



2004 IRISH SPRING FOOTBALL NOTES

RYAN HARRIS NAMED FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICAN

Offensive tackle Ryan Harris was named to *The Sporting News'* freshman All-America second team for 2003. Harris, who joined former Irish players Brad Williams and Mike Rosenthal as the only true freshmen in school history to start on the offensive line, made his first career start against Pittsburgh, and helped senior tailback Julius Jones set a school record that night with 262 rushing yards. Harris, who started the final eight games for the Irish at right tackle, also helped Jones rush for 221 yards against Navy, 218 versus Stanford and 161 versus BYU. Jones became only the eighth player in Notre Dame history to rush for 1,000 yards in a season, finishing the year with 1,268 yards - tying the fourth-highest single-season total in the Irish record books.

EIGHT IRISH PLAYERS INVITED TO NFL COMBINE

Eight former Irish football players participated in the 2004 National Football League Combine held Feb. 28-March 4, at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. Receiving invitations were DT Darrell Campbell, CB Vontez Duff, FS/SS Glenn Earl, NG Cedric Hilliard, RB Julius Jones, OT Jim Molinaro, K/P Nicholas Setta and ILB Courtney Watson.

FOOTBALL AWARDS RECAP

Running back Julius Jones was named the 2003 Notre Dame National Monogram Club Most Valuable Player, while Darrell Campbell, Vontez Duff, Omar Jenkins and Jim Molinaro earned captain honors for the '03 Irish squad. Both the MVP award and the captains' award were determined by a vote of the players. 2003 marked is the second season head coach Tyrone Willingham had his team elect official captains at season's end.

The MVP and captains' awards were among others presented at the 83rd Notre Dame Football Banquet. Former Irish and NFL quarterback great Joe Montana served as the guest speaker in front of a crowd of 1,300.

Jones, from Big Stone Gap, Va., finished his career ranked fourth on the Notre Dame all-time rushing list with 3,018 yards and tied for fourth on the single-season rushing list with 1,268 yards in 2003. He was one of only two players nationally to rush for 200 or more yards in three or more games in '03 and set the Notre Dame single-game rushing record with 262 yards against Pittsburgh. He averaged 5.5 yards per carry in 2003 and scored 10 touchdowns, finishing his career with 29. He also became Notre Dame's all-time kick returner, finishing his career with 1,660 yards.

Campbell, from South Holland, Ill., was the leader of the Notre Dame defensive line in 2003 recording 25 tackles, 6.5 for loss and three sacks. Campbell also won the Nick Pietrosante Award, which is presented each year to the Notre Dame player who best exemplifies the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication and pride of the late Irish All-America fullback Nick Pietrosante.

Duff, a third-team Associated Press All-American in 2002, led the Irish secondary in 2003. The native of Copperas Cove, Texas, finished the year with 33 tackles, two interceptions, four pass breakups and two fumble recoveries. He also was one of Notre Dame's leading special teams players, finishing his career with the all-time record for number of kicks returned (120), while ranking third on the all-time Notre Dame total kick return list with 1,955 yards and fourth in all-time kickoff return yards at 1,230.

Jenkins, from Dallas, Texas, started 24 games the past two years for the Irish and finished '03 with 36 receptions for 344 yards and one touchdown. He became the 21st person in Notre Dame history to have over 1,000 yards receiving in his career and finished 18th on the all-time list with 1,088 yards.

Molinaro, who also won the Guardians Life Insurance Guardian of the Year Award as the top offensive lineman, was the leader of Notre Dame's young 2003 offensive line that featured four new starters. The senior from Bethlehem, Pa., started all 12 games and played the second-most minutes of anyone on the offensive line in '03, helping lead the way for Jones' record-breaking season.

Defensive end Kyle Budinscak won the Westwood One/State Farm Student-Athlete of the Year Award. He was one of 12 weekly winners announced during Westwood One national radio broadcasts of Irish games in 2003. Budinscak, who had 17 tackles including four for loss and three sacks before his season ended early due to a knee injury against Navy, earned first-team academic all-district accolades for the third time in his career and was nominated for Academic All-America honors. The native of Bridgewater, N.J., carried a 3.53 grade-point average as a finance major in the Mendoza College of Business.

