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Softball Quick Facts

Notre Dame Quick Facts

Location Notre Dame, IN 46556
 Founded 1842
 Enrollment 10,800
 Nickname Fighting Irish
 Colors Gold and Blue
 Conference BIG EAST
 Home Field Ivy Field
 President Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C
 Provost Dr. Nathan Hatch
 Athletic Director Kevin White
 Assistant A.D./Softball Tony Yelovich
 Athletic Department Phone (574) 631-6107

Softball Coaching Staff

Head Coach Deanna Gumpf (Nebraska '92)
 Gumpf's Office Phone (574) 631-8845
 Record at Notre Dame 131-54 (.708)
 Career Record Same
 Assistant Coach Charmelle Green (Utah '91)
 Green's Office (574) 631-4778
 Assistant Coach Kris Ganeff (Notre Dame '99)
 Ganeff's Office (574) 631-9125

Sports Information

Address112 Joyce Center, Second Floor
 Notre Dame, IN 46556-5678
 Sports Information Director .. Bernie Cafarelli
 Asst. SID/Softball Contact.. Alan Wasielewski
 Sports Information Office (574) 631-7516
 Wasielewski's Office Phone (574) 631-3397
 Wasielewski's Home Phone (574) 258-9425
 Wasielewski's E-mail Wasielewski.3@nd.edu
 Sports Information Fax (574) 631-7941
 Ivy Field Press Box (574) 631-5048
 Sports Information Hotline (574) 631-3000
 Website www.und.com

The 2005 sophomore class poses for a photo on campus (left to right); Carissa Jaquish, Gessica Hufnagle, Stephanie Brown and Kenya Fuemmeler.



Media Information

Publicity for Notre Dame softball is coordinated by assistant sports information director Alan Wasielewski. Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available to the media by contacting Wasielewski at (574) 631-7516.

Requests to interview student-athletes and coaches must be arranged through the SID office and should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Credentials for home games can be obtained by calling Wasielewski.

Credits

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Print Media

South Bend Tribune
(Bill Bilinski)
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 235-6316
Fax (574) 235-6091

Associated Press
(Tom Coyne)
South Bend Tribune Building
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 288-1649
Fax (574) 236-1765

Irish Sports Report
(Eric Hansen)
225 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN 46626
(574) 235-6161
Fax (574) 239-2646

Blue & Gold Illustrated
(Lou Somogyi)
1605 North Home
Mishawaka, IN 46545
(574) 255-9800
Fax (574) 255-9700

Notre Dame Observer
LaFortune Student Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556
(574) 631-7471
Fax (574) 631-6927

Print Media

Notre Dame Scholastic
LaFortune Student Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556
(574) 631-7569
Fax (574) 631-9648

National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA)
409 Vandiver Drive
Suite 5-202
Columbia, MO 65202
(573) 875-3033
Fax (573) 875-2924

Television

WNDU-TV - NBC
(Jeff Jeffers/Jack Nolan)
P.O. Box 1616
South Bend, IN 46634
(574) 631-1616/1239
Fax (574) 631-2916

Television (cont.)

WSBT-TV/Radio - CBS
(Greg Carroll)
300 West Jefferson
South Bend, IN 46601
(574) 472-8124
Fax (574) 288-6630

WSJV-TV - FOX
(Dean Huppert)
59096 County Road 7 South
Elkhart, IN 46514
(574) 679-4545 or 293-9227
Fax (574) 294-1324

Radio

WHME TV/Radio
(Chuck Freeby)
61300 Ironwood Road
South Bend, IN 46625
(574) 291-8200
Fax (574) 291-9043

WVND-ESPN Radio 1000
(Sean Stires)
3371 Cleveland Rd. Ext.
Ste. 310
South Bend, IN 46628
(574) 273-9300
Fax (574) 273-9090

University/Conference

Notre Dame Sports Information
(Alan Wasielewski)
Wasielewski.3@nd.edu
www.und.com
112 Joyce Center - 2nd Floor
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5678
(574) 631-7516
Fax (574) 631-7941

BIG EAST Conference Office
www.bigeast.org
222 Richmond Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 272-9108
Fax (401) 751-8540

Official College Sports Network
(Kathleen Lopez)
klopez@ocsn.com

www.und.com
(Alan Wasielewski)
Wasielewski.3@nd.edu
112 Joyce Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5678
(574) 631-7516
Fax (574) 631-7941

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Irish Softball



Mallorie Lenn was one of seven Irish players to earn first-team all-BIG EAST honors in 2004. Notre Dame is the only league team to place seven players on the all-conference first team, and has accomplished that feat three times (2001, 2002, 2004).



