



Aaron Adjemian

El Paso, Texas • Cathedral H.S.
Northwest Oregon Fencing Center

Two-Time NCAA Participant

Adjemian's Career Record

Year	W	L	Pct.	NCAA Finish
2004	28	16	.636	
2005	32	6	.842	24th
2006	30	12	.714	16th
2007	39	19	.672	
Career	129	53	.709	

Competed in NCAAs as sophomore and junior ... clever fencer with elegant, modern style ... Texas native who trained on weekends in Portland, Ore., at Northwest Fencing Center (coached by former ND assistant Michael Marx) ... 129-53 career regular-season record.

AS A SENIOR: Compiled 39-19 record in regular-season bouts before placing ninth at NCAA Midwest Regional (at ND), earning an alternate spot for NCAAs ... beat Ohio's State's Jason Pryor at ND Duals (5-2) and NYU Duals (5-4) ... #15 seed at Penn State Open (fall '06) before third-place finish that included win over PSU's Arthur Urman (5-4), round-of-16 bout with teammate Greg Howard (15-13), 15-8 quarterfinal vs. OSU's Pryor, semifinal with Wayne State's Marek Petraszek (10-15) and 15-13 third-place win over PSU's Dennis Kraft.

AS A JUNIOR: Went 30-12 in regular season before overcoming ninth-place finish at Midwest Fencing Conference Championships by finishing as Midwest Regional runner-up (at ND), clinching spot in NCAA field ... beat OSU's Denis Tolkachev at NYU Duals (5-4) ... improved on #4 seed at Regional (in Cleveland), with 15-11 quarterfinal win over OSU's Pryor and 15-6 semifinal versus ND's Howard (lost title bout to Petraszek) ... posted top NCAA wins over PSU's Urman (5-3), Adam Rodney of St. John's (5-4, in OT), and ND teammate Karol Kostka (5-1) ... ended four spots shy of All-America honors (16th; 10-13).

AS A SOPHOMORE: Compiled 32-6 regular-season record before fifth-place finish at Midwest Regional (helping earn him an at-

large bid in NCAA field) ... scored five key wins at NCAAs as Irish edged Ohio State by two victories in final standings (173-171) to claim national title, in his home state (Houston) ... his NCAA wins included 4-3 bout with WSU All-American Wojciech Dudek ... earlier matched #5 seed at Midwest Regional (at Wayne State), with key wins over OSU's Tolkachev (5-1) and Christian Rivera (5-4) ... swept OSU epeeists at NYU Duals (5-3 vs. Tolkachev, 5-1 vs. Rivera) ... placed 14th at the Penn State Open (fall '04).

AS A FRESHMAN: Went 28-16 in regular-season record but narrowly missed spot in NCAAs (7th at MFCs; 4th at Regional) ... his comeback versus Ryan Wangner (4-3, OT) gave Irish 14-13 win at Penn State ... beat Jerome Hsu for 12-11 lead on Columbia, at ND Duals (14-13) ... placed seventh at MFCs (4-15 quarterfinal vs. WSU's Petraszek) ... #7 seed for Regional but placed fourth, with wins over teammate Michal Sobieraj (5-3), Petraszek (5-3) and OSU's Spencer Jones (5-1) ... placed third at Penn State Open (fall 2003).

PREP & PERSONAL: Attended Cathedral High School (El Paso, Texas) while fencing on weekends at Northwest (Ore.) Fencing Center ... fenced with U.S. cadet-level team (u-17) at 2002 World Championships, in Turkey ... won cadet 2001 North American Cup (Salt Lake City) ... his brother Nico is a top youth fencer ... son of Edward and Melinda Adjemian ... Aaron Edward Adjemian ... born July 23, 1985, in El Paso ... graduated from ND with a degree in management entrepreneurship.



Frank Bontempo

Pittsburgh, Pa. • Central Catholic H.S.
Three Rivers Fencing Center

2004 NCAA Participant

Two-Year Men's Foil Team Captain

Bontempo's Career Record

Year	W	L	Pct.	NCAA Finish
2004	44	16	.733	20th
2005	41	17	.707	
2006	34	18	.654	
2007	41	18	.695	
Career	160	69	.699	

Two-year men's foil team captain who competed in the 2004 NCAAs and narrowly missed claiming a spot in the '05 NCAA field ... a high-class fencer with an elegant, lefthanded style that showcased his natural ability to move smoothly and unexpectedly on the strip ... an intellectual and emotional fencer ... athletic, tough fighter with intelligent savvy on the strip ... made effective use of his modern style ... his 160-69 career record in regular-season bouts represents the second-most wins ever by a Notre Dame men's foilist (11th among all men's weapons).

