

NOTRE DAME **SEASON IN REVIEW**



Chris Cahill posted back-to-back shutouts in the 2005 NCAA tournament to help propel the Fighting Irish to the third Sweet 16 berth in program history.



Fighting Irish Complete a Sweet Season

Notre Dame makes program's third appearance in NCAA Sweet 16 in 2005

The Notre Dame men's soccer team began the 2005 season facing many questions due to the loss of several key components from a BIG EAST championship squad in '04. By the end of the season, there was no doubt that the Fighting Irish had found the answers as a trip to the NCAA Sweet 16 showcased how well the team had put all the pieces together.

One thing that was not questionable about the Irish early on was the strength of their schedule. Notre Dame opened the season with back-to-back tilts against top-10 teams. The Fighting Irish faced a total of nine ranked teams throughout the course of the season. The Irish were ranked themselves at No. 16 to begin the campaign and appeared in the NSCAA poll the first four weeks of the season before showing up again at No. 15 in the final rankings.

It did not take the 16th-ranked Irish long to show what the team was capable of as they took down No. 7 SMU, 4-1, in the season-opener at the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic in Bloomington, Ind.

Junior tri-captain Greg Dalby, a M.A.C. Hermann Trophy semifinalist, put the Irish on the board early as he sent in a free kick from 40-yards out in just the second minute of play. Notre Dame continued to roll from there as Nate Norman scored in the 15th minute before SMU found the back of the net in the 37th minute to cut the halftime lead to one. John Stephens gave the Irish a two-goal cushion in the 80th minute with the assist going to Dalby. Joseph Lapira put a cap on the match 47 seconds later with a goal on a pass from Alex Yoshinaga.

During day two of the classic, Notre Dame battled No. 10 Wake Forest into overtime before the Demon Deacons prevailed with a 1-0 victory. Junior goalkeeper Chris Cahill had a solid match and put together a good season-opening weekend as he was seeing the first collegiate action of his career after backing-up All-American Chris Sawyer for two seasons. Cahill and Dalby were rewarded for their fine play as they were named to the all-tournament team and the BIG EAST Weekly Honor Roll. Dalby was also selected to the Top Drawer Soccer Team of the Week.

The Wake Forest contest would be a sign of things to come as the Irish played in a total of 14 one-goal games throughout the course of the season, including two in the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament.

Notre Dame opened the annual home tournament with a 1-0 victory over Boston University. A Norman goal on a pass from freshman Bright Dike in the 73rd minute propelled the Irish to the victory over the Terriers. Norman would also have a hand in the game-winner over Saint Louis during the second day of the tournament. Following a scoreless regulation and one overtime session, Norman and Ryan Miller collected the assists on Lapira's header, which he sent to the back of the net, to produce a 1-0 victory against the Billikens and give Notre Dame its second Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament title.

Several accolades were handed out to Irish players for their efforts in the tournament. Cahill, Lapira, Miller and Norman were named to the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament all-tournament team and Cahill was also tabbed as the BIG EAST Goalkeeper of the Week. Miller was named to the BIG EAST Honor Roll and the Top Drawer Soccer Team of the Week.



Joseph Lapira came through big in the NCAA tournament as he netted a goal in victories against Western Illinois and Indiana. On the year, Lapira led the Irish with seven tallies.

A disappointing aspect of the weekend was that the senior captain Dale Rellas was unable to play due to an injury and that was the story for a portion of the season as the defender missed a total of 10 games. While in the backline, Rellas provided a solid presence for the Irish defense.

Carrying a 3-1-0 mark, the Fighting Irish then ventured to New York to open BIG EAST Conference play against St. John's and Syracuse. The 14th-ranked Fighting Irish were facing a daunting task under the lights at Belson Stadium in the match-up against the 10th-ranked Red Storm as Notre Dame had never won at St. John's. History was not made that night as the Irish dropped a 2-1 decision. After surrendering goals in the 13th and 54th minute, the Irish cracked the scoring column with an own goal in the 83rd minute, yet that was as close as they would get in the BIG EAST opener.

The Irish had little time to regroup as they had a date with Syracuse two days later. Cahill came through with his third shutout in four games and a Justin McGeeney goal in the 53rd minute is all the Fighting Irish would need to take a 1-0 victory and up their mark to 4-2-0 overall and 1-1-0 in conference play.

A return home brought in two BIG EAST newcomers, Louisville and Cincinnati, to Alumni Field. Following a scoreless first half, the Cardinals jumped on the Irish with a goal in the 59th minute. However, a Yoshinaga goal in the 76th minute and a Ian Etherington tally less than six minutes later put Notre Dame on top for good. Tony Megna collected

assists on both goals, while Lapira also helped on Yoshinaga's score.

After getting down 2-0 by the 64th minute to Cincinnati, Etherington found the back of the net on a header thanks to assists from Norman and Miller in the 69th minute. The Irish could not make it all the way back dropped the second game of its two-game weekend conference set as Cincinnati captured a 2-1 win. The loss evened Notre Dame's BIG EAST mark at 2-2-0, while its overall record stood at 5-3-0.

Rain was the story of the night as Notre Dame and Bradley squared off in a downpour during the majority of their non-conference tilt at Alumni Field. An early injury to McGeeney, put Dike into the contest and he delivered with a goal just 5:13 into the game. That would hold on to be the difference as the Irish prevailed with a 1-0 victory. Despite the conditions, the Irish did manage to produce 20 shots in the game.

The four-game homestand continued with a showdown against conference foe West Virginia. Notre Dame held a one-goal lead at three different points during the game, yet the Mountaineers came back every time to escape with a 3-3 tie.

After West Virginia tied the contest at 2-2 in the 85th minute, Norman delivered a goal just over two minutes later to give the Irish a lead they figured would ice the game. However, the Mountaineers struck again just 27 seconds later to force the tie. A Lapira goal in the sixth minute marked the third time on the season that Notre Dame had scored in the first six minutes. The sophomore notched 11 shots on the night, which was a season-high for any Irish player. McGeeney provided the second goal of the night for the Irish.

Notre Dame traveled to Milwaukee, Wis. for a meeting with another BIG EAST newcomer in Marquette. The meeting was the first with the Golden Eagles since the 1990 season. Etherington fed McGeeney in the 40th minute for the game-winner as Notre Dame claimed its seventh victory of the season and the third in league play.

Despite controlling much of the play in their next contest against No. 10 Connecticut, the Irish dropped a tough 2-1 decision at Alumni Field. The Huskies posted goals in the 21st and 53rd minute before senior defender Ben Crouse found the back of the net at the 56:01 mark for the first goal of his career. The loss against the eventual BIG EAST tournament champions dropped the Fighting Irish to 3-3-1 in the league.

Carrying a 7-4-1 mark overall, the Irish embarked on a four-game trek away from home. The first stop was a trip to East Lansing, Mich. for a non-conference mid-week showdown with Michigan State. Neither team could mount much of an offensive attack and the result would be a 0-0 tie. Cahill made four saves to earn his sixth shutout of the campaign.

As fall break commenced, Notre Dame headed out east for the final three games of its journey. However, the team's offensive struggles came with them in a 1-0 loss to Georgetown. The Hoyas netted the lone goal of the match in the 33rd minute to take the win, despite being out-shot 18-11. The Irish also held a seven to one advantage in corner kicks.

The trip carried on to Providence, where the Irish would find themselves in their fifth overtime game of the season. McGeeney delivered another early goal as he put Notre Dame on top 1-0 at the 8:42

mark. A late goal in regulation from the Friars sent the game to a first overtime, which saw neither team score. Martin took a feed from Norman and Lapira and sent it in for the game-winner just over seven minutes into the second overtime period. On the season, the Fighting Irish had 2-1-3 mark in games that went to overtime.

A 2-1 win at Pittsburgh capped off the four-game road trip and put the Irish at 9-5-2 overall and 5-4-1 in the BIG EAST. The Irish opened the contest with the Panthers with early unassisted goals from Yoshinaga and Dalby. Yoshinaga connected in the fourth minute and Dalby followed up with a tally in the seventh minute. That marked the fifth and sixth time, respectively, that Notre Dame posted a goal within the first 10 minutes of a game. On the day, the Irish dominated the stat sheet by out-shooting the Panthers 16-5 and gaining 10 more corner kicks.

The Irish returned to Alumni Field for a highly-anticipated match-up against No. 5 Indiana, the two-time defending NCAA champions. The contest was controlled by the Hoosiers as they took a 3-0 victory in the in-state rivalry. However, that would not be the last time these two teams would square off during the '05 campaign as a rematch was on the horizon.

With the taste of the Indiana loss still in their mouths, the Irish hosted No. 16 Seton Hall in the regular season finale and responded with a dominating 4-0 victory. Lapira led the way with a career-best two-goal effort and would also add an assist for a five-point game, also a career-high. Dike and Miller notched the other tallies for the Irish, who concluded the regular season with a 10-6-2 record and a 6-4-1 mark in league play.

The win against the Pirates clinched the BIG EAST Blue Division's No. 3 seed for the conference tournament. In the opening round of the conference championship, Notre Dame had a rematch encounter with Syracuse. The Irish and the Orange battled to a scoreless tie over the course of 110 minutes at Alumni Field. A shootout ensued and the Irish would prevail, 4-2. McGeeney, Etherington,

Martin and Besler all connected on their penalty kick opportunities. That was a welcome sight for Notre Dame as the Irish had been eliminated in a post-season match the previous two seasons on penalty kicks.

A BIG EAST quarterfinal showdown was up next for the Irish, yet not in an ideal location as Notre Dame traveled back to St. John's in search of the program's first-ever win in Jamaica, N.Y. The Irish hung with the Red Storm throughout, however Notre Dame would be denied once again as St. John's used a goal in the 78th minute to claim a 1-0 victory and advance to the league semifinals.

Even though the Irish had an impressive resume, which included a difficult schedule and two wins over ranked teams, there was still some tension on selection day for the NCAA tournament. Not only did Notre Dame hear its name called, the Irish were tabbed to host their first round match against Western Illinois. This marked the fifth straight season, all under the guidance of head coach Bobby Clark, that the Irish made the NCAA field.

It was a special evening at Alumni Field on Friday, Nov. 18 as a double-header was scheduled featuring the Fighting Irish men and women in NCAA play. The night was made even better as both teams came away victorious before the home crowd. The Fighting Irish men cruised to a 2-0 victory over the Leathernecks in round one on goals from Lapira and Martin. The victory advanced Notre Dame to the second round of the NCAAs for the fifth time in program history. Round two presented a rematch against Indiana in Bloomington.

The No. 3 seeded Hoosiers received a first-round bye in the tournament and took the field looking to begin the defense of their back-to-back NCAA titles. There would be no title run in '05 for Indiana as an all-around team effort from the Irish produced arguably the biggest win in program history as they downed the Hoosiers, 2-0.

Indiana had a few good chances early, yet Cahill came up big by making six saves on the night en route to his second straight shutout. After they survived the early Hoosier attack, the Irish gained confidence and knew they could hang in the contest, unlike the previous encounter one month earlier. The game was scoreless before McGeeney connected on a header off a feed from Etherington in the 56th minute to make it a 1-0 Irish advantage. While the Hoosiers were still in a state of shock, Notre Dame struck again with a goal just over six minutes later as Crouse sent a pass to Lapira, who chipped it over the goalkeeper's head and into the back of the net for a two-goal lead and the win.

