



Season

Preview

Senior foilist and three-time NCAA champion Alicja Kryczalo already ranks as one of the most accomplished student-athletes in Notre Dame history.



2004-05 Notre Dame Men's Fencing Team

Sitting (from left): Alex Schumacher, Jack Goetz, Frank Bontempo, Patrick Donnelly, Patrick Gettings, Greg Howard and T.J. McNally.
 Middle Row (from left): Aaron Adjemian, Jason Laws, Jesse Laeuchli, Ryan Bradley, Johannes Masserer, John Espinosa, Arthur Lam, Paul Reyes, Eamon Murphy, Joseph Hagmann.
 Back Row (from left): graduate assistant coach North Carey, senior manager Tim Sheehan, Andrew Zodda, Matthew Stearns, Jakub Jedrkowiak, Diego Quinonez, Nicholas Diacou, Michal Sobieraj, Matt Doherty, Patrick Ghattas, Derek Snyder, Chris Castellan, assistant coach Zoltan Dudas and head coach Janusz Bednarski.
 Not Pictured: Craig Brede, Matthew Terrecault.

2004-05 Notre Dame Men's Fencing Roster

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Weapon	Birthdate	Hometown/High School
Aaron Adjemian*	6-1	165	So.	Epee	7/23/85	El Paso, TX/Cathedral
Frank Bontempo*	6-2	155	So.	Foil	7/19/84	Pittsburgh, PA/Central Catholic
Ryan Bradley	6-0	165	So.	Sabre	7/11/85	Warrensburg, MO/Warrensburg
Craig Brede	6-0	165	Jr.	Epee	4/16/84	Bloomfield Hills, MI/Brother Rice
Chris Castellan	5-11	155	So.	Epee	2/15/85	Short Hills, NJ/Milburn
Nicholas Diacou*	6-0	160	Jr.	Sabre	12/7/84	New York, NY/NYC Lab School
Matt Doherty	5-10	200	Jr.	Sabre	3/23/83	Cupertino, CA/Bellarmino Prep
Patrick Donnelly	6-0	220	So.	Foil	6/19/85	Bridgeton, MO/Chaminade Prep
John Espinosa**	5-6	165	Sr.	Sabre	11/18/82	Plantation, FL/Western
Patrick Gettings*	6-1	145	So.	Epee	11/23/84	Lake Forest, IL/Stevenson
Patrick Ghattas*	5-9	180	So.	Sabre	1/9/85	Beaverton, OR/Oregon Episcopal
Jack Goetz	5-10	120	Jr.	Foil	7/11/84	Jericho, VT/Mount Union
Joseph Hagmann	6-2	160	Fr.	Epee	5/9/86	Westfield, NJ/Union County Magnet
Greg Howard	6-0	175	Fr.	Epee	5/11/85	Granger, IN/St. Joseph's
Jakub Jedrkowiak	6-1	180	Fr.	Foil	3/18/84	Leszno, Poland/Leszno
Jesse Laeuchli*	5-8	165	So.	Epee	8/1/84	Dulles, VA
Arthur Lam	5-5	120	So.	Foil	10/17/84	Hong Kong/Stevenson
Jason Laws	5-11	200	So.	Sabre	4/18/85	Charlotte, NC/Independence
Johannes Masserer*	6-3	230	Jr.	Foil	2/28/79	Frankenhardt, Germany/Wheaton (IL) North
T.J. McNally**	6-0	190	Sr.	Epee	10/13/83	Fredericksburg, VA/Massaponax
Eamon Murphy*	5-10	150	So.	Foil	10/4/85	Winnetka, IL/New Trier
Diego Quinonez	5-8	150	Fr.	Foil	9/23/85	San Salvador, El Salvador/Escuela Americana
Paul Reyes	5-10	160	Sr.	Foil	12/24/83	Los Angeles, CA
Alex Schumacher**	6-0	205	Jr.	Sabre	6/22/84	New Berlin, WI/Catholic Memorial
Michal Sobieraj***	6-2	180	Sr.	Epee	9/9/81	Krakow, Poland/First L.O.
Matthew Stearns*	6-4	210	So.	Sabre	5/17/85	Minnetrista, MN/Blake School
Andrew Zodda**	5-10	140	Jr.	Foil	5/6/84	Berwyn, PA/Conestoga

- indicates monograms won

Head Coach: Janusz Bednarski **Assistant Coach:** Zoltan Dudas **Senior Manager:** Tim Sheehan

Men's Fencing - By Weapon

Epee (9)

- Aaron Adjemian
- Craig Brede
- Chris Castellan
- Patrick Gettings
- Joseph Hagmann
- Greg Howard
- Jesse Laeuchli
- T.J. McNally
- Michal Sobieraj,

Foil (10)

- Frank Bontempo
- Patrick Donnelly
- Jack Goetz
- Jakub Jedrkowiak
- Arthur Lam
- Johannes Masserer
- Eamon Murphy
- Diego Quinonez
- Paul Reyes
- Andrew Zodda

Sabre (8)

- Ryan Bradley
- Nicholas Diacou
- Matt Doherty
- John Espinosa
- Patrick Ghattas
- Jason Laws
- Alex Schumacher
- Matthew Stearns

Pronunciation Guide

Aaron Adjemian	.....Ad-GEM-ee-en
Frank Bontempo	.....BON-tem-po
Craig Brede	.....BREE-dee
Chris Castellan	.....CASS-tuh-lon
Nicholas Diacou	.....Dee-AH-cool
Patrick Ghattas	.....GATT-iss
Jack Goetz	.....GETS
Jakub Jedrkowiak	YAH-kibb yen-truh-CO-vee-ack
Jesse Laeuchli	.....LOCK-lee
Johannes Masserer	.....YO-honn-us MASS-er-er
Eamon Murphy	.....AYE-mun
Diego Quinonez	.....Key-NO-ness
Paul Reyes	.....RAY-izz
Michal Sobieraj	.....MEE-hall So-BEER-aye
Andrew Zodda	.....ZOD-uh




2004-05 Notre Dame Women's Fencing Team

Sitting (from left): Natalie Tenner, Monica Real, Melanie Bautista, Tiffany Muller, Andrea Ament, Danielle Davis, Erin Housing, Valerie Providenza, Angela Vincent and Mariel Zagunis.

