

NOTRE DAME HISTORY & RECORDS



Notre Dame fencing began in the mid 1930s, with Pat Gerard's foil win giving the Irish the first of back-to-back NCAA titles in 1977 while Charles Higgs-Coulthard and Yehuda Kovacs (middle left) helped Notre Dame claim the '86 title, followed by the 1987 women's championship and combined titles in 1994 (bottom), 2003 (middle right) and 2005.

The Notre Dame fencing teams faced a formidable task in the 2005-06 season. Not only were the Irish replacing one of the top classes in the program's history, Notre Dame also was doing battle on a national fencing landscape that boasted five legitimate contenders for the national title. The Irish were one of those teams in the mix – looking to win their third NCAA title in the span of four years – but that quest ultimately came up short, despite another strong regular season from the Notre Dame men's and women's squads.

For the first time in five years, the Notre Dame fencing program hit the strips without the services of four standouts – foilists Alicja Kryczalo and Andrea Ament and epeeists Kerry Walton and Michal Sobieraj – who had combined for 11 All-America honors and 10 appearances in their respective NCAA weapon finals. Several promising newcomers were inserted into the lineup and responded with solid debut seasons, highlighted by All-America honors for two of the freshmen.

One of the first events in 2005-06 was the annual Penn State Open (in the fall of '05) and sophomore foilist **Jakub Jedrkowiak** improved on his 2004 runner-up finish by defeating Penn State's Jeff Chang in the 15-13 title bout (following a 15-10 semifinal with Ohio State's Boaz Ellis, the two-time NCAA champ). Freshman epeeist **Kim Montoya** added a runner-up showing, after beating teammate **Amy Orlando** in the semifinals and then losing the final to Wayne State's Anna Garina (another two-time NCAA champion). Junior sabreist **Valerie Provenzena**, the 2004 PSU Open champion, returned to the semifinal but came one win shy of fencing for another title at the prestigious fall-semester event (she finished fourth while Orlando was third in epee).

The Irish competed in a rare fall tournament, with both teams opening 6-0 at the Northwestern Duals. The top matchups saw the Irish men edge Stanford, 15-12, and the women top the host team (21-6). The key bouts in the surprisingly easy win over the Wildcats included a 5-1 record for the Irish women versus Northwestern's ace foilists Jessica Florendo and Sam Nemecek.

Notre Dame returned to the familiar setting of the NYU Duals at the start of the spring semester, with the tournament serving as a prime collection of elite sabre talent. Junior **Matt Stearns** and sophomore **Mariel Zagunis** both went 4-1 in their respective bouts versus fencers who were part of the 2005 NCAA sabre field.

There were plenty of important team matchups at NYU, with the top-ranked Irish women registering wins over 8th-ranked Yale (20-7), 6th-ranked St. John's (16-11) and 4th-ranked Ohio State (17-10) but dropping an 8-19 decision to 3rd-ranked Columbia. Montoya's 5-1 win over Kaela Brendler secured an early clinching bout in the victory over Ohio State, with fellow freshman **Madeleine Stephan** also registering a key win over Brendler (5-4). Zagunis chipped in with her own pivotal bouts, topping All-Americans Siobhan Byrne and Eileen Grench by matching 5-3 scores.

The Notre Dame men put their number-three ranking to the test at NYU, with a narrow win over 5th-ranked Columbia (15-12) and a 17-10 victory over 6th-ranked St. John's (17-10) before losing to the nation's top-ranked team Ohio State (10-17). Freshman sabreist **Bill Thanhouser** turned in one of the more important wins over Columbia, coming all the way back from a 0-4 deficit to defeat All-American Alexander Krul (5-4).

