

# NOTRE DAME

2006-07 SEASON PREVIEW



*Senior goaltender*

*David Brown leads the Notre Dame Fighting Irish into the 2006-07 season. He goes into his final season with the best goals-against average (2.77) in school history and the second-best save percentage (.909). His six career shutouts tie him for the most ever at Notre Dame.*



## 2006-07 Notre Dame Personnel Breakdown

### Top Returnees (yr., pos., ... 2005-06 stats)

Noah Babin (Sr., D, 35 GP, 3-12-15) .....	Set career highs in assists (12) and points (15) as a junior
Michael Bartlett (Sr., LW, 38 GP, 2-5-7) .....	Strong two-way player; key member of Irish penalty-killing unit
David Brown (Sr., G, 31 GP, 9-15-4, 2.42, .915 sv%, 2 shutouts) .....	Irish go-to-guy in goal; school leader in goals against (2.77) and shutouts (6)
T.J. Jindra (Sr., RW, 32 GP, 2-6-8) .....	Two-year team captain, outstanding shot blocker and penalty killer
Wes O'Neill (Sr., D, 35 GP, 6-19-25) .....	All-CCHA and All-America candidate; had career-best season in '05-'06.
Jason Paige (Sr., C, 36 GP, 4-1-5) .....	Third-year alternate captain; tough, tenacious forward who is top face-off man
Tom Sawatske (Sr., D, 32 GP, 2-2-4) .....	Will serve as alternate captain as a senior; strong defensive defenseman
Josh Sciba (Sr., LW/C, 35 GP, 17-13-30) .....	Team's top sniper; recorded career highs in goals, assists, points and ppgs
Evan Rankin (Jr., RW, 36 GP, 3-2-5) .....	Talented forward who will look to have a breakout season in '06-'07
Brock Sheahan (Jr., D, 36 GP, 0-8-8) .....	One of top four defensemen; smooth, skating defender who makes good decisions
Mark Van Guilder (Jr., LW, 36 GP, 8-18-26) .....	Had breakout season with career highs in goals (8), assists (18) and points (26)
Dan VeNard (Jr., D, 29 GP, 1-1-2) .....	Solid, all-around defender who plays a consistent game
Erik Condra (So., RW, 36 GP, 6-28-34) .....	CCHA all-rookie selection; led Irish in scoring as a freshman
Christian Hanson (So., C, 23 GP, 1-2-3) .....	Big, talented center who will be counted on to add offense to Irish attack in '06-'07
Jordan Pearce (So., G, 9 GP, 4-4-0, 3.24, .882 sv%, 1 shutout) .....	Had solid rookie season as back up to David Brown
Garrett Regan (So., LW, 30 GP, 3-4-7) .....	Solid two-way forward with outstanding speed

### Key Losses (yr., pos., ... 2005-06 stats)

Matt Amado (Gr., C, 33 GP, 8-5-13) .....	Speedy center who had career highs in goals and points
Tony Gill (Gr., LW, 21 GP, 0-1-1) .....	Quick, checking forward who excelled on the defensive side of the game
Chris Trick (Gr., D, 33 GP, 0-3-3) .....	Steady, stay-at-home defenseman; finalist for College Hockey Humanitarian Award
Tim Wallace (Gr., RW, 36 GP, 11-12-23) .....	Notre Dame's all-time "Iron Man" with 153 consecutive games played
Mike Walsh (Gr., LW, 36 GP, 10-7-17) .....	Power forward who had nine game-winning goals in career
Rory Walsh (Gr., G, 1 GP, 0-0-0, 0.00, 1.000 sv%) .....	Team player who was winner of Lefty Smith Coaches' Award

### Top Newcomers (Pos., Class, Ht./Wt., ... Hometown/Previous Team)

Brett Blatchford .....	D ... Fr. ... 5-11/190 ... Temperance, MI/Texas Tornado (NAHL)
Stewart Carlin .....	F/D ... Fr. ... 5-11/194 ... Jeannette, PA/Chicago Steel (USHL)
Kevin Deeth .....	F ... Fr. ... 5-7/161 ... Gig Harbor, WA/Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
Dan Kissel .....	F ... Fr. ... 5-9/166 ... Streamwood, IL/Chicago Steel (USHL)
Kyle Lawson .....	D ... Fr. ... 5-11/205 ... New Hudson, MI/Tri-City Storm (USHL)
Christiaan Minella .....	F ... Fr. ... 6-1/217 ... Aurora, CO/Sioux City Stampede (USHL)
Tom O'Brien .....	G ... Fr. ... 5-11/193 ... Mokena, IL/Bridgewater Bandits (EJHL)
Ryan Thang .....	F ... Fr. ... 6-0/188 ... Edina, MN/Omaha Lancers (USHL)

**ALL TIED UP** – Notre Dame was 0-0-4 in overtime during the '05-'06 season, giving the Irish 53 overtime games since the start of the 1999-2000 campaign. In those games, Notre Dame is 7-6-40. The last overtime win came on Dec. 10, 2004 in a 3-2 victory against Michigan State. That win snapped a 16-game winless skid (0-2-14) during the regular season that started on Jan. 25, 2002.

**BEATING THE BEST:** On Oct. 21, Notre Dame travels to Chestnut Hill, Mass., to face the Boston College Eagles. In each of the last two seasons ('03-'04 and '04-'05) that Notre Dame has played Boston College, the Eagles came into those games ranked No. 1 in the nation. Both times, the Irish came away with victories. In 2004-05, Notre Dame knocked off the No. 1-ranked Boston College Eagles in South Bend by a 3-2 score. A year earlier, the Irish traveled to BC's Kelley Rink, and knocked off the top-ranked Eagles, 1-0, with current senior goaltender **David Brown** turning in the shutout. Here's the list of Irish wins versus top-ranked teams in the 39-year history of the program.

- 10/22/04 - vs. Boston College, 3-2
- 10/23/03 - at Boston College, 1-0
- 1/3/99 - at North Dakota, 4-3
- 11/20/78 - at Minnesota, 3-2
- 1/13/78 - vs. Denver, 5-3
- 1/18/74 - vs. Michigan Tech, 7-1
- 2/24/73 - vs. Wisconsin, 4-3
- 2/23/73 - vs. Wisconsin, 8-5

**CAPTAINS** – Senior right wing **T.J. Jindra** (Faribault, Minn.) will serve as Notre Dame's captain for the second consecutive season. Jindra becomes the first Irish player to serve as captain twice since **Evan Nielsen** '03 held the responsibility from 2001-03. There have been 14 players to serve as two-time captains with the Irish. Joining Jindra as alternate captains in '06-'07, are senior center **Jason Paige** (Saginaw, Mich.) and senior defenseman **Wes O'Neill** (Essex, Ont.) and **Tom Sawatske** (Duluth, Minn.). Paige has served as an alternate captain since his sophomore year. O'Neill and Sawatske will be alternate captains for the first time at Notre Dame.

