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## Softball Quick Facts

### Notre Dame Quick Facts

Location ..... Notre Dame, IN 46556  
 Founded ..... 1842  
 Enrollment.... 8,275 (undergraduate), 11,417 (total)  
 Nickname ..... Fighting Irish  
 Colors ..... Gold and Blue  
 Conference ..... BIG EAST  
 Home Field ..... Ivy Field  
 President..... Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.  
 Athletic Director ..... Kevin White  
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 Athletic Department Phone ..... (574) 631-6107

### Softball Coaching Staff

Head Coach ..... Deanna Gumpf (Nebraska '92)  
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 Record at Notre Dame ..... 219-90 (.709)  
 Career Record ..... Same  
 Assistant Coach ..... Kris Ganef (Notre Dame '99)  
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**(574) 631-3000**



## Media Information

Publicity for Notre Dame softball is coordinated by sports information assistant Joe Prisco. Photographs, statistics and feature ideas are available to the media by contacting Prisco 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 Prisco.

## Credits

The Notre Dame Softball Guide was written and edited by sports information assistant Joe Prisco. Editing assistance by Sean Carroll, Meghan Mulhern and Katie O'Connell.

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The 2006 Notre Dame softball team celebrates after winning the 2006 BIG EAST tournament title. It was Notre Dame's fifth tournament title.

### Print Media

#### South Bend Tribune

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South Bend, IN 46626  
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#### Associated Press

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#### Irish Sports Report

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South Bend, IN 46626  
(574) 235-6161  
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#### Blue & Gold Illustrated

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Mishawaka, IN 46545  
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#### Notre Dame Observer

LaFortune Student Center  
Notre Dame, IN 46556  
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### Print Media (cont.)

#### Notre Dame Scholastic

LaFortune Student Center  
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#### National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA)

(Brock Turnipseed)  
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#### WNDU-TV - NBC

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South Bend, IN 46634  
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#### WSBT-TV/Radio - CBS

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# NOTRE DAME SEASON PREVIEW



*Senior Stephanie Brown had a memorable junior season in which she set a conference record with 38 hits in league games. For the season she led the Irish offensive attack with a batting average of .393, 79 hits, 44 runs and 20 stolen bases.*





Jarrah Myers was named the 2002 CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year for softball.

was the first Irish All-American in 1994, while Brown was the most recent award winner, in 2006.

Notre Dame has seen at least one of its players earn All-America honors from the NFCA in each season since 2000.

**ALL-TIME RECORD**

Entering the 2007 season, Notre Dame softball has posted 731 wins in 18 seasons (just over 40 wins per year). The Irish have won 67 percent of their games and have never had a losing season.

**BEST OF BOTH WORLDS**

Notre Dame was one of just three schools (also Stanford and Duke) to rank among the top-20 in both the 2006 U.S. News & World Report Rankings of National Universities and the 2005-07 U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup all-sports competition, which measures across-the-board athletic excellence. The Irish were an all-time high of sixth in the Directors' Cup, while Notre Dame tied with Vanderbilt for 18th in the U.S. News & World Report listing.

**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. The 2006 season produced the latest championship, as the Irish led, by the strong pitching of Most Outstanding Player Heather Booth, defeated Providence, Pittsburgh and a ranked Louisville team. This was Notre Dame's fifth overall BIG EAST tournament crown.

**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 2007 season, Notre Dame is 195-27 (.878) 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 the regular-season title in 10 of the last 11 seasons.

**BIG EAST DOMINANCE**

Notre Dame is one of only two BIG EAST teams to win 18 league games in a single season, and the Irish have accomplished the feat three times since 2001 (plus in 1996). 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 10 of the last 11 regular-season league titles in the BIG EAST.

**BIG EAST PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Notre Dame has seen an Irish team member named the BIG EAST Conference's top player in six of the last eight seasons. Melanie Alkire won the award in 1999 and 2000, followed by Lizzy Lemire in 2001, Jarrah Myers in 2002, Andrea Loman in 2003 and Megan Ciolli in 2004. Meghan Murray also is a two-time honoree, winning the league's top award in 1996 and 1997.

