOge
Dina Trinipoli, Drew Radke, Dana Bouquet and Corey Robinson

04 Community

► COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

From volunteering at Special Olympics events to serving meals at the local homeless shelter, student-athletes engaged the community in more than 100 community outreach programs. During 2016-17 student-athletes accounted for 9,965 community service hours.

► GETTOKNOWME_ND ON INSTAGRAM

Former football player KeiVarae Russell initiated the "Get to Know Me" Instagram account in 2015 to encourage people at Notre Dame to engage with each other by asking questions, rejecting judgments and getting to know one another. To date the account has 597 followers and continues to grow. Fourteen posts this year have highlighted student-athletes from women's basketball, cheerleading, fencing, football, men's lacrosse, rowing, women's soccer, men's soccer, softball and volleyball.

► FIGHTING IRISH FIGHT FOR LIFE (FIFFL)

Fighting Irish Fight for Life in 2016-17 paired 16 Irish teams with 15 patients (ages 4-16) in Memorial Hospital's hematology/oncology unit. Signature FIFFL events included a National Letter of Intent signing party and a Strikeout Cancer softball game. These opportunities provided patients with opportunities to spend time with their Notre Dame teammates. One of the strongest relationships built during the 2016-17 year was between the women's lacrosse team and its teammate Landau. **Emma Claire Fontenot** and the women's lacrosse team communicated with Landau regularly via email, which lifted the spirits of both the team and Landau. Additionally, Landau traveled to every home game to support his teammates and brought flowers to the seniors on senior day. This is just one of the impactful experiences student-athletes and patients have had in the FIFFL program.

► STUDENT-ATHLETES IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

One-hundred sixty-five student-athletes engaged in mentoring local students in their neighborhood schools during 2016-17. **Anders Bjork**, a junior on the hockey team, took his mentoring role to a new level. "Mr. B," as he is affectionately known at Perley, spent countless hours helping students with academics as well as life. A constant around the building, Mr. B provided a warm smile and the consistency that his students needed. Moving on the the NHL, Mr. B has already laid the groundwork to stay involved at Perley and continues to be



committed to making a difference in his students' lives.

► PEDIATRIC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Approximately 200 student-athletes from all 26 teams attended the Pediatric Christmas Party, along with 150 guests—patients from both Memorial Hospital and Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center and their families. Playing "Santa" at this year's Pediatric Christmas Party was Irish Around The Bend award winner and Community Champion award winner, **Tyler Newsome** (football).

► GREEN DOT

Partnering with the Gender Relations Center and the Division of Student Affairs, student-athletes participated in a Green Dot poster campaign to promote violence prevention. Posters featured these student-athletes:

Emily Geyer (women's soccer)

Corey Robinson (student body president, football)

Bridget Geyer (rowing)

Shannon Hendricks (women's soccer)

Drew Recker (football)

► THIS COUNTS!

Sponsored by Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center and partnering with Meijer, 20 student-athletes taught students from Perley Fine Arts Academy about making healthy lifestyle choices. Students engaged in different stations such as nutrition, stretching, dancing, rowing and volleyball.

05 Tradition

IRISHON3

A newer tradition for Notre Dame athletics was the IrishOn3 initiative. Created by former SAAC president **Jes Christian**, IrishOn3 encourages student-athletes to support one another at varsity sporting events. Using Twitter as a forum, student-athletes tweet pictures of themselves at the events using the hashtag #irishon3, competing to see who can attend the most sporting events. This year's winners were softball, swimming and diving and football.

ORIENTATIONS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Ongoing programs included the Summer Bridge Orientation and First Year Orientation. In addition to hearing from athletic department staff and campus partners on how to successfully transition into collegiate life, first-year student-athletes were given the opportunity to network with other first-year student-athletes in a social setting and receive tips for success from upperclassmen.

LIFE AFTER ND

Life After ND, the Irish student-athlete career development platform, addresses the need for student-athletes to connect their academic pursuits with career discernment and world of work experiences, which often proves challenging given the time demands of the Notre Dame student-athlete. Additionally, Life After ND leverages the strength of the Monogram Career Network to create myriad opportunities and connections with student-athlete alumni to help bridge the gap from student to professional.

During the 2016-17 academic year, Life After ND hosted a number of opportunities to engage in career development:

Future Planning for Student-Athletes:

Sixty student-athletes attended workshops in drafting resumes, strategies for finding and funding internships, networking basics and industry meet and greets.

Life After ND lunches:

Student-athletes networked with notable alumni

including **Malcolm Johnson** (1998/football), **Dr. Brian Ratigan** (1993/football), and **Christina Glorioso** (1995/student manager), as well as employers from JP Morgan, Goldman-Sachs and Credit Suisse. Between 15 and 40 student-athletes attended each lunch.

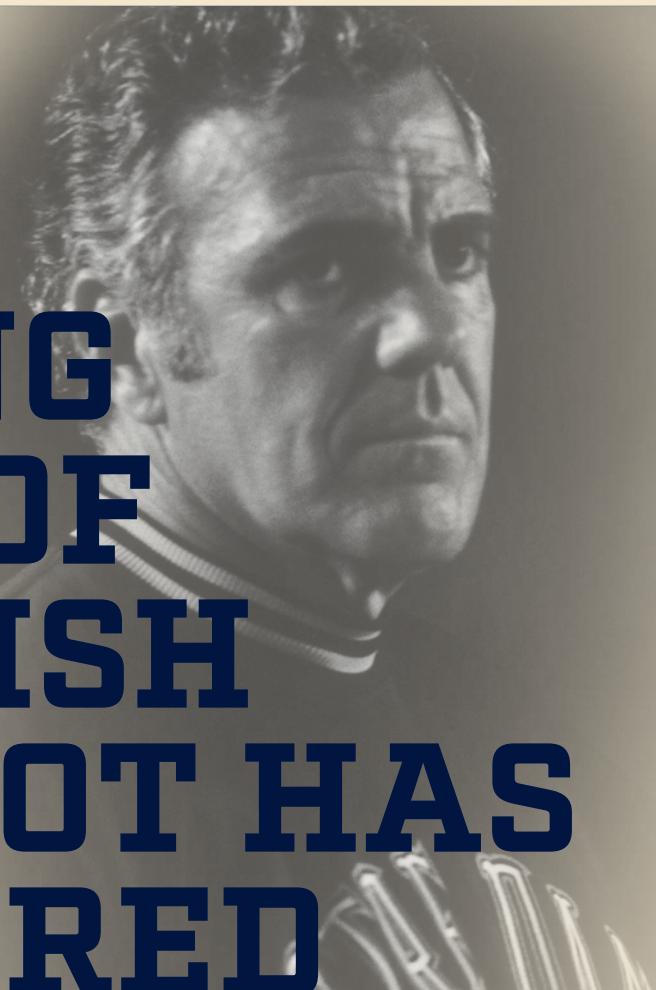
Job Shadowing: Fifty-three student-athletes took part in career development opportunities over winter break. The Monogram Club connected student-athletes with former monogram winners locally or in the student-athlete's hometown to provide short-term externships and job shadowing opportunities.

Post-Career Fair Networking Mixer:

Forty student-athletes met with 10 different companies immediately following the winter career fair in Club Naimoli.



SHINING LIGHT OF THE IRISH CAMELOT HAS FLICKERED OUT



"I have compared playing for Ara Parseghian at Notre Dame to Camelot under King Arthur, a place of high ideals and purpose. The difference is that Camelot is a myth. The Era of Ara was real, with a leader who challenged us to strive for important goals on the field and in life. As one of Ara's Knights, I am forever grateful to have had the chance to be part of it."

By John Heisler



CAMELOT ENDED IN EARLY AUGUST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME.

That's a reference to the sort of idyllic football paradise and atmosphere that College Football Hall of Fame coach Ara Parseghian created in his 11 seasons (1964-74) that produced 95 victories and a pair of mythical national championships for the Irish.

His death Aug. 2—coming at age 94—ends a more than 50-year association with the University, beginning with the 1964 football season.

His charismatic and passionate intensity didn't fall by the wayside after he retired from coaching. Parseghian launched himself into the fight against multiple sclerosis—a disease that had afflicted several in his family, including his late daughter Karan—and then later devoted extensive time and resources to create, promote and fundraise for the Ara Parseghian Medical Foundation, now housed at Notre Dame. That effort battled Niemann-Pick Type C, an incurable disease that claimed the lives of three of his grandchildren.

Parseghian ran the Irish program with a stern hand, yet his charges—players, assistant coaches and administrators—lovingly and reverentially held him in the highest regard. In maybe the ultimate compliment, the 1966 Notre Dame Football Guide in Parseghian's biography suggested, "He invented desire."

Former Irish quarterback Terry Hanratty recalls how Parseghian reacted after the signal-caller's noteworthy sophomore season debut against Purdue in 1966 (16 completions on 24 attempts for 304 yards in a 26-14 Notre Dame victory over the eighth-ranked Boilermakers). Hanratty oozed confidence; Ara responded with corrective critiques.

Said Hanratty in 1980 to Skip Myslenski of the Chicago Tribune, "He knew I could become obnoxious and hurt the team, so he burst my balloon. He wasn't going to let me get a big head. I walked out of there thinking, 'Geez, I got a lot of work to do tomorrow.' It was like going back to square one. He was a genius."

Much of that reverential approach came through the way Parseghian turned around the Irish program when he was hired away from Northwestern—probably not coincidentally after his Wildcat teams defeated Notre Dame four straight times. In a historic series that dates to 1889 and spans 48 games, that quartet of victories (1959-62) marked the lone Wildcat triumphs between 1940 and 1995.

The on-the-field productivity of Knute Rockne and Frank Leahy (still the all-time two winningest coaches in NCAA history by percentage) certainly suggested that Notre Dame football had seen its share of glory years. Yet, when Parseghian came to campus, the Irish had endured two-win seasons three times in the previous eight years. Those same eight seasons produced a combined 45 defeats, the worst stretch in Notre Dame history in terms of cumulative losses.

The Akron, Ohio, product and Miami of Ohio graduate (he played for Woody Hayes, who went on to do great things at Ohio State)

took over a 2-7 Irish squad when he was named to the job in December 1963. He promptly created the biggest season-to-season turnaround in Notre Dame history, the greatest by any team in the 1964 season and the seventh largest (six and a half games) in major college annals, at that time, The Irish spent the month of November ranked No. 1 in the polls and finished 9-1.

That '64 team came ever so close to winning the national title—falling 20-17 on the road to USC in the season finale on a Trojan touchdown pass in the final two minutes. Despite that blemish, Notre Dame received the MacArthur Bowl from the National Football Foundation. Parseghian's record from there—including the 1966 and 1973 national titles—speaks for itself. The Irish never once lost consecutive regular-season games in his 11 seasons.

The 1964 turnaround created such an impact that 45 years later noted sports author Jim Dent wrote an entire book—titled “Resurrection”—about that Notre Dame football season.

Parseghian's stay in South Bend featured some other noteworthy circumstances:

► The success of his teams led the University to reverse its position on playing in postseason bowl games, with Ara leading the argument that Notre Dame needed to participate in those contests to be considered for national championships.

► Home game Friday night pep rallies at the Old Fieldhouse, with Parseghian and his team in the balcony, were legendary affairs in those years. And with women

not arriving at Notre Dame until the last few years of Ara's tenure, assuredly campus life took on a different dynamic in those early seasons.

► While linear radio remains a college football staple, the Mutual Radio Network flourished during Parseghian's time, with nearly 400 stations carrying Irish games. On the television side—and with the NCAA limiting live games to a few per team per season—Notre Dame benefited greatly from its Sunday morning replays produced by the C.D. Chesley Company. Those two networks made household names of announcers Van Patrick, Al Wester, Lindsey Nelson and Paul Hornung for Irish followers.

► The rekindling of excitement in South Bend meant that Notre Dame merited coverage from not only publications like Sports Illustrated, but also Time and Life Magazines, including Time cover appearances by Parseghian in 1964 and Hanratty and Jim Seymour in 1966.

Tom Pagna, Parseghian's longtime offensive backfield coach and close confidante, had this to say in his 1976 book “Notre Dame's Era of Ara”: “I suppose it could have happened at another school, a place where football tradition had once been grand and glorious and then diminished for one reason or another. But certainly regeneration of those programs would not command as much national attention at it did at Notre Dame. And I doubt it would have as much impact if it were to happen today at Notre Dame.”

Yet, with all the success, Parseghian's intense approach took its toll. He made the decision to step away from coaching after 24

years as a head coach—and never returned to the field or looked back (other than to coach in the final College All-Star Game in Chicago in 1976).

Hanratty told Myslenski, “My freshman year there was his second year, and he was striking, a very good-looking guy. But about five years later I saw him at a banquet in New York and thought, ‘My God, what have you been doing to yourself?’ His hair was grayer. He looked tired. He did not have the bounce. He'd slowed down. It wasn't Ara.”