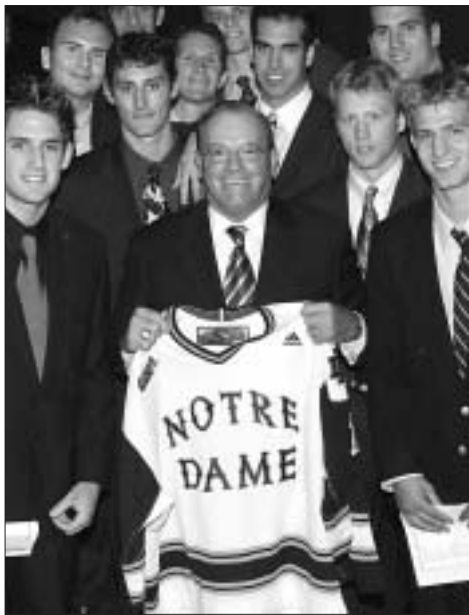
**CCHA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE** – Senior **Jason Paige** (Saginaw, Mich.) was Notre Dame's representative on the CCHA Scholar-Athlete team for the 2005-06 season. Paige was one of 12 players (one from each school) selected to the team by the league's faculty representatives. Paige has a 3.71 grade-point average in finance. He follows former Irish captain, **Cory McLean** ('05), who was selected as the CCHA's first-ever Scholar-Athlete of the Year award winner following the 2004-05 season. McLean was a five-time Dean's List selection and graduated with a degree in Finance from the Mendoza College of Business with a 3.592 grade-point average. To be considered for the CCHA Scholar-Athlete Award, a player had to have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 through the fall term of the selection year to receive the school's Scholar-Athlete award. The award is selected by the 12 faculty representatives, voting based on a system awarding five points for a first-place vote, three points for a second-place vote

and one point for a third-place vote. Previously, the CCHA honored an all-Academic team that saw the Irish have at least one honoree in all but one season (2002-03) since their return to the CCHA in '92-'93. The nine first-team selections were:

**Curtis Janicke** and **Carl Picconatto** ('92-'93), **Garry Gruber** ('95-'96), **Steve Noble** ('96-'97, '97-'98), **Forrest Karr** and **Aniket Dhadphale** ('98-'99), **Andy Jurkowski** ('99-'00), **Dan Carlson** (2000-01), **David Inman** (2001-02) and **Rob Globke** (2003-04). During that 12-year span, only Western Michigan (14) produced more CCHA All-Academic selections than Notre Dame's 11.

**DROP THE PUCK** – For the second season in a row, the Irish will open the season with the "Drop The Puck Dinner" at the Joyce Center. This year's event will take place on Oct. 11 with former Pittsburgh Penguin coach and current Chicago Blackhawks TV analyst **Ed Olczyk** serving as guest speaker. The first dinner occurred on Sept. 6, 2005 with over 400 fans in attendance and **Scotty Bowman** serving as guest speaker. Bowman, who won nine Stanley Cups in his illustrious coaching career, was also invited by Notre Dame head football coach Charlie Weis to address his team at practice on Sept. 6, just four days prior to the upset win at Michigan.

**FAMILY MATTERS** – Two members of the Notre Dame hockey team – forwards **Erik Condra** (Livonia, Mich.) and **Garrett Regan** (Hastings, Minn.) – have family ties to the Irish hockey program. Condra's uncle is All-American forward Kirt Bjork ('83) who played at Notre Dame from 1979-83. He scored 76 goals with 85



Scotty Bowman poses with the Notre Dame hockey team following the first annual "Drop The Puck" Dinner held at the Joyce Center on Sept. 6, 2005.

assists for 161 career points in 141 career games. He took All-America honors in 1983 when he had 29 goals and 34 assists for 63 points. Regan's uncle - Sean Regan - was a defenseman for the Irish from 1981-83 before finishing his career at the University of Minnesota.

**GREAT GUEST** - NHL legend **Wayne Gretzky** was one of the biggest hits during the pep rally held prior to the Notre Dame home football game during the 1999 season. Gretzky - who addressed the Oct. 15, 1999 pep rally (on the Friday night before the USC game) - was a huge fan favorite at the Joyce Center that night and was presented with a No. 99 Notre Dame football jersey. He brought the crowd to its feet when informing them that he would have attended Notre Dame if not for the early track of his professional career, in Canadian junior hockey.



Wayne Gretzky

**HOMETOWNS** - The 2006-07 Notre Dame hockey team features players from eight states and two Canadian provinces - Alberta and Ontario. Over the past 12 seasons, the Irish have had monogram winners from 21 different states and provinces - those listed below, plus: Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. This season, the Irish have their first-ever player from the state of Washington - freshman **Kevin Deeth** (Gig Harbor).

## 2006-07 NOTRE DAME HOCKEY - BY STATE OR PROVINCE:

**Michigan (7):** Jason Paige, Josh Sciba, Evan Rankin, Erik Condra, Justin White, Brett Blatchford, Kyle Lawson

**Illinois (5):** Michael Bartlett, Brian D'Arcy, Dan VeNard, Dan Kissel, Tom O'Brien

**Minnesota (5):** T.J. Jindra, Tom Sawatske, Mark Van Guilder, Garrett Regan, Ryan Thang

**Ontario (2):** David Brown, Wes O'Neill

**Pennsylvania (2):** Christian Hanson, Stewart Carlin

**Alaska (1):** Jordan Pearce

**Alberta (1):** Brock Sheahan

**Colorado (1):** Christiaan Minella

**Florida (1):** Noah Babin

**Washington (1):** Kevin Deeth

**IRON MAN** - Graduated right wing **Tim Wallace** (Anchorage, Alaska) finished his Notre Dame career in 2005-06 as the Notre Dame's all-time "Iron Man." Wallace played in every game of his career, 153 in all. He finished third on the all-time games played list for his four seasons with the Irish. Junior center **Mark Van Guilder** (Roseville, Minn.) is next in line as he now has played in every game in his first two seasons, 74 consecutive games.

**LEADER OF THE PACK** - Notre Dame head coach **Jeff Jackson** begins his second season behind the Irish bench. He returned to the collegiate coaching ranks in 2005-06, guiding Notre Dame to a 13-19-4 record. He enters the '06-'07 season with the best winning percentage among Division I coaches with five or more years. His current record stands at 195-71-29 for a .710 winning percentage. His 195 wins rank him 23rd on the all-time active list. In six seasons at his previous collegiate stop - Lake Superior State (1990-96) - Jackson's teams were 182-52-25 with two national championships, two CCHA regular-season titles and four CCHA tournament championships. Included in his 195 career wins are 36 postseason victories and a .800 winning percentage (36-9 in postseason). In CCHA postseason action at Lake Superior, Jackson's teams were 24-2 (.923) with the two losses coming to Michigan in CCHA Championship games ('94 and '96).

**LUKE LUCYK** - Defenseman **Luke Lucyk** (Fox Point, Wis.), who would have been a junior with the Irish this season, decided during the summer to return to his junior team, the USHL's Tri-City Storm. He will return to the Irish next season and have two years of eligibility remaining. In two seasons at Notre Dame, Lucyk played in 44 games with one goal and one assist to go with 11 penalties for 22 minutes.

**DISTINGUISHED AWARDS** - The Notre Dame hockey program began honoring past contributors to the program at the team's postseason banquet last April (2006). The first award - the Distinguished Alumni Award - will be given each year to an alumnus of the program to acknowledge their accomplishments and the example that they have set for others as an alumnus of the Notre Dame hockey program. Each Distinguished Alumni Award winner will receive a mounted Gold Helmet that is now worn by the Notre Dame hockey program. The Irish honored two former play-

## Academics Job One

In addition to serving as one of the top up-and-coming programs in the nation, the Notre Dame hockey team also has excelled in the classroom.

