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- Send a check payable to the Rockne Heritage Fund; P.O. Box 519; Notre Dame, IN 46556.
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- Specify if your employer has a matching gift program.
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### Contact Information

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SUPPORTING THE SPIRIT OF  
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2004 - 2011

# Media Information / Quick Facts

## Print Media

**South Bend Tribune**  
southbendtribune.com  
225 West Colfax Ave.  
South Bend, Ind. 46626  
p. 574.235.6316  
f. 574.235.6091

**Irish Sports Report**  
irishsportsreport.com  
225 West Colfax Ave.  
South Bend, Ind. 46626  
p. 574.235.6161  
f. 574.239.2646

**Blue & Gold Illustrated**  
blueandgold.com  
1605 North Home  
Mishawaka, Ind. 46545  
p. 574.255.9800  
f. 574.255.9700

**Irish Eyes Magazine**  
irisheyes.com  
21 Merriam Way  
Upton, Mass. 01568  
p. 508.529.6781  
f. 508.519.6553

**Notre Dame Observer**  
ndsmcobserver.com  
LaFortune Student Center  
Notre Dame, Ind. 46556  
p. 574.631.7471  
f. 574.631.6927

**Notre Dame Scholastic**  
nd.edu/~scholast  
LaFortune Student Center  
Notre Dame, Ind. 46556  
p. 574.631.7569  
f. 574.631.9648

**Elkhart Truth**  
etruth.com  
Communicana Building  
P.O. Box 487  
Elkhart, Ind. 46514  
p. 574.674.6337  
f. 574.294.3895

## Organizations

**National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA)**  
nfca.org  
100 G. Thames Drive Suite D  
Starkville, Miss. 39759  
p. 662.320.2155  
f. 662.320.2283

**USA Softball**  
usasoftball.com  
2801 NE 50th Street  
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73111  
p. 405.425.3463  
f. 405.424.4734

## Wire Service

**Associated Press**  
ap.org  
South Bend Tribune Building  
225 West Colfax Ave.  
South Bend, Ind. 46626  
p. 574.288.1649  
f. 574.236.1765

## Television

**WNDU – NBC**  
wndu.com  
P.O. Box 1616  
South Bend, Ind. 46634  
p. 574.631.1616  
f. 574.631.2916

**WSBT – CBS**  
wsbt.com  
300 West Jefferson  
South Bend, Ind. 46601  
p. 574.472.8124  
f. 574.288.6630

**WSJV – FOX**  
fox28.com  
59096 County Road 7 South  
Elkhart, Ind. 46514  
p. 574.679.4545  
f. 574.294.1324

**WHME – LeSea**  
whme.com  
61300 Ironwood Road  
South Bend, Ind. 46625  
p. 574.291.8200  
f. 574.291.9043

## Electronic Media

**UND.com**  
112 Joyce Center  
Notre Dame, Ind. 46556-5678  
p. 574.631.2235 (Notre Dame, Ind.)  
p. 760.431.6221 (Carlsbad, Calif.)

**CBS College Sports**  
cstv.com  
Chelsea Piers, Pier 62  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
p. 212.342.8700  
f. 212.342.8899

## University / Conference

**Notre Dame Sports Information**  
Contact: Alan George  
ageorge2@nd.edu  
und.com  
112 Joyce Center  
Notre Dame, Ind. 46556-5678  
p. 574.631.3397  
c. 574.340.3977  
f. 574.631.7941

**BIG EAST Conference**  
Contact: Dan White  
dwhite@bigeast.org  
bigeast.org  
222 Richmond Street  
Providence, R.I. 02903  
p. 401.272.9108  
f. 401.751.8540

## University

Location . . . . .Notre Dame, Ind. 46556  
Founded . . . . .1842  
Enrollment . . . . .8,352 (undergraduate) / 11,603 (total)  
Nickname . . . . .Fighting Irish  
Colors . . . . .Gold and Blue  
Fight Song . . . . .Notre Dame Victory March  
Conference . . . . .BIG EAST  
Facility . . . . .Melissa Cook Stadium (850)  
Dimensions . . . . .200-220-200  
President . . . . .Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.  
Provost . . . . .Thomas G. Burish  
Executive Vice President . . . . .John Affleck-Graves  
NCAA Faculty Representative . . . . .Don Pope-Davis  
Director of Athletics . . . . .Jack Swarbrick (Notre Dame '76)  
Assistant Athletics Director / Softball . . . . .Tony Yelovich