Yet Parseghian only knew one way to go about his duties—with clip-on ties and loafers giving him precious more time to work.

“You have to operate in a manner based on your own personality, on your own makeup,” he told Myslenski. “I did not change over the years. I remained excitable. I always got emotionally involved.”

When he had had enough, he walked away.

Parseghian's decision to continue calling South Bend home—he eventually moved from his West Washington Street home to Granger—meant he remained a fixture on the Notre Dame scene and a resource for the Irish football coaches who followed. Though Parseghian's game day intensity prompted his preference to watch Irish games on television from home, he remained close friends with his successors—notably Lou Holtz and Brian Kelly with whom he participated in golf and other events that benefited the foundations of that trio.

Early mornings in Ara's coaching days generally found him at

Milt's Grill in downtown South Bend, sharing coffee and football talk with longtime South Bend Tribune sports editor Joe Doyle. And his later years saw him headline the ROMEO group (Retired Old Men Eating Out), a lunchtime conclave of his Notre Dame associates and local businessmen. He played golf regularly until his hip issues made that unrealistic some years back.

Yet, even with the landmark bowl wins over the likes of unbeaten and top-ranked Texas and Alabama teams joined with the white-hot intensity of the rivalry with USC, it's the players who could best define their coach.

Talk to 1964 captain Jim Carroll or his 1966 counterpart, Jim Lynch.

Listen to the memories of John Huarte (he won the Heisman Trophy in Ara's first season in 1964), Hanratty, Joe Theismann or Tom Clements—just a few of the stars who played quarterback under Parseghian.

Recall the passionate manner in which former Irish lineman and athletics director Mike Wadsworth spoke of the turnaround in 1964.

Long after they had played for the Irish and graduated, they still had the sense that whatever relationship they had with their head coach, it amounted to something special and ongoing.

1960 marked the release of the movie “Camelot” (and the election of John F. Kennedy as president), hence the then-current pop culture reference.

The final curtain on the Era of Ara, in all its Camelot-like euphoria, has come down.





IRISH HEAD COACHES: THEY ARE NOTRE DAME

By John Heisler

N

ONE OF THE THREE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME.

They come from the Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Boston areas, respectively.

Yet today they occupy three of the most visible positions within athletics

at the University as head coaches in women's basketball, men's basketball and football.

Muffet McGraw came to Notre Dame in 1987.

Mike Brey followed in 2000.

Brian Kelly arrived in 2010.

Combined they've already spent 50 seasons on the sidelines in South Bend—and all are in the prime of their coaching careers.

All three came from East Coast upbringings—and all three had their own appreciations for Notre Dame, despite no obvious connections.

"I knew about Notre Dame relative to its traditions, its history, its pageantry, its Catholic traditions," says Kelly, the winningest active coach in the Football Bowl Subdivision. "If you're an Irish Catholic from Boston, you follow only one football team and that would be Notre Dame."

Adds McGraw: "I remember watching Digger (Phelps, former Irish men's basketball coach) beat UCLA (in 1974 when the Bruins were unbeaten and No. 1). I remember being in college where all the kids were watching that game, and we were all cheering for Notre Dame."

"I loved football growing up. My dad was a huge Notre Dame fan, my husband was a huge Notre Dame fan—so it was easy to cheer for the Irish."

"I went to DeMatha High School (in Bethesda, Maryland) and taught U.S. history," says Brey. "I remember the band sat up top (at basketball games) and the pregame music was the Notre Dame Victory March. I don't know if it's fate, an omen, karma, all of the above. I always had kind of a connection and felt it would be a good fit."

However much or little Kelly, McGraw and Brey knew about Notre Dame's athletic approach before they arrived, they've come to appreciate the institutional philosophy:

Says Kelly, "I think we all love challenges. We're not just intellectually developing you. We are developing you socially, spiritually—and we're going to develop you physically. That's what makes it special, and that's what I love about it."

"I love working at a place where integrity matters," says McGraw. "I love that we are committed to excellence in everything we do. We want to win a national championship, and we want to be 100 percent in our graduation rates. Notre Dame stands for so many great things, and for me to be a part of that? That's why I'm here."

Adds Brey, "Notre Dame allows me to be the teacher I am. The missions of the institution, the philosophy of the institution are very much in line with how I've been trained as an educator. My parents were both teachers. What got me hooked was how their students or their players loved them and gravitated to them and how they would talk about them to me when my parents weren't around. Wow! What an impact."

Kelly and McGraw recall how their personal priorities formed in their youth.

"Coming from a middle-class, blue-collar family, you pick up on the values that are important to you, that frame who you are," says Kelly. "More important than anything else, it keeps you humble."

Says McGraw, "I've always been driven to be the best. It's all about winning, it's never about me personally or about awards. That drive to win has just always been inside me. When I was in grade school we used to have races at the annual school picnic. When I won, I think I was in second grade, and I thought, 'What a great feeling—I think I'm going to do that again.' That was it—that was my goal from then on. I had to win."

It hasn't taken long for the Irish head coaches to understand and appreciate the expectations that come in South Bend.

Kelly says, "There are the highs and the lows because Notre Dame can excite you and scare you at the same time. What scares me is not providing enough resources for our players. We're in a very competitive business, and we want to make sure we're providing our athletes with the very best on a day-to-day basis."

"We had our team meeting Sept. 1," says Brey. "I sat there looking out before I went up to speak to them. And I thought, 'Their eyes are big and I have to make all their dreams come true.' That's a lot of pressure. It motivates you to be on your toes and to connect. I don't want to let them down."

And the three know how they want their programs to be viewed:

McGraw says, "When I dream about the future of Notre Dame women's basketball, I see it being the elite program in the country—some place where every kid in the country dreams about coming. I want to win championships, I want to be the team that everybody's gunning for—the one with the best players, the best staff and the best university. For me, we want to win. That's what I want."

Adds Brey, "I want my guys to look back and say, 'That's the best teacher I had at Notre Dame.' That's so energizing to lead a group that's full of believers, that wants to do it together—to see them celebrate great wins but doing it together. That moves me on a daily basis."

"We've got a great vision toward the future," says Kelly. "We want consistency. After you gain consistency, you then can achieve the great heights we all want and that's a national championship."

Kelly, McGraw and Brey also know the ultimate goal and how they can position themselves to reach it.

We're not just intellectually developing you. We are developing you socially, spiritually—and we're going to develop you physically.

BRIAN KELLY

When I dream about the future of Notre Dame women's basketball, I see it being the elite program in the country—some place where every kid in the country dreams about coming. I want to win championships, I want to be the team that everybody's gunning for—the one with the best players, the best staff and the best university.

MUFFET MCGRAW

I want my guys to look back and say, 'That's the best teacher I had at Notre Dame.' That's so energizing to lead a group that's full of believers, that wants to do it together—to see them celebrate great wins but doing it together. That moves me on a daily basis.

MIKE BREY

"Winning the national championship (in 2001) was the pinnacle, it was the greatest," says McGraw, whose Irish have been to the NCAA Women's Basketball Final Four five of the last six seasons. "But every year we want to get back there and do it again."

"This is a select group," says Brey about his program, the only one in the country to advance to the NCAA Men's Basketball Elite Eight in both 2015 and 2016. "This is a special club. Culture eats strategy and talent for breakfast every day. Our culture is as good and productive and strong as any of them out there."

"It's about dreaming big," says Kelly, whose unbeaten Irish played in the Bowl Championship Series title game after the 2012 season. "One of my greatest fears is that we don't dare to dream big enough."

Notre Dame vice president and James E. Rohr athletics director Jack Swarbrick believes his head coaches have the ability to be as influential from a teaching and leadership standpoint with Irish student-athletes as any other individuals on campus.

In Kelly, McGraw and Brey, he knows he's got three of the very best who embrace what competing at a championship level is all about.

Beyond Notre Dame Kelly won two NCAA Division II national titles in his years at Grand Valley State, while Brey as an assistant at Duke helped the Blue Devils to the NCAA Final Four six times (with two titles).

And there are plenty of other examples of Irish head coaches with championship pedigrees—Jeff Jackson in hockey (he won two NCAA titles at Lake Superior State), Kevin Corrigan in men's lacrosse (his Irish have been to the NCAA championship weekend five times overall and four times since 2010), Bobby Clark in men's soccer (his 2013 Notre Dame team claimed the NCAA crown) and Jim McLaughlin in volleyball (he won an NCAA men's title at USC and an NCAA women's title at Washington) among them.

While Swarbrick knows the intercollegiate athletics landscape poses its own set of challenges, he doesn't lose any sleep when it comes to leadership in his locker rooms.

He knows his Irish student-athletes are in good hands.

COREY ROBINSON: WAY MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

By John Heisler



NIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WIDE RECEIVER AUSTIN WEBSTER ABSOLUTELY REMEMBERS MEETING COREY ROBINSON FOR THE FIRST TIME.

It was June 2014. Robinson already had completed his first full year in South Bend with the Irish football squad. Webster was beginning summer school classwork in advance of his freshman football season that fall.

Says Webster, a senior captain of the 2017 Notre Dame football squad, "He was the first guy to come up and introduce himself. He said, 'Hi, I'm Corey Robinson, if you need anything, let me know. I'm here for you.'

"I was no one at that point. For him to introduce himself before I had ever enrolled in the fall—from Day One you got a sense of the aura about him, how he interacted with his teammates.

"If you wanted to talk about anything he would talk for hours and be fully invested in any conversation. You were the most important thing at that time."

"He's either going to cure cancer, solve world hunger or become president."

Robinson's athletic resume at the University of Notre Dame ranked as an impressive one.

He earned three monograms as a wide receiver for the Irish. As a sophomore in 2015 Robinson caught 40 passes (second on the team). He had eight receptions for 99 yards and two touchdowns

in an epic 2015 battle against Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston and his defending national champion Florida State team.

The single play Robinson may well be best remembered for did not count—what might have been the game-winning TD reception with 13 seconds left against those unbeaten Seminoles, a play negated by an Irish penalty.

His career numbers show 65 receptions, 896 yards, seven touchdown catches.

And yet all of that barely touches the surface of what Robinson meant to Notre Dame.

Remember the song "Is That All There Is?" that Peggy Lee crooned back in 1969?

She made those verses famous nearly three decades before Robinson was born—yet that's the question Robinson was asking after his initial semester on campus in the fall of 2013.

"My first semester I just did football and school. It took up a ton of my time," he recalls. "When I put my head up for air, I only knew the people in my section in my dorm (Knott Hall) and my teammates (in football).

"I thought, 'There has to be more to college than just this.' I looked for other ways to get involved."

Robinson became the athletics representative to Notre Dame student government—and a whole new world of connections opened up to him. A year later he became vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council. In January of his junior year he ran for student body president and won. Slated to graduate in



May 2016, Robinson was required to continue his year in office as an undergraduate so he took on an additional minor in sustainability (his degree was in liberal studies).

"My work here was unfinished," says Robinson. "This (serving as student body president) was an opportunity to do something good for the university I loved. How could I serve this community better? It was an incredible experience."

For every line Robinson added to his football resume, he added two others away from the gridiron:

- ➡ He traveled to South Africa to study psychology and sport and did service work in Brazil. He spent three weeks in Jerusalem with a group of Notre Dame students, studying the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.
- ➡ His 3.83 grade-point average helped earn him first-team Academic All-America honors in football in 2015.
- ➡ He played piano and ukulele in a campus indie rock band (named "Rolfs Aquatic") with football teammates and roommates Romeo Okwara (now with the NFL New York Giants) and Scott Daly—and Jordan Foster, an economics major from San Antonio.
- ➡ He wrote two musical albums (recorded one of those) and authored a screenplay.
- ➡ He twice was a Rhodes Scholar applicant and once was a finalist.
- ➡ He and former Irish track & field student-athlete Andrew Helmin helped create a nonprofit enterprise (One Shirt One Body) that found a way for athletes at programs all over the country to donate their extra athletic apparel to local communities.
- ➡ He spent two months as a research assistant in the Notre Dame Law School in the summer of 2016.
- ➡ He and Rachel Wallace co-organized Race Relations Week (along with a series of other events throughout 2016-17) on campus to encourage more campus dialogue on racial justice.
- ➡ His student government administration focused on a commitment to end sexual assault on campus, addressing safety concerns while also supporting the wider "It's On Us" campaign.
- ➡ He earned an ACC postgraduate scholarship, traveling to Greensboro, North Carolina, in April 2017 to receive the honor.
- ➡ He authored a series of first-person pieces for the Sports Illustrated website.

Notre Dame vice president and athletics director Jack Swarbrick used the phrase "no limits" when he talked about Robinson:

"He just has so much energy, so many ideas."

David Robinson notes his son's sustained interest in serving mankind: "He's going to blaze a trail and people are going to follow."

