

NOTRE DAME PREVIEW



Senior Mark

Van Guilder will lead Notre Dame into the 2007-08 season. The versatile forward had career highs in goals (18) and points (34) last season and has played in every game of his Irish career (116).



2007-08 Notre Dame Personnel Breakdown

Top Returnees (yr. pos.... 2006-07 stats)

Evan Rankin (Sr., RW, 31 GP, 4-3-7)	Tenacious forechecker who will look to add to his offensive numbers in '07-08
Brock Sheahan (Sr., D, 42 GP, 3-5-8)	Hard-nosed defender; finalist for 2007 CCHA top defensive defenseman
Mark Van Guilder (Sr., C/LW, 42 GP, 18-16-34)	Team leader on and off the ice; had career highs in goals (18) and points (34)
Dan VeNard (Sr., D, 17 GP, 0-4-4)	Steady, all-around defender who will be one of the leaders on the Irish blue line
Erik Condra (Jr., RW, 42 GP, 14-24-38)	Team's top scorer for second year in a row; honorable mention all-CCHA
Christian Hanson (Jr., C, 33 GP, 6-2-8)	Top returning face-off man; had developed into one of CCHA's top defensive forwards
Luke Lucyk (Jr., D ... DNP)	Returns to the Irish lineup after playing last year in the USHL with Tri-City
Jordan Pearce (Jr., G, 3 GP, 2-1-0, 2.01, .895 sv%, 1 shutout)	Top returning goaltender; owns 6-5-1 record in 12 games with a 2.89 goals-against avg.
Garrett Regan (Jr., LW, 42 GP, 14-12-26)	ND's most improved player in '06-'07; had career highs in goals, assists and points
Brett Blatchford (So., D, 30 GP, 2-15-17)	Solid defenseman with excellent offensive skills
Kevin Deeth (So., C, 42 GP, 17-22-39)	Selected to CCHA all-rookie team; was third in scoring with the Irish
Dan Kissel (So., LW, 22 GP, 6-3-9)	Speedy left wing who had six goals in 22 games; two ppg, one shg and three gwg
Kyle Lawson (So., D, 38 GP, 4-15-19)	CCHA all-rookie team member; steady, consistent defender; was +21 on season
Christiaan Minella (So., 21 GP, 1-5-6)	Big, physical forward who opens the ice with his punishing hits
Ryan Thang (So., 42 GP, 20-21-41)	Picked to the CCHA all-rookie team; eighth Irish freshman to score 20 goals

Key Losses (yr. pos.... 2006-07 stats)

Noah Babin (Gr., D, 42 GP, 2-20-22)	Honorable mention all-CCHA; led Irish defensemen in scoring
Michael Bartlett (Gr., LW, 42 GP, 3-8-11)	Solid two-way player; turned in career-high in assists; had one game winner
David Brown (Gr., G, 39 GP, 30-6-3, 1.58, .931 sv%, 6 shutouts)	First-team All-American; Hobey Baker finalist; CCHA most valuable player
T.J. Jindra (Gr., RW, 41 GP, 2-7-9)	Two-year team captain, all-around team leader on and off the ice
Wes O'Neill (Gr., D, 42 GP, 3-18-21)	Two-time ND top defenseman ('05, '06); CCHA all-tournament team; NCAA all-regional
Jason Paige (Gr., C, 42 GP, 11-11-22)	Had career highs in goals, assists and points; three-year alternate captain
Tom Sawatske (Gr., D, 41 GP, 3-5-8)	One of three senior defensemen on a veteran blue line
Josh Sciba (Gr., LW/C, 33 GP, 8-10-18)	Power-play sniper who finished career with 19 ppgs

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

Robin Bergman	F ... Fr ... 6-0/195 ... Stockholm, Sweden/Cedar Rapids RoughRiders (USHL)
Ian Cole	D ... Fr ... 6-1/215 ... Ann Arbor, MI/U.S. Under-18 Team
Ryan Guentzel	F ... Fr ... 6-0/176 ... Woodbury, MN/Sioux Falls Stampede (USHL)
Brad Phillips	G ... Fr ... 6-2/171 ... Farmington Hills, MI/U.S. Under-18 Team
Calle Ridderwall	F ... Fr ... 5-11/172 ... Stockholm, Sweden/Tri-City Storm (USHL)
Teddy Ruth	D ... Fr ... 6-0/201 ... Naperville, IL/U.S. Under-18 Team
Ben Ryan	F ... Fr ... 5-11/190 ... Brighton, MI/Des Moines Buccaneers (USHL)

ALL-AMERICAN HONORS - Goaltender **David Brown '07** (Stoney Creek, Ont.) was selected as a first team RBK Hockey West Team All-American for his play during the 2006-07 season. He became Notre Dame's first All-American since 1999 when **Benoit Cotnoir '99** was a second team choice. Brown is the first Notre Dame first teamer since **Kirt Bjork '83** was a first team choice in 1983. Brown was named the CCHA player and goaltender of the year as he led the nation in wins (30), goals-against average (1.58), was second in save percentage (.931) and shutouts (6). A first team all-CCHA selection, Brown was a finalist for the Hobey Baker Award and won the Lowes Senior CLASS Award. He also made the CCHA all-tournament team and was the tournament MVP to cap his Irish career.

BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE - Notre Dame hockey games became a tough ticket during the 2006-07 season as the Irish closed out their home schedule last year with eight consecutive sellouts. From Dec. 10 until the end of the year, Notre Dame played in front of capacity crowds in 10 of its 11 games. For the year, the Irish had 11 sellouts (2,763) in 17 home dates and averaged 2,478 fans per game.

CAPTAINS - Senior right wing **Mark Van Guilder** (Roseville, Minn.) will serve as Notre Dame's captain for the 2007-08 season. Joining Van Guilder as alternate captains in '07-'08, are senior defensemen **Brock Sheahan** (Lethbridge, Alb.) and **Dan VeNard** (Vernon Hills, Ill.). They will be joined by junior forward **Erik Condra** (Livonia, Mich.). This is the first season for all four players to serve as captains at Notre Dame.

