

## Table of Contents

### 2005 Irish Outlook

Notre Dame Fencing A-Z .....	2-6
Men's and Women's Rosters .....	8-9
Season Preview .....	10-13
Head Coach Janusz Bednarski .....	14-15
Support Staff .....	16-17
Media Information .....	18

### The Fencers

Women's Foil .....	20-24
Men's Foil .....	25-26
Men's Epee .....	27-30
Women's Epee .....	31-35
Women's Sabre .....	36-39
Men's Sabre .....	40-42

### History and Records

2004 Review and Stats .....	44-45
2004 NCAA Results .....	46
Graduated All-Americans .....	47
Irish Fencing History .....	48-49
All-Americans .....	50-53
2003 NCAA Championship .....	54-55
National Championship Teams .....	56
Women's Results .....	57
Men's Results .....	58-59
Award Winners .....	60-61
Coaching Legends .....	62-63
Men's Records .....	64-67
Women's Records .....	68-69
NCAA Results .....	70-78
Men's All-Time Roster .....	79-89
Women's All-Time Roster .....	90-92

### The University of Notre Dame

University of Notre Dame .....	94-95
Indicators of Excellence .....	96-97
Notre Dame Leaders .....	98
Academic Services .....	99
Athletics Director Kevin White .....	100-101
Statement of Principles .....	102-103
Student Development .....	104-105
Noteworthy Alumni .....	106
Alumni Association/Monogram Club .....	107
Strength and Conditioning .....	108
Sports Medicine .....	109
NCAA Compliance .....	110
Rockne Heritage Fund .....	111
The NACDA Cup .....	113
Athletic Resume .....	114-115



## University Information

Location .....	Notre Dame, IN 46556
Founded .....	1842
Undergraduate Enrollment .....	8,311
Nickname .....	Fighting Irish
Colors .....	Gold and Blue
President .....	Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C
Executive V.P. ....	John Affleck-Graves
Provost .....	Dr. Nathan Hatch
Athletic Director .....	Kevin White
Assoc. Athletic Director/Fencing .....	Bernard Muir
Athletic Department Web Page .....	www.und.com
Athletic Department Phone .....	(574) 631-6107
University Operator .....	(574) 631-5000

### Fencing Quick Facts

Head Coach .....	Janusz Bednarski
Bednarski's Alma Mater .....	SGPiS College '70
Bednarski's Office Phone .....	(574) 631-3599
Career Record/Years .....	96-3 (2nd season)
Home Facility .....	Joyce Center Fieldhouse
Men's All-Americans Returning .....	2
2004 NCAA Men's Qualifiers Returning .....	4
Men's Starters Returning/Lost .....	5/4
Men's Monogram Winners Returning/Lost .....	15/7
Women's All-Americans Returning .....	5
2004 NCAA Women's Qualifiers Returning .....	6
Women's Starters Returning/Lost .....	8/1
Women's Monogram Winners Ret./Lost .....	14/3
2004 Men's Record .....	24-1
2004 Women's Record .....	26-0
2004 NCAA Championship Finish .....	3rd

### Sports Information

Address .....	112 Joyce Center Notre Dame, IN 46556-5678
Sports Information Office .....	(574) 631-7516
Sports Information Fax .....	(574) 631-7941
Assistant SID/Fencing Contact .....	Pete LaFleur
LaFleur's Home Phone .....	(574) 231-0578
LaFleur's E-Mail .....	lafleur.4@nd.edu
Notre Dame Sports Hotline .....	(574) 631-3000



The Notre Dame women's fencing team's returning All-Americans include (kneeling, from left) senior foilist Andrea Ament and fifth-year epeeist Kerry Walton; (standing, from left) sophomore epeeist Amy Orlando, senior foilist Alicja Kryczalo and sophomore sabre Valerie Providenza. The Irish women also welcome the addition of 2004 Olympic sabre gold medalist Mariel Zagunis (far right) while the young men's team will be led by a pair of All-Americans in sophomore sabre Patrick Ghattas (far left) and senior epeeist Michal Sobieraj.

## Introduction

### Media Information

The Notre Dame Sports Information Office always is interested in assisting members of the media in their coverage of the Irish fencing team. Publicity and media information for Notre Dame fencing is handled by assistant SID Pete LaFleur. Please feel free to contact LaFleur at the Notre Dame Sports Information Office.

Photographs, feature ideas and results are always available from the Sports Information Office. For fencing information and interviews, please contact LaFleur at (574) 631-7516. All interviews with coaches and athletes should be arranged through the Sports Information Office.

### Credits

The Notre Dame Fencing Guide was written and edited by assistant SID Pete LaFleur and SID student assistant Greg Touney.

Graphic design, typography and page layout by Cindy Lemcke of Ave Maria Press, Inc. This publication was produced entirely by using Quark Xpress desktop publishing and Microsoft Word software on an Apple Macintosh computer system. Inside and outside cover design by Dave Scholtes of Ave Maria Press, Inc., Notre Dame, Ind.

Photography by Mike Bennett and Lighthouse Imaging, Matt Cashore, L.K. Dunn, Heather Gollatz, Pete LaFleur, Matt Staver, NCAA Photos, North Carey and Adam Harvey.

Printing by Ave Maria Press in Notre Dame, Ind.



