

NOTRE DAME COACHING STAFF



*Joe Piane
begins his 32nd
season as head
cross country/
track and field
coach this
season. He is the
longest actively
tenured coach at
Notre Dame.*





Joe Piane

**Head Coach
32nd Season
Loras College '69**

In 1889, track and field became the second varsity sport in school history. One hundred and 17 seasons later, student-athletes continue to represent the Fighting Irish across the nation on the track, in the field and on the cross country course.

For the past 31 campaigns, Joe Piane has been leading the program – and shows no signs of stopping any time soon. The longest active tenured coach at Notre Dame, Piane begins his 32nd season under the Golden Dome in the fall of 2006, having recently inked a multi-year contract extension that will keep him with the Irish through at least the end of the decade.

The 2006-07 season also will be a landmark one for Piane, as he ties former Irish tennis and wrestling coach Tom Fallon (1955-87) for the third-longest tenure in Notre Dame athletics history. Only legendary baseball skipper Jake Kline (42 seasons from 1934-75) and fencing mentor Mike DeCicco (34 seasons from 1962-95) spent more time with their programs than Piane.

“I’m thrilled to know that I’ll be here at Notre Dame for the next several years and hopefully well beyond that until my retirement,” Piane says. “My family and I truly enjoy living in South Bend and being a part of the community here. I also value and appreciate the opportunity I have had to work at a place like Notre Dame because of the quality of the people I’ve been fortunate enough to work with. I have coached many very special student-athletes during my time here and seeing their development has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my job — one that I’m eager to continue well into the foreseeable future.”

“Joe’s record here at Notre Dame speaks for itself,” director of athletics Kevin White notes. “The Irish cross country and track & field teams are annually among the nation’s elite and that’s a testament to the leadership and expertise Joe



has brought to the table. He is universally respected, not only in the athletics family here at Notre Dame, but also in national and global coaching circles. We are pleased to know that Joe will remain with us to further build upon the foundation of success he has worked so hard to create.”

When White says Piane’s record “speaks for itself,” it’s no exaggeration. Just consider the accomplishments Notre Dame athletes have made under Piane’s watchful eye:

- Men’s cross country runners have earned All-American status 23 times, with three men (Kurt Benninger, Tim Moore and Kaleb Van Ort) taking home the honor in 2005.

- A Notre Dame cross country runner has appeared at the NCAA Championship meet in each of the past 16 years, while the team has made the trip 15 out of the past 19 years.

- The Notre Dame men’s cross country team has finished in the top 10 at the NCAA meet in 11 of the past 19 seasons, highlighted by third-place finishes in 1990 and ‘05 (matching the program’s best showing since winning the 1957 NCAA title).

- The Irish men’s cross country team has won five BIG EAST Conference titles since joining the league in 1995, including each of the past two crowns. What’s more, Notre Dame men’s harriers have earned all-BIG EAST honors 33 times, with a school-record five runners receiving that distinction in ‘05.

- The Irish men’s track & field team has earned 61 All-America citations since 1974 (most recently with indoor/outdoor 800m honoree Thomas Chamney and the distance medley relay unit in ‘06), while the women’s team has received 37 such accolades since 1994 (including Molly Huddle, Emily Loomis and Stephanie Madia in ‘06). Combined, Piane has helped mentor 98

track & field All-Americans (and 121 overall when including cross country honorees) during his tenure.

- The Notre Dame men’s track & field team has won six BIG EAST titles (two indoor/four outdoor), while the Irish women’s squad has hoisted the hardware twice (both indoors in 2002 and ‘06).

- In the school’s 11-year BIG EAST membership (1995-96 to present), Notre Dame athletes have won 95 conference individual or relay titles in track & field and cross country, with seven student-athletes going on to be named the conference’s outstanding track or field performer award at its indoor or outdoor championship meets.

A distance-coaching specialist, Piane is recognized across the nation as one of the best in the business. He has been named NCAA Division I National Cross Country Coach of the Year on two different occasions (1987 and 2001) while garnering five district/regional coach-of-the-year honors and nine league cross country coach-of-the-year plaques (most recently as part of the ‘05 BIG EAST Men’s Coaching Staff of the Year). In total, Piane has earned or shared 24 league coach of the year awards (indoor track, outdoor track or cross country), including 11 BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year accolades in the past eight years alone (1999-2006).