The victory against Indiana marked the first time, out of nine tries, that Notre Dame had ever defeated a defending national champion. The Fighting Irish also snapped the Hoosiers' 10-game NCAA tournament win streak and their 19-game NCAA tournament home win streak. By knocking out the champs, Notre Dame advanced to the Sweet 16 for the third time in program history and the second time in the past three years.

After enjoying the Thanksgiving holiday, the Irish set out for Clemson, S.C. and a showdown with the 12th-ranked Tigers. Neither team was projected to be in the Round of 16, however upsets were the story of bracket and things had opened up for both teams.

Notre Dame surrendered a goal in the 20th minute that put the Tigers up 1-0. The Irish came out strong in the second half and kept attacking with eight shots, however none of them were deposited. The Fighting Irish had one last chance left in them in the 90th minute as McGeeney ran on to a long pass and almost connected on a shot yet the Clemson goalkeeper was there for the save, which preserved the 1-0 victory and sent the Tigers to the NCAA quarterfinals.



Jack Traynor had a solid freshman campaign as he started 20 games in the Fighting Irish defense.

Despite seeing their season come to an end, the Irish were aware that they accomplished a lot during the 2005 campaign, which concluded with a 12-8-3 record. The 12 wins marked the fifth straight double-digit win season for Notre Dame.

Individual accolades were a sign that the team accomplishments did not go unnoticed. Greg Dalby was voted as a first-team All-American on three separate lists (NSCAA, *College Soccer News*, *Soccer Times*) along with being named a unanimous first-team all-BIG EAST selection. Joining him on the all-conference first team was Etherington, while Lapira, who was the Irish's leading scorer with 19 points (7 G, 5 A), was named to the third team.

Off the field excellence was also recognized as Stephens was named to the *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-America second team. In all, the Fighting Irish had 13 BIG EAST Academic All-Star members, including Megna, who was named the team's Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley Rockne Student-Athlete Award.

Also collecting team honors was Dalby, who was named Team MVP, and back-up goalkeeper Justin Michaud, the Spirit Award winner for being an inspirational team member throughout the season and all of his four years at Notre Dame.

The 2005-06 campaign officially ended with the annual awards banquet in April. Several members of the 1996 BIG EAST championship squad came back to celebrate their accomplishments from a decade before. The night was filled with awards, tributes and memories along with a fine farewell to former assistant coaches Brian Wiese and Mike Avery, who both departed the Irish after the 2005 season. Wiese took the head coaching post at Georgetown after five years at Notre Dame, while Avery, who spent six seasons with the Irish, accepted the top assistant coaching position at Louisville. They were both instrumental in the remarkable success of the Notre Dame program over the past several years, including a great run in '05.



Ben Crouse and Irish defense held opponents to just 0.83 goals per game. Crouse, a senior, also netted the first goal of his career in the Connecticut match.

2005 University of Notre Dame Men's Soccer

Record: 12-8-3 (Home: 6-3-2, Away: 5-4-1, Neutral: 1-1-0)

BIG EAST: 6-4-1

Date	*National Ranking ND	Opponent	*National Ranking Opp.	Result	Score	Shots ND-Opp	Corners ND-Opp
Sept. 2	16/19	vs. SMU!	7/8	W	4-1	12-10	6-5
Sept. 4	16/19	vs. Wake Forest!	10/18	L	0-1 (ot)	11-16	2-5
Sept. 9	17/17	Boston University@	NR	W	1-0	12-9	5-4
Sept. 11	17/17	Saint Louis@	NR	W	1-0 (2ot)	23-10	6-3
Sept. 16	16/14	at St. John's	10/9	L	1-2	5-17	4-3
Sept. 18	16/14	at Syracuse	NR	W	1-0	17-16	4-8
Sept. 23	18/15	Louisville	NR	W	2-1	16-5	6-2
Sept. 25	18/15	Cincinnati	NR	L	1-2	16-17	10-4
Sept. 28	NR	Bradley	NR	W	1-0	20-10	2-2
Oct. 1	NR	West Virginia	NR	T	3-3 (2ot)	27-18	11-7
Oct. 5	NR	at Marquette	NR	W	1-0	10-7	6-3
Oct. 8	NR	Connecticut	10/9	L	1-2	15-7	11-5
Oct. 11	NR	at Michigan State	NR	T	0-0 (2ot)	18-11	6-2
Oct. 15	NR	at Georgetown	NR	L	0-1	18-11	7-1
Oct. 19	NR	at Providence	NR	W	2-1 (2ot)	11-17	4-4
Oct. 22	NR	at Pittsburgh	NR	W	2-1	16-5	12-2
Oct. 26	NR	Indiana	5/4	L	0-3	7-20	2-2
Oct. 29	NR	Seton Hall	14/16	W	4-0	14-9	3-3
Nov. 2	NR	Syracuse#	NR	T	0-0 (2ot)	30-17	4-9
Nov. 5	NR	at St. John's#	16/23	L	0-1	10-15	5-6
Nov. 18	NR	Western Illinois&	NR	W	2-0	10-3	6-2
Nov. 22	NR	at Indiana&	5/7	W	2-0	12-16	5-6
Nov. 27	NR	at Clemson&	15/12	L	0-1	10-12	4-3

! – adidas/IU Credit Union Classic (Bloomington, Ind.)

@ – Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament

– BIG EAST Tournament

& – NCAA Tournament

all matches in **bold** were played at Alumni Field

* – Rankings at time of game in NSCAA/adidas and Soccer America polls.

Goals By Periods

<i>Overall</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>OT</i>	<i>OT2</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>BIG EAST</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>OT</i>	<i>OT2</i>	<i>Total</i>
Notre Dame	10	17	0	2	29	Notre Dame	6	11	0	1	18
Opponents	7	12	1	0	20	Opponents	4	9	0	0	13

2005 Statistics/ Honors & Awards

Player	Overall					BIG EAST					Career (BIG EAST)		
	G-GS	Shots	G	A	Pts.	G-GS	Shots	G	A	Pts.	G	A	Pts.
Joseph Lapira	23-16	87	7	5	19	11-7	36	3	5	11	10 (6)	7 (6)	27 (18)
Justin McGeeney	23-20	35	5	0	10	11-9	19	4	0	8	10 (6)	2 (1)	22 (13)
Nate Norman	22-5	30	3	3	9	10-1	17	1	2	4	5 (1)	6 (3)	16 (5)
Ian Etherington	22-21	38	2	3	7	10-9	25	2	2	6	6 (5)	10 (7)	22 (17)
Ryan Miller	23-23	11	1	5	7	11-11	7	1	3	5	1 (1)	5 (3)	7 (5)
Kurt Martin	23-9	20	2	2	6	11-4	10	1	2	4	2 (1)	2 (2)	6 (4)
Alex Yoshinaga	23-23	31	2	1	5	11-11	11	2	0	4	5 (4)	3 (1)	13 (9)
Greg Dalby	23-23	13	2	1	5	11-11	6	1	0	2	2 (1)	2 (1)	6 (3)
Bright Dike	22-1	11	2	1	5	10-1	4	1	0	2	2 (1)	1 (0)	5 (2)
John Stephens	20-17	14	1	3	5	10-9	6	0	2	2	1 (0)	5 (2)	7 (2)
Ben Crouse	23-22	11	1	1	3	11-11	4	1	0	2	1 (1)	1 (0)	3 (2)
Tony Megna	23-9	16	0	2	2	11-5	9	0	2	2	5 (3)	2 (2)	12 (8)
Matt Besler	22-5	12	0	2	2	10-1	5	0	2	2	0 (0)	2 (2)	2 (2)
Jack Traynor	23-20	6	0	0	0	11-10	3	0	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jon Mark Thompson	13-2	4	0	0	0	6-2	2	0	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Andrew Benton	7-2	1	0	0	0	4-2	1	0	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Dale Rellas	13-12	0	0	0	0	6-6	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Notre Dame	23	340	29	29	87	11	165	18	20	56			
Opponents	23	278	20	22	63	11	129	13	15	41			

Game Winning Goals:

Justin McGeeney 3, Joseph Lapira 2, Nate Norman 2, Bright Dike 2, Ian Etherington 1, Kurt Martin 1, Alex Yoshinaga 1

BIG EAST Game Winning Goals:

Justin McGeeney 2, Ian Etherington 1, Alex Yoshinaga 1, Kurt Martin 1, Bright Dike 1

Corner Kicks:

Notre Dame 131, Opponents 91

BIG EAST Corner Kicks:

Notre Dame 78, Opponents 42

Fouls:

Notre Dame 253, Opponents 276

BIG EAST Fouls:

Notre Dame 101, Opponents 144

GOALKEEPER STATS

Player	G-GS	Min.	G	GAA	Saves	ShO	Record	Min.	G	GAA	Saves	ShO	Record
Chris Cahill	23-23	2127:59	20	0.85	87	9	12-8-3	2127:59	20	0.85	87	9	12-8-3
BIG EAST	11-11	1005:11	13	1.16	41	2	6-4-1	1005:11	13	1.16	41	2	6-4-1
Justin Michaud	7-0	34:13	0	0.00	1	0	n/a	65:25	0	0.00	4	0	n/a
BIG EAST	4-0	21:59	0	0.00	1	0	n/a	22:51	0	0.00	1	0	n/a
Notre Dame	23	2162:12	20	0.83	93	10	12-8-3						
BIG EAST	11	1027:10	13	1.14	43	3	6-4-1						
Opponents	23	2162:12	29	1.46	105	7	8-12-3						
BIG EAST	11	1027:10	18	1.58	48	1	4-6-1						

2005 Honors & Awards

Andrew Benton

BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

Matt Besler

College Soccer News '100 Freshmen to Watch' List
BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

Chris Cahill

BIG EAST Goalkeeper of the Week (9/12)
BIG EAST Honor Roll (9/5 & 10/24)
adidas/IU Credit Union Classic All-Tournament Team
Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament All-Tournament Team

Ben Crouse

BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

Greg Dalby

NSCAA All-American (first team)
College Soccer News All-American (first team)
SoccerTimes.com All-American (first team)
M.A.C. Hermann Trophy semifinalist
All-BIG EAST (first team)
adidas/IU Credit Union Classic All-Tournament Team
Top Drawer Soccer Team of the Week (9/5)
BIG EAST Honor Roll (9/5)
BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team
Notre Dame Monogram Club Team MVP
All-Great Lakes Region (first team)

Bright Dike

College Soccer News '100 Freshmen to Watch' List

Ian Etherington

All-BIG EAST (first team)
BIG EAST Honor Roll (9/26)
BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team
All-Great Lakes Region (second team)

Joseph Lapira

All-BIG EAST (third team)
BIG EAST Honor Roll (10/3 & 10/31)
Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament All-Tournament Team
Top Drawer Soccer Team of the Week (10/31)

Justin McGeeney

BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

Tony Megna

Knute Rockne Scholar-Athlete Award winner
BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

Justin Michaud

Spirit Award Winner
BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

Ryan Miller

BIG EAST Honor Roll (9/12)
Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament All-Tournament Team
Top Drawer Soccer Team of the Week (9/12)
BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

Nate Norman

Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament All-Tournament Team
BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

Dale Rellas

BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

John Stephens

ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American (second team)
BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