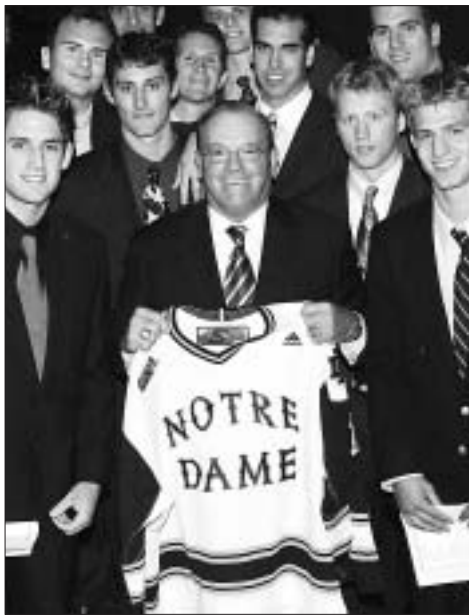
CCHA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE - For the second consecutive season, **Jason Paige** (Saginaw, Mich.) was Notre Dame's representative on the CCHA Scholar-Athlete team. Paige was one of 12 players (one from each school) selected to the team by the league's faculty representatives. Paige finished his Notre Dame career with a 3.61 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 must 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 Globbe** (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 third season in a row, the Irish will open the year with the "Drop The Puck Reception" at the Joyce Center. This year's event will take place on Oct. 10 with former Detroit Red Wings' player and current team vice-president Steve Yzerman serving as guest speaker. This year's reception will take place prior to the annual Blue/Gold intrasquad scrimmage. Yzerman joins Chicago Blackhawk TV analyst **Ed Olczyk** who was the guest speaker at the 2006 dinner and **Scotty Bowman** who handled the honors at the first one on Sept. 6, 2005 with over 400 fans in attendance. Bowman, who won nine Stanley Cups in his illustrious coaching career, also was 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 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.

FRESHMEN FEATS - Notre Dame placed three players on the CCHA all-rookie team in 2007. Forwards **Kevin Deeth** (Gig Harbor, Wash.) and **Ryan Thang** (Edina, Minn.) were joined by



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.

defenseman **Kyle Lawson** (New Hudson, Mich.). Notre Dame became the third school in CCHA history to have three players on the all-rookie team, joining Michigan (five times) and Michigan State (once). The 1993-94 Michigan team set the record with four freshmen named to that team. Thang became the first Irish freshman to score 20 or more goals in a season since **Dave Poulin** '82 had 28 in his rookie year of 1978-79. His 20 goals were the sixth most by a Notre Dame freshman while his 41 points tied for eighth best. Deeth's 17 goals tied him for the eighth-best total and his 39 points tied him for 10th among Irish freshmen.

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 2007-08 Notre Dame hockey team features players from eight states, one Canadian province and Sweden. Over the past 13 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, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. This season, freshmen **Robin Bergman** (Stockholm) and **Calle Ridderwall** (Stockholm) become the first Notre Dame hockey players from Sweden.

2007-08 NOTRE DAME HOCKEY

- BY STATE, COUNTRY OR PROVINCE:

- Michigan (8):** Evan Rankin, Erik Condra, Justin White, Brett Blatchford, Kyle Lawson, Ian Cole, Brad Phillips, Ben Ryan
- Illinois (5):** Brian D'Arcy, Dan VeNard, Dan Kissel, Tom O'Brien, Teddy Ruth
- Minnesota (4):** Mark Van Guilder, Garrett Regan, Ryan Thang, Ryan Guentzel
- Sweden (2):** Robin Bergman, Calle Ridderwall
- Pennsylvania (2):** Christian Hanson, Stewart Carlin
- Alaska (1):** Jordan Pearce
- Alberta (1):** Brock Sheahan
- Colorado (1):** Christiaan Minella
- Washington (1):** Kevin Deeth
- Wisconsin (1):** Luke Lucyk

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. Senior center **Mark Van Guilder** is next in line as he now has played in every game in his first three seasons, a total of 116 consecutive games.

KNOCKING OFF NO. 1: On Oct. 21, 2006, Notre Dame and Boston College met for the third consecutive time with the Eagles ranked No. 1 in the nation. And, for the third consecutive time, the Irish handed the top-ranked Eagles a loss, this time by a 7-1 margin at Chestnut Hill. In the previous two meetings ('03-'04 and '04-'05), the Irish also came away with victories against the No. 1 ranked Eagles. In 2004-05, Notre Dame knocked off the 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 **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.

- 10/21/06 - vs. Boston College, 7-1
- 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

LEADER OF THE PACK - Notre Dame head coach **Jeff Jackson** begins his third season behind the Irish bench in 2007-08. In his first two years he has compiled a 45-26-7 (.622) recorded, highlighted by last season's 32-7-3 campaign. He was named the CCHA coach-of-the-year and followed that with the Spencer Penrose Award as the national coach-of-the-year. Jackson enters the '07-'08 season with the best winning percentage among Division I coaches with five or more years. His current overall record stands at 227-78-32 for a .721 winning percentage. His 227 wins rank him 21st 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 272 career wins are 41 postseason victories and a .804 winning percentage (41-10 in postseason). In eight trips to the CCHA postseason, Jackson's teams are 28-4 (.875). Those totals include a 24-2 mark at

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 3.35 team grade-point-average in the spring of 2007 semester. Twenty-two players had 3.0 grade points or better while 19 were 3.2 or higher, including 4.0 semesters by seniors **David Brown** and **Josh Sciba**. For the year, the squad had a 3.31 cumulative team GPA (3.27 in the fall) at the end of the 2006-07 academic year.

- Five players on the 2006-07 team posted at least one Dean's List semester during the season. Freshman goaltender **Tom O'Brien** had his first Dean's List semester in the fall while **David Brown**, **Brian D'Arcy**, **Josh Sciba** and **Mark Van Guilder** made the list in the spring. D'Arcy, a senior, has been on the Dean's List in five of his six semesters at Notre Dame. Van Guilder, also a senior was selected for the first time.

- Graduated senior **Jason Paige** was Notre Dame's CCHA Scholar-Athlete selection in '06-'07 with a 3.61 grade-point average in finance. He was also selected to the team as a junior.

- Notre Dame hockey players have combined to post 21 perfect 4.0 semesters during the past 11 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**, one each by 2007 graduates **David Brown** and **Josh Sciba**, three by senior **Brian D'Arcy** (both semesters of freshman year) and one by junior **Jordan Pearce**.

- Notre Dame's hockey program has produced five Academic All-Americans over the past 10 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, and **David Brown**, a 2007 graduate, were selected to the Region V all-Academic team but did not make the national squad.