As the Irish track & field program continues to assert itself on the national stage, Piane has led from the front every step of the way. In ‘06, the Notre Dame men won the BIG EAST outdoor title, marking the fourth consecutive year and the fifth time in seven seasons that the Irish took home either the conference indoor or outdoor team trophy. Meanwhile, the Irish women came within 10 points at the conference’s outdoor meet of becoming the first BIG EAST women’s “triple crown” winner (cross country, indoor track, outdoor track) since 1987-88. Piane and his assistants were duly honored for their guidance in ‘06, picking up their second BIG EAST Women’s Indoor Track Coaching Staff of the Year award, as well as the conference Men’s Outdoor Track Coaching Staff of the Year plaque for the fourth time.

On an individual basis, Notre Dame produced five All-Americans on the track, led by Thomas Chamney’s “double” in the indoor and outdoor 800-meter run (finishing sixth in both NCAA Championship finals). The Irish also fielded All-America runners in the women’s indoor 5,000 meters (Stephanie Madia) and outdoor 5,000 meters (Molly Huddle), as well as the women’s outdoor high jump (Emily Loomis). Furthermore, the Notre Dame men’s distance medley relay team duplicated its sixth-place finish at the NCAA meet from ‘05, becoming the sixth All-America relay group in Piane’s illustrious tenure.

Huddle turned in another superb season, despite running only during the outdoor campaign. In addition to her ninth career All-America citation (tying the school record for all sports), the Elmira, N.Y., native pulled off a rare double victory at the BIG EAST Outdoor Championship, becoming just the second woman in league history to win the meet’s two longest races



(5,000/10,000 meters), and the first Irish female runner ever to win twice at the conference championship, even though she had never before run the latter distance at the college level. For her efforts, Huddle was named the Great Lakes District Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field/Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) and was tapped as the BIG EAST Outstanding Outdoor Track Performer.

The Notre Dame men's cross country team also turned in one of the program's finest seasons ever in '05. The Irish never finished lower than third in seven meets, won the BIG EAST title with a dominating 20-point win that saw five of the top nine runners sporting Notre Dame colors, and ended up third at the NCAA Championship with 178 points, its best scoring effort in 41 years. Kurt Benninger led the way with an eighth-place NCAA finish in 29:50.2, becoming only the third Notre Dame harrier to break the 30-minute mark since the NCAA Championship changed to a 10,000-meter race more than two decades earlier.

Besides the accolades of two current runners (four-time All-American Benninger and two-time selection Chamney), two of the more successful Piave pupils in recent years have been nine-time All-American Ryan Shay and eight-time All-American Luke Watson.

In 2001, Piave helped distance specialist Shay compile one of the greatest track seasons in Notre Dame history. The Central Lake, Mich., resident won the BIG EAST indoor 5,000 meters, the conference outdoor 5,000 and 10,000 meters and finished off the season in legendary style by becoming Notre Dame's first individual NCAA champion since 1972 by taking first place in the 10,000 meters (29:05.44) at the NCAA Outdoor Championship in Eugene, Ore. Shay has since moved on to become one of the best marathon runners in the country, winning five U.S. titles as well as USA Running Circuit (USARC) titles in 2003 and 2004.

Shortly after helping steer Shay to the top of the college running mountain, Piave had similar

success with Watson. Both men had set their sights on breaking the four-minute mile barrier at the Mevo Invitational in 2002, hoping that Watson would become just the second runner to crack the mark. Piave helped assemble an outstanding field for the race and it ended up as arguably the highlight of the collegiate indoor season. Watson did his part, scorching past the field in the final straight away to win in 3:58.83, easily a school-record time and briefly the fastest mile run in the world during the indoor season. Watson eventually moved on to garner All-America honors in the indoor mile, indoor 3,000 meters and outdoor 5,000 meters – as well as taking home BIG EAST Championships in the mile, 3,000-meter steeplechase and outdoor 5,000 meters. In the summer of '06, Watson returned to his alma mater as a member of the Irish men's distance/cross country coaching staff.

With Piave at the helm, the Notre Dame men's cross country team has enjoyed four of its most successful seasons in the program's history during the past seven years. In 2000, Piave helped the Irish recover from the loss of Shay due to injury and earn a ninth-place finish at the NCAA Championship meet.

With Shay back on the team in '01, Notre Dame achieved its highest-ever national ranking (fourth), won the BIG EAST Championship (Piave and his staff earned the league's Coaching Staff of the Year award) and ended up sixth at the national meet to give the Irish (at the time) their highest team finish since 1993.