AS A SENIOR: Compiled 41-18 record in regular season (.695) before placing 10th in both the Midwest Fencing Conference (MFC) meet and the NCAA Midwest Regional (at ND) ... received ND fencing program's John Crikelair Award for foil team leadership ... beat Columbia's Calvin Chen at the NYU Duals (5-3) ... placed 35th at the Penn State Open in the fall of 2006.

AS A JUNIOR: Turned in a 34-18 record during the regular season before finishing seventh at both the MFC and Midwest Regional tournaments ... posted top wins at the NYU Duals over Sam Wunderlich of St. John's (5-3) and Yale's Cory Werk (5-4), the 2004 NCAA runner-up ... lost to Ohio State's Andras Horanyi in MFC quarterfinals (12-15) ... beat OSU's Will Jeter in seventh-place bout (15-3) at Regional, in Cleveland ... placed 19th at Penn State Open in the fall of 2005.

AS A SOPHOMORE: Narrowly missed claiming a spot in the 2005 NCAAs, after ending the regular season with a 41-17 record and

adding fifth-place finish at Midwest Regional (at Wayne State) ... served as an alternate at the NCAAs ... beat OSU's Jeter twice during regular season ... edged teammate Jakub Jedrkowiak (15-13) to win MFC individual foil title ... placed 14th at the Penn State Open in the fall of 2004.

AS A FRESHMAN: Made late surge (MFC runner-up, third at Regional) before competing in the 2004 NCAAs ... went 44-16 in regular season ... his 5-4 bout versus Ian Schlaepfer (also 5-2 over Joseph Brown) helped Irish men win 14-13 at Penn State ... had 5-0 win over Nathan Weir in teams 15-12 win over Ohio State (at ND Duals) ... beat teammate Forest Walton (15-9) and OSU's Alexander Law (15-10) in MFC quarterfinals and semifinals before dropping 5-15 final to OSU's Boaz Ellis (the eventual NCAA champ) ... entered Regional as fifth seed but used wins over Walton (5-1) and Law (5-2) to finish third (7-3) ... stepped in for teammate Derek Snyder (hand injury) at NCAAs and placed 20th (7-16), with top wins over Walton (5-4) and Stanford's Florian Reichling (5-2) ... reached quarterfinals at Penn State Open in the fall of 2003 (featuring a 15-11 vs. Walton).

PREP & PERSONAL: Three-year fencing captain at Central Catholic High School, ... trained at Three Rivers Fencing Center ... his father Frank Bontempo is 1972 Notre Dame graduate ... son of Jan Johnston and Frank Bontempo ... Franklin Anthony Bontempo III ... born July 19, 1984, in Pittsburgh ... graduated from Notre Dame with a degree in pre-professional science.



Mariel Zagunis

Senior

Beaverton, Oregon

Valley Catholic H.S.

Oregon Fencing Alliance

2004 Olympic Gold Medalist

2008 Olympic Team Candidate (TBA)

2006 World Cup Points Champion

2006 NCAA Champion

2005 NCAA Runner-Up

Highly-decorated sabre talent and 2008 Olympic hopeful who fenced two seasons with the Irish (2004-05) ... owns most unique accomplishments of any competitor in U.S. fencing history, headlined by gold-medal performance at 2004 Olympics in Athens ... entered mid-November of 2007 listed third in the FIE World rankings – behind China's Tan Xue first and U.S. 17-year-old sensation Becca Ward – as she looked to clinch spot on three-member U.S. women's sabre team for 2008 Olympics ... fencers in the 4-7 spots included Russia's Elena Netchaeva, Italy's Gioia Marzocca and the USA's Sada Jacobson ('04 Olympic bronze medalist) ... also was ranked-first in the USFA women's sabre rankings (as of Nov. 15, 2007), with her 16,445 points narrowly ahead of fellow Oregon Fencing Alliance (OFA) club product Ward (16,227) ... elected to take three semesters off from college fencing (spring '07; all of '07-'08) in order to focus on her training and qualification for 2008 Olympics in Beijing ... won NCAA women's sabre title in 2006, besting her Olympic teammate Emily Jacobson (who fences at Columbia) in rematch of title bout from 2005 (when Zagunis played lead role in ND winning combined NCAA team title) ... her most noteworthy fencing accomplishments include becoming: first U.S. fencer to win Olympic gold in 100 years; first U.S. women's fencer ever to clinch an Olympic medal finish; second U.S. fencer to win FIE World Cup season points title ('06); one of first U.S. fencers (from either gender), along with Ward, ever to reach World Championship