**BOOTH, HEATHER**

One of the most durable pitchers to ever play at Notre Dame, Booth averaged 225 innings a season including a school-record 261.1 during the 2006 season. Booth is among the top-three in

**ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN**

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 15 times, including four first-team selections. In 2002, Jarrah Myers was named the Academic All-American of the Year for softball.

Most recently, current senior Stephanie Brown earned second team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America honors during the '06 season.

**ALKIRE, MELANIE**

One of the greatest Notre Dame sluggers set the single season home run mark in 2000 (only to see it tied by Jarrah Myers in '02) with 13. She also has the single season mark for RBIs (64) and slugging percentage (.665). The former shortstop still is among the top-10 at Notre Dame in virtually every career batting category including hits (260), runs (129), batting average (.340), doubles (49), home runs (30), runs batted in (167) and walks (61).

**ALL-AMERICANS**

The Notre Dame softball team has seen 10 different players earn All-America honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association since 1994. Stephanie Brown (2006), Melanie Alkire (2000), Megan Ciolli (2004, '05), Terri Kobata (1994, '95), Jenny Kriech (2001), Andrea Loman (2002, '03), Katie Marten (1995, '96), Jarrah Myers (2001, '02) Kristin Schmidt (2001) and Jennifer Sharron (2000, '01) have all earned either first, second, or third team All-America honors. Kobata

**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. During the summer of 2006, Cook's family made a generous \$3 million donation to the Notre Dame softball team for construction of a new softball stadium in her memory. The Melissa Cook Stadium, an estimated \$4.8 million dollar facility, will be built on the southeast corner of the Notre Dame campus near Eck Baseball Stadium.





Heather Booth

seven single season categories (appearances, games started, wins, complete games, shutouts, innings pitched and strikeouts) and tops the Notre Dame career record books in appearances, games started, wins, complete games and innings pitched.

### CAPTAINS

In the 18-year history of Irish softball, a total of 36 different student-athletes have served as team captains. Among that group, three athletes have served as multi-year captains. The two-time captains were Ruth Kmak (1990 & 92), Jennifer Sharron (2000-01) and Danielle Klayman (2000-01).

### CIOLLI, MEGAN

One of the top players in program history, she concluded her career in 2005 as a NFCA All-American. She also was an ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District member in her final season. Ciolli was a four-time first-team all-BIG EAST selection, one of only four Irish softball players to accomplish this and was selected as BIG EAST Player of the Year in 2004. A two-time NFCA third-team All-American and 2005 captain, finds her name atop the all-time leaders in both hits (284) and stolen bases (76).

### 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.

Liz Hartmann has been at the plate for many of those moments, as she hit come-from-behind home runs at Nebraska (2002), at Louisiana-Lafayette (2003) and against Nebraska (2004) in the UNLV Classic.

Other home runs which stand out over the last five years include Andrea Loman's ninth-inning blast against Villanova in the 2003 BIG EAST Championship final and a pair of late home runs by current senior Stephanie Brown. In 2004, Brown hit the game-tying shot to send the '04 BIG EAST final into extra innings. In 2006, she delivered again with a two-run blast in the bottom of the seventh inning that enabled the Irish to shock No. 10 Arizona State. Current senior Carissa Jaquish joined the group with a two-run home run at Syracuse in the 10th inning to give the Irish a 7-5 come-from-behind victory during the 2006 campaign.

### 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 No. 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 seventh in the USA Today/NFCA top 25.