## Coaching Staff

Head Coach . . . . .Deanna Gumpf (Nebraska '93)  
Record at Notre Dame . . . . .289-136-1 (.681) / 7 seasons  
Overall career record . . . . .289-136-1 (.681) / 7 seasons  
Assistant Coach . . . . .Kris Ganef (Notre Dame '99)  
Assistant Coach . . . . .Lizzy Lemire (Notre Dame '01)  
Volunteer Assistant Coach . . . . .Dawn Austin (Penn State '93)  
Senior Staff Assistant . . . . .Dawn Mays  
E-mail . . . . .softball.1@nd.edu  
Office . . . . .574.631.4840

## Sports Information

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Notre Dame, Ind. 46556-5678  
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Web site . . . . .www.und.com  
Senior Associate AD / Media Relations . . . . .John Heisler  
Assistant Athletics Director / SID . . . . .Bernadette Cafarelli  
Senior Administrative Assistant . . . . .Susan McGonigal  
Director of Football Media Relations . . . . .Brian Hardin  
Assistant SID . . . . .Michael Bertsch  
Assistant SID . . . . .Sean Carroll  
Assistant SID . . . . .Tim Connor  
Assistant SID . . . . .Chris Masters  
Sports Information Assistant . . . . .Dan Collier  
Sports Information Assistant . . . . .Stephanie Fischer  
Assistant SID / Softball . . . . .Alan George  
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Office . . . . .574.631.3397  
Cell . . . . .574.340.3977  
Fax . . . . .574.631.7941

## Team Information

Overall record (2008) . . . . .38-22-1  
Home . . . . .11-4-1  
Road . . . . .15-11  
Neutral . . . . .12-7  
BIG EAST regular season / finish . . . . .14-8 / 4th  
BIG EAST Tournament finish . . . . .4th  
Final ranking . . . . .none  
Starters returning / lost . . . . .7 / 2  
Pitchers returning / lost . . . . .2 / 0  
Monogram winners returning / lost . . . . .14 / 2

## Program History

First season . . . . .1989 / 20 seasons  
Overall record . . . . .801-382-3 (.677) / 20 seasons  
NCAA Championship appearances . . . . .13 (10 consecutive)  
BIG EAST regular season record . . . . .206-39 (.841) / 13 seasons  
BIG EAST regular season titles . . . . .10 (last in 2006)  
BIG EAST Tournament record . . . . .27-15 (.643) / 13 seasons  
BIG EAST Tournament titles . . . . .5 (last in 2006)  
Winning seasons . . . . .20 (20 consecutive)  
NFCA All-America honorees . . . . .16  
NFCA All-Region honorees . . . . .52  
CoSIDA Academic All-America honorees . . . . .17  
All-BIG EAST accolades . . . . .86 (since 1996)  
BIG EAST Player of the Year awards . . . . .8  
BIG EAST Pitcher of the Year awards . . . . .6  
BIG EAST Rookie of the Year awards . . . . .5  
BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year awards . . . . .5  
Notre Dame Byron V. Kanaley award winners . . . . .5



# This is Irish Softball



*Recent graduate Katie Laing (2005-08) epitomized Notre Dame softball both on and off the field. Throughout her career she earned multiple all-conference, all-district and all-region accolades for excelling both academically and athletically. The former team captain is also one of five softball student-athletes in the 20-year history of the program to win Notre Dame's Byron V. Kanaley Award.*



# All About the Irish



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

## 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 on 15 occasions, including four first-team selections. In 2002, Jarrah Myers was named college softball's Academic All-American of the Year.

Most recently, Stephanie Brown earned second team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America honors following the 2006 and 2007 seasons. She graduated from the Mendoza College of Business with a 3.44 cumulative GPA as a marketing major. Heading into the 2008-09 season, Notre Dame was second among Division I schools with 202 Academic All-Americans.