Standing (from left): graduate assistant coach North Carey, senior manager Tim Sheehan, Amy Orlando, Anna Rodriguez, Kerry Walton, Natalie Bustamante, Rebecca Chimahusky, Alicja Kryczalo, Rachel Cota, Jocelyn Landgraf, assistant coach Zoltan Dudas and head coach Janusz Bednarski.

Not Pictured: Marielle Connor and Colleen Walsh (studying overseas).

2005 Notre Dame Women's Fencing Roster

Name	Ht.	Class	Weapon	Birthdate	Hometown/High School
Andrea Ament***	5-4	Sr.	Foil	11/11/82	Gates Mills, OH/Hawken School
Melanie Bautista	5-4	Fr.	Foil	8/20/86	Dayton, OH/Chaminade Julianne
Natalie Bustamante**	5-9	Sr.	Epee	7/14/83	Bakersfield, CA/Garces Memorial
Rebecca Chimahusky**	5-11	Sr.	Epee	4/7/83	Bartlesville, OK/Bartlesville
Marielle Connor*	5-4	Jr.	Epee	7/11/84	Atlanta, GA/Marist
Rachel Cota	5-10	Fr.	Foil	3/12/86	Altadena, CA/Mayfield Senior
Danielle Davis*** (C)	5-4	Sr.	Sabre	8/18/81	Grand Rapids, MI/Grand Rapids Catholic
Erin Housing	5-4	So.	Sabre	7/2/85	New Lenox, IL/Lincoln-Way Central
Alicja Kryczalo*** (C)	5-11	Sr.	Foil	5/20/81	Gdansk, Poland/Gdansk #9
Jocelyn Landgraf*	5-8	Sr.	Epee	8/26/83	West Hills, CA/Louisville
Tiffany Muller*	5-4	Sr.	Foil	5/27/83	Midlothian, VA/Midlothian
Amy Orlando*	5-5	So.	Epee	1/22/85	Brookline, MA/Wilson
Valerie Providenza*	5-7	So.	Sabre	3/11/85	Beaverton, OR/Jesuit
Monica Real*	5-3	Jr.	Foil	9/9/83	Drexel Hill, PA/Merion Mercy
Anna Rodriguez	5-7	So.	Epee	9/11/84	El Zompapero, Guatemala/American School
Natalie Tenner*	5-7	Sr.	Sabre	10/31/82	Lubbock, TX/Lubbock
Angela Vincent*	5-8	So.	Sabre	4/4/85	Lake Oswego, OR/Jesuit
Colleen Walsh** (overseas study)	5-3	Jr.	Foil	8/15/83	Monticello, IL/Culver Academy
Kerry Walton*** (C)	5-8	Sr.	Epee	1/25/82	Londonderry, NH/Londonderry
Mariel Zagunis	5-8	Fr.	Sabre	3/3/85	Beaverton, OR/Valley Catholic

(C) - indicates captain

* - indicates monograms won

Head Coach: Janusz Bednarski **Assistant Coach:** Zoltan Dudas **Senior Manager:** Tim Sheehan

Women's Fencing - By Weapon
Epee (7)

Natalie Bustamante
Rebecca Chimahusky
Marielle Connor
Jocelyn Landgraf
Amy Orlando
Anna Rodriguez
Kerry Walton

Foil (7)

Andrea Ament
Melanie Bautista
Rachel Cota
Alicja Kryczalo
Tiffany Muller
Monica Real
Colleen Walsh

Sabre (6)

Danielle Davis
Erin Housing
Valerie Providenza
Natalie Tenner
Angela Vincent
Mariel Zagunis

Pronunciation Guide

Andrea Ament.....ANN-dree-uh AH-ment
Melanie BautistaBAH-tee-stuh
Natalie Bustamante.....Boos-tuh-MON-tee
Marielle ConnorMARE-ee-ell
Rebecca ChimahuskyChim-UH-huss-kie
Alicja KryczaloUh-LEE-see-uh Kuh-CHAH-wah
Jocelyn LandgrafJOSS-linn
Valerie Providenzapraw-vuh-DEN-zuh
Monica RealREEL
Mariel Zagunis MAR (like car)-ee-ell zuh-GOON-iss



Irish Set to Take Aim at Program's Seventh NCAA Title in 2005

Notre Dame women's fencing squad returns all six NCAA competitors – and adds Olympic gold medalist – while Irish men's team will look to several veterans and newcomers to fill key roles in '05 season.

The Notre Dame fencing program's annual quest for the NCAA combined championship will be boosted in 2005 by a collection of women's fencers that likely again will rate as the best in the nation. But the '05 Irish also must overcome several hurdles on the men's side, relying on a handful of newcomers and unproven veterans to overcome a couple of key losses due to graduation and injury.

Notre Dame's 2004 women's team held the No. 1 ranking all season and lived up that billing in the NAAs, posting the tournament's most wins in both women's foil and epee while then-freshman **Valerie Providenza** took home the sabre title (as one of four Irish women to reach the final in their respective weapons). The arrival of Providenza's former club teammate and 2004 Olympic gold medalist **Mariel Zagunis** now gives the Irish a 1-2 punch in sabre that rivals the team's potent duos in foil and epee, all combining for what could be the best six-fencer NCAA lineup in women's fencing history.

Senior foilists **Alicja Kryczalo** and **Andrea Ament** lead the way for the Irish as possibly the most dominant same-weapon classmates in the history of the NCAA Championships (men or women). Kryczalo already is a rare three-time NCAA champion while Ament twice has lost to



Senior Michael Sobieraj owns the best career winning pct. (.933) in Notre Dame men's epee history."

her teammate in the final and was the 3rd-place finisher in 2003.

Another two-time NCAA finalist – fifth-year epeeist **Kerry Walton** ('02 champion and '04 runner-up, plus 5th in '03) – adds even further veteran leadership for the Irish women, with sophomore epeeist **Amy Orlando** likely to improve on her own 10th-place All-America showing at the '04 NAAs. Sophomore sabre **Angela Vincent** gives the Irish a full complement of returners from the '04 NCAA unit (she placed 20th) – but she will need to qualify ahead of one of her fellow Oregon Fencing Alliance alums, Providenza or Zagunis, in order to make a return to the NAAs.

The Notre Dame men's contingent will look for some clutch performances from several fencers to keep pace with their female counterparts. Two former All-America foilists – Forest Walton ('04 graduate) and current senior Derek Snyder (career-ending hand surgery) – no longer are available to a Notre Dame men's fencing program that qualified just five of the maximum six fencers (one in epee) for the 2004 NAAs.