Jarrah Myers was named the 2002 CoSIDA Academic All-America of the year for softball.

Academic All-Americans

Notre Dame's softball team has been well represented on the CoSIDA Academic All-America teams since 1993, when Casey McMurray became the first Irish honoree. Since that season, a Notre Dame player has earned Academic All-America honors 14 times, including four first-team selections. In 2002, Jarrah Myers was named the Academic All-American of the Year for softball.

All-Americans

The Notre Dame softball team has seen nine different players earn All-America honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association since 1994. Melanie Alkire (2000), Megan Ciolli (2004), Terri Kobata (1994, 1995), Jenny Kriech (2001), Andrea Loman (2002, 2003), Katie Marten (1995, 1996), Jarrah Myers (2001, 2002), Kristin Schmidt (2001) and Jennifer Sharron (2000, 2001) have all earned either first, or second, or third team All-America honors. Kobata was the first Irish All-American in 1994, while Ciolli was the most recent awardwinner in 2004.

All-Time Record

Entering the 2005 season, Notre Dame softball has posted 681 wins in 17 seasons (just over 40 wins per season). The Irish have won 67 percent of their games and have never posted a losing season.

BIG EAST Championship

Notre Dame broke through for its first BIG EAST Championship title in 1999 led by most outstanding player Jennifer Sharron. The Irish repeated in 2000, then fell to fourth in 2001 before claiming the title in 2002 and 2003. The '03 team pounded out 21 runs during the tournament and earned the title on a walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth inning versus Villanova by tournament Most Outstanding Player Andrea Loman.

BIG EAST Competition

Notre Dame's first season of BIG EAST Conference competition was 1996, when Liz Miller's team won the south division with a 19-1 record. When the Irish first joined the conference, they faced each team in their division in two doubleheaders during one weekend. That formula continued in 1997, as Notre Dame went 16-4 to claim the south division title. The format changed in 1998, as the games were dropped to just one doubleheader, followed by a single game the next day. In 1999, the conference adopted the format it follows today, without dividing up the teams and each conference school faces the others in a single doubleheader.

Entering the 2005 season, Notre Dame is 162-20 (.890) in BIG EAST Conference regular-season competition. They finished the 1999 (16-0) and 2001 (20-0) conference schedules with perfect records and have claimed a regular-season title each year since 1996.

BIG EAST Dominance

Notre Dame is the only BIG EAST team to win 18 league games in a single season, and the Irish have accomplished the feat three times since 2001. The 2001 team was a perfect 20-0 in league play, while the 2002 and 2004 teams ended up 18-2. The Irish have won nine consecutive regular-season league titles in the BIG EAST.

BIG EAST Player of the Year

Notre Dame is currently on a streak of six consecutive years with an Irish team member being named the BIG EAST Conference's top player. Melanie Alkire won the award in 1999 and 2000, followed by Lizzy Lemire in 2001, Jarrah Myers in 2002, Andrea Loman in 2003 and current senior Megan Ciolli in 2004. Meghan Murray also is a two-time honoree, winning the league's top award in 1996 and 1997.



Lizzy Lemire was named BIG EAST Player of the Year in 2001 – the season that Notre Dame finished conference play with a perfect 20-0 record.

Dramatic Home Runs

Since the 2002 season, Notre Dame has hit a number of dramatic home runs - late in the contest, that have either tied the game or put the Irish ahead on the scoreboard.

Senior Liz Hartmann has been at the plate for many of those moments, as she has hit come-from-behind home runs at Nebraska (2002), at Louisiana-Lafayette (2003) and against Nebraska again last season in the UNLV Classic.

Other home runs which stand out over the last two years include Kellie Middleton's game-winner against Hawaii in the first game of the 2004 season, Andrea Loman's ninth-inning blast against Villanova in the 2003 BIG EAST Championship final and Stephanie Brown's game-tying shot to send the '04 BIG EAST final into extra innings.