• The hockey team posted a 3.38 team grade-point-average in the spring of 2006 semester. Twenty-three players had 3.0 grade points or better while 17 were 3.2 or higher, including one 4.0 semester by junior **Brian D'Arcy** and one by sophomore **Jordan Pearce**. For the year, the squad had a 3.394 cumulative team GPA (3.418 in the fall) at the end of the 2005-06 academic year.

• Eight players on the 2005-06 team posted at least one Dean's List semester, including two who made the Dean's List in both the fall of '05 and the spring of '06. Junior **Brian D'Arcy** and sophomore **Jordan Pearce** made it in both semesters with both posting 4.0 semesters in the spring. The returning players who turned in a Dean's List semesters in '05-'06 included senior **David Brown** (spring), sophomore **Garrett Regan** (spring), junior **Brock Sheahan** (spring), sophomore **Christian Hanson** (fall) and senior **Jason Paige** (fall).

• Senior **Jason Paige** was Notre Dame's CCHA Scholar-Athlete selection with a 3.71 grade-point average in finance. He followed 2005 graduate **Cory McLean** who won the CCHA's first-ever Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award in his senior season.

• Notre Dame hockey players have combined to post 19 perfect 4.0 semesters during the past 10 years, including five by 1998 graduate **Steve Noble**, three by 2000 graduate **Andy Jurkowski** (including both terms of his senior year), two by 2004 graduate **T.J. Mathieson**, one by 2006 graduate **Tim Wallace**, three by junior **Brian D'Arcy** (both semesters of freshman year) and one by sophomore **Jordan Pearce**.

• Notre Dame's hockey program has produced five Academic All-Americans over the past nine seasons: Noble in 1996-97 and '97-'98, **Forrest Karr** in '98-'99, Jurkowski in 1999-2000 and **Dan Carlson** in 2000-01 ... **David Inman**, a 2002 graduate, was selected to the Region V all-Academic team but did not make the national squad.

## Notre Dame Hockey By The Numbers

**6,901**

Career minutes played by goaltender **Lance Madson** (1986-90)

**2,763**

A sellout crowd (including standing room) at the Joyce Center. A regular sellout is 2,713. The first time the Irish played in front of 2,763 was Nov. 1, 2002 against Boston College. The building was reconfigured for the 1995-96 season and since that season, Notre Dame has played in front of 59 sellout crowds, including 13 of 2,763.

**1968**

First varsity hockey season of the modern area

**1912**

First varsity hockey season

**307**

Career coaching wins by **Lefty Smith**, in 19 seasons at Notre Dame

**193:27**

**David Brown's** consecutive shutout minutes streak set from Oct. 17 through Nov. 8, 2003. Brown recorded the streak over a five-game span that included three consecutive shutouts (vs. Bowling Green, Boston College and Nebraska-Omaha). The three consecutive shutouts and the consecutive minutes are both Notre Dame records

**153**

The number of consecutive games played by Notre Dame's all-time "Iron Man" **Tim Wallace**. Wallace, who graduated following the 2005-06 season, did not miss a game during his career and finished tied for third on Notre Dame's all-time games played list.

**104**

ND record for career goals, set by **Greg Meredith** (1976-80) after scoring twice in his final game to beat **Eddie Bumbacco's** (1970-74) previous record of 103

**87**

All-time Notre Dame hockey letterwinners from the state of Minnesota

**80:40**

The elapsed time of the longest game in Notre Dame hockey history (March 8, 2002). Nebraska-Omaha's Jeff Hoggan scored 40 seconds into the second overtime to give the Mavericks a 3-2 win in game one of the CCHA playoff series. Notre Dame went on to win the series, two games to one



Notre Dame freshman right wing Erik Condra (back row, second from left) was selected to the CCHA all-rookie team for 2005-06. Condra led all CCHA freshmen in scoring with 34 points on six goals and 28 assists. He was joined on the team by: Back Row (l-r): Jack Johnson (Michigan), Condra, Tyler Eckford (Alaska) and Andrew Cogliano (Michigan). Front Row (l-r): Dan Riedel (Ferris State), Gerald McGroarty, The Hockey News publisher and Jeff Lerg (Michigan State).

ers - **Dave Bossy** (Beaconsfield, Que.) and **Paul Regan** (Scarborough, Ont.). Bossy graduated in 1977 with a degree in finance and is currently the chairman of Mid-American Real Estate Corporation in Chicago, a company he founded over 20 years ago. He served as a board mem-



*Dave Bossy*



*Paul Regan*

ber of the Notre Dame Monogram Club from 2002-05 and last summer (2005) made a \$100,000 donation to the Monogram Club's Summer Service Program that is coordinated by the Center for Social Concerns. The donation covers the Monogram Club's continuing sponsorship of student-athletes who participate in these life-changing service programs.

Paul Regan '73 was a member of Lefty Smith's first recruiting classes in 1969. After an outstanding career with the Irish he went on to teach and work in the Simcoe, Ontario school district where was a vice-principal in the Simcoe school district. Regan lost his battle with cancer in June of 2006.

Notre Dame also began an Honorary Alumni Award for those who while not an alum of the program made major contributions to Notre Dame hockey through their affiliation with the program. The first winner was former assistant coach **Tim McNeill** who spent seven seasons (1968-75) as Lefty Smith's first assistant. McNeill's son, Mike, played for the Irish from 1984-88 and is serving as a volunteer assistant coach this season.

**MR. ZERO** - Notre Dame goaltender **David Brown** (Stoney Creek, Ont.) recorded a pair of shutouts during the 2005-06 season to give him six for his career. That ties him with Morgan Cey '05 for the Notre Dame career mark in shutouts as each now have six. Brown also is Notre Dame's all-time leader in goals-against average (2.77) and is second all-time with a .909 save percentage.

**NCAA SILVER ANNIVERSARY AWARD** - Former Notre Dame hockey All-American **Greg Meredith** (1976-80) was one of six former NCAA athletes to receive an NCAA Silver Anniversary Award at the NCAA Convention in Dallas, Tex., on Jan. 9, 2005. The Silver Anniversary Award recognizes former student-athletes who have distinguished themselves since completing their college careers 25 years ago. Meredith is Notre Dame's all-time leading goal scorer with 104 goals in 149 career games. He is also tops in power-play goals (43) and seventh in all-time points with 192 for his career. He is just one of two players ever to score 40 goals in a season (1979-80) at Notre Dame. A four-year letterwinner with the Irish, Meredith was a finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship and was an NCAA postgraduate scholarship recipient. He is currently the managing director for Putnam Lovell NBF Securities Inc., and has held positions with Salomon Brothers, Inc., Nationsbanc Capital Markets, Inc., and Fenway Partners, Inc. From 2001 to 2003, he served as president and chief executive officer at HSBC Capital and was also president and CEO of Printvision, a software company from 2002-03. In addition, Meredith is the founder and president of Proctor Capital, a private investment and strategic advisory firm. He played four years in the NHL for the Calgary Flames and was an assistant coach at Harvard. Meredith currently coaches the St. David's hockey program for boys and girls between 9 and 11 years of age. He formed the Meredith Family Foundation in 1997, which contributes to programs such as the LOGAN Center, which provides services to individuals with intellectual disabilities, the St. Joseph's County Special Olympics, and Camp Millhouse, a summer camp for children with significant intellectual disabilities. In addition, the organization funds edu-



Greg Meredith '80 (right) receives the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award from his former Notre Dame coach, Lefty Smith at the 2005 NCAA Awards Banquet in Dallas, Texas.

cational initiatives including the Paul E. Meredith scholarships at Notre Dame. Meredith is the 10th former Irish athlete to receive the award that was started in 1973.

