

NOTRE DAME **SEASON IN REVIEW**



In 2006, junior forward Joseph Lapira led all NCAA Division I men's players with 22 goals and 50 points en route to winning the Missouri Athletic Club (M.A.C.) Hermann Trophy.



Reaching New Heights

Notre Dame enjoys unprecedented success in 2006

The 2006 Notre Dame men's soccer season was one of unprecedented success for a program that was celebrating its 30th season of varsity status. A trip to the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals along with boasting the national player of the year in junior forward Joseph Lapira were two firsts for the Fighting Irish.

Notre Dame concluded the 2006 with a 15-6-2 record, including an 8-3-0 mark in the BIG EAST, and ranked 6th in the final NSCAA poll. For the sixth straight season, which have all come under the direction of head coach Bobby Clark, the Irish concluded a season ranked in the top 20.

The Irish found themselves on the doorstep of a berth into the College Cup, yet a 3-2 loss at No. 4 Virginia in the NCAA quarterfinals ended a stellar run. For the second straight season, Notre Dame knocked off the defending national champion in postseason play as the Irish downed No. 7 Maryland, 1-0, in the third round of the NCAAAs. A golden goal from Lapira in the second overtime ended the Terrapins' chances for another title.

It was only fitting that Lapira netted the score that propelled the Irish into uncharted waters. Lapira led all NCAA Division I men's players with 22 goals and 50 points on the season. His magical season produced several accolades including the Missouri Athletic Club (M.A.C.) Hermann Trophy, which is presented annually to the nation's top player by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). He also was named the national player of the year by *Soccer America* along with being named the BIG EAST Conference offensive player of the year.

Lapira was not the only student-athlete who garnered All-America honors for the Fighting Irish. Senior midfielder Greg Dalby was tabbed a first-team All-American for the second straight season as he took home those honors from the NSCAA. Dalby, who served as a team co-captain along with Dale Rellas, was a second-team selection by *College Soccer News* and was tapped as the BIG EAST midfielder of the year.

In all, the Irish boasted five all-BIG EAST performers. Lapira and Dalby were unanimous first-team picks, while sophomore defender Matt Besler was named to the second team and senior goalkeeper Chris Cahill was a third-team selection. Jack Traynor, a sophomore defender, earned honorable mention distinction. It marked the fifth time in the past six years that the Fighting Irish have boasted at least five all-conference performers.

Notre Dame opened the 2006 campaign with the fifth-annual Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament at Alumni Field. The 10th-ranked Irish suffered a 1-0 double-overtime loss to UAB in the season opener before exploding for a 4-1 win over No. 8 Creighton on the final day of the tournament. Senior forward Justin McGeeney tallied a career-high two goals in the victory over the Blue Jays, while Lapira and sophomore Bright Dike also added goals. McGeeney and Nate Norman were all-tournament team selections for Notre Dame.

Despite defeating Creighton, the Irish still suffered a loss on the day. Starting junior midfielder



Dale Rellas returned for a fifth year in 2006 to anchor the backline for the Fighting Irish. Notre Dame allowed just 0.79 goals per game en route to reaching the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals for the first time in program history.

Alex Yoshinaga suffered a broken collarbone in the match and would miss the remainder of the season. He entered the 2006 campaign having tallied 13 points on five goals and three assists. Several Fighting Irish players would step up their play to fill the void left by Yoshinaga's injury.

The Fighting Irish then traveled to Bloomington, Ind., to take part in a memorable adidas/IU Credit Union Classic over Labor Day weekend. Notre Dame entered the event ranked 15th nationally and played Saint Louis to a 0-0 tie on Friday evening. Sophomore goalkeeper Andrew Quinn made three saves and held the Billikens scoreless over 110 minutes to earn his first career shutout in just the second start of his career.

The lack of scoring in the Saint Louis match was made up for in a classic battle against No. 12 Indiana on Sunday afternoon. Lapira officially placed himself on the national scene as he scored his fourth goal of the day in the 98th minute to give the Irish a 5-4 overtime victory. The four goals were the most for a Notre Dame player since

1993 and it established an Indiana Classic record. He was named the tournament's offensive MVP for his efforts, while Dalby and Traynor were also named to the all-classic team.

Notre Dame returned home with a No. 8 ranking for its BIG EAST opener against South Florida. The Irish controlled the match, yet surrendered goals in the 86th and 89th minute to fall to the Bulls, 2-0, and see their record go to 2-2-1 on the season.

The Irish rebounded nicely with a 3-0 win over DePaul to even their conference mark at 1-1-0. Scores from McGeeney and Dalby, along with an own goal, produced Notre Dame's third win of the campaign. Cahill, who assumed the starting role after rotating with Quinn during the first five matches, held the Blue Demons scoreless by making two saves to collect his first shutout of the season.

A brief two-game road trip to Louisville and Cincinnati was next up for the Fighting Irish. A two-goal effort from Lapira in addition to a second straight shutout by Cahill gave Notre Dame a 2-0 triumph over the Cardinals. The trek concluded with a 2-1 loss against the Bearcats. McGeeney put the Irish up in the 12th minute, yet the hosts responded with tallies in the 50th and 84th minute to take the victory and drop the Irish to 4-3-1 overall and 2-2-0 in league play.

Following a scoreless tie in a non-conference showdown with Northern Illinois, the Fighting Irish would win their next seven contests and allow just two goals during that stretch. Lapira exploded during that stretch as he scored in all seven matches and

notched two goals in each of the first five games of the run.

The winning streak began with a 3-1 decision over Pittsburgh. Lapira's two-goal performance, along with Besler's first collegiate goal, propelled the Irish to victory over the Panthers. A 4-0 win over Marquette featured Cahill picking up his fourth shutout of the season and Lapira producing another two goals. Joining Lapira with scores against the Golden Eagles were Dike and Norman.

Goals from Lapira would be the only scoring in Notre Dame's next two victories, which were 2-0 triumphs over Seton Hall and Michigan, respectively. The win over the Wolverines gave the Irish an 8-3-2 record and marked Lapira's fourth straight two-goal match. He would up his streak to five games as the Irish downed Georgetown 4-1 to improve their record to 9-3-2 overall and 6-2-0 in conference play. Adding scores against the Hoyas was McGeeney and Dalby. Cahill saw his career-best scoreless streak of 342:27 end with a Georgetown goal in the 30th minute.

The Irish carried a five-game winning streak and a No. 8 ranking into a non-conference clash with Michigan State on Oct. 11. Notre Dame continued its dominating play with a 3-0 win behind goals from Lapira, Besler and freshman Michael Thomas. The Irish collected their ninth shutout of the season with a 3-0 victory over Providence on 'Senior Night'. Cahill made four saves to earn his eighth blanking of the season, while Lapira upped his goal streak to seven games. Thomas and junior Kurt Martin also added tallies in what was the Irish's seventh-straight victory.

A much-hyped BIG EAST Blue Division battle between No. 4 West Virginia and No. 6 Notre Dame was next on the docket in Morgantown, W. Va. Notre Dame entered with a 7-2-0 conference record, while the Mountaineers were 7-0-1. An early goal from sophomore Cory Rellas gave Notre Dame a 1-0 lead. However, West Virginia responded with goals in the 17th and 56th minute to capture a key conference win, 2-1.

Notre Dame stayed on the road and traveled to 14th-ranked Connecticut to take on the Huskies in the regular-season finale. A Thomas goal is all the scoring the Irish would need as they registered their first win in Storrs, Conn., since 1986. Cahill made one save to register his ninth shutout of the campaign and his sixth in BIG EAST play.

The Fighting Irish concluded the regular season with a 12-4-2 record, including an 8-3-0 mark in the league. That signified just the second time ever that the Irish reached the eight-win plateau in BIG EAST competition. Notre Dame earned the third seed in the BIG EAST Blue Division and had a date with DePaul in the first round of the conference tournament. A 2-0 victory behind goals from Lapira and Norman and another shutout from Cahill advanced the Irish into a quarterfinal match at Rutgers.

Cory Rellas gave the eighth-ranked Irish a 1-0 lead in the 35th minute, yet Rutgers notched the equalizer in the 80th minute before the game went into overtime. Neither team scored in the first overtime period and the Scarlet Knights netted the game winner in the 105th minute to advance to the BIG EAST semifinals.

Despite exiting the conference tournament earlier than anticipated, the extra time off allowed the Irish a chance to rest before embarking on their NCAA Tournament run. Notre Dame garnered the No. 12 seed and a first-round bye to open the tournament. The Irish downed Illinois-Chicago, 1-0, in the second round. Lapira continued his remarkable play as he netted the game's lone goal in the 44th minute off a pass from Dike.

The win over the Flames propelled the Notre Dame into the Round of 16 for the second straight season and the fourth time in program history. A visit to No. 7 Maryland, the defending NCAA champion, was next up for the Fighting Irish. It marked the second-straight season that the Irish were pitted against the reigning champs in NCAA play. In 2005, Notre Dame knocked off two-time defending NCAA champion Indiana in the tournament's second round.

The 1-0 double-overtime victory against Maryland was yet another milestone for a Notre Dame program that has placed itself among the elite in the NCAA over the past several seasons. A trip to the College Cup Weekend in St. Louis was in sight for the Irish, yet a 3-2 setback at Virginia denied Notre Dame from making it to the national semifinals.

Despite jumping out to a 2-0 lead by the 35th minute, the Cavaliers would have to fight until the end as a resilient Irish team battled throughout the match. Martin cut the deficit in half with a goal in the 71st minute on an assist from Lapira.

That would prove to be Lapira's 50th and final point of the season.

Virginia struck back 20 seconds later to make it 3-1 with just under 20 minutes remaining in the match. Notre Dame would not go away as Martin netted his career-high second goal of the match on a penalty kick in the 84th minute. The Irish threatened the Cavaliers until the end but could never find the equalizer. A tremendous season ended prematurely in the eyes of the Fighting Irish.

Lapira was an obvious choice to win the Notre Dame Monogram Club Team MVP award at the team's annual postseason banquet, which was held on April 28 in the Joyce Center arena and coincided with the program's alumni weekend. Over 200 players, parents, alumni and friends gathered to celebrate the Irish's stellar campaign. Rich Hunter, the first head coach of the Fighting Irish, presented Lapira with the MVP award.

What made Lapira's season even more remarkable was the fact he had been playing with a significant knee injury since the season opener. The junior forward tore his left lateral meniscus against UAB in the first match of



Michael Thomas made an immediate impact on the Fighting Irish during his freshman season in 2006. The midfielder played in all 23 matches and made 21 starts. He totaled eight points on three goals and two assists.



Midfielder Nate Norman started every match and dished out a team-high seven assists during his senior campaign. He also tallied two goals to post a career-high 11 points.

the campaign, yet continued to play without missing a game. He opted to postpone surgery on his knee until the offseason.

Dalby earned the team's Spirit Award for his contributions to the program over the course of his four-year career. He started all 88 matches during his Irish career to establish a new program mark for consecutive games played. Along with being a two-time first-team All-American, he also was a two-time team captain and three-time all-BIG EAST selection.

Cory Rellas took home the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley Rockne Student-Athlete Award. At the conclusion of his sophomore year, he carried a 3.634 cumulative grade-point average as a finance and history major.

The weekend began with the current Irish squad defeating the Mexico Under-20 National Team 1-0. This marked the third consecutive year that Notre Dame has squared off against a Mexican National Team. The previous two seasons, Notre Dame downed the Mexico U-17 squad, while this year the Irish topped the U-20s on a goal from Ryan Miller off a Yoshinaga corner kick.

Former Irish players Tom Crotty (Class of '80) and Ken Harkenrider ('84) presented the Mike Berticelli Award to Ted Schwartz ('84). Schwartz was the driving force behind getting over 100 alumni back for the 30th anniversary celebration. Another highlight of the evening was the video produced by Bruce Novotny ('84) on the founding of Notre Dame soccer as a varsity sport back in 1977.

The banquet was a fitting way to celebrate 30 years of varsity men's soccer at Notre Dame and it put a fine cap on a remarkable season for the Fighting Irish. Notre Dame now hopes to build on 30 years of success and carry the momentum to even bigger and better things.