Notre Dame student-athletes have had a good run when it comes to major accomplishments. In 2012 former Irish fencer Mariel Zagunis served as flag-bearer for the U.S. Olympic Team at the Summer Games in London. In 2014 the NCAA elected Irish soccer player Elizabeth Tucker as Woman of the Year, as prestigious an

“Every day at Notre Dame I’ve been surrounded by people who want to make a difference.”

COREY ROBINSON

honor as that body presents to a current student-

athlete. Rower Anna Kottkamp

earned recognition as valedictorian of the Notre Dame senior class in 2015. Fencer Alex Coccia was elected student body president in 2013-14 and won a Rhodes Scholarship.

Ironically, Robinson had more time to devote to his role as student body president when he stepped away from football in June 2016 after suffering a third concussion in a 12-month period. He continued to work with the Irish receivers as a student coach during the 2016 campaign.

"That was one of the most difficult decisions I've ever had to make," he says. "But I couldn't walk away from my team."

"Football has meant much, much more than just X's and O's on Saturday. Football has been a great tool for me to tackle life. How can I handle adversity? How can I work in a team environment? Those are all valuable lessons I wouldn't trade for the world. What happens when you're done playing the game? Notre Dame prepares you for that."

Robinson's father, David, was a 10-time NBA all-star with the San Antonio Spurs—though Corey knows his dad as much through the lens of his father's extensive post-basketball achievements.

Says Corey, "The greatest lessons I've learned about culture are through the Spurs. You've got to buy into an ideal for how their team operates, no matter how talented you are. And the proof is in the pudding."

After his May 2017 graduation he spent the summer as an intern in New York at Gagosian, a contemporary art gallery. Regardless of where Corey ends up, David made certain his son understood some of the advantages Corey enjoyed growing up.

"I told him from an early age 99 percent of kids haven't seen what you've seen or been in the positions you've been in. You have a tremendous responsibility to use the gifts you've been given, and the legacy you leave is going to be how you impacted the people around you. How did you inspire people? That's what leadership is about. I think he understands that—he takes that very seriously."

Adds Corey, "The biggest lesson I learned is to listen to the people you lead. People at Notre Dame want to change the world. Every day at Notre Dame I've been surrounded by people who want to make a difference."

The title of that age-old Peggy Lee song—"Is That All There Is?"—is not likely to be a question ever proffered when it comes to Corey Robinson.



LEE KIEFER: BEST OF THE BEST

By John Heisler

T 5-FOOT-4 AND LESS THAN 100 POUNDS, LEE KIEFER CAST AN UNASSUMING SHADOW WALKING THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME CAMPUS.

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Yet that ultra-slim silhouette was in direct opposition to the resume she left behind as an Irish student-athlete.

Those who matched her strides should know they accompanied a young woman who may well qualify as the most accomplished individual in the history of athletics at Notre Dame.

As a competitor for the United States at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, Kiefer, at age 18, already had proven herself as a world-class athlete in her sport of fencing before she ever attended a class at Notre Dame. In London she was the only teenager in the fencing field of 38 women and the youngest U.S. women's foil entrant in 46 years (she finished fifth, falling in the quarterfinals to the eventual silver medalist).

Five years later (she skipped a year in South Bend to train for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro) she graduated in 2017 having not only lived up to but also probably exceeding anyone's greatest expectations for her as a collegiate athlete.

She was that rare individual who started her college career as the best in the country in her craft and finished five years later having won virtually everything there was to win in her sport.

She won four consecutive NCAA individual titles in foil (the only other fencer to do that since the NCAA began sponsoring fencing in 1990 was Penn State's Olga Kalinovskaya from 1993-96). In the process Kiefer led Notre Dame to the NCAA team title in 2017—and she achieved the No. 1 ranking in the world in her discipline.

Looking for a chink somewhere on that resume?

Good luck.

Kiefer had fencing in her blood when she set out from her Versailles, Kentucky, home—foil in hand.

Her father, Steven, (now a neurosurgeon) captained the fencing squad at Duke in 1985 and was a two-time NCAA qualifier in foil (he started as a walk-on). Her older sister Alex fenced at Harvard, was a four-time foil All-American (2011-14)—and, like her sister would do two years later, won an NCAA individual crown as a freshman. Lee's younger brother Axel was a sophomore at Notre Dame in 2016-17—claiming a gold medal in foil at the 2016 Atlantic Coast Conference Championships, snaring the runner-up honor in 2017 and twice earning All-America honors.

In 2013, the year Lee won the first of her four NCAA titles, she finished 32-6 during the regular season and then won all but one of

"Lee Kiefer was a difference maker. That can't be overstated."

MAUREEN McNAMARA

her 25 NCAA Championship bouts. The one loss? It came at the hands of her older sister Alex.

The stack of fencing accomplishments amassed by Kiefer is gargantuan:

- ➡ A record four NCAA individual foil titles.
- ➡ First-team All-America honors in those same four years (2013-14-15-17).
- ➡ An NCAA team title with her Notre Dame teammates in 2017.
- ➡ Two Summer Olympic Games appearances in 2012 and 2016.
- ➡ The No. 1 world ranking in foil, coming off a Grand Prix victory in March 2017 in Long Beach, California.
- ➡ ACC women's foil champion and ACC foilst of the year in 2015.
- ➡ Member of ACC champion teams in 2015 and 2017.
- ➡ First-team All-Midwest Fencing Conference in 2013 and 2014.
- ➡ Junior World Championships silver medalist in 2011.
- ➡ Cadet World Championships silver medalist in 2011.
- ➡ Seven-time Pan American Championships gold medalist (2009-16).
- ➡ FIE Grand Prix champion in Turin, Italy, in 2016.
- ➡ Member of five Cadet World Championship teams, seven Junior World Championship teams and eight Senior World Championship teams.

Off the strip, Kiefer was a first-team CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-American (she was a pre-med major with a 3.647 grade-point average) in 2015 and 2017 and was the 2015 ACC Women's Fencing Scholar-Athlete of the Year. She traveled in April to Greensboro, North Carolina, to receive an ACC Postgraduate Scholarship. Kiefer was one of four winners of the 2017 Kanaley Award, given to the senior Notre Dame athletes who are most exemplary as students and leaders. She began medical school in the fall of 2017 at the University of Kentucky.

Somehow not convinced?

Kiefer also was a regular nursing home volunteer during her Notre Dame years. She participated in a Juvenile Diabetes Walk, Notre Dame's annual Pediatric Christmas Party and was part of the Fighting Irish Fight for Life initiative. She worked with a Center for Social Concerns seminar on understanding mental illness.

Says Notre Dame assistant athletics director Maureen McNamara, who serves as the sport administrator for fencing:

"Lee Kiefer was a difference maker. That can't be overstated."

"When she trained and competed in the Olympics (and missed the 2016 season at Notre Dame) there was a definite gap the team experienced. Lee was only one person, yet it felt like we lost three people. The chemistry, leadership and results were tremendously affected by her absence. We have great leaders in our program, but there are some people you just don't replace. That is Lee Kiefer. She is without a doubt the most impressive fencing student-athlete we have seen in this program."

Ariel Simmons was a freshman on the 2017 Irish team that won the NCAA title. He made a major contribution in his own right, advancing to the men's epee semifinals. Yet, when looking back at the championship events in Indianapolis, he couldn't stop talking about Kiefer:



"It was so amazing that Lee won the clinching bout, the one that mattered most. She has won every single thing imaginable. She's the first U.S. women's foilst to be No. 1 in the world. She's going to med school. And yet she gives her heart for her team."

"Elyssa Kleiner (Irish sophomore foilst) was going to the world championships the following week. And, yet, before Lee's match in the final four she's trying to get people to come to practice that next week so they could help train Elyssa. She was so invested in the team that she was thinking about someone who did not even fence in the (NCAA) competition."

"I want to see the next person that can do what Lee Kiefer did (four individual NCAA titles). She deserved to close it for us and everyone felt that way. Everyone stormed the strip, picked her up and threw her in the air."

The Notre Dame staff member who has known Kiefer the longest is Buckie Leach, the longtime foil coach for the U.S. team and now an Irish assistant coach. Leach would see Kiefer at World Cup events and traveled a great deal with her and her club coach, Amgad Khazbak. And Leach loved the way Kiefer embraced the team aspect of what essentially is an individual sport.

"She's really driven," says Leach. "Once she gets something in her head it doesn't come out very easily. What I saw was her growth as an athlete on a team. Her time with Notre Dame, becoming a captain, being exposed to this environment—all that made her very team-oriented. She was a good captain, a tough captain, because she held everybody to the standards she had."

The thought of Kiefer dealing with the challenges of both medical school and the rigors of training for the 2020 Summer Olympics outwardly appears daunting. Leach is convinced Kiefer will do just fine: "It would be difficult if she was trying to become No. 1 and doing medical school at the same time. But she's already at the top—she just needs to maintain. I think she sees individually or as a team we have a good chance for a medal."

Leach never worries about Notre Dame's superstar becoming too impressed with her own accomplishments.

"All those things you win pale to the people you know and the people you've met," Leach says. "Twenty years from now she'll remember the relationships, not the medals."

A long list of Notre Dame administrators, coaches and teammates will long remember Kiefer.

The best there ever was in a Notre Dame uniform? She just might be.

JESSICA HARRIS: MAKING MOM PROUD

By John Heisler

Oh I'm in pieces it's tearing me up
 But I know a heart that's broke is a heart that's been loved
 So I'll sing Hallelujah, you were an angel in the shape of my mum
 When I fell down you'd be there holding me up
 Spread your wings as you go
 And when God takes you back
 He'll say Hallelujah you're home
 —from "Supermarket Flowers" by Ed Sheeran

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HE SMILE ON JESSICA HARRIS' FACE TRAVERSED FROM ONE HIGH CHEEKBONE TO THE OTHER.

The junior Notre Dame distance specialist from Cockeysville, Maryland, had just nosed out Clemson's Grace Barnett to win the mile in February 2017 at the Atlantic Coast Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship in South Bend.

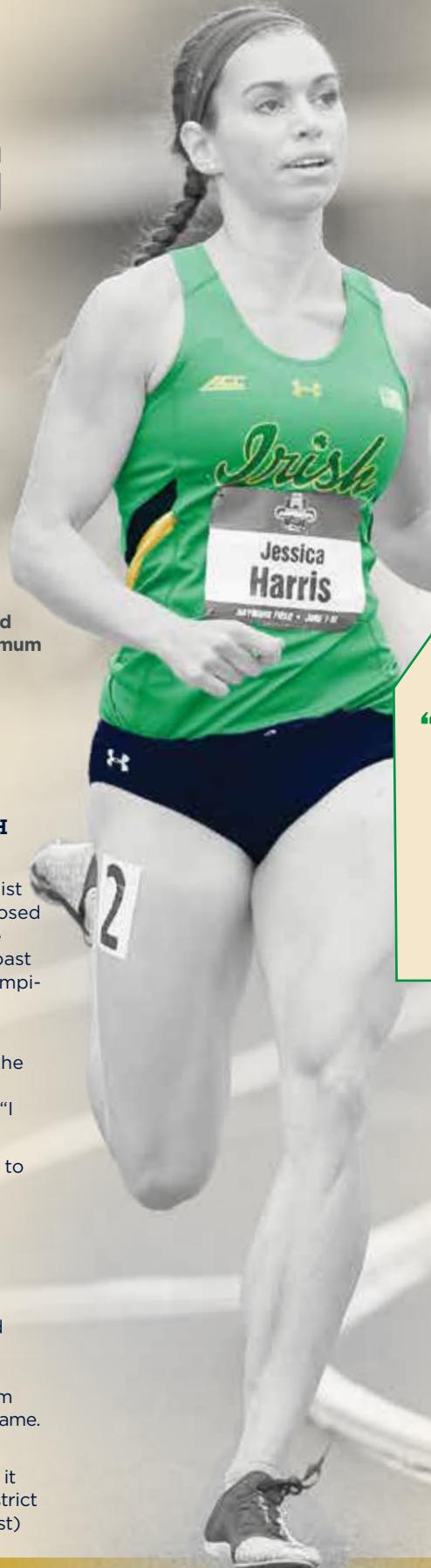
The victory qualified as a signature moment of Harris' running career. The cheering and applause that wafted over her from the pro-Notre Dame Loftus Sports Center crowd suggested she'd effectively given birth to her own fan club. Yet, as Harris says, "I felt so distinctly alone."

That's because her mother Sylvia "Cookie" Harris wasn't there to share it.

I took the supermarket flowers from the windowsill
 Threw the day old tea from the cup
 Packed up the photo album Matthew had made
 Memories of a life that's been loved

Her older brother Joe graduated from Notre Dame, but Harris had been headed for an appointment at the U.S. Naval Academy. The night before Harris was slated to send in her signed commitment papers, Cookie sat with her daughter and explained that her dream was for Harris to attend a Catholic university, in particular Notre Dame.

