

# Coaching Staff



*Head coach Deanna Gumpf and her staff have compiled nearly 300 wins in just seven seasons in addition to earning conference and regional coaching staff of the year honors in 2002 and 2004.*



# Head Coach



**Deanna  
Gumpf**

**Head Coach  
Eighth Season  
Nebraska '93**

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

- 2002 BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year
- 2004 BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year
- 2002 NFCA Midwest Region Coaching Staff of the Year
- 2004 NFCA Midwest Region Coaching Staff of the Year

Through only seven seasons as the head softball coach at Notre Dame, Deanna Gumpf has already established herself as one of the premiere college coaches in the nation.

Under her tutelage, the Irish have claimed three BIG EAST Tournament titles and seven trips to the NCAA Tournament. Even more, Notre Dame staked the BIG EAST's regular-season championship during her first four seasons on the bench to extend its dominance over league opponents.

In fact, Gumpf enters her eighth season as the Irish head coach with the 17th-best winning percentage among active coaches. With a seven-year mark of 289-136-1 (.680), her victory average is the highest of any BIG EAST skipper.

When assuming control of the Irish program in July of 2001 from her mentor and close friend, Liz Miller, Gumpf inherited a team that was fresh off a school-best 54-7 record one season prior. Without missing a beat, the Irish once again advanced to the final day of competition at the NCAA Regional Tournament and in the process smashed the school record for home runs in a season. Notre Dame also came through with a dramatic run in the 2002 BIG EAST Championship, rallying from a first-day loss to hand Virginia Tech a pair of defeats on the final day to claim the league title.

The second year of the Gumpf era began with a 10-11 start to the season before Notre Dame ripped off a 20-game win streak from April 1-26 to assume control of the BIG EAST Conference



standings. The team then swept through the BIG EAST Championship by scoring 21 runs in three games and won the title on a walk-off home run from conference player of the year Andrea Loman in the bottom of the ninth inning against Villanova.

The Irish rode their momentum into the start of the 2004 slate, upsetting No. 8 Nebraska during the first weekend of the season to claim the program's first-ever bracket championship at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Leadoff Classic. The team also won the Hoosier Invitational title and the BIG EAST regular-season crown while taking part in a record 69 contests. Notre Dame was victorious in 49 of those games – the second-best win total in school history – aided by an 18-2 mark in conference play.

By claiming her 100th victory at Notre Dame in record time in 2004, Gumpf was able to reach the 100-win plateau faster than any previous Irish head coach. She reached the 200-win plateau, again in record time, with a victory in the second game of an April 9 doubleheader against Pittsburgh in 2006. The Irish ensured the victory would be a memorable one, as they pounded out 21 hits to tie the school record. Two Irish players – Stephanie Brown and Meagan Ruthrauff – both finished with four hits apiece, as Ruthrauff would also set school records with three home runs and seven RBI.

Yet another landmark season came about in 2005 as the Irish hosted their first NCAA Championship competition at Ivy Field. Bolstered by a 20-game win streak – the second 20-game run of the Gumpf era which included tournament titles at the GRU Classic and Hawaii's Spring Fling – the Irish won the BIG EAST Conference regular-season title and advanced to the BIG EAST Championship final game.

Over the next two seasons, the Irish posted a 74-45 mark including 22 contests against 16 different top-25 opponents. The early stage of

the 2006 slate was highlighted by a 3-2 comeback victory over No. 10 Arizona State, which came at the hands of Stephanie Brown's two-run game-winning homer. After dropping a pair of games to No. 4 Texas and No. 7 Alabama, the Irish proceeded to post a nine-game winning streak including four wins in conference play. Notre Dame kept themselves among the top teams in BIG EAST play with the only five conference losses heading into the league tournament. The Irish entered the post-season showdown as the third-seeded squad and rolled through the competition with wins over Providence, Pittsburgh, and No. 18 Louisville to



claim Gumpf's third conference crown in only five seasons.

Notre Dame then headed to Evanston (Ill.) for the NCAA Tournament and defeated UC Santa Barbara and Southern Illinois before falling to Northwestern – who would go on to earn a seat in that season's World Series – to finish the year with over 40 wins for the third consecutive season.

