



The Coaching Staff

Head coach Debby King has led the Fighting Irish to eight tournament victories, including back-to-back BIG EAST titles, in her three-and-a-half years at the helm of the Notre Dame program.

In just over three years at Notre Dame, head coach Debby King has already guided the Fighting Irish women's golf program to unprecedented levels. King has led the Irish to eight team tournament victories in her brief tenure, including back-to-back BIG East Tournament titles in 2003 and 2004. The biggest moment to date came in the 2003-04 season as the Irish made the program's first-ever appearance in the NCAA Championship.

King was named head coach of the University of Notre Dame women's golf team on August 21, 2001, becoming the third head coach in the 16-year history of the program.

The first full-time coach in the program's history, King has wasted little time in elevating the Notre Dame program to the next level. Under her direction, the Irish have realized extraordinary success, including the winning of the first-ever BIG EAST Women's Golf Championship in 2003 and following that up with the 2004 conference title en route to the program's inaugural trip to the NCAA tournament.

In three-and-a-half seasons under King,



Debby King

**Head Coach
Fourth Year**

**Florida Atlantic
University '84**

the Notre Dame team has experienced dramatic improvements. Prior to King's arrival, the Irish had a team stroke average of 323.26 in 2000-01; Notre Dame concluded the fall of 2004 with an amazing school-record semester average of 302.53.

To say that King's teams have rewritten the Notre Dame record books would be an understatement. A King-led squad owns all 10 of the top 54-hole tournament scores and nine of the top-10 low-team rounds in Fighting Irish history. There have also been numerous individual records established during King's tenure at Notre Dame, including the top-eight career stroke averages and top-10 season stroke averages. The 2004-05 squad also has 21 top-five finishes with 19 coming during King's tenure, 11 of which have been produced by King's first two recruiting classes.

After three outstanding seasons, King's current squad is in the midst of the greatest season in the program's history. The energetic coach is impressed by how fast her players have responded to higher goals and have continued to improve all facets of their games.

"Last year (2003-04) was a very good year. We felt like we far exceeded our goals. We ended up having to revamp our goals halfway through the season because we did so well," says the native of Slidell, La.

"We keep taking steps in the right direction. When I first arrived, I knew the goal here was to get into the national top-25. When I got the head coaching position here, I told (director of athletics) Kevin White I felt it would take five years to get to that point. The team was 107th when I first started and it's great to see where we

are in the country now after a little less than three and a half years."

If this fall is any indication, King has the Irish well ahead of her projected five-year plan. The team debuted in the top-25 of the golfstat.com rankings in October of 2004 at No. 18 after winning the Jeannine McHaney Invitational/Central Regional Preview. "Winning the central (regional preview) is the biggest win we've had since I've been here," says King. The Irish also captured a victory the following week at the Shoot-Out at Legends. Individually, there were six top-10 finishes in Notre Dame's six fall tournaments. One of those finishes was a victory by junior co-captain Katie Brophy at the McHaney Invitational. Brophy, a member of King's first recruiting class at Notre Dame, owns the Fighting Irish record for victories in a career with three.

King laid the groundwork for this unprecedented success in her first season with the Irish in 2001-02. In her initial year as

head coach, King saw the first medalist finish by a Notre Dame individual since 1997 (Rebecca Rogers, Notre Dame Invitational). As a team, the Irish had three top-four finishes and ended the season with a team average of 323.59, good for sixth-best in school history.

In 2002-03, Notre Dame made impressive strides under King's guidance. With her first recruiting class, she brought in five talented freshmen, hailing from as far as Ireland. Two of those freshmen, Brophy and Sarah Bassett, finished the schedule with the top two stroke averages on the team and led the squad to a 316.29 team scoring average, the lowest team average (for an entire season) in the his-



The King File

Head Golf Coach

University of Notre Dame, 2001-Present
University of Memphis, 1995-01

Five NCAA tournament appearances

1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004

Two-time BIG EAST champion

2003, 2004

Two-time Conference USA champion

1997, 2001

1997 LPGA National Coach of the Year

1997 Conference USA Coach of the Year

1996 PGA West Tennessee Teacher of the Year

Professional Playing Experience

LPGA Class A member
PGA Class A member
LPGA Asian Tour (1992)
Tour America Champion (1995)
West Tennessee Assistants Champion (1993)
Massachusetts Women's Open Champion (1991)





Memphis where her teams won two Conference USA titles (1997, 2001), produced 16 all-conference players, one conference player-of-the-year and two conference rookies-of-the-year.

During her six years at Memphis, King guided her teams to five consecutive trips to the NCAA Golf Regionals from 1997 through 2001.

Her 2000-01 squad won the Conference USA tournament and finished 14th at the NCAA West Regional. Rookie of the Year, Meghan Francelle, advanced to the NCAA finals but was forced to withdraw with an injury.

In announcing King as the new women's golf coach, Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White said, "We are very excited to be naming Debby King as

tory of the program at that time. Notre Dame closed out the year by winning the first-ever BIG EAST Women's Golf Championship. The Irish had three freshmen in the scoring five at the conference championship and had four golfers finish in the top five to earn all-BIG EAST honors for '02-'03, including Brophy who took co-medalist honors.

The program extended its rise in 2003-04 by building off the prior accomplishments of King's first two squads. Freshman Noriko Nakazaki continued the trend of rookie success as she led the Fighting Irish in a record-setting eight tournaments. Notre Dame captured three tournament victories in the fall of 2003, tying the school record for tournament victories in an entire season. The Irish added to that total in the spring as they won their second straight BIG EAST title and saw three golfers (Nakazaki, Brophy, Lotta) collect all-BIG EAST honors. A trip to the NCAA Central Regional capped off the greatest year in the history of the program.