# Fencing

A-Z

**"A TEAM"** – That nickname first was placed on Notre Dame's dynamic women's foil duo of **Alicja Kryczalo** and **Andrea Ament** (pictured below) in 2002, after the pair completed their stellar freshman seasons by posting the maximum of 48 combined wins in NCAA competition. Kryczalo went undefeated (25-0 overall) in claiming the NCAA title while Ament's only loss in 23 round-robin bouts came 5-3 vs. Kryczalo (who beat her teammate again in the 15-6 title bout). The A Team returned to the top at the 2003 NAAs, with both fencers going 19-4 in the round-robin to help the Irish win the team title before Kryczalo repeated as the NCAA champion and Ament took home the bronze. The 2004 NAAs then saw a repeat of the '02 final, with Kryczalo besting Ament 15-7. They enter their final season in 2005 having combined to win nearly 92% of their regular-season bouts (239-22; 128-10 for Kryczalo, 111-12 by Ament) while owning an .892 combined win percentage in the NAAs (123-15; 63-6 by Kryczalo, 60-9 by Ament), with one-third of their NCAA losses (5) coming in bouts versus each other.



**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** – Several Notre Dame All-Americans also could emerge as top Academic All-America candidates in 2005. Three-time NCAA foil champion **Alicja Kryczalo** compiled a 3.44 GPA during her first three years at Notre Dame and is majoring in psychology and political science. Her classmate and fellow foil standout **Andrea Ament** has surged to a 3.24 GPA as an Arts and Letters pre-professional studies major while sophomore epeeist **Amy Orlando** posted a 3.38 GPA during her freshman year (she is majoring in psychology). The 2005 Irish fencing roster includes 13 other veteran fencers who entered the '04 fall semester with cumulative GPAs of 3.2 or higher: women's foilists **Colleen Walsh** (3.88), **Tiffany Muller** (3.33), and **Monica Real** (3.43), epeeists **Rebecca Chimahusky** (3.65), **Jocelyn Landgraf** (3.56) and **Marielle Connor** (3.36), and sabres **Danielle Davis** (3.37) and **Natalie Tenner** (3.66); men's foilist **Eamon Murphy** (3.46), epeeists **T.J. McNally** (3.68), **Craig Brede** (3.70) and **Chris Castellano** (3.57) and sabre **Alex Schumacher** (3.33). Notre Dame fencers completed the '04 spring semester with a 3.18 cumulative team GPA, one year removed from

the 2003 NCAA championship run that featured top contributions from the '03 graduating class. Four-time All-Americans **Ozren Debic** (3.14) and **Jan Viviani** (3.09) wrapped up impressive careers as both students and athletes while their '03 classmate **Anna Carnick** was a three-time All-American and graduated with a 3.13 final GPA, including a 4.0 in the 2002 spring semester. Two other All-Americans – epeeist **Meagan Call** (3.16; three-time All-American) and sabre **Matt Fabricant** (3.17) – rounded out the impressive all-around accomplishments of the 2003 graduating class.

**BROTHERS IN ARMS** – Notre Dame fencing has included several noteworthy brother combinations, led by three All-America duos: epeeists Brian ('52, 12th) and Rod ('54, 12th) **Duff** of Peabody, Mass.; epeeists John ('61, 5th) and Steve ('67, 4th) **Donlon** of Farmingdale, N.Y.; and sabres Mike ('68, 5th) and Doug **Daher** ('71, 8th) of Grosse Pointe, Mich. Sabres Chris (129-17; '89-'92) and Ed (110-10; '88-'92) **Baguer** of North Newark, N.J., remain the program's only brothers with 100-plus wins (Chris was a three-time NCAA competitor, Ed a '92 All-American). The '03-'04 Notre Dame roster included foilist

Matt and epeeist Chris **Castellan** of Short Hills, N.J., and epeeist Nick and sophomore sabre Alex **Schumacher** of New Berlin, Wis. (both older brothers graduated in '04).

**CENTURY MARK** – Notre Dame's first dual match of 2005 will mark the 100th in the head coaching tenure of former Irish assistant **Janusz Bednarski**. The first two years of the Bednarski era were impressive ones, as the '03 and '04 teams combined for a 96-3 regular-season record (48-1 men, 48-2 women) while producing the 2003 NCAA team champions, three NCAA individual champs and three runner-ups during that two-year span.

**COACH OF THE YEAR** – Former Notre Dame head coach **Yves Auriol** was honored by the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association as national college coach of the year in 2001 and '02. Legendary Irish coach **Mike DeCicco** was a four-time recipient of that award ('66, '75, '77, '92) while current third-year Notre Dame head coach **Janusz Bednarski** – who spent eight seasons as an assistant with the Irish – was honored by the USFCA in 1997 and '99 with its Midwest Region coach-of-the-year award.

**ALL IN THE FAMILY** – Former foilist **Forest Walton** (9th at '01 NAAs, fenced final season with Irish in '04) and current fifth-year epeeist **Kerry Walton** ('02 NCAA champ, 5th in '03 and '04 runner-up) remain Notre Dame's only brother-sister duo ever to earn All-America honors (in any sports). That family excellence extends to their mother Yvonne, who placed third in foil at the 2002 Veterans World Championships – matching Kerry's finish months earlier at the World Junior Championships. That marked the first time that a parent and child had medaled concurrently for U.S. teams in World Championship competition, with both *Sports Illustrated's* "Faces in the Crowd" and *USA Today* recognizing the rare feat.