Other weekly winners of the Westwood One/State Farm Award included QB Pat Dillingham, FS/SS Glenn Earl, DE Chris Frome, ILB Brandon Hoyte, OL Brian Mattes, ILB Corey Mays, CB Mike Richardson, DE Dan Santucci, OL Dan Stevenson and OL Jeff Thompson.

Josh Schmidt, from Germantown, Tenn., was the winner of the Knute Rockne

Scholar-Athlete Award presented by the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley. The junior fullback earned everyone's respect on and off the football field as the walk-on became a starter by year's end. He caught 13 passes in 2003 for an average of 9.6 yards per catch in 12 games, while recording a 3.53 grade-point average in the Mendoza College of Business, majoring in finance.

Nose guard Cedric Hilliard won the Lineman of the Year Award from the Moose Krause Chapter of the National Football Foundation and the Hall of Fame. The Arlington, Texas, product recorded 27 tackles in '03, including 1.5 for loss. The senior also had two forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and one pass breakup. Hilliard started 24 games in his career and was a preseason All-American in 2003.

MONOGRAM WINNERS

Sixty-five members of the University of Notre Dame football squad were awarded monograms for the 2003 season. Here is the complete list of those given monograms:

Seven players garnered their fourth monogram with the Irish including CB Jason Beckstrom, DT Darrell Campbell, CB Vontez Duff, FS/SS Glenn Earl, RB Julius Jones, P/K Nicholas Setta and ILB Courtney Watson.

Earning their third monogram in 2003 were SS Garron Bible, DE Kyle Budinscak, OLB Derek Curry, CB Dwight Ellick, RB Ryan Grant, NG Cedric Hilliard, WR/QB Carlyle Holiday, CB Preston Jackson, WR Omar Jenkins and OG Sean Milligan.

The following garnered their second award as members of the Irish including DL Brian Beidatsch, SS Lionel Bolen, FS Quentin Burrell, CB Carlos Campbell, TE Jared Clark, OLB/DE Jerome Collins, ILB Brandon Hoyte, ILB Corey Mays, WR Rhema McKnight, DE Jim Molinaro, TE Billy Palmer, DT Greg Pauly, FB Rashon Powers-Neal, WR Matt Shelton, OG Dan Stevenson, WR Maurice Stovall, DE Justin Tuck and RB Marcus Wilson.

The 30 players earning their first monogram included DE Victor Abiamiri, SS David Bemenderfer, OL/SNP Casey Dunn, TE Anthony Fasano, P/K D.J. Fitzpatrick, TE Marcus Freeman, C Zachary Giles, OT Ryan Harris, OL David Kowalski, QB Matt Krueger, FB Cole Laux, NG Derek Landri, DE Travis Leitko, OG Mark LeVoir, OG Darin Mitchell, C Bob Morton, TE Patrick Nally, WR Chinedum Ndukwe, DB Freddie Parish IV, FB Mike Profeta, QB Brady Quinn, OL/SNP Scott Raridon, CB Mike Richardson, OL Jamie Ryan, LB Anthony Salvador, WR Jeff Samardzija, DE Dan Santucci, DE Jason Sapp, FB Josh Schmidt and WR Nate Schomas.

KEEPING UP WITH JONES

Julius Jones broke into the Notre Dame starting lineup Oct. 11 at #15 Pittsburgh and ripped off an outstanding streak of individual performances. He finished the season averaging 141 yards per contest over the last eight games, including 262 yards against Pittsburgh and 221 yards vs. Navy. Over that same stretch, he scored nine touchdowns and averaged over six yards per carry (6.05).