Lake Superior and a 4-2 record at Notre Dame. In those eight seasons, Jackson has seen his teams advance to the CCHA finals seven times, winning five of tournament championships (four at Lake Superior and one at Notre Dame).

MR. ZERO - Graduated Notre Dame goaltender **David Brown '07** set a pair of Notre Dame shutout records in 2006-07. His six blankings were a single-season record, breaking his previous record of four. For his career, Brown took over the career record for shutouts as he finished with 12 shutouts over his four seasons.

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 Irish played in front of eight consecutive sellouts from Jan. 26 to March 10 to close the 2006-07 regular season. For the year, Notre Dame played in front of 11 sell-out crowds in 17 home games. Since the 1995-96 season, the Irish have played in front of 70 sellout crowds, including 24 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 shut outs 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

95:18

The elapsed time of the longest game in Notre Dame hockey history (March 23, 2007). **Ryan Thang's** goal at 15:18 of the second overtime gave the Irish a 3-2 win versus Alabama-Huntsville in the NCAA Midwest Regional. The win was the first NCAA tournament win for Notre Dame. The previous longest game was 80:40 and set in the 2002 CCHA playoffs at Nebraska-Omaha

88

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

47

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



Notre Dame placed three players on the CCHA all-rookie team, becoming just the third team in CCHA history along with Michigan (five times) and Michigan State (once) to accomplish the feat. The 2007 CCHA all-rookie team from left to right: Eddie Del Grosso (Nebraska-Omaha), Ryan Thang (Notre Dame), Kevin Deeth (Notre Dame), Chris Moynes (RBC Financial), Kyle Lawson (Notre Dame), Mark Letestu (Western Michigan) and Riley Gill (Western Michigan).

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., Nationsbank 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-



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.

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 educational 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 has participated in two NCAA Tournaments in the program's history. The first time came in the 2003-04 season when they advanced to the Midwest Regional, losing 5-2 to Minnesota in the opening game. Last season, Notre Dame made its' second trip, this time as the top seed in the Midwest Regional at Grand Rapids, Mich. The Irish won the opening game, 3-2 in double overtime versus Alabama-Huntsville. They then lost in the regional final, a 2-1 loss to eventual champion, Michigan State.

NHL DRAFTEES -

The Irish have seven players on the 2007-08 roster who have been selected in the National Hockey League's Entry Draft. Last June, a total of five Notre Dame players were selected. Leading the way was freshman defenseman **Ian Cole** (Ann Arbor, Mich.) who was a first-round selection of the St. Louis Blues who took him with the 18th pick overall. Cole became the first Irish player ever selected in the first round and was selected earlier than any other Notre Dame player (**Rob Globke '04** was the previous highest selection when he was picked 40th overall by Florida in 2002). Cole was followed by fellow freshman defenseman **Teddy Ruth** (Naperville, Ill.) who went in the second round, 46th overall to the Washington Capitals. Sophomore **Ryan Thang** (Edina, Minn.) was selected in the third round, 81st overall by the Nashville Predators. Incoming freshman **Ben Ryan** (Brighton, Mich.) joined Thang when the Predators made him the 114th pick (fourth round). Freshman goaltender **Brad Phillips** (Farmington Hills, Mich.) rounded out the Notre Dame selections in the last draft when the



Goaltender David Brown (second from left) became the second Notre Dame player to be selected first team all-CCHA, joining Benoit Cotnoir '99, who made the team in 1999. Joining Brown on the first team are: Back row – Mike Santorelli (Northern Michigan) and Scott Parse (Nebraska-Omaha). Front row – Matt Hunwick (Michigan), Brown, CCHA Commissioner Tom Anastos, Jack Johnson (Michigan) and T.J. Hensick (Michigan).

Philadelphia Flyers selected him in the seventh round, 182nd overall. Those five join junior right wing **Erik Condra** (Livonia, Mich.) who was selected in the seventh round, 211th overall by the Ottawa Senators in 2006 and sophomore defenseman **Kyle Lawson** (New Hudson, Mich.) who was selected in the 2005 NHL Draft by the Carolina Hurricanes in the seventh round, 198th overall.

NUMERO UNO – For the first time in the program's 40-year history, Notre Dame reached number one in the nation status during the 2006-07 season. The Irish moved into the top spot in both the *USA Today/American Hockey Magazine* and USCHO.com/CSTV polls on Mon., Feb. 5, 2007 and remained there for seven consecutive weeks through March 25. The Irish finished the year ranked fourth in the USA Today poll that covers the entire season and finished number one in the USCHO.com poll that ended with the finish of the regular season.

PLAYING IN THE NHL – Four former Notre Dame players saw playing time in the National Hockey League during the 2006-07 season. The group included: **Rob Globke** '04 (Florida), **Brett Lebeda** '04 (Detroit), **Mark Eaton** (Pittsburgh) and **Yan Stastny** (Boston). This season, three 2007 graduates are in NHL training camps. That includes: defenseman **Noah Babin** (Carolina), goaltender **David Brown** (Pittsburgh) and defenseman **Wes O'Neill** (Colorado).

POWER-PLAY LEADER – For the second season in a row, a Notre Dame player tied for second in the CCHA in power-play goals. Freshman left wing **Ryan Thang** (Edina, Minn.) tied for second in the conference with 10 power-play goals last season. The previous year, **Josh Sciba** '07 (Westland, Mich.) also tied for second with 10 power-play goals. Thang and Sciba's 10 man-advantage goals tie him for 10th on Notre Dame's single-season list with **Ben Simon** '00 and **Dave Poulin** '82, who did it twice in 1978-79 and 1981-82.

PUTTING ON THE FOIL – Notre Dame junior **Christian Hanson** (Venetia, Pa.) is 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 sixth 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 2007-08, Notre Dame will play Bowling Green, Ferris State and Bowling Green 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 Lake Superior, Nebraska-Omaha and Ohio State while playing two-game road series at Alaska, Miami and Northern Michigan. Last year, the Irish were 10-1-1 against Bowling Green, Alaska and Nebraska-Omaha, the three teams in their cluster.

WORST TO FIRST – Just two seasons ago (2004-05), Notre Dame was 5-27-6 overall and finished last in the CCHA with a 3-20-5 record. In the CCHA's 35-year history, no team has ever gone from worst-to-first in one season. There have been three teams go from worst to first in a two-season span. They are:

1975-76 Bowling Green – Falcons finished last in 1973-74 in a three team conference and finished first in '75-'76 in a five-team league.