King came to Notre Dame after six seasons as the head golf coach at the University of

the women's golf coach at Notre Dame. She brings with her outstanding qualifications as a coach and a teacher at Memphis. With Debby taking over as our full-time coach, plus the addition of scholarships and our facilities at the Warren Golf Course, we have now put our women's golf program in the position to compete at the national level."

King believes that Notre Dame has a great deal to offer prospective student-athletes both academically and athletically.

"I think the prestige of coming to Notre Dame is important. The tradition of both academics and athletics is what players and their parents are interested in," says King.

"We have a great new golf course and when we build our state-of-the-art indoor golf facility (part of the overall athletic master plan) in the near future, that will complete the entire package. I'm very excited about what we have to offer here at Notre Dame," says King.

King took over at Memphis in the fall of 1995 and led the Tigers to the Memphis Women's Intercollegiate Invitational champi-

onship in her first tournament as head coach. Her teams at Memphis went on to win six individual tournament titles. In 1997, King was named Conference USA's Coach of the Year as Memphis won its first conference title and advanced to the NCAA's for the first time under her guidance.

A former collegiate player at Florida Atlantic University, King moved to the professional ranks as an assistant golf pro at St. Andrew's Country Club in Boca Raton, Florida. In 1985 she attended the LPGA Qualifying School and for the next five years played on the Asian Tour, the Futures Golf Tour and worked as a teaching professional.

As a player, King won the 1991 Massachusetts Women's Open, the 1993 West Tennessee Assistants Championship, and in 1995, the Tour America Championship.

Before taking the head-coaching job at Memphis, King was a noted teaching professional at the Windyke Country Club in Memphis. In 1996, she was named the PGA West Tennessee Teacher of the Year and in 1997, the LPGA National Coach of the Year.

King is an LPGA Class A member, a PGA Class A member and is a member of the National Golf Coaches Association.

Notre Dame Under King

- *Eight team tournament titles*
- *Two BIG EAST Conference titles*
- *Program's first-ever NCAA appearance*
- *20 top-five individual finishes*
- *38 top-10 individual finishes*
- *Set school records for lowest team round, lowest team 54-hole score, lowest team season stroke average*
- *Nine of top 10 team rounds in program's history*
- *Six individual records set*
- *Top-10 lowest 54-hole team totals of all-time*
- *61 total entries in Irish individual record book*



Notre Dame has enjoyed a tremendous amount of success since assistant coach Ann Slater came on board in 2003. Slater is in her second season with the Irish and her sixth season overall at the collegiate level. Prior to her arrival at Notre Dame she collected four total years of Division I head coaching experience between Wichita State and Ohio University. Slater's duties include involvement in every aspect of coaching the Notre Dame team, including the overseeing of recruiting.

Since Slater joined head coach Debby King, Notre Dame has captured a total of six team titles, including the 2004 BIG EAST Championship and the 2004 Jeannine McHane Invitational/Central Regional Preview in Lubbock, Texas. Several Irish records have been established in her brief tenure. All 10 of the lowest 54-hole team tournament scores have been set and she has also witnessed eight of the 10 top team rounds in school history. Seven of the top-10 individual season stroke averages have also been notched, while 10 Fighting Irish golfers have placed in the top-three at an event since she came to South Bend.

Slater's first season with the Fighting Irish was very successful as the team made it to the program's first-ever NCAA tournament and lowered their stroke average to a school-record 309.31 from 316.29 in 2002-03, the season before her arrival. The Irish are on pace in 2004-05 to eclipse the stroke average mark for an entire season as they have posted a 302.53 average during the 2004 fall season.

In 2002-03, Slater served as the head women's golf coach at Wichita State. In her lone season as the Shockers' head coach, Slater guided the team to a fifth-place finish at the Notre Dame Invitational



Ann Slater

*Assistant Coach
Second Year*

Kansas State '99

and a 10th-place finish at the Razorback Invitational. Wichita State finished seventh at the 2003 Missouri Valley Conference Championship in April.

Before her stint at Wichita State, Slater was the head women's golf coach at Ohio University from 1999-2002. During her tenure at the helm of the Bobcats program, Slater's teams won four tournament titles and were runners-up at the 2002 Mid-American Conference (MAC) Championships. Four of her golfers won individual medalist honors, three were selected all-MAC and one student-athlete was named "MAC Sportswomen of the Year." In the classroom, seven of her players were named to the National Golf Coaches Association's (NGCA) All-Scholar teams.

Prior to coaching at Ohio University, Slater was an assistant golf professional at Forest Highlands Golf Club in Flagstaff, Ariz., during the summer of 1999. The course was the home of the 1996 U.S. Junior Championship and is ranked as the number one private golf club in the state of Arizona by the Arizona Republic.

A native of Cherokee, Iowa, Slater's collegiate career began at Briar Cliff College where she earned All-America honors after finishing 10th at the 1995 NAIA Championships. The following year, she transferred to Kansas State and earned Academic All-Big Eight and All-Big XII team honors as a sophomore. Slater was a two-time selection to the NGCA Division I All-Scholar team, earning the honor as a junior and senior at Kansas State. She also represented the school at the NCAA National Leadership Conference in 1997. Slater, an LPGA apprentice, won the Iowa Women's Golf Amateur in 1996.

Upon completing her collegiate career, Slater served as an undergraduate coach at Kansas State during the 1998-99 season. She also served as a co-advisor (1998-99), chairperson (1997-98) and vice-chair (1996-97) of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Slater graduated from Kansas State in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She completed her master's degree in sports administration from Ohio University in June of 2001.

Notre Dame Women's Golf Support Staff



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