In 2004, Notre Dame threatened to eclipse its best-ever ranking, as Piave deftly guided his charges from an unranked start all the way to a BIG EAST title and a No. 5 national ranking before placing 11th at the NCAA Championship. For his efforts, Piave and his aides garnered a second BIG EAST Men's Cross Country Coaching Staff of the Year plaque. That set the stage for last year's successful run that culminated in Notre Dame's return to the NCAA awards podium for the first time since 1990.

In 1985, Piave was named a member of the United States National Track staff. As such, he was one of 40 collegiate coaches given the opportunity to coach a United States squad in international competition. During the summer of 1987 he did just that, guiding a team of American all-stars in meets held in England and Ireland. Upon the conclusion of the 1991 Notre Dame track season, Piave once again faced international competition as he was appointed coach of the U.S. Pan American juniors team for the games in Kingston, Jamaica.

Piave became Midwest regional chairman for United States Olympic Development in the area of track and field in 1984. Piave's other Olympic preparation experience came in '85 when he coached the North team in the National Sports Festival. He also coached the U.S. team against England in Birmingham, England.

Piave has produced a winning record in all but one season with the Irish men's cross country team and is also the creator of Notre Dame's National Catholic Championship, an annual meet held on campus since 1980. The Irish running program continues to be a rapidly-growing entity thanks to Piave's achievements. Continually searching for greater challenges, he also founded the Mevo Invitational and the Alex Wilson Invitational, both traditional indoor Notre Dame track & field meets. The Mevo Invitational has turned into a prime breeding ground for record-setting performances, with the 2006 meet result-

ing in 76 NCAA provisional or automatic qualifying marks, seven meet records, three Mevo Track records and three Notre Dame school records (including Kurt Benninger's sizzling 3,000-meter time of 7:52.28). At the same time, the Alex Wilson Invitational has developed into one of the top indoor "last chance" meets in the nation, hosting the nation's best performers just prior to the NCAA Championship.

A 1969 graduate of Loras College, Piave ran both track and cross country for four years at the Dubuque, Iowa, institution. He captained Loras' undefeated cross country squad as a senior, while excelling in middle distance events during the track season. He was inducted into the Loras College Athletics Hall of Fame in the fall of '02.

Piave began his impressive coaching career in 1970. Working for the Peace Corps, he coached track & field and cross country at both the regional and national levels in the North African country of Morocco. Piave guided a top-ranked junior cross country team, sending three runners to Cambridge, England, for the International Cross Country Championship (now known as the IAAF World Championship) in 1972, where Morocco finished third. Several of those Moroccan runners went on to compete at the '72 Summer Games in Munich, Germany, and one advanced to the 1976 Summer Games in Montreal, Canada.

After returning to the United States in July 1972, Piave assisted the track and cross country programs at Western Illinois. During that time he earned a master's degree in physical education.

Born Aug. 6, 1946, in Westchester, Ill., Piave joined the Notre Dame staff in 1974 as an assistant track coach and physical education instructor with plans to stay on for just one year. He was named head track and cross country coach the following season.

Piave and his wife, Mimi, reside in South Bend, with their son, Nick.

**1987, 2001 NCAA Division I
National Cross Country Coach of the Year**

**Five-time District IV Cross Country
Coach of the Year**

**Six-time Midwestern Collegiate Conference
Cross Country Coach of the Year**

**Seven-time Midwestern Collegiate Conference
Indoor Track Coach of the Year**

**2001, 2004, 2005 BIG EAST
Men's Cross Country Staff of the Year**

**2003, 2005 BIG EAST
Men's Indoor Track Staff of the Year**

**1999, 2000, 2003, 2006 BIG EAST
Men's Outdoor Track Staff of the Year**

**2002, 2006 BIG EAST
Women's Indoor Track Staff of the Year**



Tim Connelly

Head Women's
Cross Country Coach

Assistant Track & Field Coach
(Women's Distance)
Notre Dame '83

As the Notre Dame women's cross country team continues to establish itself as one of the best in the nation, the man standing at the forefront of that emergence has been Tim Connelly.

Now in his 19th season at Notre Dame, Connelly now only serves as the head coach of the Irish women's cross country team, but also tutors the middle distance and distance runners during the indoor and outdoor track seasons. As one of the longest tenured active assistants at the University, he is closely involved with all aspects of the Notre Dame track & field/cross country program and is known as one of the best recruiters in the Midwest.