**NCAA ACTION** – The Notre Dame Fighting Irish hockey team had a season to remember in 2003-04. The Irish advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the program's 36-year history with a 20-15-4 overall record. In their first trip to the tournament, the Irish dropped a 5-2 decision to two-time NCAA champion Minnesota in the Grand Rapids Regional.

**NHL DRAFTEES** – The Irish have four players on the 2006-07 roster who have been selected in the National Hockey League's Entry Draft. Last June, sophomore right wing **Erik Condra** (Livonia, Mich.) was selected in the seventh round, 211th overall by the Ottawa Senators. He is joined by freshman defenseman **Kyle Lawson** (New Hudson, Mich.) who was selected in the 2005 NHL Draft by the Carolina Hurricanes in the seventh round, 198th overall. Condra and Lawson are joined by senior defenseman **Wes O'Neill** (Essex, Ont.) who was chosen in the fourth round of the 2004 Entry Draft, 115th overall by the New York Islanders. Also selected in 2004 was senior goaltender **David Brown** (Stony Creek, Ont.) who went in the eighth round, 228th overall to the Pittsburgh Penguins.

**PLAYING IN THE NHL** – At times during the 2005-06 season, Notre Dame had five former players in the NHL at the same time. The five were: **Ben Simon** '00 (Columbus), **Rob Globke** '04 (Florida), **Brett Lebda** '04 (Detroit), **Mark Eaton** (Nashville) and **Yan Stastny** (Edmonton-Boston). Only one other time, have the Irish had five players in the NHL in one season. That came during the 1982-83 campaign when the Irish had five players see time, in the NHL. That group included: **Jim Brown** '82 (three games with Los Angeles), **Jack**

**Brownschidle** '77 (72 games with St. Louis), **Jeff Brownschidle** '81 (four games with Hartford), **Don Jackson** '78 (71 games with Edmonton) and **Dave Poulin** '82 (two games with Philadelphia).

**POWER-PLAY LEADER** – Senior **Josh Sciba** (Westland, Mich.) tied for second in the CCHA with 10 power-play goals in 2005-06. That was the most power-play goals by a Notre Dame player since **Ben Simon** '00 had 10 in the 1999-2000 season. Sciba's 10 man-advantage goals tie him for 10th on Notre Dame's single-season list with Simon and **Dave Poulin** '82, who did it twice in 1978-79 and 1981-82. Of Sciba's 30 career goals, 15 have come on the power play.

**PUTTING ON THE FOIL** – Notre Dame freshman **Christian Hanson** (Venetia, Pa.) becomes the sixth player to play for the Irish whose father played in the National Hockey League. His father, **Dave Hanson**, played 10 years of professional hockey between 1974-75 and 1983-84, including stints with the Detroit Red Wings and the Minnesota North Stars and the World Hockey Association's (WHA) Minnesota Fighting Saints and the New England Whalers. Fans might also be familiar with Dave Hanson, as one of the famed Hanson Brothers, made famous in the hockey movie - *Slapshot*. Hanson currently is the director of the Island Sports Center, home of Robert Morris University's hockey team, in suburban Pittsburgh.

**RIVALRY CLUSTERS** – The CCHA begins its fifth season with the 12 teams grouped in "rivalry pairings." In the pairings, Notre Dame is paired with Bowling Green. The league's other pairings include Michigan-Michigan State, Miami-Ohio State, Lake Superior State-Northern Michigan, Ferris State-Western Michigan and Alaska Fairbanks-Nebraska-Omaha. Each season the teams are divided into three, four-team clusters and play a 28-game conference schedule. Cluster teams will face each other four times during the season with two games against each of the remaining eight teams. In 2006-07, Notre Dame will play Bowling Green, Alaska and Nebraska-Omaha four times with two games at home and two away. The Irish will also play home-and-home series with Michigan and Michigan State. Notre Dame hosts two-game home series with Miami, Northern Michigan and Ferris State while playing two-game road series at Lake Superior, Ohio State and Western Michigan. Last year, the Irish were 4-5-3 against Bowling Green, Ohio State and Miami, the three teams in their cluster.

**TURNAROUND YEAR** – A year ago, the Notre Dame hockey team turned in a 13-19-4 record in Jeff Jackson's first season behind the bench. A closer look at the mark shows vast improvement for the Irish. Through the first 13 games of the season, Notre Dame was 3-9-1. Over the remaining 23 contests, the Irish were 10-10-3. In CCHA play, Notre Dame went from 3-20-5 in '04-'05 to 11-13-4 in '05-'06, a 15-point improvement from one season to the next. Only Miami's 16-point improvement in the standings was better than Notre Dame's 15-point turnaround.

## Notre Dame Hockey By The Numbers

### 47

Saves posted by **Matt Eisler** in 3-0 win over Ohio State on Oct. 25, 1996 (most ever in a Notre Dame shutout)

### 40

The pick in the 2002 NHL Entry Draft where the Florida Panthers selected **Rob Globke** - the earliest any Notre Dame hockey player has ever been selected in the draft

### 16

Players from the National Team Developmental Program to play at Notre Dame since the NTDP started in 1997-98

### 6:50

Quickest hat trick in Notre Dame history, by **Sterling Black** in 1973

### 6

Notre Dame career record for shutouts set by **Morgan Cey** (2001-05) and equaled by David Brown '07 in his first three seasons with the Irish.

### 4.0

Semester G.P.A. posted 19 times by Notre Dame hockey players during the past 10 years - junior **Brian D'Arcy** had three 4.0 semesters in his first four semesters at Notre Dame and sophomore **Jordan Pearce** had one in 2005-06.

### 2.32

The lowest goals-against average by an Irish goaltender. **David Brown** turned that in during his freshman year, the 2003-04 season.

### .925

The top single-season save percentage by a Notre Dame goaltender - set by **David Brown** as a freshman in 2003-04.

### :09

The earliest goal to start a game by a Notre Dame player. Tim Wallace scored just nine seconds into Notre Dame's Dec. 2, 2005 game at Western Michigan. The Irish lost, 4-3.

### :08

The fastest the Irish have scored two goals in a game. On Jan. 21, 2006 at Northern Michigan, Erik Condra scored a game-tying goal at 8:42 of the third period. Just eight seconds later at 8:50, Tom Sawatske scored the game winner in a 4-3 victory.