Three-time All-America epeeist **Michal Sobieraj** is the clear leader of the Notre Dame men's program and will join Kryczalo, Ament and Walton in the pursuit of a fourth All-America honor – a feat accomplished just 21 times, in all sports, during Notre Dame's storied athletic history. Sobieraj, a member of Poland's National Team, has a strong chance to become

the program's first men's fencing NCAA champion since sabre Szelle won the title in 2000, with Sobieraj losing the 2003 NCAA crown in overtime before narrowly missing a return to the title bout in '04.

Sophomore **Aaron Adjumian** and freshman **Greg Howard** are the top candidates to provide the Irish with a second NCAA entrant in men's epee, something that every Notre Dame team had featured from 1997-2003.

The Notre Dame men do return a pair of NCAA veterans at sabre, with sophomore **Patrick Ghattas** looking to improve on his All-America 10th-place finish at the '04 NAAs while his classmate **Matt Stearns** nearly joined his classmate in that '04 honor before placing 14th.

The loss of Walton and Snyder leaves a major void for the foil squad but sophomore **Frank Bontempo** will be hoping to build off his lateseason surge in 2004 that included filling Snyder's spot at the NAAs. Freshman **Jakub Jedrkowiak** also will be counted on for steady production in his first season and appears up to the task after a runner-up finish at the Penn State Open in the fall of '04, highlighted by a win over defending NCAA champion Boaz Ellis.

Third-year head coach Janusz Bednarski and his trusty assistant coach Zoltan Dudas hope to mold the 2005 Irish into another contender for the NCAA title. The

squad includes three fencers – Kryczalo, Sobieraj and Jedrkowiak – from Bednarski's homeland of Poland (no previous Notre Dame student-athletes, from any sport, have hailed from Poland) while another common link on the Irish roster ("the Portland Pipeline") accounts for six of the team's top fencers. As mentioned above, Providenza, Zagunis and Vincent all are products of the Oregon Fencing Alliance (as is Ghattas) while Orlando and Adjumian both commuted from other parts of the country to train at the Northwest Fencing Center. Former Notre Dame assistant coaches Ed Korfanty (OFA) and Michael Marx (NFC) serve as coaches at the respective Portland-area fencing clubs, providing a connection to Notre Dame fencing history.

Here's a look at the Irish, by weapon:

WOMEN'S FOIL

Notre Dame's "A-Team" (Alicja and Andrea) has brought an unrelenting assault on the college fencing world during their stellar careers with the Irish, as Kryczalo and Ament combined for a 139-22 record (.919) in regular-season bouts from '02-'04 while winning at a similar clip in the NAAs (combined 132-18, spanning round-robin and medal bouts). And with plenty of differences between them – ranging from personal background to body type and bout style – perhaps one of the great keys to their success is

2004-05 Notre Dame Women's Fencing Capsule

Captains (2003 record)

Epee: Kerry Walton, Sr. (39-11) ***

Foil: Alicja Kryczalo, Sr. (49-5) ***

Sabre: Danielle Davis, Sr. (32-2)

Other Top Returners (2004 record)

Epee: Amy Orlando, So. (49-13) *

Foil: Andrea Ament, Jr. (42-4) ***

Sabre: Valerie Providenza, So. (39-6) *
Angela Vincent, So. (41-10) #

Top Letterwinners Lost (2004 record)

Foil: Maggie Jordan (30-17)##

Sabre: Destanie Milo (40-12) ##*

Note: Jordan competed in foil and sabre

Top Newcomers

Sabre: Mariel Zagunis (Beaverton, Ore.)

Foil: Rachel Cota (Altadena, Calif.)

* – All-America honors

– NCAA participant (non-All-American)

Mariel Zagunis





their evolving friendship and ability to work together.

"We are very fortunate to have two great fencers like Alicja and Andrea who are so very supportive of one another," says Bednarski. "Fencing is an individual sport but teamwork also is very important, especially in college team bouts. They work great together and are true leaders for the others on the team, which is something that has been very valuable to our success these past few years."

Even if she never fenced another bout, **Kryczalo** (Gdansk, Poland) would rank as one of the most accomplished student-athletes in both Notre Dame (for all sports) and NCAA fencing history. Distance runner Greg Rice – recognized as the nation's top amateur athlete with the 1940 Sullivan Award – is the only other Notre Dame performer ever to win three NCAA titles, doing so some 65 years ago. On a national scale, one other women's fencer and seven men ever have collected three NCAA fencing titles while only two – NYU sabre Michael Lofton ('87) and Penn State foilist Olga Kalinovskaya ('96) – have gone on to capture a fourth NCAA crown.

The 5-foot-11 Kryczalo's first three seasons with the Irish included winning nearly 94% of her total bouts (284-20), spanning 128-10 in the regular season (.941; 2nd-best ever among ND women's fencers), two titles and a runner-up finish in the Midwest Fencing Conference (47-1), three Midwest Regional titles (40-3) and her 69-6 wizardry at NAAs – not to mention three Penn State Open titles before losing a PSU Open overtime semifinal bout, in the fall of '04. Her performance as a freshman in '02 will remain a legend of NCAA Tournament history, as she scorched the round-robin field (23-0) with a magical +100 in total-point indicators (losing a total of just 15 points in those 23 five-touch bouts).

Kryczalo – who has held her own fencing versus members of the Notre Dame men's team – carries a respectable world ranking of No. 127 and is a 2008 Olympic hopeful, as evidenced by her impressive 6th-place finish at the 2004 European Championships. She also could add Academic All-America honors to her lengthy resume in 2005, thanks to a 3.45 cumulative GPA as a double major in psychology and political science.

"I've used the term powerhouse before in describing Alicja and it continues to apply to her now as a senior, in all aspects of her life here at Notre Dame. She truly is the full package," says Bednarski.

"She has proven to be a great student and also is such a wonderful leader for our program. Many elite fencers are focused only on themselves but Alicja has a very team-oriented personality and is a very genuine and caring person.

"Beyond all of her other attributes, when she steps on the strip there is no doubt that you are dealing with a tremendous competitor. She is very driven and serious in her training and that shows up in her bouting. She is able to exploit



Senior foilists Alicja Kryczalo (left) and Andrea Ament (right) have combined for two of the most dominant careers in NCAA fencing history.

her size and reach but also is excellent at reading the situation and adjusting quickly.