Since taking over the Irish women's cross country program during its infancy in 1988, Connelly has helped Notre Dame reach unprecedented heights, finishing among the top 10 at the NCAA Championship the past four seasons. Notre Dame also has garnered a trip to the awards podium twice, finishing in a program-best third place in 2002, followed by a fourth-place showing in 2004.

However, that hardly begins to scratch the surface of Connelly's accomplishments during his nearly two-decade run at Notre Dame. The Irish women also have won three BIG EAST Conference titles (all in the past four seasons) and placed either first or second at the past five NCAA Great Lakes Regional meets. What's more, Notre Dame harriers have collected 14 All-America honors and 21 all-BIG EAST cross country citations since the Irish joined the conference in 1995-96.

On the track, the Notre Dame women's distance program has grown exponentially in recent years. Irish runners have earned no fewer than 18 All-America certificates, including 13 in the past five years alone, while Connelly's athletes have advanced to NCAA Championship competition 33 times (14 indoors/19 outdoors).



In addition, Notre Dame women's distance runners have garnered all-conference status 52 times and won eight BIG EAST individual titles (as well as the 2003 distance medley relay crown) during the past 11 seasons. The Irish thinclads also have played a critical role in a pair of team titles at the BIG EAST Indoor Championship ('02, 2006), as well as seven runner-up finishes at conference meets (three indoor, four outdoor).

For his efforts, Connelly has been richly rewarded with numerous coaching honors. He has been chosen for the BIG EAST Women's Cross Country Coaching Staff of the Year award three times ('02, 2003, 2005) and has been part of the BIG EAST Women's Indoor Track & Field Coaching Staff of the Year twice ('02, '06).

Last season, Connelly's charges were at the forefront of a nearly historic run, as Notre Dame came within 10 points at the conference's outdoor meet of becoming the first school in 18 seasons to win the BIG EAST women's "triple crown" (cross country, indoor track, outdoor track). It all started with an impressive 25-point win at the BIG EAST Cross Country Championship, with the 34-point Irish performance the best scoring outing by any league school since 1994. Notre Dame had four of the top eight runners in the field, giving the Irish their largest-ever crop of all-conference honorees.

That outing preceded a runner-up showing at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional, where Notre Dame once again was dominant up front with four of the top 10 runners in the meet (including a 2-3 finish by Stephanie Madia and Molly Huddle). The Irish then capped the 2005 season with a seventh-place finish at the NCAA Championship, highlighted by a program-best three All-America performances (Madia, Huddle and Sunni Olding). In fact, Madia's third-place finish and time of 19:48.4 were the best-ever by a Notre Dame woman, while Huddle joined Lauren King as the second three-time women's cross country All-American in school history.

Moving indoors on the track, Connelly skillfully guided the Irish distance corps to a solid '06 campaign. Jacqueline Carter and Brianne Schmidt made excellent strides in the middle distances, notching school records in the 800- and 1,000-meter runs, respectively. Madia was strong at the longer distances, peaking well late in the year with two of the top-four 5,000-meter times in school history before earning her second All-America honor

with a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Championship.

Huddle then took center stage during the '06 outdoor season, posting the nation's fastest times at both 5,000 and 10,000 meters, and becoming only the second woman in BIG EAST history to win both races at the conference meet. She went on to be named the BIG EAST Outstanding Outdoor Track Performer, as well as the USTFCCA Great Lakes District Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year and won her third NCAA Midwest Regional 5,000-meter title in as many tries. Huddle's season ended just short of the brass ring, as she finished second in the 5,000 meters at the NCAA Championships, still the best placement ever by an Irish women's track athlete in any event. She also garnered her ninth All-America citation, tying former men's distance runner Ryan Shay for the most ever by a Notre Dame athlete in any sport.

In '04, Huddle had one of the most prolific seasons in Irish track and field history. She was an All-American in the indoor 3,000 and 5,000-meter runs as well as the outdoor 5,000-meters. In all three of these events she also recorded a Notre Dame school record. After the collegiate season ended Connelly accompanied Huddle as she competed in the United States Olympic Trials, eventually finishing seventh in the 5,000 meters as the top non-professional/collegian in the race. A year earlier, Connelly guided Huddle (who finished sixth overall at the NCAA cross country meet) to All-America honors in the indoor 3,000 meters and outdoor 5,000 meters. Huddle capped that season by running away with the U.S. Junior 3,000-Meter Championship at the national meet in Palo Alto, Calif.

A 1983 Notre Dame graduate, Connelly ran both cross country and track for the Irish. Following his graduation, Connelly served as a graduate assistant coach under Joe Plane while working toward his master's degree in business.