### FIGHTING IRISH

Exactly where and how Notre Dame's athletic nickname, "Fighting Irish," came to origination never has been perfectly explained. One story suggests the moniker was born in 1899 with Notre Dame leading Northwestern 5-0 at halftime of a football game in Evanston, Ill., the Wildcat fans supposedly began to chant, "Kill the Fighting Irish, kill the Fighting Irish," as the second half opened. Another tale has the nickname originating at halftime of the Notre Dame-Michigan football game in 1909. With his team trailing, one Notre Dame player yelled to his teammates - who happened to have names like Dolan, Kelly, Glynn, Duffy, and Ryan - "What's the matter with you guys? You're all Irish and you're not fighting worth a lick." Notre Dame came back to win the game and press, after overhearing the remark, reported the game as a victory for the "Fighting Irish." The most generally-accepted explanation is that the press coined the nickname as a characterization of Notre Dame athletic teams, their never-say-die fighting spirit and the Irish qualities of grit, determination, and tenacity. The term likely began as an abusive expression tauntingly directed toward the athletes from the small, private, Catholic institution. Notre Dame alumnus Francis Wallace popularized it in his New York Daily News columns in the 1920s. The Notre Dame Scholastic, in a 1929 edition, printed its own version of the story: "The term 'Fighting Irish' has been applied to Notre Dame teams for years. It first attached itself years ago when the school, comparatively unknown, sent its athletic teams away to play in another city ... At that time the title 'Fighting Irish' held no glory or prestige

... The years passed swiftly and the school began to take a place in the sports world ... 'Fighting Irish' took on a new meaning. The unknown of a few years past has boldly taken a place among the leaders. The unkind appellation became symbolic of the struggle for supremacy of the field ... the term, while given in irony, has become our heritage ... So truly does it represent us that we are unwilling to part with it." Notre Dame competed under the nickname "Catholics" during the 1800s and became more widely known as the "Ramblers" during the early 1920s in the days of the Four Horsemen. University president Rev. Matthew Walsh, C.S.C., officially adopted "Fighting Irish" as the Notre Dame nickname in 1927.

### GAMES PLAYED RECORD

Notre Dame set the school record for games played in a single season during the 2004 campaign, taking the field 69 times 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.

### GOLD AND BLUE

The origin of Notre Dame's school colors can be traced back to the founding of the University in 1842. At that time, Notre Dame's original school colors were yellow and blue; yellow symbolized the light and blue the truth. However, sometime after the Dome and Statue of Mary atop the Main Building was gilded, gold and blue became the official colors of the University.

### GOLDEN DOME

The Main Building, surmounted by a statue of Our Lady atop the world-famous Golden Dome (actually gold leaf periodically replaced, most recently in 2005), at one time comprised the entire University infrastructure, and in 1879 was rebuilt in five months after a devastating fire. The 12 Columbus murals in the main corridor were painted by Luigi Gregori, an Italian artist who spent 17 years at Notre Dame in the latter part of the 1800s. The building contains the primary administrative offices, including that of Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., who took over in June of 2005 as Notre Dame's 17th president. The exterior of the building was renovated and cleaned in 1996 and the interior of the building was renovated and reopened in August of 1999, after being closed the previous two academic years.

### 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 16-17. 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 five seasons leading the program, Gumpf has led the team to four BIG EAST regular season championships, three BIG EAST tournament titles and 219 wins.