Both Walton parents dabbled in fencing while attending Lowell State College (now part of UMass-Lowell) but Michael's fencing career was cut short due to a knee injury (he remains active in the sport as armorer at various bouts). The family then lived in Alaska before returning to New England and settling into their current hometown of Londonderry, N.H., in the early 1980s.

The key training for the Walton children came at Seacoast Fencing Club in nearby Manchester.

It was there that four future NCAA fencing stars – the Waltons and their cousins Scott and Kevin Eriksen (All-Americans at Penn and Columbia, respectively) – developed a competitive bond that holds to this day. The cousins trained together for 11 years and became known as "The Four Amigos," with the Waltons even picking up a pair of telling nicknames. Forest – a product of the "Top Gun" movie generation – was known as "Iceman" while his younger sister was tabbed "Valkyre" in honor of the Norse god of war.

One of the ironies involving the Walton family connection is that Forest was halfway around the globe when his sister completed the family's historic All-America double. He spent 2001-02 studying in Rome, as part of the challenging five-year architecture curriculum that involved navigating his way through possibly the most challenging class demands of any Notre Dame student-athlete.

For more on the Walton family's fencing story, see the following und.com website link:

<http://und.ocsn.com/sports/c-fenc/spec-rel/030503aabb.html>

All-Americans  
Forest and Kerry Walton



**D'ALONZO SCHOLARSHIP** – Rev Alfred D'Alonzo, C.S.C., a senior counselor in the Office of Academic Services for Student-Athletes, recently was honored with the creation of a grant-in-aid in his name. The \$100,000 commitment to endow the Father Al D'Alonzo Grant-In-Aid took effect in 2003-04 and benefits members of the women's fencing and softball teams. It was established with a gift from the family of his brother Frank and nephew Frank, Jr., in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Father D'Alonzo's ordination as a Holy Cross priest.

A native of Orange, N.J., D'Alonzo enrolled at Notre Dame on a football scholarship and played two years, also attending officers training school as a member of the Navy's V-12 program. In his sophomore year, he gave up football and turned down his commission to enter the priesthood. He later earned his master's degree in educational administration and sociology and added a doctorate in administration. Rev. D'Alonzo returned to Notre Dame in 1981, serving eight years on the Moreau Seminary staff. Two years later, he was appointed a counselor in Academic Services for Student-Athletes, working with various teams over the years (including fencing).



Fr. Al D'Alonzo, C.S.C. (center), presents the formal declaration of The D'Alonzo Grant-In-Aid that will benefit women's fencing scholarships.

**DeCICCO, MIKE** – One of Notre Dame's great coaching legends in any sport, DeCicco led Notre Dame fencing to five national titles while becoming highly-respected in international fencing circles (see p. 62). DeCicco – who also founded Notre Dame's Academic Advising Program for Athletics – was a 2002 inductee into the prestigious Italian-American Athletic Hall of Fame and remains in regular contact with hundreds of former Notre Dame fencers who have gone on to widespread success in their postgraduate lives.

**DOMINATION** – How else can one describe the debut season – and the career so far – of current Notre Dame senior foilist **Alicja Kryczalo**? In her first three seasons of competing for the Irish, the native of Gdansk, Poland, won nearly 94% of her bouts (284-20), including 128-10 in the regular season, 47-1 as a two-time Midwest Fencing Conference champion ('04 runner-up), 40-3 as the three-time Midwest Regional champ and her 69-6 wizardry en route to claiming three NCAA foil titles – in addition to being a three-time winner at the prestigious Penn State Opens before losing in overtime to rival Hanna Thompson of Ohio State, in the 2004 semifinal (10-9, event held in the fall). Kryczalo joined former PSU star Olga Kalinovskaya ('93-'96 foil champ) as the only Division I women's fencers ever to win three-plus NCAA titles. Seven men's fencers have claimed three-plus NCAA titles, including four-time sabre champ Michael Lofton (NYU, '84-'87), plus Wayne State foilists Greg Benko ('74-'76) and Ernest Simon ('78-'81), NYU epeeist Risto Hurme ('73-'75), Columbia sabre Bruce Soriano ('70-'72), Stanford foilist Nick Bravin ('90, '92-'93) and PSU sabre Tom Strzalkowski ('92-'94).

Kryczalo's illustrious career began with a freshman year that saw her go unbeaten in winning the NCAA title. Her 23-0 record in the 2002 NCAA round-robin bouts included an unheard-of +100 in total-touch indicators (14 shutouts in those five-touch bouts) and she ended up posting a 94-3 overall record in 2002. Her only '02 losses came to Irina Khouade (St.