1992-93 Miami – RedHawks were last in 1990-91 with nine points in a nine-team conference. They finished first in 1992-93 with 49 points in a 12-team conference for a 40-point improvement over two seasons.

2006-07 Notre Dame – Irish were last in 2004-05 with 11 points in a 12-team conference. In '06-'07, the Irish took first place with 45 points for a 34-point improvement over two seasons.

Notre Dame Hockey by the Numbers

32

The number of wins achieved by the Notre Dame hockey team during its' record-setting season in 2006-07. The Irish were 32-7-3 for the year

21

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

18

The spot in the 2007 NHL Entry Draft where the St. Louis Blues selected Irish defenseman **Ian Cole**. That makes him the first Notre Dame player ever selected in the first round of the NHL Draft and the earliest any Irish player has ever been selected in the draft

15

Million dollars – the amount of a gift to the University of Notre Dame from an anonymous donor to underwrite construction of a permanent hockey arena in the Joyce Center

12

Notre Dame career record for shutouts set by **David Brown** (2003-07) during his Notre Dame career

6:50

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

4.0

Semester G.P.A. posted 21 times by Notre Dame hockey players during the past 10 years - senior **Brian D'Arcy** had three 4.0 semesters in his first four semesters at Notre Dame and junior **Jordan Pearce** had one in 2005-06

1.58

The lowest single-season goals-against average by an Irish goaltender. **David Brown** turned that in during his record-setting senior year, the 2006-07 season

#1

Notre Dame's ranking in the 2006-07 national hockey polls from Feb. 5 to March 23, 2007, a seven-week span. This marked the first time in the program's history that the Irish were ranked No. 1 in the nation

.931

The top single-season save percentage by a Notre Dame goaltender - set by **David Brown** as a senior in 2006-07

: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

2007-08 University of Notre Dame Hockey Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	R/L	Birthdate	Hometown	Previous Team
1	Jordan Pearce	G	6-1	205	Jr.	L	10/10/86	Anchorage, AK	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
2	Kyle Lawson	D	5-11	207	So.	R	1/11/87	New Hudson, MI	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
3	Brett Blatchford	D	5-11	202	So.	L	6/5/86	Temperance, MI	Texas Tornado (NAHL)
4	Dan VeNard	D	6-1	198	Sr.	R	10/5/85	Vernon Hills, IL	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
5	Teddy Ruth	D	6-0	201	Fr.	R	2/14/89	Naperville, IL	USA National Under-18 Team
9	Ryan Thang	LW	6-0	200	So.	R	5/11/87	Edina, MN	Omaha Lancers (USHL)
10	Justin White	C/LW	6-0	195	Jr.	L	4/23/85	Traverse City, MI	Sioux Falls Stampede (USHL)
11	Erik Condra	RW	6-0	202	Jr.	R	8/6/86	Livonia, MI	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
12	Stewart Carlin	D	5-11	203	So.	R	7/12/85	Jeannette, PA	Chicago Steel (USHL)
14	Brock Sheahan	D	6-0	191	Sr.	L	5/6/84	Lethbridge, ALB	Crowsnest Pass Timberwolves (AJHL)
15	Christiaan Minella	RW	6-1	216	So.	R	7/5/85	Aurora, CO	Sioux City Musketeers (USHL)
16	Dan Kissel	LW	5-9	178	So.	L	1/25/87	Crestwood, IL	Chicago Steel (USHL)
17	Robin Bergman	LW	6-0	195	Fr.	L	7/12/88	Stockholm, SWE	Cedar Rapids RoughRiders (USHL)
18	Evan Rankin	RW	6-1	205	Sr.	R	3/28/86	Portage, MI	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
19	Ben Ryan	C	5-11	190	Fr.	R	10/16/88	Brighton, MI	Des Moines Buccaneers (USHL)
20	Luke Lucyk	D	6-0	203	Jr.	L	5/5/86	Fox Point, WI	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
21	Kevin Deeth	C	5-7	172	So.	L	5/26/87	Gig Harbor, WA	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
22	Calle Ridderwall	LW	5-11	172	Fr.	L	5/28/88	Stockholm, SWE	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
23	Mark Van Guilder	C	6-2	207	Sr.	R	1/17/84	Roseville, MN	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
24	Brian D'Arcy	RW	6-2	201	Sr.	R	6/29/84	Western Springs, IL	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
25	Christian Hanson	C	6-4	225	Jr.	R	3/10/86	Venetia, PA	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
27	Ryan Guentzel	RW/C	6-0	176	Fr.	R	7/14/86	Woodbury, MN	Sioux City Musketeers (USHL)
28	Ian Cole	D	6-1	215	Fr.	L	6-1/215	Ann Arbor, MI	USA National Under-18 Team
30	Brad Phillips	G	6-2	171	Fr.	L	4/22/89	Farmington Hills, MI	USA National Under-18 Team
31	Tom O'Brien	G	5-11	187	So.	L	4/28/87	Mokena, IL	Bridgewater Bandits (EJHL)
33	Garrett Regan	LW	5-11	198	Jr.	L	4/23/85	Hastings, MN	Waterloo Black Hawks (USHL)

Head Coach: Jeff Jackson (Michigan State '78; 3rd 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)

Coordinator of Hockey Operations: Brad Aldrich

Athletic Trainer: Kevin Ricks

Equipment Specialist: Dave Gilbert

Senior Manager: Andrew Gathof '08

Pronunciation Guide

24	Brian Darcy
27	Ryan Gent-Zuhl
16	Dan KISS-el
20	Luke LEW-sick
15	Chris-tyun Mih-Nella
22	Cal-lee Rih-DER-wall
14	Brock SHE-han
4	Dan Veh-Nard