Jon Mark Thompson

BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team

Jack Traynor

College Soccer News '100 Freshmen to Watch' List

2005 Final Regular Season Standings

**2005 BIG EAST
All-Conference Teams**

All-BIG EAST First Team

- GK Jason Landers, So., St. John's
- F Omar Cummings, Jr., Cincinnati*
- F Matt Groenwald, Sr., St. John's
- F Sacha Kljestan, Jr., Seton Hall*
- M Greg Dalby, Jr., Notre Dame***
- M Ian Etherington, Jr., Notre Dame**
- M David Guzman, So., Louisville
- M Rodrigo Hidalgo, So., USF
- M Mpho Moloi, Sr., Connecticut
- D Julius James, So., Connecticut*
- D Steven Old, So., St. John's

All-BIG EAST Second Team

- GK Nick Noble, Jr., West Virginia
- F Chukwudi Chijindu, So., Connecticut
- F Eliseo Giusfredi, Fr., Seton Hall
- F Jordan Seabrook, Fr., USF
- F Jarrod Smith, Jr., West Virginia
- F O'Brian White, Fr., Connecticut
- M Garry Lewis, Fr., St. John's
- M Teddy Niziolek, Jr., Seton Hall
- M Andy Wright, So., West Virginia
- D Jeff Carroll, Sr., St. John's
- D Jeff Curtin, Sr., Georgetown
- D Ezra Prendergast, Sr., Syracuse

All-BIG EAST Third Team

- F Kenny Anaba, So., Cincinnati
- F Joseph Lapira, So., Notre Dame**
- F Ricky Schramm, Jr., Georgetown
- M Ryan Cordeiro, So., Connecticut
- M Nick LaBrocca, Jr., Rutgers
- M Ryan Maduro, Fr., Providence
- M Adam Sternberger, So., Rutgers
- D Tom Dziamba, Sr., Seton Hall
- D Willis Forko, Sr., Connecticut
- D Yohance Marshall, Fr., USF
- D Devon McTavish, Sr., West Virginia

2005 BIG EAST Regular Season Honors

- Offensive Player of the Year:**
Sacha Kljestan, Jr., Seton Hall
- Midfielder of the Year:**
Boris Pardo, Sr., Seton Hall
- Defensive Player of the Year:**
Jeff Curtin, Sr., Georgetown
- Goalkeeper of the Year:**
Jason Landers, So., St. John's
- Rookie of the Year:**
O'Brian White, F, Connecticut
- Coaching Staff of the Year:**
Seton Hall

BIG EAST

Overall

Blue Division										
<u>Pl.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
1.	Connecticut	7	3	1	.682	22	16	3	2	.810
2.	Seton Hall	6	3	2	.636	20	13	4	3	.725
3t.	NOTRE DAME	6	4	1	.591	19	12	8	3	.587
3t.	West Virginia	6	4	1	.591	19	14	7	2	.652
5.	Georgetown	6	5	0	.545	18	10	9	1	.525
6.	Providence	3	3	4	.500	13	7	4	9	.575
7.	Pittsburgh	2	9	0	.182	6	3	12	1	.219
8.	Marquette	1	8	1	.150	4	5	11	1	.324

Red Division										
<u>Pl.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
1.	South Florida	9	2	0	.818	27	13	6	2	.667
2.	St. John's	6	2	3	.682	21	11	6	5	.614
3.	Cincinnati	6	3	2	.636	20	10	7	2	.579
4.	Villanova	6	4	1	.591	19	7	7	4	.500
5.	Rutgers	5	4	2	.545	17	8	8	3	.500
6.	Syracuse	3	7	1	.318	10	7	8	4	.474
7.	Louisville	2	7	2	.273	8	5	11	2	.333
8.	DePaul	2	8	1	.227	7	4	11	2	.294



Greg Dalby was one of four players chosen as a unanimous all-BIG EAST first-team performer.



Joseph Lapira earned his first all-BIG EAST honor in 2005 as he was named to the third team.



Ian Etherington joined his classmate, Greg Dalby, on the all-BIG EAST first team.



Final BIG EAST Individual Statistics

Scoring Leaders (All Games)

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>Assists</u>	<u>Points</u>
Jordan Seabrook, USF	21	14	8	36
Sacha Kljestan, Seton Hall	20	9	15	33
Rodrigo Hidalgo, USF	20	7	15	29
O'Brian White, UConn	19	10	7	27
John Raus, Seton Hall	20	10	6	26
Eliseo Giusfredi, Seton Hall	20	11	3	25
Eoin Lynch, Providence	19	9	4	22
Chukwudi Chijindu, UConn	20	9	4	22
Kenny Anaba, Cincinnati	19	9	3	21
Omar Cummings, Cincinnati	19	7	7	21

Goalkeeping Leaders (All Games)

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Saves</u>	<u>GA/Avg.</u>	<u>SO</u>
Adam Schuerman, UConn	20	1817:27	53	9/0.45	12
Jason Landers, St. John's	21	1980:10	55	13/0.59	10
Chris Cahill, ND	21	1958:16	81	18/0.83	9

Scoring Leaders (Conference Games Only)

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>Assists</u>	<u>Points</u>
Sacha Kljestan, Seton Hall	11	5	6	16
O'Brian White, UConn	10	6	3	15
Jordan Seabrook, USF	11	6	3	15
Adam Sternberger, Rutgers	11	6	2	14
Rodrigo Hidalgo, USF	10	3	7	13
Omar Cummings, Cincinnati	11	5	3	13
Eliseo Giusfredi, Seton Hall	11	6	1	13
Frank Jonke, Louisville	10	4	4	12
Chris Moore, Rutgers	11	4	4	12
Simon Schoendorf, USF	11	5	2	12

Goalkeeping Leaders (Conference Games Only)

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Saves</u>	<u>GA/Avg.</u>	<u>SO</u>
Jason Landers, St. John's	11	1040:10	22	4/0.35	6
Adam Schuerman, UConn	11	1010:46	29	8/0.71	5

2005 BIG EAST Weekly Awards

Offensive Player of the Week

Sept. 5	Eoin Lynch, Providence
Sept. 12	Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph, St. John's
Sept. 19	Matt Groenwald, St. John's Omar Cummings, Cincinnati
Sept. 26	Ricky Schramm, Georgetown
Oct. 3	Eoin Lynch, Providence
Oct. 10	Chukwudi Chijindu, Connecticut
Oct. 17	Simon Schoendorf, USF
Oct. 24	Adam Sternberger, Rutgers
Oct. 31	Rodrigo Hidalgo, USF

Defensive Player of the Week

Sept. 5	Brad Peetoom, Syracuse
Sept. 12	Mpho Moloi, Connecticut
Sept. 19	Steven Old, St. John's
Sept. 26	Julius James, Connecticut
Oct. 3	Steven Old, St. John's
Oct. 10	Andrew Halsell, West Virginia
Oct. 17	Yohance Marshall, USF
Oct. 24	Christos Zisimatos, Seton Hall
Oct. 31	Julius James, Connecticut

Goalkeeper of the Week

Sept. 5	Nick Noble, West Virginia
Sept. 12	Chris Cahill, Notre Dame
Sept. 19	Chris Konopka, Providence
Sept. 26	Dane Brenner, USF
Oct. 3	Adam Schuerman, Connecticut
Oct. 10	Jason Landers, St. John's
Oct. 17	Dane Brenner, USF
Oct. 24	Nick Noble, West Virginia
Oct. 31	Jason Friel, Villanova

Rookie of the Week

Sept. 5	Jordan Seabrook, USF
Sept. 12	Garry Lewis, St. John's
Sept. 19	Joe Taylor, Villanova
Sept. 26	Richard Frank, Georgetown
Oct. 3	Jordan Seabrook, USF
Oct. 10	Eliseo Giusfredi, Seton Hall
Oct. 17	Robert Cavicchia, Syracuse
Oct. 24	O'Brian White, Connecticut
Oct. 31	Jordan Seabrook, USF

2005 Game Recaps

GAME 1

September 2, 2005

adidas/IU Credit Union Classic

#16 Notre Dame 4
#7 SMU 1

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – The 16th-ranked Notre Dame men's soccer team opened the season in grand fashion by defeating No. 7 SMU 4-1 during game one of the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic at Bill Armstrong Stadium on Friday, Sept. 2. The Fighting Irish netted two goals early and added two more late in the contest to seal the Mustangs' fate. Spreading the wealth was the story for the Irish as four different players tallied goals. Greg Dalby, Nate Norman, John Stephens and Joe Lapira all scored for Notre Dame.

It did not take long for the Fighting Irish to get on the board as Dalby netted a free kick less than two minutes into the match. The tri-captain floated the ball over the goalkeeper's head from 40 yards out for the first goal of his Notre Dame career.

Norman put the Irish up 2-0 in the 15th minute as he blasted a shot, which he took just outside of the box, into the left side of the net. The Irish continued to keep the Mustang goalkeeper, Steve Sandbo, busy as they almost took a three-goal advantage on a few instances in the first half.

SMU cut the deficit in half in the 37th minute as Jay Needham deflected a Paulo da Silva shot past starting Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill from eight yards out. The Irish led 2-1 at the half.

Notre Dame put the game out of reach by hammering in two goals within a minute of each other in the second half. John Stephens waited near the right side of the goal on a long free kick from Dalby and sent it in for a 3-1 Irish lead at the 79:13 mark. Not even a minute passed when Lapira took a pass from Alex Yoshinaga, broke away and pushed the shot past Sandbo for a three-goal Irish advantage. Notre Dame would go on to win the by the 4-1 margin.

	1	2	F
#16 Notre Dame	2	2	4
#7 SMU	1	0	1

Scoring: ND: Greg Dalby (unassisted) 1:26, ND: Nate Norman (unassisted) 14:59, SMU: Jay Needham (Paulo da Silva) 36:17, ND: John Stephens (Greg Dalby) 79:13, ND: Joe Lapira (Alex Yoshinaga) 80:00.

	ND	SMU
Shots	12	10
Saves	1	4
Fouls	14	9
Corner Kicks	6	5

GAME 2

September 4, 2005

adidas/IU Credit Union Classic

#10 Wake Forest 1
#16 Notre Dame 0 (OT)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – The 16th-ranked Notre Dame men's soccer team finished on the wrong end of a 1-0 overtime decision to No. 10 Wake Forest in the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic at Bill Armstrong Stadium on Sunday, Sept. 4. The Demon Deacons' Mike Lahoud netted the game-winner less than seven minutes into the first overtime period to send the Irish back home with a 1-1 mark following the first weekend of play.

A scoreless regulation did not come without good chances for both teams throughout the match. Each squad registered eight shots in the second half alone, with many of them nearly snapping the scoreless tie. Unfortunately for the Fighting Irish, the first tally was the difference as Lahoud played a ball from Justin Moose and Mark Ellington and sent it past Notre Dame goalkeeper, Chris Cahill, for the win.

Notre Dame's first good chance of the second half came when Kurt Martin sent a shot over the crossbar seven minutes into the period. That sequence was preceded by a nice save by Cahill on the other end of the field to preserve the scoreless game. Cahill collected five saves on the day, while Wake Forest goalkeeper, Brian Edwards, made four.

Things really started to pick up near the 70th minute as Notre Dame's Matt Besler sent a pass to Alex Yoshinaga, whose shot was saved. Less than a minute later, the Irish attacked again as Jack Traynor dished the ball to Joe Lapira inside the box and his shot went right into Edwards' hands.

Lahoud nearly netted a goal in the 74th minute as he pushed the ball ahead of the Irish defense yet his shot bounced wide right of the goal.