"Her style has become more athletic in the past year and she also has improved tactically, making her even tougher to beat. But she still is like that deadly butterfly out on the strip, with a fast hand, great footwork with sabre-like acceleration, and the ability to change the distance. I don't know that Notre Dame will ever see another champion like her – in any sport – and we all feel privileged to be involved with her great career as part of the Fighting Irish fencing program.

"The 5-foot-4 Ament (Gates Mill, Ohio) has a distinctly different style from Kryczalo but has fashioned her own dominant career that includes the two NCAA runner-up finishes and a 3rd-place finish during the 2003 team championship season. The No. 7-ranked U.S. women's foilist owns a .902 career winning percentage in regular-season bouts (8th-best in Notre Dame women's fencing history; 111-12, 42-4 in '04) and could be an NCAA champion in her own right if her career had not overlapped with Kryczalo's.

"Andrea has a smaller frame but she is able to make quick decisions and change the target. She fights in the shorter distance and shows great proficiency and skill to dodge the touch, close the target and change position of her body," says Bednarski.

"Andrea also is a very clever and mentally-tough fencer who can win the tough bouts and can break her opponent's will with that quick step. She does a great job maximizing her high-level technique and could be even more effective this season by becoming a bit more athletic in her bouting."

Freshmen **Rachel Cota** (Altadena, Calif.) and **Melanie Bautista** (Dayton, Ohio) round out the likely top four in women's foil, with junior Colleen Walsh taking a season off as she studies abroad in 2004-05.

Cota has a classical style and solid technical skill but needs consistent bouting experience to emerge as a regular contributor. Bautista is a tremendous athlete who has excelled as an All-America karate performer while competing in various national and international events. Noted for her quick reaction time, fighting spirit and a style that includes elements of sabre fencing (her weapon as a prep), Bautista carries big potential and could become an impact contributor as she finetunes her technique.

MEN'S FOIL

Bontempo (Pittsburgh, Pa.) came up with a timely surge at the end of the 2004 season that included placing third at the Midwest Regional to earn the first alternate spot for the NAAs. The wiry lefthander then was rotated into the NCAA field, due to Snyder's hand injury, and gained valuable experience while competing in the pressure-packed NCAA atmosphere. The graduation of Walton and Snyder's career-ending surgery suddenly leaves the second-year foilist Bontempo as the unit's most experienced fencer on the collegiate level.

"Frank is a very tough fighter who is becoming more confident in all aspects of his fencing and has great potential," says Bednarski of Bontempo, who compiled a 44-16 record during the '03-'04 regular season. "He makes great use of a very modern style and has an excellent combination of athleticism and intellect that make him a dangerous foil fencer."

Jedrkowiak (Leszno, Poland) – who showed he is ready for collegiate fencing with a runner-up finish at the Penn State Open – is a proven winner as one of the top junior-level fencers in his native Poland. And with former All-Americans Walton and Snyder no longer in the mix, the fun-loving freshman certainly will be counted on for key contributions in the 2005 season.

"Jakub is similar to Bontempo in having that good blend of intellect and sporting ability," says Bednarski. "His style is more technical-based and he likes to have an ordered

2004-05 Notre Dame Men's Fencing Capsule

Returning All-Americans (2004 record)

Epee: Michal Sobieraj, Sr. (41-3) ***

Sabre: Patrick Ghattas, So. (36-4) *

Other Top Returners (2004 record)

Epee: Aaron Adjemian, So. (28-16)

Foil: Frank Bontempo, So. (44-16)#

Sabre: Matthew Stearns, So. (35-9)#

Top Letterwinners Lost (2004 record)

Epee: North Carey (25-17)

Foil: Forest Walton (43-8) #*#

Derek Snyder, '05 sr./inj. (38-6)**

Sabre: Brian Dosal (22-9)

Top Newcomers

Epee: Greg Howard (South Bend, Ind.)

Foil: Jakub Jedrkowiak (Leszno, Poland)
Diego Quinonez (San Salvador,
El Salvador)

* – All-America honors

– NCAA participant (non-All-American)

Frank Bontempo



approach to his bouting, with a clever use of tactical solutions. Jakub has more actions and makes a bigger transformation on the strip, whereas Frank probably is the more athletic and aggressive fencer. But they both will be very important to our success this season and we have confidence in their ability."

Freshman **Diego Quinonez** (San Salvador, El Salvador) is emerging as a dangerous fencer, due to his technical ability, speed and reactions. A rare product from the Latin American fencing community (and Notre Dame's first-ever fencer from El Salvador), Quinonez could quickly "put it all together" (in the words of Bednarski) as he assimilates tactical training into his bouting performance.

MEN'S EPEE

Sobieraj (Krakow, Poland) again should be on the short list of the favorites to win the 2005 NCAA title, after losing the 2003 final in overtime and narrowly missing a spot in the '04 title bout. Known for his classic combination of speed and power, the 6-foot-2, 180-pounder carries a .933 career winning percentage in regular-season bouts (111-8; 41-3 in '04) that would rank as the best in Notre Dame men's epee history and fifth among all men's weapons. The three-time All-American (he also was 10th at the '02 NAAs) did not begin fencing until the age of 13 but steadily has emerged on the international stage, as a 2008 Olympic hopeful and member of Poland's epee squad that placed fourth at the 2003 World Championships.

"Michal is able to excel as an elite epeeist due to his physical posture, long range, intellectual bouting tactics and that unorthodox style that works so well for him," says Bednarski. "He also is emerging as a leader for the program and has proven to be a very dangerous fencer with more consistency and control of his emotions. It would be great to end his career with another shot at the NCAA title."

The lefthanded **Howard** (Granger, Ind.) – whose father **George** is a longtime psychology professor at Notre Dame – could prove to be one of the key factors to the 2005 team's success, as the probable No. 2 epeeist behind Sobieraj. The Indiana Fencing Academy product was listed 8th in the U.S. under-20 men's epee rankings and claimed the silver medal at the 2004 Summer Nationals while also placing 8th at the Penn State Open in the fall of '04.