John's) at the NYU Duals, vs. 2001 NCAA champ Iris Zimmermann at the Air Force Duals and vs. Thompson at the Regional. She also placed third at Palm Springs and second at South Bend in North America Cup events during the fall of '01. Kryczalo's encore in 2003 included a 40-3 regular season and repeating her postseason titles (conference, regional, NCAA), en route to an overall record of 87-8 during '03 bouts with the Irish. A loss to Penn State's Anna Donath at the 2003 Notre Dame Duals ended a stretch in which Kryczalo had won 48 straight bouts (and 93 of 94) while fencing for Notre Dame. She returned for more domination as a junior in '03-'04 by compiling a 49-5 regular-season record and losing to Thompson in the MFC final (9-15) before again winning the Regional and NCAA titles. Her .928 career winning pct. in regular-season bouts trails only foilist Sara Walsh ('970, 231-7; '96-'99) and seven men's fencers in Notre Dame's storied history (min. three seasons). The only Notre Dame men's foilists with better career records are her former teammate Ozren Debic ('952, 157-8; '00-'03) and his fellow four-time All-American Yehuda Kovacs ('930, 146-11; '86-'89).

**FATHER-SON COMBINATIONS** – Former epeeist **North J. Carey** in 2003 joined his namesake as the eighth father-son combination to earn monograms with the Notre Dame fencing program. North E. Carey earned four monograms as an epeeist from 1970-73 (42-16 record) and made the drive up from Los Alamos, N.M., to Colorado Springs for the 2003 NAAs, cheering his alma mater to the national title (his son was an alternate for the '03 and '04 NAAs).

Notre Dame's other father-son fencing letterwinners are as follows: foilists Jerome ('52-'54) and James ('77-'79) **Brainerd**, a native of Amarillo, Texas, were the first father-son duo; Chicago-area natives, epeeists David ('51-'53) and John **McBride** ('80-81), joined the list in the 1980s, as did all-weapon specialist **Mike DeCicco** ('47-'49) – who went on to become the legendary Irish coach – and his son Mike, Jr. ('84) ... the only combination to each compete in the

NAAs are epeeist Frank ('63-'65; 27th at '65 NAAs) and All-America sabre Chris **Hajnik** ('93-'95). Chris, from Santa Maria, Pa., compiled a 141-53 career record and placed 10th at the 1994 NAAs to help the Irish win the national title ... foilist John **Lyons III** ('69-'71) – whose brother Chris ('78-'81) later was an All-America sabre with the Irish – and epeeist John Lyons IV ('95) were the next to join the group (John IV hailed from Marietta, Ga.) ... Mike **McQuade** ('63-'65) – whose twin Joe also fenced foil – had a brother and son who all earned monograms with Notre Dame fencing. Mike's sons, sabre Chris ('92-'96) and epeeist/sabre Steve ('96-'99) of Clifton, N.J., completed the family connection ... most recently, George **Viamontes** followed his namesake and fellow sabre ('71-'73) in earning his monogram with the Irish fencing program ('01).

**FOUR-TIME ALL-AMERICANS** – Two senior captains on the 2003 Notre Dame fencing team – men's epeeist Jan **Viviani** and men's foilist Ozren **Debic** – became rare four-year All-Americans (see pp. 50-51), with eight Notre Dame men's fencers and four women having earned that distinction. Viviani became the first Notre Dame epeeist to be a four-year All-American while Debic joined Jeremy **Siek** ('97), Charles **Higgs-Coulthard** ('87) and Yehuda **Kovacs** ('89) as men's foil four-timers. Others on the list include men's sabres Mike **Sullivan** ('79), Leszek **Nowosielski** ('91) and Luke **La Valle** ('99), women's foilists Molly **Sullivan** ('88), Myriah **Brown** ('99) and Sara **Walsh** ('99) and women's epeeist/foilist Magda **Krol** ('00). Prior to Debic and Viviani joining the exclusive four-timer club, La Valle, Brown and Walsh were the only classmates on the list. Another trio of classmates – women's foilists Andrea **Ament** and Alicja **Kryczalo** and men's epeeist Michal **Sobieraj** – could join that 1999 group by each posting their fourth All-America finish at the 2005 NAAs. Nine other Notre Dame student-athletes have been four-year All-Americans: basketball great Kevin **O'Shea** ('50), women's soccer players Holly **Manthei** ('98 graduate), Jen **Grubb** ('00) and Anne **Makinen** ('01), distance runners Oliver **Hunter** ('43), Mike **McWilliams** ('93), Ryan **Shay** ('01) and Luke **Watson** ('03), and baseball pitcher **Aaron Heilman** ('00).



Ozren Debic



# Fencing

**N-Z**

**FRESHMAN PHENOMS** – Since 1974, as many as 28 Notre Dame fencers have earned All-America honors as freshmen, including at least one in nine of the past 12 years (except '97, '01, '03). Notre Dame's current roster boasts several freshman candidates for All-America honors in 2005, led by sabre **Mariel Zagunis**, foilist **Jakub Jedrkowiak** and epeeist **Greg Howard**.

The Notre Dame record for most freshman All-Americans is six, during the 2000 season: women's epeeists Meagan **Call** (12th, at NAAs) and Anna **Carnick** (9th), foilist Liza **Boutsikaris** (12th) and sabre Natalia **Mazur** (10th), plus men's epeeist Jan **Viviani** (3rd) and foilist Ozren **Debic** (2nd). The 2002 Irish squad yielded four freshman All-Americans (second-most in Notre Dame history): women's foil champion **Alicja Kryczalo** and runner-up **Andrea Ament**, men's foilist **Derek Snyder** (7th) and epeeist **Michal Sobieraj** (10th). The 2004 NAAs saw three Notre Dame freshmen claim All-America honors: sabre champion **Valerie Providenza**, epeeist **Amy Orlando** and sabre **Patrick Ghattas**

**HOME STATES** – The Notre Dame fencing program's list of all-time competitors includes nearly 900 fencers who have hailed from 48 different states (all but Alaska and West Virginia), plus Washington, D.C. and 23 foreign countries: Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bolivia, Canada, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, England, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, Panama, Poland, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Sweden and Venezuela. The most common states: Illinois (91), New Jersey (83), New York (82), Indiana (67), Ohio (49), Pennsylvania (46), Michigan (41), California (33), Massachusetts (32) and Texas (29).