Gumpf and the Irish rallied to a runner-up finish in the 2007 edition of the BIG EAST Tournament upon entering the event as the fourth-seeded team. Behind the solid play and leadership of senior Stephanie Brown, Notre Dame advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the ninth consecutive season

before bowing out to Illinois State in regional action. Brown would later be named a second-team academic All-American, finishing her career ranked among the program's all-time leaders in eight career offensive categories (including hits, runs, stolen bases, home runs and batting average).

As an assistant coach at Notre Dame (1998-2001), Gumpf worked primarily with the Irish pitchers and hitters. In each of those four seasons, Notre Dame lowered its team earned run average and eventually posted a spectacular 0.89 ERA in 2001, which ranked seventh-best in the nation. And as the team ERA dropped, its batting average steadily rose as the team set single-season program records for home runs, batting average, runs scored and strikeouts thrown with Gumpf on the staff.

Irish players have mirrored their coach's competitive fire over the past six seasons and continue to show a flair for the ability to make clutch plays at key times. This became apparent in Gumpf's

## The Deanna Gumpf File

Year	School	W	L	Pct.	Postseason
<i>Assistant / Pitching Coach</i>					
1996	Long Beach State	36	22	.621	Big West Champion / NCAA Tournament
1997	Long Beach State	44	20	.687	Big West Champion / NCAA Tournament
<i>Assistant / Pitching Coach</i>					
1998	Notre Dame	34	22	.607	BIG EAST South Division Champion
1999	Notre Dame	42	20	.677	BIG EAST Tournament and Regular-Season Champion / NCAA Tournament
<i>Associate Head Coach</i>					
2000	Notre Dame	47	14	.770	BIG EAST Tournament and Regular-Season Champion / NCAA Tournament
2001	Notre Dame	54	7	.885	BIG EAST Regular-Season Champion / NCAA Tournament
<i>Head Coach</i>					
2002	Notre Dame	44	17	.721	BIG EAST Tournament and Regular-Season Champion / NCAA Tournament
2003	Notre Dame	38	17	.667	BIG EAST Tournament and Regular-Season Champion / NCAA Tournament
2004	Notre Dame	49	20	.710	BIG EAST Regular-Season Champion / NCAA Tournament
2005	Notre Dame	46	15	.754	BIG EAST Regular-Season Champion / NCAA Tournament
2006	Notre Dame	42	21	.670	BIG EAST Tournament Champion / NCAA Tournament
2007	Notre Dame	32	24	.571	BIG EAST Tournament Runner-up / NCAA Tournament
2008	Notre Dame	38	22	.631	NCAA Tournament
<b>Overall (as head coach)</b>		<b>289</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>.681</b>	<b>7 NCAA Tournaments</b>
<b>7 seasons</b>		<b>*1 tie in 2008</b>			<b>4 BIG EAST Regular-Season Championships</b>
					<b>3 BIG EAST Tournament Championships</b>

first season, when she led the team to face No. 4 Nebraska for the dedication game of the Cornhusker's Bowlin Stadium. Facing her alma mater for the first time as a head coach, Gumpf and the Irish left Lincoln with a 3-2 win after Liz Hartmann drilled a three-run homer in the top of the sixth inning for the upset victory.

The La Palma, Calif., native played at Nebraska from 1989-92 while earning a degree in business management. Gumpf was an all-Big Eight Conference second-team selection in 1991 and an honorable mention pick in both 1989 and 1990.

Prior to her collegiate success in Lincoln, Gumpf enjoyed an outstanding prep career with Gordon's Panthers, one of the most dominating Amateur Softball Association teams in Southern California.

Gumpf pursued a professional position with Delta Airlines after graduating from Nebraska but did not stay too detached from softball. She started to give private pitching lessons in the Southern California area and what began as a small side job turned into a major venture. After earning her master's degree from Azusa Pacific University in physical education and coaching in 1997, Gumpf entertained countless offers from college coaches hoping to entice her with the opportunity to get back into the college game. Perhaps not too surprisingly, one of the first



The Gumpf Family (l-r): Tatum, John, Deanna and Brady

coaches to call Gumpf was Liz Miller.

