

NOTRE DAME MEN'S FENCERS SOLIDIFY LOCK ON PROBABLE NO. 1 RANK WITH 5-0 DAY AT DUKE DUALS Debic (15-0) leads another strong day from foil squad; Szelle (12-2) moves into 6th on ND all-time wins list.

DURHAM, N.C. (2/7/03) – The second-ranked Notre Dame men's fencing team solidified its chances to ascend to the No. 1 ranking when the new polls are released later this week, with the Irish going 5-0 in Friday's action at the Duke Duals. The tournament concludes on Saturday with the second-ranked Notre Dame women facing the same five opponents.

Notre Dame (19-0 overall) posted easy wins over North Carolina and Johns Hopkins (both 25-2) and added 19-8 victories over Air Force and Duke, with the most noteworthy result coming in an 18-9 victory over sixth-ranked Stanford. The Irish posted 6-3 records in all three weapons, most notably winning the men's foil showdown that featured three former All-Americans for both sides.

Senior foil captain and three-time All-American Ozren Debic went 15-0 for the day, pushing his season record to 42-1 while his career regular-season record now stands at 156-8 (for a .951 career winning pct. that ranks third all-time among all Notre Dame men's fencers). Debic posted wins over all three Stanford All-Americans, besting Mark Mulholland and former rival Florian Reichling by 5-2 scores while beating Steve Gerberman, 5-3. Debic's classmate Forest Walton (13-2) chipped in with wins over Mulholland (5-1) and Gerberman (5-4) while sophomore Derek Snyder rallied from a 4-2 deficit to edge his longtime friend and fellow U.S. National Team member Gerberman (5-4) – helping the ND foil squad compile another strong day (40-5 overall).

The senior men's sabre duo of Matt Fabricant (13-1) and Gabor Szelle (12-2) enjoyed strong days, with Fabricant posting a 5-1 win over Duke's Ben Cohen (a 2002 NCAA participant) while Szelle beat Cohen (5-2) and NCAA veteran Wesley Newkirk of UNC (5-1). Szelle's 40-5 season record pushes his career regular-season mark with the Irish to 174-13, tying former epeeist Carl Jackson ('99) for sixth place on the Notre Dame all-time men's fencing wins list.

There was no rematch between Air Force three-time All-American Seth Kelsey and Notre Dame's top epeeists, with Kelsey attending a World Cup event in Barcelona. Senior captain Jan Viviani and sophomore Michal Sobieraj both went 12-3 for the day, with Sobieraj registering a 5-2 win over Stanford NCAA veteran Ken Jung while Viviani posted a 5-1 win over NCAA competitor Matt Bouloubasis of Johns Hopkins (Viviani lost to Jung, 5-2, with Sobieraj dropping a 5-3 bout to Bouloubasis).

Other noteworthy Notre Dame wins over NCAA-caliber fencers included a sweep of JHU's Bryan Bishe by Debic (5-1), Snyder (5-2) and Walton (5-2) while junior North Carey bested JHU's Bouloubasis (5-3) and sophomore Brian Dosal beat Newkirk (5-3). Stanford newcomer Martin Lee – a member of the U.S. Cadet World Team – dropped a 5-2 bout to Sobieraj but posted wins over Viviani (5-2) and Carey (5-3).

Debic has combined with Snyder (34-6) and Walton (35-9) to lead a strong season showing by the ND men's foil squad (141-30, .825), with that trio of All-Americans forming the core of a 2003 foil unit that has combined for nearly 400 career wins (393-77, .836).

RECORD BOOK UPDATES

* In addition to Szelle (6th, 174-13), four others moved up the ND list for career men's fencing wins: Viviani (156-20) and Debic (156-8) now are tied with former teammate Brian Casas (epee, '02) for 10th, Fabricant (143-21; 41-4 in '03) moved up from 28th to 21st (9th among sabers) and Walton (52nd, 105-28) cracked the 100-win plateau.

* Debic (.951) remains 3rd on the ND list for career winning pct. (all men's weapons, 1st among foilists), with Szelle still 5th (.931) while Viviani checks in at 16th on that list (.886, 1st among epeeists) and Fabricant at 21st (.872) ... Sobieraj (65-5, .929) would rank 7th on that list and 1st among epeeists.

* Debic's .977 regular-season winning pct. in '03 (42-1) would rank 5th-best ever by any ND men's fencer, trailing only the three dominating seasons by sabre Mike Sullivan (41-0 in '78, 53-1 in '76, 47-1 in '77) and sabre Ed Baguer's 30-0 mark in '92 (min. 30 wins) ... Debic already owns three of the top-seven ND men's foil season win pct.'s (42-2 in '01, 30-2 in '02, 42-3 in '01), with Yehuda Kovacs (34-1 in '87, 31-1 in '89) owning the top marks on record ... Debic also moved from 7th to 2nd on the ND men's foil career wins list (156, behind Jeremy Siek's 191 from '94-'97).

* Viviani (156; 38-6 in '03) moved from 6th to a share of 4th on the ND men's epee wins list, behind Brian Stone (183, '98), Carl Jackson (174, '99) and Tim Glass (160, '77).

* Sobieraj's current .907 season winning pct. (39-4) would rank 8th all-time among ND men's epeeists.