2006 University of Notre Dame Men's Soccer

Record: 15-6-2 (Home: 9-2-1, Away: 6-4-0, Neutral: 0-0-1)

BIG EAST: 8-3-0

Date	National Ranking ND	Opponent	National Ranking Opp.	Result	Score	Shots ND-Opp	Corners ND-Opp
Aug. 25	10	UAB@	NR	L	0-1 (2ot)	23-5	14-4
Aug. 27	10	CREIGHTON@	8	W	4-1	18-10	4-7
Sept. 1	15	vs. Saint Louis!	NR	T	0-0 (2ot)	12-10	4-5
Sept. 3	15	at Indiana!	8	W	5-4 (ot)	12-19	7-8
Sept. 8	8	USF	NR	L	0-2	17-9	10-2
Sept. 10	8	DEPAUL	NR	W	3-0	26-4	9-3
Sept. 15	12	at Louisville	NR	W	2-0	11-13	4-3
Sept. 17	12	at Cincinnati	NR	L	1-2	10-14	7-3
Sept. 20	21	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	NR	T	0-0 (2ot)	24-7	10-2
Sept. 23	21	PITTSBURGH	NR	W	3-1	24-9	3-1
Sept. 27	15	MARQUETTE	NR	W	4-0	19-9	7-3
Sept. 30	15	at Seton Hall	NR	W	2-0	22-19	5-10
Oct. 4	8	at Michigan	NR	W	2-0	12-15	2-3
Oct. 7	8	GEORGETOWN	NR	W	4-1	15-10	5-4
Oct. 11	8	MICHIGAN STATE	NR	W	3-0	23-6	10-2
Oct. 14	8	PROVIDENCE	NR	W	3-0	14-11	7-2
Oct. 18	6	at West Virginia	4	L	1-2	14-13	5-3
Oct. 21	6	at Connecticut	14	W	1-0	12-8	3-3
Oct. 25	8	DEPAUL#	NR	W	2-0	17-10	2-2
Oct. 28	8	at Rutgers#	NR	L	1-2 (2ot)	13-12	3-5
Nov. 15	12	ILLINOIS-CHICAGO&	NR	W	1-0	18-9	7-2
Nov. 18	12	at Maryland&	7	W	1-0 (2ot)	14-16	4-8
Nov. 24	12	at Virginia&	4	L	2-3	13-11	5-3

@ – Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament

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

– BIG EAST Tournament

& – NCAA Tournament

All home matches in **BOLD CAPS**

Goals By Period

<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	19	24	1	1	45	Notre Dame	10	14	0	0	24
Opponents	8	9	0	2	19	Opponents	2	6	0	0	8

2006 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	23-20	106	22	6	50	11-10	53	11	3	25	32 (17)	13 (9)	77 (43)
Justin McGeeney	22-22	34	5	1	11	11-11	17	3	1	7	15 (9)	3 (2)	33 (20)
Nate Norman	23-23	44	2	7	11	11-11	25	1	4	6	7 (2)	13 (7)	27 (11)
Cory Rellas	22-11	21	2	5	9	11-6	10	1	4	6	2 (1)	5 (4)	9 (6)
Michael Thomas	23-21	36	3	2	8	11-11	16	2	2	6	3 (2)	2 (2)	8 (6)
Kurt Martin	23-1	20	3	2	8	11-0	11	1	0	2	5 (2)	4 (2)	14 (6)
Bright Dike	20-3	20	2	2	6	9-1	9	1	0	2	4 (2)	3 (0)	11 (4)
Matt Besler	23-23	12	2	2	6	11-11	6	1	2	4	2 (1)	4 (4)	8 (6)
Greg Dalby	23-23	27	2	0	4	11-11	13	2	0	4	4 (3)	2 (1)	10 (7)
Ian Etherington	16-13	19	1	0	2	6-5	7	0	0	0	7 (5)	10 (7)	24 (17)
Justin Morrow	21-0	19	0	2	2	11-0	9	0	2	2	0 (0)	2 (2)	2 (2)
Ryan Miller	23-23	15	0	2	2	11-11	5	0	1	1	1 (1)	7 (4)	9 (6)
Jack Traynor	23-22	5	0	2	2	11-11	1	0	0	0	0 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)
Dale Rellas	23-23	1	0	1	1	11-11	1	0	0	0	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Alex Yoshinaga	2-2	3	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	5 (4)	3 (1)	13 (9)
Tamba Samba	4-0	1	0	0	0	2-0	1	0	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Dave Donohue	4-0	0	0	0	0	2-0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Kyle Dulworth	4-0	0	0	0	0	3-0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Andrew Benton	4-0	0	0	0	0	3-0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Notre Dame	23	353	45	34	124	11	184	24	19	67			
Opponents	23	249	19	16	54	11	119	8	9	25			

Game Winning Goals:

Joseph Lapira 11, Justin McGeeney 2, Michael Thomas 1, Matt Besler 1

BIG EAST Game Winning Goals:

Joseph Lapira 6, Justin McGeeney 1, Michael Thomas 1

Corner Kicks:

Notre Dame 137, Opponents 88

BIG EAST Corner Kicks:

Notre Dame 65, Opponents 37

Fouls:

Notre Dame 268, Opponents 275

BIG EAST Fouls:

Notre Dame 126, Opponents 134

GOALKEEPER STATS

Player	G-GS	Min.	G	GAA	Saves	ShO	Record
Chris Cahill	20-20	1755:43	15	0.77	67	11	14-5-1
BIG EAST	10-10	900:00	6	0.60	36	6	7-2-0
Andrew Quinn	5-3	407:34	4	0.88	14	1	1-1-1
BIG EAST	1-1	90:00	2	2.00	3	0	0-1-0
Notre Dame	23	2163:17	19	0.79	86	13	15-6-2
BIG EAST	11	990:00	13	0.73	41	6	8-3-0
Opponents	23	2163:17	45	1.87	114	4	6-15-2
BIG EAST	11	990:00	24	2.18	53	1	3-8-0

CAREER STATS

Min.	G	GAA	Saves	ShO	Record
3883:42	35	0.81	87	20	26-13-4
1905:11	19	0.90	77	8	13-6-1
407:34	4	0.88	14	1	1-1-1
90:00	2	2.00	3	0	0-1-0

2006 Honors & Awards

Andrew Benton

BIG EAST Academic All-Star

Matt Besler

All-BIG EAST (second team)
All-Great Lakes Region (third team)
BIG EAST Academic All-Star

Chris Cahill

All-BIG EAST (third team)
BIG EAST Goalkeeper of the Week (Oct. 2)
BIG EAST Academic All-Star

Greg Dalby

NSCAA All-American (first team)
College Soccer News All-American (second team)
All-Great Lakes Region (first team)
M.A.C. Hermann Trophy semifinalist
BIG EAST Midfielder of the Year
All-BIG EAST (first team)
Indiana University Classic All-Tournament Team
Notre Dame Byron V. Kanaley Award Winner
Notre Dame Men's Soccer Spirit Award Winner
MLS Draft Selection - Colorado Rapids (second round)

Kyle Dulworth

BIG EAST Academic All-Star

Joseph Lapira

M.A.C. Hermann Trophy
Soccer America National Player of the Year
Soccer America MVP
NSCAA All-American (first team)
College Soccer News All-American (first team)
Sports Illustrated on Campus Male U Award
BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year
All-BIG EAST (first team)
All-Great Lakes Region (first team)
Consensus National Player of the Week (9/4 & 10/9)
College Soccer News National Player of the Week (10/2)
BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Week (9/4, 10/2 & 10/9)
Indiana University Classic Offensive MVP
Notre Dame Monogram Club Team MVP

Kurt Martin

BIG EAST Academic All-Star

Justin McGeeney

BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Week (8/28)
Mike Berticelli All-Tournament Team

Ryan Miller

BIG EAST Academic All-Star

Nate Norman

Mike Berticelli All-Tournament Team
Indiana University Classic All-Tournament Team
MLS Draft Selection - Chicago Fire (second round)
BIG EAST Academic All-Star

Andrew Quinn

BIG EAST Academic All-Star

Cory Rellas

Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley Rockne Student-Athlete Award
BIG EAST Academic All-Star

Michael Thomas

Top Drawer Soccer National Team of the Week (10/16)
BIG EAST Rookie of the Week (10/16 & 10/23)
BIG EAST Academic All-Star

BIG EAST

Overall

**2006 BIG EAST
All-Conference Teams**

All-BIG EAST First Team

- GK Nick Noble, Sr., West Virginia
 - F Joseph Lapira, Jr., Notre Dame***
 - F Omar Cummings, Sr., Cincinnati*
 - F Jarrod Smith, Sr., West Virginia*
 - F Eliseo Giusfredi, So., Seton Hall
 - F O'Brian White, So., Connecticut
 - M Greg Dalby, Sr., Notre Dame***
 - M David Guzman, Jr., Louisville
 - M Ryan Maduro, Jr., Providence
 - M Andrew Wright, Jr., West Virginia
 - D Julius James, Jr., Connecticut*
- * - unanimous selection

All-BIG EAST Second Team

- GK Chris Konopka, Sr., Providence
- F Kenny Anaba, Jr., Cincinnati
- F Frank Jonke, Jr., Louisville
- F Ricky Schramm, Sr., Georgetown
- M Nick LaBrocca, Sr., Rutgers
- M Teddy Niziolek, Sr., Seton Hall
- M Akeem Priestley, So., Connecticut
- D Matt Besler, So., Notre Dame**
- D Amir Ikner, Jr., Cincinnati
- D Bart Koffeman, Sr., Rutgers
- D Kareem Smith, Sr., USF

All-BIG EAST Third Team

- GK Chris Cahill, Sr., Notre Dame**
- F John Raus, Sr., Seton Hall
- F Timothy Ritter, So., Providence
- F Jordan Seabrook, So., USF
- M Rodrigo Hidalgo, Jr., USF
- M Kevon Neaves, So., USF
- M Toni Stahl, Fr., Connecticut
- D Patrik Engstrom, Sr., St. John's
- D Andrew Halsell, Jr., West Virginia
- D Gordon Kljestan, Sr., Seton Hall
- D Karl Schilling, Jr., Connecticut

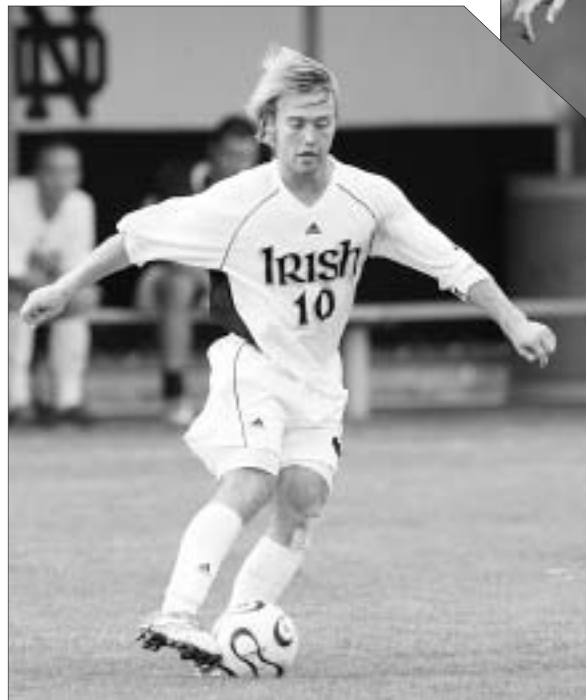
2006 BIG EAST Regular Season Honors

- Offensive Player of the Year:**
Joseph Lapira, Jr., Notre Dame
- Midfielder of the Year:**
Greg Dalby, Sr., Notre Dame
- Defensive Player of the Year:**
Julius James, Jr., Connecticut
- Goalkeeper of the Year:**
Nick Noble, Sr., West Virginia
- Rookie of the Year:**
Toni Stahl, M, Connecticut
- Coaching Staff of the Year:**
West Virginia

Blue Division										
Pl.	Team	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	W	L	T	Pct.
1.	West Virginia	9	0	1	.950	28	15	3	3	.786
2.	Connecticut	8	2	1	.773	25	10	7	2	.579
3.	NOTRE DAME	8	3	0	.727	24	15	6	2	.696
4t.	Providence	7	4	0	.636	21	13	7	0	.650
4t.	Seton Hall	7	4	0	.636	21	9	8	1	.528
6.	Pittsburgh	4	5	1	.450	13	5	11	2	.333
7.	Georgetown	3	8	0	.273	9	6	11	0	.353
8.	Marquette	0	11	0	.000	0	1	15	1	.088

Red Division										
Pl.	Team	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	W	L	T	Pct.
1.	Cincinnati	7	3	1	.682	22	11	6	2	.632
2.	Rutgers	6	4	1	.591	19	10	6	3	.605
3.	St. John's	5	4	2	.545	17	14	6	2	.682
4.	South Florida	4	3	4	.545	16	9	6	4	.579
5.	Louisville	4	5	2	.455	14	5	10	3	.361
6.	DePaul	4	7	0	.364	12	5	12	2	.316
7.	Syracuse	2	8	1	.227	7	7	8	1	.469
8.	Villanova	2	9	0	.182	6	6	10	1	.382

Greg Dalby was named the 2006 BIG EAST midfielder of the year and earned his third all-conference accolade. He was a unanimous first-team choice in 2005 and 2006 along with garnering second-team honors in 2004.



In addition to earning several national honors, Joseph Lapira was named the 2006 BIG EAST offensive player of the year. He tallied 25 points on 11 goals and three assists in conference play and was named the BIG EAST offensive player of the week on three occasions.