Men's Foil (194-76/.719)	Men's Epee (216-54/.800)	Men's Sabre (217-53/.804)
Frank Bontempo..... 34-18/.654	Aaron Adjemian..... 30-12/.714	Ryan Bradley..... 22-3/.880
Patrick Donnelly..... 5-5/.500	Craig Brede..... 17-6/.739	Ceschino Brooks de Vita .. 5-4/.556
Jack Goetz..... 9-2/.818	Patrick Gettings..... 42-8/.840	Nicholas Diacou..... 25-8/.758
Alexander Grigorenko..... 24-5/.828	Greg Howard..... 44-9/.830	Matt Doherty..... 10-1/.909
Joseph Hagmann..... 9-4/.692	Karol Kostka..... 43-11/.796	Patrick Ghattas..... 51-5/.911
Jakub Jedrkowiak..... 39-12/.765	Jesse Laeuchli..... 40-8/.833	Tom Horton..... 19-10/.655
Mark Kubik..... 43-17/.717	Women's Epee (217-53/.804)	Alex Schumacher..... 11-2/.846
Diego Quinonez..... 17-8/.680	Rebecca Chumahusky.... 49-12/.803	Matt Stearns..... 33-10/.767
Andrew Schumacher..... 1-1/.500	Marielle Connor..... 28-4/.875	Bill Thanhouser..... 41-10/.804
Andrew Zodda..... 13-4/.765	Kimberlee Montoya..... 36-7/.837	Women's Sabre (221-49/.819)
Women's Foil (221-49/.819)	Amy Orlando..... 44-15/.746	Erin Housing..... 25-4/.862
Melanie Bautista..... 58-18/.763	Madeleine Stephan..... 60-15/.800	Valerie Provenzena..... 54-8/.871
Rachel Cota..... 29-6/.829		Ashley Serrette..... 57-25/.695
Adrienne Nott..... 44-6/.880		Angela Vincent..... 39-10/.796
Emilie Prot..... 56-12/.824		Mariel Zagunis..... 46-2/.958
Colleen Walsh..... 34-7/.829		

The Irish returned home the following weekend as the host team for the Notre Dame Duals. A quick rematch with the Northwestern women was on tap and Notre Dame again won convincingly (18-9), thanks to key foil wins from freshmen **Emilie Prot** (5-3 vs. Nemecek, after trailing 0-3) and **Adrienne Nott** (5-2 vs. Florendo).

With both Irish teams cruising to perfect records at the Notre Dame Duals, attention turned to individual bouts. Orlando avenged her loss from the 2005 NCAA final by rallying from a 0-3 deficit to defeat Wayne State's Garina in overtime (4-3). The highlight of the men's bouts came in epee, as sophomore **Greg Howard** and freshman **Karol Kostka** both registered wins over Wayne State's Marek Petraszek, the 2005 NCAA runner-up.

After competing with mostly reserve fencers at the Ohio State Duals, both Notre Dame teams completed their 29-1 seasons with 6-0 marks at the UC San Diego Duals.

Stanford's Eva Jellison pulls off a 5-1 upset of Zagunis, giving the 2004 Olympic gold medalist a 46-2 season record and a 75-3 mark in two regular seasons of action with the Irish. Her .958 season winning percentage ranks as the best ever by a Notre Dame women's saberist and has been bested by just seven previous Irish women's fencers (in any weapon), with only nine Notre Dame men's fencers ever winning at a better season rate.

The .968 combined win percentage for the Notre Dame men and women ranks among the best in the program's history (8th) while the Irish men registered the highest total of bout victories in the ND record book (629). The men's sabre team enjoyed a big jump in its win percentage from 2004-05 (75%) to '05-'06 (81%), led by the trip of Ghattas (51-5), Stearns (33-10) and Thanhouser (41-10). The men's foil team also completed a boost in its winning rate (69% to 73%) behind the efforts of Jedrkowiak (38-13), freshman **Mark Kubik** (43-17) and junior **Frank Bontempo** (34-18).

The biggest one-year jump on the women's side came in epee (with a win pct. rise from 76% to 80%), as veterans **Becca Chumahusky** (49-12) and Orlando (44-15) combined with newcomers Stephan (60-15) and Montoya (36-7) to form a formidable foursome. Provenzena (54-8) joined Zagunis in posting another strong season while freshman **Ashley Serrette** (57-25) set the Irish record for women's sabre wins in a season.

The annual Midwest Fencing Conference Championships (at Notre Dame's Joyce Center) featured a flipped format, with the individual bouts on the first day. Prot was the fourth seed in the women's foil field but claimed the MFC title, after a 15-14 semifinal battle with Florendo and the 15-9 final versus Nemecek. Provenzena, Ghattas and Howard all claimed runner-up finishes while three

others (Nott, Stephan and Stearns) reached the semifinals in their respective weapons.

One day later, Notre Dame advanced to the MFC finals in all six weapons but came up empty, as Ohio State claimed five team titles and Northwestern won the MFC women's foil crown.

Anxiety was running high in Cleveland at the NCAA Midwest Regional and Notre Dame ultimately secured 10 automatic berths into the final NCAA field, with two others advancing as at-large picks. Zagunis rolled through her pool bouts (30-4 scoring edge) and tacked on three more wins to claim the Regional title, making quick work of Ohio State's Byrne in the final (15-4). The nine Regional wins give Zagunis a 115-6 record in college bouts during her two-year career, with four of those losses coming to her Olympic teammate Emily Jacobson of Columbia.