Here are some highlights from Jones' rushing surge:

- Oct. 11 at #15 Pittsburgh — Jones carries 24 times for a school-record 262 yards and two touchdowns as the Irish toppled the 15th-ranked Panthers, 20-14. Jones broke Vegas Ferguson's 25-year-old record of 255 yards (Nov. 18, 1978 at Georgia Tech), became the first 200-yard rusher for the Irish in nearly 11 years (227 by Reggie Brooks at USC in 1992) and his total ranked as the fifth-highest single-game mark in the nation for 2003. His performance was good enough for the Big Stone Gap, Va., native to be named the national player of the week by three media outlets: *The Sporting News*, *USA Today* and *CollegeSportsNews.com*.

- Nov. 8 vs. Navy — Jones rushes a (then) career-high 33 times for 221 yards and two touchdowns as the Irish rally in fourth quarter and beat the Midshipmen on a last-second field goal, 27-24. Jones becomes only the fourth player in school history to post multiple 200-yard games in a season, joining Brooks (1992), Ferguson (1978) and Jim Stone (1980) in that elite group. His effort vs. Navy is the sixth-best in school history and 26th-best in the country in '03.

- Nov. 15 vs. BYU — Jones totes the ball a career-high 35 times for 161 yards and three touchdowns in his final game at Notre Dame Stadium as the Irish defeat the Cougars, 33-14. His three scores are the most by an Irish back in one game since Aunry Denson also had three touchdowns vs. Georgia Tech in the 1999 Gator Bowl.

- Nov. 29 vs. Stanford — Jones has 106 yards on nine carries in the first quarter and 171 yards at the half on his way to 218 yards in only three quarters of action against the Cardinal.

For the season, Jones led Notre Dame and ranked 23rd in the nation with 229 carries for 1,268 yards (5.5 yards per carry) and 10 TDs. He moved from 13th to fourth on the



Notre Dame single-season rushing list during the year and finished with 3,091 yards - good enough for fourth on the Notre Dame all-time list. He also finished fifth on the Notre Dame charts for single-season rushing totals with 1,268 yards. The complete single season list:

	Player, Year	Yards
1.	Vagas Ferguson, 1979	1,437
2.	Allen Pinkett, 1983	1,394
3.	Reggie Brooks, 1992	1,343
4.	Julius Jones, 2003	1,268
	Autry Denson, 1997	1,268

Jones posted three 200-yard games during the 2003 season and was one of only two players in the country who could boast such a feat. The other was Patrick Cobbs of North Texas who had four 200-yard games in '03. Jones also was the first player in Notre Dame history to have three 200-yard games in a season or a career.

THE MIGHTY QUINN

Quarterback Brady Quinn opened some eyes with his poise and confidence under center during the 2003 season. The Dublin, Ohio, native was one of only six true freshmen in the nation to start a game at quarterback in '03, having completed 157 of a school-record 332 passes for 1,831 yards and nine touchdowns with 15 interceptions. His completions, attempts and passing yards were the most by an Irish quarterback in his freshman season since 1951, topping the previous marks held by Steve Beuerlein in 1983 (75 of 145 for 1,061 yards). Quinn's nine passing TDs ended up second only to Matt LoVecchio's 11 scoring tosses in 2000. Quinn's 157 completions also ranked third in school history.

His strongest performance of the season came at Boston College, when the Irish rookie completed 59 percent of his passes (23 of 39) for a career-best 350 yards and two touchdowns with two interceptions. His 350 yards through the air were the most by a Notre Dame quarterback since Nov. 25, 1978, when Joe Montana threw for 358 yards in a loss at USC.

Quinn made his first career start at Purdue, completing 29 of 59 passes for 297 yards and one touchdown with four interceptions. His 29 completions were the most by an Irish quarterback since Ron Powlus connected 31 times at Purdue in 1997 and the 59 attempts were the second-most in school history behind Terry Hanratty's 63 passes at Purdue in 1967. In addition, Quinn's passing yardage total was the best by a Notre Dame quarterback in his first start since Hanratty threw for 304 yards in that game at Purdue in 1967. Quinn's yardage total also was the best by an Irish first-time freshman starting QB in the last 53 seasons.