Harris had a few reservations, but her mother asked her to commit to Notre Dame for a year and assured her she could transfer if it wasn't the right fit. So Harris (her dad, Andy, is Maryland's 1st District representative in Congress as well as a practicing anesthesiologist)



**"The absence
is what you
have to carry
forever."**

JESSICA HARRIS

honored her mother's wish and trekked to South Bend, ultimately to major in theology and public policy with nursing in her future plans.

After the first two days of classes, Harris was in her Pasquerilla East dormitory room when her rectress came in holding a cell phone. On the other end was Harris' brother Joe with the news that their mother had been hospitalized after suffering a heart attack.

Joe assured Harris that their mother would be okay, and she headed to the residence hall chapel, only to have her rectress return with the cell phone.

This time the news was different.

**Took the get well soon cards and stuffed animals
Poured the old ginger beer down the sink
Dad always told me don't you cry when you're down
But mum there's a tear every time that I blink**

"Five minutes before the start of our cross country practice she called me after learning that her mother had died," Irish assistant coach Sean Carlson recalls. "She was in her dorm, and by the time I got there she was packing for a flight home."

The entire Irish men's and women's track team—including some team members that didn't even know Harris yet—went to the Grotto that same night and prayed. "They all hurt," says Carlson.

Harris spent four complicated days at home for her mother's services with her two older sisters and two brothers. When she returned to campus, her roommate and others did their best, but as Harris says, "No one teaches you how to deal with a grieving friend."

Carlson attempted to help Harris sort out her future: "We had a couple of talks because she was thinking about transferring somewhere back home. I talked to her about, 'Would your mother want you to go back home and help your family or would she want you to continue working toward what your goal has been, running at one of the best universities in the country?' She saw that just because something major like this happened in her life, it didn't mean she had to give up on her goals."

Harris over time learned what Notre Dame came to mean for her.

"I wasn't going to come here. This wasn't meant to be. And yet now, as important as my family is to me, I've never been more confident that this is my family here at Notre Dame, too."

**I fluffed the pillows, made the beds, stacked the chairs up
Folded your nightgowns neatly in a case
John said he'd drive, then put his hand on my cheek
And wiped a tear from the side of my face**

Three months later, during the 2015 indoor season, Harris broke three school records in her first three meets—first in the 1,000-meter run, then the 600 meters, then the 800.

"That's pretty impressive for a freshman," says Carlson.

At the 2015 NCAA indoor championship Harris earned first-team All-America honors by helping the Irish distance medley relay squad to an eighth-place finish.

"She is very good at not showing when maybe she's hurting emotionally," continued Carlson. "After she broke the 600 record, she broke down and cried. She said, 'Is that what I'm supposed to be doing or am I supposed to be going home?' She was hurt and did not run outdoors that freshman year. I sensed that was one of the hardest times because she had a lot of time for things to sink in. She went home that summer and you expect it to be like it always was. Now it was completely different."

Harris wished she could wake up to some form of normality. Eventually she found solace in the comfort of practice at 3:30 every weekday afternoon. Slowly she came to grips with her loss.

"The absence is what you have to carry forever," she says.

Harris likens grieving to carrying around a backpack full of bricks.



Some days the burden is particularly heavy. Other days the load is lightened and the bricks dissolve into pebbles.

"Some days it's still really, really heavy, but I think I've gotten stronger," she says.

Harris and her mother had volunteered together, attended Mass, combined on household chores.

"She was always happy, always laughing, always loud," says Harris. "She was vibrant and vivacious. I've found myself the last couple of years emulating a lot of things about her."

Cookie attended many of her daughter's races, despite understanding little about the sport.

"She called it the track and the field," says Harris. "She had no idea. She just loved coming to see me race. She didn't care if I finished last."

**I hope that I see the world as you did 'cause I know
A life with love is a life that's been lived
So I'll sing Hallelujah, you were an angel in the shape of my mum
When I fell down you'd be there holding me up
Spread your wings as you go
And when God takes you back
He'll say Hallelujah you're home**

Harris' passion for running blossomed magnificently in 2017. She won a pair of gold medals at the ACC indoor meet, also helping the Irish distance medley relay to a victory. She finished 13th in the mile at the NCAA indoor championships and helped the Notre Dame distance medley relay team to eighth place and All-America honors. Her 10th-place finish in the 1,500 meters at the NCAA outdoor championships made her a second-team All-American.

Yet, as she crosses the finish line she's still prone to scanning the stands for her mom. "I want to tell her this is what I've been working for," says Harris.

Yet that seemingly ever-present grin suggests that Harris somehow has found peace.

"She's gone through this heartache, but when you see her run she's smiling," says Irish associate head coach and distance specialist Matt Sparks. "She stuck it out and we're all happy she did."

In the words of singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran's mournful ballad, Cookie has seen the person—and the quality runner—daughter Harris has become.

It's likely that somewhere Cookie is smiling, too.

**Hallelujah, you were an angel in the shape of my mum
You got to see the person that I have become
Spread your wings and I know
That when God took you back
He said Hallelujah you're home
Hallelujah, you were an angel in the shape of my mum
You got to see the person that I have become
Spread your wings and I know
That when God took you back
He said Hallelujah you're home**

KANALEY WINNERS GO ABOVE AND BEYOND.

By John Heisler

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HE ANNUAL WINNERS OF THE BYRON V. KANALEY AWARD TOOK CENTER STAGE MAY 4 AT THE O.S.C.A.R.S., THE YEARLY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT GALA TO HONOR TOP-ACHIEVING NOTRE DAME STUDENT-ATHLETES.

The Kanaley Awards represent the most impressive combinations of success in athletics, academics and service. They go to those seniors judged "most exemplary as students and leaders."

The four seniors honored—Lee Kiefer (women's fencing), Kaleigh Olmstead (women's soccer), Sergio Perkovic (men's lacrosse) and Monica Robinson (women's tennis)—represent NCAA champions (both team and individual), All-Americans and All-Atlantic Coast Conference players.

They won ACC Postgraduate Scholarships, boasted glossy grade-point averages and made a difference in the Notre Dame/Michigan community.

Each one possesses a resume for which any college student would trade.

Law school professor Tricia Bellia, chair of the University's Faculty Board on Athletics—which makes the selections—will tell you that assignment is a labor of love.

Still, Irish fans are spoiled because the combination of top-flight accomplishments on the field, in the classroom and in the community are more expectations than anomalies at Notre Dame.

So what made this quartet (all of them team captains in 2016-17) stand out?

Consider what those closest to them say about the four honorees:

LEE KIEFER, women's fencing

→ Kiefer (from Versailles, Kentucky), a pre-professional major, achieved almost mind-boggling athletic success, helping her 2017 Notre Dame team win an NCAA title and winning four consecutive NCAA individual titles (that has happened only 19 times at the NCAA Division I level).

Irish head fencing coach Gia Kvaratskhelia calls coaching Kiefer the greatest honor of his career:

"During my 20-year coaching career, I have had the opportunity to teach Olympians, NCAA champions and USA Fencing champions and finalists. I can say, without hesitation, that none possessed the combination of determination, work ethic, talent and humility that defined Lee."

"Athletically, her accomplishments were staggering. Frankly, it's difficult to encompass the full scope of her athletic success. Reaching these heights on their own required a grueling level of discipline. What separated Lee even more was the way she brought the same tenacity she displayed on the fencing strip to all areas of her life. Within our program's community, Lee served as an ideal team captain—leading her teammates vocally and by example, while remaining fiercely loyal to Notre Dame, our program's values and her teammates."

"Notre Dame fencing boasts nine team national championships, 34 individual national championships and more than 300 All-Americans. However, Lee's success is unsurpassed in our program's history. Despite this, she stayed grounded and approachable and displayed true care, friendship and loyalty towards her teammates."

Kvaratskhelia and other Irish fencers were amazed on the final day of competition in Indianapolis at the 2017 NCAA Championships when Kiefer, minutes away from her foil title bout, spent her time recruiting teammates to help Elyssa Kleiner train the following week for the world championships. One day Kiefer won both a team and individual NCAA title—the next she was back on the fencing strip in the north dome of the Joyce Center helping make a teammate better. She currently ranks No. 1 in the world in women's foil.

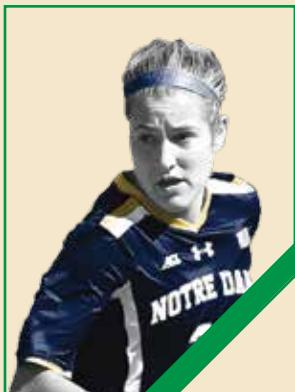
KALEIGH OLMSTED, women's soccer

→ Olmsted (like Kiefer, she is headed to medical school) was the women's soccer team MVP, an All-ACC pick and an all-tournament selection at the 2016 ACC Championship.

Her coach, Theresa Romagnolo, was more taken with the way her team captain led:

**LEE KIEFER**

women's fencing

**KALEIGH OLMSTED**

women's soccer

**SERGIO PERKOVIC**

men's lacrosse

**MONICA ROBINSON**

women's tennis

"Kaleigh and her senior class took over a team that had graduated a great number of starters and leadership and her class took on the task of leading in a different way with a lot of inexperienced players.

"They did a tremendous job, making each player feel important and valued and pushing the charge of demanding a tougher, hard-working mentality every day. As a captain she ultimately was responsible for exemplifying this behavior and demanding it of others, and she did so wonderfully. Not only did she play with great intensity and quality, but she also inspired others to raise their levels and believe in their abilities to do so. It was wonderful to see her grow into a leader who learned how to motivate others around her for the good of the team."

"One of our three losses this last year came when Kaleigh could not travel to play in the game due to injury. Not only did we miss her performance on the field but most importantly her leadership."

Olmsted (from The Woodlands, Texas), who will take a gap year before beginning her medical studies, began her own fundraising project at Notre Dame—NoBody is Perfect, designed to combat eating disorders and raise resources for the Feeding Hope fund for clinical research at NEDA (National Eating Disorders Association).

SERGIO PERKOVIC, men's lacrosse

➡ Perkovic (from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan), a three-time first-team All-American for the Irish, knows what his future holds thanks to his Notre Dame degree in finance—and a job at Credit Suisse in New York City.

That's only a sliver of what Perkovic brought to his highly rated Irish men's lacrosse unit.

Pat Healy, a starting senior defender on the 2017 Notre Dame squad and one of Perkovic's closest friends, appreciated the quiet, low-key way his classmate conducts his business.

"His work ethic was unparalleled on our team—he did it by example, in the classroom, on the field. He was always pushing himself and that just raised the level of everyone else around him. That's the biggest thing. It was his determination to be successful in everything he does."

"He brought other guys along with him—he was a great mentor to a lot of the younger guys on offense and the team in general. He's always been a good leader."

MONICA ROBINSON, women's tennis

➡ Robinson, a second-team All-ACC selection for 2017, won 134 combined singles and doubles matches and ranked as high as 10th nationally in doubles. She may eventually head to graduate

school and hopes to give pro tennis a whirl. Her most impressive credentials are the many ways she gave back.

A double major in marketing and Spanish, Robinson (from Valley Center, California) authored and illustrated a children's book for her Spanish major. Vice president of Pangborn Hall, she also was a Dream Team member with Madison Elementary School in South Bend.

Said Irish women's tennis coach Jay Louderback:

"Monica's time spent with our adopted young cancer patient, Sophia, was amazing. Sophia signed her national letter of intent with our program Monica's freshman year. After that, Monica accompanied Sophia to several medical treatments, took her to the movies and attended Sophia's birthday parties."

"Sophia and her parents are incredibly thankful for Monica's commitment over the last four years. Every time Sophia attended our matches and saw Monica, her eyes lit up. You could see on her face how much the time Monica spent with her means. I think this was Monica's most important accomplishment in her time at Notre Dame."

For years the Kanaley Awards were presented at Commencement, with the rest of the student body often unaware of the winners. That changed with the introduction of a year-end athletic honors banquet and has more recently been highlighted by the O.S.C.A.R.S. event.

Only one winner was chosen through 1965. Three honorees were designated for the first time in 1971. The list of winners reached four in 1990, six in 1994 and seven in 2009.

Robinson was the 13th women's tennis player to be celebrated with the Kanaley; Olmsted represented the 11th women's soccer player to win; Kiefer was the eighth women's fencing honoree; and Perkovic was the fourth men's lacrosse player feted.

Of the 218 overall winners, 30 have come from the Irish football program, 15 from men's track and field, 13 each from baseball, men's soccer and men's fencing and 12 from men's basketball.

Carol Lally (women's basketball) qualified as the first female winner in 1979. Among women's sports, 13 Kanaley winners have come from tennis, 11 from soccer, nine each from basketball and volleyball and eight each from fencing and softball.

Check back in a dozen years.