gold-medal bout (silver, in '06), with only one previous U.S. fencer having earned a World Championship medal ... tremendous athlete (youth soccer player) with great tactical skill, tireless training and "all-business" approach (versus any level of competition) ... has benefited from training under former Notre Dame assistant coach Ed Korfanty, developing wide variety of actions on the strip ... very goal-oriented in all aspects of her life, including extensive endurance training ... her background in soccer can be seen in her athleticism, speed, anticipation skills and quick reaction time ... delayed enrolling at Notre Dame one year in order to pursue Olympic dream ... one of seven recent Notre Dame sabreists who have trained at OFA... one of seven athletes featured in *Shouttime's* "Bud Greenspan Presents Athens 2004: Stories of Olympic Glory" (that Nov. '05 special told the inspiring tale of Zagunis and other Olympians) ... honored by her home state of Oregon as 2004 Bill Hayward Amateur Athlete of the Year ... own .962 win pct. (75-3) in regular-season bouts with the Irish, ranking third in ND women's fencing history behind former foilists Maria Panyi (.980; 146-3) and Sara Walsh (.970; 231-7) ... her .826 career win pct. (38-8) in NCAA round-robin bouts ranks fourth among ND women's fencers, behind foilists Molly Sullivan (.915; 54-5), Alicja Kryczalo (.913; 84-8) and Walsh (.870; 80-12).

2006-07 INTERNATIONAL RESULTS: Placed fifth at the World Championships (Oct. '07), with final wins over Italy's Alessandra Lucchino (round-of-32; 15-8) and China's Yuanyuan Zhao (rd-of-16; 15-10) before losing by one touch to Poland's Bogna Jozwiak in quarterfinal (14-15) ... also member of U.S. women's sabre team that posted round-of-16 win over Azerbaidjan (45-20) before being edged by Italy in World Championship quarterfinals (42-45) ... the U.S. then lost to China (31-45) but beat Korea for 7th-place finish (45-36) ... won 2007 World Cups in London (Feb.; 15-10 final vs. Ward), Alger, Algeria (March; 15-12 vs. Jozwiak), and Havana, Cuba (June; 15-8 vs. Italy's Marzocca), while placing third at Grand Prix events in Foggia, Italy (March) and Hanoi, Vietnam (May), and fifth at three other events: World Cup in Klagenfurt, Austria (May); Grand Prix in Tianjin, China (June) and Las Vegas Grand Prix (June) ... also was ninth at World Cup in Orleans, France (Feb.) and 17th at Budapest Grand Prix (Feb.) ... member of winning U.S. women's sabre team in Las Vegas (also second at Budapest, third in Hanoi and Tianjin, and fourth in Foggia) ... featured on the *Today Show's* "One Year from Beijing" special that aired on Aug. 8, 2007.

2006 WORLD CUP POINTS TROPHY: Won Las Vegas GP to conclude impressive 2006 World Cup circuit that included: silver medals in Orleans and Budapest (both in Feb.); bronze in Klagenfurt and Vancouver (both June); and 10th in Lamezia Terme, Italy (March) and Hanoi (June) ... finished atop women's sabre World Cup rankings – her 198 points were 12 more than Russia's Sophia Velikaia of (186) – and received prestigious World Cup trophy in Turin, Italy, at 2006 FIE World Championships ... joined long-time U.S. sabre teammate Sada Jacobson ('03, '04, '05) as only American fencers (male or female, any weapon) ever to win World Cup total-points trophy ... earlier won three Junior World Cup titles ('02-'04) ... recognized by U.S. Olympic Committee as one of three honorees for June 2006 Athlete of the Month (also swimmer Michael Phelps and track-and-field's Lashinda Demus) ... runner-up finish in Orleans included wins over Poland's Olga Socha (15-8 quarterfinal) and Italy's Marzocca (15-11 semi) before narrow loss to France's Anne-Lise Touya in final (13-15), with nearly 3,000 spectators on hand to see that matchup between 2004 Olympic champ and 2005 world champion ... top bouts in Budapest included 15-10 win over China's Xue in round-of-16 (first meeting since '04 Olympic final) and 15-14 semifinal vs. Ukraine's Olga Kharlan before losing final to Russia's Velikaia (10-15) ... competed in Lamezia Terme days before helping ND win NCAA title ... combined with Caity Thompson, Sada Jacobson and former Columbia fencer Emma Baratta to win women's sabre