Adjemian and Nott impressively posted Regional runner-up finishes, with Adjemian's 15-6 semifinal win over his teammate Howard essentially separating the two for the team's second men's epee spot in the NCAA field. Nott's 15-13 semifinal win over Florendo sent her to the foil final, losing to Nemecek 7-15 (Petraszek beat Adjemian in the men's epee final).

Four Irish fencers – Provenzena, Ghattas, Kostka and Stephan – all secured their NCAA sports with third-place Regional finishes, with Kubik (4th), junior foilist **Melanie Bautista** (5th) and Stearns (6th) also wrapping up NCAA bids. Jedrkowiak (5th) and Orlando (7th) had to wait for at-large spots, which each received thanks to a high national power ranking (Jedrkowiak #2 and Orlando #4).

Notre Dame returned to Houston for the NCAAs and stood in third place atop a crowded leaderboard, after day-1 of the women's bouts. The Irish then crept into second (10 points behind Penn State) after a second day that saw Zagunis win the sabre title (17-6 in round-robin) and three others also earn All-America honors: Nott (6th; 15-8), Stephan (6th; 14-9) and Provenzena (9th; 15-8).

Zagunis turned in an inspired comeback to edge Emma Baratta in the semifinals (15-14) before topping her Columbia teammate Jacobson in a title-bout rematch (15-8).

A strong third day from the men's sabreist left Notre Dame just four points off the pace (behind leader Harvard) but the Crimson went on to become the fifth different NCAA champion in the span of five years while the Irish slipped to fourth.

Ghattas (20-3 round-robin) won an epic battle with Ohio State's Jason Rogers in the semifinals (15-13) and returned to the NCAA final, dropping a 9-15 decision to three-time champion Adam Crompton of OSU. Jedrkowiak (8th) and Stearns (11th) both went 12-11 to pick up the second All-America honors of their careers.

Results (rank)	Men (29-1)	Women (29-1)	Results	Men (29-1)	Women (29-1)
UC-San Diego	W, 21-6	W, 21-6	Northwestern (-/#7)	W, 24-3	W, 18-9
North Carolina	W, 21-6	W, 23-4	Wayne State	W, 22-5	W, 18-9
Stanford (#9/-)	W, 15-12	W, 22-5	Lawrence	W, 21-6	W, 26-1
Northwestern (-/#7)	W, 25-2	W, 21-6	Michigan State	W, 24-3	W, 23-4
Cal State Fullerton	W, 24-3	W, 23-4	Michigan	W, 20-7	W, 21-6
Johns Hopkins	W, 18-9	W, 26-1	Case	W, 24-3	W, 27-0
Yale (-/#8)	W, 20-7	W, 20-7	Purdue	W, 26-1	W, 27-0
Columbia (#5/#3)	W, 15-12	L, 18-9	Indiana	W, 22-5	W, 22-5
NYU	W, 17-10	W, 24-3	Stanford (#9/-)	W, 17-10	W, 20-7
St. John's (#6/#6)	W, 17-10	W, 16-11	Air Force	W, 18-9	W, 22-5
Ohio State (#1/#4)	L, 17-10	W, 17-10	UC-San Diego	W, 20-7	W, 18-9
Oberlin	W, 27-0	W, 27-0	Cal State Fullerton	W, 22-5	W, 24-3
Detroit	W, 23-4	W, 24-3	Cal Tech	W, 25-2	W, 26-1
Duke	W, 22-5	W, 19-8	Army	W, 22-5	W, 21-6
Cleveland State	W, 23-4	W, 27-0	Totals: men 629-181 (.777), women 659-151 (.814)		
Chicago	W, 24-3	W, 27-0			

2006 NCAA Championship Team Standings (at Houston)

Team	MS	MF	ME	WS	WF	WE	Total
1. Harvard	29 (3rd)	23 (5th)	31 (1st)	24 (5th)	33 (2nd)	25th (3rd)	165
2. Penn State	29 (3rd)	18 (7th)	19 (7th)	35 (2nd)	28 (4th)	30 (2nd)	159
3. Ohio State	41 (1st)	43 (1st)	26 (4th)	29 (4th)	-	16 (8th)	155
4. Notre Dame	32 (2nd)	19 (6th)	18 (8th)	32 (3rd)	26 (5th)	25 (3rd)	152
5. Columbia/Barnard	27	27 (3rd)	14	38 (1st)	24	18	148
6. St. John's	24	11	28 (3rd)	19	36 (1st)	21	139
7. Stanford	14	24	25	15	-	-	78
8. Princeton	-	11	29 (2nd)	-	21	15	76
9. Pennsylvania	4	25	6	8	31 (2nd)	-	74
10. Wayne State	-	-	12	12	7	39 (1st)	70
11. Duke	13	-	-	22	2	19	56
(tie) Northwestern	-	-	-	15	30 (3rd)	11	56
13. Rutgers	16	10	12	8	-	-	46
14. NYU	10	13	5	-	5	8	41
15. Air Force	1	-	25	-	-	12	38
16. Yale-	11	15	8	-	-	34	
17. UC San Diego	-	5	-	6	6	13	30
18. Temple	-	-	-	-	18	5	23
19. North Carolina	8	3	7	3	-	-	21
20. M.I.T.	7	11	-	-	-	-	18