## 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.

## IVY FIELD

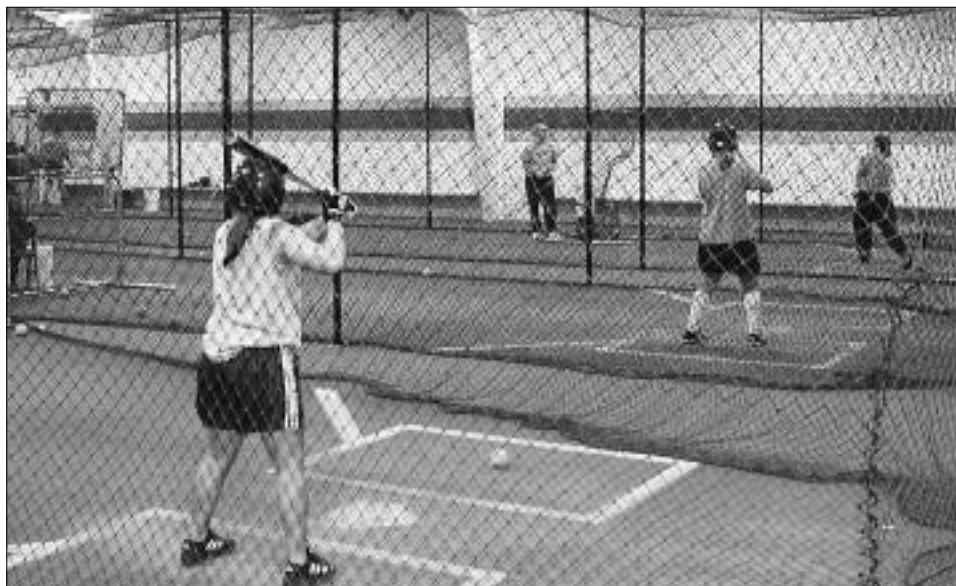
The home of the Fighting Irish, Ivy Field has been the spot for every Notre Dame home game since the program began in 1989. It played host to the BIG EAST Championship in 1998 and 2006, and Notre Dame has posted a 270-74-2 (.780) record at Ivy Field. Irish home-field records include 24 wins in 1996 and a perfect 18-0 mark at home in 2001. Over the last nine years (1997-2006), the Irish have lost just 24 games at home (going 143-24, .856, 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 Stephanie Brown as a rookie 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 in 2004, ending up hitting 39 in 69 games. The Irish again flexed their muscle in 2006 hitting 44 home runs with senior Meagan Ruthrauff threatening Jarrah Myers and Melanie Alkire single-season record for home runs and ending the season with 12 home runs.



*The indoor facility has been proven to be invaluable to Notre Dame softball, especially during inclement weather, since its opening in January of 2000.*

## HAYES, SARA

The premier hitter for the Irish in the early '90s, 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 TRIP

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 are planning a trip to Italy in the fall of 2007.

## KOBATA, TERRI

One of the most dominant collegiate pitchers in the early '90s, 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 one of the greatest pitchers 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 in runs (164), second all-time in walks (87) and home runs (31), fourth in RBI (148) and fifth 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

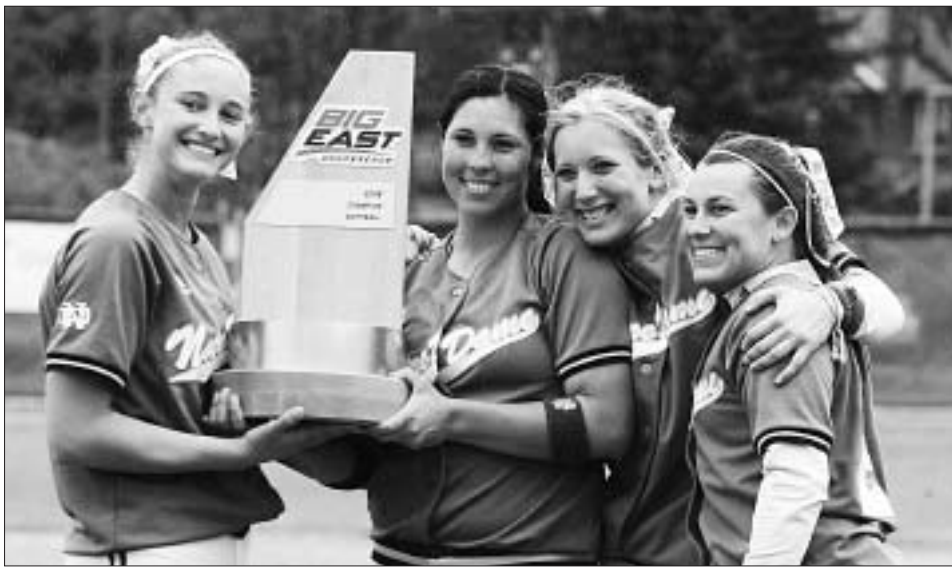
The architect of Notre Dame softball's rise to prominence, Liz Miller coached the Irish for nine years (1993-2001) and led the team to six NCAA Championship appearances. Miller ended up posting an outstanding 377-156 (.707) record at Notre Dame, which was the final coaching stop of her stellar career. She was named to the NFCA Hall of Fame in the fall of 2005. 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.