team competition in Hanoi ... lost to Ward in Klagenfurt semifinals ... combined with Ward, Thompson and Sada Jacobson for thrilling title-match win over Russia (45-44) in Las Vegas, where she also had key individual wins over Thompson (round-of-32), a pair of French fencers in the quarterfinals (15-14 vs. Leonore Perrus) and semifinals (15-12 vs. Touya), and Italy's Ilaria Bianco in 15-14 title bout.

2006 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: The competition in Turin (a.k.a. Torino), Italy, saw Zagunis beat Germany's Alexandra Bujdoso in the quarterfinals (15-10), followed by a 15-10 semifinal vs. her U.S. teammate Sada Jacobson before losing 11-15 final bout to Ward ... the finalists became second and third U.S. fencers (men or women) ever to earn individual World Championship medals and first to reach World Championship individual finals ... opened with 15-9 win over Germany's Amelie Zerfass before round-of-32 win over Poland's Irena Wieckowska (15-13) ... former Stanford foilist Iris Zimmermann was first U.S. fencer with a World Championship medal (bronze, '99).

OLYMPIC NOTES: Signed letter-of-intent with Notre Dame in Nov., 2002, and graduated the next spring before 15-month training regimen for shot at Olympics ... cutoff for qualifying was April 1 and she narrowly missed one of the two initial U.S. spots ('04 Games did not include three-fencer women's sabre team event) ... she and Emily Jacobson were contending for final spot and it came down to a bout in late March at a tournament in Italy, vs. Emily's sister Sada ... Sada's 15-14 win left her sister 10th in the world rankings – just ahead of Zagunis, who continued to train and was granted another chance when Nigeria declined to send its fencer Jacqueline Esimaje ... Zagunis, who had risen to sixth in the world, received the open spot as highest-ranked fencer not already in Olympic field (the African region had no other sabreists in top-100) ... headed to Athens and Helleniko Sports Center, where she beat Japan's Madoka Hisagae in round-of-16 (15-13; long 2:39 bout), Azerbaijan's Elena Jemayeva in 15-11 quarterfinal and Catalina Gheorghitoaia of Romania in 15-10 semifinal ... commanded gold-medal bout vs. China's Xue, jumping out to 8-2 lead while fencing with tenacity and clever tactics ... Xue battled back to 10-6 before the bout ended 15-9, with Zagunis ceremonially tossed in the air by members of the U.S. team.

OTHER RECENT RESULTS: Finished second behind teammate Sada Jacobson at 2006 Pan-Am Games (Oct.) in Venezuela, also helping U.S. win Pan-Am women's sabre team title ... helped U.S. women's sabre win 2005 World Championship (Oct. 15; in Leipzig, Germany), with 45-36 win over Russia in finale that avenged loss in 2004 Worlds final ... named USATODAY.com's "Olympic Athlete of the Week" for lead role in winning world title ... went 15-8 in three stints vs. Russia to lead the way, after strong bouts vs. Hungary in 45-27 semifinal (she went 18-4) and vs. France in 45-32 semifinal (9-4) ... teamed with Sada Jacobson, Ward and Thompson on 2005 World Championship team that did not allow more than 38 points in a bout (45-38 vs. Great Britain in round-of-16) ... took ninth in '05 World Championship individual competition, losing to Ward (13-15) in unlucky round-

Zagunis' Career (did not fence for ND in '07)