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

2007-08 University of Notre Dame Hockey Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	R/L	Birthdate	Hometown	Previous Team
17	Robin Bergman	LW	6-0	195	Fr.	L	7/12/88	Stockholm, SWE	Cedar Rapids RoughRiders (USHL)
3	Brett Blatchford	D	5-11	202	So.	L	6/5/86	Temperance, MI	Texas Tornado (NAHL)
12	Stewart Carlin	D	5-11	203	So.	R	7/12/85	Jeannette, PA	Chicago Steel (USHL)
28	Ian Cole	D	6-1	215	Fr.	L	6-1/215	Ann Arbor, MI	USA National Under-18 Team
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21	Kevin Deeth	C	5-7	172	So.	L	5/26/87	Gig Harbor, WA	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
27	Ryan Guentzel	RW/C	6-0	176	Fr.	R	7/14/86	Woodbury, MN	Sioux City Musketeers (USHL)
25	Christian Hanson	C	6-4	225	Jr.	R	3/10/86	Venetia, PA	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
16	Dan Kissel	LW	5-9	178	So.	L	1/25/87	Crestwood, IL	Chicago Steel (USHL)
2	Kyle Lawson	D	5-11	207	So.	R	1/11/87	New Hudson, MI	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
20	Luke Lucyk	D	6-0	203	Jr.	L	5/5/86	Fox Point, WI	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
15	Christiaan Minella	RW	6-1	216	So.	R	7/5/85	Aurora, CO	Sioux City Musketeers (USHL)
31	Tom O'Brien	G	5-11	187	So.	L	4/28/87	Mokena, IL	Bridgewater Bandits (EJHL)
1	Jordan Pearce	G	6-1	205	Jr.	L	10/10/86	Anchorage, AK	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
30	Brad Phillips	G	6-2	171	Fr.	L	4/22/89	Farmington Hills, MI	USA National Under-18 Team
18	Evan Rankin	RW	6-1	205	Sr.	R	3/28/86	Portage, MI	Lincoln Stars (USHL)
33	Garrett Regan	LW	5-11	198	Jr.	L	4/23/85	Hastings, MN	Waterloo Black Hawks (USHL)
22	Calle Ridderwall	LW	5-11	172	Fr.	L	5/28/88	Stockholm, SWE	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
5	Teddy Ruth	D	6-0	201	Fr.	R	2/14/89	Naperville, IL	USA National Under-18 Team
19	Ben Ryan	C	5-11	190	Fr.	R	10/16/88	Brighton, MI	Des Moines Buccaneers (USHL)
14	Brock Sheahan	D	6-0	191	Sr.	L	5/6/84	Lethbridge, ALB	Crowsnest Pass Timberwolves (AJHL)
9	Ryan Thang	LW	6-0	200	Fr.	R	5/11/87	Edina, MN	Omaha Lancers (USHL)
23	Mark Van Guilder	C	6-2	207	Sr.	R	1/17/84	Roseville, MN	Tri-City Storm (USHL)
4	Dan VeNard	D	6-1	198	Sr.	R	10/5/85	Vernon Hills, IL	Green Bay Gamblers (USHL)
10	Justin White	LW	6-0	195	Jr.	L	4/23/85	Traverse City, MI	Sioux Falls Stampede (USHL)

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Senior Manager: Andrew Gathof '08

By Position

Centers (4) Deeth, Hanson, Ryan, Van Guilder

Left Wing (6) Bergman, Kissel, Regan, Ridderwall, Thang, White

Right Wing (5) Condra, D'Arcy, Guentzel, Minella, Rankin

Defensemen (8) Blatchford, Carlin, Cole, Lawson, Lucyk, Ruth, Sheahan, VeNard

Goaltenders (3) O'Brien, Pearce, Phillips

By Class

Seniors (5) D'Arcy, Rankin, Sheahan, Van Guilder, VeNard

Juniors (6) Condra, Hanson, Lucyk, Pearce, Regan, White

Sophomores (8) Blatchford, Carlin, Deeth, Kissel, Lawson, Minella, O'Brien, Thang

Freshmen (7) Bergman, Cole, Guentzel, Phillips, Ridderwall, Ruth, Ryan

Irish Icers Enter 40th Season Looking to Build on The "Gold Standard"

Talented hockey squad returns 16 letterwinners from record-setting '06-'07 season



Sophomore defenseman Kyle Lawson is a steady influence on the Irish blue line. A CCHA all-rookie selection in '06-'07, Lawson had four goals and 15 assists in his first season at Notre Dame and was +21 on the year.

The 2006-07 Notre Dame hockey campaign will go down as the best season in the program's first 39 seasons.

The Irish set the standard by which future teams will be judged – 32 wins and a 32-7-3 season, the first CCHA regular-season and tournament championships, seven-consecutive weeks ranked No. 1 in the nation, a regular-season tournament win at the Lightning College Hockey Classic, a Hobey Baker finalist – the list goes on as the "Gold Standard" was set very high.

But, when the 2007-08 version of the team hits the ice versus Wisconsin in the opening game of the Lefty McFadden Invitational on Oct. 12, it will be a different lineup facing the Badgers.

Led by All-American and Hobey Baker finalist, goaltender David Brown, last year's Notre Dame squad achieved its' success with a stifling veteran defense, outstanding special team play, timely scoring and a senior class that provided outstanding leadership.

"This is a new team and it's a new season," says Irish head coach Jeff Jackson, now in his third year behind the Notre Dame bench.

"We have a lot to be proud about from last season, but we have new players with our freshman class and we have guys who will be in different roles. It's natural to talk about last year, but we can't let it impact our approach to this season."

Jackson and his staff return a talented group from a year ago, including the top five scorers. The biggest losses come in goal, on defense and in the leadership department an area where last year's senior class excelled.

A year ago, the Irish led the nation in team goals-against average (1.67), scoring margin (+1.74) and penalty killing (.904) on the way to their second NCAA Tournament appearance. Brown was tops in the nation with 30 wins, a 1.58 goals-against average while tying for second with a .931 save percentage and six shutouts.

Finding a replacement for Brown will be a priority for Jackson.

The top returnee is junior **Jordan Pearce** (Anchorage, Alaska) who has served as Brown's back up the last two seasons. Pearce was 2-1-0 in three appearances a year ago with a 2.01 goals-against average and a .895 save percentage. In 12 career appearances, he was 6-5-0 with a 2.89 goals-against average and a .885 save percentage with a pair of shutouts. Pearce is big at 6-1, 207 and does a great

job of covering the net. He has shown that he can play at a high level in his limited opportunities.

"Jordan (Pearce) has paid his dues and has the ability and respect of his teammates. It's his time and I think he's ready for the challenge of proving himself," says Jackson.

"The key will be him getting some early confidence. He has shown signs of brilliance when he's played in the past."

Joining Pearce in the goaltending rotation are sophomore **Tom O'Brien** (Mokena, Ill.) and freshman **Brad Phillips** (Farmington Hills, Mich.).