In the first half, Wake Forest threatened a few times around the 30th minute, including an attempt that went off the left post before being cleared over the net by the Irish.

Besler made his Notre Dame debut and nearly connected on a goal minutes after entering the contest. His shot from 12 yards out was collected by a leaping Edwards in the 32nd minute. He nearly capitalized again in the 67th minute but his shot sailed over the crossbar.

Both teams had opportunities late in the first half, yet the match would remain scoreless following the first 45 minutes of action.

	1	2	OT	F
#10 Wake Forest	0	0	1	1
#16 Notre Dame	0	0	0	0

Scoring: WF: Michael Lahoud (Mark Ellington, Justin Moose), 96:29.

	WF	ND
Shots	16	11
Saves	4	5
Fouls	14	17
Corner Kicks	5	2

GAME 3

September 9, 2005

Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament

Boston University 0
#17 Notre Dame 1

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – The 17th-ranked Notre Dame men's soccer team improved to 2-1-0 on the season with a 1-0 victory over Boston University in the Mike Berticelli Memorial on Friday, Sept. 9 at Alumni Field. Junior midfielder Nate Norman tallied the game-winner in the 73rd minute on a feed from freshman forward Bright Dike.

The first half was a struggle for both sides, as neither team could put together a sustained attack. The Irish came out strong in the second half and started to hammer the goal with shots that just could not find the back of the net. In the 31st minute, forward Justin McGeeney took a pass from Ian Etherington inside the 18-yard box and aimed for the right side of the goal, yet Boston University goalkeeper, Chad Comroe, made a diving save.

Another Irish scoring chance nearly came to fruition as forward Joe Lapira sent a blast on goal, yet it would sail wide right with 29:13 left to play in the second half. In the 19th minute, Norman nailed a ball from 22-yards out that hit off the left post and the

rebound could not be placed in the net and the score remained knotted at zero.

Notre Dame would finally breakthrough less than a minute later when Dike fed the ball to Norman, who dribbled around two defenders and sent the shot into the right side of the net past Comroe from 14-yards away.

Boston University nearly capitalized on a corner kick with just under two minutes left to play, yet a Terrier foul in the goalkeeper box put a halt to the sequence. Notre Dame junior goalkeeper Chris Cahill survived the close call and would go on to collect his first collegiate shutout as he turned away two Terrier shots on the night.

	1	2	F
Boston University	0	0	0
#17 Notre Dame	0	1	1

Scoring: ND: Nate Norman (Bright Dike) 72:39.

	BU	ND
Shots	9	12
Saves	3	2
Fouls	11	10
Corner Kicks	4	5

GAME 4

September 11, 2005

Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament

Saint Louis 0
#17 Notre Dame 1 (2OT)

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – The 17th-ranked Notre Dame men's soccer team used another dramatic effort to capture their third victory of the season and win the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament on their home turf at Alumni Field on Sunday, Sept. 11. The Fighting Irish defeated Saint Louis 1-0 when Joe Lapira headed in the only goal of the match in the eighth minute of the second overtime period to give the Irish the title. Ryan Miller and Nate Norman collected the assists on the Lapira goal.

The Fighting Irish nearly got on the board within the first two minutes of the contest as Lapira worked his way near the goal twice, yet was denied both times by Billiken goalkeeper Jeff Sackman. The sophomore forward almost opened the scoring in the sixth minute with a close shot from the left wing. Notre Dame would continue to attack throughout the contest as the Irish out-shot Saint Louis 23-10 on the afternoon.

Saint Louis would threaten in the second half as the Billikens sent two shots off the post, yet Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill continued his solid play, including a diving save with 13:50 left to play in the second stanza. Cahill stopped four shots on the day and collected his second straight shutout. The junior has allowed only two goals during Notre Dame's first two contests.

After 17 minutes of scoreless overtime action, the Irish and Billikens appeared destined for a tie before Miller sent a long ball to Norman, who fed the ball to Lapira for his game-winning header, which found the back of the net from six yards out.

This was the second Berticelli tournament victory for the Fighting Irish. The first occurred in 2003. Norman, along with Cahill, Lapira and Miller were all named to the all-tournament team for the Irish.



	1	2	OT	OT2	F
Saint Louis	0	0	0	0	0
#17 Notre Dame	0	0	0	1	1

Scoring: ND: Joe Lapira (Ryan Miller, Nate Norman) 107:09.

	SLU	ND
Shots	10	23
Saves	12	5
Fouls	20	14
Corner Kicks	3	6

GAME 5 **September 16, 2005**

#16 Notre Dame	1
#10 St. John's	2

JAMAICA, N.Y. – Tenth-ranked St. John's used two goals by Matt Groenwald to defeat No. 16 Notre Dame 2-1 in BIG EAST men's soccer action Friday, Sept. 16 in front of 1,619 fans at Belson Stadium. Notre Dame registered its only tally in the 83rd minute on an own goal off a cross by Fighting Irish forward Joe Lapira. The contest marked the BIG EAST opener for both teams.

St. John's had a couple of chances early and capitalized in the 13th minute when Groenwald collected a long ball from Garry Lewis, beat a defender and sent a low blast from 16 yards out into left side of the net past Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill.

Notre Dame had an opportunity in the first half with 11:20 remaining as Irish midfielder John Stephens got the rebound off a Greg Dalby free kick but sent it into the hands of St. John's goalkeeper Jason Landers. That was Landers only save of the night.

St. John's out-shot the Irish 8-2 in the first half and the Red Storm would lead 1-0 after the first 45 minutes of play.

St. John's continued to control possession and out-shoot the Irish in the early stages of the second half. The Red Storm made it a 2-0 match in the 54th minute as Jeff Carroll played a nice ball to Groenwald, who shot it just inside the 18-yard box and beat Cahill to the low left corner for his fourth goal of the year.

One of Notre Dame's best scoring opportunities in the second half came with just under 18 minutes left to play. Stephens played the ball ahead to Bright Dike, who beat a defender and sent the shot wide left as Landers was running towards him.

The Irish would continue to put pressure on the Red Storm late, yet could not capitalize until Lapira sent a cross into the 18-yard box, which was headed in by St. John's Sam Matthews for an own goal that cut the Red Storm lead to one with 7:30 to play.

Following the goal, Lapira sent a shot just wide right with 6:35 left as the Irish tried for the equalizer. Notre Dame's final chance came when Ryan Miller booted a free kick that went wide right in the final seconds of the match.

	1	2	F
#16 Notre Dame	0	1	1
#10 St. John's	1	1	2

Scoring: SJ: Matt Groenwald (Garry Lewis), 12:36, SJ: Matt Groenwald (Jeff Carroll), 53:40, ND: Own goal, 82:30

	ND	SJ
Shots	5	17
Saves	2	1
Fouls	4	15
Corner Kicks	4	3

GAME 6 **September 18, 2005**

#16 Notre Dame	1
Syracuse	0

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Notre Dame got on the board early in the second half and held on to defeat Syracuse 1-0 in BIG EAST men's soccer action on Sunday, Sept. 18 at the SU Soccer Stadium. Junior forward Justin McGeeney notched his first goal of the season in the 52nd minute with the assist going to John Stephens. Despite a late Orange surge, that goal would prove to be the difference in the match.

Notre Dame controlled possession early in the first half and the Irish nearly capitalized in the fourth minute when Stephens sent a free kick into the box to forward Tony Megna, who headed the ball just over the crossbar. There was some controversy in the 15th minute as Fighting Irish forward Joe Lapira dribbled into the 18-yard box and was tripped up yet no call was made.

The Fighting Irish had another close call on a set piece in the 18th minute when a Stephens corner kick was headed by Ben Crouse but saved right in front of the net. With 17:42 remaining in the half, the Orange almost found the net on a corner kick as Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill momentarily lost possession of the ball before snagging it to keep the game scoreless.

The match was knotted 0-0 after the first half, with the Irish holding a 9-5 advantage in shots.

In the second half, it did not take Notre Dame long to snap the scoreless tie as Stephens sent a cross into the box that was deflected out and McGeeney would take the deflection and send the ball to the back left of the net from 10 yards out to put the Irish on top 1-0.

Syracuse nearly equaled the score in the 61st minute when an Orange corner kick was barely cleared to the right of the Notre Dame net by the Irish. The ensuing corner kick was headed just over the crossbar by the Orange.

The Orange would continue to keep the pressure on late into the second half but Notre Dame negated any chances, including a blast from 30 yards out by Syracuse's Pat Gallagher that was knocked away by Cahill. With 5:50 remaining in the game, the Orange sent a long ball into the box but the header was sent over the crossbar. Just over a minute later, Syracuse did find the back of the net after a collision with Cahill left the ball on the ground, yet the goal was waived off and the Irish would go on to claim their fourth victory of the season.

	1	2	F
#16 Notre Dame	0	1	1
Syracuse	0	0	0

Scoring: ND: Justin McGeeney (John Stephens) 52:18.

	ND	SU
Shots	17	16
Saves	3	3
Fouls	11	11
Corner Kicks	4	8

GAME 7 **September 23, 2005**

Louisville	1
#18 Notre Dame	2

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – The 18th-ranked Notre Dame men's soccer team ended up on the right side of another one-goal decision as the Irish downed Louisville 2-1 in BIG EAST action on Friday, Sept. 23 in front of 2,136 fans at Alumni Field. Notre Dame overcame a 1-0 deficit when midfielders Alex Yoshinaga and Ian Etherington each netted goals in the final 15 minutes of the match. Forward Tony Megna assisted on both Irish goals. With the win, the Fighting Irish improve to 5-2-0 overall and 2-1-0 in BIG EAST play.

Neither team could find the back of the net in the first half. Notre Dame played the ball over the top to try and present some opportunities yet nothing materialized. The Irish would out-shoot the Cardinals 4-3 in the opening half but the score would be knotted at zero following the first 45 minutes of play.

Louisville struck first with a score in the 59th minute as they took advantage of one of their few opportunities of the match. Forward Frank Jonke recovered a ball from the Irish defense and played it to midfielder David Guzman, who beat Notre Dame goalkeeper Chris Cahill one-on-one for the tally.

The Fighting Irish continued to attack after the Louisville goal just as they had all game. Notre Dame finally broke through in the 76th minute when Megna played the ball to Joe Lapira and he dished it to Yoshinaga, who gathered it at the top of the box and blasted it past a rushing Louisville goalkeeper Steven DeGeorge. DeGeorge did get a hand on the ball but it was not enough to stop the shot.

After the equalizer, the Irish continued to attack the Cardinals and keep them on their heels. The pressure paid off again as Megna did a give-and-go with Etherington and the junior midfielder sent another shot of DeGeorge's hands and into the net from 10 yards out put the Irish up with exactly nine minutes left to play.

	1	2	F
Louisville	0	1	1
#18 Notre Dame	0	2	2

Scoring: UL: David Guzman (Frank Jonke) 58:10, ND: Alex Yoshinaga (Joe Lapira, Tony Megna) 75:47, ND: Ian Etherington (Tony Megna) 81:00.

	UL	ND
Shots	5	16
Saves	3	1
Fouls	15	7
Corner Kicks	2	6

GAME 8 **September 25, 2005**

Cincinnati	2
#18 Notre Dame	1

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – The Notre Dame men's soccer team dropped a 2-1 decision to BIG EAST foe Cincinnati on Sunday, Sept. 25 at a rainy Alumni Field. The Fighting Irish fell behind 2-0 in the second half before a late surge produced a goal but the Irish could not net the equalizer. Ian Etherington scored the lone tally for the Irish in the 69th minute.