### 0

Combined goals scored by Notre Dame and Miami on Dec. 10, 1994 - the first scoreless tie in CCHA history

## 2006-07 University of Notre Dame Hockey Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	R/L	Birthdate	Hometown	Previous Team
1	Jordan Pearce	G	6-1	207	So.	L	10/10/86	Anchorage, AK	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
2	Kyle Lawson	D	5-11	205	Fr.	R	1/11/87	New Hudson, MI	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
3	Brett Blatchford	D	5-11	190	Fr.	L	6/5/86	Temperance, MI	Texas Tornado (NAHL)
4	Dan VeNard	D	6-1	190	Jr.	R	10/5/85	Vernon Hills, IL	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
6	Noah Babin	D	6-0	190	Sr.	R	3/11/84	Palm Bch. Gardens, FL	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
8	Josh Sciba	LW/C	5-11	194	Sr.	L	2/6/85	Westland, MI	USA National Under-18 Team
9	Ryan Thang	RW	6-0	188	Fr.	R	5/11/87	Edina, MN	Omaha Lancers (USHL)
10	Justin White	LW	6-0	195	So.	L	4/23/85	Traverse City, MI	Sioux Falls Stampede (USHL)
11	Eric Condra	RW	6-0	197	So.	R	8/6/86	Livonia, MI	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
12	Stewart Carlin	RW/D	5-11	194	Fr.	R	7/12/85	Jeannette, PA	Chicago Steel (USHL)
14	Brock Sheahan	D	6-0	180	Jr.	L	5/6/84	Lethbridge, ALB	Crowsnest Pass Timberwolves (AJHL)
15	Christiaan Minella	RW	6-1	217	Fr.	R	7/5/85	Aurora, CO	Sioux City Musketeers (USHL)
16	Dan Kissel	C	5-9	166	Fr.	L	1/25/87	Crestwood, IL	Chicago Steel (USHL)
18	Evan Rankin	RW	6-1	197	Jr.	R	3/28/86	Portage, MI	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
19	Wes O'Neill	D	6-4	231	Sr.	L	3/3/86	Essex, ONT	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
20	Tom Sawatske	D	5-11	196	Sr.	R	1/12/84	Duluth, MN	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
21	Kevin Deeth	LW/C	5-7	161	Fr.	L	5/26/87	Gig Harbor, WA	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
22	Jason Paige	C	6-0	208	Sr.	R	1/19/84	Saginaw, MI	Compuware Ambassadors (NAHL)
23	Mark Van Guilder	C	6-2	207	Jr.	R	1/17/84	Roseville, MN	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
24	Brian D'Arcy	D	6-2	202	Jr.	R	6/29/84	Western Springs, IL	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
25	Christian Hanson	C	6-4	214	So.	R	3/10/86	Venetia, PA	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
26	T.J. Jindra	RW	5-11	201	Sr.	R	8/24/82	Faribault, MN	River City Lancers (USHL)
27	Michael Bartlett	LW	6-0	203	Sr.	R	1/6/85	Morton Grove, IL	USA National Under-18 Team
30	David Brown	G	6-0	203	Sr.	L	2/1/85	Stoney Creek, ONT	Hamilton Kilty Bees (OPJHL)
31	Tom O'Brien	G	5-11	193	Fr.	L	4/28/87	Mokena, IL	Bridgewater Bandits (EJHL)
33	Garrett Regan	LW	5-11	178	So.	L	4/23/85	Hastings, MN	Waterloo Black Hawks (USHL)

**Head Coach:** Jeff Jackson (Michigan State '78; 2nd season at Notre Dame)

**Associate Head Coach:** Paul Pooley (Ohio State '84)

**Assistant Coach:** Andy Slaggert (Notre Dame '89)

**Volunteer Assistant Coach:** Mike McNeill (Notre Dame '88)

**Athletic Trainer:** Kevin Ricks

**Equipment Specialist:** Dave Gilbert

**Video Coordinator:** Brad Aldrich

**Senior Manager:** Cole Hundt '07

### Pronunciation Guide

- 6 No-ah Bah-bin
- 26 T.J. JIN-drah
- 15 Chris-tyun Mih-Nella
- 14 Brock SHE-han
- 8 Josh SKI-ba
- 2 Tom Sah-WATT-ski
- 4 Dan Veh-Nard

assoc. head coach - Paul POOL-ee  
assistant coach - Andy SLAG-urt

## 2006-07 University of Notre Dame Hockey Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	R/L	Birthdate	Hometown	Previous Team
6	Noah Babin	D	6-0	190	Sr.	R	3/11/84	Palm Bch. Gardens, FL	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
27	Michael Bartlett	LW	6-0	203	Sr.	R	1/6/85	Morton Grove, IL	USA National Under-18 Team
3	Brett Blatchford	D	5-11	190	Fr.	L	6/5/86	Temperance, MI	Texas Tornado (NAHL)
30	David Brown	G	6-0	203	Sr.	L	2/1/85	Stoney Creek, ONT	Hamilton Kilty Bees (OPJHL)
12	Stewart Carlin	RW/D	5-11	194	Fr.	R	7/12/85	Jeannette, PA	Chicago Steel (USHL)
11	Eric Condra	RW	6-0	197	So.	R	8/6/86	Livonia, MI	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
24	Brian D'Arcy	D	6-2	202	Jr.	R	6/29/84	Western Springs, IL	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
21	Kevin Deeth	LW/C	5-7	161	Fr.	L	5/26/87	Gig Harbor, WA	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
25	Christian Hanson	C	6-4	214	So.	R	3/10/86	Venetia, PA	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
26	T.J. Jindra	RW	5-11	201	Sr.	R	8/24/82	Faribault, MN	River City Lancers (USHL)
16	Dan Kissel	C	5-9	166	Fr.	L	1/25/87	Crestwood, IL	Chicago Steel (USHL)
2	Kyle Lawson	D	5-11	205	Fr.	R	1/11/87	New Hudson, MI	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
15	Christiaan Minella	RW	6-1	217	Fr.	R	7/5/85	Aurora, CO	Sioux City Musketeers (USHL)
31	Tom O'Brien	G	5-11	193	Fr.	L	4/28/87	Mokena, IL	Bridgewater Bandits (EJHL)
19	Wes O'Neill	D	6-4	231	Sr.	L	3/3/86	Essex, ONT	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
22	Jason Paige	C	6-0	208	Sr.	R	1/19/84	Saginaw, MI	Compuware Ambassadors (NAHL)
1	Jordan Pearce	G	6-1	207	So.	L	10/10/86	Anchorage, AK	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
18	Evan Rankin	RW	6-1	197	Jr.	R	3/28/86	Portage, MI	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
33	Garrett Regan	LW	5-11	178	So.	L	4/23/85	Hastings, MN	Waterloo Black Hawks (USHL)
20	Tom Sawatske	D	5-11	196	Sr.	R	1/12/84	Duluth, MN	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
8	Josh Sciba	LW/C	5-11	194	Sr.	L	2/6/85	Westland, MI	USA National Under-18 Team
14	Brock Sheahan	D	6-0	180	Jr.	L	5/6/84	Lethbridge, ALB	Crowsnest Pass Timberwolves (AJHL)
9	Ryan Thang	RW	6-0	188	Fr.	R	5/11/87	Edina, MN	Omaha Lancers (USHL)
23	Mark Van Guilder	C	6-2	207	Jr.	R	1/17/84	Roseville, MN	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
4	Dan VeNard	D	6-1	190	Jr.	R	10/5/85	Vernon Hills, IL	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
10	Justin White	LW	6-0	195	So.	L	4/23/85	Traverse City, MI	Sioux Falls Stampede (USHL)