In 1986, Connelly moved on to Syracuse as an assistant cross country and track coach. During his time in central New York, he coached the men's and women's middle distance and distance runners and managed recruiting duties for both programs.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Connelly and his wife, the former Donna Southerly, are the parents of two children — daughter, Alexandra, and son, Brendon.



**John
Millar**

**Assistant Track & Field Coach
(Sprints/Hurdles)
Western Ontario '78**

One of the top sprint and hurdle coaches in the world, John Millar enters his 16th season at Notre Dame and has developed the Irish sprint groups into a force in the BIG EAST Conference. Millar's tenure at Notre Dame, which included serving as the speed coach for all Notre Dame athletic teams for several years, is the third-longest of any current Irish assistant coach in any sport.

A dedicated coach, recruiter and organizer, Millar also has played a key role in Notre Dame's management of four home indoor meets, which are widely regarded as being among the top events in the country each season.

Millar's current crop of sprinters and hurdlers has emerged as a strong group on both the men's and women's sides. He has worked closely with two-time BIG EAST Champion Maryann Erigha (outdoor 100m, indoor 200m) and fellow conference titleist Okechi Ogbuokiri (indoor 400m), with both sprinters going on to qualify for the NCAA Championship for the first time in their respective careers in 2005.

In addition, Millar has had a hand in the growth of Ryan Postel, who won the BIG EAST outdoor 400-meter crown in 2004 and went on to earn his first All-America citation with the Irish distance medley relay unit in 2006. Furthermore, Postel holds the school record indoors at 400 meters, as well as four of the top 10 indoor 400-meter times and five of the top 10 outdoor 400-meter marks in school history.

Millar recently completed a successful relationship with hurdler Selim Nurudeen, who was a two-time All-American, seven-time BIG EAST Champion and 15-time all-BIG EAST



selection during his career at Notre Dame from 2001-05. Nurudeen also was named the '05 BIG EAST Indoor Championship Outstanding Track Performer after helping the Irish win the team title.

Prior to his current proteges, Millar helped cultivate '02 graduate Liz Grow into Notre Dame's first women's All-American sprinter, as Grow was a fixture at the NCAA indoor and outdoor meets during her four years on the team.

Millar's sprint group made a huge splash on the national scene in '02. The women's 4x400 relay unit consisting of Ayesha Boyd, Kristen Dodd, Grow and Kymia Love qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championships, becoming the first Irish women's sprint relay to achieve that distinction. In the outdoor season, the same group took a step further, earning All-America honors after placing fifth in the nation at the NCAA Championship in Baton Rouge, La. Millar's 4x100, 4x400 (outdoor) and 4x400 (indoor) all have set school records in the past five seasons and the 4x100 group won BIG EAST Championships in 2003 and 2004.

The development of the women's sprint corps allowed Notre Dame to capture its first-ever BIG EAST team title in '02 at the league indoor meet. Millar and his fellow Irish coaches were named the BIG EAST Indoor

Coaching Staff of the Year. They repeated that performance in 2006, nearly winning the league's "triple crown" for the first time in 18 years before a runner-up finish in the BIG EAST outdoor meet. Nevertheless, Millar was again part of the BIG EAST Indoor Staff of the Year.

Even after losing Grow to graduation in '02, Millar helped the women's 4x400 team return to both the NCAA indoor and outdoor meets in '03. The squad of Tiffany Gunn, Kristen Dodd, Ayesha Boyd and Kymia Love just missed out on a repeat All-America effort at the outdoor meet, finishing ninth. Boyd, Dodd and Love joined Tameisha King in the 4x100 relay at the outdoor meet as well.

In his first year with the Irish, Millar began the process of enhancing the Notre Dame sprint corps which culminated in three school records in the 55 and 200 meters along with the 4x100 relay. He guided Raghieb Ismail to a second-place finish in the 1991 NCAA indoor championships and the fastest collegiate 55-meter time in the world. Millar also coached two-time All-American Allen Rossum to seventh-place finishes in the 55-meter dash at the 1995 and 1997 NCAA Indoor Championship, and hurdler Errol Williams was an All-American in both indoor (55-meter hurdles) and outdoor track (110-meter hurdles) in 1998.

The native of Toronto, Canada, took a break from his coaching duties at Notre Dame in early March of 1999 to serve as the head coach of the USA women's track squad, which earned eight medals at the '99 World Indoor Championships in Maebashi, Japan.