Year	W	L	Pct.	NCAA Finish
2005	29	1	.967	2nd
2006	46	2	.958	1st
Career	75	3	.962	

of-16 matchup ... won 2005 World Junior Championships (individual and team), in Linz, Austria, during late March (days after helping ND win NCAA title) ... her march to '05 World Junior title included 15-13 quarterfinal vs. Ward, 15-9 semifinal vs. Ukraine's Kharlan and 15-9 final win over Russia's Velikaia ... combined with Emily Jacobson, Ward and Thompson to win '05 World Junior team title ... placed sixth at Jr. World Cup in Budapest (Jan. '05; lost to Ward in quarterfinals) before winning two Sr. World Cups in Klagenfurt (June) and Vancouver (July 9-10) – and then battling illness to place sixth at World Cup in Welkenraedt, Belgium (May 14-15) and reaching title bout at Las Vegas GP (June 17-19; lost 13-15 to Poland's Socha) ... combined with Sada Jacobson, Ward and Thompson to win team bronze at Las Vegas ('05) ... World Cup win in Austria included 15-12 quarterfinal vs. Great Britain's Louise-Bond Williams, 15-5 semifinal with Germany's Sybil Klemm and 15-13 title bout vs. Ward ... won Jr. World Cup in Sosnowiec, Poland (fall '04) – beating Ward in semifinals (15-11) and Poland's Marta Wator in 15-10 final – before heading to White House for reception to honor 2004 Olympians ... won '04 Jr. World Cup in Louisville, Ky., besting Thompson in semifinals (15-6) and Ward in 15-9 final ... placed sixth at '04 Jr. World Cup in Ariccia, Italy.

IN THE RECORD BOOKS: Only a handful of U.S. fencers have stood on Olympic medal stands, the previous being sabre bronze medalist Peter Westbrook at '84 games in Los Angeles (field thinned by boycott) ... combined with Sada Jacobson (bronze) as first U.S. women's fencers ever to win Olympic medals (first time two U.S. fencers medaled at same Games in 100 years) ... only previous U.S. fencers to win Olympic gold came in 1904 men's "single sticks," when many top Europeans did not attend due to difficulty reaching middle America (St. Louis) ... prior to 2004 – when former ND standouts Ruth Riley (basketball), Kate Sobrero and Shannon Boxx (soccer) helped their teams win gold in Athens – only two Olympic gold medalists had ties to Notre Dame: basketball players Vince Boryla ('48, London) and Adrian Dantley ('76, Montreal), with Boryla having transferred ... no previous Olympiad had featured more than two medalists with ND connections and it had been 28 years since more than one had medaled (two each in '32, '48, '76) ... the only other Olympic medalist with ties to Notre Dame fencing is epeeist Bjorn Vaggo (silver in '84 at L.A., with Sweden) ... became second incoming/returning Notre Dame student-athlete (first in 84 years) to win Olympic medal, joining Gus Desch (bronze in 400-meter dash; 1920, Antwerp) ... combined with men's epee alum Jan Viviani to make Notre Dame one of four schools (also St. John's, Columbia, Princeton) with multiple former/current fencers on U.S. team's full 15-fencer roster at 2004 Olympics.

OTHER TOP RESULTS: Her many unique accomplishments include becoming: first fencer to win three World Championships in one season (2001 u-17 and u-20 individual, u-20 team); first U.S. fencer to hold four World Championship titles in span of nine months (also '01 overall team title); only U.S. fencer to win multiple Jr. World Cup point titles ('02-'04); youngest fencer to win FIE World Championship; first U.S. fencer to finish atop World Cup point standings ('02); and recordholder for medals in junior/cadet World Cup Championships (8, plus 4 medals at senior-level World Championships) ... placed sixth at 2004 World Cup in Orleans while helping women's sabre team finish as 2004 World Championship runner-up ... won 2001 World Jr. Championship as 15-year-old (beating Sada Jacobson in 15-11 final), joining Zimmermann as second U.S. fencer to win two World Championships (Kazimieras Campe and Ray Sexton were only previous U.S. fencers to win World Championship) ... lost to Emily Jacobson at '04 Jr. World Championships (6-15) ... first held U.S. overall number-one ranking in 2001, as U.S. Fencing's "female athlete of the year" ... won 2001 Junior Olympics and u-16 national titles ... two previous U.S. fencers had won Jr. World Cup titles (Felicia and Iris Zimmermann; '95 and '97 foil) ... com-

bined with Sada Jacobson for first U.S. 1-2 finish in World Cup standings.