**Head Coach:** Jeff Jackson (Michigan State '78; 2nd season at Notre Dame)

**Associate Head Coach:** Paul Pooley (Ohio State '84)

**Assistant Coach:** Andy Slaggert (Notre Dame '89)

**Volunteer Assistant Coach:** Mike McNeill (Notre Dame '88)

**Athletic Trainer:** Kevin Ricks

**Equipment Specialist:** Dave Gilbert

**Video Coordinator:** Brad Aldrich

**Senior Manager:** Cole Hundt '07

### By Position

**Centers (5)** ..... Deeth, Hanson, Kissel, Paige, Van Guilder

**Left Wing (4)** ..... Bartlett, Regan, Sciba, White

**Right Wing (6)** ..... Carlin, Condra, Jindra, Minella, Rankin, Thang

**Defensemen (8)** .... Babin, Blatchford, D'Arcy, Lawson, O'Neill, Sawatske, Sheahan, VeNard

**Goaltenders (3)** .... Brown, O'Brien, Pearce

### By Class

**Seniors (8)** ..... Babin, Bartlett, Brown, Jindra, O'Neill, Paige, Sawatske, Sciba

**Juniors (5)** ..... D'Arcy, Rankin, Sheahan, Van Guilder, VeNard

**Sophomores (5)** .... Condra, Hanson, Pearce, Regan, White

**Freshmen (8)** ..... Blatchford, Carlin, Deeth, Kissel, Lawson, Minella, O'Brien, Thang

# Irish Look To Pick Up Where They Left Off Last Season

*Strong goaltending and a veteran defense will be cornerstone to hockey success*

*for Notre Dame icers in 2006-07*



Senior defenseman Noah Babin is one of three seniors on a veteran Irish defense. Babin recorded career highs in assists (12) and points (15) last season.

When one looks at the Notre Dame hockey team's 2005-06 record, they may not think much of the final 13-19-4 overall mark and the CCHA finish of 11-13-4.

Closer inspection, though, shows the Irish made giant strides in Jeff Jackson's first season guiding the Notre Dame hockey fortunes.

The veteran coach, who has had success everywhere he's been, took a team that finished last in the CCHA in 2004-05, with a 3-20-5 record, and saw the Irish turn in a 15-point improvement in the standings. The 11-13-4 conference record was good for an eighth-place finish and home ice in the league's new playoff format. Only Miami's 16-point improvement was better than what Notre Dame accomplished.

On Dec. 2, 2005, the Irish record stood at 3-9-1 after a tough, one-goal loss on the road at Western Michigan. From there, Notre Dame would go 10-10-3 over the final 23 games. Only the first-round playoff loss to Alaska could put a damper on the turnaround achieved by the Irish.

The Irish made their turnaround with strong goaltending, a solid defensive style of play and an excellent power play.

For the year, Jackson's icers surrendered just 98 goals for a 2.70 goals-against average, the third-

lowest mark in the history of the Irish hockey program.

Goaltender **David Brown** (Sr., Stoney Creek, Ont.) paced the Irish in goal, appearing over one stretch in 23 consecutive games on the way to a 9-15-4 record with a 2.47 goals-against average and a .915 save percentage. Both totals were the third-best single-season marks respectively. Brown also had two shutouts to add to his career total of six.

**Jordan Pearce** (So., Anchorage, Alaska) was effective in nine appearances, going 4-4-0 with a 3.25 goals-against average and a .882 save percentage.

The defense got stronger as the season went on giving up just 11 goals in a 4-0-1 in the home-ice stretch drive in February.

Offensively, the Irish struggled to score, lighting the lamp just 89 times on the year with 42.6% of their goals (38) coming on the power play. The 89 goals was a 29-goal improvement from the previous season.

The Notre Dame power play finished the year scoring at a 16.6% rate (38 of 229) and led the CCHA in that category with a 19.5% success rate (33 for

169).

Only three players reached double figures in the goals-scored column on the Irish stat sheet with Josh Sciba (17), Tim Wallace (11) and Mike Walsh (10) accounting for 38 lamplighters. Wallace and Walsh both graduated following the '05-'06 season.

Jackson and his coaching staff look forward to getting this season off to a fast start.

"We made great strides last season, but we still have a way to go," says Jackson.

"I thought that we really started to play with confidence in the second half of the season and its important that we don't fall back to the comfort levels of the past. This team has some talent and leadership. It's important that we start the season the way we finished last year."

Just like the second half of last season, the key to any Notre Dame on-ice success will start in goal.

Brown will be the go-to-guy again but its safe to say that both Pearce and incoming freshman **Tom O'Brien** (Mokena, Ill.) will be pushing the senior every day in practice.

The Stoney Creek, Ont., native goes into his final year looking to leave his mark on the Notre Dame record book.

Brown starts the season with the best career goals-against average (2.77) in the program's history and his .909 save percentage ranks second all-time.

Blessed with outstanding tools, Brown became more focused and mentally tougher in the second half of the season.

"David was a major key to our second-half resurgence and if he can start where he finished last year, it will be a huge boost to the team. When he is playing well, the defense and the penalty killing plays with confidence," comments Jackson.

Pearce and O'Brien give the Irish a deep and talented stable of goaltenders.

Even though Pearce didn't play much in the second half (Brown played 23 consecutive games from the beginning of December to the middle of February), he came up with two of the team's biggest efforts on the year.

Pearce replaced Brown in a January game at Northern Michigan, trailing 3-1. The Anchorage, Alaska native went on to slam the door on the Wildcats, stopping all 14 shots he faced as Notre Dame rallied for a 4-3 win. In game two of the CCHA playoffs, Brown injured his ankle in a collision and played just the first 10 minutes. Pearce came on to make 15 saves in a heartbreaking 1-0 loss.

O'Brien played last season in the Eastern Junior Hockey League (EJHL) for the Bridgewater Bandits and was 13-8-2 with a 2.93 goals-against average and a .920 save percentage.

"We will have a more competitive situation in goal this year. Jordan (Pearce) will have another year under his belt. He didn't get to play much in the second half but when he did, he stepped up in some very big games and played well," says Jackson.

"Tom O'Brien makes it even more competitive. He has the ability to play at this level and will push David and Jordan this season.

When the goaltenders are playing well, the defense is usually having a strong game. The Irish have an experienced and veteran corps of defenders that along with the goaltending will be the backbone of the team.

## Goaltenders

### David Brown

Sr. ... 6-0 ... 203  
9-15-4, 2.47 GAA, .915  
save% in '05-'06

### Tom O'Brien

Fr. ... 5-11 ... 193

### Jordan Pearce

So. ... 6-1 ... 207  
4-4-0, 3.25 GAA, .882  
save% in '05-'06

## Defensemen

### Noah Babin

Sr. ... 6-0 ... 190  
3g-12a, 35 GP in '05-'06

### Brett Blatchford

Fr. ... 5-11 ... 190

### Brian D'Arcy

Jr. ... 6-2 ... 202  
0g-0a, 5 GP in '05-'06

### Kyle Lawson

Fr. ... 5-11 ... 205

### Wes O'Neill

Sr. ... 6-4 ... 231  
6g-19a, 35 GP in '05-'06

### Tom Sawatske

Sr. ... 5-11 ... 196  
2g-2a, 32 GP in '05-'06

### Brock Sheahan

Jr. ... 6-0 ... 180  
0g-8a, 36 GP in '05-'06

### Dan VeNard

Jr. ... 6-1 ... 190  
1g-1a, 29 GP in '05-'06

Jackson will be able to call on a trio of senior defenders. That group consists of **Wes O'Neill** (Essex, Ont.), **Noah Babin** (Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.) and **Tom Sawatske** (Duluth, Minn.).