Quinn also had two touchdown strikes against Stanford as he found Matt Shelton on a 65-yard aerial and Maurice Stovall on a 45-yard score. Against the Cardinal, Quinn was an efficient eight of 13 for 177 yards.

JENKINS ENDS UP 18TH ON CAREER RECEIVING CHARTS

Wide receiver Omar Jenkins completed his career with a reputation of being a reliable sure-handed pass catcher and finished second on the team with 36 receptions for 344 yards and one touchdown in 2003. He finished his climb up the Notre Dame career receiving yardage ladder, ending up 18th with 1,088 yards through the air. He became the 21st Irish player to amass 1,000 career receiving yards with 73 vs. Florida State.

SPREADING THE WEALTH

Notre Dame had a season-high 10 different players catch passes in its '03 loss at Boston College. It was the most pass catchers the Irish had in a single game since Oct. 16, 1999, when 10 Notre Dame players had a reception in a 25-24 come-from-behind win over USC at Notre Dame Stadium.

The Irish had eight different players with a reception on Nov. 29 vs. Stanford, marking the sixth time in 2003 that the Irish had at least eight players catch a pass. All told, 16 different players had at least one reception in '03, including quarterback Carlyle Holiday (2-13), who spent some time at wide receiver toward the end of the season, and right guard Dan Stevenson, who caught a deflected pass for a one-yard gain vs. Michigan State. It marked the second consecutive season in which Notre Dame had 16 players with a reception. The last time the Irish had more than 16 pass catchers in a season was 1986, when 17 different players caught a pass during Lou Holtz's first campaign at Notre Dame.

TUCK-ING THEM IN

Defensive end Justin Tuck was a menace for opposing quarterbacks in 2003. For the season, Tuck led the Irish in sacks (13.5), tackles for loss (19.0), forced fumbles (three) and finished third on the team with 73 tackles. The Kellyton, Ala., product broke the Notre Dame single-season sack record against Stanford and ranked sixth in the nation with 1.13 sacks per game. Tuck broke the single-season sack record previously held by both Bertrand Berry (10 sacks in 1996) and Mike Gann (10 sacks in 1984) (sack records at Notre Dame go back to 1982). Meanwhile, Tuck's tackles for loss total was the highest since Anthony Weaver had 21 stops behind the line in 2001.

Tuck's best performance came at #15 Pittsburgh, when he wound up with a career-high 10 tackles, a then career-best 3.5 sacks (part of an eight-sack night by the Irish) and a forced fumble in Notre Dame's 20-14 win over the Panthers. He then added a career-high 14 tackles, including two for loss and 1.5 sacks, as well as another forced fumble vs. Navy. At Stanford, Tuck surpassed his career-high with 4.0 sacks and led the Irish with seven tackles, including five solos and four for loss.

CLOSE SHAVES

Notre Dame's 27-24 win over Navy in 2003 continued a trend of remarkable Irish victories that began in 2002. The Irish are 9-3 (.750) in games decided by eight points or less since Tyrone Willingham took over as the Notre Dame head coach prior to the 2002 season. The only times the Irish have not won a close ball game under Willingham's guidance were against Boston College in 2002 (14-7) and 2003 (27-25), as well as the '03 matchup vs. Michigan State (22-16).

Fourth-quarter comebacks also aren't anything new to Notre Dame in the Willingham era. After rallying from a 24-21 deficit to beat Navy, the Irish now have won six times during the past two seasons when they were tied or trailing in the fourth quarter. That includes a 29-26 overtime win over Washington State in the 2003 season opener. Notre Dame nearly added a third comeback win to that total at Boston College, rallying from a 24-12 fourth-quarter deficit to take a 25-24 lead before the Eagles kicked the game-winning field goal with 38 seconds remaining.