AS A SOPHOMORE: Her NCAA championship performance was preceded by dominating regular season (46-2; .957), the 8th-best win pct. ever by any ND women's fencer (best in women's sabre) ... named ND women's fencing MVP (also women's sabre MVP), after postseason that included winning NCAA Midwest Regional before topping Columbia's Emily Jacobson (her Olympic teammate) in NCAA title bout ... her 18-0 record at Northwestern Duals included 5-1 win over Stanford's Eva Jellison before key wins at NYU Duals (13-1) vs. Ohio State's Siobhan Byrne (5-3) and Eileen Grench (5-3), Columbia's Baratta (5-3), the St. John's pair of Kasia Wieronski (5-1) and Olga Ovtchinnikova (5-4), and Yale's Carly Guss (5-1), with lone loss to Columbia's Jacobson (3-5) ... 9-0 in limited action at ND Duals and 6-1 at UCSD Duals (1-5 loss to Jellison) ... allowed only four touches in six Regional pool bouts, followed by 15-5 quarterfinal vs. Northwestern's Emily Pasternak (15-5), narrow win over ND's Valerie Providenza in semifinals (15-13) and final win over OSU's Byrne (15-4) ... posted 11-3 record on day-1 at NCAAs in Houston, with top win vs. Columbia's Jacobson (5-3) after having gone 0-4 in previous college bouts vs. her fellow national-teamer ... other top day-1 wins included sweeps of Harvard's Carolyn Wright (5-0) and Alexa Weingarden (5-1) and SJU's Ovtchinnikova (5-1) and Wieronski (5-1), also defeating Providenza (5-3), Duke's Allison Schafer (5-0), Lauren Phillips of Rutgers (5-1), Penn's Cassandra Partyka (5-4), Yale's Guss (5-3) and Cornell's Alexandra Heiss (5-2) ... her losses came vs. two All-Americans, Columbia's Baratta (1-5) and Duke's Ibtihaj Muhammad (3-5), plus 4-5 defeat to UCSD's Raelyn Jacobson ... a 6-3 record on day-2 tied her for fourth in round-robin, advancing to semifinals due to +43 total-point indicators (PSU's Sophia Hiss was +31) ... scored key day-2 wins over Hiss (5-2), OSU's Byrne (5-3) and Stanford's Jellison (5-4), plus other wins over UNC's Jennifer Kling (5-0) and Northwestern duo of Mai Van Vu (5-1) and Pasternak (5-0) ... day-2 losses came vs. OSU's Grench (3-5), club teammate Thompson of PSU (2-5) and Wayne State's Katarzyna Kuzniak (4-5) ... avenged loss to Baratta in semifinals, despite deficits of 0-4, 5-8 and 6-12 (she won seven of next eight for 13-13 tie) ... Baratta then scored on parry-riposte, as did Zagunis, who scored decisive touch (15-14) on straight attack after Baratta briefly hesitated on her own attack ... the final did not produce nearly as much drama, with 8-3 lead before winning the title-bout rematch from Jacobson (15-8).

AS A FRESHMAN: Enjoyed impressive debut on college scene by finishing second at 2005 NCAAs and recording near-perfect record (29-1; .967) in 2004-05 regular season ... tied ND foilist Kryczalo and PSU sabreist Franz Boghicev for best round-robin records (21-2) in 144-fencer NCAA field ... played key role in historic rally to edge Ohio State for NCAA title (173-171; OSU held 24-point edge after two days of men's bouts) ... combined with Providenza (19-4) for dominating 40-win total in round-robin ... only three previous pairs of teammates (men or women) have posted more combined NCAA wins in same weapon (format began in '96) ... owned best total-points indicator (+66) in entire field (four shutouts, seven 5-1 bouts, six 5-2, two 5-3, two 5-4) ... helped set NCAA record for wins by a women's team (103-35) ... joined Kryczalo and epeeist Amy Orlando in reaching respective finals (ND's 2004 squad had been first ever to do that in NCAA women's competition) ... 11th ND fencer (men or women) to reach NCAA final as a freshman ... sat atop sabre standings after day-1 (13-1), with wins over Providenza (5-2), OSU's Byrne (5-0) and Amelia Galliard (5-2), PSU's Laura Hillstrom (5-1), Harvard's Wright (5-4) and Duke's Muhammad (5-0) ... lone loss on first day came vs. PSU's Hiss, the '04 runner-up (3-5) ... combined with Providenza for 12-0 start in Sunday's tense rounds ... helped knock St. John's from chase with wins over All-Americans Christina Crane (5-1) and Wieronski (5-4), adding top wins over Penn's Katelyn Sherry (5-1) and Columbia's Baratta (5-1) ... suffered second and final defeat in round-robin vs. Columbia's Jacobson (1-5) ... had 15-5 semifinal win over OSU's Byrne before falling to Jacobson in final (11-15) ... missed 2005 Regional (World Cup conflict) but was granted exemption into NCAAs ... swept OSU at Midwest Fencing Conference Championships (5-0 vs. Byrne, 5-1 vs. Grench, 5-3 vs. Galliard) ... opened 11-1 at NYU Duals, with sweep of OSU (5-3 vs. Byrne, 5-1 vs. Gaillard and Grench) while dropping 3-5 bout to Columbia's Jacobson ... 18-0 record at ND Duals included wins over Byrne (5-3), Grench (5-2) and Galliard (5-2).