Fifty Four

The 2001 Irish softball team ended up posting a stellar 54-7 record, easily setting the mark for the most wins during one season in Notre Dame softball history. Liz Miller's last team posted a national-best 33-game win streak during the season and knocked off nine ranked teams along the way. The Irish did stub their toe at the BIG EAST Championship that year, but were awarded a #1 seed in the NCAA Championship for the

first time in the program's history. During the year, Notre Dame achieved its highest-ever ranking, peaking at eighth in the USA Today/NFCA top 25

Games Played Record

Notre Dame set the school record for games played in a single season during the 2004 campaign, taking the field 69 time and compiling a 49-20 record (the second-most wins all-time).

Teammates Stephanie Brown, Meagan Ruthrauff, Sara Schoonaert and Nicole deFau all share the school record, as each player appeared and started in all 69 games.

Cook, Melissa

A 1993 Notre Dame graduate and softball monogram winner in '92, Melissa Cook died tragically in 2002 when construction scaffolding from the John Hancock Building in Chicago, Ill., fell and struck her car. Cook is the first former Notre Dame softball player to pass away since the program began in 1989. She will always be remembered at Ivy Field, as head coach Deanna Gumpf, the 2002-03 Irish team and Cook's family dedicated a bench to the former second baseman and shortstop during the team's fall alumni game scrimmage, which has since been renamed in Cook's memory.





The indoor batting cages allow the Irish to work on both their hitting and pitching during inclement weather.

Indoor Facility

Although the weather sometimes prohibits outside practice during the winter months in Northern Indiana, the Notre Dame softball team takes full advantage of the indoor batting and pitching facility adjacent to Frank Eck Stadium - the home of Notre Dame baseball. Donated by alumnus Frank Eck, the facility features wall-to-wall artificial turf, four full batting tunnels and a regulation clay pitching surface. To practice fielding during the winter months, Notre Dame heads to the Loftus Sports Center which features a full Prestige Turf football field.

Gumpf, Deanna

The third head coach in Notre Dame softball history, Deanna Gumpf served as the Irish pitching coach under Liz Miller for four seasons before taking over the program on July 3, 2001, after Miller's retirement. A complete biography of Gumpf's softball career is available on pages 14-15. In her first season, Gumpf and her staff landed the BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year and the NFCA Midwest Region Coaching Staff of the Year awards while helping the Irish win the BIG EAST Championship and advance to the final day of competition at the NCAA Region VII in Iowa City, Iowa.

In her first three seasons leading the program, Gumpf has led the team to two BIG EAST Championships and 131 wins.

Ivy Field

The home of the Fighting Irish, Ivy Field has been the spot for every Notre Dame home game since the program began in 1989. It played host to the BIG EAST Championship in 1998 and Notre Dame has posted a 239-69-2 (.789) record at Ivy Field. Irish home-field records include 24 wins in 1996 and a perfect 18-0 record at home in 2001. Over the last eight years (1997-2003), the Irish have lost just 19 games at home (going 112-19, .855, over that stretch).

Home Run Power

Notre Dame exploded for a team-record 54 home runs during the 2002 season, shattering the previous record of 36 in 2000. Jarrah Myers ended up with a single-season record 13 round trippers, followed by Andrea Loman with 12 and Andria Bledsoe and Liz Hartmann with seven. Hartmann's seven home runs were the most-ever by a freshman at Notre Dame - a feat matched by rookie Stephanie Brown in 2004. In all, 10 different Irish players hit at least one home run during the 2002 season.

The Irish threatened the record once again in 2003, cranking 49 balls out of the park. Eight players hit three or more home runs, led by Loman and Hartmann with nine.

Notre Dame also started on a torrid pace with the home run ball last season, ending up hitting 39 in 69 games. In Deanna Gumpf's first two years with the program, Notre Dame has launched 142 home runs (47 per season).

Hayes, Sara

The premier hitter for the Irish in the early 90's, Sara Hayes' name appears all over the Notre Dame career offensive record book. She ranks in the top five for doubles (44), triples (11), home runs (26), RBI (137), walks (66) and putouts (964). Hayes was named the MCC Player of the Year in 1995 and was a three-time first-team all-conference pick.