A scoreless first half did not come without some chances for both teams. Cincinnati out-shot the Irish 7-3 in the opening period. The Bearcats blasted some long shots that went either over or wide of the net. With 13:55 left in the half, Cincinnati's Omar Cummings sent a point-blank shot on goal but Irish keeper Chris Cahill collected the save to preserve the scoreless match.

The Irish responded on the other end of the field just over a minute later as Joe Lapira shook off a defender and sent the shot just wide right. Notre Dame continued to threaten around the 35th minute but could not convert.

Cincinnati did find the back of the net less than five minutes into the second half. Forward Kenny Anaba collected a thru-ball from Matt Hayden and dribbled past a couple Irish defenders and sent the shot past Cahill to put the Bearcats up 1-0.

Notre Dame had a couple chances for the equalizer in the 58th minute as Nate Norman's corner kick was momentarily dropped by Bearcat goalkeeper Mike Vessells, yet recovered in front of the net. Shortly after that, midfielder Alex Yoshinaga sent a header to the far post that was punched out by Vessells.

A set piece led to Cincinnati's second goal of the match, which came in the 64th minute. Midfielder Landry Gray took the corner kick from the right side and defender Amir Ikner headed it into the net for a 2-0 Bearcat advantage.

As the rain started to pick up, so did the Fighting Irish attack. Notre Dame chipped away at the Bearcat lead with just over 20 minutes remaining in the match. Norman sent a corner kick to Ryan Miller, who lobbed the ball in from 25-yards out and Etherington got a head on it to direct it into the top left corner.

The Irish continued to pressure the Bearcats late in the second half and would narrow the shot differential by totaling 13 in the second half alone but none resulted in the equalizer.

	1	2	F
Cincinnati	0	2	2
#18 Notre Dame	0	1	1

Scoring: UC: Kenny Anaba (unassisted) 49:30, UC: Amir Ikner (Landry Gray) 63:09, ND: Ian Etherington (Nate Norman and Ryan Miller) 68:45.

	UC	ND
Shots	17	16
Saves	6	6
Fouls	10	6
Corner Kicks	4	10

GAME 9 September 28, 2005

Bradley	0
Notre Dame	1

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – The weather was the story of the night as Notre Dame and Bradley battled the rain, wind and each other for 90 minutes at Alumni Field. A Fighting Irish tally by Bright Dike in the opening minutes of the match would prove to be the difference in the end as the Braves' late second half attack could not produce a goal. With the 1-0 victory, the Irish improve to 6-3-0 overall.

From the beginning of the match, both teams knew the weather would play a factor and make things more difficult. The Irish made the night even more strenuous for the Braves with a goal in the sixth minute. Following an early injury to Notre Dame's Justin McGeeney, Dike subbed in and would make his presence felt early. Midfielder John Stephens sent a free kick into the six-yard box and Dike got a foot on it and sent it up top past Braves goalkeeper Chris Dunsheath.

Bradley started to put together an attack early in the second half but the Notre Dame defense withstood the challenge. The Braves almost cracked the scoring column with just under 25 minutes left to play when Nick Mentgen got a head on a Steve Chromik corner kick, yet Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill made the stop. Another near miss came three minutes later as Zach Bell broke away from the Irish defense on the left side and sent a shot that went just wide of the far post.

Perhaps the best chance for the Braves came in the 74th minute when Chromik sent a blast off the left post and Bradley did not have a chance for a rebound shot.

Notre Dame had second half opportunities as well, which would have put the game away. With 10:45 remaining, forward Joe Lapira took the ball from Ian Etherington on the left side and sent the ball just off the mark and into the side of the net. Lapira would almost strike again in the 85th minute as he took a shot from straight on inside the 18-yard box but it was punched out by Dunsheath and the Irish were not able to secure the ball for a rebound attempt.

	1	2	F
Bradley	0	0	0
Notre Dame	1	0	1

Scoring: ND: Bright Dike (John Stephens) 5:13

	BU	ND
Shots	10	20
Saves	7	3
Fouls	9	16
Corner Kicks	2	2

GAME 10 October 1, 2005

West Virginia 3

Notre Dame 3 (2OT)

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – Notre Dame held a one-goal lead at three different points of its match versus West Virginia yet the Mountaineers would come back each time to force a 3-3 double-overtime tie at Alumni Field on Saturday, October 1. Notre Dame and West Virginia both showcased an offensive attack that included three combined goals in the final six minutes of regulation. Notre Dame sophomore forward Joe Lapira registered four points on one goal and two assists during the contest.

Notre Dame found the back of the net within the first six minutes of play for the second straight contest when Lapira collected a free kick from John Stephens and volleyed it past West Virginia goalkeeper Nick Noble in the sixth minute of play.

West Virginia would respond in the 22nd minute as a shot by Andrew Wright hit off the crossbar and bounced down and the rebound shot by Geoff Cameron was punched out by Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill and the ball was then headed in by Zak Boggs.

The score would remain tied at one as each team entered the locker room at halftime.

The Irish found the back of the net early in the second period on a Justin McGeeney tally with the assist to Lapira. McGeeney, a forward, took the Lapira pass and beat the defender on the left side and sent it in with 46:43 gone by in the match for his second goal of the season.

Notre Dame held the 2-1 advantage up until the 85th minute when West Virginia's Jarrod Smith drove a loose ball past Cahill after an Andy Wright corner kick.

It would not take the Irish long to regain the lead. Junior midfielder Nate Norman sent home a one-touch volley from Ian Etherington and Lapira for his third tally of the season with just 3:10 left to play in the second half. However, the Mountaineers would have one more equalizer left in them. Following a long throw-in by Pat Carroll, Smith sent the shot past Cahill and into the back of the net just 27 seconds after the Norman goal.

Neither team could mount much of an attack in either of the two 10-minute overtime periods as the match ended in a 3-3 draw.

	1	2	OT	OT2	F
West Virginia	1	2	0	0	3
Notre Dame	1	2	0	0	3

Scoring: ND: Joe Lapira (John Stephens) 5:52, WV: Zak Boggs (Geoff Cameron) 21:18, ND: Justin McGeeney (Joe Lapira) 46:43, WV: Jarrod Smith (Andy Wright) 84:39, ND: Nate Norman (Ian Etherington, Joe Lapira) 86:50, WV: Jarrod Smith (Pat Carroll) 87:17

	WV	ND
Shots	18	27
Saves	5	6
Fouls	12	9
Corner Kicks	7	11

GAME 11 October 5, 2005

Notre Dame 1

Marquette 0

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – The Fighting Irish men's soccer team claimed a 1-0 victory over Marquette in BIG EAST play on Wednesday, Oct. 5 at Valley Fields. A goal in the 40th minute from junior forward Justin McGeeney and a solid defensive effort, which kept Marquette off the scoreboard, gave Notre Dame the victory. Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill stopped two shots to earn his fifth shutout of the season.

Notre Dame held a 10-7 advantage on shots over the Golden Eagles. With Marquette playing a solid defensive match, the Irish capitalized on one of their few quality chances. Midfielder Ian Etherington took the ball in the corner and played with it until finding a seam between a pair of Marquette defenders before placing the ball in front of the goal and McGeeney landed a head on it and sent it into the net. That was the junior's third goal of the season.

Play throughout the contest was relatively consistent from both sides until the final few minutes of the contest, when Marquette had to press forward. Notre Dame created some counter attacks, but the Golden Eagles kept the contest within one goal.

	1	2	F
Notre Dame	1	0	1
Marquette	0	0	0

Scoring: ND: Justin McGeeney (Ian Etherington) 39:29

	ND	MU
Shots	10	7
Saves	2	3
Fouls	8	12
Corner Kicks	6	3

GAME 12 October 8, 2005

#10 Connecticut 2

Notre Dame 1

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – The Fighting Irish men's soccer team came out on the wrong end of a 2-1 decision to No. 10 Connecticut on Saturday, Oct. 8 at Alumni Field. Both teams entered the game as part of a four-way tie for first in the BIG EAST's Blue Division. The Huskies now move ahead of the Irish with a 4-2-1 BIG EAST record and 9-2-1 overall, while the Irish are now 3-3-1 in the league and 7-4-1 overall. Notre Dame defender Ben Crouse notched the first goal of his Fighting Irish career in the loss.

The Huskies opened the scoring in the 21st minute by capitalizing on their first shot when Julius James headed the ball into the upper right corner of the net off a baseline cross from Ryan Cordeiro. Stanley Ford also collected an assist on the play as he fed the ball to Cordeiro.

Notre Dame would control the ball for the majority of the first half, which resulted in many corner kicks, yet the Irish could not produce a tally off of them. The score remained 1-0 in favor of UConn at the intermission.

The Fighting Irish nearly got on the board in the first few minutes of the second half as sophomore midfielder Alex Yoshinaga ripped a ball from 25-yards out that banged off the left post and Notre Dame was unable to get a solid rebound shot.

Connecticut made it a 2-0 contest in the 53rd minute on a goal by Cordeiro. The sophomore forward gathered a loose ball on the right side and put it into the left side of the net. Ford collected his second assist on the play and Moshe Shalchon was also credited with a helper.

Notre Dame would slice the deficit in half four minutes later when Crouse headed the ball into the right side of the goal off a midfield cross from Ryan Miller.



Ryan Miller assisted on goals in both the Connecticut and Providence matches. On the year, the junior defender tied for the team-lead in assists with five.

The Fighting Irish continued to pressure the Huskies for the rest of the match but could not find the back of the net for the equalizer. The last effort came when midfielder Ian Etherington sailed a shot over the goal with 15 seconds left to play.

	1	2	F
#10 Connecticut	1	1	2
Notre Dame	0	1	1

Scoring: UC: Julius James (Ryan Cordeiro, Stanley Ford) 20:23, UC: Ryan Cordeiro (Stanley Ford, Moshe Shalcon) 52:59, ND: Ben Crouse (Ryan Miller) 56:01.

	UC	ND
Shots	7	15
Saves	3	4
Fouls	12	12
Corner Kicks	5	11

GAME 13 October 11, 2005
Notre Dame 0
Michigan State 0 (2OT)

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Notre Dame and Michigan State played 110 minutes of men's soccer action, yet neither team could produce a goal at Old College Field. Both the Irish and the Spartans had scoring opportunities but in the end the defense of both teams held strong. Notre Dame out-shot Michigan State 18-11 on the afternoon and the Irish also held a 6-2 advantage in corner kicks. With the tie, the Fighting Irish move to 7-4-2 overall.

Michigan State had one of the few scoring opportunities in the first half. With 28:30 remaining in the opening half, the ball slipped by the Irish defense and presented a one-on-one chance for the Spartans but a diving save by Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill put a halt to the chance. Notre Dame would out-shoot Michigan State 6-3 in the half.

The Spartans came out of the intermission with some energy that nearly put them on the board eight minutes into the second half. A shot from the right side was blocked away by a diving Cahill and the dribbling ball would hit the left post before getting cleared out by the Irish.

Possibly Cahill's best save of the night came with 22:50 left in regulation as Michigan State's Ryan McMahan sent a shot at a running Cahill, who blocked it, but McMahan gathered the rebound and sent the shot wide left. Cahill, a junior, stopped four shots on the afternoon while Michigan State's Jason Tillman collected seven saves. Sophomore forward Joe Lapira led the Irish with six shots.