**** Updated Notre Dame Stats and ND-Stanford bout-by-bout recap on p. 2 ****

NOTRE DAME MEN'S FENCING VS. STANFORD (2/7/03, at Duke Duals)

Sabre	Fabricant beats Chin 5-3	ND leads 1-0	
Sabre	Szelle beats Owens 5-0	ND leads 2-0	
Sabre	Pearlstein beats Dosal 5-2	ND leads 2-1	
Sabre	Szelle beats Chin 5-0	ND leads 3-1	
Epee	Sobieraj beats Jung 5-2	ND leads 4-1	
Sabre	Fabricant beats Pearlstein 5-1	ND leads 5-1	
Epee	Lee beats Carey 5-3	ND leads 5-2	
Sabre	Owens beats Dosal 5-3	ND leads 5-3	
Epee	Viviani beats Grefenstette 5-3	ND leads 6-3	
Sabre	Pearlstein beats Szelle 5-4	ND leads 6-4	
Epee	Carey beats Jung 5-3	ND leads 7-4	
Sabre	Dosal beats Chin 5-4	ND leads 8-4	
Epee	Sobieraj beats Grefenstette 5-2	ND leads 9-4	
Sabre	Fabricant beats Owens 5-3	ND leads 10-4	ND wins sabre 6-3
Epee	Lee beats Viviani 5-2	ND leads 10-5	
Foil	Debic beats Reichling 5-2	ND leads 11-5	
Epee	Carey beats Grefenstette 5-4	ND leads 12-5	
Foil	F. Walton beats Gerberman 5-4	ND leads 13-5	
Epee	Jung beats Viviani 5-2	ND leads 13-6	
Foil	Mulholland beats Snyder 5-3	ND leads 13-7	
Epee	Sobieraj beats Lee 5-2	ND leads 14-7	ND wins epee 6-3
Foil	Reichling beats F. Walton 5-3	ND leads 14-8	
Foil	Debic beats Mullholland 5-2	ND leads 15-8	
Foil	Snyder beats Gerberman 5-4	ND leads 16-8	Snyder down 2-4
Foil	F. Walton beats Mullholland 5-1	ND leads 17-8	
Foil	Reichling beats Snyder 5-2	ND leads 17-9	
Foil	Debic beats Gerberman 5-3	ND wins 18-9	ND wins foil 6-3

Notre Dame Men 19-0 (2nd in USFCA Poll)

Notre Dame 25 North Carolina 2
Notre Dame 19 Air Force 8
Notre Dame 18 (6) Stanford 9
Notre Dame 19 Duke 8
Notre Dame 25 Johns Hopkins 2

Notre Dame Women 12-2 (2nd in USFCA Poll)

Notre Dame ** North Carolina ** (2/8/03)
Notre Dame ** Air Force **
Notre Dame ** Stanford **
Notre Dame ** Duke **
Notre Dame ** Johns Hopkins **

Epee	PREV.	UNC	AFA	STAN	DUKE	JH	DAY	YEAR	CAREER
North Carey	13-11	3-0	1-2	2-1	1-2	2-0	9-5	22-16	22-16
Adam Harvey	7-3	----	----	----	----	0-1	0-1	7-4	16-9
Michael Macaulay	8-3	----	----	----	----	----	----	8-3	28-14
T.J. McNally	5-8	----	----	----	----	----	----	5-8	5-8
Nick Schumacher	7-4	----	----	----	----	----	----	7-4	23-12
Micha ³ Sobieraj	27-1	3-0	2-1	3-0	2-1	2-1	12-3	39-4 (.907)	65-5 (.929)
Jan Viviani	26-3	3-0	3-0	1-2	2-1	3-0	12-3	38-6 (.863)	156-20 (.886)
	9-0	7-2	6-3	5-4	7-2	33-12	126-45 (.737)	315-84 (.790)	

Foil	PREV.	UNC	AFA	STAN	DUKE	JH	DAY	YEAR	CAREER
Matt Castellan	17-4	----	----	----	----	----	----	17-4	53-18
Ozren Debiæ	27-1	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	15-0	42-1 (.977)	156-8 (.951)
Sean Donovan	7-6	----	----	----	----	----	----	7-6	7-6
Jack Goetz	6-4	----	----	----	----	----	----	6-4	6-4
Derek Snyder	22-3	2-1	3-0	1-2	3-0	3-0	12-3	34-6 (.850)	66-13
Forest Walton	22-7	3-0	2-1	2-1	3-0	3-0	13-2	35-9 (.796)	105-28
	8-1	8-1	6-3	9-0	9-0	40-5	141-30 (.825)	393-77 (.836)	

Sabre	PREV.	UNC	AFA	STAN	DUKE	JH	DAY	YEAR	CAREER
Brian Dosal	20-11	3-0	0-3	1-2	0-3	3-0	7-8	27-19	27-19
John Espinosa	8-3	----	----	----	----	----	----	8-3	8-3
Matt Fabricant	28-3	2-0	3-0	3-0	2-1	3-0	13-1	41-4 (.911)	143-21 (.872)
Brendan Prendergast	7-4	----	----	----	----	----	----	7-4	7-4
Alex Schumacher	9-2	0-1	----	----	----	1-0	1-1	10-3	10-3
Gabor Szelle	28-3	3-0	2-1	2-1	3-0	2-0	12-2	40-5 (.889)	174-13 (.931)
	8-1	5-4	6-3	5-4	9-0	33-12	133-38 (.778)	369-63 (.816)	