PREP & PERSONAL: Played soccer starting at age five, competing on state-select teams and earning three letters as midfielder at Valley Catholic HS ... her brother Marten fenced at Penn State ('03-'06) while brother Merrick is a top-ranked youth fencer ... daughter of Robert and Cathy Zagunis, who were collegiate rowers (at Oregon State and Connecticut College, respectively) before competing with U.S. rowing team at 1976 Olympics in Montreal ... Mariel Leigh Zagunis ... born March 3, 1985, in Portland, Ore. ... anthropology major, in College of Arts and Letters.

Zagunis in the NCAAs (38-8 in round-robin, +109 in touches)

2005: 21-2 round-robin (+66 in touches)

Cassie Frey (Pennsylvania)	5-1
Katelyn Sherry (Pennsylvania)	5-1
Marisa Romero (Air Force)	5-1
Emma Baratta (Columbia/Barnard)	5-1
Emily Jacobson (Columbia/Barnard)	L, 1-5
Rachel Liebing (Cal State Fullerton)	5-0
Christina Crane (St. John's)	5-1
Kasia Wieronski (St. John's)	5-4
Carly Guss (Yale)	5-3
Carolyn Wright (Harvard)	5-4
Alexa Weingarden (Harvard)	5-2
Ivana Zgaljic (Cornell)	5-2
Laura Hillstrom (Penn State)	5-1
Sophia Hiss (Penn State)	L, 3-5
Emma Nostrand (Drew)	5-2
Ibtihaj Muhammad (Duke)	5-0
Allison Schafer (Duke)	5-0
Halli Melnitsky (Haverford)	5-2
Siobhan Byrne (Ohio State)	5-0
Amelia Galliard (Ohio State)	5-2
Valerie Providenza (Notre Dame)	5-2
Lauren Dunn (Northwestern)	5-1
Mai Van Vu (Northwestern)	5-3

- Defeated Byrne in semifinals (15-5)
- Lost to Jacobson in final (11-15)

2006: 17-6 round-robin (+43 in touches)

Valerie Providenza (Notre Dame)	5-3
Raelyn Jacobson (UC San Diego)	L, 4-5
Allison Schafer (Duke)	5-0
Lauren Phillips (Rutgers)	5-1
Ibtihaj Muhammad (Duke)	L, 3-5
Olga Ovtchinnikova (St. John's)	5-1
Kasia Wieronski (St. John's)	5-1
Cassandra Partyka (Pennsylvania)	5-4
Emma Baratta (Columbia/Barnard)	L, 1-5
Emily Jacobson (Columbia/Barnard)	5-3
Carly Guss (Yale)	5-3
Carolyn Wright (Harvard)	5-0
Alexa Weingarden (Harvard)	5-1
Alexandra Heiss (Cornell)	5-2
Siobhan Byrne (Ohio State)	5-3
Eileen Grench (Ohio State)	L, 3-5
Eva Jellison (Stanford)	5-4
Caitlin Thompson (Penn State)	L, 2-5
Sophia Hiss (Penn State)	5-2
Jennifer Kling (North Carolina)	5-0
Mai Van Vu (Northwestern)	5-1
Emily Pasternak (Northwestern)	5-0
Katarzyna Kuzniak (Wayne State)	L, 4-5

- Defeated Baratta in semifinals (15-14)
- Defeated E. Jacobson in final (15-8)

Notre Dame Fencing Springs From Modest Beginnings To National Prominence

Irish fencers have combined for seven NCAA team titles, 22 individual gold medals and 227 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, '82,



Pat Gerard (left) won a historic foil bout in the 1977 NCAA Championship that 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.