Others: Brandeis 17 (16 MF, 1 MS), Cornell 16 (10 WE, 6 WS), Cal State Fullerton 9 (WF), Detroit 9 (MS), Vassar 7 (MS), Boston Collge 5 (ME), Tufts 5 (WF), Brown 3 (WE).

NCAA Women's Foil

- Erzsebet Garay, St. John's
- Jacqueline Leahy, Princeton
- Emily Cross, Harvard
- Annekathrin Donath, Penn State
- Jessica Florendo, Northwestern
- Adrienne Nott, Notre Dame**
- Katia Larchanka, St. John's
- Samantha Nemecek, Northwestern
- Abby Emerson, Pennsylvania
- Chloe Stinetorf, Harvard
- Tamara Najm, Penn State
- Kathleen Reckling, Columbia/Barnard
- Kelsey Finkel, Columbia/Barnard
- Melanie Bautista, Notre Dame**
- Ilana Sinkin, Pennsylvania
- Jenna Remmert, Temple
- Senta Breden, Cal State Fullerton
- Nina Gernes, Temple
- Lindsey Howard, Wayne State
- Jen Chun, UC San Diego
- Kristen Wentrcck, NYU
- Christine Lee, Tufts
- Sara Jew-Lim, Princeton
- Marilyn Tycer, Duke

NCAA Women's Epee

- Katarzyna Trzopek, Penn State
- Anna Garina, Wayne State
- Kaela Brendler, Ohio State
- Justyna Konczalska, Wayne State
- Erin McGarry, Princeton
- Madeleine Stephan, Notre Dame**
- Case Szarwark, Penn State
- Reka Szele, St. John's
- Maria Larsson, Harvard
- Chelsea Ambort, UC San Diego
- Eliza Enyart, Air Force
- Morgan Midgley, Columbia/Barnard
- Sharon Sullivan, Northwestern
- Jasmine McClade, Harvard
- Amy Orlando, Notre Dame**
- Anne Kerckmar, Duke
- Meghan Phair, Cornell
- Dorothy Hubbard, Duke
- Jean Goto, NYU
- Joanna Guy, St. John's
- Holly Buechel, Pennsylvania
- Rachel Rowe, Columbia/Barnard
- Brianna Ferrara, Temple
- Ruth Schneider, Brown

NCAA Women's Sabre

- Mariel Zagunis, Notre Dame**
- Emily Jacobson, Columbia/Barnard
- Emma Baratta, Columbia/Barnard
- Caitlin Thompson, Penn State
- Sophia Hiss, Penn State
- Ibtihaj Muhammad, Duke
- Siobhan Byrne, Ohio State
- Eva Jellison, Stanford
- Valerie Providenza, Notre Dame**
- Olga Ovtchinnikova, St. John's
- Eileen Grench, Ohio State
- Katarzyna Kuzniak, Wayne State
- Carolyn Wright, Harvard
- Alexa Weingarden, Harvard
- Carly Guss, Yale
- Emily Pasternak, Northwestern
- Lauren Phillips, Rutgers
- Mai Van Vu, Northwestern
- Allison Schafer, Duke
- Alexandra Heiss, Cornell
- Raelyn Jacobson, UC San Diego
- Kasia Wieronski, St. John's
- Cassandra Partyka, Pennsylvania
- Jennifer Kling, North Carolina

NCAA Men's Foil

- Boaz Ellis, Ohio State
- Andras Horanyi, Ohio State
- Scott Sugimoto, Columbia
- Ron Berkowsky, Pennsylvania
- Steve Gerberman, Stanford
- Kai Itameri-Kinter, Harvard
- Gabe Sinkin, NYU
- Jakub Jedrokwik, Notre Dame**
- Michael Galligan, Pennsylvania
- Sam Wunderlich, St. John's
- Spencer Sugimoto, M.I.T.
- Douglas Hohensee, Princeton
- Cory Werk, Yale
- Jesse Schibilia, Rutgers
- Eugene Vortsman, Brandeis
- Enoch Woodhouse, Harvard
- Richard Fulton, Stanford
- Calvin Chen, Columbia
- Jeffrey Chang, Penn State
- Alexander Louton, Penn State
- Mark Kubik, Notre Dame**
- Will Friedman, Brandeis
- John Chung, UC San Diego
- Steve Piantadosi, North Carolina