Final BIG EAST Individual Statistics

Scoring Leaders (All Games)

<u>Rank, Name, School</u>	<u>Games</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>Assists</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Joseph Lapira, Notre Dame	23	22	6	50
2. Jarrod Smith, West Virginia	16	14	4	32
3. Ryan Soroka, St. John's	22	9	8	26
4. John Raus, Seton Hall	18	9	7	25
5. Ricky Schramm, Georgetown	17	10	4	24
6. Eliseo Giusfredi, Seton Hall	18	9	4	22
7. Omar Cummings, Cincinnati	19	6	9	21
8. O'Brian White, Connecticut	19	7	6	20
9t. David Guzman, Louisville	17	7	5	19
Kenny Anaba, Cincinnati	19	7	5	19

Goalkeeping Leaders (All Games)

<u>Rank, Name, School</u>	<u>Games</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Saves</u>	<u>GA/Avg.</u>	<u>SO</u>
1. Nick Noble, West Virginia	21	1994:36	89	0.63	11
2. Jason Landers, St. John's	22	1997:09	76	0.72	13
3. Chris Cahill, Notre Dame	20	1755:43	67	0.77	11
4. Dane Brenner, South Florida	19	1810:57	74	0.80	6
5. Matt Van Oekel, Rutgers	18	1734:25	70	0.83	6

Scoring Leaders (Conference Games Only)

<u>Rank, Name, School</u>	<u>Games</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>Assists</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Jarrod Smith, West Virginia	10	12	4	28
2. Joseph Lapira, Notre Dame	11	11	3	25
3. Eliseo Giusfredi, Seton Hall	11	7	3	17
4. Omar Cummings, Cincinnati	11	4	8	16
5t. Frank Jonke, Louisville	10	5	3	13
O'Brian White, Connecticut	11	5	3	13
Kenny Anaba, Cincinnati	11	4	5	13
8t. David Guzman, Louisville	10	4	4	12
John Raus, Seton Hall	11	4	4	12
10t. Dan Stratford, West Virginia	10	3	5	11
Ryan Soroka, St. John's	11	3	5	11
Hansen Woodruff, Syracuse	11	5	1	11

Goalkeeping Leaders (Conference Games Only)

<u>Rank, Name, School</u>	<u>Games</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Saves</u>	<u>GA/Avg.</u>	<u>SO</u>
1. Nick Noble, West Virginia	10	915:01	46	0.59	6
2. Chris Cahill, Notre Dame	10	900:00	36	0.60	6
3. Mike Vessells, Cincinnati	11	1025:31	34	0.70	4
4. Dane Brenner, South Florida	11	1085:45	45	0.83	3
5. Chris Konopka, Providence	11	999:44	34	0.90	4

2006 BIG EAST Weekly Awards

Offensive Player of the Week

Aug. 28	Justin McGeeney, Notre Dame
Sept. 4	Joseph Lapira, Notre Dame
Sept. 11	Jarrod Smith, West Virginia
Sept. 18	Kenny Anaba, Cincinnati
Sept. 25	Jarrod Smith, West Virginia
Oct. 2	Joseph Lapira, Notre Dame
Oct. 9	Joseph Lapira, Notre Dame
	O'Brian White, Connecticut
Oct. 16	Kevon Neaves, USF
Oct. 23	Andy Wright, West Virginia

Defensive Player of the Week

Aug. 28	Georgios Spanos, St. John's
Sept. 4	Kareem Smith, USF
Sept. 11	Kevin Neuman, Providence
Sept. 18	Joel Gustafsson, St. John's
Sept. 25	Georgios Spanos, St. John's
Oct. 2	Brad Simpson, Cincinnati
Oct. 9	Bart Koffeman, Rutgers
Oct. 16	Matt Besler, Notre Dame
Oct. 23	Billy Hole, St. John's

Goalkeeper of the Week

Aug. 28	Jason Landers, St. John's
Sept. 4	Nick Noble, West Virginia
Sept. 11	Dane Brenner, South Florida
Sept. 18	Ian Joyce, Seton Hall
Sept. 25	Matthew Sangeloty, Connecticut
Oct. 2	Chris Cahill, Notre Dame
Oct. 9	Brian Visser, DePaul
Oct. 16	Matt VanOekel, Rutgers
Oct. 23	Nick Noble, West Virginia

Rookie of the Week

Aug. 28	Mike Seamon, Villanova
Sept. 4	Paul McHenry, Seton Hall
Sept. 11	Ryan Soroka, St. John's
Sept. 18	Matt Baker, Pittsburgh
Sept. 25	Jonathan Medcalf, Providence
Oct. 2	Jonathan Medcalf, Providence
Oct. 9	Hansen Woodruff, Syracuse
Oct. 16	Michael Thomas, Notre Dame
Oct. 23	Michael Thomas, Notre Dame

2006 Game Recaps

GAME 1

August 25, 2006 Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament

UAB 1
#10 Notre Dame 0 (2 OT)

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – Notre Dame dominated the majority of its season-opening match versus UAB on Friday, Aug. 25, yet a goal by Jerson Monteiro in the 105th minute was the difference as the Blazers escaped with a 1-0 victory at Alumni Field during day one of the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament. Despite holding a 23-5 advantage in shots and a 14-4 edge in corner kicks, the 10th-ranked Fighting Irish open the season at 0-1-0, while UAB begins with a 1-0-0 mark.

Notre Dame established an offensive presence early by racking up 10 corner kicks in the first half. More of the same continued in the second half with Notre Dame out-shooting UAB 15-2 in the stanza.

The Irish had several good looks at the goal in the second half, with two of the better chances coming in the final minutes of regulation. Freshman Justin Morrow, who led the Irish with five shots on the night, almost connected on the rebound of a Joseph Lapira attempt, yet it was one of eight saves for Blazer goalkeeper Jeremy Drake. Then with 48 seconds left, Alex Yoshinaga had a look, but could not capitalize. The junior midfielder also had a solid chance earlier in the half as he nearly netted a header off an Ian Etherington cross.

Notre Dame continued pressing into overtime and forward Justin McGeeney nearly put the game winner into the back of the net as the final seconds were ticking down. After controlling the ball in the box, the senior put a nice foot on it, yet a Blazer defender cleared the ball off the line and both teams ventured into a second overtime.

Just over four minutes into the second 10-minute overtime session, UAB's Two-Boys Gumede sent the ball to Monteiro and he headed it into the upper right corner, past Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill, to give the Blazers the victory. That was the only shot-on-goal for UAB during the match.

	1	2	OT	OT2	F
UAB	0	0	0	1	1
#10 Notre Dame	0	0	0	0	0

Scoring: UAB: Jerson Monteiro (Two-Boys Gumede) 104:14

	UAB	ND
Shots	5	23
Saves	8	0
Fouls	12	12
Corner Kicks	4	14

GAME 2

August 27, 2006 Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament

#8 Creighton 1
#10 Notre Dame 4

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – Senior forward Justin McGeeney scored a career-high two goals and fellow senior Nate Norman added two assists as the No. 10 Notre Dame men's soccer team captured a dominating 4-1 win over No. 8 Creighton during the final day of action at the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament at Alumni Field on Sunday, Aug. 27. The win improved

the Fighting Irish to 1-1-0 on the young season, while the loss dropped the Bluejays to 0-2-0. Notre Dame finished the tournament in third-place, with No. 12 Indiana taking home the title after defeating UAB, 2-1, in the day's first game. UAB placed second, while Creighton was fourth.

The Irish, who were coming off a 1-0 double-overtime loss to UAB on Friday, surrendered an early own-goal to the Bluejays. A corner kick by Creighton's Pietari Holopainen was knocked into the net by Notre Dame's Jack Traynor in just the second minute of the match to put the Bluejays up 1-0.

Notre Dame responded well behind goals from McGeeney in the 14th minute and then the 18th minute. His first tally was set-up by Norman, who flicked a cross into the box and McGeeney put a head on it. Then a few minutes later, McGeeney received the ball in the box, controlled it and then fired it in to give the Irish a 2-1 advantage.

The Fighting Irish nearly connected on a few other chances in the half, yet could not produce another score before the first 45 minutes of play were over. There were more close calls early in the second half, including McGeeney's bid for a hat trick, which was headed off the post in the 58th minute.

In the 77th minute, Norman hooked up with sophomore Bright Dike to give the Irish a two-goal cushion. Norman beat a couple Bluejay defenders and sent the ball to Dike, who redirected the pass into the back of the net.

Joseph Lapira put in the final tally of the day for Notre Dame as he was the lone Irish player among four Creighton defenders, yet he ripped a low blast from 18 yards out that found the back of the goal to make it a 4-1 final.

In his first collegiate game, sophomore goalkeeper Andrew Quinn made two saves for the Fighting Irish. Creighton's Matt Allen played the first half and did not register a save, while Nathan Gibson made four stops in the second half.

Notre Dame out shot Creighton 18-10, yet the Bluejays held a 7-4 edge in corner kicks. For their efforts, McGeeney and Norman were named to the all-tournament team.

	1	2	F
#8 Creighton	1	0	1
#10 Notre Dame	2	2	4

Scoring: CU: own goal 1:55, ND: Justin McGeeney (Nate Norman) 13:35, ND: Justin McGeeney (Bright Dike) 17:22, ND: Bright Dike (Nate Norman) 76:03, ND: Joseph Lapira (unassisted) 79:50

	CU	ND
Shots	10	18
Saves	4	2
Fouls	7	7
Corner Kicks	7	4

GAME 3

September 1, 2006 adidas/IU Credit Union Classic

#15 Notre Dame 0
Saint Louis 0 (2OT)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – No. 18 Notre Dame played Saint Louis to a 0-0 double-overtime draw on Friday, Sept. 1 in the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic at Bill Armstrong Stadium. Junior forward Joseph Lapira led Notre Dame with four shots and sophomore Andrew Quinn made three saves on the night for the Irish.

Saint Louis nearly cracked the scoring column in the 16th minute as the Billikens sent a corner kick into the box, which was headed off the hands of Quinn before hitting the crossbar and nearly landing in the goal before being cleared out of bounds by the Irish.

Notre Dame's best chance in the first half came with 20:30 remaining when Greg Dalby sent a pass to Ian Etherington, who put a shot on goal from 12 yards out, yet it was saved by Billiken goalkeeper Nick Billman. Billman made four saves on the night.

The second half featured a couple good opportunities for both squads. Saint Louis' Bobby Wilmering dished a pass to Dado Hamzagic, who sent the shot just wide right of the goal four minutes into the second stanza. Irish freshman Michael Thomas had a good look with 34:10 remaining but his shot was deflected by a Billiken defender over the crossbar. Senior defender Ryan Miller sent a shot high off of the ensuing corner kick.

Freshman Justin Morrow and Lapira nearly hooked up for the Irish in the 64th minute, yet Lapira chipped the ball over the net from close in. Notre Dame then survived a scare from Saint Louis with seven minutes remaining as a header from five yards out was saved by Quinn.

Lapira had the best look for the Irish during the overtime periods. The junior sent a blast on goal off a rebound from a Kurt Martin shot, yet it was stopped by Billman. Notre Dame kept Saint Louis shot-less during both 10-minute overtime sessions.

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

	ND	SLU
Shots	12	10
Saves	4	5
Fouls	8	13
Corner Kicks	4	5

GAME 4

September 3, 2006 adidas/IU Credit Union Classic

#15 Notre Dame 5
#8 Indiana 4 (OT)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – Junior forward Joseph Lapira put the capper on his four-goal day with a tally in the 98th minute to give the No. 18 Notre Dame a 5-4 overtime win against No. 8 Indiana on Sunday, Sept. 3 at Bill Armstrong Stadium during the final day of the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic. The match drew 5,613 fans, which is the third largest crowd in Indiana soccer history. Notre Dame finished the tournament in second place behind Saint Louis, who won due to a tiebreaker of goal differential. Indiana placed third, while Connecticut was fourth.

A converted Indiana penalty kick by John Michael Hayden with 11.7 seconds remaining in regulation sent the game to overtime. The Hoosiers were given the penalty kick after Darren Yeagle was tripped up in the 18-yard box by Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill, who was coming out to get the ball.

Lapira ended the match as he took the ball and dribbled it around an Indiana defender before chipping it into the right side of the net. The four-goal effort is one off a program record, which was established by Kevin Lovejoy in 1993. His four goals broke an Indiana Classic record for goals in a game and tied the mark for goals in a tournament. It also marked the first time Indiana had ever given up five goals in a match in the history of the Hoosier program.

A back-and-forth first half featured five goals in a span of 14 minutes.

Indiana put early pressure on the Irish, yet the Notre Dame back line kept the Hoosiers off the scoreboard with clears out of the box. Notre Dame's offense was ignited midway through the first half by Lapira. The junior forward had a couple good chances then capitalized in the 30th minute as he took a ball that was sent to him and got in front of the pack of Indiana defenders and sent the shot from the right side from 18-yards out into the lower left corner of the net.

The Hoosiers responded six minutes later as Kevin Robson blasted a shot from 18-yards out past a diving Cahill and into the left side of the net. Fifteen seconds later, Notre Dame's Ian Etherington gathered the ball in the box off of his chest, beat a Hoosier defender and deposited it into the back of the goal to put the Irish up 2-1.

Indiana then used back-to-back goals just 17 seconds apart to take a 3-2 lead in the 43rd minute. The first tally was a 25-yard blast from Brad Ring into the upper left corner off a past from Hayden. Yeagle went top shelf from inside the six-yard box for Indiana's third goal of the match.

The scoring surge continued into the second half as the Fighting Irish scored less than three minutes into the second stanza. Senior defender Ryan Miller sent a free kick into the box and Lapira headed it in for his second goal of the match.