## ALKIRE, MELANIE

One of the greatest Notre Dame sluggers set the previous single-season home run mark in 2000. That mark of 13 was later tied by Jarrah Myers during the 2002 campaign. Alkire also has the single-season mark for RBI (64) and slugging percentage (.665). The former shortstop still sits among the top-10 in virtually all of Notre Dame's career batting categories including hits (260), runs (129), batting average (.340), doubles (49), home runs (30), RBI (167) and walks (61).

## ALL-AMERICANS

Notre Dame has seen 10 different players earn All-America honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) since 1994: Stephanie Brown (2006), Melanie Alkire (2000), Megan Ciolli (2004, 2005), 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).

## ALL-TIME RECORD

Entering the 2009 season, Notre Dame softball has posted 801 wins in 20 seasons – just over 40 wins per year – and has never finished a campaign with a win total less than 30. The Irish have won over two-thirds of their games and have never had a losing record as the team enters its 21st season of competitive softball. The program boasts an overall record of 801-382-3 (.677).

## BIG EAST CONFERENCE

In Notre Dame's first season of BIG EAST Conference competition (1996) Liz Miller guided her team to the league's South Division title with a 19-1 record. When the Irish first joined the conference, they faced each divisional team in a pair of doubleheaders over the course of a two-day weekend. The formula changed in 1998, as the games were dropped to just a single doubleheader followed by a solo contest the next day. The conference adopted its current format in 1999, which pits each team in a single-day doubleheader.

Notre Dame is currently 206-39 (.841) 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 13 seasons.

Notre Dame broke through with its first BIG EAST Tournament title in 1999 led by the event's 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 2003 team pounded out 21 runs during the tournament and earned the title on Andrea Loman's walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth inning against Villanova. Loman would go on to earn the tournament's Most Outstanding Player award. The 2006 season produced the latest championship, as the Irish saddled the strong pitching of Most Outstanding Player Heather Booth to hoist the hardware. It was Notre Dame's fifth BIG EAST Tournament crown, and was followed by a runner-up finish in 2007. In all, Notre Dame has posted a record of 27-15 (.643) over the course of 13 league tournaments.

Notre Dame is one of only two BIG EAST teams that have won at least 18 league games in a single season. The Irish have accomplished the feat on three occasions since 2001, after first reaching the 18-win mark in 1996.

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

Six players have earned the league's Pitcher of the Year award, five have garnered Rookie of the Year nods, and the coaching staff has been named the top in the conference on five occasions. All-BIG EAST accolades have been passed out to Irish players on 86 occasions since 1996.

## BOOTH, HEATHER

One of the most durable pitchers to ever play at Notre Dame, Booth averaged 225.0 innings/season including a school-record 261.1 during the 2006 campaign. Booth ranks among the top-three pitchers on the all-time record list in 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 20-year history of Irish softball, a total of 39 different student-athletes have served as team captains. Among that group, six have served as multi-year captains. The two-time captains are Ruth Kmak (1990, 1992), Jennifer Sharron (2000-01), Danielle Klayman (2000-01), Katie Laing (2007-08), Brittney Bargar (2008-09) and Linda Kohan (2008-09).

## CIOLLI, MEGAN

One of the top players in program history, she concluded her career in 2005 with an NFCA All-America honor. 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 – making her one of only four Irish softball players to gain the honor as many times – and was named the BIG EAST Player of the Year in 2004. A two-time NFCA third-team All-American and 2005 captain, Ciolli finds her name atop the all-time leaders in both career hits (284) and stolen bases (76).

## DIRECTORS' CUP

The University of Notre Dame remained one of the nation's elite all-around athletic programs by posting its 10th straight top-25 finish (21st) in the 2007-08 United States Sports Academy Division I Directors' Cup all-sports competition. Sponsored by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), the Directors' Cup competition honors institutions for maintaining athletic programs that seek to achieve success in many sports, both men's and women's. In all, 16 different teams provided points to Notre Dame's final total, including the softball team that advanced to its 10th consecutive NCAA Tournament.