**MONOGRAM CLUB** – Several former Notre Dame fencers have served on the board of directors for the Notre Dame National Monogram Club, which sponsors a growing number of projects that benefit current Notre Dame student-athletes. Former foilist **Liz Bathon Brown** ('78-'81) is in the midst of a three-year term on the Monogram Club's board of directors while former sabre **Anthony Mandolini** (see p. 85) completed his three-year term on the Monogram Club board in 2002.



Former Notre Dame fencer Liz Bathon Brown currently serves on the Monogram Club board of directors

**MULTIPLE THREATS** – Recent Notre Dame fencer **Maggie Jordan** ('04) became the program's second fencer ever to win 80-plus bouts in multiple weapons (83 in foil, 85 in sabre). **Claudette deBruin** totaled 152 epee wins and 81 in foil, from '93-'96. Jordan and deBruin also are two of four Notre Dame fencers ever to compete in multiple weapons during NCAA Championship competition. The first to do so was **Rian Girard**, who fenced in the NCAA foil bouts from 1991-93 before competing in the 1994 NCAA epee competition (he had one of the key wins that helped Notre Dame rally to win the '94 NCAA title). Four-time All-American **Magda Krol** remains the only Notre Dame fencer ever to be an All-American in multiple weapons, after three top finishes in NCAA epee competition ('97 champion, 7th in '98, 8th in '99) and a 5th-place foil finish in 2000. DeBruin fenced foil at the 1993 and '94 NAAs before claiming All-America honors with her 3rd-place epee finishes in '95 and '96. Jordan fenced foil at the 2001 NAAs and then was a sabre entry in '03, when her late win over Penn State's Austin O'Neill helped secure the NCAA team title.

Notre Dame coaching legend **Mike DeCicco** fenced all three weapons for the Irish during the late 1940s (including a spot in the 1948 NCAA foil field) and joins 1930s fencer **Kevin Kehoe** as the only Notre Dame fencers ever to compete in all three weapons. **Nicole Mustilli** started her Notre Dame career as a foilist and was an epee All-American in '98 (4th) and '99 (5th) before going on to excel in sabre during her postgraduate career (she and current Notre Dame freshman **Mariel Zagunis** helped the U.S. women's sabre team win the 2000 World Championship). A total of 21 fencers in the Notre Dame all-time fencing roster are listed for multiple weapons. Of the 14 men's fencers on that list, only seven have competed since DeCicco's senior season in 1949: Jerome **Isaacs** (epee/sabre, '54-'56), Terry **Laughlin** (epee/foil, '56-'60), William **Kica** (foil/epee, '75-'78), Carl **Aumen** (epee/sabre, '79-'80), Girard, **Greg Bannon** (foil/sabre, '93-'96) and Steve **McQuade** (epee/sabre, '96-'99). Girard, Bannon and McQuade are Notre Dame's only multi-weapon men's fencers during the past 25 years.

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS** – Notre Dame has won six NCAA fencing team championships (see pp. 54-56), including men's titles in 1977, '78 and '86, the 1987 NCAA women's championship, and the NCAA men's and women's combined title in 1994 and 2003. The Irish have been NCAA runner-up 11 times (every year from 1996-2000) and have finished third at 10 other NCAA meets (most recently in '01, '02 and '04) – for a total of 27 top-three finishes. Notre Dame fencers have combined to win 20 individual NCAA titles (see pp. 75, 77): men's epeeists Don **Tadrowski** ('55), Bjorn **Vaggo** ('78) Ola **Harstrom** ('83) and Jubba **Beshin** ('90); foilists Pat **Gerard** ('77), Andy **Bonk** ('79) and Charles **Higgs-Coulthard** ('84); sabres Mike **Sullivan** ('77, '78), Luke **La Valle** ('98) and Gabor **Szelle** ('00); women's foilists Molly **Sullivan** ('86, '88), Heidi **Piper** ('91) and Alicja **Kryczalo** ('02, '03, '04), epeeists Magda **Krol** ('97) and Kerry **Walton** ('02) and sabre Valerie **Providenza** ('04).

**POLAND PIPELINE** – Notre Dame's fencing tradition has included a mixture of U.S.-trained and international standouts. Three

current fencers – senior foilist **Alicja Kryczalo** (Gdansk), senior epeeist **Michal Sobieraj** (Krakow) and freshman foilist **Jakub Jedrkowiak** (Leszno) – are products of Poland's stellar fencing heritage. Kryczalo is a rare three-time NCAA champion while Sobieraj's three All-America performances include reaching the 2003 NCAA final and claiming the bronze in 2004. The connection to Notre Dame is head coach **Janusz BednarSKI**, a former standout fencer and coach for the Polish national team.

