



# **ND** The Coaches

**Notre Dame  
head coach  
Jim Kubinski  
has led the Irish  
to eight wins over  
ranked opponents in  
just over one season  
at the school.**

One of the nation's top young golf teachers, Jim Kubinski is now in his second 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 77-year history of the Irish men's golf program, inheriting a storied tradition that now includes the 1944 national championship, 10 top-five NCAA Championship finishes and 32 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.

As if that weren't enough, Kubinski then piloted Notre Dame to its second consecutive BIG EAST Conference title (fifth overall) and a return trip to the NCAA Central Regional, where the Irish finished a mere two strokes shy of advancing to the NCAA Championship for the first time since 1966. Overall, Kubinski guided Notre Dame to a 58-35-4 (.619) record last spring, including five wins over ranked opponents (most notably NCAA East Regional champion Wake Forest and Central Regional winner Augusta State). In addition, for the first time in recent memory, the Irish received votes in the GCAA/Bridgestone Coaches' Poll throughout much of the spring and were ranked as high as 49th in the *Golfweek*/Sagarin Performance Index ratings. Kubinski's charges finished the 2004-05 season with a 299.89 stroke average, good for the fifth-lowest single-season mark in school history.

This season, Notre Dame has continued its run of success under Kubinski with a



**Jim Kubinski**

*Head Coach*

*Second Season at Notre Dame  
Second Season Overall*

*Springfield College '93*

37-33-1 (.528) fall record, a 292.50 stroke average, four top-six finishes, two of the six lowest scores in team history (872 at the Shoal Creek Intercollegiate; 865 at the Coca-Cola Duke Classic), and wins over (then) third-ranked Florida, No. 16 Texas and No. 17 Alabama. It also has made the Irish a mainstay among others receiving votes in the GCAA/Bridgestone Poll, as well as a No. 12 placement in the Oct. 2 *Golfweek* rankings.

Individually, Kubinski has produced impressive results with several Irish players in a short span of time. Sophomore Cole Isban posted a 74.17 stroke average in 2004-05 and became the first Notre Dame golfer in 25 years to earn regional or national accolades, garnering a spot on the PING All-Midwest Region Team. Junior Mark Baldwin has lowered his scoring average by nearly a full stroke, won two medalist honors (including the 2005 BIG EAST individual title) and has finished in the top 10 at four events since Kubinski's arrival. And, senior Scott Gustafson is off to easily the best start of his career, logging a team-best 72.17 stroke average in the fall of 2005, with one top-five and three top-10 finishes to his credit in only four tournaments.

"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 uni-



versity. I'm looking forward to an exciting time ahead and feel that we're 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 this goal."

Kubinski, 35, 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, quali-



fied 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 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.



## The Jim Kubinski File

**Birthdate:** May 4, 1970

**Birthplace:** Springfield, Mass.

**Family:** Wife, Sarah

**Education:**

Springfield College, 1993 (B.S., business management)  
PGA of America Golf Pro Training Program (GPTP), 1996-99

**Coaching Career:**

**Head Coach, University of Notre Dame, 2005-present**  
NCAA Central Regional Participant — 2005 (13th)  
BIG EAST Conference Champions — 2005

**Assistant Men's/Women's Coach, Duke University, 2003-04**  
NCAA Women's Championship Participant — 2004 (3rd)  
NCAA Women's East Regional Champions — 2004  
NCAA Men's East Regional Participant — 2004 (12th)

**Golfweek National Rankings (highest ranking listed):**

Fall 2005 — Notre Dame (12th)  
2004-05 — Notre Dame (49th)  
Fall 2004 — Duke Women (1st)  
Fall 2004 — Duke Men (13th)  
2003-04 — Duke Women (1st)

**Honors and Awards:**

GCAA Assistant Coach of Year Nominee — 2003-04  
Carolinas Section PGA Teacher of 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

**Golf Pro Experience:**

Duke University Golf Club (Durham, N.C.) — 2002-03 (head pro)  
TPC at River Highlands (Cromwell, Conn.) — 1997-00 (first assistant)  
Graymere Country Club (Columbia, Tenn.) — 1996-97 (assistant)  
Green Valley Country Club (Greenville, S.C.) — 1994-95 (assistant)

**Playing Experience:**

Indiana Section PGA — 2005-present  
Carolinas Section PGA — 2000-04  
Connecticut Section PGA — 1997-2000  
Mini-Tours — 1995-96  
Springfield College — 1990-93



# Assistant

## Coach

A member of two BIG EAST Conference championship teams and two NCAA Central Regional qualifying squads at Notre Dame from 2001-05, Steve Colnitis now takes his knowledge to the coaching ranks in his first year as an assistant 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.

"I could not be more happy with a decision in my first year at Notre Dame than I am with the hiring of Steve," Irish head coach Jim Kubinski said.

"Called 'Coach Colo' by the team, Steve has dedicated himself to learning the ropes of college coaching and to providing support and added energy within our program. As a Notre Dame graduate and golf team member, Steve has a great knowledge of this university and our facilities. He has been a big plus in recruiting and works very hard to make himself an asset to our program each day."

"I'm very excited for the opportunity to remain a part of the Notre Dame community," Colnitis said.

"I have had the pleasure of seeing our team improve drastically during my playing career and I'm pleased to say that we will have one of the strongest teams we have ever had this year. Our team has a great chance to really perform this year and I'm thrilled to have the chance to continue being a part of our team's success."

Colnitis joined the Irish coaching staff following a four-year career on the Notre Dame



## Steve Colnitis

*Assistant Coach*

*First Season*

*Notre Dame '05*



men's golf team, earning a pair of monograms along the way. He competed in 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 his senior season of 2004-05, 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 Championships 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.



**Mike Karwoski**  
*Associate Athletic Director/Men's Golf Administrator*



**Laura Metzger**  
*Academic Services*



**Lynn Truitt**  
*Senior Manager*



**John Foster**  
*General Manager, Notre Dame Golf Courses*



**Chris Masters**  
*Assistant SID Men's Golf Contact*

## Notre Dame Men's Golf Support Staff