## DRAMATIC HOME RUNS

Notre Dame has had its fair share of dramatic home runs in its 20-year history – shots late in contests that have 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), Louisiana-Lafayette (2003) and against Nebraska (2004) in the UNLV Classic.

Also noteworthy is Andrea Loman's ninth-inning blast against Villanova in the 2003 BIG EAST Tournament finale to clinch the championship title. In 2004, Stephanie Brown hit the game-tying moon shot to send the 2004 BIG EAST Tournament title game into extra innings. Then two years later, 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, 3-2, during the Judi Garman Classic.

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.

Even pitcher Brittney Bargar got in the action when her first career hit – a walk-off homer in the bottom of the seventh – proved to be the game winner during a 2007 matchup with Toledo.

In 2008, Linda Kohan and Christine Lux joined rookie Katie Fleury in the home run department during an Irish win over Kent State to open NCAA Regional action in Ann Arbor, Mich. Moreover, the three home runs came in the same inning. It was the second time in school history that the Irish hit three home runs in the same inning – a feat last accomplished exactly one month prior against Wisconsin by the same trio.





Stephanie Brown picked up her fair share of hardware during her four-year career with Notre Dame, including both academic and athletic All-American awards.

Earlier in the season, Kohan sent a two-run homer out of Louisville's Ulmer Stadium in the eighth inning of a BIG EAST matchup to complete a come-from-behind victory over the Cardinals. The contest was televised live to a national audience.

#### FIFTY FOUR

The 2001 Irish softball team posted 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 stubbed their toe in the BIG EAST Tournament that year, but were awarded a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament 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 poll.

#### FIGHTING IRISH

Exactly where and how Notre Dame's athletic nickname, "Fighting Irish," came to origination has never 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

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 to set the mark for the second-most wins in a single season.

Teammates Stephanie Brown, Meagan Ruthrauff, Sara Schoonaert and Nicole deFau all share the school record for games played, as each player appeared and started in all of 2004's 69 contests.

The Irish have seen action in a total of 1,186 contests.

#### 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 represented 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 twelve 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 now 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 in the summer of 2001 after Miller's retirement. In her first season, Gumpf and her staff landed the BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year and the NFCA Mideast Region Coaching Staff of the Year awards while helping the Irish win the BIG EAST Tournament and advance to the final day of competition in their respective NCAA Tournament regional bracket.

Through seven seasons at the helm of the program, Gumpf has led the team to four BIG EAST regular season championships, three BIG EAST Tournament titles and 289 wins. Her career winning percentage (.681) is the 17th best among active coaches.

#### INDOOR FACILITY

Since the weather is not always conducive to 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 sharpen its defensive skills during the winter months, Notre Dame heads to the Loftus Sports Center, which features a full Prestige Turf football field that is also lined for softball drills.

#### IVY FIELD

Once the home of the Fighting Irish, Ivy Field was the place to be for every Notre Dame home game since the program began in 1989. It played host to the BIG EAST Tournament in 1998 and 2006, and Notre Dame posted a 288-48-2 (.854) mark within its friendly confines.

Facility-bests include 24 wins in 1996 and a perfect 18-0 mark at home in 2001.

Ivy Field was retired after Notre Dame swept an April 9 doubleheader from Eastern Michigan. Christine Lux had nine RBI during the twinbill, tying a school record with seven RBI in the opening contest.

#### 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 (11), Andria Bledsoe (7) and Liz Hartmann (7). Hartmann's total was the most-ever by a freshman at Notre Dame until Stephanie Brown notched as many during her rookie campaign 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 apiece.

Notre Dame also started on a torrid pace with the home run ball in 2004, ending up hitting 39 dingers in 69 games. The Irish again flexed their muscle in 2006 by hitting 44 home runs with Meagan Ruthrauff ending the season with 12 home runs.

# All About the Irish

## HAYES, SARA

The premier hitter for the Irish in the early 1990s, 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 Midwestern Collegiate Conference's Player of the Year in 1995 and was a three-time first-team all-conference pick.

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

The Notre Dame softball team has enjoyed three memorable international trips over the past several years. Prior the 2000 season, the team spent its fall break in Australia, while the 2004 team ended up in Ireland and England for several days in October of 2003.