"Greg has followed the Notre Dame fencing program throughout his life and he knows about the spirit and tradition of this place," says Bednarski. "He is very calm off the strip but is a battler when it comes time for bouting, in the true name of the Fighting Irish. He makes good use of a very modern style, has good reaction time and is focused until the last touch. We hope that he makes steady progress to emerge as the leader of our epee program after we lose Sobieraj at the end of this season."

Adjemian (El Paso, Texas) compiled a 28-16 regular-season record as a freshman before registering a 4th-place finish at the Midwest

Regional, leaving him just shy of claiming a spot in the 2004 NCAA field. A quality fencer who was listed 9th in the U.S. Under-20 men's epee rankings, the Northwest Fencing Center product hopes to have the chance to help the Irish at future NCAA Championships.

"Aaron uses his modern style in a very elegant fashion and it always is enjoyable to watch him fence," says Bednarski. "He has the high level of technical ability that makes him capable of winning against any opponent in college fencing but he will need to organize his yearlong training to be a bigger contributor for us in the future."

Fellow sophomore **Patrick Gettings** (Lake Forest, Ill.) saw limited action as a freshman (9-6) but appears ready for a greatly expanded role in 2005. The 6-foot-1 lefthander has shown glimpses of top-level talent – including a 6th-place finish at the 2004 Summer Nationals – and could deliver some key wins in 2005, due to his quick decision-making and assortment of technical tricks.

WOMEN'S EPEE

Walton (Londonderry, N.H.) returns for her final season as the consummate leader of the Notre Dame fencing program, combining her tireless work ethic and success on the strip with an engaging personality and steady focus on team goals. The three-time All-American and 2002 NCAA champion (plus '04 runner-up and 5th in '03) owns an .863 career regular-season winning percentage (132-21, including 39-11 in '04) that ranks second all-time among Notre Dame women's epeeists. She made a strong statement of her status as an elite fencer during a whirlwind five-week stretch that included winning the '02 NCAA title before taking home the bronze at the World Junior Championships and then winning the U.S. Nationals.

"Kerry has the rare combination of natural athleticism, mental toughness and knowledge of technique that make her such a talented epee fencer," says Bednarski of Walton, who checks in at the No. 7 spot in the U.S. women's epee rankings.

"She is a strong and quick fighter with high-class technique, tremendous accuracy with her blade and great decision-making on the strip. The key to taking her fencing to another level will be becoming more athletic in her training. Agility is now key to athletic fencing and she will be trying several new training techniques, including fencing against some of our men's fencers to prepare her for the tougher bouts versus taller fencers."

Orlando (Brookline, Mass.) started slow as a freshman before winning 45 of her final 49 regular-season bouts (49-13 overall) and earning All-America honors with a 10th-place finish at the 2004 NAAs, highlighted by a win over eventual NCAA champ Anna Garina. Currently ranked No. 2 on the USFA under-20 charts (and 12th overall among all women's epeeists), Orlando has plenty of international experience that includes competing with the U.S. at the 2003 and '04 Junior World Championships.

"Kerry Walton has been a great mentor for Amy and they have several similarities, including that ambitious attitude on the strip and the desire to be immersed in fencing," says



Fifth-year epeeist Kerry Walton will be aiming for her third NCAA title-match appearance.

Bednarski. "Amy makes up for her smaller frame with quickness and a fighting spirit, plus great timing and tactical instincts. She also has become more agile and athletic in her bouting and should have a greater level of consistency in her second year of college fencing."

Three seniors – **Rebecca Chimahusky** (Bartlesville, Okla.), **Jocelyn Landgraf** (West Hills, Calif.) and **Natalie Bustamante** (Bakersfield, Calif.) – combine to give the epee squad several options during dual matches.

The 5-foot-11 Chimahusky made a big jump in her production during the '03-'04 season, when the former prep soccer player totaled a 39-19 record to earn the women's fencing team's "most improved" award (she posted a 20-6 record as a sophomore). A quality sparring partner for Walton and Orlando – due to her reach, improved strength and an expanding number of actions – Chimahusky is noted for her work ethic and again should provide plenty of quality wins during the dual-meet season.

Landgraf (16-10 career record) returns to the program after studying in Rome during the 2004 spring semester. An athletic performer with a background in dance, she competed at the 2003 Duke Duals and could find herself among the starting four during the '05 season.

Bustamante (40-19 career record) is a former prep basketball player who studied in Spain during the '03 fall semester before returning to Notre Dame and the fencing program. She went on to turn in a 20-14 record during the '04 spring season and showed the skill to compete with top opponents, highlighted by a win over Ohio State standout Alexandra Shklar that helped the Irish edge the Buckeyes (14-13) at the Notre Dame Duals.



WOMEN'S SABRE

The battle-tested **Providenza** (Beaverton, Ore.) already had claimed two Junior Olympics titles before adding an impressive championship in the collegiate fencing realm by becoming the Notre Dame fencing program's first freshman sabre fencer ever to win the NCAA title (after a 39-6 regular-season record). Rated 9th on the USFA under-20 women's sabre charts and 13th overall among U.S. women's sabres, Providenza showed she is primed for another strong season after winning the Penn State Open in the fall of '04.

"Valerie certainly can take her fencing to another level and she has shown the drive and dedication needed to make that next step," says Bednarski. "She uses a modern style that is well suited to her great combinations of sabre qualities – tremendous speed, good range, a physical presence and the quick analyzing and decision-making that can turn momentum her way. With a little more consistency and experience with analyzing the tougher opponents, Valerie should continue to be in the mix for the top honors in college fencing and beyond."

Fellow Beaverton native **Zagunis** gained plenty of publicity as an Olympic hero with her gold-medal performance in Athens, but she has been competing on a high level for several years and currently stands No. 2 in the world women's sabre rankings (also holding the top under-20 ranking). The former high school soccer player signed with Notre Dame in the fall of 2002 but delayed her admission one year in order to chase her Olympic dream. She arrived one week late for the fall semester but has made a quick transition to life as a college student-athlete.

"What can you say about Mariel Zagunis? We have added a great athlete to our program. She is goal-oriented in all aspects of her life and shows so many levels of dominating skill in her fencing," says Bednarski. "The number of actions she's learned allows her to move everywhere and she has a great ability to read and anticipate the actions of her opponent. She also is very serious in her workout regimen and has an added level of endurance training that makes her even tougher to beat.