**PORTLAND PIPELINE** – Notre Dame fencing's ties to Poland also are connected with the recent flow of top-level talent from the northwest U.S. Former ND assistants Ed **Korfanty** (a Poland native) and Michael **Marx** both are highly-respected instructors in the Portland, Ore., area. Korfanty's elite sabre-only academy, the Oregon Fencing Alliance, has produced four current ND fencers: sophomores **Patrick Ghattas** ('04 All-American), **Valerie Providenza** ('04 NCAA champ) and **Angela Vincent** ('04 NCAA participant) and freshman **Mariel Zagunis** ('04 Olympic champion). Two current sophomore epeeists – '04 All-American **Amy Orlando** and **Aaron Adjemian** (narrowly missed a spot in '04 NAAs) – have trained with Marx at the Northwest Fencing Center.



(kneeling from left) Patrick Ghattas and Aaron Adjemian, (standing from left) Angela Vincent, Valerie Providenza, Amy Orlando and Mariel Zagunis.

**RANKINGS** – Six Notre Dame fencers were listed among the U.S. Fencing Association national senior-level rankings for their respective weapons (Nov. 20, 2004): fifth-year epeeist Kerry **Walton** (7th), senior foilist **Andrea Ament** (7th), sophomore epeeist **Amy Orlando** (12th), sophomore sabres **Valerie Providenza** (13th) and **Patrick Ghattas** (23rd), and freshman sabre **Mariel Zagunis** (2nd). Eight Notre Dame fencers also are listed on the USFA junior-level (under-20) rankings: Zaguins (1st), Ghattas (2nd), Orlando (2nd), Providenza (9th), sophomore epeeist **Aaron Adjemian** (9th), sophomore sabres **Matthew Stearns** (14th) and **Angela Vincent** (25th), and freshman epeeist **Greg Howard** (8th). On a larger scale, Zagunis also is 2nd in the world women's sabre rankings (1st among under-20s) while Ghattas is 17th, Providenza 40th and Orlando 53rd in their respective world under-20 rankings (Ament and Walton typically have been listed high in the world rankings but each opted not to compete in the various 2004 point-gathering events).





Bjorn Vaggo

**OLYMPIANS** – Nine fencers with ties to Notre Dame have been part of their respective Olympic teams over the years. In addition to playing a key role in Notre Dame's dominating first-place showing at the 1978 NCAA's, **Bjorn Vaggo** (pictured, alongside Notre Dame coaching legend Mike DeCicco) went on to capture the epee silver medal at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Epeeist **Tim Glass** then was selected for the 1980 Olympic team that did not compete due to the U.S. boycott while foilist **Mike McCahey** helped the U.S. men's foil team finish fifth at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

**Molly Sullivan** (pictured) fenced with the U.S. women's foil Olympic team in 1988 (Seoul) and '92 (Barcelona). Epeeist **Mike Gostigian** also competed for the U.S. in modern pentathlon (which includes fencing) at the Seoul, Barcelona and Atlanta ('96) Games. Men's sabre **Leszek Nowosielski** fenced for his native Canada in Barcelona



Molly Sullivan

while **Sara Walsh** attended the '96 Games in Atlanta as a U.S. women's foil alternate.

Most recently, men's epee alum **Jan Viviani** competed as an alternate with the U.S. contingent at the 2004 Olympics in Athens – where he was able to watch current Notre Dame freshman **Mariel Zagunis** win the women's sabre gold medal in stunning fashion (see p. 37 for complete notes on her gold-medal story). Zagunis became the first U.S. fencer to win an Olympic medal since 1984 and was the first American gold medalist in 100 years (no previous U.S. women's fencer ever had claimed an Olympic medal).



Mariel Zagunis



Jan Viviani

**SENIOR SALUTE** – Notre Dame's 2003 national championship fencing team was led by the most decorated senior class in the program's storied history. That 15-member class included 12 who rated among the team's top-four at their respective weapons and nine All-Americans. The senior class finished 2003 with nearly 1,500 career wins in regular-season bouts and an .833 combined winning pct. (1,463-294). Nine of the '03 seniors combined for 21 All-America finishes, led by men's sabre Gabor **Szelle** (182-13 regular-season record), foilist Ozren **Debic** (157-8) and epeeist Jan **Viviani** (162-20; see Terrific Trios notes). Decib and Viviani were rare four-time All-Americans while Szelle joined epeeists Meagan **Call** (168-52) and Anna **Carnick** (179-43) as three-time All-Americans. Other All-Americans from the '03 senior class included foilists Liza **Boutsikaris** ('00; 168-37) and Forest **Walton** ('01) and sabres Natalia **Mazur** ('00) and Matt **Fabricant** ('03). Walton (115-28, ended 158-35) and Mazur (88-13, ended 111-15) each had one year of eligibility remaining and returned to fence in '03-'04.