O'Brien did not see any game action last year but has an opportunity this season. A technically sound goaltender, the sophomore is one of the hardest working players on the team and will make the goaltending battle a competitive three-way challenge.

"No one works harder than Tommy (O'Brien)," says Jackson. "He will make things competitive this season. He's got a great spirit to compete and should be a factor."

Phillips comes to the Irish from the U.S. National Team Development Program where he had a strong season for the Under-18 team last season. One of the top goaltenders in his age group, Phillips was 15-5-2 last year with a 2.33 goals-against average and a .913 save percentage. The Philadelphia Flyers selected him in the seventh round of the 2007 NHL Entry Draft.

At 6-2, 171 pounds, Phillips is a butterfly goaltender who uses his size and quickness to cover the net.

"I believe that Brad (Phillips) has as much ability as any goaltender that I have recruited," explains Jackson.

"He was up-and-down last year and just needs to regain his confidence. He's got a tremendous work ethic and with his competitiveness and ability can become an elite goaltender."

"It's always tough to when you have to replace someone like David Brown who played so many minutes for us. I believe we have three goaltenders that with experience can give us strong goaltending this season," says Jackson.

A key to Brown's success a year ago was the play of his veteran, senior-led defense. Gone to graduation are Noah Babin, Wes O'Neill and Tom Sawatske, a trio that gobbled up plenty of ice time. Babin was an honorable mention all-CCHA selection while turning in his best season. O'Neill was a four-year regular while Sawatske played a key role in his two seasons with the Irish.

The top returnee on the blue line is senior **Brock Sheahan** (Lethbridge, Alb.) who combined with the three seniors to give Notre Dame a veteran foursome a year ago.

Sheahan is a fierce, fiery defender who will be one of the team's leaders this season. A finalist for the CCHA's top defensive defenseman award as a junior, he scored three goals and added five assists while being +20 on the year.

Sheahan plays a physical, hard-nosed style of defense – blocking shots, battling in the corners and in front of the net – the things that don't show up in the box score.

"Brock will have a big impact on our defense this season," says Jackson.

"There is no one who competes harder. He's got such great intensity and desire on the ice. He leads by example. I think he's one of the best defensive defense-men in the entire country."

Joining Sheahan from the senior class is **Dan VeNard** (Vernon Hills, Ill.). A tenacious defen-

Goaltenders

Tom O'Brien

Fr ... 5-11 ... 193

Jordan Pearce

So ... 6-1 ... 207

4-4-0, 3.25 GAA, .882

save% in '05-'06

Brad Phillips

Fr ... 6-2 ... 171

Defensemen

Brett Blatchford

So ... 5-11 ... 202

2g-15a, 30 GP in '06-'07

Stewart Carlin

So ... 5-11 ... 203

DNP in '06-'07

Ian Cole

Fr ... 6-1 ... 215

Kyle Lawson

So ... 5-11 ... 207

4g-15a, 38 GP in '06-'07

Luke Lucyk

Jr ... 6-0 ... 203

0g-0a, 11 GP in '05-'06

Teddy Ruth

Fr ... 6-0 ... 201

Brock Sheahan

Sr ... 6-0 ... 191

3g-5a, 42 GP in '06-'07

Dan VeNard

Sr ... 6-0 ... 198

0g-4a, 17 GP in '06-'07

sive defenseman, he leads by example on and off the ice.

Throughout his Notre Dame career, he has been a solid contributor but has battled injuries. He played in 17 games last season, picking up four assists and was +9 in those games.

"Dan is one of the most respected players on our team. He's got his priorities in line and is committed to the success of our team," comments Jackson.

A pair of sophomores – **Brett Blatchford** (Temperance, Mich.) and **Kyle Lawson** (New Hudson, Mich.) – round out the returning defensemen.

Blatchford had two goals and 15 assists for 17 points in 30 games and proved to be an outstanding playmaker and power-play performer. He plays a smart, intelligent game and shows poise with the puck.

Lawson was one of three Irish freshmen selected to the CCHA all-rookie team after scoring four goals with 15 assists for 19 points and was +21 for the season. A smooth, steady defenseman, Lawson isn't flashy but contributed in all aspects on the Notre Dame defense.

"Brett really came on as the season progressed and he and Kyle played well together. He's a smart player who knows how to put himself in the right place on the ice," explains Jackson.

"Kyle Lawson played like an upper classmen. He's a very competitive player who isn't flashy but plays a strong, steady game. He's a winner," adds the Irish head coach.

Returning to the Notre Dame defense this season is junior defenseman **Luke Lucyk** (Fox Point, Wis.). He played for the Irish from 2004-06 but returned to his junior team (Tri-City Storm of the USHL) last season to work on his all-around game. With the Storm, Lucyk was second among defensemen in scoring with nine goals and 13 assists in 59 games.

"I give Luke a lot of credit as he made the commitment to get more experience and become a better player by returning to juniors. He is making a fresh start and came back ready to compete for a spot in the lineup," says Jackson.

Sophomore **Stewart Carlin** (Jeannette, Pa.) moves back to defense after spending his freshman year at forward. A strong skater with excellent hockey instincts, he will look to join the regular rotation on defense.

"Stewart has worked hard over the last year. I know it's hard when you aren't playing, but he knows that there are opportunities and the future is now. He's an outstanding representative of the program," explains Jackson.

Two highly touted newcomers – **Ian Cole** (Ann Arbor, Mich.) and **Teddy Ruth** (Naperville, Ill.) – join the Irish defense after two seasons with the U.S. National Team Developmental Program.

Both players bring a big, physical style of play to the ice. Cole (6-1, 215) was selected in the first round of the 2007 NHL Draft by the St. Louis Blues while Ruth (6-0, 201) was a second-round selection of the Washington Capitals.

The duo are stay-at-home defenders with good hands and excellent hockey skills. Cole had four goals and 16 assists in 49 games with the Under-18 team last season. Ruth

checked in with five goals and 11 assists for 16 points in 39 games.

"Ian and Teddy bring a high level of talent to our defense. They just need time to get the experience of playing at this level," says Jackson.

"They've both made great strides over the last two years and have the skill to play at the highest level."

While the Notre Dame backline has plenty of skill and will look to add experience to the resume, the Irish offense has plenty of both.

Jackson's team returns its top five scorers from '06-'07 and has added several talented newcomers to the mix.

The Irish do lose some experience as four seniors have moved on after graduating last May. Gone are two-year captain T.J. Jindra and three-year leader Jason Paige along with veterans Josh Sciba and Michael Bartlett.