The odds are good the resumes of Kiefer, Olmsted, Perkovic and Robinson will be shining just as brightly.

As longtime national radio commentator Paul Harvey used to close his pithy vignettes, "And now you know the rest of the story."

REPLAY: NCAA TITLE IN MY EYES

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RIEL SIMMONS, A FRESHMAN FROM BELLAIRE, TEXAS, COMPETED IN EPEE FOR THE 2017 UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME FENCING SQUAD.

Simmons, who advanced to the individual semifinals in his event to earn first-team All-America honors, and his teammates journeyed to Indianapolis for the 2017 NCAA Fencing Championships. They took that event by storm, finishing with a dominating victory (186 points to 161) over runner-up Ohio State. This is Simmons' first-person account of how the Irish did it in winning their ninth NCAA title on a weekend loaded with emotion and high-level performances.

I kind of had an idea of what to expect, but only the shell of what I thought was going to happen actually happened. The emotions and all the other things you go through—nothing can prepare you for that.

When we got to Indianapolis Wednesday it was kind of the calm before the storm. We all hung out together that night, but we weren't talking much fencing. We knew once we woke up it was game time.

Foil went first, so it was Axel (Kiefer) and Kristjan (Archer) at nine, then Dylan (French) and I were in epee at 11:30 and sabre (Jonah Shainberg and Jonathan Fitzgerald) was at 1:30. By the time I got there the foil guys were already fencing. It was a little scary to watch. The competition was on a hockey rink with stands all around, and it was obvious everyone was going to be watching us. We saw there were a lot of people cheering for the Notre Dame guys, and that was great. We warmed up, got in our zone and then we got ready to fence.

Dylan and I were intense and tense at the same time. You have to know in this tournament you're going to lose bouts, and the most important thing is to have a short memory. You lose a bout and you go to the next one. If you keep thinking about it you'll lose your next one and the one after that and the one after that. This tournament is not about you, it's about the team. So if you get into a funk you're not just losing for yourself, you're losing for your team. So you have to put your ego aside and forget that you lost a bout and win the next one. It's about bringing back the trophy.

I lost a few bouts and so did Dylan. We did a good job of resetting, but I was very frustrated every time I lost a bout. Some of the matches you lose you wouldn't lose in a normal situation—but you get too excited, too scared, too happy you won the last one, and

then you do something stupid. The first day I won nine bouts (out of 15) and Dylan won eight, which is pretty good. We kept saying we have to forget about it—just do our jobs tomorrow.

They make it a two-day format because the intensity and emotion and mental energy exhaust you. We just wanted to eat and sleep Thursday night. That next day we only lost one bout each—we killed it. Dylan ended up one bout away from being an All-American and I got into the final four. My mom flew up and this was the first time in college she'd seen me fence. I'd look at the coaches and the team and they're giving it their all cheering for you and you realize you're giving it your all fencing.

It all happens so quickly. I hated it and loved it at the same time. I loved the amount of energy—it was unlike any event I've ever fenced. The first day everyone is kind of feeling out the water. The second day was even more intense because everyone is trying to finish in the final four. Epee was kind of a free for all with eight matches on Friday. We had to give it 10 times more than we did the first day. After each bout the emotions were unbelievable. If you won you did not hear silence for a full minute after the bout. It was "We are ND" and "Here come the Irish" and it was just booming. We knew sabre and foil were winning because we could hear the energy over there. And just like that it's done.

I was spent after the 23 pool bouts. I got 15 of them—and I was gone emotionally. Then the team part is over and it's just the four individuals left. I lost a little intensity, and I ended up losing in the semifinals. It was cool, but it's different because it doesn't count for the team.

When the men were done Friday we're doing our best not to think about the standings and what it meant. But all the guys know they're done fencing so they can just look at numbers. We were tied with Ohio State after Friday, and we couldn't do anything about it. But we put all our faith in the girls—we knew they could take it home. They have a good history of killing it at NCAAs. But it's 10 times more stressful watching than being on the strip.

By Saturday night we were all optimistic, but it's like "we can do it" rather than "we did do it." Nobody wants to jinx it. The last few years we were close, but we hadn't gotten it. We're excited, but we're all freaking out at the same time.

Then on Sunday, while we thought the guys did a good job, the girls blew us out of the water. Four of the six girls got 79 bouts. All six guys got 86. The girls got 100 points—that's freakishly high. They were averaging winning two or three more bouts than the guys and that's huge. My friends from other schools kept telling me, "Notre Dame's got this." But you did not really feel like you

were destroying all these other schools until it's all over. You can't just say it, you still have to do it. In the end we won by such a huge margin and a lot of it was that everybody just kept their heads down.

On Sunday we knew exactly how many more bouts we needed. At one point it was seven and then five. Then Lee Kiefer was up, and she ends up the hero. It was so perfect that she was the one who had a chance to clinch this for the team. There was a Snapchat story that one of our friends took and it said, "Here Come the Irish." It's just a video of all the Notre Dame fans in the stands running over to where Lee is going to fence.

She ended up winning 5-1, and I'm standing there in front with an ND flag waiting to unfurl it. (Sophomore foilist) Sabrina (Massialas) is watching us and she gives us a thumbs up, but she did not know this was the bout. We let her know that this was it. As soon as Lee won, Sabrina ran up and told her that we had won. We're all screaming and hugging. They told us we had to stay in the stands, but we came down there anyway. We all did this—it wasn't just one person. This was the entire group, it was the people who came before us, it was the coaches, it was everything we did right this year. It was crazy to see it all come together.

We weren't the No. 1 ranked team coming into this. People were predicting us second or third, and last year we were fifth. Out of 12 fencers we had nine All-Americans (Lee Kiefer, Amanda Sirico, 2017 individual sabre champion Francesca Russo and Simmons earned first-team honors; Massialas, Archer, Axel Kiefer, Shainberg and Fitzgerald won second-team recognition). That's how you win a national championship. Everybody got double-digit points.

We took pictures with the trophy, and then we jumped on the bus and came home. It was the most emotional weekend I've ever had and it was over like this (snaps his fingers). We had probably 30, maybe 40 team members come on their own time and money to support us. That's what this team is—it's a family that came together when we needed it most. You had to be there to experience it. It was beautiful.



"It was 'We are ND' and 'Here come the Irish' and it was just booming."

ARIEL SIMMONS

SPORTS

|||| 2016-17





NACDA CUP

Notre Dame finished 23rd in the final Directors Cup all-sports standings for 2016–17 in the tabulations sponsored by Learfield and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA). The Irish scored points in nine women's sports and six men's sports in addition to 100 points from the combined NCAA Fencing Championship title. Top point-scoring programs in 2016–17 were fencing (100),

hockey (83), women's basketball (73), women's cross country (66), men's soccer (64), men's lacrosse (60) and men's basketball and women's tennis (50 each). Notre Dame qualified for spots in the brackets in both the 2017 and 2016 NCAA Championships in men's basketball, women's basketball and hockey—the only institution to accomplish that feat in each of those years.



FALL SPORTS

FOOTBALL

4-8

→ Junior safety **Drue Tranquill** was named to the 2016 Academic All-America® Division I Football Team, as chosen by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). The mechanical engineering major has a 3.73 grade-point average and has been named to the University's Dean's List during three of his six semesters at Notre Dame. He's the first Irish football student-athlete to receive the honor since **Corey Robinson** earned first-team accolades in 2014.

→ Robinson received one of the NCAA's highest honors—an NCAA post-graduate scholarship. The 2016-17 Notre Dame student body president graduated with a degree from the Program of Liberal Studies, added a minor in sustainability and boasted a 3.836 cumulative grade-point average. Robinson, a two-time Rhodes Scholar applicant and one-time finalist, became the first Notre Dame football student-athlete to receive the honor since 2008 and 18th in program history.

→ Senior left tackle **Mike McGlinchey** earned second-team All-America honors from the Associated Press and third-team accolades from Phil Steele.

→ Junior left guard **Quenton Nelson** claimed second-team All-America honors from both the Associated Press and Sports Illustrated.

→ McGlinchey and Nelson are the fourth and fifth Notre Dame offensive



linemen, respectively, to be named first- or second-team All-American in the last five years.

MEN'S SOCCER

12-7-2

#14 FINAL RANKING (NSCAA)
3-3-2, 3RD IN ACC COASTAL DIVISION
ACC CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTERFINALS
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP THIRD ROUND

→ **Brandon Aubrey** completed his senior season as an NSCAA All-America third-team selection and was named to the NSCAA Scholar All-America first team. Aubrey was chosen in the first round (21st overall) by Toronto FC during the 2017 MLS SuperDraft.

→ **Jon Gallagher**, the leading goalscorer (14) in the conference, was named the 2016 ACC Offensive Player of the Year. Gallagher and Aubrey were All-ACC first-team selections, while **Evan Panken** was an All-ACC third-team choice. **Tommy McCabe** was selected to the ACC All-Freshman team.

→ The Irish earned the No. 13 national seed in the NCAA Championship bracket.

→ Notre Dame made its 19th appearance in the NCAA Championship in 2016 and its 11th as one of the event's 16 national seeds. The Irish were the top overall seed in both 2012 and 2014 and won the 2013 NCAA title as the third seed.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

13-3-5

#21 FINAL RANKING (NSCAA)
7-1-2, TIE FOR 1ST IN ACC
ACC CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP FIRST
ROUND

→ Taylor Klawunder was named to the NSCAA All-Southeast Region third team.

→ Kaleigh Olmsted earned All-ACC first-team honors, Jennifer Westendorf copped All-ACC second-team recognition and Klawunder, Sandra Yu and Kaela Little were named to the All-ACC third team. Westendorf was also recognized as an All-ACC Freshman team selection.

→ Goalkeeper Kaela Little posted 13 solo shutouts and combined for two more. She achieved career highs in goals-against average (0.41), saves (91), save percentage (.910) and solo shutouts (13). She ranked first in the conference in save percentage and shutouts, second in goals-against average and fourth in saves. She finished her career ranked first in program history in solo shutouts (38) and save percentage (.838), third in minutes (7,249:45) and goalkeeper starts (78) and fourth in goals-against average (0.66).

→ Notre Dame made its 24th consecutive appearance in the NCAA Championship, the second-longest active streak (behind only North Carolina).



MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

10TH IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

→ The Irish finished 10th at the ACC Championship behind Anthony Williams' 28th-place spot and Christopher Marco's 47th-place finish.

→ Marco raced to 54th at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional meet.

→ Notre Dame placed second in the National Catholic Invitational, recording five top-20 finishes in the race.

→ The Irish had two runners, Marco and Williams, named to the All-ACC Academic team.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

#11 FINAL RANKING (USTFCCCA)
2ND IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP
11TH IN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

→ The Irish made their 15th straight appearance at the NCAA Championship, finishing 11th overall with two top-50 individual finishes. Anna Rohrer finished third overall at the NCAA Championship.

→ Notre Dame placed second as a team at the ACC Championship, following top-10 finishes by Rohrer (she won the race), Annie Heffernan (second) and Danielle Aragon (ninth).

→ Rohrer won her first individual ACC Championship and was named ACC Female Cross Country Performer of the Year. Rohrer received her second cross country All-America honor and was a Honda Sport Award nominee for cross country.

→ The Irish finished second at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional meet as Rohrer, Heffernan (10th) and Aragon (13th) turned in top-15 performances.

→ Notre Dame won the National Catholic Championship, led by five of the top 15 finishers.

VOLLEYBALL 22-10

13-7, TIE FOR 6TH IN ACC

Notre Dame's 22 wins were the most in a season since 2005 and the 13 conference wins were the most in the ACC in Irish program history.

Sam Fry, Caroline Holt and Ryann DeJarld were each named second-team All-ACC selections, while first-year player Jemma

Yeadon earned a spot on the league's all-freshman team. It marked the first time four Irish players earned regular-season conference recognition in the same year since Notre Dame joined the ACC in 2013.

Holt thrived in running the Irish attack from the setter position. Notre Dame was 18-4 in matches the junior transfer played, including 9-1 in ACC play. Holt averaged 10.97 assists per set to lead the Irish and rank second in the ACC. The 10.97 assists per set rank second in the Notre Dame record books since the NCAA switched to 25-point sets in 2008.

DeJarld finished the year with 572 digs, ranking third all-time for digs in a season in Notre Dame history. DeJarld was second in the ACC in digs per set (5.02) and aces per set (0.39). The libero totaled 44 aces on the season, placing her in a tie for sixth in the Irish record books for aces in a season.

Fry ranked second on the team in kills (255), kills per set (2.38) and blocks (102). Fry had 10-plus blocking performances in three



matches, recording a career high of 12 in two matches.

Yeadon led the Irish attack with a team-high 2.94 kills per set and recorded double-digit kills in 19 matches, including six straight to close out the 2016 campaign.