GETTING THEIR KICKS

Prior to 2003, only seven Notre Dame wins since 1961 had occurred on the game's final play. That heartstopping feat happened twice in '03, thanks to a 40-yard field goal each time. Nicholas Setta did the honors in the season-opening overtime win over Washington State and D.J. Fitzpatrick got his turn in the spotlight with his game-winning boot vs. Navy. The last time the Irish won twice on the last play of the game was 2000, when Setta kicked a 38-yard field goal as time expired to beat Purdue and Joey Getherall scored on a nine-yard run in overtime to defeat Air Force. Here's a rundown of the nine "walk-off" wins for Notre Dame since 1961:

- Joe Perkowski - 41-yard field goal vs. Syracuse (17-15) in 1961
- Joe Unis - extra point following Joe Montana's eight-yard TD pass to Kris Haines in Cotton Bowl vs. Houston (35-34) in 1979
- Harry Oliver - 51-yard field goal vs. Michigan (29-27) in 1980
- John Carney - 19-yard field goal vs. USC (38-37) in 1986
- Jim Sanson - 39-yard field goal vs. Texas (27-24) in 1996
- Nicholas Setta - 38-yard field goal vs. Purdue (23-21) in 2000
- Joey Getherall - nine-yard run in overtime vs. Air Force (34-31) in 2000
- Nicholas Setta - 40-yard field goal in overtime vs. Washington State (29-26) in 2003
- D.J. Fitzpatrick - 40-yard field goal vs. Navy (27-24) in 2003

RETURN TO SENDER

The return game has been a source of strength for Notre Dame over the past five seasons. The Irish have logged 26 returns (punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions) for touchdowns in that time, a figure that ranks ninth in the country. Here's a look at the national leaders in touchdown returns since 1999 (research courtesy of the University of Colorado athletic media relations office — bowl games counted separately):

Team	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Bowls	Total
Miami (Fla.)	3	13	11	5	9	1	42
Virginia Tech	8	6	7	7	10	0	38
Kansas State	9	5	2	12	5	0	33
Nebraska	6	7	5	6	4	3	30
North Carolina State	3	2	4	9	10	1	29
Colorado	5	4	7	7	1	4	28
East Carolina	7	5	4	5	3	4	28
Texas Tech	3	7	8	5	3	1	27
NOTRE DAME	4	6	4	9	2	2	26



ABIAMIRI MAKES RARE FRESHMAN DEFENSIVE LINE STARTS

Victor Abiamiri started six times in 2003 (Michigan State, Florida State, Navy, BYU, Stanford and Syracuse), marking the first time a Notre Dame freshman started on the defensive line since Anthony Weaver got the call against Georgia Tech in the 1999 Gator Bowl. Abiamiri made the most of his first starting assignment, rolling up seven tackles, including six solo stops against MSU. Prior to Weaver's start against Georgia Tech, the last Irish freshmen to start on the defensive line were Germaine Holden and John Taliaferro, who both were in the lineup against Tennessee on Nov. 9, 1991.

HARRIS HAD AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT

Ryan Harris made a huge difference in the Notre Dame running attack after entering the lineup against Pittsburgh in the fifth game of the 2003 season. Harris was only the third freshman to start on the offensive line in Notre Dame history (joining Brad Williams and Mike Rosenthal) and helped create huge openings for Julius Jones against the Panthers as he gained a school-record 262 yards. Jones also posted rushing games of 221 against Navy, 161 against BYU and 218 versus Stanford, becoming the first player in Irish history to rush for over 200 yards in three games in both a season and a career.

HARRIS AND ABIAMIRI NAMED FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICANS

Ryan Harris and Victor Abiamiri were named 2003 freshman All-Americans by *Rivals.com*. Harris was named to the first team after starting the last eight games for the Irish, while Abiamiri was an honorable mention recipient. Harris joined the likes of fellow freshmen Chris Leak (Florida), Channing Chowder (Florida), Laurence Maroney (Minnesota) and Brian Smith (Missouri) on the first team. After Harris entered the starting lineup, Julius Jones rushed for 1,127 of his 1,341 (83.5%) yards.