NCAA Men's Epee

- Benji Ungar, Harvard
- Denis Tolkachev, Ohio State
- Ben Solomon, Princeton
- Martin Lee, Stanford
- Michael Pearce, Yale
- Adam Rodney, St. John's
- Dwight Smith, Columbia
- Jason Stockdale, Air Force
- Ben Bratton, St. John's
- Julian Rose, Harvard
- Arthur Urman, Penn State
- Jason Henderson, Rutgers
- Marek Petraszek, Wayne State
- Jackson Ranes, Air Force
- Tommi Hurme, Princeton
- Aaron Adjemian, Notre Dame**
- Jason Pryor, Ohio State
- Karol Kostka, Notre Dame**
- James Moody, Penn State
- Clayton Kenney, Stanford
- Mike Burkhart, North Carolina
- Daniel Zielinski, Johns Hopkins
- Philip Andrews, NYU
- Sam Richardson, Boston College

NCAA Men's Sabre

- Adam Crompton, Ohio State
- Patrick Ghattas, Notre Dame**
- Jason Rogers, Ohio State
- Timothy Hagamen, Harvard
- James Williams, Columbia
- Franz Boghicev, Penn State
- Benjamin Igoe, Rutgers
- Luther Clement, St. John's
- Teddy Levitt, Stanford
- Peter Truskowski, Duke
- Matt Stearns, Notre Dame**
- Marten Zagunis, Penn State
- David Jakus, Harvard
- Andrew Magee, NYU
- Alexander Diacou, Columbia
- Jaroslav Jelinek, Detroit Mercy
- Matt Kolasa, Pennsylvania
- Nikita Tsukhlo, St. John's
- Justin Bernstein, Vassar College
- Igor Kopylov, MIT
- Robert Ziechmann, North Carolina
- Will Randolph, North Carolina
- C.J. Baran, Air Force
- Jeremy Simpson, Brandeis

Notre Dame Fencing Springs From Modest Beginnings To National Prominence

Irish fencers have combined for seven NCAA team titles, 22 individual gold medals and 218 All-America honors.

The storied history of Notre Dame fencing includes seven national titles, more than 200 All-Americans and an .897 all-time winning percentage. The program's highlights span moments of high-pressure performances, displays of pure domination and memorable upsets by Irish fencers who were not to be denied.

And to think that one of Notre Dame's great sport dynasties can trace its genesis to an accident.

Pedro DeLandro grew up at the turn of the century in Guadalajara, Mexico, graduating from Notre Dame in 1911 before returning to his homeland. Some 20 years later, with revolution in Mexico, DeLandro returned to Notre Dame as a Spanish professor – but a 1934 automobile accident left him with a dilemma. Doctors prescribed rehabilitation through swimming while DeLandro suggested fencing. Nearly 70 years later, Notre Dame owes many thanks to his love of fencing – and to his aversion of the water.

DeLandro founded a small fencing club that became Notre Dame's eighth varsity sport in 1936. He returned to Mexico and handed the program to language professor Walt Langford, who set Notre Dame on course as a fencing power. Langford coached two stretches from 1940-61, with former Irish fencer Herb Melton serving as the program's coach from 1947-50.

The final spark was provided in 1962, when Mike DeCicco began his 34-year run as the leader of Notre Dame fencing. DeCicco had fenced at Notre Dame in the late 1940s, returning in 1954 as an engineering teacher and assistant fencing coach. Three decades later, he had become one of the great coaching legends in Notre Dame history.

Beginning with a third-place finish in 1975, Notre Dame has claimed seven NCAA titles and 25 other top-five finishes, including 11 runner-up and 10 third-place efforts. All told, the Notre Dame men and women finished 1st-5th at 33 of 39 NCAA events from 1975-2006 (the women held their own NCAAs from '82-'89).

Notre Dame made some noise at the 1955 NCAAs, when unknown Don Tadrowski claimed the epee title (22-4). Suddenly, the fencing program – which made its NCAA debut in '47 – had gained credibility. Tadrowski repeated as an All-American in 1956, epeeist Dennis Hemmerle was the '57 NCAA runner-up, and the sixth-place '58 team was led by epeeist Ron Farrow (3rd) and foilist Jim Russamano (4th).