International Trips

The Notre Dame softball team has enjoyed two memorable international trips in the last 10 years. Before the 2000 season, the team spent Fall Break in Australia, while the 2003-04 team ended up in Ireland and England for Fall Break.

The European Trip gave the Irish a chance to develop softball at the grass roots level, as the team spent time in Dublin and London during its trip, offering clinics to local softball players.



The Irish have celebrated a number of memorable home runs during the Deanna Gumpf era, including a walk off home run in the bottom of the ninth by Andrea Loman to win the BIG EAST Championship in 2003.



Malahide Castle was just one of several memorable tours the 2004 team enjoyed during its trip to Ireland and England in the fall of '04.





Kobata, Terri

One of the most dominate collegiate pitchers in the early 90's, Terri Kobata was the first Irish softball All-American in 1994. She ended her career with 42 shutouts, a 79-15 overall record (.840), a miniscule 0.63 ERA, 907 strikeouts and just 285 hits allowed. Kobata's legacy also is highlighted by 15 career no-hitters (14 solo), which establishes her as the greatest pitcher in Notre Dame softball history.

Loman, Andrea

It would be a difficult challenge to proclaim who is the greatest player in Notre Dame softball history, but 2003 graduate Andrea Loman would be one of the first players brought up in the conversation. Loman compiled one of the greatest careers in Irish history from 2000-03, claiming two All-America honors, along with the BIG EAST Player of the Year, BIG EAST Championship Most Outstanding Player and BIG EAST Rookie of the Year trophies.

Loman's presence in the Irish record book speaks for itself, as the Riverside, Calif., native is first all-time in walks (87), stolen bases (60) and runs (164), second in home runs (31), third in RBI (148) and fourth in batting average (.347), doubles (44) and fielding percentage (.977). In 2003, Loman led the Irish in batting average (.402), runs (43), hits (68), doubles (12), home runs (9), RBI (42), total bases (111), slugging percentage (.657), on-base percentage (.466) and stolen bases (18).

Midwestern Coll. Conference

Notre Dame competed in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference (now called the Horizon League) from 1989 through 1995 - the year Notre Dame softball joined the BIG EAST Conference. The Irish ended up 66-15 (.815) in regular-season MCC competition and won the conference championship five out of seven years, including the last three from 1993-95. Notre Dame's first coach, Brian Boulac, was named MCC Coach of the Year in 1989, while Liz Miller landed the same honor in 1994 and 1995.

Miller, Liz

The architect of Notre Dame softball's rise to prominence, Liz Miller coached the Irish for nine years (1993-2001) and led the team to six NCAA Championship appearances. Miller ended up posting an outstanding 377-156 (.707) record at Notre Dame, which was the final coaching stop of her stellar career. Among her career highlights, Miller implemented the women's athletic program at Lake Michigan College and compiled a stellar 1047-331 record coaching volleyball, basketball and softball. She eventually settled on softball and amassed 12 conference championships and 11 regional titles.

Miller received an honorary monogram from the University of Notre Dame upon her retirement at the end of the 2001 season. She and her husband Lloyd, who also played a large part in the development of the Notre Dame program while Liz was head coach, are

still very close to the program and attend a large percentage of the home and away games.

Miller ended her softball coaching career with 918 career victories in 26 seasons, winning more than 75 percent of the games she coached.

Myers, Jarrah

Possibly the most dominate power hitter in Irish softball history, Myers completed her career in 2002 with a trunk full of awards. In '02 alone, she was named the BIG EAST Player of the Year, the BIG EAST/Aéropostalé Scholar-Athlete of the Year, a first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American, third-team NFCA/Louisville Slugger All-American, the CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year for softball, the Notre Dame Monogram Club Team MVP, the Knute Rockne Scholar-Athlete Award winner and she became the fourth Notre Dame softball player to land a Byron V. Kanaley Award.

Myers sits atop the Irish career lists in home runs (36), RBI (174) and putouts (1,337).