BUDINSCAK AND HOYTE NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

Defensive end Kyle Budinscak and inside linebacker Brandon Hoyte were named CoSIDA first-team Academic All-District V selections in 2003.

A native of Bridgewater, N.J., Budinscak is a three-time academic all-district first-team honoree. He started all eight games he played in 2003 before his season ended abruptly with a knee injury against Florida State. The senior registered 17 tackles, including three sacks and one fumble recovery, and he was a mainstay on the Irish defense, which ranked among the top 35 in the nation in rushing and total defense.

Budinscak posted a 3.53 overall grade-point average as a finance major in the Mendoza College of Business. He has been on the Dean's List four times during his career and has been a three-time State Farm/Westwood One Student-Athlete of the Game. Budinscak is also active in the community participating in the Boys and Girls Club of South Bend and the Tackle The Arts program. He returns for a fifth year of eligibility in 2004.

Hoyte earned his second academic all-district nod and his initial first-team selection in 2003 after garnering second-team accolades in '02. The native of Parlin, N.J., Hoyte has a 3.21 grade-point average in psychology and is a two-time State Farm/Westwood One Student-Athlete of the Game. He is also extremely active in the community as he is a primary contributor to Notre Dame's Tackle the Arts program, volunteers at a local community center and hospital in South Bend, is a student assistant at the Kaneb Center of Teaching and Learning on campus, is a board representative for the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley and runs his own snack bar out of his dorm (Dillon Hall) called Bullwinkles.

On the field, Hoyte is just as talented as he started nine of 12 games for the Irish in 2003 with 74 tackles, including 48 solos. He has 7.5 tackles for loss and finished the season second on the team in stops. He recorded a career-high 11 tackles versus Washington State and four tackles for loss against Purdue.

SETTA, FITZPATRICK DRAW DOUBLE DUTY

Before an injury ended his season, Nicholas Setta was serving as the starting place-kicker and punter for the Irish, marking the first time a Notre Dame player regularly filled both roles since Craig Hentrich turned the trick from 1989-92. Hentrich is now an all-pro punter with the NFL's Tennessee Titans and even booted three field goals as the Titans' emergency kicker in their season-opening win over Oakland in 2003.

Setta completed his fourth year as the Irish placekicker, having twice been named to the Lou Groza Award Watch List. He finished second in career field goal attempts (66), career field goals made (46) and third in career points by kicking. John Carney holds both the career field goal attempts (69) and field goals made (51), while Hentrich is first in points scored by kicking with 294. Setta made 92 consecutive PAT kicks during his

career, the second-longest streak in school history behind Hentrich's run of 136 straight PATs from 1989-92. Setta's last missed PAT kick came on Oct. 7, 2000 vs. Stanford.

Setta was one of the primary sources of offense for Notre Dame through the first six games of the 2003 season. He connected on nine of 10 field-goal attempts (making his last nine in a row), including a perfect seven of seven on kicks inside of 40 yards and finished third on the team with 32 points in 2003.

Setta got his final season at Notre Dame off to a flying start against Washington State, matching his career high (and tying the school record) with five field goals in six attempts, including the game-winning 40-yard boot in overtime. He also set a new personal best with 17 points by kicking (five field goals, two PAT), one better than his previous high of 16, set in last year's season opener vs. Maryland (five field goals, one PAT).

While he had a wealth of experience as a placekicker, Setta came into the 2003 season having only served as a backup punter behind two-time Ray Guy Award semifinalist Joey Hildbold. However, while filling in for the injured Hildbold against Boston College in 2000, Setta did punt four times for 160 yards (a 40-yard average), including a career-long 47-yard boot in a 28-16 Irish victory. Setta was one of 32 candidates named to the '03 Ray Guy Award preseason watch list and backed up that selection through the first six weeks of the season, averaging 40.9 yards on 26 punts with three kicks dropped inside the opponents' 20-yard line and six kicks of 50+ yards. He also boomed a career-long 54-yard punt on his first try of the season vs. Washington State and carded a career-high nine punts at Michigan for a 43.9-yard average (including a 51-yard kick).