O'Neill saw all aspects of his game come together last season as he became one of the top defensemen in the nation. Offensively, the 6-4, 231-pounder finished fourth in scoring with six goals and 19 assists for 25 points. Four of those goals and nine assists came on the power play. This season, he adds a leadership role to his resume as he will serve as one of the team's alternate captains.

"We're counting on Wes to have a break out year. He really showed what he could do in the second half of last season when he was as good as anyone in the league. He should be an all-CCHA and All-American candidate this year," says Jackson.

Babin was second to O'Neill in scoring among Irish defensemen with three goals and 12 assists for 15 points. A mobile defender who supplies excellent offensive skills, Babin will look to have a strong campaign in his final year.

Sawatske rounds out the senior group with a sound defensive style of play. Seeing action with the Irish in his first season after starting his collegiate career at Wisconsin, Sawatske proved to be a steadying force on the Irish blue line, playing in 32 games with two goals and two assists for four points. He joins O'Neill as one of the team's alternate captains in his second season at Notre Dame.

"I thought that all three seniors made giant strides last season. Throw in Brock Sheahan, who was our most consistent defenseman last season, and I think we have a top four group of defensemen that is as good as any group in the CCHA. Team them with David (Brown) in goal and we have a pretty solid goaltender and defense," states Jackson.

**Brock Sheahan** (Jr., Lethbridge, Alb.) has been a regular on defense in each of his first two seasons, playing in 72 games with 12 assists. A steady, stay-at-home defender, Sheahan plays a smart, defensive game and avoids mistakes in his own end of the ice. A fierce competitor, Sheahan does not shy away from the physical play in front of the net or in the corners.

Two juniors and two freshmen round out Notre Dame's group of eight defensemen.

Juniors **Dan VeNard** (Vernon Hills, Ill.) and **Brian D'Arcy** (Western Springs, Ill.) are joined by freshmen **Brett Blatchford** (Temperance, Mich.) and **Kyle Lawson** (New Hudson, Mich.).

VeNard has battled injuries throughout his time at Notre Dame, but has seen action in 54 games with two goals and two assists to his credit. A strong skater, VeNard plays smart and

moves the puck well in transition.

D'Arcy is one of the team's hardest workers with a team-first attitude. He's only played in 15 games in his career, but pushes his teammates.

Blatchford and Lawson bring offensive skills to the Irish roster.

Blatchford played three seasons of junior hockey for the Texas Tornado of the North American Hockey League (NAHL) where he helped that team to three NAHL titles

Last season, he had three goals and 46 assists for 49 points in 54 games. A first team all-NAHL selection he finished his career as Texas' all-time assist leader with 90.

Lawson, a 2005 draft choice of the Carolina Hurricanes, played last season with the USHL's Tri-City Storm where he had nine goals and 13 assists in 49 games. Prior to playing in the USHL, Lawson was a two-year member of USA Hockey's National Team Developmental Program.

"We are really adding some talented depth on defense with Brett (Blatchford) and Kyle (Lawson). Brett is a bit of a sleeper, but after seeing him in the national tournament, he showed some strong offensive skills. Kyle is one of the top freshmen defensemen in the country. Both have good vision and make good decisions with the puck," says Jackson.

While the Irish are strong on the defensive side of the puck, its the offensive attack that has held the Irish back.

Notre Dame scored just 2.47 goals-per-game in '05-'06, the fourth-lowest total in the league.

"Scoring was definitely the sore spot last season. Offensively, we have to, as a team, show a willingness and the courage to take the puck to the net, to crash the crease," says Jackson.

Notre Dame's offensive leader last season was sophomore right wing **Erik Condra** (Livonia, Mich.). All he did as a freshman was score six times and add 28 assists for 34 points. A member of the CCHA all-rookie team, Condra led all CCHA freshmen in scoring and was seventh in the nation among rookie scorers.



Sophomore right wing Erik Condra became the first Notre Dame freshman to lead the team in scoring since Jamie Ling '96 in '92-'93. Condra had six goals and 28 assists for 34 points and was named the team's rookie-of-the-year.

Condra capped his first season at Notre Dame by being selected in the seventh round of the 2006 NHL Entry Draft by the Ottawa Senators.

Joining Condra at the top of the scoring list is senior **Josh Sciba** (Westland, Mich.) who led Notre Dame with 17 goals and added 13 assists for 30 points, all career highs. Sciba did a majority of his damage on the power play where he had 10 goals and 10 assists for 20 of his points.

Sciba, who played center last season, could move to left wing this year but will still man the right point on the Irish power play.

A third forward who had a real break out season was junior **Mark Van Guilder**. A tough, rugged forward, the Roseville, Minn., native showed a knack for scoring important goals all season long.

Van Guilder had eight goals and 18 assists for 26 points, all career highs. Playing in all situations, he had six power-play goals and a short-handed tally on his record.

"It will be important for Erik (Condra), Josh (Sciba) and Mark (Van Guilder) to start the season the way they finished last year," says Jackson.

"They really carried the offense last year and worked well on our top power-play unit with Wes O'Neill and Mike Walsh. Moving Josh to the point was a key decision. It really let us take advantage of his shot and his ability to handle the puck. The key this year will be to find that second power-play group to take some of the heat off the top unit."

After Van Guilder's 26-point season, the top returning scorer at forward is senior right wing **T.J. Jindra** (Faribault, Minn.). The team's captain for the second season, Jindra had two goals and six assists for eight points.

An outstanding defensive forward, Jindra will be a key to improving Notre Dame's penalty-killing unit along with the likes of **Jason Paige** (Sr., Saginaw, Mich.) and **Michael Bartlett** (Sr., Morton Grove, Ill.).

### Left Wings

#### Michael Bartlett

Sr. ... 5-11 ... 205  
2g-5a, 31 GP in '05-'06

#### Garrett Regan

So. ... 5-11 ... 180  
3g-4a, 30 GP in '05-'06

#### Josh Sciba

Sr. ... 5-11 ... 194  
17g-13a, 35 GP in '05-'06

#### Justin White

So. ... 6-0 ... 195  
0g-0a, 9 GP in '05-'06

### Centers

#### Kevin Deeth

Fr. ... 5-7 ... 161

#### Christian Hanson

So. ... 6-4 ... 214  
1g-2a, 23 GP in '05-'06

#### Dan Kissel

Fr. ... 5-9 ... 166

#### Jason Paige

Sr. ... 6-0 ... 208  
4g-1a, 36 GP in '05-'06

#### Mark Van Guilder

Jr. ... 6-2 ... 207  
8g-18a, 36 GP in '05-'06

### Right Wings

#### Stewart Carlin

Fr. ... 5-11 ... 194

#### Erik Condra

So. ... 6-0 ... 197  
6g-28a, 36 GP in '05-'06

#### T.J. Jindra

Sr. ... 5-11 ... 201  
2g-6a, 32 GP in '05-'06

#### Christiaan Minella

Fr. ... 6-1 ... 217

#### Evan Rankin

Jr. ... 6-1 ... 197  
3g-2a, 29 GP in '05-'06

#### Ryan Thang

Fr. ... 6-0 ... 188

# Season Preview

A premier shot blocker, Jindra will do whatever it takes to help his team win.