WINTER SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL 26-10

#14/#20 FINAL RANKINGS (AP/USA TODAY)

12-6, TIE FOR 2ND IN ACC

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP RUNNER-UP

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP SECOND ROUND

The Irish advanced to the second round of the NCAA Championship for the third straight season—the team's

seven NCAA wins over the past three seasons are tied for first for most in program history over a three-year span.

Junior forward Bonzie Colson was named to the All-ACC second team, while junior guard Matt Farrell, senior forward V.J.

Beachem and senior guard Steve Vasturia were each named honorable mention.

Colson was an Associated Press third-team All-American, a Wooden

Award Final 15 selection, a Naismith Award Top 30 candidate and a Karl Malone Trophy finalist.

► The Notre Dame regular season was keynoted by home wins over ninth-ranked Louisville and 14th-rated Florida State.

► Notre Dame defeated Virginia and Florida State at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn to reach the ACC Championship final for the second time in four seasons.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 33-4

#2/#5 FINAL RANKINGS (AP/USA TODAY)
15-1, 1ST IN ACC
1ST IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP
NCAA LEXINGTON REGIONAL
RUNNER-UP

► **Brianna Turner** earned first-team All-America honors and repeated as the ACC Defensive Player of the

Year, leading the league with 86 blocked shots.

► A third-team All-American and the ACC Championship MVP, **Lindsay Allen** set both school and ACC records for both single-season (282) and career (841) assists. After the season she was the 14th overall pick in the WNBA Draft by the New York Liberty.

► **Arike Ogunbowale** earned Most Outstanding Player honors in Notre

Dame's NCAA Lexington Regional while claiming a spot on the Naismith Trophy's midseason Top 30 list.

► Karen and Kevin Keyes Family Head Women's Basketball coach **Muffet McGraw** was a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame's Class of 2017.

► Notre Dame became the only team in the nation to win its conference regular-season title outright and its conference tournament title in each of the past five years (2013-17).

► The Irish claimed a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Championship for the sixth year in a row.



HOCKEY 23-12-5

#4/#5 FINAL RANKINGS (USA TODAY/USCHO.COM)
12-6-4, 4TH IN HOCKEY EAST
HOCKEY EAST CHAMPIONSHIP
SEMIFINALS
1ST IN NCAAW CHAMPIONSHIP
NORTHEAST REGIONAL
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP FROZEN
FOUR (NATIONAL SEMIFINALS)

► The Irish made their ninth appearance in the NCAA Championship. At the NCAA Northeast Regional they defeated No. 1 seed Minnesota 3-2 and No. 2 seed UMass Lowell in overtime 3-2 to advance to the Frozen Four for the third time in program history.

► High-scoring junior **Anders Bjork** posted a career-high 52 points on 21 goals and 31 assists. He was named a second-team East CCM/AHCA All-American, earned first-team Hockey East All-Star honors and was a finalist for both the

Hobey Baker and the Hockey Humanitarian awards. Prior to signing a three-year entry level contract with the NHL Boston Bruins, he suited up for Team USA at the 2017 IIHF World Championship.

→ Bjork, junior goaltender **Cal Petersen**, junior defenseman **Jordan Gross** and sophomore forward **Andrew Oglevie**, who scored the overtime winner against UMass Lowell, were named to the NCAA Northeast Regional All-Tournament team.

→ Petersen, who turned pro in the summer of 2017, ended the season by making his 90th consecutive start in the Notre Dame net—the fourth-longest streak in Division I history. He was named a 2017 Hockey East First Team All-Star and was also a Mike Richter Award finalist.

→ Sophomore defenseman **Dennis Gilbert** was named a Hockey East Third Team All-Star and was also named the league's Best Defensive Defenseman. Gross was named an honorable mention All-Star, while freshman **Andrew Peeke** was the only defenseman named to the Hockey East All-Rookie Team.

at the NCAA Division I Championship in school history in 2017. The Irish sent a record-tying nine individuals to the meet and finished with a program-record 29 points to place 25th.

→ Notre Dame finished third at the 2017 ACC Championship for the program's first podium finish at the conference meet.

→ Senior **Trent Jackson** earned All-America honors at the NCAA meet. He swam 1:53.58 in the

morning prelims of the 200 breaststroke, good enough to finish in the top eight. Jackson advanced to the finals and placed eighth at 1:55.24.

→ Jackson set the school record in the 100 breaststroke (52.25) and competed on two relay school records (200 and 400 medley).

→ Junior **Joe Coumos** made school history when his score of 420.00 earned him the 2017 ACC men's 1-meter diving champion-

ship. It was Notre Dame's first championship in diving as a member of the ACC. Coumos also earned fourth place in the men's 3-meter dive.

→ Junior **Justin Plaschka** netted Notre Dame's first silver medal of the 2017 ACC Championship. He swam 19.38 and edged Chad Mylin of Florida State (19.39) for second place. Plaschka's time bested the school record that teammate **Daniel Speers** (19.45) had broken in that morning's prelims.

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING 9-2

#19 FINAL RANKING (CSCAA)
2-2 ACC
3RD IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP
25TH IN NCAAC CHAMPIONSHIP

→ Notre Dame registered its most successful performance





➡ **Tabahn Afrik** earned Notre Dame's second individual medal at the ACC meet at 42.86 in the 100 free. The time was an NCAA B-cut standard time, and it marked Afrik's second medal of the tournament after he earned his first as a member of the 200 freestyle relay team that earned a bronze.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING 10-1

#24 FINAL RANKING (CSCAA)

3-1 ACC

7TH IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

44TH IN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

➡ Notre Dame concluded its breakthrough season with a strong showing at the 2017 NCAA Championship, sending a school-record 10 athletes.

➡ Senior **Catherine Mulquin** finished 15th in the morning prelims of the 100 back at the NCAA Championship in 51.72, which earned her honorable mention All-America honors.

➡ Mulquin set the school record in the 100 back (51.72) and competed on four relay school records (200 and 400 medley as well as 200 and 400 free). She also swam the 50 free at the NCAA meet for the first time in her career, and her time of 22.52 finished 40th—fourth-fastest in school history.

➡ The Irish relays set two schools records at the NCAA meet. The first came in the 200 free relay as Notre Dame's quartet of **Katie Smith**, Mulquin, **Abbie**

Dolan and **Sofia Revilak** broke its own record in the relay at 1:28.93. The second came from the foursome of Mulquin, **Meaghan O'Donnell**, **Erin Sheehan** and Dolan in the 400 medley relay. That group came in at 3:33.38—besting the time of 3:33.93 set in 2014.

➡ Sophomore **Alice Treuth** swam the 200 backstroke at the NCAA meet in 1:53.45 to set the Notre Dame record and placed 26th. Treuth broke **Kelly Ryan's** record of 1:53.57 (2013).

➡ Freshman **Erin Sheehan** earned a bronze medal with a third-place finish in the 100 butterfly at the ACC Championship. Her time of 52.22 in the 100 butterfly gave the Irish their first medal of the event.

➡ Freshman **Abbie Dolan** broke the 100 and 200 free records at the ACC meet. She swam the 100 free in 48.70 and the 200 free in 1:44.65.

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

8TH IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

54TH IN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

➡ **Nathan Richartz** tied for sixth in the pole vault at the NCAA Championship, good for All-America honors.

➡ Richartz placed third in the vault at the ACC Championship and also recorded first-place finishes at the Mayo Invitational and

the Clemson Tiger Paw Invitational.

➡ The Irish finished eighth overall at the ACC Championship. **Jake Dumford** took fifth in the mile at the ACC meet, and the 4x400-meter relay unit also took fifth.

➡ **Anthony Shivers** threw a school-record 20.50m in the weight throw at the ACC Championship.

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

5TH IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

33RD (TIE) IN NCAA
CHAMPIONSHIP

➡ The Irish tied for 33rd at the NCAA Championship. The distance medley relay squad of **Jamie Marvil**,

SEASONS IN REVIEW

Jessica Harris, Payton Miller and **Kelly Hart** received All-America honors, the fifth straight year the Irish women's DMR claimed that distinction. **Anna Rohrer** finished third in the 5,000 meters, and Jessica Harris placed 13th in the mile.

→ Notre Dame came in fifth at the ACC Championship after Rohrer won the 5,000-meter title, Harris won the mile and the relay squad took gold in the distance medley relay.

→ **Indi Jackson** finished sixth in the shot put at the ACC Championship.

→ Jackson set the school record in the shot put with a 16.23-meter throw at the Alex Wilson Invitational.



MEN'S FENCING

30-8

#2 (TIE) FINAL RANKING
(COLLEGEFENCING360.COM)
1ST IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP
1ST IN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

→ The men combined with the women to claim the ninth NCAA Championship in program history. Notre Dame's final total of 186 points was the highest for the Irish in an NCAA title victory and the highest for a winning team since Penn State's 191 in 2010.

→ Rookie **Ariel Simmons** won first-team All-America honors after advancing to the NCAA semifinals in epee. Four more men earned second-team recognition: **Kristjan Archer** (foil), **Axel Kiefer** (foil), **Jonathan Fitzgerald** (sabre) and **Jonah Shainberg** (sabre).

→ At the NCAA Midwest Regional, Simmons claimed silver in epee, while **Virgil Collineau** came in third in foil and Fitzgerald placed third in sabre.

→ The Irish repeated as ACC champions, with Archer (foil) and Simmons (epee) each claiming individual weapon gold medals. For his efforts in both the individual and team championship, Simmons was named the event's most valuable fencer.

→ Simmons was named the ACC Fencer of the Year for Epee, while Kiefer took home that title for foil. Fitzgerald was a third-team CoSIDA Academic All-American in the at-large division.

WOMEN'S FENCING

35-4

#1 (TIE) FINAL RANKING
(COLLEGEFENCING360.COM)
1ST IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP
1ST IN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

→ The women combined with the men to claim the ninth NCAA Championship in program history. Notre Dame's final total of 186 points was the highest for the Irish in an NCAA title victory and the highest for a winning team since Penn State's 191 total in 2010.

→ **Lee Kiefer** made Notre Dame and collegiate fencing history by capturing her fourth individual NCAA title in foil. Kiefer became just the third

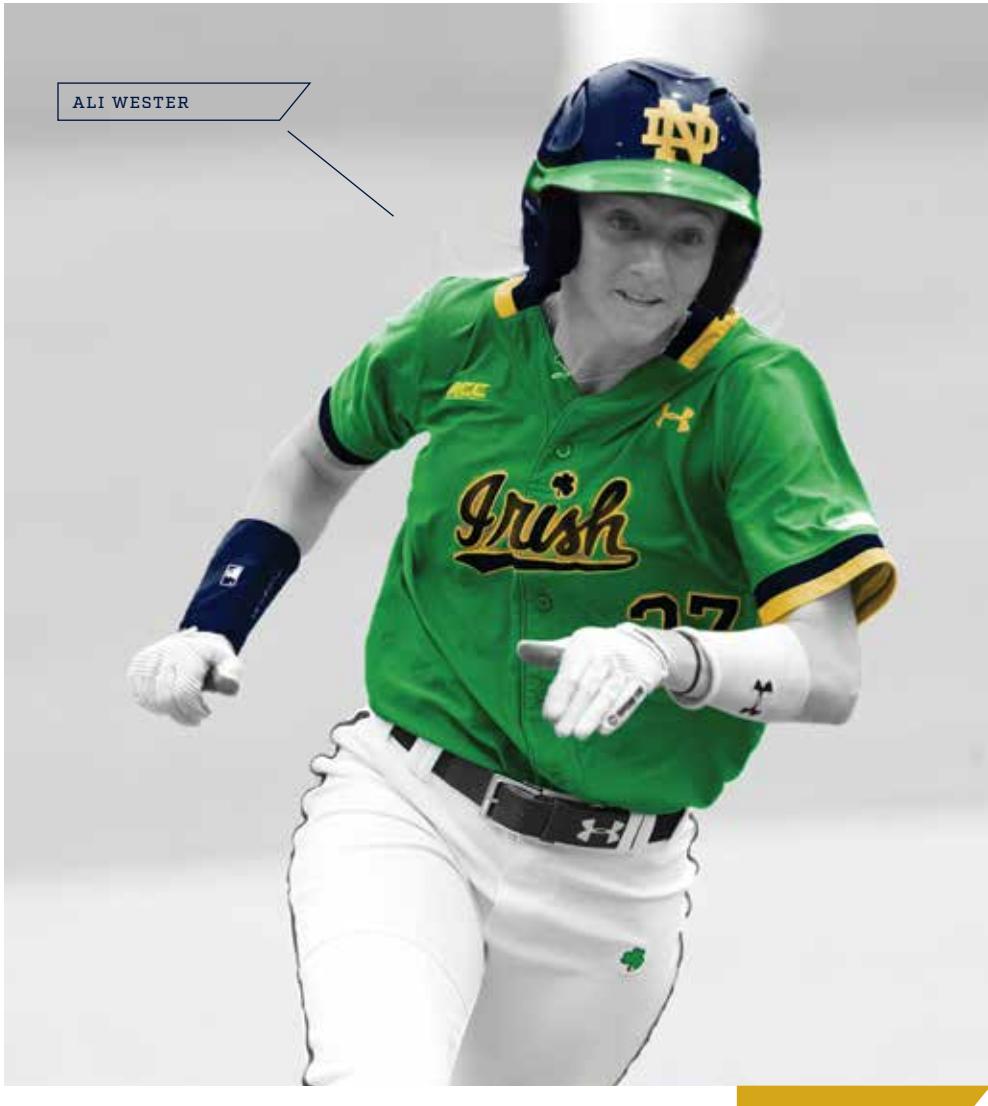
college fencer to win four NCAA championships and one of just 18 Division I athletes to accomplish the feat.