Lapira's hat trick was completed in the 55th minute when he sent a shot into the upper right corner of the net. It marked the first Fighting Irish hat trick since 2003 when Devon Prescod did so against Cleveland State. The nine combined goals was the highest-scoring match for Notre Dame since a 9-2 win over Valparaiso during the 1989 campaign.

Lapira was named the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic's Offensive MVP and Greg Dalby and Jack Traynor joined him on the all-tournament team.

	1	2	OT	F
#15 Notre Dame	2	2	1	5
#8 Indiana	3	1	0	4

Scoring: ND: Joseph Lapira (unassisted) 29:20, IU: Kevin Robson (unassisted) 35:43, ND: Ian Etherington (Jack Traynor) 35:58, IU: Brad Ring (John Michael Hayden) 41:50, IU: Darren Yeagle (unassisted) 42:07, ND: Joseph Lapira (Ryan Miller) 47:31, ND: Joseph Lapira (Kurt Martin) 54:09, IU: John Michael Hayden (penalty kick) 89:48, ND: Joseph Lapira (Jack Traynor) 97:06

	ND	IU
Shots	12	19
Saves	6	3
Fouls	13	11
Corner Kicks	7	8

GAME 5 **September 8, 2006**
South Florida 2
#8 Notre Dame 0

NOTRE DAME, Ind. - Two late goals from South Florida were the difference in a 2-0 victory over No. 8 Notre Dame on Friday, Sept. 8 at Alumni Field. Junior forward Simon Schoendorf notched three points on the night with a goal and an assist and sophomore forward Jordan Seabrook tallied the other goal for the Bulls. The match was the BIG EAST opener for both squads.

The Fighting Irish appeared to be in control for much of the match as they out-shot the Bulls 17-9 and held a 10-2 advantage in corner kicks. Notre Dame had its best chance for a score in the 85th minute as three shots were fired on goal from inside the 18-yard box yet none were converted.

The first attempt was a blast from sophomore defender Jack Traynor, which was saved by South Florida goalkeeper Dane Brenner. Junior forward Joseph Lapira had his shot blocked and then Brenner sent a Justin McGeeney shot out of bounds. Brenner made six saves on the night, while Notre Dame sophomore Andrew Quinn stopped three shots.

South Florida survived the scare from the Irish and cracked the scoreboard in the 86th minute when Schoendorf sent a long-ball to Seabrook and he scored on a breakaway. The Bulls converted on another scoring opportunity in the 89th minute as Schoendorf dribbled along the left side of the box and placed a shot into the low right corner of the net.

Senior midfielder Nate Norman had some of the best looks for the Irish, including a shot off the right post with just under 20 minutes remaining in the contest. Norman and Lapira led the Irish with four shots apiece.

	1	2	F
South Florida	0	2	2
#8 Notre Dame	0	0	0

Scoring: USF: Jordan Seabrook (Simon Schoendorf) 85:24, USF: Simon Schoendorf (unassisted) 88:05

	USF	ND
Shots	9	17
Saves	6	3
Fouls	12	10
Corner Kicks	2	10

GAME 6 **September 10, 2006**
DePaul 0
#8 Notre Dame 3

NOTRE DAME, Ind. - Justin McGeeney tallied a goal in the second minute and Notre Dame kept attacking all afternoon in registering a 3-0 victory over DePaul in BIG EAST play at Alumni Field on Sunday, Sept. 10. The Irish out shot the Blue Demons 26-4. Senior midfielder Greg Dalby tallied his first goal of the season in the 66th minute, while the third tally was an own goal.

Notre Dame (3-2-1, 1-1-0 BE) did not waste much time in asserting its offensive force with an early barrage on net. The Irish capitalized as Joseph Lapira sent a cross to McGeeney and the senior forward sent it in for his third goal of the season.

DePaul (2-3-2, 1-1-0) could not mount much of an attack as the Blue Demons were out-shot 12-2 in the first half.

The Fighting Irish kept the pressure on the Blue Demons in the second half as Cory Rellas ripped a shot that was saved by DePaul goalkeeper Brian Visser in the opening minutes of the stanza. Senior midfielder Nate Norman nearly connected with a shot off of a corner kick in the 50th minute. Notre Dame held a 9-3 advantage in corner kicks for the game.

McGeeney almost registered his second goal of the game with just under 27 minutes remaining in the match, as he was one-on-one with Visser, yet the DePaul keeper made one of his nine saves on the day. Two minutes later, Lapira sent a blast just high over the crossbar and the score remained 1-0.

The Irish did convert their second goal in the 66th minute as a corner kick was placed in front of the net and action ensued before Dalby put it in. Sophomore defender Matt Besler picked up the assist on the play.

The Irish's third goal was tacked on in the 72nd minute. The tally was initially given to Irish freshman Michael Thomas, yet was later credited with going off the leg of a DePaul defender. The sequence began with an Ian Etherington cross into the box that Thomas put a foot on.

Senior goalkeeper Chris Cahill made two saves for the Irish in picking up his second win of the season.

	1	2	F
DePaul	0	0	0
#8 Notre Dame	1	2	3

Scoring: ND: Justin McGeeney (Joseph Lapira) 1:56, ND: Greg Dalby (Matt Besler) 65:36, ND: own goal 71:40

	DU	ND
Shots	4	26
Saves	9	2
Fouls	9	12
Corner Kicks	3	9

GAME 7 **September 15, 2006**
#12 Notre Dame 2
Louisville 0

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Junior forward Joseph Lapira netted two goals as No. 12 Notre Dame defeated BIG EAST foe Louisville, 2-0, on Friday, Sept. 15 at Cardinal Park. Lapira now has a team-high seven

goals on the season. The win improved the Fighting Irish to 4-2-1 on the season and 2-1-0 in BIG EAST play. Louisville dropped to 2-4-1 and 1-2-0 in the league.

Louisville did hold a 13-11 advantage in shots, yet Lapira converted a breakaway attempt in the 58th minute and again in the 83rd minute, thanks to feeds from Kurt Martin and Justin Morrow. Lapira's seven goals match his team-best total from one year ago. The junior led the Irish with six shots during the match, while senior midfielders Ian Etherington and Nate Norman each had two attempts. The Irish held a 4-3 edge in corner kicks on the evening.

Irish senior Chris Cahill got the start in goal in his hometown and made four saves to collect the shutout and up his record to 3-1-0 on the year. This was his second blanking of the season and the 10th of his career. David Simolike made three saves on the night for the Cardinals.

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

Scoring: ND: Joseph Lapira (unassisted) 57:44, ND: Joseph Lapira (Justin Morrow) 82:47

	ND	UL
Shots	11	13
Saves	4	3
Fouls	9	12
Corner Kicks	4	3

GAME 8 **September 17, 2006**
#12 Notre Dame 1
Cincinnati 2

CINCINNATI, Ohio - Cincinnati's Noah Davidson tallied the game-winner in the 84th minute as he headed in a cross to give the Bearcats a 2-1 victory over No. 12 Notre Dame in BIG EAST men's soccer action on Sunday, Sept. 17 at Gettler Stadium. The decision gave both teams identical 4-3-1 marks on the season and 2-2-0 records in the conference.

Senior forward Justin McGeeney sent home a rebound off a Nate Norman shot to put the Fighting Irish up 1-0 in the 12th minute. Norman beat his man one-on-one and put a shot on goal that was saved by Bearcat goalkeeper Mike Vessells and then placed in by McGeeney from close range. The tally was the fourth of the season for McGeeney, while Norman now has a team-high three assists.

Notre Dame carried a 1-0 advantage into halftime. Cincinnati notched the equalizer in the 50th minute as Kenny Anaba sent home a one-timer with the assists going to Lionel Jackson and Mike Dwyer. As the match was inching closer to overtime, Davidson headed home a cross, with 83:03 elapsed in the contest. Anaba picked up his third point of the day by collecting an assist, along with Patrick Baxter. Chris Cahill made his second straight start in goal for the Irish following a 2-0 shutout against Louisville on Friday night. The senior goalkeeper made six saves on the day and his record now stands at 3-2-0.

Cincinnati registered 14 shots, while Notre Dame had 10. The Irish had a 7-3 advantage in corner kicks.

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

Scoring: ND: Justin McGeeney (Nate Norman) 11:36, UC: Kenny Anaba (Lionel Jackson, Mike Dwyer) 49:35, UC: Noah Davidson (Kenny Anaba, Patrick Baxter) 83:03

	ND	UC
Shots	10	14
Saves	6	0
Fouls	12	15
Corner Kicks	7	3

2006 Game Recaps

GAME

9

September 20, 2006

Northern Illinois 0

#21 Notre Dame 0 (2 OT)

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – Despite holding a 24-7 edge in shots, Notre Dame played Northern Illinois to a scoreless tie on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at Alumni Field. Junior forward Joseph Lapira led the Irish with seven shots, including a couple good chances for the game-winner late in the match. The draw put the Irish's record at 4-3-2 on the season, while the Huskies dropped to 5-3-1.

Northern Illinois got deep into Notre Dame territory a few times early in the contest, yet Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill held strong and shut the door on the UConn attempts. The senior made two stops on the night to collect his third shutout of the season.

The Irish soon found some rhythm and ended up out-shooting the Huskies, 9-3, in the first half. Senior defender Ryan Miller had some nice crosses for the Irish, yet the sequences could not be finished. Notre Dame appeared to crack the scoring column with 3:25 left in the opening stanza as a Lapira corner kick was headed in by sophomore defender Matt Besler, but the tally was negated due to a foul call on the Irish.

Notre Dame did not waste much time in applying more pressure in the second half. Sophomore midfielder Cory Rellas sent a blast on goal just 20 seconds into the period however; Husky goalkeeper Joe Zimka made the save to preserve the scoreless match. Zimka collected four saves on the evening.

Lapira would later make a bid for a tally as he sent a shot off the crossbar with a blast from just inside the 16-yard box with less than five minutes remaining in regulation. That would be the last good chance for either team prior to overtime.

The Huskies had perhaps their best chance of the night early in the first overtime session as Marcus McCarty blasted a close-range shot at Cahill and the senior made the save to keep the Irish alive. Freshman Justin Morrow had Notre Dame's best look in the initial 10-minute period as he weaved through the Northern Illinois defense and put a shot on goal that was saved by Zimka.

Arguably the two best chances for the Irish on the night occurred in the second overtime period. In the 105th minute, Lapira sent a shot on goal as Zimka was out of the box and the ball appeared to be heading in for a Notre Dame victory before Husky defender Blake Gotkowski appeared to come out of nowhere to clear the ball of the line. Gotkowski would do the same thing a couple minutes later after Notre Dame's Michael Thomas headed the ball near an empty goal.

	1	2	OT	OT2	F
Northern Illinois	0	0	0	0	0
#21 Notre Dame	0	0	0	0	0

	NIU	ND
Shots	7	24
Saves	5	2
Fouls	7	11
Corner Kicks	2	10

GAME

10

September 23, 2006

Pittsburgh 1

#21 Notre Dame 3

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – Joseph Lapira registered his third multiple-goal match of the season as No. 21 Notre Dame defeated Pittsburgh, 3-1, in BIG EAST play on Saturday, Sept. 23 at Alumni Field. Lapira netted two goals on the night to bring his team-leading total

to nine on the season. The Fighting Irish improved to 5-3-2 (3-2-0 BIG EAST) with the win, while the Panthers fell to 3-5-2 (2-2-1 BIG EAST).

Sophomore defender Matt Besler put Notre Dame on the board in the 21st minute with the first goal of his collegiate career. Besler chipped a short cross from Justin McGeeney into the right side of the net to make it 1-0 in favor of the Fighting Irish.

Notre Dame had a few other scoring chances in the first half, including two failed header attempts off of crosses from senior midfielder Ian Etherington. The Irish would lead 1-0 at the half. Pittsburgh's Keeyan Young deposited the equalizer in the 48th minute. Notre Dame goalkeeper Chris Cahill dove to scoop up a loose ball yet could not get a firm grip on it and Young sent it in from 14 yards out. Cahill made one save on the night to pick up his fourth win of the season.

The Irish responded in the 56th minute as Nate Norman sent a cross into the box and Lapira slid to get a foot on it and put it into the back of the net and give Notre Dame the lead once again. Norman, a senior midfielder, has a team-high four assists.

Lapira struck again in the 71st minute as he ripped a shot from the top of the 18-yard box and past Panther goalkeeper Andy Jorgensen to make it a 3-1 contest. Jorgensen collected six saves on the night and the Irish out-shot the Panthers 24-9. Notre Dame put the game away just in time as both teams played in a downpour for the final 15 minutes of the match.

	1	2	F
Pittsburgh	0	1	1
#21 Notre Dame	1	2	3

Scoring: ND: Matt Besler (Justin McGeeney) 20:08, UP: Keeyan Young (unassisted) 47:10, ND: Joseph Lapira (Nate Norman) 55:38, ND: Joseph Lapira (unassisted) 70:53

	UP	ND
Shots	9	24
Saves	6	1
Fouls	11	12
Corner Kicks	1	3

GAME

11

September 27, 2006

Marquette 0

#15 Notre Dame 4

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – Two early goals from Joseph Lapira would put No. 15 Notre Dame on its way to a 4-0 victory over Marquette on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at Alumni Field. It marked the second straight two-goal performance for the junior forward and his fourth multiple-goal game of the season. Senior midfielder Nate Norman and sophomore forward Bright Dike added the other two tallies for the Irish.