"We have several fencers with a background in soccer and that's a good sport for training as

a fencer. You have the same explosiveness – running and slowing – and you have to predict situations while also going one-on-one. It creates athleticism, speed and reaction time that translate very well to the fencing strip."

Vincent (Lake Oswego, Ore.) – listed 25th in the U.S. under-20 women's sabre rankings – could round out one of the top three-fencer combinations in NCAA women's sabre history. The lefthander is coming off a strong freshman year in which she went 41-10 in the regular season and clinched a spot in the NCAAs with her runner-up finish at the Midwest Regional.

"Angela has a wonderful team attitude and spirit and she showed last year that she can compete with the best in college fencing," says Bednarski. "One of her strengths always has been reading the bouts and making proper use of distance. She is looking to have a boost in the level of her athletic training and we expect another very strong season from her."

Danielle Davis (Grand Rapids, Mich.) returned to the program for the 2004-05 school year, after deciding to attend law school at Notre Dame. The former walk-on – who played softball and basketball during her prep days – was named the women's sabre team's co-MVP in '03-'04, when she racked up a 32-2 record (pushing her career mark to 82-27). Noted for her leadership and team organization skills, Davis will serve as the women's sabre team captain in 2005 and should continue to make an impact for the Irish due to her surprising actions on the strip and good use of timing, speed and reactions.

MEN'S SABRE

Ghattas (Beaverton, Ore.) could be on the verge of contending for the NCAA title, after compiling a 36-4 regular-season record as a freshman and earning All-America honors with his 10th-place finish at the '04 NCAAs. The Oregon Fencing alliance product checks in at No. 2 in the U.S. under-20 men's sabre rankings (he's listed 23rd among all men's sabres) and turned in some solid results in the fall of '04, including a 4th-place finish at the Penn State Open and nearly earning a spot in the finals at the North American Cup in Richmond, Va. (he also won the Junior Olympics title earlier in 2004).

"Patrick is very serious in his training and is very well-prepared, technically and tactically. He makes great use of his compact frame, with a smooth style and explosiveness," says Bednarski. "Patrick is a classic fighter who battles for every point. He can make effective attacks versus a bigger fencer because of his agility and decision-making, which includes a great sense to quickly judge the distance. He should con-



Defending NCAA champion Valerie Providenza (above) is part of a talented 2005 Notre Dame women's sabre squad

tinue to develop into one of the best young sabre fencers in the country."

The 6-foot-4, 215-pound **Stearns** (Minnetrista, Minn.) also had a solid freshman campaign, compiling a 35-9 regular-season record before narrowly missing All-America honors with a 14th-place finish at the NCAAs. Listed 14th in the USFA under-20 men's sabre rankings, Stearns opened his sophomore season with a 6th-place finish at the Penn State Open and 10th at the Junior World Cup in Louisville, Ky.

"Matt is a very devoted and ambitious fencer who could be even more effective with some specialized training to handle the stressful situations and channel his emotions," says Bednarski. "You don't see many tall sabre fencers because it requires agility and a quick change of direction, but Matt is very quick for his size and makes great use of his big wingspan. He is improving his technique and has many good actions, so he should be able to develop into a consistent performer who can be an All-American at the NCAAs."

Junior **Nicholas Diacou** (New York, N.Y.) and senior **John Espinosa** (Plantation, Fla.) also should be regular contributors to the 2005 men's sabre squad.

Diacou posted a 19-12 record in his first season of competition with the Irish ('03-'04) but likely will be counted on for a more expanded role in 2005. "Nico comes from a great fencing area in New York City and still has great potential as a college fencer," says Bednarski. "He has a very good, modern style and has the quickness and reaction skills to compete with the best opponents. We are hoping that, with more training this year, he can bring it all together and be a force for us."

Espinosa compiled a 34-13 record in two previous seasons as a walk-on member of the sabre squad. A soccer and taekwondo competitor during his youth, he has made steady progress through his bouts experience and was named the Notre Dame men's fencing team's most improved fencer for the '03-'04 season (when he went 21-8).



Sophomore Patrick Ghattas could contend for the NCAA sabre title in 2005.



The University of Notre Dame's athletic heritage has featured many legendary coaches, but only one – current third-year fencing coach Janusz Bednarski – has guided his Irish squad to the national title in his first year as the program's head coach. Such was the accomplishment in the spring of 2003, when the veteran Notre Dame squad edged longtime rival Penn State to return atop the pinnacle of the college fencing world.

Bednarski – who is quick to share all of the coaching credits for the 2003 team's success with his predecessor Yves Auriol and current third-year assistant Zoltan Dudas – was named in May of 2002 as the sixth head coach in the program's storied history, following eight seasons as an assistant on the Notre Dame fencing staff.



Janusz Bednarski

Head Coach

Third Season

SGPiS College '70

The Bednarski File

Head Coaching Record at Notre Dame

- Men: 48-1 (.980)
- Women: 48-2 (.960)
- Combined: 96-3 (.970)

Previous Coaching Experience

- Assistant Coach – Notre Dame (1995-2002)
- Head Coach – Indiana Fencing Academy (1994-2002; asst. '02-present)
- Head Coach – Poland National Team ('78-'88)
- Head Coach – U.S. Junior World Championship Team (1993)
- Assistant Coach – U.S. Junior World Championship Team (1994)
- Assistant Coach – U.S. Junior Pan Am Team (1992)
- Head Coach – CFS Fencing Club (Denver, Colo.; 1989-94)

Coaching Honors

- Polish Silver Cross of Merit – 1987
- USFCA Midwest Regional Coach of the Year – '97, '99
- Has tutored 16 sabre All-Americans at Notre Dame, including two NCAA champions, two NCAA runner-ups and one NCAA bronze medalist

Education

- Masters in Economics – SGPiS College (Warsaw, Poland; 1970)
- Coaching Diploma – Academy of Physical Education (Warsaw, Poland; 1978)

A former Olympic-level coach with Poland's national-team program, Bednarski's leadership style and training strategy positioned the 2003 Irish squad for their run at the program's sixth all-time NCAA title and first since 1994. Auriol had been Notre Dame's only coach – in any sport – to guide his team to a national title in his second season (doing so with the 1987 women's fencing team) while five others have been national-title coaches in their third seasons with the Irish: men's tennis legend Tom Fallon ('59) and the football foursome of Frank Leahy ('42), Ara Parseghian ('66), Dan Devine ('77) and Lou Holtz ('88).