While in Europe the Irish had a chance to develop softball at the grassroots level, as the team spent time in Dublin and London during its trip, offering clinics to local softball players.

Gumpf's 2008 squad trekked through Italy during fall break (2007), including stops in Rome, Florence and Venice. Upon leaving Venice, the team traveled to the town of Forli (near San Marino) where they competed against a compilation of players from Italy's professional softball league and members of the Italian national team.

## KOBATA, TERRI

One of the most dominant pitchers in all of college softball in the early 1990's, Terri Kobata became Notre Dame's first softball All-American by claiming the honor in 1994. She ended her career with 42 shutouts, an overall record of 79-15 (.840), 907 strikeouts, 285 hits allowed, and a miniscule 0.63 ERA. Kobata's legacy also is highlighted by 15 career no-hitters – 14 of which were solo – which helps make her one of the greatest hurlers in Notre Dame history. She posted a 10.09 strikeout ratio for her career, the 10th-best mark ever in NCAA history. Her single-season 10.90 strikeout ratio led all of college softball in 1993.

## LOMAN, ANDREA

It would be a difficult challenge to proclaim who the greatest player in Notre Dame softball history



The indoor facility located on campus has proven to be an invaluable resource to the Notre Dame softball program since its opening in January of 2000.

may be, 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's 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 stands first in career runs (164), second 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).

## MELISSA COOK STADIUM

A 1993 Notre Dame graduate and softball letterwinner, Melissa Cook was the first former player to pass away when she left us in 2002 – but her legend and spirit continue to thrive at the University.

At Ivy Field, head coach Deanna Gumpf – along with the 2003 Irish team and Cook's family – dedicated a bench near the facility to the former second baseman and shortstop during the team's fall alumni game scrimmage.

In the summer of 2006 Cook's parents – Linda and Paul Demo – made a generous donation to the Notre Dame softball team to help defray the costs of construction for a new softball stadium in Melissa's memory. The Melissa Cook Stadium, a \$4.8 million facility, is located on the southeast corner of the Notre Dame campus near Eck Baseball Stadium. The stadium was dedicated in April 2008, and is considered one of the more remarkable softball facilities in the Midwest.

Raised in Merrillville, Ind., Cook played for the Fighting Irish softball team in 1991 and 1992, seeing time at second base, shortstop and catcher. She led the team in triples as a freshman and earned a monogram before opting to study abroad one year later. An accounting major, she earned her bachelor's degree and was the

controller for Teamsters Union Local 786 prior to her death.

She was a standout athlete in high school, excelling in basketball, volleyball and softball. When Notre Dame offered her a scholarship to play softball, she had achieved a lifelong dream.

Notre Dame broke ground on the stadium in April 2007 on the weekend the University celebrated 35 years of women's athletics.

## MIDWESTERN COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

Notre Dame competed in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference – now called the Horizon League – from 1989 through 1995 before joining the BIG EAST Conference. The Irish racked up a record of 66-15 (.815) in MCC regular-season play and won the league tournament title in five of its seven years of membership. 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 seasons (1993-2001) and led the team to six NCAA Tournament appearances. Miller posted 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 1,047-331 overall combined record while coaching volleyball, basketball and softball at the school. After narrowing her focus solely on softball, she amassed 12 conference championships and 11 regional titles for Lake Michigan.

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 to this day attend many of the team's games both at home and on the road.

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



Paul and Linda Demo, parents of Melissa Cook, at the stadium dedication in 2008.



## MONOGRAM CLUB

The Notre Dame Monogram Club is comprised of some 4,300 due-paying individuals who have earned the University's varsity athletic insignia for their athletic or team support endeavors or have been honorary monogram recipients. The club supports the primary goal of the University: the spiritual, intellectual, and physical development of its students and alumni. By providing its members the opportunity to foster and maintain relationships across different sports, generations and geographical locations, the Monogram Club aspires to contribute – through the common bond of sport – to the social and professional enrichment of its members while providing a means for ongoing association with the University. As an integral part of the Notre Dame family, the Monogram Club endeavors to uphold and enrich the great tradition of Notre Dame athletics.

