

NOTRE DAME COACHING STAFF



Head coach

Jim Kubinski has piloted Notre Dame to two BIG EAST Conference titles and two NCAA regional appearances in his first three seasons at the school.





Jim Kubinski

**Head Coach
Three Years**

Springfield College '93

One of the nation's top young golf teachers, Jim Kubinski is now in his third season as the head coach at Notre Dame. Having assumed the post on Jan. 28, 2005, Kubinski is just the sixth head coach in the 78-year history of the Irish men's golf program, inheriting a storied tradition that includes the 1944 national championship, 19 top-10 NCAA Championship finishes and 33 NCAA postseason appearances.

"We feel Jim is one of the rising stars in the golf coaching community and someone who can continue to develop our program into a perennial national contender," Notre Dame director of athletics Kevin White said.

It hasn't taken long for Kubinski to make his mark at Notre Dame and reward White's confidence in his abilities. In his first tournament at the helm of the Irish, just one month after setting foot on campus, Kubinski helped guide Notre Dame to the championship of the 2005 NOKIA Sugar Bowl Tulane Invitational, winning the title on the first hole of a sudden death playoff against UNC Wilmington. It was the first of two tournament crowns in the 2004-05 season for Notre Dame and made Kubinski the first Irish men's golf coach since 1961 to win



the opening event of his career. That season, Rev. Clarence Durbin, C.S.C., led the Irish to a 23.5-6.5 dual-match win over Western Michigan.

That was the start of what has been a stellar three-year run for the Notre Dame skipper, who piloted the Irish to consecutive BIG EAST Conference titles in 2005 and 2006, and back-to-back NCAA regional appearances both years. He also has a three-year record of 224-206-10 (.520) record and 13 wins over teams ranked in the *Golfweek* Top 25. What's more, Notre Dame has regularly collected votes in the *Golf World* Top 25 coaches poll and has risen as high as No. 12 in the *Golfweek* rankings (Oct. 2, 2005).

Under Kubinski's guidance, Notre Dame has registered 12 top-five finishes in 33 tournaments, including three tourney titles (two coming in sudden-death playoffs). The Irish also have carded three of the top seven single-season stroke averages in school history, following a 299.89 mark in 2004-05 (seventh all-time) with a school-record pace of 292.97 in '05-06 and a 295.71 mark last season (second all-time). In addition, Notre Dame has fired eight of the top 11 single-round scores in school history since Kubinski arrived on campus, including impressive final-round postseason efforts at the 2005 NCAA Central

Regional (282, +2) and the 2006 BIG EAST Championship (school-record 272, -16). The latter score highlighted a 12-stroke comeback victory over Louisville, the second-best rally in the storied history of the Irish men's golf program, and led the Notre Dame's selection as the *Golfweek* National Team of the Week (May 1, 2006) for the first time in program history.

Individually, Kubinski has produced impressive results with several Irish players in a short span of time. Cole Isban became the first three-time PING All-Midwest Region selection (2005-07) in program history under Kubinski's tutelage, and recently graduated as the school record holder for single-season stroke average (72.71 in 2006-07), and career stroke average (73.76). Josh Sandman got a late start to his college career in '05-06 due to an injury, but since he hit the links, he has been superb, posting a 73.76 career stroke average in 49 rounds (17 tournaments) that puts him on pace to threaten Isban's school record. Thus, it's no wonder Kubinski was nominated for the 2007 *GOLF Magazine* Top 100 Teachers List, honoring the nation's pre-eminent golf instructors.

"As a lifelong Notre Dame fan, I couldn't ask for a greater opportunity than to be the head coach of the Fighting Irish," Kubinski said. "It's certainly a special time to play for Notre Dame and be a part of this great university. I'm looking forward to an exciting time ahead and feel that we're

Jim Kubinski Year-By-Year

Year	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.	Events	Wins	Top 5	BIG EAST	NCAA
2004-05*	58	35	4	.619	8	2	4	1st	T-13th (Central)
2005-06	92	87	4	.514	13	1	5	1st	17th (East)
2006-07	74	84	2	.469	12	0	3	2nd	—
TOTALS	224	206	10	.520	33	3	12	1st	T-13th (Central)

* - ND record following arrival as head coach Jan. 28, 2005



the Blue Devils' 10 tournament victories (in 11 events), their ascension to No. 1 in the *Golfweek* rankings, the 2004 ACC and NCAA East Regional titles, and a third-place finish at the '04 NCAA Championship.

Kubinski was a three-year golf letterman and two-year team captain at Springfield (Mass.) College before graduating in 1993. A two-time all-Northeast 10 Conference selection in 1991 and 1992, he also received the Springfield College Maroon Club Award for academic and athletic achievement in 1992. His playing experience continued on the North Atlantic Tour where he tied for sixth place at the '95 Boston Open, and he also competed in the Carolinas Section PGA.

Born May 4, 1970 in Springfield, Mass., Kubinski and his wife, Sarah, now live in South Bend. The couple was married in Durham, N.C., on Oct. 15, 2005, and is expecting their first child in September.

building something here that will be a great source of pride for our players and our university in the years to come.

"Notre Dame exemplifies the best of everything in a college environment, both academically and athletically," Kubinski continued. "It's my goal to ensure that we are a perennial top-10 program on the course and in the classroom, consistent with the best traditions of Notre Dame, and I truly believe we can achieve that goal."