Miller discussed the possibility of having Gumpf join the Irish staff, but a position was never established and Gumpf would opt to become the pitching coach at Long Beach State.

Two years later, Miller phoned Gumpf again to offer a position and the future Irish head coach jumped at the chance.

After winning her third BIG EAST Tournament championship in 2006, Gumpf soon inked a multi-year contract extension with Notre Dame.

Gumpf and her husband, John, reside in South Bend with son, Brady and daughter, Tatum. John coached high school baseball in Southern California before serving as a volunteer assistant coach for the Irish from 1999-2001, and is currently the head coach and assistant athletics director at St. Joseph High School in South Bend. He spent four years as a professional baseball player in the Minnesota Twins' minor league ranks from 1989-94.

# Assistant Coaches



**Kris Ganeff**

**Assistant Coach  
Eighth Season  
Notre Dame '99**

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

2002 BIG EAST  
Coaching Staff of the Year  
2004 BIG EAST  
Coaching Staff of the Year  
2002 NFCA Mid-east Region  
Coaching Staff of the Year  
2004 NFCA Mid-east Region  
Coaching Staff of the Year

Arguably the best all-around catcher in Irish history, Kris Ganeff is now in her eighth year of work with the Notre Dame softball program, this season on the sidelines as an assistant coach. Ganeff spearheads the recruiting efforts for the Irish, which annually attracts the top players from across the nation. In addition to being the program's recruiting coordinator, she also runs and directs Notre Dame's camps and clinics.

A key member of the 2002 and 2004 BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year, Ganeff works closely with each player on hitting and defense while specializing in the development of the Irish catchers. In fact, she helped mold catcher Mallorie Lenn into an all-BIG EAST performer in 2004 – a season in which the Irish also finished with a 49-20 record and took home the conference championship. Then in 2008, the Irish were without a catcher when starter Sadie Pitzenberger's season was cut short due to injury. Ganeff took freshman utility player Erin Marrone, who had never played catcher before in her career, under her wing and to call the shots for all-region pitcher Brittney Bargar. Marrone saw action in 55 contests for Notre Dame that season and did not commit a single error in the field or behind the plate.

She has been a pivotal cog in aiding the development of the Irish bats and batteries as Notre Dame has posted seven school records since her first season on staff. The 2002 team set a school mark for runs (318) and home runs (54); the 2003 team posted the highest fielding percentage in school history (.974); the 2004 group logged a program-best 52 complete games and 22 double plays, and the 2005 squad set marks for strikeouts (547) and strikeouts per seven innings (8.74).

Ganeff completed her Notre Dame career by earning all-BIG EAST and all-NFCA Mid-east Region honors in 1999. She hit a career-high seven home runs in her final season while snagging out 16 attempted steals from behind the plate.

Ganeff was drafted by the Virginia Roadsters of the Women's Professional Softball League after graduating from Notre Dame in 1999, though the former Irish team captain and MVP instead chose to head into the coaching ranks by taking an assistant position at UNLV.

Prior to the 2006 season she was promoted to the first assistant position with the Irish.

The shift paid off well for all parties involved – Ganeff would assume full control of the team during the first three weeks of the season and led the team to a 7-6 record while head coach Deanna Gumpf was on maternity leave

“Moving Kris into the first assistant position was an easy decision because of her coaching strengths and love of the team and University,” said Gumpf.



“Kris and I complement each other well. We see things from different angles and have the ability to find a common ground. She has a strong desire to help our program get to the highest level possible.”

A native of Westerville, Ohio, Ganeff earned a bachelor's degree in history from Notre Dame and will soon complete a master's degree in sports science from Ball State. The former Kris McCleary has been married to John Ganeff since 2002, and the couple resides in South Bend with their daughters, Deven and Hayden.



*The Ganeff Family (l-r):  
John, Deven,  
Hayden and Kris*





## Lizzy Lemire

Assistant Coach  
Fourth Season  
Notre Dame '01

A former member of the U.S. National Softball Team and 2001 BIG EAST Player of the Year, Lizzy Lemire returned to her alma mater as an assistant coach for the Irish softball team in the fall of 2005.