Joining him in that category is fellow senior and center Jason Paige. One of the CCHA's top face-off men, Paige had four goals and an assist last season while playing in every game. He has scored as many as 10 goals in his career and will look to get back near those totals this season. Paige is one of the team's true leaders as he will serve as an alternate captain for the third consecutive season. Several returnees will look to pick up some of the offensive slack lost due to the graduation of Wallace, Mike Walsh and Matt Amado. Those three accounted for 29 goals and 24 assists in 36 games.

"We will be looking for the sophomores and juniors to have breakout seasons the way Sciba and Van Guilder did last year," states Jackson.

"There are several players on this team that have had strong offensive seasons at other levels and will be looking to do the same thing here, players like Christian Hanson, Evan Rankin and Michael Bartlett come to mind."

**Christian Hanson** (Venetia, Pa.), a sophomore, returns at center. At 6-4, 214-pounds he is one of the biggest players on the team and can use his size and hockey skills to add to the Irish offense.

A key face-off man for Notre Dame, Hanson had just one goal and two assists last season, but was the leading scorer at Tri-City two years ago. He's got great size and good hands.

**Evan Rankin** (Jr., Portage, Mich.) is in his third season with the Irish and has showed flashes of his offensive skill throughout his first two seasons. He had three goals and two assists in 29 games as a sophomore but was the top freshman scorer in '04-'05 with five goals and five assists for 10 points.

**Michael Bartlett** (Sr., Morton Grove, Ill.) checked in with two goals and five assists last season and usually sees action at left wing. A strong skater, he's been one of the team's top defensive forwards and has excelled on the penalty-killing unit.

Also looking for an opportunity to see more playing time on the left side are a pair of sophomore left wings, **Garrett Regan** (Hastings, Minn.) and **Justin White** (Traverse City, Mich.).

Regan played in 30 games last season, picking up three goals and four assists for seven points. He's got outstanding speed and the ability to stretch defenses.

White saw limited duty a year ago, playing in nine games. A hard-working forward, White continues to improve all aspects of his game and will battle for more ice time this season.

Jackson will also look to five freshmen forwards to find their niche in the Irish offense.

Three of the newcomers will look to break in on the right side. That group consists of **Stewart Carlin** (Jeannette, Pa.), **Christiaan Minella** (Aurora, Colo.) and **Ryan Thang** (Edina, Minn.).

Carlin gives the Irish coaching staff a versatile player. A defenseman by trade, he will see duty at forward this season due to having eight other defensemen on the roster.

He comes to Notre Dame after playing last year for the USHL's Chicago Steel. A strong skater who makes good decisions with the puck, Carlin registered seven goals and 17 assists to lead all Steel defensemen in scoring and ranked 10th among USHL defenders.

Minella joins the Irish after three seasons with the Sioux City Musketeers. A big, rugged forward (6-1,



Senior Josh Sciba became one of the CCHA's top goal scorers in 2005-06. Sciba led the Irish with 17 goals with 10 coming on the power play. His goals, assists (13), points (30) and power-play goals were all career highs.

217), Minella had his best season a year ago with 24 goals and 14 assists for 38 points, including eight power-play goals. Strong in the corners and in front of the net, he brings a gritty style to the Irish front-line and could become a fixture in front of the net on the power play.

Thang is another power forward who has no objections in going hard to the net to make life miserable for opposing goaltenders and defensemen. At 6-0, 188, Thang is an excellent two-way forward.

In '05-'06, he played the first part of the season with Sioux City and then was traded to Omaha. Between the two outposts, Thang had 23 goals and 29 assists for 52 points in 57 games. Included in those goal totals were four power plays, three short-handed markers and two game winners. One number that stands out on Thang's stat line is the fact that he led the USHL with a +34 +/- rating.

The two remaining freshmen are highly skilled playmakers. **Kevin Deeth** (Gig Harbor, Wash.) and **Dan Kissel** (Crestwood, Ill.) both had strong seasons in their final USHL campaigns.

Deeth played for the Green Bay Gamblers where he was second in scoring with 20 goals and 34 assists with six power-play goals, two shorties and two game winners. At 5-7, 161 pounds he uses his speed and darting style to open the ice for his linemates and make plays. He will see action at either left wing or center, depending on how other positions are filled.

Kissel was a teammate of Carlin with the Chicago Steel. He scored 17 goals and added 27 assists to finish third in scoring with 44 points. At 5-9, 166 pounds, Kissel plays an aggressive style and has a nice scoring touch around the net.

"Our freshmen are going to have a chance to contribute this season. Thang and Minella play that tough, gritty style that we need to play. They have that willingness to go to the net and win the battles in front. Deeth is an intelligent and skilled player who makes plays. Kissel plays with an edge to his game and should be one of our centers and Carlin gives us some versatility. He'll see time for us this year at forward and back on defense if the need aris-

es. We will be looking for a couple of these guys to fill the openings left by the graduations of Tim Wallace, Mike Walsh and Matt Amado."

One area that Jackson expects to concentrate on this preseason is the team's penalty killing that struggled early last year but got better as the season went on. For the year, the Irish surrendered 43 power-play goals in 227 chances for an 81.1% success rate.

Jackson knows that improvement here is a key.

"We have to improve our penalty killing. The key to a successful PK is your goaltending and core of defensemen. When David (Brown) started playing with confidence, we got much better. During the first half of the year we were devastated on the PK, but got it above 80% for the year. In the second half we were around 85%," explains Jackson.

"We have a solid group up front with guys like Jindra, Paige, Van Guilder, Condra, Regan and Bartlett. I would like to see us combine for 105% between the

two special teams. To reach that goal is a good objective."

Notre Dame plays an interesting schedule in '06-'07 as they will spend most of October on the road.

In the CCHA, the Irish are teamed with Bowling Green, Alaska and Nebraska-Omaha in the same cluster and will face each team twice, home-and-away.

Notre Dame has just two home-and-home series this year versus Michigan and Michigan State. The Irish will face Miami, Northern Michigan and Ferris State in two-game home series and travel to Lake Superior, Ohio State and Western Michigan for two games each.

The non-league schedule includes a home-and-home season-opening series with Minnesota State, a road trip to Boston College and Providence and then a trip to Florida to host the Lightning College Hockey Classic in Tampa, Fla., at the end of October. Air Force, Alabama-Huntsville and Army will provide the opposition in that tournament. The Irish close the non-league schedule in January with a home-and-home series against Robert Morris.

"The schedule will be a challenge for us. It isn't easy by any means," says Jackson.

"We will hit some bumps in the road early with all the road games in October. That's not necessarily a bad thing. We'll be road warriors and that can help a team bond and can be a good experience."

He continues, "The CCHA will be tough and challenging as it always is. Things will be tight again and it wouldn't surprise me if the team finishing eighth, like last year, is just three or four points out of fourth place. It's very competitive."

Jackson will look for his team to take another step forward in '06-'07.

"We still need to learn how to win, learn to have confidence in each other. Confidence breeds more confidence. We started to develop that last season and its important not to fall back. This team has to outwork, out compete and out smart our opponents. If we can do that, I believe that a reachable goal is finishing among the top four in the CCHA," says Jackson.