That remained the top Irish finish until 1964, when one team's loss was another's gain. Bill Ferrance had hopes of making the Notre Dame basketball team but he was cut in December of 1963. Ferrance stopped by fencing practice, under the bleachers of the Notre Dame Fieldhouse, where classmate Sam Crimone was the top sabreman.



Pedro DeLandro (left) founded the Notre Dame fencing team in the mid-1930s, with the program growing to be one of the most successful in Notre Dame and NCAA history.

Just months later, Ferrance parlayed his athleticism and competitive spirit into a stunning fourth-place finish at the 1964 NCAA foil competition – with Crimone and epeeist Dick Marks placing eighth to give the Irish a fifth-place finish (Ferrance also went on to place fifth at the 1965 NCAAs).

Notre Dame added women's fencing in 1974 and the Irish men returned to the national picture

by claiming third at the 1975 NCAAs, led by All-Americans Tim Glass (epee), Mike McCahey (foil) and Sam DiFiglio (sabre).

Talented sabreist Mike Sullivan (3rd place) and Glass (4th) then were up to the task in Philadelphia and put the third-place Irish in contention for the 1976 NCAA title.

Plenty of drama was waiting one year later at the Joyce Center (the Irish also hosted in 1970,



Pat Gerard's (left) historic foil bout in the 1977 NCAAs gave Notre Dame its first national title in a thrilling fence-off.



Three-time All-Americans Andrzej Bednarski (left), and Gabor Szelle are part of Notre Dame's dominant tradition in men's sabre.

'82, '85, '87, '90, '92, '95 and '98). Sullivan (20-2) ran away with the sabre title while foilist Pat Gerard (18-4) posted his own gold-medal finish. Unlikely results – Sullivan's loss to Clemson's Steve Renshaw and a loss by NYU's Miklos Benedek to Navy's Robert Richards – left Notre Dame and NYU tied at 114. Three previous ties had led to co-champs but a new NCAA format called for a tiebreaker.

Sabre was contested first and Benedek took a 3-2 lead before Sullivan rallied, 5-3. With an electric atmosphere encircling the strip, Gerard jumped ahead 3-0 versus Tom Valjasic (they split earlier 5-4 bouts) and closed out the title in a 5-0 bout, before being mobbed by the Irish faithful. Glass (fourth) never had to compete in the fence-off,

where he would have faced champion Hans Wieselgren. The day concluded with DeCicco being named coach of the year, an honor he also received in '66, '75 and '92.

The 1978 season saw epeeist Bjorn Vaggo (30-2) combine with Sullivan (41-0) and Gerard (31-3) for a record of 102-5. Sullivan then won all 23 bouts to repeat as the NCAA champion, Vaggo also picked up a gold medal and Gerard was second (he lost in the final :02), as Notre Dame ran away with the 1978 title at Wisconsin-Parkside.

Notre Dame – led by NCAA foil champ Andy Bonk – added a runner-up finish in 1979, with Sullivan losing in his final. A six-year, 122-match winning streak ended in 1980 but the Irish were back in the title hunt in 1983, nipped by Wayne State 86-80, with epeeist Ola Harstrom (29-2) becoming the Irish program's seventh national champ.

Two years later, Wayne State edged Notre Dame (141-140) for the 1985 title but the Irish won their third NCAA title at Princeton in 1986, behind foilists Yehuda Kovacs (runner-up) and Charles Higgs-Coulthard (3rd), epeeists Mike Gostigian (3rd) and Christian Scherpe (4th), and sabreists Don Johnson (6th) and John Edwards.

The 1986 season marked the addition of women's head coach Yves Auriol to the Notre Dame staff. Sophomore foilist Molly Sullivan claimed the NCAA title to help the Irish women finish second. Sullivan placed third in 1987 but Notre Dame won the team title, with Janice Hynes, Kristin Kralicek and Anne Barreda rounding out the winning effort.

Sullivan returned to Princeton's Jadwin Gym and won her second NCAA title (equaled by just four other ND student-athletes), with Barreda finishing third to match the team's finish. Sullivan lost four previous bouts versus Wayne State's Loredana Ranza but she won the 9-7 title bout, with the Irish men placing second.

The 1990 season saw the men's 98-match win streak end while Jubba Beshin won the NCAA epee title, assisted by teammate David Calderhead's quarterfinal win over top seed Jim Marsh of Penn State. Beshin, foilist Noel Young and sabreist Leszek Nowosielski placed second at the 1991 NCAAs, with a foil title from Heidi Piper (the '90 runner-up) helping Notre Dame repeat at third place in the combined NCAAs.