Millar is a seasoned veteran of coaching athletes both on the national and international levels. During a six-year stint at Texas, he coached 96 NCAA All-Americans, including 10 national champions, and helped guide the Lady Longhorns to four national titles. He has followed up by guiding Notre Dame athletes to 16 different All-America finishes since 1990.

Prior to his position at Texas, Millar was an assistant at Tennessee for two years where he worked with 1984 Olympic gold-medal hurdler Benita Fitzgerald-Brown. In addition, he served as an assistant coach on the Canadian Olympic track staff and assisted in training world-class hurdler Mark McCoy. He also served as USA Track and Field's national women's hurdle coordinator, coach of the North team at the 1992 U.S. Olympic Festival and assistant coach of the USA Junior National Team at the 1993 Pan-Am Junior Championships.

Millar was head coach at York University in Toronto from 1981 to 1983 where he served as chief director for both the men's and women's programs in track & field. He led the school to a Canadian national championship in 1981.

He also traveled to the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, as a member of the Canadian track & field coaching staff.

Millar, a graduate of Western Ontario and master's degree recipient from Arizona State, and his wife, the former Lynn Haan, have a son, James, who is a junior cross country and middle distance runner at Notre Dame.



Scott Winsor

**Assistant Track & Field Coach
(Jumps)**

Loras College '87

A veteran with two decades of coaching experience under his belt, Scott Winsor is now in his 19th year as an assistant coach with the Notre Dame track & field program, working directly with the Irish jumpers. Widely recognized as one of the top jumps coaches in the country, Winsor focuses his efforts on grooming Notre Dame's participants in the high jump, long jump, triple jump and pole vault, as well as the multi-event specialists.

Winsor's record of success is an impressive one. During his tenure, he has helped guide Irish competitors to 14 All-America certificates, 21 BIG EAST championships and 98 all-conference honors. In addition, Winsor's pupils have qualified for the NCAA Championships 20 times, finishing among the top 10 in the country on 11 occasions.

What's more, the Notre Dame record book is covered with marks set by Irish athletes working under Winsor's watchful eye. In fact, 27 school

records have been set by athletes he has coached, including 18 of the 19 current record holders in the jumps and multi-events at Notre Dame.

The 2006 season proved to be a banner year for Winsor's jumpers, led by Emily Loomis, who earned All-America honors with an eighth-place finish in the high jump at the NCAA Outdoor Championship. Loomis also garnered all-BIG EAST honors in both the indoor and outdoor season, tying teammate Stacey Cowan for the runner-up spot during the league's indoor meet. In addition, Winsor mentored a pair of budding high jump standouts in Lauren Biscardi and Blair Majcina, both of whom qualified for the NCAA Mideast Regional. Majcina also picked up all-BIG EAST honors indoors with a third-place finish at the conference championship.

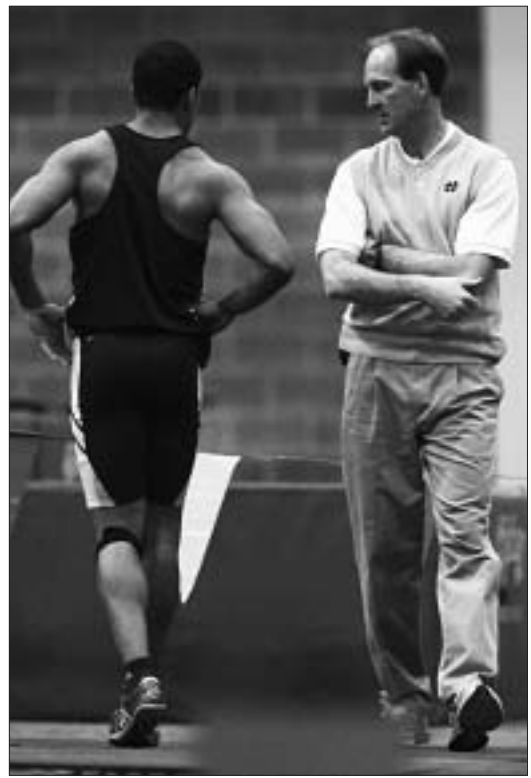
The Irish pole vault crew reached new heights in '06, led by Mary Saxer, who made a sizeable dent in the Notre Dame record books in her first season under the Golden Dome. The Lancaster, N.Y., product set an indoor school record with her 4.05m (13-3 1/2) clearance at the Notre Dame Invitational, and matched Jaime Volkmer's outdoor school standard with a 3.90m (12-9 1/2) best at the Mount SAC Relays. On top of that, Saxer notched five of the top 10 indoor marks and three of the top 10 outdoor bests in school history, not to mention earning indoor all-conference accolades with a runner-up finish at the BIG EAST Indoor Championship.