→ Kiefer was also elevated to the FIE No. 1 senior foil ranking, becoming the first American woman to top the rankings.

→ **Francesca Russo** also repeated as an NCAA individual champion, winning the 2017 title in sabre after also capturing the 2015 crown as a freshman.

→ Joining Kiefer and Russo as a first-team All-American was **Amanda Sirico**, who placed third in epee.

→ The Irish women boasted NCAA Midwest Regional champions in sabre and foil, as Russo and Kiefer turned in outstanding days. Also



medaling for the Irish was Sirico who claimed third in epee.

► The Irish repeated as ACC champions and swept the individual titles with **Sabrina Massialas** (foil), Russo (sabre) and Sirico (epee) taking home individual gold medals. Massialas was selected as the ACC Championship Most Valuable Fencer.

► Kiefer was named the ACC Women's Fencer of the Year for Foil and Russo earned ACC Women's Fencer of the Year for Sabre honors. Kiefer also was a first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American in the at-large category (she won that same honor in 2015).

SPRING SPORTS

BASEBALL 26-32

10-20, 7TH IN ATLANTIC DIVISION
ACC CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPANT

► **Matt Vierling** collected third team All-ACC honors after leading the Irish in batting average (.320), homers (seven) and RBI (42) while starting all 58 games. The sophomore ranked 23rd in the league in batting average and among the conference's top four in

doubles and triples. During ACC play, he was 19th among conference hitters with a .322 average while his 14 doubles in 30 league games ranked second. In addition, the centerfielder committed just one error on the year, while recording 10 assists.

► Second baseman **Nick Podkul** was the only Irish player besides Vierling to start all 58 games. He finished third on the team with a .285 average while ranking second in slugging

at .439. He saved his best for last, earning a spot on the ACC Championship All-Tournament team for his performance in Notre Dame's two games. Against eventual tournament champion Florida State, Podkul homered twice—then, against regular-season champion Louisville, the sophomore went two for five with a run scored.

► Southpaw **Michael Hearne** capped his career, becoming the club's No. 2 weekend starter. The graduate student finished second in the ACC and 19th nationally in walks per nine innings, issuing free passes at a 1.21 clip, which also ranks as the sixth-best season figure in program history. For his career, Hearne finished with a walks-per-nine rate of 1.49, the second-best mark in Notre Dame baseball history. In 13 starts in 2017, Hearne did not issue more than two walks in a single appearance.

SOFTBALL 34-23

13-11, 5TH IN ACC
ACC CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONAL PARTICIPANT

► Outfielder **Karley Wester** closed one of the best careers in Notre Dame history with her fourth straight selections to both NFCA all-region and All-ACC teams.

► A two-time (2014 and 2016) NFCA All-America choice during her Notre Dame tenure, Wester finished the 2017 season as the active Division I softball national leader with 323

SEASONS IN REVIEW

career hits. Her career hits, batting average, stolen bases and runs scored totals were all Notre Dame softball program records.

➡ **Karley Wester, Ali Wester and Morgan Reed** were each named to the NFCA Mid-Atlantic all-region first team. **Melissa Rochford** was selected to the NFCA Mid-Atlantic all-region second team.

➡ Four members of the Notre Dame team claimed All-ACC honors. The Wester sisters were each selected

to the All-ACC first team, while Reed and Rochford represented the Irish on the All-ACC second team.

➡ Notre Dame played in the NCAA Championship for the 19th straight season.



MEN'S TENNIS 13-13

#50 FINAL RANKING (ITA)
4-8, 10TH IN ACC
ACC CHAMPIONSHIP SECOND ROUND

➡ **Josh Hagar** advanced to the second round of the NCAA Singles Championship in his first NCAA appearance. Hagar finished the year with a No. 57 national ranking in singles.

➡ Hagar was named to the All-ACC first team for his second career All-ACC honor.

➡ The ITA named Hagar its Most Improved Player for the Midwest Region following the season. That award annually goes to a senior.

WOMEN'S TENNIS 18-10

#29 FINAL RANKING (ITA)
7-7, 5TH (TIE) IN ACC
ACC CHAMPIONSHIP SECOND ROUND
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP SECOND ROUND

➡ Senior **Monica Robinson** became the program's first National ITA/Arthur Ashe Sportsmanship and Leadership award winner in May after earning the regional honor earlier in the month. She was also named the Most Improved Player for the Midwest Region.

➡ Freshman **Zoe Spence** was tabbed as the ITA Midwest Region Rookie of the Year.

➡ Robinson was selected for the All-ACC second team, her second career all-league honor.

➡ Since their first appearance in the NCAA Championship in 1993 the Irish have made 24 postseason appearances in 25 seasons—and only twice have the Irish failed to win a first-round match when making the tournament.



WOMEN'S LACROSSE

11-8

#18/#18/#19 FINAL RANKINGS
(IWLCA/US LACROSSE/INSIDE
LACROSSE)
4-3, 3RD IN ACC
ACC CHAMPIONSHIP
QUARTERFINALS
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP FIRST
ROUND

➡ **Cortney Fortunato** was selected as a Tewaaraton Award nominee for the third straight season after reaching the 300-point milestone for her career.

➡ Fortunato and **Casey Pearsall** earned IWLCA All-America honors, as Pearsall was recognized on the first team and Fortunato received a spot on the second team. It marked Fortunato's fourth All-America selection and the third of Pearsall's career.

➡ Fortunato and Pearsall received first-team IWLCA All-West/Midwest accolades, while **Alex Dalton** earned a spot on the all-region second team.

➡ The Irish had three members of the 2017 team receive All-ACC accolades. Fortunato and Pearsall made the first team, while Dalton was named to the second team.

➡ Notre Dame made its sixth straight trip to the NCAA Championship and finished the season 11-8 with a 4-3 record in ACC play. The conference record equaled Notre Dame's best in the ACC since the team joined the league.

MEN'S LACROSSE

9-6

#8/#8 FINAL RANKING (INSIDE
LACROSSE/US LACROSSE)
2-2, 3RD IN ACC
ACC CHAMPIONSHIP RUNNER-UP
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP
QUARTERFINALS

➡ The United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association selected defenseman **Garrett Epple**, midfielder **Sergio Perkovic** and LSDM **John Sexton** to its All-America first team. SSDM **Drew Schantz** earned

third-team recognition and attackman **Ryder Garnsey** merited honorable mention honors. Epple, Perkovic and Sexton earned All-ACC recognition—and all three were second-team All-America picks by Inside Lacrosse (media voting).

➡ Perkovic earned the Byron V. Kanaley Award and Weaver-James-Corigan Award (honorary ACC Postgraduate Scholarship) during the season and was a finalist for the Senior CLASS Award.

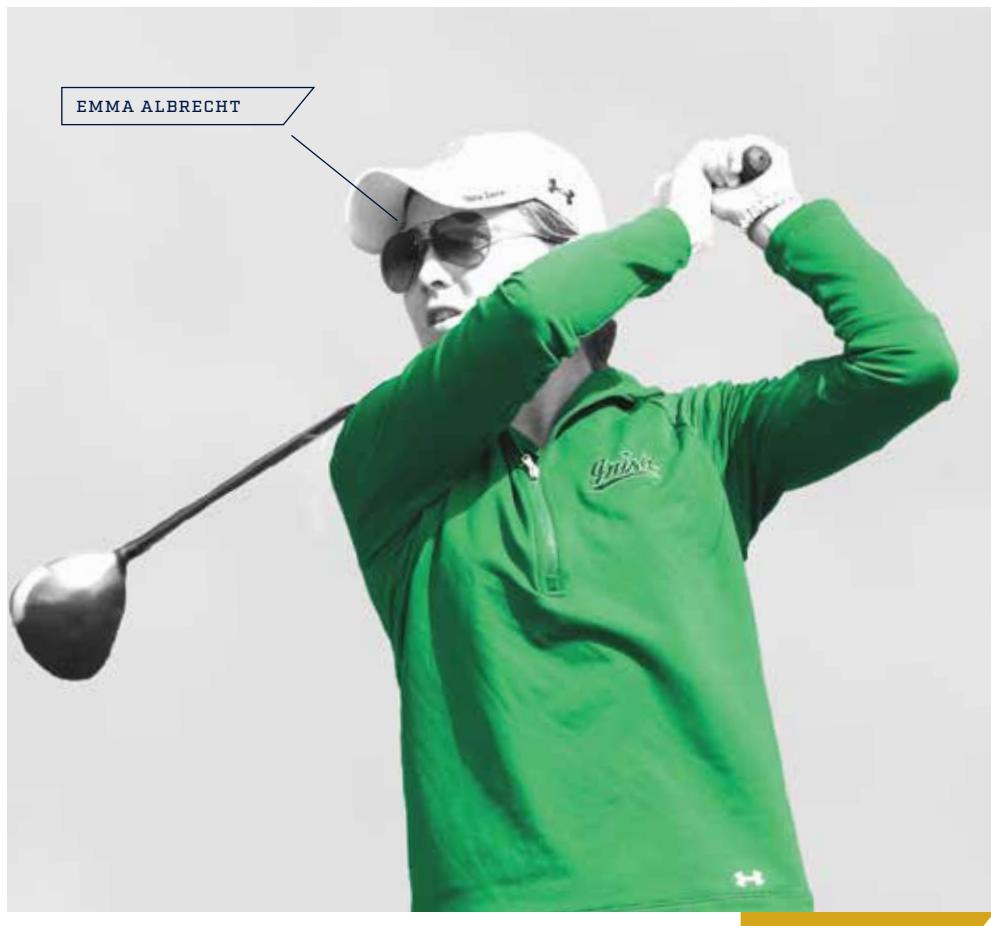
➡ Perkovic and teammate **Mikey Wynne** both reached and surpassed the 100-goal milestone for their careers,

marking the first time the Irish had two players on the same team with 100 or more goals in their careers.

➡ The Irish ranked No. 1 in the country for two weeks during the season, according to the Inside Lacrosse and USILA polls—and they finished No. 1 in the NCAA's final rankings for toughest schedule.

➡ Notre Dame advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals for the eighth year in a row, the best active streak in the country.

SEASONS IN REVIEW



MEN'S GOLF 10TH IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

Notre Dame won four events in 2016-17 (Notre Dame Kickoff Challenge, Georgetown Invitational,

Yestingsmeier Match Play and Battle at the Warren).

► Irish had four individual medalists on the year (**John Felitto**/Notre Dame Kickoff Challenge, **Blake Barends**/ Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic, **Ben Albin**/Georgetown Intercollegiate and

Kevin Conners/Battle at the Warren).

► Notre Dame set a school record (since 1990) with a team season stroke average of 289.52.

► Barends set a school record (since 1963) for a

54-hole tournament with his 201 (-9) to claim medalist honors at the Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic, eclipsing the previous record by seven strokes (**Max Scodro's** 208 in the 2012 NCAA Central Regional).

WOMEN'S GOLF #66 FINAL RANKING (GOLFSTAT) 10TH IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

► Sophomore **Emma Albrecht** led the Irish with a 73.56 stroke average, qualified for the NCAA Columbus Regional as an individual and tied for 13th at that event. She was Notre Dame's top finisher in five of nine tournaments and her placement at the NCAA regional marked the second-best finish in program history.

► Sophomore **Isabella DiLisio** tied for third at the Westbrook Spring Invita-

Handrigan named Irish men's golf coach

John Handrigan, associate men's golf coach at the University of Florida and the 2015 national assistant coach of the year, was named head men's golf coach at Notre Dame in July 2017. Handrigan came to Notre Dame following a six-year tenure at Florida. He served as the Gators' associate head coach in 2016-17 after spending the previous five years in Gainesville as an assistant coach. Florida won five tournaments in 2016-17 and advanced to the NCAA Regional Championship, raising the Gators' total to 11 tournament wins during Handrigan's tenure. He also helped guide Florida to five NCAA regionals and four NCAA Championship appearances.