With just over two minutes elapsed in the contest, Lapira put a foot on a deflected cross and hit it off the left post and then the ball caromed into the net for an early 1-0 Notre Dame lead. He would strike again in the 11th minute as sophomore defender Matt Besler sent a nice ball to Lapira and he dribbled through the top of the box and sent it over Marquette goalkeeper Marc Dettmann and into the goal. The tally was his team-leading 11th of the season, while the assist was Besler's second of the year.

The Fighting Irish nearly made it 3-0 before the end of the first half with good chances from Besler and senior midfielder Greg Dalby in the final 10 minutes of the stanza. Besler placed a foot on a Jack Traynor free kick, which was placed perfectly, yet Dettmann was there for the stop right in front of the goal. Dalby took a corner kick from Kurt Martin and sent it on goal, yet the shot was deflected by a Golden Eagle defender to keep the Irish lead at two heading into halftime.

Notre Dame dominated possession for much of the second half and it paid off in the 73rd minute as Norman dribbled through traffic and fired a shot into the back of the net from 15 yards out to make it a 3-0 contest on his first goal of the season. Dike put the

capper on the match with just over eight minutes remaining as he settled a high ball and placed it into the right side of the netting for his second goal of the year.

Again the Fighting Irish out-shot their opponent as they put up 19 attempts to nine from Marquette. Notre Dame also had seven corner kicks, while the Golden Eagles had three. Notre Dame has collected more shots than its opponent in eight-of-11 matches this season. Senior goalkeeper Chris Cahill picked up his fifth win of the season by posting his fourth shutout of the campaign. He made four saves on the night as did Dettmann.

	1	2	F
Marquette	0	0	0
#15 Notre Dame	2	2	4

Scoring: ND: Joseph Lapira (unassisted) 2:03, ND: Joseph Lapira (Matt Besler) 10:57, ND: Nate Norman (unassisted) 72:33, ND: Bright Dike (unassisted) 81:44

	NU	ND
Shots	9	19
Saves	4	4
Fouls	18	10
Corner Kicks	3	7

GAME

12

September 30, 2006

#15 Notre Dame 2

Seton Hall 0

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. – Another two-goal performance from junior forward Joseph Lapira led Notre Dame to a 2-0 win over Seton Hall on Saturday afternoon at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Lapira has notched three straight two-goal games and has five multi-goal matches on the season. His 13 tallies lead the Fighting Irish. Notre Dame improved to 7-3-2 on the season and 5-2-0 in BIG EAST play, while the Pirates also moved to 5-2-0 in the league and 7-4-0 overall.

Lapira ignited the Fighting Irish offense with a goal in the 10th minute off a cross from sophomore midfielder Cory Rellas. The assist was the first point for Rellas in his collegiate career. This was the second straight contest in which Lapira has netted a goal in the opening 10 minutes of the game. He tallied a third-minute goal in a 4-0 win over Marquette.

The junior forward found the back of the net again in the 71st minute as he took a drop pass from freshman Michael Thomas and deposited it into the high corner. That was the first point for Thomas in his young Notre Dame career.

The Irish out-shot the Pirates 22-19 on the afternoon, with Lapira registered a game-high eight attempts. Seton Hall held a 10-5 advantage in corner kicks. Irish senior Chris Cahill stopped three shots to earn his second straight shutout and his fifth of the season to improve his record to 6-2-1 on the campaign. Seton Hall's Paul McHenry made eight saves on the day.

	1	2	F
#15 Notre Dame	1	1	2
Seton Hall	0	0	0

Scoring: ND: Joseph Lapira (Cory Rellas) 9:49, ND: Joseph Lapira (Michael Thomas) 70:52

	ND	SHU
Shots	22	19
Saves	4	8
Fouls	13	11
Corner Kicks	5	10

FIGHTING IRISH



Goalkeeper Chris Cahill registered 11 shutouts during the 2006 season, including a personal-best scoreless streak of 342:27. The stretch began against Pittsburgh on Sept. 23 and was snapped against Georgetown on Oct. 7.

GAME 13 October 4, 2006
#8 Notre Dame 2
Michigan 0

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Joseph Lapira registered his fourth straight two-goal match to lead Notre Dame to a 2-0 win over Michigan on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at a cold and windy UM Soccer Field. Lapira, who entered the match tied for the national lead in goals scored, upped his total to 15 on the season. Senior goalkeeper Chris Cahill collected his third consecutive shutout in helping the Irish improve to 8-3-2 on the season. Michigan fell to 5-6-2 with the loss.

In the 16th minute, sophomore midfielder Cory Rellas sent a ball across the field to the left flank and Lapira gathered it and sent it in to put the Irish on top. That was the second assist of the season for Rellas.

Forward Perica Marosevic had Michigan's two best opportunities in the first half. The freshman sent a low-shot just wide of the goal in the 27th minute. He nearly struck again with 13:04 remaining in the half as he sent another low-blast on goal, yet Cahill made a diving save to his right. Cahill made three saves on the night to post his sixth shutout of the season. His three consecutive shutouts is a career-best mark.

The Fighting Irish continued to attack late into the first half and Lapira had a couple near-misses in the final 10 minutes. A Dale Rellas cross was put on goal from 10-yards out with a sideways, mid-air kick from Lapira, however Michigan's Patrick Sperry made one of his three stops on the night. Then with just under four minutes remaining, Lapira sent a low-blast just wide from the top of the 18-yard box.

Notre Dame would lead 1-0 at the end of the first half.

The Irish nearly grabbed a two-goal edge with 36:23 left in the contest as freshman midfielder Michael Thomas sent his shot wide left from inside the 18-yard box. Four minutes later, senior forward Justin McGeeney directed a header towards the post, yet Sperry made the save.

Lapira, who had just reentered the match, would put Notre Dame on top 2-0 with a tally in the 63rd minute. Junior midfielder Kurt Martin sent a long ball from midfield that Sperry came out to get, yet he misplayed it and Lapira put a foot on it and sent it into the back of the net.

	1	2	F
#8 Notre Dame	1	1	2
Michigan	0	0	0

Scoring: ND: Joseph Lapira (Cory Rellas) 15:29, ND: Joseph Lapira (unassisted) 62:26

	ND	UM
Shots	12	15
Saves	3	3
Fouls	13	15
Corner Kicks	2	3

GAME 14 October 7, 2006
Georgetown 1
#8 Notre Dame 4

NOTRE DAME, Ind. - A five-point match from Joseph Lapira led the way as the No. 8 Notre Dame captured a 4-1 win over Georgetown on Saturday, Oct. 7 at Alumni Field. Lapira notched two goals and one assist as the Irish upped their unbeaten streak to six games. Also tallying goals for Notre Dame was Justin McGeeney and Greg Dalby.

The Irish jumped on top in the 13th minute as sophomore midfielder Cory Rellas chipped the ball to McGeeney, a senior forward, and he sent it in from 12 yards out for his fifth goal of the season. Rellas has now collected an assist in three straight games.

Georgetown responded in the 30th minute with a goal from Ricky Schramm on an assist from Daniel Grasso. Grasso played the ball to Schramm and he made a move to get by Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill and then slid the ball into the low right side. The goal snapped Cahill's personal-best scoreless streak, which reached 342:27. Cahill, a senior, made four saves on the afternoon to up his season record to 8-2-1.

Notre Dame regained the lead for good less than five minutes later. Freshman midfielder Justin Morrow sent a cross to Lapira and he placed it in the net from 10 yards out. The Irish would lead 2-1 at the half.

In the 60th minute, Irish defender Jack Traynor sent a long ball into the Hoya end and goalkeeper Joe Devine came out to play it, yet his clear hit off of Lapira and the junior forward gathered the ball and deposited it for his second goal of the match, which gave Notre Dame a 3-1 advantage. Devine made two saves on the day.

The final tally of the match came in the 79th minute as Lapira sent a corner kick into the 18-yard box and Dalby, a senior midfielder, put a head on it and placed it into the left side of the netting. It was Dalby's second goal of the season and Lapira's second assist of the campaign.

	1	2	F
Georgetown	1	0	1
#8 Notre Dame	2	2	4

Scoring: ND: Justin McGeeney (Cory Rellas) 12:56, GU: Ricky Schramm (Daniel Grasso) 29:37, ND: Joseph Lapira (Justin Morrow) 34:26, ND: Joseph Lapira (unassisted) 59:21, ND: Greg Dalby (Joseph Lapira) 78:11

	GU	ND
Shots	10	15
Saves	2	4
Fouls	12	10
Corner Kicks	4	5

GAME 15 October 11, 2006
Michigan State 0
#8 Notre Dame 3

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – No. 8 Notre Dame continued its hot play by downing Michigan State, 3-0, in non-conference play at a cold, rainy and windy Alumni Field on Wednesday, Oct. 11. Tallying goals for the Irish, who have won six straight games, were Matt Besler, Michael Thomas and Joseph. Senior goalkeeper Chris Cahill earned his seventh shutout of the season as Notre Dame improved to 10-3-2. Michigan State dropped to 6-5-2 in the loss.

Notre Dame came out strong and peppered the Spartan goal with several early shots to no avail, while Michigan State could only muster a few distant blasts in the opening stages of the first half. The Irish notched their first goal in the 22nd minute as a Nate Norman corner kick was directed into the back of the net by Besler for his second tally of the season. Norman has a team-high five assists.

The wind and rain played havoc with both teams during stretches of the first half, but the Irish nearly connected on a couple more opportunities before the first 45 minutes had elapsed. Sophomores Bright Dike and Cory Rellas both had nice looks in the final 10 minutes that could not find the net. Notre Dame would lead 1-0 at the half.

The Fighting Irish offense took charge from the outset of the second half. Notre Dame continued pounding shots on the Spartan defense and the effort paid off as the freshman Thomas gathered the ball as action was taking place in front of the goal and sent it in to make it 2-0 in the 72nd minute. The goal, which was assisted by Lapira, was the first of Thomas' young career.

Lapira, who came out early in the first half but returned to start the second stanza, upped his scoring streak to six straight games with a goal in the 74th minute. The junior forward took the ball on a breakaway, passed a Spartan defender and placed a shot into the right side of the net for his nation-leading 18th goal of the season. His 39 points also rank first among NCAA Division I men's soccer players. Lapira did see his streak of five straight two-goal games come to an end.

Notre Dame dominated the statistics once again. The Irish out-shot Michigan State, 23-6, and held a 10-2 advantage in corner kicks. Cahill made three saves on the night to up his record to 9-2-1. Spartan goalkeeper Jason Tillman, who had to leave late in the second half due to an injury, collected the loss, while making five saves.

	1	2	F
Michigan State	0	0	0
#8 Notre Dame	1	2	3

Scoring: ND: Matt Besler (Nate Norman) 21:19, ND: Michael Thomas (Joseph Lapira) 71:52, ND: Joseph Lapira (unassisted) 73:16

	MSU	ND
Shots	6	23
Saves	6	3
Fouls	11	8
Corner Kicks	2	10

GAME 16 October 14, 2006
Providence 0
#8 Notre Dame 3

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – For the ninth time this season No. 8 Notre Dame held an opponent scoreless as the Irish claimed a 3-0 victory over Providence on Saturday, Oct. 14 at Alumni Field in a pivotal BIG EAST showdown. Notre Dame and Providence entered the match tied for second place in the conference's Blue Division. The Fighting Irish, who improved to 11-3-2 (7-2-0 BE), have won seven straight matches, the longest stretch for the program

since an eight-game streak in 2003. The Friars drop to 10-4-0 (6-3-0 BE) in the loss.

Joseph Lapira put the Irish on the board in the 32nd minute with his 19th goal of the season. Senior midfielder Nate Norman and sophomore midfielder Cory Rellas both assisted Lapira on the play to pick up the first of their two assists for the match. Lapira has netted a goal in all seven games of the Irish win streak, including five straight two-goal performances, which was snapped in a 3-0 win over Michigan State on Wednesday night. He leads all NCAA Division I men's soccer players with 19 goals and 41 points.

Notre Dame led 1-0 at halftime.

Freshman Michael Thomas, who netted the first goal of his Irish career against the Spartans, notched Notre Dame's second tally of the night on a feed from Rellas in the 57th minute. Rellas has five assists on the season, which trails only Norman's seven helpers for the team lead.

The capper was put on the match in the 90th minute as Norman sent a ball to Kurt Martin and the junior forward sent a blast into the back of the net from 18 yards out to give the Irish a 3-0 lead with just 29 seconds remaining. It was Martin's first goal of the season.

Notre Dame out-shot Providence, 14-11, and also collected five more corner kicks (7-2). Senior goalkeeper Chris Cahill made it a fine senior night for seven Irish players, who were playing in their last regular-season home match, as he posted his eighth shutout of the season and his sixth in the last eight games. Cahill made four saves on the night, while Chris Konopka made four stops for the Friars in the loss. The Irish keeper now has a 10-2-1 record this season.