## MYERS, JARRAH

Possibly the greatest power hitter to ever don the blue and gold, Myers completed her career in 2002 with a trunk full of awards. In 2002 alone, she was named the BIG EAST Player of the Year, the BIG EAST Scholar-Athlete of the Year, first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American, third-team NFCA/Louisville Slugger All-American, CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year for softball, and earned the Notre Dame Monogram Club Team MVP. Even more, she took home Notre Dame's Knute Rockne Scholar-Athlete Award and became the fourth Notre Dame softball player to land the school's prestigious 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.



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

## NCAA TOURNAMENT

The Notre Dame softball team has appeared in the NCAA Tournament 13 times overall including visits in each of the last 10 seasons. The Irish have reached the final day of regional competition five times before being eliminated by Michigan (1995 and 2003), Iowa (2001), Nebraska (2002) and Northwestern (2005 and 2006). Although Notre Dame has made 13 different trips to the show, they have only visited four different post-season sites (Bloomington, Ind. – 1994; Ann Arbor, Mich. – 1995-96, 1999-2000, 2003-04, 2008; Iowa City, Iowa – 2001-02; Evanston, Ill. – 2006-07).

The Irish served as a tournament host to regional competition in 2005, tacking on a 2-2 record during play at Ivy Field.

## UNITED STATES NATIONAL TEAMS

Four Irish players have made their presence felt on the United States National Team over the past several years. Jarrah Myers, Lizzy Lemire and Jennifer Sharron became the first Notre Dame players to earn a spot on the U.S. National Team, doing so in the summer of 2001. Lemire played on the USA Red team, which competed in the 2001 U.S. Cup. Myers and Sharron landed on USA Blue, which traveled to Maracay, Venezuela, for the Pan Am Qualifier. USA Blue dominated the tournament, not allowing a single run to any of the competing teams. Sharron even tossed a perfect game for USA Blue in their battle with Brazil.

Mallorie Lenn earned a spot on the U.S. Junior National team in Hermasillo, Mexico, for the first Pan American championship team during the summer of 2002. Lenn was a key member of the gold-medal winning U.S. team, providing the game-winning RBI in its final round-robin game and was behind the plate for the tournament's final contest, which the United States won against Canada.

Alexis Madrid competed as a member of the Puerto Rican National Fastpitch team during the summer of 2002.

In 2006, Linda Kohan earned an invitation to join the Israeli National team, but declined the offer.

## NATIONAL PRO FASTPITCH

National Pro Fastpitch, a six-team professional softball league, began competition in the summer of 2005. Megan Ciolli, who played for the Chicago Bandits, represented Notre Dame during the league's inaugural season. She made her alma mater proud by batting .241, adding eight RBI, eight stolen bases, and a homer.

Stephanie Brown was drafted by the Chicago Bandits in 2007 and enjoyed a successful, but brief, playing career that was cut short due to injury.

## NO-HITTERS

There have been 36 no-hitters thrown in Notre Dame softball history, including a pair last season.



Just a junior, Christine Lux is already one of the most prolific home run hitters in Notre Dame history.

Brittney Bargar recorded the program's first no-hitter in an NCAA Tournament game, a 9-1 decision over Kent State, which also gave Bargar the honor of becoming the first Irish pitcher to record 30 wins in a season. Bargar's first no-hitter of the season came at Syracuse to celebrate Notre Dame's 800th overall win.

Terri Kobata ended her career as the queen of no-hitters at Notre Dame with 15 on her resume.

## ONE OF THE BEST

The NFCA 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. The Irish were tagged with the poll's 32nd spot.

Based on the weekly national rankings from 1995 until the end of the 2003 slate, the poll was led 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 – with the exception of the 2003 campaign – Notre Dame has downed at least one team that was in the top-25. Overall, Notre Dame has 48 wins over 27 ranked opponents. Among some of the higher ranked programs the Irish have knocked off in recent years are: Washington (#4), Nebraska (#4), Michigan (#5), Tennessee (#5), Oklahoma (#6), Fresno State (#7), Florida State (#9) and Arizona State (#10).