Lemire works closely with the Irish outfield corps and is also a polished hitting instructor. She has helped Notre Dame advance to the NCAA Tournament in each of her last three seasons as part of the coaching staff, including a BIG EAST Conference tournament title in 2006.

“Over the past three years, Lizzy has become one of the top hitting coaches in the country,” Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf said. “She has committed herself to become not only a student of the game, but a master of the profession. She is such a determined individual and gets better with each season under her belt. I am very proud of her accomplishments and look forward to seeing how she continues to develop our already extraordinary hitters here at Notre Dame.”

It was under the guidance of Lemire that outfielder Sarah Smith posted one of the greatest single-season improvements in program history during



the 2008 campaign. Smith saw limited action for the Irish in her first three seasons, then broke out as a senior as the lefty slapper went on to earn first-team all-BIG EAST and all-NFCA regional honors. Furthermore, Smith was one of three Notre Dame outfielders to claim all-league recognition that season. Her .370 batting average and 60 hits in 2008 rank among the best performances ever by an Irish outfielder.

Lemire trekked from coast-to-coast after earning a pair of degrees from Notre Dame in 2001 before landing back in South Bend. Upon graduation, she earned a spot on a U.S. National team that steamrolled the competition with four consecutive victories and a tournament title during the 2001 U.S. Cup in Hawaii.

After her time with the U.S. National team, Lemire returned to Notre Dame as an athletic department intern through the summer of 2002. It was then that she was accepted into the sport management program at the University of Massachusetts as she

went on to earn a master's degree in that field. While pursuing her degree, Lemire also served as an intern in the athletic department compliance office. In addition, Lemire was also a volunteer assistant coach for the softball squad, coordinating team travel and developing the play of the Minutewomen outfield.

In 2003, Lemire shifted gears by landing a position at Boston College within the athletic department's development office, and was one year later hired as an annual giving associate at Stanford University.

During her first season back in the blue and gold as a coach, Lemire steered the 2006 Irish squad to a collective batting average of .291 while the sluggers sent 44 homers out of the park. Lemire mentored outfielder Stephanie Brown to a pair of All-America honors, as Brown also became one of only a handful of Irish players – including Lemire – to earn all-BIG EAST honors on four occasions.

Lemire captained the most successful team in the history of the Notre Dame program, powering the Irish to an overall record of 54-7 along with an all-time best No. 7 national ranking and the first number-one seed in the NCAA Tournament. As a senior, Lemire hit .324 (including a .383 mark in BIG EAST play) with 38 RBI, 10 stolen bases and three home runs. She shares the single-season record for doubles with Katie Laing, logging 17 two-baggers in 1999. Lemire's career numbers included a .332 average, 28 stolen bases, 126 RBI, nine home runs and 43 doubles. Lemire is regarded as one of the most fearless and skilled defensive outfielders in Notre Dame history.

Her personal efforts were reflected in her team's success, as Lemire was part of a senior class that compiled an overall record of 177-63 (.738), earned two BIG EAST Tournament championships, four regular-season conference titles, and made three consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Lemire prepped at Woodbridge High School after growing up in Irvine, Calif., where she was the city and high school's scholar-athlete of the year in 1997. The Irvine World News also recognized her as its female athlete of the year following her senior campaign. Lemire led Woodbridge to a No. 2 national ranking and was an ASA All-American in 1997. The daughter of Kathi and Tom Lemire, this Irish coach's love for Notre Dame began at an early age aided by her mother's passion and respect for the University.



# Support Staff



**Dawn Austin**

*Volunteer Assistant Coach  
Penn State '93*



**Chris Sandeen**

*Strength & Conditioning  
Arizona State '01*



**Nicole Anderson**

*Athletic Trainer  
Florida '05*



**Tony Yelovich**

*Assistant Athletics Director  
Tampa '64*



**Dawn Mays**

*Senior Staff Assistant  
UCLA '87*



**Alan George**

*Sports Information  
Centre '05*



**Nicole Brochu**

*Sports Promotions  
Utah State '03*



**Colleen Inglesby**

*Academic Advising  
Notre Dame '01*



**Erika Whitman**

*Sports Nutrition  
Delaware '02*