Kubinski, 37, came to Notre Dame after spending a year and a half as the assistant men's and women's golf coach at Duke. During his tenure, the Blue Devil men's team won three tournaments, qualified for the 2004 NCAA East Regional (missing the NCAA Championship field by a single stroke), and rose to No. 13 in the *Golfweek* rankings at the close of the fall 2004 season. He also worked closely with 2004 third-team All-American and all-Atlantic Coast Conference selection Nathan Smith, as well as '04 honorable mention All-American and all-ACC pick Ryan Blaum, resulting in his nomination for the GCAA Assistant Coach of the Year award. In his capacity as an aide with the Duke women's squad, he played an integral role in



The Jim Kubinski File

Hometown: Springfield, Mass.

Alma Mater: Springfield College '93

Family: Married to the former Sarah Struthers

Hire Date: January 28, 2005

Head Coaching Career:

Notre Dame head men's golf coach (2005-present) ... has led Irish to two NCAA regionals (2005, 2006) ... also piloted Notre Dame to two BIG EAST Conference titles (2005, 2006) and one runner-up finish (2007) in his three seasons ... Irish have won three tournaments and posted 12 top-five finishes since he arrived on campus ... Notre Dame has 13 wins over *Golfweek* Top 25 programs during Kubinski's tenure ... Irish named *Golfweek* National Team of the Week on May 1, 2006 (first time in program history) ... eight of top 11 tournament scores in school history have come in Kubinski era ... team also has carded two lowest season stroke averages in program annals during past two seasons, including school-record 292.97 in 2005-06 ... has steered Irish up the national rankings as high as No. 12 by *Golfweek* (Oct. 2, 2005), and three consecutive year-end rankings in the top 60.

Assistant Coaching Career:

Duke assistant men's/women's golf coach (2003-04) ... helped Blue Devil women to '04 NCAA East Regional title and third-place finish at NCAA Championship ... Duke men placed 12th at '04 NCAA East Regional with Kubinski on the staff ... also aided Duke women to No. 1 *Golfweek* ranking at end of 2003-04 season and after fall 2004 campaign, while Blue Devil men rated 13th nationally at close of fall 2004 season ... served on staff with Hall of Fame head coaches Rod Myers (men) and Dan Brooks (women).

Honors/Awards:

GOLF Magazine Top 100 Teachers List Nominee (2007) ... GCAA Assistant Coach of the Year Nominee (2003-04) ... Carolinas Section PGA Teacher of the Year Nominee (2002) ... all-Northeast 10 Conference (1991, 1992) ... Springfield College Maroon Club Award (1992).

Professional Affiliations:

PGA of America Class A Member (1999-present) ... Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) (2003-present) ... National Golf Coaches Association (NGCA) (2003-present).



Steve Colnitis

**Assistant Coach
Two Years
Notre Dame '05**

Steve Colnitis, a member of two BIG EAST Conference championship teams and two NCAA Central Regional qualifying squads at Notre Dame from 2001-05, just completed his second year as an assistant coach for the Irish. Colnitis (*pronounced coal-NIGHT-iss*) aids in many of the day-to-day operations of the men's golf program, including recruiting, practice planning and travel scheduling.

In his two seasons on the Notre Dame staff, Colnitis helped guide the Irish to the 2006 BIG EAST Conference title and the corresponding NCAA regional berth before a runner-up finish at this year's BIG EAST Championship. He also was instrumental in Notre Dame's school-record 292.97 stroke average in 2005-06, and 295.71 mark this past year (second-best in school history).



What's more, Colnitis already is putting his stamp on the Irish program as a recruiter. Top 50 standout Doug Fortner headlined a sharp '06-07 incoming class, while a pair of golfers in next season's freshman class — Dustin Zhang and Jeffrey Chen — both are ranked among the top 75 graduating seniors in the nation for the Class of 2007.

"Steve adds so much energy and enthusiasm to our program," Notre Dame head coach Jim Kubinski said. "Our players respect his dedication a great deal and, to a man, sense just how much he cares about their development. He also has done an excellent job in our recruiting efforts, always going the extra mile. We're certainly very fortunate to have Steve not only as a coach, but as a representative of Notre Dame. As much as he's added to our program, he exceeds any and all accolades as a person."

13 tournaments during his career, posting a 77.86 stroke average, and his best finish was a tie for 17th place in a dual match against 11th-ranked TCU in April 2005. He also registered a 20th-place finish at the BIG EAST Championship as a freshman in 2002. In '05-06, Colnitis served as a tri-captain for the Irish, helping Notre Dame earn its second consecutive BIG EAST title and a return trip to the NCAA Central Regional. There, the Irish wound up a mere two strokes shy of advancing to the NCAA Championship for the first time since 1966.

Colnitis graduated from Notre Dame in May 2005, earning his bachelor's degree in marketing from the Mendoza College of Business. He also garnered Dean's List honors during the fall 2004 semester. Born Sept. 15, 1982, in Baltimore, Md., Colnitis now resides in South Bend.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Notre Dame community," Colnitis said. "I have had the pleasure of seeing our team improve tremendously during my playing career and I am thrilled to continue being a part of our team's success."

Colnitis joined the Irish coaching staff in 2005 following a four-year career on the Notre Dame men's golf team, earning a pair of monograms along the way. He competed in

Notre Dame Men's Golf Support Staff



Mike Karwoski
Associate Athletic Director/Men's Golf Administrator



John Foster
General Manager/Head Professional Warren Golf Course



Laura Kerls
Academic Services



Chris Masters
Assistant SID Men's Golf Contact



Ryan Ritter
Senior Manager