Bednarski served as head coach of Poland's Olympic Team from 1978-88, with members of those teams winning 11 medals at the Olympics and World Championships. Formerly a member of Poland's national sabre team, the Warsaw native received the prestigious Polish Silver Cross of Merit for his accomplishments in fencing.

Prior to assuming his duties as the Irish head coach, Bednarski had been a vital member of the Notre Dame program as it remained among the nation's best – with the Irish finishing as the NCAA runner-up every year from 1996-2000, in addition to third-place finishes in 1995, '01 and '02 (plus '04).

Bednarski's days as an assistant included helping coordinate the recruiting effort that fortified the Irish for their pursuit of the national title. The 2003 seniors finished as the most accomplished class in the history of Notre Dame fencing, combining for nearly 1,300 career victories and 20 All-America performances. The senior leaders in 2003 included a pair of four-time All-Americans in men's epeeist Jan Viviani and men's foilist Ozren Debic, with senior men's sabre Gabor Szelle and senior women's epeeists Meagan Call and Anna Carnick each posting three All-American performances during their careers. Debic (157-8, .952) and Viviani (162-20, .890) finished with the top career winning per-



centages in Notre Dame history for their respective weapons while Szelle (182-13, .933) ranks fourth all-time among sabres and sixth among all men's weapons.

The current senior class includes a pair of accomplished fencers from Bednarski's native Poland, three-time women's foil NCAA champion Alicja Kryczalo and men's epeeist Michal Sobieraj (the 2003 NCAA runner-up), in addition to foilist Andrea Ament (the '02 and '04 NCAA runner-up). Each earned All-America honors at the '02-'04 NCAA Championships, with Kryczalo going undefeated (23-0) in the '02 NCAA round-robin before beating Ament in the gold-medal matchup (Ament's only losses in the '02 NAAs came versus her teammate, followed by a third-place finish in '03).

Current fifth-year women's epeeist Kerry Walton also flourished in the '02 season, win-



ning the NCAA title before taking home the bronze at the World Junior Championships and claiming the gold at the U.S. Open Championships (she then placed fifth at the '03 NAAs and was the '04 runner-up).

Bednarski's first season as the Notre Dame head coach included a 46-2 combined record in regular-season dual meets, with the Irish men going 24-0 to extend the program's third-longest winning streak to 83 matches (that streak ultimately ended at 90 matches in 2004). The Irish men claimed the No. 1 ranking in the middle of the '03 season, after knocking off Penn State in a fiercely-contested 15-12 decision at Notre Dame's Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

His 2004 Notre Dame squads then combined for a 50-1 record, with both the Irish men (24-1) and women (26-0) holding the No. 1 ranking.

During Bednarski's eight seasons as an assistant, the Irish won 93.6 percent of their dual matches (382-26, including 189-11 for the men's squad) and the Irish men's team held the nation's No. 1 ranking in both the 2001 and 2002 final coaches' polls.

Bednarski's work with Notre Dame has made a significant impact in sabre and epee – with Bill Lester, Luke LaValle and Gabor Szelle combining over a six-year stretch ('95-'00) to win two gold, two silver and one bronze medal in NCAA sabre. His sabre fencers have earned 21 All-America honors (out of a possible 30), with women's sabre making its NCAA debut in 2000.

The men's sabre squad posted the maximum two All-Americans in each of Bednarski's first six full seasons ('96-'01), with that consistent level of success unmatched by any other Notre Dame



weapon in that six-year stretch. He recently tutored two-time sabre All-American Andre Crompton ('02), who stood as high as sixth in the U.S. rankings, while Szelle and fellow senior sabreman Matt Fabricant earned All-America honors in '03 to help the national title-winning effort.

Bednarski also oversaw the career of women's sabre captain Carianne McCullough, who progressed from being a walk-on to a nationally-ranked competitor and '02 All-American. He then developed Destanie Milo into an All-American in her own right, with her sixth-place finish at the 2003 NAAs providing a final push to the team title.

Most recently, Bednarski quickly helped mold 2004 freshmen Valerie Providenza and Patrick Ghattas into top-level collegiate fencers. Providenza turned in a strong season before surging to win the NCAA title – becoming the first Notre Dame sabre fencer (men's or women's) ever to win the NAAs as a freshman. Ghattas turned in his own All-America showing at the NAAs (placing 10th) and currently has surged to No. 2 in the USFA under-20 men's sabre rankings.

After moving to the United States in 1988, Bednarski served as head coach at the CFS Fencing Club (Denver, Colo.) – the largest fencing club in the Rocky Mountain region – from 1989-94. Many of his fencers at CFS went on to achieve great success on the national and international level. While in Colorado, Bednarski also served on the U.S. coaching staff at the 1993 (head coach) and 1994 Junior World Championships and was a U.S. coach for the '92 Junior Pan American Games. His fencers have competed in the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cups in all age categories.

Bednarski served from 1994-2002 as head coach of the Escrime du Lac Fencing Club in Mishawaka (also known as the Indiana Fencing Academy) and has been a member of many advisory panels for the U.S. Fencing Association, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association. He is licensed by Federation International D'Escrime as an "A" category fencing director and is one of just a handful of fencing spe-

Notre Dame's All-Time National Championship Coaches

- Knute Rockne (football) – 1924, '29, '30
- Walt Langford (men's tennis) – 1944
- Rev. George Holderith, (men's golf) – 1944
- Frank Leahy (football) – 1944, '46, '47, '49
- Alex Wilson (cross country) – 1957
- Tom Fallon (men's tennis) – 1959
- Ara Parseghian (football) – 1966, '73
- Mike DeCicco (m. fencing) – 1977, '78, '86, '94
- Dan Devine (football) – 1977
- Yves Auriol (women's fencing) – 1987, '94
- Lou Holtz (football) – 1988
- Chris Petrucci (women's soccer) – 1995
- Muffet McGraw (w. basketball) – 2001
- Janusz Bednarski (fencing) – 2003
- Randy Waldrum (women's soccer) – 2004

Notes: Bednarski's team won the NAAs in his first year as the Irish head coach, Auriol's in his second and five others (Leahy, Fallon, Parseghian, Devine and Holtz) in their third season ... the others: Langford (national title in 5th season), Rockne, Petrucci and Waldrum (6th), Wilson (8th), Holderith (12th), McGraw (14th) and DeCicco (16th) ... in 1994, DeCicco coached the men and Auriol the women (the Irish won the NCAA combined title).

cialist in North America who are ranked by the International Fencing Federation.