**SUPER SIBLINGS** – In addition to Forest and Kerry **Walton** (see p. 2), Notre Dame fencing has featured several other noteworthy brother-sister combinations: sabre Michael ('84-'86; 42-6) and foilist Liz ('78-'81) **Bathon** of Hanover, Pa.; epee captain Michael ('77-'79; 44-21 record) and foil captain Dorothy **Carney** ('79-'80; 68-15), of

Sanford, N.C.; NCAA foil champ Pat ('75-'79; 146-19) and sister Carole **Gerard** ('82-'84; 27-24), of Norridge, Ill. (their sister Terri fenced three bouts in '80); epeeist John ('84-'87; 81-25) and twin foilists Kelly ('89-'92; 63-14) and Rachel **Haugh** ('89-'92; 61-23) of Portland, Ore.; South Bend's Charles ('97-'99; foil, 119-35) and Anne **Hayes** ('96-'97; epee, 90-26); three-time All-American/NCAA foil champ Heidi ('89-'92; 152-15) and foilist Jeff **Piper** ('90-'93; 116-18) of Gold Coast/Brisbane, Australia; two-time All-America epeeist Andy ('82-'85; 133-23) and foil captain Vittoria **Quaroni** ('84-'87; 119-43), from San Antonio, Texas; two-time NCAA sabre champ/four-time All-American Mike ('76-'79, Peabody, Mass.; 183-4) and foilist Janet **Sullivan** ('83-'86, Conway, N.H.; 106-55); epeeist Paul ('89-'90; 37-33) and foilist Kathleen **Vogt** ('92-'94; 75-31) of Gretna, La.; and the four children of former sports information director Roger **Valdiserri**: foilists Kathy ('73-'78; 157-29) and All-American Susan ('80-'83; 145-55) and sabres Rick ('75, '77; 14-19) and Tom ('78-'80; 24-12).

**TEAM USA** – Former Notre Dame All-America epeeist **Nicole Mustilli** helped the U.S. women's sabre team win the first-ever U.S. fencing team gold medal in any weapon, at the 2000 World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. Mustilli teamed with Chris Becker, Sada Jacobsen and current ND freshman **Mariel Zagunis** to defeat heavily-favored Italy, 45-43. The 10th-seeded U.S. bested

Azerbaijan and World Cup sabre champ Elena Jemaeva in the quarterfinals while Mustilli – the second highest-U.S. finisher in the individual competition (24th) – defected France's top fencer in the 45-42 semifinal. She recently completed her tour of duty as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and was one of 32 in the Air Force's World Class Athlete Program. Mustilli was a member of the U.S. Military Fencing Team and two-time winner of the Air Force ROTC Warrior Spirit Award. She also was a member of the U.S. women's sabre team that reached the quarterfinals at the 2001 World Championships in Nimes, France (she placed 21st).

**TEAM USA, PART II** – Three Notre Dame fencers – epeeist **Kerry Walton** and foilists **Andrea Ament** and **Derek Snyder** – were among the 18-fencer U.S. squad that competed at the 2002 World Junior Championships in Antalya, Turkey. That U.S. contingent included just four other collegiate fencers, two from Ohio State and one each from Stanford and Yale. Walton claimed the bronze medal, becoming the second U.S. fencer ever to medal in any level of women's epee World Championship competition (she also helped the three-member U.S. women's epee team finish ninth) – while Snyder (45th) and Ament (44th) helped their foil squads place 19th and 16th, respectively.



### WEAPON HISTORY

Here's a breakdown of Notre Dame's success at each of the six weapons, with the program's longest All-America weapon streaks coming from the 1981-91 men's epee squads (11 years), the 1994-2004 sabres (11), the '84-'92 men's sabres (9), the '83-'91 men's foilists (9) and the '74-'81 men's sabres (8; with sabre All-Americans in 28 of 31 years from '74-'04):

**Men's Foil:** 44 All-America awards (12 since '90, nine since '96). Three NCAA titles, plus five runner-ups ... four 4-time All-Americans, including Charles Higgs-Coulthard ('87) – who combines with sabre Mike Sullivan as ND's only fencers to earn first team All-America four times. Since '85, squad has finished first at NAAs four times ('86, '94, '97 and '03), second four times ('85, '91, '00, '02) and third three times ('87, '88, '01) ... All-Americans by decade: six in 1950s, seven in '60s, five in '70s, 12 in '80s, seven in '90s and seven (of 10 possible) since 2000.

**Women's Foil:** 32 All-America awards (20 since '90, two every season from '96-'00, plus '02-'04) ... six NCAA titles, five NCAA runner-ups and three four-year All-Americans ... NCAA champ Heidi Piper also was a two-time Academic All-American ... since '82, squad has finished first at NAAs seven times ('87, '94, '96, '98, '02-'04), second six times ('86, '88, '90, '91, '95, '97), third in '89.

**Men's Epee:** 51 All-America awards (17 since '90, 9 since '96) ... four NCAA titles, plus four runner-ups ... Jan Viviani ('03) became first ND epeeist to be four-time All-American ... since '85, squad has finished first at NAAs once ('86), second six times ('88, '94, '98, '00-'03) ... All-Americans by decade: eight in 1950s, seven in '60s, seven in '70s, 10 in '80s, 11 in '90s and eight (of 10 possible) since 2000.

**Women's Epee:** 17 All-America awards (since '95), two NCAA titles ... squad has finished first at NAAs twice ('97, '04), second in '98, '01 and '03, third in '96, '99 and '02.

**Men's Sabre:** 54 All-American awards (21 since '90, two every year from '96-'01, plus '03) ... four NCAA titles, plus four runner-ups and three four-year All-Americans ... since '85, squad has finished first at NAAs four times ('96, '99, '00, '03), second five times ('85, '90, '91, '97, '01), third five times ('88, '92, '94, '95, '98) ... All-Americans by decade: six in 1950s, eight in '60s, eight in '70s, nine in '80s, 15 in '90s and eight (of 10 possible) since 2000.