Following fourth- and sixth-place finishes in '92 and '93, Notre Dame won the 1994 NCAA title at Brandeis – despite totaling just three All-Americans (foilist Jeremy Siek, sabreist Chris Hajnik and epeeist Rakesh Patel). The team-scoring format saw Notre Dame finish third in women's foil, first in men's foil and fourth in men's sabre – leaving it up to men's epee, which rallied from a 4-2 deficit to beat Air Force in pool-play (5-4 wins from Grzegorz Woźniak, Rian Girard and Patel). A 5-1 semifinal win over Wayne State clinched the title, leaving Penn State stunned at the sudden change.

Notre Dame was third at the 1995 NCAAs, under a format emphasizing individual results, with sabreist Bill Lester and foilist Maria Panyi capturing silver medals. The Irish then were runner-up to Penn State in each of the next five NCAAs, with near-misses in 1997 (1,530-1,470), 1998 (149-147) and 2000 (175-171).

The Irish women pushed their win streak to 75 matches in 1996, when foilist Sara Walsh posted her first of two NCAA runner-up finishes. Women's epeeist Magda Krol was crowned the 1997 NCAA champ, as were men's sabreists Luke La Valle (1998) and Gabor Szelle (2000) – followed by women's epeeist Kerry Walton and foilist Alicja Kryczalo at the 2002 NCAAs.

Kryczalo repeated as NCAA champ in 2003 while the Irish edged Penn State (182-179) for the team title, at Air Force (see pp. 54-55). Kryczalo then became just the second women's fencer ever to win three or more NCAA titles (in '04) while freshman Valerie Providenza won the '04 sabre title and Walton was the epee runner-up.

Notre Dame's 2004 squad was the first in NCAA history to produce NCAA finalists in all three women's weapons but the Irish placed third in the combined standings, due in large part to an injury that sidelined two-time All-America foilist Derek Snyder.

The 2005 NCAAs then produced Notre Dame's seventh national title in dramatic fashion, as the Irish fashioned an historic rally to erase a 24-point deficit versus Ohio State (173-171; see pp. 56-57). Notre Dame saw its fencers advance to five of the six NCAA weapon finals in 2005, with Michal Sobieraj winning the men's epee title while Kryczalo, Patrick Ghattas (men's sabre), Amy Orlando (women's epee) and Mariel Zagunis (women's sabre) each finished as runner-up. Ghattas went on to repeat his second-place finish at the 2006 NCAAs while Zagunis won her title-bout rematch with Columbia's Emily Jacobson (her teammate from the 2004 U.S. Olympic team).



Head coach Yves Auriol saw his 2002 women's squad turn in an impressive performance at the NCAAs, with sophomore Kerry Walton (far left) winning the epee title while Alicja Kryczalo (far right) defeated fellow freshman Andrea Ament (second from left) in the foil title bout.

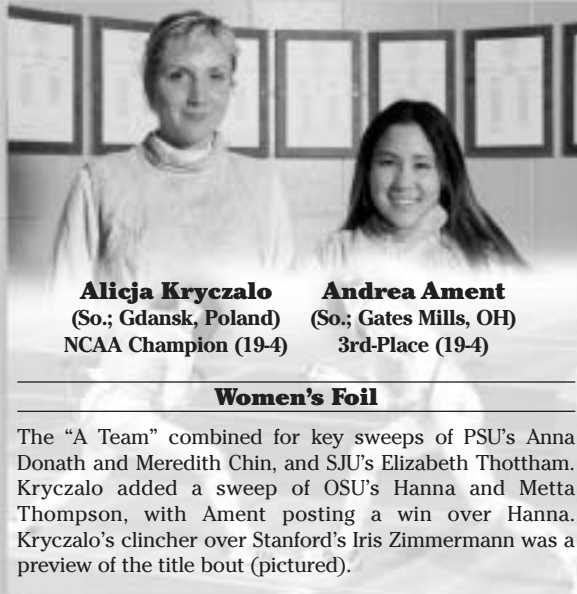
NOTRE DAME 2003 NCAA CHAMPIONS



Notre Dame's 2003 NCAA fencing title truly was a team effort, with all 12 fencers contributing in a condensed two-day format due to storms in the Colorado Springs area. The Irish rode an unprecedented 11 All-Americans to edge Penn State (182-179), followed by St. John's (171) and Ohio State (167). Alicja Kryczalo (19-4 round-robin) repeated as women's foil champ while Michal Sobieraj – who was 10th in 2002 – nearly won the men's epee title, posting the top round-robin mark (20-3) and losing an overtime title bout.