His wide-reaching experience includes participating in the organization efforts for World Championships held in Denver (1989 and '91), and South Bend (2000). In 1997 and '99, he was selected as Midwest Region coach of the year by the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association.

Fluent in several languages, Bednarski in 1970 received his master's degree in business from Warsaw's prestigious SGPiS Business College, where he worked as a lecturer in economics. He obtained his coaching diploma from the Academy of Physical Education in 1978 and has published several articles on coaching, effective club management and counseling of athletes.

A resident of Granger, Ind., Bednarski and his wife, Izabella, have two sons: Michael (31) and Andrzej (25), a three-time sabre All-American and 2002 graduate of Notre Dame who is serving as an intern assistant coach on his father's 2004-05 staff.



Zoltan Dudas is in his third season as an assistant coach with the Notre Dame fencing team, after serving as a team consultant in 2002. A respected coach with particular experience in foil and epee, Dudas has tutored several elite fencers during his 17-year coaching career – in his native Hungary and most recently in the Midwest.

The 37-year-old Dudas played a key role in instructing several Notre Dame All-Americans during the 2002-04 seasons and serves as a perfect complement to Irish head coach Janusz Bednarski, one of the nation's premier sabre instructors.

During his first three seasons working with the Irish fencing program ('02-'04), Dudas helped guide the Irish foilists and epeeists to 21 All-America finishes and 23 NCAA appearances (with a maximum of 24 in that three-year stretch). He has tutored some of the most dominant fencers in Notre Dame's storied fencing tradition, including the current senior "fantastic four" comprised of three-time NCAA women's foil champion Alicja Kryczalo, 2002 NCAA women's epee champ Kerry Walton (also 5th in '03 and '04 runner-up), two-time foil runner-up Andrea Ament ('02, '04; also 3rd in '03) and 2003 men's epee runner-up Michal Sobieraj (10th in '02, 3rd in '04).

Dudas also has coached a pair of four-time All-Americans – foilist Ozren Debic and epeeist Jan Viviani (both '03 grads) – who own the best career winning percentages for their respective weapons in the Notre Dame record book. Four others coached by Dudas – foilist Derek Snyder and epeeists Anna Carnick, Meagan Call and Amy Orlando – registered All-America honors during the previous three seasons.

Head coach Janusz Bednarski readily shared the coaching credit with Dudas following Notre Dame's run to the 2003 NCAA title and the results from his fencers certainly justify such recognition – as the Dudas-coached foilists and epeeists combined for a clean sweep of eight All-America finishes at the 2003 NCAAs while totaling nearly 75% of the team's winning point total (133 of 182).

Dudas – who received a 1997 Outstanding Coach Award from the Hungary Fencing Association – moved to the U.S. in 2000 and served two years as a coach at Cleveland's Saturn Fencing Center, where he helped mold current Notre Dame sophomore Andrea Ament (the '02 NCAA foil runner-up) into a world-class foilist and epeeist. He also now serves as head coach at the Indiana Fencing Academy and has coached six World Cup finalists, plus nearly 60 finalists in various national events. His fencers have combined to reach the finals (top eight) at 29 North



Zoltan Dudas

Assistant Coach

Third Season

Juhasz Gyula College '92

American Cups (12 medalists) and 24 National Championships (16 medalists) while five others have posted medalist finishes at the Junior Olympics. Ten of his fencers and three IFA women's epee teams have posted top finishes at the Summer Nationals – including six finalists and the silver-medal women's epee team in '03.

Dudas tutored several fencers in Hungary who excelled at national tournaments – highlighted by men's foilist Akos Marinko's bronze at the 1997 under-15 National Championship. He also coached his under-20 men's foil team (5th) and under-15 women's foil squad (4th) to impressive finishes at the 1999 Nationals.

After graduating in 1992 with degrees in geography and physical education from Juhasz Gyula Teachers Training College in Szeged, Hungary, Dudas received a 1996 postgraduate degree in physical education from Janus Pannonius University in Pecs, earning highest coaching qualifications in fencing and five other sports. He taught physical education on the elementary and high school levels, including a seven-year stint (1993-2000) at Szechenyi Istvan High School – where his men's team handball squad won the 1999 national title.

Dudas participated in a 1988 weekly apprenticeship with legendary fencing mas-



ter Bela Bay and attended 1997 and '98 nine-day training camps in Szombathely, with coaches hailing from 10 countries. At a 1999 training camp in Veszprem, moderated by top fencing masters, Dudas had the honor to demonstrate actions with Szabo Bence, the 1988 Olympic sabre champion.

An accomplished junior fencer in foil and epee, Dudas finished second in epee at the 1984 international Steaua Cup in Romania. He went on to place third at the 1987 Senior Provincial Championship and was a member of the epee team that won the 1988 Division II National Championship (he also fenced with the silver-medal sabre team). Dudas was honored for his sportsmanship as a 1988 recipient of the National Fair Play Award.

Dudas – who has published two in-depth articles on fencing technique and instruction – and his wife Idelko were married in 2001. The couple resides in Granger with their two-year-old daughter Lili and her newborn sister Gina.





Andrzej Bednarski
Intern Assistant Coach



North Carey
Volunteer Assistant Coach



M.D. McNally
Volunteer
Administrative
Assistant



Tim Sheehan
Senior Manager



Mike Schoen
Academic Services



Bernard Muir
Senior Associate A.D./
Fencing Administrator



Kevin Ricks
Athletic Trainer



Harold Swanagan
Strength and Conditioning



Mandy Clark
Nutritionist



Pete LaFleur
Sports Information

Notre Dame plays host to its home fencing meets each year in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse (right). Bleachers are installed with numerous strips laid down to create an intimate atmosphere for such meets as the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships.



The Notre Dame fencing teams have exclusive use of their own gymnasium (left) – the Walter Langford Gymnasium – located on the second floor of the Joyce Center. Equipped with the latest in fencing training techniques and electronic scoring, the fencing gym includes 16 strips for team training, with the offices of head coach Janusz Bednarski, assistant coach Zoltan Dudas, and coach emeritus Mike DeCicco adjacent to the fencing gym.





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Foilist Andrea Ament was one of four Notre Dame freshmen to earn 2002 All-America honors.

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