	1	2	F
Providence	0	0	0
#8 Notre Dame	1	2	3

Scoring: ND: Joseph Lapira (Cory Rellas, Nate Norman) 31:59, ND: Michael Thomas (Cory Rellas) 56:32, ND: Kurt Martin (Nate Norman) 89:31

	UP	ND
Shots	11	14
Saves	4	5
Fouls	13	20
Corner Kicks	2	7

GAME 17 **October 18, 2006**
#6 Notre Dame **1**
#4 West Virginia **2**

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. – An Andy Wright goal in the 56th minute would prove to be the difference as No. 4 West Virginia topped No. 6 Notre Dame 2-1 on Wednesday evening in men's soccer action at Dick Desk Soccer Stadium. The loss snaps an Irish seven-game win streak and eight-game unbeaten streak and puts their record at 11-4-2 overall and 7-3-0 in the BIG EAST. The Mountaineers improve to 13-1-2 and 8-0-1 in the league with the win.

West Virginia entered the contest in a tie for first within the conference's Blue Division, along with Connecticut, with 22 points apiece, while an Irish were in third place with 21 points.

Notre Dame sophomore midfielder Cory Rellas notched the first goal of his career in the fourth minute as he took a pass from freshman Michael Thomas and deposited it into the back of the net to put the Irish up, 1-0, early. The assist for Thomas was his second of the season.

The Mountaineers responded in the 17th minute as Dan Stratford scored off a feed from Wright from 22 yards out to knot the game at one apiece. The tally was the first allowed by Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill in three games, which covered a span of 257 minutes. The Irish out shot the Moutaineers 10-6 in the first half, yet could not notch another tally and the match

was tied 1-1 at the break. For the game, Notre Dame held a 14-13 advantage in shots and a 5-3 edge in corner kicks.

In the 56th minute, Wright would connect from 12 yards out off of touches from Jarrod Smith and Stratford to give West Virginia a 2-1 advantage. The Mountaineers would hold off the Irish the rest of the way to take the victory.

Not only did the Irish see their win streak come to a halt, junior forward Joseph Lapira had his seven-game goal streak snapped. Lapira leads all NCAA Division I men's soccer players with 19 goals and 41 points.

	1	2	F
#6 Notre Dame	1	0	1
#4 West Virginia	1	1	2

Scoring: ND: Cory Rellas (Michael Thomas) 3:24, WVU: Dan Stratford (Andy Wright) 16:55, WVU: Andy Wright (Jarrod Smith, Dan Stratford) 55:51

	ND	WVU
Shots	14	13
Saves	7	7
Fouls	10	10
Corner Kicks	5	3

October 21, 2006

GAME 18 **#6 Notre Dame** **1**
#14 Connecticut **0**

GASTORRS, Conn. – A Michael Thomas goal in the 65th minute is all the scoring No. 6 Notre Dame would need in defeating No. 14 Connecticut 1-0 in front of 3,831 fans at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 21. It was the final match of the regular season for the Fighting Irish, who finished with a 12-4-2 mark overall and an 8-3-0 record in the BIG EAST.

The Irish pressured Connecticut in the opening minutes as senior Greg Dalby sent a shot on goal, which was scooped up by UConn goalkeeper Matt Sangeloty. In the 12th minute, Nate Norman's shot on goal was deflected by Sangeloty and put out of bounds. Notre Dame held a 6-2 advantage in shots in the opening stanza and a 12-8 margin for the match.

Notre Dame's defense was tested early but held strong as center back Dale Rellas cleared a shot off the line in the ninth minute. The Huskies missed another chance as O'Brian White sent a shot high from the top of the 18-yard box with just over 10 minutes left in the half. Notre Dame forward Joseph Lapira placed a shot just wide right of the net from 25 yards out with 6:26 remaining in the period. That would be the best chance for either team before the first 45 minutes expired with the score knotted at 0-0. The defensive battle would see its only goal with 25:29 left in the match as senior defender Ryan Miller sent the ball into the 18-yard box and Lapira flicked it to Thomas for the goal. Connecticut kept the pressure on late, yet senior goalkeeper Chris Cahill and the Notre Dame defense held tight to collect the team's 10th shutout of the season. For Cahill, it was his ninth shutout and he moved his record to 11-3-1 by making one save on the night for the Irish, who have won eight of their last nine games. This was just the second win for Notre Dame at Connecticut in seven tries. The only other victory in Storrs came in 1986.

	1	2	F
#6 Notre Dame	0	1	1
#14 Connecticut	0	0	0

Scoring: ND: Michael Thomas (Ryan Miller, Joseph Lapira) 64:31

	ND	UC
Shots	12	8
Saves	1	4
Fouls	8	11
Corner Kicks	3	3

GAME 19 **October 25, 2006**
BIG EAST Championship -
First Round

DePaul	0
#8 Notre Dame	2

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – No. 8 Notre Dame opened BIG EAST Tournament play with a 2-0 victory over DePaul on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at Alumni Field. Joseph Lapira upped his nation-leading point total to 45 with three during the contest on one goal and one assist. Nate Norman also added a goal for the Irish.

Notre Dame did not get many good looks at the net in the first half, yet cracked the scoring column with just under five minutes remaining in the stanza. Junior Kurt Martin sent a nice pass up the field to Lapira, who sent a shot on goal that was saved by DePaul goalkeeper Brian Visser. Lapira gathered the rebound and deposited his 20th goal of the season.

DePaul managed three shots in the first half, while the Fighting Irish collected eight. For the game, Notre Dame held a 17-10 advantage in the category.

The Irish kept attacking early into the second half with their 1-0 lead. In the 56th minute, Lapira found Norman with a cross from close in and he connected on his second goal of the season to put Notre Dame on top 2-0. Lapira's 45 points is the third-highest single-season total in school history.

The Notre Dame defense would hold tight the rest of the way in collecting its 11th shutout of the season. Senior goalkeeper Chris Cahill stopped four Blue Demon shots on the night to earn his 10th shutout of the season and move his record to 11-3-1. Visser made six saves for DePaul.

	1	2	F
DePaul	0	0	0
#8 Notre Dame	1	1	2

Scoring: ND: Joseph Lapira (Kurt Martin) 40:28, ND: Nate Norman (Joseph Lapira) 55:23

	DU	ND
Shots	10	17
Saves	6	4
Fouls	12	13
Corner Kicks	2	2

GAME 20 **October 28, 2006**
BIG EAST Championship -
Second Round

#8 Notre Dame	1
Rutgers	2 (2 OT)

PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Adam Sternberger netted two goals, including the game-winner in double-overtime, to give Rutgers a 2-1 victory over No. 8 Notre Dame in quarterfinal action of the BIG EAST Men's Soccer Championship on Saturday, Oct. 28 at windy Yurcak Field. The loss dropped the Fighting Irish to 13-5-2 on the season, while the Scarlet Knights improved to 10-6-1 with the win.

Notre Dame got on the board first as sophomore midfielder Cory Rellas netted a goal in the 35th minute. It was his second goal of the season. The Fighting Irish out shot the Scarlet Knights 9-4 in the first half and would take a 1-0 lead into the locker room.

Rutgers tallied the equalizer in the 80th minute when Sternberger scored off a Kyle Grato free kick. Neither team could find the back of the net during the rest of regulation or the first 10-minute overtime period.

As the match was entering the 106th minute of play, Sternberger tallied the game winner off a Zach Simi corner kick to advance Rutgers into the semifinals of the BIG EAST Tournament. The Scarlet



Knights are the No. 2 seed from the league's Red Division, while the Irish are the third seed from the Blue Division.

The Irish held a 13-12 edge in shots for the match, yet could not register a shot in either overtime period. Rutgers had a 5-3 advantage in corner kicks for the game. Notre Dame senior goalkeeper Chris Cahill made five saves on the night, while Matt VanOekel had three stops for the Scarlet Knights.

	1	2	OT	OT2	F
#8 Notre Dame	1	0	0	0	1
Rutgers	0	1	0	1	2

Scoring: ND: Cory Rellas (unassisted) 34:55, RU: Adam Sternberger (Kyle Grato) 79:32, RU: Adam Sternberger (Zach Simi, Tomislav Barisic) 105:00

	ND	RU
Shots	13	12
Saves	5	3
Fouls	9	11
Corner Kicks	3	5

GAME 21 November 15, 2006
NCAA Championship -
Second Round

Illinois-Chicago	0
#12 Notre Dame	1

NOTRE DAME, Ind. – Twelfth-seeded Notre Dame defeated Illinois-Chicago, 1-0, in the second round of the NCAA Men's Soccer Championship on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at a rainy and soggy Alumni Field. Joseph Lapira tallied his nation-leading 21st goal in the 44th minute to propel the Irish into the Round of 16 for the second straight season and the fourth time in program history.

Notre Dame withstood an early attack from UIC, which produced the game's first four shots. The Flames nearly struck in the fourth minute as Baggio Husidic sent a shot off the crossbar. In the seventh minute, Pavle Dundjer put a blast on goal that Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill sent over the top of the net.

The Fighting Irish started to gain some momentum towards the middle portion of the first half as they stepped up their attack. Notre Dame registered several good looks before Bright Dike sent the ball to Lapira and he ran onto it and fired a shot from 12-yards out that found the back of the net.

Momentum would stay with the Irish in the second half as they out shot the Flames, 9-4, in the stanza and 18-9 for the match. Lapira led Notre Dame with three shots. The Fighting Irish also held a 7-2 advantage in corner kicks. Cahill collected three saves on the night, while his counterpart Jovan Bubonja made eight stops in the loss.

	1	2	F
Illinois-Chicago	0	0	0
#12 Notre Dame	1	0	0

Scoring: ND: Joseph Lapira (Bright Dike) 43:13

	UIC	ND
Shots	9	18
Saves	8	3
Fouls	11	8
Corner Kicks	2	7

GAME 22 November 18, 2006
NCAA Championship -
Round of 16

#12 Notre Dame	1
#7 Maryland	0 (2 OT)

COLLEGE PARK, Md. – A Joseph Lapira goal with 3:04 remaining in the second overtime period propelled 12th-seeded Notre Dame past fifth-seeded Maryland, 1-0, and into the quarterfinals of the NCAA Men's Soccer Championship on Saturday, Nov. 18 at Ludwig Field.

Maryland started strong out of the gate by collecting the game's first four shots. Irish senior goalkeeper Chris Cahill responded with early deflections and diving saves to keep the game scoreless. The Terrapins held an 8-3 advantage in shots during the first half and a 16-14 edge for the match.

Just as they did in the second round win over UIC, the Irish weathered the early storm to gain some momentum. Notre Dame began to mount an attack behind Lapira and good looks from seniors Nate Norman and Ryan Miller.

Cahill had to leave the contest with 10:38 left in the first half due to an injury and was replaced by Maryland native Andrew Quinn. Cahill made four saves during his time in the contest, while Quinn collected three as he played the remainder of the match. Maryland's Chris Seitz had seven saves in the loss.

Notre Dame began controlling the possession early in the second half and freshman midfielder Michael Thomas put a couple shots on goal that were stopped by Seitz. The defensive struggle would continue as both teams headed into overtime.

Lapira had the best look for either team in the first extra session. Junior midfielder Kurt Martin played the ball to Lapira and he chipped it over Seitz, who came off his line, yet the ball trickled wide right.

The Terrapins nearly ended the match as Stephen King sent a shot off the crossbar with 4:25 left in the second 10-minute overtime session. Notre Dame responded from the Maryland miss as senior Dale Rellas sent the ball to Lapira, who made a move on a defender and blasted the ball off the far post and into the back of the net for his nation-leading 22nd goal of the campaign.

	1	2	OT	OT2	F
#12 Notre Dame	0	0	0	1	1
#7 Maryland	0	0	0	0	0

Scoring: ND: Joseph Lapira (Dale Rellas) 106:56

	ND	UM
Shots	14	16
Saves	7	7
Fouls	19	15
Corner Kicks	4	8

GAME 23 November 24, 2006
NCAA Championship -
Quarterfinals

#12 Notre Dame	2
#4 Virginia	3

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – Notre Dame saw its run in the NCAA Men's Soccer Championship come to an end on Friday, Nov. 24 as the 12th-seeded Irish fell to No. 4 seed Virginia, 3-2, in quarterfinal action in front of 5,850 fans at Klockner Stadium. Junior forward Kurt Martin netted both goals for the Fighting Irish, who ended their season with a 15-6-2 mark. Adam Cristman tallied two goals for the Cavaliers.

Notre Dame put early pressure on the Cavaliers before Virginia gained the momentum and threatened the Fighting Irish. Cristman had a good look early as he was one-on-one with Irish goalkeeper Chris Cahill,

yet Cahill came out to deflect his shot and negate the scoring chance.

Cristman would later capitalize as the Cavaliers began to put more pressure on the Irish defense mid-way through the first half. The senior forward took a through ball from Nico Colaluca and sent it past Cahill to make it 1-0 in favor of Virginia in the 25th minute.