It should also be noted that D.J. Fitzpatrick stepped into Setta's role for the final six games of the season and eventually finished second on the team in scoring with 53 points (12 field goals, 17 PATs) and posted a 36.8 punt average on 44 kicks.

COURTNEY WATSON NAMED TO AFCA GOOD WORKS TEAM

All-America linebacker Courtney Watson was one of 11 people named to the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Good Works Football Team in 2003. The award recognizes players for their dedication and commitment to community service and all nominees must display sincere concern and reliability, while also having made a favorable impression on the organizations in which they were involved.

Watson, who joins former defensive end Grant Irons as the only Irish players to win the award, was recognized for his extensive work within the University and South Bend communities. A native of Sarasota, Fla., Watson was responsible for creating and developing the football team's community service initiative entitled Tackle The Arts. The program, now in its second year, partners with the St. Joseph Country Public Library in South Bend, the Food Bank of Northern Indiana and the Notre Dame Marching Band in providing an interactive approach helping inspire children to explore different areas of the arts including reading, creative writing and poetry, drawing and music. In addition to providing scholastic support with area children, Watson also installed a food drive dimension to the event to benefit the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

In conjunction with the 2003 Tackle the Arts event, Watson, along with teammates Brandon Hoyte and Dan Stevenson, also played host to a picnic for at-risk children in the South Bend area. The children, who attended the picnic and later Tackle the Arts, were identified through the NCAA's National Youth in Sports Program, the South Bend Housing Authority, the Robinson Community Learning Center and the Urban League of South Bend.

Additionally, Watson has made many surprise visits to the pediatric floor at Memorial Hospital in South Bend and has addressed the Jackson Middle School football team at its end of the year banquet. He has participated in the St. Joseph County City Bureau Youth Fest and made hospital visits while the Irish were in Jacksonville, Fla., playing in the 2003 Toyota Gator Bowl.

Watson has also been very active in the Notre Dame community as he was nominated and then elected a member of the Notre Dame Student Senate in 2002-03. Meeting every Wednesday night, Watson and his fellow senators would discuss issues pertinent to the University community. He also served as a member of the Residence Life and Academic Council committees.

Watson also was a four-year participant, and two-time champion, in Notre Dame's student-run basketball tournament called Bookstore Basketball, which is the largest five-on-five outdoor basketball tournament in America.

BUZZ PRESTON CHOSEN FOR NCAA ADVANCED COACHING PROGRAM

Notre Dame running backs/special teams coach Buzz Preston was one of 20 ethnic minority football coaches who were selected to participate in the first NCAA Advanced Coaching Program Jan. 2-4, 2004 in Orlando.

The program was developed through the recently-created NCAA Coaches Academy,



Navy: DT Darrell Campbell (5), NG Cedric Hilliard (4), RB Julius Jones (2), OT Jim Molinaro (6)

BYU: CB Vontez Duff (7), RB Julius Jones (3), OT Jim Molinaro (7)

Stanford: CB Vontez Duff (8), OT Jim Molinaro (8), DT Darrell Campbell (6), WR Omar Jenkins (5)

Syracuse: CB Vontez Duff (9), OT Jim Molinaro (9), RB Julius Jones (4), LB Courtney Watson (8)

NOTRE DAME ON THE SMALL SCREEN

The 2003 Syracuse game was covered on a national basis by ABC and the Irish extended their streak of appearances on one of four major networks (NBC, ABC, CBS or ESPN) to 136 straight games, a stretch that spans 10 full seasons (1993-2003).

Table with 6 columns: YEAR, GAMES, NBC, ABC, CBS, ESPN. Shows annual TV game counts from 1992 to 2003 and a Totals row.

NOTRE DAME REACHES TELEVISION MILESTONE IN 2003

The Notre Dame game vs. Florida State in 2003 was broadcast nationally by NBC, marking the 250th national television appearance for the Irish in their history.