Handrigan was awarded the 2015 Jan Strickland Award, emblematic of the national assistant coach of the year as recognized by the Golf Coaches Association of America. Notably, the award honors a coach for his work with student-athletes both on and off of the golf course. Handrigan was a finalist for the award in 2013 as well. During his time with the Gators, he mentored 10 individual tournament winners, capped off by Alejandro Tosti winning the 2017 Southeastern Conference Championship. He coached six All-Americans and nine All-SEC

selections along with four GCAA All-America Scholars and 29 academic All-SEC selections.

A Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada, native, Handrigan played collegiately at St. Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania. Briefly playing professionally on the Canadian Tour and the Great Lakes Tour, Handrigan began his coaching career at St. Francis, serving as an assistant coach from 2000-03 before taking over the head coaching reigns at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina. Handrigan led the Cobras to the Division II NCAA Championship in 2006, four straight NCAA regionals and a 2006 conference championship.

Handrigan went from Coker to Queens University in Charlotte, spending two years there as the head coach of both the men's and women's golf teams. He was named the women's conference coach of the year in 2009. Handrigan returned to the Division I ranks at Kansas, spending the 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons with the Jayhawks.

Handrigan earned a pair of degrees from St. Francis, a bachelor's degree in business management in 2000 and an MBA in 2002.



tional and posted a 74.77 stroke average for the season, ranking second on the team.

► Notre Dame shot a 280 (-8) in the third round of the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational, the third-lowest team round in program history.

MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

12TH IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

► **Nate Richartz** finished ninth in the pole vault and **Matthew Birzer** was 13th in the high jump at the NCAA Championship. Both claimed second-team All-America honors.

► Nine individuals qualified for the NCAA East Regional meet in Lexington.

► Notre Dame finished 12th at the ACC Championship. Richartz won his second career conference championship in the pole vault.

► **Anthony Shivers** set the school record with a 217-3 throw in the hammer throw at the Michael Johnson Invitational.

► Richartz set the program record with an 18-1 vault and first-place finish at the Louisville Invitational.

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

#21 FINAL RANKING (USTFCCCA)
7TH IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

► **Jessica Harris** finished 10th and **Danielle Aragon** was 12th in the 1,500 meters at the NCAA Championship, while **Anna Rohrer** took 16th place in the 10,000 meters. All three received second-team All-America honors.

► Nine individuals qualified for the NCAA East Regional meet in Lexington.

► The Irish finished fifth at the ACC Championship. Rohrer won back-to-back titles in the 10,000- and the

5,000-meter races, giving her four conference championships between cross country and track this year.

► Aragon placed second in the 1,500 at the ACC Championship, earning All-ACC honors, while Harris came in fourth in the 800 and 1,500.

► The distance medley relay squad of Aragon, Harris, **Kelly Hart** and **Payton Miller** set a program record, surpassing both the indoor and outdoor DMR marks.

ROWING

#16 FINAL RANKING (CRCA/US ROWING COACHES)
3RD IN ACC CHAMPIONSHIP
16TH IN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

► Three Notre Dame rowers claimed All-ACC honors at the league championship regatta, as **Erin Boxberger** received first-team recognition and **Treasa O'Tighearnaigh** earned second-team honors. Freshman **Emily Stinebaugh** was named the ACC Freshman of the Year.

► Boxberger and O'Tighearnaigh were named to the CRCA All-Region 3 first team and Gretchen Bruggeman was a second-team pick.

► Notre Dame's top finish at the ACC Championship came from a second-place finish by the first varsity eight, which lowered its time by over 26 seconds from the prelims.

► 2008 Irish rowing alumna **Amanda Polk** won a gold medal at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the U.S. women's eight.

BY THE RANKINGS

Here's where Notre Dame teams in 2016-17 finished in the final polls:

1ST
women's fencing
(fencing360.com)

2ND
men's fencing
(fencing360.com)

4TH
hockey (USA Today)

5TH
women's basketball
(USA Today)

8TH
men's lacrosse
(Inside Lacrosse)

11TH
women's cross country
(USTFCCA)

14TH
men's soccer
(NSCAA)

16TH
rowing
(CRCA)

18TH
women's lacrosse
(IWLCA)

19TH
men's swimming and diving
(CSCAA)

20TH
men's basketball
(USA Today)



21ST
women's soccer
(NSCAA)

21ST
women's outdoor
track & field
(USTFCCA)

24TH
women's swimming
and diving
(CSCAA)

26TH
women's indoor
track & field
(USTFCCA)

29TH
women's tennis
(ITA)

50TH
men's tennis
(ITA)

1ST
women's fencing
(fencing360.com)

US SENIOR OPEN COMING TO NOTRE DAME



The Warren Golf Course on the Notre Dame campus will be the host site for the 2019 U.S. Senior Open Championship Links. Dates for the championship are June 27-30. The Warren course will be the first collegiate course to host a U.S. Senior Open Championship. It will be the 16th USGA championship held on a campus layout.

The Warren Golf Course previously hosted the 2010 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship, as well as six

U.S. Amateur sectional qualifiers (2001, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2012 and 2014), two U.S. Open local qualifiers (2009, 2011) and several tournaments conducted by the Western Golf Association and the Indiana Golf Association.

The U.S. Senior Open Championship was first played in 1980. The championship for golfers age 50 and older is open to any professional and any amateur with a Handicap Index® not exceeding 3.4.

THREE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS HEADED TO NOTRE DAME

The NCAA awarded three of its championship events to the University of Notre Dame:

- ➡ The Warren Golf Course will be the location for an NCAA Women's Golf Regional Championship on May 11-13, 2020.
- ➡ Notre Dame Stadium will serve as the venue for an NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championship quarterfinal doubleheader on May 23, 2021.
- ➡ The Joyce Center will be the site of the NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Championships on March 24-27, 2022.

The Warren Golf Course previously was the site of the 2005 and 2010 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Regionals and the 2011 and 2015 NCAA Division I Women's Golf Regionals. It will be the host site for the 2019 U.S. Senior Open Championship.

Notre Dame has played host to NCAA first-round games in the men's lacrosse championships each of the last seven years and nine times overall (since 2011 at Arlotta Stadium). The University also served as

institutional host in Indianapolis at Lucas Oil Stadium in 2013 for an NCAA quarterfinal doubleheader. The 2021 event will mark the first time men's lacrosse will be played at Notre Dame Stadium. The University played host to the 2008 BIG EAST Conference Women's Lacrosse Tournament at Notre Dame Stadium.

Notre Dame previously played host to the NCAA Men's Fencing Championships in 1970, 1977, 1982 and 1987, the NCAA Women's Fencing Championships in 1987 and the combined NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Championships in 1992. The 2017 NCAA Men's and Women's Championships were held in Indianapolis—with Notre Dame serving as institutional host. The Irish also served as institutional hosts for the men's championships in 1985, the women's championships in 1985 and combined men's and women's championships in 1990, 1995 and 1998—all of those held at nearby Saint Mary's College.

NCAA UPDATE

01 Notre Dame Public Statement on the Committee on Infractions Report

On Nov. 22, 2016, the NCAA Committee on Infractions (COI) issued a public infractions decision involving the University of Notre Dame.

The violations in this case stem from impermissible academic assistance provided by a former student athletic trainer (“student trainer”) to several now former student-athletes on the football team. Under NCAA rules in place at the time of the academic misconduct, the student trainer was deemed an “institutional staff member”—the same status as if she were a coach, athletic department administrator or academic counselor. Notre Dame discovered the potential misconduct when a member of its Academic Services for Student-Athletes (ASSA) staff became suspicious that the student trainer provided impermissible assistance to one football student-athlete on a paper. Because the ASSA staff recognized the potential provider’s name as a student trainer, it notified both the Compliance Office and the University’s Faculty Athletics Representative. Thereafter, under the direction of its Vice President and General Counsel, the institution conducted an exhaustive investigation to determine whether the student trainer provided impermissible academic assistance to any other student-athletes. The investigation included interviews and the review of more than 95,000 emails.

At the end of the investigation, the institution concluded that the student trainer may have provided academic assistance to several football student-athletes—some of whom were still enrolled and others who were no longer enrolled at Notre Dame. Because the Notre Dame Academic Code of Honor (Honor Code) contemplates the adjudication of alleged violations in current courses rather than courses completed in previous semesters, members of the academy at Notre Dame considered whether and how to apply the Honor

Code to the facts discovered as part of the investigation. The institution ultimately determined to specially adapt the Honor Code to those facts, which resulted in the adjudication of several instances of academic misconduct among students then enrolled at the University. Several other potential instances of academic misconduct were not adjudicated because they involved former University students, to which the Honor Code does not apply.

Five then current football student-athletes were found responsible under the Notre Dame Honor Code for academic misconduct discovered during the comprehensive investigation. As a result, those students faced sanctions from the University, including temporary dismissal and grade changes in prior courses in which the students received impermissible assistance; in a significant number of cases, that impermissible assistance came from the student trainer.

Notre Dame is extremely disappointed that several students failed to meet institutional expectations regarding academic honesty. The Honor Code outcomes reflect the Notre Dame approach to most instances of student misconduct, which is educative and developmental in nature.

Upon completion of the institutional process, Notre Dame worked closely with the NCAA Enforcement Staff to determine whether any NCAA rules were violated. Ultimately, through a process known as summary disposition, Notre Dame and the NCAA enforcement staff agreed upon the facts relevant to the enforcement of NCAA rules; the violations of NCAA Bylaws 10, 14 and 16 that resulted from those facts; and the overall level of the case under the NCAA’s infractions

and penalty framework. The violations, described below, fall into three categories:

Category 1 Violations (Bylaws 10, 14, 16): During the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years, the student trainer committed academic misconduct with two football student-athletes. The two student-athletes also committed academic misconduct without the involvement of the student trainer or other institutional personnel. As a result of the academic misconduct, the institution imposed grade changes in courses completed by the two football student-athletes during previous semesters. Once those grade changes were applied, the new academic records of the two student-athletes were deficient in certain respects and the institution’s certification of their eligibility to compete during the 2012 or 2013 football seasons was retroactively rendered erroneous.

Category 2 Violations (Bylaw 16): During the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years, the student trainer provided academic extra benefits to six football student-athletes. All six student-athletes subsequently competed after receiving the benefits.

Category 3 Violations (Bylaws 10, 14, 16): During the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years, one then football student-athlete committed academic misconduct in five courses. The student-athlete acted without the involvement of the student trainer or other institutional personnel when he violated institutional academic honesty and integrity policies. The institution subsequently reduced the student-athlete’s grades for the five courses, and as a result he completed an insufficient number of credits during both the 2012 fall semester and during the 2013 fall semester. The student-athlete competed during the 2013 football season.

The University of Notre Dame, the NCAA Enforcement Staff and the COI agreed that the violations set forth above constituted an overall Level II violation of NCAA rules. Under the four-tiered violation structure, Level I is the most serious and Level IV is the least serious. In addition, under the NCAA violation structure, violations are characterized as "aggravated, standard or mitigated." All entities agreed that the overall violations in this case were Level II - Mitigated.

As a result of agreement upon the violations set forth above and the overall categorization of Level II - Mitigated, the COI imposed the following penalties against the University of Notre Dame:

- ➔ Public reprimand and censure
- ➔ Disassociation of the former student trainer from Notre Dame athletics for two years
- ➔ Probation for one year (Nov. 22, 2016, through Nov. 21, 2017), which includes and requires:
 - ➔ Enhanced education regarding NCAA rules (with a focus on academic misconduct and extra benefits) and submission of a compliance report detailing such efforts
 - ➔ Notification to football prospective student-athletes about the violations, penalties and terms of probation
 - ➔ Public dissemination of a summary of the case
- ➔ Vacation of individual records of the involved student-athletes
- ➔ \$5,000 fine paid to the NCAA
- ➔ Note: The COI also imposed a penalty requiring vacation of team records for the 2012 and 2013 football

seasons; Notre Dame is appealing that penalty.

It is important to note that the penalties do not include scholarship restrictions, a postseason ban, coach or other personnel suspension or recruiting restrictions.

Please know that Notre Dame is committed to providing the academic resources necessary for football and other student-athletes to succeed at the University of Notre Dame. We are disappointed in the academic misconduct that took place and led to these violations, and we are currently undertaking comprehensive efforts to further reduce the risk of such misconduct in the future and provide even better support for our student-athletes. As a result of this academic misconduct case and the subsequent institutional actions, we believe that Notre Dame will have the best student-athlete personal and academic development programs in the country.

A copy of the NCAA press release and the entire Public Infractions Report are available here: <http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/media-center/news/former-notre-dame-athletic-training-student-acted-unethically-committed-academic-misconduct>.

A copy of Notre Dame's press release is available here: http://grfx.cstv.com/photos/schools/nd/sports/m-footbl/auto_pdf/2016-17/misc_non_event/16NCAAppeal.pdf



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