Foilist Ozren Debic (18 wins) and epeeist Jan Viviani (12) logged their fourth All-America finishes while sabreist Gabor Szelle (12) and epeeist Meagan Call (13) earned their third. Kerry Walton (15) was short of repeating as women's epee champ while foilists Andrea Ament (19) and Derek Snyder (17) again were All-Americans.

Senior sabreists Matt Fabricant (15) and Destanie Milo (16) provided clutch wins in their first All-America finishes, with sabreist Maggie Jordan (6) adding key wins for the narrow victory.



Alicja Kryczalo
(So.; Gdansk, Poland)
NCAA Champion (19-4)

Andrea Ament
(So.; Gates Mills, OH)
3rd-Place (19-4)

Women's Foil

The "A Team" combined for key sweeps of PSU's Anna Donath and Meredith Chin, and SJU's Elizabeth Thottham. Kryczalo added a sweep of OSU's Hanna and Metta Thompson, with Ament posting a win over Hanna. Kryczalo's clincher over Stanford's Iris Zimmermann was a preview of the title bout (pictured).



NOTRE DAME FENCING

(sitting, from left) Tiffany Muller, Natalie Tenner, Jocelyn Landgraf, Beth Emilian, Rebecca Chimahusky, Jill Inghram, Anna Carnick and senior manager Natalie Ortiz ... (second row, from left) Natalie Bustamante, Andrea Ament, Liza Boutsikaris, Colleen Walsh, Destanie Milo, Danielle Davis, Maggie Jordan, Kerry Walton, Meagan Call and Alicja Kryczalo ... (third row, from left) head coach Janusz Bednarski, Alex Schumacher, Sean Donovan, North Carey Derek Snyder, Matt Fabricant, Ozren Debic,



Ozren Debic
(Sr.; Zagreb, Croatia)
4th-Place (18-5)

Derek Snyder
(So.; Chatsworth, CA)
5th-Place (17-6)

Men's Foil

The Notre Dame tandem combined for a number of key sweeps, over PSU's Chris Miller, OSU's Nathan Weir and Matt Carbone, and Stanford's Florian Reichling and Steve Gerberman. Snyder added top wins over Yale's Cory Werk and Penn's Yale Cohen, with Debic also beating Cohen.



Meagan Call
(Sr.; Eugene, OR)
10th-Place (13-10)

Kerry Walton
(Jr.; Londonderry, NH)
5th-Place (15-8)

Women's Epee

Both Notre Dame fencers bested OSU's Sherice Gearhart, with Walton adding key wins over OSU's Alexandra Shklar and Megan Phair of Cornell while Call registered a huge win over PSU's Jessie Burke and added a quality victory over regional rival Anna Vinnikov of Wayne State.



Michal Sobieraj
(So.; Krakow, Poland)
NCAA Runner-Up (20-3)

Men's Epee

Sobieraj's top round-robin win over Adam Wiercioch and sweep of Spencer Jones and Princeton's Solomon – with Viviani's key win over Arpad Horvath and Air Force's (in overtime) bout vs. Sobieraj).



2003 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Nick Schumacher, Johannes Masserer, volunteer administrative assistant M.D. McNally and assistant coach Zoltan Dudas ... (back row, from left) Gabor Szelle, Jack Goetz, Jan Viviani, T.J. McNally, Adam Harvey, Michal Sobieraj, Forest Walton, Matt Castellan, Brian Dosal and Mike Macaulay (not pictured: Brendan Prendergast)



Jan Viviani
(Sr.; Haworth, NJ)
10th-Place (12-11)



Maggie Jordan
(Jr.; Maplewood, NJ)
21st-Place (7-16)



Destanie Milo
(Jr.; Knox, IN)
6th-Place (16-7)



Gabor Szelle
(Sr.; Budapest, Hungary)
11th-Place (12-11)



Matt Fabricant
(Sr.; Elizabeth, NJ)
6th-Place (15-8)

Men's Epee
The team's performance mark included a win over PSU's Soren Thompson and Ben ... key wins coming versus SJU's Seth Kelsey (pictured, in title ...

Women's Sabre
Milo (pictured) had key late sweep of PSU's Heather Brosnan and Austin O'Neill, with other top wins over SJU's Julia Gelman, OSU's Maguerite Plekhanov and NCAA champ Alexis Jemal (Rutgers). Jordan added an early win over Northwestern's Emily Pasternak and a huge late victory over PSU's O'Neill.

Men's Sabre
The veteran duo had a timely sweep of SJU's Sergey Isayenko, with both adding noteworthy wins over Columbia's Andrew Sohn and Brown's Paul Friedman. Fabricant (pictured) combined with women's sabre ... Destanie Milo for major jumps from previous NCAAs.