Some of Winsor's other notable proteges on the men's side have been two-time long jump All-American Marshaun West, as well as 1999 indoor pole vault All-American Mike Brown, 1993 NCAA indoor high jump qualifier Todd Herman, and Godwin Mbagwu, the Outstanding Field Performer at the 2004 BIG EAST Outdoor Championship, which was won by Notre Dame.

As for the women, Winsor helped 2003 graduate Tameisha King to long jump All-America honors four times, including top-eight finishes in both the indoor and outdoor NCAA events in '03. King is now considered one of the top long jumpers in the United States and is in prime position for a berth on the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team.

Winsor's guidance also helped Volkmer evolve as the pioneer in women's pole vault at Notre Dame, winning seven all-BIG EAST citations and becoming the first Irish female vaulter to clear the 13-foot barrier.

Thanks to Winsor, Notre Dame broke new ground in 1997 as Jennifer Engelhardt became the first member of the Irish women's track & field team to qualify for the NCAA Championships in a field event. Engelhardt placed ninth in the indoor high jump en route to the first of her three All-America



honors (also in 1999 and 2000), making her the first Notre Dame woman to accomplish that feat. In addition, Engelhardt was the first Irish female high jumper to clear six feet and she went on to compete at the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials, where she finished tied for seventh.

Following in Engelhardt's footsteps, Cowan qualified for the NCAA Championship three times in her career, earning All-America honors in 2004 with a 10th-place finish in the indoor high jump. Additionally, Cowan still holds the school records in the indoor high jump (1.82m, 5-11 1/2) and heptathlon (4,576 points) and she earned seven all-BIG EAST plaques in her career.

Winsor's achievements have not gone unnoticed. He and the Notre Dame staff have earned eight BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year awards, while helping lead the Irish to eight conference championships.

In addition to his coaching responsibilities, Winsor designed the new Outdoor Throwing Facility at the University. He also is actively involved with all aspects of recruiting for the Irish track & field program, and he plays an integral role in the event management for all home track and cross country meets at Notre Dame.

Prior to his arrival in South Bend in 1988, Winsor spent two years (1983-84) as the varsity track coach at Fulton High School in Middleton, Mich., as well as one season (1987) as an assistant at his alma mater, Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa.

A 1987 graduate of Loras with a bachelor's degree in physical education (K-12), Winsor was a standout performer on the track squad, specializing in the jumping events. He was the team's captain for his final two seasons, helping Loras win the 1987 Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title. For nearly two decades, he also held the school record in the outdoor high jump (7-0) until the mark was topped in 2005.

Winsor went on to earn his master's of science in administration degree from Notre Dame in 1995.



COUNTRY



**B.J.
Linnenbrink**

**Assistant Track & Field Coach
(Throws)
Florida State '02**



The Notre Dame throws group has shown dramatic growth during the past four years, due in no small part to the presence of B.J. Linnenbrink on the Irish coaching staff.

One of the top young track & field throws coaches in the country, Linnenbrink is in his fifth season at Notre Dame. Since joining the Irish program just after the beginning of the 2002-03 season, Linnenbrink has coached 13 all-BIG EAST Conference selections, including 2005 BIG EAST hammer throw champion Chip Roberts, and he has been a part of five BIG EAST Coaching Staffs of the Year (men's indoor - 2003, 2005; men's outdoor - 2003, 2006; women's indoor - 2006).

Linnenbrink also has seen his Irish throwers advance to the NCAA Mideast Regional 11 times in the past four seasons, with two qualifying for USATF competition (javelin throwers Derek Goguen in '03 [juniors], and Laura Huarte in '06). In addition, the Notre Dame top 10 lists in virtually every throwing event have been radically altered in recent years, with Linnenbrink's pupils currently holding down nine top-10 efforts on the men's side and a staggering 26 top-10 performances on the women's side.

Included in that count are two school records, with Huarte's javelin toss of 47.00m (154-2) at the '06 Mount SAC Relays, highlighting a season that saw Huarte register the top four javelin marks in school history. Huarte finished with five of Notre Dame's top 10 all-time javelin throws, following in the footsteps of Kate Duman, who has the other five top-10 marks for the Irish, including the former school record (43.56m, 142-11) before Huarte surged into the top spot.