The Irish nearly put themselves on the board with just over five minutes left in the second half. Midfielder John Stephens sent a nice short ball to Tony Megna who sent it on goal but was saved by Tillman and regulation would end scoreless.

In the first overtime, Irish midfielder Alex Yoshinaga gathered a nice pass from Ian Etherington and blasted a shot at the goal but Tillman was there yet again. Later, the Fighting Irish would have the ball hit the left post but no one could get a good foot on the rebound.

	1	2	OT	OT2	F
Notre Dame	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan State	0	0	0	0	0

	ND	MSU
Shots	18	11
Saves	4	7
Fouls	12	8
Corner Kicks	6	2

GAME 14 October 15, 2005
Notre Dame 0
Georgetown 1

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Georgetown men's soccer team cashed in one of its four shots on goal while visiting Notre Dame had several near-misses, as the Hoyas edged the Irish, 1-0, in BIG EAST Conference action on Saturday afternoon.

Notre Dame held an 18-11 margin in shots - including a second-half blast by Alex Yoshinaga that clanged off the crossbar - while attempting seven of the game's eight corner kicks.

Georgetown scored the game's only goal in the 33rd minute, capitalizing on a misclear by the visitors. The Hoyas collected the ball near the top of their attacking third and played a pass into the left side of the box for Daniel Grasso, who sent home a 20-yard shot into the far-right sidenetting.

Junior goalkeeper Andrew Keszler stopped all six of Notre Dame's official shots on goal while receiving some help from the crossbar midway through the second half. Yoshinaga struck a 20-yard shot from the right side, with the ball clipping the bottom of the bar and bouncing straight down to maintain the 1-0 score.

Joe Lapira had a strong chance to give the Irish the lead moments before the GU goal, springing free for a 1-on-1 chance with Keszler - but Lapira's touch was a bit too strong and the 'keeper smothered the ball. Justin McGeeney had a similar chance in the 84th minute, after the Irish played the ball into him (Keszler made the clutch save to preserve the shutout).

A final chance for the Irish came with 10 minutes left to play, as Nate Norman was gaining position for the equalizer but was taken down in the box (no penalty kick was called).

	1	2	F
Notre Dame	0	0	0
Georgetown	1	0	1

Scoring: GT: Daniel Grasso (unassisted) 32:30

	ND	GT
Shots	18	6
Saves	3	6
Fouls	11	14
Corner Kicks	7	1

GAME 15 October 19, 2005
Notre Dame 2
Providence 1 (2OT)

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Notre Dame and Providence men's soccer teams were less than three minutes away from a double-overtime tie when midfielder Kurt Martin netted the game-winner to give the Irish the 2-1 win at Glay Field on Wednesday, Oct. 19. Both teams entered the match tied for fourth place in the BIG EAST's Blue Division with 10 points apiece. Notre Dame now stands at 8-5-2 overall and 4-4-1 in conference play.

The Fighting Irish snapped their scoreless streak, which had spanned over two games, in the ninth minute as junior forward Justin McGeeney sent home his team-leading fourth goal of the season off of Friar goalkeeper Chris Konopka from 20 yards out. Notre Dame junior defender Ryan Miller collected the assist on the tally.

Each team had five shots in the first half yet the Irish would hold a 1-0 advantage on the scoreboard.

Notre Dame was on the verge of collecting the victory in regulation, however the Friars' Ian Wexler notched the equalizer early in the 88th minute. Wexler sent the ball into the back of the net after a long throw-in from Timothy Ritter and a Scott Hankard cross.

After each team played a scoreless 10-minute first overtime period, Martin delivered the first goal of his Notre Dame career in dramatic fashion with 7:10 gone by in the second overtime. The tally was set up as midfielder Nate Norman worked his way around the Friar defense and hammered a cross that was flicked on by forward Joe Lapira to Martin.

	1	2	OT	OT2	F
Notre Dame	1	0	0	1	2
Providence	0	1	0	0	1

Scoring: ND: Justin McGeeney (Ryan Miller) 8:42, PC: Ian Wexler (Scott Hankard, Timothy Ritter) 87:05, ND: Kurt Martin (Nate Norman, Joe Lapira) 107:10

	ND	PC
Shots	11	17
Saves	8	6
Fouls	7	12
Corner Kicks	4	4

GAME 16 October 22, 2005
Notre Dame 2
Pittsburgh 1

INDIANOLA, Pa. – Two goals in the first seven minutes of play propelled the Notre Dame men's soccer team to a 2-1 win over Pittsburgh at Founders Field on Saturday, Oct. 22. Alex Yoshinaga put the Irish on the board in the fourth minute and junior Greg Dalby followed that tally up with one of his own less than three minutes later to put the Irish up 2-0 early on.

Notre Dame's first score followed a corner kick as Yoshinaga controlled the ball and sent it into the back of the net for his second goal of the year. Dalby would add his second score of the year after he secured a loose ball in front of the goal after another

corner kick and sent it past Panther goalkeeper Jordan Marks.

The Fighting Irish out-shot Pittsburgh 10-2 in the first half and 16-5 for the game. Notre Dame also held a 12-2 advantage in corner kicks.

Pittsburgh sliced the deficit in half in the 63rd minute as Matt Firster rebounded the ball, after a Brendon Smith shot was saved, and scored.

Junior goalkeeper Chris Cahill and the Irish defense would hold on for the win. Cahill collected four saves in his ninth win of the year. Marks stopped 10 Notre Dame shots.

	1	2	F
Notre Dame	2	0	2
Pittsburgh	0	1	1

Scoring: ND: Alex Yoshinaga (unassisted) 3:55, ND: Greg Dalby (unassisted) 6:45, UP: Matt Firster (Brendon Smith) 62:05

	ND	UP
Shots	16	5
Saves	4	10
Fouls	11	20
Corner Kicks	12	2

GAME 17 October 26, 2005 #5 Indiana 3 Notre Dame 0

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – Indiana's Mike Ambersley netted a goal and assisted on another as the fifth-ranked Hoosiers topped Notre Dame 3-0 on Oct. 26 at Alumni Field. The Irish could never mount a solid offensive attack against the two-time defending national champions and were out-shot 20-7 in the match. Notre Dame (9-6-5) will now look to regroup as No. 16 Seton Hall comes into town for a match-up on Saturday to close out the regular season.

Indiana (9-1-5) opened the scoring in the 31st minute as freshman Lee Nguyen sent a perfectly placed free kick into the upper right corner of the net from 25 yards out. The score would remain 1-0 as both teams entered the locker rooms at halftime.

The Hoosiers made it a 2-0 contest early in the second half with a goal from Ambersley in the 52nd minute. The senior forward blasted a shot from 35 yards away and Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill (Louisville, Ky./DeSales) leaped and fully extended his 6-6 frame to get a hand on it yet that deflected the ball into the net.

The game was put away in the 65th minute as Charley Traylor took a pass from Ambersley and blasted it in from 35 yards away to make it a 3-0 match.

Notre Dame's best chance of the match came with just over 10 minutes remaining in the contest as junior forward Justin McGeeney snuck into the Hoosier defense and sent a point-blank shot on goal that was stopped by Chris Monroe, who made three saves on the night. Cahill made several diving saves on the night and finished with seven total stops.

	1	2	F
#5 Indiana	1	2	3
Notre Dame	0	0	0

Scoring: IU: Lee Nguyen (unassisted) 30:55, IU: Mike Ambersley (unassisted) 51:58, IU: Charley Traylor (Mike Ambersley) 64:27.

	IU	ND
Shots	20	7
Saves	3	7
Fouls	9	10
Corner Kicks	2	2

GAME 18 October 29, 2005 #16 Seton Hall 0 Notre Dame 4

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – Joe Lapira tallied five points on two goals and an assist to lead Notre Dame to a dominating 4-0 victory over No. 16 Seton Hall in BIG EAST men's soccer action on Saturday, Oct. 29 at Alumni Field. The Fighting Irish end the regular season with a 10-6-2 record overall and 6-4-1 in league play. Notre Dame finishes in a tie for third along with West Virginia in the Blue Division of the BIG EAST.

Notre Dame opened the scoring late in the first half as Lapira sent the ball ahead to freshman Bright Dike, who may have gotten a hand on it yet no call was made, and he beat his man and sent the ball past a sprawled-out Boris Pardo and into the net in the 41st minute. The goal was the second of the year for Dike. That would be the only scoring of the first half.

Two goals early in the second half cemented the victory for the Irish. In the 49th minute, freshman Matt Besler played the ball to Kurt Martin and he delivered a perfect cross in front of the net from the right side and Lapira sent a sliding kick into the back of the net. Less than two minutes later, Besler would collect another assist as he dished the ball to junior defender Ryan Miller and he deposited the shot to put the Irish up 3-0. That was the first career goal for Miller. Lapira put the final touch on the win as he sent a header into the net off a cross from Martin in the 76th minute.

Irish goalkeepers Chris Cahill and Justin Michaud combined on the shutout. Cahill stopped three shots in 76 minutes of play, while the senior Michaud made one save in the final 14 minutes of action. Seton Hall's Pardo made two saves on the night.

	1	2	F
#16 Seton Hall	0	0	0
Notre Dame	1	3	4

Scoring: ND: Bright Dike (Joe Lapira) 40:34, ND: Joe Lapira (Kurt Martin, Matt Besler) 48:44, ND: Ryan Miller (Matt Besler) 50:26, ND: Joe Lapira (Kurt Martin) 75:48.

	SH	ND
Shots	9	14
Saves	2	4
Fouls	11	15
Corner Kicks	3	3

GAME 19 November 2, 2005 BIG EAST Championship - First Round

Syracuse	0
Notre Dame	0 (2OT)
(Notre Dame advances on penalty kicks, 4-2)	

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – Following 110 minutes of scoreless action at Alumni Field, the Notre Dame men's soccer team topped Syracuse 4-2 in penalty kicks to advance to the quarterfinals of the BIG EAST Championship. The match is officially scored as a tie.

Notre Dame held a 30-17 advantage in shots during the contest yet could not get any attempts into the back of the net. Joe Lapira kept firing away for the Irish and had a few good looks among his game-high 11 shots.

Syracuse held an 11-8 advantage in shots during the first half, yet Notre Dame would have an 11-3 edge in the second half plus an 11-1 advantage during the two overtime periods. Notre Dame's Chris Cahill collected five saves on the night to register his seventh shutout of the season. Syracuse's Robert Cavicchia had six saves on the night.



Matt Besler netted the decisive penalty kick against Syracuse in the first round of the BIG EAST tournament. That was one of many contributions that Besler made during his freshman campaign in 2005.

	1	2	OT	OT2	F
Syracuse	0	0	0	0	0
Notre Dame	0	0	0	0	0

Shootout recap:

- Notre Dame's Justin McGeeney went first and put the Irish up 1-0.
- Syracuse responded with a goal from Pete Rowley past Cahill to make it 1-1.
- Ian Etherington put the Irish up 2-1.
- The Orange's Brad Peetoom sent his shot of the crossbar so the Irish still led 2-1 after two rounds.
- Notre Dame's Kurt Martin put his shot away to make it a 3-1 advantage.
- Mike McCallion sailed his shot over the crossbar so the Irish were still up 3-1 after three rounds.
- Joe Lapira had his shot saved by Cavicchia to temporarily preserve the outcome.
- Syracuse's Isaac Collings sent in his must-have goal to make it 3-2 Irish.
- Freshman Matt Besler tallied the goal that clinched the shootout victory for the Irish, 4-2.