The Fighting Irish, who out shot Virginia 13-11 for the match, stepped up their offensive pressure, which nearly resulted in a Bright Dike goal with 12:51 left in the half. Freshman Michael Thomas fed Dike and the sophomore sent a blast over the goal from eight yards out.

Virginia struck again in the 35th minute. A Cavalier free kick was sent into the six-yard box and the Irish were unable to clear it and Yannick Reyerling deposited a shot to make it a 2-0 contest. Notre Dame trailed 2-0 at the half.

Entering the second half, sophomore goalkeeper Andrew Quinn replaced Cahill and sophomore Jack Traynor, a starter all season at left back, entered the lineup for the first time after being injured in the win over Maryland in the round of 16. Junior forward Joseph Lapira, the nation's leading scorer, had a couple good looks for the Irish in the second half. With 23:36 left to play, Lapira was one-on-one with Cavalier goalkeeper Ryan Burke on the right side and sent a shot wide left of the goal.

Quinn denied Virginia's bid to make it a 3-0 contest as he saved a Reyerling header from close in. Notre Dame used the new life on the other end of the field as the Irish earned a free kick from the right side of the 18-yard box. Lapira fed Martin on the kick and he placed it in the back of the net to cut the deficit in half.

Virginia answered right back 20 seconds later as Colaluca sent a pass from the right side to Cristman on the left and he notched his second goal of the match to make it 3-1 with just under 20 minutes left in the second half.

The Irish kept battling and it paid off in the 84th minute as they were awarded a penalty kick after a Cavalier foul inside the box. Martin was selected to line up the shot and he delivered, making it 3-2 with the first two-goal game of his collegiate career. Notre Dame had momentum, yet could not deliver the equalizer in the final minutes and the Cavaliers came away with the hard fought victory.

Cahill collected two saves on the night, while Quinn had three. Burke made three stops for Virginia. The Irish held a 5-3 edge in corner kicks.

	1	2	F
#12 Notre Dame	0	2	2
#4 Virginia	2	1	3

Scoring: UVA: Adam Cristman (Nico Colaluca) 24:40, UVA: Yannick Reyerling (unassisted) 34:16, ND: Kurt Martin (Joseph Lapira) 70:04, UVA: Adam Cristman (Nico Colaluca) 70:24, ND: Kurt Martin (penalty kick) 83:34

	ND	UVA
Shots	13	11
Saves	6	3
Fouls	21	16
Corner Kicks	5	3



Greg Dalby #6

Class of 2007

Midfielder

6-0 • 174

Poway, Calif. • Poway H.S.

AWARDS & HONORS

First Team All-American (2005, 2006)

M.A.C. Hermann Trophy Semifinalist (2005, 2006)

BIG EAST Midfielder of the Year (2006)

All-BIG EAST First Team (2005, 2006)

All-BIG EAST Second Team (2004)

Collected first-team All-America honors during his junior and senior seasons • three-time all-BIG EAST selection, including being named the 2006 BIG EAST midfielder of the year • team co-captain during his junior and senior seasons • started all 88 career games • his 88 consecutive games played is a program record • four-time monogram winner • notched 10 career points on four goals and two assists • drafted by the Colorado Rapids in the second round of the 2007 Major League Soccer Draft (17th pick overall).

AS A SENIOR: Earned first-team All-America honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) •

named a second-team All-American by *College Soccer News* • a M.A.C. Hermann Trophy semifinalist • BIG EAST midfielder of the year • a unanimous first-team all-BIG EAST selection • started all 23 games • team co-captain • fourth on the team in minutes played (2,025) • totaled four points on two goals • attempted 27 shots • tallied the Irish's second goal in a 3-0 win over DePaul • scored the team's final goal in a 4-1 victory against Georgetown • moved to the backline, due to an injury to Jack Traynor, during the second half of a 1-0 double-overtime victory against No. 7 Maryland in the third round of the NCAA Tournament • named to the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic All-Tournament Team • a first-team preseason All-America selection by *College Soccer News* • collected three yellow cards.

AS A JUNIOR: First-team All-American on three separate lists (NSCAA, SoccerTimes.com, *College Soccer News*) • first student-athlete in program history to accomplish that feat • M.A.C. Hermann Trophy semifinalist • a unanimous first-team all-BIG EAST selection • started all 23 games for the Fighting Irish, playing a team-high 1,949 minutes • netted Notre Dame's first goal of the season, and the first of his career, just 1:26 into the 4-1 season-opening victory versus No. 7 SMU in the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic • also collected an assist against the Mustangs en route to being named to the all-tournament team, the Top Drawer Soccer Team of the Week and the BIG EAST Weekly Honor Roll • notched Notre Dame's second goal of the game during the seventh minute in a 2-1 victory over Pittsburgh • named to the 2005-06 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A SOPHOMORE: Anchored the Irish midfield as he started all 19 games during the 2004 campaign • garnered second-team all-BIG EAST honors • named to the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament all-tournament team • collected first career point by assisting on the goal that gave Notre Dame a 1-0 lead in its BIG EAST opener against Georgetown, a game in which the Irish won 4-1 • named to the 2004-05 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A FRESHMAN: An instant starter for the Irish during his rookie season • appeared in and started all 23 matches for the Irish • began the season as a central defender, but eventually moved up to finish the season in the central midfield • helped the Irish defense hold its opponents to one or zero goals in 20 of 23 matches • *Soccer America* freshman All-American • *College Soccer News* all-freshman team selection • also a member of the U.S.

Under-20 National Team, but a minor leg injury kept him from competing with the team • move to the central midfield coincided with Notre Dame's late-season surge to the BIG EAST Championship and NCAA Sweet 16 appearance.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: 2002 Gatorade and *Parade* magazine National Player of Year • also was named the California player of the year on two occasions • three-time adidas

All-American and named to the *Parade* magazine All-America team • a three-year starter at Poway • first-team all-California Inter-scholastic Federation (CIF) selection in 2002 after earning second-team honors as a freshman • two-time first-team all-North County selection and a first-team all-Palomar League selection in '03 • enjoyed a distinguished prep career as one of the nation's top players • led team to a three-year record of 50-16-9 • completed coursework at Poway in three years and graduated one year ahead of schedule • was a member of the U.S. Under-18 National Team along with current teammates Ian Etherington and Nate Norman • served as co-captain of that squad • tallied seven goals and dished off six assists in final prep season and finished career with 15 goals and 16 assists • had his high school jersey number 23 retired at Poway High School as one of only six former players to have jersey retired • led scholastic team to Palomar League championship as a freshman and runner-up finishes in both his sophomore and junior seasons • toured France and Spain with the national team in May of '02 • started all 13 matches for that team in two years • solidified a defense that allowed just three goals in seven matches • also played internationally in Italy, Germany, Costa Rica and Australia • has participated in four National Team training camps • an alternate on under-17 U.S. World Championship Team in '01 • member of Region IV Olympic Developmental Program (ODP) Team since 1998 • also a five-year mainstay on the Cal State ODP squad and led that team to the national championship in '02 • named to the Top 11 All-Tournament Team at the FC Borgaro Tournament in Italy in April of '01 • played on the Under-16 U.S. National Team in 2000 • a Top 22 Select Team for the adidas Elite Soccer Program (ESP) in '01 and Defensive MVP of that team • holds school record for most goals in a game (four) • has played for four different club teams — San Diego Surf (2000-03 and 1998-99), La Jolla Nomads (1999-00), Rancho Bernardo Select (1996-98) and San Diego Soccer Club (1996-98) • named '03 MVP of San Diego Surf Soccer Club • led the Nomads to semifinal appearance in '00 Dallas Cup • named to the *Union Tribune* all-academic first team in 2003, as well as earning a post on the all-CIF Scholar Athlete team • earned one letter in track • youngest of three children • born November 3, 1985 • son of Mark and Jan Dalby • graduated from the College of Arts and Letters in December of 2006 with degrees in film, television and theater and theology • finished with a 3.241 cumulative GPA • member of the University's Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

Dalby's Career Bests

Goals

Game 1 (four times)
Season 2 (2005 & 2006)

Assists

Game 1 (vs. Georgetown, 2004; vs. SMU, 2005)
Season 1 (2004 & 2005)

Points

Game 3 (vs. SMU, 2005)
Season 5 (2005)

Dalby's Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Sh	G	A	Pts	GW
2003	23-23	8	0	0	0	0
2004	19-19	19	0	1	1	0
2005	23-23	13	2	1	5	0
2006	23-23	27	2	0	4	0
Totals	88-88	67	4	2	10	0





Ian Etherington #7

Class of 2007

Midfielder

5-8 • 135

Temecula, Calif. • Chaparral H.S.

AWARDS & HONORS

All-BIG EAST First Team (2005)

All-BIG EAST Third Team (2004)

A four-time monogram winner and a two-time all-BIG EAST selection • played in 79 career games, making 54 starts • totaled 24 points on seven goals and 10 assists.

ASA SENIOR: Played in 16 games, making 13 starts • missed a stretch of six games during the middle portion of the season due to an injury • totaled two points on one goal • attempted 19 shots • scored Notre Dame's second goal in a 5-4 overtime win at No. 8 Indiana during the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic • returned from his injury in the regular-season finale, a 1-0 victory at No. 14 Connecticut • started all three games in the NCAA Tournament • named to the preseason all-BIG EAST team • picked up one yellow card.

ASA JUNIOR: A first-team all-BIG EAST selection • a starter in 21 of 22 games • scored two goals and assisted on three others for a total of seven points, which was tied for fourth on the team • netted the game-winning goal during the 82nd minute in a 2-1 victory against Louisville • scored Notre Dame's only goal in a 2-1 loss to

Etherington's Career Bests

Goals

Game 1 (seven times)

Season 3 (2004)

Assists

Game 2 (vs. Villanova, 2003; vs. Georgetown, 2004)

Season 5 (2004)

Points

Game 3 (vs. Loyola-Chicago, 2004)

Season 11 (2004)



Cincinnati • collected an assist in a 3-3 tie versus West Virginia and also in a 1-0 victory against Marquette • netted a penalty kick as the Irish advanced past Syracuse, 4-2, in a shoot-out during the first round of the BIG EAST Tournament • attempted 38 shots, which was the second-most on the team • named to the 2005-06 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A SOPHOMORE: Started all 18 games that he appeared in • third-team all-BIG EAST selection • led the team with five assists to go along with three goals • totaled 11 points, which placed him second on the team • collected two assists in Notre Dame's 4-1 win over Georgetown in the BIG EAST-opener • assisted on the goal that put the Irish up 3-1 • also assisted on the final goal of the match • had a three-point match versus Loyola-Chicago • assisted on the Irish's first tally in a 4-0 win over the Ramblers • followed that up with his first goal of the season to make the score 2-0 • netted the game-winner against Syracuse on a free kick in the second overtime period • assisted on the Irish's first goal in the 3-0 win over No. 22 Michigan • scored the first goal of the match on a corner kick in a 1-1 tie at No. 10 St. John's • collected the assist on the game-winner versus Rutgers • the 1-0 victory against the Scarlet Knights clinched the program's first-ever BIG EAST regular-season title.

AS A FRESHMAN: An instant contributor as a freshman in 2003 • scored a goal and added two assists for four total points • appeared in all 23 contests, making two starts • earned starting nods vs. Fresno State and at Michigan State • scored first career goal (and

first career points) vs. Rutgers (5-2 Irish loss) • logged first two career assists on both Notre Dame goals vs. Villanova • assisted on the game-winner at 52:47 • also aided an insurance goal at 84:28 vs. the Wildcats.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: Joined Irish teammates Greg Dalby and Nate Norman as a member of the Under-18 U.S. National Team in 2002 • member of Chaparral High School team as a sophomore and junior • earned first-team all-Southwestern, all-Valley and all-city honors • enjoyed outstanding junior year in which he scored 10 goals and dished off 16 assists in leading his team to an overall record of 21-1-1 and the Southwestern League championship with an undefeated 8-0-0 mark • in his sophomore year, Chaparral finished with an 18-2-5 mark and 5-2-1 league record in winning conference title • team leader in assists for two seasons • three-year member of Region IV Olympic Developmental Program (ODP) and Cal South ODP teams • named to NSCAA All-America team in 2001 •

member of club soccer program in his area for 10 years and has been a member of several teams — San Diego Surf Soccer Club (2002-03), La Jolla Nomads (1994-02) and Murrieta Soccer Club (1994-99) • selected to the adidas All-American Team in 2001 • helped Nomads capture the Snickers USYSA National Cup Regional championship in both 1999 and 2000 and the Snickers USYSA National California-South State Cup championship in 1997, '99 and '00 • also helped that team capture the North American Nike International Premier Cup in '99 • led squad to Surf Cup championship in '99, NHB Cup title in '00 and runner-up finish at Dallas Cup in '97 • gained considerable international experience by playing on teams which traveled to England, Spain, France, Holland, Belgium and Thailand • selected to play in the 2003 McDonald's High School All-American game • played on same high school team as former Irish baseball player Cody Rizzo • co-president of high school's calculus club • youngest of two children • born March 2, 1985 • son of Gary and Sherry Etherington • graduated from the College of Arts and Letters in December of 2006 with degrees in economics and computer applications • finished with a 3.157 cumulative GPA.