The other school record holder to emerge in '06 was hammer thrower Kyle Annen. With Linnenbrink providing expert guidance, Annen improved his personal best by more than 18 feet during the course of the season, topping out with a Notre Dame-record toss of 201-8 (61.46m) en route to a runner-up finish at the BIG EAST Championship (leading to his second consecutive all-conference citation).

As it turned out, the Irish



men's throwers proved to be the difference in Notre Dame's comeback victory at the '06 BIG EAST Outdoor Championship. In addition to Annen's heave, classmate Garet Koxlien uncorked a career-best throw of 57.35m (188-2) that was not only the eighth-longest in school history, but also locked up third-place (and all-BIG EAST) honors. The tandem of Annen and Koxlien wound up collecting 14 vital team points that sealed Notre Dame's fourth BIG EAST men's outdoor title (and third in the past four years).

A former NCAA and USATF championship qualifier in the weight throw at Florida State, Linnenbrink owns the FSU school record in the weight throw (20.91m, 68-7 1/4) and ranks among the top 10 in Seminoles' history in the hammer throw (59.48m, 195-2). He earned all-Atlantic Coast Conference honors in '02 as well.

Before his successful two-year stint at Florida State, Linnenbrink dominated at the junior college level, earning two NJCAA All-America honors at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kan. In his two years at Johnson County, Linnenbrink also collected seven all-Jayhawk East Conference awards.

Linnenbrink graduated from Florida State in 2002 with a bachelor of science degree in physical education. In '06, he earned his master of science degree in physical education from Emporia State. Linnenbrink and his wife, the former Monica Hardy, were married July 31, 2004.



Luke Watson

**Assistant Cross Country & Distance Coaching Staff
Notre Dame '02**

One of the greatest distance runners in Notre Dame track & field history, Luke Watson returned to his alma mater as a member of the 2006-07 Irish assistant coaching staff. He will focus his efforts on aiding head coach Joe Piane with Notre Dame's men's cross country and distance units.

Watson is probably best known for his scintillating performance at the 2003 Meyo Invitational, when he broke one of the greatest barriers in sports, the four-minute mile. Before one of the largest crowds ever to witness a Notre Dame track meet, Watson's mile of 3:57.83 was the fastest indoor collegiate mile in the country that year and only the second sub-four-minute mile in school history.

An eight-time All-America selection in both cross country and track & field for the Irish, Watson registered five top-10 finishes at the NCAA Track & Field Championship, as well as two top-10 outings at the NCAA Cross Country Championship. In addition, at the time of his graduation, he held six school records — he still is the standard bearer in the indoor mile and outdoor 3,000-meter steeplechase, owning seven of the top eight times in Irish history in the latter event.

On the cross country course, Watson's fifth-place finish at the 2001 NCAA Championship remains the best by a Notre Dame runner at the national meet since 1964. He also was a valuable contributor to Notre Dame's three consecutive NCAA top-10 team finishes from 1999-2001.

At the BIG EAST level, Watson was dominant in both track & field and cross country, winning a total of six individual conference titles. He also led the Irish to a sweep of the '03 BIG EAST indoor & outdoor titles, the first time ever that Notre Dame pulled off that feat. He also piled up an amazing 15 all-conference honors during his track and cross country careers, a mark that ties for the second-most in school history.

Upon graduating from Notre Dame, Watson has continued to race on the national and international level. He has finished third in the 3,000 meters at the USATF Indoor National Championship each of the past three years (2004-06) and was a finalist in the 3,000 meters at the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials.

Besides maintaining his career on the track, Watson has recently entered the coaching ranks as well. He comes to Notre Dame after spending two years (2004-06) as an assistant coach at Edina (Minn.) High School, while simultaneously serving one season (2004-05) as recruiting coordinator at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn., and he is a USA Track & Field Level 1 certified coach.

Watson was a standout in the classroom at Notre Dame, twice earning Academic All-America honors on the way to completing work on his bachelor's degree in accounting from the



Mendoza College of Business in 2002. Subsequently, he has passed the Certified Public Accountant exam.

Born Aug. 20, 1980 in Minneapolis, Watson now resides in South Bend.



Mike Karwoski

**Associate Athletics Director
Sport Administrator**



Chris Masters

**Assistant SID
Cross Country/Track Contact**



Andy Scott

Student Manager



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Student Manager