NCAA Tournament

The Notre Dame softball team has appeared in the NCAA Championship nine times since 1994, including the last six years. The Irish have reached the final day of competition three times in NCAA regional competition, eliminated by Michigan in 1995, Iowa in 2001, Nebraska in 2002 and Michigan in 2003. Although Notre Dame has made eight different trips to the NCAA tournament, they have only visited three different post-season sites (Bloomington, Ind., in 1994, Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1995, '96, '99, '00, '03 and '04 and Iowa City, Iowa, in 2001 and '02).

National Teams

Four Irish players have made their presence felt on the United States National Team in the last five years. Jarrah Myers, Lizzy Lemire and Jennifer Sharron became the first three Notre Dame players to earn a spot on the U.S. National Team in the summer of 2001. Lemire played on the USA Red team, which competed in Hawaii at the U.S. Cup. Myers and Sharron ended up on the USA Blue which traveled to Maracay, Venezuela for the Pan Am Qualifier. The USA Blue dominated the tournament, not allowing a single run to any of the competing teams. Sharron ended up throwing a perfect game for the USA Blue against Brazil.

Most recently, current junior Mallorie Lenn earned a spot on the U.S. Junior National team in Hermasillo,

Mexico, for the first Pan American championship in the summer of 2002. Lenn was a key member of the gold-medal winning U.S. team, providing the game-winning RBI in the round-robin game against eventual runner-up Canada and catching the gold-medal winning game against the Canadians.

Alexis Madrid ('03) competed as a member of the Puerto Rico National Fastpitch team during the summer of 2002.

No Hitters

There have been 32 no-hitters thrown in Notre Dame softball history, including two perfect games by senior Steffany Stenglein and a combined no-no with Stenglein and classmate Carrie Wisen in 2002. Terri Kobata ended her career as the queen of no-hitters at Notre Dame, with 15 no-hitters on her resume.

One of the Best

The NFCA (National Fastpitch Coaches Association) announced the USA Today/NFCA All-Time Top 50 during the fall of 2003 and Notre Dame ranks among the top softball programs in the nation, ending up at 32nd in the poll.

Based on the weekly national rankings from the 1995 until the end of the 2003 slate, the poll was topped by Arizona, followed by UCLA and Washington.

Records Breakers

Since Deanna Gumpf assumed control of the Notre Dame softball program for the 2002 season, the Irish have set several single-season records.

The 2002 team set school records for home runs (54) and runs scored (318). The 2003 team set school marks for fielding percentage (.971), while the '04 squad established the numbers of 22 double plays, 69 games played and 52 complete games pitched.

Road Warriors

February isn't the best time to play softball in Northern Indiana, so the Notre Dame softball team hits the road exclusively during the first two months of the season to take on some of the best teams in the nation. In just the last six years, Notre Dame has visited Arizona, Georgia, California, Texas, Florida, Arkansas, Tennessee, Nevada, Hawaii and Oklahoma in early-season tournament action. This year, the Irish will head to Gainesville, Fla., San Diego, Calif., Palm Springs, Calif., the Los Angeles area (at UC Santa Barbara, at Loyola Marymount) and Hawaii (Honolulu).

Sharron, Jennifer

Jennifer Sharron graduated from Notre Dame in 2001 as one of the top pitchers in Irish softball history. The only lefthander to ever throw from the circle for Notre Dame, Sharron sits atop the career charts for appearances (134), starts (117), wins (88), complete games (76) and innings pitched (772.1). She became the first BIG EAST player to win four consecutive conference pitcher-of-the-year awards from 1998-2001 and earned first-team all-conference honors four consecutive times as well.

Seven First Teamers

Notre Dame earned the school record for first-team all-BIG EAST honorees three times in the last four seasons. The 2001, 2002 and 2004 teams earned a record seven first-team awards. The '04 group included Steffany Stenglein, Heather Booth, Mallorie Lenn, Liz H a r t m a n n, Stephanie Brown, Megan Ciolli and Nicole deFau. The '02 team was Andria Bledsoe, Ciolli, Andrea Loman, Lisa Mattison, Stenglein, Jarrah Myers and Jenny Kriech. In '01, Loman, Mattison, Kriech, Melanie Alkire, Lizzy Lemire, Jennifer Sharron and Kristin Schmidt were first-team honorees.



Melanie Alkire was one of seven players to earn all-BIG EAST honors in 2001 - a feat the team has accomplished twice more in 2002 and 2004.