**Women's Sabre:** Weapon made its NCAA debut in 2000, with Irish fencers earning All-America in '00, '02, '03 and '04 (NCAA champ).

**TERRIFIC TRIO** – Notre Dame's 2003 roster included three seniors who finished among the program's all-time leaders at their respective weapons. **Ozren Debic's** .977 career winning pct. in regular-season bouts (157-8) ranks first all-time among Notre Dame men's foilists and third among all ND men's weapons. **Gabor Szelle's** .933 winning pct. (182-13) ranks sixth on the all-time list and fourth among Irish men's sabres – while **Jan Viviani's** .890 career winning pct. (162-20) is tops among men's epeeists (13th for all weapons). The trio ended the 2003 regular season with 501 combined career wins and just 41 losses (.924).

**TERRIFIC TRIO, PART II.** – The above fencers also combined for one of four times in Notre Dame history that teammates have placed in the NCAA top three of all three weapons (Szelle was first, Debic second and Viviani third in 2000). The first to do so were in 1978, when sabre Mike **Sullivan** and Bjorn **Vaggo** won the gold and foilist Pat **Gerard** took the silver. The 1990 season saw epeeist Jubba **Beshin** win the title, with foilist Noel **Young**, sabreman Leszek **Nowosielski** and epeeist David **Calderhead** each placing third. That group repeated the feat in 1991, with Young, Nowosielski and Beshin all placing second (Calderhead again was third).

**TERRIFIC TRIO, PART III.** – Notre Dame foilists **Alicja Kryczalo** and **Andrea Ament**, epeeist **Kerry Walton** and sabre **Valerie Providenza** each reached the final of their respective weapons at the 2004 NAAs, marking the first time that one women's team ever had placed a fencer in all three finals at the NCAA Championships.

**TITLE CONTENDERS** – Several Notre Dame fencers could be among the favorites for 2005 NCAA titles. Senior foilist **Alicja Kryczalo** already ranks as one of just two women's fencers ever to win three-plus NCAA titles while her classmate **Andrea Ament** also is a top title contender, after finishing as the NCAA foil runner-up in 2002 and '04 (plus 3rd in '03). Fifth-year women's epeeist **Kerry Walton** will be a looking for a third trip to the NCAA title bout ('02 champion). Sophomore

sabre **Valerie Providenza** also is a former NCAA champion while her former club teammate **Mariel Zagunis** is set to make a run at a collegiate title after winning the 2004 Olympic gold medal. On the men's side, senior epeeist **Michal Sobieraj** returns after dropping the 2003 NCAA title bout in overtime and narrowly missing a return to the final in '04.

**TRIPLE CROWN** – Current Notre Dame fifth-year women's epeeist **Kerry Walton** pulled off a rare trifecta in 2002, when she won the NCAA championship, claimed the bronze medal at the World Junior Championship (in Antalya, Turkey) and then won the U.S. Open National title in Salt Lake City – all in a whirlwind, five-week stretch.

**WINNING STREAKS** – The Notre Dame men's fencing team recently compiled a 90-match winning streak in regular-season bouts, good for third-longest in the program's storied history (122, '75-'80; and 98, '84-'88). The Irish women enter 2005 with a 41-match win streak that ranks third in their record book (42, '86-'89; 75, '93-'96) and best in nine years.

**WONDER WOMEN** – Notre Dame's potential six-fencer lineup for the 2005 NCAA women's bouts includes possibly college fencing's best collection of talent – including former NCAA champions in all three weapons, plus an Olympic gold medalist – since women's sabre became an NCAA event in 2000. Senior foilist **Alicja Kryczalo** already owns three NCAA titles and has won nearly 94% of her bouts vs. college competition while classmate **Andrea Ament** is a two-time NCAA runner-up and placed third in 2003 (when ND won the team title). Fifth-year epeeist **Kerry Walton** also is a three-time All-American and former NCAA champion ('02, plus 5th in '03 and '04 runner-up) while sophomore **Amy Orlando** had an All-America 10th-place finish at the '04 NAAs and is listed 2nd in the U.S. under-20 women's epee rankings (she is ranked 12th among all U.S. women's epeeists). Finally, in sabre, sophomore **Valerie Providenza** is the defending NCAA champion while her former club teammate **Mariel Zagunis** won the 2004 Olympic gold medal before starting her college career as a member of the Irish fencing program.



Susan Valdiserri



Kathy Valdiserri



Kelly Haugh



Rachel Haugh

**SISTER ACT** – The Notre Dame fencing program has produced three of 23 sets of sisters who have earned varsity monograms in the same sport at Notre Dame. Kathy ('73-'78) and Susan ('80-'83) **Valdiserri** were early leaders of the women's fencing program, which also has featured sisters Mindi ('93-'96) and Aimie ('97-'00) **Kalogera** of Wyckoff, N.J., and twins Kelly and Rachel ('89-'92) **Haugh** of Portland, Ore. The other Notre Dame sister combinations include six from tennis, three from golf, two each from basketball, swimming and volleyball, and one each from softball, cross country, soccer, lacrosse and track and field.