'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 (equalified 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 for a 4-2 deficit to beat Air Force in pool-play (5-4 wins from Grzegorz Wozniak, 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. 60-61). 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. 62-63). 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 (he also was the 2007 runner-up) while Zagunis won her 2006 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 Andrea Ament (19) 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,

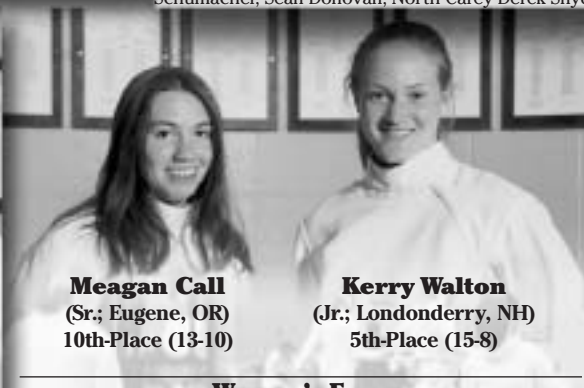


Ozren Debic
(Sr.; Zagreb, Croatia)
4th-Place (18-5)

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 Penn State's Adam Wiercioch and sweep of Cornell's Spencer Jones and Princeton's Adam Solomon – with Viviani's key win over Arpad Horvath and Air Force's Matt Fabricant in the title 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

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 ... istDestanie Milo for major jumps from previous NCAAs.



NOTRE DAME

2005 NCAA CHAMPIONS

Notre Dame's seventh all-time NCAA fencing title saw the 2005 Irish become the first team ever to win without the full complement of fencers, as the 11 ND fencers combined for a record-setting 24-point comeback to edge Ohio State (173-171). The five men's fencers did their best to keep the Irish within striking distance before the six ND women set an NCAA record by winning 103 bouts. Alicja Kryczalo (21-2) finished atop the women's foil round-robin for the third time while sabre standout Mariel Zagunis also went 21-2. Men's epeeist Michal Sobieraj (18-5) and sabre veteran Valerie Providenza (19-4) both finished second in their round-robin while epeeist Amy Orlando (4th; 16-7) and sabre Patrick Ghattas (4th; 18-5) also advanced to the semi-finals. Foilists Jakub Jedrkowiak and Andrea Ament both went 15-8 to finish seventh, with Ament joining Kryczalo and Sobieraj as rare four-year All-Americans. Sabre Matt Stearns also turned in an All-America finish (10th; 14-9), women's epee veteran Kerry Walton overcame a rough start to post 11 wins (14th) and epeeist Aaron Adjemian delivered five wins to the final margin. The Irish finished +12 in head-to-head bouts vs. the other top contenders (OSU, St. John's and Penn State), with Kryczalo delivering a 6-0 record in those key bouts.

Notre Dame Fencing 2005 NCAA Championship Team



(sitting, from left) junior manager Elisabeth Dieckelman, Marielle Connor, Natalie Bustamante, Amy Orlando, Rachel Cota, Natalie Tenner, Anna Rodriguez and Angela Vincent ... (second row, from left) Monica Real, Erin Housing, Tiffany Muller, Jocelyn Landgraf, Danielle Davis, Andrea Ament, Melanie Bautista, Valerie Providenza, Kerry Walton, Becca Chimahusky, Mariel Zagunis and Alicja Kryczalo ... (third row, from left) intern assistant coach Andrzej Bednarski, volunteer administrative assistant M.D. McNally, senior manager Tim Sheehan, volunteer assistant coach North Carey, Diego Quinonez, Jakub Jedrkowiak, Nicholas Diacou, Craig Brede, armorer Matthew Terreault, Johannes Masserer, Matt Stearns, Arthur Lam, assistant coach Zoltan Dudas and head coach Janusz Bednarski ... (back row, from left) Jason Laws, Frank Bontempo, Andrew Zodda, Paul Reyes, Jack Goetz, Patrick Ghattas, Joseph Hagmann, Alex Schumacher, Ryan Bradley, John Espinosa, T.J. McNally, Aaron Adjemian, Patrick Gettings and Patrick Donnelly.