	SU	ND
Shots	17	30
Saves	6	5
Fouls	16	11
Corner Kicks	9	4

GAME 20 November 5, 2005 BIG EAST Championship - Second Round

Notre Dame	0
#16 St. John's	1

JAMAICA, N.Y. – A goal by Garry Lewis in the 78th minute would prove to be the difference as No. 16 St. John's defeated Notre Dame 1-0 in the quarterfinals of the BIG EAST Championship on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Belson Stadium. With the loss, Notre Dame falls to 10-7-3 overall.

A scoreless first half did not come without some drama as St. John's midfielder Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph was issued a red card with 35 seconds remaining in the half after elbowing Irish defender Ben Crouse in head as the two were fighting for a ball in the air. The penalty meant the Irish would play the remaining of the game one-man up on the Red Storm.

The match would remain without a goal until Lewis took a ball from Jeff Carroll, which was sent in by a Billy Hole free kick, and headed it into the back of the net to put the Red Storm on top.

The Irish could not crack the scoring column during the final 12 minutes and would see their bid for a semifinal berth in the conference tournament fall short. Junior goalkeeper Chris Cahill stopped five shots on the night for Notre Dame, while St. John's Jason Landers collected two saves in the win.

The Red Storm out-shot the Fighting Irish 15-10 for the match. Sophomore midfielder Alex Yoshinaga had a team-high four shots for Notre Dame.

Saturday's contest marked Notre Dame's 14th match of the year that has been decided by one goal. The Fighting Irish own an 8-6 record in those games. Notre Dame is now 0-7-1 all-time at St. John's in program history, including a 2-1 loss earlier this season on Sept. 16.

	1	2	F
Notre Dame	0	0	0
#16 St. John's	0	1	1

Scoring: SJ: Garry Lewis (Billy Hole, Jeff Carroll) 77:39

	ND	SJ
Shots	10	15
Saves	5	2
Fouls	6	5
Corner Kicks	5	6

GAME 21 November 18, 2005
NCAA Championship - First Round
Western Illinois 0
Notre Dame 2

NOTRE DAME, Ind. - The Notre Dame men's soccer team used a solid all-around effort in defeating Western Illinois, 2-0, in the first round of the NCAA tournament on Friday, Nov. 18 at Alumni Field. Joe Lapira and Kurt Martin netted goals for the Irish in the victory.

Notre Dame went up 1-0 in the 20th minute against the Leathernecks as Ryan Miller sent a cross to Lapira from the right side and he put the ball in the lower-left corner for his team-leading sixth goal of the season. That was Notre Dame's first goal in the last three matches.

The Irish had other scoring chances in the first half as Justin McGeeney sent a shot just wide off a nice pass from Nate Norman. Lapira almost scored again with 16:55 remaining in the half with a shot that was high from the top of the box. The Irish would out-shoot the Leathernecks 4-2 in the first half and 10-3 for the game.

Martin capitalized after an Irish cross was intercepted yet misplayed in the box and the sophomore midfielder sent it with 37:57 left to play for his second goal on the year.

Western Illinois could not mount an offensive attack against the Irish defense for the rest of the match and Notre Dame would punch its ticket to the second round. Junior goalkeeper Chris Cahill collected two saves to earn his eighth solo shutout of the season for the Fighting Irish.

	1	2	F
Western Illinois	0	0	0
Notre Dame	1	1	2

Scoring: ND: Joe Lapira (Ryan Miller) 19:13, ND: Kurt Martin (unassisted) 52:03

	WIU	ND
Shots	3	10
Saves	3	2
Fouls	6	17
Corner Kicks	2	6

GAME 22 November 22, 2005
NCAA Championship - Second Round
Notre Dame 2
#5 Indiana 0

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. - A stellar second half performance was the key to Notre Dame's 2-0 win over Indiana in the second round of the NCAA Championship on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at Bill Armstrong Stadium. The Fighting Irish used goals by Justin McGeeney and Joe Lapira to secure the upset over the Hoosiers, who were the two-time defending NCAA champion and the No. 3 seed in this year's tournament.

Notre Dame used solid goalkeeping by Chris Cahill to keep the Irish in the match despite the Hoosiers threatening early. Indiana had several first half opportunities but could not convert. The Hoosiers out-shot the Irish 9-6 in the first half and 16-12 for the game, yet Cahill made six saves on the night to go along with two team saves.

The Irish came out of the locker room looking like a new team in the second half. Just over ten minutes into the second period, junior midfielder Ian Etherington sent a cross to McGeeney who headed it towards the far post and into the back of the net to put the Irish up 1-0.

It did not take long for Notre Dame to notch another tally as senior defender Ben Crouse sent a long pass to Lapira and he chipped it over the Indiana goalkeeper Chris Munroe and into the net for a 2-0 lead in the 62nd minute.

A stunned Indiana crowd would witness the Fighting Irish play solid defense the rest of the way to preserve the 2-0 advantage and claim arguably the biggest win in program history. The Hoosiers had won 19 straight NCAA Tournament games at home and they were 45-3 at Armstrong Stadium during the tournament. This marked Notre Dame's fourth-ever win against Indiana in 26 chances. Indiana defeated Notre Dame, 3-0, earlier this season on Oct. 26 at Alumni Field. The Hoosiers had been 2-0 against the Fighting Irish in NCAA games prior to Tuesday night.

	1	2	F
Notre Dame	0	2	2
#5 Indiana	0	0	0

Scoring: ND: Justin McGeeney (Ian Etherington) 55:33, ND: Joe Lapira (Ben Crouse) 61:43.

	ND	IU
Shots	12	16
Saves	8	3
Fouls	11	11
Corner Kicks	5	6

GAME 23 November 27, 2005
NCAA Championship - Round of 16
Notre Dame 0
#15 Clemson 1

CLEMSON, S.C. - The Notre Dame men's soccer team saw its impressive NCAA run come to an end with a 1-0 loss to Clemson at Historic Riggs Field on Sunday, Nov. 27. The Fighting Irish, who were making just the third Round of 16 appearance in program history, ends the season with a 12-8-3 record. Clemson advances to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Championship.

Clemson threatened early and finally broke through in the 20th minute as Dane Richards took a pass from Bryson Moore on the left side and sent it to the far post past Notre Dame goalkeeper Chris Cahill, who was rushing up on the play, for a 1-0 Tiger lead.

Notre Dame managed two shots in the first half, compared to Clemson's six. Ian Etherington gathered a throw-in from Joe Lapira and sent the shot wide to the left with 11 minutes elapsed in the period. With 14:37 remaining in the half, sophomore midfielder Kurt Martin blasted a shot high from 30 yards out. That would be Notre Dame's final threat of the half, despite controlling the ball for a good portion of the final minutes.

The second half featured Notre Dame coming out strong and controlling the ball early but a tough Tiger defense was hard to break. Forward Justin McGeeney attempted the Irish's first shot of the half straight on from 25-yards out yet the ball was scooped up by Clemson goalkeeper, Phil Marfuggi. Marfuggi would have three saves on the afternoon, compared to two for Cahill.

McGeeney almost connected on his second shot of the half as he sent a header high off a Ben Crouse pass with 34:45 remaining.

The Tigers nearly went up 2-0 in the 74th minute as Richards sent a low shot from the right side that deflected off the left post and came across the mouth of the goal and hit the right post before being cleared out. For the game, Clemson held a 12-10 advantage in shots.

With just over 10 minutes left in the match, Irish midfielder Alex Yoshinaga sent a shot in on goal from the top of the box yet it was cleared away by Clemson's Alan O'Hara to preserve the 1-0 lead. The Fighting Irish would continue to keep the pressure on late in the match as did the Tigers.

Richards had another close call with four minutes remaining as he lobbed the ball over a rushing Cahill on top of the box but an amazing effort by Notre Dame defender Dale Rellas prevented the goal. Rellas, a senior captain, ran onto the ball and headed it over the goal, nearly hitting his head on the crossbar.

The Fighting Irish had one last chance left in them with just under a minute left in the contest as McGeeney ran on to a long pass and almost connected on a shot, yet Marfuggi was there for the save.

	1	2	F
Notre Dame	0	0	0
#15 Clemson	1	0	1

Scoring: CU: Dane Richards (Bryson Moore) 19:52

	ND	CU
Shots	10	12
Saves	3	3
Fouls	14	14
Corner Kicks	4	3

Departed Letterwinners



Ben Crouse

Class of 2006

Defender • 5-11 • 165

Oak Park, Calif.

Oak Park H.S.

Crouse's Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Sh	G	A	Pts	GW
2002		DNP				
2003	2-0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	9-7	7	0	0	0	0
2005	23-22	11	1	1	3	0
Totals	34-29	18	1	1	3	0



Jon Mark Thompson

Class of 2006

Midfielder • 5-11 • 150

Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Cape Girardeau Central H.S.

Thompson's Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Sh	G	A	Pts	GW
2002	8-0	2	0	0	0	0
2003	1-0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	7-0	2	0	0	0	0
2005	13-2	4	0	0	0	0
Totals	29-2	8	0	0	0	0

AS A SENIOR: A starter in 22 of 23 games • tallied three points on a goal and an assist • attempted 11 shots • scored his first career goal in a 2-1 loss to No. 10 Connecticut • notched the first assist of his career in a 2-0 victory over No. 5 Indiana in the second round of the NCAA Tournament • earned his third monogram • ended his career having played in 34 career games, making 29 starts • named to the 2005-06 BIG EAST Academic All-Star team.

AS A JUNIOR: Appeared in nine games, including seven starts, throughout the 2004 season • started the first seven games of the campaign as he stepped in to fill the role of injured left back Kevin Goldthwaite • came off the bench against Villanova and Loyola-Chicago • tallied seven shots on the season • fit well into Notre Dame's system of attacking defenders • started two of the three BIG EAST Conference matches in which he played • named to the 2004-05 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A SOPHOMORE: Saw his first career action vs. No. 11 California at the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic • also played 11 minutes in Notre Dame's 6-0 victory at Cleveland State.

AS A SENIOR: Saw action in 13 games, starting two of them • attempted four shots • earned his first career start in a 1-0 win at Marquette • also made a start in a 1-0 loss at Georgetown • a three-time monogram winner • appeared in 29 matches during his Notre Dame career, making two starts • named to the 2005-06 BIG EAST Academic All-Star team.

AS A JUNIOR: Appeared in seven matches, totaling 108 minutes during the 2004 campaign • registered two shots • tallied 16 minutes of playing time over three games in BIG EAST play versus Georgetown, Pittsburgh and Connecticut • also saw action versus Boston University, Cal State Fullerton, Loyola-Chicago and Seton Hall (BIG EAST Tournament) • named to the 2004-05 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A SOPHOMORE: Appeared in one game during the 2003 season, coming off the bench in Notre Dame's 1-0 victory at Michigan State.

AS A FRESHMAN: Played in eight contests in 2002 • made his first college appearance coming off the bench against Creighton in the second game of the season and also played in the Seton Hall contest • was the only freshman besides Dale Rellas to see action versus the Blue Jays • also came off the bench in Notre Dame's 2-1 double overtime victory over Furman and played in the

AS A FRESHMAN: Did not see action in any games during the 2002 campaign.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: A four-year starter at Oak Park High School • two-year captain who played a number of different positions during his scholastic career • played every minute of every contest throughout his four prep seasons • a three-time first-team all-Tri-Valley League selection • two-time all-Tri Valley Defensive MVP • led his high school squad to league championship in 2000 • also earned all-California Interscholastic Federation honors • began playing with the Region IV Olympic Developmental Team in 1998 • a first-team all-CYAS state team selection after leading team to adidas Cup championship and ODP International Tournament • an eight-year veteran of SoCal United Soccer Club • led that team to CSL Premier Under-16 championship in 2000 • squad also was a semifinalist at National Cup as well as finalist at Nomads Tournament • born July 28, 1984 • son of David and Dantzel.