Etherington's Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Sh	G	A	Pts	GW
2003	23-2	22	1	2	4	0
2004	18-18	44	3	5	11	1
2005	22-21	38	2	3	7	1
2006	16-13	19	1	0	2	0
Totals	79-54	123	7	10	24	2



Justin McGeeney #9

Class of 2007

Forward

5-8 • 165

Ames, Iowa • Ames H.S.

AWARDS & HONORS

All-BIG EAST Third Team (2004)

Played in 71 career games, making 64 starts • tallied 33 career points on 15 goals and three assists • a four-time monogram winner.

AS A SENIOR: Started all 22 matches in which he played • missed the Indiana match due to an injury • second on the Fighting Irish squad with five goals • had two game-winning goals • also notched one assist to total 11 points, which ranked in a tie for second on the team • attempted 34 shots • scored a career-high two goals in a 4-1 win over No. 8 Creighton in the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament • was named to the Mike Berticelli all-tournament team along with garnering BIG EAST offensive player of the week honors for his performance against the Blue Jays • netted a second-minute goal in a 3-0 victory against DePaul • notched the team's only goal in a 2-1 setback at Cincinnati • assisted on Notre Dame's first goal in a 3-1 win over Pittsburgh • tallied the Irish's first goal in a 4-1 triumph of Georgetown.

McGeeney's Career Bests

Goals	
Game	2 (vs. Creighton, 2006)
Season	5 (2004, 2005, 2006)
Assists	
Game	1 (three times)
Season	2 (2004)
Points	
Game	4 (vs. Creighton, 2006)
Season	12 (2004)

AS A JUNIOR: Notched five goals, which was the second-most on the team • scored a team-best three game-winners • played in all 23 games, making 20 starts • third on the team in shots with 35 • scored in the 53rd minute in a 1-0 win against Syracuse • netted a tally in the 47th minute in a 3-3 tie versus West Virginia and in the 40th minute during a 1-0 victory at Marquette • scored just 8:42 into a 2-1 win at Providence • netted the Irish's first penalty kick in a shootout versus Syracuse during the first round of the BIG EAST Tournament • the Irish advanced past the Orange with a 4-2 edge in penalty kicks • notched Notre Dame's first goal during the 56th minute in a 2-0 win over No. 5 Indiana in the second round of the NCAA Tournament • named to the 2005-06 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A SOPHOMORE: A starter in all 19 games during the 2004 season • third-team all-BIG EAST selection • led the Fighting Irish in points with 12 on five goals and two assists • all five of his goals were game-winners • also registered a team-high 63 shots • collected first-career goal in the season-opener versus Oregon State at the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic • against the Beavers, he headed a pass into the back of the net just four minutes into the second half to give the Irish a 2-1 advantage, which would end up being the final score • named to the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic all-tournament team • netted a goal in Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Evansville by taking a pass and beating the last defender to notch the Irish's second score in less than two minutes • provided the lone goal in Notre Dame's 1-0 victory at No. 21 Villanova by netting an unassisted tally in the 48th minute • garnered BIG EAST offensive player of the week honors on Sept. 29 for his efforts against the Wildcats • registered the lone goal again versus No. 9 Boston College as he nailed an unassisted shot in the third minute of overtime to give the Irish the victory • notched his first-career assist versus Loyola-Chicago in a 4-0 victory • scored the first of three Irish goals versus Michigan • opened the scoring against the Wolverines when he deposited a goal at the 14:11 mark en route to a 3-0 victory • assisted on a goal in the Irish's 2-0 win versus Connecticut • named to the 2004-05 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A FRESHMAN: Contributed important minutes off the bench for the Irish during his rookie season in 2003 • started three contests vs. No. 11 California, Fresno State and Akron • member of the 2003-04 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: Concluded outstanding prep career at Ames High School as a four-year letterwinner with a school record 55 goals and 19 assists and finished off final scholastic campaign with single-season record 30 goals and 16 assists • first-team all-state selection as a senior after gar-



nering second-team honors as a junior • a three-time Central Iowa Metropolitan League all-conference selection • led his prep team to conference championships in 2000 and 2001 • helped his team to a fourth-place finish at state championships during his freshman year • named team MVP three straight years • starting forward on West Des Moines Attack club team that captured four consecutive state crowns • a five-time captain of the Iowa Olympic Developmental Program (ODP) state team and has been a member of that team since 1996 • also has played on Region II ODP pool team since '00 • member of the Des Moines Menace team that won the PDL national championship in El Paso, Texas during the summer of 2005 • lettered in football in his junior year • participated in Distinguished Academic Achievement, Student Council and Student Ambassador programs in high school • youngest of four children • born February 17, 1985 • son of Terry and Susan McGeeney • graduated from the Mendoza College of Business in December of 2006 with a finance degree • finished with a 3.362 GPA.

McGeeney's Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Sh	G	A	Pts	GW
2003	7-3	0	0	0	0	0
2004	19-19	63	5	2	12	5
2005	23-20	35	5	0	10	3
2006	22-22	34	5	1	11	2
Totals	71-64	132	15	3	33	10





Nate Norman #19

Class of 2007
Forward/Midfielder
6-1 • 170

Rochester, Mich. • Rochester Adams H.S.

A four-time monogram winner • appeared in 82 career matches with 33 starts • notched 27 points on seven goals and 13 assists • drafted by the Chicago Fire in the second round of the 2007 Major League Soccer Draft (21st pick overall).

ASA SENIOR: Started all 23 games • led the Fighting Irish with seven assists • tallied two goals and finished with 11 total points, which tied for second on the team • second on the team with 44 shots • collected a career-high two assists in a 4-1 win over No. 8 Creighton in the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament • named to the Mike Berticelli all-tournament team for his performance • notched an assist in a 2-1 setback at Cincinnati • assisted on Notre Dame's second goal in a 3-1 win over Pittsburgh • tallied his lone goal of the season in a 4-0 victory against Marquette • it was the third goal of the match • assisted on the team's first goal in a 3-0 triumph of Michigan State • matched his career-high with two assists in a 3-0 victory over Providence • netted the Irish's second goal in a 2-0 win over DePaul in the first round of the BIG EAST Tournament • named a BIG EAST Academic All-Star.

ASA JUNIOR: Played in 22 games, making five starts • third on the team with nine points

Norman's Career Bests

Goals

Game 1 (seven times)
 Season 3 (2005)

Assists

Game 2 (vs. Creighton & Providence, 2006)
 Season 7 (2006)

Points

Game 2 (nine times)
 Season 11 (2006)



coming on three goals and three assists • tallied two game-winning goals • scored a goal in the 4-1 season-opening victory against No. 7 SMU • named to the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament all-tournament team as he notched the game-winner in a 1-0 victory over Boston University and assisted on the game-winner in the 1-0 overtime win against Saint Louis • scored in a 3-3 tie versus West Virginia • assisted on a goal in a 2-1 overtime win versus Providence and in a 2-1 loss to Cincinnati • named to the 2005-06 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team • fifth on the team with 30 shots.

ASA SOPHOMORE: Started five of 18 games that he played in during the 2004 season • scored two goals and assisted on three others for a total of seven points • assisted on the game-winner in the season-opener versus Oregon State at the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic to earn his first collegiate point • collected an assist in the 49th minute to help give the Irish a 2-1 lead and the win against the Beavers • netted first career goal in the very next game, a 2-0 win versus Boston University, as he sent in an unassisted shot in the 61st minute to give the Irish their second goal of the match • dished an assist versus Loyola-Chicago as the Irish went on to win 4-0 • recorded the final score in Notre Dame's 3-0 win against No. 22 Michigan in the 86th minute • assisted on the game-winner versus Connecticut in the 85th minute • Notre Dame would add a late insurance goal against the Huskies to make it a 2-0 final • named to the 2004-05 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team • selected the to the Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament all-tournament team.

Norman's Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Sh	G	A	Pts	GW
2003	19-0	7	0	0	0	0
2004	18-5	26	2	3	7	0
2005	22-5	30	3	3	9	2
2006	23-23	44	2	7	11	0
Totals	82-33	107	7	13	27	2

ASA FRESHMAN: Key member of Notre Dame's bench players in the midfield • appeared in 19 contests during his rookie season in 2003 • also competed as a member of the U.S. Under-20 National Team • played a career high 75 minutes in his first career match vs. UAB at the adidas/IU Credit Union Classic • drew a key foul vs. No. 19 Indiana in Notre Dame's 1-0 victory over the eventual national champion • picked up an errant Hoosier pass and took a deep run into the Indiana zone, eventually drawing a yellow card foul at the top of the penalty box • Chad Riley's free kick from that spot was sent into the net by Kevin Goldthwaite for the game-winning score • put two shots on goal in his first career match vs. UAB • member of the 2003-04 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: Member of Under-18 National Team • has been a yearly member of the US National Team program since 1999 • a three-time National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-America team • McDonald's and Parade magazine All-America honoree as a senior • named one of the top 12 prep forwards in the country by Parade magazine • tallied 45 goals and 46 assists during his career at Rochester Adams High School • netted seven goals and eight assists in his final scholastic campaign • four-year letterwinner on a team that compiled 64-16-9 mark over four seasons • led his team to a state runner-up finish and an overall record of 21-2-1 in his junior year as team captured Oakland Athletic League championship as well as district and regional titles • as a freshman, he was a member of state championship team that also won both district and regional crowns • also led team to district title in sophomore season • four-time all-state, all-regional, all-county and all-district honoree • named to the Michigan Dream Team in 2001 and 2002 • captained Vadar III Soccer Club that won State Cup championships in '01 and '02 • member of the Michigan state Olympic Developmental Program for seven years, as well as the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Team for six seasons • father Brad played basketball at Baker University • one of three children • son of Brad and Wendy Norman • born March 2, 1985 • graduated from the College of Arts and Letters in May of 2007 with a degree in theology • posted a 3.381 cumulative GPA.

Departed Letterwinners



Dale Rellas #22

Class of 2007

Defender

6-2 • 180

Plano, Texas • Plano West H.S.

Four-time monogram winner • served as a team co-captain during his junior and senior seasons • played in 62 career games with 57 starts • totaled one point on one assist.

AS A SENIOR (Fifth Year): Started all 23 games • served as team co-captain • finished third on the team in minutes played (2,058) • collected the only point of his collegiate career in a 1-0 double-overtime victory over No. 7 Maryland in the third round of the NCAA Tournament • assisted Joseph Lapira on the game-winner in the 107th minute to propel Notre Dame to the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals for the first time in program history • integral part of the Fighting Irish defense that allowed just 0.79 goals per game and posted 13 shutouts • picked up one yellow card • earned a monogram.

AS A SENIOR: Played in 13 games, making 12 starts • was hampered with injuries during the middle portion of the season • team benefitted greatly with him in the lineup • Irish went 7-4-2, surrendering only 11 goals, during games in which he played • helped Irish post consecutive 2-0 shutout victories in the NCAA Tournament against Western Illinois and No. 5 Indiana • helped to hold opponents scoreless on five occasions • named to the 2005-06 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team • earned a monogram.

AS A JUNIOR: Appeared in only four games throughout the 2004 season due to a foot injury • returned to play in a 3-0 win over No. 22 Michigan • also logged time versus Seton Hall, Rutgers and Ohio State • named to the 2004-05 BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.

AS A SOPHOMORE: Promising second campaign was cut short early • suffered a foot



injury in Notre Dame's second game of the season vs. No. 11 California, which eventually required surgery and ended his season.

AS A FRESHMAN: Was a starter in all 21 of Notre Dame's contests and was the only Irish rookie who saw action in every game • came up with critical back save in first half against Connecticut which prevented Huskies from going up 2-0 in the game • lone freshman to play in the season opener against Southwest Missouri State as he started his first collegiate outing.

HIGH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL DATA: Starred on defense for Plano West Senior his final two seasons • backbone of squad which posted 0.20 and 0.40 goals-against averages in both 2001 and '02 • led Plano West to District 9 5-A conference championship in final prep campaign • twice earned team MVP honors, as well as all-conference and all-city honors as both a junior and senior • all-state selection • named top defender in North Texas as a junior and was the only junior selected to the all-area team • led his Solar Club squad to the finals of the Dallas Cup in 2002, the top-ranked club team nationally in the spring of 2002 • team

also captured the Dallas Classic League championship • a five-year starter on the North Texas State Olympic Development Program Team • named to all-star team at Notre Dame Elite Soccer Camp in summer of 2001 • played two years of high school basketball • honors student who was a member of school's National Honor Society • father Jim played baseball at the University of New Hampshire • born January 20, 1984 • son of Jim and Nordy Rellas • is the brother of Cory Rellas, a junior defender on the Irish roster • graduated in May of 2006 from the College of Arts and Letters with a degree in anthropology/pre-professional studies • finished with a 3.325 cumulative GPA.

Rellas' Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Sh	G	A	Pts	GW
2002	21-21	0	0	0	0	0
2003	1-1	0	0	0	0	0
2004	4-0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	13-12	0	0	0	0	0
2006	23-23	1	0	1	1	0
Totals	62-57	1	0	1	1	0