*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.*



The 2006 Notre Dame senior class (left to right) of Heather Booth, Meagan Ruthrauff, Mallorie Lenn and Sara Schoonaert won the second BIG EAST Tournament title in their four years last season.

### MONOGRAM CLUB

All former Notre Dame student-athletes who have earned monograms are eligible to become members of the Notre Dame Monogram Club, which provides scholarships and other support to current students and student-athletes (see page 123 for more information).

### MYERS, JARRAH

Possibly the most dominant 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/Aéropostale 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, and 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). Myers is also third in walks (76), sixth in stolen bases (43) and ninth (.976) in fielding percentage.

### NCAA TOURNAMENT

The Notre Dame softball team has appeared in the NCAA Championship 11 times since 1994, including the last eight years. The Irish have reached the final day of competition five times in NCAA regional competition, eliminated by Michigan in 1995, Iowa in 2001, Nebraska in 2002, Michigan in 2003 and Northwestern in 2005 & 2006. Although Notre Dame has made 11 different trips to the NCAA tournament, they have only visited four different post-season sites (Bloomington, Ind., in 1994, Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1995, '96, '99, '00, '03 and '04, Iowa City, Iowa, in 2001 and '02 and Evanston, Ill., in 2006).

The Irish played host to NCAA regional competition in 2005, compiling a 2-2 record at Ivy Field.

### NATIONAL TEAMS

Four Irish players have made their presence felt on the United States National Team in the last six 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.

Mallorie Lenn (class of 2006) 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.

Current sophomore Linda Kohan was asked to be a member of the Israeli National team but declined.

### NATIONAL PRO FASTPITCH

National Pro Fastpitch, a seven-team professional softball league, began competition in the summer of 2005 and the Notre Dame softball program was represented by '05 graduate Megan Ciolli. Ciolli played in the outfield for the Chicago Bandits, hitting .241 with one home run, eight RBI and eight stolen bases.

Ciolli, who is attending Loyola Chicago for graduate studies, is a volunteer assistant coach for the Ramblers and completed her final season with the Bandits in '06.

### NO-HITTERS

There have been 32 no-hitters thrown in Notre Dame softball history, including three last season. Heather Booth, a 2006 graduate, and senior Kenya Fuehmeler combined for a no-hitter against Valparaiso last season. Booth also had a no-hitter of her own against Rutgers, as did current sophomore Brittney Bargar. 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.

### RANKED TEAMS

The Irish have a tendency to pull off the upset and defeat a ranked opponent on an annual basis. In every season dating back to 1994, except 2003, Notre Dame has upset at least one team that was in the top-25. Overall, Notre Dame has 45 wins over 25 ranked opponents. Among the larger programs the Irish have knocked off over the years are Washington (#4), Nebraska (#4), Michigan (#5), Tennessee (#5), Oklahoma (#6), Fresno State (#7), Florida State (#9) and Arizona State (#10). The Irish defeated two ranked opponents last season with wins over No. 10 Arizona State and No. 18 Louisville.



Staci Alford (1990-93) threw the first ever no-hitter for Notre Dame on April 5, 1990.

## RECORD 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 the school mark, at the time, for fielding percentage (.971). The '04 squad established the record numbers of 22 double plays, 69 games played and 52 complete games pitched. The '05 team ended up with the school records for strikeouts thrown (527), strikeouts per seven innings (8.74) and attempted steals (134). The '06 team holds the school record for walks (144) and fielding percentage (.977)

## 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 seven 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 Auburn, Ala., Palm Springs, Calif., Jacksonville, Fla., Long Beach, Calif., and Fullerton, Calif., during its early-season tournament run.

## RUTHRAUFF, MEAGAN

Over her outstanding four-year career with the Irish, Ruthrauff established herself as one of the more productive hitters to have played for Notre Dame. Ruthrauff established a new standard for production during a game against Pittsburgh as she clubbed a team-record three home runs on her way to knocking in a school-record seven runs against the Panthers in 2006. The former first baseman and designated player is the all-time Notre Dame single-season leader in walks (36) and ranks second in single-season home runs (12), RBIs (54) and on-base percentage (.477). Ruthrauff also is the career leader in games played (247), doubles (49) and walks (112).