All four were four-year letter winners and provided key leadership.

Jindra (2g, 7a) was the team leader on and off the ice in each of Jackson's first two seasons, as well as, being one of the team's top defensive forwards.

Paige had a career year last season, scoring 11 goals and 11 assists in 42 games. One of the top face-off men in the CCHA, he also played a hard-nosed aggressive style.

Sciba had eight goals and 10 assists for the year and missed part of the season with a broken arm. A key member of the Irish power play, Sciba finished his career with 19 power-play goals with the Irish.

Bartlett (3g, 8a) brought versatility to the lineup as he played at both left and right wing. A strong skater, he also was one of the team's top penalty killers for most of his career.

This season, the scoring will be spread out among the classes as the top five are a senior, two juniors and two sophomores.

The Irish improved their offense last season, seeing their goal total jump from 89 in '05-'06 to 143 last season, an increase of 54 goals.

Leading the way is junior **Erik Condra** (Livonia, Mich.). The 6-0, 202-pound right wing is the catalyst for the Notre Dame offense. A strong, talented playmaker, Condra sees the ice well and has developed a nice scoring touch around the net. As a sophomore, he led the Irish with 14 goals and 34 assists for 48 points to rank sixth among all CCHA scorers and was an honorable mention all-CCHA selection.

"Erik has really become a complete player for us, a guy that we rely on in all situations," says Jackson.



Speedy center Kevin Deeth finished third in scoring as a freshman in 2006-07. A CCHA all-rookie team selection, Deeth teamed with Erik Condra and Ryan Thang to give the Irish one of the most dangerous lines in the conference. Deeth finished the year with 17 goals and 22 assists for 39 points.

"He's got great instincts with the puck and comes to play every day. Erik has that uncanny ability to make something happen whenever he's around the puck."

A pair of sophomores joins Condra at the top of the score sheet after playing on the same line a year ago.

Playing on the left side with Condra was **Ryan Thang** (Edina, Minn.) while the center for the high-scoring trio was **Kevin Deeth** (Gig Harbor, Wash.).

Thang (6-0, 200) led Notre Dame in goals (20), power-play goals (10) and game winners (6) while finishing second to Condra with 41 points. A member of the CCHA all-rookie team, he was a finalist for conference rookie-of-the-year honors.

A prototypical power forward, Thang also has excellent playmaking skills as evidenced by his 21 assists. He sees plenty of ice time as he plays in all situations.

Thang was rewarded for his strong rookie year as the Nashville Predators selected him in the third round of the NHL Entry Draft.

"Ryan came in and had a tremendous freshman season, not just in scoring, but in his overall game," explains Jackson.

"He's a very focused individual with great character and a tremendous work ethic. We'll be counting on him to have a great sophomore year."

Right behind Condra and Thang was Deeth who served as the spark plug on the line with his great speed and tremendous stick-handling skills. Deeth scored 17 goals and added 22 assists for 39 points, including six power-play goals and three game winners. He was the third Irish player to be selected to the CCHA all-rookie team.

"Kevin, like Ryan, had a tremendous freshman year as both lived up to their billing. He's a smart, skilled player with great instincts on the ice. He has a passion for the game and is a threat on every shift," Jackson says.

Fourth among the returning scorers is senior **Mark Van Guilder** (Roseville, Minn.) who was second in goals with 18 and added 16 assists for 34 points. A versatile player who can play all three forward positions, Van Guilder is the team's leader. He enters the season having played in 116 consecutive games.

Left Wings

Robin Bergman

Fr. ... 6-0 ... 195

Dan Kissel

So. ... 5-9 ... 178

6g, 3a, 22 GP in '06-'07

Garrett Regan

Jr. ... 5-11 ... 198

14g-12a, 42 GP in '06-'07

Calle Ridderwall

Fr. ... 5-11 ... 172

Ryan Thang

So. ... 6-0 ... 200

20g-21a, 42 GP in '06-'07

Centers

Kevin Deeth

Fr. ... 5-7 ... 172

17g-22a, 42 GP in '06-'07

Christian Hanson

Jr. ... 6-4 ... 225

6g-2a, 33 GP in '06-'07

Mark Van Guilder

Sr. ... 6-2 ... 207

18g-16a, 42 GP in '06-'07

Ben Ryan

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

Justin White

Jr. ... 6-0 ... 195

2g-13a, 29 GP in '06-'07

Right Wings

Erik Condra

Jr. ... 6-0 ... 202

14g-34a, 42 GP in '06-'07

Brian D'Arcy

Sr. ... 6-2 ... 201

DNP in '06-'07

Ryan Guentzel

Fr. ... 6-0 ... 176

Christiaan Minella

So. ... 6-1 ... 216

1g-5a, 21 GP in '06-'07

Evan Rankin

Sr. ... 6-1 ... 205

4g-3a, 31 GP in '06-'07

Season Preview

He's developed into an offensive threat during his career going from three goals as a freshman to eight as a sophomore to 18 last season. A smart player with outstanding hockey instincts, Van Guilder will see action in all situations for Jackson's icers.

"Mark has established himself as one of the premier two-way players in the CCHA," says Jackson.

"He has great hockey instincts and is one of our leaders. He will be counted on to show the way to our younger players."

Rounding out the top five scorers is junior **Garrett Regan** (Hastings, Minn.). Regan was Notre Dame's most-improved player as a sophomore as he scored 14 goals with 12 assists for 26 points. Four of his goals were power-play tallies and he added four game winners.

Regan worked his way into more ice time as a sophomore and the results paid off. He uses his speed to open the ice for his linemates and to disrupt the opposition on the forecheck. He will be a key member of the power play and penalty-killing units again this season.

"Garrett came on strong last season. His speed causes problems for opponents and he became a real offensive threat for us," says Jackson.

"He was a standout on our penalty-killing unit, taking the draw and playing an aggressive style that made us very effective."

The Irish coaching staff will look for several other players to make the most of increased playing time and add to the team's goal-scoring totals.

Senior right wing **Evan Rankin** (Portage, Mich.) will be one of those who will have a chance to contribute. Rankin had four goals and three assists for seven points in 31 games last season. A hard-working forward, Rankin has the ability to disrupt the defense with his tenacious style of play.

"Evan elevated his game last season and has the potential to be an offensive force," Jackson says.