The '03 game at Michigan was another milestone for the Irish program — it was the 300th time a Notre Dame football game appeared on national or regional television.

During their 115-year history, the Irish have posted a combined 194-111-4 (.634) record in these TV games, beginning with a 27-21 victory over No. 4 Oklahoma on Nov. 8, 1952 in a game that was shown nationwide on ABC.

Here's a breakdown of Notre Dame's success over the years when appearing on each of the various networks on both a national and regional basis (the current Irish win/loss streak on the four major networks is listed in parentheses):

NATIONAL TELEVISION

Table listing national TV networks and their win-loss records: NBC (won 2), ABC (lost 3), CBS (won 6), ESPN/ESPN2 (won 2), WGN, SportsChannel, Raycom, TBS, Katz, and Totals (166-84-3 (.662)).

REGIONAL TELEVISION

Table listing regional TV networks and their win-loss records: ABC (lost 2), CBS (won 1), TBS, Big Ten Syndication, and Totals (28-27-1 (.509)).

NOTRE DAME FEATURED PROMINENTLY ON TELEVISION IN 2003

In addition to continuing its streak of consecutive games played on one of the four major television networks (NBC, ABC, CBS or ESPN), Notre Dame was spotlighted on the small screen in several other ways during the 2003 season.

ESPN filmed "The Season: Notre Dame Football" in South Bend throughout the '03 campaign. Crews from the network attended practice sessions, team meals and other team-related activities and conducted regular interviews with Irish players and coaches.

ESPN "College GameDay" celebrated its 10th season of live remotes from college football's top games. In recognition of its first-ever road trip (a Nov. 13, 1993 journey to South Bend for the game between No. 1 Florida State and No. 2 Notre Dame) aired weekly all-access features on the Irish adapted from its feature presentation, "The Season: Notre Dame Football."

College Sports Television (CSTV), the nation's new 24-hour cable channel devoted exclusively to college sports, highlighted Irish athletics on Sunday nights (8-9 p.m. ET) in a show called "Notre Dame Primetime."

Besides these features, Notre Dame enjoyed the 13th season of its unique relationship with NBC. All Irish home football games since 1991 have been televised on the network, with the current agreement slated to continue through 2010.

SECOND NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL FANTASY CAMP SET

After a highly successful inaugural football fantasy camp last July, plans are now underway for the 2004 Notre Dame Football Fantasy Camp. The five-day event is scheduled for June 30-July 4, 2004, and will provide ardent Fighting Irish fans with a true inside look at Notre Dame football.

The 2003 Notre Dame Football Fantasy Camp alumni have been effusive in their praise of the experience. Almost 30 campers representing 13 states and England attended last year's session, as the average age of the campers was 41 years old.

"This was not a fantasy camp, but rather a reality camp. It was an overwhelming experience for each of us. Heck, I threw a touchdown pass in Notre Dame Stadium! The former players and coaches were amazing, working with us as if we were actual football players," Robbie Horton, vice president of sales at Sysco Food, says.

The 2004 participants will stay in the historic Morris Inn under the shadow of the Golden Dome and within walking distance of all facilities. Campers will dress in the home locker room of Notre Dame Stadium; practice daily on Cartier Fields (the real practice facilities of the current Irish team); have use of the Loftus Center as needed; dine in the Monogram Room, South Dining Hall and Stadium Press Box and play golf at the Warren Golf Course on campus.

The Notre Dame Football Fantasy Camp is produced by former Notre Dame quarterback Pat Steenberge, in partnership with the Notre Dame National Monogram Club, which receives a portion of the proceeds.

"The 2003 Fantasy Camp proved to be a huge success. It brought together a great group of former players and coaches who worked with the campers who had always dreamed of playing for Notre Dame," National Monogram Club executive director and associate athletics director Bill Scholl said.

For more information about the 2004 Notre Dame Fantasy Football Camp, please visit the official camp web site (www.NDfootballfantasycamp.com), contact Steenberge via e-mail at patrick@globalfootball.com or call Anthony Travel at 800-366-3772.