## 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 among the all-time leaders in 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.

## STENGLEIN, STEFFANY

One of the greatest strikeout pitchers the Irish has produced, Stenglein ranks among the best for single-season strikeouts (310), innings pitched (250.2) and wins (27). She also finished her career in 2005 ranking among the top-three in appearances (154), games started (132), wins (79) and innings pitched (744.0). Stenglein also was a three-time all-BIG EAST first team selection and a two-time conference pitcher-of-the-year.



Jennifer Sharron

## SEVEN FIRST TEAMERS

Notre Dame has improved its school record for first-team all-BIG EAST honorees three times in the last five 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 Hartmann, 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.

## THIRTY-SIX

The all-time single season walks mark establish by Meagan Ruthrauff in 2004.

## VICTORY MARCH

The most recognizable collegiate fight song in the nation, the "Notre Dame Victory March" was written in the early 1900s by two brothers who were University of Notre Dame graduates. Michael Shea, a 1905 graduate, composed the music while his brother, John Shea, who earned degrees in 1906 and 1908, provided the corresponding lyrics. The song was copyrighted in 1908 and a piano version, complete with lyrics, was published that year. Michael, who became a priest in Ossining, N.Y., collaborated on the project with John, who lived in Holyoke, Mass., the song's public debut came in the winter of 1908 when Michael played it on the organ of the Second Congregational Church in Holyoke. The "Notre Dame Victory March" later was presented by the Shea brothers to the University, and it first appeared under the copyright of the University of Notre Dame in 1928. The copyright for the beginning of the song still is in effect. The more well-known second verse, which begins with the words "Cheer, cheer for Old Notre Dame," now is in the public domain in the United States (for

both the music and lyrics) - but the second verse remains protected in all territories outside of the country. Notre Dame's fight song first was performed at Notre Dame on Easter Sunday, 1909, in the rotunda of the Main Building. The Notre Dame band performed the Victory March as part of its traditional Easter morning concert. It was first heard at a Notre Dame athletic event 10 years later. In 1969, as college football celebrated its centennial, the "Notre Dame Victory March" was honored as the "greatest of all fight songs." Michael Shea was pastor of St. Augustine's Church in Ossining until his death in 1938. John Shea, a baseball monogram winner at Notre Dame, became a Massachusetts state senator and lived in Holyoke until his death in 1965.

The original lyrics (below), written when all athletes at Notre Dame were male, refer to "sons," but in recognition of the fact that the Victory March is now played for athletic teams composed of men and women, many modify the words accordingly. The "Victory March" earned a number-one ranking in ratings compiled in 1998 in a book, "College Fight Songs: An Annotated Anthology." The "Victory March" was also the No. 1-ranked fight song in a survey in 1990 by Bill Studwell, a librarian at Northern Illinois University.

Rally sons of Notre Dame:  
Sing her glory and sound her fame,  
Raise her Gold and Blue  
And cheer with voices true:  
Rah, rah, for Notre Dame

We will fight in ev-ry game,  
Strong of heart and true to her name  
We will ne'er forget her  
And will cheer her ever  
Loyal to Notre Dame

Cheer, cheer for old Notre Dame,  
Wake up the echoes cheering her name,  
Send a volley cheer on high,  
Shake down the thunder from the sky.  
What though the odds be great or small  
Old Notre Dame will win over all,  
While her loyal sons are marching  
Onward to victory.

## WEBSITE

Notre Dame athletics maintains its presence in cyberspace with its own Internet site, und.com, operated in conjunction with College Sports Online in Carlsbad, Calif. The site features media guide material, frequent press releases, match and statistical information, links to live broadcasts and live "in-game" statistics, and pictures of all 26 of Notre Dame's varsity teams. From Aug. 2002-July 2005, und.com featured over one million page views in 36 consecutive months, finishing each academic year with over 35 million (including 47.8 million page views in 2003-04). In Sept. 2002, the site became the first in CSO history to attract more than five million page views in a month. It then plowed over six million in November 2003 and hit the seven million mark in a month for the first time in September 2004.