"He's got a tremendous work ethic and a great attitude. He enjoys the physical play and competes hard on every shift."

Another senior who will battle for playing time is **Brian D'Arcy** (Western Springs, Ill.). The 6-2, 201-pounder will move from defense to right wing to take advantage of his size and aggressiveness. He has played in just 10 games for his career but is one of the hardest working players on the team.

"Brian is as committed to this program as any other player we have here," Jackson says.

"He makes the most of every opportunity and has a passion for this program and for Notre Dame. He understands the game and executes the system while pushing the others to be better players."

Two juniors who became key players last season will look to add to the attack in their third seasons with the Irish.

Center **Christian Hanson** (Venetia, Pa.) brings size (6-4, 225) and skill to the lineup. A solid, two-way player, he figures to inherit Jason Paige's role as the team's top face-off man. Hanson had six goals and two assists last season while winning 59.1% of his face offs.

"This could be a break out year for Christian. He showed me a lot last year when he battled back late in the season after having mono," says Jackson.

"He's worked hard to become stronger. He will most likely play against the opponent's top line center this season."

Joining Hanson with a strong second season in '06-'07 was **Justin White** (Traverse City, Mich.).

A solid two-way forward, White blossomed offensively proving to be a talented playmaker who became a quarterback on the Irish power play. White played in 29 games with two goals and 13 assists on the season.

"Justin took a big step last year and made a huge transition in his approach to the game to earn a chance. He has good offensive instincts and showed



Junior center Christian Hanson will take over as Notre Dame's top face-off man in 2007-08. He won 59.1% of his face offs a year ago.

the ability to move the puck. That really helped make him a threat on the power play," says Jackson."

A pair of sophomores saw playing time last season and got a chance to contribute. The duo of **Dan Kissel** (Crestwood, Ill.) and **Christiaan Minella** (Aurora, Colo.) bring two different styles to the ice.

At 5-9, 178 pounds, Kissel plays on the left side and brings speed and skill to the lineup. He saw action in 22 games, scoring six goals with three assists for nine points. Among his six goals were three power-play tallies, a short-handed goal and three game winners.

"Dan Kissel is on the cusp of being a gifted collegiate player. His speed, hands and one-on-one offensive skills are as good as anyone on the team," says Jackson.

Minella checks in at 6-1, 216 pounds and brings a physical style to the lineup. A powerful hitter, Minella is a demon on the forecheck and does a good job of disrupting the defense. He had one goal and five assists in 21 games.

"Christiaan made big strides last season in understanding the game and playing without the puck. The physical element that he brings to the game is an absolute must. He skates well and has a good shot. He can be a big factor for us this season," Jackson comments.

Besides the returning players, the Irish have added four talented and highly skilled freshmen to the offensive mix.

Two of the newcomers - **Robin Bergman** and **Calle Ridderwall** - are the first Notre Dame hockey players from Sweden as they both hail from Stockholm and are products of the United States Hockey League (USHL). Right wing Ryan **Guentzel** (Woodbury, Minn.) and center **Ben Ryan** (Brighton, Mich.) round out the freshman forwards.

Bergman (6-0, 195) played last season for the Cedar Rapids RoughRiders where he scored 26 goals and 17 assists for 43 points. His 17 power-play goals were second in the USHL. A talented left-shot forward, Bergman has excellent hockey skills and instincts and a nice touch around the net.

Ridderwall (5-11, 172) was a member of the Tri-City Storm where he led the team in scoring with 27 goals and 35 assists for 62 points from the left side. An outstanding skater with tremendous speed, Ridderwall combines great hands and great instincts around the net.

Guentzel (6-0, 176) joins the Irish after helping lead the Sioux Falls Stampede to the USHL title last season. A talented and versatile player, he can play either right wing or center. He was second on the Stampede in scoring with nine goals and 38 assists for 47 points.

Ryan (5-11, 190) joins the Irish after playing two seasons for the Des Moines Buccaneers where he finished third in scoring with 22 goals and 42 assists for 64 points. A complete, two-way player, Ryan is a creative playmaker with a nice scoring touch and should contribute to the Irish attack this season.

The Nashville Predators thought enough of him to select him in the fourth round of the 2007 NHL Entry Draft.

"Our freshmen will have a chance to contribute this season. Calle and Robin are both highly skilled players that will have to adapt to the physical play in the CCHA. Ryan Guentzel has a great attitude and a willingness to work on his strength and skating. He's a great late edition to the class. Ben Ryan is a complete two-way player. He's creative and intelligent with the puck and strong

in the defensive zone," Jackson says.

The Irish will look to continue their successes on special teams in 2007-08. The Irish scored 45 power-play goals on 243 chances for an 18.5% success rate and ranked 20th overall. The penalty killers led the nation, giving up just 20 opponent man-advantage goals in 209 chances for a school-record 90.4% success rate.

"Special teams were one of the keys to our success last season. I think our power play can improve as our skill level improves. Our penalty kill should be as good with the guys up front. We have our top guys back. The key will be in goal and on defense where we will be inexperienced. Our physical defense will help but the best penalty killer is the goaltender. That will be the key there," Jackson says.

The Irish face a tough schedule during 2007-08 and will have a target on their back after last season's success.

Notre Dame will play in three tournaments this season, opening the campaign at the Lefty McFadden Invitational, playing Wisconsin in the opener and either Ohio State or Mercyhurst in game two.

At Thanksgiving, the Irish travel to Troy, N.Y., to play in the Rensselaer Holiday Tournament. They will get an NCAA Tournament rematch with Alabama-Huntsville in the tourney opener and then play either R.P.I. or American International College (AIC) in the second game.

In late December, Notre Dame will defend its' Lightning College Hockey Classic title in Tampa, Fla., when the Irish face Massachusetts in the opener and then either Colorado College or R.P.I. the following day.

The Irish also will play two non-conference series, hosting Denver (Oct. 12-13) while traveling to Princeton (Dec. 7-8). They also face the U.S. Under-18 Team in an exhibition game at the Joyce Center on Feb. 1.

In the CCHA, the Irish are teamed with Bowling Green, Ferris State and Western Michigan in the same cluster and will play each team four times.

Notre Dame will have home-and-home series with Michigan State and Michigan (with the Irish home game vs. the Wolverines at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Mich.) and play two-game series at home with Lake Superior, Nebraska-Omaha and Ohio State while traveling to Miami, Northern Michigan and Alaska for two games.