Bradley, Providence, Boston College, Michigan State and Villanova matches • named to the 2002-03 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: Four-year starter at Cape Girardeau High School • finished as the school's leading scorer with 60 goals and 31 assists • tied single-season scoring record with 26 goals in his senior year, while also collecting 10 assists • a first-team all-state honoree, he was also named the top offensive player in Southeastern Missouri in consecutive seasons • a three-time first-team all-conference selection and two-time team MVP and captain • member of the Region III Olympic Developmental Program pool • played overseas in the Holland Cup in August of 1999 • a seven-year club player most recently competed with the Metro FC Soccer club • selected to the all-star team at Notre Dame Elite Camp in summer of 2001 • valedictorian of high school class after earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average • recipient of Cape Girardeau's Scholar-Athlete Award in 2002 • National Honor Society member • born November 25, 1983 • son of Ed and Marsha Thompson • graduated from the College of Arts and Letters in May 2006 with a degree in psychology/pre-professional studies • finished with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.435.





Tony Megna

Class of 2006

Forward • 5-11 • 165

Middleton, Wis.

Middleton H.S.

AS A SENIOR: Played in 23 games, making nine starts • dished out two assists • attempted 16 shots • collected two assists in a 2-1 win over Louisville • earned his third monogram • played in 60 career games • started 43 contests • named the team's Knute Rockne Scholar-Athlete Award winner for the 2005-06 season • named to the 2005-06 BIG EAST Academic All-Star team.

AS A JUNIOR: Started all 14 games in which he appeared in during the 2004 campaign, with six of those coming during BIG



EAST play • tied for team-high honors in goals with five • third on the team in scoring after tallying 10 points on those five goals • two of the scores were game-winners • put the cap on a 4-1 victory over Georgetown in the conference-opener as he netted his first career goal • registered a two-goal performance versus Loyola-Chicago in Notre Dame's 4-0 win • opened the scoring versus the Ramblers in the 18th minute • second goal came in the 57th minute • recorded second consecutive two-goal match in a 3-0 victory against Pittsburgh • opened the scoring once again as he deposited a shot in the back of the net at the 38:06 mark before netting the team's third and final goal in the 84th minute • named BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Week on Oct. 11 for his performance versus the Panthers • missed five games late in the season due to a knee injury, yet returned for the NCAA match versus Ohio State • selected to the 2004-05 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team for the second straight year.

AS A SOPHOMORE: Started 20 of 23 games as a striker for the Irish in 2003 • helped wear down the opposing defense early in the contest with his hard-nosed play • usually replaced by senior Devon Prescod late in the first half • made his first career start vs. No. 11 California at the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic • played a career-high 40 minutes vs. Michigan in the NCAA Sweet 16 at Alumni Field • also saw over 30 minutes of action vs. Bradley (36), vs. Rutgers (33), at Cleveland State (38), vs. Connecticut (34) and vs. St. John's (35) in the BIG EAST Championship final match • member of the 2003-04 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A FRESHMAN: Did not see action in any games during the 2002 campaign.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: Missed his entire senior season due to a back injury • tallied 29 goals and dished off 39 assists during his prep career at Middleton • earned first-team all-conference and all-district honors as a junior after scoring 10 goals



and dishing off 16 assists after leading team to second-place finish in state tournament • garnered first-team all-conference honors following his junior and sophomore seasons, in addition to all-district accolades • scored eight goals with 14 assists in his sophomore season and tallied nine goals and nine assists as a freshman • helped lead team to conference and sectional championships during freshman season • gained international experience playing contests in Holland, Austria and Brazil • three-year starter as a member of the Region II Olympic Development Team and a five-year veteran of the State Olympic Development Team • traveled to Austria with his ODP squad who played Manchester United to a 1-1 tie • member of Madison 56ers club team and led that squad to win Wisconsin Premium League championship in 2000 • one of 150 high school players from across the United States selected to the 2001 ESP Elite Soccer Camp and was named to its all-star team • born July 14, 1984 • son of Richard and Sherri Megna • graduated from the College of Engineering in May 2006 with a degree in electrical engineering • finished with a 3.340 cumulative grade-point average.

Megna's Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Sh	G	A	Pts	GW
2002		DNP				
2003	23-20	10	0	0	0	0
2004	14-14	39	5	0	10	2
2005	23-9	16	0	2	2	0
Totals	60-43	65	5	2	12	2

Departed Letterwinners



John Stephens

Class of 2006

Midfielder • 5-8 • 155

Woodridge, Ill.

Benet Academy

AS A SENIOR: Served as a team tri-captain • played in 20 games, making 17 starts • notched five points on a goal and three assists • scored the first goal of his career in a season-opening 4-1 win over No. 7 SMU • assisted on the game-winners in 1-0 victories over Syracuse and Bradley • dished an assist in a 3-3 tie against West Virginia • concluded his career with seven points on one goal and five assists • played in 60 career games with 23 starts • a four-time monogram winner • named to the 2005-06 BIG EAST Academic All-Star team.



AS A JUNIOR: Played in all 19 games during the 2004 campaign • used as relief in the midfield for the Irish, while also making three starts • all three starts came in BIG EAST play • dished out two assists for the first points of his career • collected his assists in back-to-back contests • assisted on a goal in a 2-0 win over Boston University • helped tie up the match versus Evansville with an assist as the Fighting Irish would go on to win 2-1 • keyed Notre Dame's winning play versus No. 9 Boston College with a great set piece free kick into the box, setting up a rebound goal in the 1-0 Irish victory • named the team's Knute Rockne Scholar-Athlete Award winner for the 2004 season along with being a member of the 2004-05 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A SOPHOMORE: Saw the most action of his career in 2003, appearing in 13 games and making three starts • first career start came vs. St. John's during the regular season • also earned starts at Michigan State and versus Connecticut in the BIG EAST Championship quarterfinals • played a career high 105 minutes versus Akron during the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament • earned the team's Knute Rockne Scholar-Athlete Award • member of the 2003-04 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A FRESHMAN: Played in eight games in 2002 • came off the bench in Notre Dame's second-round NCAA tournament loss to Indiana • saw action in his first collegiate game against Seton Hall • also played in the Furman, Bradley, Providence, Michigan State, Villanova and Georgetown contests • named to the 2002-03 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA:

Played club soccer year round with Chicago Sockers and did not participate on high school team following his sophomore year • helped the Sockers capture Under-16 national club team championship in 1999, in addition to winning the USSA regional crown • team claimed third at the Under-17 competition in 2000 after winning Dallas Cup Championship that same season • helped Sockers capture three state titles in 1998, 2000 and '01 • five-

year member of the Illinois Youth Soccer Association State Select Team • named to all-star team at Notre Dame Elite Soccer Camp in the summer of '01, in addition to claiming age group MVP honors at Indiana University Camp • member of State Olympic Development Program team since 1998 • grandfather Jack played baseball at Iowa and received master's degree from Notre Dame before serving as Notre Dame's associate athletic director for many years • father John graduated from Notre Dame • uncle Phil Krause is also a Notre Dame graduate • gained international experience by touring Japan, England and Holland with select youth teams • second oldest of four children • National Merit Finalist and Illinois State Scholar • earned Dean's List distinction both semesters with cumulative 3.741 for the school year • born October 15, 1983 • son of John and Joann Stephens • graduated from the College of Arts and Letters in May 2006 with an economics degree and a 3.788 grade-point average • earned a perfect 4.0 GPA during the fall 2004 semester and was named to the Dean's List.



Stephens' Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Sh	G	A	Pts	GW
2002	8-0	2	0	0	0	0
2003	13-3	3	0	0	0	0
2004	19-3	19	0	2	2	0
2005	20-17	14	1	3	5	0
Totals	60-23	38	1	5	7	0



Justin Michaud

Class of 2006

Goalkeeper • 6-0 • 175

Austin, Texas

St. Stephens Episcopal School



ASA SENIOR: Played in seven matches, totaling 34:13 • earned his third monogram • served as backup to starter Chris Cahill • concluded his career having played in 11 games, making four saves • earned the team's Spirit Award for being an inspirational member of the squad throughout this season and all four of his years at Notre Dame • named to the 2005-06 BIG EAST Academic All-Star team.

ASA JUNIOR: Backup to All-American goalkeeper Chris Sawyer during the 2004 season • appeared in three games, totaling 20:24 • did not allow a goal, while making two saves • first action of the season came in a 1-0 loss to West Virginia as he played the final 52 seconds • logged most minutes of the campaign versus Loyola-Chicago by playing the final 16:41 • made two saves versus

the Ramblers • appeared in the final 2:51 during Notre Dame's 2-1 loss to Ohio State in the NCAA tournament.

ASA SOPHOMORE: Backup to starting goalkeeper Chris Sawyer during the 2003 season • made first career appearance at Cleveland State, making one save in 10 minutes during Notre Dame's 6-0 victory • member of the 2003-04 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

ASA FRESHMAN: Did not see action in any games during the 2002 campaign.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: A two-year starter for St. Stephens Episcopal School after transferring from St. Andrews Episcopal School which had no varsity athletics • served as

team captain in both his junior and senior seasons • earned all-state honors in each of his final two prep campaigns • two-time first-team all-Southwest Preparatory Conference selection and first-team all-South Zone honoree • earned team MVP honors as a senior after leading team to 21-1-1 record and recording 17 shutouts • guided squad to SPC league titles and South Zone championship in senior season • member of State Olympic Development Team in 2001 • starting goalkeeper for the Austin Capitals Soccer Club since 1998 • helped that team register a 165-32-22 mark while registering 120 shutouts • led that squad to '01 South Texas State crown as he led entire state with 0.81 goals-against average • selected to all-star team at the Notre Dame Elite Soccer Camp in summer prior to the start of his final scholastic campaign • father Mark played soccer at Reed College • member of high school's Cum Laude Society • earned Dean's List recognition in spring of 2003 and 2005 • born March 4, 1984 • son of Mark and Louise Michaud • graduated from the Mendoza College of Business in May 2006 with a finance degree and a 3.537 cumulative grade-point average.



As is tradition, the Notre Dame men's soccer senior class includes assistant director of academic services Mary Ann Spence during Senior Day ceremonies. The Fighting Irish class of 2006 went out in fine fashion by defeating No. 16 Seton Hall, 4-0, in its final regular season home match at Alumni Field.

Michaud's Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	GA	Min.	GAA	SV	ShO	Rec.
2002							
		DNP					
2003	1-0	0	10:48	0	1	0	n/a
2004	3-0	0	20:24	0	2	0	n/a
2005	7-0	0	34:13	0	1	0	n/a
Totals	11-0	0	65:25	0	4	0	n/a

Class of 2006 Accomplishments

- Four NCAA Tournament Appearances
- NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 – 2003, 2005
- BIG EAST Regular Season Champion - 2004
- BIG EAST Tournament Champion - 2003
- Four-Year Record: 53-20-13
- BIG EAST Record: 26-11-4