## RECORD BREAKERS

Since Deanna Gumpf assumed control of the program for the 2002 season, the Irish have continued to match or eclipse several single-season records.

The 2002 team set school records for home runs (54) and runs scored (318). The 2003 edition set the school mark (at the time) for fielding percentage (.971). In 2004, the Irish established the record number of double plays (22), games played (69) and complete games pitched (52). One year later, Notre Dame set the school records for strikeouts thrown (527), strikeouts per seven innings (8.74) and attempted steals (134). The 2006 edition of the Blue and Gold holds the school record for single-season walks (144) and fielding percentage (.977). The single-season walks record was rewritten in 2008 (148).

# All About the Irish

## ROAD WARRIORS

During the program's second complete varsity season in 1990, Notre Dame began to hit the road and take part in what has become a stapled tradition in collegiate softball – the early season, warm-weathered tournaments. The Irish are one of the many softball programs that annually seek the top competition in the top tournaments slated for the season's first several weeks.

Notre Dame has traveled to 43 destinations in 30 different states for early-season tournaments since 1990.

## RUTHRAUFF, MEAGAN

Over a historical four-year career with the Irish, Meagan Ruthrauff established herself as one of the most productive hitters to play under the Golden Dome. Ruthrauff set a new standard for single-game offensive production during a 2006 meeting with Pittsburgh as she clubbed a team-record three home runs on her way to knocking in a school-record seven runs against the Panthers. 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), RBI (54) and on-base percentage (.477). Ruthrauff is the career leader in games played (247), doubles (49) and walks (112).

## SHARRON, JENNIFER

Jennifer Sharron graduated from Notre Dame in 2001 but left her mark in the circle as a storied pitcher. The only lefthander to ever pitch 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 (1998-2001) and earned first-team all-conference honors four consecutive times.

## 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 was also a three-time all-BIG EAST first-team selection and a two-time conference pitcher-of-the-year.

## 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 included a record seven first-team award winners: 2004 – Steffany Stenglein, Heather Booth, Mallorie Lenn, Liz Hartmann, Stephanie Brown, Megan Ciolli and Nicole deFau; 2003 – Andria Bledsoe, Ciolli, Andrea Loman, Lisa Mattison, Stenglein, Jarrah Myers and Jenny Kriech; 2001 – Loman, Mattison, Kriech, Melanie Alkire, Lizzy Lemire, Jennifer Sharron and Kristin Schmidt.



No other southpaw left their mark on the Irish program quite like pitcher Jennifer Sharron.

## 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 Shea brothers later presented the "Notre Dame Victory March" 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 when 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, 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 1990 survey conducted 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

At any time of the day Notre Dame alumni and fans are just a keystroke away from up-to-date and complete coverage of all 26 Irish varsity sports through the expanded offerings now available on UND.com, the University's official athletics website. During 2007-08, a redesigned UND.com provided front-page linkage to Fighting Irish All-Access, Notre Dame's free broadband channel, which offered live video/audio coverage of 107 live athletic events as well as on-demand video programming. More than 50,000 visitors signed up for Fighting Irish All-Access last year.

Notre Dame's website, which also offers a variety of press releases, media guide information, individual team pages and other print material, ranked second nationally behind North Carolina in both unique viewers and total impressions from July 2007 through June 2008. More than five million fans (5,594,688) visited UND.com during 2007-08 registering more than 34 million (34,756,004) page views.

Five softball doubleheaders featured live streaming video and audio in 2008, with several more covered just on the audio end.

## WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

Notre Dame celebrated 35 years of women's athletics in April 2007 with the Monogram Club serving as the primary sponsor and organizer of the historic event. More than 100 former Notre Dame women's athletes attended the weekend celebration, which included a Friday-night dinner at the home of athletics director Kevin White; athletic events on Saturday; sports-specific social events; and the concluding Mass and Sunday brunch that were held in the Joyce Center Arena. The Mass took on added significance for those in attendance, as current University president Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., was joined by his predecessors – Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., and Rev. Edward "Monk" Malloy, C.S.C. – as the celebrants.

